

‘Heritage is Alive and Well in Midland Schools’
Living Heritage Competition for Schools 2018
Laois Education Centre Tuesday 17th April 2018



Post Primary Judges, Helene O’Keeffe and Catherine Casey

‘Heritage is alive and well in the midlands judging by the display of local heritage projects and essays in Laois Education Centre Tuesday 17th April as schools, pupils, teachers, principals, parents and grandparents gathered in the Education Centre for a celebration of local history and heritage in the counties of Laois, Offaly and North Tipperary. The occasion was the presentation of prizes to the primary and post-primary schools that took part in a competition organised by Laois Heritage Society in partnership with Laois Education Centre and supported by The Heritage Council. The competition which was open to schools in Laois, Offaly and North Tipperary had two categories at primary and post-primary level for essay and projects. 19 teachers and 159 pupils from 8 schools exhibited their projects on the evening. In addition there were 22 Essays presented in this category. Teddy Fennelly of Laois Heritage Society, praised the enthusiasm in which the students and teachers have embraced the project

and said that it reflects the underlying passion that exists in the younger generation to find out more about the world around us and where we came from.

Commenting on the awards event, Head of Education at the Heritage Council, Dr. Helene O’Keeffe said: “It was my pleasure to represent the Heritage Council at such an engaging and positive event. Both primary and post primary students demonstrated an excellent understanding of the cultural, natural and built heritage of Laois and Offaly, as well as very strong sense of place. It is encouraging to see such enthusiasm about local heritage expressed creatively through art, essays, posters and models. Dr. O’Keeffe went on to add ‘The Heritage Council is delighted to sponsor the Living Heritage Competition in 2018 in order to encourage young people to explore the finer details of the past in their home place. With knowledge, we hope, comes appreciation and the motivation to preserve and protect our heritage into the future. Commenting prior to the project commencement on the evening, Jim Enright, Director of Laois Education Centre said “The hands-on approach required for these schools heritage projects, where the students immerse themselves in using all the tools available to them for research including libraries, technology, site visits, the dedicated website through www.laoisedcentre.ie and interviewing, is surely the way forward in making it a living and useful subject and often leading to a worthwhile life-long pursuit. Getting the younger generation involved and interested in the people, the events, and the changing natural and political landscape that have shaped our communities and our country and the lessons learned from the past is hugely beneficial to the well-being of our society. It helps to make us proud of the community.”

Participating schools:

- Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore**
- Tullamore College**
- St Mary’s CBS, Portlaoise**
- Shanahoe NS**
- Rosenallis NS**
- Paddock NS**
- St Brendan’s BNS, Birr**
- St Paul’s COI NS Mountmellick**

The prizes were awarded on the evening by the different members of the judging panel including Dr. Helene O’Keeffe, Heritage Council, Michael Parsons, Chairman Heritage Council, Teddy Fennelly, Catherine Casey of Laois Heritage Society, Kathleen O’Connor, Management Committee Laois Education Centre.

Paddy Bates, Management Committee member, who acted MC for the event, welcomed all to the 7th Heritage Project Exhibition in the Centre and thanked and complimented all involved including teachers, principals and particularly the pupils who produced wonderful displays of local heritage. Paddy went on to thank all involved in the project and had a special word of thanks for the Education Centre staff particularly Yvonne Lacumber, Local Course Administrator with Laois Education Centre.

	School Name & Project		School Name & Essay
Category	Art & Design	Category	Essay
Post-Primary Overall Winner	Tullamore College 2nd Year (Tullamore Incident	Post Primary 1st Prize	<i>Klaudia Drobisz & Natalia Ziabek</i> 2nd Year

	1916)		Tullamore College (Charleville Castle)
Post-Primary 2nd Prize	Sacred Heart Secondary School Tullamore 1st Year (Ancient Historical Ruins in Offaly)	Post Primary 2nd Prize	John McDermott 2 nd Year, St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise (Peter Lalor)
Post-Primary 3rd Prize	Sacred Heart Secondary School Tullamore 1st Year (Historical Buildings, Monuments & Burial Sites in Laois & Offaly)	Post Primary 3rd Prize	Robert Eager, Conor Dunne & Daniel Maken Finlay 2 nd Year, Tullamore College (Clonmacnoise)
Primary Overall Winner	Shanahoe NS 1st - 6th Class (St. Fintan of Cromogue & Clonenagh)	Primary 1st Prize €75	Mathew Melvin 4th Class Shanahoe NS (The History of Poor Man's Bridge)
Primary – Best Natural Heritage Project	Paddock NS 2nd & 3rd Class (The Slieve Bloom Mountains - Wildlife Nearby)	Primary 2nd Prize €50	Naomi Senior 5 th class, St Paul's Mountmellick (Travelling Back Through Time at St Paul's NS)
Primary – Best Cultural Heritage Project	St. Brendan's BNS Birr 6th Class (Ireland 1918 - A Time of Change)	Primary 3rd Prize €30	Sam McAuley, Steven Dillon, Conor Greijmans & Keelan Franks 6 th Class St Brendan's BNS, Birr (IRELAND 1918: A Time of Change)
Primary – Best Built Heritage Project	Rosenallis NS 5th & 6th Class (Capard House)		

Primary – Best Creative Project	Paddock NS Jl, Sl & 1st (Clothes my Great Grandparents and Grandparents Wore Class)		
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