

Donegal

- community in touch



ISSUE 7 MAY 2010 / EAGRÁN 7 BEALTAINE 2010

Ballybofey man Michael Mc Nulty (United Nations Security Adviser) sends his greetings from Baghdad

I arrived in Iraq in December 2008 just after a Katusha rocket landed on our compound in the International Zone Baghdad, killing 2 contractors and seriously injuring 3 others. It was certainly one of those times in life when you wonder what you are doing in such a place."

As a child I had very much a similar life to most people from Ballybofey. I didn't particularly enjoy school, but found great joy playing football and participating in scouting activities. I'll be forever grateful to community people like Brendan Mc Ateer (St Martin's FC), Barclay Mc Glynn (Drumkeen utd) and Aubrey Oliver (6th Donegal Scouts) who readily sacrificed their free time, and made the world a much better place for myself and many other Twin Towns youths at the time. It was during my early childhood that I developed a fascination with the military life and a deep desire to travel the world.

*"When I see the UN
moving into areas that
have been affected by
conflict for years, it brings
a good sense of purpose
to the work that I do.*

It was no surprise when I entered the Irish Defence Forces as a Cadet in the 80's. In my military career, I participated in the most difficult and challenging training and assignments, when not on an overseas



Michael McNulty greeting the Secretary General in the International Zone in 2009.

deployment. To this day, I have a deep respect for the many fine Irish Soldiers I served with throughout the world. Unfortunately, the vast majority of Irish citizens never get to witness the excellent work carried by our Irish troops abroad.

I currently work for one of the smallest Departments in the UN called the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). We advise the UN system on security issues, and enable UN activities to take place in some of the most dangerous and difficult environments throughout the world. There is great challenge and variety in my work. However, I get my real job satisfaction from being able to facilitate UN operations in some of the world's most hostile places. When I see the UN moving into areas that have been affected by conflict for years, it brings a good sense of purpose to the work that I do.

While I have spent most of my adult life away from home, I still have strong sense of attachment to Donegal. I maintain close links with my family and friends, who always greet me warmly when I return on leave. Each week, I sift through the Donegal newspapers on the Internet to see what is happening. I'll end by saying a special hello to my wife Caroline and my parents Fergus and Rita and thank them for the endless support they have given me throughout my life.

News

2

Donegal Business

7

Education and Learning

10

Social and Cultural

12

Donegal Community Links

15

Message From Mayor



This is the seventh edition of Donegal Community in Touch. The previous editions have been very well received by the extended Donegal Community at home and abroad. We will continue to develop and to produce this e-zine as a means of connecting with people who have an interest in, or connection to Donegal, wherever they may be living. We look forward to receiving your feedback with regard to the e-zine and with regard to issues that you might wish us to highlight in the e-zine.

Seo an seachtú eagrán de Pobal i dTeagmháil Dhún na nGall. Bhí pobal Dhún na nGall sa bhaile agus i gcéin an-shásta leis na heagrán eile. Leanfaidh muid orainn ag forbairt agus ag foilsiú an e-iris seo mar uirlís chun teagmháil a choinneáil le daoine a bhfuil suim nó baint acu le Dún na nGall, pé áit a bhfuil cónaí orthu. Beidh fáilte roimh aiseolas maidir leis an e-iris agus le hábhar a mhian libh a bheith clúdaithe ann.

Mayor Brendan Byrne

County Mayor



Mayor Brendan and other elected members of Donegal County Council lead the Donegal Association during the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Manchester United sign 16 year old Joe Coll, from Meenlaragh, Gortahork



Manchester United have completed the signing of Donegal goalkeeper Joe Coll. The highly rated 16-year old had been scouted by various UK clubs including Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester City, Tottenham, Everton, Wolves, Celtic, and Rangers, but United have signed him on 3-year deal.

Joe is a fourth year student in Pobalscoil Chloich Cheannfhaola, Falcarragh and arrangements are being made to continue his schooling after he joins the club full-time on July 5.

Coll has already appeared on the Republic of Ireland under-age teams and is tipped to be the third goalkeeper from Donegal to be the number one choice for the senior national team after Packie Bonner and Shay Given.

Shay Given becomes the joint most capped player for the Republic of Ireland, with 103 caps!



Shay during the Irish national anthem before the Éire 0-2 Brazil match on 2 March 2010

As of the 2nd of March following the Republic of Ireland v Brazil game, Given became the joint most capped player-along with Kevin Kilbane-for the Republic of Ireland, with 103 caps.

Given and defender Kevin Kilbane won their 103 caps to break Stephen Staunton's record as the most capped Irish player in last week's 2-0 defeat to Brazil, at the Emirates Stadium in London. Given made his debut for the national team on 27 March 1996, in a game against Russia

Other players with Donegal connections included James McCarthy (Wigan Athletic) and Aiden McGeady (Celtic).

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micháel Martin has officially launched the government's Global Irish Network.

On the 4th February 2010, Minister Martin, officially launched the Global Irish Network in the Irish Embassy in London. Minister Martin said:

"At the Global Irish Economic Forum, I proposed that a new Global Irish Network would be established, through which Government could maintain and develop its relationship with the global Irish business community. I am now delivering on this commitment.

