

Welcome Fáilte

We, as Donegal people, have a lot to be proud of. Not alone is it one of the most beautiful places on this earth, not alone are its people welcoming, decent and friendly, but our biggest asset is our rich culture... the language, the stories, the music and songs.



I am extremely proud to be from Co. Donegal. With the band Altan, I play traditional Irish music on stages from New York to Tokyo and it is on those occasions that I am aware of the rich heritage from which I was fortunate enough to be born into. The audience for traditional Irish music is out there on a world scale!

We, as Donegal people, have a lot to be proud of. Not alone is it one of the most beautiful places on this earth, not alone are its people welcoming, decent and friendly, but our biggest asset is our rich culture... the language, the stories, the music and songs.

Now in times of economic challenges, we as Donegal people, have to reassess what we can bring to the world that is unique and different. The answer, I personally feel, lies in promoting the natural resources, the beautiful landscape and our rich culture worldwide in order to attract more visitors to our county to experience it first hand.

Let's celebrate our County!

Sé bhur mbeatha... Tá mise lonnaithe arais I nDún na nGall anois le breis agus ceithre bliana. Leis an fhírinne a rá, is é an bogadh is fearr a rinne mé ariamh!

Bhí cupla cúis agam pilleadh... bhí girseach bheag agam agus bhí mé ag iarraidh í a thógáil i lár na Gaeltachta i measc mó mhuintir féin.

Is ea an cúis eile nó go raibh sláinte m'athair, Francie Mooney ag dul i léig agus bhí mé ag iarraidh níos mó ama a chaitheamh leis gur chaill muid é trí bliana ó shin. Tá me sásta go dtearn mé an bogadh sin anois agus am a chaitheamh ina chuideachta!

Bheireann mo chuid oibre, ag seinim ceoil le Altan, ar fud na Cruinne mé agus is mór an bród atá orm as mó chúilra nuair a sheasaim ar stáitsí ó Nua Eabhrach go Tokyo ag seinim ceoil mo chondae dúchais.

Tá cuid mhór againn le bheith mórtasach as i nDún na nGall anseo. Chan amháin gur seo ceann dena áiteanna is deise ar an domhan, agus chan amháin go bhfuil na daoine fiúntach, lách, cairdiúil, ach tá cultúr laidir anseo a bhfuil suim mhór ag daoine ann ar fud na Cruinne.

Anois in aimsear an dímhaoin agus an ghéarchéim ecnamaíochta, bá chóir dúinn díriú ar caide a thig linne tabhairt chuig an tsaol, a easpórtál chuig daoine nach bhfuil le fáil acu áit ar bith eile, agus sílim gur ár gcultúr an freagair... cultúr shaibhir Dhún na nGall...an teanga, na scéalta, an cheol, an taobh tíre... ár ndúchas. Ár n'achmháiní nadúrtha

Thiocfadh linn níos mó beime a chuir ar an tsaibhreas speisialta seo atá againn nuair a bhíonn muid ag iarraidh Dún na nGall chuir ós comhair an Domhan mór mar áit

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le theacht chun laetha saoire a chaitheamh ann. Tá a fhios againn uilig nach dtig linn bráth ar an aimsear le daoine a mhealladh chun na condae, mar sin bá chóir dúinn díriú ar caide nach dtig leo ach fáil in nDún na nGall... ár ndúchas, ár gcultúr!!!

Sílim go bhfuil deireadh le ré na monarcáin mhóra agus agus na holltáirgíochta thart.

Ta daoine ag díriú ar chaighdeán mhaireachtála fiúntach a thabhairt dona gcuid teaghlaigh. Fiúintas...sin an dóigh le margaíocht a dheanamh ar Dhún na nGall agus cuairteoirí a mhealladh chugainn!

Tá ónair orm gur as an chondae seo mé, ta ónair orm go bhfuil oiread againne le tabhairt don saol mór ó thaobh ar gcultúr fiúntach seo de!

Ceiléiríodh muid ár gcondae, ceiléiríodh muid ár ndaoine Ceilíreíodh muid ár bhfiúntas!!!

Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh

Welcome Fáilte

This is the third 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 triú eagrán de Dún na nGall - Pobal i dTeagbhail. Ghlac pobal an chontae sa bhaile agus í gcéin go maith leis an eagrán eile. Leanfadh muid orainn ag forbairt agus foilsiú an e-iris seo mar uirlis chun teagbhail 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

St Patrick's Day is a special day for all Irish people at home and abroad. It is a time when the thoughts of people who are living away from home turn to their

home place and when those at home think of relations and friends living and working away from home. I am glad of this opportunity as Mayor of County Donegal to send greetings to all Donegal people and those with connection to, or interest in Donegal, wherever you may be living. For those who are living in other parts of Ireland and abroad, we hope that you will continue to maintain your contact with and support for the county over the coming year and we hope that you have an opportunity to visit the county in the not too distant future.

Tá áthas orm ar an lá speisialta seo, Lá Fhéile Phádraig, beannachtaí a chuir chuig muintir Dhún na nGall agus a gcairde pé áit a bhfuil cónaí orthu san bhaile nó i gcéin. Is am speisialta den bhliain atá anseo do gach Éireannach agus is am é go mbíonn daoine ag smaoinéamh ar an bhaile. Tá muid buíoch as ucht bhuir gcuid suim agus bhuir dtacaíocht agus go mbeidh deis agaibh cuairt a thabhairt ar an tír gan mhoill. Lá Fhéile Phádraig shona dhíobh go léir!

