

Donegal County Council
Cultural Services
Annual Review 2011



Contents

Introduction	2
Preface	3
Library Service	4
Archives Service	9
Arts Service	12
Museum Service	16
Heritage Office	20
Regional Cultural Centre	18
Public Art	28

Introduction



Donegal County Council takes a proactive approach to the provision of cultural services in the county. This document highlights a number of events and achievements of the Council's Cultural Services Division from 2011, which show the huge diversity and the exceptional quality of the various programmes, whether this be through the Library Service, the Arts (County Arts , Regional Cultural Centre, Public Art) or Heritage (Museum, Archives, Heritage).

The Elected Members of Donegal County Council recognise the importance of culture as a resource for County Donegal and seek to provide support for this key sector annually. As such, it is our aim that the Council will continue to prioritise the delivery of high quality cultural services to the public and maintain Donegal's reputation as a distinctly creative county with a rich and cherished cultural heritage.

The 5 goals of the Cultural Services Division are (i) to improve access to, and increase participation in cultural activities in County Donegal, (ii) to maintain and develop a high quality service, (iii) to promote and develop the educational value of culture, (iv) to promote excellence and innovation, and (v) to promote the importance of culture and preserve cultural inheritance.

These goals translate into a range of cultural experiences available to the community across the county. Each experience can contribute to the short, medium and long-term development of the individual, particularly of children and young people, but also for adults.

These experiences are provided for your enjoyment, information and education and I encourage you to take up the opportunities provided. We look forward very much to meeting you.

Cllr. Noel McBride

Mayor of County Donegal, 2011-2012

Preface



It is uplifting to be a resident of a county and community that takes our Arts, Culture and Heritage seriously for what it is a major contributor to the enrichment of our lives and lifestyle. Donegal County Council deserves the highest accolade for the range and quality of the annual programme that is planned and delivered across a great diversity of activities. Each of us has a capacity for creativity and programmes like this unlock new dimensions of exploration, engagement and enjoyment of the richness of our inheritance of language, song, dance, story and history as well as the dynamics of those who add to artistic and cultural achievement on a current basis.

As is evidenced in this report, arts and culture can offer us both anticipated and unanticipated pleasures. Art addresses the fullness of our being simultaneously speaking to our intellect, emotions, intuition, imagination, memory, and physical senses.

The programme offered by Donegal County Council Cultural Services presents us with a rich menu from which all age groups can draw. The defining difference between passive and active citizens lies in their curiosity about the arts and culture. Art awakens, refines, and restores our humanity. Those who participate in cultural activities acquire a heightened sense of individual awareness and social responsibility. For me, our cultural and artistic parameters should remain unfettered in its definition and flexible in its responses, as Donegal County Council Cultural Services have inventively shown.

Mr. Matt McNulty

Chairman, Donegal County Development Board
Tourism Forum.

Deputy Director General & Director General,
Bord Fáilte 1988 -1998.

Library Service

Donegal County Council has established a countywide library network, with the Central Library at the core and community libraries in Milford, Ballybofey, Lifford, Raphoe, Buncrana, Moville, Carndonagh, Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Dungloe and Gaoth Dobhair. Taobh Tíre community outreach points supplement the network, along with the Cross-Border Mobile Library which serves the east of the County. In line with the goals and objectives of the 'Cultural Connections Strategic Plan for the Cultural Service Division 2009-2014', the Public Library Service in Donegal is a resource for information and learning, for culture and imagination and for children and young people. It is the aim of the Library Service to enrich the lives and increase social and cultural opportunities of every member of society. It is evident from the highlights in this Review that 2011 was a very busy year for the Library Service and that libraries across the county were vital focal points for the communities they serve.



'Bábóg Baby' competition winner Molly Donaghey, Carndonagh Library. Photo Library Service

“There were over 7,000 visits to the new Gaoth Dobhair library in the first three months of business.”

Leabharlann Nua

After much anticipation the doors of the new Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair opened to the public on Monday, October 3rd. The community has received the new 501 sq metre library very well with 875 people joining and over 7,000 visits in the first three months of business. The library is open 31 hours per week, including one late evening.

Donegal County Council Library Services' newest community location at Aislann Ghaoth Dobhair, Derrybeg, has 22,000 items of stock and features the Donegal County Library's first ever-dedicated teenage area. It is equipped with the latest technology including: seven public access computers, WIFI, three listening stations and a computer booking system. Members can help themselves to library stock using the self-service system.

