

Our Heritage Project – 1991

The '91 Youth Project Competition came to an exciting climax at the prize-giving ceremony on May 30th in Rothe House. The President of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, Maureen Hegarty, having welcomed all the competitors and guests, outlined the importance of our heritage, to understand it, to record it and help to preserve it, especially that which is not already recorded. The Mayor, Mr. Kieran Crotty, honouring the occasion by his attendance, spoke on the importance of involving the youth in “Our Heritage” and congratulated the participants and their teachers as well as the society on running this type of project.

The judges this year were Mr. Michael O'Dwyer, Mrs. Imelda Keogh and Mr. Proinnsios O'Drisceoil. The Youth Project Sub-Committee are deeply grateful to them for the dedicated work, which, though interesting, is very time consuming. There were 23 Junior and 14 Senior projects from both individuals and groups. Unfortunately this year due to lack of space the competitors in the senior section were restricted to scrap books or folders and in the junior section to scrap books or charts. We all missed the colourful models and artefacts but the youth are very ingenious and a surprising amount was incorporated in the folders and charts. Some models were brought and were on display, but only after the judging. The judges (Michael O'Dwyer for the seniors and Imelda Keogh for the juniors) then reviewed the projects in general and in some detail, delighting in the wide range of subjects, especially appreciating the number of houses — their own family one, and otherwise — that were researched as to both history and buildings, as “The family home of the O'Briens of Viper” and “Blanchfield House”. Also the recording of graveyards with their tombstones and inscriptions, for example the excellent one by Stoneyford Foroige on Ennisnag Graveyard. They stressed the importance of original research and had some constructive criticism for future competitions. They had to be very discreet at this stage of the evening, not mentioning any names, as the exciting part was yet to come.

The Society is deeply grateful to the Irish National Insurance plc for their generous sponsorship, so necessary for this type of competition and Mr. Barry Prendergast from the Irish National did the honours with the happy task of handing out the prizes as Mr. Edward Hughes the Co-ordinator of the competition read out the prizewinners starting with the “Highly Commended” and with mounting excitement progressed up to the overall winner of the perpetual trophy.

This year the lucky winner of the trophy and also first prize winner in the ‘Senior Individual Section’ was Deirdre O’Shea from Loreto Secondary School. Her project “Kells Mill (Mullins)” gave the history of the mill, its working and use, with samples of the different types of grain included. The colour and sketches of “Ninety Eight in Castlecomer” by Wandersforde National School — first prize winner in the ‘Junior Section’ — had to be seen to be believed. The uniforms were really stunning, while a “Tale of Two Houses” and “Slate Quarries Tullahought” rivaled it in artistic detail. “Friary St. Ambush” had a different slant and Our Lady’s Meadow School in Durrow had a very varied selection. Other mills featured too, with castles, churches, a cafe and even an election enquiry, but all who enter and complete a project are really winners, and all were presented with a certificate of merit with their name and project title inscribed.

The happy occasion concluded with refreshments for all after the Project Secretary had thanked the sub-committee, the judges, the sponsors Irish National Insurances and the Mayor, and congratulated the competitors, their teachers, parents, neighbours and friends who had helped make “Our Heritage ’91” such a success.

YOUTH HERITAGE PROJECT ’91 — PRIZEWINNERS

Prizewinners

H.C. Group Leader:

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Junior Section

Lena Power, Windgap N.S.

Project: “Slate Quarries Tullahocht”.

Jackie Campion, Our Lady’s Meadow, Durrow.

Project: “Church of Ireland Durrow”.

- V.H.C. Individual: Ollie Stewart (Individual) Kilkenny School Project.
Project: "Old School Cafe Inistioige".
- V.H.C. Individual: Nora Maddock (Individual) Kilkenny School Project.
Project: "Life and Times of Butt Dwyer".

Joint 3rd Prize

- Group Leader: Ailbhe Cronin, Kilkenny School Project.
Project: "Sweat House".
- Group Leader: Siobhan Lyons, Johnswell N.S.
Project: "A Tale of Two Houses".

Joint 2nd Prize

- Group Leader: Niamh Kinsella, Scoil Mhuire, Callan.
Project: "Edmund Rice".
- Group Leader: Samantha Vaughn, Our Lady's Meadow, Durrow.
Project: "I.C.A. Hall Durrow".

1st Prize

- Group Leader: Yvonne Agar, Wandesforde N.S.
Project: "Ninety Eight in Castlecomer".

Senior Individual

- 3rd Prize: Hilary Hurley, St. Brigid's, Callan.
Project: "Lady Desart".
- 2nd Prize: Anne Marie O'Brien, Loreto, Kilkenny.
Project: "Family Home; O'Briens Viper".
- 1st Prize: Deirdre O'Shea, Loreto, Kilkenny.
Project: "Kells Mill (Mullins)".

Senior Groups

- Joint 2nd Prize:**
- Group Leader: Marie Teehan, Loreto, Kilkenny.
Project: "Friary Street Ambush".
- Group Leader: Ciara Hogan, St. Brigid's, Callan.
Project: "Blanchfield House and Demesne".
- 1st Prize:**
- Group Leader: Mary Wallace, Foroige, Stoneyford.
Project: "Ennisnag Graveyard".

OVERALL WINNER OF TROPHY & PRIZE MONEY

Deirdre O'Shea, Loreto, Kilkenny.

DORCAS BIRTHISTLE,
Youth Project Sec.