

# Gradaim an Chathaoirligh 2024 The Cathaoirleach's Awards 2024

Ar síúl i gcomhar le Ball an Chathaoirligh  
Held in conjunction with the Cathaoirleach's Gala Ball



## Leabhrán na nGradam Awards Booklet

THE CLAYTON HOTEL  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



Lionra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Public Participation Network Galway County



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Best Wishes from Dexcom Ireland to Cllr. Liam Carroll,  
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, on the occasion of  
the Cathaoirleach's Gala Ball and Cathaoirleach Awards

# Clár na Gradam

## Awards Programme

### Introduction by MC Ollie Turner

### Opening Address by Cllr. Liam Carroll Cathaoirleach

#### Cathaoirleach's Awards:

Arts & Culture Award  
Best Contribution to Heritage Award  
Heritage Publication Award  
Best Contribution to Irish Language Award

#### Introduced by:

Valerie Kelly, Creative Ireland Coordinator  
Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer  
Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer  
Máirtín O'Donnchadha, Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge

### Starter

#### Cathaoirleach's Awards:

Environment & Climate Action Award  
Social Inclusion Award  
Sports Award  
Tidy Towns Recognition Award

#### Introduced by:

Denise Feeney, Community Climate Action  
Vincent Lyons, Galway County PPN  
Andrew McBride, Galway Sports Partnership  
Mary McGann, Community Department

### Main Course

#### Introduction to Charities:

Act for Meningitis  
i4Life

#### Introduced by:

Siobhan Carroll  
Maura Moran

### Dessert

#### Cathaoirleach's Awards:

Pride of Place Awards  
Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Awards

#### Introduced by:

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive  
Ciaran Cannon T.D.  
Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach

### Closing Address by Cllr. Liam Carroll Cathaoirleach

# Fáilte ó Chathaoirleach Chontae na Gaillimhe

## Welcome from Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

Tá lúcháir orm fáilte a chur romhaibh uilig anseo anocht, chuig Óstán Clayton do Ball an Chathaoirligh agus Ghradam an Chathaoirligh 2024, do Chontae na Gaillimhe.

Mar Chathaoirleach, tá an-áthas orm an deis seo a bheith agam chun óstáil a dhéanamh ar Ghradam an Chathaoirligh – chun obair chrua agus tiomantas daoine agus Pobail ar fud an Chontae a aithint agus a cheiliúradh.

Léiríonn na Gradaim seo ár mbuíochas as an raon leathan gníomhaíochtaí Pobail agus deonacha a dhéanann tú ar fad an Chontae, rud a fhágann gur áit níos fear é le maireachtáil, le hoibriú ann agus le cuairt a thabhairt air. Le bliain anuas mar Chathaoirleach, bhí deis agam Bualadh le go leor grúpaí Pobail agus oibrithe deonacha agus an obair atá á déanamh a fheiceáil go díreach. Táim fíor-bhródúil as an dúthacht, an obair chrua, agus an díoghabháilteacht a mbíonn baint ag Pobail agus daoine aonair leo gach lá. Is fíor-luachmhar an méid a chuireann said lenár gContae. Is oíche speisialta í anocht daoibh go léir, agus muid ag aithint seaimpíní Pobail ar fud Chontae na Gaillimhe, agus gabhaim buíochas libh go léir as bhur gcuid obair.

Tá bród orm freisin Gradaim Aitheantas Speisialta a bhronnadh ar theaghlaigh Saoirse Ruane agus Martin Horgan. Déanann na Gradaim seo ceiliúradh ar a Saolta agus a n-éachtaí, agus fáiltím go háirithe roimh na teaghlaigh Ruane agus Horgan anseo anocht.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh sásamh as an ócáid.

**An Comh. Liam Carroll**



I am delighted to welcome you all here tonight, to the Clayton Hotel for the Cathaoirleach's Gala Ball and Cathaoirleach's Awards 2024, for County Galway.

As Cathaoirleach, I am delighted to have this opportunity to host the Cathaoirleach Awards – to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work and dedication of people and communities across the County.

These Awards show our appreciation for the broad range of community and voluntary activities that you carry out across the County, making it a better place to live, work and visit. Over the last year as Cathaoirleach, I have had the opportunity to meet many community groups and volunteers and witness first-hand the work being carried out. I am truly humbled by the dedication, hard work, and determination that communities and individuals are involved in every day. Their contribution to our County is invaluable. Tonight is a special night for all of you as we recognize community champions from across County Galway and I thank you all for your work.

I am also proud to present Special Recognition Awards to the families of the late Saoirse Ruane and Martin Horgan. These Awards celebrate their lives and achievements, and I particularly welcome the Ruane and Horgan families here tonight.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable evening.

**Cllr. Liam Carroll**

# Fáilte ón bPríomh Fheidhmeannach

## Welcome from the Chief Executive

Tá lúcháir orm páirt a bheith mar chuid de Ghradaim an Chathaoirligh arís i bliana. Is teist iad na Gradaim se oar thiomantas gan staonadh daoine aonair agus grúpaí a chuireann go neamhleithleach lenár bpobal trína gcuid iarrachtaí deonacha. Bíonn tionchar mór ag a ngníomhartha ar cháilliócht na Beatha I gContae na Gaillimhe, agus níl sé oiriúnach ach a dtíomtas a aithint agus a cheiliúradh.



I am delighted to be part of the Cathaoirleach's Community Awards again this year. These Awards are a testament to the unwavering commitment of individuals and groups who selflessly contribute to our community through their voluntary efforts. Their actions have a profound impact on the quality of life in County Galway, and it is only fitting that we recognize and

celebrate their dedication.

Bíonn rath ar ár bpobail mar gheall ar an iliomad uaireanta a chaitheann oibrithe deonacha, bíodh na healaíona agus an cultúr á gcur chun cinn, ag caomhnú ár n-oidhreacht, ag tacú leis an nGaeilge, nó ag gníomhú ar son na haeráide. Léiríonn gach catagóir gné uathúil de bheogacht ár bpobail, agus léiríonn na hainmnithe go léir spiorad na seirbhíse a fhágann gur áit speisialta í Contae na Gaillimhe.

Our communities thrive because of the countless hours spent by volunteers, whether it's promoting arts and culture, preserving our heritage, championing the Irish language, or taking climate action. Each category represents a unique facet of our community's vibrancy, and all the nominees exemplify the spirit of service that makes County Galway a special place.

Mar Phríomh Fheidhmeannach Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, is mór an onóir dom a bheith mar chuid den tionscnamh seo. Molaim an Chomhairle agus an Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí as a n-iarrachtaí comhoibríoch in eagrú na nGradam seo ionas gur féidir linn ceiliúradh a dhéanamh le chéile ar laochra gan moladh a dhéanann ár bpobail níos láidre, níos cuimsithí, agus níos athléimní. Tréasláim leis na hainmnithe go léir as a gcuid oibre, agus tá súil agam go mbeidh tráthnóna taitneamhach agaibh go léir.

As the Chief Executive of Galway County Council, I am honoured to be part of this initiative. I commend the Council and the Public Participation Network for their collaborative efforts in organizing these Awards so that together, we can celebrate unsung heroes who make our communities stronger, more inclusive, and resilient. I congratulate all the nominees on their work and hope you all have a pleasant evening.

**Liam Conneally**

**Liam Conneally**



## Na Gradaim

Faigheann gach buaiteoir Gradam an Chathaoirligh:

Teastas Frámaidhe sínithe ag an gCathaoirleach.