Cllr. Gerry Crawford
Mèara, Donegal County Council

International Soccer



Aidan McGeady

Shay Given has completed a €10mn transfer from Newcastle United to Manchester City. Given is widely acknowledged as the top goalkeeper in the English Premiership and was a star performer in Ireland's recent 2-1 win over Georgia in the World Cup Qualifier held in Croke Park. Man of the Match on that occasion was another Donegal man, Aidan McGeady of Glasgow Celtic. McGeady's second half display was the key factor in Ireland's win. In other soccer news, Seamus Coleman from Killybegs has just been signed by Premiership Club Everton from Sligo Rovers.

Donegal claim Mc Kenna Cup

Former All-Ireland winner of 1992, and 1993 All-star John Joe Doherty got his inter county managerial career off to a winning start when his Donegal side claimed a first Dr Mc Kenna Cup in January. John Joe also has former team mates Tommy Ryan and Tony Boyle as mentors while Michael Mc Geehan has been drafted in as trainer.

Donegal defeated Queen's University Belfast after extra time by 2-12 to 0-11 in a hard fought encounter in Omagh. Extra time goals by David Walsh (Naomh Brid) and Ryan Bradley (Buncrana) saw Donegal claim a first Mc Kenna Cup win since 1991.

Apart from winning the competition, John Joe will be happy with the performances of some of the younger players used in the campaign, notably, Stephen Griffin (Naomh Naille), Charles Byrne (Malainn) and returning players to the fold Brendan Boyle (Ard an Ratha) and Michael Doherty (Na gCeithre Maistri). Donegal face a tough campaign in Division 1 this year ahead of a first round Ulster Championship clash with Antrim.

County Donegal aims to benefit from 2012 London Games

County Donegal is ideally suited to benefit from the advent of the London Olympic Games in 2012. As part of the ongoing efforts to promote Donegal as a premier sporting destination, a Donegal Olympic Response Team has been set up within the Community & Enterprise Division of Donegal County Council and this will provide a first point of contact for enquiries for prospective teams. In addition to this, the Council will be working closely with Donegal Sports Partnership and the Counties two Olympic and Paralympics Coaches in co-ordinating familiarization visits to the County.

Donegal County Council have produced a promotional brochure to profile Donegal's appeal in terms of accommodation, access, transport, culture training facilities, medical supports and broadband-telecommunication services. The brochure will be used as Donegal's calling card to over 400 National Olympic, National Paralympic Committees, and International Sports Federations throughout the world. For further information on the Donegal Olympic Response Team, contact Michelle McGill tel: +353 (0) 74 9172531.



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Butt Hall Centre/Balor Arts Centre Wins 2009 Lama Best Arts Building Award

The Butt Hall Centre incorporating the Balor Arts Centre located in Ballybofey, has been announced as the winner of Best Arts Building at the prestigious LAMA (Local Authority Management Association) awards sponsored by Zurich.

Receiving the award on behalf of The Butt Hall Committee were Chairman Dessie Griffin and chief project architect Brian McElhinney of Carr & Co. Architects. Nominated by Donegal County Council at the behest of local councillors Alice Bonner and Patrick Mc Gowan, The Butt Hall Centre faced stiff competition in the Best Arts Building category with finalists including The Wexford Opera House, Solstice Arts Centre, Co. Meath and CIT Cork City School of Music. The building was officially opened in July 2008 by An Tanaiste Mary Coughlan. It houses The Balor Arts Centre which, under the management of The Butt Drama Circle, hosts over 100 top quality theatre, music and comedy events per year as well as providing invaluable educational and community arts services through the Balor Developmental Community Arts Group.

For further information on the Balor Arts Centre please visit www.balorartscentre.com



Balor Arts Centre building

Dr. Joe Mulholland, Donegal person of the year 2008



Joe Mulholland (Donegal Person of the Year), Charlie Mc Ginley & Fr. Michael McCulloch (Donegal Association)

The Donegal Person of the Year for 2008, Dr. Joe Mulholland, was announced on 20th January at a function in the Regency Hotel in Dublin. Joe is a native of Stranorlar and went on scholarship to the Finn College in Ballybofey. He trained as a teacher in Manchester and later studied at the University of London and the University of Nancy in France where he received a Doctorate specialising in English and French Medieval Literature. Joe Mulholland came back to work in RTE in 1970 and started the first TV current affairs programme - Today Tonight. He filled many roles in RTE including Director of news and Managing Director of Television. Joe has won several awards for producing documentaries including Lost At Sea on the sinking of the trawler, the Carraig Una off the Donegal coast. Dr. Mulholland retained a strong affiliation to his native Donegal and in 1980 along with a local committee founded the Patrick McGill Summer School in Glenties. Joe Mulholland is a renowned broadcaster and journalist in the international arena. He has been a contributor to the French newspaper, Le Monde, for over twenty years. In 2000 he was appointed Chairman of the Editorial Council of Radio Television Kosovo (RTK).

