



2019 Annual Report

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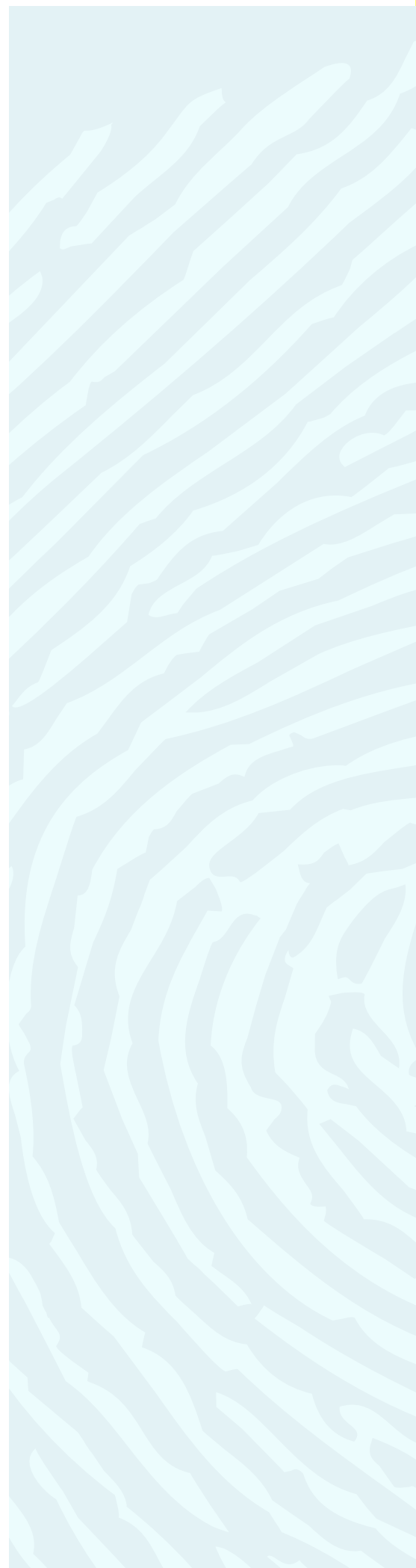
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



2019 Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Chairman's Message	3
3.	Chief Executive's Report	5
	3.1. Who Are We?	9
	3.1.1. Our Board	9
	3.1.2. Our Staff	12
	3.2. What Do We Do?	13
	3.3. Our Work in Numbers	16
	3.4. Key Achievements 2019	17
4.	Advancing National Heritage Priorities	29
5.	Nurturing Belonging	35
6.	Ensuring a Vibrant Heritage Sector	45
7.	Corporate Governance	81
8.	Financial Statements	83

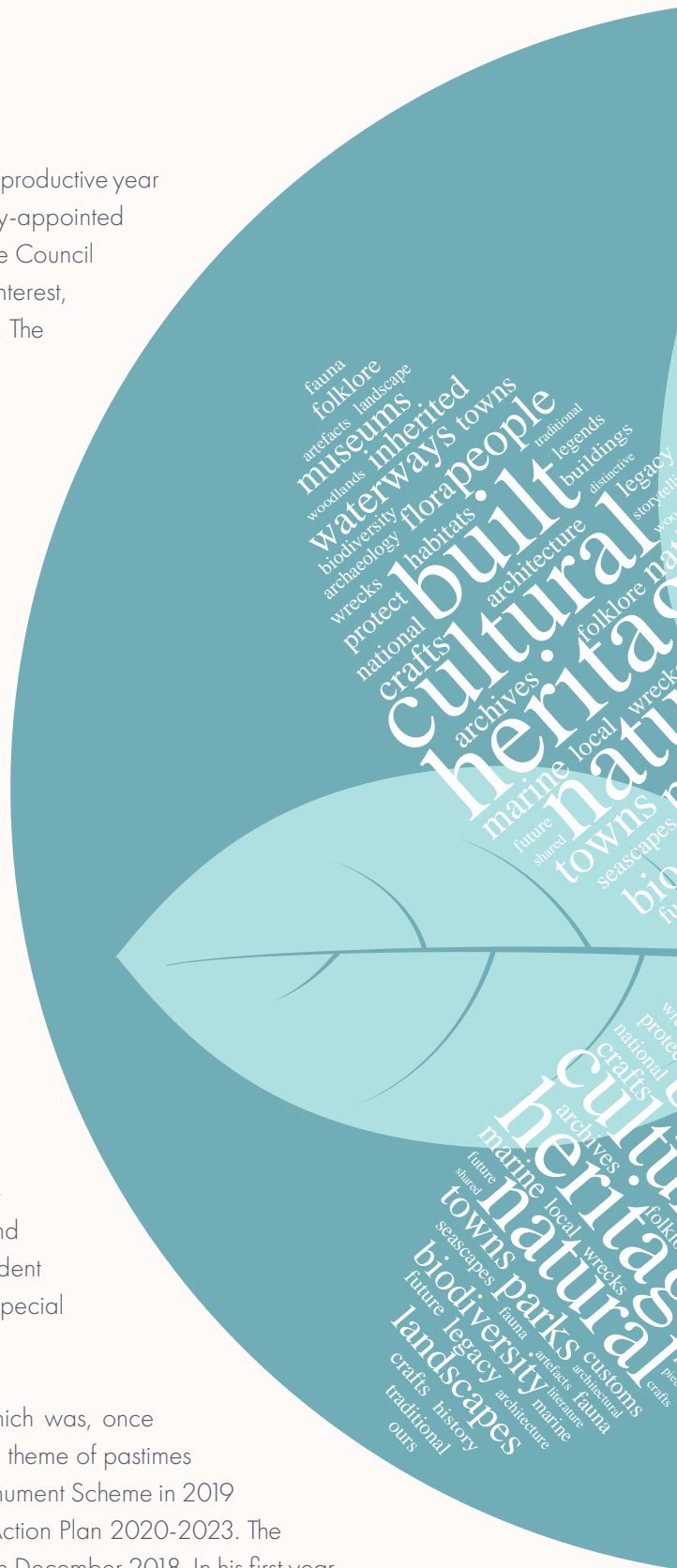


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The year began with a series of public consultations on Heritage Ireland 2030 – the new ten-year national Heritage Plan drafted by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht with input from a selection of key stakeholders including the Heritage Council. As the Department’s primary partner in the public consultation process, the Heritage Council organised three regional consultations in the early months of 2019, which complemented the local events organised by Heritage Officers across the country. By April 2019, over 2,000 people and organisations had made submissions on Heritage Ireland 2030 and in May the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht hosted a Public Information Session in Dublin Castle. We look forward to the publication of the finished document, informed by public and professional priorities, in 2020.

One of the most significant aspects of 2019 was the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Heritage Officer Programme. Since the appointment of the first heritage officers in counties Sligo, Galway and Kerry in 1999, the programme has contributed directly to increased public understanding and awareness of our natural, cultural and built heritage. President Michael D Higgins recognised this vital contribution during a special anniversary event in Áras an Uachtaráin in September 2019.

Other highlights in 2019 include National Heritage Week, which was, once again, a successful and well-attended event focused around the theme of pastimes and past times. Seven new sites were added to the Adopt a Monument Scheme in 2019 and the Irish Walled Towns Network published its new IWTN Action Plan 2020-2023. The Heritage Council welcomed new Wildlife Officer, Lorcan Scott in December 2018. In his first year, Lorcan worked on two successful pilot projects focused on promoting inclusivity and access to natural heritage.



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council



Since the 2018 launch of the Heritage Council's five-year Strategic Plan 2018-2022, *Heritage at the Heart*, our work has been guided by the three strategic objectives at the core of the document.

1. Advancing National Heritage Priorities
2. Nurturing Belonging through a Sense of Identity and Place
3. Ensuring a Vibrant Heritage Sector

The 2019 Annual Report is structured to reflect the ways in which the Heritage Council is addressing these strategic objectives. The imagery has been chosen to demonstrate the variety of initiatives and programmes coordinated by the Heritage Council, and to acknowledge the people and organisations that have worked in partnership with us in the interest of heritage in 2019.

Sections one to three of this document introduce the Heritage Council Board and staff, provide an overview of what the Heritage Council does, and showcases the highlights and key achievements of 2019. Section four identifies the key actions under the first strategic objective - to advance national heritage priorities - and provides details of how the Heritage Council has worked to initiate these actions in 2019. Sections five and six follow the same pattern for the second and third strategic objectives.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The past year has seen the imprint of the Heritage Council in so many areas of Irish life. The Council continues to make its mark - often in the most unlikely ways. The enthusiasm of so many, has bonded individuals and communities, enthused by the magic of antiquity in their midst.

The Heritage Council has always been focussed on working with Government departments and other agencies - when the efforts of all concerned fuse together to achieve a shared objective.

And when it comes to our involvement at community level, we are especially pleased when we can support heritage tourism. This is an increasingly important part of Ireland's overall image as a place to attract foreign visitors.

The Council is proud of the range of networks it has consolidated over the years. These stretch into the heart of rural Ireland, as well as embracing urban areas, across the country. An ongoing objective is to encourage local communities to participate in - and take responsibility for - heritage in their own area.

For example the 'Adopt A Monument' scheme helps those who

wish to get involved interpret the archaeology and history of their native place. This is an area where the embrace of the Council can be seen at first hand. On a practical level, grant funding has been made available for a range of projects, which have touched on nearly every aspect of our heritage.

The Council is determined to continue raising awareness of its work of by all means at its disposal. This can be through the use of social media, or more traditional outlets, such as the printed word.

We are especially conscious we must transcend the generations ensuring both young and old are involved in our mission. A key objective is to remind our young people - in a structured and proactive way - the importance of what has gone before. Hence the ongoing importance of the Heritage in Schools programme.

A particularly pleasing development over the past year is that 276 schools received 'Heritage in Schools' visits for the first time. Another exciting statistic on this front is that a record 2,501 visits to 1,074 primary schools reached an estimated 117,000 children.



Thatched Cottage, Cloodrumman Beg, Co Leitrim
Courtesy of Sarah Malone

This bodes well for the future and it is hugely consoling our efforts to create heritage awareness in the younger generation is now on a solid footing. We hope to consolidate our presence in schools even more so in the coming years. We will also continue to have a special focus on how local heritage can contribute to an individual child's sense of identity and place.

The Council marks its 25th birthday in 2020. Over a quarter of a century its impact as a gatekeeper - by way of protecting our heritage - in both tangible and intangible ways has gone from strength to strength.

One of our primary functions is to link together various strands of activity for the common purposes of preserving and raising heritage awareness. Accordingly, we would like to acknowledge the help and support we receive on so many fronts which allows us all to pursue a shared objective.

I would like to especially reference National Heritage Week. Once again was an unique blending of the national and the local. Thousands of people representing communities of varying size took part in a huge range of activities - reminding us

of many treasures in our midst.

In 2019, the Heritage Council and Creative Ireland facilitated a series of workshops, designed to increase awareness of our national environment for those with sight impairment. A series of imaginative workshops reflected the kind of initiative of which we are especially proud.

We continue to be guided by the broad outline contained in our Strategic Plan. But within these stated objectives, the Council continues to be pro-active and responsive, to the demands and requirements of an ever-changing society.

I would like to especially thank all our staff, and the countless others, who have helped us fulfil our obligations with a sound practical approach - but also with some flair and panache. The legacy of memory continues to enthuse us all.

Michael Parsons

MICHAEL PARSONS

Chairman

An Chomhairle Oidhreacht



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

During 2019, the Heritage Council focussed on consolidating the work begun the previous year as we embarked upon the implementation of Heritage at the Heart which provides our blueprint for the period 2018–2022. This strategic plan defines the vision, values, and priorities for the Heritage Council. It contains a recognition of our key objective to respond to the changing nature of Irish communities and citizen engagement with heritage.

In 2019, we continued to deliver our strategic programmes: the operation of the National Biodiversity Data Centre, €828,113; supporting the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network, €539,185; operating the Heritage in Schools Programme, €454,652; delivering the Museums Standards Programme of Ireland, €117,682; coordinating National Heritage Week, €313,431. Other strategic programmes that we run include, Adopt a Monument, €52,867, Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme, €58,357 and the Irish Walled Town Network, €210,865.

In 2019, the Heritage Council disbursed €3,812,427 in grand aid through the following grant schemes: The Historic Towns Initiative, a closed scheme for Local Authorities, €967,222; County Heritage Plans, a closed scheme for Local Authorities and delivered through the Heritage Officer Network,

€650,843; Irish Walled Town Network Grant Schemes (capital and current), closed schemes for Local Authorities €241,967; Adopt a Monument scheme for community groups, €79,829. The Heritage Council also administered grant funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the Beara Breifne Way Development in the amount of €627,794.

The role that not for profits and NGOs play in contributing to Irish life and to the heritage sector is valued by the Heritage Council and we disbursed €1,244,592 to organisations across the country. These include, but are not exclusive to: Ireland Reaching Out, The Irish Museums Association, Wicklow Uplands, Irish Landmark Trust, The Discovery Programme, National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals.

GLAS Scheme, a collaboration between the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine, an open grant scheme for the owners of traditional farm buildings, €1,121,182. These grants are approved and administered by The Heritage Council but are paid by Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine following certification by The Heritage Council.

In 2019, while maintaining our level of investment in our programmes and regularly funded organisations, we also focused

on our ongoing relationship with our colleagues in the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht, through our work with them on the development of *Heritage Ireland 2030*. As the Department's primary partner in the public consultation process, the Heritage Council organised three regional consultations in the early months of 2019, which complemented the local events organised by Heritage Officers across the country. By April 2019, over 2,000 people and organisations had made submissions on *Heritage Ireland 2030* and in May I was privileged to speak about the Heritage Council's submission to *Heritage Ireland 2030* at the national consultation session held in Dublin Castle. Our continued engagement with *Heritage Ireland 2030* demonstrates our ongoing commitments, as set out in our strategy, to collaborate with colleagues across Government and serve as a nexus for heritage discourse.

Other highlights in 2019 include National Heritage Week, which was, once again, a successful and well-attended event focused on the theme of pastimes and past times. Seven new sites were added to the Adopt a Monument Scheme in 2019 and the Irish Walled Towns Network published its new IWTN Action Plan 2020-2023.

The Heritage Council welcomed new Wildlife Officer, Lorcan Scott in December 2018. In his first year, Lorcan worked on two successful pilot projects focused on promoting inclusivity and access to natural heritage.

Twenty years ago, the Heritage Council, in collaboration with the network of Local Authorities, initiated the Heritage Officer Programme. Under the terms of this programme, the Heritage Council provides financial support to Local Authorities to employ a heritage officer and provides funding for each local authority heritage infrastructure through County Heritage Plan grants support scheme. This Heritage Officer Programme is one of the most successful strategic programme devised by the Heritage Council and over 98% of local authorities now engage with the programme. Since the appointment of the first heritage officers in counties Sligo, Galway, and Kerry in 1999, the programme has contributed directly to increased public understanding and awareness of our natural, cultural and built heritage. President Michael D Higgins recognised this vital contribution during a special anniversary event in Áras an Uachtaráin in September 2019 which included the Chairman and members of the Heritage Council and the Chairperson of the County and City Management Association (CCMA).

Underpinning our strategic plan is an ongoing commitment to good governance, accountability, and transparency. 2019 represented the first phase of the roll-out of a suite of independent reviews of our strategic programmes and regularly funded organisations. Informed by professional expert advice the reviews serve to measure the relevance and impact of our work in heritage protection by reviewing our models of investment in our programmes and measuring the impacts of that investment.

Over the next four years, we will continue to evaluate our work and demonstrate the positive impact of our activities and the importance of our cause. We know that heritage brings communities together and engaging with heritage contributes to their sense of wellbeing. At the core of our work is a belief that heritage and history matters. We believe that it gives us a vital sense of our place in time and in the world around us. We believe that it helps us to understand who we are and who we might become, and how we might shape the future. We believe that it offers a rich source of stories full of drama, intrigue, instruction, inspiration and hope. And we believe that when people appreciate the past, they care about its future. It's vital that we do everything we can to protect and celebrate it.

During 2019 I completed my first eleven months as Chief Executive. My key priorities in this role are Inspiration, Involvement, Heritage Protection, Conservation and Access, Accountability and Financial Sustainability. By focusing on these and by building on the Heritage Council's progress so far, I look forward to working with the Chairman and Board of the Heritage Council, the Heritage Council team, colleagues in the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht, members of the Heritage Officer network, heritage workers and the wider heritage sectors to advocate for the care and protection of Ireland's heritage, to find new ways to engage with citizens and local communities and share Ireland's story with more people than ever before.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

An Chomhairle Oidhreacht

WHO ARE WE?

The Heritage Council is a public body working in the public interest. Established under the Heritage Act, 1995, its statutory functions are to propose policies for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of our national heritage. The Heritage Act provides a comprehensive definition of heritage which includes monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects such as art and industrial works, documents and genealogical records, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens, parks and inland waterways.

The Heritage Council's vision is that by 2022, heritage will be at the heart of Irish society and decision-making and that Ireland will be internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in heritage management, conservation and community engagement. We will continue to work in partnership with local communities, local authorities, voluntary groups, government departments, various agencies and national cultural institutions in order to deliver this vision. Together we will sow the seeds of innovation and support projects that will have a positive and enduring social and economic impact.

OUR BOARD

Heritage Council Board members are appointed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Coming from diverse backgrounds and with wide ranging skills. Each member provides an invaluable conduit of ideas and energy, enabling the organisation to lead, respond and deliver effectively. All expenses to Board members are paid in accordance with the guidelines and rules set down by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Details of expenses are published in our annual reports.



HERITAGE COUNCIL BOARD 2019

Back row: left to right, Brian Walsh; Muiris Ó Súilleabháin; Jane Maxwell; Kieran Coughlan; Miriam Fitzpatrick; Michael Starrett, outgoing CEO, Jan, 2019 and Ivor McElveen
Front row: left to right, Mary Gallagher; Michael Parsons, Chairman; Sinead Mc Cartan
Not pictured: Marie Bourke & Fionnuala May

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD IN JULY 2016:

MICHAEL PARSONS CHAIRMAN

Chairperson Laois Heritage Society | Member of the Heritage Council since January 2012

MARIE BOURKE

Former Keeper/ Head of Education/ Member of the Management Team/ Secretary of the Board, National Gallery of Ireland (1998-2015) | Chair (2006-09), Board Member (1999-2009), Irish Museums Association

KIERAN COUGHLAN

Chief Executive of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission, Secretary General to the Oireachtas Service and Clerk of the Dáil (1990-2013) | Appointed to Ethics in Public Office Commission 1995

MIRIAM FITZPATRICK

Trained as an architect and urban designer | Lecturer in Architecture with specialty in Urban Design, University College Dublin & Waterford Institute of Technology

MARY GALLAGHER

Secretary to the Authority of the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA) and Company Secretary, NSCDA (Operations) Ltd. (April 2007 - October 2015) | Head of Corporate Governance/ Secretary to the Board, Enterprise Ireland (1998-2007)

JANE MAXWELL

Assistant Librarian, Manuscripts & Archives Research Library, Trinity College Library | Governors and Guardians of Marsh's Library (Provost's proxy)

FIONNUALA MAY

Acting County Architect, Fingal County Council (2011 - date) | Served as a member of the Heritage Council's Standing Committee on Architecture (2000-2010)

SINEAD MCCARTAN

Director of Northern Ireland Museums Council (2017-date)/ Interim Director of Collections and Interpretation, National Museums Northern Ireland (2015-2017)/Head of Collections and Interpretation, National Museums Northern Ireland (2008-2017)/Curator of Prehistoric Antiquities, Ulster Museum (1990-2008)

IVOR MCELVEEN

Founder of historic building and conservation consultancy practice in Wexford | Former Director of Europe of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) | Previously Chairman of a large restituted estate in the Czech Republic and Advisor to the Czech Government

MUIRIS Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN

Lecturer UCD School of Archaeology (1994 - date) | Member, Scientific Committee, Carnac Alignment World Heritage Bid (2014 - date) | Dean of Arts UCD (2014 -2015) | Head of School of Archaeology UCD (2004 - 2008)

BRIAN WALSH

Curator, County Museum, Dundalk (February 2005 - date) | Member of review committee on the National Monuments Act (2009/2010)



OUR STAFF IN 2019

The staff of the Heritage Council is a small, flexible and highly motivated group of people. Their expertise, independence and their dedication to heritage define the culture of the organisation.



VIRGINIA TEEHAN

Chief Executive Officer

HEADS OF SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



IAN DOYLE

Head of Conservation



BEATRICE KELLY

Head of Research & Policy



MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Head of Business Services



POSITION VACANT

Head of Communication & Education



PAULA DROHAN

Finance Officer



ALISON HARVEY

Planning Officer



COLM MURRAY

Architecture Officer



ANNA MEENAN

GLAS Scheme Project Manager



LORCAN SCOTT

Wildlife Officer



ANNE BARCOE

PA to Chief Executive & Chairman



AMANDA RYAN

Grants Administrator



GERARD CROKE

Administrator



MARTINA MALONE

Administrator, Web and Social Media Content



CHRISTENA RYAN

Administrator

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

COMPASS INFORMATICS

National Biodiversity Data Centre

DHR COMMUNICATIONS

National Heritage Week Project Manager

LESLEY-ANN HAYDEN

Co-ordinator, Museum Standards Programme for Ireland

ABARTA HERITAGE

Irish Walled Towns Network Project Manager

PAT REID

Heritagemaps.ie Project Manager

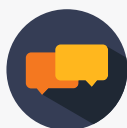
MARIA WALSH

Heritage in Schools Project Manager





The Heritage Council is a public body working in the public interest. We seek to fulfill our priorities through the provision of expert advice, funding, education programmes and advocacy.



WE ADVISE

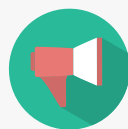
The Heritage Council proposes policy and priorities to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on heritage issues that include sustainability, landscape management, high nature value farming, forestry and climate change.



WE EDUCATE

Education has always been at the heart of the Heritage Council's work programme. Our Heritage in Schools Scheme, in particular, plays a key role in encouraging interest and participation at primary level. We also support a wide range of professional development programmes that, to date, have dealt with landscape,

planning, museums, archaeology, communications and traditional skills.



WE RAISE AWARENESS

Through our publications, promotions, social media and the hugely successful National Heritage Week we focus on contacting, informing, engaging and even entertaining as wide, as varied and as culturally-diverse range of audiences as possible. We are ever-conscious of the need to remind people of the value and beauty of heritage in a time where so many other issues and events compete for their attention.



WE WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Community involvement is at the heart of the Heritage Council's vision for national heritage. Our work with local communities supports jobs, education and heritage tourism in our local areas, delivering a rich tourism experience and excellent practice in the care of

our nation's valuable heritage assets.

Since our establishment in 1995, we have put in place heritage infrastructure and networks to enable communities to participate in and take responsibility for the development and conservation of the heritage of their areas. Success has been achieved through working in partnership with local authorities and statutory agencies. The results of such projects include the Community-Led Village Design Toolkit, the Heritage Officer Programme, the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Training Programme and a wide range of projects undertaken under the Heritage Management Grants Scheme.



WE WORK WITH PARTNERS

The Heritage Council works with partners, particularly at local level, to increase awareness of our national heritage and to highlight its importance to public policy and everyday life.

Most important is our ongoing relationships with local authorities across the country. Helping to build expertise and resources at local level has been a key objective of the Heritage

Council since it was established in 1995. Management and responsibility of heritage at local level is often the best means to ensure its long-term care and sustainable use.

The Heritage Council has a complex national brief across natural, cultural and built heritage which places a heavy and welcome reliance on us to work with others to achieve common aims together. In addition, the Heritage Council provides core funding to a number of bodies in order to support the needs of the sector and to help achieve shared aims.



WE SUPPORT THE HERITAGE SECTOR

The projects and initiatives we fund, participate in or support in a range of ways are carried out in line with best conservation practice. They help support and maintain a wide network of highly-skilled heritage professionals that includes conservators, thatchers, builders, ecologists, archaeologists, conservation architects and museum curators. Our work complements and builds on the work of other state heritage bodies which have primary responsibility for the care of property in state ownership and the designation of protected areas.



NATIONAL
HERITAGE
WEEK 

National
Biodiversity
Data Centre 

heritage
in schools 


Heritage Officer
Programme

PROGRAMMES & INITIATIVES

Ag tacú le Músaem Supporting Museum
MSPI

An Chomhairle Oldheachtá
The Heritage Council 

 **ADOPT A
MONUMENT**

 **IRISH
WALLED
TOWNS
NETWORK**

COLLABORATIVE TOWN CENTRE HEALTH CHECK


Heritage Maps 

An Chomhairle Oldheachtá | The Heritage Council

2019: OUR WORK IN NUMBERS



27 Heritage
Officers

work from local
authorities across
the country

15 Staff



work at the Heritage Council



historic towns
in the Irish
Walled Towns
Network



423,764

people attended

2,089 Heritage Week
events in 2019



1999-2019

20th

Anniversary of
the Local Authority

**Heritage
Officer
Programme**



divided among
towns under the **6**
**Historic Towns
Initiative in 2019**

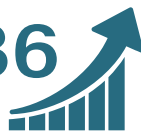
heritagemaps.ie



user numbers
increased by **19%** to

14,336

between 2018 & 2019



Heritage in Schools
Visits in 2019

GLAS Traditional Farm Building
Scheme funded

74

Grantees

to conserve 108
traditional farm
buildings in 2019



65
**museum
sites**

participate in
the museum
standards
programme
for Ireland

7

new groups joined the

**Adopt a Monument
Scheme** in 2019 bringing the total

number of sites to

20



4.3 million



observations of over

16,000 species on

www.biodiversityireland.ie

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

National Heritage Week:

Ireland's biggest cultural event, National Heritage Week 2019, saw sustained community interest and participation in Ireland's heritage. Approximately 423,000 people across the country participated in 2,089 heritage events based on the theme 'Pastimes | Past Times'. 88% of the events were free so that heritage could be accessed and appreciated by all. A diverse selection of events was planned by 1,124 event organisers, ranging from national cultural institutions to local community groups and individuals.

Heritage in Schools Scheme:

The enduringly popular educational scheme for primary schools continued to grow in popularity around the country in 2019, with 276 new schools receiving Heritage in Schools visits for the first time. The active panel of 160 members delivered a record 2,501 visits to 1,074 Irish primary schools, reaching an estimated 117,000 children. The Heritage Council conducted a review of panel membership in 2019 and forty-three new members joined the scheme. Funding through the Creative Ireland programme and the Heritage Officer network provided new opportunities for the Scheme in 2019, including two projects with Focus Ireland with an emphasis on the role local heritage can play in contributing to a child's sense of identity and place.

Coming to your Natural Senses: Pilot Project 2019

In March 2019 the Heritage Council and Creative Ireland facilitated a pilot programme of workshops focused on bringing a heightened experience, and thus awareness, of the natural environment to people with sight impairment. Feedback from a class at the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI), Drumcondra, revealed that the group that they had little or no understanding of comparative sizes of birds and or animals. The project proposal and vision changed with the developing understanding of the needs and capabilities of the group. The first workshop was hosted by the Heritage Council's Wildlife Officer, Lorcán Scott and was centred around Ireland's native fauna. The workshop was facilitated by teaching aids using a selection of birds and animals that were preserved by taxidermy and as such, were easily handled by the group. The

first successful workshop was followed by a practical class on the calls of native birds hosted by Ricky Whelan of BirdWatch Ireland and a bespoke workshop with Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI). The final workshop took the form of a field trip in early December with Pat Corrigan, Warden at the North Bull Island Visitor Centre which forms part of the North Bull Island Biosphere Reserve in Dublin Bay. The group of students was enthused by the classes and their thirst for knowledge and experience guided the development of the programme. This pilot-project was very successful, and plans are underway for further classes and outings in 2020.



Top: First workshop in the pilot project 'Coming to your Natural Senses' at the at the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI), Drumcondra.

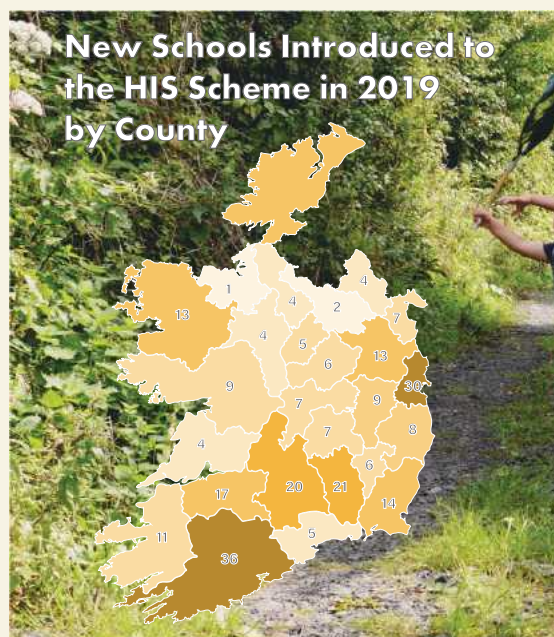
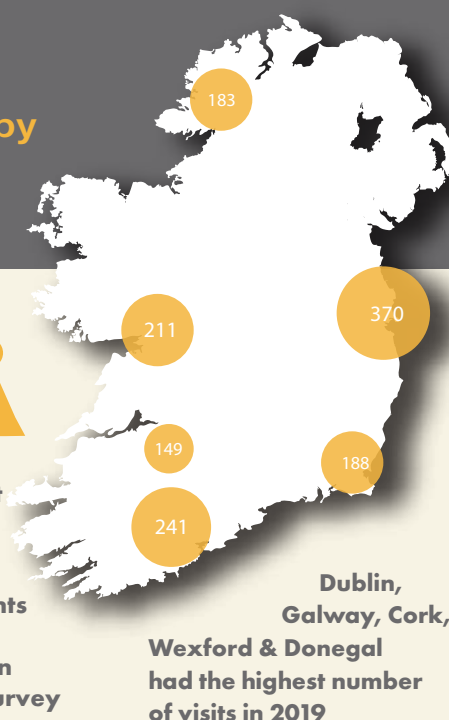
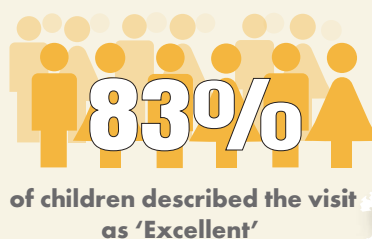
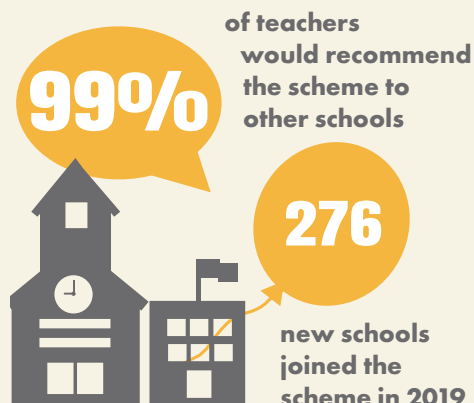
Bottom: Warden at the North Bull Island Visitor Centre, Pat Corrigan at the the final 'Coming to your Natural Senses' workshop in December 2019

HERITAGE IN SCHOOLS



HIGHLIGHTS 2019

117,000 children in
1,074 primary schools enjoyed
2,501 heritage in schools visits by
160 heritage experts in 2019



The Museum Standards Programme for Ireland:

The Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) was established by the Heritage Council in 2007 to benchmark and promote professional standards in the care of collections and to recognise, through accreditation, the achievement of those standards within the Irish museum sector. The MSPI continued to engage with its participants and those considering entry to the programme in 2019. In February, the Edward Worth Library and Glenveagh Castle Museum joined the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland bringing the number of participants to fifty-nine across sixty-five museum sites in Ireland. Representatives from each participating museum attended an MSPI Orientation in Kilkenny in the same month. The MSPI also continued to deliver quality workshops during the year, including a Disaster Planning Workshop in March, and an Introduction to Museum Education in November. Accreditation certificates were presented to nine MSPI participants at a ceremony in Kilkenny Castle in 2 July 2019. Certificates presented by Colette Byrne, Chief Executive, Kilkenny Castle and Niall Ó Donchú, Assistant Secretary, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Conservation Internship Scheme:

The Heritage Council continued to support a Conservation Internship Scheme in three of Ireland's national cultural institutions – the National Gallery of Ireland, the Chester Beatty Library, and Trinity College Dublin. Three recent post-graduate students of book, paper and painting conservation had an exciting opportunity to go to Dublin to continue to develop their skills working with Ireland's prestigious collections under the supervision of conservators of international reputation.

