

BALLYMACWARD AND KILNADEEMA TAKE MAJOR HONOURS AT MUMMER'S FESTIVAL

The Mummer's Group from Ballymacward bridged a twenty year gap when they won the Senior competition at the annual festival in New Inn on Saturday night last, while the Junior event held on Sunday afternoon was won by Kilnadeema Junior Mummies for the second year in a row.

The Leisure Centre in New Inn was packed to capacity on Saturday night for the Senior event. The victorious Ballymacward Group, who last took the title in 1987, produced a highly entertaining show to shade the verdict over previous festival winners – Rahan from Co Offaly. The 3rd prize went to Lackagh Mummies and their superb performance would indicate that they will soon take major honours.

This years "Best Musician" award went to Sharon Connell of Lackagh while the "Best Dancer" award went to Alan Looby of Rahan, Co Offaly. Lorraine Nolan of Lackagh won the "Best Flute Player" award and Shauna McGarrigle took the "Best Singer" award. For many years, Pat Ward of the Ballymacward Mummies has entertained the Patrons with his wonderful storytelling, and his selection as "Best Storyteller" was well received and acknowledged. The "Most Outstanding Entertainer" award went to Eddie Scully of Rahan, Co Offaly.

There was a fantastic crowd again on Sunday afternoon to support the young performers and patrons were treated to a feast of fantastic entertainment from five wonderful groups. The adjudicators deliberated for a considerable time before declaring Kilnadeema Junior Mummies to be the winners for the second year in a row, with Lackagh Mummies filling the runner-up spot. A second excellent group from Lackagh – The Wrenboys took third prize.

Tara Nolan of Lackagh Mummies won the "Best Junior Musician" award while the "Best Dancer" award was shared by Emma Lynskey and Stephanie Broderick from the Kilnadeema Mummies. The "Best Flute Player" award went to Shauna Whelan of Kilnadeema Mummies and Aine Fitzgerald of Lackagh Mummies took the "Best Singer" award for the second year running. Keith Fahy of Lackagh Mummies was a popular winner of the "Best Storyteller" award. The "Most Outstanding Young Entertainer" sponsored by Raymond Golding – London was presented to Aoife Burke of Lackagh Mummies by Festival Chairman Michael Mullins on behalf of Mr Golding.

Closing Festival 2007, the Chairman Michael Mullins thanked the loyal patrons for their support over the past 29 years and he welcomed the many people who were attending the festival for the first time. He said the festival was continuing to grow because of the quality of the entertainers performing at the festival. He paid tribute to all the groups but had a special word of praise for the Junior Mummies on Sunday afternoon. He urged them to share their talents with the wider community on St Stephen's day next year by reviving the tradition of going from house to house, and he was certain that a visit from the Mummies to people confined to their homes or Nursing Homes would have a very positive impact. The Chairman paid tribute to the coaches and mentors who put so much time into preparing the young people for the festival. He then went on to thank the many people who helped make the event a

success – the local media, both print and radio for their great coverage of the Festival. He thanked the local Clergy for publicising the Festival in Parish newsletters.

He complimented the Festival Committee, the Community Council and support teams who made it all happen. He was loud in his praise of the fantastic Ladies Committee who ensured that patrons and competitors were well catered for. He also thanked Joe, Keith and Martina Cunniffe for ensuring an excellent sound system for the festival.

Michael Mullins had a special word of thanks and appreciation for the Festival Secretary – Michael Finnerty for all his hard work in organising the Groups for the festival and said he was highly respected by all the people he liaises with.

He also thanked the Adjudicators Pat, Eileen and Richard Murray for taking on this difficult assignment and for their professionalism and support.

Pat Murray on behalf of the adjudicators said they were honoured to be associated with the Festival and he complemented everyone involved in its success. He said that our values and tradition was in safe hands, given the standard of entertainment that was on display at this year's event.

