

GRADAIM AN CHATHAOIRLIGH 2025 THE CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS 2025

**The Raheen Woods Hotel
Friday 16th May 2025**

**Leabhar na nGradam
Awards Booklet**



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe
Public Participation Network Galway County

Gradaim an Chathaoirligh 2025

The Cathaoirleach's Awards 2025

Awards Programme

6.00 p.m. <i>Registration</i>	
6.30 p.m. <i>Introduction by MC Ollie Turner</i> <i>Opening Address by Cllr. Martina Kinane Cathaoirleach</i>	
<i>Cathaoirleach's Awards:</i>  <i>Arts & Culture Award</i>  <i>Best Contribution to Heritage Award</i>  <i>Heritage Publication Award</i>  <i>Best Contribution to Irish Language Award</i>  <i>Environment & Climate Action Award</i>  <i>Social Inclusion Award</i>  <i>Sports Award</i>  <i>Tidy Towns Recognition Award</i>  <i>Pride of Place Awards</i>  <i>Special Recognition Awards</i>	<i>Introduced by:</i> <i>Amie Lawless, Assistant Arts Officer</i> <i>Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer</i> <i>Christy Cunniffe, Archaeologist & Heritage Expert</i> <i>Máirtín O'Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge</i> <i>Denise Feeney, Climate Action</i> <i>Martin Ward, Galway County PPN</i> <i>Andrew McBride, Sports Partnership</i> <i>Mary McGann, Community Department</i> <i>Liam Conneally, Chief Executive</i> <i>Cllr. Martina Kinane, Cathaoirleach</i>
<i>Closing Address by Cllr. Martina Kinane Cathaoirleach</i>	
<i>Group Photo of Cathaoirleach Award Winners</i> <i>Presentation of Highly Commended Certificates</i>	
7.30 p.m. <i>Dinner Service</i>	



Fáilte ó Chathaoirleach Chontae na Gaillimhe
Welcome from Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

Tá lúcháir orm fáilte a chur romhaibh uilig anseo anocht, chuig Óstán Raheen Woods do Ghradaim an Chathaoirligh 2025, do Chontae na Gaillimhe.

Mar Chathaoirleach, tá an-áthas orm an deis seo a bheith agam chun óstáil a dhéanamh ar Ghradaim an Chathaoirligh – chun obair chrua agus tiomantas daoine agus Pobail ar fud an Chontae a aithint agus a cheiliúradh.

Léiríonn na Gradaim seo ár mbuíochas as an raon leathan gníomhaíochtaí Pobail agus deonacha a dhéanann tú ar fad an Chontae, rud a fhágann gur áit níos fear é le maireachtáil, le hoibriú ann agus le cuairt a thabhairt air.

Thar mo théarma mar Chathaoirleach, bhí deis agam Bualadh le go leor grúpaí Pobail agus oibrithe deonacha agus an obair atá á déanamh a fheiceáil go díreach. Táim fíor-bhródúil as an dúthracht, an obair chrua, agus an diongbháilteacht a mbíonn baint ag Pobail agus daoine aonair leo gach lá. Is fíor-luachmhar an méid a chuireann said lenár gContae.

Is oíche speisialta í anocht daoibh go léir, agus muid ag aithint seaimpíní Pobail ar fud Chontae na Gaillimhe, agus gabhaim buíochas libh go léir as bhur gcuid obair.

Tá bród orm freisin Gradaim Aitheantas Speisialta a bhronnadh ar Bernie Rogers agus Moyne Villa F.C

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh sásamh as an ócáid.

An Comh. Martina Kinane

I am delighted to welcome you all here tonight, to the Raheen Woods Hotel for the Cathaoirleach's Awards 2025, for County Galway.

As Cathaoirleach, I am delighted to have this opportunity to host the Cathaoirleach Awards – to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and dedication of people and communities across the County.

These Awards show our appreciation for the broad range of community and voluntary activities that you carry out across the County, making it a better place to live, work and visit.

Over my term as Cathaoirleach, I have had the opportunity to meet many community groups and volunteers and witness first-hand the work being carried out. I am truly humbled by the dedication, hard work, and determination that communities and individuals are involved in every day. Their contribution to our County is invaluable.

Tonight is a special night for all of you as we recognize community champions from across County Galway and I thank you all for your work.

I am also proud to present Special Recognition Awards to Bernie Rogers and Moyne Villa FC.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable evening.

Cllr. Martina Kinane



Fáilte ón bPríomh Fheidhmeannach

Welcome from the Chief Executive

Tá lúcháir orm páirt a bheith mar chuid de Ghradaim an Chathaoirligh arís i bliana. Is teist iad na Gradaim se oar thiomantas gan staonadh daoine aonair agus grúpaí a chuireann go neamhleithleach lenár bpobal trína gcuid iarrachtaí deonacha. Bíonn tionchar mór ag a ngníomhartha ar cháillíocht na Beatha I gContae na Gaillimhe, agus níl sé oiriúnach ach a dtíomtas a aithint agus a cheiliúradh.

Bíonn rath ar ár bpobail mar gheall ar an iliomad uaireanta a chaitheann oibrithe deonacha, bíodh na healaíona agus an cultúr á gcur chun cinn, ag caomhnú ár n-oidhreacht, ag tacú leis an nGaeilge, nó ag gníomhú ar son na haeráide. Léiríonn gach catagóir gné uathúil de bheogacht ár bpobail, agus léiríonn na hainmnithe go léir spiorad na seirbhíse a fhágann gur áit speisialta í Contae na Gaillimhe.

Mar Phríomh Fheidhmeannach Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, is mór an onóir dom a bheith mar chuid den tionscnamh seo. Molaim an Chomhairle agus an Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí as a n-iarrachtaí comhoibríocha in eagrú na nGradam seo ionas gur féidir linn ceiliúradh a dhéanamh le chéile ar laochra gan moladh a dhéanann ár bpobail níos láidre, níos cuimsithí, agus níos athléimní. Tréasláim leis na hainmnithe go léir as a gcuid oibre, agus tá súil agam go mbeidh tráthnóna taitneamhach agaibh go léir.

Liam Conneally

I am delighted to be part of the Cathaoirleach's Community Awards again this year. These Awards are a testament to the unwavering commitment of individuals and groups who selflessly contribute to our community through their voluntary efforts. Their actions have a profound impact on the quality of life in County Galway, and it is only fitting that we recognize and celebrate their dedication.

Our communities thrive because of the countless hours spent by volunteers, whether it's promoting arts and culture, preserving our heritage, championing the Irish language, or taking climate action. Each category represents a unique facet of our community's vibrancy, and all the nominees exemplify the spirit of service that makes County Galway a special place.

As the Chief Executive of Galway County Council, I am honoured to be part of this initiative. I commend the Council and the Public Participation Network for their collaborative efforts in organizing these Awards so that together, we can celebrate unsung heroes who make our communities stronger, more inclusive, and resilient. I congratulate all the nominees on their work and hope you all have a pleasant evening.

Liam Conneally



Na Gradaim ***The Awards***

Faigheann gach buaiteoir Gradam an Chathaoirligh:

- Teastas Frámaithe sínithe ag an gCathaoirleach.
- Sparánacht airgid de €500 le húsáid dá gcuid oibre Pobail.
- Dámhachtain lámhcheirde coimisiúnaithe go speisialta ag léiritheoir ceardaíochta áitiúil.

Is é Sean Mahony, léiritheoir ceardaíochta as Craughwell, a dhear Gradaim 2025.

Tá gach Gradaim uathúil agus lámhdhéanta le bheith cosúil le Húicéir na Gaillimhe, agus na seolta déanta as feá spalláilte agus an t-adhmad don bhonn, dubhaithe ag baint úsáide as sean-mhodh Seapánach chun adhmad a dhó. Bronntar na Gradaim Aitheantas Speisialta ag baint úsáide as dair phortaigh, feá lasrach, agus deargadhmad Meiriceánach.

Is ó Ghaillimh a fuarthas agus a rinneadh na Gradaim, agus le hintinn ábhair a athúsáid, tá said saothraithe as crainn a leagadh le linn stoirmeacha!



Each winner of a Cathaoirleach Award receives:

- A Framed Certificate signed by the Cathaoirleach.
- A cash bursary of €500 to use for their community work.
- A specially commissioned hand-crafted Award by a local craft producer.

The Awards for 2025 have been designed and hand-crafted by Sean Mahony, a craft producer from Craughwell.

Each Award is unique and is hand-made to resemble a Galway Hooker, with the sails made from spalted beech and the wood for the base, blackened using an old Japanese method of burning wood. The Special Recognition Awards are made using bog oak, flamed beech, and American redwood.

The Awards are Galway sourced and made, and with a nod to re-use of materials, have been crafted from trees which were knocked down during storms!

