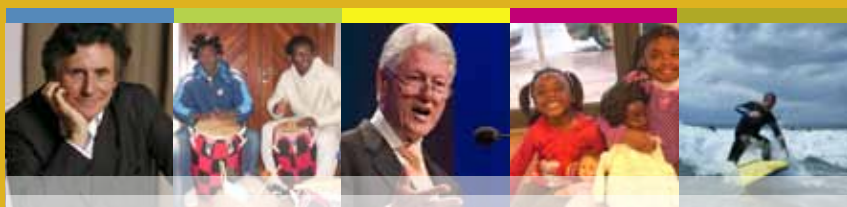


# Donegal

- community in touch

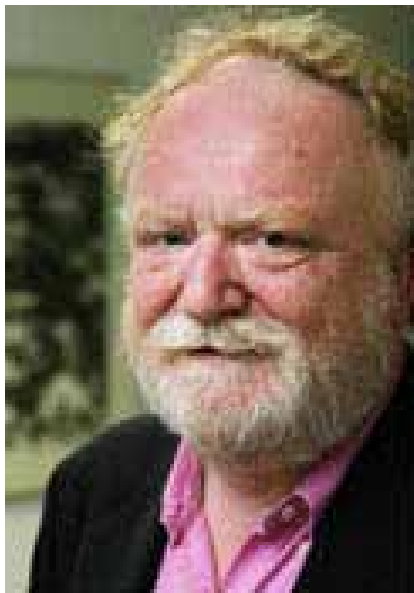


ISSUE 9 OCTOBER 2010 / EAGRÁN 9 DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2010

I am a Buncrana man, born there in 1953. My place of birth was 3, Maginn Avenue – known to the town as The Pound Lane. All the women we knew had their babies at home then- maternity wards were strictly for swanks, and my family did not come into that category. The house belonged to Lizzie and Johnny O'Donnell, my mother's parents. At its side was the forge where my grandfather worked as a blacksmith, as did generations of men before him. That was the family trade. I come so from a line of expert craftsmen, a fact of which I am very proud and never forget when I am writing. The shape is the substance, and the substance is the shape.

*The Fort of the Foreigner is how Dun na nGall translates. A place as lonely as it is welcoming, as strange as it is familiar, as wild as it is peaceful – a place of infinite, inviting contradictions.*

I return often to my home town. My brother Shane and myself bought a house some years ago there to share when we go back to the county. My niece Selena loves Donegal as we do. Maybe even more so. Our great sorrow is that our father and mother did not live to see her, but we know how they would approve of her getting to know the shores and streets, the braes and lanes of Buncrana. Being a natural actress, she can even do a super imitation of the accent, I'm glad to say, and



I hope that will stand her in good stead.

Coming from Donegal has also long stood me in good stead. The place haunts all I write. Even in the versions of European plays I write, I have felt its presence in the snows of Norway, the passionate heat of Greece, the wilds of Spain and Russia, all transforming themselves into the inexhaustible landscapes and languages of my home territory. There is no escaping its influence. The Fort of the Foreigner is how Dun na nGall translates. A place as lonely as it is welcoming, as strange as it is familiar, as wild as it is peaceful – a place of infinite, inviting contradictions. Come to it, for it is uniquely, marvellously, utterly itself and nowhere else. This will never change. There are many reasons to love Donegal. That is the best.

**Frank Mc Guinness**

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## Message From Mayor

A Chairde



Welcome to another edition of Donegal Community in touch, I hope you are all in fine health and good spirits. I hope that you find our editions of benefit and of interest.

We have been very busy here in Donegal since our last edition; the Summer had been packed with community festivals and colourful events. The ever popular Earagail Arts Festival and the Bluestack and Donegal Bay festivities were a favourite enjoyed by all.

I hope you keep an eye on what is going on over here and I hope that the E-Zine helps you in that endeavour.

Again I extend the invitation to you to subscribe and to send us in your stories and information about what is happening in your area. Until next time, best wishes to you all.

Le Gach Dea Ghui

ClIr Cora Harvey

**An Meara Chontae Dhún na nGall**

## Welcome Fáilte

This is the ninth 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 naoú eagrán de Pobail 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 uirlís 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.



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE  
Dhún na nGall  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

## Bill Clinton in Derry on trade visit



Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness have welcomed former US President Bill Clinton to University of Ulster Magee Campus in Derry.

Clinton is visiting the North ahead of October's Economic Conference on the North to be hosted by his wife, US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, in Washington.

NI First Minister Peter Robinson said: "During our meeting President Clinton once again outlined the US Administration's continuing commitment to helping us achieve our goal of a vibrant and dynamic economy.

"The importance of the role the US plays in helping us achieve our

trade and investment goals should not be underestimated," he added.

NI Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness added after the meeting: "The spotlight that will shine on us at the Economic Conference will provide an unprecedented opportunity to highlight potential investment opportunities here to US investors.

The US Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland, Declan Kelly, said "This is a fact finding mission so Mr Clinton can update himself and given that he meets many of the leading business people and political figures in the world everyday in his very busy schedule," said Kelly.

## City celebrates as Derry is crowned 1st UK City of Culture 2013

Derry~Londonderry has made history after winning its bid to be the first ever UK City of Culture in 2013

The momentous win means that in 2013 Derry~Londonderry will play host to a year-long celebration of culture in the city, opening its doors to visitors from across the world.

Derry faced competition for the award from Norwich, Birmingham and Sheffield.

Derry City Council's Arts Officer Brendan McMenamin said becoming UK's City of Culture could bring a financial bonus to the area of several hundred million pounds.

He also said that counties across the border like Donegal, which supported Derry's bid, could also benefit substantially.

