

## NEWS



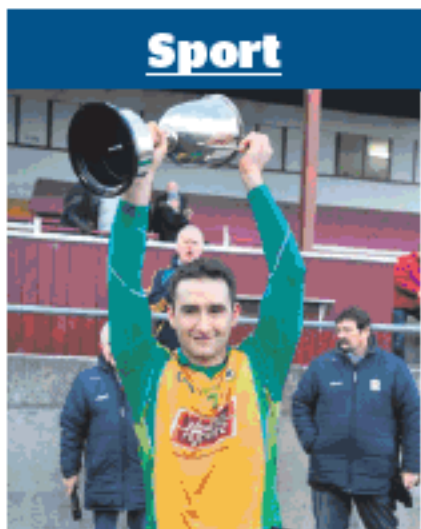
## News

Hundreds turn out for Tuam Food Fayre **p.16-17**



## Living

Christmas tree farming is a year's work **p.40-41**



## Sport

Corofin complete double with Division 1 title **p.76-77**



## Local

Tiny Tots dress up for Temple Street **p.28**

# Milltown woman to be honoured by President

• A tireless campaigner for older Irish people in Britain

By Tom Gilmore

MILLTOWN emigrant Nora Higgins (nee Godwin) from Belmont, will be one of a number of people to be presented with a Presidential Distinguished Service Award tomorrow (Thursday) at Áras an Uachtaráin by President Michael D Higgins.

Nora emigrated to the UK in 1955 and trained as a nurse in Edinburgh and Glasgow before coming to London in 1960 where she married and had three children. After they started school she worked for 26 years as a secretary in a school for children with severe learning difficulties.

She retired at 63 and soon afterwards became a member of the Management Committee of Southwark Irish Pensioners Project one of the largest Irish community organisations in South London. The organisation provides a Drop-in Day Service and a Community Outreach Service to hundreds of vulnerable older Irish people in South London.

"My husband, Tommie Higgins, is also from Belmont and he will be 93 in February. He is also coming to Dublin and says that although he doesn't travel to Ireland any more he has to be there for this very special occasion and is very proud that I am being hon-

oured," says Nora.

Even though she has lived in London for most of her life Nora says she keeps in regular contact with her home area of Milltown.

"My brother Padraic Godwin still lives there and his son Eoin and family run the farm in Belmont where I go back to at least twice a year. I was last home at the beginning of October. On the First Sunday in October my class (we did the Leaving Certificate in the Mercy, Tuam in 1953) have a reunion every year and have done it for 15 years now," she added.

Nora Higgins has been a tireless campaigner for older Irish people in Britain and spoke about her experiences as an emigrant in the 1950s in a very moving and memorable intervention at the Glo-

bal Irish Economic Forum in Dublin in 2013.

Her brother Padraic will be at the awards ceremony as will her sister Freda who is travelling from the Chester area. Her youngest sister Miriam is coming all the way from New Jersey.

"They, like myself, appreciate that it is a very special honour to receive the award and want to be there to support me," she added.

"I really am truly honoured to receive this very special award from the President. It was a huge surprise to me that I was put forward and I thank everyone involved. Our members, staff, volunteers and Management Committee colleagues at Southwark Irish Pensioners Project are all delighted for me and for our project.



**NORA Higgins, originally from Milltown, will be presented with a Presidential Award tomorrow.**

"No one person could achieve such an honour without the help and support of everyone involved in the work of the Project and I am very grateful to all of them," concluded Nora.

## In brief

### Five arrested for drunk-driving on one night in Tuam

GARDAI in Tuam were called to a number of assaults on Saturday night and in the early hours of Sunday morning. There was an increased number of checkpoints for drunk driving in the area with a number of arrests.

A Garda spokesperson confirmed to The Tuam Herald that five people were arrested for being over the drink driving limit in the Tuam area and were taken to the Garda station.

"It shows that despite all the warnings about driving while under the influence of drink some people will still go ahead and do so.

"But the large number of drivers breathalysed and the number found to be over the limit in the Tuam area alone on Saturday night is just one example of the increased activity by members of the force all over the country in the lead up to Christmas," said the Garda spokesperson.

## TUAM CRAFT FAIR



**CHARLOTTE Farragher Gillard and Cathriona Farragher McCarthy, Tuam enjoying the Tuam Christmas Craft Fair at The Miller's House.**



**MARY Biggins and Elizabeth Meagher at the Apostolic work stand at the Christmas Fair.**

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