

# Welcome - Fáilte

As soon as they hear my voice, strangers often ask, "Where are you from?" Even when I know that they've never heard of the place, I always say, "Donegal" - with real pride. I love the sound of that word. It has a resonance for me - of great days past and still to come. When you spend most of your time in very different places, that affection is even stronger.

As I get older, I look back and see life as a series of circles that get wider with time. The first circle is small - your family, your house and your townland. For me that circle, the start of my memory, was my childhood home in Ray - on a hill above the big stone bridge that lies between Ramelton and Rathmullan. It was all the world I knew and it was full of wonder. We lived in the shadow of an ancient site, a burial place for unbaptised children. That "Forth" or "Rath" gave Ray, its name. People had lived, laboured, prayed and buried there for two thousand years. My childish head was full of yarns about Viking raids, buried treasure and hidden tunnels. It still is!

After Ray School, the next circle was wider. It centered on Loreto College, Milford where I got to meet people from exotic places like Fanad, Downings and even Arranmore. Shame lasts a long time. I'll never forget coming back from my first day at that school and reporting to everyone in McAteer's shop in Ray that there had been terrible thunder in Milford. A neighbour said with a sneer, "That boy's away in the heed. A was in Milford an' it was

a gran' day." The next morning I discovered that what I'd heard was the sound of classes moving around on the floors above our room. It sounded like thunder - but it wasn't! That was my first experience of a building with more than one floor. It's no wonder they called me "turnip heed."

Since then the circles have grown wider and wider. Wherever I go in the world, to do the things I do, I often meet the scattered sons and daughters of Donegal. No matter who they are, or where we are, there is always a warm connection. For people of my age, all you have to do is mention the "Mulroy Ballroom," Kerrykeel, or the "Fiesta" and you're on familiar ground. Shared memories and shared values are powerful things.

However wide the circles we weave, or however far we go, all of us know that the centre is always right back where we began. That's where the heart is! No one puts that feeling better than the Ballyshannon poet, William Allingham.

*Four ducks on a pond,  
A grass bank beyond.  
A blue sky of spring,  
White clouds on the wing.  
What a little thing to remember for years -  
To remember with tears.*

## Patrick Loughrey

*Patrick Loughrey was born in 1955 and grew up in County Donegal in the townland of Ray (pronounced as 'Rai'), on the shores of Lough Swilly. He attended Loreto College*



*in Milford, and went on to study at the University of Ulster (BA Hons Contemporary History), The Queen's University of Belfast (MA History) and Trent University, Ontario (Doctoral Research Fellowship in 1977).*

*He began his career as a teacher from 1978-84. He became a freelance broadcaster for UTV, BBC and RTÉ before joining the BBC as an education producer in 1984. In 1988 he was appointed Head of Educational Broadcasting, BBC Northern Ireland. Loughrey was appointed Director, Nations and Regions, in May 2000. Holding overall responsibility for the BBC's television, radio and online programmes and services in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the 12 English Regions. In December 2009, Loughrey left his post after 25 years service in the BBC.*

*In early 2010 he became Warden of Goldsmiths, University of London.*

## News

Donegal Business

Education and Learning

Social and Cultural

Donegal Community Links

2

7

10

12

15

## Message From Mayor

**Cead meile fáilte do ach an dhuine o Dun na nGall.**



Once again I am delighted to have the opportunity to send this message to approximately 20 thousand Donegal citizens throughout the world. I hope this

addition of Donegal Community in Touch finds you and your families well.

We in Donegal are working extremely hard to create the environment whereby employment and job creation can be kick started once again on many fronts and hopefully attract many of you HOME.

I had the pleasure of launching the DONEGAL GATHERING 2012 along with one of Donegal's greatest Ambassadors Moya Brennan of Clannad fame. We streamed the event live world wide on the web for one hour where with our MC Caitlin Ni Coughlan, Moya Brennan, Trudy O'Donnell and students from Colaiste Aile in Letterkenny we invited our Diaspora from all over the world to come HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS and join us for the many events that are taking place throughout Donegal during 2012.

The response on the night and indeed to this day has been fantastic and I look forward to meeting many of you in Donegal during 2012.

We also had a visit to the County by the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland Mr. Loyola Hearn. The Ambassador visited my home area of Carrigart and Downings where He met and was entertained by many locals and also attended the Laurentic Conference and wreath Laying ceremonies in Buncrana. Since that visit I have been

**Continued on page 2 >>**



## Governor of Montana visits Donegal

Governor of Montana, Brian Schweitzer and the First Lady, Mrs. Nancy Schweitzer recently paid a visit to Ireland to attend the annual commemorations of Waterford man, Thomas Francis Meagher, one of the first Territorial Governors of Montana and the first person to use the Irish Tricolor flag.

While here, Governor Schweitzer made sure to travel to Donegal to visit his cousins Michael and Josephine Friel from Rathmullan. Hannah Friel the Governor's grandmother was born in 1889 and left Rathmullan for America with her sister Mary Ann in her early twenties. This was the Governor's first visit to his family homestead in Ireland although Michael and Josephine have been to the States to pay a visit.

It was a huge honour for the Mayor Noel McBride along with Michael Heaney, Donegal County Council and Sally Murphy, Donegal Diaspora Project to meet with the Governor and his wife Nancy. Michael and Josephine welcomed us into their lovely home

to meet the Schweitzers and we discussed a range of topics from renewable energy, the Irish in Montana, education and fishing! We look forward to developing this relationship and welcoming Governor Schweitzer and his wife, First Lady Nancy Schweitzer back to Donegal in the future.



*Mayor Noel McBride making a presentation of the Donegal Crest to Governor Schweitzer*

working on economic, cultural and educational links with Canada and I will continue to develop those links.

Our County Manager Seamus Neely, Director of Service Michael Heaney and Myself attended the launch of the Western Development Commission networking event in the Irish Embassy in London which was launched by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD. The event was an opportunity to further develop the links directly with our Donegal Association and GAA clubs in London and also to network with potential investors.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Mr. Leo Varadkar TD. The Minister met with many groups but focused mainly on Job creation in the tourism sector and in particular golf with the Irish open coming to Portrush in June of this year and also the fact that Donegal has some of the top links golf courses in Ireland in an area which I am working closely on in conjunction with the golf stakeholders, Fáilte Ireland and Donegal Tourism to develop the product.

Our County Manager and Myself attended a Connect Ireland briefing in Kilkenny by Minister Phil Hogan and Minister Richard Bruton. The Connect Ireland concept is been delivered countrywide with the view to attracting foreign direct investment. At the event I immediately invited the Connect Ireland team to Donegal and they will now make a presentation to Donegal County Council on the 26th. March.