For more information please visit www.donegalassociation.ie



Donegal County Development Board
 Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
 DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

From Leaders to Exiles – The Flight of the Earls Exhibition on Tour



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.

This exhibition has subsequently toured to a number of venues in Northern Ireland and has recently been on display in the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh and the Irish Linen Centre in Lisburn. An exhibition booklet and activity trail for children accompanied the exhibition and replica objects and costumes were also on display. Over 40,000 people visited the Ulster American Folk Park during the exhibition including a visit from Gregory Campbell MP, MLA Minister for the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure while 1,400 people visited the exhibition in the Irish Linen Centre.

Donegal County Council working in partnership with N.Ireland and Scotland on a range of initiatives

Donegal County Council has been advancing a range of collaborative partnerships with the North East Councils in Northern Ireland and the Highlands and Solway Councils in Scotland. A number of exciting projects are planned in the areas of Renewables, Tourism and Environmental protection for the offshore islands and Tourism Product development and Marketing. The outcome of this work will see Donegal at the forefront of wave and tidal energy research into how the County can best exploit its natural coastline. Iconic tourism attractions in the county and the further enhancement of touring routes with improved interpretative signage are also on the agenda for development. The Sustainable Islands Tourism Development Initiative will see a range of interventions put in place on offshore islands in Donegal, Antrim and the Scottish Highlands to support the development of tourism as an economic driver on the offshore islands.

For further information please contact Barney Mc Laughlin (barney.mclaughlin@donegalcoco.ie) or Charles Sweeney (charles.sweeney@donegalcoco.ie) at the Community & Enterprise Unit, Donegal County Council.

World Rally comes to Donegal Town



Sebastien Loeb negotiated the final 1.5km Donegal Town stage without a hitch to take victory on the 2009 Rally Ireland. The Frenchman dominated Rally Ireland 2009 throughout and gave himself the best possible start to the defence of his WRC title. Top Irishmen home were Eamonn Boland in ninth, Aaron MacHale in eleventh, Tim McNulty twelfth, and after an earlier major mishap, Shaun Gallagher has won Group N by coming home in thirteenth position. The result was Loeb's 48th career win and his second on the Irish round of the World Rally Championship, which he last won in 2007. The event was a huge success with over 270,000 spectators across the stages. For further information please visit www.rallyireland.org



A Short But Sweet History

"A Short but Sweet History" exhibition is currently on display until the end of March 2009 in the Donegal County Museum. The McKinney family founded the iconic Oatfield Sweet Factory.

William Mc Kinney had a great interest in confectionery and even imported unusual confectionery from the U.S. On the 15th August 1927 the first batch of pineapple drops came off the then production line - made in a copper pot on the open coke fire in a shed at the back of the shop.

The business grew rapidly and within 3 years a site for a factory was purchased in November 1929. Production began in August 1930 at the height of the Great Depression with 6 employees. Oatfield sweets are currently exported world-wide to over 80 countries such as the U.S.A., Canada, Iceland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Kuwait, Bahrain, Cyprus, Greece, Sweden, France, Holland, Germany, Denmark and Norway and Tahiti. Today, the factory employs 52 people and produces up to 35 tonnes of sugar and chocolate confectionery each week.

For further information, contact Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. tel. 074 9124613 email: museum@donegalcoco.ie

Oatfield a Short but Sweet History



County Manager appointed to Board of Directors of Enterprise Ireland



Mr. Michael McLoone

Donegal County Manager Michael McLoone has been appointed to the Board of Enterprise Ireland, the state agency with responsibility for the development and promotion of the indigenous business sector.

Mr. Michael Mc Loone has been Donegal County Manager since 1994 having previously spent 6 years as Chief Executive of Beaumont Hospital Dublin. He has served in various posts in the Health and Local Government Service since 1966. In 1998 he was appointed as chair of the Donegal Employment Task Force set up by the then Tanaiste in response to major job losses in Fruit of the Loom in the county. Mr. Mc Loone was selected on the Donegal Team of the millennium and in 1984 he was selected on the Donegal Centenary Team.

Interreg IVA Diaspora Project

Following on from the very successful Ireland North West Diaspora Project which concluded in mid 2008, Donegal County Council in conjunction with cross border partners prepared and submitted a proposal for a further programme of Diaspora related activities. The submission to a value approaching €1 million has been approved in principle for funding and it is envisaged that the project will be rolled out from the Autumn of 2009. Provisionally scheduled as a three year programme of activity the project will aim to build on existing relationships developed in the initial Diaspora phase and furthermore aim to expand the reach of the Diaspora Programme to areas not previously targeted.

Expressions of interests are sought from individuals, organisations or groups who would have an interest in engaging with this project during its next phase and as such any queries in relation to this should be forwarded to Garry Martin, Community and Enterprise, Donegal County Council, Station Island, Lifford. Tel: 074 9172531. Email: gmartin@donegalcoco.ie





Presentation to Fr. John Kealy, Grand Marshall

The First Brussels St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshall to carry Rathmullan Staff

The Grand Marshall of the first ever Brussels St. Patrick's Day Parade, Fr. John Kealy, the last Franciscan of the Irish College of Louvain, visited Rathmullan on Friday last to witness the cutting of the B_ Staff which he will use to lead the parade on the 15th March.

