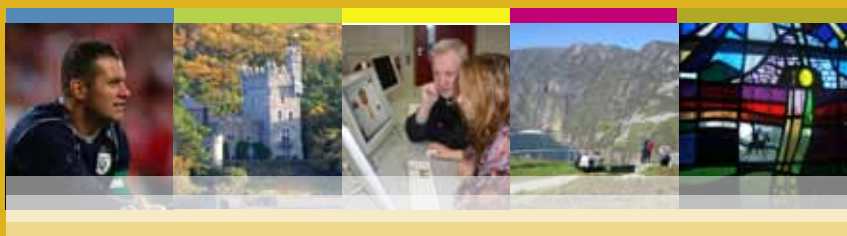


# Donegal

- community in touch



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Although, Derry is my hometown and as the song says, "the town I love so well", for many years I've regarded Donegal as like my spiritual home.

My earliest recollections of the county are of endless summer days playing with my brothers and sisters on the beach at Lisfannon on the shores of Lough Swilly. For all my childhood years, our family rented a little cottage there for the month of August. It had no electricity and no running water but for me it was paradise. To this day, every time I smell a turf fire I think of that wee house on the tank road. Happy days.

*I'd spend a month in the Gaeltacht, in Ranafast, studying Irish..... and a few other things, like Belfast girls!*

Later in my teenage years I learned to love another part of the county when I'd spend a month in the Gaeltacht, in Ranafast, studying Irish..... and a few other things, like Belfast girls! I've never lost my love of

the language nor indeed of the place where that love was ignited.

I moved to London in the mid sixties to try my hand in the music business. I lived in Cricklewood, in North London and felt very disconnected – about as far from Lough Swilly as I could imagine. As soon as I could afford it I used to bring the family home to Donegal in the summer, and stay until the money ran out! It was like going back to the well to refresh my spirits.

Driving for a number of years in the Donegal rally took me into some of the more unexplored corners of the county and brought me into contact, alas sometimes literally, with rugged and spectacular scenery. Breathtaking in every sense!

I always loved an excuse for visiting Donegal and now I've got the perfect one, since my daughter Siobhan lives in Buncrana. She loves the place as much as I do and is bringing up two Donegal grandchildren!

Phil Coulter

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## Message From Mayor

A Chara



We are entering our 3rd month of 2011 as I welcome you to another edition of the e-zine. Here in Ireland we experienced one of the coldest arctic winters in years. It has been a very trying time for Council Services and indeed for us all. Many of you will be getting geared up for a spring break and contemplating your St. Patrick's day celebrations, for those of you who can travel home I would encourage you to make the trip back to your native land. Unfortunately emigration has become a stark reality for many of our young people as unemployment continues to rise in Donegal. This is turn will result in many of our loved ones facing the harsh laws of immigration in the lands of their destination. We need to look out for our young people and we need to get Ireland back to work. As I write this Ireland is at a stand still as Political Parties and independents battle it out to serve us all in Dáil Éireann. In the next edition of e-zine we will have a new Government and we must start again to build this Country and at the top of their agenda must be that of the undocumented Irish abroad.

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig oraibh uilg

Cllr Cora Harvey

**An Meara Chontae Dhún na nGall**

## Welcome Fáilte

This is the eleventh 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 t-aonú 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 uirlis 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.



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE  
**Dhún na nGall**  
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## Brian Friel named 2010 Donegal Person of the Year



Brian and Anne Friel pictured President of the Donegal Association Tony Dunlevy, and Hugh Harkin, Chairperson.

Brian Friel was announced this evening as 2010 Donegal Person of the Year. The announcement was made on the 18<sup>th</sup> January at a Donegal Association function in Foley's Bar, Merrion Row, Dublin.

The renowned playwright, author and dramatist was officially informed of the honour by committee members of the Donegal Association Dublin, who travelled to his home in Greencastle, Co Donegal on the 17<sup>th</sup> January.

Brian Friel is widely recognised as one of the greatest contemporary dramatists writing in the English language. He has brought life in Donegal to the world stage through his plays based in the fictional Donegal village of Ballybeg. "We are proud to have a man of the literary stature of Brian Friel as Donegal Person of the Year, 2010" said Tony Dunlevy, President of the Donegal Association.

Brian said he was altogether delighted that this honour has come his way. "I consider it a signal celebration". Brian will be inaugurated as Donegal Person of the Year at the Annual Gala Dinner, which will be held at the Burlington Hotel on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March. For further information email: [colchilsorcha@eircom.net](mailto:colchilsorcha@eircom.net)

## Sail West Project Update



The Chairman of Moyle District Council, Cllr Price McConaghy on site at the new Visitor Services Building presently being built at Ballycastle harbour.

2011 is going to be a particularly busy year for the partners behind the €7.4m Sail West marine tourism project. Several of the approved sub-projects are now coming on stream including the programme of works for the installation of new yachting berths at Mallaig harbour in Western Scotland. Notably, the preliminary design stage at Bunagee Harbour near Culdaff will commence after the formal appointment of marine engineering consultants in March 2011.

This year will also witness the start of the joint partner consumer marketing campaign that will focus on the strategic development of marine tourism in the shared waters namely, the Atlantic, North Channel and Irish Sea. Likewise, a new project website will be available in the spring of 2011. The project is funded under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

For further information, please contact Michelle or Adrienne in the INTERREG Unit

Email: [michellem@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:michellem@donegalcoco.ie)  
or [adkelly@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:adkelly@donegalcoco.ie)



## Inishowen – An Eco-Tourism Destination

Geese from Greenland, Swans from Siberia and now RTE's Eco eye has discovered the tranquil beauty of Inch Wildfowl Reserve. Ireland's most important wetland site was featured in the popular RTE programme which showcased Inishowen's unique efforts to package itself as an authentic eco-tourism destination. Inch Wildfowl Reserve is located

on the mouth of Lough Swilly, at a site that was once below sea-level and where the Swilly met Lough Foyle. Nowadays, it has been developed into a highly significant wildfowl reserve, receiving thousands of Whooper Swans and White-fronted Geese every year. The reserve caters for bird enthusiasts, with its viewing-hides, and recreation and family users

with its 8km of countryside walks around the majestic Inch Lake.