I also met with the Governor of Montana Brian Schweitzer along with Mr. Michael Heaney Director of Service and Sally Murphy of the Donegal Diaspora project.

The Governor's Grandmother Hannah Friel was born in Oughterlin outside Rathmullan and his relations Michael and Josephine Friel still reside there. This was the Governor's first visit to the original homestead.

During our two hour meeting with Governor Schweitzer we discussed a number of ideas with regard to our Diaspora project, Educational links and potential investment in His ancestral county of Donegal.

So let finish by asking you our Donegal Diaspora a question (Your answer will be of benefit to us all ) WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU.

Feel free to contact me at [noel.mcbride@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:noel.mcbride@donegalcoco.ie)

Slán agus beannacht

**Cllr. Noel McBride**  
**An Meara Contae Dhun na nGall**

## The Paddy Crerand Show broadcasts from Gweedore

West Donegal was beamed around the world on the 19th March when The Paddy Crerand Show was transmitted live from Ostan Gweedore by MUTV - the official television station of Manchester United Football Club.

The manager of Ostan Gweedore, Hugh Tim Boyle said "MUTV do four or five outside broadcasts each year and we're delighted to be chosen as one of them," "The fact that it's St Patrick's weekend and Paddy's mother was from the area and it's a home from home for him means it's something he wanted to do.

Crerand's mother was Sarah 'Tim' Boyle from Gweedore and having made the trip to Gweedore for three months every year when on his school holidays from his home in Glasgow, the former Celtic and Manchester United player remains familiar with the area.

"Paddy still spends a lot of time in the area, particularly in the summer in the close season, when he has more free time from his television commitments. Because of Paddy's closeness with the area he told us he would love to take the television show over here

Crerand was joined by former United and Northern Ireland player Norman Whiteside, Alex Stepney, who was United's goalkeeper and a teammate of Crerand's was a phone guest, as was former Republic of Ireland and United full-back Denis Irwin.

Crerand played for Celtic for six years before moving to Manchester United where he was a member of teams that won the English League title twice, the FA Cup and European Cup. He also gained 16 international caps for Scotland.

He spent one season managing Northampton Town and has since forged a career in the media. He started on radio, and now commentates on matches for MUTV.

MUTV has an audience of 18 million viewers in 68 countries and the local economy in west Donegal will be hoping for a spin-off in the coming months to their exposure. Stewart Gardner, the presenter of The Paddy Crerand Show, introduced a visual montage from Donegal at the beginning of the 90-minute programme and Crerand spoke freely about his childhood and travels to the area throughout.



*Paddy Crerand*



## The logos – what do they mean?

The logos and visual identities for the Donegal Diaspora Project and the Donegal Gathering 2012 have been designed by award-winning, Donegal based design company, Carton Le Vert. These logos visually represent the connections and ties that exist between Donegal and its global community. The loose intersecting lines are a visualisation of the movement of people back and forth between Donegal and the rest of the world. They stand for the uniquely fluid relationship between a place and its people. As Gaeilge (in Irish) Pobal Domhanda literally means our global community, while Slógadh Dhún na nGall means Donegal Gathering.



## The Donegal Gathering 2012



A key element of the Donegal Diaspora Project is The Donegal Gathering 2012 - a tourism initiative aimed at raising the profile of the county by proudly showcasing the huge range of cultural festivals and events that take place annually across Donegal. Our aim is to connect you to all that's on offer, extending a heartfelt welcome to both

native emigrants planning a homecoming holiday and first-time explorers embarking on a truly unique adventure. Through a variety of online mediums, the Donegal Gathering will deliver continuous, up to the minute information that will inform people about the wealth of cultural activity taking place throughout the county.

On Wednesday 8th February, the launch of The Donegal Gathering 2012 was streamed on the internet via a live webcast to an audience of over 4,100 people worldwide. The sense of togetherness and kinship was palpable that night as real-time messages of encouragement and support poured in from New Zealand to Newfoundland, from Istanbul to Iran. This celebration of

Donegal's rich heritage was truly a global experience and wonderful to behold. [Click here to find out more about the Donegal Gathering 2012](#)



## The Donegal Diaspora Project



The Donegal Diaspora Project is an exciting new initiative led by Donegal County Council in conjunction with Donegal County Development Board. Through the County Strategy 'An Strateis', the Diaspora is defined as 'The community of Donegal living in the County as well as those with a connection

to, or interest in Donegal – no matter where they live'.

This Donegal community is scattered across the Globe, some people have recently left their homeland, while others have yet to return from second or third generation emigration. Many of our Diaspora act as proud ambassadors in a wide variety of roles, even more would like to find a way to stay connected with the county and promote their identity as citizens of Donegal. Whatever the background, maintaining that link to 'Home' is a fundamental impulse no matter how near or far you are. [Click here to find out more about the Donegal Diaspora Project](#)

## Thriving in a Networked World

by Kingsley Aikens

A recent article in the Economist nailed it with their cover story on Diasporas and how migrant business networks are changing the world. They focussed on how networks of kinship and language make it easier to do business across borders. They told the story of how, in particular, India and China engaged their diasporas to build their home economies and how 'brain drain' became brain gain and brain exchange. The article pointed out that some 500,000 Chinese people have studied abroad and returned, mostly in the last decade. Chinese Foreign Direct Investment into China was two thirds of the FDI into China in 2010. A recent study by Duke University in the US found that, while immigrants make up an eighth of America's population, they founded a quarter

of the country's technology and engineering firms. The role of Indians in Silicon Valley is stunning in terms of startups and connecting back to their home countries. As Ireland continues to reach out to her massive Diaspora in innovative and creative ways the potential is obvious. Just as many countries are looking to learn from Ireland's experience so we, in Ireland, have much to learn from others and particularly the 'big four'...Israel, India, China and Taiwan. In fact, this writer believes Ireland has the potential to become the best in the world in this space and networking the Irish Diaspora can become a key piece of Ireland's economic recovery. [Click here to read the full article](#)



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE  
Dhún na nGall  
DÓNÉGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



# The Merry Dancers Take to the Skies above Donegal

By Brendan Alexander



*Aurora Borealis Over Fanad Head on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January*

As darkness descended upon Donegal and Northern Ireland on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, the northern horizon began to shine with a colourless glow. As the night progressed, the glow developed into curtains of shimmering light and the more keen eyes could even detect the slightest hint of green at the base of the eerie glow. This was a rare display of the Northern Lights or the Aurora Borealis. The Aurora Borealis have long been the subject of mystery and folklore, striking wonderment and fear into the hearts of the planet's most northerly inhabitants.

