



**GAISCE**  
**THE PRESIDENT'S**  
**AWARD**

**Gold Award Portfolio**  
**Guidelines**

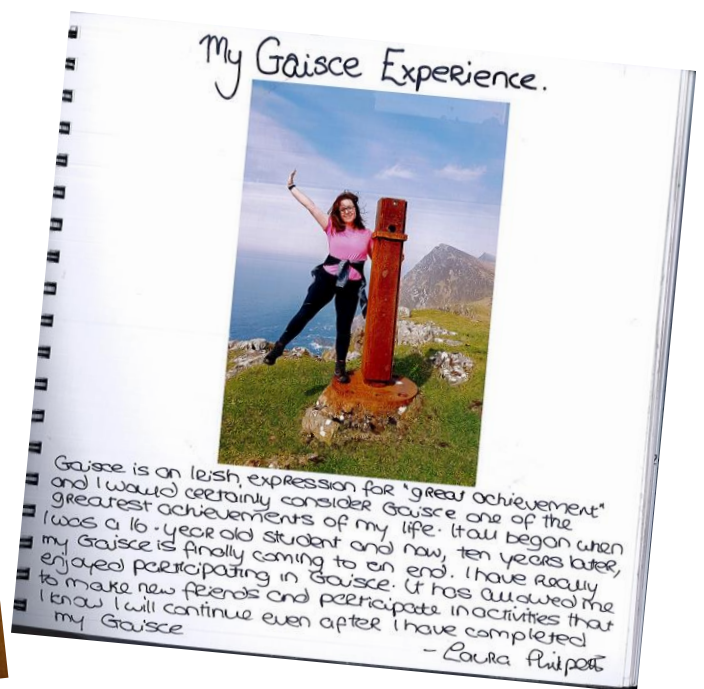
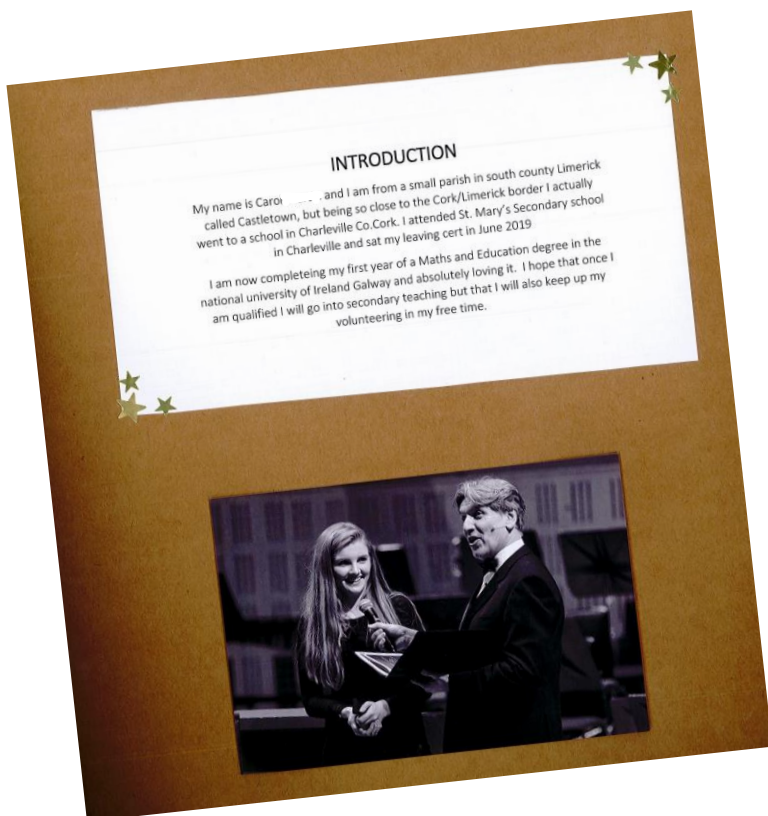
**YOUR WAY: YOUR AWARD**

[gaisce.ie](http://gaisce.ie)

The Portfolio is a record of your Gold Award experience which you can compile during your Award or when you complete all the activities. It is an opportunity for you to showcase and reflect on the work you have done on your Gaisce journey. When you have prepared your portfolio and it is ready to send to Gaisce, review it first with your PAL so that they can approve your award application. You can also include copies of certificates, brochures, routes etc. in your portfolio. Be as creative as you like – this is a record of your achievement!

