

Donegal

- community in touch



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I'm delighted to write these few words for inclusion in the Donegal community in touch ezine. Wherever you may be in the world I hope things are good with you.

I know what it's like to find myself far from home at times but in my case I'm fortunate enough that I get to return on a regular basis. I know that sometimes people get fed up with me going on about how great Donegal is but I can't say anything else. I feel very lucky to have been born and brought up in Kincasslagh. When I was a child I thought it was the centre of the universe. Everyone was the same. There was no big or small. Every door was open to step through be it day or night. Because I worked in The Cope in the village I got to know everyone both old and young. I was only at national school at the time but I feel it gave me great confidence and in a way helped me to relate to and interact with people something that has been of great benefit to me throughout my career.

My first singing was done in the choir and my first time on stage was in St. Mary's parochial hall at one of the concerts that were held during lent. Little did I think back then that my music would take me all over the world.

Mind you going overseas was nothing new to me because my mother came from Owey Island and all my summers were spent there with my grandmother, Uncle James, his wife Peggy and their family. My memories of life on Owey are priceless. Every night we would go to some house where all the young people would gather and at some point ghost stories would be told leaving you scared out of your wits. I can remember sunny summer evenings sitting on the steps of the school taking part in sing songs. I can still hear the sound of my uncle and the other men as they walked along the gravel roads before dawn to check their lobster pots. They worked very hard but they were so happy. There are so many lovely memories of growing up at home I could go on forever.



For the past few years my wife Majella and I have lived in Meenbanad. When I sit at the window in the sunroom (far from sunrooms I was reared) I can see Keadue Bar nestle between Cruit Island and Keadue and in the distance I can see Aranmore and Owey Island rising majestically out of the Atlantic. When I'm on tour I often sit in my dressing room before a show and close my eyes and picture this view. It gives me a warm feeling.

As I said I have travelled to many beautiful parts of the world and met many wonderful people but there is nothing that gives me more joy than playing a game of whist in St Mary's hall on a Tuesday night or playing golf on Cruit Island.

I have had many awards bestowed upon me but the most precious to me was being chosen as Donegal Person of the Year back in 1989.

If you are reading this in some far off place and you haven't been home in a while, maybe its time to make a trip. If you are not from Donegal let me extend an invitation to you to come and see our beautiful county and feel the warmth of its people. I'm sure I will have many journeys to make in the days and years to come but as the song says:

*"whatever fortune comes my way
whatever may befall, I know I'll make my
final destination Donegal"*

Daniel O'Donnell

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Message From Mayor



A Chára

It is my pleasure to introduce to you another edition of the Donegal Community in Touch e-zine. I was elected Mayor of your County on the 30th June 2010. I am the first ever female Mayor in Donegal and only the second ever female Caithaoirígh.

We are now half way through 2010, the economic downturn continues in our Country, although apparently we are "technically out of recession" despite increasing unemployment here in County Donegal.

I hope wherever you are and whoever you are that you are safe, comfortable and healthy. I hope you are not missing your home county too much, because believe me there is somebody somewhere at home thinking of you and hoping that you are well. When I was 6 years of age my late father moved to Chicago in the USA to seek work, reflecting back I realise now how difficult that must have been for him leaving his family behind. Luckily for us he returned after a few years, many others did not. I hope they are safe and have made a good life for themselves.

For all those who have left home to venture on holidays and work visas, I wish you well and enjoy your travels.

To those of you, who will not be coming home after the Summer period, take care of each other and I would urge you to keep in touch with your loved ones at home and send you stories on to us so we can include your experiences in our next edition of this ezine.

Finally, our Irish Community abroad are very important to us and I thank all those who play a part in the Donegal Associations around the World. Keep up the good work.

Adh Mor agus beannacht a cairde

Is mise le meas

Cora Harvey

County Mayor



Donegal County Development Board
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Donegal County Council



Cllr. Cora Harvey elected new Mayor of Donegal County Council

Cllr. Cora Harvey was elected Donegal mayor becoming the county's first Sinn Féin mayor since 1921-22 and just the second woman to head the county council. Her party colleague, Cllr. Pádraig MacLochláinn, was elected deputy mayor.

Mayor Harvey was co-opted on to the council in September of 2008. She is married to husband, Brian, and they have two children.

In her address, the new mayor said the council needs to progress major infrastructure projects, such as the Ballybofey-Stranorlar bypass and the Donegal road links to the A5 dual carriageway in the north, and to tackle the problem of litter and illegal dumping.

Mayor Harvey said that in the coming months she will convene a conference aimed at tackling unemployment in the county, inviting all relevant agencies and involving the Minister for Enterprise, Batt O'Keeffe, TD. Also her priorities will be the eradication of homelessness and addressing the accommodation needs of people suffering from addiction.

Seamus Neely appointed as new County Manager



Donegal County Council will be asked next month to ratify the appointment of Seamus Neely, Director Of Water, Environment And Emergency Services, as County Manager. Mr. Neely has served as Director Of Services with the council since September of 2008. He will succeed Michael McLoone, who retires on July 7 after 16 years as County Manager.

Mr Neely, 44, grew up around Manorcunningham. He joined the county council in April of 1988, and after a time with the Letterkenny District Council moved to the Cavan Town Council in January of 1996. After a year at the Monaghan Town Council he moved to Cavan County Council in February of 1998, as a director of service with responsibility at different times for planning, transportation and corporate services. During his time in Cavan, Mr. Neely also served as acting county manager for a year.

For further information visit: www.donegalcoco.ie

Donegal County Development Board Annual Strategy Day 2010



Speakers and officials from Donegal County Council pictured at the CDB Strategy Day 2010

Donegal County Development Board held its annual Strategic Planning Day on Wednesday 5th May 2010. Over 76 representatives from across the local government, state agencies, local development, community sector and private sector were in attendance at the event. Representatives also attended from cross border bodies and interests. The event provided an opportunity for discussion and debate highlighting the current challenges facing the economy of County Donegal.