POLICY & RESEARCH

International Cultural Heritage NGO:

Three meetings of the International Cultural Heritage NGO: Irish representation forum took place during 2019. These were held in Dublin in Trinity College, Dublin Port and the Irish Film Centre respectively. The meeting in April was organised specifically for organisations interested in natural history and scientific collections.

Heritage Maps:

HeritageMaps.ie provides access to national heritage datasets in map form and incorporates contextual data from a wide range of online sources. It also includes datasets that are unique to the project, such as soil susceptibility to coastal erosion, museums datasets and a range of thematic County Heritage Surveys. In 2019, HeritageMaps.ie became home to a host of new datasets including the Dublin's 1916 Sites of Interest, Cork City ACAs, Westmeath Burial Grounds and Dublin City Industrial Heritage.

Heritage Ireland 2030:

In November 2018 Josepha Madigan, TD, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht launched the public consultation process for Heritage Ireland 2030. The plan outlined how the country's natural and built heritage will be managed, valued and protected over the next decade, and its implementation will be led by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. As the Department's key partner in the public consultation process, the Heritage Council hosted three regional consultation meetings in February 2019, two of which were public facing, and one that focused on soliciting the views of people working in the heritage sector. Over the course of the three consultation meetings, the range and volume of issues that arose was considerable. A report on public consultations can be accessed on the [department website](#).

Deep Energy Renovation of Traditional Buildings:

2018 saw the completion of the 'Deep Energy Renovation of Traditional Buildings: assessing knowledge gaps and addressing skills training in Ireland' report with grant funding from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The report was the result of an innovative collaboration between the Heritage Council, International Committee of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Ireland, the SEAI and Carrig Conservation International Ltd, which is a template for the type of co-operative action involving governmental and non-governmental partners that is needed to achieve solutions to complex issues affecting our communities. The report formed the basis for a 2019 initiative to train building professionals in the fundamentals in energy renovation for traditional buildings. Architecture Officer, Colm Murray oversaw the development of the Continuing Professional Development Lecture Series, 2019-2020, principally for Architects, Engineers and Building Surveyors.

Climate Change and Built Heritage and Archaeology:

In 2019, the Heritage Council made a submission on the Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Built Heritage and Archaeology. Speaking at the launch of the Public Consultation on Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Heritage in March 2019, Minister Madigan said, 'the responsibility to identify where damage may be likely, to assist in repair and in building resilience will rest with many stakeholders in the years to come, across local and central government and with communities who cherish their heritage.'

The Resue of Vacant Buildings in Town Centres:

In March 2019, Damien English, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government launched two Heritage Council-commissioned reports on vacant properties. The research was an output from the Collaborative Working Group for Housing and Sustainable Living, which includes representatives from the Heritage Council, Housing Agency of Ireland, Mayo



Top Left: Two young participants in the public consultation workshop on Heritage Ireland 2030 in Claregalway in February 2019. **Top Right:** Pictured in the Custom House, Dublin at the launch of the public consultation process for Heritage Ireland 2030 are (L-R): Ciara Carberry, Assistant Principal, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (DCHG); Joseph Gallagher, Co. Donegal Heritage Officer; Shirley Clerkin, Co. Monaghan Heritage Officer and Chief Archaeologist, Michael Mac Donagh (DCHG). **Bottom:** Heritage Council Board members, Dr Marie Bourke and Mary Gallagher pictured with Minister John Paul Phelan, Virginia Teehan and Michael Parsons at the MSPI awards ceremony at Kilkenny Castle in July 2019.

County Council and Space Engagers. This ongoing collaboration recognises the urgent need to address the nationwide housing crisis, to use existing buildings efficiently, and to revitalise rural towns and villages and realise their potential for creating sustainable communities.

The reports demonstrate the pivotal role that Government at central and local level must play in ensuring that we have a comprehensive and easily accessible knowledge of our existing building stock and the vital role Government must play in coordinating and managing the creation of sustainable communities.

Launch of a Profile of Ireland's Uplands report RIA:

In March 2019 in the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin, Heritage

Council Chief Executive, Virginia Teehan launched *A Profile of Ireland's Uplands: An All-Island Study Highlighting their Strategic Importance*. The publication, which is the first all-island demographic and socio-economic research report of its kind, was the result of eighteen months of research and data analysis by the authors of the report, Dr Brendan O'Keeffe and Dr Caroline Crowley. The all-island study identifies many of the issues and challenges faced by upland communities. It also highlights the importance of uplands as a mosaic of natural habitats, high nature value farmland, archaeological and cultural heritage, a proven carbon store and provider of vital clean water. Commissioned by the Irish Uplands Forum and funded by the Heritage Council, the profile represents a significant body of work which will contribute to the decision-making on a broad range of upland related considerations.



Top: Virginia Teehan, Heritage Council Chief Executive and CTCHC Coordinator, Alison Harvey with Minister Damien English, at the Launch of two Heritage Council-commissioned reports on the reuse of vacant buildings in town centres in March 2019. (Courtesy of Alison Harvey)
Centre right: 2019 GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme Open Day in Cork, 2019 (Courtesy of Anna Meenan) **Left:** The Hill of Tara, Co Meath. Courtesy of the Discovery Programme **Centre Right:** GLAS Traditional Farm Building Scheme open day 2019 in Cork (Courtesy of Anna Meenan) **Bottom Right:** National Housing Conference at Dublin Castle, May 2019.(L-R): Peter Hynes (CE, Mayo County Council), Martin Colreavy (Dept of Housing), Alison Harvey (Heritage Council), Miriam Fitzpatrick (Heritage Council), Stephen Purcell (Future Analytics), Fionnuala May (Heritage Council) – Chair of Panel. (Courtesy of Alison Harvey)

COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION

The Heritage Officer Network:

2019 was a landmark year for the Heritage Officer Programme. Heritage Officers from around the country attended a reception at Áras an Uachtaráin in September hosted by President Michael D. Higgins to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Heritage Officer Programme. Four training events were held with the Heritage Officer Network during its twentieth anniversary year. County Heritage Officers travelled to Co. Galway in March, to Co. Mayo in June, to Co. Tipperary in September and to Kilkenny in December. The training events focused on archaeological heritage in March; bats and swift conservation in Mayo in June; heritage and agriculture in September, and in December the Heritage Officers looked at the strategic development of heritage practice at local authority level.

Adopt a Monument Scheme:

The Adopt a Monument Scheme helps communities become actively involved in the conservation and interpretation of their local archaeological and cultural heritage sites. The scheme began with six communities selected in 2016 and expanded in 2017 when seven new sites were 'adopted'. After an open public competition in 2019, seven new sites across Ireland were welcomed into the scheme bringing the total number of sites to twenty.

In July 2019, the Heritage Council announced a new grant scheme for participants in the Adopt a Monument programme. A total of €80,000 was allocated by the Heritage Council through the Creative Ireland Programme to enable programme participants to continue their work in conserving and protecting their adopted monuments or to start new initiatives to improve the condition, accessibility and interpretation of their chosen site.

Fifteen Adopt a Monument participants were awarded funding for a wide variety of projects which included conservation works, research and investigation, community engagement projects and interpretation materials. All projects were completed, and reports submitted by mid-November 2019. The groups are now planning their next steps and planning projects for 2020.

National Biodiversity Week 2019:

As part of National Biodiversity Week 2019, the Heritage Council's Wildlife Officer, Lorcan Scott organised the exposure of a section of south facing earth bank on the Kilkenny City Ring-road to attract solitary bees which seek out this habitat. The roadside site is a disused sand quarry, rich in flora species. Dimensions were offered by the All Ireland Pollinator Plan at the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme:

The Heritage Council continued to build on its partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings grant scheme. In 2019 the scheme supported a record seventy-four grantees to conserve 108 buildings and five other related structures including a pack horse bridge. The scheme has always set out to protect the 'ordinary' buildings used in agriculture as these buildings, and other features of the farms, add value to the Irish landscape.

Dundalk CTCHC:

It was a busy year for the Dundalk Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Team. The Training Programme was developed by the Heritage Council in partnership with the Retail Grocery Dairy & Allied Trades Association (RGDATA) and the Retail Consortium to develop town-centre-led retail, cultural heritage and tourism baselines. The Dundalk project was established in the autumn of 2018 by the Heritage Council, Dundalk BID, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dundalk Chamber, Dundalk Credit Union and Louth County Council. In April the Workshop for Border Towns took place in Dundalk and in June, Minister English T.D. launched the summary Dundalk CTCHC Report. In December, Dundalk's CTCHC project was shortlisted for a National Planning Award by the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) under the category Participation and Engagement.

The Hill of Tara Conservation Plan:

On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Heritage Council and the Discovery Programme completed the drafting of a conservation plan for the state-owned lands at the Hill of Tara, Co Meath in 2019. The plan will be published in 2020.

The Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2019:

The Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) 2019 is a joint undertaking by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Heritage Council. Lessons learned from the HTI pilot in 2013-4, which operated in three towns - Listowel, Co. Kerry; Westport, Co. Mayo and Youghal, Co. Cork – were used to develop the first, successful nationwide programme in 2018. In another very competitive process in 2019, applications were assessed by the HTI National Steering Group who then made recommendations on the allocation of a €1 million fund to the Board of the Heritage Council for funding under the Programme.

The internationally-recognised practice of heritage-led regeneration shows that heritage can be used to create a desirable place where people can live, visit and do business. Heritage-led regeneration brings economic benefits to enable our historic towns to prosper through increased visitor



Top: Pictured outside some of the historic buildings conserved as part of the Historic Towns Initiative on Church Lane, Letterkenny, County Donegal are members of the Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter, Lower Church Lane Residents' Association, Donegal County Council, Dedalus Architecture, The Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht in November 2019. (Image courtesy of Joe Gallagher)

Bottom: Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josephine Madigan, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Virginia Teehan, and Chairman of the Heritage Council, Michael Parsons announce €1m in funding for six Historic Towns in March 2019



numbers and decreased numbers of vacant buildings and commercial premises. The six successful towns in 2019 were as follows:

Letterkenny, Co Donegal : Church Lane in Letterkenny's Cathedral Quarter is a vital artery linking Main Street with Cathedral Square. The Historic Towns Initiative supported conservation works to seven properties along Church Lane, contributing to the overall quality and character of the historic streetscape.

Conservation works included roof and chimney repairs, installation of cast-iron rainwater goods, reinstatement of timber sash windows and doors, application of lime render or lime

pointing, and the repair of a historic shopfront using traditional materials. This has secured the building envelopes of these buildings with a view to bringing all these properties back into use. The Historic Towns Initiative builds on several community-led initiatives instigated by Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter Committee over the last five years as well as the designation of the Ecclesiastical Architectural Conservation Area under the Letterkenny Local Area Plan. Donegal County Council was awarded €200,000 for the Church Lane project.

In February 2020 Donegal County Council and its partners (Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter Committee, The Heritage Council, Dedalus Architecture & Lower Church Lane Residents Association) won the President's Highly Commended Project at the Irish Planning Institute Awards for the Historic Towns Initiative on Church Lane, Letterkenny.

Kilrush, Co Clare: The Turret Lodge, which is owned by Clare County Council, was built in 1845. It is a two-storey over basement gate lodge with an adjoining arched, castellated gate and narrow turret to the Vandeleur Estate parklands. The building was occupied until approximately the mid-1980s, however, prior to the HTI 2019 project it was derelict and exposed to the elements. The project involves the refurbishment of the Turret Lodge to provide for its re-use as a Heritage and Genealogical centre. The concept for this project originated from the Kilrush and District Historical Society, a local voluntary group. It is envisaged that in the long-term this project will lead to further employment. The restoration of the Turret lodge is an integral phase in the restoration of the gardens that commenced in 1997. Clare County Council was awarded €190,000 to complete this project.

Boyle, Co Roscommon: Main Street, where the project is located, is within the heart of the historic town of Boyle. The nineteenth century buildings are primarily three-storey terraces with residences over commercial premises. Main Street leads directly into the eighteenth-century King House and is on the approach to the Boyle medieval Cistercian abbey. Main Street possesses a variety of Victorian and modern shopfronts. The HTI funding provided an opportunity to complete certain essential maintenance works to buildings on the south side of Main Street with matching funding from Roscommon County Council and the property owners. A total of 10 property owners proceeded with the scheme. The works were beneficial to the overall town. Main Street is now being returned to its original grandeur and its heritage is once again exposed for people to see and enjoy. Roscommon County Council was awarded €140,000 for the Main Street Boyle project.

Navan, Co Meath: Works were undertaken to the St Laurence Hotel and the Meath Chronicle Building in Market Square as part of the HTI 2019 to rejuvenate, repair and refurbish the facades of these important buildings. The works have regenerated the area. The 'St Laurence Hotel' is a terraced five-bay three-storey house over basement, built c.1780, that suffered from unsympathetic alterations to the facade in the 1980's and had in recent years been left to decay. For the

Meath Chronicle Building - a terraced six-bay three-storey former house, built c.1750, with integral carriageway arch - more substantial structural intervention was required. The regeneration of Market Square with the newly renovated and refurbished St Laurence Hotel and Meath Chronicle Building has benefited the town, the community and the visitor experience of Navan. Meath County Council was awarded €160,000 for these conservation works. The full sum was drawn down.

Nenagh, Co Tipperary: The Nenagh Gaol complex, built in 1839-1842 by John Benjamin Keane, is designed with the cell blocks radiating out from a central hub. The South Cell Block, which was the subject of this HTI project, is the last remaining block of seven and was in a vulnerable state for many years and in danger of dereliction. The works carried out in 2019 are the first step in a process to open it up to the public. The HTI grant funding allowed for essential conservation works to take place and as a result the building is now secured. It is hoped that guided tours will be available next year as part of the Nenagh 800 celebrations. This is also the starting point for a wider proposal to develop the block as part of the existing offering in the Governor's House and the gatehouse as a gaol experience in the historic quarter of Nenagh. Tipperary County Council were awarded €170,000 for this project. A total of €137,222 was drawn down. An RRDF application has since been made to follow up on these 2019 works.

Ballina, Co Mayo: Funding under the Historic Towns Initiative 2019 for conservation works in Ballina allowed for grant funding for small-scale labour-intensive conservation works in the Pearse Street Architectural Conservation Area in the heart of

the town centre. As a result, significant architectural built fabric has been conserved with traditional local skills being employed to advance the works. This has brought employment to local specialist contractors including those working with lime, leadwork, traditional sliding sash window repair specialists and traditional roofing contractors. Works to the protected structures are of benefit to the community and visitors as the structures are in significant locations in the historic core of the Architectural Conservation Area. Mayo County Council was awarded €140,000 for this project.

INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Valuing our Natural History Collections

On 30 April 2019 the Heritage Council and the School of Botany, Trinity College Dublin, hosted a workshop aimed at museums, third level institutions, and other organisations which care for, collect and undertake scientific research on natural history collections in Ireland. Attended by over thirty people from national and international institutions, the aim of the workshop was to highlight the value of collections, held in museums and other institutions, as an important research resource, with a particular focus on scientific collections - biological and geological. The workshop also acted as an introduction to a European initiative, DiSSCo (Distributed System of Scientific Collections) which aims to transform Europe's natural history collections into a sustainable pillar of scientific excellence and industrial innovation, and a pan-European Research Infrastructure. The purpose of the workshop was to explore the next steps in developing this initiative in Ireland.



Right: Bernie Bradley, Social Inclusion Development Officer, Monaghan County Council delivering the 'Diversity Through Museums' workshop to MSPI participants in April 2019.
Inset: Cover Image for Monaghan County Council's 'Know Me' Campaign (Courtesy of Lesley-Ann Hayden)



Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Virginia Teehan at the National Heritage Week Event Organisers Training Day at the National Museum of Ireland, Collin's Barracks, Dublin in March 2019.

International Cultural Heritage NGO

During 2019 there were three meetings of the International Cultural Heritage NGO: Irish representation forum. These were held in Dublin in Trinity College, Dublin Port and the Irish Film Centre. The April meeting comprised organisations interested in Natural history and scientific collections. The purpose of the forum, a legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, is to share information and identify and take forward key shared priorities. Organisations invited to take part included the Archive and Records Association, the Irish branch of Blue Shield, European Confederation of Conservator Restorers Organisations, International Federation of Film Archives, Irish Museums Association, Institution of Conservator Restorers in Ireland (ECCO), ICOMOS Ireland, ICOMOS Europe, ICOM Ireland (International Council of Museums), ICCROM and Historic Houses of Ireland (European Historic Houses Association).

European Commission's Cultural Heritage Forum

The first meeting of the European Commission's Cultural Heritage Forum was held in mid-February 2019. Beatrice Kelly Head of Policy and Research attended as the Irish representative. This forum is part of the legacy from the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

Diversity Through Museums

In recent years the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) has aimed to offer at least one value added workshop to MSPI Participants. In April 2019, as one of the final events associated with 2018's European Year of Cultural Heritage, MSPI partnered with Monaghan County Museum (fully accredited) and Monaghan County Council to hold the workshop: Diversity Through Museums. This was delivered by Bernie Bradley, Social Inclusion Development Officer, Monaghan County Council which has delivered

workshops to its employees and other County Councils under its KNOW Me Campaign. An exhibition was mounted at the museum to complement this campaign.

European Heritage Days

National Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days. These are a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union in which over forty countries participate each year. The Heritage Council was represented at the annual meeting of the European Heritage Days national coordinators at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in October. The event is a valuable opportunity to meet with the organisers from other European countries, share insights, present local best practices and success stories, and build foundations for the next year.

Heritage Week Event Organisers' Training Day:

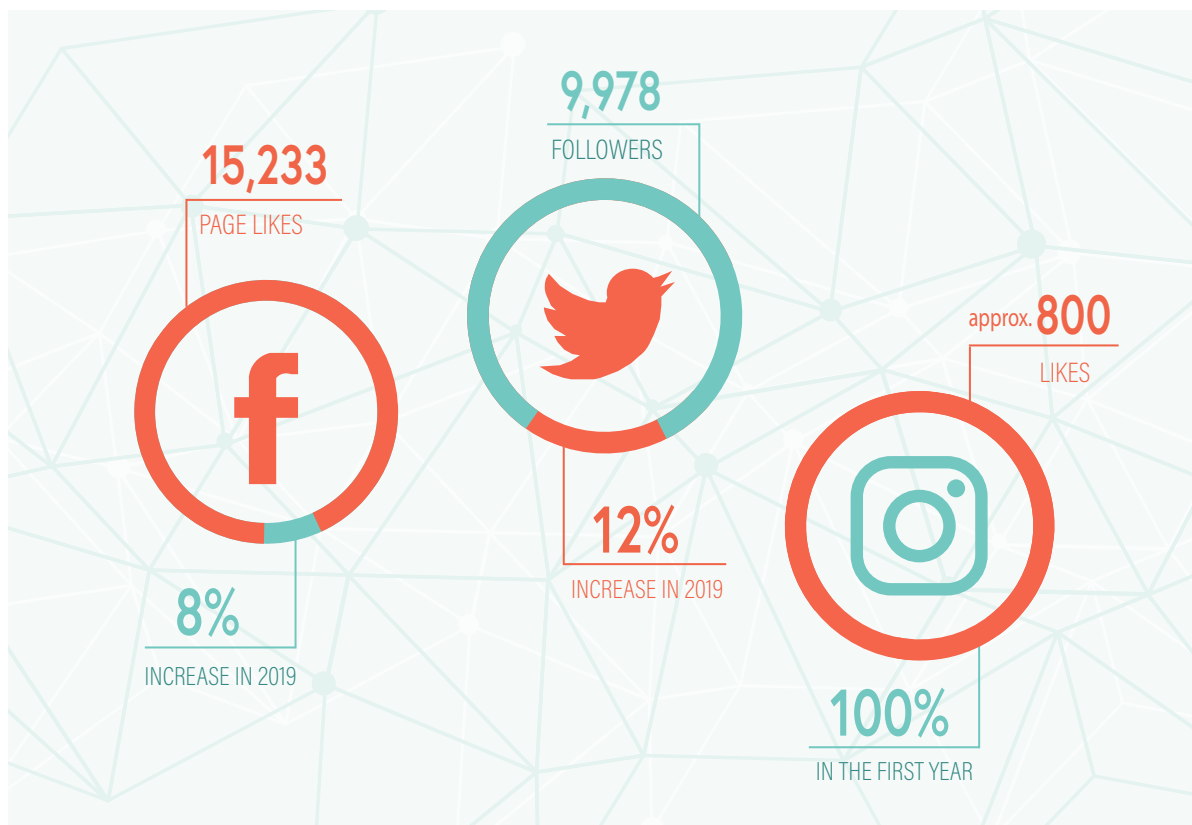
The annual training event for Heritage Week event organisers took place on 29 March 2019 in the National Museum of Ireland. The programme for the day was designed to guide new even organisers in planning and executing a successful public event and provided helpful advice for experienced organisers. Over 100 people were welcomed to the event by Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive, the Heritage Council. Elaine O'Connor of Magnum Events shared valuable tips on health and safety while the Heritage Council's Wildlife Officer, Lorcan Scott provided inspiration for natural heritage themed events. Fiona Byrne, Education Officer at the Crafts Council of Ireland and Alan Walsh of the Local Authority Waters Programme also spoke. The 2018 National Heritage Hero, Eugene Dunbar, and Heritage Week award winner provided the valuable voice of experience before Heritage Week Project Manager, Niamh Donnellan closed the event with tips about registering an event and marrying an event with the theme for 2019: Past Times | Pastimes.

THE HERITAGE COUNCIL ONLINE

The Heritage Council engages with a broad range of communities through a variety of social media platforms. Social media provides the organisation with an opportunity to communicate the value of the work that we do and to generate interest and awareness of both local and national heritage-related issues and activities with the general public. It also allows us to connect frequently with the diverse range of practitioners, professionals and organisations engaged in heritage-related work, allows them to connect with

each other and share information related to heritage training and projects, jobs, tender opportunities, publications, research and funding opportunities.

The number of followers across the range of social media platforms has been increasing steadily over the past number of years. 2019 was the first year that the Heritage Council engaged with the public through Instagram. As heritage can be so visual, the level of public response and engagement was high.



www.heritagecouncil.ie



[www.facebook.com/ TheHeritageCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/TheHeritageCouncil)



Twitter: @HeritageHubIRE



www.youtube.com/user/TheHeritageCouncil



Instagram: @theheritagecouncil



THE HERITAGE OFFICER PROGRAMME

Twenty Years Working in Local Authorities



The Heritage Officer Programme is a key strategic partnership between the Heritage Council and local authorities. The first Heritage Officers were appointed in 1999 in Galway City, County Sligo and County Kerry. In 2019, there were 27 Heritage Officers employed in local authorities in Ireland.

The role of the Heritage Officer is to raise awareness of natural, built and cultural heritage; provide advice and information on heritage matters to the public and local authority staff; collect data and conduct research on aspects of heritage; promote best practice in relation to heritage matters; and prepare and implement a County Heritage Plan in conjunction with a County Heritage Forum and The Heritage Council.

The Heritage Council provides part-funding for the post of Heritage Officer in local authorities, allocates a dedicated liaison person to coordinate the Heritage Officer Programme, organises the Heritage Training & Development Programme (continuing professional development and training for Heritage Officers), and provides annual match funding for the implementation of County Heritage Plans.

In September 2019 Heritage Council Board Members and staff and Heritage Officers from around the country attended a reception at Áras an Uachtaráin hosted by President Michael D. Higgins to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Heritage Officer Programme. In [his address](#), President Higgins highlighted the role of Heritage Officers. "Communities have

benefited from the work of Heritage Officers and Heritage Council, and evidence of that can be seen in every county in Ireland ... There are things that have been protected that would not have been were it not for the actions of local authorities ... The Heritage Council in partnership with local authorities play such an important part in ensuring that our heritage continues to influence and inspire us and that our heritage remains and living and breathing constant within our communities across our island ... I think that the Heritage Officer Network will be a fantastic resource and there will be so many things that you can do in partnership, cooperation and community."

During their anniversary year, Heritage Officers across the country coordinated and hosted public information events to assist the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht in the preparation a new National Heritage Plan – Heritage Ireland 2030. This contributed to the extraordinary scale of responses to the consultation process which totaled 2,156 submissions. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht hosted the Heritage Ireland 2030 information event in Dublin Castle in May to update people on progress towards the preparation of the new National Heritage Plan and five Heritage Officers were invited to give short presentations at the event on the need to communicate and engage with our heritage; unlock the potential of communities; expand local authority heritage services; invest in the heritage sector; and to protect and preserve our natural, built and cultural heritage.



Advancing National Heritage Priorities

1 ADVOCATING FOR HERITAGE: ADVICE AND POLICY

FULFILL the statutory responsibilities set out in the Heritage Act, 1995 and, where necessary, seek improvements in the legislative framework to advance national heritage priorities

PROVIDE leadership in delivering evidence-based policy advice in areas such as vernacular architecture, measuring the social and economic value of heritage, as well as policies on landscape, biodiversity and urban regeneration



2 MONITORING CHANGE

SUPPORT the development of programmes that monitor change to heritage and devise programmes that care for natural, built and cultural heritage in Ireland



3 NATIONAL HERITAGE PLAN

CONTRIBUTE to the development and implementation of a National Heritage Plan with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



4 PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

DEVELOP policies and programmes that promote the sustainability of rural communities and the landscapes that they inhabit



5 ENGAGING WITH LOCAL AND EUROPEAN NETWORKS



ENSURE that the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 promotes the significance of Ireland's heritage in a European context and that the year generates a heritage legacy

ENGAGE with local and European heritage networks to identify their benefits for Ireland

6 CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIPS

WORK in partnership with Creative Ireland programming



ADVOCATING FOR HERITAGE: ADVICE & POLICY

Museum Development:

In November 2019, Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) Coordinator, Lesley-Ann Hayden, participated in a round table discussion on museums entitled Museums in Ireland, a policy for the future, organised by the Royal Irish Academy Culture and Heritage Working Group. A paper was subsequently published and can be accessed at the following link: https://www.ria.ie/sites/default/files/museums_for_the_future-final.pdf

NATIONAL HERITAGE PLAN

Heritage Ireland 2030:

In January 2018 the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht consulted with representatives of the Heritage Council Board and Executive about plans to prepare a consultation document for its new ten-year Heritage Plan, 'Heritage Ireland 2030'. The Heritage Council provided input about what it considered to be the threats to heritage into the future; the importance of a cohesive and well-resourced heritage sector and the importance of engaging young people with heritage. Continued investment in the shared national asset was also advocated.

As the Department's primary partner in the public consultation process, the Chairman of the Heritage Council joined Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD at the launch of the consultation document in the Irish Architectural Archive in November 2018. The Heritage Council also organised three regional consultations in the early months of 2019, which complemented the local events organised by Heritage Officers across the country. Attendees at these consultations were invited to consider the themes of: National Leadership and Heritage; Heritage Partnerships; and Communities and Heritage.

By April 2019, over 2,000 people and organisations had made submissions on Heritage Ireland 2030. Feedback on these submissions and how they will inform the Heritage Ireland 2030 was provided by the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht at a Public Information Session in Dublin Castle on 28 May 2019. The Heritage Council's Chief Executive and five Heritage Officers were invited to give short presentations on the importance of communicating and engaging with, our heritage; unlocking the potential of communities; expanding local authority heritage services and investing in the heritage sector; and protecting and preserving our natural, built and cultural heritage. The event can be viewed on the [department's website](#).

Drafting continues of Heritage Ireland 2030, informed by public submissions, existing Government strategies and plans, and in conjunction with key heritage partners including the Heritage Council. Publication of Heritage Ireland 2030 is anticipated in 2020.

SUPPORTING PROJECTS THAT MONITOR CHANGE

The National Biodiversity Data Centre:

Established in 2007, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, is a Heritage Council programme which collects and manages data to document Ireland's wildlife resource and to track how it is changing. The programme is funded by the Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with an annual core budget. It provides the data management services to document and manage data about Ireland's biological diversity, a resource which contributes at least €2.6 billion to the Irish economy each year. In 2019, the National Biodiversity Data Centre continued its work to improve the state of knowledge on Ireland's biodiversity, and to ensure that data and information is available to inform decision-making for the benefit of the conservation of biological diversity.

One hundred and forty-nine datasets are now published through Biodiversity Maps, the national data portal on Ireland's biodiversity. This represents 4.3 million records of over 16,000 different species providing a rich source of information on Ireland's biodiversity, freely available for everyone to use. All data can be viewed at <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

The National Biodiversity Data Centre supports an extensive network of citizen scientists and volunteers who generated a huge amount of data on an ongoing basis, which helps track how biodiversity in the wider countryside is changing. In 2019, recorders submitted more than 125,000 records of local biodiversity through Ireland's Citizen Science Portal, an increase of 25% on the previous year's activities. <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/>

The Data Centre continues to manage national monitoring scheme providing important quantitative data on how Ireland's biodiversity is changing. These schemes are all delivered by citizen scientists who give of their time and expertise freely to generate high quality data that is used to track how issues such as land use and climate change are impacting on biodiversity. Currently the monitoring schemes cover butterflies, bees, dragonflies and rare plants.

The Data Centre has active programmes to build the evidence base on different aspects of biodiversity including pollinators on farmland through the Protecting Farmland Pollinators EIP programme and intertidal biodiversity. It is assisting the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht in reporting to the European Commission on the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulations. It also continues to take the lead on implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The Butterfly Atlas 2021 is a partnership project with Butterfly Conservation Ireland and Butterfly Conservation UK. Studying butterflies provides valuable insights into the impact of factors such as climate and landscape change on Ireland's biodiversity.



Data provided by Dr Liam Lysaght, Director
National Biodiversity Data Centre

In a changing and increasingly intensively managed landscape some species are finding less and less suitable habitat for their survival. Tracking and understanding these changes provides valuable insights into pressures on Ireland's biodiversity and it allows for the development of appropriate actions to mitigate these impacts. The Butterfly Atlas 2021 is being developed to provide these detailed, high quality insights into Ireland's butterflies.

Information on the distribution of butterflies in the Republic of Ireland is submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre through Ireland's Citizen Science Portal. Since the launch of the Butterfly Atlas 2021 project in 2016 there has been a very significant increase, year on year, in the amount of data generated. In 2019, 1,253 people submitted 20,922 records from more than 8,000 different locations.

In May 2019, the NBDC launched the all-Ireland survey of dragonflies and damselflies as part of an Environmental Protection Agency funded citizen science project. The survey, called 'Dragonfly Ireland 2019 – 2024', is being conducted in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording in Northern Ireland, and will update our knowledge of dragonfly and damselfly distributions in Ireland and explore the use of dragonflies and damselflies as indicator species for water and habitat quality, and monitoring the impacts of climate change.

PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

Bere Island Projects Group:

Bere Island Project Group (BIPG) is a community group working to sustain the population of Bere Island, Co. Cork, through the creation of employment, promoting community initiatives and supporting local businesses. In 2019 Bere Island Projects Group continued to implement a number of key projects and initiatives which form part of the Bere Island Conservation Plan.

One of the key actions of the conservation plan is the restoration of Lonehort Battery, a former WWI coastal artillery fort. Work continued in 2019 restoring and developing it as a visitor attraction. Minister Sean Kyne attended an event to officially open phase one of the development.

During Heritage Week, BIPG held a guided military history walk, a nature walk and a series of workshops on collecting oral history. We are continuing to use our community radio station to document and broadcast Bere Island's oral history, through our 'postcards from the past' programme. Working with the Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group the island's recycling centre was converted to run entirely on renewable energy in 2019.

Once again BIPG hosted the annual West Cork Fit Up Theatre Festival. We also marked Bere Island's Viking heritage by holding a dedicated festival which featured walks and shoreline walks to see the remains of a Viking naust and harbour breakwater. We continued to promote Bere Island's rich archaeological heritage which includes a standing stone and wedge tomb through talks and guided walks. Bere Island Projects Group also continued to work with the West Cork Islands Inter-agency Group and Community Council to put the Islands firmly on the agenda of the various Government agencies and also worked closely with ESIN to forge links with European islands.

Irish Uplands Forum:

The Irish Upland Forum (IUF) is a voluntary body which assists upland communities in addressing the many economic, social and environmental challenges arising in the upland districts of Ireland. Its vision is to maintain upland communities and Ireland's iconic mountain environs as attractive, vibrant and welcoming places where people live, work and enjoy recreation.

The Council's Upland Partnership Network is an all-Ireland partnership initiative comprising national government, local and ecological and rural NGO actors working together in an integrated manner to ensure the long-term viability of the uplands. The invaluable role of the IUF over many years has laid the foundation of this new network and IUF are involved

in the day-to-day aspects and management of the function with the Heritage Council.

The IUF was busy across the island of Ireland in 2019 with a number of events in support of its mission to promote sustainable economic and ecological development in the uplands. The first event in April was centred on research and developments in the Antrim Coast and Glens and focused on upland carbon sequestration and a blanket bog restoration project at Garron Plateau. This was a mixture of upland research study presentations – two by IUF student bursary students - and field trips to an environmental sustainable farming scheme site and a sustainable water catchment facility with a blanket bog restoration project. In October at Glencree, County Wicklow, the IUF conducted a networking meeting of upland groups concerned with EIP Agri-Projects. Progress presentations were made by project

managers and project ecologists of the following local and national projects: SUAS - Wicklow EIP-AGRI - Inishowen, EIP-AGRI, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Reeks EIP-AGRI, Hen Harrier EIP-AGRI, Blackstairs EIP-AGRI. All concerned stressed the value of the meeting, the knowledge learned and contacts made and requested another meeting in 2020.

In November, the publication of a major new socio-economic geography titled *A Profile of Ireland's Uplands* authored by Dr Caroline Crowley and Dr Brendan O'Keeffe was launched at the Royal Irish Academy by Virginia Teehan - CEO of the Heritage Council. Commissioned by the IUF and funded by the Heritage Council, this all-island report identified important issues and opportunities to be addressed in the future management of Ireland's upland landscape and communities. The profile can be found on IUF's website. <https://irishuplandsforum.org/>



Top: Bere Island nature walk 2019, (Courtesy of Helen Riddell) **Left:** Bere Island Wedge Tomb. (Courtesy of Helen Riddell) **Right:** At the launch of *A Profile of Ireland's Uplands* at the Royal Irish Academy on October 30th 2019. **Front Row** (L to R): Dr Caroline Crowley, Author; Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Dr Mary Tubridy, Irish Uplands Forum Research Director and Brendan O'Keeffe, Author. **Back Row** (L to R): Micheal Parsons, Chairman of the Heritage Council and Frank Nugent, Chair of Irish Uplands Forum.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

The Conservation Internship Scheme:

The Heritage Council continued to support a Conservation Internship Scheme in three of Ireland's national cultural institutions – the National Gallery of Ireland, the Chester Beatty Library, and Trinity College Dublin. Three recent post-graduate students of book, paper and painting conservation had an exciting opportunity to go to Dublin to continue to develop their skills working with Ireland's prestigious collections under the supervision of conservators of international reputation.

This internship scheme, initiated in 2006, also promotes networking and learning among the interns who meet regularly to discuss their various projects. In 2019 the Heritage Council continued its support of the Conservation Internship Scheme, which hosted three recent conservation graduates at the Conservation Departments of the National Gallery of Ireland, the Chester Beatty Library, and Trinity College Dublin. Paula Serra Sanchez worked at the National Gallery preparing works for the Nathaniel Hone exhibition. Angelina Anchisi worked in Trinity College and Adam Macklin assisted the team in the Chester Beatty Library on Turkish folios from a 17th century Ottoman album of paintings, drawings and calligraphy (CBL T 439). These folios had all been stored between glass and recessed in a window mount for display. The aim of the treatment was to stabilise the folios by removing them from the glass and rehousing them in standard Chester Beatty window mounts, undertaking repair and consolidation as necessary.

This internship, which now has an international reputation, is understood as an opportunity to work in busy workshops, honing and learning new skills and ultimately, while nominally students, the interns are remembered, respected and valued for the skills they contribute to the preservation of works in these important Irish collections.

ENGAGING WITH LOCAL AND EUROPEAN NETWORKS

Irish Walled Towns Network:

The role of the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) is to unite and co-ordinate the strategic efforts of local authorities involved in the management, conservation, and enhancement of historic walled towns in Ireland, both North and South. The network is formally linked to European Walled Towns, which is the international association for the sustainable development of walled towns, walled cities and fortified historic towns. Established by the Heritage Council in 2005, there are currently 29 member towns and villages throughout Ireland. These are: Athenry, Athlone, Athy, Bandon, Buttevant, Carlingford, Castle-



IWTN Wexford town Conservation Project
Rowe Street Talk October 2019

fergus, Carrick-on-Suir, Cashel, Castledermot, Clonmel, Cork City, Derry/ Londonderry, Drogheda, Dublin City, Fethard, Galway, Kells, Kildare, Kilkenny, Kilmallock, Limerick City, Loughrea, New Ross, Rinn Dúin (Rindoon), Trim, Waterford, Wexford and Youghal.

2019 was a busy year for the IWTN. Once again, the network funded conservation work, supported festivals, wrote advisory documents and ran training events. Through the IWTN, the Heritage Council provided grant funding for capital projects in Athenry, Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford, Carrick on Suir, Kilmallock, Fethard and Youghal. From the IWTN interpretation fund, fifteen towns received grant aid to run walled towns festivals and other educational and tourism activities. These interpretative events took place in Derry, Cork City, Carrickfergus, Loughrea, Athenry, Rindoon, Athlone, Kells, Trim, Wexford, Cashel, Castledermot, Youghal, Waterford and a group project was funded in Tipperary.

The IWTN continued to organise and assist in the development of training events and workshops throughout the year. On 28 April, for example, the IWTN organised a conference "Regenerating historic towns in Wales and Ireland" in cooperation with Cadw and the North Wales Walled Town Friendship Circle. This was part of the Cadw/IWTN Ireland research trip to Youghal, Kilkenny and Waterford took place in April.

IWTN also hosted a consultation day on the IWTN Action Plan and Heritage Ireland 2030 and the Historic Towns Initiative 2019 seminar videos were uploaded to the Heritage Council youtube channel. These included a presentation on the work carried out in Kilmallock.

The IWTN has an excellent record of publishing guidance documents on regeneration, tourism, heritage interpretation and community festivals. November 2019 saw the publication of *Climate Change & Historic Towns: Adapting to Change*. This publication is a compilation of graphic summaries of the presentations delivered at the 2019 IWTN Conference in Kilmallock on 31 May, which focused on sustainable towns and eco-tourism. All talks presented at the conference are available to view on the Heritage Council's youtube channel.

The 'Streets Ahead' publication was also written and edited during 2019 and is due to be published in 2020. The most significant publication in 2019 was the new IWTN Action Plan 2020-2023, which was prepared following consultation with the IWTN membership and committee. The document was approved by the Heritage Council in October and the formal launch is planned for 2020.

The four key objectives of the IWTN Action Plan 2020-2023 are as follows: (1) Building connections: enhance the ability of the IWTN to facilitate our member towns in connecting on heritage, urban regeneration and tourism issues with each other and outside bodies. (2) Conservation: ensure the protection of town walls and their sensitive reuse by the community. (3) Regeneration: work to promote heritage-led regeneration that fully acknowledges both climate change and biodiversity loss and sensitively reuses built, natural and

intangible heritage and (4) Sense of place: promote town wall heritage amongst town residents and enhance their pride in place.

In 2019 some of the IWTN member towns received accolades for the great conservation and interpretation work that has been done. Athenry Town Walls Conservation, Management and Interpretation Project won the Best Heritage Project at the Local Authority Members Awards in February 2019. The IWTN was a key supporter of this project. The West Wall Walkway in Kilmallock won the Heritage, Conservation and Cultural Project of the Year at the Irish Building & Design Awards 2019 in November. Loughrea Medieval Festival was one of three events that won the Le Cheile san Eoraip Award - a category in the National Heritage Week Awards 2018.

Declan Nelson was appointed Chair to the IWTN Management Committee in December 2019. Other new members of the Management Committee include Sarah McCutcheon, representing Kilmallock, Paráic McKeivitt, representing Carlingford, Shirin Murphy, representing Carrickfergus, Marie Mannion, representing Athenry and Loughrea and Nicki Matthews, representing the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Roisin Burke of Abarta Heritage took on the project management of the IWTN in 2019 and looks forward to guiding the implementation of the new Action Plan.

THE IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK

conserving Ireland's historic walled towns

Formed by the Heritage Council in 2005, the role of the IWTN is to help the Walled Towns of Ireland (both North and South) become better places in which to live, work and visit.

Our approach is to work with local communities and to empower them through funding, training and guidance.

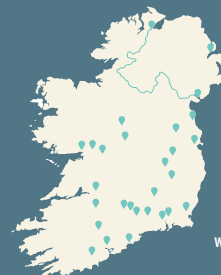
There are four main ways we help our member towns

- ▶ Providing grants for town wall conservation
- ▶ Providing grants for community festivals and heritage interpretation
- ▶ Training community groups on how best to utilise their place's heritage
- ▶ Coordinating research with third level institutes and publishing advisory documents



OUR 29 MEMBER TOWNS

ATHENRY
ATHLONE
ATHY
BANDON
BUTTEVANT
CARLINGFORD
CASTLEFERGUS
CARRICK-ON-SUIR
CASHEL
CASTLEDERMOT
CLONMEL
CORK CITY
DERRY / LONDONDERRY
DROGHEDA



DUBLIN CITY
FETHARD
GALWAY
KELLS
KILDARE
KILKENNY
KILMALLOCK
LIMERICK CITY
LOUGHREA
NEW ROSS
RINDOON
TRIM
WATERFORD
WEXFORD TOWN
YOUGHAL

SINCE 2011
MORE THAN
3,300
PEOPLE
HAVE ATTENDED OVER **60**
IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK
TRAINING EVENTS



In 2013
IWTN won the
EUROPA NOSTRA
AWARD for its
educational
programme

since 2007
c. €1.1 million
has been provided for
COMMUNITY
FESTIVALS
through IWTN



SINCE 2007
c. €7 MILLION
HAS BEEN PROVIDED
TO CONSERVE
IRELAND'S
TOWN WALLS



Nurturing Belonging through a sense of Identity and Place



1 PROMOTING PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE INCLUSIVITY

ENCOURAGE the involvement of culturally diverse groups in heritage-related activities

ENDEAVOUR to create more opportunities for young people to participate in and to lead heritage projects

2 NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

IMPLEMENT programmes and initiatives through Heritage Week that reward creative ways of promoting a sense of belonging and that also celebrate diversity within communities



3 HERITAGE COUNCIL GRANT PROGRAMMES

IMPLEMENT programmes and initiatives, through grants that reward creative ways of promoting a sense of belonging and that also celebrate diversity within communities

4 FACILITATING ACCESS TO HERITAGE

WORK with central and local government and local communities to examine the access and indemnity issues associated with places of special cultural or natural interest



5 REACHING OUT TO THE DIASPORA

SUPPORT projects that celebrate the Irish diaspora and the heritage of new communities in Ireland

6 REGENERATION OF URBAN CENTRES

ADVOCATE for the strong contribution heritage can make in the regeneration of urban and rural landscapes



SUPPORTING PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE INCLUSIVITY

Working with New Communities:

In March 2019 the Heritage Council successfully applied for grant assistance from Creative Ireland to run a pilot programme of workcamps, designed to facilitate the involvement and cultural exchange of persons seeking asylum and conservation volunteers in and around the counties of Kildare and Laois. The location for the pilot was chosen as there are several appropriate conservation programmes already in existence in this region.

A number of preliminary meetings were held with Kildare Leader Partnership (KLP), the Abbeyleix Bog trust, the Irish Peatlands Conservancy Council (IPCC), Bird Watch Ireland (BWI) and the Heritage Council and the pilot project programme was devised. The Heritage Council's Wildlife Officer, Lorcan Scott, was alerted to the fact that several protocols must be observed when dealing with vulnerable adults. The Officers at KLP were adamant that direct access to this group, via the Community Liaison Officer, would have to be slow careful work. In July, Lorcan Scott met with five residents of the direct provision centre to introduce them to the proposed pilot project. They agreed to volunteer for scrub removal work.

The first work camp was held in October 2019 with fourteen participants. It was clear that both the Abbeyleix Conservation Volunteers and the PSAs found the experience fulfilling and satisfying. The work was centred on the removal of the invasive alien species *Rhododendron ponticum* from the raised bog habitat on Abbeyleix bog. A purposeful and engaging element of the workshop programme is the sharing of food post works. This allows for relaxed chat and friendships to develop. Many lessons were learned from the pilot programme. Future iterations will require a longer run-in time and an appropriate budget, but it proved to be a very positive project.

The National Heritage Awards 2019:

The dedication of individuals and community groups across Ireland to the preservation and promotion of Ireland's heritage was recognised on 6 February 2020 at the National Heritage Awards 2019. Hosted by the Heritage Council, the special event took place at the Royal Irish Academy and was presented by RTÉ broadcaster, Anne Cassin.

The National Heritage Week Awards highlight Ireland's 'heritage heroes' and showcase the most engaging and innovative National Heritage Week events. The theme of National Heritage Week 2019 was Pastimes and Past Times, with projects and events reflecting how the use of free time has evolved as part of Ireland's culture and heritage. The diverse range of innovative projects from this year's winners reflects the outstanding efforts of individuals and communities to capture and celebrate Ireland's natural, built and cultural heritage.

The Egan Family from Birr, Co Offaly were the worthy recipients of the Heritage Hero Award 2019. The Egan family are responsible for the survival of an extraordinarily rare, intact furnished farmhouse, near Birr, Co Offaly. They hold tours during Heritage Week every year to showcase the cottage. Visitors to the cottage commented on the generosity and heart-warming hospitality of the Egan family and their appreciation for their traditional farmhouse as they shared family memories passed on from one generation to the next.

The Hidden Heritage Award was presented to Vincent Breslin for 'Look-Out Post 76: An hut ar ghualainn an chnoic' at Bloody Foreland, Co Donegal. This project explored the built and cultural heritage associated with Look-Out Post 76, which was constructed and occupied during 'The Emergency' (1939-1945). The event was narrated in Irish and shared previously undocumented stories from the families of men who had served there, alongside stories gathered from the local community. Rosses Radio won the Heritage Communities award for the project entitled 'Stories, Music and Traditions of Donegal'. This project comprised two full days of heritage and pastimes-themed radio programming, bringing together heritage groups across the Rosses in west Donegal, and broadcast to Donegal Diaspora worldwide.

'Wildlife Detective for Kids' at the Clara Bog Visitor Centre, Co Offaly was named the winner of the Cool for Kids Award 2019. Organised by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, this dedicated children's event involved a group field exercise during which participants were invited to help solve a simulated 'wildlife crime'. The event focused on promoting knowledge and respect for wildlife conservation, the importance of protecting Irish species and habitats, the Wildlife Act and the role of Wildlife Rangers at Clara Bog.

Le Chéile san Eoraip Award was presented to Myshall Muintir am Tire for an event in Carlow entitled 'St Columbanus and the idea of Europe'. This lecture, presented by Dr Alexander O'Hara, and pop-up exhibition explored the influence of St. Columbanus, the Patron Saint of Europe, and native of Myshall, Co. Carlow; and the start of what became the European Union. The pop-up exhibition included photographic displays of intercultural visits between members of Myshall Friends of Columbanus, and Friends of Columbanus Francaise and Italy, with a focus on the Columban Way, which stretches from Myshall to Bangor, through England, France, Switzerland, and on to Bobbio in Italy.

The National Heritage Awards honoured the people involved in bringing our rich and varied heritage into the heart of their own communities, making it both relatable and relevant for modern audiences and promoting inclusivity through shared heritage.



Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan, TD, at the launch of National Heritage at 14 Henrietta Street on 19 July 2019

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

National Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days (EHD), a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union in which over forty countries participate each year. In Ireland we celebrate European Heritage Days with a full week of events during the last week of August. Most of the events are free and the programme highlights the abundance of great work that is carried out in all communities in Ireland to preserve and promote our natural, built and cultural heritage. Coordinated by the Heritage Council, National Heritage Week continues to be Ireland's largest cultural event. In 2019 over 1,000 event organisers held 2,089 events across the country.

The estimated attendance figure was 423,764 people in 2019. Encouragingly, 90% of respondents to the audience survey agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: 'I will probably visit heritage sites and attend heritage events at other times of the year as a result of my Heritage Week experience'.

In 2019 National Heritage Week was organised around the theme of 'Pastimes in Past Times'. Communities across Ireland explored the theme through tours, walks, workshops, talks, exhibitions, outdoor activities and much more. A visitors' survey revealed that the most popular types of event are guided tours,

site visits and talks. Heritage Week is highly localised with 57% of people traveling no further than 10km to any event in 2019.

National Heritage Week is one of the biggest events reported on in the Irish media – across local, regional and national outlets. In 2019, over 3,600 pieces of coverage were generated. This includes online articles, print and broadcast with an estimated reach of approximately 516 million people. Online engagement with National Heritage Week increase by 66% in 2019.

Beara Breifne Way:

The Bera Breifne Way is a heritage trail which re-traces the historic march of O'Sullivan Bere and his followers in 1602. Pursued by Elizabethan forces, he fled with 1,000 followers from Bera, Co. Cork arriving with just 35 people at Breifne in Co. Leitrim. It is also the longest walking and cycling trail in Ireland and the largest community-led tourism and recreation project ever undertaken in this country. The historical theme is of huge importance to the local communities but the development of the trail has revealed the wealth of heritage along the route, from buildings to flora and fauna to folklore and everything in between. The Way traverses ten counties: Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Galway, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim - and Cavan because, while O'Sullivan Bere's epic journey ended in Leitrim, the Cavan Way represents an important link with Ulster, and makes the Way the first All-Ireland route. Since 2001, the project has been championed, consistently, by the Heritage Council with the Bera Way committee in Cork acting as lead and liaison on behalf of the community groups. In 2019 the final stages of the works were carried out to complete the trail from Dursey Island, West Cork to Blacklion in Co Cavan. Coordinated by Comhar na nOileain and funded by the Department of Community and Rural Development, trail development works were carried along the route line. Fáilte Ireland expressed interest in the route and during 2018, it commissioned a strategic review of the initiative to shape its development in the future.

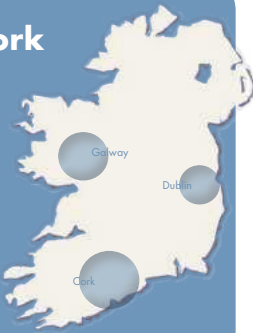
HERITAGE COUNCIL GRANT SCHEMES

GLAS TFB Grant Scheme:

The partnership between the Heritage Council and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Heritage Council on the GLAS Traditional Farm Building Scheme (TFBS) continued in 2019 with the largest number of projects ever supported to date on the scheme. The GLAS scheme has always set out to protect the 'ordinary' buildings used in agriculture as these buildings and other features of the farm add value to the Irish landscape. Seventy four grantees were supported to conserve 108 buildings and five other related structures including a pack horse bridge in 2019.



Dublin, Cork
and Galway
had the most
events
by county
population



2,089

National
Heritage
Week
Events



423,764

People enjoyed
National Heritage Week
Events in 2019

Increases in
Twitter & Instagram
followers & in
Facebook likes



88%

of events
were



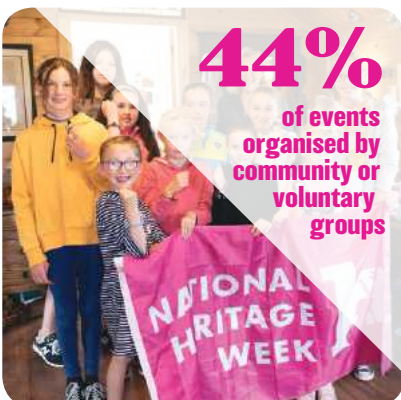
40%



of attendees brought
children

44%

of events
organised by
community or
voluntary
groups



1,124 Heritage
Week
Event Organisers

91%

of attendees agree

Due to Heritage Week, I
learned things about heritage
that I would not otherwise
have learned.

The collaboration of owners, builders and conservation consultants to further create awareness and appreciation of heritage ensured that open days, talks, radio interviews, newspaper articles and social media posts were carried out on different projects throughout the country, extending the reach of the GLAS TFB grant beyond the actual project.



Top Left: Deirdre McDermott at a TFB Interim Inspection in Galway **Top Right:** Packhorse Bridge in Co. Wicklow, one of the structures conserved using GLAS TFB grant money in 2019. **Middle Left:** GLAS TFB in Co. Cork. **Middle Right:** GLAS Traditional Farm Building grantee reapplying Lime Parging in Co. Tipperary. **Bottom:** Landscape in Co. Galway. (Images Courtesy of Anna Meenan)



Top Left: Heritage Council Chief Executive, Virginia with some of the worthy winners of the National Heritage Awards 2018 which were presented in the RIA in February 2019

Top Right: Heritage Council Chief Executive, Virginia Teehan speaking at the launch of National Heritage Week 2019

Middle Left: Image taken during Wild Child Day, National Heritage Week 2019. Middle Right: James Breslin and Carol Ann Webb, (Rosses Radio), winners of the Heritage Communities Award 2019 with presenter Anne Cassin and Co. Donegal Heritage Officer, Joseph Gallagher

Bottom Left: Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan with Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council and Michael Parsons, Chairman of the Heritage Council at the launch of National Heritage Week 2019 at Henrietta Street, Dublin.

Bottom Right: Traditional Japanese Taiko drummers at Newgrange, Co. Meath during Heritage Week 2019

WORKING TO IMPROVE HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Adopt a Monument Scheme:

Following in the successful footsteps of Archaeology Scotland's Adopt a Monument (AaM) Scheme, the Heritage Council, in conjunction with Abarta Heritage, launched the first similar programme for Ireland in 2016. The scheme provides expertise, mentoring and support to encourage local communities to 'adopt' a monument in their area in order to ensure its ongoing maintenance, protection and promotion. This provides an innovative way of bringing monuments and local heritage from the periphery into the heart of local communities. Work continued in 2019 with a focus on implementing management plans for the thirteen sites involved, carrying out conservation works and encouraging participation.

After an open public competition in 2019, seven new 'adopted' sites were welcomed into the scheme. Esker Church is an 11th century ruined church in Lucan, County Dublin associated with St. Finian. The Old Lucan Society aims to further study and survey this site and raise awareness locally of this historic monument.

Moygara Castle is one of the finest surviving Gaelic castles in northwest Ireland. It was built by the O'Gara family close to Lough Gara in County Sligo. The Moygara Castle Research and Conservation Group want to preserve and protect this important site for future generations. Kilkerrin Battery Fort, Co. Clare was built in the early 1800s to repel a threatened invasion by Napoleonic forces. The Labasheeda Projects Group want to conserve and promote this important landmark on the shores of the Shannon Estuary in County Clare.

Located in the Arra Mountains overlooking Lough Derg in County Tipperary, the Graves of the Leinstermen, is a prehistoric monument which commands spectacular views over the surrounding landscape. The Arra Historical and Archaeological Society are eager to survey and research the site so as to raise awareness about the story of the site. Malin Well Old Church, Co. Donegal has a wonderful seaside setting at the very north of the Inishowen Peninsula in County Donegal. The Malin Well Conservation Group are hoping to further research the story of the site and work with professionals to carry out conservation work to ensure the protection of the site.

A moated site in Ballyogan, Co. Kilkenny is hidden in forestry on the slopes of Brandon Hill. It is the focus for the Tyndall Mountain Club. The site was recorded in the 1840s but little else is known about it. Through a programme of research and investigation, the club aims to learn more about the site. The 19th century lime kiln in the village of Kilmurry, County Clare has been adopted by Kilmurry Tidy Towns. Their objective is to carry out vital conservation works and to make this monument a focal point in their community.

While it was originally planned to have just four new sites join the Scheme, the Heritage Council received over fifty applications from community groups across Ireland. The enthusiasm of the seven groups shortlisted made it impossible to choose between them. Each of the sites are unique and represent important aspects of Ireland's heritage.

In July 2019, the Heritage Council announced a new grant scheme for participants in the Adopt a Monument programme. €80,000 was allocated by the Heritage Council through the Creative Ireland Programme to enable programme participants to continue their work in conserving and protecting their adopted monuments or to start new initiatives to improve the condition, accessibility and interpretation of their chosen site. Fifteen AaM participants were awarded funding for a wide variety of projects which included conservation works, research and investigation, community engagement projects and interpretation materials. All projects were completed and reports submitted by mid-November 2019.

To build on the experience in 2019, the Heritage Council proposes to re-run the Adopt a Monument Creative Ireland grant scheme in 2020 but with some differences. The basic premise of a grant scheme to support communities to manage and engage with their adopted heritage is an underlying theme. As such it is proposed to re-launch the grants scheme as tested in 2019 but with a difference in so far as a longer time frame would be desirable to allow for a longer preparation of applications and a longer time frame for completion. Ideally, projects would be notified of success in April 2020 and have until November to draw down the monies from the Heritage Council.

Subject to agreement, a sum of €100,000 would be awarded to the various groups after competitive assessment in 2020. Potential projects will include conservation and investigation, surveys, art – heritage collaborations, community network events and child friendly activities. Crucially, it is proposed to bring all of these AaM groups together during the early summer to reflect, share and celebrate the success achieved in 2020 and to advise on projects for 2020. A short film can be commissioned on this to provide details of the community groups networking where participants discuss how their have progressed. A sum of €5,000 will enable filming and networking events to take place.

A presentation, as in 2019, can also be made to a Creative Ireland national meeting, social media will continue to reference Creative Ireland. Each group will also host a Heritage Week event. Details of all projects will be made available to the local Creative Ireland Cultural Team Leads.

ADOPT A MONUMENT

SOME OF THE WORKS
UNDERTAKEN WITH CREATIVE
IRELAND FUNDING IN 2019



Malin Well Old Church Conservation Group engaged experts to produce both a Conservation Plan for the repair and conservation of the early-Christian church which is in ruins, along with an Impact Assessment to assess the potential archaeological impact of the conservation works on the site.



Gallows Hill Community Archaeology engaged local children through a community archaeology project entitled 'the Big Dig' so that the children could engage in the history of Gallows Hill and Dungarvan.



Left: Donegal GAP Heritage & History Group engaged artist, Seán Ó Brógáin to work alongside local schools to create a public mural in Ardara village which reflects the history and heritage of Doon Fort. Right: Mountbellew Heritage & Tourism Network appointed Digital Heritage Age to provide a Digital Heritage Metric Survey and Community Workshop which enabled local second level students and community volunteers to learn the skills needed to complete a photogrammetry project on Mountbellew Walled Garden





REGENERATION OF URBAN CENTRES

Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Training Programme:

The pilot CTCHC Training Programme was developed by the Heritage Council in partnership with the Retail Grocery Dairy & Allied Trades Association (RGDATA) and the Retail Consortium. The objective of the pilot programme was to develop a town centre-led retail, cultural heritage and tourism baseline, which would be recognised internationally as a best practice collaborative development model

for regeneration. Eight towns across the country participated in the pilot and that number has now risen to twelve.

The CTCHC initiative is delivered in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, the Irish Planning Institute (IPI), the Irish Landscape Institute (ILI), Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI), University College Dublin, Limerick Institute of Technology Thurles, Dublin Institute of Technology, Galway Institute of Technology and Queen's University Belfast.

2019 proved to be a very busy year for the programme, particularly for the Dundalk CTCHC project which was established in the autumn of 2018 by the Heritage Council, Dundalk BID, Dundalk

Institute of Technology, Dundalk Chamber, Dundalk Credit Union and Louth County Council. In April the Workshop for Border Towns took place in Dundalk and in June, Minister English T.D. launched the summary Dundalk CTCHC Report. The project assessed vacancy rates, footfall patterns, spend in the town centre and online, and commercial confidence and selling activity on-line. The launch event in the county museum was also attended by a delegation from the Dutch Provinces who were in Dundalk to learn about spatial planning and town centre management. The Dutch feedback was that they were inspired by the Dundalk CTCHC Project and the ongoing collaboration between all the partners to support regeneration in Dundalk. In December, Dundalk's CTCHC project was shortlisted for a National Planning Award by the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) under the category Participation and Engagement.

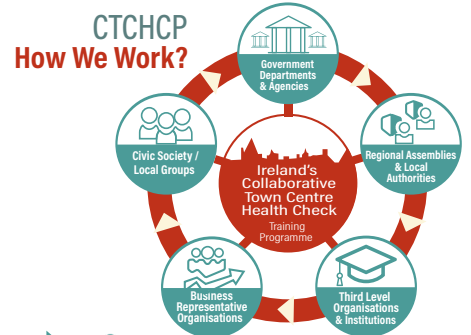
Photo Caption:

Dundalks' CTCHC Team: L-R Brendan Mc Sherry, Billy Doyle, Angela Dullaghan, Marguerite Quinn, Ali Harvey, Brian Walsh, Martin McElligott, Michael Gaynor, Aileen Morrissey, Geraldine Johnston, Helen Divilly, Frank Pentony, Thomas McEvoy. Missing from photo Mark Dearey, Catherine Duff and Eamon McMahon.

Ireland's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme



The Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme engages and facilitates the private, public and civic sectors in Irish Towns in order to create 'data-driven baselines' and innovative 'Town Renewal Action Plans' that support our unique, historic town centres.



