

NEWS



BEST Contribution to Heritage award winner was the Milltown Heritage Group. Pictured are Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Connolly, Tony Murphy, Fran Murphy, Pauline Connolly, Frank Glynn and Marie Mannion ( Galway County Council).



AT the Cathaoirleach's Community Awards were Community Service Award winners Headford Yarnbombers; back, Selma Makela, Sarah Pitchford, Adrian Casey, Ellis Nic Dhonncha, Kathleen McMahon, Freeda Garman, (GRD); front, Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Connolly, Mairead McKeown, Giullana Victor Harte and Ester Kieley. PHOTOS: MIKE SHAUGHNESSY

# Headford and Milltown win big at Community Awards

By Jacqueline Hogge

HEADFORD and Milltown were among the winners at this year's annual Cathaoirleach's Community Awards ceremony where over 300 people from community and voluntary groups throughout the county were honoured.

The awards recognise and celebrate community and voluntary activity around the county and are bestowed in 12 different categories.

This year's Community Service Award went to Headford Yarnbombers who created a yarn installation in the town during the 'Nesting Lark'; a pilot project for the Galway's successful City of Culture 2020 bid. Over 300 people took part from the ages of five to 95 that in-

involved local schools, retirement homes, nursing homes, families, business people and even a few tourists.

The town also scooped a second award for their environmental efforts over the past year, with Headford Environment Group receiving the Environment Award. The group hosted a major Climate Change conference for the West of Ireland with speakers from all around the country. They are also involved in spring cleans, planting and summer events such as nature walks and in winter they hold a number of lectures and talks to help create more knowledge and awareness.

Milltown Heritage Group were the winners of the Best Contribution to Heritage Award for their Heritage Trail

booklet and map boards, launched during the year. The group also organised 'A Taste of Milltown' event with all things Milltown on display and are continuing to work with the Tidy Towns group to develop an award-winning river walk.

Brierfield National School's Parents Association were awarded The Schools Contribution to Heritage or Irish Language Award for their 'Brierfield 1916' event, a commemoration day of the Easter Rising with every class in the school involved.

"I've had the pleasure of visiting and working with many communities around the county and witnessing all the great work that you do," said Cathaoirleach, Cllr Michael Connolly.

He congratulated all the winners and thanked everyone for their hard work, urging them to keep it up for 2017.



ENVIRONMENTAL Award winners Headford Environment Group. Pictured are Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Connolly, Vinetia McEllin, Mags Sheehan and Marian Brady.

Chief Executive of Galway Co Council Kevin Kelly praised the work of all volunteers around the county.

"Volunteering is at the heart of community life. Helping others and giving time to your community is a big commitment but a very rewarding one," he said.

The Community Economic

Initiative Award, was won by Bridge That Gap. This relatively new group was established to promote the areas of Oranmore, Maree and Clarinbridge as a place to live, work and stay and to bridge the gap between the three areas. They have developed a website where local businesses can register

to promote themselves and advertise jobs and are also currently developing a new tourism strategy based on the Wild Atlantic Way model. Fit Town Ballinasloe were winners of the Sports Award. Fit Town is an initiative to encourage communities to come together to become more physically active.



Arch Bishop McHale College Tuam

OPEN EVENING

in ARCHBISHOP MCHALE COLLEGE, TUAM

on Thursday 8th December, 2016

Principal's Address at 7.00pm

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Cost of Ballyglunin Bridge

Dear Editor,

As someone who has worked in railway project management for nearly 30 years I read with great interest Cormac O Murchú's letter to the Tuam Herald on November 9 in which he claims the cost of replacing the Ballyglunin bridge could be in excess of €100 million. With all due respect to Mr O Murchú, this is fanciful in the extreme.

One of the projects I have worked on recently was a bridge demolition and replacement in Norwich city centre cost the UK's Network Rail approximately £2 million. The bridge in question was an old brick overbridge that was demolished and replaced with a modular precast concrete and steel bridge. A double track was re-laid on the bridge and the road underneath was lowered and re-laid. All of this was

undertaken during the end of August bank holiday weekend.

I would expect the bridge at Ballyglunin to be replaced for at a cheaper price than at Norwich as we are dealing with just a single line without overhead electrification wires.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard Logue  
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