Also featured and towering 800ft above Inch Wildfowl Reserve is the ancient Grainan Aileach stone fort built on the site of the original 1700 B.C. ringfort. To watch Eco eye visit: [www.rte.ie/player](http://www.rte.ie/player)



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## Busy Month for Film Office at Donegal County Council

2011 saw the arrival of 'Grabbers' on the Inishowen peninsula. Written by Kevin Lehane and directed by Jon Wright and starring Richard Coyle (Prince of Persia) Bronagh Gallagher (Pulp Fiction) and Ruth Bradley (Flyboys) Grabbers provides a comic twist on the classic suburban monster horror as a sleepy Irish fishing village to force to fend off a blood sucking sea creature with an unlikely weapon Alcohol. The 100 strong cast and crew stayed in local accommodation providing a much welcome boost to the local economy and offering employment in various areas such as transport, security and movie extras. Locations Manager Gordon Wycherley said that we will be sad to leave and Donegal will be at the forefront of my mind when searching for locations for other movies in the future. 'Grabbers' will be released later this year.

Further information contact Film Office Donegal County Council  
Aideen.Doherty@donegalcoco.ie



*Inishowen Councillors with crew on set of 'Grabbers'*

## Remarkable 'Oscar' story with a real Ballyshannon punch

The multiple academy award nominated The Fighter has an unexpected but real life Donegal punch to it. One time Ballyshannon boxer Jack 'Jackie' Lally who lives in Boston was training youngsters in his local club when he landed a role in the film The Fighter. The Director David O. Russell and his crew came to Boston looking for an authentic Irish boxing trainer. Jackie's younger brother Gerry, trains current members of Ballyshannon Boxing Club, while another brother Patsy was also an accomplished boxer in his day.

The Fighter is based on a true story; this inspirational docudrama explores the remarkable rise of Massachusetts-born, "Irish" Micky Ward. Jack plays the role of Shea Neary's trainer, the world champion, who stands against Ward winning the world belt.

His advice to young actors and boxers in Donegal is simple: "If I can make it anyway one. That is the great American dream, with a splash of Irish good luck."

## Donegal players and players from the Donegal Diaspora have big impact



No less than three Donegal footballers took the field for Ireland match against Wales on the 7th February last.

Donegal's footballing fraternity enjoyed a proud night on Tuesday as Seamus Coleman and Ciaran Clark made Republic of Ireland debuts and Shay Given kept a clean sheet as captain on his record 110th appearance.

Twenty-two-year-old Coleman, who is from Killybegs, was delighted with the game. "It was fantastic," he said afterwards. "Stepping out onto the pitch, hearing the national anthem and all that - a dream come true really"

Clark, whose grandmother Vera lives in Manorcunningham and father Michael was brought up in Ballyare, nearly scored the opening goal of the match, but it went the wrong side of the post. "I think I was nervous going out there," Clark said. "I got a few early touches, which is the same with any game. When you get a few early touches it boosts your confidence".

Other Donegal footballers who play at the top level include Aiden McGeady (Spartak Moscow), Rory Delap (Stoke City), Shane Duffy (Everton) and Gary Doherty (Charlton Athletic).





## Former Chief Executive of Fáilte Ireland Matt McNulty is New Chair of Donegal CDB Tourism Sectoral Forum

Donegal's Tourism Sectoral Forum is a vital industry/stakeholder network that ensures that the quality standards that Donegal is renowned for throughout the world continue to be maintained and improved. Donegal's Tourism Sectoral Forum plays an integral role in the co-ordination of tourism policy, product development and promotion throughout the County.



Matt McNulty has been appointed as chair of the forum and he has held and continues to hold high office in the public service of Ireland in four different areas – Tourism, Urban Renewal, Economic Planning and Heritage.

He served as Deputy and Director General of Ireland's tourism board, Fáilte Ireland, from 1988 to 1998. Since 1998 he has worked since 1998 he has worked as an international management consultant specialising in economic development and tourism. He has directed or managed the creation of new national economic or tourism strategies for several countries in the Gulf region of the Middle East.

He is currently Chairman of Temple Bar Cultural Trust the company established by Government to restore and develop the Temple Bar area of central Dublin as a cultural quarter. In 1988 he was managing director of Dublin's Millennium celebratory year. In 2008 he was appointed by the N. Ireland Executive as a director of Ilex the urban development company established to plan and facilitate the major renewal of the City of Derry-Londonderry.

## Donegal - "Best place to live"

A new survey has found that Co. Donegal was the best and most attractive place to live in the last year while other counties in the North West not faring as well.

The research was carried out by the website <http://www.likeplace.ie/> and found that Donegal was the best place to live while Galway fared the worst.

This will come as a surprise to many Donegal residents who frequently visit Galway for shopping, weekend breaks and longer holidays.

The results were based on a variety of topics including law and order, economy and jobs, environment, schools, local services, sense of community and cost of living.

Donegal received over 3,500 ratings and had a score of 4.1 out of a possible 5.

## Glenswilly native secures world bridge title

A Donegal man has become first Irishman to claim a world title in the game of Bridge. Patrick McDevitt, a native of Glenswilly who now resides in Boston, was partnered with Rich De Martino from New England when they clinched the prestigious Hiron Trophy at the World Series of Bridge in Philadelphia.

McDevitt competed in the 35th International Bridge Congress in Donegal Town last November where he helped his team win the Congress Teams Championship.

"I only play the game as a hobby so I was delighted with the success in the world series," Patrick told the 'Donegal Democrat'. "To become the first Irishman to win it is a great honour."

Patrick represented the Irish senior team alongside Rex Anderson in the World Mind Sports Olympiad in Beijing and also competed in the European Championships in Ostende. "It was great to take part in the tournament in my home county and great to meet so many people there," said Patrick.

