



Heritage Week Awards 2020



Shortlisted Projects & Winners

Heritage on Your Doorstep



**NATIONAL
HERITAGE
WEEK 2020
15-23 AUG**

Winner

Bringing the 1911 Census to Life: Killeshandra

County: Cavan

Organiser: Killeshandra Tidy Towns Heritage Group

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The Killeshandra Census of 1911 is being researched and used to sketch the town as it appeared at that time. Killeshandra Tidy Town Heritage Group is producing sketches, old photographs and census records detailing the houses, shops, and public buildings and people who lived in the town.

It will result in a valuable resource for learning about our cultural and built heritage and for genealogy research for visitors.

Runner-up

Cork Jewish Heritage Virtual Walk

County: Cork City

Organiser: Ruti Lachs

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The Cork Jewish Culture Virtual Walk is a beautiful video and a webpage exploring some of the history and culture of the Cork Jewish community. I am a Jewish musician, who moved to Cork from Kerry three years ago. At its height, in around 1915, the Cork Jewish community had about 450 members. Most of these were from families who had left Lithuania (from about 1880) in search of a better life, leaving poverty and antisemitism behind them.

The Cork synagogue opened its doors in 1891, and closed in 2016. I had been researching the history of Cork Jewry for my musical play, *Green Feather Boa*, which is set in the Jewish community in Cork in the early 1900s. I decided to use my extensive research to lead a guided walk for Heritage Week. When COVID-19 descended, the project was adapted accordingly.

The Virtual Walk focusses on seven Jewish sites in the city, including the synagogue, the site of the old cemetery and the ritual bath (mikveh), two bridges with Jewish significance, and 'Jewtown', the area where the early community settled in Cork. There are stories, poems, history, songs, and music from members of the Cork Jewish communities, past and present, including klezmer tunes from local band Pop-Up Klezmer, as well as stories, poems and songs from other Irish Jews. The current community, the Munster Jewish Community, has over 100 members spread throughout the province, who meet in diverse places for the Jewish festivals, and occasional social occasions and events.

Runner-up

Why is Disert important to me?

County: Donegal

Organiser: Disert Heritage Group

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: For Heritage Week 2020, the Disert Heritage Group is proud to present a series of short videos about the connections people have to the wonderful site of Disert, in Inver parish, near Donegal Town. Each day over the course of National Heritage Week, these will be shared on Facebook and on the Disert Heritage Group website.

Disert was an early medieval monastery that was reputedly founded in the 6th century by St Colmcille. It includes early ecclesiastical remains, penitential cairns, a holy well, an altar and a cillín (children's graveyard). It is still important today for religious devotion, as well as having important history and folklore attached to it. Archaeological excavation began in 2019, uncovering exciting evidence for prehistoric and medieval activity as well as more recent farming history. The site is located in an area of high nature value farmland surrounded by the spectacular Bluestack Mountains.

Re-Learning Skills from our Heritage



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Winner

Restoration of old Donegal Flax wheel.

County: Donegal

Organiser: Johnny Shiels

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: I am a third generation wheel wright. I have undertaken the restoration of this very old Donegal Flax/wool spinning wheel. As a maker of spinning wheels here in Donegal, I have found that old wheels are very rare to find. As most of these wheels were prone to woodworm, damp and were generally thrown out in the past. The present owner has kept the wheel safe and has decided to ask me to restore it. As a heritage in schools expert this would be a great project for local schools in the Glenswilly area to follow up on.

Runner-up

Traditional Sheep Farming & Sheep dog training

County: Dublin- South Dublin

Organiser: Donie Anderson, Glenasmole Valley Sheep Farmer

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: This video presents an element of intangible cultural heritage, using sheepdogs to manage sheep in the hills above Tallaght, overlooking Ireland's capital city, Dublin. Donie Anderson's family have been farming in the picturesque Glenasmole Valley for generations and Donie has retained many of the old traditional farming practices.

This video follows Donie and his 3 marvellous sheep dogs Jess, Bob, and Toss, as they bring the sheep home from the hills to the farm yard, where Donie also demonstrates the traditional skill of blade-shearing. It is remarkable that these skills and this way of life still exists in an area that is so close to the urban edge of Dublin city.

Runner-up

Milltown's Heritage Food Project

County: Galway County

Organiser: Milltown Heritage Group, Co Galway

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: One of the main parts of our Heritage Food Project involved the children from our two local schools: Belmont & Milltown national schools. The children gathered stories from their families about their local food heritage. These stories were about farming, fishing, going to the bog, cooking methods, the stations, travelling shops, making butter and weddings. We also received many recipes, some of which go back generations.

Project Development Officer Lorna Elms of the National Museum of Ireland said 'People of all ages in the Milltown area have creatively engaged with their food heritage to produce a wonderful booklet, and an online resource that will proudly communicate our cultural heritage to a world wide audience.

The National Folklore Collection accepted their stories and recipes into their archive. This achievement is something that the children, teachers and families should be very proud of. Milltown Heritage Group were also recipients of a National Heritage Award for their heritage food project.

To read more about the project and the stories written by the pupils of Belmont NS and Milltown NS, please visit our website which you will find under Milltown Heritage Group.

The Heritage of Education



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Winner

Rathmullan goes back to school for Heritage Week

County: Donegal

Organiser: Rathmullan & District Local History Society

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: For this project, Rathmullan & District Local History Society set out to record something of the intangible heritage of schooldays—the friendships; sports; games played; songs and lessons remembered; the customs and the ways of life in school and in the community. This was chosen to encourage a sense of connection which would involve the whole community. The first part of the project used their recently-created Facebook page to showcase the histories, stories and photographs of their town lands.

For National Heritage Week they decided to dedicate their Facebook page to schooldays in three local schools: Robertson N.S. (1815 - 1996), Carradoan N.S. (1845-1930) and St. Joseph's N.S from 1902. They posted, in succession, an outline of each school's history, and particularly some old and not so old photographs to jog people's memories and to gather memories, stories and comments in return. They have been delighted with the results.

