



Welcome Fáilte



"Having been lucky to be born and brought up on the Donegal North Western seashore looking onto Aranmore Island and the Atlantic for the first 18 years of my life, I was struck down with an illness "Donegalitis", which has resulted in indelible memories, which come flooding back at the most peculiar moments. I am happy to say it is an illness which I have no desire to ever receive treatment for."

If you have been away for a considerable time and have the opportunity to return by an Aer Arann flight on a beautiful day and you are lucky to get one of the window seats, the final twenty minutes of flying over Donegal and into Carrickfinn Airport will remain with you for the rest of your life.

Donegal is one of the biggest influences in my life and unfortunately I did not fully understand how important it was until I moved away.

When I was in the extreme pressure period of my life while playing in World Cups and European Championships or trying to win games in the Scottish leagues, I would return to my home in Donegal as often as necessary, just to walk the quiet golden beaches or jump in the boat to spend a few hours fishing (no problem if I didn't catch anything!) or spend a night chatting, staring into the open turf fire. Yes, it has changed from what I remember as young man, but it still has the people, the scenery and the relaxed style of life that captures people's heart and minds.

No matter whom I meet and in what ever part of the world, Donegal inevitably ends up as part of the conversation. I am extremely proud to be a Donegal person and there is no doubt that all of the Donegal people who are recognised for their talent through sports or the Arts, which I am lucky to meet regularly, have the same feelings.

In my current position as Technical Director for the Football Association, I have been delighted to see that all sports in Donegal are now getting their rightful recognition. In particular there has been a positive drive within our County Council, the local politicians and other community and sports representatives to place the development of sporting infrastructure as a key strategic objective. The results will be there for us all to enjoy in the future.

There are many challenges ahead, but us Donegal people will always put the best foot forward!

Packie Bonner

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Message From Mayor



I take this opportunity to communicate directly to our many fellow county people and Irish communities abroad. 2009 so far has been a trying time for our country, but it is not unlike the experiences other countries are going through globally.

The e-zine is a Donegal County Council initiative to keep in touch with the Donegal Diaspora. I commend all involved in this project and indeed welcome any further contributions from the Diaspora, any articles or stories which we could add to our e-zines in the future.

I was elected Mayor of County Donegal on June 19th 2009 and I myself am a descendant of both emigration and immigration. My late grandmother emigrated to Jamaica in New York City in 1912 and my great-grandmother emigrated to Ireland in 1874 from Scotland. On my paternal side, all his siblings emigrated to both Chicago and London. All throughout my childhood, I have great appreciation of how important our American and English families were to us and these links remain strong today.

It is essential that the links, which join us, are never forgotten and always maintained. This initiative has the potential to build further links and strengthen our common bonds. I trust that in the time ahead, these links will grow from strength to strength. Again I wish you and yours the very best for the remainder of 2009 and take this opportunity to extend an invitation back home in the months or years ahead.

Adh mór agus beannacht, a chairde,

Mayor Brendan Byrne
County Mayor



Welcome Fáilte

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

Moya Brennan Releases New Album - Heart Strings



Moya's Return

There aren't many voices like Moya Brennan's. It makes sense that one of Moya's live shows - with trademark intimacy and power - should be recorded and made available.

Heart Strings is Moya's first ever live solo recording and features the prodigious talents of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Recorded at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall in October 2007 the thirteen tracks include three classic songs from Moya's days as the voice of Clannad, including 'Harry's Game', 'I Will Find You' and 'In A Lifetime'.

For further details visit Moya's website on <http://www.moyabrennan.com>

29th Annual MacGill Summer School and Arts Week 2009



The main theme of the 2009 MacGill Summer School is: **THE IRISH ECONOMY - WHAT WENT WRONG? HOW WILL WE FIX IT?**

It takes place, as usual, in Mc Gill's homeplace of Glenties, Co. Donegal from Sunday 19th to Friday 24th July. Approximately

40 contributors from the spheres of politics, industry, economics and the media will attend to discuss this year's theme, along with other current and important issues such as The Lisbon Treaty.

Dr Joe Mulholland is the Director of the MacGill Summer School.

For further information regarding lectures, debates, art exhibitions, accommodation, transport, entertainment, leisure and walking, please contact:

Secretary: Mary Claire O'Donnell - Tel: 074 - 9551103; Fax: 074 - 9551865

Chairman: Michael Gallagher - Tel: 074 - 9551188
Website: macgillsummerschool.com

Local and European Elections

The 2009 Local Elections were held on Friday 5th June, on the same day as the European Parliament election. As a result, there are 29 newly elected members of Donegal County Council for the five electoral areas within the County, for the next five years.