The library also features a bright and colourful childrens' library, two public meeting rooms and study areas. There is plenty of space simply to sit and relax, read a newspaper, listen to music or learn a new language. Other special services include reading assistant software packages,



Scottish Minister for Education and Science, and Member for Na hEilanan an Iar, Mr. Alasdair Allan MSP (2nd. from left), and Minister of State for the Gaeltacht, Mr. Dinny McGinley TD (far right), with librarians Anne Rennicks (left) and Laura McNutt, on a visit to the newly opened Leabharlann Phobail Gaoth Dobhair in November.
Photo: Údarás Na Gaeltachta

Kurzweil, JAWS accessibility equipment for the visually impaired and access to an Ebook reader. The library also hosts the Donegal Offshore Islands Film and Radio Digital Archive.

Europe Direct Information Centre

The Europe Direct Information Centre at The Central Library, Letterkenny, provides access to European Commission websites and publications plus a free phonenumber to the European Commission Helpline. In 2011, the Centre answered 146 telephone calls and 743 emails while 4,537 people attended an event or project or made other contact with the Centre.

Over 30 events were organised, ranging from Spanish language classes to a workshop on Safe Online Shopping during the Christmas period, in association with the European Consumer Centre in Dublin. One highlight of the year was the Volunteer Information Day in partnership with the Donegal Volunteer Centre, where the public were given an opportunity to meet over 16 organisations and sign up as volunteers. This was to highlight National Volunteer Day in September and the European Year of Volunteering 2011. Over 100 members of the public attended and it was a great success.

Wainfest

The Mayor of Donegal, Councillor Noel McBride, launched Donegal's 15th. Wainfest Festival for children on Monday, October 3rd. in Central Library, Letterkenny. Over 5,200 children and young people with parents and teachers attended 77 events in libraries, Taobh Tíre centres, the Regional Cultural Centre and County Museum during the two-week festival, which ran from October 10th. to 22nd. The programme saw a strong emphasis on

workshops in the subjects of science, music and the environment as well as a specially commissioned workshop for children on investigating their family history.

Irish Language

The Library Service, in association with Donegal County Council's Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, organised another successful Seachtain na Gaeilge Festival in March. Over 1,400 people attended events in libraries and the Regional Cultural Centre. During the festival, thirty 'Comórtas Bábóg-Baby' Irish-speaking teddies were raffled in twenty seven library and Taobh Tíre centres across Donegal.

Another highlight was bilingual storytelling across the county with well-known storyteller Niall De Búrca. Irish language got another positive boost during the year with Milford Community Library taking part in Milford's bid in the TG4 'G-Day' competition. The aim of the competition was to encourage communities to speak the Irish

language and to instil a positive vibe about the native language. The library organised rhyme time sessions, bingo and lots of children's games as Gaeilge, as well as the staff carrying out their work in the Irish language.

Summer Reading Programmes

Donegal Libraries across the county organise reading programmes for children over the summer months. The aim is to create and sustain a love of reading and prevent the loss of reading skills during the holidays. Whether it is the 'Surf a Good Read' in Bundoran or 'The Reading Detective' in Buncrana Library, the programmes are very popular with the children with 1500 taking part in 2011. These programmes, however, provide more than just enjoyment, as demonstrated by the School of Library and Information Science at the Dominican University in the US. Its research in 2009 found that students who participated in summer reading programmes scored higher on reading tests at the beginning of the next school year than those students who did not.

“Over 5,200 children and young people, with parents and teachers, attended 77 Wainfest events.”



Cllr. Jimmy Kavanagh, Letterkenny Town Council, joined a group of young readers at the Summer Reading Programme presentation in Central Library in September
Photo: Library Service

Science Club in Donegal Libraries

Moville Library saw the establishment of the first ever Library Science Club. Over the years, staff at Moville have fostered a strong link with the local national school, Scoil Eoghain, which led to the establishment of the Science Club in October. Several science workshops have been held in the library and the library also participated in the Bird Watch Ireland Garden Bird Survey, 2011-2012. This is uncharted water for the staff of Moville Library but with the procurement of anatomical charts, a life size human skeleton and other scientific instruments, the future of this innovative initiative looks progressive and exciting for all involved.