They have also produced a video for a fourth school, St. Garvan's N.S., established in 1930. The video (43 minutes) is based on earlier interviews with former pupils in the school from the late 1930s to 2005. They collated those interviews to offer a rich and varied account of the heritage of schooldays in St. Garvan's. N.S. The members of R&DLHS, appreciated and shared in learning about the heritage of schooldays as experienced by these former pupils, spanning three generations and look forward to sharing the video with a wider audience.

Runner-up

Labasheeda Ar Scoil - An Educational Journey

County: Clare

Organiser: Labasheeda Projects Group

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: Labasheeda Ar Scoil - An Education Journey tells the story of education in the Labasheeda area throughout the ages from describing how locals overcame many challenges during the Penal Days right up until the present day with the new school which was opened in 1975. Project organiser Stephen McDonagh learned the importance of using primary sources in a study of this nature to identify the social and economic changes that have occurred e.g. Schools' Folklore Collection. Secondary sources such as the Ordnance Survey Map of 1840 were essential in undertaking background research into whether this project was viable. Old School roll-books brought to life the old characters whose surnames have long since disappeared from the area but opened up a whole discussion about their descendants and their family tree (genealogy).

Kilkerrin National School no longer exists so this highlights the importance of oral history and living memory. This was never more evident than through speaking with Mrs. Peg Morgan, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday and remembers vividly the subjects that were taught and her teachers. One of the aims of this project was to bring the people of the parish closer together in these difficult times and share information which would normally have been kept hidden away in a box. Everyone is delighted that this information has now been collected and collated in one place.

An online event was hosted on Friday, 21st August at 19:00 on the Facebook Page, Labasheeda History & Heritage, to showcase the project. A PowerPoint presentation was presented through Facebook Live.

Runner-up

Gilson for the 21st Century: Learning from our Heritage

County: Meath

Organiser: Sue Russell

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: The aim of this project was to raise awareness locally about the history of the Gilson Endowed School and to explore its relevance in today's world. The Gilson School was once a learning hub for students from the hinterland of Oldcastle. They came from Cavan, Westmeath and all over North Meath to study at a school created to provide access to education for those who might otherwise not have been able to avail of it. It was a radical idea for its time: a centre of learning which was multi-denominational, co-educational and free. The entire focus of the Laurence Gilson legacy was on education and young people.

And 200 years later that focus is needed more than ever. In today's world where the barriers to education can include lack of access to transport and technology, where online and remote learning and working are becoming increasingly the norm, there is a lot to learn from the model of learning proposed by Laurence Gilson.

The project brought together previous academic work by Christopher McCormack, private photographs donated, radio documentary, genealogical research by Joe Mooney as well as online contributions from current practitioners in the area of blended learning. From these resources I created a public exhibition as well as a web page and posting to various local Facebook pages.

Water Heritage



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Winner

Explore the Shore: Seaweeds of inner Bantry Bay

County: Cork County

Organiser: Ellen Hutchins Festival

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Ellen Hutchins (1785-1815), Ireland's first female botanist, was born in Ballylickey, West Cork, and seaweeds were one of her specialities.

This Ellen Hutchins Festival project involves the production of family-friendly resources enabling people to explore, understand and therefore respect and protect seaweeds and the natural heritage of the shores of inner Bantry Bay.

A leaflet and a booklet suitable for self-guided explorations have been developed from the experience of introducing people of all ages to the wonders of seaweeds through events on Whiddy Island and at Adrigole Harbour. Held as part of the Ellen Hutchins Festival in Heritage Week since 2015, they bring people from all generations together onto the shore to explore the seaweeds. People learn how to preserve seaweed specimens, use a hand lens, identify different species and use them nutritionally.

Arising from the seaweed events, Clare Heardman (NPWS and festival co-organiser) worked with Cork-based aquatic biologist Frances Gallagher and local graphic designer Jenny Dempsey, to produce two introductory seaweed guides to inner Bantry Bay:

- i) A colourful Mini Guide to Seaweeds, a free fold-out leaflet aimed at families
- ii) An Introduction to Seaweeds booklet (36-page, A5), taking the topic further, and including an historical perspective.

High quality photographs are an important element, as well as hand drawn and painted diagrams. The Festival commissioned a seaweed painting from award-winning botanical artist, Shevaun Doherty, for the booklet cover.

A short film, *Ellen Hutchins, Bantry Bay's Botanist*, made in 2018, is included in the suite of resources.

Runner-up

Back to the Past, Valuing Water in the Community

County: Kilkenny

Organiser: Tullahought Community Development Ltd.

Theme: Relearning skills from our heritage

Description: Our project "Back to the Past, Valuing Water in the Community" explores natural heritage and how past generations accessed water for their day to day requirements in the home and on the farm in the era prior to water schemes and private wells.

We show how these practices changed with the arrival of the piped water supply and how the present day generation are going back to the past methods as the importance of conserving water is realised.

To do this we decided to shoot a short video re-enacting some scenes from the past depicting the collecting of water from various sources around the village, the changes brought about by the arrival of water on tap and the recent response of the community to hose pipe bans and water shortages. Hopefully this video will promote water conservation practices to a wider audience.

Working on this project we have been informed by the older generation of the various practices used to harvest and transport water in the past and the locations of forgotten wells in the area.

The shooting of the film has provoked a lot of interest in the community in the practices of the past and in how we can use the same methods to conserve water in the future.

There has been great community involvement in the project through every age group and the launch of the video for Heritage Week is widely anticipated.

Our music: 'Lunassa' by Aislinn is from the Free Music Archive, CC BY-NC-ND

Runner-up

Shannon Town Community Wetlands Project

County: Clare

Organiser: Shannon Town Community Wetlands

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The Shannon Town Community Wetlands is a community initiative to develop an attractive amenity within the town that promotes biodiversity and enhances the community value of the site, while making it user friendly and accessible.