At the Annual General Meeting of Donegal County Council on the 19th June, Cllr. Brendan Byrne was elected as Mayor of Donegal County Council and Cllr. Charlie Mc Conalogue was elected as Vice Mayor.

Pat the Cope Gallagher, Burtonport, was elected as MEP for the North West in the European Parliament Elections.



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From Rathmullan to Brussels Flight of the Earls links with the St. Patricks Day Parade, Brussels

The first St. Patricks Day Parade was held in Brussels this year. Donegal County Council provided the 'Rathmullan Bo Staff', which was carried by the Grand Marshall of the Parade, Fr. John Kealy. The staff was cut from the site in Rathmullan where the Flight of the Earls set sail and was presented to Fr. Kealy by the former Mayor of County Donegal, Cllr. Gerry Crawford on the 6th of March.



Fr. John Kealy, Grand Marshall of the St. Patricks Day Parade in Brussels carries the Rathmullan Bo Staff as he leads the first St. Patricks Day Parade in Brussels

31st Annual Donegal Person of the Year Award, 2008.



Hugh Harkin(Chairman of Donegal Association, Dublin), Annie Mulholland, Joe Mulholland(Donegal Person of the Year 2008) with Derryveagh Crystal Trophy, Tony Dunlevy (Vice President of Donegal Association), Kay Dunlevy and John Hume.

Announcement of Global Irish Economic Forum

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin T.D., announced details of a major event to be held at Farmleigh on the weekend of 18th-20th September, 2009.

The inaugural Global Irish Economic Forum will bring together leading international figures with Irish links or with a strong connection to Ireland.

Announcing the initiative, the Minister said:

"The primary purpose of the Forum will be to examine how the Irish, at home and abroad, can work together to generate ideas which will contribute to our overall efforts at economic recovery. It will also play a critical role in shaping the future direction of the relationship between Ireland and its Diaspora, particularly in the economic area"

"The Forum will provide us with the opportunity to take Ireland's relationship with the global Irish community in a new direction, to examine innovative ways of working together and to generate ideas for Ireland's economic recovery. Now is the time to shape a more strategic relationship which will bring benefits both to Ireland and to our global community and which has a more developed economic focus."

For further information:

Tel: 353 -1- 478 0822 Fax: 353 -1- 478 5942 / 475 7476

E-mail: press.office@dfa.ie

Donegal-born doctor named GP of the year in Australia, 2008

An Irish-born doctor and Trinity College Dublin graduate has been named general practitioner of the year in Australia.

Dr. Christine Boyce, originally from Carrigart, Co Donegal and now living and working as a family doctor in Tasmania, received a 5,000 Australian dollar travel scholarship at the annual scientific meeting of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) in Melbourne last week. The scholarship was awarded in recognition of her service to general practice and to the Tasmanian community.

After graduation in 1987 and internship at St James's Hospital, Dublin, Dr Boyce worked at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary in Wales before moving to Australia to pursue a career in general practice.



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Third Level colleges collaborate to ensure a bright future for NW



Higher Education, more opportunity - study finds that higher education collaboration between LYIT and UU is essential for growth in the NW. L-R: Danny Brennan Registrar LYIT; Professor Bernie Hannigan UU; Paul Hannigan President LYIT; Taoiseach Brian Cowen; Aodh O'Domhnaill Chairman LYIT; Pat McClaughan, Indecon.

The Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) and University of Ulster (UU) are working together on a pragmatic initiative which harnesses the academic resource of both colleges to contribute to long term prosperity of the northwest.

According to the findings of a scoping study recently published, it shows the huge potential of The North West Gateway Strategic Alliance (NWGSA) in providing top class higher education and research for the northwest, a key component in attracting investors and high value employment. The study highlights the strong collaboration between LYIT and the UU who are building a foundation to provide higher education to cross border communities in many new ways. In the last five years Donegal has seen an increase in higher education participation rates and was ranked 5th on a national basis for its ability to retain its own graduates (2006).

Paul Hannigan, President of Letterkenny Institute of Technology believes that collaboration is essential, "We've already developed a number of programmes jointly with the University of Ulster which have been very successful. There is now a solid framework for us

to work together and pool the academic resource we have here, to plant the seeds, to grow greater prosperity for all. This study confirms that higher education remains a vital key to unlocking the future potential for the cross border region."

Professor Bernie Hannigan, University of Ulster agrees, "Together our work will yield social, cultural and economic benefits while enhancing the prospects of the half a million people who currently live in the region. I must also mention the extremely positive input we had from businesses and communities who, when surveyed, indicated very strong support for our alliance."