Below, we've put together some suggestions to help you prepare your project portfolio. These are just guidelines and ideas – you are welcome to include as much as you wish.

**INTRODUCTION:** Introduce yourself (where you were born, grew up and where you went to school etc.) Mention if you are a holder of a previous Award / Awards. If so, do you have the same PAL? Why did you decide to go for the Gold Award?



**YOUR WAY: YOUR AWARD**

**PREVIOUS AWARDS:** Tell us about your bronze and silver award or if you are going straight for gold.

### PERSONAL SKILL

For my personal Skill task, I spent 26 weeks attending harp lessons with Damhnait Nic Suimhne every Monday evening for an hour. During these 26 weeks, I learned many new technique and pieces that I feel will really help me in my future of playing the harp. I also learned 4 Classical pieces which I then played for my grade 6, cork county school of music exam. Along with learning 4 pieces I also had to learn scales & arpeggios and also some sight reading. I got to do some great workshops with some fantastic harpists such as Maeve Gilchrist and Michael Rooney. I finally learned some Irish traditional tunes in which I played in the Cork county fleadh cheoil but unfortunately I wasn't successful. I feel like I really developed my skills on the harp and that it will really stand to me in the future.



**YOUR PAL:** Tell us about your pal and how they may have helped you through the experience.

And lastly I would like to say thank you to my PAL Norah, Norah has been there from the start as both my guiding leader, my PAL and my friend. She has supported all of us through every award. She is someone you can always turn to for help. She as stepped in as Mammy of our group multiple times and takes such good care of us wherever we go. She completely supported our idea of doing the Camino and inspired us along the way. Both her and my mom have been such good role models I really don't know what I would've done without them, so thank you so so much for everything, I hope other people are lucky enough to have PAL like Norah.

Norah ❤️



**YOUR WAY: YOUR AWARD**

**YOUR AWARD EXPERIENCE:** Write a piece on each section of your award: Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation, Adventure Journey and Residential Project. Tell us what you gained most from doing these activities. Tell us how about your personal development in each award area. We'd also like to hear about any obstacles you had to overcome to complete them, and what you gained from doing and completing your award. What were your memorable moments: did you have any highs and lows that you would like to share? Feel free to include pictures, tickets or other items from your journey.

**PERSONAL SKILL:**

**80 SIANSAS GAEL LINN FINAL 2018 (THE RESULTS)**  
**ULSTER GROUP 'SPLEODAR' WINS SIANSAS GAEL LINN 2018 TITLE**

There were jubilant scenes in the National Concert Hall on Sunday 22 April when adjudicator Declan Masterson announced that the young traditional music group 'Spleodar', whose members hail from counties Antrim, Tyrone and Monaghan were the Siansa Gael Linn 2018 winners!

The winning group pictured with the adjudicators on the right Declan Masterson, Oisín Mac Diarmada (both in back row) and Mairéad Nic Mhaoldúin (front row).

They won the title, the Siansa Gael Linn trophy, and a cheque for €2,000 after performing live, along with seven other groups, in front of almost one thousand people at the Grand Finale concert. The happy members of the winning group were Sadhbh Ní Calbháin, front of band, Mairéad Nic Mhaoldúin, Cella Shearainn, Cúisín Ó Murchú, Oisín Scowry, Donatilla Ní Scoiláin, and Jane de Bláth. Second place and a cheque for €1,250 went to the Co. Clare group 'Cairé', comprising musicians Lily Ní Chonchubhair, Niamh Ní Cheannabháin, Róisín Ní Cheannabháin, Stephen Ó Conuill, Jessica Ní Niall, Davin Ní Dáimhshéibhir, Michael Ó Maoldúing and Cian Mac an Ailéirínigh.

