

# Milltown river project hits a new phase

Tony Galvin

UNSEASONAL low water levels have created ideal conditions for the completion of river enhancement works along Milltown's popular Clare River Walk project.

Work had to be abandoned last year because of record high water levels but those involved are confident that this year's deadline of September will be met, allowing Milltown to add another achievement to the long list compiled by the community in recent years. Extensive in-stream fishery facilities are now being put in place.

The river walk project has proved a great attraction for walkers, anglers, nature lovers and schoolchildren studying their environment. It is now completed from Milltown village up as far as Russellstown Bridge where it joins a looped walk, bringing the walker back to the starting point through countryside along minor roads.

Community activists are delighted that funding has been secured to continue river enhancement works further up the Clare River between Russellstown Bridge

towards Dalgan Bridge.

The Clare River begins at the confluence of the Dalgan and Sinker rivers near Dalgan Bridge and runs for 55 miles to Lough Corrib via Corofin and Claregalway.

An example of what could be achieved when people worked to a common goal and it would stand as testament to their cooperation and goodwill for generations...

Pat Gorman, an Inspector with Inland Fisheries Ireland, said the enhancement works were "a perfect example of how agencies work together to achieve a common goal," a reference to the co-operation between Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Office of Public Works



ON THE JOB: P.J. Korrane, Tim Pasley, both OPW, Sean Nestor, Angling Club, Jarlath Farragher, Frank Glynn, Milltown Development, Pat Gorman, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Conor Denny, Tony Murphy, Milltown Development, Mick Butler, OPW, Lonan O'Farrell, IFI with Richie McGaugh, Driver OPW. PHOTO: RAY RYAN

(OPW) on this aspect of the project.

The fisheries aspect of the plan was drawn up by a scientific team in 2010 but severe weather conditions hampered progress during the 2011-12 seasons. However, with conditions now ideal, it is expected that the project will be completed within the June-September approved season for in-stream operations.

The work is proceeding in accordance with a detailed blueprint, with deep pools favoured by fish being created and gravel spawning beds and provisions for drops in water levels among the enhancements currently being put in place. In addition, the cooperative inter-agency approach allows for drainage and maintenance of riverbanks in an environmentally sensitive manner to be carried out.

The works are being funded under the Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP).

Tony Murphy, of Milltown Community Council, said what was being done was yet another example of what can be achieved when com-

munity groups work in tandem with State agencies for the good of the environment and the local community.

Frank Glynn told The Tuam Herald that he expected even more people to become aware of this marvellous resource that is open to the public and that they will put it to the use for which it is intended: the enjoyment and appreciation of a wonderful local amenity.

On behalf of Milltown Development Association, he thanked all who had contributed in any way towards bringing this project to its present stage and he looked forward to the next phase when work gets under way upstream from Russellstown Bridge.

In particular, he paid tribute to the community effort involved, the landowners who made the riverbank walk possible, those who carried out the work and all the State agencies involved. He said it was an example of what could be achieved when people worked to a common goal and it would stand as testament to their cooperation and goodwill for generations to come.

## Tuam Youth Theatre launch Les Miserables on Bastille Day

By Jacqueline Hogge

BASTILLE Day provided the perfect launch day for Tuam Youth Theatre's annual production of the epic musical Les Miserables that will be performed in the town next month. Based on the classic Victor Hugo novel, the blockbuster musical features the

best of young musical talent from all corners of Co Galway. Tuam Youth Theatre will bring audiences on an exhilarating musical voyage from Wednesday August 7 to Saturday August 10, in the Mercy Secondary School.

Conor Hanley, Stephen Leo, Aileen Newell, Emily Lohan, Cathal Sweeney, Hannah Rhatigan, Conor Walsh, Oisín Foye and Shauna Moran make up the main cast, with Alan Kelly and Ciara Mulrooney taking on the younger roles of Gavroche and the young Cosette.

The cast is supported by a strong chorus of 50 young people.

The show, which is the longest-running West End musical of all time, having first opened its doors in 1985, features a Tony Award-winning score including the songs I Dreamed A Dream, On My Own, Master of the House and Bring Him Home.

Les Miserables tells the tale of ex-convict Jean Valjean's journey towards redemption and freedom. In his attempts to start a new life, he is pursued relentlessly by Inspec-



URSULA Holian, Tuam Youth Theatre chorus mistress; Sr Damien, Gillian Geraghty, Tuam Youth Theatre director; Sr Mary Hennelly and Mayor of Tuam Cllr Imelda Kelly at the launch of the theatre company's production of Les Miserables. PHOTO: RAY RYAN.

tor Javert, whose only moral compass is the law, over decades through the tumult of revolutionary France.