Opening the event, Cllr. Dessie Larkin, chairman of Donegal CDB thanked all participants for their contribution to the work of the Board over the last number of years.

Speakers at the event included Mr. Larry O Connell, National Economic and Social Council, Mr. Finbarr Bradley, Former professor at DCU, NUI Maynooth and UCD, Ms. Terre Duffy, Public Art Manager, Donegal County Council, Mr. Tom O Dwyer, Teagasc and Mr. Gerry Richards, Donegal County Council

Mr. Micheal O hEanaigh, Donegal County Council, closing the event noted that the CDB is advancing initiatives, which are providing a much needed boost to the local economy providing additional investment to the local region.

For further information on the work of the CDB please visit www.donegalcdb.ie



200 new jobs for UnitedHealth Group



The expansion of UnitedHealth Group's Letterkenny operations is to result in the creation of 200 new IT and medical claims jobs in Co Donegal by the end of 2011. United Healthcare established

its Letterkenny operation in 1999 and currently employs 340 people. Its parent company United Health Group is based in Minneapolis, USA and employs over 80,000 people in 33 countries worldwide. The announcement of the expansion is supported by the government with the aid of IDA.

US Vice-President of Operations, Jim Becker, noted the reasons why UnitedHealth Group decided to expand its operations in County Donegal:

"We are delighted to be in Letterkenny and to share in the success of Pádraig Monaghan, our MD here, and his team. There were clear parameters for us in expanding our operations and we did indeed look at other sites around the world. However, the Letterkenny facility stood out for us. Their unquestionable ability to succeed each and every day, along with their strategic location and passionate workforce made our decision very easy. We also had an excellent working relationship with the IDA which has facilitated our expansion in Donegal and I would like to thank the organisation for that."

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

Tony Blair – Donegal Connection



Tony Blair whose mother Hazel Corscadden was from Donegal has often reminisced on the summers he spent at his mothers' family home outside Ballyshannon. Tony Blair served as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 2 May 1997 to 27 June 2007. On a recent Late Late Show appearance Cherie Blair told of how her four children, Euan Anthony, Nicholas John, Kathryn Hazel, and Leo George, held Irish passports by virtue of Blair's mother Hazel, and his daughter Kathryn uses hers while travelling.

Since leaving Downing Street, Tony Blair has served as the Quartet Representative to the Middle East. He represents the USA, UN, Russia and the EU, working with the Palestinians to prepare for statehood as part of the international community's effort to secure peace.

Official Launch Of Women Into Public Life Project

'Women into Public Life' (WIPL), a project funded through the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme was launched in Buncrana on Friday 25th June.

Inez McCormack launching the project stated, "It is time for action! This project represents a determination of women across sectors, traditions and communities to assert a new doctrine – We won't wait for change, we are going to make it!"

The primary goal of the Women in Public Life Project is a collaborative and innovative regional partnership between three key women's organizations in Derry/Londonderry (Foyle Women's Information Network), Donegal (Second Chance Education Project for Women) and Scotland (Engender), Donegal County Council. The Project has been awarded €898,945 under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme.



Steering Committee members at the WIPL Launch

The primary goal of the project is to address the continuing under-representation of women in public life and decision-making. Activities include training, advocacy, research and provision of a range of supports to enable women to engage with political processes, locally and nationally. Plans are currently underway to organise women's leadership courses across all three areas in September.

For further information please contact Ms Noirin Clancy, Project Co-ordinator at noirin.wipl@gmail.com or +353 (0)74 91 72901



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Pramerica MD appointed to chair American Chamber's North West Regional Organisation



Henry McGarvey

Mr Henry McGarvey, Managing Director of Pramerica in Letterkenny was confirmed at the weekend as Chairman of the American Chamber's North West Region group. US companies in Ireland are recruiting and have more than 1,250 job vacancies according to a new survey from the American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland.

72% of the firms surveyed say they will be recruiting staff this year, with the outlook for the North West Region said to be particularly positive, with over 300 available positions in areas such as IT, Shared Services, Engineering and Research and Development.

The American Chamber of Commerce has a natural role in representing the business interests of US companies at government level and companies involved in commerce between US and Ireland in the North West Region. The vision of the Regional Group is to contribute to the development of a sustainable high quality environment and quality of life that is internationally competitive.

For further information visit: <http://www.amcham.ie/default.aspx>

'Spirit of Ireland' Proposal for Kilcar

100 people attended a public meeting in Kilcar to discuss the major energy generating system that is being proposed for the village.

Representatives from 'Spirit of Ireland' detailed their proposals to construct large-scale wind farms with huge hydropower storage reservoirs in the Cullion area.

The project will involve building a dam, and erecting 600 wind turbines with the energy produced feeding into the National Grid.

Kilcar is one of five coastal areas in the West that have been pinpointed as possible locations.

The 'Spirit of Ireland' project plan involves Energy Independence for Ireland within 5 Years with a €10 billion stimulus to the economy and energy exports from Ireland in years 6, 7 and 8 of €3 billion to €5 billion.

For further information visit: <http://www.spiritofireland.org/>

Sail West Project to feature in SEUPB's Best Practice DVD

The EU funded Sail West Project, led by Donegal County Council, is the result of an extensive collaboration of 20 partners from the West of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland. The project aims to encourage the development of marine tourism across the entire region, through a targeted capital investment programme in key marine infrastructure and a concerted marketing campaign.

The SEUPB is currently developing a DVD featuring case studies of seven flagship projects, which are representative of the priorities under both the PEACE III and the INTERREG IVA programmes.

Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Community Culture & Planning, took part in the DVD on behalf of the Sail West Project and Donegal County Council. Moyle District Council in Northern Ireland and North Ayrshire in Scotland are also due to take part in the DVD. Once completed, these clips will be available on the SEUPB website. SEUPB will also use the DVD clips at conferences and to showcase the projects at European level.