For further information visit: [www.cityofculture2013.com/](http://www.cityofculture2013.com/)



## Jim McGuinness named new Donegal Senior Manager

Jim McGuinness has been ratified as Donegal's new senior football manager, after he had been nominated unopposed for the position.

Naomh Conaill's David Kelch nominated McGuinness for the role and was seconded by Sean Dunnion of the Four Masters club.

McGuinness succeeds John Joe

Doherty in the post, and has been appointed for a four-year term, with a review after two years.

The Glenties clubman will have U-21 selectors Peter McGinley and Pat Shovlin as part of his backroom team.

McGuinness will continue to manage the Donegal U-21 side next year, and it is expected

that he will begin the process of putting together his squad for 2011 later this week.

McGuinness said "It's a big job, but I want the players to come in and give nothing but 100%.

Glenties man McGuinness won an All-Ireland winners medal with the county in 1992.



## Massachusetts State Senate Visit

**Members of Donegal County Development Board** who met with the Senate President Therese Murray and Senator Steven A Tolman in September



*Pictured are Senator Steven A Tolman, Mr Diarmaid Ó Mórdha, An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, Superintendent Vincent O'Brien, Mr Eunan Quinn, Donegal County Council, Senate President Therese Murray, Mr Michael O'hEanaigh, Donegal County Council, Mr Garry Martin, Donegal County Council, and Mr Andrew Ward, Inishowen Development Partnership.*

## Derry ~ Londonderry becomes part of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race

The UK's City of Culture 2013, Derry ~ Londonderry, has announced it is become part of the Clipper 11-12 Round the World Yacht Race with an official city boat in the race. In addition the city will be an official host port, welcoming the ten-strong fleet in July 2012 with a showcase festival at the end of the final transatlantic stage of the 40,000-mile race en route to the race finish.

It will be the first time that Northern Ireland has been represented in the race which attracts a global audience of more than 460 million people. Derry-Londonderry has a long and illustrious maritime history and a key factor in the city's participation in the race will be to generate cultural and socially inclusive legacy projects for the future.

The Clipper Race was set up by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to sail solo, non-stop around the world, in order to give ordinary people the chance to do something truly extraordinary.

Sir Robin says, "We are delighted to welcome on board the UK's first City of Culture, Derry-Londonderry, as a yacht sponsor and host port for the Clipper 11-12 Race. The race offers a unique platform to showcase the city around the world, both for business and tourism. For more information visit: [www.clipperroundtheworld.com](http://www.clipperroundtheworld.com)



## Pramerica – Golden Bridge Awards 2010

Mr Henry McGarvey, Managing Director of Pramerica, will be a recipient of one of the Irish Echo Golden Bridge Awards for 2010. This award is in recognition of the substantial contribution made by Pramerica to the economy of Donegal and the North West since establishing in Letterkenny in 2000. The tenth anniversary of its operations has seen a further expansion of its operation and now employs over 700.



Henry McGarvey



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## Three New Peace III initiatives launched by Donegal County Council



Friday 17th September saw three new Peace III initiatives launched by Mayor of Donegal Cllr Cora Harvey. The first was to officially open the Port na Failte Intercultural Resource Centre in Letterkenny.

The second, a new Independent and Confidential Reporting Scheme for Racist and Sectarian Incidents uses new technology to report incidents, which can then be passed on to the Gardai.

The third initiative was the launch of 'One Donegal', which is the new brand image for all the Peace III work conducted by Donegal County Council, and will feature a month long festival on Embracing and Celebrating Diversity in November 2010.

County Manager Seamus Neely said these initiatives were important additions to the portfolio of services, which the Council provides to the people of Donegal. For further information email: Mr Fearghal O'Boyle at [foboyle@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:foboyle@donegalcoco.ie)

## Donegal Tourism Ad wins accolade

It is the ad that everyone has been talking about this summer. The Donegal TV advert has won critical acclaim from audiences all round the island of Ireland. Early reports suggest the ad has greatly helped visitor arrivals into the County and been a vital tool in securing the all important 'Staycation' market during the 2010 summer season.

The Donegal advertising campaign is key to the overall tourism development and promotion strategy undertaken by Donegal County Council and Donegal County Development Board. Donegal County Council's co-operation with Failte Ireland and other stakeholders is vital for the overall health and growth of such an important economic sector. Plans are already under way for a late season/autumn advertising campaign aimed at capitalising on the excellent impact of the Donegal TV ad.

## Visits by Ambassadors to County Donegal



American Ambassador to Ireland Mr Daniel M. Rooney pictured with his wife Mrs. Patricia Rooney, Councilor Cora Harvey, Mayor of Donegal County Council and Mr. Seamus Neely, County Manager, Donegal County Council during his recent visit to County Donegal in August 2010.



UK Ambassador to Ireland, Mr Julian King, pictured with Mr Michael O'hEanaigh, Deputy Mayor Padraig Mac Lochlainn, County Manager Seamus Neely during his visit to Donegal in July 2010



Philippine Ambassador Ariel Y. Abadilla and the Embassy staff were warmly received by Donegal Deputy Mayor Padraig Mac Lochlainn during their visit to Donegal in August 2010.



## Lonely Planet recommends Slieve League



If there was ever any doubt about Slieve League's status as one of Ireland's most spectacular and iconic visitor attractions, then Lonely Planet have weighed in to confirm what the people of County Donegal always knew. The influential travel guide published its Discover Ireland guide at the start of the summer, and named Slieve League in the top 20 must-see visitor attractions on the Island. Lonely Planet says of the cliffs, "Slieve League turned out to be spectacular. A curving, colourful cliff face, it's essentially a mountain cleaved in half with a sheer drop from the peak 600 metres to the churning Atlantic Ocean below".