The establishment of The Global Irish Network will honour the Government's commitment at Farmleigh to listen to and work with those who, though mainly resident abroad, continue to have a strong interest and stake in Ireland and its progress."

Following the Press Conference, Minister Martin chaired the first meeting of the British-based members of the Network, and announced his intention to organise a series of such regional meetings with members of The Global Irish Network over the coming period.

For further information visit: <http://www.globalirishforum.ie/>

Donegal County Development Boards County Profile 2009/10

The Research and Policy Unit are currently updating the Donegal County Profile. The Unit has produced key documents of interest, including:

- Social Inclusion Measures Group - two social inclusion toolkits containing a statistical and GIS analysis of key social indicators within the county.
- Cultural Forum - a strategic needs assessment and mapping exercise of the cultural sector in County Donegal.
- County Community Forum - a strategic needs assessment and mapping exercise of the community sector in County Donegal
- In addition, the Research and Policy Unit have produced 11 Statistical Fact Sheets providing up-to-date key demographic indicators within the County, Region and State.

In 2010, papers on Enterprise and Skills, the Green Economy and Tourism and Natural Resources will be produced.

For further information, contact:

The Research and Policy Unit, Donegal County Council
Tel: + 353 (0)74 91 72531



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



Women into Public Life Steering Committee Photograph by Mr. Michael Cooper, SEUPB Photographer, under the INTERREG IVA Programme.

Women Into Public Life

The Women into Public Life Project has been awarded €898,945 from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (www.seupb.eu), and will deliver a programme of activities over a three-year period from 1st January 2010. Donegal County Council is lead partner for this project, and is working with Foyle Women's Information Network (FWIN) from Northern Ireland, Second Chance Education Project for Women (SCEPW) from Donegal and Engender from Scotland.

The project aims to address the continuing under representation of women in decision making fora and to develop policies to address this issue.

The project proposes a range of interventions at local, national and cross-border level including training, advocacy, strengthening of civic networks and support for women taking leadership roles. It proposes to work in collaboration with public sector organisations to enhance the role and the participation of women in decision-making and to positively impact on public service delivery.

For further information please contact Eilish Boyle, INTERREG Unit, Donegal County Council at eboyle@donegalcoco.ie.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund
Investing in your future

Planning for Inclusion – A Statistical and Mapping Toolkit



L-R: Donegal County Council staff Anne Marie Conlon, Donna McGroarty, Rosita Mahony & Loretta McNicholas

Donegal County Council recently launched **Planning for Inclusion – A Statistical and Mapping Toolkit**.

Donegal has been consistently ranked as the local authority area with the highest levels of deprivation and disadvantage since 1991. This publication outlines the levels of marginalisation, deprivation

and disadvantage in Donegal in areas such as health, education, employment and access to services.

The research will assist agencies both locally and nationally in achieving a more equitable distribution of services across the county and will equip agencies, community groups or Government departments with an in-depth account of the significant levels of deprivation in Donegal. The toolkit will better enable agencies to plan services that will reach the most vulnerable people and communities in the county and should be used as a vehicle for attracting much needed funding to Donegal in terms of creating a more socially inclusive society.

Planning for Inclusion – A Statistical and Mapping Toolkit launched on the 24th of March 2010

Donegal Live.ie - Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin

Sunday May 16th 2010

A one day showcase promotion event will take place on Sunday 16th May in Temple Bar Dublin to show what Donegal has to offer to its visitors.

Live music, song and dance are the order of the day from 12noon – 6pm. Artists performing on the day include Altan, Máire Brennan (Clannad), The Plea, Mickey Jo Harte, The Henry Girls, Donegal Tenors, Donegal Youth Orchestra, Aoife Ni Fhearraigh, Marie MacCumhaill, The Roots Orchestra, An Crannóg, Fídl, Aine O Doherty & Friends and much more.

This major tourism initiative is created and funded by the Donegal Association in Dublin, Donegal Tourism Ltd., Fáilte Ireland North West, Donegal County Council, Buncrana Town Council, Bundoran Town Council and Letterkenny Town Council

For more information visit: www.donegallive.ie/



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DÓNÉGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

SAIL WEST

€7M Tourism initiative was launched in Donegal Town, Co. Donegal on Friday 26th March, by An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan, TD



Sailwest Partner Areas

The EU funded SailWest Initiative is the result of an extensive collaboration of over 20 partners from the West of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. Supported under the INTERREG IVA programme the initiative aims to encourage the development of marine tourism across the entire region, through a targeted capital investment programme in key marine infrastructure and a concerted marketing campaign.

The project which is part financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (www.seupb.eu), is being led by Donegal County Council in conjunction with partners in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

For further information please contact Michelle or Adrienne INTERREG Unit, Donegal County Council
Email: michellem@donegalcoco.ie or adkelly@donegalcoco.ie



Participants attending the recent SAILWEST Project Launch

Meryl Streep discovers her Donegal Roots



Meryl Streep in Dancing in Lughnasa

Meryl Streep is seeking to research her Irish great-grandmother and to spend more time in Ireland.

The Hollywood star said that Grace Strain, her great-grandmother who was born in Creeslough, Donegal in 1865, is someone she wants to discover a lot more about. Her daughter Grace is named after her Irish ancestor.

"I want more time in Ireland," Meryl told New York Post columnist Cindy Adams. "I feel the need to do real scientific work on her ancestry."