For further information, please contact the Michelle or Adrienne in the INTERREG Unit

Email: michellem@donegalcoco.ie or adkelly@donegalcoco.ie



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Cllr. Patrick McGowan appointed Head of the Irish Delegation for the EU Committee of the Regions



Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Donegal County Council, has been appointed as Head of the Irish Delegation for the EU Committee of the Regions from 2010 – 2015.

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) represents local and regional government in the EU policy formation and decision-making processes. The Committee is an advisory body established in 1994 to ensure that the public authorities closest to the citizen, in Ireland, the local and

regional authorities, are consulted on European Union policies of direct interest to them.

The Committee is composed of 344 members representing the local and regional tiers of government of the 27 Member States. These full members are backed by an equal number of alternates (substitutes). Ireland has 9 full members and 9 alternate members.

Donegal County Council establishes new EU Policy and Funding Unit

Donegal County Council has established a new European Policy and Funding Unit, within the Councils Directorate of Community, Culture and Planning. The Unit has two main functions - Administrative Function and Developmental Function. The Administrative Function works to ensure that the Council is fully compliant with all financial and administrative responsibilities associated with any funding received under the Interreg IVA, Interreg IVB, and other European funded programmes as required.

The Developmental Function focuses on the proactive targeting of external funding opportunities locally, regionally, nationally and at European level, while also providing access to networks of benefit to the Council and Donegal County Development Board. The Unit currently administers two projects supported under the Interreg IVA project – SAILWEST project and the Women Into Public Life project. The Unit is also continually seeking to develop partnerships and networks to support its work in this area.

For further information on the work of the Unit please contact Ms. Maria Ferguson at maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie

Patrick McGill Summer School, 18th – 24th July 2010

This summer's Patrick McGill summer school runs from July 18th to 24th. "Reforming the republic - issues of politics, economics and accountability," is the theme of this year's school. Glenties will once again become the heart of national political and economic debate. Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Eircom Broadband, is pleased to announce that all debates will be webcast live on the DCC website. With 4 sessions everyday, this is a major commitment by Donegal County Council to broadcast the summer school to those who cannot attend. So come and join us; watch, listen and join in the debate. Submit questions for Q&A's online. Be there... virtually!

<http://www.donegalcoco.public-i.tv/site/> for webcast listings.
www.donegalcoco.ie for more information

€8.3 million funding announcement for PEACE III Pettigo / Tullyhommon Termon Project



Participants at the official funding announcement
Picture: Thomas Gallagher

Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Project Partners Fermanagh District Council and the Association for the Development of Pettigo and Tullyhommon (ADOPT), has been awarded €8.3 million of EU support through the PEACE III Programme managed by

the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) for the implementation of the Pettigo/Tullyhommon Termon Project.

The Termon Project is a new multi-faceted community and recreation regeneration project, designed to enhance the twin villages of Pettigo in County Donegal and Tullyhommon in County Fermanagh, which straddle opposing sides of the border by the River Termon. Through the extensive redevelopment and enhancement of the physical environment, the project will encourage cross-border interaction, engagement and reconciliation and kick start the economic rejuvenation of the area, which has suffered economically and socially due to the conflict of the past thirty years.

There are five different strands to the Termon project consisting of the construction of a variety of new community and recreational facilities, a riverside park, village renewal street works, a heritage architectural project and a programme of community activities.

For further information, please contact Olivia Gallen:
Tel: + 353 (0) 74 91 72292 / Email: ogallen@donegalcoco.ie



The Special EU Programmes Body is the Managing Authority for the European Union's PEACE III Programme



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Donegal Live / Dún na nGall Beo, Sunday 16th May 2010



Michael Mc Loone, John Carr, Paul Mc Loone, Dessie Larkin, Cllr Emer Costello, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Jim Larkin, Lord Mayor of Letterkenny, Hugh Harkin and Noel Mc Ginley

This initiative is the brainchild of John Carr, Pearsa Thír Chonail 2007 who made a promise as Donegal Person of the Year to help promote tourism to his native county. According to John "The home market year is this year and we should try to get as many Dublin people to our county as possible" Hugh Harkin, Chairperson of Donegal Association, Dublin and the Donegal Association Committee was immediately on board, as was Paul Mc Loone, Fáilte Ireland and Michael Mc Loone, Manager of Donegal County Council.

On Sunday May 16th, Temple Bar, Dublin was taken over by Donegal Extravaganza. The weather was in our favour as well as the thousands of people who turned out to enjoy the day.

Altan, Clannad, Maria Mc Cool, Aoife Ní Fhearraigh, An Crann Óg, Henry Girls, Donegal Tenors, Áine Ní Dhochartaigh, Paul Brady, Fídal, Ící Picí, The Plea, Donegal Youth Orchestra, Roots Orchestra Mullaghduff Marching Band, and many more who preformed 'free gratis'.

We also had the Faith Healer (Brian Friel), Philadelphia Here I Come (Brian Friel), Children of the Dead End (Patrick Mc Gill) performed by Lifford Players and Sean Nós singing which were taken place in the New Theatre off Market Square.

Celebrities included Noel Cunningham (TV 3 personality), Packie Bonner, Gay Byrne and his wife Kathleen Watkins, Phil Coulter (singer and song writer), Éamonn Gilmore (Labour Leader), Kate Ferguson (current Mary from Dungloe) not forgetting Bob the Glenveigh Eagle who was the guest of honour.

The major tourism initiative was created and funded by the Donegal Association, Dublin, Donegal Tourism, Fáilte Ireland north West, Irish Hotels Federation (Donegal Branch) and Donegal County Council

Everyone who attended was given a chance to enter their names into a lottery for free week-ends in the county, courtesy of hotels and self catering. Mc Ginley coaches and Air Arann provided the transport free gratis – this is indeed generosity as we in Donegal are famous for!

