

I started in the community radio some years ago on reception answering the phone and helping anyone who came in from the street with their enquiries. Some months ago, the radio manager, Declan said to me if I ever wanted to do my own show, just let me know.

I turned him down. The following week while in the radio station I got talking to the manager and reversed my earlier decision. Declan in a meeting then teased out of me that I had no experience when it came to presenting a show on radio.

The first task I was given was to do some research on a specific topic. I requested some help to put an article together on the chosen topic. The next step was when Declan e-mailed me with a sample script of a show. This script showed me what should have been in the original article I had put together. Time was of the essence and I found the research and articles too tiring. The other members of the team in the radio said they'd research the topics and put them together for me. I found myself going into the radio station each week and going into the recording studio.

Mick, one of the presenters, was very good to me and explained as he went along what was happening. Mick would read the script out loud a few words at a time, I would repeat them attempting to mimic Mick, a parrot effort. This was to highlight any issues we'd have while recording. Once the recorder was turned on Mick and I went through the scripts slowly yet thoroughly.

I found the whole thing overwhelming at the start attempting to get my head around how the whole package of doing the research, putting the script together, doing the interviews and picking out the various sound effects and theme tunes. I often wondered how it came together. After doing the recordings and talking to the other members of the team the penny eventually dropped.

Three weeks had passed and six episodes were broadcast when Declan, while assisting me to get my bus home, informed me that there was an awards night coming up and myself and Natalie were invited. So, on Friday October 22nd we went to the Ormond hotel in Kilkenny city for the ceremony. At this stage 6 weeks had passed and 12 episodes of the show 'About Kilkenny' had been aired. Here we met with people from the other 20 community radio stations around Ireland. An independent committee had received the nominations and had voted among themselves as to who should get what award. Luck was on my side. My team and I got the Gold award for Community and Volunteer Participation. I was nominated by the team to go and collect the award and say a few words of thanks.