

Case Study on Headford Lace Project Community Group:



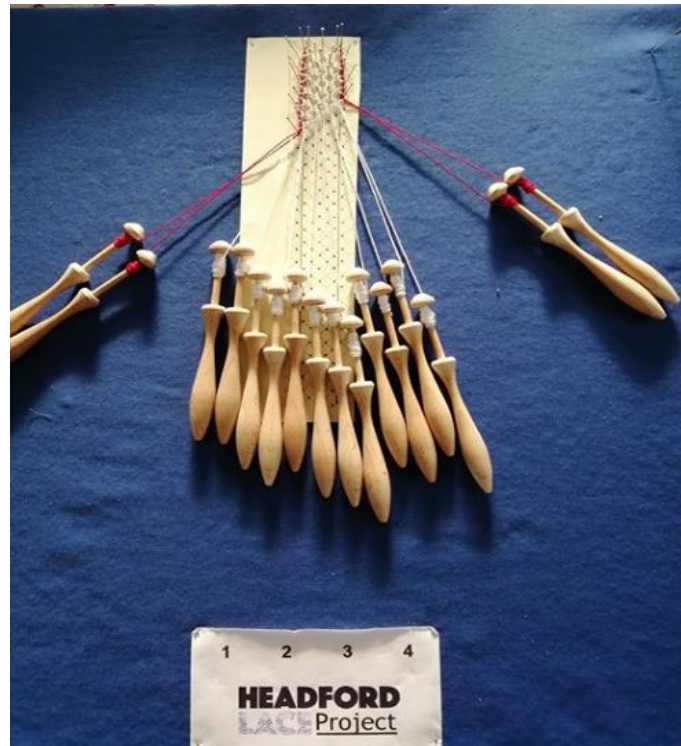
The Headford Lace Project Community Group began in May 2016, following Headford's involvement in the Galway 2020 'Small Towns Big Ideas' pilot project. Since then, Headford has been buzzing with activity to revive its lace-making tradition, which dates back to 1765, if not earlier.

The revival began when a piece of 'Torchon' bobbin lace, dated around 1904, from Headford Castle, was found in the community. A photograph of this simple lace trimming was sent to Jackie Magnin, a Cork-based bobbin lacemaker and member of the Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland.

Jackie's experience allowed her to create a replica using the photograph as a guide. She brought this sample with her to a gathering of lace-makers in September 2016, at the Museum of Country Life in Castlebar, which was organised by Galway-based crochet tutor Anne O'Hara Quinn, Chairperson of the Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland, Veronica Stuart and Museum Education Outreach Officer, Thomas Doyle. Members of the Headford Lace Project joined the lace-makers in Castlebar to discuss the possibility of reviving these skills in Headford.

Since then, Jackie Magin has taught sixteen locals the basic skills of bobbin lace-making, in workshops organised by the Headford Lace Project and these apprentices have gone on to demonstrate their new skills at community events such as the St. Patrick's Day Cottage Market.

The Headford Lace Project did an illustrated talk on The History and Revival of Headford Lace at the Galway Museum on July 28th 2017. They participated in a demonstration of bobbin lacemaking in the lobby on 29th and 30th July 2017. Over 100 people engaged with them at this event. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Headford Lace Project Community Group to meet other craftworkers from around the world. Eight new adult apprentices took part in the lacemaking class on both days and really enjoyed it.



Galway Rural Development (GRD) engaged with the Headford Lace Project Community Group in May of 2017. Under the Social Inclusion Activation Programme 2015- 2017 this community group were given the opportunity to participate in training such as Governance Training and Disability Awareness Training which really benefitted the group. The Headford Lace Project Community Group attended a Three Hour Governance Workshop based on Committee Roles and Responsibilities within the group. This training was organised by the Community Development Officers in GRD in association with Cramdentech to address all board and committee members who need a general and easy to follow guide to good governance practice when engaged in a community group. The group felt this training was very beneficial to them and felt that they had more knowledge now on the following topics:

- The Governance Code - what is it and why is it important?
- Responsibilities of a Committee/Board: Leading, Control, Accountability, Working Effectively, Integrity, Committee Roles.
- Practical Board Skills: Developing a Work Plan, Setting Agendas, Taking Minutes
- Disability Awareness Training was also organised for members of the Headford Lace Project Community Group in June 2017.

