



**NEWS RELEASE**

**6th. June 2008**

**Minister Hanafin opens *Mines of Information* exhibition in Ballingarry**

**Personal accounts of the rich mining history now available for all -  
Hanafin**

Minister for Social and Family Affairs Mary Hanafin T.D., officially opened the *Mines of Information* exhibition in Ballingarry Community Hall, Thurles, Co Tipperary today (6th June 2008). The aim of the exhibition is to showcase the work of the local men, women and children in detailing an historical record of the Slieveardagh community using the very latest video technology.

The *Mines of Information* project is devised by artist Katy Goodhue and received Percent for Art funding from South Tipperary County Council.

Opening the exhibition in Ballingarry, Minister Hanafin said that this was a hugely important historical project for the whole community to get involved in.

**“Committing the tales and stories of times past to a video record which is accessible for current and future generations is a wonderful use of new technologies. Over 200 local children were involved in the making of these video archives. They now have an impressive production which covers stories about everyday life in the area, transport in times past, as well as school, work and farming life along with the memories of life in the coal mining industry in Slieveardagh.”**



## **Department of Social and Family Affairs**

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Children from four local schools, St Josephs NS Ballingarry, Mohobar NS, Lios-na-mBroc and Slieveardagh NS learned during the school day about how to use the video cameras and how to conduct interviews. They then brought the equipment home and interviewed over 50 family members on camera.

Minister Hanafin went on to say **“this project has a number of benefits, in that the children themselves are learning about new technology and social skills such as interviewing and discussing issues. Many young children are also leading the way in exploring the use of new technology in their own homes. They also had a chance to listen to their local history being retold by their parents, grandparents and wider family members. We all know how popular television shows like *Reeling in the Years* are, which captures a period of time in Ireland in each episode in such an entertaining way. This video record is something which future generations as well as historians will be able to look back on and gain valuable insight into the life and times of the people of Slieveardagh.”**

**ENDS**