



## Welcome Fáilte

Fáilte roimh achan duine agus go háirithe muintir Thír Chonaill, a chairde agus a thealaigh chuig an eagrán seo.

It is an honour and privilege for me to be part of this innovative and imaginative initiative for there is little that is more noble or more worthy than to be making contact with our people and keeping in touch with them and making them feel part of our community no matter where or who they are. I often think of the tens of thousands of Donegal men and women who left our shores over the decades and of how the internet and a news sheet such as this would have been so valuable to them-isolated as many of them were. Most did, of course, form communities in their new places and those communities would become part of the Irish diaspora of which we are so proud today but some, as we now know, would live on the fringes of society, lonely and forgotten and unable financially and socially to return to the communities they grew up in.

Community and belonging are, for me, among the important things of life and, as I said at my inauguration in March as Donegal Person of the Year, we now need more than ever to rekindle the community spirit which to a considerable extent we have lost during the years of the so-called Celtic Tiger and to contribute in whatever way we can to building and reinforcing our communities. Those communities are now under even more threat from drugs, alcohol and the personal disintegration and terrible violence which ensue. I am sure that all of the readers of this newsletter remember the times of our childhood in Donegal when we lived at sometimes near subsistence level but in communities where people cared for one another and shared and where violence against a friend or neighbour was a rare occurrence indeed.



I have spent much time over these past months preparing for the 29th MacGill Summer School in Glenties in July which had as its theme: THE IRISH ECONOMY-WHAT WENT WRONG? HOW WILL WE FIX IT? and then publishing the proceedings (details of which are given elsewhere in this edition) with the result that I am, at this stage, fairly well versed in the analysis of our present economic woes. However, at the end of the day, it is worth remembering, I think, that whilst economic prosperity is vitally important, and those on the dole queues and our young people about to leave in search of work know it well, it is not the be all and end all of life and that there other aspects of life which are enriching and humanising such as our music and literature which are all around us as is our beautiful countryside with bracing walks and cycles through heather clad bogland, along meandering rivers, up mountains, on wonderful sandy beaches. As I write this I realise that I am really thinking about our 'sean Dún na nGall', which has all of these things in abundance.

We will, undoubtedly, with the right social, economic and educational policies come through this crisis and emerge perhaps as a more chastened, wiser and more responsible people, less self-centred and more aware of our heritage and identity and more conscious of the Renaissance metaphysical poet, John Donne's much quoted line: No man is an island. This is why this Community Newsletter is so valuable and important and I am delighted to be a small part of it and to know that Donegal is reaching out to its sons and daughters and friends.

Do na léitheoirí uilig, i gcéin is i gcóngar, deirimse: Tír Chonaill Abú!

**JOE MULHOLLAND**  
Donegal Person of the Year, 2008

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## Message From Mayor



Once again we have another edition of "Donegal Community In Touch / Dún na nGall - pobail i d'teagmháil" e-zine. I hope that all our readers are in fine health and good spirits. I also hope that you find our editions of benefit and interest, thankfully our readership is ever increasing.

Since our last edition, Donegal County Council has played host to a delegation from New Brunswick, Canada, led by Minister for Supplies Mr Ed Doherty. On the occasion of the visit the council unveiled a monument to commemorate all those who emigrated from Donegal shores thought the centuries. I take this opportunity to thank the New Brunswick delegation for an excellent exchange and a most successful visit.

Overall in the context of life back in Donegal, the economic downturn continues to take its toll on the state, with rising unemployment but thankfully the cost of living is rapidly declining, with fabulous value to be had in accommodation, eating out, and general shopping. In fact, there was never a better time to visit Donegal - best value for money in coming home for a break.

This Diaspora e-zine project grows in strength with each publication, growing numbers of subscribers and readers. I again extend an open invitation to all sons and daughters of Donegal to feel free to contribute to this joint e-zine project by sending us stories or information about life in your area. In conclusion, I thank you all for your ongoing interest in this e-zine and look forward to its continued growth and success. With best wishes to you all.

Le Gach Dea Ghui

**Mayor Brendan Byrne**  
County Mayor



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE  
**Dhún na nGall**  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

## Welcome Fáilte

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

## The unveiling of The Fid - Merville Emigration Monument



On September 2nd over 200 people attended the unveiling of The Fid - Merville Emigration Monument at the old pier in Merville. This sculpture was commissioned by Donegal County Council Public Art Programme and commemorates the thousands of Irish who emigrated to New Brunswick. It was unveiled by the New Brunswick Minister for Supply and Services, Hon. Ed Doherty and County Mayor of Donegal, Brendan Byrne, with Declan Sheehan, Donegal County Council Public Art Programme, Michael Heaney, Director of Service Community Culture and Enterprise, and Cllr John Ryan in attendance. The New Brunswick delegation, made up of representatives of the Arts Board, Provincial Archives, and Saint Thomas University, New Brunswick, were on a four-day mission meeting with officials in Dublin and Donegal to seek out opportunities to strengthen ties between New Brunswick and Ireland.

The Fid- Merville Emigration Monument by artist Locky Morris is a large oak carved into a 30 foot high form of a fid, a traditional tool used by Irish fishermen and sail makers.