For further information visit www.lyit.ie and www.ulster.ac.uk

Barack and Boyle: The Glen Connection.

For many Irish people, the election of Barack Obama was greeted warmly last November, but for the residents of one west Donegal Gaeltacht parish there is an extra reason to celebrate.



Francie Boyle, a native of Gleann Cholm Cille (Glencolmcille) attended the count in the key swing state of Pennsylvania not only to see Barack Obama win the vote on his way to the presidency, but to see his son Brendan elected to the state legislature.

Francie left Ireland at the age of nineteen in 1970, moving to Philadelphia where he met and married Eileen Walsh, whose father hails from county Sligo.

In early 2008, Brendan and his brother Kevin were named in the "Top Ten rising stars" in politics by the Philadelphia Daily News.

'Culture an integral and vital part of the economic and social development of County Donegal'

County Donegal needs to be strategic in recognising and promoting its unique culture and in reaping the many social and economic benefits that it can provide. This was the principal message that emanated from the launch of the Executive Summary of the Cultural Compass Research Project

The Culture Compass Research Project Report was set up by the County Development Board to examine all components of Culture - language, the arts and heritage. The report aims to contribute to a broader understanding of Culture in Donegal, as well as further informing and facilitating long term strategic thinking to ensure the sustainable development of the sector.

In 2007 - 2008 Cultural infrastructure benefited the Donegal economy by almost €18 million, provided employment to 1077 staff making up 1.5% of the total paid employment in the county and 40 cultural facilities attracted approximately 480,000 visitors to the county.

Further information is available from www.donegalcddb.ie



*'Wired and Free', Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company.
COMMISSIONED BY DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL FOR
DONEGAL BAY AND BLUESTACKS FESTIVAL.*

Donegal County Councillor appointed to Board of Directors of Culture Ireland



Cllr Dessie Larkin has been appointed to the Board of Culture Ireland. Culture Ireland is the Irish State Agency that promotes the best of Ireland's arts and culture internationally. The organisation was established in 2005 by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism.

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

Cllr Dessie Larkin who was recently appointed to Culture Ireland

Pramerica Managing Director appointed to Board of Directors of IDA



Henry McGarvey vice president and managing director of Pramerica Systems Ireland Limited, has been appointed to the Board of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), the state agency that develops and promotes foreign direct investment in Ireland. Pramerica a software and business solutions organisation headquartered in Windyhall, Letterkenny, County Donegal is a subsidiary of U.S.-based Prudential Financial, Inc.

Before joining Pramerica nine years ago, Mr. McGarvey spent two years as head of Information Technology at Almarai, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; four years with the US multinational, Motorola in Dublin, where he was responsible for Logistics and Information Systems; and also worked with Andersen Consulting (now Accenture) as an IT Consultant.



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International Sheep Shearing Championships

The All-Ireland and International Sheep Shearing Championships have been run annually for almost 60 years and took place this year in Burt, County Donegal on the 30th & 31st May. The event has grown from simply a sheep-shearing contest to become a rural/agricultural festival with a series of associated events staged parallel to the main tournament.



Presenting the trophy to the winner, Margaret Cashman of sponsors Novartis Animal Health, said Scott's victory was a tribute to his tremendous skill, speed and sheep handling dexterity.

WORLD record holder Ivan Scott from Kilmacrennan, Co Donegal, beat off the challenge of five other elite sheep shearers to win the Klik International Open title at the All Ireland Sheep Shearing Championships

Ivan Scott set the new world record for "single stand" shearing recently when he sheared 736 Romney strongwool lambs in eight hours in New Zealand.

For further information visit www.sheepshearing.ie

Launch of Minipitches

Donegal had much need for celebration on 28th of April when Packie Bonner toured the county opening newly established Minipitches in Ballyshannon, Newtowncunningham and Carndonagh.

In 2007 the FAI invited local Authorities to assist them in the establishment of Mini Pitches with an initial investment of €35,000 (€10,000 FAI, €25,000 Department of Tourism & Sport). Donegal County Council was successful in securing 5 for the county and to date has invested almost €300,000.

The Pitches have been set up to encourage the concept of street football/pick-up game. As multi use areas there are also basketball/volleyball facilities.

Further information is available from www.donegalcddb.ie



Launch of Ballyshannon Minipitch, April 2009

E&I Engineering Ltd, Burnfoot

E&I Engineering have set the standard for Electrical Switchgear and Power Distribution Solutions throughout the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe.