Sean Mahony is based in Craughwell and has been making wood pieces for over 25 years, using Irish timber mostly sourced from windfall. All of Sean's work is hand-crafted with most being one-off pieces, and he takes great care and pride in his work.

Sean welcomes all commissions, and can be contacted:

- Via e-mail on mahonysean@yahoo.com
- Via telephone on 087 672 2698

Gradam Ealaíon agus Cultúir

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas d'iarrachtaí deonacha chun cleachtadh, Eolas agus taithí ar na healaíona agus cultúir a spreagadh agus a chur chun cinn.

Arts & Culture Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to encourage and promote knowledge, experience, and practice of arts and culture.

Winner

Is féile ceithre lá í Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, Co. na Gaillimhe, a dhéanann ceiliúradh ar cheol, oidhreacht agus cultúr traidisiúnta na hÉireann. Le deich mbliana anuas, tá méadú suntasach tagtha ar Fhéile Cheoil Larry Reynolds, ag tairiscint raon éagsúil imeachtaí anois lena n-áirítear ceolchoirmeacha, ceardlanna, seisiúin cheoil neamhfhoirmiúla, taispeántais, agus gníomhaíochtaí a oireann don teaghlach. In 2024–2025, thug an fhéile ceardlanna máistir-ranga isteach faoi stiúir ceoltóirí traidisiúnta mór le rá, a tharraing aird dhomhanda agus a chuir an fhéile in áit mar chroílár foghlama agus forbartha ealaíne. Is ardán ríthábhachtach é d'ealaíontóirí atá ag teacht chun cinn agus ealaíontóirí seanbhunaithe, ag soláthar spásanna tiomnaithe do thaibhithe agus ag cothú tallainne ceoil. Bíonn ceoltóirí idirnáisiúnta ar siúl ag an bhféile freisin, rud a shuibhríonn malartú cultúrtha agus a chuireann lena cháil dhomhanda. Ina theannta sin, cinntíonn tiomantas na féile do rannpháirtíocht na hóige go gcaomhnaítear traidisiúin cheoil na hÉireann trí cheardlanna idirghníomhacha agus comórtais do leanaí.

FÉILE CHEOIL LARRY REYNOLDS



Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds is a four-day festival in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, celebrating traditional Irish music, heritage, and culture. Over the past decade, Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds has expanded significantly, now offering a diverse range of events including concerts, workshops, informal music sessions, exhibitions, and family-friendly activities. In 2024–2025, the festival introduced masterclass workshops led by esteemed traditional musicians, attracting global attention and positioning the festival as a hub for learning and artistic development. It has become a vital platform for emerging and established artists, providing dedicated spaces for performances and fostering musical talent. The festival also hosts international musicians, enriching cultural exchange and enhancing its global reputation. Additionally, the festival's commitment to youth engagement ensures the preservation of Ireland's musical traditions through interactive workshops and competitions for children.

Highly Commended

ATHENRY COMMUNITY ARTS GROUP

Gliondar is Athenry's Community Arts Group and carry out a range of arts projects in Athenry for the community by the community. Gliondar continue to proactively reach out into their community to collaborate with other groups on festivals and events such as Culture Night, Walled Towns Day and the St. Patrick's Day Parade. In 2024, the group were awarded a creative communities grant to work in association with artist Maeve Ayo on a project called "scratching the surface" to engage with the community on a performance piece to be delivered in Autumn 2025. Gliondar also hold stilting workshops & rehearsals throughout the year for young people over 14 years of age and facilitated the only Cruinniú Late programme in the county in 2024 aimed at teens over 16 years of age. The group has a strong social inclusion focus and have held workshops attracting young neuro-diverse people who are now full-time members of the group, and they also facilitate work experience opportunities for artists with intellectual disabilities.



ATHENRY MUSIC SCHOOL



Athenry Music School is a not-for-profit community music school with a mission to enrich the musical, cultural, and social lives of the community through high-quality music services including instrumental lessons, community orchestras and choirs, concerts, and workshops. In 2024/25, the school achieved a milestone with "The Voices of Athenry" project, culminating in a performance at the National Concert Hall. This project involved over 200 hours of free workshops

in local schools, engaging students in music and discussions on important topics. Beyond singing, they engaged students in discussions on climate change, community, emotional wellbeing, and spirituality, inspiring the creation of Elemental Dance. The project received national praise for its exceptional music-making and collaboration, representing accessible, youth-led arts deeply rooted in the local community.

'SOMETHING IN THE WATER'

This Festival Group hosts a multidisciplinary arts festival in Headford, promoting local engagement in various art forms and supporting artists. In 2024, the festival featured 32 events attracting approximately 1,900 attendees. Local choirs, drama groups, and schools participated alongside professional artists, leading to new creative works. By using disused town centre buildings as venues, the festival is also aiming to revitalize the town centre and boost local businesses. This relatively new group and festival is building the reputation of Headford as a creative and vibrant place to live and work, as well as supporting the creation of new art works by local artists, and support for crafters, artisans and local businesses.



Gradam Foilseacháin Oidhreachta

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas d'iarrachtaí deonacha chun oidhreacht nádúrtha, tógtha agus chultúrtha a gceantar áitiúil a chur chun cinn agus a chaomhnú.

Best Contribution to Heritage Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to promote and preserve the natural, built, and cultural heritage of their local area.

Winner

Anois agus í ina 96ú bliain, tá Katie Duane ina hinspioráid ina pobal áitiúil le 40 bliain anuas, agus í sa tóir ar Reilig Chill Bhoithe a athchóiriú. In 2021, agus an mausoleum i mbaol titime, bhí baint ag Katie le bunú Ghrúpa Athchóirithe Chill Bhocht agus ó shin tá 2 iarratas rathúil déanta acu chuig Ciste na Séadchomharthaí Pobail, €15,000 ar dtús ar Phlean Bainistíochta Caomhnaithe, agus bunaithe ar an bplean, fuarthas €100,000 le haghaidh oibreacha leasúcháin chun an mhainistir agus an Mhása a athchóiriú. Aibhsíodh an obair chaomhantais thar a bheith rathúil seo i bpodchraoladh, i bhfísléarscáileanna agus i léarscáileanna scéil, agus bhí sí sa bhabhta ceannais sa Chatagóir Oidhreachta de Ghradaim Foirgníochta agus Dearaidh na hÉireann 2025. Ba é grá buan Katie do Chill Bheagt an fórsa spreagtha taobh thiar den obair seo ar fad, agus leagann sé béim ar an gcaoi ar féidir le guth duine amháin tionchar a imirt ar dhaoine eile sa phobal chun a n-oidhreacht thógtha a chur chun cinn agus a chaomhnú, agus sa phróiseas, a phobal a athbhunú mar shaineolaí.

KATIE DUANE



Now in her 96th year, Katie Duane has been the inspiration in her local community for the last 40 years, in the pursuit of the restoration of her beloved Kilboght Graveyard. In 2021, with the mausoleum

in danger of collapse, Katie was instrumental in the Kilboght Restoration Group being set up and they have since made 2 successful applications to the Community Monuments Fund, initially €15,000 for a Conservation Management Plan, and based upon the plan, €100,000 was secured for remedial works to restore the abbey and mausoleum. This hugely successful conservation work has been highlighted in a podcast, video and story maps, and was a finalist in the Heritage Category of the Irish Building and Design Awards 2025. Katie's enduring love for Kilboght has been the motivating force behind all this work, and highlights how the voice of just one person can influence others in the community to promote and preserve their built heritage, and in the process, restore its dignity as a cherished community and heritage asset.

Highly Commended

DONAGHPATRICK KILCOONA HERITAGE SOCIETY



In 2024, with the help of Heritage Council grant funding, Donaghpatrik Kilcoona Heritage Society embarked on a project to LiDAR map Knockma Hill, with the aim of creating a comprehensive study of its archaeology, and two public talks were held in relation to this project. The Society has also mapped all 75 townlands in the area, creating a photographic archive of all the monuments in each townland. Through the ground surveys, LiDAR, and consulting historic maps, the Society has discovered several previously unidentified monuments. The Society's work on townlands, facilitation of heritage talks,

and sharing of articles on all historical aspects of the parish, have played a huge role in educating the local community and getting people engaged in the history and heritage that surrounds them. In particular, their efforts to shine a light on the historical significance of Knockma are laudable, with substantial volunteer effort throwing a spotlight on an overlooked area.