Third place and a prize of €750 went to 'Tonnraí' from Co. Louth, Aoife Ní Bhrádaigh, Conall Ó Caimhín, Leah Ní Mhurchú, Padraig Ó Briainéil, Fadh Ní Cháidá Pháidínig, Eilín Mavee agus Dáithí Scóil. In last na grúpaí eile a bhí rannróch sa Chraobh 1 eilíníne úd 'Lúnaoibh', Cúláin na Corrib, Gaillinn, Saoráil, Co. Ultaim hainn Co. Lúnaoibh, Cúláin na Corrib, Gaillinn an Dúrair, Co. Loch Garman.

"Organised by Gael Linn with support from RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta and Irish Music Magazine, Siansa provides a platform for talented teenage groups who aim to emulate groups such as Téada, Altan, Danú etc."

Gael Linn CEO, Anúraic Ó Coileáin, thanked RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta and Irish Music Magazine for their ongoing support for the competition and said:

"With Gael Linn celebrating our 65th birthday this year we can look back with pride on our services to the cause of Irish traditional music and singing, from the first sean nís and traditional music records released in the fifties to where we are here tonight, in the National Concert Hall giving a platform to the musicians and singers of our future. Siansa uniquely ties the Irish language to our music also which enables us to promote Irish among our younger musicians and their friends and make them aware that both are naturally entwined."

The participating groups may be viewed in the next few weeks on all of the social media platforms, including YouTube, and more one or two of them might even get to record an album on the Gael Linn Label!



**YOUR WAY: YOUR AWARD**

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

ernet a safer place for everyone. Here are some images from the work that I have been involved with over the past year:

**How do I start a Dojo?** CoderDojo

CoderDojo is a free, fun way for children aged 7 to 17 to learn to code. The focus is on self-led learning, with mentors offering assistance. It's simple to set up a CoderDojo in your community. Just follow these steps:

**Step 1: Find a Champion**

The Champion of a CoderDojo is someone (not just techy types!) who is passionate about the mission of CoderDojo and in charge of setting up and running a Dojo. This is probably you!

**What if I need help?**

- You can ask other members of the CoderDojo community!
- Join the community forums - [dojo.soy/new-forums](http://dojo.soy/new-forums)
- Join the community slack team - [dojo.soy/new-slack](http://dojo.soy/new-slack)
- Contact the CoderDojo Foundation - [info@codendojo.com](mailto:info@codendojo.com)

**Step 2: Register on Zen**

Register your Dojo on Zen, our community platform. This will let us help you get started and help people find your Dojo. You can register at [dojo.soy/new-dojo](http://dojo.soy/new-dojo)

**Step 3: Build a team**

You don't need a big team, but more people means you can do more. The team can include technical Mentors alongside non-technical volunteers, such as the parents of Dojo attendees.

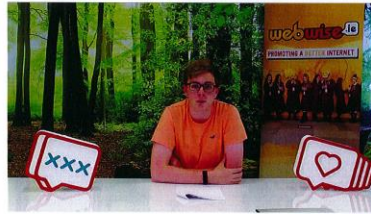
**Where do I find Mentors?**

Mentors are the technical volunteers who guide attendees in learning new skills. You might find them:

- in local technology companies, businesses, or community centres.
- in local universities, colleges or second level schools.
- technically skilled young people, maybe even from your Dojo!



Recording the #BeinCtrl film about image sharing in August 2018



Appearing in [webwise.ie](http://webwise.ie) online informational videos for young people, schools and parents

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Meitheal Project and Online Safety Youth Panellist**

**DATES:** 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019

As a Leaving Certificate student, I decided to take on two different community involvement activities. I am passionate about online safety based on my own experiences as a young person, but I was afraid that there would be weeks that I could not do this work due to needing to be at home to study or exams. So, I also volunteered to be a transcriber with the Duchais Meitheal project which is online volunteer work. In the end, I was really busy with the online safety work across the year, so I actually did lots of extra community involvement, but I think that's a good thing - you can never give too much or as Ann Frank says, 'No one ever became poor by giving'.

**Duchais Meitheal Project:**

I volunteered to be a transcriber as part of the Duchais Meitheal project. This project is for community volunteers to transcribe the stories that were collected as part of the Schools' Collection. It is intended that this work will increase community participation in the project and that it will improve accessibility of the material as well.

