

## 2023 Creative Ireland Report – Vernacular Funding

### Derrybeg Thatching



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017–2022



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí  
Offaly County Council

## Background

This property received funding in 2021 towards the repair of existing steel windows and wrought-iron gate. The property was in a derelict condition when the new owners purchased it and at that stage they repaired the walls, roof and gave it an initial layer of thatch. Over the next couple of years the thatching settled and required a further layer. Funding for 2023 is towards the required materials – oaten straw. Works were carried out by the owner and his father Ben Purcell, Thatcher.



2016 above, and below, 2023 ready for new thatch





June 2023 – straw on site for preparation





September 2023 – Works underway to the rear of the property



Straw sorted in bundles ready for scaffolding



Ben Purcell Thatcher



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Rear elevation during works





Hosing down the straw during a hot September day





Rear complete and trimmed – October



Front elevation thatching finished (eaves trimming outstanding)



Bobbins complete tied with hazel rods



Bobbins and hazel rod detail



Thatch underside showing former initial layer and current new layer



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