



"Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív presents Patricia Lohan from Lohans Bar and Restaurant with the Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh" – PG.4



**DEIRDRE DOOLEY RONAN POWELL
IN ALA'S PLAY ALICE – PG.2**



**BALLYBANE COMMUNITY FORUM
'FUN DAY' – PG.3**



**SWAP IN THE CITY WITH
GALWAY SIMON – PG.6**



**SEXUAL HEALTH BOOKLET
LAUNCHED BY AIDS WEST – PG.6**

ALA MARKS 5 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SUCCESS

By Dolores Martyn

Since its establishment on March 5 2004 *Ala* has contributed greatly to the Galway community, giving adults of all ages, abilities and nationalities the opportunity for personal, community and social development through the medium of theatre.

Project director, Jim Aherne and his wife Marie were among the original 8 members who founded *Ala*. They were rehearsing for a stage production of 'When Harry Met Sally' when they met like minded people with the same strong interest in community and drama. They saw there was little opportunity for people to get involved in theatre as most theatre companies had a crew of people and only held one off auditions. They decided to set up, not a theatre company, but a group that allowed anyone to join and bring their own original stories to create improvisations. This gave people the opportunity to learn skills and get experience in a fun, nurturing environment.

Both Jim and Marie Aherne have been active in Galway community and theatre for over thirty years. They were early members of Macnas and also among those who established the Westside Children's Arts Festival. It is their enthusiasm and dedication and that of the committee members that has enabled *Ala* to flourish. *Ala* now has 25 members and has seen many previous members go on to join theatre companies across Galway. The group was selected by the *Galway Make It Happen Community Awards* in September 2007 and has also been nominated for the *Merle Award* and the *Aontas Star* awards twice.

Ala are currently rehearsing for the production of 'Stinky Cheeseman' which will be performed in the Town Hall Theatre from May 27th–30th. Audiences may also be lucky enough to catch a street performance of the show during the Volvo Ocean Festival. The production is based on the writings of American author, Jon Scieszka, who deconstructs the tradition of the fairytale, so audiences can expect an entertaining interpretation of well loved stories such as

Cinderella and The Ugly Duckling without the 'happily ever after' ending. *Ala* have been invited to perform the show all over the country including Waterford and the Aran Islands.

Ala is also currently developing an intercultural project. The element of culture and diversity is an integral part of *Ala* who have had members and directors from all over the world.

'Everybody wants the same thing, no matter what culture you are, people are the same all over' says Marie Aherne

Last year *Ala* ran 6 workshops but due to cuts in funding they are only able to operate two this year, with the future being somewhat uncertain.

'Organisations like *Ala* are needed now more than ever, when people lose their jobs self esteem can go out the window, we can help build self esteem and maintain it' believes Jim Aherne.

Ala meet every Wednesday in the Ballybane Community Resource Centre from 7.30pm to 10pm and are open to new members. *Ala* are grateful for the tremendous support it has received in its 5 years from councilors, officials and organizations alike. They will officially celebrate their birthday in May and hopefully continue to make such a worthwhile contribution to the Galway community for many years to come.



"Alice Cast"

AN TAISCE CELEBRATES ITS 60TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY By Derrick Hambleton

"Nearly everybody in Ireland, from school child to politician, from farmer to property developer, is familiar with the name, yet it seems few understand what *An Taisce* means, or is, or does." So said John O'Loughlin-Kennedy in his introduction to Valerie Bonds book 'An Taisce' the First Fifty Years (Hannon Press). Its name in Irish means the store, keeping or guarding, a safe, or hiding place. It conveys the idea of something is loved or cherished.

The founders of *An Taisce* were people of vision because they saw, 60 years ago, the need for an organisation which would protect our environment. But the problems in the mid 1940's were, frankly, as nothing compared with the problems of an environmental nature that confront us today in a modern, post Celtic Tiger,

Ireland. Bad planning, unsustainable urban sprawl, car dependent cities & towns, rampant problems with water pollution, and now – Climate change and flooding are all around us today.

An Taisce works through it's 26 Local Groups (known as Associations), receiving support from headquarters at the Tailors Hall in Dublin by a central administration, management board, and an elected National council. Its professional administration also manages the very successful Green Schools, Blue Flag and Anti-Litter campaigns through its Education Unit, also based in Dublin.

