

## NEWS

# Stories of Galway people living overseas collected for new diaspora project

By Siobhán Holliman

STORIES about the lives of Galway people who have left the county and now live overseas are being sought and compiled as part of a new diaspora project.

The Galway Tribal Diaspora Project is one of a number of initiatives that seek to engage with and reach out to Galway's global diaspora.

Galway has a long history of emigration and in the wake of 2013's highly successful 'The Gathering' initiative, many of these projects seek to maintain and build upon the valuable relationships which have been forged with Galway emigrants around the world.

Minister of State with responsibility for the Diaspora Galway East TD Ciaran Cannon said he hopes the programmes will engage with people living away in a more meaningful way.

"We have to work hard in developing our sense of a Galway community, a Galway tribe that extends far beyond our county boundary and in doing so bring real benefits to us all, no matter where we live in the world," said the Minister.

The Galway Tribal Diaspora Project is being undertaken by Dúchas na Gaillimhe - Galway



ANNE Tierney, President of the Old Tuam Society, Bernie Doherty, Woodlawn Heritage Group, Minister of State Ciaran Cannon, Tony Murphy, Milltown, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Frances Murphy, Milltown and Pauline Connolly, Milltown at the launch of The Galway Tribal Diaspora Project by Galway East TD and Minister of State Ciaran Cannon at Cloonacauneen Castle. The schemes involved aim to engage with and reach out to Galway's Diaspora across the world.

Civic Trust and aims to collect and record the stories of Galway people who are now living overseas.

Co-ordinator Michael Quinn explained the concept behind the project. "The project seeks to compile pen-portraits of people who previously lived in Galway but have who have moved away from Ireland in order to establish new lives, careers or opportunities. Galway has a world-wide diaspora and this is a great way for us to have a two-way connection with our emigrants around the

globe. It is also a great way for them to tell us their individual story of emigration," explained Michael.

Anyone who gets in touch with the project can have their unique story recorded for the benefit of present and future generations and Michael says some interesting accounts have already been gathered.

"The project is open to anyone originally from Galway but now living abroad. I would urge people to visit our website [www.galwaytribe.com](http://www.galwaytribe.com) to look at some of the stories we

have gathered to date.

"Galway people have spread throughout the world and they continue to carry their county identity as a badge of honour. Behind the statistics of emigration, however, there are always personal stories and for many, the decision to move abroad is not one taken likely."

Participants are asked to fill out a form and then the team get in touch. "We gather details from participants including where they are now; what they miss about Galway; how



COUNCILLOR Frank Kearney, Pauline Connolly, Milltown Heritage Group and Tony Murphy from Milltown at the launch of The Galway Tribal Diaspora Project.



FRANCES Murphy, Milltown and Caroline McNeill from Galway Civic Trust at the launch of The Galway Tribal Diaspora Project at Cloonacauneen Castle.

they like their current home; and what are their memories of Galway, good and bad. Then we set about writing up their individual story. Just get in touch, or nominate a friend or family member and we will do the rest," added Michael.

Other projects include the

Take Emigration Scheme Project in Clifden and Oughterard; The Emigrants Commemorative Centre, Carna; the Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna; Woodlawn Diaspora Project and Galway Community Heritage emigration and diaspora project.

## SNAP UP A FANTASTIC NEW CAMERA FOR THE NEW YEAR



The Tuam Herald in conjunction with Digi Pics in Tuam are giving a reader the opportunity to start the New Year with a fantastic new camera to capture memories of 2018. Our photo competition is open to all ages and all levels of photographers (unless you're a working professional photographer).

We are simply asking you to take a photograph that encapsulates

**"What local is to me"**

This might be a person, a place, something that reminds you of where you live or where you came from - the choice is yours.

Photos must be a least 1MB in size and submitted in a digital jpeg format. No print entries will be accepted. The photo must be taken during 2017 and not enhanced or edited. Cropping is permitted.

The **Tuam Herald**  
DigiPics

Entries must have a file name and emailed to [siobhan@tuamherald.ie](mailto:siobhan@tuamherald.ie). Please include the name, address, age (if under 18) and daytime contact number of the entrant. A brief explanation of the photo is also welcome. Closing date for entries is 4pm on Friday, December 1.