

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Volunteers celebrated at Galway City Mayor's Awards ceremony**

The winners of Galway City Council's Mayor's Awards have been announced.

Speaking at a gala awards ceremony at the Galmont Hotel, the Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Colette Connolly said that Galway City Council was proud and delighted to honour and celebrate the many people who work quietly behind the scenes to make their communities stronger, more vibrant, often inspiring and motivating others.

Speaking on the winners and nominees at the awards, Mayor Colette Connolly commented:

"The Mayor's Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge people who commit time and effort to make their community a better place. We all know people who despite their incredibly busy lives still find time to support neighbours, local groups and community in a very significant way. On this, the nineteenth year of the Awards, I am delighted that we can be here in person to acknowledge and celebrate true community spirit as per the long-established Irish meitheal that brings communities together".

The Mayor also noted that "Of all ages and from all backgrounds, they all share one important characteristic: they give freely and generously of their time to make life better for their communities."

Despite challenging times throughout 2021 many people continued to make extraordinary efforts to continue their voluntary work. Galway City Council would like all volunteers to know their contribution is very much appreciated and that volunteering is celebrated for its inherent value to our society, helping to develop vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities.

Almost 100 individuals and groups, who were nominated across all categories received an individually designed Certificate from the Mayor in recognition of their voluntary activity in community life

across the city.

The list of award winners in the various categories is as follows.

**Arts, Culture, Heritage & Cúrsaí Gaeilge Award:**

**St. Patrick's Primary School** who are budding musicians and performers, ready to showcase their skills for charity, at all times contributing to the positive and fun environment that exists in Galway City.

**Residents and Local Areas Award:**

**The John Coogan Park Residents' Association** as a driving force in their local area for a number of years, undertaking a range of activities and initiatives to enhance the environment for the community. They are a source of inspiration for other community groups in the city, epitomising a 'can-do' attitude.

**Community Service & Social Inclusion (Individual) Award:**

**Saibh Egan** for her unwavering commitment and dedication to helping those in our community who need it most and for her voluntary efforts, devotion of time and energy to people who are less fortunate, always going above and beyond making a practical difference for all.

**Community Service & Social Inclusion (Group) Award:**

**Access for All** who have worked tirelessly for more than two decades to ensure equal access to services in Galway City for persons of all ages. Their focus on continually improving universal access of the local built environment for all people irrespective of size, age and ability, on an equal basis with others has continually ensured an accessible City for all based on equality and diversity.

**Older Person Volunteer of the Year Award:**

**Evelyn Moran** for her active membership of a wide range of community groups and organisations over many years, working tirelessly to promote the views of older people in policy development and decision making. Evelyn is as passionate as ever about her active citizenship and is a stellar example of an older person working for older people.

**Sports Volunteer of the Year Award:**

**Merlin Woods Football and Sports Club** for their dedication and commitment to ensuring that all children, parents and community members involved can participate in a sport they would like to try, providing a variety of sports to cater to all needs. They welcome all through the doors of the community sports club, applying their growth mind-set, participation, education and consistency.

**Children and Youth Support Award:****Accompaniment Support Services for Children (A.S.S.C) Volunteers**

who enable this vital support service to operate 24 hours, 365 days a year for children and their families in Galway. These volunteers give their time willing to provide accompaniment and advocacy for young people and their families at different stages. Despite the impact of the pandemic, these volunteers contributed to provide this service ensuring every child had a person there solely to support them.

**Young Volunteer of the Year Award:**

**Galway City Comhairle na nÓg** for their commitment, passion and drive to make sure that young people have the medium to get their voices heard by other young people, by decision makers, and people who can influence for positive change.

**Environmental Sustainability Award:**

**Westside Community Organic Garden** for making a measurable contribution to the community by showing people how to grow their own food at home in an urban setting. For working hard to be as green and sustainable as possible and for cultivating a safe place for local community volunteers to gather, connect and a place to simply be!

The **Galway City Volunteer of the Year Award** was presented to **Catherine Moore Temple** for her volunteering spirit, recognition of her generosity of time, energy, devotion and infectious enthusiasm for St. Nicholas's Church and all it offers to the people of Galway and across the world. Catherine has an abundant energy in promoting and sharing her love of St. Nicholas's Church, which continues to be both a citadel and a sanctuary at the heart of Galway City's spiritual, historical, community and artistic life over 700 years.

The winners were presented with a beautifully handcrafted wooden plaque, made by Galway wood turners Ambrose & Brid O'Halloran from Mayor Connolly.