Sparánacht airgid de €500 le húsáid dá gcuid oibre Pobail.

Dámhachtain lámhcheirde coimisiúnaithe go speisialta ag léiritheoir ceardaíochta áitiúil.

Is é Sean Mahony, léiritheoir ceardaíochta áisiúil as Craughwell, a dhear Gradaim 2024.

Tá gach Gradaim uathúil agus lámhdhéanta le bheith cosúil le Húicéir na Gaillimhe, agus na seolta déanta as feá spalláilte agus an t-adhmad don bhonn, dubhaithe ag baint úsáide as sean-mhodh Seapánach chun adhmad a dhó. Bronntar na Gradaim Aitheantas Speisialta ag baint úsáide as dair phortaigh, feá lasrach, agus deargadhmad Meiriceánach.

Is ó Ghaillimh a fuarthas agus a rinneadh na Gradaim, agus le hintinn ábhair a athúsáid, tá said saothraithe as crainn a leagadh le linn stoirmeacha!

## The Awards

Each winner of a Cathaoirleach Award receives:

A Framed Certificate signed by the Cathaoirleach.

A cash bursary of €500 to use for their community work.

A specially commissioned hand-crafted Award by a local craft producer.

The Awards for 2024 have been designed and hand-crafted by Sean Mahony, a local craft producer from Craughwell.

Each Award is unique and is hand-made to resemble a Galway Hooker, with the sails made from spalted beech and the wood for the base, blackened using an old Japanese method of burning wood. The Special Recognition Awards are made using bog oak, flamed beech, and American redwood.

The Awards are Galway sourced and made, and with a nod to re-use of materials, have been crafted from trees which were knocked down during storms!

**Sean Mahony** is based in Craughwell and has been making wood pieces for over 25 years using Irish timber mostly sourced from windfall. All of Sean's work is hand-crafted with most being one-off pieces, and he takes great care and pride in his work.

Sean welcomes all commissions, and can be contacted:

- Via e-mail on [mahonysean@yahoo.com](mailto:mahonysean@yahoo.com)

- Via telephone on 087 672 2698



## Na Carthanas

D'ainmnigh an Cathaoirleach carthanachtaí áitiúla ACT for Meningitis agus i4Life mar thairbhithé Dhamhsa Mór an Chathaoirligh.

### ACT for Meningitis

Is carthanas náisiúnta tacaíochta agus feasachta é ACT for Meningitis atá lonnaithe i nGaillimh, a oibríonn chun daoine a shábháil trí fheasacht níos fearr ar ghalair, agus ag an am céanna seirbhís tacaíochta saor in aisce a sholáthar ar fud na hÉireann d'aon duine ar chuir meiningíteas isteach orthu. Arna bhunú in 2011 ag Siobhan agus Noel Carroll tar éis cailleadh a n-iníon Aoibhe ceithre bliana d'aois, tá méadú tagtha ar fheasacht meiningítis ar ACT for Meningitis agus chuidigh sé le go leor daoine a shábháil sa phróiseas.

### i4Life

Bhunaigh grúpa de ghairmithe sláinte deonacha ó larthar na hÉireann i4Life atá lonnaithe in Áth Cinn a tháinig le chéile in 2009 chun a gcuid saimeolaíochtaí a thairiscint le béim faoi leith ar shláinte leanaí faoi 5 i bpobail imeallaithe ar fud na Saimbia agus i dtíortha eile ar Acmhainn Íseal. Ó shin i leith, tá méadú suntasach tagtha ar i4Life ó thaobh méide agus teachta chun cúram sláinte príomhúil agus tacaíocht chothaithe a thairiscint. Ó 2009, tá breis is 210 gairmí sláinte tar éis a gcuid saimeolaíochtaí a thairiscint do thionscadail sa tSaimbia, Uganda, an Libéir agus le Dídeanaithe sa Ghréig.

“Mar Chéad Shaoránach Chontae na Gaillimhe, tuigim go maith a thábhachtaí atá sé tacaíocht a thabhairt d'eagraíochtaí carthanachta áitiúla a sholáthraíonn seirbhísí poiblí ríthábhachtacha sa bhaile agus thar lear. Cuireann an dá eagraíocht a roghnaigh mé mar thairbhithé don tiomsaitheoir airgid seo seirbhísí iontacha ar fáil agus mise buíochas a ghabháil le muintir na Gaillimhe as tacaíocht a thabhairt dom chun cistí a bhfuil géarghá leo a chruinniú.”

An Clr. Liam Carroll.



## The Charities

The Cathaoirleach has named local charities ACT for Meningitis and i4Life as the beneficiaries of the Cathaoirleach's Gala Ball.

### ACT for Meningitis

Galway-based ACT for Meningitis is a national support and awareness charity working to save lives through greater disease awareness, while providing free support services across Ireland to anyone who has been affected by meningitis. Set up in 2011 by Siobhan and Noel Carroll following the loss of their four-year-old daughter Aoibhe, ACT for Meningitis has increased meningitis awareness and has contributed to saving many lives in the process.

### i4Life

Headford-based i4Life was established by a group of volunteer health professionals from the West of Ireland who came together in 2009 to offer their expertise with a particular emphasis on child health for under 5s in marginalised communities across Zambia and other Low Resource countries. Since then, i4Life has grown significantly in size and reach to offer primary health care and nutritional support. Since 2009, over 210 health professionals have offered their expertise to projects in Zambia, Uganda, Liberia and with Refugees in Greece.

“As the First Citizen of County Galway, I am acutely aware of the importance of supporting local charitable organisations that deliver critically important public services at home and abroad. The two organisations that I have chosen as beneficiaries of this fundraiser each provide tremendous services and I thank the people of Galway for supporting me in raising much needed funds.”

Clr. Liam Carroll.



Linda Schirme  
Ór



Helena Doyle  
Kokedama



Christine Mackey  
Acts of Care



# Gradam Ealaíon agus Cultúir

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas d'iarrachtaí deonacha chun chun cleachtadh, Eolas agus taithí ar na healaíona agus cultúir a spreagadh agus a chur chun cinn.

## Arts & Culture Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to encourage and promote knowledge, experience, and practice of arts and culture.

### Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Interface

Is clár stiúideo agus cónaitheachta é Interface le haghaidh amharcealaíontóirí, rinceoirí, scríbhneoirí agus ceoltóirí, atá suite i nGleann Eidhneach i gcroílár Chonamara. Bhí na Breithiúna an-tógtha lena rannpháirtíocht fhairsing pobail le féilte agus imeachtaí áitiúla, agus cruthú clár dinimiciúil imeachtaí ar feadh na bliana. Tá a dtionchar sóisialta agus eacnamaíoch trí thacaíocht piaraí agus deiseanna forbartha gairmiúla d'ealaíontóirí áitiúla le feiceáil freisin ina gcuid oibre agus sa phróiseas ainmniúcháin, a leag béim ar an raon deiseanna áitiúla, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta a forbraíodh dá mballraíocht.

Interface is a studio and residency programme for visual artists, dancers, writers, and musicians, situated in the Inagh Valley in the heart of Connemara. The Judges were impressed by their extensive community engagement with local festivals and events, and the creation of a dynamic year-round programme of events. Their social and economic impact through peer support and professional development opportunities for local artists is also evident throughout their work and the nomination process, which highlighted the range of local, national, and international opportunities developed for their membership.

