



DONEGAL COMMUNITY BULLETIN NUAHTÁN POBAIL DHÚN NA NGALL

November & December / Samhain & Nollaig 2009

ISSUES / EAGRÁIN 30

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1. General / Ginearálta

Pride of Place Glory for County Donegal

Oileán Árann Mhóir has received national recognition after being named as one of the principal winners in Cooperation Ireland's annual Pride of Place Competition 2009.

At an award ceremony held in the Slieve Donard Hotel in Newcastle, Co. Down on Saturday 21st November, Oileán Árann Mhóir was named overall winner in the Islands category. Comharchumann Oileán Árann Mhóir was lauded for its efforts in improving the quality of life for the residents on the Island. The Comharchumann has undertaken many developments over the last number of years including the building of a Day Care Medical Centre, Heritage Centre and holiday home village. The judges visiting the Island last July recognised the benefits of these initiatives to the community and how they have helped to promote and create civic pride on the island.

There was further success for the County with Habinteg Housing Association Ltd, Lifford being named as a runner up in the 'Integration' themed Single Issue category. Habinteg Housing Association seeks to achieve the twin aims of 'habitation' and 'integration' through the development of high quality, affordable housing, which is integrated into the wider community. Habinteg's approach is to build a wide range of house types to provide homes for all, irrespective of age, culture, background, or levels of ability.

Ardara Parish Council was also shortlisted under the 'Heritage' themed Single Issue category.

This is the seventh year of the Pride of Place Competition, which is run by Co-operation Ireland in partnership with the All-Island Local Authority Steering Forum, a forum which encourages strategic and sustainable approaches to cross-border co-operation by Local Authorities. The Pride of Place awards is an all-island competition which is directed towards recognising improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area.

Donegal County Council have been involved in this competition since 2005 and hosts an Annual Donegal Pride of Place Awards competition. Since Donegal became involved in this competition, the following groups

have received national recognition: Taobh Tire (2006), Carrigart Development Association (2007) Castlefinn Partnership Initiative (2008), and Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair (2008)

In 2009, five projects, namely Cara House FRC, Letterkenny, Forbairt na Rosann Teo, An Clochán Liath, Ardara Parish Council, Comharchumann Oileán Arainn Mhóir and Habinteg Housing Association Ltd, Lifford received County Pride of Place Awards at a Gala function in Letterkenny in May and were selected by Donegal County Council to represent Donegal in the 2009 All Island Pride of Place Awards.

**Talk on The Orange Order in East Donegal
on Friday 4th December at 7.30pm in Orange Hall, Newtowncunningham**

An informative evening around the history of The Orange Order, its role in East Donegal, the Laggan area and the future outlook for The Orange Order.

NCDI in conjunction with The Orange Order, Newtowncunningham branch are delighted to announce an open evening and informative talk around The Orange Order in East Donegal. The evening will entail looking at the order's history from The Battle of The Boyne to present day, the orders cultural identity and its future outlook. This event will take place on Friday 4th December at 7.30pm in Orange Hall (opposite the catholic graveyard and beside McLaughlins pub) in Newtowncunningham. A member of the local branch will facilitate this talk who is actively involved in the local institution and the boys brigade. A brief tour and talk around the history of the hall will also be delivered at this event.

Community Smoke Alarm Scheme

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government sanctioned additional funding in 2009 for the installation of smoke alarms in vulnerable households The Community & Enterprise Unit of Donegal County Council has been working with the Councils Housing Service, Fire Service and community and voluntary groups throughout the county to roll out this scheme in Donegal. This scheme has been very successful to date with over 900 households in Donegal benefiting from the scheme between 2008 and 2009. Donegal County Council would like to thank the support of the community and voluntary for their delivering this initiative.

Keeping Warm Community Initiative 2009

Following from the success of the Keeping Warm Community Initiative 2008, the scheme is once again being rolled out across the county. The main aim of the initiative is to support and assist those most vulnerable in our society and given the current economic climate, we feel that fuel poverty will impact on a greater proportion of the county's population this year than in recent memory.

This year's scheme is again sponsored by the ESB and is being conducted in a similar way to 2008 with each household being provided with an information pack containing room thermometer cards, CFL light bulbs, information on benefits and entitlements, tips on how to stay warm in your home and contact details for locally based agencies with a remit for dealing with fuel poverty. The assistance and cooperation of the community & voluntary sector in the county is the vital link in ensuring that this simple yet effective initiative is delivered to the most vulnerable people in our community. This year has seen an increase in the number of vulnerable households benefitting from this initiative from 500 to 600.

FAS Work Placement Programme Change

The FÁS Work Placement Programme provides work experience for graduates and other unemployed people. A number of changes to the eligibility criteria for the programme have been announced, to take effect from 1 December 2009:

Recipients of most social welfare payments, including Jobseeker's Allowance and Jobseeker's Benefit, will now be eligible to apply. Unemployed graduates who are not receiving a social welfare payment will also now be eligible to apply.

2009 graduates will be eligible to apply.

The period, for which participants have to be in receipt of a social welfare payment in order to be eligible, has been reduced from 6 months to 3 months.