We would like to thank everyone who supported us in any way.

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

Ideagen - Wind Energy Event held in County Donegal

Enterprise Ireland in conjunction with Letterkenny Institute of Technology, IT Sligo and Killybegs Chamber of Commerce, brought together a mix of business, research and investment interests to investigate the possibilities for their growth of the wind energy sector in the North West.

The expert presentations clearly demonstrated that there were existing opportunities and potential innovations that can open new economic advantages for Donegal and that there is the expertise and know how in the county to tap into wind.

From the perspective of getting an insight into the business and technical issues relating to wind energy the presentations by Michael Walsh [Irish Wind Energy Association] and Christian Wefer [Wind Energy Service Technique, Germany] were insightful and to the point. The practical issues raised from the floor demonstrated a willingness to develop the business opportunities further. The workshop showed that there is a job of work to be done to respond to the emerging trends in

renewable energies and provide a balanced approach to the economic opportunities that present themselves.

The most striking thing is that the potential goes beyond the physical sitting of the turbines into a wide range of support and technological opportunities where Donegal is well placed to take long term economic benefit from.



Participants pictured at Ideagen, Wind Energy Event





Some of the Pramerica's employees outside the main building at the 10 year anniversary Tree planting ceremony on Thursday 24th June

Pramerica Systems Ireland celebrate 10 years in County Donegal

Last week Pramerica Systems Ireland, a software and information technologies services firm, celebrated 10 years of growth and success in Co. Donegal. Located in the Letterkenny Office Park, Pramerica is a subsidiary of United States-based Prudential Financial, Inc. (PFI)*.

It was founded to support the computer programming and testing needs of the parent company's individual life insurance business group. Ten years later, Pramerica provides programming, testing, engineering, infrastructure, back office operations, contact centre services and support to every Prudential Financial business group in the United States. And it now employs 700 people.

Over the past 10 years, Pramerica has been very committed to giving back to local communities in Ireland. Its Global Volunteer Day event each October encourages volunteer service by employees and their families and friends; and the annual Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards programme recognizes students who have been extraordinary volunteers. During the 10th anniversary celebration week, Pramerica presented a \$10,000 donation to North West Special Olympics, an organization supported by Pramerica employees since the company opened in 2000.

PFI executives from the United States travelled to Letterkenny last week to join the Pramerica employees and the management team to celebrate the anniversary. Events included a company-wide Town Hall

meeting with presentations by the visiting executives, a Diversity Dance performed by children of several employees, and an evening dinner-dance festivity.

The week culminated on Thursday with a tree-planting outside Pramerica's main building in Windyhall. Pramerica has also planted flowers on the Pramerica Roundabout to mark the anniversary milestone.

For more information about Pramerica, visit www.pramerica.ie

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



Following presentation to Special Olympics. John Fox, Vice President CTM, Prudential Financial Inc holding the cheque surrounded by members of the North West Special Olympics group. Pramerica employees in the background.



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Donegal Businesses Going Global With E-Bay

Letterkenny, 1 June 2010

Donegal retailers are leading the way in using eBay to move their businesses online. "Over 10% of all online retail business in Ireland and the UK is conducted on eBay and almost 40% of online retailers using eBay are based in rural areas," according to Michael Hughes, Ireland's leading eBay instructor in Ireland. "In my opinion Donegal businesses are at the cutting edge when it comes to making use of e-Bay." Michael Hughes was speaking as Donegal County Enterprise Board announced the latest crop of graduates of their innovative Advanced eBay training course, which they've been running since 2008.

"eBay is a brilliant way for small retailers in Donegal to overcome obstacles that can block them from growing their business" said Ursula Donnelly, Assistant CEO at Donegal County Enterprise Board. "Rural businesses usually have problems getting access to a bigger customer base and are worried about getting paid by overseas clients. With eBay you can set up a virtual store in a few days, use PayPal for your payments, and you immediately have access to everyone from New York to Nagasaki".

Each course run by Donegal County Enterprise Board has produced several new businesses as well as helping to transform existing ones. This month's participants included Merville Pottery, Foy & Company, MG Distributors, Kitchen Essence and Murphy of Ireland among others.



Helen Carr, 26, from Cranford, has set up an online jewellery business on eBay called Irish Jewellers Worldwide. Helen found the County Enterprise Board's training course very valuable. "They describe a clear step-by-step approach that I found really useful. For example, telling you how to go about selecting a trading name on eBay, how to present your products and how to make sure they'll be found by potential customers".

Regarding challenges, Helen says most of them are pretty straightforward. "You have things to learn, like how to photograph your products so they look well on your eBay store, and how to choose certain keywords to drive people to your product. But again, the best advice is to take a course and then get in there and give it a go, there are plenty of other small businesses who've managed to get up and running already across the county who'll provide advice if you need it".

For more information about the e-Bay training course or about the work of Donegal County Enterprise Board, please contact Ursula Donnelly, Assistant Chief Executive, on +353 (0)74 9160735 or email udonnelly@donegalenterprise.ie



E&I Engineering Ireland to create 71 new jobs in County Donegal

A €3.6m investment in research and development by a Donegal company is to lead to the creation of 71 new jobs over the next three years.

The investment by E&I Engineering Ireland is being backed by Enterprise Ireland. The new jobs will be at the company's headquarters in Burnfoot, Co Donegal.

E&I Engineering, which featured in the June edition of the ezine, makes electrical switchgear and distribution products for the building services sector. It employs 249 people in Ireland and has manufacturing operations in the United Arab Emirates.

The investment will be used to expand its product range to allow it to move into new markets.

E&I managing director Philip O'Doherty said its new research programme would target the renewable energy sector as well as its existing markets. The company also wants to expand its sales into mainland Europe.