'I am I' Project

Ballybofey and Ballyshannon libraries were involved in an Early Years project, part of the One Donegal Cultural Diversity Festival in November. The project was created and facilitated by drama practitioner Kate Brown, in collaboration with illustrator Alfie Gallagher. The objective of the project, which was entitled 'I am I', was to encourage parents and

their children to explore through play and story the things that make us unique. Four workshops took place in Ballybofey and Ballyshannon libraries. The culmination of the project was an exhibition of the childrens' work which opened in Ballybofey Library on November 28th. The works exhibited were the creation of participant storytellers aged three to six.

Local Studies at the Central Library

Local Studies in Central Library enjoyed a busy year with a total of 3,623 people visiting with queries ranging from family history research to the geology of the county. Many events were held in the library to promote the local history collection, which included the promotion of Maurice O'Keefe's 'Life and Lore Collection', an Exhibition of Donegal Folklore and a talk by local historian Helen Meehan on 'Climate Change, Famine and Pestilence in Pre-Poor Law Donegal'. The year also saw the return of the very successful 'Who Do You Think You Are?' genealogy workshops as part of the Bealtaine Festival in May. These workshops gave the public access to experts from the Archive Service, the



Storyteller Jacob Anderson, age 4, showing his Mum his story at the 'I am I' exhibition in Ballybofey Library.
Photo: Kate Brown



At the launch of the Donegal Islands Digital Archive in Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair in July. (l/r), Charles Sweeney, Community & Enterprise Development Officer, Donegal County Council; Paul Browne, Director Earagail Arts Festival; Cllr. Noel McBride, Mayor of County Donegal; Mr. Seamus Neely, Donegal County Manager and Eileen Magnier, RTE's NW Correspondent.
Photo: Library Service

“ Demand for public library services increases during a recession and Donegal is no exception ... the number of items borrowed rose, as did the number of visitors. ”

Library Service and the General Registry Office. The local studies section also marked the Letterkenny 400 commemoration in June with an exhibition charting the history of Letterkenny from a small plantation town to the present day.

All Aboard 'The Polar Express' !

Children across the county were invited to jump aboard 'The Polar Express' in December when libraries hosted pyjama parties with festive readings of the famous childrens' book followed by lots of Christmas songs and poems. Staff added to the magical atmosphere as train conductors and ticket collectors with whistles. Christmas bells were also heard. 'The Polar Express' rolled into Bundoran Library on the December 14th. and to Central Library Letterkenny on the 15th. It then moved on to Inishowen, where pyjama parties were held in Carndonagh and Buncrana libraries on Tuesday the 20th and finally to Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair on the 21st of December 21st. Almost 500 children across the county enjoyed this festive event proving it a resounding success.



One happy passenger at 'The Polar Express' Pyjama Party in Bundoran Library.
Photo: Library Service

Bealtaine

This year the Bealtaine Festival, promoting creativity in older people, celebrated its fourteenth year in Donegal. A programme of over 63 events took place in libraries and Taobh Tíre centres with over 950 attending. Local talent included Aussie Bryson, Fergus Cleary, Mary McGranaghan, Kate Fitzpatrick, and many more. Cultural Services organised a diverse programme of events for Bealtaine including storytelling, flower arranging, gardening, card-making, music and song.

ICT

OSCAR, a computerised self-service unit, was installed in seven Taobh Tíre sites during the year including Letterkenny Youth and Family Services as well as sites at Mevagh, Falcarragh, Pettigo, Baile na Finne, Arranmore and Kilcar. These self-issue units enable Taobh Tíre members to issue and return their items online at Taobh Tíre points. Members may review their own information online through the library website www.donegallibrary.ie. Self-issue units were also installed in Bundoran Library and in Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair to facilitate library members wishing to issue and return their own items when visiting the library.

Reduced Resources, Increased Demand

In common with all local authorities, Donegal County Council is experiencing reduced staffing levels and reduced budgets. The Library Bookfund was reduced by 50% in 2011. Public library opening hours were also affected in a number of libraries. Demand for library services, however, increased throughout the year and the number of items borrowed rose, as did the number of visitors to libraries. Demand for public library services typically increases during a recession and Donegal is no exception.

Archives Service

“The Archives Service seeks to preserve, acquire and make accessible the archival heritage of the county for present and future generations.”

Through the Archives Service, Donegal County Council seeks to preserve, acquire and make accessible the archival heritage of the county for present and future generations. The Archives Service collects and preserves both public and private records and through

the goals and objectives of the Cultural Connections Strategic Plan for Cultural Service Division 2009-2014, it aims to make these collections accessible to both the general public and to researchers from all over the world.