IONAD OIDHREACHTA LEITIR MEALÁIN AGUS GHARUMNA

I 2024, d'éagraigh an tIonad comóradh 175 bliain ar dhul faoi uisce an Brig St. John i gCuan Boston sa bhliain 1849. Áiríodh ar an gcomóradh dhá lá plaic cuimhneacháin agus bláthfhleasc, athléiriú de mhná áitiúil in éadaí traidisiúnta ag Céibh Caladh Gholaim agus iad ag fanacht leis na báid iascaireachta fillleadh lena ngabháil, agus ceiliúradh áitiúil ina measc bronnadh teideal Pearsa na nOileán ar Mháirtín Tom Sheainín! D'fhoilsigh an Ionad Oidhreachta Féilire 2025 le bailiúchán de ghrianghraifeanna Oidhreachtuil ó cheantar Chonnamara Theas, pictiúir den Brig St John san áireamh. Thug na himeachtaí a reáchtáil an tIonad do chomóradh an Brig St John deis don phobail eolas a fháil ar eachtraí stairiúil an cheantar agus blaiseadh a fháil don chaoi a raibh rudaí fadó leis an athléiriú dena báid iascaigh ag fillleadh.



In 2024, the Centre organised a 175th anniversary commemoration of the sinking of the Brig St John in Boston Harbour in 1849. The two-day commemoration included a memorial plaque and wreath, a reenactment of local women in traditional dress at the Caladh Gholaim pier as they waited for the fishing boats to return with their catch, and local celebrations including presentation of title of Person of the Islands to Máirtín Tom Sheainín! The Heritage Centre has published a 2025 Calendar with a collection of Heritage photographs from the South Connemara area, including pictures of the Brig St John. The events held by the Centre to commemorate the Brig St John gave the public an opportunity to learn about the historical events of the area and get a taste of how things were in the past with the reenactment of the fishing boats returning.

Gradam Foilsitheoireachta Oidhreachta

Aithníonn an chatagóir seo iarrachtaí deonacha chun taighde, taifead agus cur chun cinn a dhéanamh ar oidhreacht na gceantar áitiúil.

Heritage Publication Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to research, record and promote the heritage of local areas.

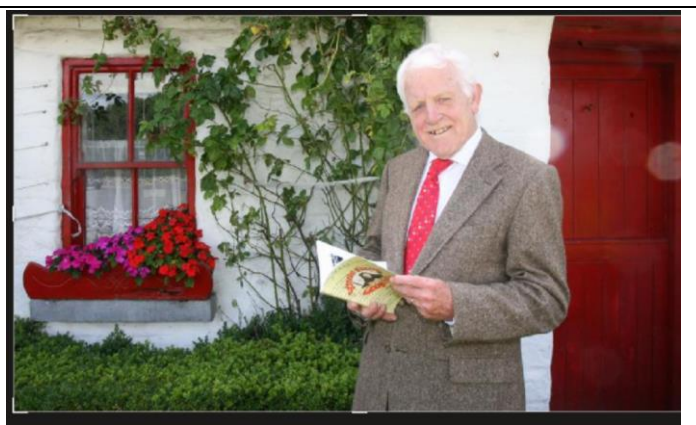
Winner

Tá Michael J. Hurley ina chónaí i sráidbhaile Leacach ó 2008 agus chuaigh sé isteach i gCoiste Iarsmalann Leacach agus Cumann Forbartha Pobail in 2014. Ó shin i leith, tá taighde, scríobh agus foilsiú aige go deonach ar a laghad leabhar amháin in aghaidh na bliana, arb ionann é anois agus 15 leabhar a dhoiciméadaíonn stair agus oidhreacht pharóiste Leacach! Albam pictiúrtha 330 leathanach de chuid mhuintir Leacach agus de mhuintir Leacach is ea a fhoilseachán 2024 "Lackagh - A Colourful Past" a bhfuil rannpháirtíocht fhairsing phobail mar thaca aige. Eisíodh cuireadh oscailte do gach duine a bhfuil naisc Lackagh acu a ghrianghraif a chur isteach as ar tháinig breis agus 800 pictiúr de dhaoine, áiteanna, imeachtaí agus ceiliúrthaí ag dul siar go 1875. Tá an paisean agus an cúram a tugadh don tionscadal seo mar shiombail de gur bhain Michael úsáid as AI go dian chun na grianghraif dubh agus bán a dhathú, rud a thug beocht agus úire do phictiúir 'tuirseach' murach iad. Seoladh an leabhar le linn Sheachtain na hOidhreachta agus díoladh amach é taobh istigh de 3 seachtaine. Sna blianta gairide a chaith sé ina chónaí sa Leacach, tá stair agus oidhreacht an pharóiste ar fad taifeadta ag Michael J., ag cruthú leabhair thagartha luachmhara do pharóisteánaigh agus do dhaoine eile atá ag cuardach staire teaghlaigh sa cheantar, agus ag caomhnú naisc le tréithe uathúla an pharóiste do na glúnta atá le teacht.

MICHAEL J. HURLEY

Michael J. Hurley has lived in the village of Lackagh since 2008 and joined the Committee of Lackagh Museum and Community Development Association in 2014. Since then, he has voluntarily researched, written, and published at least one book per year, which now amounts to 15 books documenting Lackagh parish history and heritage! His 2024 publication "Lackagh - A Colourful Past" is a 330-page pictorial album by and of the people of Lackagh underpinned by extensive community engagement. An open invitation issued to everybody with Lackagh connections to submit their photographs resulting in over 800 pictures of people, places, events, and celebrations dating back to 1875. The passion and care brought to this project is symbolised by the fact that Michael painstakingly used AI to colourise the black and white photos bringing a new vitality and freshness to what may otherwise have been 'tired' pictures. The book was launched during Heritage Week and sold out within 3 weeks. In his relatively short years living in Lackagh, Michael J. has documented the entire parish history and heritage, creating valuable reference books for parishioners and others undertaking family history searches in the area, and preserving connections to the unique characteristics of the parish for future generations.



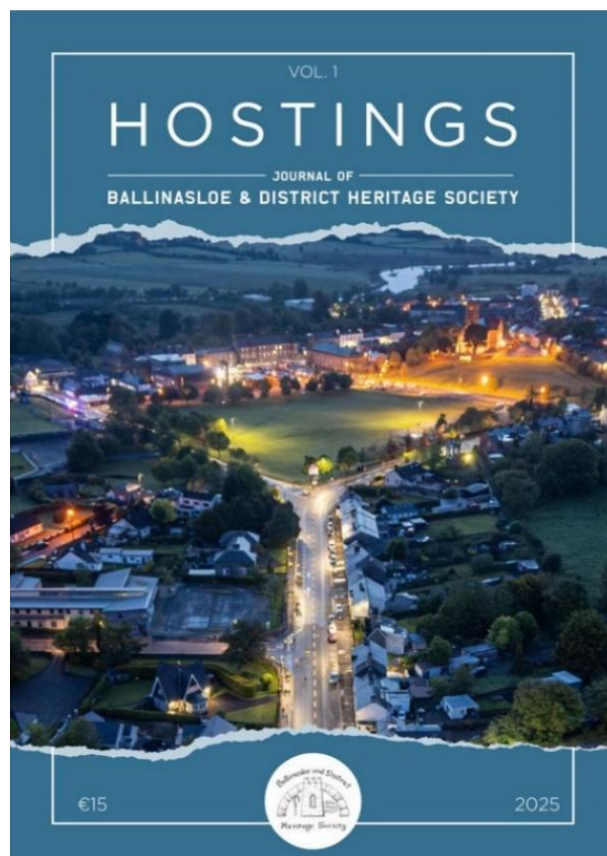


Michael J. Hurley at Lackagh Museum

Highly Commended

BALLINASLOE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Ballinasloe & District Heritage Society is a group set up to protect, preserve, and promote the history and heritage of Ballinasloe. Community outreach and engagement has been a key element since their formation, and they have attracted a large following through a series of exhibitions, outings, walks, and talks covering all aspects of their heritage. They have published "Hostings" to celebrate the 900th anniversary of what is regarded as Ballinasloe's foundational event; the establishment of a settlement at Dún Leodha by Turlough O'Connor, King of Connacht. This first edition of the Journal covers a broad sweep of the archaeological, architectural, sporting, industrial, and social history and heritage of the town and surrounds. It marries high production values and clear and contemporary graphics with a mix of both academic and popular subjects and styles, making it engaging and accessible to a wide spectrum of ages and demographics. In keeping with their ethos of community engagement, the Society partnered with Ballinasloe Credit Union to sponsor 220 copies of "Hostings" for schools and nursing homes across Ballinasloe and its hinterland and translated it into Ukrainian to give their new community members a sense of the history and heritage of their new home. 'Hostings' was also featured on an RTÉ Radio 1 celebration of self-published books, with its contribution appropriately summed up by the comment that "we need beautiful books like this in the paperless, contactless world in which we live".



Gradam don Rannchuidiú is Fearr sa Ghaeilge

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas d'iarrachtaí deonacha chun úsáid agus eolas na Gaeilge a chaomhnú, a chur chun cinn, nó a mhéadú.

Best Contribution to the Irish Language Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to preserve, promote, or increase the use and knowledge of the Irish language.

