

On behalf of the National Museum of Ireland and your friends in the Irish Community Archive Network, I would like to congratulate Milltown Heritage Group for the collaboration with Milltown Tidy Towns, and the two local national schools that has led up to today's launch of the Loving Leftovers and Heritage Food project.

This initiative exemplifies the aims and values of the Irish Community Archive Network because it has brought together people in the community to raise awareness and appreciation of our shared history and heritage. The project has significantly contributed to the county-wide Galway European Region of Gastronomy initiative, while also delivering on the aspirations of the national Creative Ireland strategy. People of all ages in the Milltown area have creatively engaged with their food heritage to produce a wonderful booklet, and an online resource that will proudly communicate our cultural heritage to a world wide audience.

2018 is the European Year of Cultural Heritage, and the theme designated to Ireland is 'make a connection'. The Loving Leftovers and Food Heritage project has successfully made numerous connections between various groups within Milltown; between the younger and older generations, and between Milltown and the world. These connections will only serve to strengthen the community as a whole and will lay the foundation for more collaborations in the future.

I wish to extend our thanks to Pauline and the Milltown Heritage Group for all the fantastic work they do on an ongoing basis, and to send our best wishes for a very successful launch, to everyone involved in this wonderful project.

**Lorna Elms, Project Coordinator Irish Community Archive Network, National Museum of Ireland**