A selection of items from the Archives of the Donegal GAA County Board collection
Photo: Archives Service

Plantation of Ulster Document Study Pack

Following the success of the 'Flight of the Earls Document Study Pack' in 2007, the Archives Service has produced a 'Document Study Pack on The Plantation of Ulster' for second level schools. The pack contains a selection of facsimiles of 16th. and 17th. century documents covering the events leading up to the Plantation and the subsequent Rebellion of 1641. It also contains an introductory background to the history of the period, as well as worksheets.

The Study Pack was launched by Cllr. Cora Harvey, Mayor of County Donegal, in March and is available to schools and libraries throughout Ireland.

The project was part funded by the European Union's Regional Development Fund through the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, managed for the special EU Programme Body by Donegal County Council.

GAA Collection and Booklet

The Archives of the Donegal GAA County Board were deposited with the Archives Service in July 2006. With funding from The Heritage Council, this significant collection dating from 1927 has been catalogued and is now available for research at the Archives Service in Lifford. The collection contains a wide variety of material, reflecting the range of activities of the GAA in the county including minute books, correspondence, financial records, numerous reports, and records from the various committees of the County Board.

To mark the accession of this significant collection, the Archive Service has produced a short booklet on the GAA in Donegal. This booklet contains an introduction to the foundation of the GAA nationally as well as in County Donegal. It also includes information on the documents in the collection and a title list of catalogued records. This booklet was launched in 2012.



The Plantation of Ulster Document Study Pack
Photo: Archives Service



Niamh Brennan (Archivist) welcomes the donation of archives by the Reserve Defence Forces. The archives relate to Milford FCA and the Local Defence Force. Also pictured are (l/r) CQMS Paddy Coyle, Captain Donal Mc Cafferty and CQMS Sean O'Leary (Cadre Staff). All B Coy. 58 Res. Inf. Bn.
Photo: Archives Service

“The Donegal GAA County Board Collection, dating from 1927, has been catalogued and is now available for research at the Archives Service in Lifford.”

Archives Research Service

Library staff facilitated access to the Archives Service while the County Archivist was on extended leave in 2011. Popular items for research included Board of Guardian minute books and Indoor Relief registers. These have provided long sought after 'missing generations' detail in family history records and are especially sought after by members of the Diaspora.

Researchers travelled from all over Ireland and further afield. One of the highlights of 2011 was the visit from some nurses from the south of Ireland researching a book on Jubilee Nurses, ie. the earliest district nurses who were trained and funded by Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, est. 1889. Their visit to Donegal Archives yielded a treasure trove of original letters and photographs unavailable anywhere else in the country.

In addition to personal visits to the archives, around 250 emails were received from August to December. These consisted mostly of genealogical queries from all parts of the globe but also covered other topics such as motor vehicle registration, court records, private papers, and Urban and County Council minutes. These queries included those from organisations such as the BBC, the Department of Justice, Donegal schools and the Donegal VEC.

The Flight of The Earls and Plantation of Ulster Document study packs are always in demand and requests for these came from schools, individuals and the IMPACT Union headquarters in Dublin.



Bringing archives and artefacts to the community, Bealtaine Festival, May 2011.
Photo: Museum Service



Reminiscing with the Archives and Museum Services at Buncrana Library during the Bealtaine Festival, May 2011.
Photo: Museum Service

Arts Service

“The work of the Arts Service prioritises the continuous improvement of access to, and participation in, creative activities among all members of the public.”

PAGE 12

Donegal County Council provides a range of supports for the development of the Arts in County Donegal. The Arts Service works closely with a wide range of artists, arts organisations, education service providers and community groups in all parts of the County. In line with goals and objectives of the Cultural Connections Strategic Plan for the Cultural Service Division 2009 –2014, this work prioritises the continuous improvement of access to and participation in creative activities among all members of the public, the promotion and development of the educational value of the arts and the support of quality and innovation in the arts sector.



Performers from Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company provided a spectacular finale to LUXe's 'Cirque du Saimer' Carnival Parade in Ballyshannon in October.
Photo: Denzel Brown

11th. Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

The 11th. Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival took place from October 1 – 9. The Festival programme included two new productions of Brian Friel plays – ‘Aristocrats’ by Workhouse and An Grianán Theatre and ‘Dancing At Lughnasa’ by Donegal Drama Circle, while the Balor Rep Theatre Company enjoyed great success with a new musical play by Conor Malone, ‘The Patsy Cline Story’.