The Finnish call the Northern Lights "Revonulet". Directly translated this means the "Fox Fires" and originates from an ancient Finnish myth in which the lights were believed to be caused by a magical fox majestically sweeping his trail across the snow, spraying it into the sky. The Lapps of northern Finland, Sweden and Norway attributed the lights to the souls of the departed. When the souls energetically blazed across the skies, the natives behaved solemnly to respect the souls because they feared that doing otherwise would invite



bad fortune. The Algonquin Indians believed that Nanahbozho, their creator, travelled to the far north after he finished creating the Earth. From there, they believed that he built great fires which reflected southwards, to remind those he created of his lasting love. Closer to home, the Scots often referred to these majestic lights of the north as "the merry dancers" owing to the Norwegian folklore in which the lights were believed to be spirits of old maids dancing and waving in the sky.

Such events are quite rare though and the fact that clear skies are required to see an Aurora display means that displays over Donegal and Ireland are rare occurrences. Nonetheless, Northern Light displays are spectacular sights on the sporadic occasions that they are visible from Ireland.

Donegal County Council have collated live Aurora data, general safety advice, how to view advice, where to view maps, photography tips etc at the following link: <http://www.donegalcoco.ie/council/Northern+Lights.htm>

## Joint Winners of The Donegal Person of The Year

The Regency Hotel was the venue for The Annual Donegal Person of the Year Award on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Over 600 people gathered for this Banquet at the Regency Hotel. Ann Marie Ward and Hugh Green were the Joint Recipients of The Donegal Person of the Year 2011.

Master of Ceremonies, Liam Mc Dermott welcomed everybody to the Regency Hotel. Cathaoirleach of the Association, Siorcha Ní Dhomhnaill delivered a vibrant and energetic address highlighting how proud she was to be Cathaoirleach of the Association in such a memorable and historical year. Siorcha praised the achievements of both recipients of the Award and thanked the wonderful committee who organised the historic event. President of the Association then presented The Donegal Person of the Year 2011 Joint Award to Ann Marie Ward and, on behalf of Hugh Green, to Mary Harte.

Ann Marie Ward delivered a magnificent speech and told how excited, exhilarated and ecstatic she was to receive such an Award. She thanked her family, her friends, her colleagues and The Donegal Association for making this a truly memorable and joyous night for her.

Mary Harte delivered another wonderful speech having just returned from New Zealand where she spent over a week with the Green Family and she told the audience how proud and thrilled Hugh Green was to be given this Award.



*Tony Dunlevy, President, presenting the Donegal Person of the Year 2011 Joint Award to Ann Marie Ward and, on behalf of Hugh Green, to Mary Harte.*



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

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

## EUROPEAN PROJECTS EUROPEAN PROJECTS EUROPEAN PROJECTS EUROPEAN PROJECTS

## Good Practices

Donegal County Council are partners in the EU Funded project CO<sub>2</sub>FREE: Cooperating 2 foster renewable energy & efficiencies. CO<sub>2</sub>FREE is an INTERREG IVC capitalisation Project led by ERNACT EEIG – Ireland.

Donegal County Council is investigating the benefits of implementing a print management system into the workplace to help achieve its aim of reducing energy consumption and waste. The Council is working with regional authorities and state agencies in a bid to convert high energy users such as hospitals and schools, from fossil fuels to renewable biomass. Another initiative the council is taking part in, is establishing a Renewable Energy Network for small companies that work in the renewable energy and green economy field.

As part of CO<sub>2</sub>FREE Donegal County Council will be hosting the Project's closing Conference in September 2012. The theme of the conference will be around the "the Green Economy". Further details will be available in later editions of this ezine and on the CO<sub>2</sub>FREE website.

Find out more about all the CO<sub>2</sub>FREE "Good Practices" [here](#). "Like" us on Facebook and keep in touch with the project: link Link to the project's Newsletter [here](#)



## River Links



Following the commencement of the Project last year, 2012 is on course to be a successful year for the INTERREG IVA River Links Project.

In December 2011, the first River Links Steering Committee took place. The second of these meetings took place in February 2012 with a further four meetings scheduled for this year. There is wide spread representation on the Steering Committee which includes representatives from Donegal County Council (Lead Partner), Strabane District Council (Project Partner), B.A.S.I.C.C (Project Partner), Loughs Agency, Pobal, Rural Community Network, SEUPB, DARD, CPD, NIEA, DOENI, Clady Community Association, and Doneyloop Community Group

January 2012 saw the closing date for the submission of tenders for Design Services for the Stranorlar Enterprise Centre. Progress is also being made on the Foyle Wetlands Project, Clady-Doneyloop Walkway and Bridge Improvements and the Foyle and Finn Rural Network.

This project is funded by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) under the INTERREG IVA Programme, Priority 2, Theme 1 (Rural Development).

For more information contact: [charlene.riverlinks@gmail.com](mailto:charlene.riverlinks@gmail.com)

## Freshwater Pearl Mussel Measures Project

The EU funded FPM Project managed by Donegal County Council in partnership with NIEA, is making significant contributions towards conservation of the endangered pearl mussel on the island of Ireland.

Catchments have been selected in both jurisdictions to trial measures for mussel conservation, including the Owenkillew and Owenreagh in Tyrone, and the Glaskeelan and Leannan in Donegal. The project is liaising with stakeholders on sites for trialling measures. They include private and state landowners, farmer representative groups, research, recreational and environmental groups. Their assistance and support has been essential.

Instruments recording water quality have been deployed in the catchments and are relaying vital baseline data to the project as we prepare for the 2012 field work season.

A project website is available at [www.freshwaterpearlmussel.com](http://www.freshwaterpearlmussel.com). The first edition of the project newsletter (English and Irish language versions) is available on the website and was very well received. A spring edition will be available in the coming weeks.

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



## SPACEial NW Project

The SPACEial NW Project, which is funded under the Public Sector Collaboration Theme of the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, held its 6th Steering Committee Meeting in Derry City Council Offices 28th February 2012. The Steering Committee welcomed its new chair Mr Dennis Kelly, Senior Executive Planner, Central Planning Unit Donegal County Council. The SPACEial NW project now has a full project team in place consisting of a Clerical Officer – Ms Marie Kerr; a Planning and Research Officer – Ms Catherine Mc Laughlin; a GIS and Research Coordinator – Ms Rosita Mahony and a Project Manager- Ms Loretta Mc Nicholas

In conjunction with the All Island Research Observatory (AIRO) and facilitated by Donegal County Development Boards Social Inclusion Measures Group, the SPACEial North West Project is holding its first consumer panel on the 25th April, 2012. This event is a first step towards placing usable information about the location of people, places and services at decision maker's fingertips and equipping them with the skills to use such geographical information in planning services. We are now on Twitter @ <https://twitter.com/#!/SPACEialNW>



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE  
Dhún na nGall  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

EUROPEAN PROJECTS EUROPEAN PROJECTS EUROPEAN PROJECTS EUROPEAN PROJECTS

## Women into Public Life (WIPL)

This year marks the final year of the WIPL project which is due to finish in December 2012. The last round of the Going Public training programmes are taking place in Letterkenny and Derry and plans are currently afoot for the participants to visit the Dáil and Stormont before the training finishes at the end of March. A similar programme is currently being rolled out in Scotland.

The Strategic Leadership Programme is also ongoing. This is a more intensive training programme in which participants from Donegal and Derry come together two days per month for eight months, alternating between venues in Letterkenny and Derry.

An intern, Rachel Coyle has been recruited to carry out research into the gender balance of public bodies. The data collected will present an interesting picture of the composition of decision-making bodies in the region.

In addition, meetings have been held to explore the setting up of a Donegal Women's Forum, learning from a similar model in Derry which is supported by Derry City Council.

In January, WIPL was involved in launching the 50:50 North West Group in Sligo. This is part of a national advocacy group dedicated to achieving equal representation in Irish politics.

With the end of the Project now in sight, a working group has been set up to start planning the final conference scheduled for the autumn. For further information, email [egallagher@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:egallagher@donegalcoco.ie)



## Urban & Village Renewal Project – Lifford / Strabane

Grant aid of €995,000 has been awarded by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) under the INTERREG IVA Programme to the Urban & Village Renewal project. The official launch of the project took place in Lifford on 20th June, 2011.

The Design Team are currently finalizing detailed designs of the works proposed for Lifford and Strabane.

Works will include up-grade of footpaths, street lighting, street furniture, interpretive signage, provision of feature lighting, enhancement of two car parks and an art piece at the Alley Theatre, Strabane.

It is proposed that work on this project will commence during 2nd quarter of 2012.

For further information contact Ida Fisher on [ifisher@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:ifisher@donegalcoco.ie)



## New Marina Building opens in Ballycastle

The official opening of Portnagree House, Harbour & Marina Visitor Centre at Ballycastle harbour on 22 February 2012 will strengthen the reputation of Ballycastle as a destination of choice for visiting boats from Ireland, Scotland and beyond. The new £600,000 council owned facility provides a range of facilities for boat owners and users of the adjacent award winning marina. The building is part funded under the Sail West Initiative, which secured grant aid from the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

Speaking on behalf of Donegal County Council, Mr Garry Martin said;

"from a County Donegal perspective the marina at Ballycastle is vital to the future success of sailing and cruising tourism in the wider North West of the island and therefore the new marina building was an important addition to the regional infrastructure."

The announcements relating to the new MalinWaters website and the 2012 edition of the Welcome Anchorages publication were equally warmly welcomed. The 2012 edition that features Ballycastle Marina on the front cover is the first to include details of anchorages on the coastlines of the North West of Ireland and Northern Ireland.



*Mr Garry Martin, Cllr Padraig McShane, Howard Keery, Richard Lewis delighted to be part of Ballycastle Marina Opening.*



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

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



# Aerphort Dhún na nGall – Donegal Airport

**Keeping Donegal on the move – Direct flights to Dublin and Glasgow  
with world wide connections**



Donegal airport staff pictured with Loganair/Flybe crew

The confirmation by the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport that Donegal would retain it's Dublin service under the government's Public Service Obligation (PSO) program was welcome news for the North West Region. The three year contract was awarded to Loganair under franchise to Flybe – a leading regional carrier within Europe. Scottish based airline, Loganair have an excellent performance record and have recently celebrated 50 years of service. The 45 minute flight to Dublin departs twice daily at 0755 and 1700 Hrs (Sun departures 1055 and 1700 Hrs) and return flights depart Dublin daily at 0925 and 1830 Hrs (Sun ex Dublin at 1220 and 1830 Hrs). The airline also operates a service to Glasgow, Scotland on Mon, Wed, Fri and Sun with additional flights in peak season – daily services start in mid June.

Donegal airport also provide facilities and services to the off-shore oil/gas exploration Companies where helicopters are based at the airport and fixed wing aircraft operate to and from Aberdeen and Norway – generally for four months each year. Other operations include a 24 hour on call to the Emergency Search & Rescue service, private charters, private leisure flights and Air Corps/Garda operations.

Other facilities and services provided at the airport are car hire – Enterprise Car Hire are the current international car hire Co. operated from the airport – Café/Bar – Wi-fi internet – ATM – Meeting/ Training rooms and facilities for people with reduced mobility.



Passengers disembark in Donegal

Donegal Airport Co. continue to upgrade it's facilities to provide safe and secure operations and are supported in this by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, Donegal County Council and Údarás na Gaeltachta. A full time marketing manager works closely with



Air Corps dousing gorse fires in Donegal

the tourism product providers and agencies to develop and promote fly-break packages with particular emphasis on activity holidays. The airport is a substantial contributor to the national and regional economy.

## Aerfort Dhún na nGall Donegal Airport

An Bealach go Contae Dhún na nGall  
Gateway to County Donegal

**LOWER FARES NOW AVAILABLE**



• Fly from Donegal to Dublin with Flybe

• With fares starting at €24.99 including a free bag



Going to Dublin for Business.  
Now, pay €79.99 or less for a day return!

Call Donegal Airport 074 9548284

Terms & Conditions Apply  
Advertised fares available at Donegal Airport ticket desk when you pay by cash or cheque. Other payment methods attract a surcharge.