The key changes relating to the eligibility criteria of firms providing placements are: The Programme will be open to all sectors of the economy including the private, public, and now the community and voluntary sectors. The Department of Finance will issue a Circular in the coming weeks on the operation of the programme in the public sector.

The requirement for a firm to have at least 10 employees will be removed. Previously firms could only participate if they did not have redundancies in the previous 6 months. This constraint has been reduced to 3 months. However, if the level of redundancies in the last three months were less than 5% of the workforce, these firms will be eligible to participate.

The duration of the work placement will be increased to a maximum of 9 months.
[Find out more about the changes to the Work Placement Programme on the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment website.](#)
[Find out more about the Work Placement Programme](#)

Gateway to Protestant Participation (GPP)

The Gateway to Protestant Participation (GPP) is a strategic programme designed to challenge attitudes towards sectarianism and racism and support conflict resolution and mediation at local community level in the North West Peace III cluster area. (Derry, Omagh, Strabane including Donegal)

The GPP has been designed to work with the protestant communities who have been identified as hard to reach under previous peace programmes.

The GPP has been developed through a partnership between the voluntary and statutory sectors. The lead partner is the Londonderry YMCA co-partnered by Derry City Council, Omagh District Council, Strabane District Council and led by a steering group comprising of St Columb's Park House, The Villages Together, Derry & Raphoe Action and Tyrone, Derry & Donegal Action. A Project Outreach worker is based in each of the Council areas with bases in Bready, Donegal, Londonderry and Omagh.

Further details are available from the Project Outreach Worker for Strabane/Donegal, Seana Hume, Tyrone-Derry & Donegal Action, Volt House, The Diamond, Raphoe, Co. Donegal
Email: Seana@ymca-ireland.org

"Donegal - community in touch / Dún na nGall - pobail i d'teagmháil" E-zine

Donegal County Council in association with Donegal County Development Board is actively involved in a Diaspora Project, promoting the North West of Ireland over the last number of years. Building on the success of the Diaspora project, we have produced an e-zine entitled "Donegal - community in touch / Dún na nGall - pobail i d'teagmháil" E-zine. The e-zine is distributed to people all over the world who have a connection to or interest in Donegal and provides information on local news, events and stories of interest.

The fifth edition of the Donegal e-zine is available on the CDB website at:
<http://www.donegalcdb.ie/publications/DonegalCommunityInTouche-zineIssue5.pdf>

The next edition of the e-zine will be available shortly.

For further information on the e-zine, please visit our website at www.donegalcdb.ie or contact Ms Maria Ferguson at maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie / 0749724466 or Ms Roisin McBride at rmcbride@donegalcoco.ie / 0749172562

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2. **Cultural Services/Seirbhísí Cultúrtha**

“All Change - The Railways of County Donegal and Northern Ireland”

Donegal County Museum’s new temporary exhibition, **“All Change - The Railways of County Donegal and Northern Ireland”** has just opened in the Museum. This exhibition gives visitors a glimpse of the railways, which ran through County Donegal including the County Donegal Railways, The Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway and the Great Northern Railway. It highlights the importance of these railways to the people and economy of the county.

Items on show include a scale model of the CDR station at Letterkenny, footage of railway journeys all over Donegal, archives and photographs and many more items for the railway enthusiast young and old. Admission is free and all are welcome to come and remember the railways of Donegal.

The exhibition runs until January 2010.

Opening hours: 10am – 4.30pm Mon – Fri 1- 4.30pm Saturday. For further information contact Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny T 074 9124613 E museum@donegalcoco.ie

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3. **Funding Opportunities/Deiseanna Maoiniú**

About Fundingpoint.ie

Fundingpoint.ie provides information on all the funding sources available to voluntary and community organisations. It provides a range of online tools for tracking down funds to support an enormous range of good causes. It also offers guidance on how to fundraise and links to a huge library of other resources. It helps funders promote their news and funding criteria.

Fundingpoint.ie helps funding specialists in advising others.

Check out www.fundingpoint.ie

Irish Fundraising Handbook – latest edition

The 6th edition from Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts, includes a directory of funders, plus practical advice and information. Check online at www.create-ireland.ie

Approaching deadlines

European Commission - Youth in Action Programme
Application deadline: 9 December 2009

The European Commission has announced a new call for proposals under its 'Youth in Action Programme'. The programme aims to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans. This call for proposals aims to provide financial support for the operating costs of not-for-profit organisations active at the European level. The maximum grant available for each organisation is €35,000.

To be eligible, organisations must schedule a series of activities, which comply with the principles underpinning community action in the field of youth. These can include amongst others: youth exchanges and voluntary services; non-formal and informal learning and activity programmes targeted at young people; promoting intercultural learning and understanding, and debate on European matters, EU policies or youth policies. For more information go to http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2010/call_action_4_1_en.php

Source: NWCN Bulletin 19/10/09

OLC Ireland Trust Fund: A New Grants Scheme for Marginalised Women
Grants are awarded four times per year with
the next closing date for applications being December 31st 2009.