Shannon Town Community Wetlands has submitted a short video for Heritage Week. The video focuses on the work to restore and develop the Shannon Wetlands and, more importantly, what this has meant to the local community representatives involved in the project. It unpacks the lessons learned and the nature of the collaborative partnership. The video features the members and friends of the Shannon Town Community Wetlands.

Come and explore the biodiversity of this amazing local urban wetland site in the company of Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Community Water Officer with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), and Phil Brennan, a renowned wildlife artist and bird expert.

This National Heritage Week event will outline the importance of wetland habitat types for biodiversity. It will focus on the importance of wetlands in mitigating the negative impact of climate change.

Participants will be led on a voyage of discovery through the wetlands site. Children will be encouraged to become nature detectives for the event, as they learn and discover the importance of wetland habitats.

We will gather at the entrance to the wetlands located between Gaelscoil Donncha Rua and the Tír na nÓg playground on Water Heritage Day on Sunday, 23rd August, at 2.00 pm. Bring footwear and clothing appropriate for the weather and the site conditions of the wetlands.

County Awards



**NATIONAL
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County: Antrim

Mapping Places Exploring “Heritage on Our Doorsteps” through Maps

Organiser: Heritage Hub @ QUB

Contact Information: Keith Lilley, +7972122820, k.lilley@qub.ac.uk

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Maps help us to orientate ourselves to the past. We might use historic maps to understand what a particular place looked like at some point in history. Maps are useful to help us to draw out local stories about places, to prompt us and remind us of things that once happened. Maps provide a way of recording local tangible heritage, too, plotting out historic buildings or monuments in landscapes.

At Queen’s University Belfast, the Heritage Hub researchers and collaborators have been using maps and mapping to work with communities and heritage bodies to reveal richer and more inclusive histories of particular places as well as communicate these to wider audiences, beyond the local. Our maps though are always rooted in localities, in places.

For National Heritage Week 2020, we want to celebrate how maps can be used to tell stories about places around us.

Focusing on Derry/Londonderry and Carrickfergus, and drawing on the Royal Irish Academy’s Irish Historic Towns Atlases (IHTAs), we shall look closely at how mapping offers us insights into how these places were shaped in the past.

Looking at maps enables us to understand changes in local landscapes and think about the processes shaping them over centuries to become the places they are today. Maps help us then to orientate ourselves not just geographically, spatially, but also historically, temporally. With the amazing rich cartographic heritage of Ireland at our disposal, our work on mapping places has only just begun!

County: Carlow

Education through the ages in Myshall Parish

Organiser: Myshall Muintir Na Tíre - Community Group

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: Education through the ages in Myshall Parish will celebrate this year's National Heritage Week theme "Heritage and Education: Learning from our Heritage". The project will focus on the heritage of education in the Myshall area and will produce a daily video spotlighting an aspect of the rich educational history of the area. Content will include insights into monastic learning, its significance as the birthplace of St. Finian and St. Columbanus, literacy in the area in 1798, hedge schools, 1938 Folklore collections from local schools, Dr. Byrne's legacy to education, as well as Myshall's place in the history of Colliers encyclopedia.

Depending on public health advice and restrictions, a week long "pop-up" exhibition in conjunction the planned videos will take place in the Myshall Community Centre.

County: Cavan

Meet the Caretakers

Organiser: Cavan's Historic Graveyard Network

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Cavan's Historic Graveyard Network presents 'Meet the Caretakers', three short videos of caretakers Patsy Dolan of Drung Old Graveyard, Cyril Reilly of The Rath Church, Killeshandra and Tom O'Down of Trinity Abbey.

The men and women who look after, protect, research and promote their local historic graveyards in County Cavan are doing invaluable work.

In Cavan's Historic Graveyard Network we link these people and committees, offer an opportunity for them to meet and exchange ideas, and provide support for their work.

County: Clare

Clarecastle on film in the 1950s

Organiser: Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife Group

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: This project entailed the discovery and restoration of old cine-film taken in Clarecastle in the 1950s, which shows aspects of the village that have changed and, in particular, the unloading of ships at Clarecastle Quay.

The arrival of ships ceased in 1969, and the film captures the maritime history of the port of Clare in full colour.

Clarecastle is the fastest growing village in Clare and there are many people now living here who would be completely unaware of the importation of coal, timber and other products from England, the Baltic countries and Canada.

Other events linked to the quay such as the annual regatta are also captured in the film.

The film is an important archival item that will benefit the whole community and will be preserved for future generations. The film will also benefit up to 1,000 primary school children in the two Parish schools and will be a nostalgic reminder of times past for the older generation.

The organisers have also established a website, and Facebook and Instagram pages, where we display our collections of old photographs, publications, research documents, etc.

County: Cork City

Cork Jewish Heritage Virtual Walk

Organiser: Ruti Lachs

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The Cork Jewish Culture Virtual Walk is a beautiful video and a webpage exploring some of the history and culture of the Cork Jewish community. I am a Jewish musician, who moved to Cork from Kerry three years ago. At its height, in around 1915, the Cork Jewish community had about 450 members. Most of these were from families who had left Lithuania (from about 1880) in search of a better life, leaving poverty and antisemitism behind them. The Cork synagogue opened its doors in 1891, and closed in 2016. I had been researching the history of Cork Jewry for my musical play, Green Feather Boa, which is set in the Jewish community in Cork in the early 1900s. I decided to use my extensive research to lead a guided walk for Heritage Week. When COVID descended, the project was adapted accordingly. The Virtual Walk focusses on seven Jewish sites in the city, including the synagogue, the site of the old cemetery and the ritual bath (mikveh), two bridges with Jewish significance, and "Jewtown", the area where the early community settled in Cork. There are stories, poems, history, songs, and music from members of the Cork Jewish communities, past and present, including klezmer tunes from local band Pop-Up Klezmer, as well as stories, poems and songs from other Irish Jews. The current community, the Munster Jewish Community, has over 100 members spread throughout the province, who meet in diverse places for the Jewish festivals, and occasional social occasions and events.