Slieve League's entry into Lonely Planet's top 20 visitor experiences in Ireland coincides with the publication of Donegal County Council's Slieve League Strategic Plan

If you haven't experienced the majesty of the cliffs, then hurry up, it won't be long before it is Ireland's No. 1 visitor experience!

## Donegal Mayor in Boston

Clr Cora Harvey, Mayor of Donegal will visit Boston in early November and will be the keynote speaker at the Irish Echo Golden Bridge Awards, which will be held in the **Marriott** Copley Square Hotel on the 3rd November. The Mayor will also speak at a lunch to be hosted by the Irish American Partnership on the 4th November. The Mayor will be accompanied by Clr Dessie Larkin, Chairperson of Donegal County Development Board. The visit will also include a number of meetings with a range of development, education and business interests. The Mayor will also be guest of honour at the Boston Donegal Association Annual Dinner Dance on the 6th November.

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

## Donegal Joint Policing Committee Established

Donegal Joint Policing Committee held its first meeting in Lifford on Friday May 28th 2010. The Committee is chaired by Cllr. Patrick McGowan.



*Members of the Donegal Joint Policing Committee*

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for the Establishment of Joint Policing Committees. The purpose of JPC's is to provide a forum where a Local Authority and the Senior Garda Officers responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area

It is also to keep under review –

- The levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- The factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area
- Advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions

For further information contact: [aideen.doherty@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:aideen.doherty@donegalcoco.ie)

## Gabriel Byrne appointed Cultural Ambassador for Ireland



Gabriel Byrne has been appointed as Cultural Ambassador for Ireland, Taoiseach Brian Cowen. The Dublin-born actor will work closely with the Government and artistic bodies to develop "an artistic vision" that is inclusive of the Irish diaspora throughout the world.

"Gabriel Byrne is an internationally renowned, award-winning actor and is already well established as one of Ireland's great ambassadors. The Taoiseach said the appointment recognises the "worldwide importance" of Ireland's culture.

His role will include the creation of a programme of art, ideas, debate and reflection to help foster a renewed cultural relationship between Ireland and America. The programme will include events in a range of key cities including New York, Washington DC, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and will run through 2011.





## Surf's Up in Donegal

"It's just like a cold Waikiki": the exact words of US Senator Fred Hemmings of Hawaii describing the Bundoran waves on his recent visit in August 2010. Former World Champion Surfer, Hemmings' endorsement leaves no doubt as to the importance of Donegal as a world-class surfing destination with Bundoran, Rossnowlagh, Fanad, Inishowen and Dunfanaghy all providing exceptional breaks.

In 2011 Bundoran will host the European Surf Championships. Last held in Bundoran in 1997, it's not just the waves that have brought the competition back to Donegal but the welcome and fun at that event which is still talked about today. It's healthy, it's cheap, kind to the environment and you can keep surfing into your nineties and beyond. If you haven't already done so, check out a surf board the next time you're in Donegal.

For further information visit [www.discoverbundoran.com](http://www.discoverbundoran.com) / [www.bundoran.ie](http://www.bundoran.ie)



## New Sail West staff take up post

Two new members of staff have recently joined the Community and Enterprise Division under the EU funded Sail West project. Mr Frank McGrogan joins as Project Manager while Ms Lee-Anne Doherty joins as Marketing Officer.



The €7m tourism initiative is funded through the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) ([www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)).

Frank, who is from Portglenone, has worked on the INTERREG Programme for the last number of years, while Raphoe born Lee-Anne has previously worked in consumer marketing. They join Ms Michelle McGill and Ms Adrienne Kelly who are responsible for the provision of administrative and financial back up assistance to the project.

For further information, please contact [michellem@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:michellem@donegalcoco.ie) or [adkelly@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:adkelly@donegalcoco.ie)



*Japanese First Secretary, Mr. Tatuso Kitagawa pictured with Cllr. Pádraig MacLochlainn, Donegal Deputy Mayor during his visit to Donegal in July 2010.*

## Women Into Public Life (WIPL) Project visits Stormont



The WIPL Project, funded by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, recently organised a seminar in Stormont providing the opportunity for women to engage with national policy.

On Tuesday 14th September, 33 women from Inishowen and Derry/Londonderry visited the National Assembly in Stormont where they were given a tour of the building and informed of its history. Following the tour, the group met with several politicians, including Ms Mary Bradley (SDLP), who hosted the event. After getting an idea of their work and the various committees they are involved in, the group had an opportunity to discuss various issues with the politicians.

Commenting on the event, Ms Noirin Clancy, WIPL Project Co-ordinator, said: "One of the many reasons women are reluctant to go into politics is because they don't feel connected to the political system. Visits to parliaments can help demystify politics and give these women a greater sense of how policy and politics works, and women's position in politics."

For further information, please contact Eilish at [eboyle@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:eboyle@donegalcoco.ie)

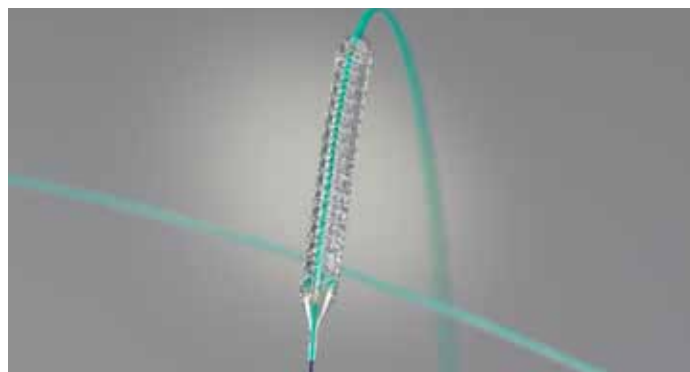


# Zeus, Inc.



For more than 40 years, Zeus has been driven by a culture of innovation, problem solving, and customer support to become an internationally recognized leader in the design and production of high-performance polymer extrusions. Headquartered in Orangeburg, S.C., Zeus has ten facilities on seven campuses in North America, Europe, and Asia to support our global customer base.