E&I are pleased to announce that it has secured the contract to supply MV & LV switchgear and lighting control systems for the Aviva Stadium (formerly known as Lansdowne Road) the much publicised home of Irish Soccer and Rugby. This prestigious stadium firmly secures E&I's place as the manufacturer of choice for stadiums, having recently completed the work in Wembley Stadium, London. To be completed Mid 2010.

For further information visit: <http://www.e-i-eng.com>



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UnitedHealth Group



MD - Padraig Monaghan

PacifiCare International Limited, an ISO 9001: 2000 accredited organisation, established in Letterkenny in 1999, is a wholly owned subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group. Whilst initially set up employing a small class of 30 examiners to process high volume and low dollar claims, the company has since grown in strength and diversity and now employs

more than 350 people, who contribute to supplying a broad spectrum of complex operations based activities to the US Healthcare Market. These services range from complex high value health care related activities, to IT services that support UnitedHealth Groups' US and EMEA based businesses. UnitedHealth Groups' HealthCare services span both the commercial and government (Medicare) businesses.



In addition to serving its core business opportunities, UnitedHealth Group also serves its community. In 2008 and 2009 the company received recognition from many charities for its outstanding work in the local community. These included The Children's Ward in Letterkenny General Hospital, MS Ireland-Donagall Branch and the National Breast Cancer Research Institute, among others. UnitedHealth employees also volunteer their time to the Junior Achievement Programme in Donegal, which involves pledging an hour a week to students in the area and helping them understand the importance of business. Some team members have an alliance with the DLDC and assist job seekers in seeking employment, interview preparation and coaching.

The decision to establish UnitedHealth Group in Letterkenny was due to the counties supply of highly skilled and educated workers eager to break new boundaries and distinguish themselves as a committed taskforce that help to simplify the healthcare experience. Strong links with the LYIT, a competitive cost base and proactive support from local business authorities also factored in the decision to move to the town.

UnitedHealth Group creates value for the broader society, taking responsibility for how their work impacts people and the people within their community.

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

IDA Advance Space Letterkenny



IDA Ireland, Ireland's Inward Investment and Development Agency, as part of its service to overseas clients, provides advice and assistance to companies looking for suitable property solution in Ireland.

In County Donegal the focus for inward investment has been on the expanding 'Gateway' location of Letterkenny. It is the largest centre of population in the County with an urban and rural population in excess of 388,000 within a 60km radius

IDA Ireland in conjunction with private developers has provided for purchase or rental of three world class buildings on this park comprising of an Advance Office of 1,748 square metres, an advance Technology Building of 2,197 square metres and an Advance Technology Unit of 889 Square Metres.

IDA's Business & Technology Park in Letterkenny has the necessary telecommunications, utilities infrastructure and buildings/site options to cater for the needs of all multinational clients.

Overseas companies in Letterkenny include, UnitedHealth Group (US Healthcare Claims Processing); Pramerica Systems Ireland Ltd (US Software Development Centre); Medisize Donegal Healthcare (Finish Medical Products); Boston Scientific (US Medical Devices); Zeus Industrial Products (US Medical Devices); SITA PTS (Swiss Software Development).

For more information contact:

IDA Ireland, Portland House, Port Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, Ireland
 Tel: +353 74 9169810 Fax: +353 74 9169801 Email: idaireland@ida.ie



Engineer sets high standards for European stage

Dr Carl Diver has travelled far from his roots in Gortahork, Donegal. An engineer by profession he's worked with some of the companies at the forefront of developing processes for manufacturing in the automotive, medical and food packaging industries. Working with Delphi and the Powerscreen Group, he ran research and development teams in Germany, Spain and UK. Along the way he managed to study for a Masters and PhD in the area. After 10 years abroad, he decided the time was right to return to Donegal with his young family in 2008.

"I felt I had the experience to add value to organisations who manufacture items, either through consultancy and also through research and development. I decided to set up CDAMC – Carl Diver Advanced Manufacturing Consulting and found there was interest straight away."

In 2009 the company won the Donegal Enterprise Board Innovation Award, so things are progressing rapidly even in these turbulent times. What would he say to anyone thinking about coming back to set up a business? "Donegal is a great place to work and to live. Technology has made the world much more accessible, if you've got solid experience and researched the idea, it is possible. It's definitely worth it."

Tel: +353 86 354 0300 e-mail: carl.diver@cdamc.ie
web: www.cdamc.ie



Seeing things differently, Carl Diver returned to set up his company in Donegal which offers guidance on advanced manufacturing processes, and which won an Innovation Award in 2009.

Sliabh Liag – European Destination of Excellence



The Sliabh Liag Tourism Development Initiative was named runner up in Failte Ireland's European Destinations of Excellence Competition in 2009. The project was commended on its collaborative approach to community-based tourism development.

