

NEWS

Tuam woman's son receives the King's Ambulance Medal

• Nigel Flanagan honoured at Windsor Castle

A PARAMEDIC for the NHS London Ambulance Service, whose mother hails from Tuam, has received an award given only to those who have shown exceptional devotion to their work and an outstanding ability from His Majesty, King Charles III.

Nigel Flanagan received the King's Ambulance Medal at a ceremony at Windsor Castle hosted by Anne, Princess Royal, earlier this month. Also in attendance were his wife Carly and Nigel's parents; his father Sean is formerly from Ballindine while his mother Maureen (nee Heneghan) hails from Tuam.

Nigel is a long-serving paramedic, who has led a charity initiative and delivered 26,000 Christmas presents to sick children in hospices and hospitals throughout London.

He said: "Working shifts, I saw many people experiencing loneliness and isolation. I wanted to make a difference, especially during what's meant to be a sea-



NIGEL Flanagan, Lingfield, Surrey, with his wife Carly and mother Maureen Flanagan (nee Heneghan, from Tuam) and his father Sean Flanagan (formerly from Ballindine) at Windsor Castle.

son of joy and cheer.

"It was incredible to meet Princess Anne; she made me feel so at ease and chatted to me about my charity work in London. As I walked up to the Castle and went past all the King's guards saluting me, I started to become emotional, it was a very special

day that I will never forget," he said.

Recognised for his selflessness and charitable spirit, as well as his exemplary clinical care duties for 20 years at The London Ambulance Service, Nigel set up Operation Christmas Present to help tackle isolation



NIGEL Flanagan, Lingfield Surrey a Paramedic for the NHS London Ambulance Service receiving the King's Ambulance Medal at a ceremony at Windsor Castle, hosted by Anne, Princess Royal.

amongst children who are in hospital during the festive season in 2009.

The aim is to ensure the children wake up Christmas morning with presents, especially being away from home on Christmas Day. Since then, Nigel has volunteered his free time visiting more than 400 hospitals,

children's A&E, hospices, and women and children's refuges.

Chief Executive at The Ambulance Service, Daniel Elkeles, said: "Nigel embodies the value of our Service, with his extraordinary compassion, desire to improve lives, and exemplary clinical care.

"While working hard to care

for patients, he sacrifices precious time with his family to make children feel less lonely. Nigel has shown incredible humanity, and we are so proud this was recognised by the Royal Family," he said.

From Lingfield, Surrey, Nigel Flanagan is married to Carly and they have three young children.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

NOTICE OF MAKING OF THE TUAM LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023 - 2029 IN ACCORDANCE WITH:

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended
Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended
Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended

Notice is hereby given that the Tuam Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029 was adopted by the Tuam Municipal District Members at their meeting on the 11th September 2023 and is due to come into effect on the 23rd October 2023.

The Tuam Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029 is a statutory document prepared by the Planning Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The Tuam Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029 is accompanied by a Local Transport Plan. The plan also includes Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report, prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended), an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report, pursuant to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) prepared in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009. The Strategic Environmental Statement (SEA) which accompanies the Plan contains information on how environmental consideration has been integrated into the Plan.

A copy of the Tuam Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029 along with other accompanying reports and with the SEA Statement and AA Conclusion Statement, is available to view on the following websites:

- <https://consult.galway.ie/en/browse>
- <https://www.galway.ie/en/services/planning/planspolicy/lap/>

Copies of the Tuam Local Area Plan 2023 - 2029 will be available in due course to purchase from the Planning Department, Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway.

Tá nile fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó i nGaeilge:
gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie www.gaillimh.ie

customerservices@galwaycoco.ie www.galway.ie @GalwayCoCo

J. Brann, Rúnaí Chontae

Free talks to support grieving children

GALWAY'S children's grief service, HopeSpace, is running a series of free public talks for parents, teachers, and all who support young people impacted by grief.

The first event will take place on Wednesday October 25 at 7:30pm in the SCCUL Enterprise Centre, Ballybane. The event is free to attend but must be booked in advance by emailing support@hopespace.ie.

Liz Gleeson, a highly regarded bereavement therapist, will head up a panel of speakers to discuss strategies for supporting grieving children.

The panel of speakers will also include Hermione Duffy, widow of Capt. Mark Duffy, who died in the Irish Coast Guard Rescue 116 helicopter crash in Mayo. She speaks about her experience guiding her children through grief in the aftermath of losing her husband.

Dr Lisa Kelly, Music Therapist, will also talk, highlighting the benefits of music therapy. There will be a play therapist on the panel as well.

Fine Gael MEP Maria Walsh, a

strong advocate of positive mental health, recently visited the HopeSpace centre to oversee their launch of the talks.

Speaking at the launch, MEP Walsh said: "I want to congratulate HopeSpace on the launch of these talks which will be invaluable to those helping children through difficult times.

"HopeSpace is already providing a badly needed service to children and young people throughout Galway city and county, and this series is an excellent additional resource for the people supporting them.

"HopeSpace is not only providing life-changing free service to families, but also destigmatising grief and the impact it can have on the lives and development of our young people. I am proud to support this fantastic organisation and urge anyone who cares for children or young people impacted by grief to attend the upcoming events," said the MEP.

To find our more or book a place email info@hopespace.ie or call 091 342566.