Buaiteoir

Tá Fóram Chois Fharraige um Pleanáil Teanga ag tacú le pobal Chois Fharraige i chuide réimse den saol, siamsaíocht, gnó, oideachas agus cúram don duine agus don timpeallacht san áireamh, leis an nGaeilge a threisiú agus a neartú mar theanga teaghlaigh agus pobail. Coinníonn Scéal, Scéal, Scéal an pobal ar an eolas maidir le fógraí, nuacht agus scéalta as Cois Fharraige. Tá neart deiseanna ann chun an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim trí Chiorcail comhrá, maidin caife, Gaeilge san Ionad oibre, Ghaeilge ar an Teallach, drámaíocht agus chun snas a chur ar do chuid gramadaí Gaeilge tá an leabhar Teagascóir Gramadaí a foilsíodh le gairid.

COIS FHARRAIGE FÓRAM UM PLEANÁIL TEANGA



Leabhair i gcló ag
Fóram Chois Fharraige um
Pleanáil Teanga CTR



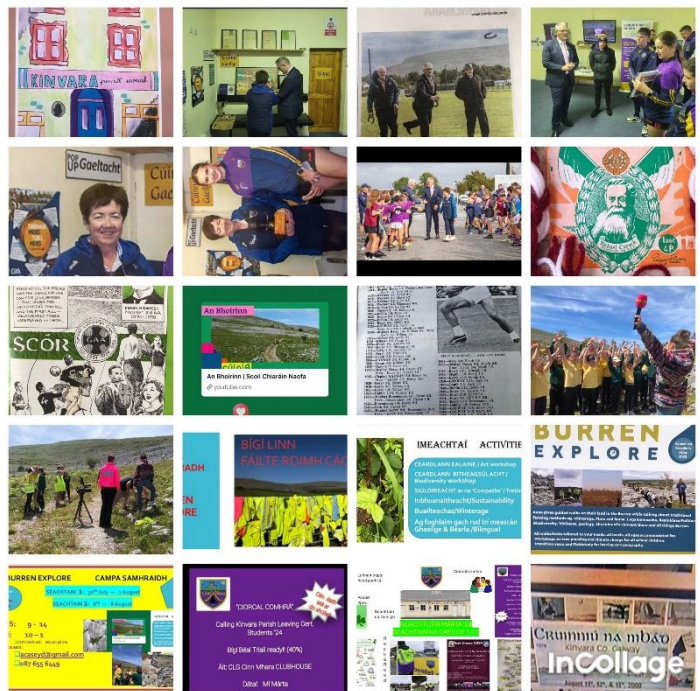
The Fóram Chois Fharraige Pleanáil Teanga plays a vital role in supporting the local community across all aspects of life, from entertainment and business to education, Environment, and care for the elderly, working to strengthen and promote Irish as both a family and community language. The initiative Scéal, Scéal, Scéal keeps the community informed by sharing announcements, news, and local stories from Cois Fharraige. There are numerous opportunities to engage with the Irish language, whether through conversation circles, coffee mornings, workplace initiatives, learning by the fireside, drama, or the newly introduced book Teagascóir Gramadaí to improve on your Irish grammar.

Ardmholadh

POP UP GAELTACHT CHINN MHARA

Tá Pop Up Gaeltacht Chinn Mhara an-ghníomhach i gceantar an Bhoireann agus Cinn Mhara agus iad ag freastal ar mhór imeachtaí ag spreagadh agus ag cur chun cinn na Gaeilge do shéan agus óg ó Champaí Samhradh, Campaí Cásca, Campaí Samhna agus Campaí Nollaig. Tá an-cháil ar na siúlóidí treoraithe san Bhoireann, áit a fhaigheann an pobal deis foghlaim faoi na bláthanna éagsula, béaloideas agus logainmneacha sa Bhoireann trí Ghaeilge. Bíonn siad gníomhach le imeachtaí ag féile Cruinniú na mBád.

Kinvara's Pop-Up Gaeltacht plays a vibrant role in the Burren and Kinvara area, actively participating in major events that foster and promote the Irish language for people of all ages. From Summer, Easter, Autumn, and Christmas Camps, to highly regarded guided walks in the Burren, it provides the community with valuable opportunities to explore local flora, folklore, and place names through Irish. Additionally, they are actively involved at the Cruinniú na mBád festival.



Gradam Comhshaoil agus don Athrú Aeráide

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas d'iarrachtaí deonacha chun an timpeallacht ina gcónaíonn said a fheabhsú ar bhealach atá inbhuanaithe.

Environment & Climate Action Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to enhance the environment in which they live in a sustainable manner.

Winner

Molann Jacinta go paiseanta 'nach don aos óg amháin dul i ngleic le hathrú aeráide' agus tá a blianta iar-scoir tiomnaithe aici d'oidreachas aeráide agus d'ghníomhaíocht, go háirithe i measc na nglún níos sine. Tá a misean soiléir agus láidir – cohórt chomh leathan de phobal na hÉireann a thabhairt suas chun tosaigh ar cad is athrú aeráide ann i ndáiríre, agus na huirlisí agus an t-eolas a chumasú do na daoine sin a lorg carbóin a laghdú ar bhealaí praiticiúla laethúla. In 2023, bhunaigh Jacinta an 60+ Céide Aeráide, agus le bliain go leith anuas, thaistil sí go forleathan ar fud Chathair agus Chontae na Gaillimhe chun labhairt le grúpaí scoir, líonraí cúramóirí, seideanna fear, seideanna ban, agus raon leathan grúpaí pobail & deonacha. Tá a cúrsa 6 seachtaine curtha ar fáil do go leor grúpaí i gContae na Gaillimhe agus tá sé leathnaithe go dtí roinnt contaetha eile anois, agus an obair seo ar fad déanta ar bhonn deonach. Tá a paisean agus a tiomántas le feiceáil go soiléir, agus tá sí inspioráideach do go leor daoine, ag léiriú conas is féidir le duine amháin athrú chomh dearfach a dhéanamh agus daoine eile a chumhachtú maidir le gníomhaíocht aeráide.

JACINTA BARRINS



Jacinta passionately advocates that 'tackling climate change is not just for the young' and has dedicated her post-retirement years to climate education and activism, especially among older generations. Her mission is clear and compelling – to bring as wide a cohort of the Irish public up to speed on what climate change truly is, and to empower those individuals with the tools and knowledge to reduce their carbon footprint in practical, everyday ways. In 2023, Jacinta founded the **60+ Climate Drive**, and over the last year and a half, has travelled extensively across Galway City and County to talk to retirement groups, carers networks, men's sheds, women's sheds, and a broad range of community & voluntary groups. Her 6-week course has been delivered to many groups across County Galway and has now extended to several other counties, with all this work done on a completely voluntary basis. Her passion and drive are clear to see, and she is inspirational to so many, showcasing how one person can make such a positive change and empower others regarding climate action.

Highly Commended

CUAN BEO ENVIRONMENTAL CLG

Cuan Beo, 'the living bay', is a community-based group with a mission of improving the quality of life, environment, economy, and heritage surrounding South-East Galway Bay, and making the connection between land and sea. Cuan Beo has delivered several high-impact community and environmental initiatives over the last year including a Source to Sea Education Programme for 6 primary schools reaching 550 pupils, and a weekend of marine and freshwater environmental events through Cruinniú na mBad reaching up to 5,000 people. The group has continued its oyster restoration activities at Galway Bay and launched 18 QR codes at sea-access points to display environmental information. In September 2024, the Group also hosted a dedicated site visit of the National Meeting of the Local Authority Biodiversity & Heritage Officers for a walking tour of Cuan Beo's activities. This inspiring group continues to actively reach out to the local community, collaborate with the local authority, and contribute to national environmental discussions.



ST BRENDAN'S GAA, BALLYGAR



LEGEND

1 Seed collection	2 Treeline	3 Bee bank
4 Wildflower meadow	5 Hedgerow	6 Bee Scrape
7 Woodland	8 Sensory Garden	

St. Brendan's GAA showcases what can be achieved when you work together. From 20 years ago when their facilities were referred to as a 'midget park', they are achieving mighty things by amalgamating facilities catering to men's and ladies' football, hurling and camogie. Through their implementation of the GAA Green Club programme, and collaborations with local groups, they are ensuring that this development occurs in an inclusive and sustainable manner. Under Phase 3 of the GAA Green Clubs, they have identified and implemented environmental and climate action initiatives under the themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and

Travel. Their litter management and re-turn initiative includes collaborations with 8 local facilities including schools, social care facilities, local community amenities, facilities and festivals. The development of a 5-year Biodiversity Plan, biodiversity planting initiatives, low-level community walkway lighting, sensory garden with educational elements, and energy efficiency measures, all demonstrate best practice. Their level of collaboration, and focus on a multi-purpose community facility, demonstrates how inclusivity and sustainability can co-exist hand in hand, and showcase a community that is working together to live in a sustainable manner.

