



Welcome Fáilte

I have always believed that humans have a desperate need for a base and that, more often than not, that base is where you were born. In fact, we have a bit of a tendency to romanticise it when we are away from it.

I can find no word in the dictionary for the opposite of homesickness. Maybe there isn't one but there should be because I feel it whatever it might be called. Something in me is at peace and has been since deciding to come and live again permanently in Donegal. This feeling which is strong and pleasant is also elusive. It has something to do with soft days, the smell of turf smoke, gentle accents, friendly smiles and a feeling that things aren't as urgent as you feared - they will get done.



This isn't just some soft sentimental thing. Believe me there are things here that can drive me mad - pot holes, poor planning that spoilt many beautiful places but these are balanced in the big picture of things by the grand scale of the mountains, the extraordinary beaches, the clean fresh air, the fall and crash of the sea and the beautiful but testing golf courses. There is simply no argument, Donegal is beautiful.

I have always believed that humans have a desperate need for a base and that, more often than not, that base is where you were born.

In fact, we have a bit of a tendency to romanticise it when we are away from it.

By definition, many people who read this will be away from this base and, maybe particularly after Christmas, will be thinking of home. My recommendation to you is that you make a resolution this New Year that you will get back to Donegal at least once in 2009.

More importantly it would be good to start to think what you might do in 2009 that would help Donegal in some practical way for the future.....ask not what Donegal can do for you etc!!!

In an age when the location of certain types of businesses has become less of an issue because of the nature of communication, perhaps your own business could have a base here. You have everything you need; committed, well educated, English speaking youth with an ambition to succeed. I believe too that their willingness to think internationally is a benefit. On top of all that there is the very favourable tax regime in Ireland. So get your thoughts together on this and plan to do something about it. Remember that, if you don't, we know where you live and we'll come and get you.

I hope that wherever you are that you have a peaceful New Year and that 2009 is kind to you and yours.

Sir Gerry Robinson

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Welcome Fáilte

This is the second edition of Donegal Community in Touch. The first edition was 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 dara eagrán de Dún na nGall - Pobal i dTeagbhaíl. Ghlac pobal an chontae sa bhaile agus í gcéin go maith leis an chéad eagrán. Leanfadh muid orainn ag forbairt agus foilsíú an e-iris seo mar uirlis chun teagbháil a cheinneail le daoine a bhfuil suim acu no ceangail acu leis an gcontae, pé áit a bhfuil conaí orthú. Tá muid ag suil le ais a fhail maidir leis an e-iris seo agus abhar ar mhaith libh go gcludofaí san e-iris.

Message from Mayor

As we leave 2008 behind and face into the New Year 2009, as Mayor of Donegal County Council I would like to send greetings to all who live, work or holiday in our beautiful County. I also acknowledge the work carried out by various groups and individuals on a voluntary basis to improve their communities and the well-being of others. Our thoughts are also with those who are house-bound and ill in hospital at this time.

Greetings also to those who serve in our emergency services and defence force members who serve us at home and abroad often in difficult circumstances. Greetings are also extended to our Donegal diaspora in many locations throughout the world.

As we journey together into 2009 with all its uncertainties and concerns, I wish everyone a New Year filled with health, peace and contentment. [Le gach deá ghúí don bhliain nua.](#)

Cllr. Gerry Crawford,
Mèara, Donegal County Council



Donegal Association of Greater Boston holds Centennial Reunion Celebrations

The year 2008 marked a very special milestone for the County Donegal Association of Greater Boston. The Centennial Reunion and Banquet was held on November 1st 2008, at the Boston Marriott Quincy Hotel in Quincy, Massachusetts. There were approximately 750-800 people at the Reunion and Banquet, with attendees from all over Boston and the greater New England area as well as guests from other Donegal Associations in the USA, Canada and Dublin.



Michael McCarron, President and Co-Chairman of the County Donegal Association of Greater Boston pictured with his wife Margaret

Special guests included Tánaiste Mary Coughlan; Donegal County Council Mayor Gerry Crawford; Michael Heaney, Director of Services for Community Culture and Enterprise; Margo O'Donnell, Donegal Person of the Year 2006-2007; Conal Gallen; Sean Doherty, Highland Radio; Siorcha O'Donnell, County Donegal Association of Dublin, Leo O'Donnell, Donegal Club of Toronto; Rosina Gallagher, County Donegal Association of New York; John Flood, County Donegal Association of Philadelphia. To add to the celebration there was special guest: Daniel O'Donnell.

For further information, please visit www.donegalassociation.ie

Comhairle na nÓg Dhún na nGall - Donegal Youth Council leads the way in youth involvement

Critics of teenagers who believe them to be rebellious, disenchanted and unconcerned with local issues should take note of the successful Comhairle na nÓg Dhún na nGall/Donegal Youth Council elections held in October. A total of 36 young people were democratically elected by proportional representation in the Electoral Areas spread across the county by 12,000 young people in schools and Youthreach centres. A term of office lasts 2 years. The Youth Council is an excellent method of teaching young people about local government, election processes and also puts in place youth representatives to advocate on behalf of their peers. For further information please visit www.donegalcdb.ie



Donegal Elected Members and Newly Elected Youth Councillors. Back from left - Cllr. Liam Blaney, Deputy Joe Mc Hugh, Cllr Dessie Larkin, Cllr Gerry McMonagle, Cllr. Noel McBride. Front from left - Youth Cllr Ciara Mc Hugh, Mayor Gerry Crawford, Town Mayor Victor Fisher, Youth Cllr Siorcha Cusack, Youth Cllr Oliver Gallagher.