The childrens’ programme was enjoyed by over 1000 children from primary schools in the wider Ardara, Glenties, Dungloe and Ballyshannon catchments who attended new shows by Little John Nee, Joe Brennan and the Fanzini Brothers.

The Festival also as hosted the recording at The Abbey Arts Centre of two editions of RTE Radio’s Sunday Miscellany programme featuring writers Moya Cannon, Anthony Glavin, John Nee, Ann Hull, Denise Blake, Frank Galligan, Anthony Begley and Winifred McNulty. Music was provided by the Donegal Chamber Orchestra, Doimnic Mac Ghiolla Bhríde, David and Peter Howard and Leila Keeney. The recorded programmes were broadcast on October 16 and November 13.

3rd. Annual Culture Night

Culture Night took place in Letterkenny – as well as throughout An Gaeltacht - on the evening of Friday, September 23. The programme took place in a variety of venues including Letterkenny Town Park – which hosted An Cosán Glas’s spectacular illuminated ‘Loinnir’ night-time sculpture trail – Donegal County Museum, The Regional Cultural Centre, The Central Library, An Grianán Theatre, Port na Fáilte Intercultural Centre, The LOFT Foróige Youth Café and Create a Link Artists Studios.

In all, 22 cultural venues participated in the programme which generated 3,700 visits over the course of the evening. Culture Night was presented by Donegal County Council Cultural Services with Letterkenny Town Council, The Department of Arts, Heritage and An Gaeltacht and Temple Bar Cultural Trust.

11th. Carnival Ballyshannon

Carnival Ballyshannon is the largest single arts project in which the Donegal County Council Arts Service is involved. From the beginning, it has been presented by a partnership of Donegal County Council, Erne Enterprise Development Company Ltd. and The Abbey Arts Centre and with the invaluable support of Ballyshannon Town Council.

The 2011 parade, ‘Cirque du Saimer’, took place on Saturday night, October 8. It was created by the Inishowen-based LUXe carnival spectacle company who earlier in the year won the Best Pageant Award at the annual St. Patrick’s Festival Parade in Dublin. Participating groups included Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company, Workhouse Studios Sligo and Inishowen Carnival Group who also produced the very successful Earagail Arts Festival carnival parade. Local community involvement included Ballyshannon Bundoran NYP, Parthalon Street Band, Abbey School of Acting, Stars of The West, Dance 4 Lyfe, members of the Ballyshannon Pantomime, Musical and Drama societies, as well as performers drawn from local primary and second level schools.

23rd. Earagail Arts Festival

The 23rd. Earagail Arts Festival promoted 132 events in 40 venues spread across 22 towns, villages and islands such as Oileán Thoraigh, Dún Lúiche, Ramelton, Ballybofey, Raphoe, Letterkenny, An Clochán Liath, Machaire Rabhartaigh, Gaoth Dobhair, Ards Forest Park, Dunfanaghy, An Falcarrach, Gort ‘a Chóirce, Churchill, Rathmullan and Culdaff, over 16 days and nights between July 9 and 24.

Festival attendance was 49,680 of which 7840 bought tickets for 70 shows and events and a further 41,840 attended 50 free events across the county. (Source: Audiences Northern Ireland Survey, EAF 2011).

Sell-Out Shows

This year's sell-out shows included 'The Mothers Arms' by Little John Nee in Termon and Ramelton, T with The Maggies - featuring Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, Moya Brennan, Maighréad and Triona Ní Dhómnhaill – at An Grianán Theatre, Belinda McKeown and Paul Murray at Glebe House, The Drive-In at Ards Forest Park, 'Puja' by LUXe at Fort Dunree, Fídil and Solo Cissokho at the Regional Cultural Centre, the 'Feast of The Senses' at Letterkenny Town Park and The Glebe Gathering at Churchill.

New Work and Partnerships

The Festival also fulfilled its remit of bringing artists of high quality to Donegal and raising the profile of Donegal based artists such as LUXe, T with The Maggies, Inishowen Carnival Group, Fídil (in an international collaboration with Solo Cissokho), Doimnic MacGiolla Bhríde, Joe Brennan, An Cosán Glas and Katie Boyle, to name a few. In addition, the Festival continued to work with a broad range of existing and new arts partners in the county including Donegal County Council Public Art Office, An Cosán Glas artists, The Balor Arts Centre, The Regional Cultural Centre, An Gailearaí at Doire Beag, Glebe House

and Gallery, Churchill, An Grianán Theatre, Aisteoirí Gaoth Dobhair and Tionscnamh Lugh, to produce significant new works.