She first became aware of her Irish connection when filming "Dancing at Lughnasa," the Hollywood adaptation of Brian Friel's stage play. In that movie, she plays a Donegal-born older woman who is watching her life ebb by in a small Donegal backwater.

The actress said she had to do very little preparation for the movie shot in Donegal in 1997. She did not read books on Donegal to prepare for the movie. "I felt like I had it in my DNA," she said. "I had a greatgrandmother from Donegal so I thought that's enough."



Mr Enda Bonner and Mayor Brendan Byrne enjoy the St Patrick's Day celebrations in New York City pictured in front of the dyed green water!!



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

First Irish Owned Hotel “The Bonnington Jumeirah Hotel” to be officially opened in Dubai



JIM McGettigan (73), the veteran Donegal hotelier, is behind a venture that will see the only Irish owned hotel in Dubai being officially opened next month.

The Bonnington Jumeirah employs 15 Irish people. Members of the Dubai royal family will attend the official opening of the multi-million euro hotel.

McGettigan was born in Kilmacrennan in 1937, and as a young teenager he worked in McCafferty's Bar and later went

to Southampton, England to work as a first class waiter on the QE1. McGettigan bought his first pub in Dublin in 1964 and went on to expand the McGettigan Group, which includes Olten Investments and Regan Developments as well as the Regency Group of five Dublin hotels and two in London including the Bonnington.

Meanwhile, Mr McGettigan is also planning a hotel on the site of the former Gillette factory in West London that was bought for £32.5 million in 2005, and intends to build a 300 bedroom hotel and conference centre.

LINGUA-JIP Project

Dr. Michael Lonz, LINGUA Project Coordinator in conjunction with Mayor of Donegal, Cllr Brendan Byrne launched the LINGUA-JIP project exhibition in the County Museum on Friday 29th January 2010.

The goal of the project is to create a curiosity for languages through everyday expressions like jokes, idioms and proverbs, which encourages people to deal with foreign languages and to be open-minded towards a first encounter with new languages. There are 25 European countries participating in the project. The exhibition has previously been on display at the European Commission offices in Brussels and the County Museum is the only venue in Ireland to host the exhibition. The exhibition featured beautifully illustrated posters highlighting many of the idioms and sayings familiar to each of the countries involved and in their respective language forms. Cultural, community and political representatives as well as pupils of Colaiste Ailigh were in attendance.

For more information <http://www.lingua-jip.de>



Rann na Feirste CD – Manus Lunny

Forming part of the Residency Strand of 'Making Shapes, Public Art Donegal 2006 – 2010' the Public Art Office, funded under the Per Cent for Art Scheme in partnership with the Regional Cultural Centre commissioned the renowned musician Manus Lunny to be 'in residence' in his community: this residency consisted of archival research into the singing tradition of West Donegal.

The project culminated in a recording and CD release of these most important and beautiful songs. Two of Donegal's most celebrated traditional singers, Máire Brennan and Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, have shown their support by performing tracks on the CD. A copy of the resulting CD was given to each household in the Rannafast Townland. All subsequent proceeds from the CD will directly benefit both Scoil Náisiúnta and Áislann Rann na Feirste which is a community and enterprise centre which will, for the first time, provide social, cultural and economic workspace for local people.

For further information, contact Declan Sheehan, Public Art Assistant
Tel + 353 (0) 74 91 29186 / Email declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie



Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh named as Donegal Person of the Year 2009

Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh ó Ghaoth Dobhair was inaugurated Pearsa Thír Chonaill 2009 in the Burlington hotel on Saturday 27th February 2010. This prestigious award was first introduced in 1978 when Fr. James Mc Dyer from Gleann Cholmcille was the first ever recipient.

Mairéad is a founding member of Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí, which was set up to preserve and facilitate the development of the Donegal fiddling tradition. Her musical inspiration came from her father Francie and her teacher the Buncrana fiddle player Dinny McLaughlin. This year the group Altan, with Mairéad as founder member and lead vocalist are celebrating 25 years.

In accepting the award, Mairead stated "If I am being honoured for playing music, it is your music; if I am being honoured for speaking the Irish language, it is your language."

Mairéad is the first traditional musician ever to receive this accolade.

Togha Rogha! Togha mná!



Earagail Arts Festival award for boosting Donegal economy



It's official – the Earagail Arts Festival is good for you! The 22 year old festival took the award for the "Outstanding Contribution to the Local Economy" at the Enterprising Donegal Business Awards 2010, hosted by Donegal County Enterprise Board.

In accepting the award on behalf of the festival, EAF Artistic Director, Paul Brown thanked Donegal County Enterprise Board and said they were particularly pleased to get this award, in light of the recent independent research on the economic impact of the festival, now estimated to be worth €3 million to the local economy.

Like many other businesses we have had to alter our business plans to meet the current economic climate. However with the continued support of the people of Donegal we will be able to deliver another fantastic programme of music, circus, theatre, visual arts, film and literature this summer.

The full Earagail Arts Festival (3-18 July 2010) programme will be launched in June. Details and tickets for festival events will then be available on www.eaf.ie or contact +353 (0)74 91 20777. Sign up for further details at info@eaf.ie

Delivering services to Multi-Ethnic Communities - Experiential Learning Opportunities in Boston – Autumn 2010

The Donegal County Development Board was delighted to welcome members of the Irish Immigration Centre who are based in Boston, to their meeting in March.