## MacGill Summer School webcast shortlisted in the National Government awards

During the last week of July 2010, Donegal County Council webcast live, for the first time, all the proceedings of the MacGill Summer School from Glenties, Co. Donegal. During that week, national media attention was focused on the rural village, and how the economic and political agenda was being debated. Webcasting live brought these extremely important debates to a wider national and international audience; a new online audience which participated in the debates via the webcast and other social networks. Donegal County Council realised that the webcast was an opportunity to promote Donegal as a county in terms of tourism, engagement and the ICT infrastructure agenda.

The success of this webcast has been recognised in the shortlisting of the webcast as a Best Local Government Application in the National eGovernment awards, to be held in Dublin Castle on March 25th 2011. There is also a public vote for a "People's Choice award from all the nominated applications; [http://www.irishegovernmentawards.ie/peoples\\_choice.html](http://www.irishegovernmentawards.ie/peoples_choice.html)



# Women Into Public Life (WIPL)

The first 'Going Public' leadership training programme has just been completed by 24 women in Derry/Londonderry and in Carndonagh, Co. Donegal. In Scotland women undertook 'Yes We Can' training in the Argyll & Bute region. The courses which ran weekly over three months, gave participants opportunities to develop their leadership skills, learn about policy and political structures and involved trips to national parliaments. Similar courses of this nature will be rolled out during 2011 including a once-off 'community leaders' training programme which will be aimed at women who are already in a leadership position but want to further enhance their skills and move into key decision-making roles.

To mark the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day the Project published 750 diaries and events to celebrate the day on 8th March are currently being planned. In mid February, Project staff and committee members will visit their Scottish partner, Engender, in Edinburgh.

WIPL is a partnership between three women's organisations in Donegal (Second Chance Education Project for Women), Derry/Londonderry (Foyle Women's Information Network) and Scotland (Engender) and Donegal County Council. The project is funded under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

For further information contact Eilish Gallagher at [egallagher@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:egallagher@donegalcoco.ie)



Training participants on visit to Parliament Buildings at Stormont

# SPACEial North West

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has awarded Grant Aid of €518,035, under the Public Sector Collaboration Theme of the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, to the North West Region Cross Border Group to carry out the SPACEial North West Project.

SPACEial North West stands for Spatial Planning and Collaborative Exchange of Information and Learning in the North West Region. This project aims to track changes in population patterns across different settlements in the North West Region Cross Border Area, over the 2000 – 2010 period, with a view to identifying underlying factors driving these changes and capturing comparable information that will assist with more evidence based spatial planning, policy making and service delivery for many years to come.

The project partners include the NWRCBG, Donegal County Council, Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council, Magherafelt District Council and Strabane District Council.

The first meeting of the Project Steering Committee took place on the 21st February, 2011.

For further information contact Marie Kerr on [markelly@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:markelly@donegalcoco.ie)

# Announcement of Freshwater Pearl Mussel Measures Project

The 'Practical Implementation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel Measures' project was awarded €2.3 million under the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.

The project is a partnership with Northern Ireland Environment Agency and is scheduled for completion in March 2014. Donegal County Council as lead partner, has appointed a full time project.

The island of Ireland supports a major proportion of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations remaining in Europe. Virtually all of these populations are at unfavourable conservation status and evidence suggests that in recent decades juvenile mussels are failing to make it to adulthood. Unless measures are put in place to ensure successful breeding and survival of juveniles, the existing populations will become extinct as the adult mussels die off.

The project aims to provide plans for pearl mussel catchments, trial measures to protect mussel populations, and produce codes of practice of various sectors whose activities could impact on the mussels.

For further information contact Marie Kerr on [markelly@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:markelly@donegalcoco.ie)



## Glenveagh is a “wonder of the west”

Glenveagh National Park has fought off competition from the likes of Slieve League and the Earagail Arts Festival to be voted as Donegal's representative in the “Seven Wonders of the West” competition. The “Seven Wonders of the West” competition was organised by the Western Development Commission (WDC) and seven wonders were chosen from the shortlist of 49 nominations. Donegal had seven nominations, including Glenveagh National Park, Barnsmore Gap, Slieve League, Dunfanaghy beach, Earagail Arts Festival, Nancy's Pub Ardara and the Sea Sessions Music Festival in Bundoran. The nominations included areas of natural beauty, man-made objects, and experiences.

The competition featured nominations from Counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Roscommon and Clare. There were over 1000 nominations and 1,800 public votes before the final Seven Wonders of the West list was completed.

The winners were Glenveagh National Park, the Cliffs of Moher, Dun Aengus on the Aran Islands, Glencar Waterfall, The Reek on Croagh Patrick, Strokestown House and Surfing in Strandhill.



## World-Class €4 Million Plan For World Class Attraction



Donegal County Council formally launched the Sliabh Liag Strategic Development Plan which has received support under Fáilte Ireland's Tourism Capital Infrastructure Programme and the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme. The Sliabh Liag Development plan involves a unique cross-border, multi-agency partnership with funding coming from a variety of sources.

An investment of €1.7 million (£1.5 million) through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme has been approved. The INTERREG IVA Sliabh Liag-Gobbins project is a unique collaboration between Donegal County Council and Larne Borough Council, led by the North East Partnership.

The Sliabh League Strategic Development plan aims to capitalise on the 100,000 plus tourists who already visit Ireland's highest sea cliffs annually, through the implementation of a sustainable visitor management strategy.

For further information contact Kevin O'Connor at [Kevin.oconnor@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:Kevin.oconnor@donegalcoco.ie)

## Urban & Village Renewal Project

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), under the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, has awarded Grant Aid of €995,000 under Priority 2, Theme 1: Public Sector Collaboration to the Urban & Village Renewal Project.

The partners involved are the North West Region Cross Border Group (the “NWRCBG”), Donegal County Council and Strabane District Council.

This project specifically aims to regenerate the towns of Lifford and Strabane. The project will assist the emergence of a vibrant, economically active and prosperous area through the provision and enhancement of two car parks, landscaping, footpaths and civic spaces in Lifford and by providing footpaths, public art, lighting features, murals and an outdoor gallery along the Railway Street in Strabane.