**ENDS**

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## **PREASRÁITEAS**

**Faoi lánchosc docht go dtí 11.00in, Dé Máirt an 24 Bealtaine 2022**

### **Ceiliúradh ar oibrithe deonacha ag searmanas na nGradam de chuid Mhéara Chathair na Gaillimhe**

Fógraítear buaiteoirí na nGradam de chuid Mhéara Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe.

Ag labhairt di ag searmanas bronnta mórthaispeántas in Óstán Galmont, dúirt Méara Chathair na Gaillimhe, an Comhairleoir Colette Connolly go raibh Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe bródúil agus thar a bheith sásta ómós agus ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an iomad daoine a oibríonn go ciúin sa chúlra chun a gcuid pobal a dhéanamh níos láidre, níos bríomhaire, agus iad go minic ag spreagadh daoine eile.

Agus í ag labhairt faoi na buaiteoirí agus na hainmnithe ag na gradaim, dúirt an Méara Colette Connolly:

“Tugann Gradaim an Mhéara an deis aitheantas a thabhairt do dhaoine a thugann a gcuid ama agus a gcuid iarrachtaí chun áit níos fearr a dhéanamh as a bpobal. Tá aithne againn go léir orthu siúd a fhaigheann an t-am fós chun tacú le comharsana, le grúpaí áitiúla agus leis an bpobal ar bhealach an-suntasach, d'ainneoin na saolta thar a bheith gnóthach atá acu. Anocht, ag an naoú bliain déag de na Gradaim, cuireann sé an-áthas orm gur féidir linn a bheith anseo go pearsanta chun fíor-spiorad pobail a aithint agus a cheiliúradh de réir meitheal ársa seanbhunaithe na nGael a thugann an pobal le chéile”.

Thug an Méara faoi deara freisin "Ó gach aois agus ó gach cúlra, tá tréith thábhachtach amháin á roinnt acu go léir: tugann siad a gcuid ama go flaitiúil agus saor in aisce le haghaidh saol a gcuid pobal a fheabhsú."

D'ainneoin dúshlán na bliana 2021, lean mórán daoine ag déanamh sár-iarrachtaí ionas go leanfaidh lena gcuid oibre deonaí. Ba mhaith le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe go dtuigfeadh gach oibrí deonach go bhfuil ardmheas ar an méid a dhéanann siad agus go ndéantar an obair dheonach a cheiliúradh mar gheall ar an sár-chuidiú a thagann as do shaol an phobail, ag cabhrú le pobail bheoga, imchuimsitheacha agus inbhuanaithe a fhorbairt.

Fuair beagnach 100 duine ar leith agus grúpa, a ainmníodh i ngach catagóir, Teastas ón Méara mar aitheantas ar a gcuid gníomhaíocht dheonach i saol an phobail ar fud na cathrach.

Seo a leanas liosta na mbuaiteoirí sna catagóirí éagsúla.

**Gradam na hEalaíona, an Chultúir, na hOidhreacht agus Cúrsaí Gaeilge:**

**Bunscoil Phádraig**, ceoltóirí agus oirfidigh úra atá réidh lena scileanna a léiriú ar son na carthanachta, ag cur leis an timpeallacht dhearfach spráúil atá i láthair i gcónaí i gCathair na Gaillimhe.

**Gradam na gCónaitheoirí agus an Limistéir Áitiúil:**

**Cumann Áitritheoirí Pháirc Sheáin Uí Chuagáin**, ceann feadhna ina gceantar áitiúil le roinnt blianta anuas, ag tabhairt faoi raon gníomhaíochtaí agus tionscnamh chun an timpeallacht a fheabhsú don phobal. Is foinse an dóchais iad do ghrúpaí pobail eile sa chathair, agus an dearcadh ‘indéanta’ á léiriú acu.

**Gradam Seirbhís an Phobail agus an Chuimsithe Sóisialta (Aonair):**

**Saibh Egan**, as a dúthracht gan staonadh d'fhonn cabhrú leo siúd inár bpobal leis an díth is mó orthu agus as a cuid iarrachtaí deonacha, a cuid ama agus a cuid fuinnimh dóibh siúd ar mhí-ádh, ag déanamh difríocht phraiticiúil do chách i gcónaí.

**Gradam Seirbhís an Phobail agus an Chuimsithe Sóisialta (Grúpa):**

**Access for All**, a d'oibrigh go dian dícheallach le breis is fiche bliain chun rochtain chomhionann ar sheirbhísí i gCathair na Gaillimhe a chinntiú do dhaoine de gach aois. Dhírigh siad ar rochtain uilíoch ar an timpeallacht thógtha áitiúil a fheabhsú go leanúnach do gach éinne beag beann ar mhéid, aois agus cumas, ar bhonn comhionann le daoine eile, agus chinntigh a leithéid gur lean Gaillimh mar Chathair inrochtana do chách bunaithe ar an gcomhionannas agus ar an éagsúlacht.