Design engineers in the medical, automotive, and aerospace markets look to Zeus for innovative tubing solutions that meet the performance



requirements of an increasingly specialized world. In the medical device industry, Zeus tubing helps to improve the care and quality of life for patients. Our PTFE Sub-Lite-Wall® tubing is used in medical products like cardiac pacemakers, coronary stent catheters, and other advanced medical devices. PTFE Heat Shrink and extruded tubing is used in multiple aerospace wire harness assemblies to provide a high temperature, insulating chafe guard for critical components. Products like PEEKShrink and PEEK-Wire help enhance oil recovery technology; ensuring critical sensor components can communicate conditions to the surface.

Zeus Ireland, Ltd. currently employs approximately 110 employees in the areas of sales, marketing, and production. Opened in September 2005, the 28,000 square feet facility manufactures a wide array of Zeus' product portfolio, including PEEK, EFEP, Nylon, PTFE, FEP, and Heat Shrink tubing.

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

## New jobs for Fintown as a new Production and Assembly Facility Opens

In a move to expand its operations, Charles Bonner & Sons, Ballybofey, today opened a new production and assembly facility on the Údarás na Gaeltachta Estate in Fintown, Co. Donegal.

A supplier of oil and solid fuel and cooker stoves, the company has established a new base in Fintown where it will undertake production and assembly of its products. The new expansion will lead to the creation of 7 new jobs in Fintown.

Pádraig Ó hAoláin, CEO of Údarás na Gaeltachta, said that Údarás were delighted that they were in a position to assist the company in its expansion plans. "In the current climate, each and every new job that created is important, especially in small rural towns such as Fintown. This business will also result in a knock on added-value benefit to the local economy."

Further Information contact Charles Bonner, Director, Charles Bonner & Sons Ltd 00353 860839926



*Pádraig Ó hAoláin, CEO, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Dr Joe Mulholland, Charlie Bonner and Cathal Mac Suibhne, Regional Manager at the official opening of the new Fintown production and assembly facility.*



# Businessman propelled to success



Michael Murphy is a Tipperary man with a Food Science degree from UCC. His various positions within Masstock International, Kerry Foods, and Donegal Creameries Plc brought him around the world where he worked in Saudi Arabia, China and Thailand before finding his "home from home" in Donegal. A true entrepreneur, Michael is putting the final touches to his most recent venture, MooLicious Foods Ltd.

The company will produce a range of dairy products in an aseptic stick pack format for the food service sector in the UK, Ireland and the Middle East. This is a relatively new format of portion packaging which services a growing need in the convenience hot beverage sector - whether on the road, at fast-food restaurants, in airlines, trains etc.

Michael has built a strong international management team to help him bring this dream to fruition and he intends to have the production of his first product up and running in Buncrana, Co Donegal by December 2010.

Michael Murphy is a graduate of the Enterprise Ireland Propel Programme

that was run in the Border region of Ireland during 2008 and 2009. A year long enterprise development programme, the Propel programme helped Michael to put the final touches to his business plan, perfect his sales pitch and assisted him in looking for external investment. Other supports included mentoring, consultancy delivered through PA Consulting and incubation space in Letterkenny Institute of Technology's newly built Co-Lab facility.

Méabh Conaghan Enterprise Ireland's Regional Executive in Letterkenny said "it has been a great experience to work with Michael for the past year on his innovative project and we look forward to continuing to support MooLicious Foods as the company becomes a global supplier of quality Irish foods".

Contact [meabh.conaghan@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:meabh.conaghan@enterprise-ireland.com) for further details.



## Letterkenny Chamber Hosts Business Lunch with Minister for Tourism, Culture & Sport

Letterkenny Chamber recently welcomed Minister Mary Hanafin to Donegal to hear directly from the Minister on her Department's priorities and plans for the North West. The Minister who heads up Tourism, Culture and Sport took time to meet with the many tourism providers, businesses and people involved in the arts at the Chamber quarterly business lunch. She accepted a copy of the cultural compass from the Council Arts Office and helped in promoting the Donegal Live visit to Glasgow.

Paul Byrne, President of the chamber in his address said "this year in particular all the key stakeholders from public and private sector have taken on the challenge of operating in a very difficult economic environment and are working together to position Donegal internationally. The County Council and Fáilte Ireland are implementing strategic tourism projects such as Sliabh League, Malin Head and the Sail West project that is already underway. These projects are highly significant in terms of the development of the Donegal Tourism Product and we hope that they will help increase visitor numbers and leave a lasting legacy".

The event also allowed the Chamber President to highlight the importance of the cultural sector to the county. He informed the Minister that Cultural providers attracted 380,000 visitors to the county and the

Earagail Arts Festival alone contributed €3m to the local economy. Both these sectors play vital roles in the Donegal economy. Paul finished by saying "We used this event to promote Donegal on a wider stage and to ensure that those at the highest levels of Government were aware of the excellent work going on in Donegal and more importantly that the Minister saw what Donegal had to offer.

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



*Minister Mary Hanafin pictured with Cllr Dessie Larkin, Chamber President Paul Byrne and Senator Cecilia Keaveney during her visit to Donegal*



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## Pramerica Systems Ireland – Position Currently Open



**LETTERKENNY, CO. DONEGAL** – Since Pramerica opened in Letterkenny in June 2000, it has become a major employer in Ireland. Pramerica has more than 700 employees, who provide software development and QA testing services as well as call-centre and back office contact centre services to business groups operated in the U.S. by its parent, Prudential Financial, Inc.\*.