The Sliabh Liag Tourism Development initiative is based around the development of the iconic Bungalas Sea Cliffs as a world-class visitor attraction. The Sliabh Liag Steering Group was set up in 2001, consisting of a wide range of stakeholders – Donegal County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Failte Ireland, Local Landowners, Community groups, Parish Councils, and local business interests. Considerable milestones have been achieved to date in the following areas: Completion and delivery of an integrated interpretative and orientation strategy, installation of a viewing platform at Bungalas, improvements to road infrastructure and the construction of a safety barrier on the walking product with both the Pilgrim Path and Sliabh Liag Walking route receiving substantial investment.

For further information visit: www.donegalcddb.ie



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THE HUB FOR
KNOWLEDGE-BASED
ENTERPRISE IN
IRELAND'S NORTHWEST



Expansion of LYIT Business Development Centre

Letterkenny Institute of Technology has a long history of supporting Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the North West Region.

In 2000 a Business Development Centre was opened comprising 1100 sq metres of dedicated incubation and support space. This original building was funded by Interreg and the International Fund for Ireland.

Building on the success of the original BDC and with funding support of €2.54 million from Enterprise Ireland and €1 million from the Dept of Education and Science, LYIT is currently doubling the size of this Incubation, Research and Enterprise facility.

The rebranded Colab facility will be officially opened in September 2009. It consists of 2,400 sq metres of state of the art Incubation, Research and Enterprise space.

The overall space comprises a total of 25 incubation units of varying sizes, meeting rooms, board room, lecture theatre, reception and support space. Our vision for Colab is to create a community, a network of young, technology-driven enterprises enjoying an innovation ecosystem incorporating the facilities, supports, and services they need to grow and succeed.

It's a place for you to turn your ideas into your future, Knowledge into Enterprise.

For further information please contact Patrick.Donaghey@lyit.ie

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



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Focus on: Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, Gaoth Dobhair

Irish-medium third level education has gone from strength to strength in Donegal in recent years as a result of Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, an Irish-medium college of the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Acadamh has an excellent centre in Páirc Ghnó Ghaoth Dobhair ('ar an Screabán'). All the classrooms have a wireless internet connection and the most modern computer and television equipment. A wide range of courses are offered at different levels: Certificate, Diploma and Degree. Acadamh's students receive training from teachers who have expert knowledge and professional experience in the following fields: Television Skills, Computing, Business, Translation, Folklore and Irish, of course!

Tá Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge thar a bheith ceannródaíoch. Is é an cúrsa céime (BA i Riarachán Gnó) atá á sholáthar i gcomhpháirtíocht le hInstitiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn an fhorbairt is suntasaí go dtí seo. Cuireadh tús leis an chúrsa i Meán Fómhair 2008 agus d'éirigh go breá leis an chéad ghrúpa mac léinn. Clár cuimsitheach ceithre bliana atá ann; tá bliain



amháin de thaithí oibre nó staidéar thar lear mar pháirt den chúrsa. Níl dabht ar bith ach go gcuirfidh na scileanna a fhoghlaimíodh rannpháirtithe an chúrsa seo go mór lena ndeiseanna fostaíochta san am atá le teacht.

Gach bliain tagann scoláirí ó gach cearn den tír le freastal ar na cúrsaí i nGaoth Dobhair. Cruthaíonn an éagsúlacht sin timpeallacht dheas ina bhfuil daoine ábalta snas a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge agus dul i dtaithí ar chanúintí eile.

It's never too late to advance your education. There is always a mixture of people, both young and not so young, attending Acadamh's courses.

For further information visit - website: www.acadamh.ie

Junior Achievement Ireland

Junior Achievement was established in Ireland in 1995. Junior Achievement is helping to create a culture of enterprise within the education system.

During the academic year 2008/2009, 17 volunteers from Donegal County Council have participated on the Junior Achievement Programme.

For further information visit www.donegalcoco.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.