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



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Donegal is “Open for Business”

Donegal as a location for FDI is ‘Open for Business’ helping companies from across the globe to excel in their sector and reach their target markets efficiently and effectively. Almost 1,000 companies – including some of the world’s best known brands – have chosen Ireland as the hub of their European networks because of the winning combination Ireland offers them. Many have chosen Donegal as their base in Ireland and their success demonstrates the North West’s capability of attracting and sustaining high-class international companies. These companies include Prudential Insurance Company of America, UnitedHealth Group, Abbott Laboratories and SITA to mention a few

Today, IDA Ireland is focused on securing investment in three key areas: High Value Manufacturing, Global Services and RD&I. These activities are thriving across all the business sectors in which Ireland has built up a concentration of knowledge and expertise: Life Sciences, ICT, Engineering, Digital Media and Consumer Brands.

With our eyes fixed on the future, we’re also developing the exciting, emerging areas of Clean Technology, Services Innovation and Convergence. In doing this we are showing our readiness to embrace and capitalise on emerging technologies and innovations.

In Donegal, favourable demographics and consistent investment in education ensure a plentiful supply of highly qualified workers with excellent technical, language and customer service capabilities, as well as a reputation for flexibility and innovation. Letterkenny Institute of Technology has a strong reputation built up over many years of education and investment in the sector. The Institute has developed a keen awareness of the importance of forging strong links with industry, particularly in the fields of scientific and technological research and the Institute has developed bespoke courses to Degree and Masters level for client firms

There is a good place for your business to prosper. That place is right here, in Ireland’s North West Region.

Talk to us now at nwregion@idaireland.com or visit us at www.idaireland.com or www.northwestnow.eu

Enterprise Ireland supporting job creation in County Donegal

Enterprise Ireland activity is focussed on the creation of new jobs through a variety of activities:

- supporting entrepreneurs setting up new High Potential Start-Up Companies – those that can employ 10 or more within 3 years with a revenue stream of €1 million;
- retaining and creation of new jobs in existing client companies in both manufacturing and internationally traded services;
- enhancing the innovation capability of Donegal companies through the support of research and development in companies and the Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

Enterprise Ireland is already working closely with many Donegal firms with a range of programmes on offer as well as supports and link-ups with other industries and third level institutions. The Lean Programme assists and supports existing companies at different stages to deliver improvements within their processes and supply chain management systems.

In addition, Enterprise Ireland runs various programmes and seminars to assist businesses. For example, an idea generation workshop was held in Harveys Point on 25th May with more than 60 attendees who were interested in developing and investigating new opportunities in the growing wind energy sector.

The Propel Ideas into Business Programme is an intensive incubation programme that supports and advises entrepreneurs who have an export focussed business idea.

Another support is to help emerging companies gain a competitive advantage by improving and verifying their green credentials e.g. implementing environmental standards and assisting them make verifiable environmental improvements to products or processes. www.envirocentre.ie

Regional Director Conor Fahy said that he was hugely impressed by the “can do” attitude of the many businesses Enterprise Ireland has supported and he said that he wanted the message to go out that he and his colleagues were very keen to “hear from and offer help” to those who believe they have a viable idea.

For further information:

Méabh Conaghan, Enterprise Ireland:

Tel: +353 74 916 9829 / 9800

Email Meabh.conaghan@enterprise-ireland.com

Web: www.enterprise-ireland.com





Mark Anderson teaches school children about the Lambeg Drum in Donegal Castle.



Andrew Mattison demonstrates some Plantation era armour to an enthusiastic participant.

Donegal Plantation 400: Schools Workshops

The Ulster-Scots Community Network, in conjunction with some of its member groups in the South Donegal area, are marking the 400th Anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster in Donegal (1610-2010) by holding several events in the South Donegal area throughout 2010. This series of events, known as "Donegal Plantation 400" has been supported by Donegal County Council/ Donegal County Development Board/SEUPB Peace III initiative.

As part of these activities, interactive schools workshops were held, focusing on the legacy of the Plantation in Co. Donegal. Schools from across the South Donegal area, namely Kilbarron, Robertson, Glebe, and Killaghtee National Schools participated in the workshops held at Donegal Castle on the 16th and 17th June. The workshops included sessions on the Story of the Plantation, historical re-enactment demonstrations, Ulster-Scots language, musical traditions such as the Highland Bagpipe, The Lambeg drum, and Scottish Highland Dancing.

For further information visit: www.ulster-scots.com

Launch of Donegal Heritage 'Life & Lore' Collection



The Donegal Heritage 'Life & Lore' Collection was launched by Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh of Altan & Donegal Person of the Year in May 2010. The collection of 64 CDs of oral recordings tells part of the story of County Donegal through the lives, and in the words, of some of its residents. These diverse accounts of life, heritage and culture in County Donegal were recorded by Maurice O'Keeffe and make an important contribution to capturing our sense of place. The Donegal Heritage 'Life & Lore' Collection was commissioned

by the County Donegal Heritage Office, the County Donegal Heritage Forum and The Heritage Council as part of the County Donegal Heritage Plan.

People involved in landmark industries such as 'Magee's of Donegal', 'Oatfield Sweets', 'Donegal Carpets' and 'James McDaid & Sons Ltd' were recorded as key figures in the Donegal History Society, Oideas Gael, An Taisce, Glenveagh National Park and Donegal County Council. Family businesses and traditions in thatching, boatbuilding, music, teaching, politics and shopkeeping are recalled. Insights into traditional ways-of-life on the farm to that in historic homes in the county were recorded. The collection is available to consult free-of-charge through the County Library Service.