<http://www.rutilachs.ie/cork-jewish-culture-virtual-walk.html>

County: Cork County

A Decade of Celebrating Heritage of Bantry

Organiser: Bantry Historical & Archaeological Society

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Bantry Historical & Archaeological Society is delighted to be able to be included in National Heritage Week 2020.

They looked back at all the events they have organised over the past eleven years for National Heritage Week, and were very impressed with what they have contributed over the years, many years having several events.

They are now showcasing their work and the rich heritage of the Bantry area to new audiences. They have compiled a document listing all events, plus a relevant image and a short description of each event.

The document includes a link to two specific websites: their own website, which contains a lot of collected material; folklore poetry written by locals; stories, etc. of the rural hinterland here; plus 5 short videos. That project was supported by the Cork Co Council/Creative Ireland Programme 2019. It includes over 130 pages of local heritage data.

The other website is that of the Ellen Hutchins Festival, a project initiated in 2015 to commemorate bi-centenary of death Ireland's first botanist, who lived most of her life in Bantry. This won the Hidden Heritage Award that year.

Enjoy your visit to the websites.

County: Derry

Horrible Histories of Lough Neagh

Organiser: Spreading the Words: Irish Language & Heritage

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: This project brings together Spreading the Words (a project of the electronic Dictionary of the Irish language), the Northern Ireland Place-name Project and Unlocking the Vikings. Together, we explore the intangible culture of the area around Lough Neagh, from medieval times to the modern day, using tales from the Middle Ages, place and personal names, historical records and orally collected traditions.

Given the prevalence of “dreadful deeds, unnatural happenings, revolting remedies and worrying words” in our research, we chose to present the project under the title “Horrible Histories” in the hope that this would appeal to a young audience as well as adult members of the community. The central activity of the project, an online presentation and interactive quiz held on 31 July, was framed within a broader social media campaign featuring “horrible histories” and “horrible stories” of medieval Ireland.

Amongst other insights, the group discussed and shared information on the cultural purpose of naming-legends, on how retellings change the details and focus of stories, on how texts from the Middle Ages document natural phenomena and environmental change, on little-known aspects of hygiene and medicine pertaining to the Norse in Ireland, and how place names surviving to the present day show evidence of multilingual interactions involving Irish, Scots, English and Norse.

In all, the project aims to characterise Lough Neagh as an area of significance over a long time-period, with a history of cultural diversity and a wealth of local traditions and resources.

County: Donegal

Stories in Our....lockdown project

Organiser: Donegal G.A.P. Heritage and History Group

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Our "Stories in Our Lockdown Series to you all. From May 2020, when we realised that we would not be able to organise real gatherings, we picked a new object type, place or event relating our culture and heritage. We came up with the idea hoping people would enjoy and perhaps capture memories from the past. These were posted once weekly on our Facebook page (Donegal GAP Heritage), to keep in touch, encouraging people to collect and share stories of their own about our local history. The plan would be to display our stories when we can in the future.

County: Down

Uncovering Monuments in the Ulster Landscape

Organiser: Ulster Archaeological Society

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: This project highlights the work of the Ulster Archaeological Society and its members in researching and understanding monuments in the Ulster landscape. For many years the UAS Survey Group has been surveying sites of all periods and in most counties of Ulster. The reports from these surveys are publicly available on the UAS website and are designed for the public to learn more about the history of their landscape. Members of the Society also undertake independent research into their local area, this is published in the Newsletter, the Ulster Journal of Archaeology and as lectures to the Society (some available digitally on our YouTube channel).

This project brings together some of this research into thematic groupings (such as by period or function) and provide the public with a deeper understanding of the monuments and built heritage within their landscape. The information will be put together as a digital presentation and shared through our website and social media channels.

County: Dublin City

Wordsteps - The Grand Canal, Dublin

Organiser: Camilla Fanning, Artist

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: This is a sound art work designed to be listened to on your own device via earbuds or headphones. As you walk you hear the words, thoughts and stories from a variety of voices from the present and the past, evoking the people and locus genii of the Grand Canal. It is as if you are listening to a series of companions who join you from time to time along your way as you stroll along the canal path.

County: Dublin Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown

Airfield Dromartin Jersey Herd - Butter Making

Organiser: Airfield Estate

Theme: Relearning skills from our heritage

Description: Airfield has been home to the award winning Dromartin Jersey Herd for over a century. Join Airfield's team and explore the heritage of their famous Dromartin Jersey Herd. From the first Jersey purchased c. 1894 by Lily Overend; the beautiful letter, penned by Trevor Overend c. 1902 to his daughter Naomi, complete with annotated drawings of their favourite Jerseys; to the present working farm where the Dromartin Jersey Herd continue to provide delicious creamy milk for Airfield's visitors.

Named after characters from Gilbert & Sullivan operettas – a tradition continued at Airfield today - the Dromartin Jersey Herd provided milk for Dublin's first pasteurised milk depots, established in 1908 by the Women's National Health Association, the depots assisted in preventing the spread of tuberculosis.

Milk, eggs and butter were initially sold or gifted to neighbours, while from the mid-twentieth century Airfield supplied Jersey milk to local creameries.

Meet the Airfield Dromartin Jersey Herd and rediscover the traditional arts of milking and butter making which continue to provide a source of inspiration and education at Airfield.

County: Dublin Fingal

Snapshots of Fingal's Past

Organiser: Fingal County Council

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Snapshots of Fingal's past presents photographs that capture Fingal's past and the stories that lie behind them. This heritage project takes the form of an online exhibition featuring the stories of people, places, sports and traditions submitted by the people of Fingal. Members of the Fingal Heritage Network will also present stories from their areas.