**Pramerica has a number of positions currently open including:**

### SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND QA TESTING:

#### Management

Project Managers  
Team Leads

#### Analysts

Business Analysts  
Pega Analyst/Developer

#### Software Developers

ASP  
Cognos  
dot.net  
Domino Web  
Business Objects  
Documaker  
Mainframe Cobol

#### Software Testers

Mainframe  
Client Server/Web  
Test Automation Engineers

### CALL CENTRE AND OPERATIONS:

#### Management

Operations Manager

#### Customer Service

Customer Service Reps

#### Operations

Team Leads  
Operations Reps

#### Back Office

Back Office  
Processing Staff

Over the past 10 years, the company has been recognised for its progressive and flexible work practices. For instance, more than 20 per cent of the company's workforce telework from various locations throughout Ireland.

"The high quality recruits we seek will have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a flexible work environment and an attractive lifestyle for those wishing to relocate to Donegal," said Mary Howick, head of Human Resources at Pramerica.

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

\* PFI of the United States is not affiliated in any manner with Prudential plc, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom.

## 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,  
<http://www.intertradeireland.com/index.cfm/area/information/page/AcumenProgramme>

## 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)



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## LYIT to be a National Wind Academy – Killybegs

Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) is the first college in Ireland to offer a Wind Energy Technician programme with BZEE accreditation. This is part of a collaborative approach to establish a national Centre for Renewable Energy (Wind Energy) Innovation and Learning in Donegal. Currently FÁS in the North West and Donegal VEC offer programmes in renewable technologies such as Biomass, Photo-Voltaic and Geothermal Heat Pump systems. This is in line with the integrated thinking in the county to establish the county as a lead player in the Green Economy. The Renewable Energy and Training Consortium, comprising members from LYIT, Donegal County Council, FÁS, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Donegal VEC – collectively known as the Education and Training Consortium for Renewable Technology, are actively working to make this a reality.

A National Wind Academy at LYIT moves one step closer as the institute invests in large scale wind turbine equipment for education and training. The 250kW turbines (See figure 1), control equipment and matching rotor blades will be located in a 500m<sup>2</sup> workshop close to the Killybegs Campus (School of Tourism) of LYIT. A wind turbine training tower will be installed on the campus to provide training for both students and industry personnel. This will be the first such facility in Ireland.

There are currently 32 students studying Wind Energy Technology at LYIT and they will spend 1-2 days per week in Killybegs at these new facilities to give them the necessary knowledge and skills to re-enter the workforce and contribute the development of the green economy here in Donegal. Providing these programmes and facilities at LYIT will ultimately open up many new opportunities for SMEs, communities and individuals



Figure 1 - 250kW training turbine on a pedestal mount at a BZEE partner college

in Donegal and further afield.

Donegal is at the forefront in setting the standards for wind energy in Ireland, working closely with industry and forging relationships with IWEA (Irish Wind Energy Association) and other statutory bodies. LYIT intends to deliver skilled technicians and technologists for this rapidly growing sector of Irish industry.

For further information contact John Doran at [John.Doran@lyit.ie](mailto:John.Doran@lyit.ie)

## Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge-NUIG's Outreach Centre in Gaioth Dobhair

The Donegal Gaeltacht is renowned for many things: stunning scenery, friendly people and the proverbial 'ceol, caint agus craic'. Not everyone knows, however, that 'Gleanntáin Ghlas' Ghaioth Dobhair' are now home to an outreach centre of the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge is located 'ar an Screabán' in Páirc Ghnó Ghaioth Dobhair. It was officially opened by the former Minister of Community, Rural and Gaelach Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, in September 2005. Since then the outreach centre has gone from strength to strength.

Éamonn Mac Niallais, Administrator of the centre, described the progress made to date:

"We started off offering certificate and diploma courses on a part-time basis. We now run several full-time diploma courses as well as an innovative four year BA Honours degree programme that we deliver in conjunction with LYIT."

Education, training and upskilling have become increasingly important in the wake of the economic downturn. By giving the people of the Donegal Gaeltacht the opportunity to avail of third level courses at home, the National University of Ireland, Galway is playing a key role in community development in one of Ireland's most remote areas.

All of Acadamh's services are delivered 'as Gaeilge'. The centre is often referred to as an example of best practice on the thorny issue of how best to maintain and promote the Irish language in the Gaeltacht and further afield.

If you would like more information on Acadamh's courses contact visit: [www.acadamh.ie](http://www.acadamh.ie) or email: [gaiothdobhair@eircom.net](mailto:gaiothdobhair@eircom.net)



## Innovative Restaurant and Professional Cookery Programmes at the School of Tourism (LYIT)

The School of Tourism at Letterkenny Institute of Technology continues to offer innovative training and education programmes for the hospitality and tourism industry. September 2010 saw the third group of students start the Advanced Certificate in Professional Cookery – Total Immersion Chef Programme (TICP) and the first group of students join the recently launched Diploma in Restaurant Operations Management Programme (ROM). Both of the programmes have been designed with Fáilte Ireland and are based on the 'earn and learn' model. Learners attend College in Killybegs for three days per week, during one academic year, while maintaining employment in the hospitality industry.

The nine-month TICP programme (FETAC – Level 6) was designed in partnership with the renowned French Culinary Institute in New York and Fáilte Ireland. This course will help accelerate participants careers and fast-track them into the dynamic world of professional cookery. The Diploma in Restaurant Operations Management (ROM) (HETAC – Level 7) is an innovative new programme which also integrates theory with practice. It has been developed to provide a relevant professional qualification for those who wish to embark on a career in Restaurant Management. In establishing this new programme the School of Tourism (LYIT) consulted and worked closely with the Restaurant industry, the Restaurant Association of Ireland (RAI) and the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF). The course will provide a stepping stone to a range of career opportunities within the restaurant industry.

The teaching environment at the School of Tourism provides personal attention, instant feedback while allowing a fully hands-on experience. This 'hands-on education' incorporates both theoretical and practical elements of working in a professional kitchen/restaurant. The TICP programme is aimed at people already working in the industry and who are interested in a career as a professional chef and individuals with a passion for food. The ROM programme is aimed at both existing restaurant supervisors/managers and career changers. Applicants for 2011 are encouraged to apply early, further information is available on <http://www.lyit.ie/organisation/schoolsfaculties/tourism/>



## Australians Learning Irish in Gleann Cholm Cille



The Irish language has gained prominence abroad in recent years due to greater learning opportunities and in particular with its strong online presence on TG4, Raidió na Gaeltachta and online magazine [www.beo.ie](http://www.beo.ie).

Australia is no exception and classes and summer schools are held regularly in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. This year, for the first time, an organised group of 15 enthusiasts is spending a fortnight in Glencolmcille attending classes with Oideas Gael. The group is confident their experience in the Gaeltacht will help them build on the work already underway down under to teach and promote the language in their home regions.

Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, Oideas Gael director, enthusiastically welcomed the group and stated that 'they were a shining example of how the commitment of the Irish abroad could provide stimulation and encouragement to the Irish language movement in the Gaeltachtaí and in the rest of Ireland'.

For further information: Telephone +353 74 9730248

## 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)





## Earagail Arts Festival 2010

Following the success of the 2009 programme, this year's Earagail Arts Festival focused on a new Made In Donegal brand. The symposium included talks and seminars by Dr. Liz Doherty, Martin Mc Ginley and Conor Cauldwell, workshops, film screenings, sessions and a showcase of Donegal based artists over 4 days including Kevin Doherty's -Telegraph, Mark Black & The Roots Orchestra, RAW, The Pyros, Doimnic Mac Giolla Bhride & Ici Pici, Fídal with Neil Martin & Ronan Browne, Altan (with the Donegal Youth Orchestra). At the core of the 2010 Made In Donegal programme was a new commission by the Inishowen based Henry Girls with the West Virginian based group The Fox Hunt, forging a new transatlantic musical collaboration and defining a distinctive new sound in folk music.

The focus of the Made In Donegal theme - led by a major symposium with the core theme of the Donegal Fiddle Tradition - was to showcase the wealth of established and emerging new talent from the county.

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



## Earagail Arts Festival's Storytelling Caravan parks at Carndonagh Community Library

As part of the Earagail Arts Festival 2010 the children of Carndonagh and surrounding areas were treated to an afternoon of stories in the Storytelling Caravan with master raconteur Melissa Baker. A wonderful bright red caravan arrived in the car park in front of the library and this in itself caused great interest and excitement. Two storytelling sessions were held each lasting an hour. Twisted yarns and tall tales, made even more wondrous by the fact that they were told in the storyteller's American accent, enthralled the children. A total of 50 children came to both events and everyone had a great time. When it was over, delighted, children all tumbled out of the caravan to their waiting parents happily basking in the summer sun.

## Laurentic Gun On Downings Pier

A recovered gun from the first world war liner "The Laurentic" has become the centrepiece of a maritime monument on Downings Pier.

After many years preparation, the local dive group "Downings Divers" managed to recover a historic artillery piece from the wreck of the liner The Laurentic, which sunk off Malin Head in 1917. The historic gun, seven metres long and weighing 10.2 tonnes completed the final leg of it's journey into Downings Pier in September, 2007.

On the night of the 25th January, 1917 the Laurentic was rounding Melmore Head on route from Liverpool to Nova Scotia carrying over £5m worth of gold bullion when she struck two German mines. The ship sank within 45 minutes with the loss of 354 people. Three hundred and sixty eight passengers and crew were saved. The bodies that were recovered are buried in the Church of Ireland cemetery in Fanad.

The salvaged Laurentic gun has undergone a comprehensive conservation and maintenance programme and with assistance from Donegal County Council's Tourism Fund Downings Divers have developed a maritime monument with the retrieved Laurentic gun as it's centrepiece and the monument was officially unveiled by Cllr Noel McBride on Easter Monday 2010.



# Imaging Donegal



**Making Shapes<sup>1</sup> Public Art for Donegal 2006 – 2010** seeks to develop a program of Public Art Residencies, utilising both socially engaged & artist led models of good practice, which will take place in the context of the Council's overall cultural provision. **Imaging Donegal** forms part of the Residency Strand of the Public Art Program. Five Photography Artists have been commissioned, one artist to work in each of the five electoral areas of Donegal.

The specific objective of **Imaging Donegal** is for the commissioned artist to actively research and engage with a particular aspect of a specific electoral area (and its character) in order to create a significant body of photographic work that reflects and captures local images and realities. A selection from the work of all the Imaging Donegal photographers was exhibited at the Regional Cultural Centre as part of the Earagail Arts Festival 2010 and an exhibition by each photographer is taking place in their respective electoral area between September – November 2010.

## Rich Heritage on Donegal's Islands

The islands of Donegal have an incredible stock of traditional buildings says Ireland's first ever Traditional Buildings Officer. In the second year of his two year appointment, Gerard Skehan has recorded and documented a uniquely rich vernacular heritage off the coast of Donegal.

Gerard, a Clare native, spent a lot of his time working on the offshore islands of Donegal. "I have been very fortunate to have visited some of the county's least known, but possibly most beautiful locations; islands like Inis Caorach, Inis Fraoigh, Gabhla and Inis Bó Fhinne. They are stunning, not only for their traditional buildings, but they are all blessed with spectacular scenery and wild coastal views."