Donegal man appointed as Chair of ILEX



Sir Roy McNulty has been appointed as Chairman of Ilex - the Derry Urban Regeneration Company. Sir Roy, who hails from Raphoe, now lives in Gloucestershire in England. With extensive experience in industry and banking, Sir Roy is also Chair of the British Civil Aviation Authority and Deputy Chair of the London 2012 Olympics Delivery Authority.

Ilex was established in 2004 in order to promote and support the economic, social and cultural development of Derry City and its environs. The company is responsible for regeneration of the former army bases at Ebrington and Fort George - Ebrington as a hub for arts and culture, Fort George as a site for high tech industries.

Further information on Ilex can be obtained through info@ilex-urc.com



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Castlefinn and Gweedore have success at National Pride of Place Awards

Castlefinn Partnership Initiative and Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair received national recognition after being awarded a runners up award under their categories at the Co-operation Ireland's Pride of Place Awards in Cappoquin, County Waterford in November 2008. The Pride of Place awards, now in their sixth year, is an all-island competition which is directed towards recognising improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area.



At 2008 Pride of Place Gala Awards Ceremony in Cappoquin Community Centre, Waterford, were runners-up Ionad Naomh Padraig, Gaoth Dobhair. From left, Tom Dowling, Chairman Pride of Place, Kathleen Ferry, Cllr. Tom Higgins, Waterford Co. Mayor, Mary Coyle and Christopher Moran, Chairman, Co-operation Ireland.

In 2008, five projects, namely Lough Eske Community Development Association, Castlefinn Partnership Initiative, Ard Kilbride Residents Association, Crossroads and Killygordon Enterprise Ltd. and Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair Teo, received County Pride of Place Awards at a Gala function in Letterkenny in May.

For more information contact Breid Neely, Community Development Officer, Donegal County Council. Tel: +353 (0) 74 91 72573 or Email: bneely@donegalcoco.ie



Category runners-up were Castlefinn Partnership Initiative. At the presentation were Tom Dowling, Chairman Pride of Place, Stephen Carlin, Cllr. Tom Higgins, Waterford Co. Mayor, Michael Carlin and Christopher Moran, Chairman, Co-operation Ireland.

Enya Releases New Album "And Winter Came"



Internationally acclaimed Donegal singer Enya has just released a new album "And Winter Came". This is the Gaoth Dobhair singer's ninth album. To date Enya has achieved international album sales of some 60 million records. The singer has undertaken promotions of the record in the UK and Japan. For details on current promotional tours, please visit <http://www.enya.com>

Tá albam úr "And Winter Came" eisithe ag an cheoltóir clúiteach Enya (Eithne Ní Bhraonáin). Is é seo an naoiú albam den cheoltóir as Gaoth Dobhair. Tá thar 60 milliún ceirnín díolta go hidirnáisiúnta ag Enya. Tá sí ag spreagadh an ceirnín úr seo chun cinn i Sasain agus ins an tSeapáin. Chun tuilleadh eolais ar thurais seolta reatha, téigh go <http://www.enya.com>



Double Awards Success for Donegal County Council

Donegal County Council scored a double success at the prestigious Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin. The awards ceremony was hosted by RTE's Mary Kennedy and attended by Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley, T.D.

The County Council won its first award of the evening under the category of Sports and Recreation for its community-based recreational trails project based in Crolly, West Donegal. The project was developed in association with Fáilte Ireland and has provided for 8km of safe walking for the local community and tourists alike.



Kevin O'Connor, Donegal County Council, Andrew Speer, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Joe Gatins, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mayor of County Donegal, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, Jeremy Smith, Donegal County Council and Gary Clarke, Letterkenny Chamber

The second award of the night was scooped by the Inch Levels Development project under the Environment Initiative category. The Inch Levels initiative is an environmental tourism and community-based project at Inch, Inishowen. The Inch site is one of Europe's premier bird viewing areas and provides feeding for internationally significant numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese and Whooper Swans.

For further information please contact Kevin O'Connor, Donegal County Council by email: kevin.oconnor@donegalcoco.ie or telephone: +353 (0) 87 2589723.

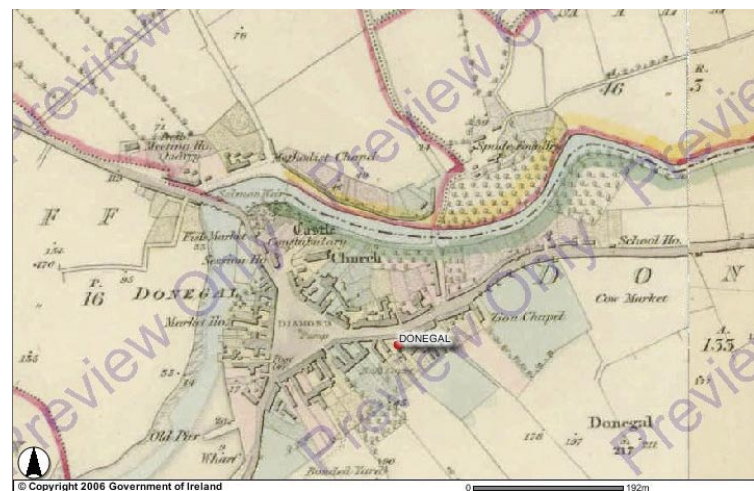
Launch of Donegal Mapshop

The Mapshop agency was launched in April 2008 and is a joint venture between Donegal County Council and the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. Based in the offices of the Letterkenny Public Service Centre, the Mapshop sells maps for many purposes; from planning applications to ESB Connections and Historic maps to Colour Aerial Photography.

