

# Minister launches country's first community archive on the internet

OUGHTERARD was chosen by the National Museum of Ireland as the first community in the state to pilot their Community Archiving Project.

And the Oughterard Culture and Heritage Group – in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland – launched their community archive on Thursday night at the Oughterard VEC.

Guest of honour was Minister Eamon Ó Cúiv.

A large crowd attended and enjoyed an evening of shared memories prompted by a wonderful display exhibiting a photographic panorama of the town.

Linked with historic images,

the collection of images and memories, video and folklore will be accessible on the internet at the end of July following a demonstration period for the local community.

The archive was created in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland's centre at Turlough, Castlebar and it is hoped to encourage and facilitate groups across the country to establish their own community archive for the internet.

Minister Ó Cúiv, in his speech emphasized the importance of Heritage, which he stated was the number one reason for visitors coming to Ireland, and that recording heritage and culture at a local level was vital.



ABOVE: Pictured at the reception to launch of the Oughterard Community Archive on the Web were, from left: David Collins, Oughterard Culture and Heritage Group, Eamon Ó Cúiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, and Pat McGrath, Oughterard Culture and Heritage Group.



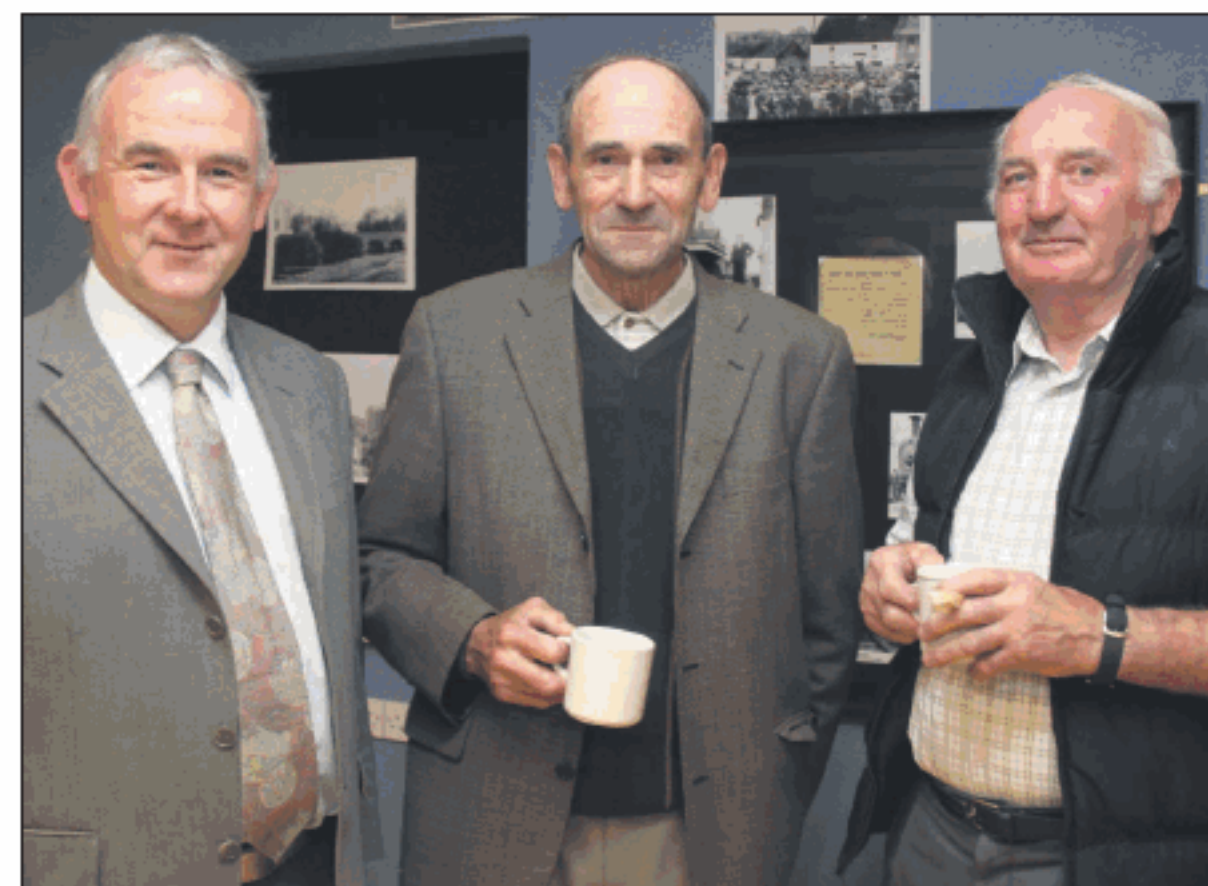
Lorna Elms of the National Museum and Josephine Collins, Oughterard, at the reception to launch of the Oughterard Community Archive on the Web



Jackie Lyons, Oughterard Business Association, and Brid Nic Con Iomaire.



Roisin Collins, Oughterard, Aoife O'Toole, Education Department, National Museum of Ireland, Castlebar, and Jack Egan from Oughterard.



Pat McGrath, Oughterard Culture and Heritage Group, and Frank Kyne and Tommy O'Malley, both from Oughterard.



Maureen Conneely, Patricia Murray and Ann Naughton, all of Oughterard.



Mary O'Malley, Nuala Walsh, and Mary Kyne, Chairperson, Oughterard Culture and Heritage Group.