Working in collaboration to deliver the project, the two partners will ensure that shared best practice and learning are incorporated into the project design, implementation and delivery.

For further information contact Ida Fisher on [ifisher@donegalocco.ie](mailto:ifisher@donegalocco.ie)



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## Zeus Industrial Products expands operation in Letterkenny



Letterkenny based Zeus Industrial Products Ireland Ltd, the Irish division of US company Zeus Inc. announced in December 2010 that it is investing €10m in a 40,000sq ft expansion and creating 75 new manufacturing jobs over a three year period. Already employing over one hundred employees at the plant at the IDA Business and Technology Park, the news of further investment was warmly welcomed throughout County Donegal.

Headquartered in Orangeburg, South Carolina, Zeus is a leading developer and manufacturer of precision polymer extrusions, including specialist fluoropolymer tubing solutions, for a range of industries. Established in 1966, the company is privately held by the original founder Mr. Frank P. Tourville and employs 1,200 people worldwide.

Séamus Hughes, General Manager of Zeus Industrial Products (Ireland) Limited, said "Since establishing our operation in 2005, our experience of doing business in Ireland has been a positive one. Due to the growth in our customer base in Europe, we are expanding our operation in Letterkenny to meet the demand for our medical and industrial speciality tubing product."

IDA Ireland, CEO Barry O'Leary welcoming the announcement said "Zeus is an important manufacturer in the medical device industry in Ireland and offers a key sub supply role in a very specialized area. This expansion was won for Ireland in the face of stiff international competition from other global locations, proving that Ireland has an increasingly competitive and pro-business environment to offer investors with a strong manufacturing focus."

For further information visit [www.zeusinc.com](http://www.zeusinc.com)

## Killybegs – A Strategic Harbour



Recognising the growing importance of the port of Killybegs as a centre for facilitating off-shore energy business and operations, a new brochure to market Killybegs to companies operating in this area is currently being finalised.

The brochure will be a key marketing tool in attracting energy companies to use Killybegs as their base as they undertake operations on Ireland's and indeed Europe's western seaboard..

Killybegs has an impressive track record in the provision of services in the areas of logistics, cargo handling, engineering and vessel support. In recent years the port has facilitated major offshore projects including most notably acting as the supply base for the Corrib Field with Shell E&P Ireland Ltd

Developed with input from Killybegs District Chamber of Commerce, The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Killybegs Harbour Centre and local trade members, the brochure provides an overview of the port and its features whilst also containing specific information on service providers located in or in close proximity to the port.

For further information contact Martin McAndrew at [martin.mcandrew@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:martin.mcandrew@donegalcoco.ie)



# Effective Offshore Ltd - Ireland's First Offshore Oil & Gas training Facility

## Further €500k investment planned to bring jobs total to 25



Effective Offshore Ltd (Feidhm Mara Teo), based on the Údarás na Gaeltachta Industrial Estate in Falcarragh, Co. Donegal, was established in 2009 by two Letterkenny brothers with the support of Údarás na Gaeltachta. The company currently employs 13 people and plans to invest another €500,000 to introduce a range of new courses in health and safety aimed at the oil and gas industry. This will lead to the creation of a further 12 specialised, knowledge based and highly skilled jobs over the next 12 months. The Donegal facility is only one of 35 in the world that offers specialised courses to meet the mandatory requirement for all new entrants in the oil and gas industry (BOSIET - Basic Offshore Safety Induction & Emergency Training). Effective Offshore has developed a recruitment section to aid trainees to obtain work in the industry.

The centre houses a number of high-tech training suites and contains specially adapted pools and a range of specialised training equipment and ancillary services such as a helicopter simulator, boats and fire fighting area that allow it to mimic off-shore conditions on oil and gas rigs. A medical suite, which is presently being developed, will soon be in a position to provide specialist offshore medical certificates, which are also a mandatory requirement for employment offshore.

Speaking at the official opening in July 2010., the Tánaiste and Minister for Education and Skills, Mary Coughlan T.D. spoke of the progress made by the company since its establishment "Effective Offshore is an excellent example of how a small Irish company, with a rural base, can be a key player in a global market. They are attracting people from the UK, Holland, Lithuania, Angola and Qatar to their courses here in Falcarragh."

Pádraig Ó hAoláin, former CEO of Údarás na Gaeltachta, said, "The company's requirements from the beginning were clear – highly trained staff and suitable business accommodation for what is a specialised enterprise. Údarás are delighted that we can deliver for all types of clients. It's encouraging to see that already over 400 people have received accredited training in the short time the company has been in existence. Bringing these people to Falcarragh from all over the world has the secondary benefit of having a knock on added-value effect on the local economy, creating revenue not only for the hospitality industry but for local suppliers and retailers also."

For further information contact Khris Veldman: Telephone 0035374 9135999



## Donegal County Enterprise Board Scoops Top Award

The achievements of the Donegal County Enterprise Board has been celebrated at an awards event in Belfast.

The winners at the ceremony at the Merchant Hotel in Belfast were Bubblebum in Derry, which took home the start-up business award. Wholeschool Software in Belfast triumphed in the innovation and emerging technology category, while Andor Technology won the international business award.

An award for social entrepreneurship went to Donegal County Enterprise Fund, while the prize for a family-run business went to Wilsons Auctions in Newtownabbey.

Mr Ian Jordan of Ulster Bank congratulating the winners said "There were a number of Ulster businesses that stood out for particular recognition and we are delighted to present these eight companies with their awards. We wish them the best of luck in the all-island stage of the scheme."

For further information on Donegal County Enterprise Board, visit [www.donegalenterprise.ie](http://www.donegalenterprise.ie)



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## Focus on Retailers in Northern Europe

Donegal County Council recently hosted a visit from its European partners in the Retail in Rural Regions Project.

