



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Galway County
Public
Participation
Network

Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí
Chontae na Gaillimhe

16 Meitheamh 2021 – ar líne / 16 June 2021 - online

Gradaim Pobail an Chathaoirligh 2020

The Cathaoirleach's Community Awards 2020

Comóradh ar ghníomhaíocht dheonach i bpobail ar fud Chontae na Gaillimhe
Celebrating voluntary activity in communities across County Galway



Clár na nGradam
Awards Programme

Fáilte ó Chathaoirleach Chontae na Gaillimhe, James Charity

Welcome from the Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, James Charity



A dhaoine uaisle, fáilte chuig Gradaim Pobail an Chathaoirligh 2020.

Is ábhar ríméid dom mar Chathaoirleach, an deis seo a bheith agam ócáid bhronnta Ghradaim an Phobail a eagrú – chun aitheantas a thabhairt do dhíograis agus do dhúthracht dhaoine agus dhreamanna éagsúla sa phobal ar fud an Chontae agus ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an dea-thoradh a bhíonn ar a gcuid oibre. Gradaim iad seo lena léirítear an meas mór atá againn ar an réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí pobail agus deonacha a dhéanann sibhse ar fud Chontae, rud a fhágann gur fearr arís an áit chónaithe agus oibre atá againn.

Tá tábhacht ar leith ag baint le Gradaim na bliana 2020 ó tharla ceiliúradh á dhéanamh againn ar an hoibríthe deonacha neamhleithleacha a bhfuil tacaíocht tugtha acu dár bpobail, do dhaoine leochaileacha agus do dhaoine atá buailte go dona ó thosaigh paindéim COVID-19, agus dá bharr, tá Catagóirí na nGradam leasaithe chun dúshláin ar leith na bliana seo caite a ghlacadh san áireamh.

Is suntasach dua, díocas agus dícheall na n-oibríthe deonacha agus na ngrúpaí pobail ar bhonn laethúil. Níl cuntas ná comhaireamh ar an tairbhe a dhéanann siad don Chontae agus tréasláimse toradh bhur gcuid oibre libh ar fad.

An Comhairleoir James Charity
Cathaoirleach Chontae na Gaillimhe

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Cathaoirleach's Community Awards for 2020.

As Cathaoirleach I am delighted to have this opportunity to host the Community 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 and work.

The Awards for 2020 are particularly important as we celebrate the many selfless volunteers who have supported our communities, our vulnerable, and those who have been impacted in so many ways since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to that end, we have amended the Award Categories to reflect these particular challenges of the year gone by.

I am truly humbled by the dedication, hard work and determination of community groups and individuals every day. Your contribution to our County is invaluable and I thank you all for your hard work.

Cllr. James Charity
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

Fáilte ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach Jim Cullen

Welcome from the Chief Executive, Jim Cullen.



Tá lúcháir orm páirt a ghlacadh i nGradaim Pobail an Chathaoirligh i mbliana.

Tá na naisc atá againn le pobail agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile á neartú againn tríd an Rialtas Áitiúil chun an tseirbhís is fear agus is féidir a chur ar fáil dár saoránaigh agus ní raibh sé seo níos soiléire riamh cheana ná le 18 mí anuas, nuair a rinne gach dream iarracht oibriú le chéile chun tacú leis na daoine is leochailí inár bpobail.

Táim an-bhródúil as a bheith i mo Phríomhfheidhmeannach ar údaráis áitiúil a bhfuil spiorad pobail chomh láidir sin ann agus déanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe a míle dícheall freastal a dhéanamh ar phobail chomh maith agus is féidir linn agus tacú leo.

Mar is eol dúinn, ní féidir ach buaiteoir amháin a bheith i ngach catagóir, ach déanaim comhghairdeas libh go léir as bhur gcuid oibre.

Jim Cullen
Príomhfheidhmeannach, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

I am delighted to be part of the Cathaoirleach's Community Awards this year.