He continued "Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Udaras na Gaeltachta, has set a precedent by appointing a Traditional Buildings Officer. From my survey work it is clear that the traditional buildings of Donegal's islands are a real asset, and have great potential for sensitive

## The Altan Residency 2010

Altan, have recently undertaken a unique secondary school educational residency in the Glenties electoral area over the period from February to July 2010. The project is organised by the Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny in partnership with the Donegal County Council Public Art Office and funded through Per Cent For Art.

The residency coincides with the group's 25th anniversary year. 2010 has been a particularly successful year to date for Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh who has been nominated in the 'Best Folk / Traditional' category of the Meteor Awards, Ireland's definitive music industry awards and has received the considerable distinction of being chosen the Donegal Person of the Year.

Altan gave talks and performances in all seven secondary schools in the area – Falcarragh, Gaoth Dohhair, Dungloe, Glenties, Ballinamore, Arainn Mhor and Tory. They also gave a series of Master Classes. Participating students joined Altan in a magical concert during this year's Earagail Arts Festival in July. The concert featured the VEC Donegal Youth Orchestra who performed a number of orchestrated pieces of Altan's music.



re-use."

Most of the islands being studied (Inis Caorach, Inis Fraoigh, Uaigh, Gabhla, Inis Mhic an Duirn, Inis Bó Fhinne and Inis Oirthir) share a similar history; they were home to close-knit fishing communities of up to 200 people at the beginning of the 20th century, but from the 1930s onwards suffered sharp population decline.



*Abandoned island of Inis Oirthir*



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## Art and Climate Change

As you know, Climate change is the issue of our times. The oceans are warming, glaciers are disappearing and the natural world is in sharp decline. Donegal County Council Public Art Office/Regional Cultural Centre in partnership with Leonardo/Olats has established a unique and ambitious initiative entitled 'Lovely Weather' Art and Climate Change which fundamentally seeks to determine and present the role artists have to play in the Climate Change debate. Following an international competition five artists/scientists were selected to explore on the ground, the effects of climate change and its modifications throughout the county.

The five selected artists are Peter d'Agostino (USA), Seema Goel (Can), The League of Imaginary Scientists (USA), Anthony Lyons (UK) and SoftDay (Ire). The Lovely Weather Projects have taken an interdisciplinary approach and have actively involved both local people and scientists.

The first of the Lovely Weather projects will be presented on the 16th October when Softday (Ire) presented the world premiere of their work 'Marbh Chrios (Dead Zone)', a live performance of a unique multimedia sound art work in Killybegs.

The Lovely Weather Art and Climate Change Exhibition conference will take place at the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, 12th - 13th November 2010, the exhibition will continue until 22nd January 2011.

Please see [www.donegalpublicart.ie](http://www.donegalpublicart.ie) for further details

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL CULTURAL SERVICES PRESENTS



### Lovely Weather

art & climate change  
Conference and Exhibition

at Regional Cultural Centre,  
Port Road, Letterkenny

Conference 12th-13th November 2010

Exhibition 12th November - 22nd January 2011

Conference registration [www.donegalpublicart.ie](http://www.donegalpublicart.ie)



## Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company "Wow" at International Festival

Fira Tarrega happens yearly, in the town of Tarrega, south of Barcelona, Spain. This globally renowned 3 Day Outdoor Spectacle and Street Performance Festival celebrated its thirtieth birthday over the weekend of September 9th - 12th 2010 and Ireland were invited to attend the festival as guest delegates.

Three Irish performance companies showcased work at the Fira - the experienced and renowned Dance Theatre of Ireland; the energetic and adventurous Tumble Circus and Donegal aerial skills company, Fidget Feet.

Fidget Feet performed their first performance on day two of the festival. Fidget Feet had "Centre Stage" and prime slot performances billing. The rapturous applause they received was merited indeed. Fidget Feet did Donegal proud at Fira Tarrega 2010.



## Culture Night 2010 showcases the unique richness of the Gaeltacht

From Downings to the Rosses, Culture Night left its mark on the Donegal Gaeltacht. Over 21 events occurred in the Gaeltacht regions of the county, and it is no surprise that an area that brought us Clannad, Altan and a host of other famous musicians, had traditional music and song at the core of its programming. There were traditional music events in Cill Chartha, Gleanncholmille, the Bluestacks and in Gaoth Dobhair. Tionscnamh Lugh provided a memorable evening in the famous Hiudáí Beag's in Gaoth Dobhair as some of the best exponents of traditional singing came together for a lively and entertaining night of exquisite song as part of the Singers Club.

Ceardlann na gCraisbhealach's presentation of video installations by internationally renowned artist, Bill Viola certainly captured the

imagination of motorists who were passing through the villages of Falcarragh and Gortahork. Six Art exhibitions were launched in the Donegal Gaeltacht on Culture night. These exhibitions showcased the work of over 35 Gaeltacht Artists and Donegal artists. Cló, Ceardlann na gCraisbhealach, Cuisle, An Clachán and the Donegal Elemental Women, all Gaeltacht based Arts organisations.

An Ciorcal Scríbhneoireacta hosted an evening of literature in An Clachán's gallery giving the public a taste of Gaelic literature. Ealaín na Gaeltachta, who facilitated the event, were extremely happy with the event, especially considering it was the first year that Culture Night was held in the Gaeltacht.



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## Port na Fáilte - the Intercultural Drop-in Centre

Port na Fáilte, the Intercultural Drop-in Centre Letterkenny opened in February 2010. Since then, the Centre which is funded by the EU PEACE III programme has been a venue for cultural celebrations and a base for academic research.

Port na Fáilte has facilitated a range of events from a Latin American Night in Gweedore to Africa Day in Donegal Town, from the Malayalees Onam Festival in Letterkenny to the Integration Beach Party in Ardara. Upcoming events include: Culture Night in Port na Fáilte, followed by Japan Day, and a workshop on Brahmin stress relief.