In Galway, we participate as voluntary members of the 'Galway City Community Forum' and on various

Galway City Council 'Strategic Policy Committee's' such as Transport & Infrastructure and Economic Development & Planning, and with the Galway City Development Board, on it's Spatial Planning Committee.

Local planning issues with which we are currently involved include, taking an appeal to An Bord Pleanála against the development of 'St Annes' Taylors Hill (Lenaboy Castle), monitoring of plans to develop Ceannt Station and Galway Docks. Both of which it is felt would benefit from having Urban Framework Plans developed. Urban Framework planning would allow much more involvement from the community's living around the areas to be affected and would ensure that promised cultural and social facilities must be included. *An Taisce* is not, therefore anti-development, but rather it works to ensure, proper development, which is in the public interest.

Over the past few years, with Ireland becoming the so-called "Celtic Tiger", development has taken place at an unprecedented pace all over the country and not just the big urban areas. Given the ever quickening pace of this development, the role of *An Taisce* is infinitely more valuable and necessary than it was in those grey days

immediately after the Emergency period of the World War II, when a group of high-minded concerned citizens came together to protect Ireland's heritage.

Our view of *An Taisce* today - is that it exists to take actions which enhance and conserve our natural and our built environments. It should be stressed 'take actions' because in Ireland we tend to talk too much. The late Phillip Mullally, past president of *An Taisce* 1980-1983 once said "Why do we need to have *An Taisce*? Because we frequently look at short term benefits and forget that we create long-term losses, and long-term losses will lead to depredation of the environment."

We'll leave it to your reader's to enumerate what losses have occurred in Galway over the past 60 years, and suggest that if they wish to help us avoid any more that they should perhaps join *An Taisce* in Galway and help today's active members carry on the work.

To join *An Taisce*, they could make contact through logging on to our website - antaisce.org. Or by writing to *An Taisce*, Tailors Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8. Or give me a ring on 091-525588.

BALLYBANE COMMUNITY FORUM By Claire McNelis

Established in 2007 by a group of local people with the aim of highlighting the positive work that was being done in the area, *Ballybane Community Forum* has achieved a lot in a short space of time. The goal of the forum is to provide support to community and voluntary groups in Ballybane and promote community development, and is certainly achieving that aim. The forum meets regularly, and is accessible to anyone living or working in the Ballybane area. In the last two years it has come to serve as a platform for local people, to enable them to get involved and to have a voice. Among other things, it has organised Hallowe'en parties, Christmas events, and Family Fun Days, while also providing a common ground between local groups and agencies.

Public response to the forum has been extremely positive. "Considering how new the Forum still is I think there has been a very favourable reaction," says forum chairman Tommy Flaherty. "We have had over 250 children and parents attend each of the two Hallowe'en events and over 300 attended the Summer Fun Day. We also had a large turnout at the Christmas tree lighting which is now in its second year." As well as organising community events, the forum serves as a medium for groups interested in making joint applications for RAPID funding (Revitalising Areas through Planning Investment and Development - for further information see the Galway City website at <http://tinyurl.com/cc95gs>).

The forum also seeks to target issues affecting the area. A number of problems have been discussed at recent meetings with Galway City Council, including parking, traffic and boarded-up houses. Members are

keen to draw up a strategy for Ballybane, and are interested in what local councillors plan to do for the area.

For 2009, the forum will continue to build on its existing activities while developing new ideas. One of the projects on the table for the near future is a public consultation on services for children and young people, such as the Junior/Senior Project, which aims to bring younger and older members of the community together.

Flaherty is optimistic that the forum will continue to achieve its goals. "Ballybane is a great place to live, and we will continue to strive to show all of the good things that go on in Ballybane while tackling in a positive way the negative issues that affect Ballybane." He stresses the importance of community involvement in the forum, especially volunteering - anybody, of any age, is more than welcome to get involved, and volunteers can choose to partake in one-off events only, or longer-term projects. "There is a particular need for adults to become involved with young people," he adds.