An Gradam um Ionchuimsiú Sóisialta

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo iarrachtaí chun tacú le daoine páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí sóisialta agus fóillíochta, go háirithe iad siúd a d'fhéadfadh a bheith eisiata go sóisialta.

Social Inclusion Award

This category recognises efforts to support people to participate in social and leisure activities, particularly those who may be socially excluded.

Winner

Is mac léinn tríú bliana í Sarah Ann Buday i gColáiste na hArdchathrach i dTuaim. Tá taithí phearsanta ag Sarah Ann ar an saol mar chúramóir óg, agus le 3 bliana anuas tá sí ina abhcóide páiseanta do gach chúramóir óg ag leibhéal áitiúil agus náisiúnta. D'oibrigh sí go dian dícheallach chun aird a tharraingt ar na ról ríthábhachtacha a imríonn daoine óga chun tacú le baill teaghlaigh atá faoi mhíchumas ar feadh an tsaoil trí thaighde acadúil, trí rannpháirtíocht phoiblí, agus trí úsáid a bhaint as a guth i gComhairle na nÓg agus sa Tionól Náisiúnta Óige. Labhair Sarah Ann leis an gCoiste Oireachtais i mí an Mhárta 2024, agus le Teach Laighean i mí an Mhárta 2025, chun feachtas a ardú ar an ngá atá le cúram cuí agus seirbhísí tacaíochta do chúramóirí óga, rud a d'fhág gur rith an Dáil Tairiscint ar Chúramóirí Óga a thug Páirtí an Lucht Oibre. D'admhaigh an Tairiscint seo go gcuireann níos mó ná 67,000 leanbh idir 10-17 mbliana d'aois cúram ar fáil do bhall teaghlaigh, go minic ar chostas a n-óige féin, agus go bhfuil an baol ann go dtitfidh siad ar gcúl ar scoil, go gcaillfidh siad deiseanna sóisialta, go mothaíonn siad scoite agus go mbeidís i mbaol cliniciúil dúlagar. Trína cuid oibre leis na meáin chumarsáide, rannpháirtíochtaí cainte poiblí, agus for-rochtain pobail, tá Sarah Ann ina curadh tiomnaithe do chúramóirí óga. Sa phróiseas, spreag sí daoine eile go mór agus chruthaigh sí gur féidir le daoine óga a bheith ina ngníomhairí cumhachtacha athraithe.

SARAH ANN BUDAY

Sarah Ann Buday is a third-year student at High Cross College in Tuam. Sarah Ann has first-hand experience of life as a young carer, and for the last 3 years has been a passionate advocate for all young carers at local and national level. She has worked tirelessly to highlight the vital roles that young people play in supporting family members with lifelong disabilities through academic research, public speaking engagements, and using her voice in Comhairle na nÓg and the National Youth Assembly. Sarah Ann spoke to the Oireachtas Committee in March 2024, and to Leinster House in March 2025, to raise awareness of the need for proper care and support services for young carers, resulting in a Motion on Young Carers brought by the Labour Party being passed by the Dail on 20th March 2025. This Motion acknowledged that more than 67,000 children aged 10-17 provide care to a family member, often at the expense of their own childhood, and risk falling behind in school, missing out on social opportunities, feeling isolated and being at clinical risk of depression. Through her media work, public speaking engagements, and community outreach, Sarah Ann is a dedicated champion for young carers. In the process, she has inspired countless others and proved that young people can be powerful agents of change.



Highly Commended

ANN WALSH

Ann had a vision and determination to renovate an old unused building for use as a community meeting space, recognising how the lack of such a space was impacting on social inclusion and wellbeing. Ann oversaw the hiring of skips to clear the space, removing an internal wall to open the space into a single room, and upgrading of plumbing and electrical services. Ann also led fundraising activities to furnish the space and making a grant application to assist the renovation work. From lying unused and unloved for almost 40 years to transformation into a vibrant community meeting space in 4 months just in time for use as a Storm Éowyn Response hub, Ann has created a huge asset for her parish and made the seemingly impossible possible!



BALLINAKILL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Ballinakill Community Development Committee has fundamentally transformed their rural area by placing social inclusion at the core of their development initiatives, and the judges were particularly impressed by the grassroots and whole-of-community efforts involved in fund-raising for the match funding elements of grant-aided projects. Their efforts have focused on creating shared spaces which are accessible to everyone, and they have implemented specific programming for children with disabilities at new facilities such as the astroturf on the school grounds. In identifying the need for a webcam and sound amplification system in the Church, they have also catered to homebound residents, allowing them to remain connected to community gatherings and religious services. Through their dedication to social inclusion and a sense of shared purpose, they have made a lasting difference for their whole community by addressing physical, technological, and social barriers simultaneously.



CAIRDEAS DISCO VOLUNTEERS

The Cairdeas Disco is an excellent approach to creating a sustainable social outlet and safe space for people with disabilities and their families. Recognising the lack of social activities for people with additional needs, the Lackagh Branch of Ability West decided to create this social event in 2005 at Turloughmore GAA Club. Despite the Lackagh Branch of Ability West being long gone, the event celebrates its 20th anniversary in May 2025! This is testament to the ongoing efforts of volunteers to create an inclusive event of benefit not just to people with additional needs, but clearly what is also a valuable support network for their families. It truly demonstrates how the efforts of a handful of volunteers can positively influence the lives of so many people. It's wonderful to see that this monthly event continues to grow in popularity, and what is even better to see is that it broke the COVID trend, by coming back bigger and better than ever!



ISABELLE NÍ DHUINN

Isabelle is the current Chairperson of Loughrea Tidy Towns and since taking up this role has increased the overall membership from 9 to 50. Isabelle has ensured that participation in tidy towns activities is extended to everyone in the community and has reached out to include people with disabilities and the local Ukrainian community. This collaborative approach also extends to developing joint projects with the local Men's Shed and Youthreach programme and lobbying local Elected Members to install accessible play equipment at local playgrounds. Isabelle has overseen a substantial increase in Loughrea's Tidy Towns Competition scores, and through the implementation of a wide variety of projects in a socially inclusive way, has made a massive difference to a lot of people's lives in the process.



KILCOLGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This volunteer-led community group is dedicated to enhancing quality of life in Kilcolgan village and surrounding areas. The Committee engages in activities to foster community spirit and social



inclusion including table quizzes, fundraisers, family fun days, celebrations of national holidays, community clean-up days and targeted planting projects. The community has ensured all voices are heard through widespread community engagement on a Village Strategic Development Plan to guide future planning. This Committee is enhancing pride of place and creating physical and social spaces where everyone feels welcome and valued. This is best demonstrated in the following social media comment - "this community is the

definition of proactive, family oriented and connected – everything a community should be".

SPARKCATCHERS!

Sparkcatchers! Mission is to provide 'collaborative socially engaged arts via spontaneity, fun, truth and positive disruption in public spaces & everyday places'. Their activities such as digital games, music, puppetry and storytelling, enable creative engagement in an inclusive manner. The nomination form eloquently details how this programme has fostered social inclusion on an individual and school level. A quote from St. Oliver's Special School sums this up by stating 'it has been wonderful for our students to feel like an important and equal part of the school community in Tuam'. This project demonstrates the importance of social and cultural projects to foster social inclusion at a community level.



TUAM FÁILTE ISTEACH

This is a very inclusive approach to tutor English language to migrants, refugees and International



Protection applicants, and in the process, break down barriers and alleviate loneliness and social exclusion. The initiative has grown from 1 weekly class in March 2024 to 3 weekly classes from August 2024, and there are currently over 100 learners registered for classes with over 30 volunteers involved. In July 2024, the first End of Term Certificate Presentation took place to acknowledge the commitment of learners and tutors, and there are also ongoing linkages with agencies to provide learners with information on employment, further education and volunteering opportunities. Between the learners and

volunteers, there are 25 nationalities represented in the classes! This is a hugely important initiative to help everyone understand different cultures and ways of life.

Gradam Spóirt

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo iarrachtaí deonacha líon na ndaoine a ghlacann páirt i sport a mhéadú, go háirithe laistigh de ghrúpaí a bhfuil rátaí rannpháirtíochta íseal acu.

Sports Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to increase the number of people participating in sport, particularly within groups with low participation rates.