Sean Ryan – Chairman of New Inn Community Council, who promotes the Festival, thanked all the Groups and the fantastic committee who make it all happen every year. The Festival Chairman had a special word of appreciation for the Sponsors without whom the event would not be such a success. He paid tribute to the Festival's First Sponsor and founder Peter Joe Donohue who passed away the day after last year's event. He said Peter Joe will always be associated with the Festival, and his Perpetual Trophy will now be treasured more than ever by festival winners. This year's sponsors were –

Peter J Donohue Ltd, Garvey Farm Buildings, Arrabawn Co-Op, Russell Brennan Keane, Sean O'Rourke – New York, Supermacs Family Restaurants, Vincent Costello Agricultural Services, Bank of Ireland, Ballinasloe Credit Union, Allied Irish Bank, Tearmainn Bhride Nursing Home – Brideswell, Ollie Colohan Hardware, Barrett's Hardware Ballinasloe, Property Partners McCullagh Ballinasloe, Joe McGrath Construction and Raymond Golding – London. Sincere thanks was extended to Mr. Golding for his generous ongoing commitment to the Junior Competition.

Michael Mullins brought the 29th Annual Festival to a close by thanking everyone who made the weekend so special and memorable, and he jokingly urged patrons to book early for the 30th Anniversary Festival which he promised will be something to really look forward to.

(Full list of Results attached)

Michael Mullins .
087-2607405

RESULTS FROM GALWAY MUMMERS FESTIVAL 2007

GROUPS (SENIOR)

<u>WINNERS</u>	<u>Ballymacward</u>
<u>2nd PLACE</u>	<u>Rahan, Co Offaly</u>
<u>3rd PLACE</u>	<u>Lackagh</u>
<u>BEST MUSICIAN</u>	<u>Sharon Connell – Lackagh</u>
<u>BEST DANCER</u>	<u>Alan Looby – Rahan</u>
<u>BEST FLUTE PLAYER</u>	<u>Lorraine Nolan – Lackagh</u>
<u>BEST SINGER</u>	<u>Shauna McGarrigle – Rahan</u>
<u>BEST STORYTELLER</u>	<u>Pat Ward – Ballymacward</u>
<u>MOST OUTSTANDING PERFORMER</u>	<u>Eddie Scully – Rahan</u>

BEST INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

<u>Leo Redding</u>	-	<u>Brosna – Co Offaly</u>
<u>John Raftery</u>	-	<u>Ballymacward</u>
<u>Tommy Moran</u>	-	<u>Cleamairi Locha Riach</u>
<u>Malachy Noone</u>	-	<u>Lackagh</u>
<u>Joe Monaghan</u>	-	<u>Rahan</u>

RESULTS FROM GALWAY MUMMERS FESTIVAL 2007

GROUPS (JUNIOR COMPETITION)

WINNERS	<u>Kilnadeema Mummings</u>
2 nd PRIZE	<u>Lackagh Mummings</u>
3 rd PRIZE	<u>Lackagh Wren Boys</u>
<u>BEST MUSICIAN</u>	<u>Tara Nolan – Lackagh Mummings</u>
<u>BEST DANCER</u>	<u>Emma Lynskey/Stephanie Broderick – Kilnadeema Mummings</u>
<u>BEST FLUTE PLAYER</u>	<u>Shauna Whelan – Kilnadeema Mummings</u>
<u>BEST SINGER</u>	<u>Aine Fitzgerald – Lackagh Mummings</u>
<u>BEST STORYTELLER</u>	<u>Keith Fahy – Lackagh Mummings</u>
<u>MOST OUTSTANDING YOUNG ENTERTAINER</u>	<u>– Aoife Burke – Lackagh</u>

BEST INDIVIDUAL WARDS

<u>Stephanie Wynne</u>	-	<u>Cross Roads Mummings</u>
<u>Thomas Forde</u>	-	<u>Kilnadeema Wrenboys</u>
<u>Ross Duggan</u>	-	<u>Lackagh Wrenboys</u>
<u>Maeve Forde</u>	-	<u>Kilnadeema Mummings</u>
<u>Aine Fitzgerald</u>	-	<u>Lackagh Mummings</u>