County: Dublin South

Traditional Sheep Farming and Sheepdog Training

Organiser: Donie Anderson, Glenasmole Valley Sheep Farmer

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: This video presents an element of intangible cultural heritage, using sheepdogs to manage sheep in the hills above Tallaght, overlooking Ireland's capital city, Dublin. Donie Anderson's family have been farming in the picturesque Glenasmole Valley for generations and Donie has retained many of the old traditional farming practices. This video follows Donie and his three marvellous sheep dogs Jess, Bob, and Toss, as they bring the sheep home from the hills to the farm yard, where Donie also demonstrates the traditional skill of blade-shearing. It is remarkable that these skills and this way of life still exists in an area that is so close to the urban edge of Dublin city.

County: Fermanagh

Remembering the Landscape - Cuilcagh to Cleenish: A Great Place

Organiser: Cuilcagh to Cleenish: A Great Place

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: As we emerge from lockdown at the midway point of our programme, this short celebratory film showcases our area's landscape and heritage from Cuilcagh Mountain to the shores of Upper Lough Erne and brings it to the attention of a wider audience. Made by a young film graduate the film draws on local knowledge to interpret the landscape, and combines stories, music footage and photographs of heritage project activities already undertaken, and interviews with people at selected heritage sites.

As our contribution to National Heritage Week the film will be launched online through social media and our website. Other voice recordings and short film clips drawn from our memory map library will also be uploaded on a daily basis prior to, and during, the week to encourage greater heritage awareness and increase digital participation.

Cuilcagh to Cleenish: A Great Place is a 30-month long programme aimed at encouraging local people in West Fermanagh to engage with our area's rich natural, built, archaeological and cultural heritage. Whilst delivering an extensive range of projects for adults and children we are also developing a suite of walking and canoe trails that will provide access to key heritage sites for our communities. Cuilcagh to Cleenish is a community-led partnership (Killesher and Cleenish community groups) along with Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark and Outdoor Recreation NI, and is funded by the Heritage Fund and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

County: Galway- County

Milltown's Heritage Food Project

Organiser: Milltown Heritage Group, Co Galway

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: One of the main parts of our Heritage Food Project involved the children from our two local schools: Belmont & Milltown national schools. The children gathered stories from their families about their local food heritage. These stories were about Farming, Fishing, Going to the Bog, Cooking Methods, The Stations, Travelling Shops, Making Butter and Weddings. We also received many recipes. Some of which go back generations.

Project Development Officer Lorna Elms of the National Museum of Ireland said, "People of all ages in the Milltown area have creatively engaged with their food heritage to produce a wonderful booklet, and an online resource that will proudly communicate our cultural heritage to a world wide audience."

The National Folklore Collection accepted their stories and recipes into their archive. This achievement is something that the children, teachers and families should be very proud of. Milltown Heritage Group were also recipients of a National Heritage award for their heritage food project.

To read more about the project and the stories written by the pupils of Belmont NS and Milltown NS, please visit our website which you will find under Milltown Heritage Group.

County: Galway City

Exploring Mammals in Merlin Woods

Organiser: Friends of Merlin Woods

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Exploring Mammals in Merlin Woods with Ruth Hanniffy, Vincent Wildlife Trust. Using a variety of techniques Ruth brings us on a journey around Merlin Woods exploring the varying habitats needed by our local mammals. We learn about the trapping methods used to locate small mammals. We are given a chance to get up close to some of our smaller mammals and learn about what they need for survival. We learn how to find signs of some of our well-loved mammals such as the Red Squirrel. Ruth also gives us insight to some of the work ongoing in Galway and across the country to understand the plight of our mammal species and links are provided to access more info in the video description.

County: Kerry

Young Explorer with Neil Hyland

Organiser: Wild Derrynane

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The project covers both built heritage and natural heritage.

This is the video log of 12 year old Neil Hyland, as he explores his local area of Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

Delivered online, through website and social media channels the Young Explorer project visits and uncovers the local history of 1300 year old Stone Forts at Caherdaniel, World War 2 Look Out Posts at Lambs Head and the Underwater Marine Life of Wild Derrynane.

The project idea originated as a result of a school assignment during the lockdown phase of the pandemic.

As a family the Hyland's had a conversation about making a short film series about thier local built and natural heritage with the 12 year old as presenter and narrator. They did everything from the music, to audio, filming, editing, post production, website design and digital dissemination of the project.

To date the project has received over 10,000 views on line and includes local, national and international audiences. Neil and his family will be featured on RTE Nationwide in the coming months.

County: Kildare

The Irish Draught Horse Yesterday and Today

Organiser: Kildare Branch Irish Draught Horse Breeders Association

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The story of the Irish Draught Horse and its journey from being the mainstay on small farms, travel and military, to its present role as a leisure horse and ambassador for Ireland.

During our research for this project we learned how vital our national horse was in bygone days and have been able to trace how it has survived by making the transition to showjumping, eventing, hunting and leisure riding. The traits that made it so valuable in bygone days - intelligence, kind willing temperament, soundness and stamina, are still present and recognised today.

Breed numbers were in decline but the work of dedicated Irish enthusiasts over the past decades saved our national horse from extinction. The story / video is narrated using live action including dramatic reenactments, historic photographs and interview in a story arc of 7-10 minutes in duration.

County: Kilkenny

Back to the Past, Valuing Water in the Community

Organiser: Tullahought Community Development Ltd.

Theme: Relearning skills from our heritage

Description: Our project "Back to the Past, Valuing Water in the Community" explores Natural Heritage and how past generations accessed water for their day to day requirements in the home and on the farm in the era prior to water schemes and private wells.

We show how these practices changed with the arrival of the piped water supply and how the present day generation are going back to the past methods as the importance of conserving water is realised.

To do this we decided to shoot a short video re-enacting some scenes from the past depicting the collecting of water from various sources around the village, the changes brought about by the arrival of water on tap and the recent response of the community to hose pipe bans and water shortages. Hopefully this video will promote water conservation practices to a wider audience.