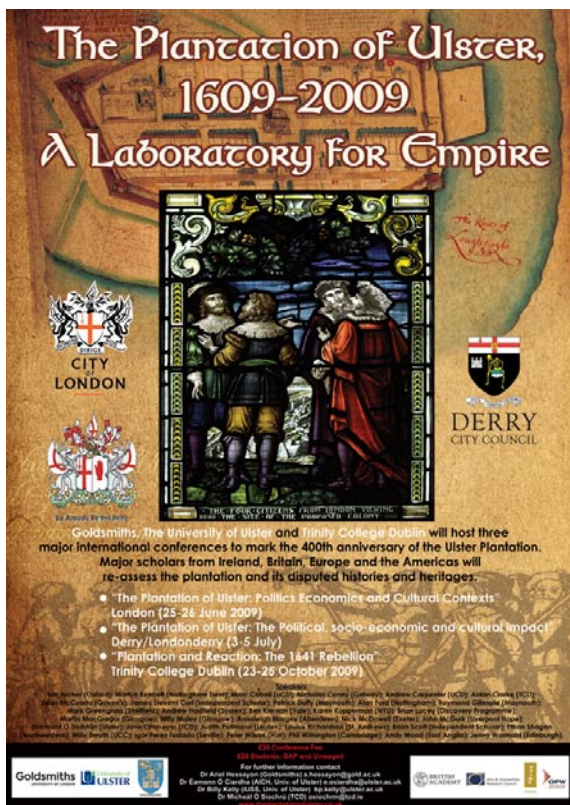
For further information on some of the educational institutions available to the north west region, please visit the following websites:

- » www.oideas-gael.com
- » www.lyit.ie
- » www.ulster.ac.uk
- » www.sligoit.ie
- » www.nuigalway.ie
- » www.fas.ie
- » www.qub.ac.uk



The Plantation of Ulster Remembered

The Plantation of Ulster began in the aftermath of the Flight of the Earls in 1607 and the rebellion of Sir Cathair O'Doherty in 1608. It led to a dramatic transformation of Ireland's economic, political and cultural landscapes and its legacies still resonate in the Ireland of today.



To commemorate these changes Donegal County Museum is currently undertaking two projects on the theme of the Plantation of Ulster.

The Planter and the Gael: Perspectives on the Plantation will bring together cross community, cross border groups from Derry City and Donegal, to raise their awareness and increase their knowledge of the Plantation and its historic significance.

The second project, funded by the Department of Arts Sport and Tourism sees the production of three booklets on the following themes - The Plantation of Ulster, Plantation Legacy in Derry and Donegal, Plantation Architecture and Landscape. This is a joint project between Donegal County Museum and Derry City Heritage and Museum Service.

For further information please contact Donegal County Museum at email museum@donegalcoco.ie



Sculpture "Three Coins", Lifford, County Donegal

The Heart of Lifford

Any sightseeing tour entering Donegal through the gateway of Lifford is now sure to enjoy a view of the sculpture Three Coins. The piece is one of seven striking new sculptures in heritage towns in the county, commissioned as part of the HEART project. The artist/design team commissioned for Lifford, Cod Steaks, spent time in Lifford during summer 2007, speaking to representatives of the local tidy towns group, community representatives, local historians and passersby, to gain a sense of place, heritage and history for the town. Their sculpture, Three Coins was then designed as a new heirloom for the historic town. The coins are marked with emblems and motto marking its significant past, present and future: "Praeterita Fecunda, Futura Praeclara" - "Rich and fertile past, bright clear future".

HEART is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Border Action through Measure 1.4 of the EU's Interreg IIIA programme, the International Fund for Ireland, Donegal County Council, Strabane District Council and the private sector. HEART stands for Heritage, Environment, Art and Rural Tourism.

Visit <http://www.donegalpublicart.ie/50-publicart.htm> for more info.

"Across the Atlantic - Emigrating from Moville and Derry"

This book contains short articles on the history of 19th and 20th century emigration from Moville and Derry, and the shipping industry which developed hand in hand with the growth in emigration to the 'new world'.

The book will include chapters on available sources for emigration in Donegal, Derry and online, and will be illustrated with photographs and facsimiles of archives. The book is a collaborative project between Derry City Council Archives Service and Donegal County Council Archives Service, in conjunction with Donegal County Council Libraries and Public Art Office. The book will be published and launched in mid July 2009. The project coincides with the launch of a new sculpture in Moville by artist Locky Morris, The Fid- Moville Emigration Monument.

For further information email Niamh Brennan at nbrennan@donegalcoco.ie



A hop skip and a jump!

In 2003 Donegal County Council set a beacon 'That by 2010 no child living in the county should be more than 10 miles from a playground'. In April this year the Council met its target with the establishment of 37 playgrounds. These facilities have been realised with the assistance of communities throughout the county.

An investment of over €3m drawing on funds from Donegal County Council, Peace I and II, National Children's Office and donations from individuals has been made. The play facilities aim to embrace one of the positive outcomes for Children set out by central Government. Whilst the Council recognises this achievement there remains a need for continued support and investment in the development of play facilities in the county.