The Project funded via the Interreg IVB Northern Periphery Programme involves partners from N. Ireland, Scotland, Finland, Faroe Islands and Iceland. The project is focussed on upskilling and empowering rural retailers across Northern Europe in order to assist developing their businesses. In County Donegal the Project is focussed on retailers located in Falcarragh and the Twin Towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar. Their Donegal itinerary included visits to the offices of



*Mayor of Co. Donegal, Cllr. Cora Harvey pictured with Retail in Rural Regions Project partners from across Northern Europe during their recent visit to Co. Donegal*

the County Enterprise Board in Letterkenny. This was followed by a visit to Falcarragh with

stops at An tSeán Bheairic and McGee's Service Station, which is one of the retail businesses

participating in the Project.

Ionad Cois Locha at Dunlewey was the venue for lunch before the group moved on to the Twin Towns and a visit to Ballybofey Florist, another store availing of training provided by the Project.

The group overnights at the Villa Rose Hotel and were joined for dinner by the Mayor of Donegal County Council, Councillor Cora Harvey and Michael o'hEanaigh, Director of Service.

For further information contact Martin McAndrew at [martin.mcandrew@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:martin.mcandrew@donegalcoco.ie)

## Business Support Agencies

For Information on Business Support Agencies in the northwest, please log on to [www.irelandnorthwest.eu](http://www.irelandnorthwest.eu)

Údarás na Gaeltachta  
[www.udas.ie](http://www.udas.ie)

Enterprise Ireland, Meabh Conaghan,  
[www.enterprise-ireland.com](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com)

IDA Ireland, Joe McHugh,  
[www.idaireland.com](http://www.idaireland.com)

Donegal County Enterprise Board, Michael Tunney,  
[www.donegalenterprise.ie](http://www.donegalenterprise.ie)

Donegal County Council, Garry Martin,  
[www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

InterTradeIreland – Acumen, Willie H. Maxwell,  
[http://www.intertradeireland.com/index.cfm/area/information/page/Acumen Programme](http://www.intertradeireland.com/index.cfm/area/information/page/Acumen%20Programme)

## Job Opportunities

- » [www.lookwest.ie](http://www.lookwest.ie)
- » [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)
- » [www.jobsdonegal.ie](http://www.jobsdonegal.ie)
- » [www.localgovernmentjobs.ie](http://www.localgovernmentjobs.ie)
- » [www.pramerica.ie](http://www.pramerica.ie)
- » [www.udas.ie](http://www.udas.ie)
- » [www.nijobs.com](http://www.nijobs.com)
- » [www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk](http://www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk)
- » [www.sita.aero](http://www.sita.aero)
- » [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)
- » [www.fujitsu.com/ie/](http://www.fujitsu.com/ie/)



# Official launch of NUI Galway Medical Academy at Letterkenny General Hospital

The official launch of the National University of Ireland Galway Medical Academy at Letterkenny General Hospital took place on Tuesday, 04 January 2011.

Letterkenny General Hospital (LGH) has been chosen as a step-out clinical site for the education of Medical Students from the National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway). From January 20 third year Medical Students will carry out one full year of their training at the hospital, studying the same curriculum as their classmates based on the campus of Galway University Hospitals (GUH). Both GUH and LGH will use Internet and video-conferencing facilities to facilitate linkages between the centres including multidisciplinary meetings, joint lectures, tutorials and discussion groups. In September, 40 Medical Students in their 4th and 5th (final year) years of training will be based at Letterkenny General Hospital.

The official opening of the academy was carried out by Professor Fidelma Dunne, Head of School of Medicine, NUI Galway as part of the Induction Day for the students. The event was attended by members of the Medical Academy, the medical students and multidisciplinary staff from the hospital.

The arrival of the students provides Letterkenny General Hospital with an opportunity to forge a permanent relationship with a University, which offers advantages for patient care due to the sharing of resources in the areas of research and education training.

Dr Brian Callaghan said, "This is a new and historic journey for the hospital which has been transformed into a University teaching hospital; the Medical Academy is a catalyst for future development of medical education in the hospital".

Hospital Manager, Sean Murphy paid tribute to all involved in the establishing this new Medical Academy in Letterkenny. Speaking at launch he noted, "The establishment of the NUI Galway Medical Academy is an historic development for Donegal and builds upon the excellent educational and clinical role of LGH already established in the areas of Post Graduate Medical; Nursing & Midwifery; and Allied Health Professional Education. 2011 will see planning commence for the building of a new Clinical Education & Research Facility on the LGH campus as part of the hospital's continuing evolution as a University Hospital in the North West".

# GAA Academy Launched At LYIT



Letterkenny Institute of Technology aims to provide an exciting new Coaching Initiative open to current students.

The Institute, Donegal Board and the Ulster Council have joined forces to develop and enhance the opportunities for current students in the area of Gaelic games.

The Academy will combine current fulltime education with a coaching/training package which gives students the opportunity to develop their coaching/playing skills to an excellent standard whilst gaining academic qualifications.

The programme embraces the development of sporting, leadership, personal and social skills which prepare students for a possible future in coaching/playing Gaelic sports.

As well as their current fulltime course of study the academy programme will cover –

- Development of young referees
- Coaching qualifications at foundation level
- Child protection
- Code of best practice
- Personal development courses for coaches e.g. planning for a season, strength and conditioning, defending workshop, goalkeeping and place kicking player development etc.
- Performance analysis
- First Aid

For further information visit [www.lyit.ie](http://www.lyit.ie)



# 2011 heralds new expansion plans for LYIT

The Tánaiste and Minister for Education & Skills, Mary Coughlan has announced funding for LYIT to purchase two separate portions of land in Letterkenny environs to allow for the future growth and expansion of the college.

LYIT has seen a steady increase in student numbers which now exceed 3,000, a 30% increase since 2008; this is projected to rise by 25% in 2014/15. "The need for additional lands has been a priority for the college for a number of years in order for us to achieve our strategic goals," said Paul Hannigan, President.

The additional land will enable LYIT to utilise the space for playing fields and off campus building to be used for 'stand-alone functions' not directly related to day-to-day timetabled educational activities.