This year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in Brussels is being organised as part of Louvain 400, the Belgian celebration of Shared Histories which also commemorates the Flight of the Earls in 1607 and the death in 1657 of the eminent Irish Franciscan Luke Wadding, founder of St. Isidore's College in Rome. The freshly cut Staff was presented to Fr. Kealy by the Mayor of County Donegal, Cllr. Gerry Crawford, accompanied by members of the Rathmullan Historical Society, Members of the Milford Electoral Area of Donegal County Council and Deputy Joe McHugh.

For further information contact Community and Enterprise, Donegal County Council tel: 074 9172531 or visit www.donegalcddb.ie

Donegal Company the leading manufacturer and supplier of specialised personal protective clothing in Ireland

Sioen Ireland, based in Gweedore Business Park, Derrybeg, County Donegal, is the leading manufacturer in Ireland of personal protective clothing and safety products including ballistic body armour, stab vests, inflatable lifejackets and safety waders. Sioen Ireland has successfully secured repeat Irish Government contracts for the supply of a new Operational Uniform to An Garda Síochána from 2009 and The Irish Prison Service Personal Protective Clothing. These are significant awards and are a huge testament to the quality of the styles supplied and the skills of the Sioen workforce. The new styles include high visibility waterproof clothing, patrol jacket, fleece and overtrousers. Sioen Ireland also manufactures the waterproof protective clothing for the Garda Motor Bike and Mountain Bike Units, Irish Coast Guard, Eircom, An Post and Local Authorities including, Donegal, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford, Galway and many others. Sales Manager Mr. Adrian Towey said: "We are delighted that the Government Supplies Agency at the OPW and Emergency Services Authorities selected Sioen Ireland as their preferred manufacturer for the supply of major Public Sector contracts. We have worked very closely with the Authorities on previous contracts and special product developments. It is important that our base in Donegal and our skilled workers can readily adapt to the changes in styles and meet strict delivery deadlines. We have added to our employment here in Donegal, which is also a very important factor at this time". Other contracts for supply of specialist PPE garment products for Fire & Rescue Personnel including high visibility, life jackets and fire protection are an important element of our supply network.

Sioen Ireland is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sioen Industries Belgium. In the age of global manufacturing, the Donegal factory works in close collaboration with other Sioen sites in the shared production and expertise required to deliver on big contracts. Across Ireland and Europe protective clothing by Sioen is worn by personnel in emergency services police, transport, mining, agriculture, marine, forestry, food industry and many major utilities, corporate and state authorities. For further information, please contact Mr. Adrian Towey, Sioen Ireland, Gweedore Business Park, 07495 31169.



Focus on - North West Aluminium Slate Trim (Irl) Ltd

Based in Kilmacrenan, Co. Donegal, North West Aluminium Slate Trim (Irl) Ltd. manufactures and produces aluminium and PVC roofline products for the construction sector. The company has invented, tested and brought to the market a range of products that have dramatically improved the lifetime of a roof. These innovative products, which are sold under the Kytun brand, permanently secure roof tiles and slates on gable ends, eliminating the possibility of lifting by high winds, and prevent rainwater causing damage to the roof underlay.

The roofer completes a job in less time, the product gives a neat finish and the householder is spared the prospect of paying for roof repairs. Holding the Patents and Copyrights, the company produces top quality products at a competitive price. As a result the company dominates the market within Ireland - North and South and has recently expanded into the U.K. market.

The business was founded over 20 years ago when Cathal Gallagher returned to Ireland from Canada to set up a business to supply and fit rainwater management systems. Having worked with roofing contractors he identified a weakness in the traditional methods used to secure roof tiles on the outer edges of a roof. Following a period of product development he developed an innovative method using aluminium trims to secure roof tiles on the outer edges of a roof. Since then the company has developed a complimentary range of ridge tile and valley products. North West Aluminium Slate Trim (Irl) Ltd. won Donegal County Enterprise Board's Business of the Year in 2008 and went on to be runner up in the National Enterprise Awards. The business now employs 12 people in a new state of the art facility in Kilmacrennan and had sales in excess of €3m in 2008.

For further information please visit www.nwaluminium.com and www.kytun.com or contact Daniel Gallagher Telephone: +353 74 9139500 E-mail: info@nwaluminium.com



County Development Board establishes expanded Economic Development Forum

To assist in the ongoing challenges facing Donegal with regard to employment creation the Economic Development Forum of the County Development Board has recently been expanded to include representatives from the Chambers of Commerce, the Tourism Sector, IBEC, ISME and the Western Development Commission with the objective of bringing as many of the key people and organisations together with a remit in economic development supports to assist in this area.

Target areas for development are likely to be in the food and fishing sector, the engineering and software sectors on the back of Project Kelvin and the tourism sector in the context of Culture, language and heritage.

It is intended that a specific economic action plan will be prepared and agreed within the next number of weeks to expedite this process and to assist in working collectively towards maximising employment opportunities in the County across as many sectors as possible.

