



# Cé Rú an Átha

“kay-roo **NAW**-ha”

## Roonagh Pier

Stoirm bhaistí thar an gClíara  
© Getty Images  
Rain storm over Clare Island  
© Getty Images

## Modh maireachtála an oileáin

I 1974, chuir an craoltóir Éireannach, RTÉ, Michael Joe O'Malley, fear a bhí ina chónaí leis féin ar Chliara, faoi agallamh. D'fhág sé an scoil nuair a bhí 12 bliain déag d'aois agus chuaigh sé i mbun feirmeoireachta. Bhí dhá mhadra agus asal aige le cabhrú leis obair an lae a chur i gcrích. Thaitin an obair ar an talamh leis agus ní raibh fonn ar bith aige an t-uisce a thrasnú.

Leathchéad bliain ina dhiaidh sin, tá saol thar a bheith éagsúil á chaitheamh ag an 130 duine atá ina gcónaí ar Chliara agus ag an 60 duine atá ina gcónaí ar Inis Toirc.

Nuair a bhí Michael óg, bhí 65 dalta ag freastal ar an dá scoil ar Chliara. Níl ach scoil amháin ann anois agus tá scoil níos lú ar Inis Toirc. Bíonn ar leanaí freastal ar scoil chónaithe nó fanacht le teaghlach ar an mórthír chun freastal ar oideachas dara leibhéal.

Ainneoin nach dtógann sé ach 10 nóiméad na hoileáin a bhaint amach ar an mbád farantóireachta is sciobtha, uaireanta bíonn na hoileáin gearrtha amach ón mórthír i rith stoirmeacha. Cinntíonn an teilifís, teileachumarsáid agus turasóireacht go bhfuil na hoileáin nasctha leis an domhan mór ach nuair a theastaíonn sainchúram leighis is gá fanacht ar an mórthír.

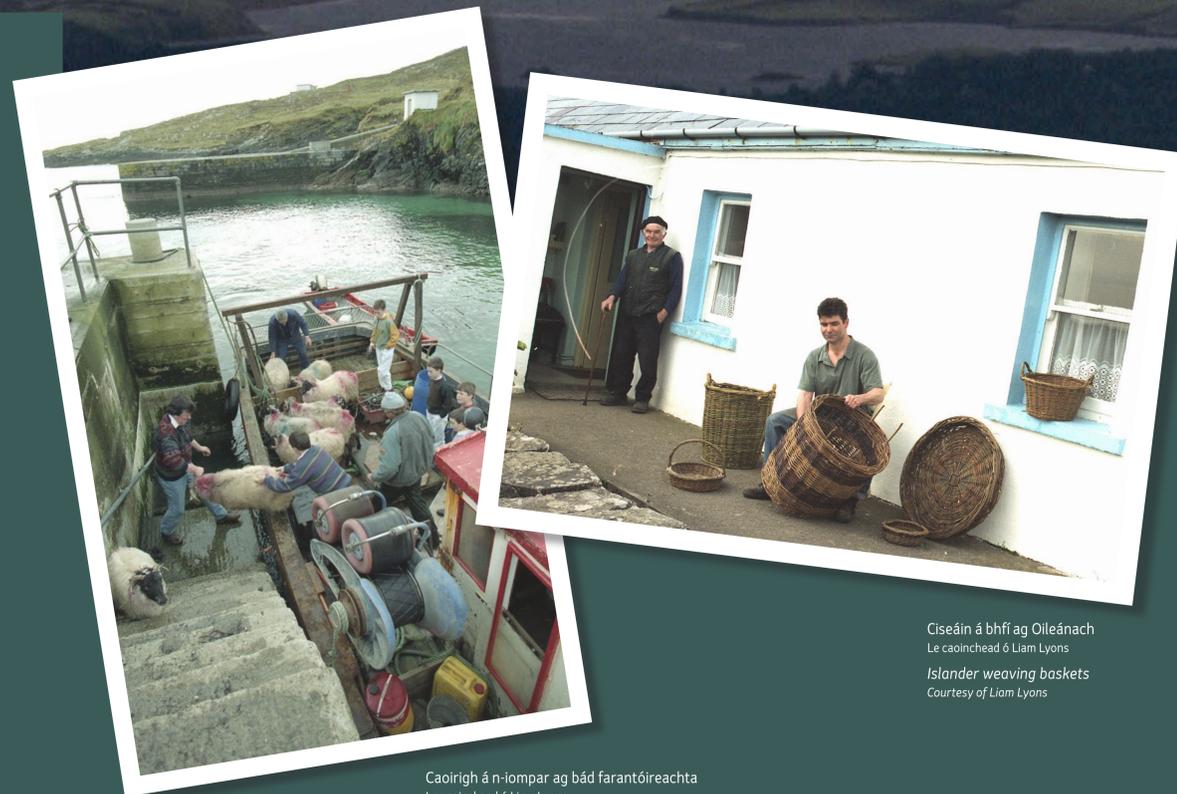
## An island way of life

*In 1974 Irish broadcaster RTÉ interviewed Michael Joe O'Malley who lived alone on Clare Island. He left school aged 12 and farmed in the traditional way helped by two dogs and a donkey. He loved the land and felt no need to cross the water.*

*Half a century later, life is very different for the 130 Clare islanders and for about 60 on Turk.*

*When Michael was young, sixty five pupils attended Clare Island's two schools. Now there is only one and a smaller one on Turk. Children have to go to boarding school or stay with families on the mainland for secondary education.*

*Although the fastest ferry takes only ten minutes, the islands can still be cut off by storms. Television, telecommunications and tourism have connected them with the world but specialist health care means a stay on the mainland.*



Ciseáin á bhfi ag Oileánach  
Le caoinchead ó Liam Lyons  
Islander weaving baskets  
Courtesy of Liam Lyons

Caoirigh á n-iompar ag bád farantóireachta  
Le caoinchead ó Liam Lyons  
Sheep being transported by ferry  
Courtesy of Liam Lyons



- 1 Téigh chomh fada le Clíara mar spéis leat seandálaíocht an oileáin, caisleán Ghranuaille agus an mhainistir.  
*Cross to Clare Island to explore its archaeology, Granuaile's castle and the abbey.*
- 2 Caith tamall ag féachaint ar uisce athraitheacha an Atlantaigh ó bharr na n-aillte taobh le teach solais Chliara.  
*Watch the Atlantic's changing moods from the clifftops beside Clare Island lighthouse.*
- 3 Tabhair cuairt ar Inis Toirc agus caith tamall ar na tránna ciúine agus tabhair faoi na siúlóidí lúibe a thosaíonn ag an gcalafort.  
*Take a trip to Inishturk to explore tranquil beaches and loop walks from the harbour.*



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