**flybe.com**

Flights operated by Loganair

[www.donegalairport.ie](http://www.donegalairport.ie)

For reservations and more information contact Donegal Airport  
T: 00353 74 9548284 / 9548232 Email: [info@donegalairport.ie](mailto:info@donegalairport.ie)



**enterprise**  
rent-a-car



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

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



**Pramerica careers offer an exciting work environment, great learning opportunities, a supportive management team and an extensive benefits package.**

## SEARCHING FOR AN IT CAREER OPPORTUNITY? LOOK TO PRAMERICA.

Bring your talent and ambition as a professional to Pramerica, a subsidiary of US-based Prudential Financial. At Pramerica's Letterkenny, Co. Donegal Software Development and Contact Centre, you'll discover a world of opportunities for IT, Financial, Legal, Compliance and Operations professionals, including those for: >>>>>

**To explore our opportunities—  
and apply online,  
visit [pramerica.ie](http://pramerica.ie) today!  
Tel: +353 (0) 74-9167600**

- QA Software Client Server Testers
- QA Software Mainframe Testers
- QA Automation Testers
- QA Application Security Testers (*Ethical Hackers*)
- QA Oracle Application Testers
- Java Developers
- .Net Software Developers
- Oracle Application Developers
- Graduate Actuarial/Data Modeling Analysts



© 4/2012. Prudential Financial. Pramerica Systems Ireland Limited is owned or licensed by its parent company, Prudential Financial, Inc. and its and their subsidiaries and affiliates. Prudential Financial, Inc. of the United States is not affiliated in any manner with Prudential plc, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom.



**Donegal County Development Board**  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

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



## RE:CONNECT Western Regional Business Network- New Network to Create International Business Opportunities for West of Ireland Businesses

The Western and North West County Councils (Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Galway), and the Western Development Commission have established a new business network to facilitate growth for businesses in the region. RE:CONNECT Western Regional Business Network will help foster contacts between businesses in the west of Ireland and individuals and businesses abroad. The network was launched at the Irish embassy in London by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., on Thursday, January 12th.

In his address the Taoiseach said the network was a pioneer and leader in what it sets out to do. He commended the WDC and the six local authorities on the initiative and said that such collaboration at a regional level was the way to move forward. The Taoiseach told the 220 attendees at the launch, which was hosted by the Irish ambassador to the UK Bobby McDonagh, that there is a bright future for Ireland and he restated the government objective of making Ireland the best small country in the world in which to do business by 2016.

Ian Brannigan, Acting Chief Executive of the WDC said: "We foresee a wide variety of new contacts and links as a result of the network. For example, a west of Ireland business with ambitious export plans makes contact with a London business owner originally from the region. The London business could themselves become a customer, make an introduction to another customer or simply share their knowledge and experience of the UK market. This type of contact could be invaluable to the small business owner."

The initiative is also in line with recommendations of the Second Global Irish Economic Forum Report to strengthen connections with the Irish Diaspora.

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



*Taoiseach Enda Kenny with the Donegal delegation at Western Development Commission reception and launch of RE:CONNECT Western Regional Business Network at Irish Embassy, London 12th January 2012.*



**Donegal County Development Board**  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

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



Institiúid  
Teicneolaíochta  
Leitir Ceannainn

Letterkenny  
Institute  
of Technology

## BMW Region Institutes of Technology in discussions re. Technological University

The HEA has published a document entitled Towards a Future Higher Education Landscape arising from the National Higher Education Strategy (Hunt Report). LYIT has been planning for this eventuality over a number of years. The North West Gateway Strategic Alliance (NWGSA) with the University of Ulster which commenced in 2008 was a statement of intent by the Institute to collaborate with the University on an all-island basis. This project was supported by the national strategy, however given the economic recession on both sides of the border and the fact that cross-border collaboration has disappeared from the political agenda this project has stalled. The announcement by the Northern Ireland assembly regarding the funding of the A5 road may give some indication of a change occurring in the mindset north of the border.

Over the last number of months Letterkenny IT has been in discussions with its partner Institutes in the BMW Region (Sligo, Dundalk, Athlone and Galway-Mayo) to investigate the possibility of establishing a Border Midland West BMW technological university. The criteria for these new universities have been published as part of the HEA landscape document and the consortium is currently assessing how it will address these criteria.

This is a time of major change within Irish higher education. Letterkenny IT, currently celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has progressed very well over the years but we are now moving into a very uncertain time for higher education and the college; it is more important than ever that the Institute's regional stakeholders engage with LYIT to ensure the best future for all. The pursuit of a technological university for County Donegal with our partner institutions is a worthy ambition.

LYIT has been requested to respond to the HEA by the end of July 2012 outlining its initial thoughts on how it will position itself in the new landscape. Work is ongoing on this submission.

## Cross Community and Cross Border Schools Programme

Young people from schools in Raphoe, Strabane and Lifford have been involved in a cross-border schools community relations programme since November 2011. This project was supported by Strabane District and Donegal County Councils, and delivered by the Verbal Arts Centre who devised the programme to engage young people with the issues of sectarianism and racism while also encouraging literacy and skills in digital media.

The Divided City Project allowed pupils to come together on 4 occasions, visiting each others' schools and also having the opportunity to work in the Verbal Arts Centre, where they put the finishing touches to their digital stories, including recording the voiceovers with the Sound Engineer in a working recording studio and adding titles, credits and transitions to the illustrations which they created with the help of local author and illustrator Trisha Deery, who had her first children's book "Miss Rosie Red" published by Dog Ears Children's Media Company in 2011.

This project has been supported by the PEACE III Programme, managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Donegal County Council and has received funding from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. For more information, email: [sthompson@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:sthompson@donegalcoco.ie)



*Pupils from Raphoe Central National School, Knockavoe School in Strabane and Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál in Lifford pictured at their Showcase event and Certificate Presentation in Strabane.*

## New EU fund for North West to be launched at IT Sligo Innovation Week

A major announcement about EU funding worth €100,000 for creative industries in the North West region, will be made at this year's Enterprise & Innovation Week at IT Sligo.

The fund is part of a new business support programme called 4CNW (Creative Challenge Celtic Crescent North West), which will be launched at a flagship event in the Knocknaree arena on Thursday 22nd March. The North West will be the only Irish region to benefit from this innovative programme courtesy of the newly established European Creative Industries Alliance (ECIA).

4CNW is a new business innovation support programme, delivered by The Creative State North West that will support Western Development

Commissions (WDC) forecast to create 17k jobs, and €100m growth in exports, while creating a platform to leverage private sector investment by 2020. 4CNW aims to encourage knowledge exchange and collaboration between the creative industries and other sectors in the areas of Life Sciences, Tourism, Technology and Agri-food. This reflects the fact that eight out of 10 of the world's leading companies in these sectors are based in Ireland. Participants will receive "talent vouchers" worth a total of €100,000 will be used to facilitate practical collaboration between diverse sectors and to leverage up to €100,000 in matching funds

For more details see <http://www.howtogrow.eu/ecia/project/project-4/>



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

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

# Forge New Frontiers with a practical enterprise programme

If you've been thinking about returning to Ireland and have an idea which could be a sustainable business then it might be a good time to make it real. New Frontiers is a new practical entrepreneur support programme designed to create sustainable knowledge and technology businesses. Funded and coordinated by Enterprise Ireland, it will be delivered in the North West by Letterkenny Institute of Technology and IT Sligo.