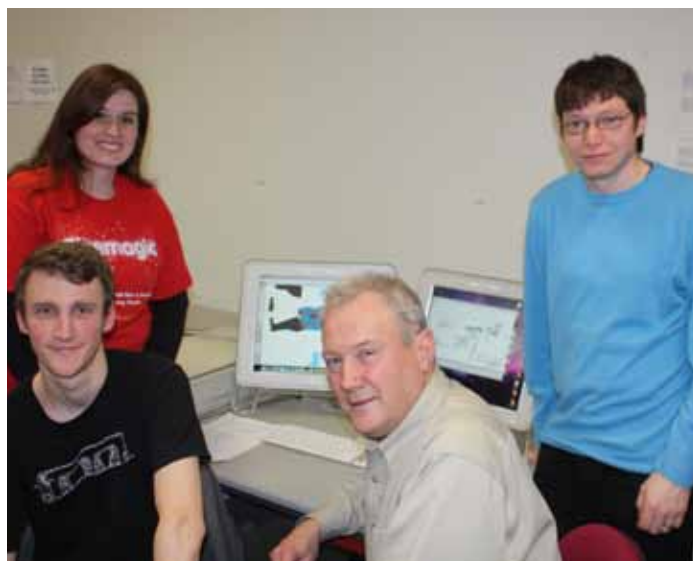
Since 2007 the LYIT has won significant research projects in new technologies, opened CoLab (the new business innovation centre) and has incorporated the School of Tourism at Killybegs into the Institute; all of which offers further opportunities in the technology, research, food and hospitality sectors. LYIT has pioneered collaboration with the University of Ulster to share knowledge through the NW Gateway Strategic Alliance. The four academic schools at the LYIT – Business, Science, Engineering and Tourism - have almost 40 new programmes from entry level degrees to Postgraduate Masters and PhDs. In addition to normal programmes, LYIT has introduced specific labour activation initiatives for those who find themselves unemployed in the



current recession, including a new Wind Energy Technician course.

2011 has begun in a very positive way for LYIT; it looks like a busy year ahead as the Institute will celebrate its 40th anniversary in September. This announcement will allow LYIT to effectively plan and to continue to meet the requirements of national strategy, the needs of students, education and industry for the next 40 years.

For further information visit [www.lyit.ie](http://www.lyit.ie)



*Animation students at Letterkenny Institute of Technology hard at work co-producing their own international short animation "Internet Whispers" with students in San Francisco*

## 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](http://www.oideas-gael.com)
- » [www.lyit.ie](http://www.lyit.ie)
- » [www.ulster.ac.uk](http://www.ulster.ac.uk)
- » [www.sligoit.ie](http://www.sligoit.ie)
- » [www.nuigalway.ie](http://www.nuigalway.ie)
- » [www.fas.ie](http://www.fas.ie)
- » [www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)





# Clannad to celebrate 40th Anniversary at the forefront of Irish Music

Clannad - Irish musical legends and pride of Gaith Dobhair are this year celebrating their 40th Anniversary. Moya, Ciaran, Noel and Padraig, who also welcome Pol back into the band, are marked the occasion by taking to the stage as part of the annual Temple Bar Tradfest on the 26th – 30th January. The group performed three rare and intimate concerts in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, a fitting venue with its rich, spectacular, historical surroundings. This was the groups first full concert performance in twenty years, therefore the tickets were in high demand, which resulted in the organisers putting on extra dates in order to accommodate the world famous Donegal groups many fans. The band have performed on different occasions together in recent years, for example when they won the Meteor Lifetime Achievement award.



Clannad pictured at the Irish Meteor Awards winning the Meteor Lifetime Achievement award.

## Strategic Plan to point way forward for Malin Head



Donegal County Development Boards commitment to developing world-class tourism products and attractions has resulted in tangible improvements to many of the County's most well known natural resources in recent years. Ireland's most northerly point has benefitted from the development and implementation of an integrated interpretative strategy, the forthcoming production of a visitor guide and heritage booklet, and plans for improved visitor access. Donegal CDB set up the Malin Head Working Group in 2008 in an effort to deliver a co-ordinated and inclusive plan for developing the iconic attraction. The group, with representatives from Donegal County Council, Inishowen Development Partnership, Loughs Agency, Malin Head Community Association and Inishowen Tourism is embarking on the development of a strategic plan with the aim of developing the area as a sustainable tourism destination that meets the need of resident, landowners and local communities, whilst safeguarding the environmental integrity of the visitor attraction.

For further information contact [kevin.oconnor@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:kevin.oconnor@donegalcoco.ie)

## Rathmullan Man Scoops IFTA With Irish Language Film

A Rathmullan man is behind one of Ireland's most successful film companies which has just scooped an Irish Film and Television Award (IFTA). Pierce Boyce, who is managing director of ABU Media, claimed the award for the film 1916 Seachtar Na Casca in the Irish language category.

The company, which was established in 2000, is based in Galway and produces feature film,

drama, documentary and light entertainment for both Irish and English-speaking markets.

ABU also specialise in co-productions and co-financing international projects and are always keen to explore new partnerships with like-minded partners.

The company is also one of the leading 'dubbing' facilities in Ireland, producing

more than 250 hours of material each year, most children's animation and international documentary series.

Based in the heart of Connemara, the company employs 19 full-time and 35 part-time people.

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



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## History of Derry Port online



The history of Derry port is now available on the website of Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners which also includes emigration history, photographs and stories (one for a sailing ship – McCorkell's Minnehaha – and the other of a steamship – Anchor Line's Caledonia). This can be viewed at <http://www.londonderryport.com/history.htm>.

From 1866 to 1939 the Anchor Line's passenger service from Glasgow, via Derry, to New York was an integral part of Derry's emigration story, and from 1916 to 1939 the Anchor-Donaldson Line of Glasgow operated, via Derry, a passenger service to Canada.

Photographs of the quay dating from 1956, include: Canadian Navy in Derry in 1956; Bengazi, with timber load, also 1956; 'mothball fleet' at Lisahally in 1961; Scotch Boat Lairdsbank at quay in 1963; and sweep of the quays from Walker's Pillar in 1963.