Information on how to participate in future developments is available from Aideen Doherty at aideen.doherty@donegalcoco.ie



Recent Publications

'Dún na nGall GAA Yearbook 2008'. This most recent edition is full of brilliant sports photography, club news and statistics, interviews, championship and regional results for the year. Donegal's diaspora is global and clubs built up by Donegal emigrants are to be found worldwide. The 2008 Yearbook contains a profile of one such club: Donegal Boston.

"Droichead o'n t-sean-am: a Bridge to the Past", was published to celebrate the centenary of Derryagh National School. 1908-2008. Recollections of former pupils from Kilcar and Teelin areas, shipwrecks, old photographs, and letters to sons fighting in the American Civil War of the 1860s are just some of the fascinating contents.

Readers can browse the Donegal library catalogue and contact the library through the website, www.donegalibrary.ie

James Fitzgerald (1899 to 1971) The Aran Drawings



Donegal County Council in association with the Plattsburgh State Art Museum, New York presented a major exhibition on the life and work of the Irish / American artist James Fitzgerald at the Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny from April 14th to June 20th 2009. The exhibition focuses on his Irish works that have never been exhibited before.

Fitzgerald was born to an Irish family in Milton, Massachusetts in 1899. During his last six years, he made five extended trips to Ireland that included a number of visits to Donegal. On the 9th of April 1971, he died suddenly on Arranmore Island County Donegal in the arms of local woman Bella Gallagher, and is buried in Dublin. There is a related exhibition, 'Dance of the Fishing Boat - Fitzgerald in Donegal' at Donegal County Museum.

For more information visit <http://www.donegalculture.com/>

6.35 million Germans see Glenveagh on their screens

Glenveagh was chosen as one of the locations for a major new German TV drama written by best-selling author Rosamunde Pilcher last October. The Pilcher Drama "Hearts Desire" has been screened to approx. 6.35 million Germans as part of Tourism Ireland's 'Discover Ireland's Wonderful West' campaign this year.

Other locations featured included Westport House, Achill Island, Foxford Woollen Mills, Turlough House and Belleek Castle.

Germany is one of Ireland's key target source markets and last year attracted a record 464,000 visitors to the island of Ireland. The publicity value of a production of this nature is incalculable to Co. Donegal. The film was essentially a ninety-minute advertisement for some of the most stunning locations that Ireland has to offer. Donegal's spectacular scenery seen by such a large number of potential German visitors in their own homes will we have no doubt generate significant interest in Donegal as a holiday destination for 2009 and beyond.

For further info contact the Donegal film commission office at aideen.doherty@donegalcoco.ie



*Áine Ní Chuireáin*

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta ...ag coinneáil ceangal leis an bhaile!

Tá RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta ag craoladh i nDún na nGall ó 1972 nuair a bunaíodh an stáisiún. Beirt a bhí ag obair i dtús báire. Faoi láthair tá trí chloigeann déag ag obair go lánaimeartha agus beirt go páirtimeartha sa stáisiún ar na Doirí Beaga. Tosaíonn craoladh Dhoirí Beaga ar 7.30 ar maidin leis an nuacht áitiúil agus go dtí'n 6 a'chlog trathnóna bíonn naoi gclár nuachta againn. Craoltar na cláracha 'Barrscéalta' le Áine Ní Churraín, agus 'Ronanbeo@3' le Rónán Mac Aodha Bhuí, ó stiúideo na nDoirí Beaga, cláracha a dhíríonn ar chúrsaí reatha agus siamsaíocht. Tá an ceol traidisiúnta, ar ndóigh, mar pháirt lárnach dár gcraoladh mar atá clúdach spóirt ag diriú go háirithe ar na cluichí Gaelacha.

Is stáisiún Náisiúnta RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta a chuireann seirbhís cuimsitheach ar shaol an Chontae ar fáil do bhunadh Dhún na nGall ar fud na tíre agus ar fud na cruinne. Cinntíonn sé sin go mbíonn deis ag pobal Dhún na nGall coinneáil i dteagmháil leis an bhaile. Lena chois sin tá na mílte ar fud an domhan a bhíonn ag éisteacht ar an idirlíon agus ar sheirbhís SKY agus tá líon na ndaoine sin ag ardú leis an tsuim domhanda atá sa Ghaeilge agus i gcultúr na tíre.