Working on this project we have been informed by the older generation of the various practices used to harvest and transport water in the past and the locations of forgotten wells in the area.

The shooting of the film has provoked a lot of interest in the community in the practices of the past and in how we can use the same methods to conserve water in the future. There has been great community involvement in the project through every age group and the launch of the video for Heritage Week is widely anticipated.

Our music: 'Lunassa' by Aislinn is from the Free Music Archive, CC BY-NC-ND

County: Laois

Killabban Monastic Site

Organiser: Killabban Monastery Restoration Committee.

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: This project sets out to involve the local community in the recognition of a unique monastic site in our own locality.

In the last year, an open evening was organised to showcase the work completed on restoration of this project to date. Also since the local committee was founded, a cemetery mass has taken place annually at the site each August, including this year even with the pandemic of COVID-19.

The committee is voluntary and the site is maintained on a monthly basis keeping the grass cut and well maintained so that it is a safe and enjoyable experience.

County: Leitrim

Back to the future through Memories and Songs

Organiser: Fionnuala Maxwell - Traditional Singer

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: In April/May 2020, project organiser and traditional singer Fionnuala Maxwell was starting to suffer withdrawal symptoms from lack of human contact and the day-to-day chats and interactions that were part of normal life.

In an attempt to create a conversation space for a generation who grew up in an analog era and to bridge that digital divide, she introduced some of our cocooning citizens to the world of Zoom.

They told stories of growing up in rural Ireland and the changes that they have witnessed from the 1930s, reminisced, laughed and sang their way through lockdown. More specifically, they focused on tales of growing up in rural Ireland pre-electricity, tales of school-days, religious occasions, fair-days and patterns, the meitheal and the join, cures, customs and superstitions, dance halls, cinemas and the arrival of radio and television and of course the songs and how they connect us and are part of our rich heritage.

Fionnuala created a Zoom compilation film of those moments, that were shared over six weeks, interspersed with photographs and songs from the past.

There is so much for the wider community to enjoy, learn and identify with in this film which will premiere on Saturday, August 15th at 8pm on YouTube.

County: Limerick

An audio-visual tour of Knockfierna

Organiser: Knockfierna Heritage Society

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: A virtual walking tour of Knockfierna to provide an overview of its rich historical and cultural importance.

County: Longford

Let me tell you!

Organiser: Rath Mhuire Men's Social Club

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Rath Mhuire Men's Social Club, Granard, Co. Longford was established in December 2009 and 11 years later continues to be a happy and safe place for men to socialise, share skills and enjoy playing a very active part in their local community.

Currently there are 17 participants who meet on a weekly basis in Rath Mhuire Community Resource Centre, Granard, to share good food and conversation as well as engage in a range of activities. These include Restoration & Woodwork Projects, Health & Exercise Programmes and Information Talks, to mention a few.

Maintaining our local heritage has always been a focus of the group and this project, a presentation of old and/or unusual objects, implements and artefacts of bygone times, not only highlights what they are, what they were used for, when they were used and by whom, but also highlights a way of life and social interaction which, in many respects, no longer exists. The project also highlights the North Longford local connection and the personal or group connection to each item.

County: Louth

A Glimpse behind the Shopfront

Organiser: Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust is organising an exhibition of some 40 photographs of shops and businesses from the past, which will be held at the Heritage Centre in October 2020.

The aim is to tell the story of the role of the shop and local business in the life of the small rural town from the end of 19th century up to the 1970's, when communities were more isolated and relied heavily on their town traders.

It will look at the importance of a place like the town forge as a meeting place to source information or exchange gossip, rather like the local petrol station/shop/coffee shop may still be today.

Photos reveal the dress of the people; the modes of transport; how the buildings looked; and the different work practices which existed.

For National Heritage Week, we have made a short video to illustrate a snapshot of the exhibition, where we look back at photos of the town grocer/publican O'Hares'.

These introduce us to the typical, successful merchant business in a small town which began in the 1870s and has survived to today, with its shopfront little altered and some of its original interior intact.

We are introduced to the family by interview with the original owner's great granddaughter, Patricia Morrissey, whose father was the third generation to run the business, and we are taken in behind the shopfront to see the business as it is now -still a thriving pub and meeting place.

County: Mayo

Mulranny Down through the Decades

Organiser: Mulranny old photos

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Explore old photos of Mulranny through the decades at Mulranny Community Centre this Heritage Week. This exhibition is free to attend.

The photos have been collected in the community throughout the last few months. You can also view the photos on the Mulranny Facebook group page where new photos are uploaded every week.

County: Meath

Meath Travellers Workshop Photo Exhibition, Pack and DVD

Organiser: Meath Travellers Workshop

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: The exhibition provided visitors with an opportunity to look into the life's of Travellers over the past six decades, their struggles and achievements.

The exhibition was open to the public and attracted visitors from both the Traveller and settled community and it saw a steady stream of visitor both old and young - sparking some very interesting conversation.

Education Pack

Traveller Cultural Information Pack was launched on the day.

The pack which contains a number of information sheets along with a heritage brochure and a Meath Travellers Workshop information leaflet will act as a tool for teachers, tutors, healthcare and other professionals to ensure they have up-to-date factual information on culture, customs and traditions relevant to Travellers.

Packs are available on request and will be used by MTW staff while visiting schools, colleges or giving information talks to other professionals.

County: Meath

Boyne Currach Heritage

Organiser: Boyne Currach Heritage Group

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The Boyne Currach Heritage Group have compiled an online presentation with a selection of slides and images depicting various projects that they have facilitated and/or participated in over the last few years.

They also included some photos from previous National Heritage Weeks, accompanied by the beautiful fiddle play from Athena Tergis. Enjoy!