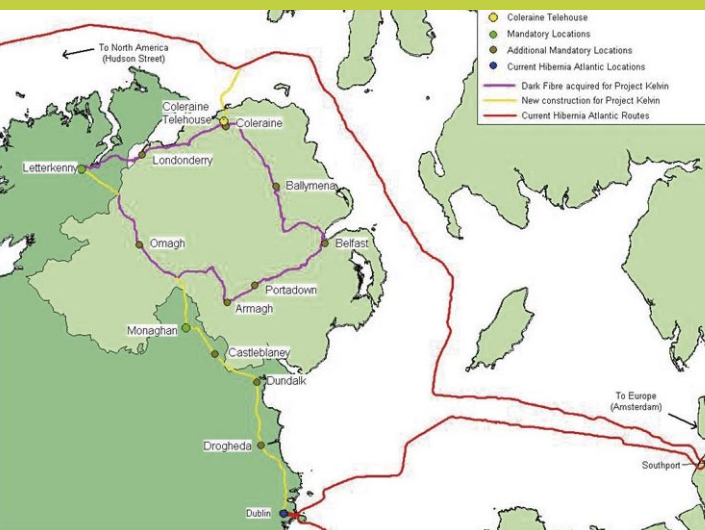
For further information please contact Garry Martin, Community and Enterprise, Donegal County Council, Station Island, Lifford. Tel: 074 9172531. Email: gmartin@donegalcoco.ie

Recent Publications

A special issue of Forbairt the Donegal CDB Newsletter has just been produced to focus on the wide range of activities undertaken in the county to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls. This newsletter is available through the Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate, Lifford and on www.donegalcdb.ie. Copies of the limited edition Flight of the Earls Commemorative Posters are also still available.

Tá eagrán speisialta de nuachtlitir an BFC, Forbairt díreach eisithe chun diriú ar Comoradh Imeacht na nIarlaí a reachtáileadh i 2007. Is feidir seo á fháil ón rannóg Pobail, Cultúr agus Fiontar, Leifear nó www.donegalcdb.ie. Tá coipeanna de postéir Cuimhreacháin Imeacht na nIarlaí fós ar fáil.





International Telecommunications Links - Project Kelvin

A project establishing direct international telecommunications links from North America to the North West of Ireland, entitled Project Kelvin is currently at an advanced stage of development.

A specific access cable connection to access existing Trans-Atlantic broadband connectivity will see substantially increased competition in the telecoms market for Northern Ireland and the Border Areas including Donegal. This will reduce the cost of international telecoms to the end user, increase resilience and reduce latency with North America and Europe.

It is envisaged that a new submarine cable and the associated terrestrial cable network will be complete and operational no later than Autumn 2009. The contract has been awarded to Hibernia Atlantic who will have responsibility for establishing and commissioning this open access network. A key advantage of the broadband product is that it will be comparable to the price for the same product in areas for example in Dublin, Manchester, or Glasgow with a commitment that the pricing mechanism will remain constant until 2018.

This project will see substantial development opportunities available for businesses establishing, locating or relocating to areas such as Donegal and with a need for access to affordable high capacity broadband facilities.

For further details contact Garry Martin, Community and Enterprise, Donegal County Council, Station Island, Lifford.
Tel: 074 9172531. Email: gmartin@donegalcoco.ie

IDA Ireland and Invest NI launch NorthWestNow promotional programme

IDA Ireland and Invest Northern Ireland have launched the NorthWestNow promotional programme aimed at enhancing the promotion of the North West Business Technology Zone (NWB TZ) and the wider North West Region. The NorthWestNow promotional programme was launched by Denis Molumby, Executive Director, Corporate and Business Development, IDA Ireland and Graham Davis, Invest NI's Director of Regional Economic Development, at an event hosted in Derry.

The promotional programme includes a new website www.northwestnow.eu and brochure which will be distributed worldwide through the IDA Ireland and Invest NI networks. The NWB TZ project has created a focused partnership between central and local government, business and academia known as the Wider Stakeholders Committee.

Mr Davis said: "The NWB TZ, substantially funded by the EU Interreg programme, is an extremely significant cross border initiative on which Invest NI and IDA Ireland have been working in active and real partnership since 2003. It has resulted in an ideal infrastructure especially for technology-led business investment.

For further information please visit www.northwestnow.eu



Focus on - Renewable Energy

Donegal County Council, through the County Development Board, is keen to steer County Donegal towards sustainable energy development by harnessing the wealth of natural resources available in the region. The development of clean, green energy offers a solution to the growing issues of fuel security, rising fuel costs, climate change and at the same time is a means of job creation and economic stimulation in the county. In this regard the County Development Board is actively progressing ocean energy development.

Promoting renewables across all sectors is a priority action for the Council and a number of information days have been facilitated, including a micro-hydro technology and a community wind farm information day. Renewable energy will continue to be promoted and a business sector energy awareness programme will be rolled out to local businesses over the coming months.

Donegal County Council is keen to 'lead by example' and is currently undertaking a pilot project which will demonstrate how street lighting can be powered by renewable energy. These include installing solar lights, hybrid lights (solar & wind combined) and hydro powered street lighting, along with converting some existing lights to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs), a form of low energy lighting which saves between 50% - 70% on energy consumption.

For Further information please contact Barney Mc Laughlin (barney.mclaughlin@donegalcoco.ie) at the Community & Enterprise Unit, Donegal County Council.



