



PRESS RELEASE

Vital Role of Volunteer Support at 'Tattered Outlaws' Public Art Project acknowledged by Fingal County Council

Summer 2009 saw Skerries Martello tower play host to an unusual public art project, Tattered Outlaws of History. The project which was commissioned by Fingal County Council featured visual artist Dan Dubowitz and choreographer Fearghus O'Chonchuir and took the form of a 12-screen film installation which was sited in the derelict Martello Tower in Red Island, Skerries.

The artists took Fingal's 12 Martello Towers and researched their history in relation to their current use. The towers were filmed from a unique rooftop perspective using a motorised camera which took in twelve revolutions of the tower and the landscape landscape. Gentle choreographic elements by Fearghus linked the views from the towers, as did recollections by local characters such as Joe from the Howth Radio Musuem and Dorothy, a woman from Rush who spoke of her fond memories of living in her tower.

The project opened with much publicity in July 2009, with RTE news covering the event, and a huge number of people, local, national and international flocked to see this unique installation. Volunteers from Skerries opened the tower to the public every weekend during the exhibition's 8 week period, giving

talks on the history of the towers and the local area. Red Island used to be a popular holiday camp in the 1950's and 1960's, and people brought old photographs and memorabilia and encouraged others to do the same. Visitors were also invited to offer suggestions on the future of the tower, and these suggestions were later pinned on the tower's walls. The volunteers spread the word and each weekend over 300 visitors came to see the exhibition. Other tasks associated with using a derelict Martello Tower such as filling the generator, standing in the cold under drips and being enthusiastic with everyone were carried out with good humour and dedication.

What shone through was the high level of local interest in the tower's heritage and those involved remain committed to restoring the tower some day, matching the basic intention of the artists in designing this unique installation.

Fingal County Manager David O'Connor recently presented an individual limited-edition print of the project to all of the Skerries Volunteers as an acknowledgement of the vital role they played in bringing this Public Arts Project to the people.

For further information on this, or any other Public Arts Event, please contact Caroline Cowley, Public Arts Co-ordinator, Fingal County Council at caroline.cowley@fingalcoco.ie

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