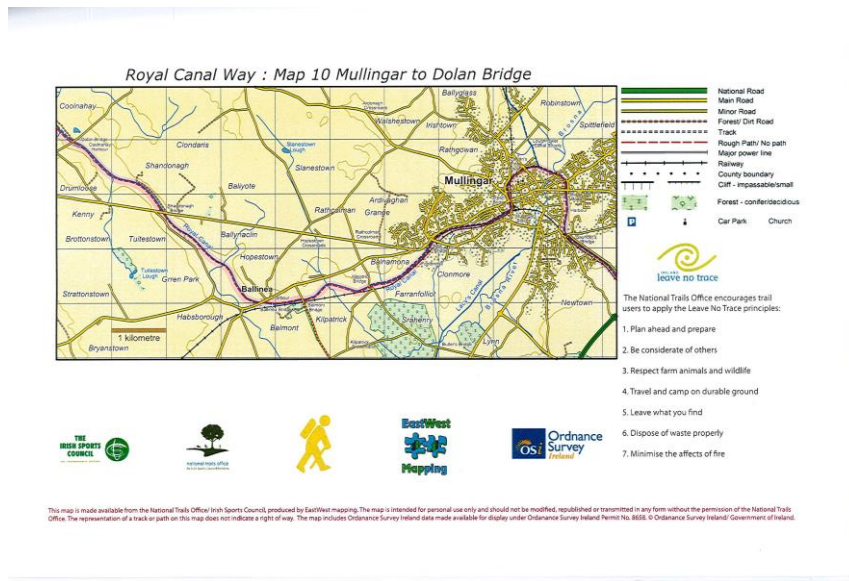
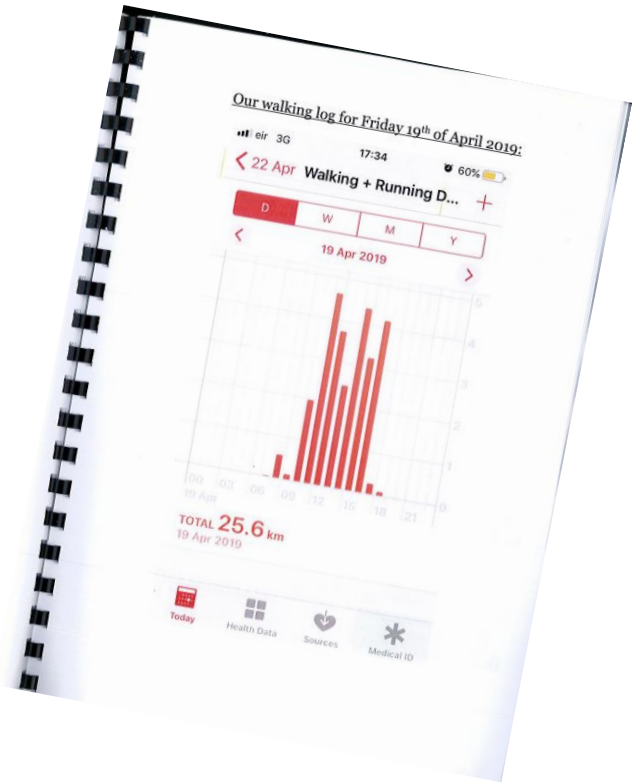
This will also result in the ability to search the text of transcribed stories in their entirety as opposed to viewing the manuscripts as images only.

**Why is it important?**

Crowdsourced transcription is a recognised approach that helps digital humanities projects to make valuable archive material more accessible to the public. As a result of the Meitheal's efforts these texts will become available to researchers and others across the globe in a fully searchable format. Crowdsourced transcription is a team effort and Meitheal members will be working together to open up this treasure trove of folklore. Participants will be able to access each other's work, and improve it if appropriate, while there will also be opportunities to discuss aspects of the project on social media. The Irish Folklore Commission was reliant on the goodwill and generosity of the public while the Schools' Collection and others were being compiled. Meitheal



**ADVENTURE JOURNEY:** Tell us where you went on your adventure journey, a break down of each day, how many kilometres you covered, where you stayed, what you cooked, who you went with etc. How did you plan for the adventure journey? Did you do any training for the adventure journey? How did you find the experience?



**YOUR WAY: YOUR AWARD**



## WHAT TO BRING.

- Sun Cream
- Suitable Walking Gear
- Toiletries
- Spare Clothes
- Night Wear
- Backpack
- Sleeping Bag
- Drinking Water
- Raincoat



My Adventure Journey:  
Day Three & Four.

Day Three  
By Day Three, our enthusiasm for another 20km hike had slightly decreased due to general fatigue and a lot of sore feet. There was also quite a bit of fog and mist which did not improve our moods but nonetheless we carried on. Our next destination on our historical tour of the island was the remains of a megalithic tomb from the Neolithic or New Stone Age. According to the Achill Tourism website, this tomb is one of 330 examples in the country. While none of the remains were present in the tomb, it was fascinating to be so close to an ancient form of burial. From the base of Slievemore, we continued onwards to Dugort beach. Not far from this beach, we came to our next point of interest, a burial ground for unbaptised children who had died. There was also a tombstone which noted that a ceremony had taken place there for them in 1997 as the local priest. While it was sad to think of the poor children buried there, they couldn't have been placed in a more beautiful place, surrounded on all sides by nature. At this point in the hike, we stopped to refresh ourselves and to take in the scenery around us.

YOUR WAY: YOUR AWARD

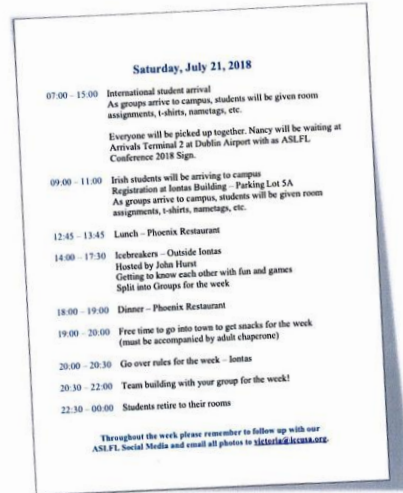


**RESIDENTIAL PROJECT:** Tell us why you picked this particular project or tell us what you did each day. What were the highs and lows of the residential project? What did you gain from the experience? Include letters from the residential project confirming your attendance.

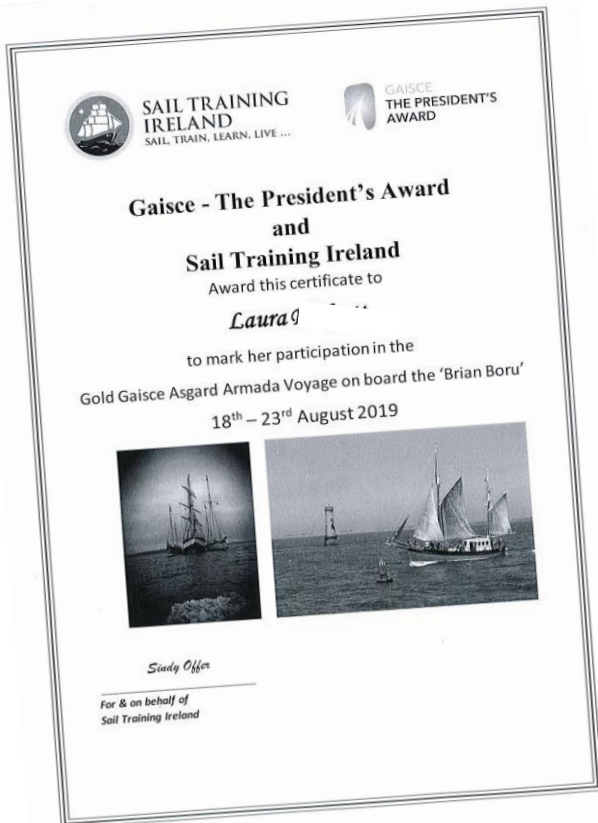
Option 2: I chose to volunteer with Transition Year students in the Gaeltacht, Coláiste Acla. Coláiste Acla is located in a small village called Doega or Dunha Éige on Achill Island, County Mayo. It is a Gaeltacht region and hosts secondary school children from around Ireland throughout the summer. When I was in secondary school I attended the Coláiste and this is where my love of Irish came from. I was delighted to share my love of Irish with the young people from my locality.