Local Government continues to strengthen our links with communities and other agencies to provide the best possible service to those that we serve and this was never more evident than over the past 18 months when there was a collective effort to work together to support the most vulnerable in our communities.

I am very proud to be the Chief Executive of a local authority that has such a strong community spirit and Galway County Council will continue to serve and support communities to the greatest extent possible.

As we know there can only be one winner in each category, but I congratulate all of you on your work.

Jim Cullen
Chief Executive, Galway County Council

An Gradam The Award

Rinne Liam Butler agus a mhac Ronan coimisiúnú speisialta ar an dealbh, atá de dhéantús copair, do chur i láthair na hoíche seo. Is dealbhóirí féin-mhúinte iad Liam agus Ronan a chónaíonn agus a oibríonn sna Forbacha, i gConnemara.

Oibríonn Liam agus Ronan le cruach táthaithe, copar agus cré-umha. Déanann siad speisialtóireacht ar chopar athchúrsáilte a úsáid chun píosaí áille agus uathúla a chruthú a spreagann nádúr, daoine agus traidisiúin timpeall air.

Chruthaigh Ronan an dealbhóireacht do Ghradam an Chathaoirligh. Léiríonn an dealbh athchúrsáilte copair seo d'éin a thógann a nead i gcrann, obair chrua na n-oibrithe deonacha agus iad ag tógáil a bpobal timpeall orthu ag úsáid a gcuid acmhainní féin.

Is é an acmhainn is tábhachtaí agus pobal á thógáil ná na daoine.

Is féidir tuilleadh de shaothar Liam agus Ronan a fheiceáil ar a leathanach Facebook, Liam Butler, agus tá a gcuid oibre ar taispeáint ag www.thekennygallery.ie/artists/butlerliam



The copper-based sculpture for this evening's presentations have been specially commissioned by Liam Butler and his son Ronan. Liam and Ronan are self-taught Sculptors who live and work in na Forbacha, Connemara.

Liam and Ronan work with welded steel, copper and bronze. They specialise in using recycled copper to create beautiful and unique pieces inspired by nature, people and traditions around him.

Ronan created the sculpture for tonight's Cathaoirleach's Awards. This recycled copper-based sculpture of birds building their nest in a tree signifies the hard work of volunteers as they build their community around them using their own resources.

The most important resource when building a community is the people.

More of Liam and Ronan's work can be seen on their Facebook page, Liam Butler, and their work is displayed at www.thekennygallery.ie/artists/butlerliam

Catagóirí na nGradam agus Ainmnithe
Award Categories and Nominees

Gradam Freagartha Pobail COVID-19

Covid-19 Community Response Award

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo don méid atá déanta ag Grúpaí chun teacht aniar a bpobail féin a choinneáil ag imeacht trí thacaíochtaí praiticiúla agus sóisialta a thabhairt do dhaoine aonair leochaileacha agus trína chur ar chumas daoine fanacht i dteagmháil lena chéile agus fanacht slán ó thosaigh paindéim COVID-19.

This category recognises the efforts that Groups made to maintain the resilience of their local community by providing practical and social supports to vulnerable individuals and enabling people to stay connected and keep well since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Is iad na hainmnithe gearrliostaithe ná: | The shortlisted nominees are:

Accessibility Ballinasloe

For their efforts in maintaining the resilience of People with Disabilities throughout the pandemic and involving People with Disabilities in that process to empower them

Athenry Community First Responders

For their efforts in structuring the Community Response to COVID-19 across a range of groups and co-ordinating practical and social supports across a wide hinterland

Athenry Music School

For their efforts in maintaining the resilience of young musicians by developing a methodology for online orchestra tuition which was replicated nationally

Ballinderreen Community Centre

For their efforts in structuring the Community Response to COVID-19 across all local groups and co-ordinating a range of practical and social supports throughout the year