CTCHCP 15-Step Process



CTCHC Programme
Phase 1: Establish the CTCHC Baseline
Phase 2: Formulate a CTCHC Action Plan e.g. Town Renewal Action Plan

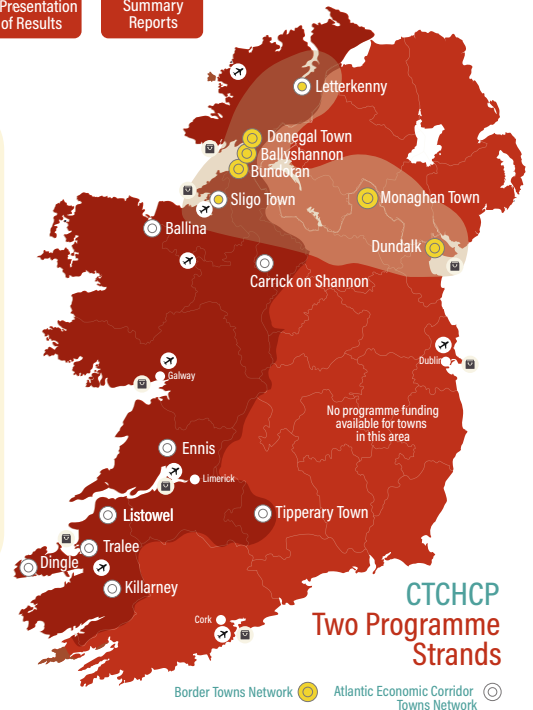
On 19 July, Minister Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation launched the findings of the CTCHC survey on the strengths and opportunities for Monaghan Town Centre. The consumer survey found that the historic border town would benefit from improved public realm, more parking and more shops and more cultural events.

The year finished with the ministerial launch of the Ballina Consumer Survey Report in December. Michael Ring T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development who launched the survey stressed the importance of the findings, "I warmly welcome this comprehensive piece of research on Ballina Town Centre, which will assist in building a common vision for the future sustainability of Ballina. Our towns, now more than ever, need all stakeholders working together to plan for the future."

Town Centres are extremely important in terms of national, regional and local growth and development, economic activity and cultural heritage

- Create local distinctiveness, identity and a unique sense of place
- Are traditionally where major social and economic activity takes place
- Are a shared historic space - a place for people to live, meet, exchange goods/trade, engage with their fellow citizens
- A base for local government and a focus for entertainment and cultural activity

Overall, Town Centres contribute to the flourishing of civic pride and overall quality of life.



CTCHCP Government Departments and Agencies



The Key Aims of the CTCHC Programme are to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the critical role that historic town centres play and the wide-ranging impacts that their vitality and viability have on overall socio-economic, environmental and cultural growth and development, and on quality of life for citizens and visitors alike.



Ensuring a Vibrant Heritage Sector

1 SUPPORTING HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

FOSTER and grow a heritage sector through supporting a range of heritage organisations, which currently include the National Biodiversity Data Centre, the Discovery Programme, the Irish Landmark Trust, and the Wicklow Upland Council



2 SUPPORTING IRELAND'S MUSEUMS

PROVIDE support for Ireland's museums and collections through initiatives like the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) and initiate a review of the MSPI



3 THE HERITAGE OFFICER NETWORK

SUPPORT the local authority Heritage Officer Network and assess how the range of local heritage services can be expanded to maximise the leadership role of local authorities



4 HERITAGE RESEARCH

DEVELOP heritage research programmes that nurture innovation and foster communication among stakeholders, building on the success of the respected Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR) Programme.



5 SCHOOLS HERITAGE PROGRAMME

PROVIDE support for future generations in their appreciation of the value of heritage through schools programmes at first and second-level

EXAMINE the integration of heritage in the formal education system with a view to using new and emerging curricula to showcase the value of heritage research



6 INFORMING PEOPLE ABOUT HERITAGE

DEVELOP the digital platform for Irish heritage by building on the Heritage Council's Heritage Maps initiative while being alert to the vulnerability of digital heritage assets

INCREASE the quality of online information to advocate for heritage, to provide a comprehensive national resource and to connect heritage groups and interests

SUPPORT the generation and communication of information on natural and cultural heritageability of digital heritage assets





THE HERITAGE IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

The Heritage in Schools Scheme is a primary school heritage education initiative which facilitates visits to primary schools by a range of experts on Ireland's natural, cultural and built heritage and is the Heritage Council's main activity for primary schools. Visits are part-funded by the school and the remainder of the fee and travel expenses are funded by the Heritage Council. The Scheme was launched in 2000 following a successful pilot conducted in Dublin/Wicklow and Galway/Clare during the previous year. A panel of forty-nine heritage experts was recruited in 2000 and 187 school visits were undertaken. Uptake has grown steadily since then, with panelists delivering 2,501 visits to 1,074 schools in 2019, reaching an estimated 117,000 students.

The Heritage Council undertook a review of Panel membership and following a robust recruitment process, the Scheme welcomed forty-three new recruits to the Panel in 2019, bringing the total number of panelists for the 2020 - 2024 period to 170. These highly-skilled professionals cover a very diverse specialties in the realms of cultural, natural and built heritage. Induction training for new panel members took place in Kilkenny on 9 December 2019. The schedule for the day included information on operational matters relating to the Scheme; HSE child protection training and a session from Paddy Madden (veteran of the Heritage in Schools panel). The event was an excellent networking opportunity for new members and feedback from attendees was very positive.

The 2019 Heritage in Schools Annual Conference was held in the Midlands Park Hotel in Portlaoise on 19 February with an attendance of seventy-eight delegates. The programme for the day was based on panelist feedback from the 2018 conference in Dublin. Delegates heard from key-note speaker Stephen Pickering (Course Leader for Primary & Outdoor Education, University of Worcester) on teaching outdoors creatively. Other speakers delivered presentations on visits and statistics for 2018;

social media & marketing skills and connecting with the Primary School Curriculum. Presenters also included members of the Heritage in Schools Panel who delivered a series of half hour breakout sessions on their area of expertise. These particular sessions were the most well-received talks on the day.

There was a considerable increase in the percentage of schools that received visits in 2019. The extended reach of the scheme can be attributed to increased funding; a more active panel; support from the Heritage Officer network and an increase in the Scheme's online presence. Funding from Creative Ireland meant that the Heritage Council was in a position to work with Focus Ireland on two projects. These were based on the Creative Ireland Programme for Children and Youths to 'enable the creative potential of every child', with an emphasis on the role local heritage can play in contributing to a child's sense of identity and place. In August Heritage in Schools Specialist Mary Wallace worked with a group of children from inner-city Dublin. The project had a maritime theme and coincided with National Heritage Week and Wild Child Day. During the October mid-term break Heritage in Schools Specialist Orla Bates spent a day with children from Waterford city. A tour of Kilkenny Castle was followed by a nature walk in the grounds and a visit to the Heritage Council HQ for lunch and Halloween lantern making. Detailed reports on both projects are available on the Heritage in Schools website at: <http://www.heritageinschools.ie/projects>

HERITAGE RESEARCH

Heritage Maps:

HeritageMaps.ie was designed with the interested amateur, professional users, academic and educational sectors in mind. The new viewer had over 71,000 sessions in the first year after its redevelopment in 2016. HeritageMaps.ie continues to grow at a healthy, steady pace. User numbers increased by 19.4% to 14,336 in 2019 with the core professional audience growing



managed and non-managed visitor sites. It is particularly useful to tourists, both domestic and foreign, as it contains links to individual heritage sites.

Other new datasets added to HeritageMaps.ie in 2019 included the locations of the Napoleonic Martello Towers constructed around Ireland's Coastline and along the Shannon, and Ireland's ancient graveyards and grave-markers based on the work of John Tierney. Stuart Rathbone and Dr James Bonsall of Sligo IT contributed to the production of a map of the locations of the Signal Towers and Stations constructed around Ireland's Coastline during in the early 19th Century.

HeritageMaps.ie was promoted at several conferences and events in 2019 including the IAI Conference in Cork and the Data.gov.ie Workshop on Digital Heritage in Trinity College, Dublin. HeritageMaps.ie was also invited to 'Pitch Your Project' at the Europeana AGM in 2019. This involved giving a presentation to an audience of over 400 heritage professionals from across Europe. It was streamed live on Youtube. <https://youtu.be/I2TCi2cgitE>

SUPPORTING A RANGE OF HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

strongly and becoming more defined. Website analytics reveal that the 2016 redeployment was very successful and since then growth in both user numbers and session numbers has been approximately 20% year on year. In total, there has been a 650% growth in numbers between 2016 and 2019.

There are a number of reasons for the continued success of the viewer, including the regular introduction of new elements. Collaboration with Local Authority Heritage Officers has facilitated the addition of various new data sets in 2019, including the Dublin's 1916 Sites of Interest, Cork City ACAs, Westmeath Burial Grounds and Dublin City Industrial Heritage. December saw the launch of the new Workhouses map. Based on the work of Workhouses.org & Peter Higginbotham, this map provides details on each Irish Workhouse and associated Poor Law Union area and provides links to the Great Irish Famine Online and Workhouses.org. The dataset for the pre and post-Famine Poor Law Union Areas map was facilitated by Dr Mike Murphy of UCC.

HeritageMaps.ie collaborated with the National Monuments Service and Wordwell Publishing to create excavations.ie. This map provides access to a brief synopsis for each archaeological license issued within the state. Another significant addition in 2019 was the map of Office of Public Works (OPW) Visitor Sites. This data was based on information supplied by OPW Visitor Services and comprises two datasets displaying OPW

Woodlands of Ireland:

Woodlands of Ireland (Wol) is a membership organisation dedicated to the conservation of native Irish woodlands. The organisation's primary objectives are to generate awareness of native woodlands amongst policy makers and the general public and to develop projects and sustainable management strategies aimed at ensuring the future viability of Ireland's native woodlands. These objectives are addressed through the implementation of flagship projects, training courses, technical publications, policy development and the provision of support at local level. In 2019 Woodlands of Ireland continued to implement its work programme, centred around key objectives of the Native Woodland Strategy 2016–2020.

Some of the key outputs for 2019 included a Bord na Móna/Coillte cutaway bog native woodland afforestation feasibility study for 1,500 hectares, conducted in February and March and approved by government and partners in October. WOI also conducted twenty potential Native Woodland Scheme (NWS) site visits and led three woodland walks for the general public and primary schools. In support of World Bee Day in May and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, WOI issued a letter to all NWS landowners via the Forest Service about 'Hosting a Hive'. WOI also organised the Cost Action meeting 'Payments for Ecosystem Services – Forests for Water (CA15206)' in Killarney, Co. Kerry. Attended by over forty overseas delegates, it included an excursion to the Kerry Life project area. In 2019, WOI awarded

tender for the long-term vegetation monitoring survey for four of the People's Millennium Forests woodlands, and addressed the development of Company Policy drafts to comply with the Charity Regulator.

Native Woodland Scheme – Promotion and Training:

The provision of technical support for the NWS is a key task of the Native Woodland Strategy, as the Forest Service provides funding to the private and state sectors to manage existing, and create new native woodlands. WOI made twenty site visits, involving twenty-three potential NWS Conservation and Establishment applications to assist the implementation of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020. WOI also assisted the Forest Service in organising a 'Breakfast briefing' for the corporate sector on 28 November. It provided information about the Woodland Environment Fund which will top up NWS Establishment premiums for landowners through a public-private ecosystem services funding initiative. This will be opened by the Minister with responsibility for Forestry, Andrew Doyle TD and will involve the first corporate sponsor of this initiative, An Post.

A meeting with senior officials of the Forest Service took place in Q2 regarding the CAP 2020 proposals with respect to the NWS and biodiversity measures. A two-day WOI/Forest Service NWS training took place in November, which accredits foresters and ecologists who wish to work on NWS applications and plans. The training programme is also targeted at landowners, relevant state agencies (NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Coillte, Forest Service Inspectors and EPA) and other stakeholders.

Emergent Woodland project:

Two further workshop/ field trips took place in 2019. The first was on 27 September at Cornacarta, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

and the second on 2 December at Ballydermot, Clonbullogue, Co. Offaly. These involved approximately 50 people comprising land-use advisors, NPWS, Teagasc Farm Foresters, Contractors and the land owners. Work is ongoing on a draft Information Note and review of the Emergent Woodland element of the Native Woodland Scheme Conservation measure.

Irish Landmark Trust:

Irish Landmark Trust (ILT) is a non-profit organisation which conserves interesting and unusual properties that are in need of conservation and gives them new life. Since 1992, the organisation has turned more than twenty nine historic buildings around the country into self-catering holiday accommodation. The properties range from lighthouses and schoolhouses, to castles and gate lodges.

During 2019 visits were made to, and properties assessed in counties Louth, Wexford, Armagh, Antrim, and Galway and bookings of restored properties remain strong. With support from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, IGS and our own Irish Landmarkers, conservation of Killee Cottage, at Mitchelstown in Co. Cork, began in late 2019.

Killee Cottage is a perfect example of the vernacular farm cottage, once typical of the South of Ireland but now disappearing. It was originally a two-roomed labourer's cottage tied to the Montgomery Estate (Field Marshal Montgomery's family). It was later extended as the house became linked to a small farm. Internally, the cottage has altered little since its construction in the early 19th century. Irish Landmark has the opportunity to retain it with its original features, and maintain it by letting guests enjoy the rare experience of staying under a thatched roof in a house that will be carefully conserved and retain its original footprint.



Left: Progress of the ILT work at Killee Cottage in November 2019 (Courtesy of Mary O'Brien, ILT) **Right:** The group that participated in the most recent Native Woodland Training course hosted by Woodlands of Ireland and Forest Service of DAFM, in Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow in November 2019. (Courtesy of WOI)



Kellys Lough - SUAS Location
Courtesy of the Wicklow Uplands Council

Wicklow Uplands Council:

Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC) is an independent voluntary organisation which represents the shared interests of those who live, work and recreate in the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands. The Council operates within the core values of; consensus decision making, community participation and collaboration with statutory stakeholders.

Funding received by the Heritage Council provides for the employment of a small number of dedicated staff and allows for day to day running of the organisation. In 2019, every €1 received from the Heritage Council was matched by €3 in leveraged core and project funding.

Throughout 2019, WUC continued to serve as the collective voice of the Wicklow Uplands through its participation on a range of structures and fora, development of policy submissions and by leading and participating in a number of key projects.

Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS): The SUAS Project is a European Innovation Partnership, funded through the DAFM, and aims to address the issues associated with farming in the local uplands. Over 45 farmers participating in the project are remunerated for activities which go towards

the improvement of the condition of the upland habitats which they farm .

Protecting Uplands and Rural Environments (PURE): WUC continues to administer the project in conjunction with statutory partners. PURE provides a single, well-resourced response to littering and dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. The 2019 PURE Mile competition was the largest to date, with over 500 miles of road across Wicklow and South Dublin entered in the competition. Since inception, the project has successfully witnessed a 63% reduction in illegal dumping in the upland landscape .

Deer Management Project: The project has established 5 new deer management units in the county. The project aims to measure the adverse impacts of deer in these areas and develop a sustainable management plan for each which promotes a healthy deer population.

Sustainable Recreation Opportunities: In 2019, WUC worked with local landowners to develop the Bray Head Loop Trail and Belmont Way. A new brochure of 38 way-marked trails in Wicklow was published as a promotional guide and distributed across the county.



Geophysical Survey using magnetometer at Ferriter's Castle and promontory fort, County Kerry. Courtesy of the Discovery Programme

The Discovery Programme

The Discovery Programme: Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland receives its core funding from the Heritage Council. Its mission is to explore Ireland's past and its cultural heritage by conducting advanced research in Irish archaeology and related disciplines and by disseminating its findings widely.

Cherish: Cherish fieldwork involved field walking, UAV survey, palaeo-environmental coring, dive survey, laser scan and geophysical survey throughout the CHERISH case study areas establishing high quality baseline and monitoring surveys of the CHERISH sites.

The Air and Earth 2: Developments in Aerial Archaeology conference took place in the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin in June with speakers from Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. The seminar covered topics relating to recent aerial discoveries, aerial photographic archives, Lidar and other remote sensing methods and education and community involvement. The conference was followed by a two-day aerial school where participants were given a basic background in UAV and aerial survey and had an opportunity to try out these methodologies.

The team sit on the Climate Change Advisory Group and Cli-

mate Change Planning Team established by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The team attended international events based around the themes of the project, published articles and project newsletters and hosted public outreach and engagement events.

Tara Research Project: The preparation of a new monograph on the work of the Tara Project, with analysis of the results of recent archaeological investigations on the Hill of Tara and in its wider surrounding landscape continued. It will be ready for publication in 2020. The Discovery Programme's involvement in the production of a Conservation Management Plan for Tara continued.

COST Actions: The Discovery Programme participated in two new COST Actions (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). The first of these, SEADDA (Saving European Archaeology from the Digital Dark Age) aims to ensure that infrastructure and guidance is available across Europe to archive and access the born digital archaeology record. The second SAGA (Soil Science & Archaeo-Geophysics Alliance: going beyond prospection) aims to develop, promote and facilitate research activities bringing together archaeo-geophysics and



Heritage Walk and Beach Clean on Ireland's Eye, County Dublin during Heritage Week. (Courtesy of the Discovery Programme)

soil science with the overall goal of maximising interpretation of proxy data for archaeological purposes.

OPW: The ongoing programme of cooperation between the Discovery Programme and the OPW continued and focused on the monitoring of the state of conservation of Skellig Michael and work in Brú na Bóinne. At Knowth this involved presentation and visualisation with the development of several new interpretative features; a virtual tour and the Hall of Stones megalithic art centre. Content was provided for the upgrading of the Brú na Bóinne visitor centre.

Oscail: The Oscail project aimed to open the conversation about a long term digital strategy for archaeology and its archives. A pilot project to develop a thesaurus for archaeological

objects was undertaken in collaboration with the Irish Antiquities Division of the National Museum of Ireland. A series of podcasts were produced to illustrate how much we can learn about archaeological objects from archives. A seminar was held to advance the discussion about digital archives and open data in archaeology.

Digital Replicas Project focused on gathering data for different case studies. In collaboration with the National Museum of Ireland, laser scanning of various historic plaster casts and molds in the museum's collection (that will inform a scientific analysis to be undertaken in early 2020) was completed in August.

Outreach: Three Heritage Week events were organised including a Heritage Walk and Beach Clean on Ireland's Eye organised in conjunction with Clean Coasts, a vessel open Day in Dingle Bay with the GSI and a workshop 3D recording in Glendalough in conjunction with the OPW and the Glendalough Heritage Forum.

A Continuous Professional Development course was organised in conjunction with the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. This focused on 'Successfully communicating cultural heritage content using social media and other online sources'. It was delivered by trainers from Wikimedia Community Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Wicklow County Council Heritage Office and The Discovery Programme.

The Discovery Programme's active social media presence was maintained with regular postings to promote our events. In conjunction with the National Monuments Service we used social media to promote 3D models of two souterrains discovered at Little Mills, County Louth.



At the MSPi award ceremony at Kilkenny Castle in July 2019

SUPPORTING IRELAND'S MUSEUMS

Museum Standards Programme of Ireland:

The Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) was established by the Heritage Council to benchmark and promote professional standards in the care of collections and to recognise through accreditation the achievement of those standards within the Irish museum sector. Sixty-five museums and galleries have benefited from participation in the MSP to date.

In 2019 the Museum Standards Programme continued to deliver training workshops, free of charge, to assist MSPI Participants and those that have expressed an interest in the Programme to understand what is required to meet the three eligibility criteria and thirty-four standards. Six training events were organised providing training to approximately 125 museum staff or volunteers from across Ireland.

It partnered with the Institute of Conservator Restorers in Ireland (ICRI) to present two care of collections workshops: Disaster Planning and an Introduction to Environmental Monitoring. Emma Dadson, Harwell Restoration, UK was engaged to present on disaster planning. Sven Habermann, Conservation Letterfrack, and Karen Wilson, Preventive Conservator were engaged to present at the second workshop.

Alex Dawson, a Museum Consultant and a member of the MSPI Assessor Panel, based in the UK, delivered a workshop on Clearing Documentation Backlogs. Alex had previously delivered workshops on Museum Records Management and Writing a Documentation Procedural Manual.

In recent years the Programme, where possible, has introduced peer to peer learning. In February, representatives from three MSPI Participants agreed to participate in and present at this year's MSPI Orientation for new colleagues from the Edward Worth Library and Glenveagh Castle Museum. Patricia O'Hare, Curator/Librarian, Muckross House, Traditional Farms and Research Library; Harriet Wheelock, Keeper, The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's Heritage Centre; and Brian Crowley, Curator, Kilmainham Gaol and the Pearse Museum generously shared their experience of working through the

accreditation process to achieve Full Accreditation.

In March, Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Director and Barry O'Kelly, Operations Manager, Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum (fully accredited), joined Emma Dadson to present at the Disaster Planning Workshop, to share their experience of managing and recovering from their museum being seriously flooded in November 2017.

At the MSPI award ceremony at Kilkenny Castle in July John Paul Phelan TD, Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform spoke about the significance of the cultural sector in Ireland and in particular to Kilkenny. The awards recognised the important ongoing work that is being done in the sector to protect their collections, enhance their services and provide excellent levels of customer service to their visitors. The accreditations awarded in July followed an extensive assessment programme carried out by national and international experts. Of the ten museums accredited today, Full Accreditation has been awarded to the Michael Davitt Museum for the first time while Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, Knock Museum, the National Gallery of Ireland, the National Print Museum and the Zoological Museum, Trinity College Dublin, have retained Full Accreditation that had been previously won, while four others – Allihies Copper Mine Museum, Crawford Art Gallery, Kilmainham Gaol Museum, OPW and the Museum of Free Derry, were awarded Interim Accreditation.

In October, Julia Walsh, Education Officer of (fully accredited) Tipperary County Museum, shared her experience as a museum educator and of achieving MSPI education standards when she presented an Introduction to Museum Education workshop.





Heritage Officers from across Ireland pictured with President Michael D. Higgins (seated centre), Michael Parsons (Chair of the Heritage Council Board), Virginia Teehan (Chief Executive, The Heritage Council) and staff of The Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht at a reception in Áras an Uachtaráin to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Heritage Officer Programme.

Photo courtesy of Áras an Uachtaráin

THE HERITAGE OFFICER NETWORK

Since it was established in 1995, the Heritage Council has recognised the important role that local authorities play in managing Ireland's heritage and citizen engagement with heritage. Local authorities have become central to the management of natural, built and cultural heritage at a local level. The Heritage Officer role is a strategic one for local authorities and an important service within a changing local government, which has oriented increasingly towards community with the new public participation networks under the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

In 1999, the Heritage Council developed a pilot Heritage Officer Programme, which commenced in April with the appointment of Jim Higgins in Galway Corporation and Una Cosgrave in Ker-

ry County Council. Siobhan Ryan was subsequently appointed to Sligo County Council in June. The successful pilot facilitated the expansion of the programme to a further eight local authorities in 2000. These were Clare County Council, Dublin

Corporation, Galway County Council, Leitrim County Council, Limerick County Council, Offaly County Council, Wicklow County Council and Waterford Corporation. Since then, the programme has extended this partnership programme to twenty seven Local Authorities across the country.

During the twenty years since its establishment, the Heritage Officer Programme has contributed directly to increased public understanding and awareness of

our natural, cultural and built heritage. Heritage Officers have carried out numerous surveys and compiled reports on areas of natural, cultural or architectural significance, adding significantly to the local bank of knowledge about heritage. They have worked at local level to safeguard heritage, strengthen communities and support jobs. They have highlighted the importance of our historical buildings and unique landscapes through collaborative policy development with other Local Authority officials, while also helping to inform, develop and implement national and regional heritage policy at local level.



Here is just some of the work done in 2019 by Heritage Officers across Ireland with the support of the Heritage Council County Heritage Plan Grants.

Cavan County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Anne Marie Ward

Cavan Golden Ways: 2019 was another very successful year which saw an increased number of communities participating in the Cavan Golden Way. During the year, the heritage office engaged two local artists to facilitate and work with local golden way groups in the county. The aim of this project is that the artists would facilitate communities to respond to the heritage along their golden ways in an imaginative and creative manner. It is anticipated that this project will be developed further in 2020.

Historic Graveyards Network: The Historic Graveyard Network has grown significantly since its inception in 2017. A number of Council-owned historic graveyards have been added to the network, the aim of which is to improve access to these sites, help undertake essential repairs and provide directional and interpretive panels. Projects this year as part of the Graveyards Network included signage for 'historic graveyards', 'recording of historic graveyards' and 'digital mapping of historical graveyards'.

Explore Lough Oughter: In 2018, Abarta Heritage completed a study of the greater Lough Oughter Area. One of its findings was that the Lough Oughter abounds with natural heritage and is suitable for the promotion as a heritage tourism destination using the slow tourism model. In 2019, Woodrow Associates completed a nature study for Lough Oughter. This study made a series of recommendations which inform an action plan for the development of the area.

Heritage Week, 2019 in Cavan was very successful with more people than ever engaging with and participating in the week-long event. Heritage Week offers people the opportunity to become a tourist in their own backyard. In 2019, many communities availed of the local heritage week grant scheme and organised events in their local communities.

Clare County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Congella McGuire

Reading Your Local Landscape Training: Funded by the Creative Ireland programme, Reading Your Local Landscape Training is a collaboration between Clare County Council and Limerick Clare Education Board, in line with the Clare Creative Ireland Strategy to enable creativity in the community. In 2019

Reading Your Local Landscape training took place in Kilrush and Killaloe. The aim of the course is to empower local community members to discover, recognise, promote and conserve their unique local heritage resources. Over the past two years, forty-eight students completed the training, all of whom compiled heritage projects based in their local community. At the programme showcase at the Further Education and Training Centre, Kilrush Campus, 5th June 2019, participants were awarded certificates of achievement, gave a presentation of their projects, and spoke about the benefits of this unique course. Two further Reading Your Local Landscape training programmes are planned for the Burren and South Clare in 2020.

Clare Community Heritage Archive Website iCAN: Clare iCAN is a collaborative partnership with support from the National Museum of Ireland. The inaugural meeting, attended by five community groups, was held on 22nd May. The communities involved - Clarecastle, Kilkee, Scatterry Island Heritage Group and Shannon - are working in the background to prepare the community heritage material for their individual websites on the iCAN portal. The iCAN website will be formally launched in March 2020.

Shannon Estuary Way Heritage and Biodiversity Recording:

The Shannon Estuary Way Heritage Recording and the Shannon Estuary Way Nature Based Tourism proposals undertaken with local communities in 2018, illustrated the variety of potential activities and the richness of the heritage along the route. The provision of heritage and recreational routes and looped trails associated with the Shannon Estuary Way will add to visitor experiences and attractions and will also enhance the value of the route. Both reports were launched in January 2019, when over thirty people from nine communities along the Shannon Estuary Way attended an evening presentation.

Heritage Week 2019 was the 17th annual celebration of County Clare's built, natural and cultural heritage coordinated locally by Clare County Council and nationally by the Heritage Council. Some of the best-attended events in Clare were whale watching at Black Head Lighthouse; "The Story of a Cave Rescue" at Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee; a talk on Cahiracon House at Kildysart Community Centre; a talk on Cave Rescue" at Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee; a talk on Cahiracon House at Kildysart Community Centre; a talk on the restoration of Turret Lodge in Kilrush; the Labasheeda - Shannon Estuary Way event and the many activities held at the Miltown Resource Centre. There were also high attendances at the daily Ennis Friary tours and the "Remembrance" stories at Áras OaC, Miltown. At the National Heritage Awards ceremony in Dublin on 6 February 2019, Kilrush and District Historical Society accepted a Le Chéile san Eoraip Award for "An Exhibition of Kilrush Ceramics'.

Some of the other heritage projects undertaken in Clare in 2019 included an appraisal of the Heritage (built, cultural and natural) Landscape of the Errina Canal and a feasibility study of the heritage resource, value and potential of Cahiracon House, Estate and adjoining maritime landscape. The heritage officer also supported biodiversity training for sixteen communities at four separate locations throughout County Clare. Lastly, Kilrush, Co Clare, was one of the six successful towns to receive funds from the 2019 Historic Towns Initiative. Funding of €190,000 has been set aside for the conversion of Terret Lodge into a small genealogy and exhibition space.

Cork County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Conor Nelligan

2019 saw a number of heritage projects undertaken in County Cork. The Heritage Unit received direct funding from the Heritage Council for two County Heritage Plan projects to the sum of €23,000. A publication on the Industrial Heritage of County Cork and a colouring book depicting County Cork's heritage and culture were launched.

Overall funding in County Cork through the Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, amounted to €189,197.48 in 2019. Projections for investment in the County's heritage for 2020 look very positive, particularly given that 2020 sees the launch of Ireland's new Heritage Plan – *Heritage Ireland 2030*. Indeed, in anticipation of the plan, Cork County Council's Heritage Unit held a large workshop in the County Hall to give an overview of the proposed plan; to encourage the public to make submissions, and the Heritage Unit also made a lengthy submission itself. The Council's Heritage Officer also spoke at the National Heritage Ireland 2030 Conference held in Dublin on 28 May 2019.

Bandon; Buttevant and Youghal are members of the Irish Walled Towns Network. In 2019, Buttevant secured €3,500 for interpretative signs and panels and Youghal benefited to the sum total of €37,000 (€12,000 towards the Medieval Festival – a festival which received the accolade of Ireland's Best Festival at the 2018 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards) – and a further €25,000 for Phase 11 of Structural Works to secure the integrity of Youghal Town Walls.

Further investment came through the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund (HSF). Under the BHIS, thirteen different projects were supported to the value of €92,697.48 and under the HSF one project, based in Youghal, received funding of €33,000. This represented an increase of close to €25,000 for County Cork under the schemes, compared with 2018.

Cork County Council's Heritage Unit endeavours to promote a greater appreciation of the County's heritage and publicised over 300 heritage events in 2019. The Heritage Unit participated in the 'Celebrating Cork Past' Exhibition in the City Hall on September 28th and curated an exhibition in the foyer of the County Hall for the duration of Heritage Week in August. The Heritage Officer also actively supported and promoted a number of initiatives including National Tree Week and the County Cork Schools' Garden Competition, working with Cork

Sligo County Council
Siobhán Ryan
071 911 4482 / 9111 111
heritage@sligococo.ie

Mayo County Council
Deirdre Cunningham
094 904 7684
dcunningham@mayococo.ie

Longford Co
Mairead Ní Ch
043 334 0731
mnichonghaile

Roscommon County Council
Nollaig Feeney
090 663 7100 / 663 7135
nfeeney@roscommoncoco.ie

Galway County Council
Marie Mannion
091 509 000 Ext. 198 / 509 198
mmannion@galwaycoco.ie

Galway City Council
Jim Higgins
091 526 574
jim.higgins@galwaycity.ie

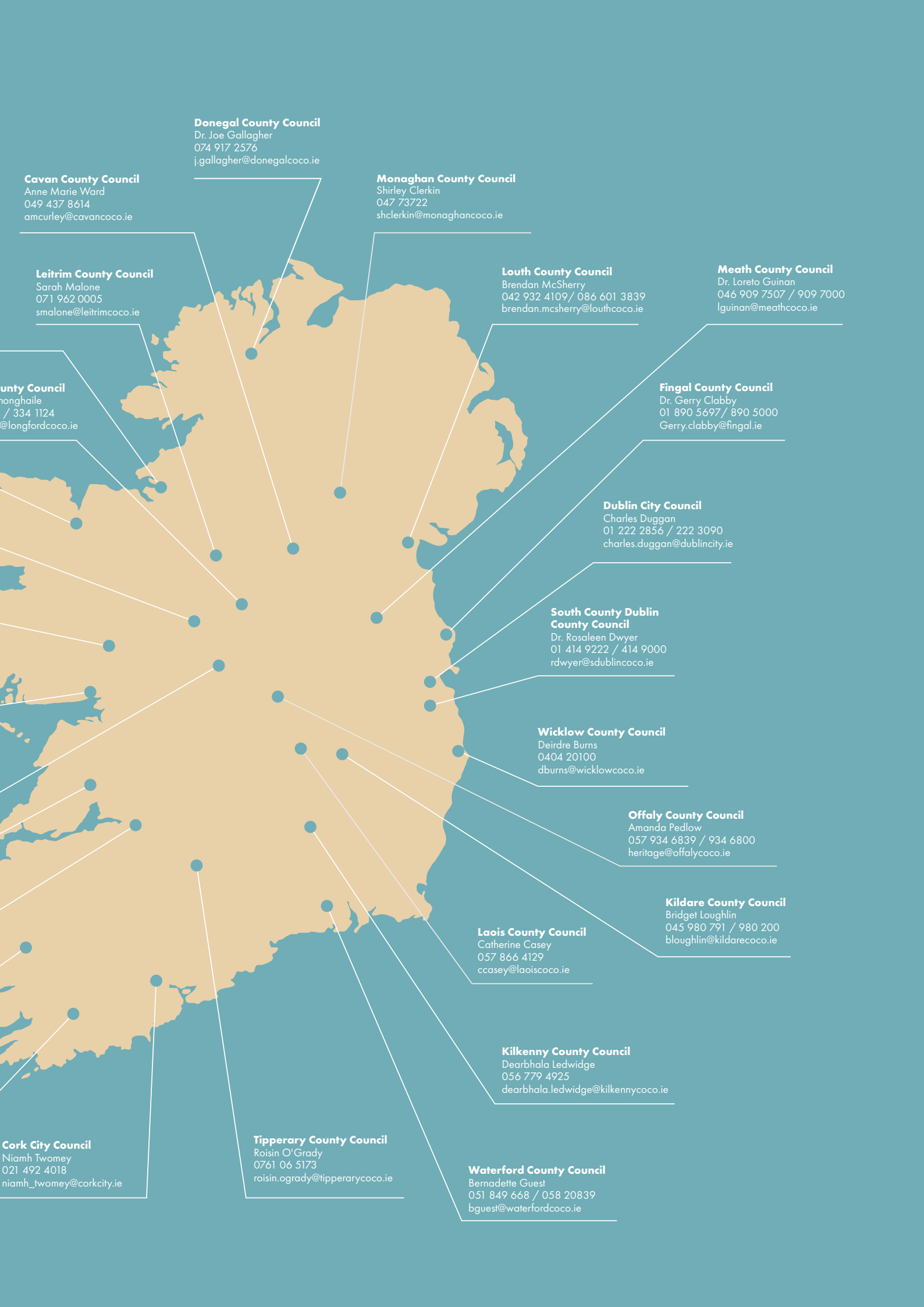
Westmeath County Council
Melanie McQuade
044 9332098
Melanie.mcquade@westmeathcoco.ie

Clare County Council
Congella McGuire
065 684 6408 / 682 1616
cmcguire@clarecoco.ie

Limerick County Council
Tom O'Neill
061 407229
thomas.oneill@limerick.ie

Kerry County Council
Victoria McCarthy
066 7183500
heritage@Kerrycoco.ie

Cork County Council
Conor Nelligan
021 428 5905
conor.nelligan@corkcoco.ie



Donegal County Council
Dr. Joe Gallagher
074 917 2576
j.gallagher@donegalcoco.ie

Cavan County Council
Anne Marie Ward
049 437 8614
amcurley@cavancoco.ie

Monaghan County Council
Shirley Clerkin
047 73722
shclerkin@monaghancoco.ie

Leitrim County Council
Sarah Malone
071 962 0005
smalone@leitrimcoco.ie

Louth County Council
Brendan McSherry
042 932 4109 / 086 601 3839
brendan.mcsherry@louthcoco.ie

Meath County Council
Dr. Loreto Guinan
046 909 7507 / 909 7000
lguinan@meathcoco.ie

Longford County Council
Donaghale
/ 334 1124
@longfordcoco.ie

Fingal County Council
Dr. Gerry Clabby
01 890 5697 / 890 5000
Gerry.clabby@fingal.ie

Dublin City Council
Charles Duggan
01 222 2856 / 222 3090
charles.duggan@dublincity.ie

**South County Dublin
County Council**
Dr. Rosaleen Dwyer
01 414 9222 / 414 9000
rdwyer@sdblincoco.ie

Wicklow County Council
Deirdre Burns
0404 20100
dburns@wicklowcoco.ie

Offaly County Council
Amanda Pedlow
057 934 6839 / 934 6800
heritage@offalcoco.ie

Kildare County Council
Bridget Loughlin
045 980 791 / 980 200
bloughlin@kildarecoco.ie

Laois County Council
Catherine Casey
057 866 4129
ccasey@laoiscoco.ie

Kilkenny County Council
Dearbhala Ledwidge
056 779 4925
dearbhala.ledwidge@kilkennycoco.ie

Waterford County Council
Bernadette Guest
051 849 668 / 058 20839
bguest@waterfordcoco.ie

Tipperary County Council
Roisin O'Grady
0761 06 5173
roisin.ogrady@tipperarycoco.ie

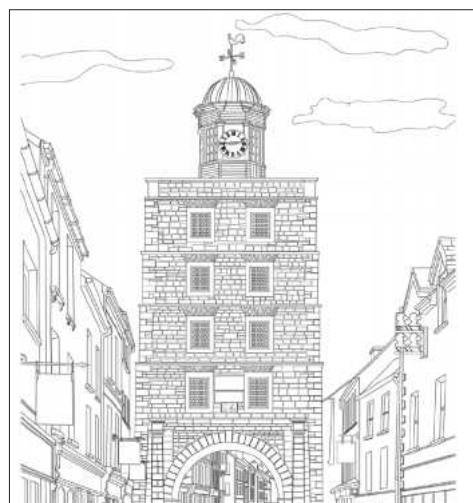
Cork City Council
Niamh Twomey
021 492 4018
niamh_twomey@corkcity.ie



Left: Explore Lough Oughter, Cavan, (Courtesy of Anne Marie Ward) Right: Terret Lodge, Kilrush, Co Clare, which will be conserved using funding from the funds from the 2019 Historic Towns Initiative.



Kilrush and District Historical Society accept a Le Chéile san Eoraip Award at the National Heritage Awards ceremony in Dublin on 6th February 2019 (Courtesy of Congella McGuire)



Left: The launch of the Colourful Heritage of Cork County, Cork County Hall. Left: A page from *The Colourful Heritage of Cork County*, featuring Youghal Clock Tower by Sara Nylund. (Courtesy of Conor Nelligan)

County Council's Environment Section on same. The Heritage Unit has also supported the National Tidy Towns Pollinator Award since its inception. In April 2019, Cork City Council, hosted the very successful annual All-Ireland Pollinator Conference.

2019 also saw the continuation of a wonderful project involving the County Archaeologist in conjunction with the local MD Offices, in the production of Historic Town Maps. These are a significant asset to Cork County's tourism product and copies of the maps are available to download for free online on the 'Pure Cork' website (www.purecork.ie). 2020 will see the production of further maps for towns throughout the county.

There were 162 Heritage Week events in fifty different locations in County Cork in 2019, representing an increased in the number of events compared to 2018. Cork County Council's Heritage Unit works closely with Heritage Groups to support, encourage and promote local heritage events. The success of Heritage Week is a testament to the work of these groups.

The hardworking Cork County Council Commemorations Committee maintained its high standards in 2019, organising and supporting over twenty different projects and initiatives, including an official meeting of Cork County Council to mark the Centenary of the First Dáil. A national exhibition entitled, 'Dáil - Céad Bhliain', was hosted in County Hall during the summer of 2019. Important centenaries of events during the War of Independence will be commemorated in Cork in 2020.

Donegal City Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Joseph Gallagher

The Heritage Office raises awareness, provides advice, collects data and promotes best practice in relation to heritage and implements the County Heritage Plan in partnership with

the County Heritage Forum (www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage). As part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan, the Heritage Office commissioned short videos on traditional building skills, produced the Donegal Traditional Shop Fronts & Signage booklet and launched the Audit of Columban Cultural Heritage. Heritage Week was a tremendous success with over 120 events taking place and the popular County Donegal Heritage Week Event Guide produced. The Heritage Office co-organised the 'Learning Through The Landscape' CPD Course for Primary Teachers and five 'Creative Habitats' Workshops for Children.

Donegal County Council's application for Church Lane, Letterkenny to the Historic Towns Initiative was successful and was awarded €200,000 in funding from the Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for conservation works to seven historic properties. The Heritage Office and the Conservation Office also initiated a Thatch Repair Grant Scheme and supported twelve thatch repair projects. Donegal County Council signed up to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The annual Local Authority Tidy Towns Pollinator Award was co-sponsored and Buncrana Tidy Towns won the National 'Tidy Towns' Pollinator Award.

The Heritage Office secured funding from the National Parks & Wildlife Service for a three-year project on Tracking Irish Breeding Curlew, and corvid control of Hooded Crows for the conservation of Breeding Lapwing on Tory Island (in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland) and commissioned habitat assessments of fifteen historic graveyards. The 'Wee House' at Malin (Malin Well Old Church) and the Malin Well Conservation Group were selected as one of seven successful applicants from across Ireland under the Heritage Council's 'Adopt a Monument' scheme. The Heritage Office provided part-funding for an archaeological excavation at Disert and for the Tír Chonaill Stone Festival in Ardara.



Left: Pictured at the National 'Tidy Towns' Competition at The Helix in DCU in September are members of Buncrana Tidy Towns (centre) having receiving their regional and national Pollinator Awards from Dr. Una Fitzpatrick, NBDC and Joseph Gallagher, County Donegal Heritage Officer. (Courtesy of the National Biodiversity Data Centre) **Right:** Heritage Week event organisers and guests pictured outside Donegal County Museum at the launch of the County Donegal Heritage Week Event Guide in August (Photo by Aideen Tighe)



This rope thatched property at Straboy, Glencolmille, County Donegal was among the thatched structures supported under the pilot Thatch Repair Grants Scheme. (Courtesy of Joseph Gallagher)

The Heritage Officer Network: Heritage Officers from around the country attended a reception at Áras an Uachtaráin in September to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Heritage Officer Programme. The Heritage Office coordinated two public information events to assist in the preparation of a new National Heritage Plan - Heritage Ireland 2030. The Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht hosted the Heritage Ireland 2030 information event in Dublin Castle in May to update people on progress towards the preparation of the new National Heritage Plan and five Heritage Officers were invited to give short presentations at the event.

Dublin City Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Charles Duggan

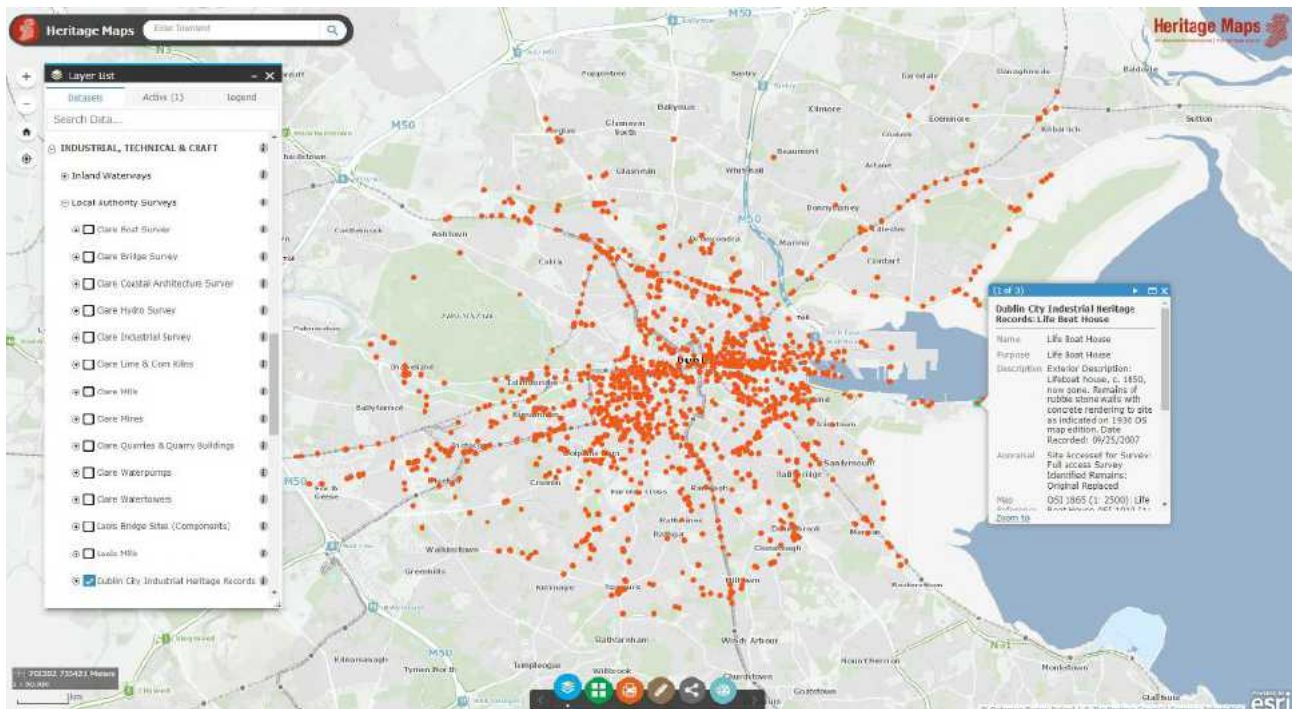
More Than Concrete Blocks Vol.II (1940–72): In February 2019 Dublin City Council launched *More Than Concrete Blocks Vol.II (1940 – 1972)*. Edited by Dr. Ellen Rowley, this three-volume series of architectural history books forms part of the dissemination strategy for the long-term research project part-funded annually by the Heritage Council. This research project and book series investigates the development of architecture in Dublin from 1900 to 1999 presenting an account of a wide variety of buildings of the period within a social, cultural and economic context. Vol.II includes case studies on 36 buildings in the city: inner-city schools, a suburban catholic church and flat schemes to radical office buildings. It covers the middle decades and the perennially overlooked 1940s and 1950s and presents a contentious built history which saw the not-always-welcome rise of architectural modernism, at the service of modernizing Ireland.

Museum, by Paula Meehan and Dragana Jurisic: In July 2019 Dublin City Council in partnership with the Dublin City

Council Culture Company published *MUSEUM*, a book of poetry and new artistic photography by Paula Meehan and Dragana Jurisic commissioned by Dublin City Heritage Office with the support of the Dublin City Arts Office and curator Valerie Connor. Paula's poetic sequence of sonnets and Dragana's photography are inspired by the chequered social history and architecture of 14 Henrietta Street. The book was beautifully designed by Oonagh Young (Design HQ).

The Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record: In 2019 Dublin City Council published the Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record (DCIHR) on the Heritage Council's Heritage Map Viewer. The DCIHR was compiled between 2006 and 2009. It contains 1,219 site records which were stored on a largely inaccessible Microsoft Access database. This invaluable record of the city's rich industrial heritage from bridges and canals to factories and warehouses can now be freely accessed along with the County Dublin Archaeology GIS project and other important heritage data on the heritagemaps.ie.

Saint Luke's Graveyard: The Saint Luke's Conservation Plan (2004) was part funded by the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan grant scheme. The plan sought to identify a mechanism for the appropriate and sustainable re-use of the derelict early 18th century former church and graveyard located in the Coombe, Dublin 8. The adaptive reuse of the church and works to the graveyard were delayed in 2009 by the economic downturn. In 2016 the project was revived. The scheme by Bernard Seymour Landscape Architects and Shaffrey Architects involved the recovery of the character of the southern graveyard with biodiversity rich planting and a new pocket public park (Páirc Lúcaís Naofa) which opened to the public in late Spring 2019. Separately, the church building was conserved and adapted as offices by the Saint Luke's Partnership.



Top Left: Launch of 'More Than Concrete Blocks': Lord Mayor of Dublin Niall Ring with Ellen Rowley, Paula Meehan, Mick Foran, and Charles Duggan.
 Top Right: 'More Than Concrete Blocks' cover illustration. Centre Right: The new boundary wall and access to Páirc Lucáis Naofa (Courtesy of Charles Duggan)
 Bottom: The Dublin City Industrial Heritage Record on Heritagemaps.ie, (Courtesy of Pat Reid)



Athenry Walled Towns Day 2019 (Courtesy of Marie Mannion)

Galway County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Marie Mannion

During 2019, the Heritage Office of County Council continued its work to promote awareness, knowledge and appreciation of biodiversity. The Heritage Officer works to promote interest, education, knowledge and pride in the heritage of County Galway. The following are some of the projects undertaken in 2019:

'Go Wild' Summer Camps: Developed two children's biodiversity two-day summer camps with BirdWatch Ireland, Mountbellew Heritage Group and Williamstown Tidy Towns Group. These successful courses were delivered in Mountbellew and Williamstown in August 2019. The camps were funded by NPWS and Galway County Council.

Geological Heritage Audit: Over the last three years Galway County Council, in conjunction with the Heritage Council, has been working with Geological Survey Ireland on the completion of a Geological Heritage Audit of the county. This support is critical in raising the profile of geological heritage in County Galway and for maximising its potential, since some of the sites may be otherwise overlooked. Seventy-four sites were surveyed and mapped in detail in 2019. In total, over the three years, 134 County Geological Sites have been designated in County Galway.

Cruinniú @ Portumna: This one-day event was held on Saturday 20 July in Portumna. It was developed by Galway County Council, Waterways Ireland, the OPW, Irish Workhouse Cen-

tre, Portumna GAA and Portumna Anglers with funding from the Heritage Council to showcase the rich heritage of Portumna and Lough Derg. Over 1000 people attended this free event.

The Athenry Town Walls Project: After twelve years of dedicated work, the efforts of Galway County Council, Athenry Heritage Centre, Athenry Community Council, Athenry Tidy Towns, property owners, the GAA, the Heritage Council and the Irish Walled Town Network was recognised. The Athenry Town Walls Project won Best Heritage Project at the recent All Ireland Community and Council Awards. Presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA, the awards highlight and recognise communities and councils working together, bringing national recognition to projects that may otherwise go unrecognised.

Athenry Walled Towns Day 2019: This day of family fun was held on Sunday 18th August, showcasing the wealth of the built, natural and cultural heritage in medieval Athenry. Over 3,500 people attended this event that was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council.

Loughrea Medieval Festival 2019: This three-day heritage event funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council, was held in on 23rd to 25th August 2019 in partnership with Loughrea Medieval Festival Committee. Over 20,000 people attended various heritage events over the 3 days including Walled Town Day which was held on Sunday 25 August. The Loughrea Medieval Festival was awarded the Le Cheile san Eoraip award at National Heritage Awards in 2019 for an event entitled, 'A Taste of the Past: Exploring Our

European Connections’.

Biodiversity Project: The Heritage Officer provides advice and guidance on various aspects of biodiversity including tree planting, dealing with invasive species and pollinator plans to Tidy Towns, Community and Schools Groups throughout the county. 2019 saw the establishment of a ‘Boxes for Bees’ School Project.

A number of schools received a school visit and a box and seeds for planting. The Heritage Unit also provided input into the development of Kilcornan Heritage Trails, worked with the Environment Section on the development of brochures for Portumna Bathing area and worked with Creggs Tidy Towns on their Heritage and Biodiversity Audit.

Reading Your local Landscape Training: On 15 August a magnificent showcase of heritage research and practical application was held in the Teleworks Centre, Mountbellew. This was the culmination of a ‘Reading Your Local Landscape’ training course held at the centre between April and July. Funded by Galway County Council and Creative Ireland, in association with Mountbellew Heritage and Tourism Network, eleven participants received training in all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage.

Decade of Commemorations: Two events took place to commemorate the centenary of the first meeting of Dáil Éireann on Monday 21 January. Lectures were delivered by Dr Conor McNamara and Siobhra Aiken in the Council Chamber and in the Claregalway Hotel. The Loughrea Remember Conference entitled ‘Democracy and the People’ was held on 7 November 2019 and a Dáil 100 exhibition (Oireachtas Exhibition) was displayed in Áras an Chontae from mid August to mid September.

Féile na gCloch 2019: Over 100 people attended Féile na gCloch on Inis Oírr which took place from Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd September 2019. Participants had a choice of engaging in stone wall building, lettering, carving, paving, sketching and hot lime demo as well as listening to various related talks.

In 2019 the Heritage Officer continued to work with Galway Rural Development on Digital Mapping of Graveyards in the County. She also participated in the Placenames Committee, the Loughrea Heritage and Development Company and worked with Killimor Heritage on their gastronomy heritage book. The community archaeologist also engaged in various projects and events in County Galway to create greater archaeological awareness.



Top Left: The Aviation conference in Clifden with the Alcock and Brown 100 Committee in June 2019. Top right: Participants in Féile na gCloch on Inis Oírr, 19-22 September 2019. Bottom left: Participants enjoying the ‘Go Wild’ Summer Camp in August 2019. Bottom right: The award-winning Loughrea Medieval Festival 2019 (Courtesy of Marie Mannion)

Kildare County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Bridget Loughlin

Kildare's new Heritage Plan 2019-228 was prepared and adopted following public consultation and a Heritage Awareness survey in 2019. Other heritage highlights in Kildare in 2019 included a Traditional Building Skills Weekend, which was run in conjunction with the Office of Public Works and the Irish Georgian Society. It was very popular, with 2,500 attendees over the weekend. In 2019 specific conservation projects were undertaken at Donacompher Church Ruin, Tealane Graveyard and Passlands Graveyard.

Funding was secured from the National Biodiversity Action Plan to conduct a survey of the actions Kildare County Council will be taking to ensure compliance with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. An ecological survey of three Kildare County Council parks was also undertaken in 2018 with funding secured from the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

Three further stories were added to the River Liffey Stories 2019. This project is a joint initiative of the Heritage Officers in Wicklow, Kildare, South Dublin, Fingal and Dublin city and supported by the Heritage Council. The purpose is to create a rich digital archive of information on natural, built and cultural heritage.

Heritage Week 2019 in Kildare was very successful. Seventy-one different groups organised 130 events based on the theme Pastimes | Past Times. Approximately 27,000 people attended the Kildare events.

National Biodiversity Week ran from 18 to 26 May 2019 during which 950 people participated in thirty events in Kildare. Biodiversity Week is run in conjunction with Kildare Library Service, local Natural Heritage groups, and Tidy Towns groups. Kildare's programme of Swift Box Installation also continued in 2019 in partnership with Wild Kildare.

Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people, was held on 15 June 2019. Two Forest Schools were conducted in Castletown woods and a Traditional Buildings Skills workshops for Children organised.

Kildare County Council worked in conjunction with the NBDC and Wicklow County Council to develop an animation to promote the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

In 2019, the Heritage Officer assisted fifty-six groups in applying for the Community Heritage Grant Scheme. Assistance was also provided in the research development and implementation of the community heritage projects.



Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran with thatchers, Ken and Joe Leonard at the Traditional Building Skills Workshop at Castletown House on 15 June 2019.
(Courtesy of Bridget Loughlin)



Launching two new interpretive panels of Kilkenny's city walls were Francis Coody, Liam Mannix, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Leas Cathaoirleach, Simon Walton, Bishop Dermot Farrell, Cllr. Peter Cleere Mayor, Dearbhala Ledwidge, Virginia Teehan, Tom Clarke. (Courtesy of Dearbhala Ledwidge)

Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Dearbhala Ledwidge

Heritage in Schools: 6,247 primary school children in fifty-five County Kilkenny schools received free Heritage in Schools visits – an increase of 240% in the number of participating schools compared to 2018. This was a joint initiative between the Heritage Council's Heritage in Schools Scheme and the Kilkenny Heritage Office and was co-funded by Creative Ireland.

Kilkenny Pollinator Programme: Kilkenny County Council signed a framework agreement with the National Biodiversity Data centre to support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Fifty-five actions were undertaken by the Council, including surveys of Council owned land, pollinator friendly planting, and awareness raising. Co-ordinated by the Heritage Office and co-funded under the National Biodiversity Action Plan Grant programme.

Field Names: 1,889 field names from eighty-five townlands were recorded by volunteers for the Kilkenny Field Names Project. Co-funded by the Heritage Council under the County Heritage Plan Programme.

Kilkenny Wildlife Detective: Forty-nine primary school teachers and early school practitioners attended training for the Kilkenny Wildlife Detective, an educational resource to support children to explore and record Kilkenny's biodiversity. This resource was developed by the Heritage office, in partnership with Kilkenny

Education Centre and Co. Kilkenny Childcare Committee.

Kilkenny City Walls: In 2019 the city wall at the Black Abbey car park was conserved and repaired and new railings installed. Two new interpretive panels, telling the story of Kilkenny's medieval past, were designed and installed at James' St and Tilbury Lane. Both projects were co-funded by Kilkenny County Council and the Irish Walled Towns Network.

Commemorations: The Heritage Office organised a formal commemoration of the centenary of the first meeting of Dáil Éireann on 21 January 1919 and of women achieving a vote in the December 1918 general election. The Flag Party of the 3rd Infantry Battalion (James Stephens Barracks) raised the Irish flag. Councillors and staff from Kilkenny Council attended, along with representatives of Strategic Policy Committee 5 and Comhairle na nÓg.

Laois County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Catherine Casey

Regeneration of Historic Portlaoise: Conservation of the historic urban fabric of Portlaoise continued in 2019, following the Historic Towns Initiative project started in 2018, with the support of the Heritage Council. The project to regenerate the public realm and the masonry of the 16th Century Fort at the heart of the town received Urban Regeneration and Development funding during 2019 and work to conserve and interpret the historic core of the town is ongoing.

Projects undertaken in Laois in 2019 with the support of the Heritage Council include

Heritage Awareness: Heritage Week took place on 17 – 25 August 2019 and with over 60 events across the county ranging from a walk through the prehistoric landscape of the Heath to bat walks and history talks. For Science Week in November, in addition to events at Libraries and schools, an outreach project with the National Museum of Ireland and Midlands Science saw a Viking Discovery Day in Portlaoise for schools and families and an evening presentation on Bog Bodies by National Museum staff.

Connecting Communities: This project draws together communities and their local heritage, with a focus in 2019 on Timahoe. The School of Irish Archaeology were at the Timahoe Heritage Festival in June, with two days of archaeology workshops for young people. The Archaeology Oreland "Timahoe Heritage Guide" was reprinted for the event. Archaeological research and land management is ongoing. A landscaper carried out significant management of the vegetation on site and a topographical survey has been completed. All work was supervised by Dave Pollock Archaeologist and the National Monuments Service.

Heritage Publications: The *Saving Swifts* Guide was published and launched in June, in association with BirdWatch Ireland. A *Heritage Guide to the Heath* was published with *Archaeology Ireland* magazine, and launched during Heritage Week and *The Buildings of Ireland: Central Leinster* was launched in October 2019. Funding through the Heritage Council was provided for research for this book in past years.

Conservation of Medieval Churches: A number of practical conservation projects were undertaken at historic sites in Laois during 2019. This involved conservation of masonry at three medieval church sites: Killabban Medieval Church near Ballylinan in south Laois; Kiltale Church near the Rock of Dunamase and Kilmanman Church outside Clonaslee.

National Biodiversity Action Plan: A project to raise awareness of pollinators and everyday biodiversity was undertaken with the support of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht through the National Biodiversity Action Plan. A set of nine radio advertisements with information on different actions that could be undertaken to protect pollinators was recorded and broadcast on Midlands 103 (covering Counties Laois, Offaly and Westmeath). A booklet on promoting garden biodiversity was commissioned and will be published in 2020.



Top left: Representatives of the Heritage Council, Laois County Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht at the formal opening of the Fort Protector/Fitzmaurice Place conservation project, 28 June 2019. (Courtesy of Catherine Casey)

Top Left: New bee logo adopted by Kilkenny County Council to show the Council's commitment to supporting pollinators and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Bottom: Kilkenny County Council commemorates 100 years of Dáil Éireann and Women's right to vote. (Courtesy of Dearbhla Ledwidge)



Leitrim Wetland, (Courtesy of Sarah Malone)

Leitrim County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Sarah Malone

Among Leitrim's heritage highlights of 2019 was the establishment of Leitrim Heritage. The first Heritage Forum meeting held in Feb 2019 to start the Heritage Plan process. There were several meetings of the Forum during 2019, including three Heritage Focus Groups. These covered built, natural or cultural heritage and additional heritage experts and stakeholders were invited to join these working groups. As well as developing the heritage plan in partnership with the heritage forum we also launched a six-week pre-plan public consultation called 'What's Your Leitrim Heritage?' This consisted of an online survey, information sessions and a radio campaign. A total of 124 submissions were received from members of the public and these submissions informed the draft heritage plan for Leitrim.

Wetland Survey: Funded by the Heritage Council, the objective of this survey was to determine the extent, distribution and types of wetland in County Leitrim, in order to provide biodiversity information to be used in decision making and to increase public awareness of wetlands. The outputs included a database/GIS layer to inform development control, a re-

port of wetland resources in the county, a publication for the website and a public talk on World Wetlands Day in Feb.

Thatched Survey: This aim of this survey of vernacular thatch buildings in Leitrim was to identify structures for potential inclusion on the RPS and to raise awareness and appreciation of thatched structures in the county. The survey found that there were twenty-three sites with twenty-eight thatch structures, the vast majority of which consist of recently added thatch of imported water reed. No more than five roofs retain historic thatch and perhaps only two or three have layers older than fifty years.

National Biodiversity Action Plan Project: Various actions in the Waterfront Amenity Park Public Engagement Programme. These included biodiversity events based around the Waterfront Park such as a Nature Detectives event for families; Wildflowers, trees and riverside habitats of Carrick-on-Shannon Workshop; an evening Bat Talk and Walk; and a Water in our Communities talk. 2019 also saw biodiversity workshops with 100 fifth & six class students from Scoil Mhuire, as well as public workshops on Gardening for Biodiversity for the local people of Manorhamilton, Ballinamore & Carrick-on-Shannon.

Shoptalk Project. This project aims to celebrate the traditional shopfronts of Leitrim by documenting them and by looking at the people, stories and events associated with these important social spaces. The publication documenting twenty-four traditional shopfronts across Leitrim can be viewed Leitrim County Council website. A temporary shop called SHOPTALK was opened during Heritage Week 2019 to serve as an exhibition, library and activity space, as well as a meeting place for collecting and sharing stories and holding talks around the value of Leitrim's shops and their facades. People were encouraged to come into the shop and share stories and ideas, try their hand at signwriting or tiles design or find information at a specially curated library.

Limerick County Council Heritage Office Heritage Officer: Tom O'Neill

2018 was a busy year for Heritage in Limerick. The most significant events were the Amazing Lace Exhibition and Conference, funded by the Heritage Council. Amazing Lace was a Project to mark the 190th anniversary of Limerick Lace. Its aims were firstly to promote awareness of Limerick lace; secondly to support the Friends of Lace established in 2018; thirdly to promote outreach at home and abroad and, lastly, to preserve Limerick lace as a unique Irish craft.

The Project was further enhanced when, following an application submitted by Dr. Matthew Potter, Curator, Limerick Museum,

and Dr. Susan Frawley, of Friends of Lace and Pennywell Lace-Makers, Limerick Lace was added to the prestigious National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

In March 2019, Veronica Rowe donated the Florence Vere O'Brien Lace Collection, one of the largest and most historic in private ownership, to Limerick Museum on long-term loan. Her grandmother, Florence Vere O'Brien, brought about the revival of Limerick lace between 1883 and 1914. It was officially handed over to Limerick Museum at a reception held in the Hunt Museum in June. Since then highlights from the collection have been on display in the Hunt Museum.

