

Preserving Culture & Heritage in Carrigallen

Patricia Kiernan Photos: Philip McIntyre (PMI)

NOMINATED BY Leitrim County Council, Carrigallen, for the first time, is an entrant in the All-Ireland competition to select communities who have had success in providing facilities and services along with preserving our culture & heritage for the benefit of those who live there. Following consultation with the County Council earlier this summer the following seven projects were selected to be shown the the judges:

- 1 Centenary Garden
- 2 Community Centre
- 3 Corn Mill Theatre
- 4 Bredagh Old School
- 5 Happy Feet Childcare
- 6 Margaret of New Orleans cottage in Tully
- 7 Carrigallen Day Care Centre

Following the arrival of the judges accompanied by Ms Suzanne Duffy of Leitrim County Council on the morning of August 11th, local Cllr Paddy O'Rourke welcomed them and introduced representatives from each of the projects.

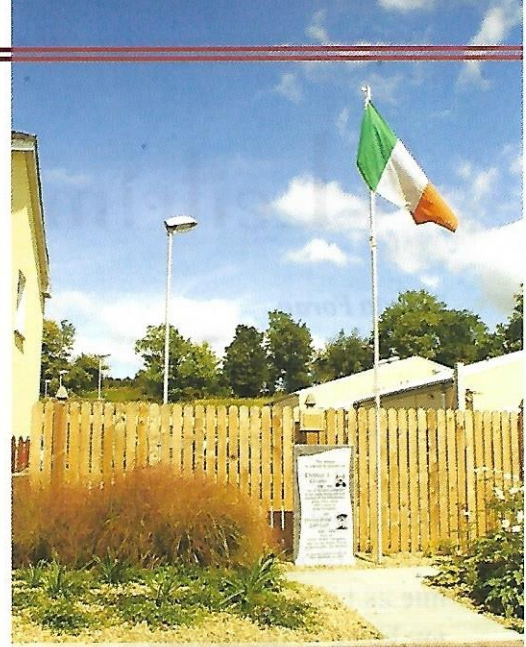
Before moving to view the first project, the Centenary Gardens, completed last year to commemorate Tom Clarke (1916 leader and first signatory of the Proclamation whose father was a Carrigallen native) and PP Galligan born in Church Street Carrigallen (and who led the 1916 rising in Enniscorthy Co Wexford) with the Tricolour flying high and the peace flowers in full bloom the garden & monument presented very well against the back drop of the recently completed car park with its neat markings which includes provision for disabled parking adjacent to the Community Centre & the Corn Mill Theatre.

Next it was the Community Centre itself where Cllr O'Rourke gave a summarised history of the initial building of it in 1958, and the extension in 1966. Local committees provided information stands telling the story of the

various services and activities available in the community centre. With Gretta O'Neill, Shiela Mollaghan and Margaret Flynn telling the story of water safety in the area.

Following some photo shoots by the Corn Mill Wheel by Philip McIntyre, it was inside where Brian Reilly and Helen Corcoran told the story of theatre in Carrigallen over the last 100 years and more, while Maura Williamson gave an informed account of the youth theatre, assisted by Aoife Tierney. Then following a welcomed coffee break at the Corn Mill it was up the hill to Bredagh Old School where Colin Patterson told the story of the building. Built originally in 1848, its recent renovation was to serve the community as a meeting place and entertainment centre. A quick dash to Tully to the birthplace of Margaret of New Orleans where Vincent Lyons had the kettle boiling on the open hearth and heard the story of Margaret of New Orleans starting there in Tully to her state funeral in New Orleans with a lifetime of good works in between. Then it was back to Happy Feet Childcare facility situated in the old National School built in 1916 where the judges met staff and some of the children using the service (which is a not-for-profit community led service). Next stop was the Day Care Centre where Breege Grimes and staff were busy dishing out dinner to a full house with the smell of freshly cooked food wafting through the building along with the buzz and friendly chatter gave the judges an example of the daily services available. The judges took their leave of Carrigallen to consider our village along with hundreds of others, with the results to be announced at an event in Letterkenny on December 2nd.

Regardless of the outcome Carrigallen has already won by providing all of the above for all of its citizens.



■ Centenary Garden



■ Community Centre & Corn Mill theatre



■ Bredagh Old School



■ Happy Feet Childcare



■ Margaret of New Orleans cottage in Tully

■ Below: Carrigallen Day Care Centre

