

## News

# Heritage projects captured and inspired the public imagination

Six Sligo heritage groups met in the Clarion Hotel on Tuesday evening, September 2, to share their experiences of being involved in Heritage Connects Communities.

The Peace III funded project was delivered by the Heritage Office of Sligo County Council. Speakers enthused about the opportunity to take part in the project, with one commenting that it has "developed new relationships with groups across the border and cemented relationships between local groups who came together for the first time".

Researchers Auriel Robinson and Sam Moore worked with North Mayo West Sligo Heritage Group, Easkey Heritage Group, Grange Armada Development Association, and Mullaghmore & Cliffoney Historical Group to collate a fascinating collection of historical stories.

The stories concerned World War II plane crashes, coastal Lookout Posts and war graves, a German spy Ernst Weber-Drohl's U-boat landing in Killala Bay, Captain De Cuellar and the Spanish Armada wrecks, aspects of the Fenian Rising and Napoleonic Signal Towers.

The heritage groups said that there has been huge interest generated within the local communities by the project, it has captured their imagination and inspired them to carry out additional research. The cross border exchanges brought together Sligo Field Club with Clogher Historical Society, and Ballinatrillick Heritage Group with the Belfast Hills Partnership.

The groups from Northern Ireland enthused about Sligo's stunning landscape, 'world class heritage' and the 'top quality themes' on offer to visitors.

Participants said that the Project provided the space to enable dia-



**HERITAGE:** Members of the heritage groups who took part in the Peace III project pictured on Tuesday evening (l-r) Aileen Connolly (Ballinatrillick Heritage Group), Sam Moore (IT Sligo), Margaret Conlon (Easkey Heritage Group), Leo Leydon (Sligo Field Club), John McKeon (Mullaghmore & Cliffoney Historical Society), Eddie O'Gorman (Grange Armada Development Assoc.), Paddy Tuffy (North Mayo & West Sligo Heritage Group) and Auriel Robinson (Seatrails).

logue about subjects that were not openly talked about.

The result was that people felt enlightened and challenged at the same time, and an awareness was raised of the need to listen to other people's views and try to under-

stand different perspectives.

Over 160 people attended and participated in an ambitious programme of events and activities over four months of the Spring and Summer.

It has been funded by the PEACE

III Programme through the European Union's European Regional Development Fund managed for the Special EU programmes body by Sligo County Council on behalf of Sligo Peace & Reconciliation Partnership Committee.

## Walk to remember Tony Scanlon

A 5K Walk of Life in memory of Tony Scanlon from Ballymote in aid of STOP suicide and Console takes place on Saturday, September 6 at 2.30pm starting at St.Nathys Cemetery, Collooney, Co.Sligo. Sponsorship Cards are available in advance from Lillian Scanlon on 086-3169521 or 071-9189378.

## Cycle to pass through Sligo

A CHARITY cycle to honour two gardai who died in the line of duty will pass through Sligo next week on its way to the finishing line in Co. Donegal.

The Mizen to Malin cycle gets underway on Sunday, September 7 and is expected to pass through Co. Sligo on Thursday next, September 11 before finishing in Malin Head on Friday, September 12.

The cycle is in honour of Gda Robbie McCallion and Gda Gary McLoughlin.

Gda McCallion, aged 29, died of his injuries in the Beaumont Hospital on April 7, 2009 after he was struck by a stolen car in Letterkenny on March 26. Gda McLoughlin died at Letterkenny Hospital on December 14, 2009 following a traffic collision at Lisfannon, Burt the previous day. He was 24.

The charities to benefit from this cycle are Donegal Hospice, The Jack & Jill Foundation, Cuisle Centre Roscommon, Beaumont Hospital ICU and Mayo-Rosecommon Hospice.

## Big Beach Clean is on this month

CLEAN Coasts Big Beach Clean weekend will be taking place in County Sligo on September 19, 20 and 21.

The Sligo event will be re-