Between 13 and 25 August, the Amazing Lace exhibition featuring historic and contemporary Limerick Lace, along with examples of other Irish lace, was held in St Mary's Cathedral, as part of Heritage Week 2019. The exhibition featured lace garments, designs and drawings from the Museum's permanent collection.

The Amazing Lace Conference was held in the Absolute Hotel in October 2019. It featured several presentations from invited speakers; discussions on topical lace issues and accompanied by pop-up exhibition of lace from Limerick Museum and attendees at the Conference. It was very successful and was attended by representatives from various Irish lace traditions, including Carrickmacross, South Armagh, Headford and Kenmare.



Top Left: Attendees at the Amazing Lace Conference in Limerick in October 2019. **Top Right:** Scene from the Amazing Lace Exhibition in St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick as part of Heritage Week 2019. (Courtesy of Tom O'Neill). **Bottom Left:** Thatached property at Cloodrumman Beg. (Courtesy of Sarah Malone)



Left: Louth Heritage Officer, Brendan McSherry on board the Architectural bus tour of Dundalk during National Heritage Week. **Right:** Participants at Growing for Biodiversity Workshops in Ballinrobe and Cong, September 2019 (Courtesy of Deirdre Cunningham)

Louth County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Brendan McSherry

Louth County Council's Heritage Office worked with a wide range of partners across the council and in the wider community of county Louth in 2019. Work included three Heritage Council funded projects. The Heritage Officer worked with the County Archives Service on conserving archives and historic maps of Drogheda, with the County Museum on a forthcoming book about a family tour of Louth and with a GIS officer on a survey of commemorative plaques and memorials in the county. The Heritage Officer also supported the County Archives Service on its Creative Ireland funded project investigating the commercial history of the Byrnes family of Louth (and others)

The Heritage Officer and the Planning Section worked closely throughout the year on biodiversity and archaeology matters and advised colleagues in both Infrastructure and Operations on related matters. He is also a member of the Climate Change Working Group and the Place-naming Committee.

Public events were held at Clogherhead for Biodiversity Week and the Architectural bus tour of Dundalk was wheeled out again for Heritage Week. The Heritage Officer also helped open Laurence's Gate in Drogheda for both the Drogheda Arts Festival and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Clogher Head is the location of an ongoing conservation grazing project.

The essential role of volunteers in recording and protecting biodiversity was supported. A Biodiversity Action Plan grant was obtained for the excellent conservation project for Little Terns nesting at Baltray, run by the Louth Nature Trust. More than 3,000 biodiversity records from County Louth were lodged with the National Biodiversity Data Centre in 2019, covering 677 species, putting Louth in thirteenth place in the national rankings.

Much work went into setting up a shared LEADER-funded

project, investigating potential heritage-based tourist sites in Counties Louth, Cavan and Monaghan. The Heritage Officer also worked with colleagues in Louth and other Border region counties on the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check, led by the planning officer of the Heritage Council. A new Heritage Plan was drafted and the Heritage Office will guide this to adoption in 2020.

Mayo County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Deirdre Cunningham

Mayo Geology Exhibition: Mayo's rich geological heritage features in a geology exhibition developed in 2019. Based on an audit of Mayo's geological heritage sites and the publication, *Reading the Rocks – Exploring Mayo's Geological Heritage*, the exhibition presents and highlights a selection of Mayo's important geological heritage sites. The exhibition will tour to various locations throughout Mayo during 2020.

Growing for Biodiversity: A series of four workshops was delivered with funding from the National Biodiversity Action Plan, including (i) Summer Propagation: Softwood and Greenwood Cuttings; (ii) Wildflower Seed Collection and Saving; (iii) Pollinator-friendly Planting in Challenging Spaces; and (iv) Hedgerows and Winter Propagation. The workshops were attended by representatives from ten Mayo communities and individuals. The aim was to equip participants with the information and practical skills needed to develop biodiversity- and pollinator-friendly plantings in town and rural settings. The workshop series also aimed to foster discussion and sharing of issues and good practice across community groups in Mayo and to connect the work of these groups with the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Ongoing mentoring and support is provided to assist communities to and implement actions or projects within their local areas.

Killala Town Study: A comprehensive analysis of the historic town of Killala and its setting was undertaken. The historical



Top: Heritage Officers pictured at Lough Carra, County Mayo, June 2019. (Courtesy of Deirdre Cunningham)
Bottom Left: Pictured at the launch of the Ballina Consumer Survey Report (L-R) Peter Hynes, CE, Mayo Co. Council, Virginia Teehan, CE, Heritage Council, Minister Michael Ring TD, Deirdre Cunningham, Mayo Heritage Officer, Alison Harvey, Heritage Council. **Bottom Right:** Participants at Growing for Biodiversity Workshops in Ballinrobe and Cong, September 2019.



development and evolution of the town was examined, and a study of its built heritage carried out. The study explored how the town has grown and developed from its foundation as a monastic settlement in the fifth century. In addition to the buildings and street structure within the town, the study includes the town infrastructure, coastal setting, quay walls, public realm, open space, street furniture and signage, and significant views and vistas within the town. The study comprises an identification of Killala's unique character and recommendations on how that character can be enhanced.

Heritage Week 2019 was a great success with over 100 events taking place in Mayo, including heritage walks, talks and demonstrations, many of which were organised by communities, showcasing the rich and diverse built, natural and cultural heritage of their local areas. The Heritage Week Event Grant Scheme provided support to 35 communities to organise and host events.

Wildflowers of Mayo: The theme chosen for the 2019 Mayo Heritage Calendar was wildflowers of Mayo. The calendar features images of a selection of wildflowers to be found in the county, along with information on their ecology, heritage and traditional uses.

Ballina Consumer Survey: RED C Research and Marketing was commissioned by the Heritage Council to undertake a consumer survey of Ballina as part of the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme. The Ballina Consumer Survey Report was edited and prepared for publication by the Heritage Office. Minister Michael Ring launched the report in December 2019.

Other 2019 projects included the Mulranny Stone Wall Festival, held from 8th to 10th May; expansion of the Mayo Swift Nest Box Project; ongoing implementation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans; annual Local Authority Tidy Towns Pollinator Award was co-sponsored and Belmullet Tidy Towns won a regional award; the Heritage Office co-ordinated content for RTÉ Radio 1 Morning Ireland Outside Broadcast on 3rd July featuring a selection of biodiversity projects in Mayo; Unveiling of Tree of Embrace artwork created by the students of Ballinrobe NS, under the Heritage in Schools Scheme, with assistance from Ballinrobe Transition Year students, created as part of the 2018 Ballinrobe Heritage Iron and Craft Festival; the Heritage Office facilitated public consultation on Heritage Ireland 2030, the new National Heritage Plan. Drop-in information sessions were held in each of Mayo's four Municipal District; County Heritage Officers visited Co. Mayo in June for the Heritage Training and Development Programme on the theme of biodiversity and natural heritage.

Meath County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Loreto Guinan

2019 was a busy year for the County Meath Heritage office. Twenty-three local heritage projects were supported under the Community Heritage Grants Scheme. There were fifty-four participants in an Irish Walled Towns Network two-week Community Archaeology Dig at the Dominican Friary in Trim. The aim was to help delineate the monastic gardens. A programme of thirty five community awareness and education events were delivered, and 240 people attended a Medieval Family Day in August, which was one of eighty events held in Meath during Heritage Week.

National Biodiversity Action Plan funding facilitated the delivery of a Pollinator and Citizen Science Workshop in Buvinda House in November and a Birdwatch Ireland Workshop with Local Authority Staff in the same month. Community Biodiversity Action Plans were implemented in Ratoath, Slane, Kells and Julianstown through the following projects (i) Swift Conservation Project with Tidy Towns, (ii) Summerhill Community Biodiversity Plan, (iii) Kells Peat Free Workshop, (iv) Pollinator planting and (v) Biodiversity publications. Biodiversity training for Ratoath and Trim Tidy Towns was also organised.

In early 2019, the Meath Heritage Office facilitated six local public consultation events on the new national heritage plan: Heritage Ireland 2030. Other Heritage highlights included a seminar for community groups on the Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards in Buvinda House in April.



Top: Black Friary Community Archaeology Dig in Trim, August 2019. **Bottom Left:** Launch of *Kells Solving Our Own Problems Workshop Report* completed as part of a national pilot project funded by the Heritage Council Irish Walled Town Network and Meath County Council working in partnership with the local community. L to R: Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer, Meath County Council, Ivor McElveen (Heritage Council), Cllr Sean Drew (Cathaoirleach, Kells MD), Ken Murray (Kells Local Heroes) and Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, Meath County Council (Photo Credit: Carol Lee). **Bottom Right:** Slane Tidy towns group at Slane Castle taking part in the Swift Survey 2019. (Courtesy of Loreto Guinan)

The Kells Creative Placemaking Project is a multi-faceted collaborative project between Meath County Council and project stakeholders (artists, festivals, community volunteers, property owners and local business) which focuses on the regeneration and adaptive re-use of four key heritage buildings into the social, cultural and economic fabric of Kells. 2019 saw the launch of *Solving Our Own Problems Kells Participative Town Centre Health Check Report* completed as part of a national pilot project funded by the Heritage Council's Irish Walled Town Network and Meath County Council, working in partnership with the local community.

Monaghan County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Shirley Clerkin

Monaghan's Wonderful Wetlands: This book was published by the Heritage Office in 2019, as volume one of the new Monaghan Heritage series. Written by Dr. Peter Foss and Shirley Clerkin, it celebrates the natural and cultural heritage of

our wetlands. It is beautifully illustrated with photographs, and art by Neal Greig and Barry Quinn and poetry by Peter Fallon. The publication builds on the survey work undertaken since 2006, co-funded by Monaghan County and the Heritage Council to identify and explore Monaghan's rich wetland biodiversity. It was co-published with an online wetland story map.

Black Pig's Dyke: The research archive from 1982 onwards was assessed and catalogued, and the manuscript chapters drafted and submitted to the peer reviewer. This is a culmination of research undertaken with the assistance of Heritage Council funding since 2015, led by Monaghan County Council and the archaeological team of Kilkenny Archaeology and Aidan Walsh. This will be printed in 2020 by publisher Wordwell as an archaeological monograph. New reconstruction illustrations of the monument by Philip Armstrong wonderfully capture the landscape setting and the ditches and banks under construction thousands of years ago. An archaeological geophysical survey,

as part of the 2020 project discovered what appears to be a very exciting discovery of a bronze age village in the vicinity of the Black Pig's Dyke.

Archaeologist Aidan Walsh led a guided walk entitled 'Digging up the Past – the 1982 Excavation', along the Black Pig's Dyke on Saturday 17th August, for Heritage Week describing the background and context to the 1982 excavation, and the more recent findings from 2015 onwards.

Siobhan McDonald's *The Hidden Monuments* -Black Pigs Dyke show in the Market House, Monaghan ran through the Summer months including during Heritage Week. This mixed media installation included reference to the burnt palisade, charcoal remains, climate change and the iron age, hidden monuments below the surface that can appear like latent effects, and a sound recording and composition made on the section at Aghareagh West by composer David Stalling. Reviews for the show were excellent. The show was funded through Creative Ireland to complement the research project funded by the Heritage Council.

Sustainable Cultural Tourism: The Monaghan Heritage Officer was chairperson of the European Union Open Method of Coordination group on Sustainable Cultural Tourism, where one specialist from each member state contributes to a report and recommendations on an emerging topic. The report newly defines Sustainable Cultural Tourism as 'the integrated management of cultural heritage and tourism activities in conjunction with the local community creating social, environmental and economic benefits for all stakeholders, to achieve tangible and intangible cultural heritage conservation and sustainable tourism development'. The Monaghan Heritage Officer presented the report to the Council of the European Union Cultural Affairs Committee in Brussels in December 2020.

Offaly County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Amanda Pedlow

The Heritage Office works with the Offaly Heritage Forum to deliver the Offaly Heritage Plan 2017-22. The forum meets four times a year and is made up of people from state agencies, council staff and NGOs. The human resources of the forum are very valuable, providing advice, contributing to projects and leading awareness events. The Heritage Council provides funding towards the running of the Heritage office (25%) and also gives an allocation towards the delivery of the Offaly Heritage Plan. The heritage office has one full time officer.

Heritage Council Funded Projects: Funding from the Heritage Council of €23,000 was received in 2019 towards two projects in the Offaly Heritage Plan: the archives programme in conjunction with Offaly Library Service and Offaly History and the removal of Himalayan balsam invasive species from the Camcor and Little Brosna catchment.

Archives: The County Archive Building developed by Offaly History and supported by Offaly County Council in the Axis Business Park is full fitted out and the archives from both repositories are being transferred. Work continues to develop the county archive service website www.offalyarchives.com which hosts catalogues and certain digitised material.

National Biodiversity Plan funding of €16,000 was received from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and was allocated towards the delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan; supporting Tidy Towns in natural heritage projects; nest boxes for the swift population and the removal of invasive Himalayan balsam.

Japanese Knotweed: Work continues to combat this destructive plant and to try and contain it, involving annual treatment and a mapping programme along with contacting private landowners where the species is noted.

Decade of Centenaries funding of €10,000 was received in 2019 and was allocated to the preparation of archives from the period; a lecture on the military archives for the period 1916-23; essays on the period for the Offaly History Society Journal and the conservation of Lancelot Studholme's unique 6.6m memorial cross.

Medieval Churches and Burial Grounds: A maintenance programme has been put in place for medieval churches that have been conserved including Lynally, Lemanaghan, Drumcullen, Kilbride Clara, Croghan and Roscomroe to monitor and keep them in good repair. This is greatly assisted where volunteer groups are active such as at Lemanaghan where there is a weekly work group.

Public Realm and Town and Village Renewal: The Heritage Officer is part of the OCC in-house working group for Town and Village Renewal projects and is particularly involved in the delivery of the Croghan Hill project and the public art for Geashill.

Heritage Awareness: The Offaly Naturalists' Field Club programme is co-ordinated through the Heritage Office and sixteen events were held throughout the year. This helps build the team interested in learning about and recording biodiversity in the county.

Heritage Week is co-ordinated by the Heritage Office with the majority of the more than forty events planned and delivered by community groups over the nine-day event in August.

Annual Offaly Heritage Seminar: The annual heritage seminar is planned for 15 /16 November in Tullamore with field trips to vernacular architecture sites, the new County Archive or to the Battle of Geashill sculpture. This seminar reports back to the general public on progress with heritage projects during 2019. It is open to all and free.




**ANNUAL
OFFALY HERITAGE
SEMINAR 2019**

Friday 15 & Saturday 16 November

Friday 15 November
Mary Ward Community Centre, Ferbane

Saturday 16 November
Offaly History Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore

The aim of the seminar is to:

- Report on progress delivering the 4th Offaly Heritage Plan, 2017-21
- To provide an opportunity for people interested in heritage to meet



Top Left: Dr Peter Foss and Shirley Clerkin (authors) at launch of *Monaghan's Wonderful Wetlands* in the Ballybay Wetland Centre in July 2019. (Courtesy of Shirley Clerkin) **Top Right:** (L-R): Neal Greg, artist; Dr Peter Foss and Shirley Clerkin, authors; Peter Fallon, poet and Cllr. Pat Treanor, County Monaghan Heritage Forum. **Centre Left:** Offaly Heritage Forum members at their quarterly meeting, Gloster House Folly. **Bottom Left:** Vintage Luminaries projection at John's Hall, Vintage Week, August 2019 (Courtesy of Amanda Pedlow)

Creative Ireland: Creative Ireland 2017-22, places creativity at the centre of public policy focusing on projects that are collaborative involving the arts, heritage and libraries with strong community reach. The Heritage Officer is involved in the Creative Ireland OCC working group along with the Arts Office, Library Service, Corporate Services, Community and Local Development and the Architect's office. In 2019 €111,750 was received under this programme. Key projects were progressing the working group to manage Lough Boora Sculpture Park; support for OFFline Birr Animation project; development of a library workshop panel for the branch libraries; conservation of the folly at Ballycumber House; allocation towards the development

of the Offaly Archives Service; support for Vintage Luminaries as part of the Vintage Week; development of the Battle of Geashill sculpture and a creative community grant scheme.

Publications: The Mary Ward (1857) reprint was launched in Birr in August with its Ferbane launch as part of the Annual Offaly Heritage Seminar on 15 November. The Pollagh Heritage Group are working to get their book on Pollagh Brick due to be launched in 2019. Two memorial recording books were published, one with Killoughey memorials by Breda Condon and the second on Kilmanaghan by Michael Carton. The Buildings of Ireland architecture series Laois/Offaly/Kildare volume.

Roscommon County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Nollaig Feeney

Táin March: In 2019 saw sixteen Heritage in Schools workshops in schools with heritage expert Chris Thompson. The workshops involved interactive story telling about Táin Stories. Chris also worked with the students using templates and instructions for creating easy and cheap costumes and accessories, which the children wore when they met the Táin March at Rathcroghan Mound on Friday 18th May 2019. Over 380 pupils participated in the workshops. Over 360 pupils were at Rathcroghan Mound to be part of Queen Medb's Honour Guard. The class champion read a praise poem for their warrior queen and to send the Táin March on its way.

Cemeteries Mapviewer: www.roscommoncoco.ie/cemeteries is a central point for information on all cemeteries in County Roscommon. It includes information on where each cemetery is; who owns it; whether or not it is protected under the National Monuments Acts; whether or not it includes Protected Structures; if there is Register of Burials and where you can access it; if there is any information about it - archaeological survey, historical article, conservation report etc; If it has been recorded and where its inscriptions can be accessed. The cemeteries mapviewer was launched at a Seminar on the Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards in October 2019. Posters, flyers and QR Code vinyl stickers were produced to publicise the mapviewer and distributed to clergy, cemetery caretakers.

Seminar on the Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards: Archaeologist John Tierney gave a talk on the care and conservation of historic graveyards especially with regard to caring for delicate masonry ruins and historic memorials. Michael Bell, from Nature Learn gave a talk on how best to care for nature and wildlife in a historic graveyard. John Tierney gave another talk on how best to record historic graveyards with useful tips on how to photograph the memorials and read the inscriptions without damaging historic stonework and how to present the information to the public. Mary B. Timoney, independent scholar, gave a talk on the decoration of memorials in Co. Roscommon. Jim Ganly, local historian, demonstrated the new cemeteries mapviewer. Cllr Joe Murphy, Chairperson of County Roscommon Heritage Forum performed the launch. Over forty people attended the seminar.

Historic Graveyards Recording Project: Applications were invited in 2019 for a Historic Graveyards Recording project. Nine applications were received from which three graveyards were selected for two training days each with John Tierney, of Eachtra Archaeology. Selected graveyards were Athleague Church of Ireland, Assylinn Old in Boyle & Oran graveyards. All three can now be found on www.historicgraves.ie. The Historic Graveyard Recording Project has led to increased engagement locally - people from unsuccessful applicant graveyards who attended the training workshops have gone on to carry out recording projects in four graveyards in addition to the three selected for the project.

National Heritage Week: Over twenty community groups, organisations and individuals organised more than forty events around County Roscommon to celebrate its rich and diverse heritage. 'Dig It – Archaeology for Children' - a fun, educational, hands-on archaeological experience for children in Lough Key Forest & Activity Park is always a very popular event.

Tipperary County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Róisín O'Grady

2019 saw the completion of a Geological Audit of the County in conjunction with the Geological Heritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. The final report includes recommendations and site lists for sixty-seven proposed Geological Heritage Sites.

Tipperary received funding in 2019 through the Historic Towns Initiative fund for conservation works to Southern Cell block of Nenagh Gaol which is the last remaining intact cell block left in the complex. In September in Thurles the Tipperary Heritage Unit hosted a Heritage Council training meeting of the Heritage Officers Network. The subject was Heritage and Farming.

Heritage Week 2019 saw a bigger and better 'Explore our Heritage' Day with our Friends in the Cabragh Wetlands Centre Thurles. It also featured our Wildlife Discovery Day with Birdwatch Ireland and the NPWS and the Irish School of Archaeology.

2019 was also the year of Planting for a River God. This is a communal art and biodiversity project with Creative Ireland to tie in with the launch of the River Suir Blueway. A vegetation survey was carried out on the tow path and the area was seed bombed with native flowers on the day of the launch to tie in with community walks from Carrick on Suir and Clonmel. The public engaged with our River God sculpture during its tour of both towns, before it remained stationary for part of the summer by the river in Kilsheelan.

Waterford City and Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Bernadette Guest

National Heritage Plan Public Consultation: A Heritage Forum workshop took place in City Hall on 6 February to discuss a submission on Heritage Ireland 2030.

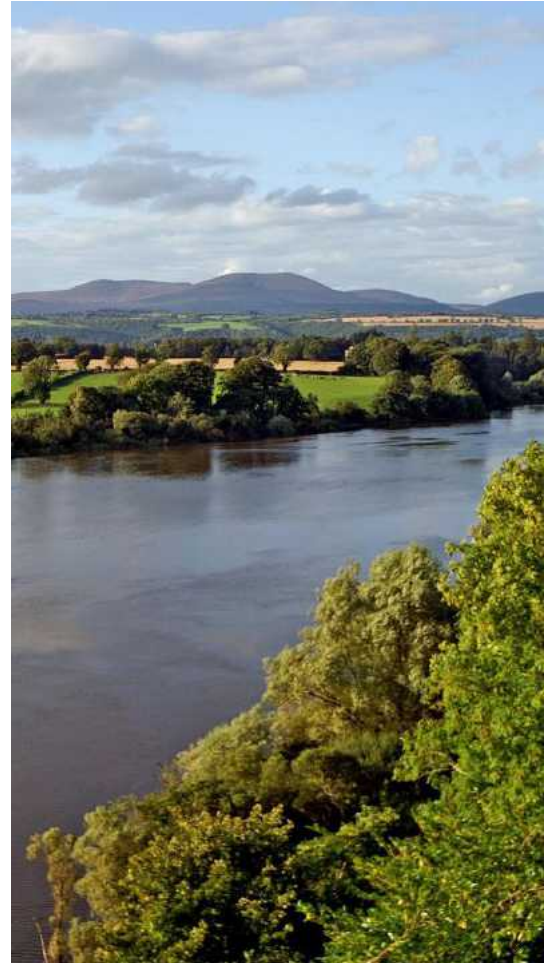
Launch of Scríobhneoirí na nDéise Story Map: A new online storymap and wallchart depicting over 100 Irish language writers of the Déise was launched in Coláiste na Rinne during Heritage Week in Waterford. The project was developed by the Irish language, Archivist and Heritage Officers of Waterford City and County Council with Professor Pádraig Ó Macháin, Head of the Irish Department in UCC. The new interactive website and wall chart are based on the work of Níoclás Mac Craith (1923-2018) historian and scholar from Rinn Ó gCuanach



(Photo Credit: Glynn's Photography)



Top: Táin March 2019, Roscommon (Courtesy of Nollaig Feeney) Centre Left: Exploring our Heritage Day Archaeology, Tipperary, (Courtesy of Róisín O'Grady) Centre: Dig It Archaeology for Kids, Centre Right: Oran Graveyard Recording (Courtesy of Nollaig Feeney) Bottom Left: Planting for a River God Kilsheelan, 2019, Bottom Right: Plant Native Wildflowers Here Tipperary, May 2019 (Courtesy of Róisín O'Grady)



Top Left: Presentation of a Conservation Management Plan for the Woodstown Viking Site by Abarta Heritage **Right:** Blackwater Valley, Co. Waterford.
Bottom Left: Launch of Dáimh Dhéiseach- Irish Language Writers of the Déise Story Map featuring in the centre, Professor Pádraig Ó 'Macháin UCC
 (Courtesy of Bernadette Guest)

in Waterford, an area known for its rich Irish language folklore and literary heritage. The wallchart was circulated to all schools in County Waterford and the GIS Story Map is available on <http://bit.ly/Scribhneoiri-na-nDeise>. The project was funded by the Heritage Council through the Heritage Plan Fund.

Pearls of Wisdom Project: A Biodiversity Awareness Project on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the River Clodiagh was held in Rathgormack, Portlaw and Clonea Power primary schools in October. An ecologist from the Heritage in Schools Scheme accompanied by Chief Scientist Paul Carroll and Heritage Officer Bernadette Guest visited each school to teach them about river ecology and the unique mussel that lives in the River Clodiagh. Schoolchildren will also have the opportunity to visit the Mussel hatchery at Adamstown next year. Funding was allocated to the project under Creative Ireland.

Woodstown Viking Site: Abarta Heritage was appointed to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for the Woodstown Viking Site. The Plan incorporates a strategy for future research on the site, a public engagement and heritage animation strategy and practical management plan. Funding was provided by the Heritage Council for support of the Plan and the draft plan was completed in December.

Decade of Commemorations: Research was completed on the War of Independence database detailing events that took place in Waterford between January 1919-June 1922. The database was compiled by historian Niall Murray and details over seventy incidents that took place across the city and county. The database will be mapped on GIS and published as a Story Map in 2020.

Dunhill Heritage Audit: Funding was allocated by the Creative Ireland Programme to carry out a Heritage Audit of Dunhill with the aim of informing a heritage tourism plan for the area to enhance pride of place, sense of place and attract visitors to stay in the area. The audit involved a community consultation meeting in November and final report was issued in December.

Water Framework Directive: A meeting on implementation of the SE River Basin Management Plan Operational Committee was hosted by Waterford City and County Council in Dungarvan on 29 November followed by a site visit to the wetlands at the Civic Amenity Site. It was proposed to set up a Dungarvan Harbour Partnership to discuss issues and potential projects relating to the natural environment of the area.

Westmeath County Council Heritage Office: Heritage Officer: Melanie McQuade

The Westmeath Heritage Forum met three times during the year and in July welcomed Cllr Louise Heavin as the new Chair.

Arrivals and Departures - Launch of County Westmeath Swift Survey: The Report on the County Swift Survey carried out in 2018, was launched in May 2019 when performances by WCC Choir and Dionysus School of Dance narrated and celebrated the lifecycle of Swifts, birds which migrate from Africa every year but whose numbers are in decline. The report was launched Mayor of Mullingar, Cllr Bill Collentine who also officiated at the prize giving for winners of the Schools' Poetry Competition. The children's poetry was inspired by the life of the Swift. Ricky Whelan from Birdwatch Ireland delivered at talk on Swifts and Richella Duggan from Westmeath Branch of Birdwatch Ireland led a walk spotting Swifts at some of their nest sites around County Buildings. In the Autumn Schools were invited to take part in another competition to design a logo to celebrate the Swift. Prizes for the winning schools include Swift nest boxes. This project to celebrate and raise awareness of Swifts was funded by Creative Ireland.

The Heritage Council and Westmeath County Council funded three Heritage Projects in 2019: Westmeath Field names Recording Pilot Project, Recording the Industrial Heritage of Westmeath and County Westmeath Wetland Survey.

The Westmeath Field names Recording Project, commenced as a pilot project in 2018, was expanded in 2019, when a booklet outlining the project methodology was produced and distributed (see <http://aengusfinnegan.ie/field-names/>). The project coordinator Dr Aengus Finnegan worked with community groups in the parishes of Collinstown, Fore, Kinnegad, Ballymore, Mount Temple and Tang, who collected approximately 700 field names from fifty-five townlands. The names of the fields collected were uploaded to Meitheal Logainm.ie and can be viewed at <https://meitheal.logainm.ie/westmeath-field-names/>.

Recording the Industrial Heritage of Westmeath: Archaeologist Antoine Giacometti was contracted to carry out desk-based research on the Industrial Heritage of Westmeath. This involved referring to relevant historic maps and documentary sources, as well as meeting with Local Historical Societies for their input. A total of 4,855 industrial heritage sites were identified within the following categories: Transport, Manufacturing, Mills, Extractive, Complexes and Utilities. Seven industrial heritage sites were selected for further examination, namely: Athlone Woollen Mills, Athlone Workhouse, Gneevebane Limestone Quarry, Locke's Distillery, Moate Textile Mills, Mullingar Railway Station, and Multyfarnham Corn Mills. The inventory and details of the above sites are outlined in the project report, which is available online <http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/our-services/planning/conservationheritage/heritageresources/>.

County Westmeath Wetland Survey Ecologist George Smith was contracted to carry out this desk-based survey and to map wetland sites in the county (lakes, watercourses, springs, bogs, fens, bog woodland, riparian and wet woodland etc.). The survey was based on cartographic and aerial photographic sources, as well as the Map of Irish Wetlands (MIW) (Wetland Surveys Ireland, 2019), the Westmeath Fen Survey (2007) and Peatland survey (2001).

The survey, which has been made available to the Planning Department, provides up to date primary data on 493 wetland sites covering c. 17% of the land area of Westmeath. The survey identified fifty-one sites of county-scale value for biodiversity conservation. The survey indicated the threats to wetland sites in Westmeath, which include drainage and reclamation for agriculture; peat extraction, water pollution and invasive species. Acknowledging the threats, the report has outlined several practical recommendations for the conservation of wetlands and priorities for future research. The report is available in the Local Studies Section of the Library and on-line <http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/planning/conservation-heritage/heritageresources/>.

In addition to the County Westmeath Wetland Survey, three other projects received funding through the National Biodiversity Action Plan Grant Scheme, funded by Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Westmeath County Council. These were a Habitat Management Plan for Council owned lands around Lough Ennell (SAC) (SPA), a series of Pollinator infomercials on Midlands Radio 103FM, and a Crayfish Plague Awareness and Biosecurity Training event.

Heritage Week 2019: Over seventy events were held around the county. These ranged from Traditional Games Day at Athlone Castle, to a talk on Laurence Ginnell TD, the launch of a locally made film on life and crafts in the past, and a workshop on the identification of bog plants. Good attendance was noted across the events, despite some unpleasant weather during the week. A County Guide, Social media and local printed press featured events around the County. Advertisements sponsored by the Heritage Council ran across the week on Midlands 103 FM.

Candlelit Tales: On 29th November, with support from Creative Ireland, Ballymore Community Centre hosted storytelling company Candlelit Tales. The group performed 'Woman King', based on the life and adventures of Queen Maedbh and her role in the Táin Bó Cúailgne.

Archaeology Ireland Heritage Guide: The Heritage Offices in Westmeath and Meath supported the publication of a Heritage Guide to the route of the Táin Bó Cúailgne in Counties Westmeath and Meath. The guide was written by Archaeologist Paul Gosling and launched by the Westmeath Archaeological and Historical Society and copies are available from the Heritage Office.



Collinstown group at a meeting of Westmeath Field Names Recording Project.
(Courtesy of Melanie McQuade)



Left: Barrows Tour, Westmeath, Heritage Week 2019. Right: Some of the participants on the crayfish plague awareness and biosecurity training event at Lough Ennell. (Courtesy of Melanie McQuade)



Pictured at the launch of the County Wicklow Heritage Week programme at Tinakilly House, Rathnew are Sean Quirke, Director of Service, Minister Simon Harris, Deirdre Burns Heritage Officer, Cllr Irene Winters, Catherine Wright, Archivist and Minister Eoghan Murphy (Courtesy of Deirdre Burns)

Wicklow County Council Heritage Office:

Heritage Officer: Deirdre Burns

2019 got off to a running start in Wicklow with the Heritage Ireland 2030 National Heritage Plan consultation process. The Heritage Office organised local public consultation events and widely promoted active engagement with the process among colleagues, the Wicklow Heritage Forum, the wider heritage network and the general public. We were pleased to have the opportunity to participate in the Heritage Ireland 2030 conference held on 29th Jan in Dublin Castle as part of the Local Authority Heritage Officer talks.