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 County Donegal VEC - Adult Education Service

County Donegal VEC's Adult Education Service (AES) continues to provide a wide range of programmes for adult learners in the county through its VTOS, Youthreach, Learning for Living, Back to Education, Self-Financing and Community Education Support programmes. In excess of 7500 adults took part in VEC adult courses in 2008 and a further 4321 people benefited from courses supported by the AES and delivered by community groups. Courses are provided in the AES's six Adult Education and Training Centres across the county and in approximately 40 community based locations, at times to suit participants. Key supports to learners are in the form of Adult Educational Guidance, childcare and transport costs. 2008 saw the completion of a €1million Crèche facility at Gortahork Adult Education & Training Centre which was a partnership project undertaken with local community groups and other statutory agencies. Adult students are offered the opportunity to avail of certification where possible and accreditation is awarded by FETAC. The AES is constantly monitoring the type and range of courses offered to the public: a significant area of development in 2008 was in the provision of family learning courses and workplace-located communications courses; other new courses included Intensive Tuition in Adult Basic Education (ITABE); expanded BTEI provision and SkillVEC. Many of the AES's courses are provided either free of charge or at a low cost to participants.

Partnership is an important component of providing an Adult Education Service in a county like Donegal. There is a realisation that to work in partnership is much more beneficial to the adult learner. There are continual liaisons with other local education providers and support agencies to improve the quality of provision. This is particularly relevant in providing an Adult Learner Guidance Service and there is active partnership between the VEC, Udáras na Gaeltachta and the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Other key partnerships include Tuath (CDB/LYIT), the County Childcare Committee, the County Development Board, Mevagha Men's Educational Equality Initiative, FÁS High Support Programme and the Health Promotion Unit (HSE).

The Adult Learner Guidance Fair is an annual event organised by the AES which helps to promote learning opportunities for adults in the county and elsewhere. This year it attracted over 800 adults and in excess of 30 providers and support services from across the country.

For more information on County Donegal VEC's Adult Education Service, contact www.donegalvec.ie

Workforce Development Forum Update

In 2007, the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland through its Skills Expert Group established six Workforce Development Fora across Northern Ireland to improve collaboration between Industry and Commerce and the Post-Primary Education and Training Sectors. Uniquely in the North West both Governments agreed that the greater North West Region should be treated as a single unit for Workforce Development purposes.

The North West Workforce Development Forum therefore draws its membership from North & South of the Border including representatives of Private Sector Employers, Dept for Employment and Learning, Invest NI, FAS, IDA, Ilex, LYIT (Letterkenny Institute of Technology), North West Regional College, UU, Local Authorities and Chambers of Commerce.

The overall objective is to deepen links between the Private Sector and the Education and Training Sector, with the intention of enabling the Private Sector to better articulate current and future skills demand and better enabling the Education and Training Sector to meet that demand. The two principal areas of work of the Forum are therefore matching local demand and supply of skills on an ongoing basis and identifying emerging skills in the Region.

For further information please contact John Andy Bonar, Head of Development, LYIT at email: johnandy.bonar@lyit.ie

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





Celtic Cross receives International recognition

Brendan Mc Gloin has been working and carving stone for the past 16 years. A self taught sculptor, Mc Gloin has had to follow his own apprenticeship through trial and error, which has given him a very good schooling and led him around the world on jobs and training courses. Mc Gloin has always had a fascination with the medium of stone and has produced several well know and iconic sculptures throughout County Donegal and further a field.

On December 13th 2008 in Portland Oregon, USA, President Mary Mc Aleese unveiled a 14ft sandstone reproduction of one of Irelands most significant High Crosses, the Clonmacnoise Cross of the Scriptures in County Offaly. The seven

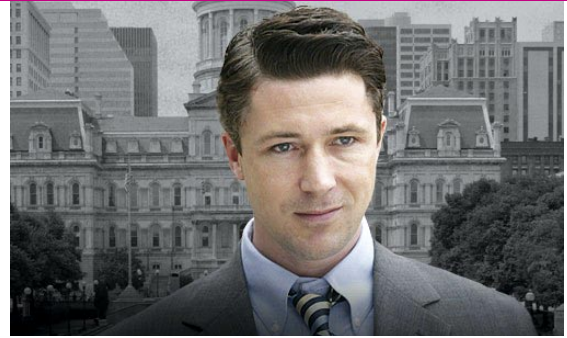
tonne cross made in three sections now rests in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Portland City. It was commissioned by Portland's Irish Community and the Ancient Order of Hibernia there. For more information, please visit www.brendanmcgloin.ie



Brendan McGloin and President Mary McAleese

Iconic British company Hammer Films elect Donegal to shoot its first new cinematic horror movie in over 30 years

THE WAKE WOOD directed by David Keating (The Last of the High Kings) stars Aidan Gillen (The Wire), Eva Birthistle (Middletown) and Timothy Spall (Harry Potter series, Sweeney Todd). Co-produced by Fantastic Films, legendary horror company



Aidan Gillen

Hammer Films (Dracula, Frankenstein) and Solid Entertainment (Frostbite) in Sweden with funding from Bord Scannan na hÉireann/ the Irish Film Board (IFB), THE WAKE WOOD is the second major film to be shot in Donegal in the past year with support from Donegal Film Office and the Irish Film Board.