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### Ardmholadh | Highly Commended

'Sparksquad' – Youth Work Ireland Tuam



Ballinasloe & District  
Heritage Society  
Presents:

**'THE ECCLESIASTICAL  
RICHES OF BALLINASLOE'**  
TALK BY DR. CHRISTY CUNNIFFE

Tuesday 24th of October  
Gullane's Hotel  
7.30pm

# Gradam Foilseacháin Oidhreachta

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas d'iarrachtaí deonacha chun oidhreacht nádúrtha, tógtha agus chultúrtha a gceantar áitiúil a chur chun cinn agus a chaomhnú.

## Best Contribution to Heritage Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to promote and preserve the natural, built, and cultural heritage of their local area.

### Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Ballinasloe & District Heritage Society

Is grúpa é Cumann Oidhreachta Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe & an Cheantair a bunaíodh chun stair agus oidhreacht Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe a chosaint, a chaomhnú agus a chur chun cinn. Dúirt na Breithiúna, cé gur grúpa oidhreachta réasúnta nua é seo sa Chontae, nach raibh a n-nua-aoiseacht ina bhac ar a ndul chun cinn mar ó bunaíodh iad, d'éirigh leo lucht leanúna mór a mhealladh agus raon leathan agus éagsúil d'oidhreacht a sheachadadh. imeachtaí a chuimsíonn taispeántais, siúlóidí agus cainteanna a chlúdaíonn gach gné dá n-oidhreacht áitiúil. Díriodh go mór ar rannpháirtíocht an phobail agus ar an rud atá iontach faoina n-oidhreacht agus a gcultúr a chur chun cinn d'aoisghrúpaí éagsúla, ó chomhoibriú le scoileanna áitiúla go rannpháirtíocht na ngrúpaí gníomhacha scortha, spóirt áitiúla, agus grúpaí cultúrtha eile.



Ballinasloe & District Heritage Society is a group set up to protect, preserve, and promote the history and heritage of Ballinasloe. The Judges commented that although this is a relatively new heritage group in the County, their 'newness' has not been an impediment to their progress as since their formation, they have managed to attract a large

following and deliver a wide and varied range of heritage events comprising of exhibitions, walks, and talks covering all aspects of their local heritage. Their focus has been very much on community engagement and promoting what is great about their heritage and culture to diverse age groups, from collaborations with local schools to engaging the active retired, local sports groups, and other cultural groups.

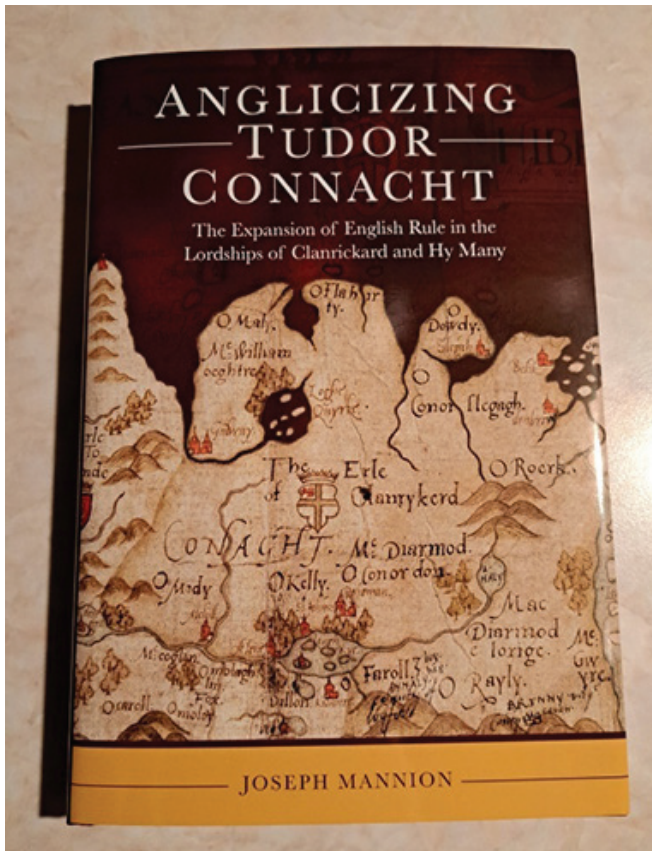
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## Ardmholadh | Highly Commended

Williamstown Heritage Group

Milltown Heritage Group

Ionad Oidhreachta Leitir Mealláin



Dr. Joe Mannion at the launch of 'Anglicizing Tudor Connacht' at Claregalway Castle

## New book on how Galway became a county

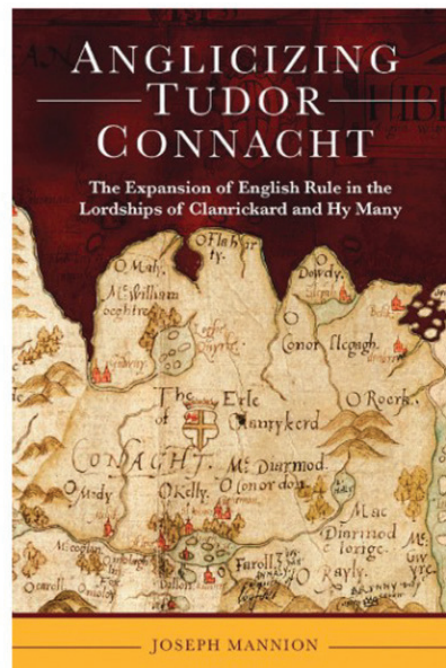
By Maxim Kelly

**A**lthough medieval Galway eventually became an almost independent Anglo-Norman city state, up until 1500 there was always a threat that the warlords of Connemara, north Galway, Roscommon and south Mayo might attack.

Claregalway Castle commanded the northern approaches to the city, and it is fitting a new book on the complex politics of this region will be launched within its walls tomorrow, Friday, April 19, at 8pm.

'Anglicizing Tudor Connacht: The expansion of English rule in the lordships of Clanrickard and Hy Many,' by Dr Joe Mannion, will be introduced by Steven Ellis, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Galway.

The volume deals with the troubled history of the Burkes of Clanrickard, and the O'Kellys of Hy Many during the expansion of English rule into the west of Ireland in the sixteenth century. It also recounts the for-



tunes of the more prominent Gaelic and English families in the south Connacht region, which in 1569 was transformed into the county of Galway

as we know it today. Claregalway Castle, a meticulously restored late medieval tower house, is open to all for the book launch.

# Gradam Foilsitheoireachta Oidhreachta

Aithníonn an chatagóir seo iarrachtaí deonacha chun taighde, taifead agus cur chun cinn a dhéanamh ar oidhreacht na gceantar áitiúil.

## Heritage Publication Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to research, record and promote the heritage of local areas.

### Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Dr. Joseph Mannion

'Anglicizing Tudor Connacht: The Expansion of English Rule in the Lordships of Clanrickard and Hy-Many' le Dr Joseph Mannion

Is leabhar an-tábhachtach é an leabhar seo a thugann léargas cruinn ar ghné de stair na hÉireann atá fiordheacair de ghnáth a thuiscint. Tá taighde mionsonraithe agus scoláireacht ghairmiúil an údair den scoth agus léirítear san fhoilseachán seo. Tá sé clóite ar an gcaighdeán is airde ag Four Courts Press agus tá sé chomh hiontach agus atá sé mar leabhar léannta. Tá aird an údair agus an fhoilsitheora ar mhionsonraí le moladh. Tá tábhacht áitiúil, réigiúnach agus náisiúnta ag baint leis an leabhar seo agus tá an Contae bródúil as. Leabhar é a bheidh á lorg ag scoláirí staire na hÉireann agus léitheoirí ginearálta araon. Is é agus fanfaidh, an focal deifnídeach ar an ábhar Anglicisation Tudor of Connacht.