For more information please phone: 091 768300 or alternatively e-mail: tommy@brcr.ie or ballybanecommunityforum@gmail.com



"Chillin' on the bouncy castle"



Mrs. Celine O'Sullivan Tartaro led a life of passion, daring and courage. A painter and sculptor; children, learning, art and travel energised her. She was happiest when painting abstracts and landscapes or sculpting. She counted teaching as one of her favourite things, had great patience and continued

giving art classes well into her seventies. She read widely, enjoyed quizzes of all types and was a great singer and stage performer.

Did her legendary patience stem from her own struggles with adversity? As a teenager, a hit-and-run driver broke her spine and her ankle in several places. Despite this trauma, she taught herself to walk again and became a most accomplished woman, even securing a Masters Degree in Fine Arts from Mexico.

Celine met Mr. Barca Tartaro in the Great Southern Hotel, Galway. They became engaged on New Year's Eve 1967 and were married later in America. Barca already had a son and their family increased with the birth of their daughter Maeve. Fighting for what she believed in, Celine travelled all over the world. She bravely threw herself into different cultures and was an excellent linguist.

Celine grew up in Oranmore, Co. Galway along with her brother the late Fr. Declan O'Sullivan to whom she

was very close. Her parents were highly regarded teachers and her father, the late Mr. Michael O'Sullivan was the first Chairman of the Board of Management, Galway College of Technology.

Her education career, like her life, was rich and varied; she taught in Derry, Dublin, Moate and England and lectured in English literature. When asked what she hated her daughter Maeve told us "discrimination of any kind." In her later years she fought discrimination towards people with disabilities. Celine served on the Irish Wheelchair Association Committee, Tuam and along with others was heavily involved in founding the forum for *Women with Disabilities in the West (WDW)*. Maeve continues

"Celine valued learning and art highly and continued to do courses in both until the last year of her long life."

Sadly, in her later years, arthritis caused Celine great pain and she required a wheelchair for mobility. However, she never lost her zest for life, keen interest in other people and incredible ability. The ending of a poem by Brendan Kennelly appropriately named *Begin* puts it rather succinctly:

...Though we live in a world that dreams of ending that always seems about to give in something that will never acknowledge conclusion insists that we forever begin.'

Celine O'Sullivan Tartaro's life may be over but thanks to her courage and energy, the world is a richer place for her having lived amongst us.

GRADAM SHEOSAIMH UÍ ÓGARTAIGH

Duais iontach don ghnó nó don eagraíocht is fearr i gCathair na Gaillimhe, a thaispeánann an Ghaeilge in úsáid ar bhealach 'dáiríre,' 'cruthaitheach' agus 'feiceálach' ina ngnó/eagraíocht agus a léiríonn an tionchar a lean as seo ar an bhfoireann agus ar íomhá dhátheangach na Cathrach.

Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs announced that Lohans Bar & Restaurant where the overall winners of Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh this year. The announcement was made at a Special Awards Ceremony, which took place in the Ardilaun Hotel on Thursday the 26th of February 2009. Accountants Ryan McGinty, Galway Technology Park, Parkmore were announced as the winners of the category with 1-20 employees.

Gaillimh le Gaeilge organises the Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh in association with the Galway Advertiser and the Galway Chamber. This prestigious business Award offers the chance to any business/

organisation that demonstrates a 'visible, 'genuine' and 'creative use' of the Irish Language within their business, thus impacting on their staff and the bilingual image of the city to win a 'fantastic business package' to the value of €15,000. The Winner also receives Séala Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh a 'Q Mark' for the Irish Language in Galway city as well as a beautiful piece of sculpture especially designed by Pádraic Reaney symbolising the 14 Tribes of Galway, with one "present day Tribe" representing the winner of Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh and future winners to come.



Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív presents Patricia Lohan from Lohans Bar and Restaurant with the Gradam Sheosaimh Uí Ógartaigh

THE GALWAY ADVOCACY SERVICE –

AN INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY By Rebecca Leavy

My name is Rebecca Leavy. I work for the *Galway Advocacy Service*. This service was established under The Disability Act and is funded by the *Citizens Information Board*. It is managed by a steering group made up of service providers and service users.

I work with people with a physical, sensory or learning disability, who are over eighteen and living in Galway city or county.

The aim of *The Galway Advocacy Service* is to reach the most vulnerable people with disabilities, people who do not have the skills to advocate on their own behalf and who do not have people who already advocate for them. This includes people with severe/profound learning disability.

My role is to act as an independent advocate. This means that I will work directly with the person with a disability and act according to his/her instructions.