This programme run by the Irish Immigration Centre and supported by the Peace III programme will provide an opportunity for key influencers and decision makers in the County to learn from the knowledge, experience and insights acquired by the Irish Immigration Centre and their partner organisations in Boston to learn first hand how they have successfully addressed the issues and challenges that Donegal now faces in building a shared society.

Councillor Dessie Larkin, Chair of the Donegal CDB Peace & Reconciliation Partnership congratulated the Irish Immigration Centre in Boston on their innovative and exciting programme. He added that this programme would result in improved public service delivery for everyone in Donegal making sure that the needs of minority communities are addressed and embraced by public policy.

For further information, contact:

The Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership
Tel: +353 (0)74 91 72531



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



Electronic System produced by E&I Engineering in the Burnfoot plant

E&I Engineering expands to the Middle East

E&I Engineering Ltd, is an Electronic Engineering, Design and Manufacturing company, located in Burnfoot, County Donegal. E&I Engineering Ireland Group comprises E&I Engineering Ltd, PowerBoard Ltd T/A E&I Engineering Ireland, PowerBar Ltd, and PowerBar (Dubai).

Entrepreneur Philip O'Doherty, an Electrical and Electronics graduate from Queen's University Belfast established E&I Engineering in 1987, and the company is now one of the largest employers in the North West with 300 employees and 70 in Dubai.

E&I Engineering have set the standard for Electrical Switchgear and Power

Distribution Solutions throughout the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe. The company are the UK's leading provider of switchgear and power distribution solutions, E&I has a highly experienced and qualified team of Chartered Engineers to manage every aspect of projects from concept design with consultants, manufacture, delivery, installation, testing, and commissioning for contractors and after sales services with end clients.

E&I Engineering's range of products and services are developed through continuous research and development, anticipating and reacting to the requirements of the industry; all to the most exacting standards of quality and performance.

O'Doherty was invited to be part of an influential Irish Trade delegation to the United Arab Emirates in 2007 led by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and this trip was central to his decision to set up a sister E&I company, a state of the art manufacturing facility, in Dubai in February 2009. The Dubai E&I will service Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Egypt, while the Donegal plant will continue to service the European market.

E&I completed numerous high-profile projects including switchgear and busbar for the new Wembley Stadium, Heathrow Terminal 5 and Canary Wharf developments. The latest projects include Lansdowne Road and the Olympic Stadium in London.

Speaking on the advantages of setting up a company in County Donegal, owner and managing director, Philip O'Doherty said "Donegal is a great location to have an Export orientated business due to an excellent, well educated workforce and I would recommend it to any Company as a base"

Quality Certification ISO9001

For further information:

Tel: +353 74 9368 719

Email: info@e-i-eng.com Web: www.e-i-eng.com

IDA's Ireland 'Horizon 2020' Strategy Launched

On the 2nd March 2010 An Tánaiste Mary Coughlan TD launched IDA Ireland 'Horizon 2020' strategy. The strategy document articulates IDA Ireland's view of the next decade's significant future changes. It outlines the results of a detailed analysis of global trends, economic and technology changes from which we have outlined the goals Ireland needs to set to capitalise on the opportunities that they represent.

'Horizon 2020' sets out a road-map of what is needed to fuel Ireland's future success with leading global corporations over the coming decade. IDA Ireland will ensure that by 2014, 50% of overseas projects will be located outside of Dublin and Cork.

In line with the Government's National Spatial Strategy (NSS), IDA will make smart use of its property portfolio in regions targeted for investment. This



means that the agency's property focus in Donegal will be in developing advanced property solution in Letterkenny to meet the needs of the overseas investor. Excellent progress has been made to date with a new modern Business and Technology Park already completed and three new properties constructed and available for immediate occupation.

For further information please contact:

The IDA Ireland Regional Office, Port Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

Tel: +353 (0)74 91 69810

Email: nwregion@ida.ie



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DÓNÉGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Gartan Technologies wins “Business of the Year” award at the Donegal Enterprise Awards



“Business of the Year” presentation from the Donegal Enterprise Awards: Malachi Eastwood (MD, Gartan Technologies), Mary Coughlan (Tánaiste) and Michael Tunney (CEO, Donegal County Enterprise Board).

Gartan Technologies based in Letterkenny specialises in the development of administrative software solutions. Their modules have been installed in 40 Fire & Rescue Services (FRSs) throughout Ireland and the UK. The first solution, developed in 1996, was a Payroll, Billing and MIS system that has since been installed in 23 services throughout Ireland. It continues to be a key element of their respective administrative operations.

In 2004, Gartan Technologies formed a partnership with Central Scotland FRS who advised the company on the opportunities to develop systems to meet specific UK requirements. This led to the development of the “Retained Staff Availability” (RSA) system that would prove key to the company’s success in the UK. The system allows retained (part time) and volunteer staff to book on and off duty using the Internet and SMS Text Messaging.

Since Gartan Technologies was awarded their first UK contract in March 2007, the module and its associated Payroll and Rota Management solutions have been installed in 17 UK Services. The City of Coldlake Fire Service in Alberta, Canada is currently rolling out a trial version of the RSA module.