EU Parliament Launch

The Festival received a tremendous marketing boost earlier in the year with a special Programme Launch at the EU Parliament Buildings in Brussels, hosted by Pat 'The Cope' Gallagher MEP and Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Member of the EU Committee of The Regions, in association with Donegal County Council, Fáilte Ireland North West and Tourism Ireland. The launch was attended by over 160 delegates of the EU Parliament, Benelux tour operators and invited guests including the Mayor of Donegal, Cllr Cora Harvey, Donegal County Manager, Mr. Seamus Neely and Clannad's Moya Brennan.

An Grianán Theatre

Little John Nee Residency

In 2011 the Theatre continued its very successful Peace III funded Residency with the artist Little John Nee. The work of the Residency included productions and tours of three plays including



A scene from the spectacular outdoor show, Puja, by LUXe at Fort Dunree, Buncrana as part of Earagail Arts Festival.

Photo: Denzel Brown



Pictured (l/r), Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Donegal County Council and Member of the EU Committee of The Regions, Mr. Pat 'The Cope' Gallagher MEP, Ms. Moya Brennan, Clannad, and Mr. Seamus Neely, Donegal County Manager, at the launch in May of the Earagail Arts Festival programme in the EU Parliament Buildings in Brussels.

Photo: Matt Britton

'The Derry Boat', 'The Mental' and 'Rural Electric'. The culmination of the Residency was the publication, in association with Donegal County Council, of 'A Donegal Trilogy' which included the scripts of the three plays as well as documentation of Little John's career and the An Grianán Residency. Arising out of that work Little John was invited to be part of the Donegal/Derry showcase at the Milwaukee Irish Festival in August with the play, 'The Derry Boat'.

Brian Friel, Donegal Person of The Year

A big feature of the Theatre's programme in 2011 was a celebration of the work of Brian Friel. Whilst An Grianán has always had a close affinity with the playwright, this year the theatre wished to celebrate his nomination as Donegal Person of the Year. The programme included three separate events. The first, 'Rediscovering Friel', was presented during the Earagail Arts Festival and featured two readings of Friel's lesser known works, 'The Gentle Island', directed by David Grant and 'Volunteers', directed by Frankie McCafferty. The readings were performed by a professional company of Donegal actors including Patrick McBrearty, Charlie Bonner, Frankie McCafferty, Dessie Gallagher and Gerard McSorley.

In September, with additional support from Donegal County Council, the theatre presented a full scale production of 'Aristocrats', directed by Iarla McGowan. The play sold four shows to capacity houses in An Grianán and also to capacity houses in Ballyshannon and Glenties as part of the Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival. This was followed by the presentation of two one-act plays in November. These were 'Afterplay', directed by Sean McCormack and featuring Jean Curran and Donal Kavanagh, and 'Winners', directed by John McGinley featuring the young actors Odhran O'Donnell and Sarah McGoohan.

2nd. Irish Aerial Dance Fest

An Grianán also continued its programme of professional dance projects including the second Irish Aerial Dance Fest, in association with Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company and Donegal County Council. This event is unique in Ireland and attracts participants from around the world. It provides focused vocational training to participants as well as an opportunity to showcase new work and learn new skills. The tutors, led by Fidget Feet Director Chantal McCormick of Ballybofey, are the best in the world and the event has already doubled in size and scale.



Pictured (l/r), Cllr. John Meehan, Mayor of Ballyshannon; Mr. Dinny McGinley TD, Minister of State at The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; Cllr. Noel McBride, Mayor of County Donegal and Cllr. Barry O'Neill, Deputy Mayor of County Donegal, at the opening of the 11th. Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival at The Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon.
Photo: Thomas Gallagher, Donegal Democrat.



Orla McGranaghan as Alice O'Donnell in a scene from An Grianán Theatre and Workshop Theatre's co-production of Brian Friel's 'Aristocrats' which was performed at An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny, The Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon and The Community Centre, Glenties in September and October.
Photo: Declan Doherty

Museum Service

Through the Museum Service, Donegal County Council preserves and celebrates the collective memory of the county and its communities, by preserving, displaying and interpreting artefacts related to the history of Donegal. In line with the goals and objectives of the Cultural Connections Strategic Plan for the Cultural Service Division 2009-2014, the Museum aims to be a dynamic, social and cultural institution

which serves all of its communities and which will encourage all to learn and to understand the past through museum objects. The Museum works with a wide variety of individuals, groups and organisations throughout Donegal to improve access to and participation in heritage and to promote and preserve our cultural inheritance.