Cairdeas, Forbairt Chonamara Láir

For their efforts in maintaining the resilience of their community by delivering a range of practical and social supports including establishing a Meals on Wheels service

Corrib Celtic F.C

For their efforts in structuring the Community Response to COVID-19 and delivering a range of practical and social supports for the community of Eanach Dhúin

East Galway & Midlands Cancer Care Support

For their efforts in maintaining the resilience of cancer patients by adapting their premises, fund-raising and work methods including increasing their number of counsellors from 1 to 11

Gort Cancer Support Group CLG

For their efforts in maintaining the resilience of cancer patients through practical and social supports, extending their premises, and extending supports to the Brazilian community

Killannin Parish Covid 19 Community Response Team

For their efforts in maintaining resilience and co-ordinating practical and social supports by structuring assistance through volunteers in every townland of the parish

Order of Malta Tuam

For their efforts in maintaining the resilience of vulnerable individuals by providing frontline transport services to those in need and assisting Test Centres throughout the pandemic

Solas FRC Headford

For their efforts in maintaining the resilience of the community by structuring the delivery of practical and social supports including coping with increased demand for Meals on Wheels

Gradam don Chultúr agus don Chruthaitheacht

Culture and Creativity Award

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo do Ghrúpaí a chuireann lena gceantar áitiúil tríd na hEalaíona, Ceardaíocht, Cultúr nó Oidhreacht atá ina bpobal áitiúil a chaomhnú, a chosaint agus a chur chun cinn trí ghníomhaíochtaí cruthaitheachta.

This category recognises Groups who enhance their local area by conserving, protecting and promoting the Arts, Crafts, Culture or Heritage of their local community through creative activities.

Is iad na hainmnithe gearrliostaithe ná: | The shortlisted nominees are:

Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre

For promoting the arts and cultural heritage of Athenry by organising a series of online events such as Athenry Walled Towns Day and Athenry MAD Community Arts Festival incorporating dance, music, storytelling and a Kitchen Disco

Claddaghduff Creative & Cultural Society

For their continued efforts to conserve and protect the cultural heritage of the local area through a book on the declining ways of life once experienced on a remote Connemara Island, and passing on this knowledge through talks to school children and volunteers engaging in traditional crafts

Gliondar Community Arts Group Athenry

For bringing the arts to their community during COVID restrictions by organising the first Digital St. Patricks Day Parade in Ireland, and delivering light filled spectacles in housing estates throughout the town through the "Make A Joyful Noise" project and a Christmas Carol event

Headford Lace Project

For promoting their lacemaking heritage through "The Space Between" Project which was an international lace exhibition organised via Zoom and featuring 34 artists from 11 countries across 4 continents, and showcased locally by using shop windows as a lace gallery space

Milltown Heritage Group

For their continued efforts to conserve and protect their cultural heritage by successfully applying for funding for a Conservation Management Plan for Kilclooney Castle and organising the first archaeological survey of the O'Higgins Bardic School

Gradam Timpeallachta & Oidhreachta Nádúrtha

Environment and Natural Heritage Award

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo do Ghrúpaí a chuireann am i leataobh chun obair a dhéanamh ina bpobal, obair mar breathnú amach d'oidhreacht timpeallachta agus nádúrtha a n-áit féin, agus/nó tograí cosanta nó inbhuanaithe timpeallachta a chur chun cinn.

This category recognises Groups who dedicate their time to carrying out works in the community, such as caring for their local environment and natural heritage, and/or promoting environmental protection or sustainability projects.

