

AUGHTY GATHERING

The very successful Aughty Gathering, hosted by Kilchreest-Castledaly Heritage Group, at the Castle Inn, Castle daly, on Saturday, was a celebration of the common heritage of the Sliabh Aughty cross border region of Counties Clare and Galway.

The very large attendance, representative of groups and individuals with shared heritage interests, took part in workshops that focused on music, folklore, customs, place names, big houses, wild life, family history, forestry, graveyards, children's burial grounds, trades, stone walls, caves and holy wells.

One of the groups, Crusheen Heritage Group, which a year ago hosted an Earth Day, gave active encouragement to the newly formed Kilchreest-Castledaly Heritage Group to organise the Aughty Gathering last Saturday.

The Aughty Gathering, an inter country event with participants from all parts of County Clare and Galway sharing and exchanging ideas on mutual aspects of heritage.

Proceedings started at 10.00a.m. with introductions by Anne O'Doherty, Crusheen who was the facilitator for the day. Joe Larkin, chairperson of the group, welcomed everybody and read a message of goodwill from Michael Starrett, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council. The guest speaker was Fidelma Mullane - Geographer - who gave a very interesting keynote address on the vernacular architecture of the Sliabh Aughty Region. This was followed by workshops on various topics such as folklore, wildlife, walkways, customs, old cures, place names, forestry, big houses, churches and graveyards of the area.

Among those who attended were: Cllr. Michael Mullins, Mayor of County Galway, who congratulated the group on the success of the day; Brid Higgins, Acting Heritage Officer, Galway County Council; Cllr. Pat Hayes and Cllr. Mary Nix. Gerry Daly, Principal of the local primary school and local historian, gave a very interesting talk. Jimmy Burke, who designed the aughty.org website (which is well worth a visit), spoke about the web page which is informative to anyone interested in the heritage of Clare and Galway.

The local heritage group showed a photographic exhibition of local sites and monuments.

This was a great community event with volunteers providing lunch and refreshments throughout the day. Towards evening a group of local children provided traditional entertainment followed by a group of musicians - including Peter Gardiner, Michael Fahy, John Joe Forde, Sean O'Neill and Des Mulkere and singing by Dennis Maher.

This highly successful event was follow up to a similar event held in Crusheen last year to celebrate Earth Day.

News 17 - Connacht Tribune, Friday April 27, 2007