On March 12th 2010, Gartan Technologies won the “Business of the Year” award at the Donegal County Enterprise Board Awards.

For further information visit: <http://www.gartantech.com/>

Project Kelvin Workshop Series

The purpose of Project Kelvin is to build an undersea telecommunication cable directly connecting the North West of Ireland to New York and London.

As a result, business located in North West Ireland, will have the fastest broadband speeds across the Atlantic at prices approximately 20% cheaper than in Dublin or Manchester. This makes the region a very attractive location for high technology businesses.

To capitalise on this, the Donegal County Development Board and Derry City Council recently completed two workshops with the public and private sectors to consider a number of concrete development projects that would further improve the business attractiveness of the area. These included data centres for disaster recovery and back-office operations and an initiative to promote the region as a European gateway for small North American technology start-ups.

The workshops were delivered by ERNACT, a crossborder unit established by Derry City and Donegal County councils, to stimulate the development of broadband and related services in the area.

For further information please contact Marion Boyce
Email: marion.boyce@ernact.eu
Tel: +353 (0)74 91 68212.



An aerial view of the IDA's Letterkenny Business and Technology Park



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



SITA Overview



SITA are the world's leading specialists in air transport communications and IT solutions.

The company deliver and manage business solutions for airline, airport, GDS, government and other customers over the world's most extensive network, which forms the communications backbone of the global air transport industry.

With an office based in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal SITA is expanding it's workforce in 2010. SITA currently have a number of roles available in the IT area as follows:

- » Technical Writer
- » Architect X2
- » Senior Developer X2
- » PHP Developer role
- » Lead Specialist
- » Analyst Quality Assurance X2
- » Web Developer
- » C# Developer X 2 (1 contract and 1 permanent)

To view full job descriptions please visit our website:
<http://www.sita.aero/content/careers>

For further information in relation to the roles please contact:
Elizabeth Gillooly, Senior HR Consultant
Email: elizabeth.gillooly@sita.aero
Tel: +353 (0)74 91 94794.

Business Support Agencies

For Information on Business Support Agencies in the northwest, please log on to www.irelandnorthwest.eu

Údarás na Gaeltachta, Cathal Mac Suibhne,
www.udaras.ie

Enterprise Ireland, Meabh Conaghan,
www.enterprise-ireland.com

IDA Ireland, Joe McHugh,
www.idaireland.com

Donegal County Enterprise Board, Michael Tunney,
www.donegalenterprise.ie

Donegal County Council, Garry Martin,
www.donegalcoco.ie

InterTradeIreland – Acumen, Willie H. Maxwell,
<http://www.intertradeireland.com/index.cfm/area/information/page/AcumenProgramme>

Job Opportunities

- » www.lookwest.ie
- » www.publicjobs.ie
- » www.jobsdonegal.ie
- » www.localgovernmentjobs.ie
- » www.pramerica.ie
- » www.udaras.ie
- » www.nijobs.com
- » www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk
- » www.sita.aero
- » www.donegalcoco.ie





Figure 1 Foggy Sky's, Meentycat Wind Farm; View from a Siemens 2.3MW Turbine.



Figure 2 BZEE Nacelle workshop, Husum, Germany.

Making the Vision a Reality

Wind Energy - BZEE Wind Energy Service Technician Programme to be delivered by Letterkenny Institute of Technology

On the 1st December the Donegal County Development Board (CDB) unanimously supported the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Renewable Technology at the Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT). The Education and Training Consortium for Renewable Technology, a sub-committee of the board comprising members from LYIT, Donegal County Council, FIT, FÁS, Údarás and Donegal VEC originally proposed the development of the National Wind Academy at LYIT to the Donegal CDB.

One of LYIT's core strategic values is the economic development of the regional economy. LYIT has provided the first Higher Certificate in Wind Energy Technician under the Labour market Activation scheme in 2009.

It has sought and gained a franchise from BZEE and on the 18th January 2010 LYIT's President Paul Hannigan and BZEE, Managing Director, Nils Peters signed a franchise agreement to allow the BZEE Wind Energy Service Technician programme to be delivered in Ireland by LYIT. BZEE is a German Education Centre for Renewable Energies - Bildungszentrum für erneuerbare Energien - BZEE e.V. This programme is currently the only education and training programme for wind service technicians with worldwide recognition. It is recognised by the following wind turbine

manufacturing companies, Gamesa Wind GmbH, GE Wind Energie GmbH, Nordex Energy GmbH, Power Wind GmbH, REpower Systems AG, Siemens Wind Power GmbH and Vestas Deutschland GmbH.

LYIT has made an application to the LMA 2010 to offer a BZEE accredited L6 Minor Award Wind Energy Service Technician programme. LYIT will invest in and install a wind turbine-training tower on its campus, subject to planning permission. The purchase of two complete nacelles for education & training is in train and we will be setting up of a nacelle repair workshop and a blade repair workshop in the FÁS Centre Letterkenny. LYIT and FÁS are actively working together to provide a range of programmes in Sustainable and Renewable Technologies. The establishment of the workshops will allow students gain first hand experience in dismantling and rebuilding the gearbox, blade and generator systems of a typical wind turbine.

