

LUCY O'SULLIVAN

THE OLD MONASTERY GUEST HOUSE, CAHERSIVEEN, KERRY

STAND



THE STORY

Meet Lucy O'Sullivan. Lucy manages her family's historic Victorian residence in Cahersiveen on slow-tourism principles, encouraging her guests to create purposeful experiences with the local community and explore the area's rich history and culture.

Lucy proudly serves up locally sourced food and emphasises using environmentally friendly cleaning products, minimising waste, and promoting sustainable modes of transport.

"Guests can only book for a minimum of three nights, which reduces the laundry, benefits local businesses, and gives time to create a personal connection with the place."

Lucy and her dad played a blinder in petitioning for the approval of the local Kerry Greenway – a cycleway that is set to boost tourism through the Kingdom.

"There needs to be opportunities for young people to stay and work in rural Ireland if they want to."

Lucy's love for the local landscape and community really is infectious. So much so, I ended up relocating here not long after our interview.

There are so many beautiful and inspiring strings to this girl's bow that this short story can't do justice to. She completed a 41-day, 2,400km solo cycle down the Wild Atlantic Way that raised more than 12,000 euro for Jigsaw, the youth mental health

charity, and raised awareness of the Conscious Cup Campaign – a movement to reduce single-use coffee cups going to landfill.

THE WHY

"I do think that my endless harping on about the steps that I take to reduce my impact and the impact of the guesthouse, whether it's on Instagram or in person, means that the people around me, and the guests at the guesthouse, will make changes themselves."

THE HOPE

"People being proactive and the many projects underway around the world which are making huge strides to combat the climate and biodiversity crisis give me hope."

THE CHALLENGE

"Talk, talk and talk to everyone and anyone around you. Talk about the climate crisis, talk about what you're doing about it, or talk about the fact that you don't know what to do about it. These are the conversations we need to be having in every community throughout the country."

THE RECOMMENDATION

BOOK – *A Life on Our Planet* by David Attenborough.
PODCAST – *Mother of Invention* by Mary Robinson and Maeve Higgins.

“

Blame and shame won't get us anywhere. We need to crack on and get to work making positive changes.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ MORE STORIES OF CHANGE



#STANDFESTIVAL



A STORIES OF
CHANGE
PRODUCTION

Photo by Jacqui Devenney Reed