Is iad na hainmnithe gearrliostaithe ná: | The shortlisted nominees are:

Comharchumann Forbartha Arann

For developing “Garraí na gCrann” – a 3-acre public amenity park – from a derelict overgrown site to a haven of peace and reflection, and a space for all ages including planting, walkways, benches, adult fitness equipment and a Children’s Fairy Door Park

Kiltiernan National School

For their project “Bee Loud” addressing the decline of bees and pollinators, involving collaboration with other groups, experts and environmentalists to create new habitats, a short film, virtual exhibition and to advocate for changes in policies affecting pollinators

The Walks Project Loughrea

For their continued cross-community efforts to conserve and protect the medieval walls and bridges of “The Walks” to improve this historic walkway as a key amenity and tourism asset for the town of Loughrea

Williamstown Tidy Towns

For their efforts in engaging people with nature throughout the pandemic, by establishing a Virtual Tidy Towns and inviting interaction through photos, texts, Sow & Grow activities for children, and a series of themed competitions throughout the year which brought a fantastic response locally, national, and internationally

Gradam Sláinte & Folláine

Health and Wellbeing Award

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo do Ghrúpaí a chuireann go mór le saol daoine trí thionscnaimh réamhghníomhacha a chur i bhfeidhm chun tacú le folláine fhisiciúil, intinne agus shóisialta na ndaoine sin.

This category recognises Groups who improve quality of life by implementing proactive initiatives to support physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Is iad na hainmnithe gearrliostaithe ná: | The shortlisted nominees are:

Ballinderreen Tidy Towns

For involving the whole community in the work of this newly established group by engaging them in cleaning, painting, planting and themed events, and in the process, enhancing the health and wellbeing of the community

Cairde Mor Turloughmore/Lackagh

For developing a 5km walkway for use by the community and ensuring it is fully accessible to all by including flat surfaces, shelters and sit-down areas, serviced toilets, lighting and parking, and promoting its use as a social outlet during the pandemic

East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support

For developing an Activator Pole Walking Programme for individuals living with and beyond cancer, in conjunction with a pilot study with Athlone Institute of Technology to measure the effectiveness of the programme on physical and psycho-social health of individuals, which will be the first of its kind in Ireland

Galway County Comhairle na nÓg

For their efforts in improving the quality of life of Galway Youth during the pandemic by developing and circulating a Mental Health “Top Tips” booklet; and advocating for further mental health services for youth by carrying out a survey and publishing a booklet entitled “Understanding the Mental Wellbeing of Young People in Galway”

Galway East Life Support

For their continued efforts in supporting the wellbeing of individuals in need and opening a “New & Used” shop to provide Christmas Gifts and suitable clothing for individuals entering the workforce at low cost or free of charge

Gradam na Gaeilge

Irish Language Award

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo don méid atá á dhéanamh ag Grúpaí chun úsáid na Gaeilge a chaomhnú, a chur chun cinn agus a neartú. Cuimsítear ceantair Ghaeltachta agus ceantair atá taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht leis an nGradam seo.

This category recognises the efforts that Groups make to preserve, promote or increase the use of Irish. This Award covers both Gaeltacht and non-Gaeltacht areas.

Is iad na hainmnithe gearrliostaithe ná: | The shortlisted nominees are:

Biseach

Dá gcuid oibre chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn agus a chur i mbéal an phobail lena n-iris Ghaeltachta 'Biseach'. Bailíonn an fochoiste seo ábhar don iris bhliantúil agus nascann siad le muintir an phobail, scoileanna, eagraíochtaí spóirt agus eile don togra fiúntach seo freisin.

An Gradam um Ionchuimsiú Sóisialta

Social Inclusion Award

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo do Ghrúpaí a chuireann deiseanna ar fáil do chách páirt a ghlacadh ina bpobal féin trí thimpeallachtaí agus tionscnaimh atá dearfach a chur ar fáil chun aire a thabhairt do dhaoine a d'fhéadfadh a bheith leochaileach, scoite amach nó imeallaithe.

This category recognises Groups who create opportunities for everyone to participate in their local community, by providing positive environments and initiatives to care for those who may be vulnerable, isolated or marginalised.

