

The inaugural National Heritage Week Event Awards were won by a medieval challenge which saw members of the public live as a medieval family from 1210 in Taaffe's Castle, Carlingford.

Most Innovative Event and Best Overall Event

The judging committee identified the Medieval Challenge organised by Carlingford Heritage Trust as a clear winner for the Most Innovative Event and Best Overall Event. The committee felt that the Medieval Challenge held to celebrate the 800 years of heritage in Carlingford captured the imagination of young and old, both locally and nationally. The event attracted significant attention, with approximately 8000 visitors over a seven-day period. The event was designed to educate locals and visitors alike about the daily lives of people during the medieval period. People could interact with the medieval family as they went about their daily routine in the medieval village which was created for the week. Other Award Winners included;

Best Event Organised by a Community Group / ENGO / Individual

Guided Walks & Wall Building Course at Rinn Duin organised by St. John's Parish Heritage Group, Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon. St. John's Parish Heritage Group held an Irish Walled Town Heritage Day on Sunday 22nd August 2010 as part of National Heritage Week. Highlights included clay pipe making demonstrations, costumed guides throughout the medieval trail at Rinn Duin, and demonstrations and workshops by the Irish Field Archery Associations.

Best Children's Event (under 12's)

Medieval Madness at Aughnanure Castle organised by the OPW, Aughnanure Castle, Oughterard, Co. Galway. This event encompassed several children's events and activities based around a medieval theme, with the main event being a children's medieval tournament to find a Chieftain and Pirate Queen of the Castle. Running races, fancy dress, tug of war and a historical quest were all completed as part of the tournament. Archery and fencing workshops also took place for the young warrior to perfect their skills and experience the training regime of a real medieval warrior.

Best Interactive Event

Water Open Day organised by Lifetime Lab, Lee Road, Cork. This event which explored the positive impact of water as a heritage resource and highlighted its role across areas such as recreation, culture, engineering, employment, health, tourism etc. The event was free to the public and an estimated 800 visitors took part. Outdoor activities included birds of prey displays, giant bubble making, launching water rockets and creating a giant wall hanging. Indoor activities included looking at how hydro power and geo thermal works, looking at the science of water and how water treatment works before we drink it.