They are also opening the Boyne Currach Centre free of charge for National Heritage Week, but ask those visiting to contact them prior to their visit to arrange a time as to adhere to HSE guidelines.

County: Monaghan

Sharing school & church memories across the generations.

Organiser: St. Salvator's Church Youth, Glaslough, County Monaghan

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: For this project, young people interviewed their grandparents/older member of family and recorded their early memories of school and church.

This is extremely important as many of the schools and churches mentioned have been closed as the Church of Ireland population declined in the Republic of Ireland.

The project organisers intend to publish some interviews in the local press and social media. Next year, they intend to share the project with a wider audience during our usual two open days during National Heritage Week when the audience will be invited to share their own memories.

The organisers hope to arrange an educational bus tour of the old sites mentioned and explore further the church's role in the provision of education.

County: Offaly

Lighting Up the Night

Organiser: Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: Lighting Up the Night is a celebration of the built environment of the Heritage town of Birr, a way of breathing life into the buildings and stories of the town, and encouraging the community to connect with the architecture and its narrative.

The light trail consists of two parts, a community window trail, Window Wanderland, and immersive, illuminations onto Heritage buildings commissioned by artists, Vintage Luminaries. The trail took place between 14th and 21st August, when Offaly was under additional restrictions of gathering and travel. This gave added poignancy to the event enabling people to safely connect as a community through the window trail. The building illuminations could not happen as a public event but were projected for one night at each site as a surprise pop-up for the adjacent houses. This was documented to share as an online event.

In 697, at the Synod of Birr, C  in Adomn  in also called the 'Geneva Accords' of the ancient Irish, or Lex Innocentium (Law of Innocents) was one of the first ever laws addressing human rights issues, particularly the protection of women and children.

Two artists were commissioned to create projections and accompanying soundtracks, that addresses this heritage within a broader, contemporary landscape, to illuminate the ruins of Old St Brendan's Church.

The Maltings provided a canvas for the third artist to reinterpret the legends of Offaly and weave a new mythology around the Sleive Bloom Mountains, adapting old folklore to comment on our current reality.

County: Roscommon (3 elements to this project- see 2 more entries below)

Back to the drawing board with a teacher from Kiltreevan

Organiser: Kiltreevan Graveyard Committee

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: The project explores aspects of local history and genealogy. It traces the family history of a teacher who was born in Kiltreevan, who taught in a local school in the 1860s and who disappeared from the local record until 1911. His story is explored within this time-frame. Previous research about his ancestry was re-examined and leads were established. These were explored through free online sources and his family tree constructed. A step-by-step account is given of this process. Other aspects of his life were also explored through local publications and various websites. Members of the community where he taught from 1877 onwards engaged with the project and shared their local knowledge. Older Kiltreevan parishioners were also consulted. Fellow genealogy enthusiasts assisted with some online searches.

The project will be shared with the parish community through local media platforms.

County: Roscommon

Remembering teachers who taught in Kiltreevan schools from their memorials

Organiser: Kiltreevan Graveyard Committee

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: The project explores an aspect of local history and genealogy. It focuses on the teachers who taught in schools in Kiltreevan Parish and who are named on memorials in Kiltreevan graveyard. It records where they taught, the position they held and their years of service together with some genealogical data.

A local publication on Kiltreevan School was consulted and the names of the teachers and their details noted. A manuscript of the memorials was cross-referenced. Once the names were established genealogical data was researched. In some cases family members were consulted or online sources were accessed. Photographs of the teachers where available or photographs of the memorials have been included.

The project encourages the reader to personally explore aspects of the project as their own National Heritage Week project.

The project will be shared with the parish community through local media platforms.

County: Roscommon

Bringing Kiltreevan Schools Folklore Collection to the parish audience

Organiser: Kiltreevan Graveyard Committee

Theme: The heritage of education

Description: This project explores Kiltreevan's contribution to the National Folklore Collection 1937-1938.

The School Folklore Collection had always held a great interest for project organiser Hazel Ryan as her grandfather was the teacher who presided over it in Kiltreevan School and my uncle was a contributor.

This year's theme of Education prompted Hazel to revisit this material and explore behind the scenes. The project investigates the background to the Schools' Collection, examines the material submitted from Kiltreevan School in context with the national guidelines and explores the digitized Collection at www.dÃºchas.ie. The many aspects of this website were explored. A search for "Kiltreevan" revealed many unknown local details that are contained within other volumes. Members of the digitisation team and the National Folklore Collection unit were also contacted.

The project enhances the awareness of this invaluable local document which still remains an integral part of our shared community inheritance. It also encourages the reader to personally explore aspects of the project as their own National Heritage Week project.

The project will be shared with the parish community through local media platforms.

County: Sligo

The Rosses Point Coastal Way Project

Organiser: The Rosses Point Coastal Way Group

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The Rosses Point Coastal Way is a walking route marked by a series of nine interpretive panels located along the 2 km of coastal paths of Rosses Point. The Way encourages the exploration and enjoyment of the natural, historical and cultural heritage of this area beautiful area.

This Rosses Point Coastal Way project grew from the organisers' shared appreciation of the rich heritage of Rosses Point, Co. Sligo and their desire to share that with locals and visitors alike through the development of an interpretive walking trail there.

A basic principle of the Rosses Point Coastal Way Steering Group was that the local community had to be centrally involved in the development of the project so that they would take pride in it, but also ownership of it, into the future.

Over time the project group grew from just a three member steering group, to involving many more members of the local community including the pupils of the local primary school, Realt na Mara, Rosses Point Tidy Towns, Rosses Point Shanty Festival-Heritage archive, Rosses Point Development Association, Sligo Co. Council and many other individuals who supported the project in many different ways.

County: Tipperary

A Harvest Knot for Lughnasa

Organiser: Nenagh Arts Centre

Theme: Relearning skills from our heritage

Description: A Harvest Knot for Lughnasa is a cross-generational project that blends Irish heritage with contemporary culture.