New Frontiers is perfect for anyone who has an idea or is in the process of developing a new product in the following sectors: food & consumer products, information & communication technology, engineering & electronics, medical devices, biotechnology, pharma, digital media and eligible internationally traded services. So if you're currently working in those areas and have had a business idea which you would like to test then New Frontiers could benefit you.

The programme is aimed at high-potential entrepreneurs with the commitment and capability required to develop and deliver sustainable businesses.

The core element of New Frontiers is a six-month intensive programme which will focus on developing the person's entrepreneurial abilities, equipping them with the skills they need to run, and crucially to develop, sustainable businesses. The programme will be delivered over 3 phases.

LYIT and IT Sligo is now inviting people to apply for the first phase of the programme (28 places) where their business idea and their capabilities as a potential entrepreneur will be tested. During this part-time 8 week phase the participants will benefit from workshops on the business value proposition, market research & validation, sales training and financial management. The deadline is 12 April, 2012.

After phase one is completed, participants will then be selected for the second phase (12 places) based on the viability of their business, where they will receive financial support of €15,000 from Enterprise Ireland as they focus all their efforts on developing a business during this six-month period. They will also be given office space in the Institute of Technology's incubation centre, mentoring and access to networking opportunities with potential investors.

Contact Patsy Donaghy by email [Patrick.donaghey@lyit.ie](mailto:Patrick.donaghey@lyit.ie)

## Launch of READ LK 2012

A very successful and colourful launch of the Read LK initiative took place in Central Library, Letterkenny on 21st February 2012. The event was launched by Letterkenny native and Laureate na nÓg Siobhan Parkinson. Siobhan's book 'Four Kids, Three Cats, Two Cows and One Witch (Maybe)!' was chosen for the project.

Children from Errigal College and Educate Together performed extracts from the chosen title

This initiative is designed to encourage Letterkenny people of all ages to read the book at the same time, thus building a sense of community while promoting literacy. Donegal Library Service purchased 153 copies of the book which is available in Central Library, Letterkenny along with other titles by the same author.

Over 125 people attended the event. Donegal County Library was represented by senior executive librarian Donna Quinn and Mayor Noel McBride.



*Paddy Hannigan, School Completion Officer Donegal VEC, Cllr Dessie Larkin Donegal County Council and Anne McAteer Health Service Executive*



**Donegal County Development Board**  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

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



# Donegal Pens

Two young Donegal brothers have successfully developed their interest of working with wood into a successful micro enterprise.

The McGarvey brothers, Ronan (14) and Conor (11) create individual, handmade pens at their workshop at home in Loch an Iúir, in the Donegal Gaeltacht. Each pen is unique, receiving personal attention from start to finish, the pens are individually turned, polished and waxed and are created from many types of wood including Bog Oak, Yew, Ash, Elm, Beech Wenge, Olive, Walnut and Spalted Beech. Their creations are sold and shipped worldwide through their website [www.donegalpens.com](http://www.donegalpens.com)

The initiative of the young McGarvey Brothers has caught the national imagination and their story has appeared on local and national print media, including the Irish Examiner and the Sunday Business Post as well as appearances on RTE's flagship radio programmes Morning Ireland and Liveline and TV3's The Morning Show and RTE's Nationwide.

The McGarvey Brothers Donegal Pens have proved to be one of



*Mayor Noel McBride pictured with Ronan and Conor McGarvey*

Donegal's most successful export initiatives with their handmade wooden pens being ordered online and shipped to customers as far away as the US, Australia and New Zealand.



## IFTA award for Donegal director

Garry Keane, from Ballyshannon won the IFTA in the Best Director Television Category for his on "The Writing in the Sky" - a stunning documentary about the writer Dermot Healy.

Garry is a graduate of DLIAD and has worked in television for the last twenty years, first as a lighting cameraman and for the last twelve years as a director of documentaries. He was nominated by IFTA for Best Director in 2009 for the documentary Brief Encounters of a Sporting Mind.

The documentary was produced by Real Film, a production company owned and run by Garry and his wife Alison.

The IFTAs were attended by all the leading lights of the Irish film and television world, Ryan Tubridy was there with Desperate Housewives star Dana Delaney - who has Donegal and Sligo grandparents.

## Seachtain na Gaeilge – Libraries & Taobh Tíre Points

Seachtain na Gaeilge was officially launched in Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair by Donegal County Mayor Cllr Noel McBride on 5th March. This launch kicked off an exciting two weeks of 38 diverse events as Gaeilge in libraries and Taobh Tíre points across the county.

Events include junior genealogy workshops, Irish classes and comhrá, storytelling & puppetry for children, arts & craft sessions, quizzes, bingo and a ceolchoirm Náiscoil Bhun Crannaha. Also included are special events such as an exchange exhibition between University of Ulster's Magee College, Derry & Central Library, Letterkenny. Historical roll books from Magee College & the Duais an Oireachtas, 1943 winning play 'Colm Cille' by Seamus O'Neill, are displayed in Central library while 1840s Board of Guardian minutes and workhouse records from Glenties Poor Law Union are on display in Magee College.

Scéal na Fiontraíochta ar Phairc Gnó Ghaoth Dobhair le Donnchadh Ó Baoill and a workshop on job seeking, CV & interview skills with benefits of having Irish language le hAlan Ó Baoid agus Séamus Ó Gallachóir are scheduled for Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair.

See [www.donegallibrary.ie](http://www.donegallibrary.ie) for further information

## Donegal County Community Forum sets agenda for 2012



As the people of Donegal face the growing problems of unemployment, poverty and emigration, the Donegal County Community Forum (DCCF) met earlier this year to see how it can meet the challenges ahead. Members of the Forum spent the day devising a workplan for 2012, examining practical ways to tackle the county's mounting social problems.

Speaking after the planning day, the DCCF Chairperson, Paula Leonard, admitted that one of the things that needs to happen is for the Forum to raise its profile. "It's really important that we raise awareness about our role and create relationships with all the community and voluntary groups out there. They need to know that they can come to us with their concerns and things that they would like to see brought up at council committees."

The Donegal County Community Forum was established in 2000 as a voice for the community and voluntary sector in County Donegal. Made up of twenty volunteers from all over the county, the Forum represents the needs of voluntary and community organizations on local government committees and a range of other committees set up to deal with issues including community policing and drug abuse.

