

NEWS

Milltown Food Heritage Project to be preserved by National Folklore Collection



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- Stories and recipes of food gathered from family and locals

A HERITAGE project by schoolchildren in north Galway has been accepted by the National Folklore Collection in Dublin as a distinctive record of food culture in Ireland.

The Milltown Food Heritage Project was launched by Cathaoirleach of County Galway, Cllr Eileen Mannion in the village last week.

Pupils from Belmont and Milltown National Schools attended the launch where the stories they have gathered from their families about local food heritage have been published on the Galway community heritage website.

A complementary project, Loving Leftovers, was also launched on Monday with a special recipe booklet that was written by the children of both schools and includes dishes made from popular food leftovers. The project is part of Milltown Tidy Towns' ongoing effort to reduce food waste in the community.

Pauline Connolly of the Food Heritage Project said the children should be very proud of their contributions, which amount to 92 different stories and recipes.

"Your stories are absolutely amazing, they're brilliant," she said.

"Stories about the Stations, stories about travelling shops, stories about weddings from the 1930s and 1950s, stories about the emergency in World War 2 and stories about the 1916 Rising.

"As well as that, we received many, many delicious recipes, some of which go back generations."

Galway County Council's Heritage Officer Marie Mannion praised the children for their 'brilliant, wonderful work'.

"This is such a rich collection of stories and recipes, it is so different and so interesting.

"Belmont and Milltown are the first two schools to document food heritage in the county and



PAULINE Connolly, Tony Murphy, Frances Murphy and Claire Ryan at the launch of the Milltown Heritage Food Project and the Loving Leftovers project.



OONAGH Concannon and Mary Ryan from Milltown at the launch of the Milltown Heritage Food Project and the Loving Leftovers project.

PHOTOS: RAY RYAN.

it is timely that this is happening during Galway's designation as a European Region of Gastronomy this year."

A letter was read out from the Project Coordinator Irish Community Archive Network, National Museum of Ireland, Lorna Elms who congratulated everyone involved in both projects.

"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," she said.

"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 worldwide audience."

Cllr Mannion praised the children and all who had worked on both projects and said their efforts had resulted in a resource for the county at large.

"This project was modelled on the 1938 Schools Folklore Project and it is wonderful that the National Folklore Collection is