Of particular interest to the Diaspora community are the 1st edition 6" maps. Surveyed around 1835 - these are a fascinating archive of what the country used to look like. A decade before the Great Famine these maps are a very detailed record of where our ancestors came from in a time when Irish identity was seriously challenged.

The Mapshop is managed by the Information Systems section of Donegal County Council; who are currently developing an online purchase system for the Historic Maps. Selected by townland, town/village or Lat/Lon coordinate, the maps will be printed in colour on quality paper and posted in a tube to the customer. Sizes can vary from A3 to A1. Currently orders can be taken over the phone.

Please contact Mary. Tel: +353 (0) 74 9194245 or mapshop@donegalcoco.ie. Further details on www.donegalcoco.ie/mapshop



Map of Donegal Town, County Donegal



World Rally Championship 2009 comes to Donegal Town

The World Rally Championship is one of the most demanding and challenging motor sport competitions in the world and for the first time since Australia in 1990, Donegal Town will host a town stage of the World Rally on 1st February 2009. Sanctioned by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the World Rally Championship is home to the world's elite rallying talent. The reigning World Champion is France's Sébastien Loeb, competing for Citroën.

The Championship consists of 16 rounds taking place in five continents. Each Rally is competed over three days and Rally Ireland is round one of the 2009 FIA World Rally Championships taking place from Friday 30th January 2009 to Sunday 1st February 2009. The event will open with a Ceremonial Start in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh on Thursday evening. The event route includes eight counties, both north and south of Ireland.

The Donegal Town stage is the only part of the event that will be televised live and this will be broadcast in 68 countries, with an estimated 80 million viewers tuning in. An additional stage will be held at Donegal Bay, Rossnowlagh, which will be the only other stage in County Donegal.

For further information on the World Rally Championship, please visit <http://www.rallyireland.org>



Reigning World Rally Champion Sébastien Loeb

Fixtures announced for Allianz GAA National Football League 2009

The fixtures for the Allianz National Football League have now been confirmed and the action will commence under the Croke Park floodlights with the meeting of All Ireland Football Champions Tyrone with Leinster Champions, Dublin on Saturday January 31st 2009.

In addition to the match, the GAA's 125th Anniversary celebrations will also be launched that evening. The remaining Round One games will be played on Sunday February 1st 2009.

For further information, please visit www.gaa.ie
<http://www.gaa.ie/>

The Division One Fixtures are as follows:

31st Jan 2009

Dublin v Tyrone

1st Feb 2009

Mayo v Derry
 Westmeath v Galway
 Kerry v Donegal

14th Feb 2009

Donegal v Mayo

15th Feb 2009

Derry v Westmeath
 Tyrone v Kerry
 Galway v Dublin

7th Mar 2009

Tyrone v Galway

8th Mar 2009

Mayo v Westmeath
 Derry v Kerry
 Donegal v Dublin

14th Mar 2009

Dublin v Derry

15th Mar 2009

Galway v Donegal
 Westmeath v Tyrone
 Kerry v Mayo

21st Mar 2009

Donegal v Tyrone

22nd Mar 2009

Mayo v Dublin
 Derry v Galway
 Kerry v Westmeath

28th Mar 2009

Tyrone v Derry

29th Mar 2009

Galway v Mayo
 Westmeath v Donegal
 Dublin v Kerry

12th Apr 2009

Dublin v Westmeath
 Kerry v Galway
 Mayo v Tyrone
 Derry v Donegal

Freedom of County Donegal Award for Composer and Musician Phil Coulter

Donegal County Council conferred the internationally renowned musician, Phil Coulter, with the Freedom of Donegal at a civic reception in his honour on 22nd May 2008 in the County House, Lifford, County Donegal.



Phil Coulter pictured at the County House, Lifford, County Donegal

Mr Coulter received this award in recognition of his services to arts and music. His many works include the world famous "Congratulations", the Eurovision Song Contest winner "Puppet on a String" and the Irish Rugby Anthem "Ireland's Call".

Mr Coulter, a native of Derry, has strong links with Donegal having being a regular visitor here since his childhood and he has drawn on the county as a source of inspiration for many of his works.

Mr Coulter is the third recipient of the specially commissioned award for freedom of the county, and was presented with the award by Mayor, John Boyle. Previous recipients include Irish and International soccer goalkeepers Shay Given and Packie Bonner.

Ulster Dancing Championships 2009 to be hosted in Letterkenny

The Ulster Dancing Championships will be hosted in Letterkenny, Co Donegal from 11th November - 14th November 2009. In excess of 1000 competitors of Irish Dancing excellence from Ulster and County Louth will compete in this prestigious dancing event, which qualifies the main winners through to the World Irish Dancing Championships. This event runs for four whole days with 800 dancers competing each day.

