

NEWS



Caherlistrane's Katie races camels in Dubai **p. 8**



Light up to beat the burglars **p.40-41**



St. Thomas' pave the way for Gort refixture **p. 55**



Martin and Mary went to the dogs **p. 25**

# Tuam and Milltown win big at Tidy Towns awards

By Andrew Florio

MILLTOWN and Tuam both scooped up prizes in this year's Tidy Towns ceremony at the RDS in Dublin on Friday.

Milltown received the National Gold Medal and Best in County prize in their category while Tuam took home the special Endeavour award.

The gold medal awarded to Milltown is the first prize of its kind to be given to an entrant from Co Galway. The Endeavour award is given to the town exhibiting the biggest improvement in its category over the past two years.

The Chairman of Milltown Tidy Towns, Eamon Callaghan, was delighted to finally be awarded the coveted gold medal after previously coming up short and said: "It was great to get it at long last. It is a great achievement to win but we



TUAM is at the top of its Tidy Towns category this year, and won an Endeavour award. PHOTO: RAY RYAN

do it for our community and people visiting and you get the extra reward when you win."

Helped along by the County Council, schoolchildren from Belmont and Milltown National Schools and members of the local employment scheme, the Tidy Towns Committee implemented a number of winning measures.

Local walkways were kept bright and safe at night thanks to Milltown GAA while a new glasshouse was constructed

to grow bulbs for next year's flowers. The litter issue was largely kept at bay this year as "people weren't around" Eamon commented.

An internet café was also constructed, keeping the community connected.

The Chairman of Tuam Tidy Towns, Michael Waldron, although slightly disappointed not to get more recognition for their hard work, was pleased with the result and said: "The prize was a target of ours. An

absolute target of ours was to get past Ballinasloe and Athenry."

Michael explained he was particularly happy about the implementation of gates at sites where large amounts of dumping were seen in the past.

Making sure the waste taken away by local volunteers this year meant it won't return for the foreseeable future.

Michael is already setting his sights on next year and is hoping for a bronze medal. "That will be our next prize in mind," he said.

Monivea was announced as the county and overall winner of the Gum Litter Taskforce Award in the Village and Small Town category.

They were recognised by judges for their anti-litter campaign which included litter awareness signs dotted around the town, a gum litter colour-

ing competition in the local national school and an online colouring and photo competition run through Facebook.

At the awards ceremony Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys said she was happy this year's competition went ahead and acknowledged the difficult circumstances volunteers worked through.

She said: "I want to commend the hundreds of groups and thousands of volunteers who, in the face of adversity, put their community first and continued to make their areas better places to live and work and visit, all the while adhering to social distancing and public health guidelines."

The big winners on the day were Cobh who were awarded Ireland's Tidiest Large Town and Ennis, receiving the prize for Ireland's Tidiest Large Urban Centre.

## Galway Tidy Towns -- how they fared

<b>GALWAY POPULATION CATEGORIES</b>	10,000	Letterfrack	293	Lettermullen & Ballinakill	276	Tuam	321	<b>GUM LITTER TASKFORCE AWARD</b>	
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST VILLAGE</b>	• Category F = 10,001 to 15,000	Leenane	284	Headford	275	Athenry	318		Village & Small Town Category - Monivea
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE URBAN CENTRE</b>	• Category G = 15,001 to 25,000	Newbridge	281	Cleggan	271	Ballinasloe	315	National Winner - Monivea	
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE TOWN</b>	• Category H = 25,001 and Over	Kilkerrin	275	Ballinderreen	264	Oranmore	304	<b>ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS OF IRELAND TOWN CHALLENGE AWARD</b>	
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST SMALL TOWN</b>	<b>CATEGORY A</b>	Ballymoe	262	Rosscahill	227	<b>CATEGORY H</b>	Galway City Centre	328	Joint National Award
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE URBAN CENTRE</b>	Abbey	346	<b>CATEGORY B</b>	Ballyconneely	219	<b>GALWAY WINNERS</b>	Gold Medal Winner	Milltown	Winners - Oranmore (and Castlegregory, Kerry)
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE TOWN</b>	Williamstown	318	Milltown	351	<b>CATEGORY C</b>	Silver Medal Winners	Abbey	Galway City Centre	<b>LEAVE NO TRACE TIDY TOWNS AWARD</b>
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE URBAN CENTRE</b>	Caltra	312	Clarinbridge	326	Clifden	323	EPA Circular Economy Award	Highly Commended - Oughterard	National Award - Kinvara
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE TOWN</b>	Na Forbacha	305	Ballygar	320	Portumna	309	Oughterard	Endeavour Award	
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE URBAN CENTRE</b>	Lawrencetown	298	An Spidéal	319	Oughterard	307	Tuam		
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE TOWN</b>	Roundstone	297	Mountbellew	318	Claregalway	302			
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE URBAN CENTRE</b>	Creggs	295	Dunmore	311	Barna	284			
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE TOWN</b>			Woodford	310	Cill Chiarain	267			
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE URBAN CENTRE</b>			Castleblakeney	293	<b>CATEGORY D</b>	Moycullen	283		
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE TOWN</b>			Carna	292	Gort	228			
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE URBAN CENTRE</b>			Kinvara	291	<b>CATEGORY E</b>				
<b>IRELAND'S TIDIEST LARGE TOWN</b>			Glinsk	285					

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