For example, my client may say that he wants to go out more often or to change his housing situation or to change his day service and I will work with the client to help him achieve this aim. A fundamental part of the advocacy process involves encouraging the person to

self advocate and to be as independent as possible.

If my client is unable to communicate with me I will work according to a rights based perspective. This means talking to family and staff to assess what can be done to uphold this person's rights.

The Galway Advocacy Service is an independent, free and confidential service.

My office is in The Westside Resource Centre, Seamus Quirke Road, Galway. If you would like to refer someone to me or learn more about the service,

**Ring me on 091 528325/087 0641163 or
Email: galwayadvocacyservice@eircom.net**



"The Steering Group of Galway Advocacy Service and friends"

NEW COMMUNITY FORUM STRATEGY PLAN FOR 2009-2011

By Poul Walsh Olesen

The Community Forum's new Strategy Plan for 2009-2011 was given a unanimous endorsement by the membership at the quarterly meeting on the 24th of February 2009. The Strategy Plan provides an agenda and work programme for the Forum, outlining a number of priority issues and actions to be addressed and promoted over the next three years.

The Strategy Plan was developed over a period of five months, starting in November 2008, when the Community Forum reviewed the previous Strategy Plan and identified eight key priority issues to be addressed in the new Strategy Plan. These are:

- Community and Youth Recreation Space
- Social Inclusion and Community Development
- Planning and Transport
- Environmental Protection
- Unique Identity and Heritage
- Housing
- Law and Order
- Arts and Culture

The next step was taken at the Community Forum's Quarterly Meeting in December 2008 where the

Members were divided into eight groups, one for each of the above priority issues, with the aim to draft the actions to be included in the Plan.

The Steering Group prepared a first draft of the Strategy Plan, based on the notes from the group discussions in December 2008 and later a final draft incorporating comments and suggestions received from Forum members.

IMPLEMENTATION A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY

The approved Strategy Plan outlines 41 actions and provides a brief description of each action; how it is to be delivered; and what expected outcomes or change it will bring. It also states where the responsibility for each action lies within the Forum. The Forum's Steering Group, Representatives and Subgroups will play a key role, but it is the hope of the Forum that all members will take part in the work involved in implementing the actions in the Strategy Plan.

The Steering Group is currently organising the formal launch of the Strategy Plan, which will take place towards the end of April 2009. The Community Forum's Strategy Plan 2009-2011 can be downloaded in full from www.galwaycityforum.ie/reports.

SWAP IN THE CITY WITH GALWAY SIMON

By Kerry Mossop

Galway's first *Swap In The City*, held in the Radisson Hotel on the 29/01/09 was an amazing night. The queues started to form at 6pm and by 7pm it was snaking around the reception of the Radisson. In total over 600 people turned up to beat the credit crunch and give their old clothes a new lease of life by swapping them for new ones. And swap they did – in the queues, inside the Hotel, and even while leaving the event on their way to the car park. The doom and gloom of recent weeks was left at home as people really got into the spirit - leaving the clothes they brought with them at the door while they went off hunting down the perfect pair of shoes, bag and dress. In addition to the swapping there were over 30 retailers at the event offering discerning shoppers a whole host of hugely discounted clothing, jewellery and treatments.

On the night, the lucky winner of the free make-over, Suzie Howley, was revealed. Suzy, from Oranmore is an environmental consultant, was styled by Maureen O'Halloran from Anu Image Consultants in Athenry and given a day and night look. Cathy Neary from *Swan Hair Design* cut and coloured Suzy's hair and Dorothy from *Pro-Make Up Ireland* did Suzy's make up on the night. Clothes were donated

by *Vero Moda* and *Madison Boutique*. *Galway Simon Community* would like to thank everyone involved in the make over as they gave their time and services free of charge.

Galway Simon are already planning the next *Swap In The City Night* – register your interest in attending the next *Swap In The City* by emailing Kerry at fund@galwaysimon.ie

All of the proceeds from the night went directly to *Galway Simon Community* which is providing both accommodation and services for Men, Women and Families in Galway who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. *Galway Simon's Day Centre* is located on Seamus Quirke road for people who are seeking assistance or support. **Phone 1800 788 887 or 091 525259 for more details.**



1.



2.