Winner

Is club oibrithe deonacha é South Galway Lakers faoi scáth Cluichí Oilimpeacha Speisialta Éireann. In 2023, rinne siad athbhreithniú ar thaitneamhachtaí spóirt atá ar fáil do lúthchleasaithe faoi mhíchumas intleachta i nGaillimh Theas agus thuig siad go raibh bearna ollmhór sna háiseanna. Chuir siad amach foirm léirithe spéise chun suim a mheas, rud a rinne 56 iarratas go tapa le bheith mar chuid de chlub nua agus bhunaigh siad coiste d'oibrithe deonacha aonair a bhí tiomanta an taoide a iompú do na lúthchleasaithe seo. Tar éis a lán ullmhúcháin agus obair chrua, d'oscail siad na doirse do chlub úrnua i Márta 2024 i mBaile Locha Riach agus cispheil mar an chéad spórt a cuireadh ar fáil. Tá méadú ag teacht ar líon na ndaoine a théann isteach sa chlub go míosúil agus tá an dara ionad traenála oscailte acu anois sa nGort agus tá a gcuid gníomhaíochtaí leathnaithe chun freastal ar na daoine sin nach bhfuil chomh soghluaiste sin le freastal ar na daoine sin nach bhfuil chomh soghluaiste sin, agus tá pleananna le leathnú chuig spóirt eile bunaithe ar aiseolas ó rannpháirtithe. Mhóthaigh an painéal moltóireachta go raibh moladh mór tuillte ag an ngrúpa seo as dul i ngleic le bearna atá aitheanta go soiléir i ngníomhaíochtaí spóirt agus ag dul ó neart go neart i dtréimhse ama réasúnta gearr. Is léir go bhfuil siad ag maireachtáil go dtí mana a gclub, "United we stand, together we soar!".

SOUTH GALWAY LAKERS SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS CLUB



South Galway Lakers are a volunteer-run club under the umbrella of Special Olympics Ireland. In 2023, they did a review of sports amenities available to athletes with intellectual disabilities in South Galway and realised there was a huge gap in facilities. They put out an expression of interest form to gauge interest which quickly had 56 applications to be part of a new club and subsequently formed a committee of individual volunteers who were committed to turning the tide for these athletes. After a lot of preparation and hard work, they opened the doors to a brand-new club in March 2024 in Loughrea with basketball as the first sport offered. The numbers joining the club are growing monthly and they have now opened a second training venue in Gort and have expanded their activities to include Bocce to cater for those who are less mobile, with plans to extend to other sports based on feedback from participants. The judging panel felt this group deserves huge credit for tackling a clearly identified gap in sporting activities and going from strength to strength in a relatively short period of time. They are clearly living up to their club slogan of "United we stand, together we soar!".

Highly Commended

BERNIE ROGERS

Bernie Rogers is a driving force in voluntary sports and outdoor activities in Oranmore, but Bernie doesn't just organise sport – she transforms it into something welcoming, joyful, and accessible for all. Her voluntary work increases participation in sport and physical activity among underrepresented groups and fosters an inclusive, health-focused community. She is co-leader of Oranmore Parkrun, a founding member of the Rinville Swimmers and Dippers, and has organised countless initiatives such as “Swim for Fun” and “Run for Fun” where the emphasis is on encouragement over performance and finding everyone a play to belong.



CARMEL GAVIN



Carmel is an active committee member of Newbridge Athletics Club and had a vision to get a Couch to 5k programme at her local community sportsfield in Killyan. Carmel rallied a group of 65-70 people between ages 10-74 into action every Monday and Wednesday from February to April 2025, with the programme a fantastic opportunity for the local community to get active together, and work towards their individual fitness goals in a supportive and encouraging environment. Carmel was the driving force and organised the committee to bring together activity leaders and keep the group motivated on a weekly basis.

DUNMORE MACHALES LGFA

Having celebrated their 25th anniversary last year, this club continues to grow as a vibrant, inclusive and community-focused hub. The Club now fields teams in every age group from Under-6 to Under-18, Junior and Senior Teams, and ‘Mothers and Others’ team, giving opportunities for everyone to play, learn and belong. The Club marked International Women’s Day with a series of events aimed at making sport accessible and meaningful to all including yoga for men, chair yoga for older people, boot camp for over 50’s, parent and child yoga, mindfulness for women, football taster sessions, and a Children’s Library Event for 91 boys and girls.



DUNMORE TOWN AFC



Dunmore Town AFC offers the Football For All Programme, which provides a fun, safe, and inclusive environment where children with additional needs have the chance to shine and experience the joy of soccer. Volunteers from the club coach the Football For All group which continues to grow weekly with new players and volunteers joining. Their volunteers state that it is highly rewarding to see the happiness the programme brings to both the children and their families, and the club are proud to provide this initiative for the town. Parents have expressed how the programme has also contributed to their child's social skills development through interaction with teammates and coaches and has helped build their confidence. This heartwarming feedback, and the club's focus on respect and inclusion, demonstrate the core values of sport.

GALWAY COUNTY COMMUNITY GAMES COMMITTEE



Galway Community Games covers around 46 countywide events with girls and boys participating in different age groups. The Committee recently held their 54th AGM in Athenry, with more than half the Committee there since the start of the Games in Galway. This represents a lifetime dedication to the ethos of the Games, providing opportunities for children to enjoy and participate in sporting and cultural events in a safe environment, while developing active healthy lives.

KINVARA HOCKEY CLUB

Kinvara Hockey Club have a terrific focus on promoting access to hockey for all, with social, walking and inclusive hockey for all abilities and ages. The Club has achieved many individual and collective sporting achievements, even more remarkable since they have no home pitch. Their 'Push for a Pitch' and 'Let's Build it' campaigns for the last number of years are admirable, securing €443,000 from the Sports Capital Programme, and €1.3m from the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund to develop a hockey and multi-sport facility for the region.



MATTHEW WARD



Matthew is a member of St. Jarlath's College Rugby Team and won the Development Cup with them in 2024/2025, scoring 15 of their 29 points. He also assists Tuam Rugby Club in delivering inclusive rugby for children with special needs and encouraging membership from all backgrounds with the club. Matthew is not just a massive inspiration to his team and community, but he is a role model for the Traveller Community. His sporting achievements are testament to his hard work and dedication to rugby, and he is carrying out all additional voluntary work while studying for his Leaving Certificate.

MOANBAUN SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This sports & recreation complex caters for soccer and athletics and hosts a 700m community walkway with seating and disability-friendly exercise equipment. The Soccer Club identified a need to extend facilities to cater for the growing demand in the area and by joining forces with the Athletics Club, they have for the first time got their own athletics arena which has become more attractive and enticing to engage people in track & field activities, which has increased the numbers registered with the club. This joint approach facilitates state-of-the-art facilities for a joint membership of close to 1,000 members.



MOYNE VILLA FC



Moyness Villa Football Club is a sports facility catering to all members of the community. The Club offers sport, physical activity, and health & wellbeing opportunities to over 950 members and most recently, has established a *Football For All* programme which already has one hundred members, offering other ways for people of all ages and abilities to get active and involved. Despite the scale of

operations, the club is entirely volunteer driven, with 119 volunteers giving their time freely to deliver for the community.

Gradam Aitheantais na mBailte Slachtmhara

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas donéacht speisialta Grúpa na mBailte Slachtmhara.

Tidy Towns Recognition Award

This category recognises the special achievement of a Tidy Towns Group.

Winner

TUAM TIDY TOWNS

Tuam Tidy Towns became the first in County Galway to be awarded Medal status in the large town category of the National Tidy Towns Competition, receiving a Bronze Medal in 2024 in recognition of all their ongoing efforts over the last number of years across the broad-ranging competition categories.



The Committee has been entering the National Competition since 2011 and have built a strong sense of community spirit and inclusivity in the intervening years, with 3.3k followers on Facebook and ongoing interactions with the community through regular litter picking and clean-up initiatives, collaborative projects with local groups and schools, and encouraging businesses to participate in initiatives such as the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme and the annual planting enhancement of the main streetscape. As Tuam Tidy Towns developed and delivered projects, they sought and took on board advice and help from many agencies including Galway County Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Local Authority Waters Programme and others to deliver sustainable, long-lasting initiatives within their community.

The Tidy Towns Committee has put great emphasis on the development of biodiversity initiatives and development of green spaces and natural habitats in recent years, with the planting of a mini-forest at the Palace Grounds Park and holding a “Buzzing in the Park” educational event, greening the laneways linking to the Park, and developing habitat information panels on the River Nanny with an accompanying detailed graphic illustration and colouring book on the “Story of the River” for local national schools. They have also worked on various heritage and biodiversity trails and more recently, the Tidy Towns collaborated with Youthreach students who researched and made bird and bat boxes which have been placed in strategic locations around the town.

It is a huge achievement for County Galway’s town with the highest population to bring every sector of its community together to achieve a shared mission to improve their local environment and make their town a better place to live, work and visit.

Huge congratulations must go to committee members and volunteers, past and present, who have identified multiple practical and creative projects over the years to improve their town. They were for a long time under the passionate stewardship of Chairperson Michael Waldron who has now passed on the baton of Chairperson to John Hansberry. We wish them continued success and look forward to continued collaborations with our Area Office and all Departments of the Council.