River Liffey Stories: This project stems from a heritage recording project on the River Liffey, in recent years, a joint initiative of the Heritage Officers in Wicklow Kildare, South Dublin, Fingal and Dublin city and supported by the Heritage Council. An output from this has been the creation of a rich digital archive of information on natural, built and cultural heritage. This database has now been used as the basis for the development of 'River Liffey Stories' a series of short films communicating a range of 'heritage stories' and shared widely through social media. We held our first film screening to launch the project on World Wetlands Day, 2 February, to a full house in Ballymore Eustace.

Our Wicklow Women Publication: To commemorate the centenary of the 'right to vote' for Women in Ireland in 1918, the Wicklow heritage office coordinated the compilation of

a series of Our Wicklow Women stories, most of which were contributed by the public. This formed the basis of a travelling exhibition in 2019 and a souvenir publication featuring the remarkable and sometimes poignant stories of thirteen Wicklow Women. This was officially launched as part of Arklow Town team's International Women's Day event in March and has been widely distributed throughout the county. Stories continue to be submitted and archived on Our Wicklow Heritage, our online community heritage archive as part of the National Museum of Ireland's iCAN initiative.

Wicklow was a hive of biodiversity activity in 2019. As part of the implementation of our Biodiversity Action plan we co-ordinated a riparian bird survey; a county Swift survey; hosted a series of seasonal, monthly public events with Birdwatch Ireland at East Coast Nature Reserve; signed up officially as a partner to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and supported the production of an educational animation 'Which bee?' with NBDC. We were delighted to commence the implementation of a biodiversity enhancement work programme for Wicklow County Council owned dunes and beach at Brittas bay, part of which included volunteer field work.

Community Archaeology: Our key partners in 2019 were the Glendalough Heritage Forum, Baltinglass Heritage Committee and Medieval Bray project. August saw a month of archaeological excavation at Glendalough. Co-ordinated by UCD this included two weeks of volunteer excavations and two weeks

of student field excavation adjacent to the main monastic enclosure, as well as a host of outreach activities. In Baltinglass we were pleased to support an archaeological research excavation on Rathcoran Hill (one of a cluster of nine Hillforts in Baltinglass); to assist the fitting out of interpretative information in the nearby courthouse and to co-ordinate a series of talks and events for Heritage Week. We worked in partnership with Medieval Bray Project to support their community research activities to unravel the hidden history of Bray and communicate this through surveys, excavations and public events.

Our Wicklow Heritage: Having been part of the National Museum of Ireland's iCAN network since 2012, we underwent a re-development of our community heritage website in 2019.

Six heritage recording communities in Wicklow have come on board and signed up to our new network. Each group will generate content for, and manage their own mini sites under the Our Wicklow Heritage umbrella. The network has proved an invaluable way of sharing training, communication and experiences among participants.

And finally, on a personal level, the highlight of the year for me as Heritage Officer was meeting President Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin in September 2019. The president gave an inspirational address as part of this specially organised reception to celebrate twenty years since the establishment of the Local Authority Heritage Officer network in Ireland.



Top Left: Children learn more about archaeology during Heritage Week in Baltinglass.

Top right: Minister of state Andrew Doyle TD with representatives from Wicklow Uplands Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Wicklow Heritage Office and Teagasc at the SUAS Agri Environmental Project open day in Hollywood, County Wicklow.

Bottom: Heritage Officers Bridget Loughlin (Kildare Co. Co), Rosaleen Dwyer (South Dublin Co. Co) and Deirdre Burns (Wicklow Co. Co) pictured at the screening of River Liffey Stories with Martin Blake and Oliver Fallon from Bailey & Blake films. (All Courtesy of Deirdre Burns)



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Heritage Council's policy is to maintain the highest standards of corporate governance. In line with generally-accepted policies and practices. The Council is committed to complying with the relevant provisions of the new Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies published in 2016.

The Heritage Council has established an Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, which regularly reviews the system of internal control and engages external expertise in the carrying out of its functions, including the internal audit function, as appropriate. The Heritage Council is fully tax-compliant and does not engage in 'offensive' tax avoidance transactions.

Prompt Payments 2019

The Heritage Council is required to comply with the requirements of S.I. No. 580/2012 European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations, 2012 and its predecessor, the Prompt Payments of Accounts Act 1997 (collectively known as the 'Regulations'). The Council's standard terms of credit taken, unless otherwise specified in contractual arrangements, are 30 days from the receipt of invoice. Procedures have been implemented which provide reasonable assurance against material non-compliance with the Regulations. While the procedures are designed to ensure compliance with the Regulations, they can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance material noncompliance with the 1997 Act and SI No 580/2012

A review of all payments made during the year ended December 31st 2019 shows 10 payments totalling €9,484.97 giving rise to an interest penalty of €105.81 under the above regulations.

With effect from July 1st 2011, the Heritage Council was required to comply with government Decisions S29296 of March 2nd & 8th 2011 and 28 March 2017 in relation to the 15-day prompt payment rule. The disclosures required in the Memorandum of Government (MoG) supporting the above decisions for the period January 1st 2019 to December 31st 2019 are detailed below:

Details	Number	Value (€)	Percentage (%) of total number of payments made
Number of payments made within 15 days	2213	1,662,343	93.41
Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days	95	289,652	4.01
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days that were subject to late payment interest	11	8,598	0.46
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days that were not subject to late payment interest	50	524,186	2.11
Amount of late payment interest paid	N/A	107	N/A
Amount of compensation costs paid	N/A	460	N/A
Total	2369	2,484,779	100.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019



Governance Statement and Board Members' Report	84
Statement on Internal Control	91
Report of Comptroller & Auditor General	95
Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	97
Statement of Comprehensive Income	98
Statement of Financial Position	99
Statement of Cashflows	100
Notes to Financial Statements	102

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

The Heritage Council was established under the Heritage Act 1995. The functions of the Board are set out in section 6 of this Act. The Board is accountable to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of The Heritage Council are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the senior management team. The CEO and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board, and must ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and the management of The Heritage Council.

Board Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the Standing Orders and Reserved Functions, which also contain the matters specifically reserved for Board decision. Standing items considered by the Board include:

- declaration of interests,
- reports from committees,
- financial reports/management accounts and,
- reserved matters.

Section 21 of the Heritage Act requires the Board of The Heritage Council to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the Board of the Heritage Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation, and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with S.21 of the Heritage Act 1995. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on The Heritage Council's website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of The Heritage Council by reference to the annual plan and budget was carried out on 20th February 2020.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT contd.

The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of The Heritage Council give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of The Heritage Council at 31st December 2019.

Board Structure up until 19th July 2020

The Board consisted of a chairperson and ten ordinary members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The current Chairman of the Board was appointed acting Chairman from 9th December 2016 to 4th October 2017 and was appointed Chairman from 5th October 2017 for a period of 4 years. The Members of the Board were appointed for a period of 4 years and met 9 times in 2019. The table below details the appointment period for chairperson and previous members:

NAME	ROLE	DATE APPOINTED
Michael Parsons	Acting Chair	19th July 2016 - 4th October 2017
	Chairman	5th October 2017 - 5th October 2021
Kieran Coughlan	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Mary Gallagher	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Muiris O'Sullivan	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Brian Walsh	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Sinead Mc Cartan	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Miriam Fitzpatrick	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Marie Bourke	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Ivor Mc Elveen	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Jane Maxwell	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020
Fionnuala May	Board Member	19th July 2016 to 19th July 2020

Board Structure from 3rd November 2020

The Board consists of a chairperson who was appointed on 5th, October 2017 and will continue in office until the 5th October, 2021 and ten ordinary members, all of whom were appointed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Members of the Board were appointed for a period of 5 years. The table below details the appointment period for current members:

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

NAME	ROLE	DATE APPOINTED
Michael Parsons	Acting Chair	19th July 2016 - 4th October 2017
	Chairman	5th October 2017 - 5th October 2021
Michael Farrell	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
John Patrick Greene	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
Sammy Leslie	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
Fionnuala May	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
Deirdre McDermott	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
Martina Moloney	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
Dr Patricia O'Hare	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
John G Pierce	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
Sheila Pratschke	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025
Dr Mary Tubridy	Board Member	3rd November 2020 - 3rd November 2025

Up until 19th July, 2020 the Board had established three committees/groups, as follows:

1. The Audit, Risk & Finance Committee (ARFC) comprises four Board members and one independent member who was appointed on 21st November, 2017. The meetings are also attended by the chairperson of the Board. The role of the ARFC is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARFC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARFC reports to the Board after each meeting.

The members of the ARFC are: Kieran Coughlan (Chairperson); Jane Maxwell; Mary Gallagher from 13th December 2018; Muiris O Sullivan and Ray Pembroke (external member).

2. The Strategy Review Group comprises nine Board members. The role of the Strategy Review Group is to advise Council on the development of a new strategic plan. The Strategy Review Group reports to the Board after each meeting.

The members of the Strategy Review Group are: Muiris O'Sullivan (Chairperson), Michael Parsons, Miriam Fitzpatrick, Ivor McElveen, Marie Bourke, Sinead McCartan, Fionnuala May, Jane Maxwell and Brian Walsh.

3. A Subcommittee of the ARFC was established in March 2019 to oversee the review of The National Biodiversity Data Centre and to develop a roadmap of its future development and governance.

The members of this subcommittee are: Ray Pembroke (Chair), Mary Gallagher, Virginia Teehan, Ciaran O'Keeffe (NPWS) and Rachel Kenny (Chair of Management Board of The National Biodiversity Centre).

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT contd.

On 3rd December, 2020 the Board established two committees, as follows:

1. The Audit, Risk & Finance Committee (ARFC) comprises three Board members. The meetings are also attended by the chairperson of the Board. The role of the ARFC is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARFC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARFC reports to the Board after each meeting. The members of the ARFC are: Martina Moloney (Chairperson); Michael Farrell (Vice Chairperson) and John Patrick Greene.

2. The Strategy Review Group comprises five Board members. The role of the Strategy Review Group is to advise Council on the development of a new strategic plan. The Strategy Review Group reports to the Board after each meeting.

The members of the Strategy Review Group are: Sheila Pratschke (Chairperson), John G Pierce, Fionnuala May, Sammy Leslie and Dr Patricia O'Hare.

Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings for 2019 is set out below. The expenses received by each member are included in Note 9 to the financial statements on page 110.

Attendee	Board Meeting	Audit, Risk & Finance Committee	Strategy Review Group	National Biodiversity Review Group
	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings	Number of Meetings
	9	7	4	2
Michael Parsons	9	7	4	N/A
Kieran Coughlan	9	7	3	N/A
Mary Gallagher	9	7	N/A	2
Muiris O'Sullivan	9	7	4	N/A
Brian Walsh	7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sinead Mc Cartan	7	N/A	1	N/A
Miriam Fitzpatrick	8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marie Bourke	7	N/A	3	N/A
Ivor Mc Elveen	9	N/A	4	N/A
Jane Maxwell	6	3	N/A	N/A
Fionnuala May	7	N/A	1	N/A
Ray Pembroke	N/A	7	N/A	2
Ciaran O'Keeffe	N/A	N/A	N/A	2
Rachel Kenny	N/A	N/A	N/A	2

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT contd.

Key Personnel Changes

Virginia Teehan was appointed as CEO of The Heritage Council for five years with effect from 1st February, 2019. Virginia Teehan replaced Michael Starrett who retired on 27th January, 2019.

Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring that The Heritage Council has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the code:

Employee Short Term Benefits

Employee Short-Term benefits breakdown is included in Note 10 to the financial statements

Consultancy Costs

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

	2019	2018
	€	€
Legal advice	57,374	45,254
Business improvement & Governance	55,943	44,742
Human Resources & Recruitment	836	24,056
Internal Audit	18,388	21,211
S1003 Assessments	1,111	0
TOTAL	<u>133,652</u>	<u>135,263</u>

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	2019	2018
	€	€
DOMESTIC		
Board & Committee	25,428	39,996
Staff	52,005	44,304
INTERNATIONAL		
Board*2	1,194	2,028
Staff	<u>2,502</u>	<u>7,874</u>
TOTAL	<u>81,129</u>	<u>94,202</u>

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT contd.

*1

Includes travel and subsistence of €22,931 paid directly to Board & Committee members in 2019 (2018: €34,624). The balance of €2,497 (2018: €5,372) relates to expenditure paid by The Heritage Council on behalf of the Board members.

*2

Includes travel and subsistence of €751 paid directly to Board members in 2019 (2018: €1,798) and €443 paid by The Heritage Council on behalf of Board Members (2018: €230).

Legal Costs and Settlements

The Heritage Council did not incur any legal costs, settlements or conciliation and arbitration payments relating to contracts with third parties. All costs associated with general legal advice received by The Heritage Council is included in Consultancy costs above.

Hospitality Expenditure

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	2019	2018
	€	€
Administration, Working Group & Committee Meetings	1,765	3,505
Award Ceremonies	2,644	3,211
Council Meetings	7,090	15,508
Grant Assessment	311	735
Programme Development Meetings & launches	12,123	12,340
Programme Workshops & Training & Conferences	24,488	36,635
Staff & Board Training	156	388
Total	<u>48,577</u>	<u>72,322</u>

The Council Meetings cost of €15,508 for 2018 listed above includes the cost of a Council Christmas function which was expanded to mark the retirement of the CEO, Michael Starrett (€3,562).

Hospitality includes food, accommodation and beverages incurred in relation to the delivery of The Heritage Council programmes during 2019. The nature of and attendance at events does not facilitate a meaningful split of hospitality expenditure between staff and clients as required by the Code of Practice.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

Statement of Compliance

The Heritage Council has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016, with the following exceptions:

During 2019 all policies and procedures to ensure full compliance with Code were implemented. These policies and procedures were informed by an external review of governance which was completed in 2018 and included the Governance Framework, Board Terms Of Reference, Board/Staff Code of Conduct, Risk Management Framework and Board Secretary.

The Council did not comply with its policy for the procurement of some goods and services in 2019. Notwithstanding the progress in the area of procurement as evidenced by implementation of recommendations on internal audit reports during 2019, the adherence to procurement guidelines has and will remain a priority of Council.

The self evaluation of the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee has not been completed.

The ARFC reports in writing to the Board after each meeting providing recurring reports on work carried out and conclusions reached and therefore it is deemed that an Annual Report of the Audit Committee referred to in the Model Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee in the Code is unnecessary.



Martina Moloney
Council Member
22nd December, 2020



Michael Farrell
Council Member
22nd December, 2020

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of The Heritage Council I acknowledge the Board's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, has been in place in The Heritage Council for the year ended 31 December 2019 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Heritage Council has an Audit, Risk & Finance Committee (ARFC) comprising four Board members, one of whom is the Chair, and one external member with financial and audit expertise. The ARFC met 7 times in 2019.

The Heritage Council has also appointed external consultants to carry out the internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARFC.

The ARFC has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. This Risk Policy was approved by the Board on 17th July, 2020. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within The Heritage Council's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

Risk and Control Framework

The Heritage Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing The Heritage Council and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARFC on a bi-annual basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The Board reviewed the Risk Register on 17th July, 2020.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and the responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL contd.

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented;
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability;
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget, which is kept under review by senior management;
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of information and communications technology systems;
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets, and
- control procedures over grant funding to outside agencies ensure the adequate control over approval of grants and
- monitoring and review of grantees to ensure grant funding has been applied for the purpose intended

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes, and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified, and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies;
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets.

Procurement

I confirm that The Heritage Council has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines. Matters arising regarding controls over procurement are highlighted under "Internal Control Issues".

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that The Heritage Council has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The Heritage Council's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the ARFC which oversees their work, and the senior management within The Heritage Council responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2019 on 22nd December, 2020. The 2019 review was delayed due to Covid 19 and the fact that the new board were not appointed until 3 November, 2020.

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL contd.

Update on Internal Control Issues reported in prior year Statement on Internal Control

Procurement

Significant progress has been made in this area over the past 3 year and the amount of non compliant expenditure reduced by approximately 70% in 2019 from the 2018 figures as a number of legacy issues continue to be resolved.

A review of expenditure to all suppliers that received over €5,000 in 2019 identified expenditure of approximately €134,889 (including VAT), (a reduction of almost 70% in non-compliant expenditure when compared to 2018) that was incurred in relation to goods and services where the procedures employed did not comply with procurement guidelines. This was due to a number of factors, including;

- The expiration and rolling over of contracts.
- Thresholds being exceeded due to the aggregation of expenditure which resulted in the incorrect procurement method being used
- The incorrect number or no quotations/tenders sought
- Insufficient records maintained to establish compliance
- The provision of ongoing maintenance services by system installers.

Compliance with public procurement guidelines is a high priority of the board. The Heritage Council has implemented five out of six procurement review recommendations as suggested by external internal auditors, Mazars and partially implemented one out of the six recommendations.

The partially implemented recommendation relates to monitoring supplier turnover levels. The finance system has been modified to manage this and is ready to be rolled out to budget holders. When this happens all six recommendations will have been implemented.

Procurement procedures have been updated and all staff have been made aware of the need to comply with procurement policies and procedures. Training has been provided to staff in 2020. The ARFC will continue to monitor progress in this area.

A procurement specialist has been engaged to support the Council in meeting its procurement obligations.

Salaries

A new CEO was appointed with effect from 1st February, 2019. Sanction was received for this post and there is a contract in place for this post.

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL contd.

Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

In 2019 Service Level Agreements (SLAs) were issued in respect of grants issued to regularly funded organisations following a review of SLAs between The Heritage Council and Regularly Funded Organisations. The SLAs set out grant outputs required and details reports to be submitted to The Heritage Council when funding is being drawn down.

Internal Control Issues - High Priority

There were no "High Priority" weaknesses as identified by the prior year audit conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General and internal audits conducted by external parties which have not been addressed at the time of writing



Michael Parsons
Council Chariman

22nd December, 2020



Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas Heritage Council

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the Heritage Council for the year ended 31 December 2019 as required under the provisions of section 21 of the Heritage Act 1995. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Heritage Council at 31 December 2019 and of its income and expenditure for 2019 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Heritage Council and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The Heritage Council has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Board members' report, the statement on internal control and a schedule of grant payments. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

Review of internal control

The statement on internal control discloses that the Board did not carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control for the period in the manner required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Andrew Harkness
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General

23 December 2020

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under section 21 of the Heritage Act 1995
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 21 of the Heritage Act 1995 to audit the financial statements of the Heritage Council and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Heritage Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Heritage Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify any material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Income			
Oireachtas Grants	2	7,504,142	6,993,333
Other Income	3	571,775	438,873
Net deferred funding for pensions	11 (c)	370,000	612,000
Transfer from Capital Account	4	<u>199,571</u>	<u>190,750</u>
Total Income		<u>8,645,488</u>	<u>8,234,956</u>
Expenditure			
Grants	5	3,812,427	4,923,945
Policy Development	6(a)	77,288	128,733
Programmes	6(b)	908,813	901,753
Support for Heritage Infrastructure	6(c)	<u>1,760,340</u>	<u>1,695,871</u>
Total Grants, Policy & Infrastructure		<u>6,558,868</u>	<u>7,650,302</u>
Administration			
Establishment expenses	7	128,340	159,385
Office supplies and administration	8	276,236	309,341
Council & Committee members' expenses	9	26,622	42,024
Staff costs	10	1,599,749	1,691,561
Depreciation	12	<u>211,302</u>	<u>211,927</u>
Total Administration		<u>2,242,249</u>	<u>2,414,238</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>8,801,117</u>	<u>10,064,540</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>(155,629)</u>	<u>(1,829,584)</u>
Balance brought forward at 1 January		<u>447,282</u>	<u>2,276,866</u>
Balance carried forward at 31 December		<u>291,653</u>	<u>447,282</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 24 form part of these financial statements.



Martina Moloney
Council Member
22nd December, 2020



Michael Farrell
Council Member
22nd December, 2020



Virginia Teehan
Chief Executive
22nd December, 2020

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
(Deficit) for year		(155,629)	(1,829,584)
Experience (losses)/gains on retirement benefit obligations	11 (d)	140,000	262,000
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations		(1,246,000)	625,000
Total actuarial (loss)/gain in the year		(1,106,000)	887,000
Adjustments to deferred retirement benefits funding		1,106,000	(887,000)
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		(155,629)	(1,829,584)

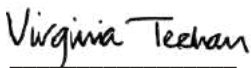
The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 24 form part of these financial statements.



Martina Moloney
Council Member
22nd December, 2020



Michael Farrell
Council Member
22nd December, 2020



Virginia Teehan
Chief Executive
22nd December, 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Fixed Assets			
Property, plant & equipment	12	5,736,498	5,936,069
Current Assets			
Receivables	13	168,259	86,458
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>618,915</u>	<u>1,024,826</u>
		787,174	1,111,284
Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)			
Payables	14	<u>495,521</u>	<u>664,002</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>291,653</u>	<u>447,282</u>
Retirement Benefits			
Retirement Benefit Obligations	11(b)	(8,737,000)	(7,261,000)
Deferred Retirement benefit funding asset	11(b)	<u>8,737,000</u>	<u>7,261,000</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>6,028,151</u>	<u>6,383,351</u>
Representing			
Capital Account	4	5,736,498	5,936,069
Retained Revenue Reserves		<u>291,653</u>	<u>477,282</u>
		<u>6,028,151</u>	<u>6,383,351</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 24 form part of these financial statements.



Martina Moloney
Council Member
22nd December, 2020



Michael Farrell
Council Member
22nd December, 2020



Virginia Teehan
Chief Executive
22nd December, 2020

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Cash flow from operating activities			
(Deficit) for the year		(155,629)	(1,829,584)
Depreciation	12	211,302	211,927
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables		(81,801)	389,449
(Decrease)/Increase in payables		(168,481)	(3,150)
Capital Account Movement	4	<u>(199,571)</u>	<u>(190,749)</u>
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities		<u>(394,180)</u>	<u>(1,422,107)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments to acquire property, plant & equipment	4	<u>(11,731)</u>	<u>(21,177)</u>
Net Cash Flows from investing activities		<u>(11,731)</u>	<u>(21,177)</u>
Cash flows from Financing Activities		0	0
Net Cash Flows from Financing activities		0	0
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(405,911)	(1,443,284)
Cash and Cash equivalents at 1 January		<u>1,024,826</u>	<u>2,468,110</u>
Cash and Cash equivalents at 31 December		<u>618,915</u>	<u>1,024,826</u>



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2019

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by The Heritage Council are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

a) General Information

The Heritage Council was set up under the Heritage Act 1995, with a head office at Áras na hOidreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny. The Heritage Council's primary objectives as set out in Section 6 of The Heritage Act 1995 are as follows: to propose policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage and to promote its appreciation.

b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of The Heritage Council for the year ended 31st December 2019 have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

c) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under The Heritage Act, 1995. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to The Heritage Council's financial statements.

d) Revenue

Oireachtas Grants: Revenue is generally recognised on an accruals basis; one exception to this is in the case of Oireachtas Grants which are recognised on a cash receipts basis.

Other Revenue: Other revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

e) Grant Payments

The Heritage Council offers grants to various bodies and individuals to carry out works under its heritage grant schemes. When a grantee accepts the terms and conditions of a grant offer from Council, Council enters into a commitment with that grantee. That commitment is recognised as an accrual only when the grantee is seen to have fulfilled the full terms and conditions of the grant offer. Details of grant commitments at 31st December 2019 are given in note 18.

f) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land and artwork, at rates estimated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Buildings	2.50%	Office Furniture	10%/20%
Office Equipment	20%	Computers	25%
Works of Art	0%	(Hardware & Software)	
Motor Vehicles	20%	Reference Material and	20%
Plant & Equipment	20%/10%	OSI Licences	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 1. Accounting Policies contd.

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of an asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Reserves in the year.

g) Capital Account

The capital account comprises income allocated for the purchase of fixed assets. It is amortised in line with the depreciation of the related assets.

h) Leasing

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and included in property, plant and equipment and depreciated in accordance with the Council policy.

i) Employee Benefits

Short-term Benefits

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Payables figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

Retirement Benefits

The Heritage Council previously established its own defined benefit pension scheme, funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies provided by The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and from contributions deducted from staff and members' salaries.

The Heritage Council also operates the Single Public Services Pensions Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1st January, 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER). It should be noted that, currently The Heritage Council does not have any Single Scheme members.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees, and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by The Heritage Council. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The financial statements reflect, at fair value, the assets and liabilities arising from The Heritage Council's pension obligations and any related funding, and recognises the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

j) Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the reporting date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use. For the the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Depreciation and Residual Values

The Board have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes, and in particular, the useful economic life and residual values of fixtures and fittings, and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

Retirement Benefit Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rate of inflation, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and retirement age) are updated annually based on current economic conditions and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high quality corporate bonds
- (ii) future compensation levels, future labour market conditions; and
- (iii) mortality rates and age of retirement

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 2: Oireachtas Grants

The amount of €7,504,142 comprises Grants from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Vote 33) and the Environment Fund managed by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (Vote 29) and the Department of Rural and Community Development in respect of the Beara Breifne Way (Vote 42).

With effect from the 9th September, 2020 The Heritage Council came under the aegis of the The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the departmental references will be updated for the purposes of the 2020 financial statements.

	2019	2018
	€	€
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht		
Administration Grant	1,565,656	1,539,000
Non-Capital Grants	2,334,344	2,150,000
Capital Grants	2,658,243	2,632,558
Non Capital Grants	0	32,775
Non Capital Grants	0	<u>45,000</u>
	6,558,243	6,399,333
Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment		
Non Capital Grants	461,540	444,000
Capital Grant	0	<u>150,000</u>
	461,540	594,000
Department of Rural and Community Development		
Funding towards Development of Beara Breifne Way	<u>484,359</u>	0
Total	<u>7,504,142</u>	<u>6,993,333</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 3: Other Income

	2019 €	2018 €
Contribution towards Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Vote 30, Subhead C.3.1)	85,573	83,352
Faite Ireland - Grant to Support Heritage Week	30,000	30,000
Irish Walled Towns Membership Fees	67,502	67,440
Conference Fees Charged	21,485	13,850
Contribution of Local Authorities to Heritage Viewer Project	22,500	27,000
Bord Bia Contribution to Pollinator Co-Ordinator Post in National Biodiversity Data Centre	30,000	30,000
Heritage in Schools - Contribution of Local Authorities to Cost of School Visits	0	3,237
Heritage Week Advertising	1,200	3,430
Insurance Settlements for Roof Damage due to Storm	0	17,739
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht - Funding towards Study of Architectural Conservation Areas	0	10,000
Department of Public Expenditure & Reform - Funding towards Heritage Viewer Programme	0	-2,868
Office of Public Works - Funding towards Discovery Programme Research	0	50,000
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland - Funding towards Research into Retrofit of Buildings	75,666	17,700
Repayment of Costs of Seconded Staff of Heritage Council	70,942	87,326
Life 11 ENV/IE/922 Burren GeoparkLIFE project costs refunded	2,848	0
European Innovation Project LLOC2004 "Protecting Farmland Pollinators" (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Vote 30, Subhead C.3.1)	66,013	0
Creative Ireland	97,000	0
Miscellaneous	<u>1,046</u>	<u>667</u>
TOTAL	<u>571,775</u>	<u>438,873</u>

Note 4: Capital Account

	2019 €	2018 €
Balance at 1 January	5,936,069	6,126,819
Transfer (to)/from Income and Expenditure Account	11,731	21,177
Amount allocated to fund fixed asset purchases	<u>(211,302)</u>	<u>(211,927)</u>
Less: Amortisation in line with depreciation	<u>(199,571)</u>	<u>(190,750)</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>5,736,498</u>	<u>5,936,069</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 5: Grants Payable

	2019 €	2018 €
Irish Walled Towns Network Grants towards Current Projects	91,967	98,511
Irish Walled Towns Network Grants towards Capital Works	150,000	230,916
Policy & Infrastructure Grants	353,839	338,452
County Heritage Plan Grants	650,843	662,688
Community Based Heritage Grants	0	569,135
Thatch Conservation Grants	0	54,000
Museum Standards Programme Grants	3,500	45,454
Irish Uplands Study Visit Grants	0	39,061
European Year of Cultural Heritage Community Themed Grants	1,253	625,399
Historic Town Capital Grants	967,222	944,558
Adopt a Monument Grants	79,829	0
Beara Breifne Way Development (Note 15)	627,974	349,731
Irish Landmark Trust Ltd. (Note 16)	176,000	176,000
Discovery Programme: Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland (Note 17)	<u>710,000</u>	<u>790,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>3,812,427</u>	<u>4,923,945</u>

The Schedule of grant payments contains details of grants payable during the year

Note 6 (a): Policy Expenditure

	2019 €	2018 €
Articulation of Heritage in National Landscape Policies	<u>77,288</u>	<u>128,733</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 6 (b): Programmes

	2019 €	2018 €
Heritage in Schools	454,652	417,993
Heritage Week	313,431	254,636
Communication of Council activities	63,385	37,052
Publications	0	443
Joint Programme for Cultural Heritage - Communications Element	1,763	3,358
Conservation Internships	33,196	45,636
Promotion of Preventative Maintenance *1	19,470	36,716
Implementation of Traditional Skills Working Group Recommendations	8,302	0
Creative Ireland Funded Programmes with NCBI & Asylum Seekers	1,573	0
European Year of Cultural Heritage	13,041	105,919
TOTAL	908,813	901,753

*1: Staff costs in respect of GLAS project administration included in prior year figure have been reclassified to Staff Salaries under note 10

Note 6(c): Heritage Infrastructure

	2019 €	2018 €
National Biodiversity Data Centre	828,113	771,193
Field Monument Advisors database development	2,140	2,140
Museum Standards Programme	117,682	114,470
Heritage Officer Programme	539,185	527,374
Heritage Viewer	62,355	67,323
Urban Heritage (including Irish Walled Towns Network Administration)	210,865	213,371
TOTAL	1,760,340	1,695,871

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 7: Establishment Expenses

	2019 €	2018 €
Storage	14,652	14,940
Power, heat and light	13,360	13,471
Canteen, catering and cleaning	23,056	25,848
Meetings	9,668	22,463
Repairs, maintenance & security	45,665	60,525
Insurance	18,564	17,638
Rental of Art Works	3,375	4,500
TOTAL	128,340	159,385

Note 8: Office Supplies and Administration

	2019 €	2018 €
Telephone and postage	17,817	19,771
Stationery, printing & office equipment repairs	9,221	10,073
Annual Report & Strategic Plan	5,590	11,287
Library	387	230
Computer supplies and maintenance	76,458	84,385
Professional fees	86,075	105,396
Sundry	1,131	1,442
Legal Fees	57,374	51,029
Subscriptions	7,971	8,396
Audit fee	12,000	15,500
Interest & Charges	1,870	1,655
Gifts ¹	342	117
TOTAL	276,236	309,341

¹. Gifts include a gift to President Michael D Higgins on the occasion of a visit to Áras an Uachtaráin to mark the 20th anniversary of Heritage Officer Programme (€135), Gift for Bishop's wife at Christmas (€14), gift to Finola May of Fingal County Council in appreciation for hosting Heritage Council meeting (€33) funeral flowers for mother of CEO of Discovery Programme (€62) and stock of paperweights for gifts on hand at 31st December, 2019 (€98)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 9: Council & Committee Members' Expenses

	Expenses Claimed	Accommodation & Meals & Travel Provided	Total
	€	€	€
Michael Parsons	5,092	129	5,221
Sinead McCartan	1,757	530	2,287
Jane Maxwell	553	129	682
Mary Gallagher	2,833	244	3,077
Kieran Coughlan	1,481	129	1,610
Muiris O'Suilleabhain	3,251	777	4,028
Marie Bourke	1,304	574	1,878
Miriam Fitzpatrick	1,040	129	1,169
Fionnuala May	0	0	0
Ivor McElveen	4,910	299	5,209
Brian Walsh	1,146	0	1,146
Ray Pembroke (Committee Member)	<u>315</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>315</u>
TOTAL	<u>23,682</u>	<u>2,940</u>	<u>26,622</u>

In line with their letters of appointment no fees are payable to Board Members.