**Gradam Oibrí Deonach na Bliana do Dhuine Scothaosta:**

**Evelyn Moran**, as an bpáirt ghníomhach a glac sí i raon leathan grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí pobail thar na blianta fada, ag obair gan staonadh chun tuairimí na daoine scothaosta a chur chun cinn i bhforbairt na mbeartas agus na cinnteoireachta. Tá Evelyn chomh tugtha fós agus a bhí riamh faoina saoránacht ghníomhach agus is iontach an eiseamláir í de dhuine scothaosta atá ag obair ar son daoine scothaosta.

**Gradam Obair Dheonach na Bliana sa Spórt:**

**Club Peile agus Spóirt Choillte Mhuirlinne** as a gcuid dúthrachta d'fho n a chinntiú gur féidir le gach leanbh, tuismitheoir agus duine den phobal páirt a ghlacadh sa spórt ar mhaith leo triail a bhaint as, ag cur na spóirt éagsúla ar fáil chun freastal ar gach riachtanas. Cuirtear siad fáilte roimh chách sa chlub spórt an pobail, ag baint úsáide as a gcuid chumais maidir le meon an fháis, leis an rannpháirtíocht, leis an oideachas agus leis an gcomhsheasmhacht.

### **Gradam na Tacaíochta do Leanaí agus don Óige:**

**Accompaniment Support Services for Children (A.S.S.C) Volunteers**, a chuireann ar chumas na seirbhíse tacaíochta ríthábhachtach seo oibriú ar feadh 24 uair salá, 365 lá sa bhliain le leanaí agus dá gcuid teaghlach i nGaillimh. Tugann na hoibrithe deonacha seo a gcuid ama go toilteanach le haghaidh tionlacan agus abhcóideacht a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga agus dá dteaghlaigh ag céimeanna éagsúla. D'ainneoin thionchar na paidéime, chuidigh na hoibrithe deonacha seo leis an tseirbhís seo a chur ar fáil ionas a chinntiú go raibh duine ar fáil ag gach leanbh i gcónaí chun tacú leo amháin.

### **Gradam Oibrí Deonach Óg na Bliana:**

**Comhairle na nÓg Chathair na Gaillimhe**, as a ndúthracht agus a ndíograis ionas a chinntiú go mbeadh an meán ag daoine óga chun a nglór a chur in iúl do dhaoine óga eile, do lucht déanta na gcinntí agus dóibh siúd ar féidir leo tionchar a imirt ar athrú dearfach.

### **Gradam Inbhuanaitheacht an Chomhshaoil:**

**Gairdín Orgánach Pobail an Taobh Thiar**, as an gcuidiú suntasach a thug siad don pobal trína léiriú conas ar féidir le daoine a gcuid bia féin a fhás sa bhaile i suíomh cathrach, chomh maith le bheith ag obair go dian d'fhonn uaschaighdeán na glaise agus na hinbhuanaitheachta a bhaint amach agus is féidir, agus as áit shábháilte a chothú d'oibrithe deonacha áitiúla an pobail chun bailiú le chéile, chun naisc a dhéanamh agus chun a bheith fiú mar atá siad!

### **Gradam Oibrí Deonach na Bliana de chuid Chathair na Gaillimhe:**

**Catherine Moore Temple**, as misneach a hobair dheonach, as aitheantas a thabhairt d'flaithiúlacht a cuid ama, a cuid fuinnimh agus a cuid díograis spreagúil d'Eaglais San Nioclás agus gach a thugann an eaglais do mhuintir na Gaillimhe agus ar fud an domhain. Léiríonn Catherine flúirse a cuid fuinnimh agus í ag cothú agus ag roinnt a grá d'Eaglais San Nioclás, atá fós ina daingean agus ina tearmann i gcoilár shaol spioradálta, stairiúil, pobail agus ealaíne Chathair na Gaillimhe le breis agus 700 bliain.

Bronn an Méara Connolly plaic adhmaid álainn lámhdhéanta ar na buaiteoirí, arna dhéanamh ag Ambrose agus Brid O'Halloran, tuinneálaithe adhmaid as Gaillimh.

## **CRÍOCH**

Maidir le ceisteanna ó na meáin, déan teagmháil le: Caitriona Morgan, Roinn an Phobail, 091 536461 / 087 2347495.