'Anglicizing Tudor Connacht: The Expansion of English Rule in the Lordships of Clanrickard and Hy-Many' by Dr Joseph Mannion

This book is a very important one that unravels in exacting detail an aspect of Irish history that is normally very difficult to understand. The author's detailed research and professional scholarship is top class and shows in this publication. It is printed to the highest standard by Four Courts Press and looks every bit as impressive a book as it does as a scholarly volume. The attention to detail by both author and publisher is to be commended. This book is of local, regional, and national importance and is one that does the County proud. It is a book that will be sought after by scholars of Irish history and general readers alike. It is and will remain, the definitive word on the subject of the Tudor Anglicization of Connacht.

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## Ardmholadh | Highly Commended

'Game of Crests' by Alan Headd

'The Dillons of Clonbrock' by Frank Gavin



Cearclann Coiriú Bláthanna



Cúrsa Failteacháis



Ócáid Buddies Gaeilge

# Gradam don Rannchuidiú is Fearr sa Ghaeilge

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas d'iarrachtaí deonacha chun úsáid agus eolas na Gaeilge a chaomhnú, a chur chun cinn, nó a mhéadú.

## Best Contribution to the Irish Language Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to preserve, promote, or increase the use and knowledge of the Irish language.

### Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Pleanáil Teanga Chonamara Láir

Cludaíonn Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Chonamara Láir 35km ó Leitirmúcú, siar tré Chamus, Rosmuc, Cill Chiaráin, Carna, An

Caiseal, Sraith Salach agus cuid do Chloch na Rón chomh maith leis an Léim an Uachtar Ard. Is plean pobail é Plean Teanga Chonamara Láir agus oibríonn said go laethúil chun aidhmeanna an phobail a chuir I gcrích tré imeachtaí sosialta, imeachtaí foghlama, agus tacú le gníomhachtaí pobail. Teastaíonn siad a chinntiú go dtacaíonn leis an pobal labhartha na Gaeilge agus ag an am céanna go bhfáiltíonn said roimh aonduine nua sa gceantar tré gach deis foghlama agus sosialú a chuir ar fáil.

Bhraith na breithiúna go bhfuil seirbhís den scóth á chur ar fáil ag Pleanáil Teanga Chonamara Láir ag déanamh iarracht an Ghaeilge a spreagadh agus a neartú i measc an phobail ar fad idir sean agus óg. Bhí na moltóirí an-tógtha leis an Scéim Buddies Gaeilge agus na ranganna tacaíochta teanga Mol an Óige. Léirigh said cur chuige an-spreagúil agus iad ag eagrú imeachtaí. Bhí go leor le fáil anseo do shean agus óg agus rud éigin ar fáil do gach duine agus tá tionchar dearfach ag an obair seo ar fad ar an bpobal.

The Central Connemara Language Planning Area covers 35km from Leitirmúcú, west through Chamus, Rosmuc, Cill Chiaráin, Carna, An Caiseal, Sraith Salach and part of Chloch na Rón as well as Uachtar Ard.

The Central Connemara Language Plan is a community plan and works daily to achieve its aims through social events, learning events, and supporting community activities. They want to ensure that the Irish-speaking community is supported and at the same time, that they welcome anyone new to the area by providing every learning and socializing opportunity.

The judges felt that Pleanáil Teanga Chonamara Láir is providing an exemplary service to encourage and strengthen the Irish language to all ages in the whole community. The adjudicators were very impressed with the Irish Buddies Scheme and the language support classes Mol an Óige. They have displayed a very encouraging approach towards organizing events. There was a lot to be found here for old and young and something for everyone, and all this work has a positive impact on the community.

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## Ardmholadh | Highly Commended

CLG na Piarsaigh, Ros Muc



Tree Planting in Letterfrack

**CONNEMARA GREEN**  
INSPIRING ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

**Coastwatch**

**Free Training Event**

Connemara Green are organising a Coastwatch Ireland free training event on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30pm at the Coral Strand, Ballyconneely.**

- Learn your seaweeds
- Go rockpooling
- Get involved in Citizen Science

**All Welcome**



**Discover Wintering Birds in Connemara!**



Unveil the mysteries of Connemara's wintering birds in a 2-hour Identification Course and 1-hour Birdwatching experience!

Join expert ornithologist Marie Louise Heffernan on **15<sup>th</sup> Jan at 11am in The Further Education Centre, Letterfrack** (over Letterfrack Hardware) to delve into the fascinating world of seasonal avian visitors.

Learn to identify and appreciate their unique traits, and behaviours during the winter months.

Following the two hours course, grab your binoculars for a 1-hour guided birdwatching expedition at Letterfrack Bay.

Limited spaces available! Reserve now and embrace the magic of wintering birds in this captivating corner of Ireland.

Email [info@connemaragreen.ie](mailto:info@connemaragreen.ie) to book a place or phone 095 47117.



## Gradam Comhshaoil agus don Athrú Aeráide

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas d'iarrachtaí deonacha chun an timpeallacht ina gcónaíonn said a fheabhsú ar bhealach atá inbhuanaithe.

### Environment & Climate Action Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to enhance the environment in which they live in a sustainable manner.

#### Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Connemara Green

Tá cur chuige iomlánaíoch glactha ag an nGrúpa seo maidir le hinbhuanaitheacht chomhshaoil a bpobail trí thionscadail éagsúla cosúil le ceardlanna feasachta comhshaoil, Féile Glas Chonamara, plean plandála de réir an Phlean Uile-Éireann Pailneoirí lena n-áirítear plandáil crann agus balla beo i a sráidbhaile. Chuaigh a gcuid oibre ar dhíothú Speicis Ionracha ina sráidbhaile i bhfeidhm go háirithe ar an bPainéal Breithiúnais, agus ar leathnú na hoibre seo chuig léarscáiliú speiceas ionracha i bPáirc Náisiúnta Chonamara. Léiríonn siad sárchleachtas agus cur chuige trasphobail maidir le pobal atá athléimneach ó thaobh na haeráide de agus atá inbhuanaithe ó thaobh an chomhshaoil de, go háirithe i gceantar ina bhfuil gnáthóga ardchaighdeán faoi bhrú.

This Group has taken a holistic approach to the environmental sustainability of their community through a diversity of projects such as environmental awareness workshops, a Connemara Green Festival, a planting plan in accordance with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan including tree planting and a living wall in their village. Their work on the elimination of Invasive Species in their village of Letterfrack particularly impressed the Judging Panel, and the expansion of this work into mapping of invasive species in the Connemara National Park. They epitomise best practice and a cross-community approach to a climate resilient and environmentally sustainable community, particularly in an area with high quality habitats under pressure.

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#### Ardmholadh | Highly Commended

Kinvara Ballinderreen Tree Gang



Nature Therapy and Music at SCCUL Sanctuary Clarinbridge



Boxercise in Monivea

## An Gradam um Ionchuimsiú Sóisialta

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo iarrachtaí grúpaí agus áiseanna pobail chun tacú le daoine páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíochtaí sóisialta agus fóillíochta, go háirithe iad siúd a d'fhéadfadh a bheith eisiata go sóisialta.

### Social Inclusion Award

This category recognises the efforts of groups and community facilities to support people to participate in social and leisure activities, particularly those who may be socially excluded.

## Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Vision Arch Club

Is grúpa sóisialta é Vision Arch Club do dhaoine óga faoi mhíchumas intleachta, atá lonnaithe i mBaile Átha an Rí, ach a fhreastalaíonn ar cheantar níos leithne lena n-áirítear Órán Mór, Craughwell agus Baile Chláir.

Mhóthaigh na Breithiúna gur grúpa sóisialta iontach é seo a bhunaigh tuismitheoirí daoine óga faoi mhíchumas intleachta. Chomh maith le tacaíocht fhrithpháirteach a sholáthar do dhaoine aonair agus dá dteaghlaigh, tá deiseanna luachmhara á gcur ar fáil aige le bheith páirteach i saol príomhshrutha an phobail agus i ngníomhaíochtaí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith deacair a bhaint amach murach sin. Thug an fhoirm ainmniúcháin breac-chuntas freisin ar chur chuige cuimsitheach maidir le seachadadh na ngníomhaíochtaí seo ag an ngrúpa ag obair i gcomhpháirtíocht le raon de chlubanna agus grúpaí áitiúla.

Vision Arch Club are a social group for young people with intellectual disabilities, based in Athenry, but serving a wider area including Oranmore, Craughwell and Claregalway.

The Judges felt this was a fabulous social group established by the parents of young people with intellectual disabilities. In addition to providing mutual support for the individuals and their families, it is providing valuable opportunities to be involved in mainstream community life and activities which might otherwise be difficult to attain. The nomination form also outlined an inclusive approach to the delivery of these activities by the group working in partnership with a range of local clubs and groups.

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## Ardmholadh | Highly Commended

Seid na bhFear Dúiche Sheoighneach

Gort Cancer Support Group

Mountbellew Women's Shed



**OUR HOCKEY CLUB**



**ADULT HOCKEY**



**JUNIOR GIRLS HOCKEY**



COMING SOON

**JUNIOR BOYS HOCKEY**



**INCLUSIVE HOCKEY**



**SCHOOLS HOCKEY**



**CONNACHT HOCKEY**



**SOCIAL HOCKEY**



**WALKING HOCKEY**



Following the historic Connacht Hockey Junior Cup win for the Kinvara Senior Hockey team in Dangarron Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the team took a trip to the site of our new pitch which will hopefully become a reality in the near future.



Distribution of Hockey Pitches in Ireland, A significant need identified in the West of Ireland



**#PUSHFORAPITCH #LETSBUILDDIT**



**SPONSOR A SQUARE**

Support our main fundraiser by purchasing our limited number of virtual squares to build a full size hockey pitch on Moy Road, Kinvara. This facility will cater not just for club and regional hockey. With its multipurpose design, it will facilitate multiple sports use by our schools, clubs and communities across South Galway/North Clare for generations to come.

Donate €250 for 2 years.

Payment options available from €5 per week.

Donor names will be placed on a commemorative plaque (sample image below).

Free Hockey Session for boys & girls during the CuckooFleadH2024



## Gradam Spóirt

Tugtar aitheantas sa chatagóir seo iarrachtaí deonacha líon na ndaoine a ghlacann páirt i sport a mhéadú, go háirithe laistigh de ghrúpaí a bhfuil rátaí rannpháirtíochta íseal acu.

## Sports Award

This category recognises voluntary efforts to increase the number of people participating in sport, particularly within groups with low participation rates.

### Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Kinvara Hockey Club

Tá Club Haca Chinn Mhara ag feidhmiú le breis agus 40 bliain le 30 oibrí deonach a dhéanann cóitseáil ar thart ar 250 ball.

Mhóthaigh na Breithiúna gur sampla iontach é seo de Chlub le díograis agus paisean, ag tacú le gach duine ina bpobal a bheith rannpháirteach i Haca agus ag dul i dteagmháil go gníomhach le cohóirt éagsúla cosúil le cailíní, mná, agus daoine faoi mhíchumas. Anuas ar a gcuid gníomhaíochtaí suntasacha, tá fuinneamh ollmhór á léiriú acu chun éirí os cionn an bhacainn fhollasach gan pháirc baile a bheith acu, agus sárchleachtas á léiriú acu agus iad ag iarraidh mol ilfheidhmeach spóirt agus caitheamh aimsire a fhorbairt dá bpobal.

Kinvara Hockey Club has been operating for over 40 years with 30 volunteers who coach approximately 250 members.

The Judges felt that this was a fantastic example of a Club with drive and passion, supporting everyone in their community to participate in Hockey and actively reaching out to various cohorts such as girls, women, and people with disabilities. On top of their impressive activities, they are displaying huge energy to rise above the obvious barrier of having no home pitch, and exhibiting best practice in seeking to develop a multi-functional sports and recreation hub for their community.

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## Ardmholadh | Highly Commended

Moyne Villa Soccer Club

John Smith, Caltra & District Athletics Club

Galway Tribes Basketball Club

Leitrim Sports & Recreational Development

Milltown GAA & LGFA

St. Gabriel's LGFA

Corrib Basketball Club

The Cathaoirleach's Awards 2024





**Kinvara Tidy Towns**  
**April 10th 8:00PM**  
**Online Food Waste**  
**Talk with Aoife Munn**



**We are delighted to invite you to an Online talk with Aoife Munn all about Food Waste.**

Reducing your food waste is one of the most effective actions you can take to help fight climate change. Any step you take to reduce your waste has the potential to cause significant effects and increase sustainability.

This talk will be held live online via Zoom and will be approx. 60 mins. This talk has limited places, so please register early by sending an email to [kinvaratidytowns01@gmail.com](mailto:kinvaratidytowns01@gmail.com) we will then send you details via email.

**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION





**Networking Event for Tidy Towns Groups in County Galway**

Galway County Council is very grateful to Kinvara Tidy Towns for offering to host a Networking Event for all our Tidy Towns Groups which will be held as follows:

<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Burren Nature Sanctuary, Kinvara, Co. Galway, H91 PTK7</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</b>

The aims of this event are to:

- A. Create an opportunity for Tidy Towns Groups to network and learn from each other, regarding tidy towns activities and entering the national competition.
- B. Present a Guided Walk of Burren Nature Sanctuary's biodiversity trail, Burren botany bubble with local species, and showcase the Burren flora, sculptures, signage, and amenities that this beautiful location has to offer.

# Gradam Aitheantais na mBailte Slachtmhara

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas donéacht speisialta Grúpa na mBailte Slachtmhara.

## Tidy Towns Recognition Award

This category recognises the special achievement of a Tidy Towns Group.

### Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Kinvara Tidy Towns

Tá Bailte Slachtmhara Chinn Mhara an-tiomanta dá bpobal áitiúil agus dá bhfolláine comhshaoil, ag comhoibriú le go leor páirtithe leasmhara chun sprioc na maoirseachta comhshaoil a bhaint amach i gComórtas Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara. Mhol an Chomhairle a gcuid iarrachtaí san oideachas bithéagsúlachta agus cur chun cinn, lena n-áirítear criosanna a thacaíonn le pailneoirí a bhainistiú trí Phlean Bithéagsúlachta agus Iniúchadh Crann, feacht ar speicis ionracha a mhéadú, gnáthóga nádúrtha a chosaint, agus iliomad ceardlann a reáchtáil chun an pobal a bheith rannpháirteach. Tá cleachtais eiseamláireacha léirithe acu trí chomhpháirtíochtaí láidre a chothú laistigh dá sráidbhaile, ag cur béime ar inbhuanaitheacht agus ar ghníomhaíocht aeráide le bearta mar chríos saor ó phóstaer a bhunú le linn toghcháin, eolaire deisiúcháin a chruthú chun athchúrsáil a spreagadh, boscaí bruscair gréine-chumhachtaithe a shuiteáil, réimse poiblí uisce a thabhairt isteach. tobair, agus tiomantas seasta a choinneáil maidir le deireadh a chur le húsáid phlaisteach i ngach gné pobail. Mar gheall ar spiorad an chomhoibríthe trasphobail seo bhí ról ceannais acu maidir le hiarratas ar an bPlean Gníomhaíochta Pobail um Aeráid a chomhordú a chlúdaíonn obair 8 ngrúpa áitiúla. In 2024, leag siad fasach mar an chéad Ghrúpa Bailte Slachtmhara chun Ócáid Líonraithe a eagrú do Ghrúpaí na mBailte Slachtmhara Contae go léir, ag éascú malartú léargais agus ag cuidiú le cur chun cinn iarrachtaí riachtanacha na ngrúpaí go léir, rud a léiríonn a spiorad pobail láidir agus a n-éiteas comhoibríoch.



Kinvara Tidy Towns is deeply committed to their local community and environmental well-being, collaborating with numerous stakeholders to fulfil the National Tidy Towns Competition's goal of environmental stewardship. The Council has lauded their efforts in biodiversity education and promotion, including managing pollinator-friendly zones through a Biodiversity Plan and Tree Audit, increasing awareness of invasive species, safeguarding natural habitats, and conducting numerous workshops to involve the community. They have demonstrated exemplary practices by fostering robust partnerships within their village, emphasizing sustainability and climate action with measures like establishing a poster-free zone during elections, creating a repair directory to encourage recycling, installing solar-powered compacting bins, introducing a public realm water fountain, and maintaining a steadfast commitment to eliminating plastic use in all community facets. This spirit of cross-community collaboration saw them take a lead role in coordinating an application to the Community Climate Action Plan covering the work of 8 local groups. In 2024, they set a precedent as the first Tidy Towns Group to organize a Networking Event for all County Tidy Towns Groups, facilitating the exchange of insights and aiding the advancement of all groups' essential efforts, which exemplifies their robust community spirit and collaborative ethos.

# Kinvara Ballinderreen Tree Gang Miyawaki Site, Ballyclery Mini forest April 2024.



## Kinvara & District Sustainable Energy Group

Burrenbeo

Cuan Beo

Kinvara Ballinderreen Tree Gang

Kinvara Climate Action

Kinvara Earthkeepers

Kinvara Plastic Free

Kinvara Tidy Towns

Kinvara Trellick Community Garden

Northampton N.S. Green School Team

Seamount College Green School Team

St. Josephs's N.S. Green School Team





# Gradam um Mortas Ceantair

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas do ghrúpa a roghnófar chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh san Chomórtas Náisiúnta um Mórta Ceantair ar son Chontae na Gaillimhe.

## Pride of Place Award

This category recognises the groups selected to represent County Galway in the All-Island IPB Pride of Place Awards.

## Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Kinvara Tidy Towns

Tá Bailte Slachtmhara Chinn Mhara roghnaithe ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar son Chontae na Gaillimhe i gCatagóir na Dámhachtana 'Gníomhaíocht ar son na hAeráide agus Bithéagsúlachta', chun a n-iarrachtaí comhoibríochta i leith gnímh aeráide & bithéagsúlachta a léiriú. Forbraíodh a bPlean Gníomhaíochta Bithéagsúlachta 2021-2024 i gcomhpháirtíocht le Burrenbeo agus Grúpa Crann Bhaile an Doirín Kinvara agus tá breis agus 9,000 crann dúchasach curtha ag teaghlaigh áitiúla, úinéirí talún, scoileanna agus grúpaí áitiúla. Ag tógáil ar an rath seo, tá sé mar aidhm ag a n-iarratas ar dheontas um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide sa Phobal, a chlúdaíonn obair 8 ngrúpa áitiúla, tionscadal crann úlloird iolraitheoir a rolladh amach ó Fhómhar 2024. Áireofar le tuilleadh oibre forbairt Plean Bithéagsúlachta agus Oidhreachta nua do 2024-2027 agus tionscadail chomhoibríochta le Haca Chinn Mhara, CLG Chinn Mhara, Comhairle Pobail Chinn Mhara, cónaitheoirí, scoileanna, agus gnólachtaí chun mapáil ghnáthóg, rian bithéagsúlachta, agus sraith tionscadal taiscéalaíochta eolaíochta saoránach fiadhúlra agus bithéagsúlachta a fhorbairt le 3 scoil áitiúla i gcomhar le hÉiceolaithe áitiúla. agus Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Treoraíonn Bailte Slachtmhara Chinn Mhara agus Chinn Mhara tionscnaimh inbhuanaitheachta ar fud an phobail ar nós feachtais feasachta saor ó phlaisteach i scoileanna agus tionscadail iolracha agus an chéad stáisiún líonta uisce sa réimse poiblí sa Chontae chun tomhaltas plaisteach aonúsáide sa phobal a laghdú go buan. Tá gach grúpa ina mbaill de Ghrúpa Fuinnimh Inmharthana Chinn Mhara agus Cheantair a bhfuil Máistir-Iniúchadh Fuinnimh déanta acu ar an sráidbhaile chun tacú le huasghráduithe móra fuinnimh ar áiseanna pobail.

Kinvara Tidy Towns has been selected by Galway County Council to represent County Galway in the 'Climate Action and Biodiversity' Award Category, to showcase their collaborative efforts towards climate action & biodiversity. Their Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2024 was developed in partnership with Burrenbeo and the Kinvara Ballinderreen Tree Gang and has seen over 9,000 native trees planted by local families, landowners, schools, and local groups. Building on this success, their Community Climate Action grant application, which covers the work of 8 local groups, aims to roll out a multiplier orchard tree project from Autumn 2024. Further work will include the development of a new Biodiversity and Heritage Plan for 2024-2027 and collaborative projects with Kinvara Hockey, Kinvara GAA, Kinvara Community Council, residents, schools, and businesses to develop habitat mapping, a biodiversity trail, and a series of wildlife and biodiversity citizen science exploration projects with 3 local schools in conjunction with local Ecologists and Galway County Council. Kinvara Plastic Free and Kinvara Tidy Towns lead sustainability initiatives across the community such as plastic-free awareness campaigns in schools and multiple projects and the County's first public realm water filling station to permanently reduce consumption of single-use plastic in the community. All groups are members of the Kinvara & District Sustainable Energy Group who have completed a Master Energy Audit of the village to underpin large energy upgrades of community facilities.



Templetogher Mill and Millers Cottage



Carrenderry Bog Road

# Gradam um Mortas Ceantair

Sa gcatagóir seo, tugtar aitheantas do ghrúpa a roghnófar chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh san Chomórtas Náisiúnta um Mórtas Ceantair ar son Chontae na Gaillimhe.

## Pride of Place Award

This category recognises the groups selected to represent County Galway in the All-Island IPB Pride of Place Awards.

## Buaiteoir | Winner ~ Williamstown

Tá Baile Liam roghnaithe ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe chun ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar Chontae na Gaillimhe i gCatagóir na Dámhachtana '0-300 Daonra'.