For further information contact: Caitlín Uí Chochláin, Donegal County Council, Community & Enterprise Section, Public Services Centre, Blaney Road, Letterkenny; Tel no: 074-9194200 or caitlin.uiochlainn@donegalcoco.ie

Oireachtas Rincí Uladh 2009 Leitir Ceanainn

Beidh Oireachtas Rincí Uladh 2009 ar siúl i Leitir Ceanainn ó 11ú Samhain - 14ú Samhain 2009. Glacfaidh thar 1000 iomaitheoirí den scoth páirt san chomórtas ardchaighdeánach seo, ó Chúige Uladh, chomh maith le Co Lú. Cailífeáir na príomh bhuaiteoirí ar aghaidh go dtí an Comórtas Domhanda. Tá ceithre lá iomlán i gceist le 800 iomaitheoir ag damhsa gach lá.

Thig tuilleadh eolais a fháil ó: Thig tuilleadh eolais a fháil ó: Caitlín Uí Chochláin, Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall ag: Rannóg Pobal & Fiontair, Ionad Seirbhísí Pobail, Bóthar Bhléiní, Leitir Ceanainn; Fón: 074-9194200 nó rphost@caitlin.uiochlainn@donegalcoco.ie



Caitlín Uí Chochláin, Coordinator of the Ulster Dancing Championships 2009 in Letterkenny, with Francis Curley, Chairman of the Ulster Irish Dancing Championships, presenting Gerard Mc Namee from Killea with the Ulster Boys 2008 Championship Cup in Derry, with his colleagues, Clodagh Rodgers, Nicole O Connor and Christine Devine.



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
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Our Natural Resources: Focus on Forestry

Donegal is predominantly a rural county and has the second highest forest cover in Ireland at 58,183 hectares and around half of all farm forests are less than 25 years old. Local farmers nowadays carry out more than 70% of all tree planting with the assistance of EU and Irish grant aid, with nearly half of all forests in Donegal in private ownership. Forests provide employment opportunities in woodland establishment and management, timber harvesting and haulage, wood processing, wood energy and woodcraft.



The second edition of the Forest Link Directory was launched on National Tree Day, October 9th 2008, by the Mayor of the County of Donegal, Cllr Gerry Crawford in the County House in Lifford. This directory provides an invaluable reference to departments, key support organisations, contractors, consultants, products and services involved in all aspects of the forestry sector from "Seed to Sawdust" in the North West region.

Donegal County Council, through the Donegal County Development Board (CDB), recognised the great potential forestry has to play currently and in the future in Donegal with the establishment of the Forest Link Project in 2004. This project is the first of its kind in Ireland.

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Another growth sector today is renewable energies, which the Forest Link project, working in a CDB context, proactively supports on a continual basis. Donegal is recognised nationally as the county that has developed this market most successfully with twice as many wood fuel installations as the next placed county.

For further information please visit www.donegalcdb.ie

Recent Publications

A Fund of Goodwill: the Story of the International Fund for Ireland, by Alf McCreary. For further information visit www.internationalfundforireland.com

A guide to Tracing your Donegal Ancestors, by Helen Meehan & Godfrey Duffy. For further information visit www.donegallibrary.ie

Donegal Community Bulletin. Available from www.donegalcdb.ie/news/commbulletin.htm

Gabhla An tOileán by Máirín Uí Fhearraigh. For further information visit www.donegalcdb.ie

The Past in the Present. For further information contact Donegal County Archives Service, Lifford, County Donegal. Tel: +353 (0) 74 9172490 or visit www.donegalcoco.ie/archives

Starting or Expanding a Business: Guide to supports in Donegal and Derry. For further information visit www.irelandnorthwest.eu





Donegal Airport Serving the Business Community for over 20 years

Aerfort Dhún na nGall commenced operations in 1986 and was developed, with the assistance of the Exchequer, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Department of Public Enterprise, Private Investors, Donegal County Council, International Fund for Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund.

Owned and managed by a private limited company 'Aerphort Idirnaisiúnta Dhún na nGall Teo', Donegal Airport is one of Ireland's network of regional airports.

The first passenger schedule service started in 1986 by the small Scottish airline Malinair who identified the market for a Donegal/Glasgow route. In the first year of scheduled traffic, only 2,700 passengers used the airport. Donegal Airport is well on target to handle in excess of 65,000 passengers in 2009.

Despite many challenges in the early years, Donegal Airport is now recognised as a key element of the County's economic infrastructure. Future plans for the Airport include using 50-70 seater aircraft; exploring the possibility of new routes to the UK; and continuing to develop Charter tourism business.

In recent years Donegal Airport has also provided a hub for the offshore oil and gas industry. Helicopters are based at the Airport and fixed wing charters operate to/from Scotland and Norway for the duration of the contracts.

At present the Airport employs 30 people as well as an additional five seasonal staff and the company's Human Resource policy is to recruit as far as possible from the local community and provide the required skills with specialized training. For further information, please visit www.donegalairport.ie

Donegal County Development Board (CDB) pays tribute to contribution made by IFI to Donegal

The Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny played host to the launch by Donegal County Development Board of 'A Fund of Goodwill - The Story of the International Fund for Ireland' on Thursday 4th December 2008. Donegal citizens and communities have benefited greatly from the IFI over the past 22 years, which has contributed greatly to the economic, social and cultural well being of the county.

The Chairman of Donegal CDB, Cllr. Francis Conaghan stated: "The fund has been an invaluable asset for the county, enabling the county to address and to tackle some of the disadvantages from which it has suffered over the years due to its border location and its peripherality from Dublin".

The Mayor of Donegal, Cllr. Gerry Crawford said that he was delighted that Donegal CDB were hosting this special launch of the new book, and that all sectors of the county are united in recognising the valuable contribution made by the IFI fund to Donegal.