For further information visit [www.derry.rootsireland.ie](http://www.derry.rootsireland.ie)

## How We Remember

**How We Remember'** is the title given to a program of events exploring, questioning and acknowledging all those ex servicemen from Donegal who have served in active duty with the 28th Infantry Battalion of the Irish Defence Forces. This is a program of events that will be led by Donegal County Council Cultural Services working with The Irish Defence Forces.

Donegal County Council Public Art Office will led on the commissioning of a Public Artwork – Strained Glass Work for the Oratory at Finner Camp – to honour all those servicemen from the 28th Infantry Battalion of The Irish Defence Forces who served during the recent troubles. George Walsh, the commissioned artist will consult with the 28th Infantry Battalion of the Irish Defence Forces and ex servicemen of the in the design of the work.

The Regional Cultural Centre in partnership with The Public Art Office will commission from the award-winning Irish animator and filmmaker Steve McCollum, a new documentary film, which takes an inside look at the social and military history of the 28th Infantry Battalion of the Irish Defence Forces at Rockhill house.

Further information on other How We Remember project will feature in future ezines!

For further information contact Ms. Terre Duffy at [terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie)



## Tourism boost as County named in 'Top Destination' Survey in United States



NORTH Americans have voted Ireland the place to visit in 2011 – with travel experts pinpointing Donegal as a 'must see' part of any visit. The vote was carried out by American tour guides Frommers – which put us ahead of Paris among others.

"Ireland is one of the most romantic destinations on earth," says Patricia Tunison Preston who has authored 15 travel books on Ireland. "Where else can you find such a stunning array of quiet country roads, glistening rivers and lakes, uncrowded dune-filled beaches, meandering gardens and charming

little towns with cosy pubs and manor houses?"

And she describes Donegal as 'the great outdoors' adding: "If the cowpokes in 'True Grit' had had the kind of backdrop Donegal offers for horseback riding-beaches, countryside and mountains-maybe they would've been less quick on the draw."

For further information on Donegal as a tourism destination, please visit: <http://www.discoverireland.ie/Northwest.aspx>



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## Laurentic Conference

On Friday January 29th, the Ulster Newfoundland Initiative hosted its 5th Annual Wreath laying service for the 354 men who died on the SS Laurentic when she was sunk at the mouth of Lough Swilly on January 25 1917 while on route to Halifax, Canada. Of the 354 men that perished at that disaster, 34 were from Ireland and 21 from the province of Newfoundland, Canada

Services were held at the monument to the Laurentic at St Maura's Church of Ireland graveyard in Fahan and at St Marys Cemetery at Cockhill, Buncrana. Both services were cross community with the service being shared by Rev Sam Barton and Father Walsh.

Attending the service representing Canada was Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland Ambassador Loyola Hearn, Colonel Paul Rutherford (Canadian Armed Forces Liaison officer) Meghan Drover Representing the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador,

Representing the Island of Ireland was Deputy Mayor of Buncrana Michael Grant, Inishowen Friends of Messines, The Royal Navy Association, the Royal British Legion, the RNLI, and community leaders and groups from both sides of the border

Three years ago in conjunction with the wreath laying service and the support of the Canadian Embassy, the Ulster Newfoundland Initiative started holding a Business Beyond Borders Seminar entitled the Laurentic Conference held in Buncrana, Co. Donegal

The Ethos of this Conference is to promote economic, educational, cultural and tourism links between the two regions. The Conference is not only a module of Cross-Border cooperation but also a module of Public and Private Sector collaboration being funded and supported by Donegal County Council, Derry City Council, Buncrana Town Council, Donegal County Enterprise Board, Enterprise Ireland, Inishowen Development Partnership, Harcourt Developments, Titanic Quarter LTD, The Canadian Embassy and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

For further information contact: [donnymcneill@gmail.com](mailto:donnymcneill@gmail.com)

## Animation Antics



Animation students at LYIT are co-producing their own international short animation with students in San Francisco. The 'Internet Whispers' project is being facilitated by Cinemagic International Film & Television Festival, with support from Donegal County Council. Workshop teams from Letterkenny and San Francisco will be linked interactively through high speed internet connection to create moving image art.

Cinemagic chief executive Joan Burney Keatings said: "With valued support from the Public Art Office at Donegal County Council the young people will have the opportunity to create their very own short animation as well as developing skills in team work, delegation, problem solving and communication."

Using high speed internet connections they will host a real time 'hand over' seminar in February to the young animators from San Francisco.

Aideen Doherty of the Donegal Film Office in Carndonagh added: "Internet Whispers will demonstrate to industry professionals that Donegal is open for business. As a creative county we are producing young talent equal to that anywhere in the country and, as our connectivity to the rest of the world is no longer an issue, the county can offer a quality of life to any young people wishing to stay and work in this profession."

The final animation will be premiered in Donegal in March 2011. Cinemagic will also screen it at their festivals in Ireland, the UK, and the USA, over the next year, allowing a showcase of local talent on an international stage.

For further information contact Ms. Terre Duffy at [terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie)

## Playtime for Killybegs



Donegal has seen a huge explosion of really great playgrounds all over the county in the last number of years. To add to this fantastic collection, The Public Art Office of Donegal County Council in partnership with Killybegs Playground Committee, The Irish Architecture Foundation and supported by the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, are about to embark on a ground breaking project called 'The Play Place' for a very special site that has been identified in the town of Killybegs. Architects from Ireland and abroad will be invited to take part in an open competition to secure the best architect or firm for this very particular job. 'Ultimately we want this to be the most amazing outdoor play space you could imagine and are delighted after years of hard local fundraising that this will happen soon' said Cllr Thomas Pringle, Chairperson of Killybegs Playground Committee. 'The Play Space is being funded by Donegal County Council Public Art Program and is the most recent commission from a portfolio of over 60 projects completed to date.