As part of the workplan agreed, the Forum hopes to organise networking and training opportunities for community and voluntary groups throughout the year. For more information contact: **Paula Leonard** on 00353 86 1722953

## Donegal County Museum Reaches Out to Schools Throughout Donegal

Donegal County Museum is working in association with Donegal Education Centre to bring Museum objects out to schools throughout Donegal. The Museum's Archaeology loan box contains artefacts real and replica dating from the Stone Age to the Viking period. Children are able to handle the artefacts and learn about the archaeology of County Donegal.

Ms Sally Bonner, Director of the Donegal Education Centre said, "This is a wonderful opportunity for children to touch and feel real objects from thousands of years ago. We are very pleased to be working with and coordinating existing resources with the County Museum to provide this service to the schools. I do believe that this co-ordination is even more pertinent now considering the cuts in all budgets. This is an excellent example of two state bodies working collaboratively and in partnership. This model portrays the benefits both from a personnel and financial perspective of the use of existing resources coordination as opposed to duplication"

The Museum has developed this loan service to facilitate the many primary schools throughout Donegal that in the current economic climate may not be able to visit the Museum in Letterkenny.

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



*Archaeology loan box in action in Ardara*

## Mná Cois Farraige agus Meenaniller

On Wednesday, 8th February, local history group Mná Cois Farraige donated a framed map of the townland of Meenaniller to Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair. The map records 141 place names (log ainmneacha) in this townland including, Díog na Tuile Móire, Leaba Dhiarmada agus Ghráinne, Loch an Bhrachain etc. Also featured are houses and the families who lived in them going back to the beginning of the last century, many of which, have now disappeared. Mná Cois Farraige received help with the project from Donegal County Council, Udaras na Gaeltachta, and the Heritage Council. Many locals turned out on the night including currant and past residents of Meenaniller. Councillor Pádraig O Dochartaigh and Mary Gallagher of Mná Cois Farraige thanked all those involved and spoke about the map in detail. The map is now on display in Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair. For further information telephone 00353 74 9560826



*Mná Cois Farraige townland map handover: Nóra Ní Dhuibhir (MCF), Anne Rennicks (Library Assistant, Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair), Annie Ní Earlaigh (MCF), Máire Ní Dhuibhir (MCF), Laura Nic Nuadhat (Senior Library Assistant, Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair), Nellí De Gallai (MCF), Mary Gallagher (MCF)*



## EDGES East Iceland, Donegal, Vesteralen (Northern Norway)

### Cultural Partnership Update

Following a very successful series of artists residences in the three EDGES Partnership regions over the course of 2010 and 2011, representatives of East Iceland Cultural Council, Donegal County Council Cultural Services and Vesteralen Regional Cultural Council gathered in Sortland, capital of Vesteralen, Northern Norway in February to review progress to date (the current round of collaborations commenced in 2007) and to explore further avenues and possibilities for collaboration between the regions, over the coming months and years.

Among the many highlights of the gathering were visits to a wide range of cultural facilities and discussions with cultural managers, directors and arts practitioners. Following on this recent, very productive coming-together, the



*The Hurtigruten's Hus (Theatre / Cinema / Museum) in Stokmarknes.*

Partnership have suggested that next round of collaborative arts and museum projects might explore light across the three regions – northern lights, midnight sun, changing light and Donegal skies – as well as looking at the use of land-based place names and associated folklore as a tool for navigation at sea. It was also agreed that short-term exchanges of personnel between museums would be facilitated and that the encouragement and facilitation of the movement of arts practitioners between the three regions, for both the presentation and the creation of new work, would continue.

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



*Heritage Fishing Village Renewal Project at Nyksund, Oksnes, Northern Norway*

## Launch of Donegal PEACE III Action Plan 2011 – 2013 and Web Presence

Donegal County Council as Lead Partner of the Donegal CDB Peace & Reconciliation Partnership has recently been awarded funding of €4,533,250 by the Special European Union Programmes Body under the PEACE III Programme for the implementation of Phase II of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan 2011 – 2013, which was formulated following a widespread public consultation process in 2010.

A range of actions have been set out in the Action Plan, focussed on building better relations at a local level by challenging attitudes towards racism and sectarianism, promoting greater community integration within Donegal and on a cross border basis, promoting active participation in civil life by those who were most affected by the conflict,



**Members of Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership pictured with Mayor of Donegal Cllr Noel Mc Bride at the launch of the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan 2011 – 2013 and Web Pages.**

*BACK ROW left to right, Shauna McClenaghan - IDP, Crona Gallagher - VEC, Afia Boateng - Donegal Intercultural Platform, Paula Leonard - County Community Forum, Charlene Logue - DCBYWC, Alex Buchanan - TDDA and Anne Marie Conlon - Partnership Secretary.*

*FRONT ROW left to right, Cllr Gerry McMonagle - Abhaile Aris, Cllr Dessie Larkin - Chair of Partnership, Cllr Noel Mc Bride - Mayor of Donegal.*

**Photo: Newspix Irl**

and supporting conflict resolution and mediation initiatives addressing the legacy of the conflict.

Councillor Noel Mc Bride, Mayor of Donegal provided a welcome at the event. Dr Chris Sparks, a social and political theorist currently based at Institute of Technology Sligo provided a keynote address around the continued importance of addressing racism and sectarianism and the significance of reaching those on the margins. Councillor Dessie Larkin, Chair of Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership officially launched the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan 2011 – 2013, with an overview of the PEACE III Action Plan 2011 – 2013 provided by Partnership Secretary Anne-Marie Conlon. Mr Howard Keery spoke on behalf of the funder, SEUPB. For more information please visit [www.donegalcdb.ie/peaceiii/](http://www.donegalcdb.ie/peaceiii/)

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

European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund  
Investing in your future

Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



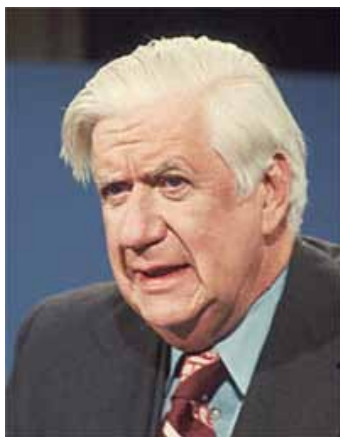
Donegal County Council

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



## Tip O'Neill Centenary Commemoration

2012 is the centenary of the birth of the Tip O'Neill one of the outstanding political figures in the United States in the second half of the twentieth century and a prominent Irish America and member of the Donegal Diaspora.