"It is our expectation that we will be running a Higher Certificate and BEng Degrees in Wind Energy Technology at our Letterkenny Campus"

These elements will form the basis of twelve 5 credit modules for a HETAC L6 Minor Award -Wind Energy Service Technician if successful under the labour market activation call 2010. LYIT will be the first Institute in the country to have nacelle and rotor blade repair workshop (See Fig 2) and a Wind Turbine training tower for PPE and high rescue training. At the end of the programme in addition to the HETAC examination process the student's will be subject to the BZEE accreditation process where they will undergo 5 days of practical and theoretical examinations and interviews.

For further information visit <http://www.lyit.ie>



FÁS to provide training courses in New Technologies And Green Energies

FÁS Training Centres in both Letterkenny and Gweedore are currently in the process of getting ready to provide training in new technologies and green energies. Both centres will have a number of courses online in the coming year to cater for those wishing to up-skill or retrain as well as providing training for those wanting to enter new job opportunities in green energies and the employment growth in this sector.

In harnessing the momentum of changes in building practice and energy rating assessment the FÁS Training Centre in Gweedore will provide courses to up-skill technicians to OFTEC standards who will service, repair and install more energy efficient oil fired boilers. The centre in Gweedore will also provide training in Solar Panel installation and how to integrate solar power into your current home heating system. This training will once again be provided to industry-recognised standards.

In Letterkenny, at the FÁS Training Centre in the Ballyraine Industrial Estate, renovations are taking place to accommodate new courses in Gas Safety, Gas Boiler Installation, Biomass boiler installation and also Insulation Installation all catering for more energy efficient building and new regulations. The training centre also has plans afoot to create training in Passive Housing and in a joint venture with the Institute of Technology in Letterkenny will be rolling out courses in Wind Turbine Energy with both institutions providing training, facilities and equipment in this new energy sector.

Contact Details:

FÁS Training Services Donegal, Letterkenny:

Tel: +353 (0)74 91 20500

FÁS Training Services, Gweedore:

Tel: +353 (0)74 95 60500

Courses in the Northwest

County Donegal provides many opportunities for people to upskill through a range of educational institutions. Within the North West region, numerous opportunities exist to undertake courses of study at undergraduate, post-graduate, PhD and through a variety of means for example, full-time, part-time, evening courses, access courses and distance learning.

For further information on some of the educational institutions available to the north west region, please visit the following websites:

» www.oideas-gael.com

» www.lyit.ie

» www.ulster.ac.uk

» www.sligoit.ie

» www.nuigalway.ie

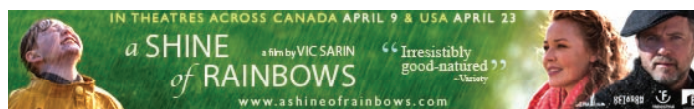
» www.fas.ie

» www.qub.ac.uk



Poet, playwright and Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney (centre), pictured with Josephine Brady (Cavan County Librarian, left) and Eileen Burgess (Donegal County Librarian, right), at the launch of Library Ireland Week 2010. Addressing over 60 attendees at the Wood Quay Venue in Dublin on 4th March 2010, he spoke of the importance of libraries today and the key role that librarians have in enabling access to knowledge and information and as 'guardians of the word hoard'.





Where did you find that place?

The landscape of Inishowen County Donegal features as a main character in *A Shine of Rainbows* released in theatres across Canada and USA in April.

'Downtown Vancouver is a long way from Malin Head, in more ways than one, but it was the perfect place to shoot the film. And it was accessible: you could fly into Derry and be on the set in half an hour. Normally, getting to area of unspoilt beauty takes a long time and lots of planning. Donegal was in a class of its own' Kim Roberts Producer

"Downtown Vancouver is a long way from Malin Head, in more ways than one, but it was the perfect place to shoot the film."

Filmed entirely on location it stars Aidan Quinn, Connie Nelson and John Bell. Vic Sarin Director awestruck by the beauty of the peninsula used the spectacular scenery to underscore the emotions of the story about love, acceptance and finding ourselves... 'the visual grandeur of the Inishowen peninsula is stunning on camera' Tina Pehme Producer

www.ashineofrainbows.com

For further information contact:
Aideen Doherty, Film Office, Donegal County Council
Email: aideen.doherty@donegalcoco.ie

Lovely Weather Project

What is climate change? What is causing it? And how will it affect us here in Donegal? These are the questions which are being asked by the unique initiative *Lovely Weather* commissioned by Donegal County Council Public Art Office funded by Per Cent For Art, in partnership with the Regional Cultural Centre and the world renowned Leonardo / OLATS Arts & Science foundation.

The project will feature:

In the Glenties Area, artists Peter d'Agostino, Deirdre Dowdakin, David Tafler will create a walking/video/web projects that combines elements of the natural, cultural & virtual.

In Inishowen, Carbon Capture Sweaters by artist Seema Goel involves working with local traditions of knitting and yarn-spinning.

In the Milford area, the artists/scientists group The League of Imaginary Scientists will work with local schools and communities on the project *The Irish Rover: Looking for Mars Off the Northern Coast of Ireland*.

In Ballybofey / Stranolar, artist Antony Lyons will use seasonal observation involving the local community and schools.

In the Donegal Area, the artists Softday (Sean Taylor & Mikael Fernstrom) will create a music/performance piece with local traditional musicians to address the relationship of climate and culture to sound.