Welcoming the book's publication, Denis Rooney, Chairman of the International Fund, said: "A Fund of Goodwill was commissioned to ensure that the legacy of the International Fund for Ireland, and of the noble role played by our donors, is available to all. I believe that Alf McCreary has succeeded admirably in that aim."

The book's author Alf McCreary said: "The International Fund's story is one of co-operation on many levels, not only politically and economically, but also across the divides within communities and across the border". Mr. Michael O hÉanaigh, Director of Community, Culture and Enterprise, Donegal County Council stated: "The International Fund for Ireland is a clear example of how the Irish Diaspora and Friends of Ireland in the donor countries have been able to make a practical and important contribution to this country. We hope to build on this ground work for Donegal and North West Ireland in the future". For further information, please visit www.internationalfundforireland.com



Pictured above at the Donegal launch of the International Fund for Ireland book 'A Fund of Goodwill' were seated from left, Denis Rooney, Chairman of the I.F.I., Mayor Gerry Crawford, Alf McCreary, author and Paddy Harte, development consultant, I.F.I. Standing from left, Cllrs. Ciaran Brogan, Denis McGonagle, Francis Conaghan, Dessie Larkin, Bernard McGuinness, Padraig Doherty and Ian McGarvey.



Focus on Zeus - Visionaries of Polymer Science

For more than 40 years, Zeus has been driven by a culture of innovation, problem solving and customer support to become an internationally recognized leader in the design and production of high-performance polymer extrusions, as well as an innovator of post-production finishing and strategic supply initiatives.

Headquartered in Orangeburg, S.C., Zeus operates multiple facilities in North America and internationally that guarantee a stable source of supply to customers anywhere in the world.

In September 2005, Zeus announced its first European production facility in Letterkenny, Ireland. The facility is 28,000 square feet and is focused on meeting the growing demand for the company's precision extrusions in the European Union's medical, electronics, semiconductor, aviation and aerospace industries. Zeus attributes the Ireland expansion to the global economy and need for closer proximity to medical device customers in Ireland and in the European market in general. Letterkenny was chosen based upon Ireland's favourable business environment and extensive medical technology industry cluster. Zeus also acknowledges the assistance of IDA Ireland in regard to its investment in Letterkenny.

Product design engineers look to Zeus for innovative tubing solutions that meet the intense performance requirements of an increasingly specialized world, such as PTFE Sub-Lite-Wall® tubing for catheter liners, fluoropolymer heat shrink for electrical and mechanical applications, high-purity tubing for critical fluid handling and multi-lumen tubing for catheters and high-performance data cables.

More than a component supplier, Zeus places a premium on close collaboration with customers through its Contract Research & Development division. They serve as a creative consortium that provides multi-national corporations as well as start-up firms with critical intellectual and physical resources along with extensive experience in polymer science, contract research and process development.



Additionally, Polymathic Analytical Labs, a Zeus subsidiary, serves as an unbiased resource, providing advanced research and developmental support to a wide array of markets through sophisticated materials testing, identification, technical problem solving and analysis.

For more information about Zeus or to view its online catalogue, visit www.zeusinc.com. For more information about Polymathic Analytical Labs, visit www.polymathiclabs.com

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, www.intertradeireland.com/index.cfm/area/information/page/Acumen%20Programme

A new guide has recently been published entitled "Starting or Expanding a Business: Guide to supports in Donegal and Derry".

For further information visit www.irelandnorthwest.eu

Looking for information on employment opportunities in the region, visit:

- » 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





Focus on Oideas Gael - Immerse yourself in all things Irish in Donegal's Gaeltacht

A growing interest in Ireland's fascinating culture both at home and abroad has made Donegal's Gaeltacht an immensely popular year-round location for both adult and teenage Irish language and cultural programmes. People from all across the globe are now coming to the picturesque southwest Donegal glen of Gleann Cholm Cille to immerse themselves in Irish Language and Culture. This year more than 1,600 people from some 30 different countries attended week-long courses in Oideas Gael in Gleann Cholm Cille and in An Chóimín, Glenfin.

Adult programmes at Oideas Gael, are not just for absolute beginners, they are also ideally suited for individuals who are out of touch with the language, but are now keen to brush up on their conversational skills. The most popular Oideas Gael programmes are the Irish language courses for adults, which are offered at all levels. These courses focus on the spoken Irish and are delivered in a relaxed but stimulating environment. Adults from around the world are discovering that they have a propensity for language learning that is well above their expectations. While an Irish person may initially feel nervous about learning the language in the company of Japanese, Swedish or Italian people, time and time again they rise to the challenge with vigour and sparkle!

Courses are also offered in Hill walking, Donegal Dances, Marine Painting and Archaeology as well as Landscape and Environment, Harp, Bodhrán and Flute playing and Celtic Pottery.

The courses have attracted many interesting and special people over the years and the success of the project, soon celebrating twenty-five years (1984-2009) has exceeded the expectations of its founders Dr. Seosamh Watson and Liam Ó Cuinneagáin. Undoubtedly, the proudest achievement for all involved has been the attendance by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese and her family, at the summer school, for ten years in a row.

The success of Oideas Gael is due, in no small part, to the Céad Míle Fáilte of the Glen people towards the visitors and also the enthusiasm of the many teachers involved.