For more information, please contact the County Donegal Heritage Office, Donegal County Council on +353 (0)74 917 2576 or by e-mail at heritage@donegalcoco.ie



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



Donegal County Council

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE
Dhún na nGall
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Forbairt Nua ag Oideas Gael –Siopa Gaeilge Arlíne

Tá Oideas Gael tar éis forbairt a dhéanamh ar Siopa Gaeilge s'acu ar líne ag www.siopagaeilge.ie. Tá an Siopa Gaeilge féin ar oscailt go laethúil agus é lonnaithe in Oideas Gael, Gleann Cholm Cille, Co Dhún na nGall. Tá rogha ábhair curtha ar fáil i réimsí éagsúla atá oiriúnach don fhoghlaimeoir Gaeilge ag gach leibhéal, idir chúrsaí Gaeilge, leabhair dhátheangacha, nua-scéalta le dlúthdhioscaí, leabhair ghramadaí agus mórán eile.

Tá ábhar ilghnéitheach ar fáil do mhúinteoirí Gaeilge a bhíonn ag plé le daoine fásta agus páistí bunscoile agus meánscoile. Tá rogha suntasach againn de leabhair do pháistí, mar aon le réimse leathan postaerí daite, fídhioscaí agus cluichí. Tá rogha iontach de chártaí, fógraí agus t-léinte dátheangacha againn fosta.

Tá clú agus cáil ar Dhún na nGall as an cheol traidisiúnta agus níl sárú ar rogha an tsiopa maidir le dlúthdhioscaí ceoil as bailiúchán 'Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí' de chuid James Byrne, Con & Frank Cassidy.



Siobhán Ní Churraighín & Gearóidín Ní Ghonghail at 'An Siopa Gaeilge'.

An Siopa Gaeilge – new bookshop online

Oideas Gael has now placed its bookshop in Gleann Cholm Cille online at www.siopagaeilge.ie. The book & music shop 'An Siopa Gaeilge' is open daily. An Siopa is stocked with a range of products regarded by us at Oideas Gael as of special interest and importance to the adult Irish language learner and to teachers (at adult, as well as primary and secondary level). We also carry a wide selection of materials for children and a variety of traditional music resources. Our traditional music CDs include the many recordings from Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí and the numerous noted musicians attending their annual events. An Siopa also carries an excellent range of bilingual greeting cards and books on Irish history, culture and music. We will be happy to source any publication or recording not already in stock. Payment can be made by credit card, Laser, or cheque, or online through our secure server.

For further information: Tel: +353 (0)74 97 30500
Skype: siopa.gaeilge or Email: eolas@siopagaeilge.ie

The Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe – based in the historic Irish College

The mission of the Institute is to support both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in meeting the challenges and maximizing the opportunities arising from EU membership through the organization of residential programmes for institutions of higher education, the public sector, business and the not-for-profit sector and through the promotion, in mainland Europe, of all forms of cultural activity from Ireland.

Leuven has connections with Ireland going back many centuries. The first Irishman matriculated from the famous Leuven University as far back as 1548. Donegal has a very special link to Leuven. The Institute was founded by the Four Masters, and Donegal natives Mícheál Ó Cléirigh and John Colgan. The city played host to the famous Flight of the Earls during the winter of 1607/08. Rosa O'Doherty, one of Donegal's most famous women of that period is buried in the College – her tombstone is still quite legible.

A permanent interactive exhibition 'Ireland in Europe', which the Institute has recently installed, puts the Irish College and its achievements into a historical context and shows its links to the Flight of the Earls and the Wild Geese.

Contact details: reception@leuveninstitute.eu Tel: 0032 16 310430

Courses in the Northwest

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

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

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



Who do you think you are?

The Archives Service, County Library, County Museum and Donegal District Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages all came together for the festival of Bealtaine in Central Library, Letterkenny, on four successive Wednesdays to assist people in researching their family roots.

Staff members from all the Services were available in the library each Wednesday morning to assist people in their research. Samples from various collections of the Archives, Library and District Registry were on display, including valuation registers, electoral records, maps, rentals, and birth, marriage and death registers. Also available were guides, books and leaflets. Online resources were made accessible, including the 1911 census and Griffith's Valuation. Individuals and local history groups flocked to the library each Wednesday morning, and many were delighted to discover that in spite of the loss of so much of our recorded heritage over the last century, much has nonetheless survived. Many more were happy to learn how to commence the daunting task of delving into their ancestry.

Staff from the District Registry drew up the family trees of local celebrities, Seán Doherty from Highland Radio, and Altan's Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Donegal Person of the Year, and displayed them at the library during the event.

Who do you think you are, Donegal was a resounding success and it is hoped that similar sessions will take place in other parts of the county again soon.

For more information contact: Niamh Brennan,
Tel: +353 (0)74 91 72490 Email: archivist@donegalcoco.ie



Members of the Raphoe Friday Club look through archives, Volt House, 14th May 2010

Reminiscences

As part of the Bealtaine Festival, Museum and Archives staff visited local people attending day centres in Mevagh, Churchill, Dunfanaghy, Raphoe and Gweedore. Archives on display included school registers, valuation records from their area, plans of labourers' cottages, and photos of towns, villages and railways. Artefacts from the County Museum included a World War 11 ration book and helmet, an old lighthouse bulb, a pair of bloomers, a piece of Killybegs carpet, postcards, and a spinning top. These reminiscence sessions are a long established and greatly successful part of Cultural Services' Bealtaine festival, inspiring in older people often forgotten memories and nostalgia for a bygone era. It is a wonderful way of bringing archives and artefacts to people in all parts of the county who might never otherwise have an opportunity to view them.

For more information contact: Niamh Brennan,
Tel: +353 (0)74 91 72490 Email: archivist@donegalcoco.ie

DOAGH

A new CD by Maria Mc Cool

Maria Mc Cool a native of Gaoth Dobhair who is now living with her husband Tom Clarke and two children in county Meath, has just launched her second CD following the success of her widely acclaimed debut album "Ailleog". The new 16-track album, entitled "Doagh" was arranged and produced by Frank McNamara (ex-Musical Director of RTE's Late Late Show). The title of the album is "Doagh", a reflection of Maria's love for The Isle of Doagh in her native North West Donegal.