RTE Raidio na Gaeltachta is a National Broadcasting service founded in 1972 with its headquarters in Casla, Conamara and one of its Regional Stations in Derrybeg. The stations broadcasts 24/7 with a mix of News, Current Affairs, Sport and of course Traditional music. Local News is an integral part of our service with 9 local news bulletins from Derrybeg starting at 7.30 a.m. Our flagship magazine /current affairs programme is 'Barrscéalta' by Áine Ní Churraín at 11.00 a.m. and 'Ronanbeo@3' by Rónán Mac Aodha Bhuí, draws a wide and varied listenership. We pride ourselves on our local news and current affairs output which provides an important link to the Donegal diaspora.

To listen to RTE RnaG log on to www.rte.ie forward to Raidio and RnaG. To contact us nuacht@rte.ie 074 95 31244

Flight of the Earls Education Pack

The Flight of the Earls Document Study pack was published in 2007 by Donegal County Council's Archives Service, as part of the commemorations for the 400th anniversary of the flight of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell from Donegal.

It includes a study pack, source guide, a short illustrated history of the period, and high quality facsimiles of original archives from archival institutions in Ireland and abroad. The pack is aimed primarily at leaving certificate and undergraduate history students of this period. It is also available for individuals who are interested in the study of Ireland in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

The study pack is the work of Ms Ciara Joyce, assistant archivist, Donegal County Council, 2004 - March 2009.

For further information visit www.donegalcoco.ie

Flight of the Earls - The Spanish Connection

It is well known that the earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell alongside the Maguires of Fermanagh left the shores of County Donegal in September 2007 to seek refuge in Europe and seek assistance for their cause in Ireland. This voyage became known as the Flight of the Earls, with its 400th anniversary being celebrated in 2007, attracting many visitors to Ireland and County Donegal in particular. The hugely successful Flight of the Earls commemoration attracted interest from around the world and has helped raise the profile of County Donegal around the world as a must-visit cultural-heritage destination. Donegal County Council welcomed Barcelona-based Spanish Journalist, David Revelles-Soriano, in April, who was researching the connection between the Flight of the Earls and Spain. The article is to appear in a well-known Spanish travel magazine, CLIO, and will promote inbound tourism from Spain.

For further information contact Kevin O'Connor at kevin.oconnor@donegalcoco.ie



Hectic time at Highland Radio



By the time you all read this we will be coming to the end of what would have been a hectic time at the station.

The month of June has throw up a real mix with Local Elections, The Donegal International Rally & The Donegal GAA Team getting their Ulster Championship Campaign up and running.

We received great Listenership Figures again in May, which means we continue to enjoy great support from our loyal listeners.

One of the big bonuses for the station in recent years has been the reaction of the live streaming on the Internet. That has allowed so many people from Donegal & the North-West in general who are living or working all over the world to keep in touch with everything that is happening at home.

Log on to www.highlandradio.com

Keep Listening!

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

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maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie
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Roisin McBride

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

The 38th Pan Celtic Festival



Donegal Town was honoured to host the 38th Pan Celtic Festival from 14th to 19th April 2009. This festival began in Killarney in 1971 to foster better relations between the Celtic nations of Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, the Isle of Man, Cornwall and

Wales. Events over the six-day festival included plenty of pageantry and dressing up - there's the Pan Celtic International Song Contest, special dance performances by Cornish and Breton groups, fiddle and piping competitions and a Pan Celtic parade culminating in a huge outdoor dance display and Celtic Mass. Next year the event takes place in Daingean County Kerry and it is hoped that the Irish success of running the event will follow through.

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

Oideas Gael Gaeilge ar fud na cruinne

Go minic, cuirtear iontas ar dhaoine nuair a chluineann siad go mbíonn daoine ag foghlaim agus ag labhairt Gaeilge ó Sydney go Seattle agus ó Tokyo go Toraigh. Tá ranganna agus imeachtaí Gaeilge ar fáil anois i mbeagnach achán chathair sa domhain - Moscow, Prague, An Róimh, Toronto, agus go leor eile. Bhí fiú an chéad lánúin againn as an Bhraisil in Oideas Gael cúpla seachtain ó shin. Is ábhar mórtáis é dúinn go bhfuil an oiread sin meas ar ár gcultúr, ach ansin arís, cén fáth nach mbeadh!

People are often surprised to hear that the Irish language is now taught and spoken in many cities worldwide. There are classes and groups in every major city worldwide and Oideas Gael had its first Brazilian couple attending a course, a few weeks ago. It gives us a great confidence and sense of pride to know that this is happening, but then again, why shouldn't it?



1. *Conallagh i Nua Eabhrach' Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, Pádraig Ó Cearúil, Gaoth Dobhair and New York University, and Áine Ní Churraoin, Raidió na Gaeltachta, in NY during an Irish language conference held there.*

2. *An international group of Oideas Gael students taking the boat around Sliabh Liag.*