Lughnasa, traditionally marked by communities working together to bring in the harvest, was a time of celebration, fairs, dancing and family gatherings. Along with the making of the straw Cailleach, Harvest Knots & Love Favours were created to either wear for good luck or exchanged as tokens of love.

For the month of July, Nenagh Arts Centre hosted an online workshop with Melanie Lorien, a Heritage in Schools expert, where she discussed the folklore of these knots and showed us how to create our own.

They provided 75 Heritage Harvest Knot packs for individuals, families and groups such as Rehab Care & Puckane Autism Unit to collect at Nenagh Arts Centre with a link to the online workshop. In these packs were all the materials and instructions and a link to both videos, workshop & folklore.

Workshop participants were asked to take a photo of themselves or their loved one wearing the harvest knot they created for our exhibition of selfies, which will be online and in the Arts Centre for August.

The aim of the project was to teach our creative youth a skill they may never have heard of before while reminding an older generation something they may have forgotten.

In an ideal time we would be sat around a table sharing stories while making these harvest knots but during this time we are coming together virtually still sharing this experience.

County: Tyrone

If Stones could Speak - The Archaeological Landscape of Tyrone

Organiser: Derry City & Strabane District Council

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: If Stones Could Speak - The Archaeological Landscape of Tyrone is a new exhibition, in partnership with Derry City & Strabane District Council Museum Service, Historic Environment Division & Strabane History Society. It was created from the aspirations and need of the local community and local museum service to display the rich archaeological heritage of the area.

Ancient monuments such as court tombs, standing stones accompanied by funerary bowls and flint dot the landscape of this area. Key items on display are an ancient Log Boat from Clady as well as the collections of archaeological material on loan from the Historic Environment Division.

This exhibition based at the Alley Theatre, Strabane is accompanied with a programme of talks to be delivered by renowned experts in their field. It will serve as more permanent home for the collections that highlight the rich heritage of the area. It is also intended that there will be a rotational display once a year based on the many historical themes relating to the heritage of Strabane. This will be aimed at the local audience, and the changing display will give visitors a reason to return to the exhibition and local community involvement will also instil a sense of local pride in their heritage.

County: Waterford

Knockboy Ogham Stones

Organiser: Ogham in 3D

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: This project aims to inform and engage the public with regard to this unique and intriguing site which has seven ogham stones, six of which are built into the 14th-century church, located in the heart of historic Sliabh Cua in the townland of Knockboy, Co. Waterford. Thanks to the Knockboy Graveyard Committee and the Adopt a Monument scheme, as well as funding from the Heritage Council and the Heritage Office at Waterford County Council, over the past few years conservation work has been undertaken on the church ruin to stabilise the structure which was in danger of collapse. The church and ogham stones have also been recorded in 3D by Simon Dowling and have been added to the Ogham in 3D website. In addition, during Heritage Week we will use social media platforms to showcase one of the ogham stones each day.

County: Westmeath

Creating the Voices of Generations Gone

Organiser: Mount Temple Baylin Heritage Group

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: The Mount Temple Baylin Heritage Group was formed to galvanise local community interest in the natural, built and cultural heritage of the area around Mount Temple and Baylin in Co. Westmeath.

This project, developed from a Heritage Council funded graveyard conservation report in 2017, led into a Heritage Council funded Heritage Audit in 2018.

With Creative Ireland funding in 2019, the group produced four short videos highlighting aspects of their heritage to share with the public and their diaspora. The video drew on locally available expertise and local knowledge and was coupled with expertise from support organisations and authorities, namely Westmeath County Council; the Heritage Officer; and National Parks and Wildlife Ranger.

This video looks at one aspect of the fading skills of the smith, through interviews with Ernie Hatton and his brother George, who learned from their father in their smithy close to Moydrum Castle.

Hear of the social fabric and stories of the rural smithy and see the smithy in action.

County: Wexford

Courtown Woods - Our Heritage

Organiser: Seal Rescue Ireland

Theme: Relearning skills from our heritage

Description: Seal Rescue Ireland (SRI) has invited a local Seanchaí- (story-teller) and prominent tourism ambassador for Co. Wexford, Lorraine from Gallivanting.ie to explore the wonders of our local woodlands. Courtown Woods - Our Heritage is a short film which examines how different civilisations have interacted with these landscapes throughout the ages, and it explores how we can learn from the wisdom of our ancestors long passed. Using modern technology we've provided a stunning, new perspective of Courtown's valuable woodlands, paying deepest reverence to its oldest inhabitants.

Not only are the Courtown Woodland trails a treasured amenity for the local community and a huge ecotourism appeal, but it's some of the last remaining deciduous hardwood forest left in Ireland, which makes it vital habitat for wildlife and a biodiversity hotspot. These native forests once covered over 80% of Ireland's land mass and now cover just over 1%, so it's incredibly important to preserve what we have remaining and work to protect it. This particular woodland also has an incredibly rich history with stories and folklore going back to the first humans in Ireland. It offers such an amazing opportunity for people learn about and embrace our natural and cultural heritage.

These is a unique woodland in that it, alongside the native deciduous trees, are a selection of imported trees planted by the 5th Earl of Courtown over 150 years ago, typically only seen in formal gardens. It's very rare to see them in a woodland setting (e.g. Redwoods, Cedar of Lebanon, etc.)

County: Wicklow

Glendalough Heritage Forum: short films, website, promoting heritage

Organiser: Glendalough Heritage Forum

Theme: Heritage at your doorstep

Description: In recent years Glendalough Heritage Forum has organised community excavations near the monastic complex of Glendalough, giving volunteers and visitors the opportunity to engage with the remarkable cultural heritage of this landscapes.

Due to COVID-19, they are unable to run the excavations this year. Instead they have commissioned some short films to promote understanding of Glendalough's cultural heritage, and to highlight the remarkable collection of resources held on the Glendalough Heritage Forum's web page, link below.