

Hands beneath the ocean...virtual link to the Titanic

THE people of Ireland are being asked to link hands beneath the Atlantic to the ill-fated Titanic.

The Addergoole Titanic Society has thought up the novel idea of creating a sponsored virtual chain connection to the liner which lies 2.5 miles down on the bottom of the sea near Newfoundland.

The tens of thousands of euro which it is hoped will be raised will be used, amongst other things, for the provision of a memorial in Addergoole (Lahardane) for the 14 local people who were on the White Star liner when it sank after hitting an iceberg in April 1912.

Out of that 14, eleven drowned and three survived.

Major ceremonies are planned for Addergoole in 2012, the anniversary of the sinking.

But the ambitious commemoration plans will cost money. Hence the idea of a sponsored chain link with each link costing €2.50.

Explains Michael Molloy, public relations officer for the Addergoole Titanic Society, "Every sponsor will be credited on our website.

"All the names of the sponsors will eventually be placed in a Mayo Titanic time capsule.

"This capsule will be placed beneath the external memorial of the tragedy which we intend erecting in the village.

"The capsule will be buried for 25 years (until 2037) when it will be dug up for posterity."

As well as funding a memorial, it is hoped the virtual chain link proposal will generate funds for a Cultural

Week which is planned for Lahardane in April 2012.

Money is also being raised

for the publication of a book on the 'Addergoole 14'.

The Addergoole Titanic Society says the loss of eleven lives represents the largest proportionate loss of life

from any locality on RMS Titanic.

"It was truly an extraordinary loss for our little parish", says Michael Molloy.