For further information contact: Declan Sheehan, Public Art Assistant
Tel: + 353 (0) 74 91 29186 Email: declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie

Culture – It's Contribution

The Altan Residency 2010

Altan, Donegal's world-renowned Irish traditional music group, have commenced a unique school residency in secondary schools in the Glenties area. This is the group's 25th anniversary year, which to date has included the launch of Altan - 25th Anniversary Celebration with the RTE Concert Orchestra and the nomination of Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh of Altan for a Meteor (Ireland's music industry) Award, as well as her award of Donegal Person of the Year.

This schools project culminates with a concert featuring Altan, the students and the VEC Donegal Youth Orchestra in the Earagail Arts Festival, July 2010. The project is funded by Donegal County Council Public Art Office through Per Cent For Art working in partnership with the Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny, Donegal County Council Arts Office, Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership and the Earagail Arts Festival.

For further information contact: Declan Sheehan, Public Art Assistant
Tel: + 353 (0)74 91 29186 Email: declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



ISADORA by LUXe at the St. Patrick's Day Festival Parade in Dublin 2010

ISADORA by LUXe - Winners of 'Best Overall Pageant' at the St Patricks day Festival Parade Dublin 2010

LUXe is a new Irish Processional Spectacle Company based in Burnfoot, Donegal.

Isadora is a city on the move. The inhabitants, having learned the story of the tower of Babel, set out across the world to forge links with other cultures in the hope that through shared knowledge they will learn to

build towers that will, once again, reach the heavens. In 2009, LUXe won the Spirit of the Parade prize.

This year's LUXe performers include Dancers from Shawbrook Dance Centre in Longford, Performing Arts Students from Magee University, Stilt Performers and Acrobats from Realta Theatre of Fire in Galway, and other LUXe performers from Belfast, Bristol, Sligo, Buncrana and Tipperary. The pageant was designed and made in the new LUXe workshops in Donegal by Mark Hill and Mandy Blinco and the LUXe team.

For further information contact:

LUXe, Gortcormican, Burnfoot, County Donegal Tel: +353 (0)74 93 68127



The (New) Irish Rover - Looking for Mars Off the Northern Coast of Ireland

In Donegal County Council Public Art Office's project Lovely Weather, the US based 'League of Imaginary Scientists' (a coalition of artists & scientists) are leading a project to twin Island Roy in Mulroy Bay with an island outcrop on Mars.

According to Lucy Hg of the League "one of our League members, Jeff Shoffner (a member of the Athena Science Team for the Mars Rover Project), has helped to identify mineral deposits on Mars that were formed by liquid, indicating that there was once water on Mars ...As a response our 'Irish Rover Project' combines planetary storylines - we hope to draw a reverse timeline from Earth to Mars and question whether the Earth could end up with a Martian like climate in the future. In examining these seemingly opposite planetary climates, we hope to understand the effects of climate change on Donegal."

The tiny island in Mulroy Bay is a natural choice to be twinned with the island on the Red Planet - as the name Island Roy is a loose English translation of its native Irish name of Oileán Ruadh or Red Island.

For further information contact Declan Sheehan, Public Art Assistant
Tel: + 353 (0)74 91 29186 Email: declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie



Launch of Unique Series of Plantation Booklets in the County Museum



*At the launch of the Plantation booklets in the County Museum
From l-r: Deputy Mayor, Cllr Charlie McConnlogue, Adrian Gallagher, Lt. Col.(ret.) Declan O'Carroll, President of Donegal Historical Society, Cllr Dessie Larkin, Cllr Jimmy Harte, Cllr Jim Lynch, Mayor of Letterkenny.*

Donegal County Museum in association with Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service, have produced a unique series of Plantation booklets (3) entitled A Guide To The Plantation Of Ulster in Derry And Donegal, Plantation Architecture And Landscape In Derry And Donegal and The Legacy Of The Plantation In Derry And Donegal. Dr. Eamonn O'Ciardha, and Dr. William Kelly, University of Ulster at Magee and Duncan McLaren of Deadalus Architecture were engaged to write the booklets. The booklets were recently launched in the Donegal County Museum and copies have been forwarded to groups and organisations throughout the world. The booklets are available in hard copy and in PDF format, free of charge.

Donegal County Museum would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism in the production of these booklets.

For further information contact: Donegal County Museum
Tel: +353 (0)74 91 24613 Email: museum@donegalcoco.ie



John and Noreen Hamilton, Heritage Stories re-enacting the Plantation for guests at the launch of the Plantation booklets in the County Museum



Rory Gallagher – Commission of Statue

To mark the fame of guitarist Rory Gallagher, the dedication of his international fans, and the success of the Ballyshannon Rory Gallagher Festival, Donegal County Council Public Office, in association with the Rory Gallagher Festival, have commissioned a statue of Rory Gallagher, for The Diamond in Ballyshannon.

The commissioned sculptor David Annand attended the 2009 Rory Gallagher Festival in Ballyshannon as part of his research into the image and status of Rory Gallagher and met his fans, Ballyshannon residents and visitors. The artist consulted with Rory Gallagher's family and fans throughout his planning and making of the sculpture - for example see. The work has been commissioned for unveiling at the 2010 Rory Gallagher Festival, a unique 4-day tribute Festival to "Ireland's greatest Rock'n Blues Guitarist" which takes place every year in Ballyshannon. Rory Gallagher was born in Ballyshannon in 1948 and thousands of his fans from all over the World now make the Annual Pilgrimage to honour Rory in his birthplace.