Sr. Agnes, Michael Waldron, and Brigid Dermody of Tuam Tidy Towns receiving their Bronze Medal from Minister Dara Calleary in April 2025



TY Students in High Cross College Tuam litter-picking with Tuam Tidy Towns April 2025

Gradam um Mortas Ceantair

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas do ghrúpa a roghnófar chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh san Chomórtas Náisiúnta um Mórtas Ceantair ar son Chontae na Gaillimhe.

Pride of Place Award

This category recognises the groups selected to represent County Galway in the All-Island IPB Pride of Place Awards.

Winner

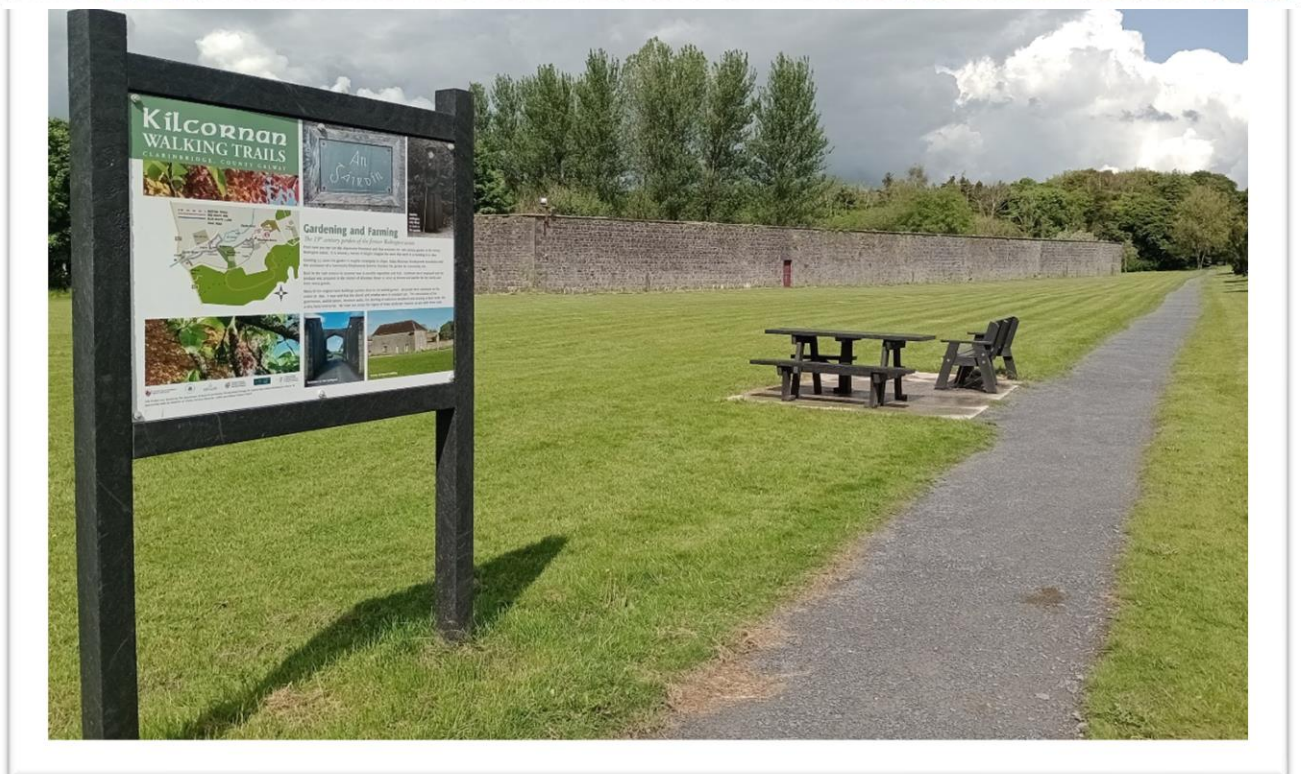
CLARINBRIDGE TIDY TOWNS

Clarinbridge has been selected by Galway County Council to represent the County in the All-Island Pride of Place Competition in the population categories and will be entered in the 300-1000 Category. The entry and judging process will be coordinated by Clarinbridge Tidy Towns on behalf of the community.

Clarinbridge is a charming coastal village in south County Galway, located on the N18 approx. 14km south-east of Galway City. Developed at the end of the Eiscir Riada and Galway Bay's most easterly point, Clarinbridge is probably best known for its Oyster Festival which attracts up to 10,000 people to the village annually. The village was designed and built during the 1800's with a market at the village green, and the Parish Hall, Convent, Churches, Kilcornan Estate, Cowpark, and Schoolhouses are all legacies of the Redington Family, owners of the estate and benevolent landlords of the village.

Clarinbridge Tidy Towns was formed in 1979 with the aim of enhancing the physical and social environment of Clarinbridge Village and surrounding areas using the resources they are blessed to have inherited. Clarinbridge thrives as a vibrant and forward-thinking village with residents fostering a welcoming community through facilities such as the Cowpark/Kilcornan Walking Trails, Clarinbridge Men's & Women's Sheds, Kilcornan Estate and SCCUL Sanctuary, and community-driven events such as the Clarinbridge Market Day. With a strong commitment to development of heritage, sports, and environmental initiatives, in a manner that is sympathetic to the unique character of the village, this community aims to ensure a high quality of life for residents and an inviting atmosphere for visitors.





Gradam um Mortas Ceantair

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas do ghrúpa a roghnófar chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh san Chomórtas Náisiúnta um Mórtas Ceantair ar son Chontae na Gaillimhe.

Pride of Place Award

This category recognises the groups selected to represent County Galway in the All-Island IPB Pride of Place Awards.

Winner

MARCONI MEN'S SHED

Marconi Men's Shed has been selected by Galway County Council to represent the County in the All-Island Pride of Place Competition in the thematic categories and will be entered in the Community Wellbeing Category.

Marconi Men's Shed covers the Clifden and the surrounding areas. It is the first shed in Ireland to have been established exclusively by male family carers, following the completion of a unique Creative Carers Wood-turning Project funded through Creative Ireland.

In partnership with FORUM Connemara CLG, on-site premises have been agreed, and the shedders have worked diligently to retrofit four out-buildings, amalgamating two as a workshop and two for storage. The shed now has over fifty members with an age range from 43 to 85 years, who meet twice weekly, with two groups of shedders involved in a gardening project in the onsite poly-tunnels, and a wood-turning project in the workshop. Shedders also meet weekly to socialise and to provide peer-support.

The lens through which the shed functions and plans its activities, is one that emphasises the 'promotion of health and wellbeing and inclusivity'. Forty shedders have undertaken two Tai Chi and Mindfulness Courses and have completed Workshops in 'The 5 Ways to Wellbeing', 'Healthy Eating', 'Physical Activity Go for Life', and 'Stop Smoking West'. The impact has transformed the lives of many shedders, with some successfully giving up smoking, and the majority practice regular Tai Chi and Mindfulness at home, with all citing improved physical and mental wellbeing. Given the loneliness epidemic in the area, and an awareness that the need for social connection is innate; Marconi Men's Shed have planned a myriad of health promoting activities for Men's Health Week 2025 including, a Blue Health Respite and Social Outing, two Therapeutic Support Days, and Walking Football. The Shed will also be undertaking the first ever Legacy Project, and the first ever Heartbeats Drumadore Project in Ireland exclusively for Shedders and Family Carers this year. The importance of enhancing the mental health and wellbeing of Shedders is an important aspect of the Shed's ethos, which resonates across all their activities.



The original male family carers who took part in the Creative Carers woodturning project



The inaugural meeting of Marconi Men's Shed



Shedders receiving their Mindfulness Certificates from Michelle Harrison, HSE Carers Department

Gradam Aitheantais Speisialta an Chathaoirligh

Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award

Winner

BERNIE ROGERS

Originally from Glenamaddy, Bernie has been living in Oranmore since 1988 and is a driving force in local voluntary sports and outdoor activities. Her genuine kindness, sense of fun, and tireless commitment to volunteerism have made a lasting impact on quality of life, and she is the heart and soul of inclusive sports and wellbeing in Oranmore.

Bernie is co-event director of Oranmore Parkrun, a free weekly 5k event in Rinville Park that encourages everyone – walkers, runners, joggers, and volunteers – to get involved. This event thrives thanks to Bernie's warm welcome and dedication to inclusivity, especially for individuals with low confidence, health challenges, or disabilities. As an online review states "Carlsberg don't do Parkruns, but if they did, Oranmore Parkrun ticks all the boxes"!