The Community Foundation for Ireland has launched a new nationwide fund, the **OLC Ireland Trust Fund**, and has called for applications from registered charities and not for profit organisations around Ireland who work with marginalised women.

The OLC Ireland Trust Fund is managed by The Community Foundation for Ireland on behalf of The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity. The Fund will endeavour to support projects that most closely respond to issues concerning addictions, prostitution, trafficking, violence and abuse of women. The goal of the fund is to provide resources, which will help educate, develop and enhance the lives and dignity of marginalised women.

This new Fund has been opened with a total of EUR 85,500 available for grant-making in 2009.

Value Notes: Grants will be in the region of EUR 500 to EUR 5,000 except in exceptional circumstances when a maximum of EUR 10,000 will be awarded. Grants will be made for once-off projects that are not the core of ongoing activities of the organisation concerned.

Application forms for the OLC Ireland Trust Fund are now available at www.communityfoundation.ie/grants or by contacting The Community Foundation for Ireland directly: tel 01 874 7354 / email info@foundation.ie

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4. Training opportunities/Deiseanna oiliúina

Sligo County Community Forum is providing a course in

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

FETAC LEVEL 5

Begins Tuesday 12th January 2010 and runs for 11 Tuesdays, 10am to 1pm

This course explores ideas about cultures and how different cultures inter-relate. It will also look at law and culture, intercultural conflict, minority ethnic cultures and the influence of the media.

This course is of interest to anyone working with people in a paid or voluntary capacity. The course will take place in the training room of the County Childcare Committee in Sligo.

The course is free, a small childcare/travel expense can be paid to participants where there is a genuine need.

For further information and registration contact cbrennan@sligococo.ie
071-9111814

Funded through the Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Committee

Leadership Skills

Facilitative Leadership Training. In The Volt House, Raphoe

the course is due to commence in February and will run for 3 two hour sessions.

Learn new skills to become leaders or update your present skills.

As places are limited we allocate on a first come basis and the course is free
Anyone interested in training or require more information please contact Albert or Flora.
Tel: 9174737 Email: tdaction@googlemail.com

Introduction to Fundraising and Fundraising Planning from Training People

- **Date:** Jan 21, 2010
- **Region:** [Dublin](#)
- **Cost:** €100 per person

This highly popular and practical one day course provides an introduction to fundraising, outlines a 9 step fundraising planning process and explains a wide range of techniques and methods which can be used to raise funds

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5. The Environment/An Timpeallacht

2009 COMMUNITY COMPOSTING WORKSHOPS *Don't delay; book your composting workshop today!*

In 2009, the Waste Awareness Officer plans to deliver a number of Composting Workshops to local community groups. These workshops are becoming popular and there is a lot of interest among local community groups for information on composting etc.

1/3 of our household waste is organic waste that can be composted. This can be done using a compost bin or heap and will turn food waste into rich compost that can then be used as a garden fertiliser. Diverting this food waste from your regular waste bin will also cut down on waste to landfill and waste costs for the householder.

If you are involved in the local Tidy Towns committee why not consider a composting workshop, as it will help with your next application for the Tidy Towns competition next year.

If any group would be interested in hosting a composting workshop please contact me directly at (074) 91 76276 or email suzanne.tinney@donegalcoco.ie

Did you know that you can claim tax relief on the bin charges you pay each year. Tax can be claimed back on annual charges and pre-paid tags, receipts are not necessary. To make your claim call into your local Revenue Office or Lo call 1890 777 425 and quote your P.P.S. number.

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6. Insurance/Árachas

The Irish National Community and Voluntary Forum has teamed up exclusively with leading insurance broker BHP Insurances to assist in minimising insurance costs for its members. The INCVF is the umbrella body for the community and voluntary sector and this arrangement will give its 22,000 members direct access to the most competitive and comprehensive insurance package for their sector. Savings of up to 45% can be expected.

If you wish to avail of this competitive insurance package, you must have your ID number to hand when contacting BHP Insurances, together with your existing insurance arrangements where applicable.

To obtain your ID number you should contact **Breid Neely, Community Development Officer, Community, Culture and Enterprise Directorate, Donegal County Council at 074 91 72 573.**

A dedicated BHP Forum helpdesk and free phone number has been set up to deal with all enquiries on 1890 666 111. You can also find out more information on the insurance package at BHP's website, www.bhpinsurance.ie.

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7. Flight of the Earls /Imeacht na nIarlaí

Flight of the Earls Commemorative Poster Postéir Cuimhneacháin Imeacht na nIarlaí

2007 saw Donegal County Development Board and the County of Donegal commemorate this landmark event in our history. To mark this year and the landmark event that was commemorated, a limited edition of numbered Flight of the Earls/Imeacht na nIarlaí Posters has been produced. The poster denotes a lasting reminder of 2007 and the Commemoration, which took place.

The posters cost (€20) unframed and (€75) framed.

Posters can be acquired from –**Michelle McGill**
Community & Enterprise Division, Donegal County Council, Lifford, Co Donegal
(074) 9172568 michellem@donegalcoco.ie