Further information contact Declan Sheehan, Public Art Assistant
Tel: + 353 (0)74 91 29186 Email: declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie



Heritage Council Award for GAA Donegal Collection

Donegal County Archives has received an award of €4,500 from the Heritage Council to catalogue the collection of the Donegal Board of the GAA.

The Donegal County Board donated its entire collection to Donegal County Archives over the last few years. To date only a small part of the collection has been catalogued and made accessible to the public. The GAA collection includes minutes of meetings, correspondence, photographs, posters, pamphlets, booklets, programmes and other items relating to the history of the GAA in Donegal over the past approximately 80 years.

The Archives Service will use this funding, along with an allocation from the Service's own budget, to catalogue and conserve the collection, and also to produce a publication, which will provide a short history of the GAA in Donegal.

It is hoped that by the end of 2010 the entire collection (other than a small number of recent items withheld for privacy reasons) will be made fully accessible to the public at the County Archives in Lifford.

For further information, contact Niamh Brennan, Archivist
Tel: + 353 (0)74 91 72490 Email: archivist@donegalcoco.ie



Son of an Immigrant

State Senator Brendan Boyle from the 179th legislative district in Philadelphia tells the story of his father, an immigrant from Glencolumbkille, Co. Donegal at the 2010 St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Philadelphia.

His father Francie Boyle, a native of Gleann Cholm Cille (Glencolumbkille) left Ireland at the age of nineteen in 1970, moving to Philadelphia where he met and married Eileen Walsh, whose father hails from County Sligo.

Miss Donegal 1951 Reunion



Miss Donegal candidates from 1951 enjoyed a reunion at the Donegal County Museum in Letterkenny at the beginning of April. Mayor Jim Lynch presented the candidates with a framed photograph taken on the night of the Contest, which took place 59 years ago in the Devlin Hall.

The winner was a local woman Mary McGlynn (nee Kerr) who wore her winners' sash, which she recently discovered in a box in her home. Miss Donegal 1951 was presented with a replica cup to replace the one she won on the night. "I nearly dropped that night when I won. I didn't have to enter, you were just picked on the night."

The other finalists who attended the event in the museum were Sally Bonner, Kathleen Boyce, Molly Campbell, Imelda Harvey, Maureen McCafferty, Bridie McElroy, Nellie Moore and Helen O'Donnell.

For further information contact:

Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Tel: 074 9124613 Email: museum@donegalcoco.ie





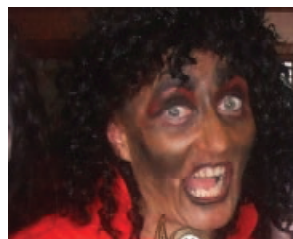
Mr. Enda Bonner, Mayor Brendan Byrne and Deputy Mayor Charlie McConalogue pictured with the Donegal Association at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York

Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade 2010



Parade Photos by Jeff Meade, Gwyneth MacArthur and Denise Foley.
For more photos visit: www.irishphiladelphia.com

Doing the Thriller for Haiti



An enterprising group in Cloughaneely have come up with a novel idea to raise funds for the people of Haiti. They are providing free workshops to teach the Thriller dance with a view to holding a huge sponsored outdoor dance in Falcarragh on June 26th - Michael Jackson's anniversary weekend.

The group hope to raise money for Haiti by providing everyone who wishes to register for the outdoor dance event with sponsorship cards. Workshops to learn the dance will take place from 11th April in the YARD in Falcarragh from 7-8pm.

For those who cannot attend the workshops the dance can be learned by watching the YouTube clips called 'Thriller the World' which breaks the dance down into manageable steps.

For more information on the event and how to register or give sponsorship check out the Facebook page 'Thriller for Haiti'
Tel: +353 (0)86 404 0035 Email: kittygall@gmail.com

Twinning of Letterkenny / Elizabethtown PA

In November 2002, a sister city "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed by Town officials of Elizabethtown and Letterkenny at a gala event celebrating Elizabethtown's 175th anniversary. This sister city Twinning agreement has benefited both communities by opening the door for exchanges between the two communities in various areas to including business and culture. Elizabeth and Barnabas Hughes from County Donegal were the founding family of Elizabethtown in 1753. Elizabethtown and Letterkenny are similar in size, both communities are college towns, they each have a confectionery company and both are growing towns. Exchanges between the two communities have already taken place, and it is hoped the sister city relationship will grow and continue for generations to come. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk of Letterkenny Town Council recently visited E-town to discuss possible business contacts as part of their St Patrick's Day visit.

For further information, contact Caroline Carr
Email: caroline.carr@donegalcoco.ie

For further information on this e-zine or on the Donegal Diaspora Project, please contact:

Maria Ferguson

Email: diaspora@donegalcoco.ie / maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie
Tel: +353 (0)74 97 24466

Roisin McBride

Email: rmcbride@donegalcoco.ie
Tel: +353 (0) 74 9172562



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DÓNÉGAL COUNTY COUNCIL