Bernie is also a founding member of Rinville Swimmers and Dippers, offering sea swims that focus on fun, connection, and physical and mental wellbeing. She organises swimming lessons for all ages during summer, helping people build water confidence and appreciate their natural environment. A testimonial from one of the participants sums her up as follows: "Bernie is so kind, caring and thoughtful and nothing is too much trouble for her. The boot of her car would beat the best coffee shop – always a cupán tae, coffee, herbal tea with goodies of all sorts for everyone she meets."

Bernie continues to support "Swim for Fun" including working with David Tarpey, a wheelchair user whose inspiring story was captured in the "Big Life Fix" RTE series, and Bernie also led 15 amateur swimmers across Galway Bay from Aughinish Co. Clare to Blackrock Tower Salthill covering 10.5kms in total.

Bernie's contribution is not just about sport – it's about building confidence, connections, and community. She has reached those least likely to engage in traditional sports and helped them find a place to belong. Her leadership has helped countless individuals overcome isolation, improved their physical and mental health, and enabled them to feel part of something bigger.

Bernie's ethos of "A mile is a mile, regardless of pace" creates an inclusive space for everyone. As her nominee for the Sport Award says, it is very evident that her only goal is to get people moving and smiling.

From the pier to the park, Bernie is a champion for health, wellbeing, and friendship, and is richly deserving of special recognition.



Bernie joined by Máire Connolly, Galway's Special Olympics Medalist, for Parkrun Oranmore



Morning swim in Renville with the silver fins



Atlantic swim with David Tarpey raising funds for the RNLI and Oranmore Maree Search & Rescue Unit

Gradam Aitheantais Speisialta an Chathaoirligh

Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Award

Winner

MOYNE VILLA F.C.

Moyne Villa Football Club is based in Headford and primarily serves Headford Town and the surrounding areas, including parts of County Mayo.

Moyne Villa is a leading grassroots sports organisation, offering inclusive community-based football and physical activity opportunities for all ages and abilities. With over 950 members and 6 pitches, the club runs structured soccer programmes for players aged 3 to 65, supported by seasonal camps, local league matches, and state-of-the-art facilities including a full-size 4G pitch. In 2024, the FAI selected Moyne Villa as a host venue for coach training, further highlighting its importance as a regional and national sports hub. The Club is deeply committed to making sport accessible to all, and is currently developing a "Football for All" programme with Ability West, to ensure children and adults with additional needs enjoy and participate in the game in a supportive setting.

Beyond football, Moyne Villa promotes health and wellbeing for the whole community through a range of facilities including a women's GAA club, an outdoor gym, a public playground, and a safe lit walking track. Headfest, the local annual community festival, is entirely organised by the club's dedicated volunteers with additional voluntary committee members, who work tirelessly each year to deliver a vibrant celebration of music, sport, arts, and local spirit which is a much-loved highlight of the Headford calendar since 2017.

Moyne Villa works to ensure everyone feels valued, included and welcome – and this has never been more evident than in the aftermath of Storm Éowyn. The Club opened their doors to the entire community from early morning to late at night so that people could charge devices, take hot showers, warm bottles for newborns, cook meals, work remotely, and most importantly, connect with others during a time of extreme isolation. During the days and weeks following the storm, the Club became a vital hub for over 3,500 people and their incredible community response captured national attention. The Six-One News broadcast live from the club, RTE Radio 1 featured their story, and Moyne Villa was highlighted across local and national press, with their efforts showcased as an outstanding example of community resilience, community care, and leadership. Their nominee for the Sports Awards described them as a "true lifeline and an amazing bunch of people".

What was once seen primarily as a soccer club, is now recognised as so much more. They have created and are running a club for everyone in the community, not just for soccer.

This is what sport should be about: community, connection, and belonging.



HEADFEST 25

MAY 29TH - JUNE 2ND 2025
4 NIGHTS OF FESTIVAL MUSIC

MONAGHAN'S HEADFORD EST 1967

MEGA MARQUEE

MUSIC, SPORTS, & COMMUNITY EVENTS

FOLLOW US @HEADFESTGALWAY

TICKET LINK





MOYNE VILLA
EST 1977



Open

**OPEN ALL DAY MONDAY
COFFE SHOP ALSO OPEN
USE THE WIFI GET A SHOWER,
BRING A FLASK FOR BOILING
WATER, HEAT A MEAL,
CHARGE DEVICES...**



In Headford, the impressive Moyne Villa FC grounds has been for several days the only place for locals to get a shower or a hot meal. Some 2,000 people have passed through the doors since Saturday morning, from as far away as Cong and Ballinrobe, Co Mayo, said facilities manager Jason Gavin.



The Irish Times 30/1/2025

CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS ROLL OF HONOUR

2011	Abbey Community Development Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre Clann Family Resource Centre Oughterard Clifden Community Arts Week Margaret McNulty Portumna & District Active Retirement Sign Out Youth Café Portumna Tuam/Headford Special Olympics	2012	Athenry Community Games Boystown Heritage Store Ballymoe Clann Family Resource Centre Oughterard Clifden 2012 Dolmen Centre Kinvara Glinsk 100 Gort Community School Green Schools John Martin Griffin Portumna Arts Group
2013	Abbey Community Development Ahascragh Development Association Blue Teapot Theatre Company Frank Glynn Ionad Oidhreachta Leitir Mealláin Killimor & District Development Maree/Oranmore Football Club Tearmann Eanna Teo Tuam Youth Bank	2014	Active in Age Oranmore Bia Lover Food Festival Calasactius College Oranmore Ciaran Murphy Coiste Pobail Na Tulaí in Baile na hAbhainn Gaeilge Locha Riach Gort Cancer Support Loughrea Medieval Festival Moyne Villa Football Club Scoil Bhriocáin Ros Muc UachtarARTS
2015	Ballinderreen Community Centre Carrabane Community Development Co. Clifden Tidy Towns Cumann Forbartha Chois Fharraige Cumann Óige Átha an Rí Fit Towns Portumna Galway Older People's Council Killimor Recreation & Fitness Oranmore Heritage Group Seamus Duffy St. Mary's Church Historical Committee The Hub in Headford	2016	Arthur Carr Bernadette Conroy Bridge That Gap Clarinbridge Clubanna Óige Spleodar Bhaile Locha Riach Fit Towns Ballinasloe Headford Environment Group Headford Yarnbombers Milltown Heritage Group Oireachtas Chois Fharraige Shorelines Arts Festival
2018	Athenry Men's Shed Ballinderreen Community Centre Cuan Beo John Bhaba Jeaic O'Chonghaile Meelick Eyrecourt Kayak Club Moycullen Historical Society Pádhraic Ó Biadha Tom Broderick Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta	2019	Abbey Community Development Association Club na bhFoghlaimoirí Gaeilge Domestic Violence Response Oughterard Fit 4 Life Group Woodford Fochoiste Dhumnach na Leanbh Mighty Oaks Arch Club Portumna Moycullen Heritage Rosemary Hanley Yeats Thoor Ballylee Development CLG
2021	Accessilbity Ballinasloe Athenry Community First Responders Group Athenry Music School Biseach Cairdeas Forbairt Chonamara Láir Connemara Care East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Group Gliondar Community Arts Group Gort Cancer Support Group Killanin Parish COVID-19 Community Response Team Solas Family Resource Centre Headford The Walks Project Group Loughrea Venetia McEllin	2022	Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre Ballymoe Development Group Club Iomanaíochta Bearna / Na Forbacha Féile Chois Fharraige Headford Lace Project Lawrencetown Community Development Loughrea Men's Shed Milltown Tidy Towns Scoil Bhriocáin Ros Muc Woodford Parish Development

2023	Abbey Community Development Association Aileen Cust Memorial Society Ceoltóirí Óga Chois Fharraige Creggs Rural Development CURVE East Corrib Alliance Emma Laffey Glenamaddy Theatre Festival Gort River Walk Milltown Heritage Group Tuam Women's Shed	2024	Ballinasloe & District Heritage Group Connemara Green Dr. Joseph Mannion Interface Kinvara Hockey Club Kinvara Tidy Towns Martin Horgan Saoirse Ruane Pleanáil Teanga Chonamara Láir Vision Arch Club Williamstown Development Group
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Tá buíochas ar leith ag dul do na daoine seo a leanas as a gcabhair leis na hullmhúcháin don oíche anocht:

An Painéal Moltóireachta /

An tÓstach don tráthnóna /

Foireann an PPN agus Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

Foireann an Raheen Woods Hotel /

Special thanks to the following for their help with the preparations for tonight:

The Judging Panel

The Master of Ceremonies (MC)

Staff of the PPN and Galway County Council

Staff of the Raheen Woods Hotel

**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
AND
GALWAY COUNTY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK
CONGRATULATE ALL OUR AWARD WINNERS
AND ALL PPN MEMBER GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS
WHO WORK TIRELESSLY ON BEHALF OF OUR COUNTY.**



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe
Public Participation Network Galway County



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council