

**PRESS RELEASE**

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Children recreate Ireland's diverse heritage using LEGO® for Heritage Council competition**

*Winners announced in competition which attracted more than 200 entries from young people across the country*

Rathlin West Lighthouse, a bust of James Joyce, borage wildflower and a peregrine falcon are among the winning entries to a competition organised by the Heritage Council, which tasked children with recreating their favourite example of local Irish heritage using LEGO®. The competition received more than 200 entries from across the country, with entrants turning to all aspects of Ireland's rich and varied built, natural and cultural heritage for inspiration.

The competition was open to children aged between four and twelve years, with two age categories: 4-to-7-years, and 8-to-12-years. Children were asked to build their model, choose their category, write a short description of what their model represents and why it's important to them, and then take a photo of the model and submit it via the Heritage Council website. Winners of each of the 4-7-year-old categories will take home prizes of LEGO® DK books, with a LEGO® kit going to the winners of the older categories.

The full list of winners is:

**Ages 4-to-7 years:**

- Built heritage: 'West Light Rathlin', by Oscar Ryan from Antrim;
- Cultural heritage: 'The Tain', by Grace Hawkins from Down;
- Natural heritage: 'Borage', by Laura Williams from Wicklow

**Ages 8-to-12 years:**

- Built heritage: 'Guinness Gates', by Dylan Malone from Kilkenny;
- Cultural heritage: 'Bust of James Joyce' by Danny O'Shea from Wicklow;
- Natural heritage – 'Peregrine Falcon' by Daniel Boylan from Dublin.

Commenting, Heritage Council chief executive, Virginia Teehan said: "The Heritage Council was delighted to see this competition attract such a strong calibre of entries from across the country. It received a fantastic response, with entries demonstrating young people's creativity, ingenuity and wit, while highlighting their own particular areas of interest and curiosity, as they drew on Ireland's diverse heritage.

"This competition shows the creative and accessible ways in which our heritage can be engaged with, as well as how eager young people are to connect with it. It is crucial that

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children are encouraged and supported in exploring and understanding their shared heritage, which can start on their own front doorstep and in their own locality.

"I would like to thank all the children who entered this competition, and I encourage everyone with an interest in heritage to visit the Heritage Council website and Facebook page, to browse the wonderful range of entries received."

Visit the Heritage Council website, [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie) and the Heritage Council Facebook page for more information.

## ENDS

**Contact: Stephen Moloney, DHR Communications. Tel: 087-7858522.**

### Notes to Editors:

- Heritage Council wildlife officer, Lorcán Scott is available for interview, on request.
- A Dropbox folder of the winning entries can be found here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zaojcfkdupfnw0u/AACj-t8CUsEDBx5Ue9gaM0tqa?dl=0>
- Full details of winners and runners-up are as follows:

#### **Ages 4-to-7 years:**

##### **Built heritage:**

- Winner:  
'West Light Rathlin', by Oscar Ryan from Antrim;
- Runners-up:  
'Glendalough', by Luan Bruggeman from Wicklow;  
'Russborough House', by Brian Og from Wicklow.

##### **Cultural heritage:**

- Winner:  
Tain', by Grace Hawkins from Down;
- Runners-up:  
'Fishing Trawler', by Joe O'Donovan from Galway;  
'Inis Oirr', by Oisín Callaghan from Galway;  
'Woolly Jumper', by Fiachra O'Broin from Galway.

##### **Natural Heritage**

- Winner:  
'Borage', by Laura Williams from Wicklow;
- Runners-up:  
'Gannet', by Patrick O'Donnell from Meath;  
'Swan and Her Young', by Zoe Flynn from Galway;  
'Bull Eating Grass', by Kate Kelly from Westmeath.

#### **Ages 8-to-12 years:**

##### **Built heritage:**

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- Winner:  
'Guinness Gates', by Dylan Malone from Kilkenny.
- Runners-up:  
'Map of Irish Sites' by Danny O'Shea from Wicklow;  
'Rock of Dunamase', by Rory Dowling from Wicklow;  
'Rock of Dunamase', by Molly Byrne from Laois;  
'Dunluce Castle', by Jacob Gordon from Antrim

### **Cultural heritage:**

- Winner:  
'Bust of James Joyce', by Danny O'Shea from Wicklow.
- Runners-up:  
'Button Accordion', by Shane Tormey from Meath.  
'Cu Cullain and the Hound', by James Halpin from Tipperary.

### **Natural Heritage:**

- Winner:  
'Peregrine Falcon', by Daniel Boylan from Dublin.
- Runners-up:  
'In the bog', by Senan Corroon from Westmeath.  
'Wildflower Meadow', by Tomas Radzevicius from Mayo.

**About the Heritage Council:** The Heritage Council was established under the Heritage Act 1995 with responsibility to propose policies and priorities for the national heritage. It works in co-operation with a range of agencies, communities and individuals to promote education, enjoyment and understanding of our national heritage. For further information, visit: [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie).