

Looking for something different to do in your spare time...

JCI Galway is ideal for young people who are looking for something to do in their spare time or who want to get to know people and have some fun. It provides an avenue to meet new people, develop yourself, and give a little back to society.

So far 2005 has been a tremendous year for Junior Chamber International Galway with successful projects and many new members coming on board. Junior Chamber International Galway is part of the largest personal and leadership development organisation for young people in the world. It provides a range of

activities and projects in four opportunity areas — individual, international, community, and business.

The organisation is non profit making, non denominational, non political, and most of all voluntary. All members give their time to organising activities and projects without receiving any remuneration.

The only criteria for applying for membership is that you are between the ages of 18 and 40 years. There is an open door policy to people who wish to come to meetings and get involved at any time of year. Members come from all walks of life and some travel more than 30 miles



JCI Ireland members learning how to clown about during a team building exercise with the Galway Circus Project facilitated by JCI Galway at spring conference.



JCI members George Conboy and Anne Healy pictured with TV3's Alan Campbell at the Cope Make O Star fundraiser event in September.

into Galway from around the county to attend events, so it is not limited to city dwellers.

A sizeable number of the chapter is made up of people who moved to Galway in the last few years and found JCI, Galway the ideal opportunity to get involved in something worthwhile locally and to create a new network of contacts.

Each month JCI Galway hosts a number of training and social events in addition to an active programme of projects. Members attend a monthly general meeting on the second Tuesday of every month in the Forster Court

Hotel, Forster Street, starting at 8pm.

Create positive change

The aim of Junior Chamber is to create positive change in its members, by encouraging them to participate fully in the wide range of opportunities offered. Members gain personally and careerwise through leading teams, up-skilling, and networking. JCI Galway hosted an open night last month in the

Forster Court Hotel where it showcased its achievements and introduced its plans for the remainder of the year.

"This year has been a roller coaster, there's a great team spirit which has made working on projects great fun," said president Junior Chamber International, Galway Máirín O'Reilly. "We raised money for the tsunami fund in January, launched our LINK mentoring project in February, ran the Easter egg project in March, hosted JCI Ireland spring conference in April, produced our 38th tourist guide in May, awarded three Outstanding Young Persons in July, and we ran our duck race in August for Cope - and we're not finished yet!"

"JCI Galway is ideal for young people who are looking for something to do in their spare time or who want to get to know people if they have moved to Galway recently or just finished college. It's certainly not as strenuous as joining a gym and I would say a lot more enjoyable and great fun. We meet up a few times each month and run different projects and events. I find it a great way of meeting young people with similar interests and getting more out of life," said Bernie Moran, membership officer, JCI Galway.

Well renowned projects of JCI, Galway's

involvement include Young Entrepreneur Award, Green Nose Day in aid of Aware, duck race in aid of Cope, and Galway International Oyster Pearl Festival.

Along with these fun projects there is a wide and varied range of social events including bowling, cinema, barbecues, quiz nights, ballroom dancing, training workshops, hill walking, wind surfing, tennis, badminton, theatre, photography, weekends away, etc.

Junior Chamber is recognised as a great asset and a major contributor to community and business life in Galway city and county. With 10 projects and major events planned each year and a training night, social event, and general meeting each month there's lots to choose from on the menu.

Junior Chamber in association with the *Galway Advertiser* recently launched the Young Entrepreneur 2005 and acknowledges the nominations received to date.

The adjudication process will take place during the first two weeks in November. The overall winner will receive his/her award at the annual awards ceremony on Friday November 25.

A few weeks ago at the Junior Chamber Ireland

National Convention held in Clontarf Castle, Dublin, JCI Galway came out as the true star it is. At the gala evening JCI Galway was presented with five of the eight national awards which included the most prestigious award Best Junior Chamber Branch of Ireland 2005.

As an international organisation Junior Chamber provides opportunities to be involved in leadership training and the opportunity to go forward to become members of the International Council both on a European and world stage. This year some members travelled to Poitiers in France and to Germany to participate in training weekends and this week the World Congress of Junior Chamber International is being held in Vienna, Austria. Irishman Kevin Cullinan from Cobh, who holds the office of world president of JCI, will officiate at the opening ceremony in Vienna.

Remember if you feel that you would like to do something different with your spare time then go along to the Forster Court Hotel on the second Tuesday of every month.

For further information you can contact Bernie (membership officer) on 087 6448259 or Máirín (president JCI, Galway) on 091 769018 or go online to www.jci-galway.org or email info@jci-galway.org



JCI Galway members attending the gala ball in the Hofburg Palace, Vienna, part of the week long activities at the JCI 2005 World Congress meeting last week. Pictured front row (l-r): Tony Cummins, Eugene Garvin, Pdraig Hanrahan, Stephen Murray, Paul Flaherty, Ross Geraghty, Francis Keary, (back row): Noreen Larkin, Mary Giblin, Tish Giblin, Linda Concannon, Helen Flatley, Celine O'Donovan, Lorraine Burke, president, JCI Galway Máirín O'Reilly, Anne Healy, Rose Dolan, Andrea Deacy, Catherine Laffey, Siobhan Costelloe, Patricia Mullen, president JCI Ireland James Corcoran, and Bernie Moran.