For more information please visit www.oideas-gael.com

Tá Gleann beag aoibhinn in Éirinn

Tá méadú suntasach i spéis daoine, ar fud an domhain agus sa bhaile, i saibhreas chultúrtha na hÉireann. Tá an tsuim seo ag cuir go mór le O Dún na nGall mar áit ar leith a choinnigh an cultúr agus teanga dúchasach slán fríd na cianta.

Tagann daoine as uile chearn den domhain mhóir go dtí an baile beag álainn Gleann Cholm Cille, in Iardheiscirt Thír Chonaill le blaiseadh a fháil ar chultúr agus teanga na nGael. Bíonn suas le 1,600 duine a thagann ar chúrsaí éagsúla, de chuid Oideas Gael, achan bhliain agus iadsan as níos mó ná triocha thír difriúil chomh fada ar shíúl le Ceanada, Meiriceá, an tSeapáin agus an Astráil.

Mealann na cúrsaí daoine nach tosaitheoirí iad mar go n-oireann na ranganna agus na h-imeachtaí dóibh siúd atá ag pilleadh ar an Ghaeilge tar éis na mblianta agus daoine atá ar lorg saoire taitneamhach agus an Ghaeilge acu go líofa cheana féin. Tá na cúrsaí dírithe ar labhairt na Gaeilge agus leis an córas cumarsáide a úsáidtear, fáigheann daoine amach go tapaigh go dtig leo an teanga a fhoghlaim i mbealaí taitneamhacha agus éifeachtach. Cuirtear brú breise ar na hÉireannaigh a bhíonn ag freastal ar ranganna nuair a fheiceann siad Seapánach, Sualannach nó Iodálach ag bogadh ar aghaidh go tapaigh gan cúthail nó leisce!

Tá sceideal de chúrsaí éagsúla i ngníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha chomh maith agus bíonn freastal maith as an siúl sléibhe, damhsaí seite, péintéireacht, imshaoil, cláirseach agus feadóg. Tá Oideas Gael ar siúl le cúig bliana 's fiche i mbliana (1984-2009) agus is ábhar bróid do na bunaitheoirí, an Dr. Seosamh Watson agus Liam Ó Cuinneagáin gur éirí chomh maith leis an fhiontar. A bhúiochas sin, go speisialta, don fháilte flaitiúil a chuireann muintir an Ghleanna roimh na cuairteoirí agus an caighdeán ard-teagaisc a bhíonn a chur ar fáil ag na múinteoirí. Mheall na cúrsaí daoine ar leith thar na mblianta, ach is dócha go dtig a rá, gurbh é an onóir ba mhó a bronnadh ar Oideas Gael, ná go bhfuil Uachtarán na hÉireann, Máire Mhic Giolla Íosa agus a clann tar éis freastal ar an scoil samhraidh, deich mbliana indhíaidh a chéile, gan briseadh.

Tuilleadh eolais ar fáil ag: www.oideas-gael.com

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



8th Annual Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival takes place



The Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks festival is an autumnal community arts festival that takes place in South & South West Donegal each year. This year's festival, which ran from September 27th 2008 to October 5th 2008, boasted a packed programme of theatre, music, literary, visual arts, carnival, spectacle and events for children, happening in almost every community in and around the Blue Stacks and Donegal Bay including Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Donegal, Ballybofey, Pettigo, Laghey, Ballintra, Leghowney, Mountcharles, Frosses, Killybegs, Kilcar, Teelin, Glencolmcille, Ardara and Glenties.

Over 6,000 people participated in and enjoyed Festival events. Other highlights included the Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí Donegal Fiddlers Gala Concert in Glenties and the performance by TG4 Young Traditional Musician of the Year Martin Tourish (Ballybofey) - with the late James Byrne - at the Folk Village in Glencolmcille, Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company's new show 'Invoke' at Ballyshannon, Donegal Drama Circle's production of Frank McGuinness's 'Carthaginians' at Leghowney Hall and the two literary programme events at Salthill House Mountcharles and Coxtown Manor, Laghey. For further information, please contact Traolach Ó Fionnáin, Donegal County Council Arts Officer. Tel. +353 (0) 74 9121968 or email traolach@donegalcoco.ie

Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2009, Letterkenny

Letterkenny will play host to 'Oireachtas' na Gaeilge from 28th October - 1st November 2009. This is the oldest, largest, long-lasting, most attended and Irish festival to be held in Ireland, celebrating Irish Language and Culture at its very best through music, song, dance literature and story-telling. For more information please visit the Oireachtas website at: www.antoireachtas.ie.

Beidh 'An tOireachtas' ar siúl i Leitir Ceanainn ó 28ú Deire Fómhair - 1ú Samhain 2009. Is é seo an féile is mó, is faide, is sine, is freastalta agus is Gaelaigh i nÉirinn, a dhéanann ceiliúradh ar gach ealaíon traidisiúnta - amhránaíocht, ceol, rince, litríocht, scéalaíocht, drámaíocht, scoraíocht, dreas cainte agus na fis-ealaíona ina measc. Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil tabhair cuairt ar an tsuíomh gréasáin: www.antoireachtas.ie

From Leaders to Exiles - The Flight of the Earls Exhibition

In 2007, Donegal County Museum and County Archives Services, in conjunction with Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service, curated a major exhibition entitled "From Leaders to Exiles - The Flight of the Earls".