Day One:



My parents brought me to Maynooth where I checked in and met Victoria, one of the ICCUSA people running the camp. We had accommodation in the student accommodation in Maynooth University and I had my own room but shared a common living area with three other boys from around the world. We started with lunch and got to know each other before we did fun icebreakers and team building activities. We got divided into teams and each team had a junior facilitator and an adult facilitator. These were our teams for all of the activities for the week. We then had a chance to go into the town in Maynooth before coming back for a session on expectations from the programme and more time to get to know our team.



**YOUR WAY: YOUR AWARD**

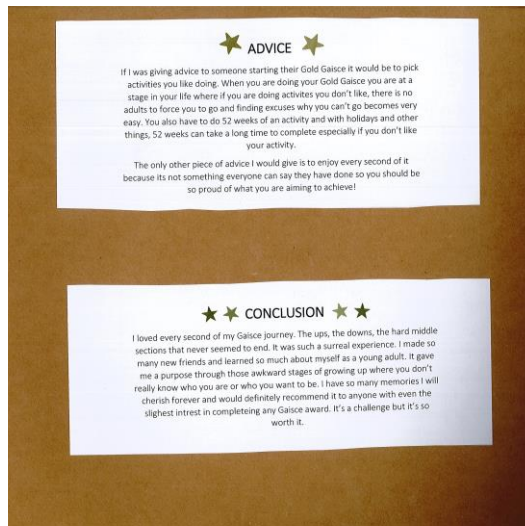
**RECORD SHEETS:** Include your signed and dated record sheets.

**GAISCE THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD** **Gold Award Record Card**  
 For recording activities only. Please retain until Award completion is authorised by Gaisce

Participant's name: Maeve PAL's name: Anne  
 Community Involvement activity: Coderdojo Mentor

Wk	Date	Time	Signature of supervisor
1	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
2	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
3	8/10/16	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
4	15/10/16	10:00 - 12:30	Maeve
5	22/10/16	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
6	5/11/16	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
7	12/11/16	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
8	19/11/16	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
9	26/11/16	10:00 - 12:30	Maeve
10	3/12/16	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
11	10/12/16	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
12	17/12/16	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
13	14/1/17	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
14	21/1/17	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
15	28/1/17	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
16	4/2/17	10:00 - 11:30	Maeve
17	11/2/17	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
18	18/2/17	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
19	25/2/17	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
20	4/3/17	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
21	11/3/17	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
22	18/3/17	10:00 - 11:30	Maeve
23	8/4/17	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
24	15/4/17	10:00 - 12:00	Maeve
25	22/4/17	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
26	29/4/17	10:00 - 12:30	Maeve
27	13/5/17	10:00 - 13:00	Maeve
28	20/5/17	10:00 - 12:30	Maeve
29	27/5/17	10:00 - 12:30	Maeve
30	19/6/17	9:00 - 15:00	Maeve

**CONCLUSION:** What would you like to tell other young people about your experience doing the President's Award? What is the next step for you? What are your goals for the future and how will achieving your Gold Award help you do this? If you could remind yourself of one part of your experience doing the Award in 20 years' time what would that be?



**YOUR WAY: YOUR AWARD**

**DIGITAL MEDIA:** We would love to see any photos and videos that you made along the way so do include these in your portfolio.

Here are some videos my dad and I made of our underwater adventures:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELEtq-hdGZs>

Inis Mor 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OHjtRs9kI>

UC 42 August 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDwSGraXOE>

Diving Quilty 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JlZRpUd0U4>

Dawn Dive 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRc7b5A5pYk>

New Quay Winter 2018

This article gives an overview of my gold journey with a focus on my Skelligs dive. It is an interview I did with a journalist for the Irish Independent after my dawn dive:

Wednesday 21 August 2019



**I celebrated finishing my Leaving Cert by diving at dawn near the Skelligs' - Three young Irish people embarking on adventures**



*Enron Buihu Drenalla above near the Skelligs in Co Kerry as part of his gold Gaisce award.*

<https://www.independent.ie/life/i-celebrated-finishing-my-leaving-cert-by-diving-at-dawn-near-the-skelligs-three-young-irish-people-embarking-on-adventures-38306867.html>

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