Aidan Gillen one of an ensemble cast that have contributed to making The Wire the most lauded show on TV, has been chasing cows around a muddy paddock in Pettigo in County Donegal. Gillen plays Patrick, a Dublin vet trying to hold his marriage to wife Louise (Birthistle) together in the face of overwhelming grief at the death of their nine-year old daughter. The couple move to the town of **Wake Wood**, and this being a supernatural horror, you can bet that things are going to get more than a little weird and be covered with more than a little blood. The story for The Wake Wood was created by Brendan McCarthy, who co-wrote the screenplay with director David Keating. Hammer hopes to release the movie next autumn. Further information contact Donegal Film Office Donegal County Council, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal. 074 9373718 aiden.doherty@donegalcoco.ie

Derek Hill Collection at Cultural Centre

Donegal County Council's Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny is delighted to host Art Of Desire, The Derek Hill Collection from February 10th to April 4th 2009. The exhibition provides an opportunity to see a sizeable selection of this wonderful collection shown together in the Cultural Centre's magnificent main gallery. It marks the continuation of the close partnership between the Cultural Centre/ County Council and the Glebe Gallery / Office of Public Works that produces the annual Earagail Arts Festival exhibition programme.

When the late Derek Hill (1916-2000) presented his home to the Irish Nation in 1981, it came with an extensive art collection. Now opened to the public as The Glebe House and Gallery Churchill, the collection holds works by leading 20th Century artists such as Picasso and Braque, but its real brilliance lies in its connections between people and places - between Derek Hill and his exploration of the world around him. The Cultural Centre Art Of Desire exhibition takes up many of these strands, to draw out relationships between the Tory and Italy, and between Ireland and Japan. It includes many of the best pictures in Derek's collection from Irish artists such as Camille Souter and Jack Yeats to International greats like Giorgio Morandi, Kokushka and Katsushika Hokusai. For further information please visit

www.donegalculture.com



Launch of 'Guide to Tracing your Donegal Ancestors'

The Central Library in Letterkenny was delighted to welcome the large audience who recently attended the launch, by Eileen Burgess, County Librarian, of a new 'Guide to Tracing your Donegal Ancestors' by Helen Meehan & Godfrey Duffy on Thursday, the 20th of November. Speakers at the launch included the author, Helen Meehan, Jim Ryan from Flyleaf Press (the publisher), Sean Beattie, local author and historian, and Paul Hannigan, President of Letterkenny Institute of Technology.



Author and Family

Written by Helen Meehan and Godfrey Duffy, the book sets out the records that are available for research on Donegal families; describes how best to use them; and where they can be accessed. It is also illustrated with examples of the records available and fully indexed. It is a comprehensive guide to the genealogy records of the county.



Donegal County Council Organise Major International Exhibition

Donegal County Council's Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny and Office of Public Work's Glebe Gallery in Churchill organised

a major retrospective exhibition and international tour of the work of the world famous French / Hungarian artist Victor Vasarely in 2008. Vasarely (1906-1997) is internationally recognised as one of the giants of 20th century art and is the acknowledged leader of the Op Art movement.

The exhibition and tour was selected and organised by John Cunningham from the Cultural Centre and Adrian Kelly from Glebe in association with Pierre Vasarely (Vasarely's grandson) and Josef Sarkany from the Vasarely Museum in Pécs, Hungary. A comprehensive catalogue published by Donegal County Council

and the OPW in four languages - Irish, English, French and Hungarian, accompanied the exhibition. The exhibition then toured to Fondation Vasarely, Aix-en-Provence, France (September 19th - October 30th), Hungarian Institute, Paris, France (November 12th - 29th) and The Vasarely Museum, Pécs, Hungary (December 12th - January 31st). The exhibitions in France and Hungary have been very successful and have attracted wide scale media attention.

Donegal Interpretative Panels Project



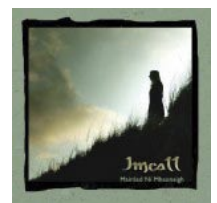
Donegal County Council in conjunction with Udaras Na Gaeltachta developed an Integrated Interpretative Signage Project in the following locations across county Donegal:

- » Malin Head - Ireland's Most Northerly Point
- » Fanad Head
- » Bloody Foreland and Gaoth Dobhair
- » South West Donegal - Kilcar, Glencolumbkille, Carrick and Teelin.

The aim of the project is to enhance visitor management at key scenic tourist points leading to an improved experience for local communities and visitors alike. The project was complete in December 2008, with the installation of 19 Interpretative Panels across the given locations. For further information please contact Kevin O'Connor, Donegal County Council by email: kevin.oconnor@donegalcoco.ie or telephone: +353 (0) 87 2589723.

Imeall

Ireland's most influential and inspiring figures from the world of traditional music and culture celebrated the launch of Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh's first solo album, Imeall, in Dublin. The internationally renowned Gweedore singer songwriter, fiddle-player and co-founder of traditional legends Altan attracted musicians, actors and performers representing the world stage and screen for the launch of her first solo work. 'Imeall', is available now to buy. The limited edition collection features stunning traditional songs in Gaelic and in English and three songs written by Mairéad herself. For more information please visit www.mairead.ie





Barry R McCain

The Ulster Heritage DNA Project

The goals of the Ulster Heritage DNA Project are to study the surnames, families, clans, of the people of Ulster and their descendants throughout the Diaspora and to allow Ulster descendants in the Diaspora to locate their kin still in Ulster and to reconnect with them. The Ulster DNA Project uses Y chromosome tests to accomplish these goals.