1. *Suzy Howley in clothes from Vero Moda*
2. *Queues before the doors opened*

SEXUAL HEALTH BOOKLET LAUNCHED BY AIDS WEST

At the launch of their new booklet titled,

"A Simple Guide To Your Sexual Health"

on Tuesday, February 17th at NUI Galway, John Flannery, General Manager of *AIDS West* said that the booklet (sponsored by *GlaxoSmithKline*) was a concise, user-friendly guide to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and included local and national listings on where one might go to seek help if needed. The keynote speaker Dr Shay Keating from *The Drug Treatment Centre Board*, Dublin, gave a comprehensive presentation on the major STIs and how these might be treated. Recent reports from the Infectious Disease Clinic at UCHG, show a 30% increase in STIs in the west over the past year.

The booklet, posters and leaflets are being delivered to all doctors, health centres in the west over the next couple of weeks and are also available by

calling the *AIDS West* office, located in Ozanam House, St. Augustine Street, Galway, telephone 091 566266. *AIDS West* offers support to anyone who is worried about his or her sexual health, a confidential non-judgemental helpline and an education/prevention service.

To contact the Confidential Helpline number, phone 091 562213, email info@aidswest.ie or log onto the website www.aidswest.ie.



"Michael Reagan, Vice President of the Students Union NUI Galway launches 'A Simple Guide To Your Sexual Health' with Eavan Daly (GlaxoSmithKline), Author Liz Martin, and John Flannery from AIDS West"

COMMUNITY FORUM LOOKS FORWARD TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON GALWAY'S NEW ARTS PLAN

By Eleanor Hough, Galway City Community Forum representative on the Recreation, Amenity and Culture SPC

The Community Forum (GCCF) welcomes the decision by the City Council's Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on Recreation, Amenity and Culture to make the completion of the City's Arts Plan a priority for this year, to go ahead with the appointment of an external consultant and to carry out a public consultation.

The Community Forum's representatives gave a presentation of the Forum's Submission to the City Council's Draft Arts Plan for 2008-2011 at the December meeting in the Recreation, Amenity and Culture SPC. At this meeting the members of the SPC decided to prioritise the completion of the City's Arts Plan and to keep the item on the agenda until this has been accomplished.

The Recreation, Amenity and Culture SPC met again in February and agreed to appoint an external consultant to assist with the completion of the City's Arts Plan. The consultant will organise and facilitate consultation meetings with stakeholders in the various art forms, as well as special interest areas such as street art and spectacle, festivals, traditional and ealaíon as Gaeilge, disability, public art, health, intergenerational, intercultural, social inclusion and community arts. Public consultation meetings will take place in each Electoral Ward. It was also agreed to put the current Draft Arts Plan on the City Council website and to complete an audit of facilities, events and participation.

The Community Forum representatives will continue to highlight the importance of completing the City's Arts Plan and encourages all interested groups and individuals to bring their views, opinions and proposals forward in the coming consultation process.

SOME OF THE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE GCCF SUBMISSION DOCUMENT ARE:

Appointment of Experienced External Consultant:

Proceed with the appointment of an experienced and knowledgeable consultant to bring new ideas and a fresh view on the development of the Arts in Galway.

Public Consultation:

Organise an open public consultation process where all interests and partners, including GCCF, local artists and community art groups, can have input into the development of the strategy.

Galway City Arts Office:

Establish the requirements for a fully resourced Arts Service in Galway City Council to manage and deliver the Strategic Arts Plan.

Promotion and Support for Community Arts:

Develop a focused and co-ordinated strategy for Community Arts, with dedicated funding, as a powerful tool

in tackling social exclusion, supporting community development, celebrating cultural diversity and achieving greater access to and participation in the arts for the wider community.

Appointment of a Dedicated Fully Resourced

Community Arts Officer: Map out the overall role and remit for a Community Arts Officer, to co-ordinate the development of community arts in Galway City, drawing on best practice from elsewhere.

Professional Development and Support For Artists:

Develop a strategy for establishment of a new support service for local artists in Galway, based on the successful Artlinks initiative in the South-East, including a dedicated website feature.

Infrastructure for the Arts:

Develop an Arts Facility Master Plan, starting with an audit of all venues and arts spaces in Galway to improve the City's Arts infrastructure, including arts spaces outside the city centre, office and storage space.