Just as many of the Donegal Diaspora have benefited from a range of Irish Centres all over the globe, migrants to Donegal are using Port na Fáilte to get on and get involved in their adopted country.

For further information contact: [kwhite@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:kwhite@donegalcoco.ie)



Events at Port na Fáilte

One Donegal is a month long event, based throughout Donegal aimed at "Embracing and Celebrating" the diversity that exists in the county.

In this the first year of the One Donegal over eighty events are planned in libraries, arts venues, Public Service Centres, Schools and community venues. The event includes a number of specially organised events by community groups who are keen to highlight and celebrate the diversity that exists in their area.

The event is being delivered and funded by the Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership with PEACE III funding. The month aims to challenge racism and sectarianism and promote cultural diversity, peace-building and cross-border work.

There are a wide variety of events taking place throughout the month and we hope that you will go along to support some of these and help to make this event a success. .

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



## Pride of Place Competition 2010

Donegal received a great response to the 2010 Donegal County Pride of Place competition, with 28 entries received from community and voluntary groups across Donegal. Five projects, namely Killybegs Maritime & Heritage Centre, Carnival Ballyshannon, Glenfinn Area Council, Áislann Rann na Feirste and Letterkenny Community Development Project have been selected by Donegal County Council to represent Donegal in the All Island Pride of Place competition in 2010.

This competition provides Donegal County Council with an opportunity to recognise the achievements of community groups throughout the county.

National recognition has been awarded to Cairde le Chéile, Taobh Tíre, Carrigart Development Association, Castlefinn Partnership Initiative, Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair Teo, Habinteg Housing Association and Comharchumann Oileán Arainn Mhóir.

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





## Flight of the Earls / Imeacht na nIarlaí

Three years after the very successful 400th Anniversary Commemoration of the Flight of the Earls - Imeacht na nIarlaí, the event is still proving to be of interest to people in all parts of the world. Contact is being made with Donegal County Museum and the Archives Service, and the County Library in this regard. There is also great interest in the dedicated website (<http://www.flightoftheearls.ie/>). The proceedings of the Donegal County Council/University of Ulster/ LYIT conference held during the commemoration will be published in book form later on this year.

## Leabhar 'Imeacht na nIarlaí'/'Flight of the Earls' Book

Imeacht na nIarlaí/Flight of the Earls 400th commemorations in 2007 resulted in a great revival and re-opening of the most poignant and intriguing episode in the course of our Irish history, especially in Ulster, Ireland and indeed Europe. Various projects and events throughout 2007 were lead out by Donegal County Council and the County Development Board, involving various key stakeholders. The Flight of the Earls raised a great awareness and understanding of where Ireland stands today. It also led to the emergence of the first diaspora which precipitated the emergence of an Irish Catholic military, religious and intellectual diaspora on continental Europe.

Now, Donegal County Council and Letterkenny Institute of Technology have commissioned Professor Éamon Ó Ciardha, University of Ulster, to produce a limited edition history book detailing all aspects of the Flight of the Earls. This book will be launched in late Autumn of this year and is guaranteed to be the best Irish history book that has ever been created.

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

## Ronán Mac Aodha Bhuí - RTE Raidio na Gaeltachta

Is as Cois Cláidí i nGaoth Dobhair do Rónán Mac Aodha Bhuí agus cuireann sé an clár Rónán Beo @ 3 i láthair ó stiúideo na nDoirí Beaga ó Mháirt go hAoine. Ní raibh teilifís ar bith acu sa teach agus Rónán ina ghasúr beag, agus mar sin bhí suim aige sa raidió ariamh, deir sé gur spreag sé a shamhlaíocht. Mixture maxture a bhíonn le cloisteáil ar an gclár, mar a deir sé féin, idir throm agus éadrom – ceol, siamsaíocht, agallaimh, cúrsaí sláinte, cócaireacht, scéalta nuachta, Micí Whiting agus Mary Aggie, dár ndóigh.

Rónán Mac Aodha Bhuí is from Cois Cláidí in Gaoth Dobhair and presents the very popular programme Rónán Beo @ 3 Tues-Fri on RTÉ RnaG from 3-5 p.m. The programme includes a mix of music, chat and interviews. There are also several regular features on the show including, the knowledgeable Micí Mac Aoidh from Inis Bofin, Rónán's own style of presenting is an essential part of the winning formula for the programme – an ability to deal sensitively with subjects when necessary, a great sense of fun, a genuine curiosity and interest, and a touch madness.

RTE Raidio na Gaeltachta 92.6-94.2fm, SKY 0166, [nuacht@rte.ie](mailto:nuacht@rte.ie)



Séan O Neachtain presenting Ronan Mac Aodh Bhuí with the Radio personality of the year award at Gradaim Cumarsáide an Oireachtais in Farmleigh.

## County Archives Plantation Education Pack

**To mark the 400th anniversary of the beginning of the Plantation of Ulster, Donegal County Archives Service will launch its Plantation of Ulster, Schools Facsimile Pack in November 2010.**

With this pack the service hopes to introduce the events leading up to the Plantation and the effects of the scheme. The pack will contain a short introductory history to the topic with facsimiles of original documents from the period for students to study. A variety of documents will be reproduced including, letters, proclamations, maps and drawings. This provides an excellent learning opportunity while demonstrating the value of archival material. Students will also be given a guide to using historical documents as well as a selection of exercises to complete. Emphasis will be placed on the role out of the Plantation in Counties Donegal and Derry.

The pack is aimed at second level schools and will be rolled out early in 2011.

For further information email: [archivist@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:archivist@donegalcoco.ie)

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) / [maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie)  
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