Anyone from Ulster or of Ulster ancestry is urged to participate. This includes families of Native Irish, Highland and Hebridean Gael, Ulster Scot, English Settler, Norman, and Welsh, origins.

Ulster has several factors that have made family research and surname study problematic, however DNA testing has given researchers a very powerful and effective tool to bring clarity and uncover even obscure Ulster family histories. The project has already successfully reunited many Ulster families with their relations in the Diaspora.

The project administrator is Barry R McCain. The main websites for the project are:

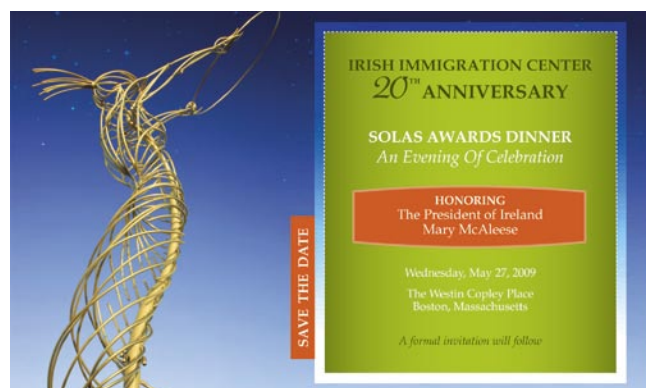
<http://uhblog.ulsterheritage.com> (the Ulster Heritage Magazine)
www.ulsterheritage.com (the Ulster Heritage Website)

Irish Immigration Centre (IIC) 20th Anniversary

The Irish Immigration Center will be celebrating their 20th birthday in style and in the company of the President of Ireland Mary Mc Aleese and hopefully you.

Mark your calendar with the date of Wednesday May 27th at the Westin Copley Hotel in downtown Boston. Gather your friends and join an expected 1000 guests for an evening of music, memories fine food and celebration of what you, as part of Boston's Irish community, have been and done since you created IIC in 1989.

In light of these tough economic times IIC have reduced their regular Solas ticket prices to \$125 and will offer you the further discounted 'early bird' special of just \$100 for tickets purchased before April 1st. Tickets, tables and sponsorship opportunities available at 617-439-7700 or email: iic@conventures.com



Memorial to commemorate the Children of the Famine

A committee has been established to erect a fitting monument to those interred at Bunker Hill Catholic Cemetery from 1830 through the Famine and beyond - nearly all of the more than 9,000 were Irish Refugees, many from Donegal. The memorial will be a magnificent 8 foot Celtic Cross at the entrance to the burial ground. It will commemorate in a special way the Children of the Famine. The dedication will be held in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of St. Francis de Sales Church in Charlestown on September 13th 2009.

One of the principal speakers will be Marius Harkin who headed the Mc Glinchey project in Clonmany. If anyone would like additional information on the event or would like to contribute to the monument, contact Ed Callahan at ecall73342@msn.com. This memorial will be a major American-Irish event in the Boston area.





Charlestown

Making Irish-American History - "The Green Square Mile: Story of the Charlestown Irish"

The film, shot over eighteen months in Boston and Ireland, was premiered at the Boston Irish Film Festival in 2006, at Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown, and at the Parish Hall in Clonmany, Donegal. It was, after all, the O'Dohertys and their kin who made the Town Irish. In the 1920s there were more than 213 households in the square mile with the surname Doherty.

A lot of filming was done in Derry and Inishowen. One reviewer called it, "the story of the Charlestown Irish that is the truest story of the Irish in America." It plays frequently on pub screens in and around Charlestown to enthusiastic patrons.

For further information contact Ed Callahan and Dan Casey at ecall73342@msn.com

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 Community Links

Gaelic Games fever is spreading so fast among Irish and other expatriates in Asia that it has now been given county-board status by the organisation's headquarters at Croke Park.

There are many active GAA Clubs in active in Asia and the Middle East and some of these are listed below. All community links featured in this and future editions of the E-zine can be found at www.donegalcdb.ie

China

Shenzhen Celts Tel: Club President:
Greg +86 139 26879002
Email: info@shenzhencelts.com
Website: www.shenzhencelts.com

HK GAA JJ Neville - Chairperson
Tel: +852 6109 5406
Email: gaelicleague@gmail.com
Website: www.gaa.hk

Taiwan

Taiwan Celts GFC Duncan Murtagh - Chairman
Email: info@taiwancelts.com
Website: www.taiwancelts.com

Japan

Japan GAA Website: www.japangaa.com

Singapore

Singapore Gaelic Lions Website: www.gaeliclions.com

Other

Abu Dhabi Fianna Email: Abu_dhabi_gaa_2000@yahoo.com
Web: www.geocities.com/abudhabifianna2001

Dubai Celts Website: <http://www.dubaicelts.com>

Seoul Gaels Taidh Simpson - Secretary
Tel: 010 4442 1618
Email: seoulgaels@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.seoulgaels.com>