



Medal recipients Jim Hogan and John D Walsh with members of the Hogan family, Life Saving Foundation and guests.

Hogan heroes immortalised

**THE HEROISM OF TWO
NEW ROSS BROTHERS
WHO SAVED 45 PEOPLE
WAS RECALLED AT A LIFE
SAVING CEREMONY**

BY DAVID LOOBY

THE heroism of two New Ross brothers who rescued up to 45 people from the river Barrow was recalled at a special ceremony at New Ross Boat Club on Saturday, October 10, when specially crafted commemorative life saving medals bearing the family name were presented to relations.

Jimmy Hogan, formerly of Hogan's shoe shop, South Street, New Ross, saved 30 people from drowning in the river Barrow.

Mr Hogan famously saved Ann Barron (Sr Gabriel), the six-year-old daughter of the local bank manager, in July 1940 after she fell off her bike into the river when she was aged six.

As he made his way to rescue her he fell and broke his arm, but undeterred he went into the water and pulled her out. This was only one of many brave rescues which he carried out over the years.

James Hogan died in April 1945 and his name is still associated with bravery and selflessness to this day.

Tom Hogan saved 14 people from death in the river. Another brother John, also rescued people from the river.

Jimmy Hogan was awarded the medal by the Royal Humanitarian Society.

A commemorative mass and gathering was held in New Ross in December. At the mass a letter from Sr Gabriel was produced as a gift, along with a walking stick presented to Mr Hogan from her family following the rescue and a copy of a Royal Humanitarian Parchment award he received for rescuing a boy in 1900.

Mr Hogan's brothers Thomas and John were also remembered at the service.

One of the organisers of the October 10 ceremony, John A Walsh said: 'At the time of the rescue of the little girl in July 1940, it was suggested that something should be done to honour him but it never happened in his life time. However, it's wonderful that we have done



Brendan Donohoe, Chairperson, The Lifesaving Foundation; Jim Hogan, medal recipient; John D Walsh, medal recipient and John Connolly Hon CEO The Lifesaving Foundation.

this now. This is due to John Connolly of the Life Saving Foundation.

A wreath laying ceremony took place on Saturday, October 10, at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Church of Ireland graveyard. The 'State of Ireland Medal Ceremony' commenced at 3 p.m. at New Ross Boat Club in Rosbercon. Chairman of the Lifesaving Foundation Brendan Donohoe welcomed everyone and gave an introduction about the Hogan brothers. There was an unveiling of a Hogan Pull-Up Banner by Hogan family members, some of whom are still resident in New Ross.

A short prayer was said for all those who have drowned by Fr. Tom Hogan.

John Connolly, Hon. CEO of the Irish Lifesaving Foundation then presented the Ireland Medal set of new Ireland Medals to Hogan family members.

This involved the presentation of two sample medals to the Hogan family by Brendan Donohoe. Afterwards there was a short address on behalf of all Ireland Medal recipients by John Long and a presentation of a copy of Drowning to Michelle Howlin of New Ross Library by Mr Connolly.

On the day there was also a talk entitled 'The Immediate Treatment of Drowning Persons by Dr. Patrick Buck PhD, followed by the presentation of a copy of A field guide for the treatment of drowning, hypothermia & cold water immersion incidents at New Ross Library, which was well attended.



John Connolly, Hon CEO The Lifesaving Foundation, and Brendan Donohoe, Chairperson The Lifesaving Foundation presented a copy of the book 'Drowning' to Michelle Howlin of New Ross Library.