Is iad na hainmnithe gearrliostaithe ná: | The shortlisted nominees are:

Connemara Care CLG

For their efforts to combat social and geographic isolation during the pandemic by implementing a multi-faceted programme including befriending phone calls to the elderly, a Walk and Talk Programme, Mindfulness through painting, Plant Box painting and planting, and a Musical Memories Programme on Connemara Community Radio

Dunmore McHales Youth Volunteers

For the efforts of their underage players to improve community facilities by volunteering at weekends and holidays to paint, labour, clean and weed, under the supervision of adult volunteers and community tradespersons as part of a Club Meitheal

Lawrencetown Community Development

For their efforts to increase participation and recreation opportunities for Youth through the development of a dedicated community-run Youth Centre to offer a safe space for youth activities, workshops and training

Gradam d'Oibrí Deonach na Bliana

Individual Volunteer of the Year Award

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo don obair ollmhór a rinne oibrí deonach aonair ar a bpobal áitiúil. Tá daoine aonair i ngach pobal nach dtuirseodh an saol iad, lán d'fhuinneamh agus díograis, daoine a n-éiríonn leo rudaí a dhéanamh - mar sin, ainmnigh na laochra neamhaitheanta sin, na daoine a spreagann, a thacaíonn, a threoraíonn agus a ghríosáíonn daoine eile i do phobal.

This category recognises the outstanding contribution that an individual volunteer has made to their local community. Every community has individuals who are boundless in their energy and determination to get things done – so nominate those unsung heroes who encourage, support, lead and inspire others in your community.

Is iad na hainmnithe gearrliostaithe ná: | The shortlisted nominees are:

David Murray, Gort

David is nominated for increasing awareness and advocating for action on the flooding crisis in South Galway, his 100% commitment to projects and keeping the community informed of developments, and in 2020, for his ongoing work in the development of Gort River Walk.

Máirtín Ó Fathaigh, Ballinacill / Derrybrien / Woodford

Máirtín is nominated for selflessly and tirelessly committing himself to a lifetime of voluntary contribution to fostering the history, heritage, culture and music of his local area, and in 2020, embracing technology to produce 30 videos showcasing local history

Noel Finnegan, Williamstown

Noel is nominated for his selfless voluntary work in the community, from working to develop the Bog Walk, to showing pride of place through his Tidy Towns activities, and in 2020, reaching out to look after everyone during the pandemic and making them feel included.

Venetia McEllin, Headford

Venetia is nominated for being the driving force behind the establishment and integration of many community groups to further social inclusion and the preservation of natural heritage in Headford, and in 2020, for developing artwork for biodiversity signage, but particularly for being a role model, motivator and inspiration to others.

Walter McDonagh, Maigh Cuillin

Walter is nominated for his drive, expertise and commitment to community life in Maigh Cuillin through establishing and taking an active role in community groups supporting older people, heritage, community & cultural development, Tidy Towns, and in 2020, for keeping spirits up by engaging the community in quizzes, poetry and planting.

**Tá buíochas ar leith ag dul do na daoine seo a leanas:
Special thanks to the following:**

**An Painéal Moltóireachta
The Judging Panel**

Cllr. James Charity, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Noel Thomas, Chairperson of Galway County LCDC
Vincent Lyons, Chairperson Galway County PPN
Bernadette Prendergast, Head of News, Galway Bay FM
Keith Finnegan, Galway Bay FM
Aoibheann McCann, Galway Rural Development
Bernie Doherty, Community Archaeologist

**An tÓstach don tráthnóna
The Master of Ceremonies (MC)**

Keith Finnegan, Galway Bay FM

&

**Vincent Lyons agus foireann an PPN, Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus Galway Bay FM
Vincent Lyons and the staff of the PPN, Galway County Council and Galway Bay FM**

as a gcabhair leis na hullmhúcháin don oíche anocht / for their help with the preparations for tonight.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Galway County
**Public
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Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí
Chontae na Gaillimhe

**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe & Líonra Rannpháirteachta Phoiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe
Ag Tacú le Pobail
Galway County Council and Galway County Public Participation Network
Supporting Communities**