



National Heritage Awards 2019

Award Winners

The Heritage Council National Heritage Awards shine a spotlight on Ireland's heritage heroes and showcase the most engaging and innovative National Heritage Week events.

Heritage Hero Award

The Heritage Hero Award celebrates an individual who always goes the extra mile for heritage, who makes an outstanding contribution to the protection and promotion of heritage in Ireland.

This year, the Heritage Hero is the **Egan family from Birr, County Offaly**. The Egan family are responsible for the survival of an extraordinarily rare, intact furnished farmhouse, near Birr, Co Offaly. They hold tours during Heritage Week every year to showcase the cottage with its wonderful fixtures and fittings. Bread was baked in the family tradition during the Heritage Week tours. Visitors to the cottage commented on the generosity and heart-warming hospitality of the Egan family and their appreciation for their traditional farmhouse as they shared family memories passed on from one generation to the next.

The Hidden Heritage Award

This award is for events that shone a light on Ireland's hidden heritage and events which successfully explored lesser known aspects of Ireland's heritage during National Heritage Week.

Winner

Look-Out Post 76: An hut ar ghualainn an chnoic' at Bloody Foreland, Co Donegal, organised by Vincent Breslin. This project explored the built and cultural heritage associated with Look-Out Post 76, which was constructed and occupied during 'The Emergency' (1939-1945). The event was narrated in Irish and shared previously undocumented stories from the families of men who had served in LOP (Look-Out Post) 76, alongside stories gathered from the local community. The event gave a unique insight into the role that the LOPs and the Marine Coastwatching Service played in defending Ireland's coastline during this period in history. It featured a commemorative ceremony, where families of men who had served in the Coastwatcher's service during this period were presented with certificates; and a small exhibition.

Runners-up

Athenry Castle (OPW), Co Galway: 'Native Herbs' a talk by Dr Dilis Clare.

The event focused on the plants growing around Athenry Castle and the importance of native herbs in the development of natural medicine, both historically and in present times. It comprised a talk on native herbs by Dr Dilis Clare, who also explored how local flowers provide an important food source to wildlife around the castle. A series of photographs continue to be collected and will culminate in an exhibition also featuring samples of local herbs and flowers to be displayed at the visitor's centre.

Kerry County Council, 'Discover Day Place' in Tralee, Co Kerry.

The event shared the stories behind Day Place, Tralee's first Georgian terrace. It enabled attendees to explore the origins and context of the terrace of houses using maps, archives, photography, literature, architectural drawings, and the buildings themselves to unravel the terrace's origins and its past. The event also explored how to read and understand buildings – from classical forms to vernacular tradition, while telling stories about the buildings and love, political intrigue, local court cases and the loss of Tralee's river which was part of the terrace.

The Heritage Communities Award

This award is for events that reached across the local community, where organisers made a special effort to work in partnership with other community groups or encouraged young people to take part.

Winner

'Rosses Radio: 'Stories, Music and Traditions of Donegal' in the Rosses, Co Donegal, organised by Rosses Radio.

This project comprised two full days of heritage and pastimes-themed radio programming, bringing together heritage groups across the Rosses in west Donegal, and broadcast to Donegal Diaspora worldwide. The programming featured live interviews with local people engaged in heritage projects, new documentaries, features on local National Heritage Week events, and the history of the Donegal music scene, and sports.

Runners-up

Dunlavin & District Forum: 'Programme of Heritage Week events' in Dunlavin, Co Wicklow.

This project focused on making Heritage Week a cross-community event, by bringing together community groups from all walks of life with the common purpose of hosting events to highlight the built, natural and cultural heritage of the local Dunlavin community. Events included nature, sport, art and music workshops for children, family nature walks, scavenger hunts, historical walks and talks, and an exhibition of Dunlavin's GAA memorabilia.

Rosemount Social Initiative: 'DVD production on history of Rosemount' in Rosemount, Co Westmeath.

This project comprised the production of a 32 minute DVD, documenting the history of historical sites in the parish of Rosemount, using drone and camera footage of sites with accompanying narrative. Filming for the project took place over ten

weeks, during which informative talks took place, and walks of historical sites in the area were organised, bringing together people of all ages from across the community.

The Cool for Kids Award

This award is for events that helped children learn about and enjoy heritage, and events that encouraged children and families to participate in National Heritage Week.

Winner

Clara Bog Visitor Centre (NPWS); 'Wildlife Detective for Kids' at the Clara Bog Visitor Centre, Co. Offaly. The dedicated children's event involved a group field exercise during which participants were invited to help solve a simulated 'wildlife crime'. Each member of the group was allocated a role in investigating a mock unlawful hunting incident on Clara Bog Nature Reserve and was presented with a series of clues to help solve the crime. The event focused on promoting knowledge and respect for wildlife conservation, the importance of protecting Irish species and habitats, the Wildlife Act and the role of Wildlife Rangers at Clara Bog.

Runners-up

Nenagh Arts Centre: 'Wild Child Bug Safari' at the Nenagh Arts Centre, Co. Tipperary. The event for families explored the concept that the environment is part of local heritage, and comprised a bug safari tour of the new Castle Garden in Nenagh, led by wildlife enthusiast, horticulturist and environmentalist Albert Nolan. The event inspired attendees to think about wildlife, and to have an appreciation for their environment, by learning about insects, examining them, holding them, and releasing them back into the wild. The event focused on attracting families who do not usually engage in cultural activities, with large numbers of participants from international backgrounds attending.

Ennis Friary (OPW); 'Maths trail/tour of Ennis Friary' at Ennis Friary, Co. Clare. The tour for families explored Ennis Friary through the medium of mathematics and comprised a trail to cater for children studying maths from fourth class to second year. It was developed to broaden the Friary's appeal beyond being a heritage site, and to explore the use of maths taught in school today, alongside learning about the life and times of the medieval kings, stonemasons and friars associated with the site.

Le Chéile san Eoraip Award

This award was for events that showcased heritage links with other places in Europe and events which highlighted a person, place or event with a European dimension. This award category started in 2018 as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage

Winner

'Myshall Muintir na Tìre - St Columbanus and the idea of Europe' in Co Carlow, organised by Myshall Muintir am Tìre, Carlow County Museum and the Myshall Community Centre. This lecture, entitled "St Columbanus and the Idea of Europe",

presented by Dr Alexander O'Hara, and pop-up exhibition explored the influence of St. Columbanus, the Patron Saint of Europe, and native of Myshall, Co. Carlow; and the start of what became the European Union. The pop-up exhibition included photographic displays of intercultural visits between members of Myshall Friends of Columbanus, and Friends of Columbanus Francaise and Italy, with a focus on the Columban Way, which stretches from Myshall to Bangor, through England, France, Switzerland, and on to Bobbio in Italy.

Runner-up

'Carrowmore Through the Ages' at Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Co Sligo.

The event focused on exploring the different time periods at the Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery through a variety of short presentations to visitors at six points of the site. The presentations explored how the area was colonised by people from various countries throughout history, and that the origins of the site are not only Neolithic, but it has been an important place for people throughout pre-history and up to the present day, many coming from different corners of Europe and beyond.