The exhibition focused on the major events of the period and included original 16th and 17th century documents and artefacts, on loan to the Museum from the National Archives of the UK, the Hunt Museum, Limerick City Museum and the Pearse Museum, Dublin.

The Museum commissioned a specially designed Flight of the Earls board game and an Activity Trail for children. A series of education workshops on related themes were also organised for primary schools.

The interpretative panels from this exhibition then formed part of a travelling exhibition, which toured to venues in Northern Ireland including Derry, Dungannon, Enniskillen and Omagh. As part of the Flight of the Earls commemorations, the exhibition also travelled to Basel and Zurich in Switzerland in 2008.

Following its tour of Switzerland, the exhibition travelled to Rome in April. It was displayed at the Angelicum University during a weekend-long series of events organised by the O'Neill Summer School and the Irish Embassy to mark the commemoration of the Earls' arrival in Rome 400 years ago.

For further information on the exhibition contact Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Tel. +353 (0) 74 9124613, email museum@donegalcoco.ie



From left to right - Mervyn Whyte, Phil Coulter, Ambassador James Sharkey and Judith McCarthy at the From Leaders to Exiles - the Flight of the Earls exhibition organised by Donegal County Museum in the Museum Kleines Klingental, Basel, Switzerland



Award Winning Regional Culture Centre

Donegal County Council's Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny won a prestigious Bank of Ireland Opus Architecture and Construction Award at a gala function at the RDS in Dublin in October. The Centre received one of three awards for the best buildings in Ireland in the €2 million to €20 million category. According to the judges comments "This project takes a difficult site and demanding brief and forges them together to give us a civic building that has clarity of intent and execution. It achieves good natural lighting for its artworks without creating a boring black box. This is a civic building with ambition."

The Centre ended its first full year in operation on a high note with the official opening of the 'Sweet Fantastic' exhibition by Councillor Ciaran Brogan, Chairman of the Letterkenny Electoral Area Committee on December 6th. This Alice in Wonderland style exhibition, which runs until the 31st January 2009, celebrates 80 years of The Oatfield Sweet Factory in Letterkenny and is part of a series of exhibitions organised by Donegal County Council's Cultural Services that pay tribute to this iconic sweet factory. The exhibition was developed by the Redmoon Company from Chicago USA, who spent two months working with primary school children from three Letterkenny schools - Educate Together N.S, Ballyraine National School and Illistrin National School.

Running alongside 'The Sweet Fantastic', there is a wonderful exhibition 'A Short But Sweet History' at Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny organised by the Museum and the Cultural Centre. These projects form part of the residency strand of Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme.

For further information on the Regional Cultural Centre see www.donegalculture.com

Concerto Málaga Orchestra in Donegal Residency

The Spanish String Orchestra Concerto Málaga has been appointed "Orchestra-in-Donegal-Residency" in County Donegal, Ireland. Concerto Málaga, founded in 1996, is a Chamber Orchestra for string repertory. This thirteen-piece ensemble from southern Spain is composed of chamber musicians from all around the world. As one of the top chamber groups of Spain, they are members of the European Chamber Music Teachers Association (ECMTA) and the Spanish Association of Specialised Instrumental and Vocal Groups (AEGIVE).

The Italian Maestro Massimo Paris (Virtuosi di Roma, I Musici, Quartetto Stradivari) is a many-sided artist: renowned soloist of viola and viola d'amore, composer, conductor, chamber musician, recording artist and pedagogue. He has performed over 3,000 concerts across the world in venues such as the Carnegie Hall in New York, Berlin Philharmonie and Musikverein in Vienna, among others.



Spanish String Orchestra Concerto Málaga

The Orchestra will work closely with the community across County Donegal, focusing on the key areas of performance, musical education and instrumental tuition. This innovative project is promoted by the County Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership, Donegal County Council and the collaboration of the Junta de Andalucía.

For more information please contact: Donegal Music Education Partnership, Co. Donegal VEC.

Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, tel: + 353 (0) 74 9176293 or email: musiceducation@donegalvec.ie
 Visit www.concertomalaga.com or www.donegalvec.ie

Belgian Premiere for Donegal Production The Dark Daughter

The Dark Daughter, a moving account of the life of Finola O'Donnell, mother of Red Hugh and matriarch of one of the most powerful families in Irish political history, premiered in Belgium on Tuesday 7th May 2008 at the Louvain Institute for Ireland in Europe.

This formed part of the County's Flight of the Earls commemoration. The Institute is located on the site of the old Irish College of Louvain, which had a very strong connection with Donegal and which featured strongly in the Flight of the Earls itself.

The Dark Daughter, written by Donegal playwright Soibhne Lally, produced and directed by Ballyshannon native Eavan King, features a wealth of acting talent from Donegal and Derry.

Donegal actor, writer and producer Maura Logue (Community Arts & Arts Education officer) plays Finola Uí Dómhnaill.

Christian Carbin plays the scribe Lewey O'Clerigh.

James Lecky plays Aodh Manus O'Donnell, and Derry actress Sorcha Shanahan (Philadelphia Here I Come, Faith Healer) plays Nuala O'Donnell, daughter of Iníon Dubh and sister to Aodh Rua. Her husband Niall Garbh played by Declan Birney (The Worthless Soldier, Ay Carmela).





Shaun Doherty, Marion Potts, Emma McGrath, Annemarie McDonagh & Caroline Orr of Highland Radio

Community In Touch: Focus on Highland Radio, Shaun Doherty Show

For over 18 years, the award winning Shaun Doherty Show has been Highland Radio's flagship programme. Shaun has occupied the mid-morning slot since late 1990 and, while there have been some minor changes over the years, the essence of the show remains the same - to hold a mirror to Donegal and the North West.