The Gaoth Dobhair born singer has been the recipient of numerous awards at Celtic Festivals in the USA (St.Louis, Chicago & Boston) and in France (Lorient, Brittany) where she sang with the late Ronnie Drew in 2005. She grew up with Enya and Moya Brennan and frequently sang on stage with members of Clannad and earlier played violin with Clann Uí Mhaonaigh of Altan fame.



Parliamentary Registration (Ireland) Act, 1885, 48 Vict., c. 17.

West Division of the County of Donegal, Polling District of *Bunbeg*

CLERK OF THE UNION'S SUPPLEMENTAL LIST for the year 1889, of Male Persons (not already appearing on the Copy of the Register for this Polling District), rated in the last rate under the Acts for the Relief of the Destitute Poor as the Occupiers of Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, rated separately or together at the net annual value of Ten Pounds or upwards, and situate in the Polling District of *Bunbeg* being part of the Poor Law Union of *Dunfanaghy* and all which Occupiers have, on or before the First day of July in this year, Paid all Poor Rates, if any, which have become payable by them respectively, out of such respective Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, previously to the First day of January last.

Column for entering the Clerk of the Union's Objections.	Rated Occupier's Surname and Christian Name.	Place of Abode.	Rated Value of Premises.			Townland or Description, Name and Description of Premises Rated, Street, Lane, or other like place in this Polling District, and Number of House (if any) where the Property is situate, or Name of the Property.
			£	s	d	
<i>Objection</i>	<i>McFadden, James Rev.</i>	<i>Bunbeg</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	

Extract from Electoral Register supplement, 1889 with the name of Fr James McFadden



Extract from Col Henry Brook book of Letterkenny maps/rental. c. 1850

Acquisitions in the Archives

Recent acquisitions in the County Archives included a beautiful book of maps of the townlands of Letterkenny, undated but probably from the mid nineteenth century. The delicately illustrated maps are from the estate of Colonel Henry Vaughan Brooke and feature the names of tenants who rented parcels of land across the townlands of Ballaghderg, Barrack, Coolboy, Curraghlea, Illistrin and Calhame.

Another exciting acquisition in the Archives is a number of early electoral registers from 1889 and 1902. The 1902 registers are of particular interest as they include the names of women householders who were first entitled to vote in Local Government elections under the 1898 Local Government Act. One of the 1889 Dunfanaghy supplemental registers carries the name of Father James McFadden, the famous priest who was accused in that same year of the murder of Inspector William Martin during a riot in the village. He was later acquitted of the murder.

For more information contact: Niamh Brennan, Tel: +353 (0)74 91 72490
Email: archivist@donegalcoco.ie

13 jobs offered by Foras na Gaeilge to be located in Gaoth Dobhair

Foras na Gaeilge are recruiting to fill 13 posts in the organisation to be located in Gaoth Dobhair. Foras na Gaeilge is the body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the whole island of Ireland, was founded on the second day of December 1999. In the Good Friday

Agreement, it was stated that this North/South Implementation body be set up to promote both the Irish language and the Ulster Scots language.

Five new posts will be located in Gaoth Dobhair (i.e., Principal Officer (Director of Publications, Lexicography and Terminology), Assistant Principal (Editor, Lexicographical Unit), two Engineers Grade III (Assistant Editors) and a Higher Executive Officer) with a further eight vacancies to be decentralised to Gaoth Dobhair (i.e., Engineer Grade II (Editor), three Engineers Grade III (Assistant Editor), Higher Executive Officer, two Executive Officers and a Clerical Officer).

For further information visit: <http://www.forasnagaeilge.ie/Home.asp>



Unique Series of Plantation Booklets launched



L-R Pictured at the launch Deputy Mayor Charlie Mc Conalogue, Adrian Sweeney, Declan O'Carroll Donegal Historical Society, Cllr. Dessie Larkin, Cllr Jimmy Harte, Letterkenny Deputy Mayor and Cllr Jim Lynch Mayor

Donegal County Museum in association with Derry City Council Museum and Heritage Service, officially launched their unique series of three Plantation Booklets – A Guide To The Plantation Of Ulster in Derry And Donegal, Plantation Architecture And Landscape In Derry And Donegal and The Legacy Of The Plantation In Derry And Donegal during February in the County Museum.

Donegal County Museum engaged Dr. Eamonn O'Ciardha, Lecturer in Irish/ English History Literary & Historical Studies, Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages at the University of Ulster at Magee, Duncan McLaren of Deadalus Architecture and Dr. William Kelly, Institute of Ulster Scots Studies at the University of Ulster at Magee to write these booklets. The booklets are available in hard copy and as PDF format, free of charge.

This joint Plantation project between Donegal County Museum and Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Service, aims to increase awareness of the Plantation and its impact amongst all communities in both Derry and Donegal.

Donegal County Museum would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism in the production of these booklets.

For further information contact: Donegal County Museum
Tel: +353 (0)74 91 24613 Email: museum@donegalcoco.ie



Rory Gallagher Statue

A major new addition to the cultural landscape of the County was launched in June with the unveiling of the new bronze sculpture of Ballyshannon's legendary rock and blues guitarist Rory Gallagher. The launch of the statue opened the 2010 Rory Gallagher Festival and generated national media, television and radio interest. Very much in the spirit of a 'festival' event, there was a music introduction with singer-songwriter Charlie McGettigan, and brief speeches from Cllr. Brendan Byrne the Mayor of Co. Donegal; Cllr. Dara Murphy, the Lord Mayor of Rory Gallagher's second adopted home place Cork City; Cllr Barry O'Neill of the Rory Gallagher Festival Committee; and Terre Duffy of The Public Art Office. Donal Gallagher, Rory's brother spoke and the unveiling was an emotional event for the many members of the Gallagher Family who attended. The sculpture proved a massive hit with the Festival audience. Donegal County Council Public Office in association with the Rory Gallagher Festival commissioned the statue from artist David Annand.