Note 10: Remuneration

(a) Analysis of Staff Costs

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Staff salaries *1	11(a)	1,086,882	1,046,055
Recruitment Costs		0	21,766
Pension Costs		454,000	546,000
Staff Well Being & Settlements		1,015	0
Travel and Expenses		54,507	52,178
Training		7,732	25,562
Holiday Accrual		<u>(4,387)</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL		<u>1,599,749</u>	<u>1,691,561</u>

1. Prior year staff salary costs now include staff costs in respect of GLAS project administration previously included under note 6(b).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 10: Remuneration contd.

(b) Aggregate Employee Benefits

	2019 €	2018 €
Staff short-term benefits	996,550	949,004
Employer's Contribution to Social Welfare	90,332	<u>97,051</u>
Sub Total	1,086,882	1,046,055
Retirement Benefit Costs	<u>176,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>1,262,882</u>	<u>1,051,055</u>

The total number of staff employed (WTE) by the Heritage Council at year end was 15. This is comprised of The Heritage Council complement of 14 staff together with one contract staff member employed for a specific project (2018 - 16) and includes one staff member who was seconded to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) until 19th May, 2019 and then seconded to the Office of Public Works from 6th August, 2019. The costs of this seconded staff member are recouped by The Heritage Council on a quarterly basis in arrears.

No overtime or termination benefits were paid in 2019.

With effect from 1st January, 2019 the pension related deduction (PRD) was replaced by the additional superannuation contribution (ASC). The ASC paid to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in respect of 2019 was €40,258. The total number also includes the CEO who was seconded from University College Cork with effect from 1st February, 2019.

(c) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel in The Heritage Council consists of the members of the Board, the Chief Executive, the Heads of Service and the Financial Controller. The Board does not receive any remuneration. The total value of employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below:

	2019 €	2018 €
Salary	<u>533,902</u>	<u>571,059</u>

This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the period. The key management personnel, except the current CEO who was appointed with effect from the 1st February, 2019 and who is seconded from University College Cork are members of The Heritage Council pension scheme and their entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public pension scheme.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

(d) Chief Executive Officer Salary and Benefits

	2019 €	2018 €
Basic Pay - Former CEO - date of retirement 27th January, 2019	9,745	119,783
Basic Pay - Current CEO - date of commencement 1st February, 2019	98,595	0
TOTAL	<u>108,340</u>	<u>119,783</u>

The current CEO was appointed with effect from 1st February, 2019 and is seconded from University College Cork and is not a member of The Heritage Council pension scheme. University College Cork pays the CEO and recoups this salary by way of invoice to The Heritage Council. The annualised salary of the CEO is €107,501.

(e) Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands

	2019	2018
Salary Category	Number of employees	Number of employees
€60,000 TO €69,999	3	6
€70,000 TO €79,999	2	3
€80,000 TO €89,999	2	0
€90,000 TO €99,999	1	0
€100,000 TO €109,999	0	1
€110,000 TO €119,000	0	0

The numbers included in the salary categories above include one staff member who was seconded to the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) with effect from 22nd June 2017 until the 19th May, 2019 and then to the Office of Public Works with effect from 6th August, 2019.

The numbers also include one staff member who was seconded from University College Cork with effect from 1st February, 2019.

For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, overtime allowances and other payments on behalf of the employee, but exclude employer's PRSI.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 11: Superannuation Scheme

(a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

	2019 €	2018 €
Current Service Costs	392,000	481,000
Interest on retirement benefit scheme liabilities	154,000	136,000
Employee Contributions	(92,000)	(71,000)
TOTAL	454,000	546,000

(b) Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	2019 €	2018 €
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 January	(7,261,000)	(7,536,000)
Current Service Cost	(392,000)	(481,000)
Interest Cost	(154,000)	(136,000)
Actuarial (loss)/gain	(1,106,000)	887,000
Pensions paid in year	176,000	5,000
Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December	(8,737,000)	(7,261,000)

(c) Deferred Funding for retirement benefits

The Heritage Council recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described below and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including the contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The Heritage Council has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The Net Deferred Funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Reserves was as follows:

	2019 €	2018 €
Funding Recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	546,000	617,000
State grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(176,000)	(5,000)
TOTAL	370,000	612,000

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31st December 2019 amounts to €8.737m (2018: €7.261m)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 11: Superannuation Scheme contd.

(d) History of defined benefit obligations

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
Defined Benefit Obligations	8,737	7,261	7,536	6,654	6,114
Experience Gains/ (Losses) on Scheme Liabilities *	140	262	(53)	1,095	(45)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	1.60%	3.60%	-0.70%	16.50%	-0.70%

* This item consists of gains/(losses) in respect of liability experience only and excludes any change in liabilities in respect of changes to the actuarial assumptions used.

(e) General Description of the Scheme

The retirement benefit scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (1/80 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (3/80 per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member's 65th birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

The disclosures below have been prepared for the Heritage Council in relation to benefits payable from the Heritage Council Employee Superannuation Scheme 2003 and Spouses and Children's Scheme. The schemes are un-funded of the defined benefit type, providing retirement benefits based on service and pensionable salary. The valuation used for FRS 102 disclosures have been based on a full assessment of the liabilities of the Schemes as at 31 December 2019. The present values of the defined benefit obligation and the service cost were measured using the projected unit credit method. This disclosure note includes balance sheet and assumption details for the financial year ended 31st December 2019 and 31st December 2018.

The principal actuarial assumptions used by independent qualified actuaries to calculate the liabilities under FRS 102 are set out below:

Assumptions	31/12/19	31/12/18
Inflation	1.70%	1.90%
Rate of general long-term increase in salaries	3.20%	3.40%
Rate of increase in state benefits	1.70%	1.90%
Rate of increase in deferred benefits	2.20%	2.40%
Pension Increases	2.40%	2.40%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.30%	2.15%

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 11: Superannuation Scheme contd.

Mortality Assumptions:

At 31st December 2019, we have used mortality assumptions for current and future pensioners based on standard mortality tables allowing for future mortality improvements. The life expectancies from age 65 for sample ages, as derived from these mortality assumptions, would be as follows (31st December 2018 life expectancies also provided for comparison):

Life expectancy at age 65 (in years)	31/12/19	31/12/18
Male, now aged 45	25.1	25.0
Male, now aged 65	23.2	23.1
Female, now aged 45	27.6	27.5
Female, now aged 65	25.4	25.3

Note 12: Property, Plant and Equipment

	Buildings	Office Furniture	Office Equipment	Plant & Equipment	Computers	Reference Material & OSI Licences	Motor Vehicles	Works of Art	TOTAL
COST	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
As at 1 January 2019	8,064,752	226,171	198,046	18,147	824,497	457,204	20,703	203,217	10,012,737
Additions	0	0	0	0	11,143	0	0	0	11,731
Disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,703	0	20,703
As 31 December 2019	8,064,752	226,171	198,046	18,147	835,640	457,204	0	203,217	10,003,765
Accumulated Depreciation									
As at 1 January 2019	2,360,228	219,331	195,269	16,431	807,502	457,204	20,703	0	4,076,668
Charge for year	201,619	454	2,952	625	5,652	0	0	0	211,302
On disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,703	0	20,703
As 31 December 2019	2,561,847	219,785	198,221	17,056	813,154	457,204	0	0	4,267,267
NET BOOK AMOUNTS									
As at 1 January 2019	5,704,524	6,840	2,777	1,716	16,995	0	0	203,217	5,936,069
As at 31 December 2019	5,502,905	6,386	413	1,091	22,486	0	0	203,217	5,736,498

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 13: Receivables

	2019 €	2018 €
Debtors	31,499	9,905
Prepayments & Other Debtors	<u>136,760</u>	<u>76,553</u>
TOTAL	<u>168,259</u>	<u>86,458</u>

Note 14: Payables

	2019 €	2018 €
Creditors	217,858	185,121
Accruals	<u>277,663</u>	<u>305,490</u>
General Creditors & Accruals	495,521	490,611
Grants Accruals	<u>0</u>	<u>173,391</u>
TOTAL	<u>495,521</u>	<u>664,002</u>

The Heritage Council incurred rental payments in respect of a lease on the property occupied by the National Biodiversity Data Centre at Carriganore, Co. Waterford in the amount of €20,000, which is included in the National Biodiversity Centre Costs at Note 6 (c).

Note 15: Beara Breifne Way Development

The Beara Breifne Way follows the line of the historic march of O'Sullivan Beara in 1603 from the Beara Peninsula in Co. Cork to Blacklion in Co. Cavan. This grant towards the development of the Beara Breifne Way has been provided by the Department of Rural Affairs to The Heritage Council and is being managed by Comhar na nOilean on behalf of the Heritage Council. Development costs include signage, finger posts, pathway installation and gates to ensure that all aspects of the route's heritage are presented along the walk.

Note 16: The Irish Landmark Trust Ltd.

The Irish Landmark Trust Ltd was established in 1992 as a non profit company with the objective of saving historic buildings that were abandoned or at risk. This is achieved by giving them a useful and viable function as short term holiday accommodation, which would secure their long term future. The level of Council funding each year is determined by reference to Councils' Five Year Plan, the Irish Landmark Trust's Corporate Plan, and Council's overall budgetary position.

Note 17: Discovery Programme: Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland

The Council funds the Discovery Programme that was established in 1991 and was registered as a company, limited by guarantee on 15 January 1996. The Council is responsible for appointing the chair of the Discovery Programme and three of its directors. The Chief Executive or his/her nominee is one of Council's representatives on the Board of the Discovery Programme. The level of Council funding each year is determined by reference to Council's Five Year Plan, The Discovery Programme's Corporate Plan, and Council's overall budgetary position.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 17: Discovery Programme: Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland contd.

The purpose of the programme is to enhance our understanding of Ireland's past through research and archaeological excavations.

Note 18: Grant Commitments

At 31st December 2019 the Council had entered into grant commitments in connection with activities due to take place after that date. The amount committed of €4,759 is not reflected in these Financial Statements.

	2019 €	2018 €
Grants committed at 1 January	327,377	1,387,837
Approvals in year	3,697,713	5,014,209
Grants decommitted & write offs	(207,904)	(1,200,722)
Grant expenditure in the year	<u>(3,812,427)</u>	<u>(4,873,947)</u>
Grant Commitments at 31 December	<u>4,759</u>	<u>327,377</u>

Note 19: Related Party Disclosures

Key management personnel in The Heritage Council consists of the members of the Board, the Chief Executive, the Heads of Service and the Financial Controller. The Board does not receive any remuneration. For a breakdown of the remuneration and benefits paid to key management personnel, please refer to note 9 and note 10.

The Heritage Council adopts procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform covering the personal interests of Board members. In the normal course of business, The Heritage Council may approve grants and enter into other contractual arrangements with entities in which The Heritage Council Board members are employed or otherwise interested.

In cases of potential conflict of interest, Board members do not participate in or attend discussions regarding these transactions. A register is maintained and available on request of all such instances.

The following members disclosed an interest in organisations to which financial assistance was approved in the year.

It should be noted that Traditional Farm Building Grants are approved by The Heritage Council but paid by The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and are therefore not reflected in the financial statements of The Heritage Council.

Brian Walsh	<p>€6,000 for County Heritage Plan Grant C08240</p> <p>€5,000 for County Heritage Plan Grant C08231</p>
Ivor McElveen	<p>€17,743 for Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Glas2270</p>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Note 20: Going Concern

The Council draws funds from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as and when required. It recognises this income on a cash receipts basis but recognises expenditure on an accruals basis. The Board considers that, as the entity provides a public service that is 93% funded by moneys provided by the Exchequer, via its parent department, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, it is appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis.

Note 21: Premises

The Heritage Council operates from a premises at Áras na hOidhreacht, Church Lane, Kilkenny which it occupies and owns.

Note 22: Appointment of Board of The Heritage Council

The current Board of The Heritage Council was appointed by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 3rd November, 2020.

Note 23: Post Balance Sheet Event

The Heritage Council recognises that the Covid-19 pandemic is a significant event which has occurred since the reporting date. The Heritage Council is taking the situation seriously and is monitoring the situation, in conjunction with management, on an ongoing basis. The business continues to operate with measures in place to protect staff and the any visitors to the premises of The Heritage Council. Staff are working remotely and services continue to be provided. To date, the operations and most of the entity's activities are being maintained while adjusting to the different way in which the business is being delivered. While The Heritage Council is unable to reliably predict the impact of Covid-19 on its cash flows, the performance and operations of The Heritage Council are being monitored closely and regular cash flow are prepared.

Note 24: Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by Council on 17th July, 2020



THE HERITAGE COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF GRANT PAYMENTS

IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK (IWTN) DAY

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
WD08273	Tipperary County Council	A 3 day bespoke tour guide training course for Towns in the Munster Vales region	Cork - Cork County, Limerick - Limerick County, Tipperary - Tipperary South	2,900
WD08279	Wexford County Council	Wexford's Walled Towns Medieval Day	Wexford	1,600
WD08288	Tipperary County Council	CASHEL 700 Festival	Tipperary - Tipperary South	4,000
WD08294	Castledermot Local History Group	Two reconstructions depicting views of Castledermot in the past.	Kildare	3,000
WD08297	Galway County Council	Loughrea medieval Festival 2019	Galway - Galway County	13,500
WD08298	Galway County Council	Athenry Walled Town Day 2019	Galway - Galway County	9,000
WD08299	Derry City and Strabane District Council	Derry Walls Cannon Conservation and Interpretation Feasibility Study and Animation	Ireland - Northern	5,000
WD08308	Cork County Council, East Cork Municipal District	Youghal Medieval Festival 2019	Cork - Cork County	12,000
WD08320	Athlone Arts and Tourism	Athlone Castle Annual Medieval Fair	Westmeath	7,000
WD08326	Waterford Treasures	The Museum of Time Part II at the Almshouse - When Time Runs Out! Interpretation Project 2019	Waterford - Waterford City	7,500
WD08327	St. John's Parish Heritage	Castle Gate Design at Rindoon	Roscommon	677
WD08328	Wexford County Council	St. Patrick's Church, Wexford - Interpretive Illustration	Wexford	1,690
WD08333	Meath County Council	"In conversation with the restorers" the team behind the restoration of the Kells Printworks machines	Meath	1,700
WD08334	Meath County Council	Beating the bounds: Finding and digging the town boundary at Blackfriary, Trim.	Meath	12,000
WD08340	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Landings at Carrickfergus Project	Ireland - Northern	2,200
WD08341	Cork City Council	Cork City Medieval Day	Cork - Cork City	1,700
WD08343	Friends of the Derry Walls	Derry Walls Weekend 2019 - Walls 400 1619-2019 Completion of the Derry Walls	Ireland - Northern	3,000
WD08088	Athlone Arts & Tourism Ltd.	Expansion of Athlone Castle Medieval Fair	Westmeath	3,500
TOTAL				91,967

IRISH WALLED TOWNS NETWORK CAPITAL

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
W08287	Tipperary County Council	Carrick on Suir Town Walls Stabilisation and Conservation 2019	Tipperary	15,000
W08303	Tipperary County Council	Conservation of Town Wall adjoining Fethard Pocket Park	Tipperary	25,000
W08309	Cork County Council	Phase 11 of Structural Works to Secure Integrity of Youghal Town Walls	Cork - Cork County	25,000
W08314	Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny City Walls 2019: Black Abbey Carpark works	Kilkenny	20,000
W08317	Galway County Council	Athenry Walled Towns Capital Works Project 2019	Galway - Galway County	10,000
W08318	Limerick City & County Council	Kilmallock's East Town Wall in the Pocket Park	Limerick - Limerick County	30,000
W08322	Waterford City and County Council	Waterford City Walls and Towers - Phase 1 Watchtower	Waterford - Waterford City, Waterford - Waterford County	10,000
W08332	Wexford County Council	Wexford Town Wall Zone 5: Conservation Works 2019	Wexford	15,000
TOTAL				150,000

POLICY

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
D08281	Burrenbeo Trust	Place-based Learning and Community Stewardship 2019	Clare, Galway - Galway County	16,000
D08282	Irish Uplands Forum	Upland Partnership Support 2019	All of Ireland	7,635
D08283	The Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI)	2019 Professional Accreditation, CPD grants and training for conservators and conference publication.	All of Ireland	6,400
D08285	University College Cork, Dept Archaeology	Wet Futures Project	Cork - Cork City	31,338
D08286	High Nature Value Services Ltd (HNVS)	Field Monument Advisor (FMA) Scheme 2019	Clare	12,000
D08291	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)	Creative Engagement 2019- Arts in education programme in second level schools.	Ireland - Republic of	8,000

POLICY contd.

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
D08293	Bere Island Projects Group	Bere Island Conservation Plan Implementation 2019	Cork - Cork County	16,000
D08300	Ireland Reaching Out	IrelandXO Local Heritage Global Diaspora Engagement 2019	All of Ireland	27,917
D08307	Burrenbeo Trust	Burren Community Charter 2019	Clare, Galway - Galway County	4,000
D08310	Wicklow Uplands Council	Wicklow Uplands Council Core Funding 2019	Wicklow	52,000
D08311	Irish Museums Association	Irish Museums Association (IMA) Core Funding	All of Ireland	7,000
D08313	Irish Archives Resource	Irish Archives Resource -Social Media Seminar and Support	All of Ireland	2,906
D08315	Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland	CPD Coordinator/Administrator, IAI 2019	All of Ireland	8,000
D08324	Woodlands of Ireland	Woodlands of Ireland Core Funding 2019	Ireland - Republic of	32,000
D08345	European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP)	Support ongoing work programme of EFNCP HNV farming 2019 including EIP workshops, best practice seminars		32,000
D08389	National Biodiversity Data Centre	Irish Vegetation Classification System 2019	Ireland - Republic of	29,850
D08390	National Biodiversity Data Centre	Citizen Science Plant Monitoring Scheme	Ireland - Republic of	11,461
D07312	The Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI)	2018 Professional Accreditation, conference publication, CPD grants & training for conservators.	All of Ireland	6,400
D07583	Burrenbeo Trust	Place-based Learning and Community Stewardship 2018	Clare, Galway - Galway County	15,919
D07695	Burrenbeo Trust	Burren Community Charter 2018- Burren Winterage Weekend Event and ongoing community engagement initiatives	Clare, Galway - Galway County	4,000
D07994	National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)	Creative Engagement 2018- Arts in education programme in second level schools.	Ireland - Republic of	8,000
D08112	Laois Education Centre	Living Heritage Competition	Laois, Offaly, Tipperary - Tipperary North	4,513
D08115	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	See the Wood from the Trees Publication - The story of the trees gifted to GMIT Letterfrack from Aras an Uachtarain	Galway - Galway County	2,500
D08131	Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland	IAI CPD Coordinator & Administrator 2018	All of Ireland	8,000
TOTAL				353,839

COUNTY HERITAGE PLANS

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
C08165	Westmeath County Council	Westmeath Fieldnames Recording Project	Westmeath	6,259
C08166	Offaly County Council	County Archive Programme 2019	Offaly	13,000
C08167	Offaly County Council	River Camcor Himalyan Balsam Control project	Offaly	10,000
C08169	Waterford City and County Council	Waterford Community Archaeology Projects Support 2019	Waterford - Waterford County	7,050
C08173	Westmeath County Council	Recording the Industrial Heritage of Westmeath (Phase 1)	Westmeath	11,520
C08179	Westmeath County Council	Wetland Survey for County Westmeath	Westmeath	5,021
C08180	Roscommon County Council	2019. Field Monument Advisor Farming Rathcroghan EIP	Roscommon	15,000
C08182	Waterford City and County Council	Woodstown Viking Site - Conservation Management Plan	Waterford - Waterford County	7,500
C08183	Leitrim County Council	Leitrim Wetland Survey	Leitrim	13,800
C08184	Limerick City & County Council	Control of Giant Hogweed on the River Loobagh	Limerick - Limerick County	7,000
C08185	Cavan County Council	Cavan Golden Way - 2019	Cavan	5,378
C08189	Galway City Council	9th Annual Galway City Heritage Conference - Irish Folklore Story Telling	Galway - Galway City	3,271
C08190	Galway City Council	Archaeology & Heritage Field School 2019	Galway - Galway City	2,860
C08191	Cavan County Council	Exploring Lough Oughter Project	Cavan	5,775
C08193	Galway City Council	Galway City Gravestone Recording & Guide Series	Galway - Galway City	5,351
C08194	Tipperary County Council	Audit of the Geological sites in County Tipperary 2019	Tipperary - Tipperary North, Tipperary - Tipperary South	16,478
C08195	Cavan County Council	Cavan Graveyard Network 2019	Cavan	6,933
C08196	Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny Field Name Recording Project 2019	Kilkenny	9,913
C08199	Waterford City and County Council	Waterford Decade of Commemorations 2019	Waterford - Waterford County	3,375
C08201	Waterford City and County Council	Waterford Heritage & Biodiversity Week 2019		2,625

COUNTY HERITAGE PLANS contd.

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
C08202	Limerick City & County Council	Amazing Lace: A Project to mark the 190th anniversary of Limerick Lace.	Limerick - Limerick City, Limerick - Limerick County	4,711
C08203	Dublin City Council	Dublin City 20th Century Architecture Research Project 2019	Dublin - Dublin City	10,000
C08205	Limerick City & County Council	Limerick Castles & Tower Houses Project	Limerick - Limerick County	1,974
C08206	Limerick City & County Council	Samhain Festival Limerick	Limerick - Limerick City	3,750
C08207	Kerry County Council	Listowel Architectural Heritage Survey, Conservation Toolkit Publications, Video and Exhibition	Kerry	10,218
C08208	Laois County Council	Heritage Conservation & Awareness in Laois 2019	Laois	23,000
C08209	Kilkenny County Council	Kilkenny Heritage Awareness Programme 2019	Kilkenny	10,919
C08210	Meath County Council	Meath Heritage Awareness Programme 2019	Meath	13,145
C08212	Cork City Council	Cork Heritage Open Day 2019	Cork - Cork City	15,000
C08214	Donegal County Council	Donegal Traditional Shopfronts & Signage Booklet 2019	Donegal	4,800
C08215	Cork City Council	Cork City Traditional stone skills workshop 2019	Cork - Cork City	6,000
C08217	South Dublin County Council	'The Buildings of Ireland, Architectural Guide to Dublin', SDCC component of the research, 2019	Dublin - South Dublin	3,500
C08218	Louth County Council	Heroes of Louth, survey of memorials and plaques in county Louth	Louth	8,600
C08219	Kerry County Council	Day Place Tralee Conservation Project 2019	Kerry	9,504
C08220	Donegal County Council	Short Promotional Videos on Traditional Skills 2019	Donegal	7,000
C08221	Leitrim County Council	Leitrim Heritage Awareness Programme 2019	Leitrim	4,666
C08222	Donegal County Council	Donegal Heritage Plan Implementation Assistance Service	Donegal	4,594
C08223	Cork County Council	Industrial Heritage of County Cork	Cork - Cork County	16,000
C08224	Cork County Council	The Colourful Heritage of County Cork	Cork - Cork County	7,000
C08225	Clare County Council	Appraisal of the Heritage (built, cultural and natural) Landscape of the Errina Canal	Clare	10,000

COUNTY HERITAGE PLANS contd.

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
C08226	Dublin City Council	BUILT TO LAST: Energy Efficiency in Pre- 1945 Dwellings in Dublin (Peer Review)	Dublin - Dublin City	900
C08227	Sligo County Council	Sligo (FMA) Community Archaeology Project 2019	Sligo	15,000
C08229	Sligo County Council	Sligo Heritage Awareness Programme 2019	Sligo	3,219
C08231	Louth County Council	Illustrations for 'A Heritage Tour of Louth' Childrens Publication	Louth	4,428
C08232	Tipperary County Council	Tipperary Community Engagment/Raising Awareness Programme 2019	Tipperary - Tipperary North, Tipperary - Tipperary South	4,850
C08233	Kildare County Council	Heritage Awareness in Kildare 2019	Kildare	8,071
C08234	Clare County Council	Feasibility Study of the heritage resource, value and potential of Cahiracon House, Estate and adjoining maritime landscape.	Clare	11,928
C08236	Roscommon County Council	2019, Roscommon Graveyards Mapviewer - Project Management	Roscommon	8,000
C08238	Kildare County Council	Market Research 2019: Heritage Awareness and Attitudes in Co Kildare	Kildare	12,232
C08240	Louth County Council	Conservation of Historic Drogheda Archives	Louth	6,000
C08241	Galway City Council	Galway Heritage in Stone Series Vol 5 13th - 16th Century Carvings	Galway - Galway City	762
C08242	Mayo County Council	Mayo Heritage Awareness Programme 2019	Mayo	11,000
C08243	Galway City Council	Galway City Climate Change and Erosion Monitoring Project 2019	Galway - Galway City	3,206
C08244	Meath County Council	Meath Swift Survey 2019	Meath	9,855
C08245	Leitrim County Council	Survey of Thatched Buildings in County Leitrim	Leitrim	3,690
C08246	Monaghan County Council	Black Pigs Dyke Monograph - year 2	Monaghan	8,393
C08248	Wicklow County Council	Glendalough Community Archaeology Project 2019	Wicklow	12,000
C08249	Galway County Council	Galway County Community Archaeology Project 2019	Galway - Galway County	15,000
C08250	Galway County Council	Geological Heritage Audit of County Galway 2019	Galway - Galway County	11,000
C08252	Galway County Council	Galway County Ecclesiastical Heritage Project 2019	Galway - Galway County	8,000

COUNTY HERITAGE PLANS contd.

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
C08253	Galway County Council	Lough Derg 'Past Times' Heritage Event Portumna	Galway - Galway County	4,000
C08254	Monaghan County Council	Monaghan Heritage Public Awareness 2019	Monaghan	10,000
C08255	Mayo County Council	Killala Character Appraisal	Mayo	11,250
C08257	Longford County Council	Longford Wetlands Survey Project 2019	Longford	5,175
C08258	Longford County Council	Non-Invasive Archaeological Research Project - Granardkille	Longford	6,450
C08276	Fingal County Council	Fingal Community Archaeologist 2019	Dublin - Fingal	20,942
C08367	Dublin City Council	Dublin Through the Ages: The City Walls (a touring exhibition and booklet)	Dublin - Dublin City	5,475
C07320	Galway County Council	Geological Heritage Audit of County Galway 2018	Galway - Galway County	8,000
C07322	Waterford City and County Council	Habitat Mapping of River Blackwater	Waterford	10,000
C07324	Waterford City and County Council	Heritage of the Waterford Greenway Publication	Waterford	2,475
C07334	Waterford City and County Council	Heritage and Biodiversity Week	Waterford - Waterford County	2,500
C07364	Laois County Council	2018 Laois Heritage Awareness & Family Heritage Trail	Laois	2,233
C07438	Fingal County Council	Fingal Community Archaeologist 2018	Dublin - Fingal	30,000
C07441	Cavan County Council	Cavan Golden Way - 2018	Cavan	8,000
C07448	Dublin City Council	The Best Address in Town: Henrietta Street's original residents (1730 - 1780)	Dublin - Fingal	4,000
C07451	Roscommon County Council	Trimming and clearance of vegetation at Rindoon Castle for surveying	Roscommon	13,000
C07468	Longford County Council	Longford & the Great War - Americans & Armistice	Longford	2,319
C07470	Monaghan County Council	Black Pigs Dyke Archaeological Monograph - year 1	Monaghan	8,000
C07525	Galway City Council	Galway City Cemetery and Graveyard Survey – Castlegar, Tirellan, Terryland, Ballybrit and Dyke Rd	Galway - Galway City	7,000
TOTAL				650,843

MUSEUMS

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
MC08076	Monaghan County Museum	Monaghan Book of Plans Restoration 2018	Monaghan	3,500
TOTAL				3,500

EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
CH07556	Earthen Building UK and Ireland	Clayfest! 2018	Wexford	253
CH07900	Banagher Tidy Towns	Saving Banagher's Swifts- Phase 2	Offaly	1,000
TOTAL				1,253

HISTORIC TOWNS

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
HT08174	Clare County Council	Kilrush Heritage Regeneration Approach: Phase 2(i). Heritage & Genealogical Centre, Terret Lodge, Kilrush	Clare	190,000
HT08176	Mayo County Council	Historic Core Facade Improvement Scheme: Ballina, Co. Mayo	Mayo	140,000
HT08187	Roscommon County Council	Revitalising Boyle Main Street	Roscommon	140,000
HT08260	Donegal County Council	Conservation works to seven properties along Church Lane, Cathedral Quarter, Letterkenny, County Donegal	Donegal	200,000
HT08268	Tipperary County Council	Nenagh Gaol Conservation Project	Tipperary - Tipperary North	137,222
HT08270	Meath County Council	Market Square Navan - Regeneration of The Meath Chronicle Building and the St Laurence Hotel	Meath	160,000
TOTAL				967,222

ADOPT A MONUMENT

Ref. Number	Recipient Name	Project Title	Local Authority Area	Amt. Paid €
D08348	Kilmurry Tidy Towns	Kilmurry Lime Kiln Conservation Project	Clare	10,000
D08349	Gallows Hill Project	Children's Big Viking Dig at Gallows Hill	Waterford - Waterford County	1,200
D08350	Knockboy Graveyard Committee	Knockboy Church & Ogham Stone Consolidation work (stage 2)	Waterford - Waterford County	9,000
D08351	Killeshandra Tidy Towns	Rath Church Hand Made Brick Project	Cavan	2,684
D08352	Arra Historical & Archaeological Society	Graves of the Leinstermen Topographical Survey	Tipperary - Tipperary North	3,287
D08353	Lismore Heritage CLG	Interpretation panel at the Round Hill Lismore	Waterford - Waterford County	3,400
D08354	Malin Head Community Association Ltd.	Malin Well Old Church Conservation Project	Donegal	10,000
D08356	Donegal G.A.P. Heritage and History Group	Doon Fort Public Art Mural	Donegal	4,000
D08359	Moygara Castle Research & Conservation Project	Moygara Castle Research & Conservation Project	Sligo	10,000
D08360	Mountbellew Heritage & Tourism Network C.L.G.	Mountbellew Digital Heritage Workshop & Survey	Galway - Galway County	3,000
D08361	Portlaoise Tidy Towns	Conservation of Ironwork, Old St Peter's Graveyard	Laois	5,000
D08362	Tyndall Mountain Club	Ballyogan (Brandon Hill) - moated site LiDAR Survey	Kilkenny	4,858
D08364	Society for Old Lucan (SOL)	Survey work at St. Finian's medieval church & graveyard, Esker, Co Dublin	Dublin - South Dublin	3,000
D08365	Labasheeda Projects Group	An Ecological Study of the area surrounding Kilkerrin Napoleonic Battery, Kilkerrin Point & Clonderlaw Bay	Clare	4,800
D08366	Kilbarron Castle Conservation Group	Kilbarron Geo-physical Survey	Donegal	5,600
TOTAL				79,829

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

Address: Church Lane, Kilkenny

Phone: +353 56 777 0777

E-mail: mail@heritagecouncil.ie

Web : www.heritagecouncil.ie

Web: www.heritageweek.ie

www.facebook.com/TheHeritageCouncil

Twitter: @HeritageHubIRE