*"This beautiful monument represents the persisting connection between Ireland and New Brunswickers, particularly those of us with Irish heritage," said Minister Doherty. "This is a great way to honour our common ancestors."*

See <http://www.donegalpublicart.ie/54-publicart.htm> for more info or contact Declan Sheehan, Public Art Assistant, Donegal County Council [declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie)

## Donegal County Development Board sets priorities for 2009-2012



Donegal County Development Board (CDB) was established in 2000 and has, since its inception, facilitated the coming together of relevant agencies to work on integrated development actions, to improve the social, cultural and economic development of the county.

Donegal CDB carried out a review of its structure, County Strategy and process in April 2009. The CDB has now agreed to pursue six major priority themes over the coming year as follows:

- » To develop Donegal as a lead region for the Green Economy
- » To promote enterprise and skills development in the region
- » To develop a Donegal Brand across all sectors
- » To ensure best access to services for the community of Donegal
- » To fully develop the County's Cultural Resources; and
- » To develop the region's Natural Resources

For further information on the County Development Board and the projects being initiated to support the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of the County, please visit [www.donegalcodb.ie](http://www.donegalcodb.ie)



## Irish Echo Boston - Northwest Ireland Gateways to Tomorrow Conference

A reinvigorated effort to build economic bridges between the U.S. and Ireland was launched in Boston on the 7th and 8th of October at the "Gateways to Tomorrow" conference hosted by the Irish Echo.

The conference took place at the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Centre in Boston. The conference focused on business and cultural links between Boston and the Northwest part of the island of Ireland (Derry and Donegal primarily).

The conference, which features high-profile speakers from Boston and northwest Ireland, including State Senate President Therese Murray of Massachusetts and Minister Conor Murphy of the power sharing executive in the North, will build on the work of the recent Global Economic Forum held in Dublin last month, and on last year's Investment Conference in Belfast.

Among the organisations who sponsored the conference are the University of Ulster, Magee, Derry City Council, Donegal County Council, the Derry Regeneration Company ILEX, and the Northern Ireland Bureau in Washington D.C. U.S. political figures who addressed the conference included Massachusetts State Treasurer Tim Cahill and Rep. Gene O'Flaherty, while Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray was the chief honoree at the Golden Bridges luncheon finale to the conference.

## Watch the MacGill Summer School Lectures / Debates on Webcast

The 29th Annual MacGill Summer School took place in Glenties, County Donegal, from the 19th - 24th July 2009. The 2009 MacGill School brought together up to forty contributors drawn from the spheres of politics, industry, economics and the media to discuss the overall theme of the school: THE IRISH ECONOMY- WHAT WENT WRONG? - HOW WILL WE FIX IT?

Webcast archives of each of the sessions are available: <http://www.donegalcoco.public-i.tv/site/webcasts.php>

For further information on the MacGill Summer School visit: [www.patrickmacgill.com](http://www.patrickmacgill.com)

## Pat the Cope Gallagher MEP - A Profile



Pat the Cope Gallagher was elected to the European Parliament in June 2009. He previously served as an MEP between the years 1994 - 2002. He was also a member of Dail Eireann between the years 1981- 1997, 2002-2009.

Pat the Cope has been a Minister of State in a number of various Irish Governments with responsibility for Gaeltacht, Marine, Transport, Environment and Heath Promotion/ Food Safety.

Pat the Cope Gallagher MEP is a member of the Fisheries Committee in the European Parliament. He is also the Chairperson of the European Parliament Committee dealing with political relations with Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

Pat the Cope said that "The high rate of unemployment in Donegal over the years has led to emigration to all parts of the globe including Australia, New Zealand, America, Canada and, of course, to Britain. Therefore, people with Donegal connections are to be found throughout the world.

This initiative by Donegal County Council and Donegal County Development Board, which is warmly welcomed, is an ideal medium to convey, via the internet, all the latest news and events taking place in our county. It reduces the information deficit, bridges the gap between our peoples and brings us closer together.

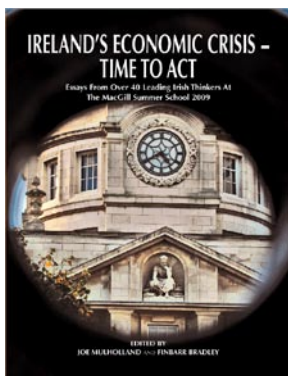
Pat the Cope Gallagher MEP concluded "I can be contacted through my Dungloe or Brussels office regarding matters of local, national or European level, please do not hesitate to contact me."

Email [patthecope.gallagher@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:patthecope.gallagher@europarl.europa.eu)





## Major new MacGill book on the Irish economic crisis launched in Dublin



*As the Dail debate on NAMA came to a close and just before the Lisbon Treaty referendum on October 2nd a major new work on the economy, IRELAND'S ECONOMIC CRISIS--TIME TO ACT, was launched in Dublin on Tuesday, September 29th in the offices of the European Commission by the Minister for Finance,*

*Brian Lenihan TD. The work of some 400 pages, based on the proceedings of this year's MacGill Summer School and edited by Joe Mulholland and Finbarr Bradley, contains over forty five thought provoking contributions by leading public figures on the state of the Irish economy now and the policies needed to ensure sustainable prosperity.*

At the end of July, the MacGill Summer School met at a time of extraordinary economic turmoil for the Irish economy. A wealth of Ireland's leading thinkers attended this year's Summer School and drew record attendances. Media and public interest in the proceedings was unprecedented. The thoughts and ideas of the participants are now published in one concise volume by publishers, Carysfort Press.

As well as a chapter on the implications for Ireland's economy of the Lisbon Treaty referendum vote, the book deals with a wide range of subject matter such as reform and regulation of the banking sector, how the smart economy can be developed, the loss of competitiveness and the urgent need to restore it, the role of education in revitalising the economy, the need for policies which provide cheaper and cleaner energy, the importance of culture, creativity and the arts in the economy and the need for a national strategy and vision.

IRELAND'S ECONOMIC CRISIS-TIME TO ACT is available in all good bookshops and directly from [www.carysfortpress.com](http://www.carysfortpress.com)

## New business programme: Sir Gerry's Big Decision 2009



In July 2009, Sir Gerry Robinson started a TV series called Gerry's Big Decision where he looks at struggling companies and decides whether it is worth investing his own money to save them.

All over Britain and Ireland, the economic crisis is causing businesses to go bust but Sir Gerry, armed with his personal chequebook and commercial nous, wants to rescue those companies that he thinks could have a fruitful future if they are given funds and some fresh thinking.

Each week two businesses whose fate hangs precariously in the balance must persuade Sir Gerry that they're potentially profitable before he makes his big decision - which, if any, businesses to invest in. Sir Gerry submerges himself in all aspects of the businesses, trying to uncover the strengths and weaknesses of each faltering firm, interrogating staff from the top down and setting challenges designed to improve performance.

In Episode 3 of 'Gerry's Big Decision', which aired on the 19th July, one of the businesses featured was 'Foy & Company' based in Letterkenny, Ballybofey and Stranorlar.



## Féile Oireachtas na Samhna Leitir Ceanainn 2009

Beidh Oireachtas na Samhna ar siúl i Leitir Ceanainn ó 28ú Deireadh Fómhair go 1ú Samhain 2009. Seo an féile is sine, is gaelaigh, is cultúrtha agus is spraoiúil a bhíonn ar siúl san tír gach bliain. Tá clár cuimsitheach curtha le chéile i mbliana agus tóidh Leitir Ceanainn suas le 20,000 duine thart fá'n bhaile le linn na féile.

Oireachtas na Gaeilge, one of Ireland's premier cultural events was held in Letterkenny from the 28th October - 1st November 2009.

This festival of music, story, dance and drama attracted some 20,000 people from all parts of Ireland and further afield to Letterkenny.

Further information on the Oireachtas Festival is available at <http://www.antoireachtas.ie>

Seo roinnt de na príomh imeachtaí a bheidh ar siúl:

- » Comhdháil Ghaeilge "Ré Nuálaíochta tagtha don Ghaeilge" le cainteoirí mar an Dr Fionnbarra Ó Brolcháin, Ollamh le airgeadas, Roinn Eacnamaíochta, Ollscoil na hÉireann; Dr Éimear Ní Bhrádaigh, Léachtóir le Fiontraíocht, FIONTAR, Ollscoil Bhaile Átha Cliath; Dr Seosamh Mac Gréinne, Stiúrthóir WESTBIC agus Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, craoltóir RTÉ, CLG, Údar agus Scéalaí, ar siúl 28ú Deireadh Fómhair.
- » Ceoilchoirm Fidleoireachta le Fidil agus Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, i gcuideachta Manus Lunny, Séamus Ó Beaglaíoch, Tim Edey agus Seosamh Ó Neachtain ar an 28ú Deireadh Fómhair san Ghrianán.
- » Príomh Chomórtais Rince ar an Sean Nós agus Amhránaíocht 'Corn Uí Riada' ins an Ionad Aura ar an 31ú Deireadh Fómhair.



*Preparations underway for Féile Oireachtas na Samhna Leitir Ceanainn*

I rith na seachtaine beidh cruinnithe cheannbhliana eagrais ghaelacha, taispeántais, ceardlanna, comórtais éagsúla ceoil, ceoil uirlise, damhsa, dreas cainte, scoraíocht, scéalaíocht agus sceitsí 'Luibíní', drámaíocht, agus spóirt lománaíocht agus Gailf agus Paráid Óige ar siúl. Críochnófar le hAifreann an Oireachtais ar an 1ú Samhain a bhéas a chraoladh beo ar Raidió na Gaeltachta

Féach ar an chlár ag [www.antoireachtas.ie](http://www.antoireachtas.ie) chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil.

## Cllr. Dessie Larkin has been appointed as Chairperson of Donegal County Development Board



Cllr. Larkin has been a member of Donegal County Council since 1999 and Letterkenny Town Council since 1998. He has been a member of the County Development Board since it was established in 2000. Commenting on his appointment Cllr. Larkin paid tribute to the superb work undertaken by his predecessor Cllr. Francis Conaghan, and said that he hopes that he can continue this work into the future. Donegal CDB has recently undertaken a detailed review of its work

and has outlined key strategic priorities for the next three years, which Cllr. Larkin hopes will reap many significant benefits for the County. Cllr. Larkin is also a member of Culture Ireland, the Irish State Agency that promotes the best of Ireland's arts and culture internationally.



## James McCarthy moves to Premier League side Wigan Athletic



English Premier League side Wigan Athletic have snapped up talented 18-year old midfielder James McCarthy from Hamilton Academicals on a five-year contract

Scottish born McCarthy plays for the Republic of Ireland through his late grandfather who was born in Annagry, County Donegal. The midfielder has represented Ireland at U17, U18, U19 and U21 levels. His latest cap came for the Under-21s against Turkey in a UEFA Championship qualifier in Cork last March.

Now the Premier League beckons for the teenager, voted Scottish Young Player of the Year last season. Wigan manager Roberto Martinez told the club's website he was delighted to sign one of the brightest young prospects around.

"He has the ability to become a big player in the future and it is great to have him on board."

## Attention Owners Of Residential Property In Donegal!

### Introduction Of €200 Charge On Non-Principal Private Residences

Do you own a holiday home or residential investment property in Donegal? Do you own residential rental property in Donegal? Perhaps you reside outside Ireland and own a home in Donegal?

The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 introduces a €200 annual charge for Non-Principal Private Residences, payable in respect of each individual property. The charge applies mainly to

owners of private rental property and holiday homes. It also applies to vacant residential property. Liability for the NPPR charge is the same regardless of whether the owner is resident in the state or outside the state.

Payment of the €200 charge for 2009 is now due and payable by 30th September 2009. If payment is not received by 31st October 2009, a €20 late payment fee will apply in respect of each month or part of a month during which the charges remain unpaid.

Please visit [www.nppr.ie](http://www.nppr.ie) or [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie) for further details and how to pay. Email queries to [npprdesk@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:npprdesk@donegalcoco.ie)

## Pride of Place/ Mórtas Ceantair



*Forbairt na Rosann Teo accepting Donegal 2009  
Pride of Place award*

Pride of Place is an all-island competition which is directed towards recognising improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area.

Donegal County Council has been involved in this competition since 2005. Donegal County Council received a great response to the 2009 Donegal County Pride of Place Award Scheme, with 23 entries received from community and voluntary groups across Donegal. The winners of the 2009 Donegal Pride of Place were Cara House Family Resource Centre, Letterkenny; Habinteg Housing Association (Ireland) Lifford; Ardara Parish Council; Comharchumann Oileáin Arainn Mhóir Teo and Forbarit na Rosann Teo, An Clochán Liath.

The winners of the Donegal Pride of Place competition were nominated to compete in the Co-operation All Island Pride of Place competition. The results of the All-Island competition will be announced in November.

For further information, contact Ms Breid Neely at [bneely@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:bneely@donegalcoco.ie)







## Forward Emphasis International

### 10 Years of Operation at Malin Head

Forward Emphasis International is one of the UK and Irelands leading Business Processing Outsourcing Companies, located at Malmar House, Malin Head, Co Donegal. The company has been operating from its current premises for 10 years and has employed an average of 150-200 local people on an ongoing basis, contributing €4,000,000 to the local economy of Inishowen.

Its client base comprises of a list of who's who from the FTSE 100 and Fortune 500 company listings, which includes the banking and insurance sectors, FMCG and the UK not for profit sector. Clients of immediate note would be Lloyds Banking Group, Pricewaterhousecoopers, TUC, Santander, Abbey, Allianz and Dairy Crest to name but a few.

Forward Emphasis International provides an array of Customer Relationship Management Services from inbound customer care call handling programmes to outbound telesales customer acquisition to back office activities such as claims processing and adjudication.

We are currently developing a client centric CRM Software Solution that will aid all of our clients ability to maintain a close relationship with the customers. It is this type of innovation at our Malin Head facility that continues to make Forward Emphasis International a first choice Customer Relationship Management partner to our major UK and Irish plc clients.

It is essential that links with the many successful individuals from the County is developed and more importantly that they can help us all provide a much needed sustainable enjoyable future in rural Irish areas such as Inishowen.

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

## Effective Offshore Ltd

First launched in the spring of 2009 a story that bucks the trend and gives a glimmer of hope to the many people that have lost their jobs. The success of Effective Offshore and their new training centre in Falcarragh also gives heart to many entrepreneurs that you can do it in a recession if you work hard and believe in your business idea.

Speaking to this e-zine, Khrist Veldman, the General Manager said that there is lots of help from all quarters to help people realise their dreams and see their business ideas come to life. Údarás na Gaeltachta, Donegal County Enterprise Board, and First Step Micro-finance to name a few.

Effective Offshore are the only OPITIO approved centre for the Minimum Industry Safety Training (MIST) program in the world outside of the UK. As Irelands only off shore training facility we endeavour to further accreditations so that we not only offer the 2 basic courses needed to travel off shore but also courses that are needed to further the career of delegates who wish to pursue a career in the off shore industry.



Employing eleven people at present we foresee the growth in numbers of staff linking directly to the increased number of courses we run. Situated in the Gaeltacht the company has employed a language policy, which sees all staff taking Irish classes a policy that all staff, who are not Irish speakers, have found to be fun and very worthwhile. The centre still runs the very popular ONE-DAY OFFSHORE BASIC KNOWLEDGE course to give people an overview of the industry and the possibilities out there. With MIST and soon BOSIET approvals the only way is up for Effective Offshore.

**For further information visit**

[www.effectiveoffshore.ie](http://www.effectiveoffshore.ie) or Tel: 00353 749135999

## Pramerica announce Introduction of Back Office Financial Services

Over the past nine years Pramerica has grown to employ more than 650 people, providing a range of services to it's parent company, Prudential Financial in the United States.

Pramerica provides software testing and development as well as analysis and project management services across the Systems Development Lifecycle and also has a call centre providing services to Prudential's employees, agents and customers. More recently Pramerica has begun to provide back-office processing such as Security administration and in the last year has moved to also provide back-office financial services such as mortgage loan processing, investor reporting and position reconciliation.

For more information, please visit [www.pramerica.ie](http://www.pramerica.ie)



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE  
**Dhún na nGall**  
DÓNÉGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

## 80 jobs at SITA in Letterkenny

SITA expands its operations with move into new premises

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Mary Coughlan TD on Monday 28th September 2009 welcomed the announcement by SITA, a software company in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, of its recruitment of a further 80 jobs over the next 12 months.

SITA is the world's leading specialist in air transport communications and IT solutions. SITA's operation in Letterkenny was established following its acquisition in 2003 of Eland Technologies, an Irish software company. It will bring employment to 150 people and follows the expansion of operations and a move into new premises in order to meet the growth in demand for its products and services.

"SITA is unique as the only global IT provider still owned by the industry it serves. Our solutions and services are vital to the well-being of the air transport system worldwide from flight operations to baggage management. The benefits of the work carried out in Letterkenny are felt far and wide in our industry. The quality of the work done here in Letterkenny is outstanding and we are delighted at the opportunity to fill these new positions and cement our ties with the local community" Francesco Violante, CEO, SITA

More information on its operations and the employment opportunities on offer are available at [www.sita.aero](http://www.sita.aero)

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



An Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan, TD, officially opened CoLab at Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) on 21 September 2009.

CoLab (formerly BDC) provides modern incubation space, business mentoring, access to specialist equipment and research teams for client companies. There are currently 12 start-up businesses that are already located at the centre which employ a total of 28 people. In addition to this CoLab is home to 8 participants on Graduate Enterprise Programmes who are working to bring their entrepreneurial ideas to market in the next 12 months. CoLab also accommodates a number of Applied Research Centres and Postgraduate students.



Paul Hannigan, President of LYIT, thanked the Tánaiste for opening CoLab and emphasised that the centre will "provide a home, and support, to knowledge-based companies so they can grow in a supportive innovative learning environment and provide a hub where local businesses can come together to draw on each others resources and the educational resources of LYIT."

For further information please contact Patsy Donaghey at 074 9186703 or [Patrick.donaghey@lyit.ie](mailto:Patrick.donaghey@lyit.ie)

## Propel Programme - Enterprise Ireland

### About the Propel Programme:

Enterprise Ireland launched the Propel Programme earlier this year, as a major business innovation and development initiative. The Propel Programme is geared towards supporting up to 14 new start up companies in the border counties of Cavan, Louth, Donegal, Monaghan, Leitrim and Sligo each year for the next three years. There were nearly 100 applications to Propel 1 and, following a rigorous selection process, phase 1 workshops began in May with 24 participants. The participants had a diverse mix of business ideas from innovative dairy and food products to fuel saving technologies to medical devices.

Participants will receive financial support to assist them with the transition from employment to the challenging environment of self-employment. CoLab at Donegal has a high level of activity with 4 of the 14 participants based in the exceptional "Co Lab" facility based on the campus of Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

### Programme Participation:

Recruitment for the next Propel Programme will begin soon. Applications are invited from entrepreneurs currently located - or looking to locate - in one of the six border counties: Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Louth and Sligo.

For further information, contact 01 6059180, or go to [www.propelprogramme.ie](http://www.propelprogramme.ie)





## Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce



*Pictured at the Chamber Summer Networking event Chamber president Joseph Mangan and Lee Tedstone, Buncrana Town Mayor*

Letterkenny Chamber was established over 40 years ago and has been working for the needs and interests of the business community ever since. Over those years Letterkenny has changed beyond recognition and is now regarded as the commercial centre of Donegal and the North West. Letterkenny is a confident business town that has always strived to offer something different to visitors and citizens alike. The private sector has been instrumental in the town's development and in partnership with local government Letterkenny can deliver high quality services and facilities.

This development has been underpinned by Letterkenny gaining Gateway status and as the only cross border gateway this will be key in the in the future development of Letterkenny and the North West region.

Letterkenny Chamber now represents 280 members of the business community across the sectors. Membership includes large employers alongside small owner-manager businesses and everything in between in addition to other key stakeholders and agencies who value their association with the Chamber.



The Chamber activities include hosting business events with key business speakers and politicians. Letterkenny Chamber encourages all new and existing businesses to be part of its strong network. It is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure the future success and growth of Donegal and the North West.

For more information on Letterkenny Chamber contact  
 Toni Forrester, CEO on 074 9125505,  
[toni@letterkennychamber.com](mailto:toni@letterkennychamber.com) or 0872130495

## Business Support Agencies

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

- » Údarás na Gaeltachta, Cathal Mac Suibhne, [www.udas.ie](http://www.udas.ie)
- » Enterprise Ireland, Meabh Conaghan, [www.enterprise-ireland.com](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com)
- » IDA Ireland, Joe McHugh, [www.idaireland.com](http://www.idaireland.com)
- » Donegal County Enterprise Board, Michael Tunney, [www.donegalenterprise.ie](http://www.donegalenterprise.ie)
- » Donegal County Council, Garry Martin, [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)
- » InterTradeIreland – Acumen, Willie H. Maxwell, [www.intertradeireland.com/index.cfm/area/information/page/Acumen%20Programme](http://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](http://www.irelandnorthwest.eu)

## Job Opportunities

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



## Focus on: School of Tourism (LYIT)



This year sees the School of Tourism at Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) – originally known as Tourism College Killybegs – celebrate 40 years of producing talented and skilled graduates for the tourism industry both in Ireland and abroad.