For further information visit: www.donegalpublicart.ie or email: declan.sheehan@donegalcoco.ie



Donegal Association of New York to celebrate 115 Years in 2011

The Donegal Association of New York Inc. will celebrate their 115th Anniversary in 2011. The St Patrick's Day Anniversary Ball will be held on Saturday March 19th, 2011.

Next year is shaping up to be a very exciting year for the Irish in New York. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is celebrating their 250th Anniversary, and preparations have already started for 2011. This is perfect timing for anyone planning a visit to New York, you can take in the parade on the 17th and attend the Donegal 115th Anniversary dance on Saturday night. Two great historical events in the same week!

Every year the Association chooses a 'Guest of Honor' and this year will be no different. To celebrate the 115th the Association stepped outside New York and went to Donegal for our guest. We are delighted and very excited the 2011 'Guest of Honor' has accepted and will travel to New York next March. This person, over the years is one of the most popular Irish Entertainers from Donegal who is still performing and entertaining to the delight of many fans. We expect this event to be a sold out night.

The Association also bestows the "Willie Joe Cunningham Award" The award in his memory was created in 2005, or as he was better known "Mr. Donegal". For many years, Willie Joe was a huge presence in the Association and successfully held office of President numerous times. Willie Joe hailed from Kilcar and was married to the former Ellen Boyle (r.i.p) from Gweedore. Willie Joe passed away in 2000.

The recipient of this award will be announced later in the year.

For further information visit:

http://donegalny.org/Donegal_Association_of_New_York/Failte.html



Back row left-right (sitting on corner) Philomena McGovern, (standing) Sean McGovern, Jackie Sweeney, Bridget Kavanagh, Kay Spratt, Fr. Paul O'Donnell Duggan-Chaplain, Evelyn Doherty, Michael McGovern, Pete Kavanagh, Denis Gallagher, (sitting on corner) Rose Ferguson.



Artist Rian Kerrane with daughter Oonagh and partner Eric Waldemar in front of Wallpaper Swatch no. 3, EDGE Gallery, Denver, Colorado, March 2009

Greetings from Rian Kerrane

Associate Professor and Sculpture Area
Head University of Colorado Denver, USA

While studying Fine Art at The University of Ulster in Belfast my work centered round the visuals of boats, telescopes, periscopes and submersibles. Post art college and after a stint in India I was home in time to join a group sponsored by Wider Horizons (Derry) and FAS (Letterkenny) to travel as far as Louisiana for ten weeks work experience. Inspired by my time abroad I returned to attend graduate school for sculpture in New Orleans. Sixteen years later I am a tenured professor at The University of Colorado Denver.

While I love to teach and am fully devoted to running an amazing sculpture studio, inclusive of iron and bronze casting facilities, my position also expects the exhibition of my own artwork. I have the freedom and support to experiment, investigate and explore the production of art.

I am drawn to the blue-collar work ethic of the States, the industrial roots and in Colorado, the "pioneering spirit of the wild west". There is still a sense of freedom out there. With my work I travel throughout the states exhibiting in outdoor public art exhibitions, museums and galleries and abroad to Italy, Austria, Mexico and home in Ireland. I am delighted to be showing at Artworks in Letterkenny for the month of July this summer. My work can be viewed online at www.riankerrane.com.

I have a daughter now with artist Eric Waldemar, <http://www.ericwaldemar.com/> and of course wonder if I will ever live back in Ireland. Currently I am satisfied knowing I can come home for a few months of the year and you never know what the future will bring!





Tony Dunleavy thanking the County Council for honour

Civic reception for Donegal Association of Dublin

Donegal County Council has honoured the Donegal Association in Dublin at a civic reception in Lifford on the 26th April 2010. The civic reception marked the 75th anniversary of the Donegal Association in Dublin.

The council held the reception "to acknowledge our fellow Donegal brothers and sisters in Dublin who keep the Donegal flag proudly flying and never, ever lost their roots," Mayor Byrne said. Speakers who paid tribute to the association described a group that always reached out to help Donegal people, while also maintaining a connection to home for people who had left the county or emigrated.

The group's first mission statement was this: "to care for the Donegal diaspora in Dublin and to help those in need at home." Over the years, the association refocused its attention on the county itself, by promoting Donegal and serving its needs. More recently the group has also developed strong links with the Donegal Association in New York and is reaching out to associations in London and elsewhere



*The County Council Lord Mayor and
The President of Donegal Association*

President Tony Dunleavy said they are delighted with the honour. "As Donegal people we naturally have great pride," said Tony Dunleavy, the association president. He said the group endeavours "to promote Donegal in any way we can."

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

Irish diaspora create their own social networking site

Some 5,000 members have already signed up to join a social networking site called RendezVous 353 that aims to link the 80m people of Irish heritage across the world.

RendezVous353 was created in response to modern-day emigration, providing a resource for Irish people all over the world to stay connected with each other and to provide a link between those in Ireland and the Irish-connected people outside of Ireland.

The newly launched version of the site aims to connect Irish business people around the world, encouraging social interaction and creating a platform for business networking amongst the diaspora.

The site ultimately hopes to boost the Irish economy by increasing the support system between the Irish living at home and abroad, said founder Terry McLaughlan, a Galway man who has worked overseas on projects in Qatar. The site was co-founded by Limerick man Richard O'Donnell, who has added 25 years of experience of international software and technology to the project.

RendezVous353 is being supported by regional 'champions' in many countries and by well-known names in Ireland and abroad, including musicians Paul Brad, The Saw Doctors and Brendan Keeley, who have all joined and set up MiniSites, on RendezVous353.

For further information visit: www.rendezvous353.com



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

Maria Ferguson

Email: diaspora@donegalcoco.ie / maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie
Tel: +353 (0)74 97 24466

Roisin McBride

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



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