For further information please visit [www.donegalpublicart.ie](http://www.donegalpublicart.ie)



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# The Donegal Association of New York Inc. to celebrate its 115th Anniversary in 2011

The New York Donegal Association Inc. is proud to announce Margo O'Donnell, the Queen of Country as our Guest of Honor, Margo has graciously accepted, and we are delighted to welcome her to New York. Our 2nd honor is the Willie Joe Cunningham Award. This is being bestowed on Mr. Connell Gallagher, Publisher of the "Irish Emigrant" based in Boston. Connell hails from Knockastoler, Gweedore and resides in Boston with his wife Siobhan and three children. The third award is the "Achievement Award" This will be announced on the night of the dance.

The Donegal Association of New York Inc. 115th Anniversary Ball will be held Saturday, March 19th 2011, the same weekend as the 250th New York St Patrick's Day Parade. This is shaping up to be a very exciting weekend, albeit a busy one!

The festivities begin with the Parade on Thursday 17th of March. The New York Parade is a true marching parade and a competition with many awards. Dress, appearance and conduct are very important to each contingent marching. Donegal expects to march early this year (counties rotate) which means we finish earlier in the day. This allows us to celebrate in the city, and catch up with family and friends who are visiting from out of town.

Saturday the 19th, we will gather in Antun's of Queens Village for the Annual Dance. Overall, we hope to have a wonderful night and look forward to seeing many friends from Donegal, and especially those families and friends visiting from Ireland!

County Donegal's participation



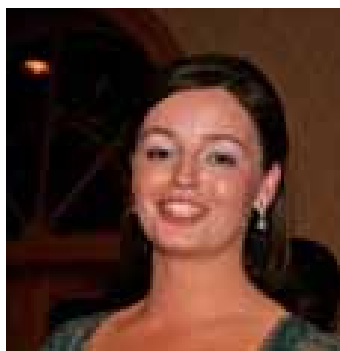
in the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade was first recorded in 1860. Initially, there were a few active social groups spanning those years with various names until they came under one banner representing Donegal. This group was officially incorporated as the Donegal Association Inc. on August 25, 1896, it is still operating and very much alive as it celebrates its 115th year in 2011. The Donegal Association, Inc. has survived through the decades with

dedicated officers, from Presidents to chaplains, including secretaries, treasurers, chairpersons, and many others down the years, all of whom made significant contributions to the continuation of the organisation.

Be Involved, Be Connected, Be in Touch!

Bi Linn!

For further information visit: [donegalny@gmail.com](mailto:donegalny@gmail.com)



*New President of the Donegal Association of New York - Ms Katie Barrett, Gweedore*

## Gathering the Irish Diaspora



Irish Gathering ([www.irishgathering.ie](http://www.irishgathering.ie)) is a website that was launched last March to enable Irish families to connect across the internet by sourcing their Irish roots and building their Family tree. It is in fact a full online Family history archive for people to record all of their family history through photos, documents, dates of birth / death etc.

Irish Gathering has had 100,000 visitors to date and over 6,000,000 hits on the site since the launch in March 2010. One of the major objectives of Irish

Gathering is to work with bodies who are interested in welcoming back the diaspora to help tourism, etc.

The website also interfaces with the 1901 and 1911 census and holds a database of Irish townlands, baronies and parishes which we have mapped to the Ordinance Survey Maps (OSI) thereby allowing registered members to access their roots geographically as far back as the 1850s. It is intended to make Irish Gathering self-funding through the promotion of Irish goods through our e-commerce IrishGathering online shop and by the promotion of events that will attract the Irish Diaspora back to Ireland in 2011 and 2012 and beyond.

In a recent survey carried out by "Gathering the Irish Diaspora", Donegal was one of the most preferred destinations by its members who intend to return to Ireland over the next 18 months.

For further information visit: [www.irishgathering.ie](http://www.irishgathering.ie)



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# Kathy McGee Burns: Blazing Her Own Parade Route

On Sunday, March 13, when Kathy McGee Burns officially presides over the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade, as only the 2nd female president since its 1771 debut, she is going to have some very special guests marching with her.

The little girl who grew up in the Philly suburbs with no knowledge of her Irish roots is now the woman leading the parade. And joining her will be her McGee cousins from Donegal.



"I always had this draw to being Irish....wondering where was I from, where can I claim as my heritage. But my father, Timothy McGee, never talked about his family.

It wasn't until he was on his deathbed that McGee Burns was able to get a tiny clue from him about how to go about finding her family. He told her that all the relatives lived in Bridgeport: "Kathleen, every McGee in Bridgeport, Pennsylvania, is related to you."

"My country, the country of my ancestors, still wasn't free."

McGee Burns began her journey. And her first step was to get out the phonebook and look up every McGee in the Philadelphia suburb of Bridgeport. She sent a letter to each one of them. And she got the response she was looking for.

But from that inauspicious beginning, she went on to become the first female president of the Donegal Society. And she continued on her path to discover exactly where she came from.

The circle will be made complete on March 13th, when Hughie McGee, his brother Paul McGee and wife Noreen, and nephew Paul McCool and wife Roisin, join Kathy McGee Burns and her family, including her brother Hughie, in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"I represent a culmination of all their dreams, hopes and wishes. We are all going to be in that Church together. And I'll be saying 'thank you' to all my Donegal ancestors."

Kathy McGee Burns lives near Philadelphia with her husband Michael and her nine children. She is currently in the first year of her two year term as President of The Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Lori Lander Murphy also lives near Philadelphia, and is a writer for [www.irishphiladelphia.com](http://www.irishphiladelphia.com).

## Letterkenny 400

Letterkenny Town Council are hoping to use the discussions surrounding the date of the birth of the town as a vehicle for commemorating its history during spring and summer of 2011.

Letterkenny Town Council are currently finalising a series of community events that will mark the actual commemorations themselves and this will be based on suggestions from local people following consultations. Possible initiatives already mentioned have included a historic pageant in the town for St. Patrick's Day; an organ recital with a touring German philharmonic, historic plays involving the local schools, a series of lunchtime lectures and a family day in the town park celebrating the history of the town. It is expected that the programme of events will be confirmed in the coming weeks following community engagement.

For further information see [www.letterkenny.ie](http://www.letterkenny.ie)



Group pictured at a consultation day for the Letterkenny 400

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

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