Sráidbhaile álainn faoi chothabháil is ea Baile Liam atá suite in oirthuaisceart Chontae na Gaillimhe ar an teorainn idir Gaillimh agus Ros Comáin. Tá cuntas teiste fada ag Cumann Oidhreachta Bhaile Liam i gcur chun cinn agus i gcaomhnú a n-oidhreachta, agus is é an tseud sa choróin athchóiriú Mhuileann Bhaile Liam agus Teachín Millers a léiríonn infheistíocht 25 bliain i mórthionscadal athchóirithe oidhreachta. Tá roinnt tionscadal pobail curtha i gcrích ag Cuideachta Forbartha Bhaile Liam lena n-áirítear cosán lúbtha 3.3km ar Bhóthar an Phortaigh a chuimsíonn cláir scéil agus comharthaí bithéagsúlachta chomh maith le bheith ina thaitneamhacht thábhachtach don phobal a shonraíonn a ngnáthóga tábhachtacha do go leor speiceas ainmhithe agus plandaí. Le déanaí, forbraíodh cosán nua a nascfaidh an Bhunscoil le Tailte CLG chun cosán sábháilte a sholáthar don phobal. Tá an fócas seo ar chuimsiú soiléir freisin san Ionad Pobail a fhreastalaíonn ar riachtanais ó chúram leanaí go gníomhaíochtaí gníomhacha scoir, agus sa chomhpháirtíocht láidir idir Grúpa na mBailte Slachtmhara agus an Scoil Náisiúnta maidir le tionscnaimh bhithéagsúlachta agus comhshaoil a fhorbairt.

Williamstown has been selected by Galway County Council to represent County Galway in the '0-300 Population' Award Category.

Williamstown is a beautifully maintained village located in the north-east of County Galway on the Galway/Roscommon border. Williamstown Heritage Society have a long track record in the promotion and preservation of their heritage, with the jewel in the crown being the restoration of Williamstown Mill and Millers Cottage representing a 25-year investment in a major heritage restoration project. Williamstown Development Company have completed several community projects including a looped 3.3km walkway on the Bog Road which in addition to being an important community amenity, encompasses story boards and biodiversity signage detailing its important habitats for many species of animals and plants. More recently, a new walkway has been developed linking the Primary School to the GAA Grounds to provide a safe walkway for the community. This focus on inclusion is also evident in the Community Centre which caters for needs from childcare to active retirement activities, and the strong partnership between the Tidy Towns Group and National School in developing biodiversity and environmental initiatives.

## Gradam Aitheantais Speisialta Iarbháis Posthumous Special Recognition Award

# Saoirse Ruane



Twelve-year-old Saoirse Ruane from Kiltullilla passed away only ten short weeks ago from a rare cancer Osteosarcoma.

Saoirse became known for her immense courage and bravery in the face of adversity over the past four and a half years.

She lifted the hearts of the nation with her smile, courage, strength, and perseverance.

In her twelve short years, Saoirse's kindness and empathy for others less fortunate became her most obvious characteristic, and something her family are unbelievably proud of.

In December 2019, she started to complain with a discomfort in her ankle which was later

diagnosed as a rare life-threatening tumour of the bone called Osteosarcoma. Saoirse's treatment involved ten months of intensive chemo and all the side effects that went with it, and she had to have her right leg amputated, which was life changing for both Saoirse and her parents Roseanna and Ollie. Saoirse spent most of 2020 in and out of St Bernadette's UCHG and St Johns Ward in Crumlin having treatment. She then faced the challenge of having to learn to walk all over again which involved months of physio and hydrotherapy with Enable Ireland.

The family then thought long and hard about setting up a fundraiser to ensure Saoirse would be able to access whatever services she needed whether this was prosthetics, or modifications



At the Late Late Show Studio

to her home. A fundraising committee was formed, a GoFundMe fundraiser was set up and they organised an online concert “Saoirse’s Summerfest” which saw some amazing artists, comedians, and well-known faces take part and the highlight was that Saoirse’s favourite band Kodaline headlined it. It was also decided that once they reached their target any surplus money would go to the charities that had helped them. €25,000 was donated to the following charities: St Johns Ward Crumlin, St Bernadettes UCHG, Hand in Hand Loughrea, Aoibheann’s Pink Tie and The Irish Cancer Society.

After Saoirse’s appearance on the Late Late Toy Show where she spoke about her illness Ryan Tubridy told the nation how Saoirse’s giving back inspired them to start the first ever toy show appeal which went on to raise over 17million euro to date and is something the family are very proud of.

Over time and after a lot of hard work and determination Saoirse returned to sport and camogie in particular which she loved she also learned to swim and cycle her bike again.

Unfortunately, heartache came knocking on their door again in May 2022 when Cancer struck again but this time in the lung requiring major surgery involving reconstruction and a chest wall resection. Saoirse, being so adamant, spent the next eleven months recovering and returning to life as she knew it.



At Áras an Uachtaráin with President Michael D. Higgins

She continued to fundraise through her social media platform raising an astonishing €22,680 for the Irish cancer society by singing live on her family Instagram page with her mum for Daffodil Day.

Just one year later Saoirse relapsed in April of 2023.

It was then her parents were told that Saoirse wouldn’t win this battle.

Putting on their bravest faces, they wiped their tears away and painted big smiles to ensure Saoirse would be none the wiser.

Saoirse resumed chemo daily while keeping a positive outlook and slowly returning to day-to-day life.

Despite her relapse and its difficulties, Saoirse continued to fundraise raising €61,000 for St Bernadette’s Ward Galway choosing the charity of her choice “Galway Sick Kids” to benefit from the proceeds of a single “Sing” which was launched in November 2023.

Just one month later on the 19th December, Saoirse found herself back in St Bernadette’s but this time with the unimaginable diagnosis of cancer in many other places and a prognosis of days to weeks.

She surpassed all these expectations and after a brave and courageous battle she heartbreakingly took her last breath on 5th March 2024 in her parent’s arms.

## Gradam Aitheantais Speisialta Iarbháis Posthumous Special Recognition Award

# Martin Horgan



A pall of gloom descended over the coastal village of Maree on the morning of 15th January this year when news of Martin Horgan's passing began to filter through. The former secondary school teacher and Salthill native was so much part of the sporting community in Galway over the previous half century that his sudden and untimely death shocked everyone who knew him.

Martin Horgan was known universally for doing things right or he didn't do them at all, neither did he talk about things, he just went ahead and did them. He could be described equally as a warrior for his teaching and coaching achievements but also as a worrier about how his ideas might be achieved. His brain was always full of ideas.

In early 2005, Martin was one of a small group of residents from the communities of Oranmore and Maree including the then Maree Parish Curate, Fr Adrian Mc Grath, Liam Carroll, Tom Broderick, and Joe Broder, who came together to tease out the possibility and feasibility of setting up a juvenile soccer club in the area to cater for the physical needs of a growing young population.

The impetus generated after a series of public meetings (one of which attracted over 100 parents to the Oranmore Lodge Hotel) led to the formation of Maree Oranmore FC, now possibly the largest soccer club in Connacht with a current membership approaching 1,000 members. Season 2011/2012 saw the fledgling Juvenile Club compete with a full complement of teams from U-6 to U-18 boys sides and U-6 to U-12 girls sides.

Success on the playing fields came very quickly for the club when in 2013 Maree Oranmore FC were crowned U-12 Galway Cup and Connacht Cup Champions, with Martin, Brendan Carroll and Kevin Mc Carthy guiding the side. For Martin this initial success for the club was a very proud moment as the winning squad included his eldest son, Kevin.