A good magazine programme follows the agenda of the day, and the Shaun Doherty Show does that with consummate ease. However, a truly great show doesn't just follow the agenda, it sets it, and that's where the show comes into its own. With producers Caroline Orr and Emma McGrath at the helm, Shaun goes behind the headlines and peels back the layers of life in the region. Stories unfold daily; stories of triumph and tragedy, alienation and achievement, revealing the best and worst in the region.

Get involved by tuning into www.highlandradio.com from 10.00-13.00 GMT or contact the show by email at shaundoherty@highlandradio.com

Letterkenny Reunion visits San Francisco

The progressive committee of the Letterkenny Reunion organised successful trips in the past to New York, Philadelphia and London and decided in October 2008 to travel to San Francisco. A grand total of one hundred and twelve enthusiasts participated on the trip, a number that surpassed all expectations. The Letterkenny Reunion would like to express their thanks to all the people who took time out to support the Reunion and for making it a memorable occasion with fantastic memories which will stay with them in the years ahead. For further information, please visit www.letterkennyreunion.com

Emirates Stadium Hosts the Annual Banquet of Donegal Association, London

On Saturday 22nd November 2008, the Donegal Association London held their Annual Dinner Dance in the illustrious Emirates Stadium, London, home of the famous Arsenal Football Club. 500 people from the Donegal 'Diaspora' in London attended this annual event. The success of the night was due to the hard work, commitment and dedication of the committee headed by the Chairperson Tony Mc Fadden (Falcarragh), Secretary Clodagh van den Hout (Ards) and Assistant Secretary Anne Marie Ní Dhomhnaill Newby (Annagry). For further information, please contact Tony McFadden, Chairperson of the Donegal Association, London - info@tonymcfadden.co.uk



Pictured at the event are Tony McFadden, Chairperson of the Donegal Association, London, Clodagh van den Hout, Secretary of the Donegal Association, London, Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill, Secretary of the Donegal Association, Dublin and Dinny McGinley TD





Anthony Doogan, Chairperson IRDL, Alan Doiron, Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, Andrew Ward, Manager IRDL, His Excellency Mark Moher, Canadian Ambassador, Prof. John Hume, Nobel Laureate and Jean Moher, Ambassador's wife

Irish Roots in New Brunswick

The Province of New Brunswick has strong links with Ireland. 38% of its population have Irish roots and of these 42% left from West Ulster. Inishowen Development Partnership has developed strong links with the Province, which is the only bi-lingual state in Canada (English and French).

Through the work of Denis Noel, Archivist in the National Archives of Fredericton, the Provincial Capital, an exhibition was hosted in the Maritime Museum in Greencastle in 2006 entitled "Irish Immigration and Settlement in New Brunswick 1815-1855 and "In the Wake of the Dark Passage".

Building on the growing relationship, a delegation from IRDL visited New Brunswick as part of a group which included Nobel Laureate John Hume and Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, together with representatives from Derry City Council.

The tree for the New Public Art Sculpture in Merville has been felled in New Brunswick. This sculpture will further highlight our joined historical journey.

The Irish Cultural Centre of New England

In 1989 a group of Irish-Americans announced plans to create an Irish Cultural Centre in greater Boston. They described it as a place "where present and future generations can participate in activities that promote Irish Cultural, education, sporting and social events".



Today that dream is a reality with a 46-acre site located in Canton, MA only 30 minutes from Boston. For the last 20 years the Irish Cultural Centre has grown to be the largest Irish Cultural organization in New England. As well as promoting various aspects of Irish Culture, it is also the site of New England's largest Irish festival and home of the Northeast Gaelic Athletic Associations.

The centre invites and encourages anyone visiting from Donegal to drop by for a visit. As the home of the Northeast Gaelic Athletic Association, the Centre will be hosting the North American GAA championships the first weekend in September which will also coincide with the 50th anniversary of the GAA North American Board. A complete schedule of activities can be found on their website www.irishculture.org.

Merville Emigration Monument

The best vantage points for seeing Merville's historic Old Stone Pier are from upon the River Foyle itself, and looking down towards it from the village's shore green. The old pier is an emblem of Merville's rich maritime heritage - the Anchor Line ticket Office for the emigration boats was there, and the pier itself is one of the last complete Congested Districts Piers extant in Donegal, dating from the 1880's - 1890's.



The location will, from next summer, feature the striking addition of the Merville Emigration Monument, a new sculpture by Locky Morris. This commission from the Donegal County Council Public Art Office follows on from the artist's commission for Pole Star, his large sculpture which has become an iconic feature of Letterkenny.

The launch of the sculpture in Summer 2009 will be one of several events bringing together New Brunswick and Donegal, making both business and cultural links, with Donegal County Council Cultural Services presenting the sculpture The Fid, a booklet on heritage and a plaque at the pier itself to mark the Lough Foyle connection with emigration to North America.

For more information, see the website of Donegal County Council Public Art Office, www.donegalpublicart.ie

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

Maria Ferguson
Email: diaspora@donegalcoco.ie or
maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie
Tel: +353 (0) 74 9724466

If you have contact details or know of any other Donegal Associations, or interest groups worldwide, please forward the information to diaspora@donegalcoco.ie.



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL