

I owe a great debt of gratitude that can never be repaid to my upbringing in Donegal. From the family that surrounded me, to the teachers that educated me, to the friends that continue to this day to keep me grounded and longing to be home more often than I get the chance to.

Unfortunately I only get home about once a year but I always look forward to crossing that bridge from Strabane into Lifford. I haven't forgotten how special my childhood was and hope that my own children grow up with the same quality memories I have.

Highlights include catching fish with hand-lines, using jumpers for goalposts in the field beside the house, building bonfires with tyres and branches for Halloween and being off school every year for a few weeks gathering spuds for my Dad.

There is a saying in Donegal (which family & friends throw at me all the time) which goes "It's far fray such-and-such that you were reared." Just in case there was any danger of my feet getting off the ground. It always makes me smile and I think of this first when I think of home.

I often come off the phone from Donegal friends or family laughing and being asked "What was all that about?!" and I'm usually at a loss to explain it with anything better than "You wouldn't understand" as the Donegal humour is sometimes hard to translate. An example is a joke I heard recently which goes; "Donegal driving instructor asks the pupil: "What sign would you expect to see approaching a roundabout?" Pupil answers "Fresh dug pinks." Enough said.



There are so many qualities to the county, from the beautiful landscapes to the accents to the people themselves that it's hard to summarise in words, but being given the Freedom of the County a few years ago was an immense honour for myself and my family. Unlike my father I never played Gaelic for the County but from the very first time I walked out for the Republic of Ireland Senior International squad in 1996 aged 19 to when I walked out in Croke Park on 14th October this year for the 100th time I have always thought of the people back home and hoped that they would be proud of one of their own wearing the badge and, on occasion, the armband.

I hope you all have a very happy and peaceful Christmas and 2010.

Shay Given

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Message From Mayor



This is a special time of year for families and communities. It is a time of year that people think of friends and family, especially those who might find themselves away from home. As Mayor of Donegal, I wish to extend my wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to our community at home and abroad.

Our county over the coming year will be working hard to address the challenges which face us and also to avail of the many opportunities that exist to make Donegal a better place – economically, socially and culturally. I look forward to having opportunities to work with our broad community at home and abroad in this context over the course of 2010.

Nollaig Shona agus Bliain Nua faoi faoi mhaise diobh go leir

Mayor Brendan Byrne
County Mayor

Welcome Fáilte

This is the sixth 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 séú eagrán 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.



Ireland and its Diaspora: Harnessing a Unique Resource

The Global Irish Economic Forum, which was held at the Farmleigh Estate near Dublin on the weekend of 18-20 September 2009, was a unique event. It brought together, for the first time, the most influential members of the global Irish community with a record of high achievement in business and culture, as well as a number of individuals with a strong business connection to Ireland. The tremendous success of those who attended is testament to the hard work, innovation and ability, which characterises the Irish abroad.

Over the course of the Forum, attendees explored how the Irish, at home and abroad, and those with a strong interest in Ireland, can work together to contribute to our overall efforts at economic renewal and to build new connections between Ireland and our global community.

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

Oireachtas na Gaeilge 2009 Leitir Ceanainn



Caitlín Uí Chochláin ag bronnadh duais ar Dheirdre Bhreathnach, a bhuaigh an comórtais Sheáin Óig Uí Thuama, Oireachtas na Samhna, Leitir Ceanainn 2009

Bhí Oireachtas na Samhna 2009 ar siúl i Leitir Ceanainn ó 28ú Deireadh Fómhair go 1ú Samhain. Is féile comhaimseartha é an tOireachtas, ag ceiliúradh, ag comóradh agus ag forbairt na healaíon dhúchasach go hardchaighdeánach agus ag cothú rannpháirtíocht leathan pobail.

The 'Oireachtas' is now in its 112th year of existence and is now Ireland's longest running annual festival. It has grown dramatically to comprise some 150 literary, composition and stage competitions (with a prize fund of €150,000), and a growing list of formal and fringe activities.

Oireachtas 2009 proved to be the most successful to date. An estimated 20,000 people attended from all over Ireland, some of those from England, Scotland, Wales, Japan, Korea, America, Australia, and from various parts of Europe.

D'éirigh le sár-cheoltóirí Chonallach na buaic chomórtais amhránaíocht a bhaint amach, Doiminic Mac Giolla Bhríde - Corn Uí Riada, Marie Ní Choilm - Comórtais na mBan agus Deirdre Breathnach - faoi 35bliain.

*Comhdháil an Oireachtais 'Ré na Nuálaíochta Tagtha don Ghaeilge' le híoslódáil ar www.donegalcoco.ie



Edwina Ní Eocháin ag baint sult a cuid céimeanna ag Oireachtas na Samhna, Leitir Ceanainn, 2009

Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA)

The Ireland Chamber of Commerce USA New England is now the Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA). The official launch of the Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA) took place on the 9th September 2009. The launch of BIBA will incorporate the rebranding and establishment of an improved meeting calendar, which will include more events, tailored to specific industry verticals. The BIBA will revamp their morning and evening speaker series and establish a new young professional's organisation. The BIBA will also be reaching out to other like-minded business organisations in the state and it will work to cement the fine relationships it has built at both the Massachusetts State House and Boston City Hall. The BIBA intends to refocus their efforts on the valuable business network that have been created over the years. There are many great organisations in Boston that deliver services and value when the members do business with each other.

For further information on BIBA, please email info@bibaboston.com



Donegal Association in Dublin Promotes Home County in Nations Capital

At the Donegal associations 2007 Donegal Person of the Year Awards recipient Mr John Carr undertook to contribute in a significant way to promoting Donegal Tourism to the Capital.

To determine how best this could be achieved at a series of meetings in 2008, Mr. Carr along with the Chairman of the Donegal Association in Dublin Mr. Hugh Harkin met with people conversant in tourism.

A steering group representing the following bodies and interests has been established:

Failete Ireland North west, Donegal County Council, Donegal Tourism Ltd, Donegal Hotels Federation Branch, Donegal Self catering Sector, Donegal Airport, Transport Sector and Udaras Na Gaeltachta.

An event is being scheduled to take place in 2010. Further details will be announced over the coming months. For further information, contact Barney McLaughlin at barney.mclaughlin@donegalcoco.ie

Michael Murphy is named 2009 Young Player Of The Year



Donegal had reason to cheer at the Vodafone GAA Football All-Star awards at which Michael Murphy picked up the GAA Young Footballer of the Year at the 2009.

Now in his third year of championship football, Murphy is emerging as one of the classiest finishers in the country. He burst onto the

senior scene in 2007, and in the same year the talented Glenswilly clubman was playing for his county at minor, under-21 and senior level. The 20-year-old forward from Glenswilly ended up second top-scorer in the entire championship with 0-36 in 2009, pipped only by Colm Cooper of Kerry's six frees on All-Ireland final day, which gave him a total of 1-34.

Murphy, a student at Dublin City University, is the first Donegal man ever to win the Young Player of the Year award, after the Glenswilly forward beat off the challenge of Aidan O'Shea from Mayo and Cork's Colm O'Neill.

Oireachtas Rince Uladh 2009 / Ulster Dancing Championships Letterkenny 2009



The Ulster Irish Dancing Championships took place in Letterkenny on the 12th November to 16th November 2009.

It is estimated that in excess of 8000 people attended the championships from all over Ulster and its bordering counties during the four-day event from 12th to 16th November 2009. Irish dancing is becoming more popular than ever before and it is a mecca showcase for those young people (3yrs - 21yrs) performing and competing in the traditional art of dancing and for the impassioned audience it attracts from all over the global Celtic community. The best Irish dancers from all over Ulster were competing for the qualifying places for the World Irish Dancing Championships to be held in Glasgow at Easter in 2010.

Letterkenny Town Council and Donegal County Council were the main funding bodies for the Ulster Dancing Championships 2009 in Letterkenny, with support also from Fáilte Ireland and Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce supported it.

Donegal Libraries - A Great Place to Learn

Donegal County Library is currently in partnership with FÁS in offering an exciting eLearning Project to adults across its library and Taobh Tíre network. The project has been running since mid October and offers a range of online courses, accessible in the library or from home, supported by a facilitator in participating libraries and Taobh Tíre Centres. 125 people have already signed up to courses and there are places still available.

13 libraries and 3 Taobh Tíre locations across the county are taking part, offering training opportunities in the heart of the community.

The programme is free and open to everyone over 18. It benefits those new to computers and those who wish to update their skills through workshops and the use of online courseware.

If you know someone who may be interested contact:
Donegal County Library on tel: 00353 74 9121968 or visit www.donegallibrary.ie





German Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Christian Pauls, pictured with Mr Michael O'hEanaigh, Cllr Dessie Larkin, County Manager Michael McLoone and Mr Shaun Hannigan during his visit to the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny in May 2009

Donegal DJ Michelle Doherty to present new music show on RTE 2

DJ Michelle Doherty who hails from Glengad, County Donegal is one of the co-hosts presenting a new alternative music show on RTE 2 television.



The show entitled 'When Under Ether' is a new six part series that broadcasts on Tuesday nights and covers all aspects of the alternative music scene. Michelle, who is also a successful model, has extensive experience TV experience and previously

presented a late night music show on Channel 6 called "The Nightshift".

Michelle's radio show, 'Finest Worksongs', is broadcast on Phantom 105.2 FM each weekday from 10.30am to 14.30pm, and can be found at www.phantom.ie

"A Shine Of Rainbows" Filmed in Inishowen Wins Series Of Coveted Awards



A Shine of Rainbows (Canadian/Irish co-production) is a family feature set in Inishowen, County Donegal starring Connie Nielsen (Gladiator), Aidan Quinn (Legends of the Fall), and newcomer John Bell.

The film has won three awards so far, the Children's Jury Award at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, Best Dramatic Feature at the Heartland Film Festival and Best Feature Film as voted for by a Children's Jury, at Coca-Cola Cinemagic International Film and Television Festival in Belfast.



The Film Office at Donegal County Council continues to work with the producers to realise the full potential of the film and the benefits it can bring to the region.

The film is due to be released by 21st Century FOX in North America in early 2010 and it is hoped that Metrodome will release in the UK and Ireland too. Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNc0c-AI35c>

Further information is available by contacting - Aileen Doherty, Donegal Film Office at Donegal County Council, 074 9373726 aileen.doherty@donegalcoco.ie

Donegal County Council wins Excellence in Local Government Award 2009



Donegal County Council has won an excellence in Local Government Award at Chambers Ireland's 6th Annual Event.

Cllr. Brendan Byrne, An Meara of Donegal County Council congratulated the Council's Social Inclusion Unit for winning first place in the County Development Board Integrated Service Delivery category for their 2008 Keeping Warm Community Initiative. He noted that "the idea behind this project was a simple yet effective one and involved working with a range of organisations including the ESB to provide over 500 households in the county with information packs including CFL light bulbs, information on energy efficiency and keeping their houses warm during the winter".

He added, "the successful implementation of this initiative was dependent on a partnership structure and the adoption of a collaborative approach involving some 11 agencies along with a range of community and voluntary groups throughout the county. Given the diverse range of citizens affected by fuel poverty the interagency approach was fundamental to the successful implementation of this project."

For further information please contact: Anne Marie Conlon, Social Inclusion Co-ordinator, 00353 749172531 or visit www.donegalcoco.ie



Cllr. Brendan Byrne, An Meara of Donegal County Council, Ms Anne Marie Conlon, Social Inclusion Co-ordinator and Mr Chris McGrath pictured with their Excellence in Local Government Award 2009



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Chinese Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Liu Biwei, pictured with County Mayor Brendan Byrne during his visit to County House, Donegal County Council, Lifford in August 2009



Shay Given pictured in June 2006 when he was accorded the county's highest honour at a Civic Reception hosted by Donegal County Council at the County House, Lifford. Shay is pictured with members of his family.

London Donegal Association Dance



The Donegal Diaspora in London gathered in the Emirates Stadium, home of Arsenal Football Club recently for their annual banquet, which was attended by upwards of 400 people. Present on the night were the representatives of the commercial and industrial life of the English capital, most of them first and second generation Donegal people.

"It's very important that we keep these kind of nights going and keep our Association strong as once our members get out of the habit of giving us their support then it is difficult to get them back into the fold again, particularly during a recessionary period", Tony said.

Guest of honour, Noel Cunningham paid tribute to Tony McFadden for his great work in keeping the Donegal Association in London very much to the fore in the English capital. He said that during this time of recession in Ireland many young Donegal people were once again being forced to emigrate to London and he urged industrial and business sector to continue to provide employment for them, when and wherever possible.

For further information visit: www.donegalassociation.ie



Focus on - Telecommunications

Project Kelvin -Telecommunications Transformation in Donegal



Project is part financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA Cross-Border funding from the European Union. The network is being constructed and will be managed by Hibernia Atlantic.

Project Kelvin is a 30 million cross-border venture between the Department of Communications Marine & Natural Resources, and the Northern Ireland Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment. The project is assisted by Interreg IVA Cross-Border funding from the European Union. The network is being constructed and will be managed by Hibernia Atlantic.

An optic fibre submarine telecommunications cable has been brought ashore at Portlough. Fibre links from Derry to Letterkenny and from Letterkenny to Strabane are currently under construction.

When complete communications between Donegal and North America as well as Europe can be routed directly without having to use congested external networks such as London thereby reducing trans-Atlantic data latency. With this link, international telecommunications costs in Donegal will be more competitive than major cities and will certainly increase competition in the international telecommunications market.

Amongst the benefits will be faster response times at lower cost for high capacity broadband. As part of the contract connection prices as well as quality of service will be benchmarked against other international telecoms hubs such as Amsterdam and London until 2018.

The transatlantic connection will link directly with the Donegal County Council Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) in Letterkenny and potentially with all seven MAN's in the County over time. This will position Donegal as an attractive, competitive and technically advanced region for companies seeking high speed, affordable international telecommunications coupled with the benefits of lower setup costs to those in major cities. The Letterkenny link is scheduled for completion in March 2010.

For further information please contact Brian Boyle Head of Information Systems Donegal County Council at
e-mail : bboyle@donegalcoco.ie

SITA - Air Transport Know-How in Letterkenny



SITA is the world's leading specialist in air transport communications and IT solutions. Almost every airline and airport in the world does business with SITA.

The company has been in Letterkenny for many years; it started out as a small venture nurtured by Letterkenny IT back in 1999, at that time it was part of the Irish-owned business Eland Technologies.

Six years ago, Eland was acquired by SITA and since then the Letterkenny operation has grown steadily. In September, SITA moved to larger premises in Letterkenny Office Park, Windyhall which will facilitate the expansion of the team. This includes the current recruitment for 80 new positions bringing the numbers employed to 150 by mid-2010.

In Letterkenny, SITA employees work on the development and installation of specialist IT systems for the air transport industry. These include e-commerce and online systems for airlines including Air New Zealand, Air Seychelles, Malaysia Airlines, Mexicana Airlines, THAI, United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic.

The Irish team has recently taken on the development of SITA's airport management system, which runs 24 of the world's leading airports including Boston, Los Angeles and Mumbai.

As part of its recruitment and development programme in Ireland, each year SITA employs eight second-year IT students that are recruited from LYIT and University of Ulster. The students spend one year working and then return to complete their degrees. In addition, SITA has partnered with LYIT to develop a new MSc in Computing in Enterprise Applications Development. A unique aspect of this Masters programme is the inclusion of a 12-week work placement, along with a paid allowance, for up to ten participants.

Information of the positions available at SITA can be found at
www.sita.aero/careers



Donegal Creameries – Serving Donegal since 1899

Donegal Creameries Plc has three main divisions making up its business; Dairy, Agribusiness and Property. It has operations in Ireland, the U.K. and Holland. Its Dairy business is centred on fresh milk in the north west of Ireland with processing at Killygordon in Donegal. Its Agribusiness includes the manufacture of compound animal feeds and the development, growing and sale of seed potatoes to over thirty countries. It has significant property assets including The Grianan Estate, one of the largest farms in Ireland and other properties in Donegal, Sligo and the U.K.

In operation since 1899, Donegal Creameries Dairy Division employ over 100 people directly on site. With more than 200 local farmers supplying fresh milk to our dairy each day, Donegal Creameries is one of the largest employers, both directly and indirectly in the region.

2010 looks set to be another exciting year for Donegal Creameries. The company has recently announced a three-year partnership with Donegal GAA, whereby the Creameries will become the official sponsor of all county GAA teams. This will run in tandem with continued sponsorship of Finn Harps, outlining Donegal Creameries commitment to supporting local.

Alongside the traditional offering of local dairy products, Donegal Creameries via its subsidiary Different Dairy Company also produce a range of delicious oat cluster and yogurt snacks called Rumlbers.



Check out www.rumlbers.ie for more information.

New value-added dairy products are set to be unveiled in the coming year too, so watch this space!

For more information, please contact:

Sheila Gilroy Collins at sheilagc@donegal-creameries.ie or

Steven Perry at sperry@donegal-creameries.ie

4BUSINESS - The Northwest's Quarterly Business Magazine DOING THE BUSINESS IN DONEGAL



Covering all the issues affecting those at the coalface of entrepreneurship in the Northwest, '4Business' Magazine takes a fresh and original look at a resilient and innovative business community.

Launched in 2008 the magazine has already earned a reputation as a "must read" publication that looks at the people making the headlines. It has developed an intimate and engaging editorial style putting real stories about the business personalities (from or are associated with the region) at the centre of the magazine.



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With a readership in excess of 6,000 per issue '4Business' keeps readers informed about the multi-faceted business environment in the NW with dedicated sections addressing industry sectors and disciplines. The two men behind the magazine are not surprised by its success. Pat McArt, the former Managing Editor of Derry Journal Group Newspapers, is the Editor, and Kevin McMenamin, Managing Director of Durgan Media is the publisher.

Pat has no doubt about why the magazine has been well received:

"More than 60 per cent of businesses in Northwest are indigenous, family run operations employing less than thirty people. What we are doing with '4Business' is giving this community a common voice. '4Business' is at the forefront raising issues that concern business here and highlighting what's required by those in power."

If you have an interesting story that you would like to share with the readers of 4Business contact patmcart@4business.ie or call +353 74 91 94477. Please visit www.4business.ie to view archive issues of the magazine.

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

Job Opportunities

- » 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
- » www.sita.aero
- » www.donegalcoco.ie



Wind Energy - Donegal Gold



As part of the Governments Labour Market Activation initiative, the HEA granted LYIT approval to run a Higher Certificate in Engineering - Wind Energy. This September, 16 candidates enrolled in this part-time programme. It was designed to re-skill and up-skill those who were caught by the downturn in the economy and to provide the learners with new skills to enable them find future employment. There was great interest in the programme from all corners of the county and further afield.

Wind Turbine in the Donegal Skies at Meentycat, Drumkeen, Co Donegal

Currently, Donegal has over 200 MW of installed capacity. This is the largest concentration of wind power generation of any county on the Island of Ireland. The strategic goal for the region is to have some 500 MW of installed capacity. The Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) estimates that there are some 1.5 jobs per installed MW. This equates to over 10,000 jobs.

Wind turbines are Donegal's Gold, they provide a rich harvest of natural energy to heat our homes and supply our industry with power. To support the growth in this industry and keep Co Donegal at the forefront of this energy policy, LYIT in conjunction with Donegal County Council, the County Development Board and the other state agencies are cooperating and working together to make Donegal "The Wind Capital of Ireland".

For more information visit: http://www.lyit.ie/courses/electronic_mechanical/HC_Wind_LY_MWIND_C.html

LYIT hosts international conflict management conference

The 6th Asia-Europe Roundtable on "Asia & Europe Can Show the Way for Effective Conflict Management" took place in Letterkenny and Derry from 10 - 12 June 2009. Over 35 experts and high profile delegates from Asia and Europe were given a warm welcome at a busy Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) campus on Friday, 12 June, which also played host to Special Olympics athletes.

The cross-border event which took place over three days at LYIT and University of Ulster at Magee, focusing in particular on "frozen conflicts" - cases where the cessation of open hostility offers a chance for the regional and international community to look into possible political solutions and a framework for sustainable peace.

Nobel Laureate John Hume, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, and Tánaiste Mary Coughlan attended.

Tánaiste Mary Coughlan said that the subject of the conference was very close to our hearts in Ireland, emphasizing, "... in Donegal where history and the complicated politics of our island transformed our county border into a demarcation of jurisdiction."

Paul Hannigan, President of LYIT, speaking about the importance of hosting the conference in Ireland said, "It is gratifying that we're now in a position to reflect and pass on what we've learned in Ireland. This is the 'new reality' in this part of the world, one of collaboration to work together for the good of societies, North and South. The delegates can see firsthand what has been achieved here. Once again we're pleased to work closely with the University of Ulster to bring such a prestigious and worthwhile event to the North West."

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



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Donegal Places - Focus on Oileán Árann Mhóir / Arranmore Island



Located 3 miles from the mainland in the clear waters of the Atlantic, Oileán Árann Mhóir - Arranmore Island is the largest of a group of islands off the north-west coast of Ireland. Árann Mhór is a tranquil island that charms the senses and it is part of the Irish language region known as the Gaeltacht, where Gaeilge is spoken as a community language and its culture and traditions are alive and strong. Through the efforts of the Island's Community Development Co-op - Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhóir, the quality of life of the island community has improved steadily over the years. Developments over the years include the introduction of a group water scheme, the provision of a roll-on, roll-off ferry service, agricultural & builders providers facility, eight unit holiday homes complex, a cultural/tourism centre and day care medical centre.

The continued contribution of the Comharchumann in improving the quality of life of the community was acknowledged recently when it was awarded 1st place in the Islands Section of the 2009 Pride of Place Awards.

For further information about Oileán Árann Mhóir, contact Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhóir at www.arranmoreco-op.com or email comharchumann@oileanarainnmhoir.com

The Arranmore Culture Centre is now open. The Centre is a purpose-built building operating under the auspices of the Arranmore Development Co-operative (Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhóir Teo) and is situated beside the Holiday Village in the townland of Fallagowan.

Over time, the Centre hopes to become home to an interesting and reflective collection of artefacts and memorabilia that will be both thought-provoking and informative. The Centre will also welcome and host visiting exhibitions that may be of interest or relevance to Arranmore. Enquiries: 0749520533
Email: comharchumann@oileanarainnmhoir.com

The Plantation in the Northwest



17th century monument to Sir Richard Hansard and his wife Dame Anne in Clonleigh Church, Lifford, Co. Donegal.

Did you know that seventeen of the forty-four Presidents of the United States of America are descended from those who left Ulster in the eighteenth century many of whom had arrived in Ulster during the Plantation?

It is envisaged that communities both locally and internationally will learn more about this fascinating period in our shared history through the variety of projects that Donegal County Council and its partners are working on to commemorate the Plantation of Ulster/Plandáil Uladh.

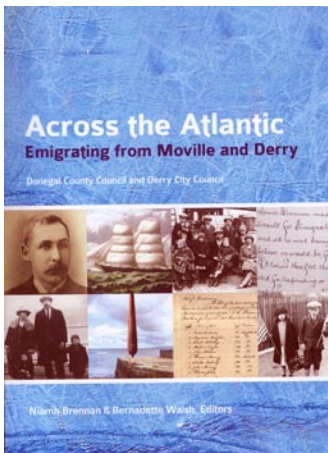
These projects include:

- The Planter and the Gael, a cross community, cross border project between Derry and Donegal supported by PEACE III Programme
- Secondary Schools Workshops organised by Donegal County Museum and Derry City Council
- A Plantation of Ulster Education Pack devised by the County Archives Service It will be available in 2010.

For further information on these and other projects please contact Donegal County Museum at museum@donegalcoco.ie



Across the Atlantic- Emigrating from Moville



Across the Atlantic-Emigrating from Moville and Derry is a book containing 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'.

Contributors are Paddy Fitzgerald at the Migration Centre, UAFP, Omagh; Denis Noel, Archivist, Provincial Archives, New Brunswick;

Mickey McGuinness, local historian; Bernadette Walsh, Derry City archivist; Berni Campbell, local studies librarian, Donegal County Council; Niamh Brennan, Donegal County Council archivist; Ciara Joyce, archivist; Declan Sheehan, assistant public art manager, Donegal County Council; Sean Beattie, local historian; and Brian Mitchell, local historian.

The book includes chapters on available sources for emigration in Donegal, Derry and online, and is 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.

Gaeltacht Bhaile na hÉireann - Canada's Gaeltacht



A Gaeltacht sign leading to the town of Tamworth in Ontario.

Irish has long been taught in Canada, particularly in the University of Toronto, St Mary's in Halifax & in Antigonish Newfoundland. It is this strong linguistic connection that has inspired Ailte Mac Giolla Chainnigh and his colleagues to establish a Gaeltacht in Tamworth, Ontario.

Is as an tsuim láidir seo a tháinig fíis Gaeltacht Cheanada ó Ailte Mhic Giolla Chainnigh, sáighdiúr agus léachtóir fisice i gColáiste Mhileata i Kingston, Ontario. Thosaigh Ailte ag foghlaim Gaeilge na blianta siar agus é líofa anois. Chaith sé go leor ama ag staidéar in Oideas Gael, i nGleann Cholm Cille chomh maith. Cheannaigh sé fhéin agus cairde suíomh mór talaimh i Tamworth aice le Erinsville, Ontario agus é mar aidhm acu Gaeltacht

Cheanada a thógáil ansin. Tá tús curtha lena gcuid cúrsaí ansin agus de réir a chéile, beidh foirgnimh agus ionaid cónaithe a thógáil. Ní fíis níos mó é ach gníomh!

For further information visit: <http://www.anghaeltacht.ca/>
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

Tánaiste launches Taobh Tíre report



The Launch of the Final Report on the Taobh Tíre library Research Project at the Forge Family Resource Centre, Pettigo

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Coughlan T.D. launched the final report on the Taobh Tíre library research project at the Forge Family Resource Centre, Pettigo recently.

Taobh Tíre is a project of the Public Library Research Programme, a national initiative funded jointly by the Department of The Environment Heritage and Local Government and Local Authorities and managed by An Chomhairle Leabharlanna (The Library Council).

Taobh Tíre has investigated and implemented new and innovative ways to serve rural and isolated communities. Each service point includes a taster collection of books, access to the library catalogue and facilities to reserve and request items from this catalogue, PCs linked to the Internet and access to library services such as reference, business information and interlibrary loan.

Internet access to the library catalogue with a weekly delivery service for requested items is available for members at www.donegalibrary.ie. As communities are distant from an actual library, enquiries can be made to virtual librarian through Ask A Librarian section of the website.

For further information on Taobh Tíre contact Senior Executive Librarian, Donna Quinn at dquinn@donegalcoco.ie



An Scéal - Newsletter of the Irish Community in Scotland



Nigerian Choir and Dancers at last years St Patrick's festival Glasgow

In January 2006 the first edition of An Scéal, a newsletter aimed at the Irish community in Scotland was made available online. In the four years since then editor Patrick McAleer, a Glasgow born Irishman, whose mother Winifred McCarry hailed from Carrigart, has developed the newsletter so that it is now available in all Glasgow libraries, read by Scotland's political representatives and has a growing readership among the Irish in Scotland.

The newsletter is packed full of information on Irish events in Scotland. Not surprisingly it has a strong west coast appeal and details of many Donegal events such as the recent Mullaghduff dance in Glasgow.

For further information visit: www.irishinscotland.com



Margaret Gallagher, Frank McAveety MSP, Patrick McAleer and Colin McAllister at launch of Gaelic league DVD on the history of Irish speakers in Glasgow

The Donegal Association of Philadelphia Ball



Philadelphia Donegal Association Dinner Dance

From Left: Nóra Campbell ^Vice President Philadelphia Branch, Marian Caffrey ^vice Secretary of Dublin branch, Siorcha Ní dhomhnaill ^secretary of Dublin Branch, Carmel Boyce ^Second vice President of Philadelphia Branch, Kathleen Sheerin, - honorary Life member of Dublin Branch, Mary Crossan ^ President of Philadelphia Branch.

The 121st Donegal Association of Philadelphia Ball was held on November 28th 2009 in the Irish Centre, Emlen Street and it was attended by over 500 people.

The Ball Chairperson, John Gallagher thanked everyone for coming, especially the 3 Guests of Honour from the Dublin Branch, Kathleen Sheerin (Ardara), Marian Caffrey (Downings) and Siorcha Ní Dhomhnaill (Gaoth Dobhair). Mary Crossan (Glenswilly) the newly elected President congratulated the 4 scholarship winners and thanked her Committee for their hard work.

The speeches were followed by the Grand March led by Eileen McAleer, the Grand Marshall, dignitaries and Committee members. Keira Mc Donagh, a La Salle university graduate was chosen to represent Philadelphia in this year's Mary from Dungloe contest. Kiera's family hails from Roscommon, Sligo, Antrim and Derry. Congratulations to Kiera!

For further information visit: www.donegalassociation.ie

Meenderry School Reunion, Falcarragh



Group of pupils at Meenderry School around 1933-35

The former pupils of the old Meenderry School, Falcarragh, situated in the heart of the Cloughaneely Parish will celebrate a Reunion next August, when ex-pupils will meet again to reminisce and rejoice of the days of yore. Indeed hardship and sadness will also be very much part of the mindset as hundreds of ex-pupils endured both in abundance, at home in the Lagan and as emigrants in foreign lands.

The Reunion will take place during the Bank Holiday week-end July 30th and August 2nd 2010. Additionally, a commemorative book on the school and its environs is being researched. The school, which opened on December 5th 1910, had 118 pupils on opening day and a further 27 enrolled before the end of year.

Ca bhfuil na paistí sin uilig inniú? An raibh baint ar bith agat féin nó ag do theaghlach leis an scoil? Bhfuil scéalta ar bith agat fa'n scoil, Ma tá - inis dúinn agus Bigí Linn! Did you or your family attend Meenderry School? Have you any photographs, stories or other memorabilia?

If so, let us know by contacting meenderryns@gmail.com. or ringing 0876340113. A full calendar of events will be displayed on the website www.scoilmhindoire.com or www.meenderryschool.com during 2010.

Donegal Historical Society Annual Published

The sixtieth issue of Donegal Historical Society's journal, **DONEGAL ANNUAL** has just been published. The Annual contains 22 articles covering the entire county from places as far apart as Pettigo in the south of the county to Fahan in Inishowen.

Helen Meehan writes about the Hamiltons of Brownhall, near Laghey, and Matthew Potter returns to the Earls of Arran in Donegal Town. County Archivist Niamh Brennan highlights the Cochrane of Redcastle while Rev. Raymond Blair recalls the heroic life of the blind Ballybofey writer, Frances Browne. Pat Conaghan discusses the Killybegs project of Alexander Murray, and notes a connection with Princess Diana. Conor Curran celebrates the 125th anniversary of the GAA with an article on sport in the county. Another anniversary, the founding of the Royal School at Raphoe 400 years ago, is recalled by Canon Crooks. Sean Beattie rediscovers Donegal's forgotten cottage industries, which produced lace and embroidery for society shoppers in Regent St. in London. Other articles feature the Drumboe martyrs, Stopford Brookes, Finner archaeological sites, the 1922 election and whaling at Inver.

For further information visit: www.donegalhistory.com or www.historyofdonegal.com

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

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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.