Further successes were to come down through the years for Maree Oranmore FC with Martin as the driving force behind the club's development. The success of the U-21 Premier side in 2022 with both of his sons, Kevin and Cian lining out was indeed another proud



moment for Martin. Not to be outdone by the boys, Aislings prowess as a soccer player was also a source of great pride for Martin.

His much too early passing in January of this year deprived Martin of the opportunity to witness the provincial successes once again of the U-12 boys, and for the first time the U-14 girls and U-18 youths. He would also have been justifiably proud of the achievement of the Men's Premier Team who have qualified for their first ever Connacht Junior Cup final.

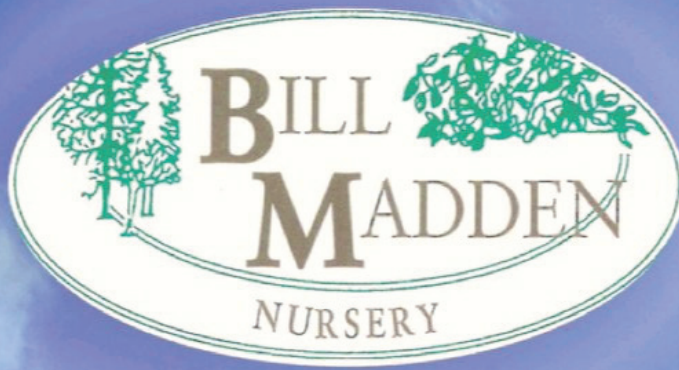
Martin's main legacy will be the development of thousands of young people, both as a teacher and sports coach. His promotion of 'Football for All', a programme initiated to assist and develop Football opportunities for all players with a disability in their local communities, along with the development of girls' soccer, will also be a lasting legacy. Caulfield Industrial Community 4G facility in Maree complete with Spectator Stand and Electronic Scoreboard will act as



further legacies to Martin's life and work.

Of much more significance in Martin's life will be the legacy he has left with Caroline, this being their three children, Kevin, Aisling, and Cian, all of whom will keep his memory alive for many years into the future.

Ni bheidh a leithèid le feicheall aris.



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*Best wishes to Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway on the occasion of the Cathaoirleach's Gala Ball and Cathaoirleach's Awards 2024.*





Tástáil Ródacmhainneachta um Fheithiclí Tráchtála  
Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness Testing

## **Peter Donohue Ltd**

To book an appointment, call us on 090 967 5817  
or email us at [info@peterdonohueltd.ie](mailto:info@peterdonohueltd.ie)

Best wishes from Peter Donohue Ltd to Cllr. Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach  
of the County of Galway, on the occasion of the Cathaoirleach's Gala Ball  
and Cathaoirleach's Awards 2024.



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of the County of Galway, on the occasion of the  
Cathaoirleach's Gala Ball and Cathaoirleach's  
Awards 2024.

## Cathaoirleach's Awards Roll of Honour 2011 – 2023

2011	Abbey Community Development Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre Clann Family Resource Centre Oughterard Clifden Community Arts Week Margaret McNulty Portumna & District Active Retirement Sign Out Youth Café Portumna Tuam/Headford Special Olympics	2016	Arthur Carr Bernadette Conroy Bridge That Gap Clarinbridge Clubanna Óige Spleodar Bhaile Locha Riach Fit Towns Ballinasloe Headford Environment Group Headford Yarnbombers Milltown Heritage Group Oireachtas Chois Fharráige Shorelines Arts Festival
2012	Athenry Community Games Boystown Heritage Store Ballymoe Clann Family Resource Centre Oughterard Clifden 2012 Dolmen Centre Kinvara Glinsk 100 Gort Community School Green Schools John Martin Griffin Portumna Arts Group	2018	Athenry Men's Shed Ballinderreen Community Centre Cuan Beo John Bhaba Jeaic O'Chonghaile Meelick Eyrecourt Kayak Club Moycullen Historical Society Pádhraic Ó Biadha Tom Broderick Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta
2013	Abbey Community Development Ahascragh Development Association Blue Teapot Theatre Company Frank Glynn Ionad Oidhreachta Leitir Mealláin Killimor & District Development Maree/Oranmore Football Club Tearmann Eanna Teo Tuam Youth Bank	2019	Abbey Community Development Association Club na bhFoghlaimoirí Gaeilge Domestic Violence Response Oughterard Fit 4 Life Group Woodford Fochoiste Dhumnach na Leanbh Mighty Oaks Arch Club Portumna Moycullen Heritage Rosemary Hanley Yeats Thoor Ballylee Development CLG

## Cathaoirleach's Awards Roll of Honour 2011 – 2023

2014	<p>Active in Age Oranmore Bia Lover Food Festival Calasanctius College Oranmore Ciaran Murphy Coiste Pobail Na Tulaí in Baile na hAbhainn Gaeilge Locha Riach Gort Cancer Support Loughrea Medieval Festival Moyne Villa Football Club Scoil Bhriocáin Ros Muc UachtarARTS</p>	2021	<p>Accessilbity Ballinasloe Athenry Community First Responders Group Athenry Music Schoo Biseach Cairdeas Forbairt Chonamara Láir Connemara Care East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Group Gliondar Community Arts Group Gort Cancer Support Group Killanin Parish COVID-19 Community Response Team Solas Family Resource Centre Headford The Walks Project Group Loughrea Venetia McEllin</p>
2015	<p>Ballinderreen Community Centre Carrabane Community Development Co. Clifden Tidy Towns Cumann Forbartha Chois Fharraigne Cumann Óige Átha an Rí Fit Towns Portumna Galway Older People's Council Killimor Recreation &amp; Fitness Oranmore Heritage Group Seamus Duffy St. Mary's Church Historical Committee The Hub in Headford</p>	2022	<p>Athenry Arts &amp; Heritage Centre Ballymoe Development Group Club Iomanaíochta Bearna / Na Forbacha Féile Chois Fharraigne Headford Lace Project Lawrencetown Community Development Loughrea Men's Shed Milltown Tidy Towns Scoil Bhriocáin Ros Muc Woodford Parish Development</p>
2023	<p>Abbey Community Development Association Ceoltóirí Óga Chois Fharraigne CURVE Emma Laffey Gort River Walk Tuam Women's Shed</p>		<p>Aileen Cust Memorial Society Creggs Rural Development East Corrib Alliance Glenamaddy Theatre Festival Milltown Heritage Group</p>

**Tá buíochas ar leith ag dul do na daoine seo a leanas:**  
**Special thanks to the following:**

**An Painéal Moltóireachta**  
**The Judging Panel**

Bernadette Prendergast, Head of News, Galway Bay FM

Christy Cunniffe, Galway Community Archaeologist

David Burke, *Tuam Herald*

Karen Mannion, Forum Connemara

Uinseann Mac Thómais – Vincent Holmes

Staff from Galway County Council

**An tÓstach don tráthnóna**  
**The Master of Ceremonies (MC)**

Ollie Turner, Galway Bay FM

**Vincent Lyons agus foireann an PPN agus Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**

**Vincent Lyons and the staff of the PPN and Galway County Council**

**Foireann an Clayton Hotel**  
**Staff of the Clayton Hotel**

as a gcabhair leis na hullmhúcháin don oíche anocht / for their help with the preparations for tonight.

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*Galway County Council and Galway County Public Participation Network congratulate all our award winners and all PPN member groups and volunteers who work tirelessly on behalf of our county.*







**Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe agus  
Líonra Rannpháirteachta Pobail Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Ag Tacú le Pobail**

**Galway County Council & Galway County Public Participation Network  
Supporting Communities**



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council**



**Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Public Participation Network Galway County**