Implementation and Representation:

Given the extensive and ambitious list of actions and projects proposed in the draft plan, there is a clear need for some degree of prioritisation of the actions within the strategy. The Forum looks for representation on the Steering Committees for Public Art and Youth Arts and an Advisory Committee to assess implementation of the plan, including a mid-term review.

See the Autumn edition of Tribe Vibes for an account of the development of the submission and for a copy of the submission go to:

www.galwaycityforum.ie/reports

GRANTS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY FESTIVALS IN THE CITY

Galway City Council Local Community Festivals Grant Awards Scheme launched

Galway City Council has just announced its fourth annual Local Community Festivals Grant Awards Scheme. Local organisations planning an event in local areas in the city may be eligible for a grant under this scheme, which has a total fund of €10,000.

The application form is available from Galway City Council and on the web at www.galwaycitycouncil.ie and has been designed to be as simple as possible and includes the criteria that will be used for assessing eligibility. Completed application forms should be returned by Friday, 22nd May to the Community & Enterprise Department of Galway City Council.

[POETRY CORNER]

Damien Drohan, Margaret Sweeney and Sarah Nevin are currently taking part in a Creative Writing for Beginners Class at Galway Technical Institute, facilitated by Kevin Higgins.

VALENTINES DAY

by Damien Drohan

Pleas crash against a rocky heart
Shock stops all frivolity
She no longer loves me
Dark fears have become me

My hands clench with frustration
Echoing my battered senses
I argue, seek clarity, explanation, anything
Light shines only in mutual tears

The fire dwindles
to ember affection
My efforts to fan flames
result in cold coals

I stand numb, broken
Emptiness claiming me, rids me of feeling
Freedom attained, a poisoned prize

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN – IN THIS CASE MOTHER NATURE

by Margaret Sweeney

As I stroll along the beach front,
With the ebbing tide on the inward turn.
Newly wet sands baring all to the world,
Freshly swirled sands of a greyish colour under foot,
Where sinking shoes imbed themselves,
Leave behind deep footprints,
For public view

With the winds blowing softly through your seaweed hair
And runs reams round your mussel covered rocks
Surrounded by baby pools, alive and clean to the world.

Thrown up along the way are
discarded contents of all kinds,
Milk cartons, juice bottles, stubbed cigarettes,
With used chewing gum in the fore
Oil sleeks threaten and beat against your sides
Tarnishing your good looks,
And freedom to breathe.

Maintenance is scarce and is left to you Mother
You must mend everything yourself
Reproducing so beautifully to the beach,
And the whole of nature so generously.

POEM by Sarah Nevin

Here I write all tucked up
once the boys room
all has changed
except the frame.

I try find peace to escape
the racing game
which surrounds me
as my heart beats
in the starting lane.

Calm surfaces as my love
returns the plea of love.

I need to take this gentle hub
with me
as it reminds me
of days I once dreamt of.

REPORT FROM THE INTERCULTURAL FORUM'S AGM

By Poul Walsh

The Intercultural Forum held a successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 10th of December 2008 in the Training Meeting Room of City Hall. Ms. Marta Slawinska (Galway Irish-Polish Association) acted as chair for the meeting, which had a great turnout with the vast majority of Intercultural Forum members present on the night.

Ms. Marta Slawinska presented the Forum's Annual Report and outlined some of the highlights in 2008. She explained that the Intercultural Forum in the past year organised a highly successful Intercultural Barbecue Competition, held a series of meetings, developed a constitution, elected a Steering Group and elected a representative to the City Development Board's Community Development Group.

On the night, nominations were put forward for the election of the new Steering Group for 2009, which currently consists of:

- Son Gyoh (*Development for Awareness*)
- Bras-D'or Ithere (*Congolese Association*)
- Vernice Murray (*Galway Migrant Service*)
- Susana Campos (*Latino Group*)
- Barbara Lesniak (*Galway Irish-Polish Association*)
- Hannagh McGinley (*Galway Traveller Movement*)
- Maria Silva (*Portuguese Association Ireland*)
- Ukah Nnamdi (*Solidarity Network*)

For further information regarding the Intercultural Forum please contact:

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* The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Galway City Community Forum or the Community & Enterprise Department of Galway City Council.