Mayor of Tuam Cllr Imelda Kelly, who is a committee member of Tuam Youth Theatre, was joined by Mercy Sisters Sr Damien and Sr Mary Hennelly to officially launch the show.

"As Mayor of Tuam I am delighted to be here on Bastille Day," she said.

"I'm overwhelmed by the amount of voluntary work that goes on in this town and I think Tuam Youth Theatre is a great example.

"I would like to thank our patrons and sponsors, without whom it would be impossible to put on a show. Thank

you to Co Galway VEC and Tuam Youth Bank for their financial support, as well as Tuam Scouts and Mercy Primary School Principal Mary Trayers for providing rehearsal space and Imelda O'Connor O'Dea for storage facilities. "We are delighted also to have two very special guests Sr Damien and Sr Mary Hennelly, Mercy Sisters who recently left the Convent here in Tuam for a new home in Galway city."

Les Miserables is TYT's sixth production since it was established in 2009.

Tickets for the show are available from Quinn's Bishop Street 093 - 26060, and Geraghty's Maxol-Mace, Church View 093 - 24411.

## Abbey's young artists get creative

By Jacqueline Hogge

ASPIRING young artists are to showcase their talents at the forthcoming Gathering event in Abbeyknockmoy, as the local school hosts a special summer camp over the coming weeks.

Art by Orla is in its second year at Newtown NS, where local artist and teacher Orla Forde Wilson offers instruction in a range of multimedia techniques and crafts to children from four years upwards.

"The children work with clay, textiles, beads and other materials and produce their own creations in a fun and safe environment," says Orla. "This is the second year of the summer camps and with the Gathering events over the coming week, we will be showing off all we have created at a special event down by the river, where the children will be designing and creating their own 'Gathering' bracelets."

Newtown NS Principal Patrick Donovan says the camp was a big hit with the children and their parents

and said it was a natural follow-on for those children who participate in the after-school arts programme Orla runs during term-time.

"The camps and the school programme is very popular with our parents and it gives those children who are too young for, or who don't have an interest in, sport, a chance to develop their own talent."

Children attending the camp are presented with ceramic mugs, which feature their own artwork, in a venture with Digi Pics in Tuam.

"We transfer the artwork the child is most proud of onto the mug, which has their name and the date, and it's a permanent reminder of their time here," adds Orla.

"The children are encouraged to create things using their own imaginations, so we have had some very intricate masks produced here over the past few days.

"They've also been enthusiastic painters of their clay owls, while the freedom to design a crazy clock has seen them come up with the most colourful and wacky creations."



Alisia Branoviskia, Alexandria Wilson and Natasha King make some finishing touches to their plant pots. PHOTO RAY RYAN

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## Headshave raises €2K for Aras Mhuire

FOUR brave local men who volunteered to shave their heads have raised more than €2,000 for the community nursing unit in Tuam, Aras Mhuire.

Andrew Furey from Corofin and formerly of Dublin Road, Tuam was inspired to raise funds for the unit after his friend Billy Tierney received palliative care at there earlier this year. Billy sadly passed away on January 22, but Andrew and his three friends wanted to acknowledge the care and attention that Billy was given while a patient in the Cuan Aoihbhinn Palliative Care suite.

The other three men who had their heads shaved were Anthony Simo-Leifi, Anaghdown, who also fund-raised in memory of his father Vea, who passed away last year, Des McDonagh and Mata Fifita.

Presenting the cheque for €2,100, Andrew Furey said, "Billy was very well looked after while he was a palliative patient in Aras Mhuire. We wanted to do something meaningful in his memory, and he would be pleased that we raised this money for the unit. We'd like to thank all the nurses and staff who helped make his time here more comfortable. We'd also like to thank everyone



who supported us in raising over €2,000 when we did the head shave in Rafterys in Corofin." Julie Silke, Director of Nursing at Aras Mhuire, is grateful for the generous donation.

"We are really appreciative of this generous gesture and we will ensure that we put this donation to good use to improve the quality of life of

our residents and our palliative and day care patients," she said.

Cuan Aoihbhinn at Aras Mhuire contains two palliative care suites. Both en-suite rooms are well equipped, and are bright and spacious with access to a landscaped garden. There is also a family kitchenette, which includes a sofa-bed to accommodate

overnight stays, if required.

"Aras Mhuire is open for admissions for older persons who require palliative care, respite or long term care. We're delighted to have a strong team of nurses and health care assistants, with all of them having completed advanced courses in Older Persons and Palliative Care," added Julie.

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