Buncrana Town Council will be leading on a range of commemorative events to be held in Buncrana in September of this year. These will include the unveiling of a monument, a Tip O'Neill lecture and the presentation of the first Tip O'Neill Donegal Diaspora Award.

There will also be community based and schools based events.

Tip O'Neill's grandmother was born Eunice Fullerton in Sleaderin outside Buncrana in 1850. Throughout his political career, Tip O'Neill was an active and influential friend of Ireland.

For further information contact Caitlin Ui Chochlainn, Donegal County Council at [CAITLIN.UICHOCHLAINN@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:CAITLIN.UICHOCHLAINN@donegalcoco.ie)

## The 'Big Four' Irish Online Databases for the Family Historian

Irish genealogy has been totally transformed in the past couple of years with the availability of online databases of important Irish record sources such as 1901 and 1911 census; mid-19th century Griffith's Valuation; indexes to Irish civil birth, marriage and death registers; and last, but not least, the very significant county databases of church and civil records built up over the last three decades. Thus, Irish family researchers to get the most from their hobby must be guided to the internet and how to use online databases

[www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) - Search, for free, the 1901 and 1911 census returns, which includes images of original documents, for all counties in Ireland.

[www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation](http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation) - Search, for free, the mid-19th century Griffith's Valuation for all Irish counties, which includes images of original documents and maps, by Family Name and Place Name.

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) - Search, for free, the indexes (21 million entries) to Irish civil birth, marriage and death registers by clicking on 'Europe' or 'All Record Collections' and then selecting from country list, which is in alphabetical order, 'Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958'.

[www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie) - Search, for free, the indexes to 18 million births, marriages and deaths extracted from civil and church registers for 27 of Ireland's 32 counties, with option to purchase, on a pay-per-view basis, any selected record.

For more information visit: [www.derry.rootsireland.ie](http://www.derry.rootsireland.ie)

## Donegal Boston Gaa Club offers help to emigrants

Donegal Boston Gaelic Football Club is offering a helping hand to Donegal emigrating to the city. Club PRO, Majella Mc Fadden advises that "The club has come a long way since a group of ex-pats came together in 1988 to form what has become one of the leading lights on the Boston GAA scene."

"This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Donegal football club here in Boston. Plans are already in the works for a celebratory dinner dance for later in 2012.

"If anyone is thinking of emigrating in 2012, Donegal GFC Boston can help people find work and accommodation. For more information please contact the club through our website, [www.donegalbostongaa.com](http://www.donegalbostongaa.com), Facebook



Page ([donegalgfcbboston](http://donegalgfcbboston)) or the chairman at [pmddonegal@gmail.com](mailto:pmddonegal@gmail.com)

A recent meeting elected the new 2012 Donegal Boston committee. They are: Honorary President: Connie mc Elaney (Doagh Island), Chairman: Paddy

Mc Devitt (Fintown), Vice Chairman: Eamon Kelly (Buncrana), Secretary: Denise Trimble (Glenties), Assistant Secretary: Paul Friel (Clonmany), Treasurer: Jonathan Byrne (Malin), Assistant Treasurer: Brian Kelly (Urris), PRO: Majella Mc Fadden (Creelough) and Registrar: Ricky Rush (Castlefinn)



## Worldwide interest in 2nd Gallagher Global Gathering continues to grow

Minister Leo Varadkar T.D., Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport was informed of the Gallagher Clan's plans for the 2nd Gallagher Global Gathering to be held from the 6th to 14th September 2013 during his recent visit to Donegal. He was also presented with a DVD that contained worldwide TV coverage of the very successful 1st Gallagher Global Gathering in 2007.

"We continue to receive a great response to our plans", said Adrian Gallagher of the Clan organisation. "As word of the event spreads it seems to hit a chord with not only Gallaghers but those of Gallagher descent. We have received strong interest from places as far apart as Alaska and Australia, New Zealand and Namibia. We are also very gratified that quite a number of those from abroad who joined us in 2007 for our first Gallagher Global Gathering wish to come back again. Many of these had little or no known direct family connections in Donegal or even in Ireland but yet they have been looking forward to coming back again having sampled a good time with us in 2007.

We hope to firm up on our plans for the itinerary for 2013 within the next few weeks and that should increase the interest even more. Further information can be had on our website: [www.gallagherclan.org](http://www.gallagherclan.org), Facebook: [www.facebook.com/gallagherclan.org](http://www.facebook.com/gallagherclan.org) or via email: [postmaster@gallagherclan.org](mailto:postmaster@gallagherclan.org)



*Offering mutual good wishes for the success of their respective gatherings in 2013*



## Voice from the Dawn

[www.voicesfromthedawn.com](http://www.voicesfromthedawn.com) is an exciting and innovative multi-media project undertaken by Professor Howard Goldbaum (Associate Professor at The Reynolds School of Journalism, Reno, Nevada) that covers the folklore of Ireland's ancient monuments. It is a remarkable project driven by the passion of a stranger who falls in love with Ireland's ancient and heroic past. County Donegal receives its share of attention with an excellent audio-visual presentation on Turas Cholm Cille (St Colmcille's Pilgrimage).

Here is an excerpt from the website – visit it and enjoy it!



The Turas is a religious procession that incorporates 15 different stáisiún (stations) within nine different townlands, at the western edge of Co. Donegal, where, as they say, "the next parish is Boston." These stations are all ancient stone monuments, some of which may have been associated with pre-Christian practices. The Turas leads the pilgrim along a five and a half kilometer (3.5 mile) meandering path up into the hills and down thorough the valley. It has evolved through several distinct stages. More than a millennium ago it began at a time when this remote slice of Ireland, hemmed in by mountains and the sea, had its own way of perceiving the world. Turas Cholm Cille is dedicated to St. Colm Cille, the sixth-century missionary who, according to local tradition, had a monastic center in the valley of Gleann Cholm Cille. It is today the longest turas still practiced in Ireland.

The 15 stations of *An Turas*, as well as the religious traditions associated with each of them, are all described in detail on a separate gazetteer page of *Voices from the Dawn*, along with photographs of each of the sites.

A local festival 'Colm Cille sa Ghleann' (Colmcille in The Glen) will be held in Gleann Cholm Cille from 1-4 June. The activities include classes in Scots Gaelic, Dances, daily walks, concerts and lectures. The event will be opened by Aire na Gaeltachta, Dinny McGinley, TD.

Eolas: 074 97 30248 / [oid easgael@eircom.net](mailto:oid easgael@eircom.net)

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)  
Tel: +353 (0)74 97 24466

**Roisin McBride**

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



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

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