This workshop covered various topics around disability and was adapted to suit the needs of particular Community groups such as the Headford Lace Group. It encouraged the use of correct language as regards disability, and imbued an increased knowledge of the problems facing people with disabilities. It covered the different paradigms of the medical and social model. The Headford Lace Project Community Group felt it was a great benefit to the group as the training addressed current legislation protecting the rights of people experiencing disabilities. The training aimed to increase awareness among the non-disabled population around the challenges of having a physical or intellectual impairment, and in doing so, to

improve the inclusion of people experiencing disabilities into all areas of society. The Headford Lace Project Community Group felt that the knowledge they gained from the workshop on the rights of disabled people could help them to empower people, their families, friends and supporters they work with in the community. At the end of 2017 Galway Rural Development created and funded a website called igaillimh.ie. One of the sections focused on community groups and the other on Social Enterprises. It is a network for community groups in County Galway to link in with one another. The website has created a map of community group locations in the county. A community development officer met with the group and shared this information with them and as a result the Headford Lace group's information is now uploaded on this website.

The Headford Lace Project now have a number of children interested in observing the lacemaking. In order to engage with children the members of the Headford Lace Project Community Group needed Children Protection Training. Galway Rural Development had liaised with Tusla to provide this training to the group back in 2017.

GRD hope that in the future we can develop the capacity build of community groups by providing First Aid Training and Children First Training to Community Groups. In October 2018 Barnardos applied and were selected as Children First Trainers on the GRD training panel. In 2019 GRD plan to run Children First Training for community groups now that we have qualified tutors in this field on our panel.

In April 2018 the Headford Lace group were awarded a SICAP LCG Grant. They were approved a grant of €1, 500 for the purpose of purchasing a

1. Visualiser,
2. 12 LED Lamps,
3. Travel/Petrol
4. Accommodation expenses for trips to Limerick and Cork to assist in networking with other similar groups.



In addition to this support a member from the Headford Lace group participated in a half day workshop on Equality and Diversity in September 2018. Galway Rural Development provided funding support for this workshop to be organised for community groups.

The workshop outlined important points for members of LCGs such as:

- A clear definition of Equality & Diversity and what it means within a Voluntary/Community organisation
- Why is promoting Equality and Diversity important
- Understanding The Employment Equality Act 1998 and the Equal Status Act 2000 - 2011
- The differences between direct and indirect discrimination
- Knowing the nine distinct grounds for discrimination
- Understanding the need for embedding an equality policy within an organisation regardless of structure
- Creating measurable equality actions for your organisation

Once again the Headford Lace group were delighted to be able participate in this workshop. Galway Rural Development will continue to work with local community groups including the Headford Lace Project Community Group by providing training and support to them to build their organisational capacity and to address the needs of the groups they represent.

The grant aid and support from Galway Rural Development helped hugely with the capacity and development of the community group and the work they do in the Headford area and surrounding community.

Please see below the testimonials sent in various emails from Ger Henry Hassett from the Headford Lace Group to their local Community Development Officer, based in the Tuam Office

Hi Melinda,

We had a very successful Headford Lace Weekend. Culture night was really interesting with two collaborations between crafts council/ designers showcased. The Headford Lace inspired scarf by Niamh Daniels looked fabulous.

Two teachers from Mountmellick Lace gave a workshop. They were very impressed with our new visualiser. The lamps are fantastic. They kindly donated a piece of Mountmellick from 1890 to our archive. They took the Headford Lace classes on Saturday/Sunday. We may make a return visit to Mountmellick next year.

Many people travelled to Headford from Longford, Castlerea and Nenagh and lots of other places. Some wished to do the Headford Lace Walk and see the seat and garden. So all good for communities interacting.

Thank you for the support,

Ger.

Headford Lace Project

Hi Melinda,

Headford Lace Project has been given great coverage in an article 'A Snapshot of Headford' in this week's Tuam Herald. You will get a sense of how we are all interlinked and there are far more groups in the town that Mary Ryan did not get to meet yet.

I was delighted to see all the lamps at Ester's house last night. They will greatly enhance our workshops.

The Traditional Lacemakers in Cork were very interested in the visualiser and in fact it is nice that we are ahead with the technology!

I am involving the project with an international collaboration and a collaboration with Mountmellick Lace. I will give you more details shortly.

We have had a tremendously exciting week with a big breakthrough in the history from 1749. More to follow....

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

*Ger Henry Hassett.
Headford Lace Project.*

Hi Melinda,

Just to say that we are absolutely delighted with the visualiser. You can see from the photo that the class can follow the movements of the bobbins by watching the screen. Then can understand then how the stitches are built up. It made a big difference as everyone got it! Our teacher, Jackie Magnin thought it was fantastic.

When Anne and I did the Training Delivery and Evaluation, Training Needs Identification and Design (QQI Level 6) with GRETB our tutor, Joan, emphasized the value of new technologies. We are delighted to be able to use them.

The Headford Lace Project is very grateful for the support GRD has given us.

Many thanks and kind regards,

*Ger
Headford Lace Project.*