Drawing on a rich heritage in culinary arts and hospitality and now, with its new status as a School of LYIT, it is well positioned to expand into new areas in the future. By bringing together food, business, science and technology means the school will become a centre for innovation through, product development, hospitality/tourism education and training in the North West. These areas will bring food, business, science and technology together and contribute to the School becoming a centre for food product development and innovative hospitality/tourism education and training in the North West.

Commenting on plans for the future Dr Seán Duffy, Head of School of Tourism, sees plenty of potential, "We can draw on the natural synergies between business, engineering, scientific, and design resources and food. We can combine our knowledge and reputation in the leisure and food industries to come up with new products and services but also how they are delivered. We are already exploring food product development, tourism innovation and food science/health. All have potential to be commercially viable and some could open up completely new markets."

The School of Tourism has produced many graduates, now running well known hotels and restaurants both nationally and internationally. There is certainly no shortage of talent here, it has close to an

enviable 100% graduate employment rate. The college is very active in ensuring students are exposed to international shows and latest culinary techniques, many enter prestigious cooking competitions. In fact, Bred Devlin, a Professional Cookery graduate, captained the Irish Junior Culinary Team to a silver and bronze medal in the World Culinary Olympics in Erfurt, Germany, she was also the overall winner of the "Young Chef" at the Welsh International Culinary Championships in 2008. In September 2009, Bred represented Ireland in the Worldskills competitions in Canada.

The School of Tourism continues to play a significant role in education in the North West and has increased the range of courses in the last four years, from short certificate programmes to degree level qualifications in food production, leisure, heritage, hospitality and tourism. The programmes are designed to facilitate mature students to return to study, as well as school leavers. They have been developed in collaboration with regional and national tourism enterprises.

The majority of the further education programmes are offered, on a full- and part-time basis, in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland (National Tourism Development Authority) to ensure that they are relevant and our graduates have applicable skills. Most include an element of work placement.

According to Dr Duffy innovation is high on the agenda for the School, *"We want to be a centre to develop new commercial food, tourism industry products and how they can be brought to market. We want to enable our graduates to take their ideas through to reality."* He emphasises, *"However, our first commitment is to producing well qualified graduates who are essential to the Irish tourism industry."*

## Courses in the Northwest

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

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

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



## Donegal Places – Focus on Tory Island



*The king of Tory Island, Patsy Dan Rodgers awaits visitors overlooking the island harbour*

Tory Island is located 10 km off the north west coast of Donegal, approximately 5km long and 1km wide and is home to 180 people.

A number of theories exist regarding the name of the island, mythology suggests that the fomorian king Balor of the evil eye took the island as his home called it Torri, the king's rock. Other theories suggest that the island owes its name to the seven great natural towers of rock, or tors, which are found along the northern and eastern coasts. It has also been suggested that the island takes its name from Oileán Thóiraimh, the 'Funeral Island'.

In the early 1980's there was a very real possibility that Tory Island would be de-populated and evacuated. A prolonged community development effort, initially led by the Jesuit priest Fr Diarmuid Ó Péicín, combined with a changed emphasis in government policy which resulted in investment in the offshore islands, has seen a change in the fortune of Tory island since the dark days of the early eighties when this island community was in genuine risk of depopulation.

The past twenty years has seen an investment in the essential social and economic infrastructure of Tory Island which has allowed decades of population decline to be reversed. The provision of a daily ferry service coupled and a new harbour has been followed by a secondary school, a health centre and major improvements in housing and roads.

Although accounts of visitors trips to Tory are available from as far back as the 1880's the island has become accessible to most people only from 1992 onwards of a daily, year round ferry service. This, along with the development of complimentary tourism infrastructure saw the beginning of a fledgling tourism industry that has become the mainstay of the island economy. During the same period the traditional island income sources such as agriculture and seasonal fishing have all but vanished making the development of tourism, albeit in a way that is sustainable, vital for the future of the island and its community.

## Altan World Tour continues

The Celtic music group Altan is celebrating 25 years together in 2010, and they are still on tour. The Boston Globe called Altan "the hottest group in the Celtic realm," while the LA Times says they are "one of the world's greatest treasures." With fiddle, accordion, whistles, guitar, and bouzouki, Altan has created an international audience with their traditional Celtic music performances.

Upcoming concert dates are:

- Japan Tour: 6th – 13th December 2009.
- US Spring Tour 2010: 6th – 26th March 2010

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

## Earagail Arts Festival 2009



The Earagail Arts Festival celebrates and creates a high profile platform for the contemporary and the traditional arts in Donegal. It reflects the unique character and demographic of the region by presenting an exciting, high quality, bi-lingual programme of arts activities across a wide geographical area of North Donegal.

This year, one of the most well attended in its 21 year history, the iconic regional festival hosted 185 events in 13 towns and villages across County Donegal to over 37,000 attendees between the 4th and 19th July 2009, with over 530 artists, community participants, performers, academics and specialists from Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England, Hungary, Spain, Mali, USA, Australia, Morocco and South Korea.

Alongside sell-out performances by the Inishowen Gospel Choir with Moya Brennan, The Henry Girls, Mairéad Ní Mhaoniagh and Cór Thaobh a Leithid, the centrepiece of this year's programme was a spectacular carnival parade led by Inishowen Carnival Group involving over 300 participants from communities across the North West.

For more details or to sign up to receive exclusive information on next year's event: 10-18 July 2010 come visit us at [www.eaf.ie](http://www.eaf.ie)





## Buncrana Born Singer Danny Hutton



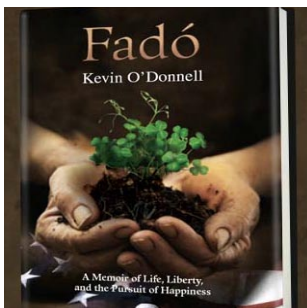
Famous singer Danny Hutton was born on the 10th September in Buncrana, County Donegal and is best known as one of the three lead vocalists in the band, Three Dog Night. Hutton moved to the US as a child. Three Dog Night is an American rock band best known for their music from 1968–1975.

Their first Top Ten hit was "One" in 1969, while "Mama Told Me (Not to Come)" reached number one a year later. "Joy to the World" became the group's biggest hit in 1971 and their final number one "Black and White" was in 1972 and their final Top Ten song was in 1974 "The Show Must Go On". They had twenty-one hit singles, including eleven Top Ten hits also twelve consecutive gold albums from 1969 to 1975

Three Dog Night officially disbanded in 1977. The band got back together in the early '80s and Three Dog Night continues today with Hutton and Wells along with founding members Michael Allsup and Jimmy Greenspoon. They are still making live appearances and recordings as of 2009.

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

## Fadó Book Launch



The book launch took place on Thursday 13th August in the Central Library, Letterkenny of 'Fadó', the true story & memoir of Irish American Kevin O'Donnell whose father hailed from Arranmore Island and mother from nearby Acres, Donegal. Historical themes, conversational storytelling, and strong visual images are his hallmark - skills he learned from

his Irish immigrant father which he has since parlayed into careers as musician, actor, singer-songwriter, columnist, and now, author.

Fadó offers readers an immersive odyssey that chronicles the surprising confluence of two distinct cultures: one in Ireland, the other in the American heartland. Generations of family heritage, immigration, triumph and tragedy, reveal fascinating ties to a much bigger world. Resonating throughout is the story of a boy eager to please his father and prove his worth.

Dramatic and richly-layered, Fadó is a personal invitation to anyone wishing to explore the depth and truth of one's own heritage - part memoir, part history, affectionately told in exquisite detail.

For more information please contact the library at: 074 91 24950 or visit the author's website at [www.fadomemoir.com](http://www.fadomemoir.com)

## Scoil Eoghain Percent For Art Project By Locky Morris



The artist Locky Morris' exceptionally successful commissions for Donegal County Council Public Art programme - Dry, Polestar, and the recently launched The Fid - have been produced alongside his continuing career of gallery based work and his interest in developing works made with schools and communities. Donegal County Council Public Art Programme has now commissioned the artist's first major schools project in the county. His project with Scoil Eoghain in Moville has the unique additional benefit of building upon his research behind his new emigration monument for the town, The Fid. Continuing with those themes the school children have been researching the subject of Beacon Fires and emigration.

The schoolchildren have been using hands-on techniques of making little beacon sculptures from scrap materials as well as updating the theme of beacons within the development of a joint website between the Moville school and a New Brunswick school. In a unique and innovative way, the schools project introduces local children to a new cultural monument in their town, as well as boosting their own confidence, skills and knowledge. A function celebrating this innovative schools project took place on September 3rd, as part of the visit by the New Brunswick delegation to launch The Fid in Moville.

For further information contact Declan Sheehan at [declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie)



## IIC Celebrates 20 Years in Presidential Style



960 Guests and President Mary McAleese Toast Irish Immigration Center on Memorable Evening

"I'm surprised at how many people I know here," said Tom Lee, during the afterparty of his first Irish Immigration Center Solas Awards on May 27th. It was a sentiment shared by many of the 960 guests who reconnected with friends of years and locations past on a memorable Wednesday night.

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese was the 2009 Solas recipient and honored guest. Living to her billing as an eloquent and moving orator, she delivered a keynote address that was alternately funny, emotional, personal and powerful. Taking the theme of "Two shortens the Road," an old Irish saying meaning that a journey is a lot shorter when it's shared, and the notion of "moving along a bit and making room for someone else," she spoke as though addressing everyone individually, and delivered a message that resonated with immigrant and native alike.

"I thought that the President was absolutely brilliant. She gave a sense of hope that, despite all the bad news right now, we can get through this," said Catherine Shannon, a past Solas Awardee. "President McAleese stressed the two things that make IIC a special place - that so much work is still done by volunteers that never lose their enthusiasm. And that the people IIC serves come from such a diverse constituency."

The President was introduced by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith and preceded by an Irish poetry, music and dance performance produced by Brian O'Donovan of WGBH fame, and featuring multiple local artists that filled the room with the rhythm of a thousand pairs of clapping hands.

"I want to pay tribute to the Irish government and the local Consulate offices that have provided such consistent support for our work with Irish immigrants," said Sister Lena Deevy, Executive Director of the Irish Immigration Center and recipient of two standing ovations at mentions by Master of Ceremonies Bob Hildreth, founder of the Open America Foundation, and by Mayor Menino.

"I want to pay tribute to the dedication of the hundreds of volunteers, and to staff who over the years were the 'life support' for thousands of immigrants," continued Deevy. "And I want to pay tribute to you who are here tonight. Just as America's story is the immigrant story, the IIC's story is your story. Thank you for being here, and thank you for enabling the Irish Immigration Center to be here."



## Falcarragh Reunited 2009

The first Falcarragh reunion took place over a sunny June Bank Holiday weekend. A small local group got together and organised a programme of events to suit all ages while taking advantage of many of the local amenities and local sights. The reunion started on the Friday when Falcarragh people came together to discuss 'Falcarragh Now and Falcarragh in the Future'. Later that evening, Tony Mc Fadden, local man and Chairperson of the Donegal Association in London officially opened the Reunion weekend. A DVD was also launched on the night and a hugely popular Photographic exhibition of the area's social history and visual Arts exhibitions were held over the weekend also. The successful reunion weekend closed with a Dinner Dance in Ostan Loch Altan on the Sunday night. Falcarragh people from home and abroad enjoyed a weekend of fun and entertainment and opportunities to catch up with old friends.

For further information please contact:

[mnigairbhe@eircom.net](mailto:mnigairbhe@eircom.net) or [manuskelly@eircom.net](mailto:manuskelly@eircom.net) or visit the website at [www.anfalcarrachlecheile.com/index.htm](http://www.anfalcarrachlecheile.com/index.htm)



### Go Irish Boston!



When the world thinks about the city of Boston, they are often reminded of Ireland. The Irish have been a strong influence in this city that is often portrayed in its culture, tourism and citizens. For someone like me, being from New York but having a strong family connection to Ireland, moving to Boston back in the fall of 2004 was very exciting. In my time here, I have noticed that there were several organizations in Boston geared towards Irish networking and awareness.

Yet, over time I realized that there were few if any opportunities to bring the Irish together on a more social level. With that in mind I decided to bring a few colleagues together to start an organization where Irish Citizens and people like myself who travel to Ireland frequently, together. In December of 2008 at Kennedy's Pub in downtown Boston we began what has been greatly embraced as, Go Irish Boston!

To our surprise, our first event gathered over 30 people most of them from places like Galway, Dublin, Belfast, and other places in Ireland. What has allowed us to be successful has been our ability to connect people at our events. Go Irish Boston! was created as a means of stepping away from the stresses of work and allow people to share stories, laugh and talk about Ireland and the Irish community in Boston.

Our committee consists of myself with family ties to Galway, Limerick, Fermanagh and Tyrone, Niamh Kingham from Lurgan County Armagh, Victoria Patterson from Belfast, County Antrim and Mary Caulfield from Boston with family from Connemara, County Galway.

Go Irish Boston! is always interested in helping Irish visitors to Boston. This past summer we joined forces with Sister Lena Deevy of the Irish Immigration Center to start up a Job Placement Service for Summer Visa Students. The program was a huge success helping to place most of the students who had inquired about the services. Be sure to join us at one of our monthly events which is every 2nd Thursday of the month. Our events have consisted of social gatherings, pub-crawls, Rugby Matches and such. You will make new friends, enjoy a nice pint and feel the comforts of home! *Patrick McCrossan, President of Go Irish Boston*

For further information please visit:  
<http://www.meetup.com/goirishboston/>



**Ulster-Scots Agency**  
Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch

The aim of the Ulster-Scots Agency is to promote the study, conservation, development and use of Ulster-Scots as a living language, to encourage and develop the full range of its attendant culture; and to promote an understanding of the history of the Ulster-Scots.

The Agency is part of the North/South Language Body (Tha Boord o Leid); one of six cross border bodies born out of the Belfast Agreement, on Good Friday, 10 April, 1998. This body comprises two agencies, The Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge, the agency responsible for the development of the Irish language. Each agency has its own board, whose members together constitute the Board of the North/South Language Body.

The Agency is jointly funded by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the Republic of Ireland. The Agency's headquarters are in Belfast with a regional office in east Donegal, an Ulster-Scots heartland area.

In May 2009 a unique Ulster-Scots historical, cultural and tourism project was launched in Co Donegal. The Monreagh Ulster-Scots Heritage Centre is located in the picturesque setting of Laggan. The project was initiated by the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies at the University of Ulster and has been supported by the International Fund for Ireland as well as the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. To find out more about what the centre has to offer contact Frank Carey at the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies by telephoning (028) 7137 5569.

For more information visit the Ulster-Scots Agency new website

On Thursday 15th October, 2009 the Ulster-Scots Agency officially launched its new website. The website will provide full details of all Ulster-Scots activity taking place in Donegal, across Ulster and further afield - visit [www.ulsterscotsagency.com](http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com) for further information.

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

##### Maria Ferguson

Email: [diaspora@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:diaspora@donegalcoco.ie) or  
[maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie)  
Tel: +353 (0) 74 9724466

##### Roisin McBride

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

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