Enjoying Burns Week at the County Museum, in association with The Ulster Scots Agency.
Photo: Museum Service

“Almost 1,700 children visited the Museum or were visited by the Education Co-Ordinator with the touring version of the ‘How We Remember’ exhibition.”

‘How We Remember’

The ‘How We Remember’ exhibition and associated education programme was created to remember the Irish Defence Forces, and in particular, the 28th. Infantry Battalion which has served in active duty both at home and abroad. The exhibition featured a Border checkpoint, archives, uniforms, army equipment, images and oral histories, as well as ‘Rockhill Remembered’, a short documentary on Rockhill army camp in Letterkenny.

An education booklet and guided tours for primary schools also accompanied the exhibition and were facilitated by Sally Murphy, Education Co-Ordinator. Throughout the Easter holidays, special family tours were organised and to facilitate schools

throughout Donegal, a small touring version of the exhibition was also created. Almost 1700 children visited the Museum or were visited by the Education Co-Ordinator with the touring version of the exhibition.

In association with the Irish Defence Forces, the Museum hosted three career days as well as the unique ‘How To...’ sessions where members of the public were invited to learn how to iron trousers without an iron and polish shoes the army way!

The project was supported by the PEACE III Programme managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Donegal County Council.



Students enjoying themselves at the ‘How We Remember’ exhibition.
Photo: Paul McGuckian



At the launch of ‘How We Remember’ exhibition at the County Museum (l/r) Mr Patrick McGinley, President of Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce ; Brigadier General Gerry Hegarty, GOC, 4th Western Brigade; Mr Seamus Neely, Donegal County Manager; Cllr Cora Harvey, Mayor of County Donegal; Cllr Dessie Larkin, Chairperson of the Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Meehan, OC, 28th Infantry Battalion.
Photo: Museum Service

'A World Apart'

The Museum, in conjunction with the County Archives and the HSE, organised a unique and fascinating exhibition entitled, 'A World Apart - Donegal District Lunatic Asylum'. This exhibition told the story of St. Conal's Hospital, Letterkenny from 1866 to 1922 and it coincided with a series of performances by Little John Nee of his play, 'The Mental', as part of his Artist's Residency at An Grianán Theatre. The exhibition included a replica cell, photographs, artefacts and archives from the hospital. This project was supported by the PEACE III Programme managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Donegal County Council.

'Round the House and Mind The Dresser'

The Museum also hosted the 'Round The House and Mind The Dresser' exhibition, on loan from Cavan County Museum. This exhibition gave visitors an opportunity to learn about the history and culture of Irish Traditional Music, Song and Dance from the 1700's until the present day. The Museum also organised a series of events for schools and the general public in association with the exhibition. These included, a 'Come and Learn the Fiddle' workshop with Theresa Kavanagh, the launch by

Seamus Harkin of a republished book of songs and poems written by Niall Mac Ghiolla Bhríde, an illustrated talk on 'The Donegal Fiddle Tradition' with Martin McGinley, an 'Introduction to the Flute and Tin Whistle' with Trudy O'Donnell and a talk by John Tunney on 'Paddy Tunney and the Irish Music Revival of the 1950s', together with a Culture Night seisiún with musicians from the Letterkenny branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

Bringing History to Life on the Streets of Letterkenny

Hiring Fairs and the Workhouse were brought to life in Letterkenny as part of a series of walking tours organised by Donegal County Museum. The Museum received funding from Fáilte Ireland for a six week programme of historic walks as part of the Letterkenny 400 celebrations. On the walking tour, visitors were invited to learn more about the history of the town. Along the way they glimpsed the story of Niamh who was seeking work at the Hiring Fair, were welcomed to the Workhouse (now the County Museum) by the Master and Matron and met one of its many residents. The tours were provided free of charge and proved to be a great success. They were organised in association with Fáilte Ireland, R&M Tours and Blue Eagle Productions theatre company.



Actors Jack Quinn, Gemma Walker and Eoin Mac Ghiolla Bhríde re-enact a Hiring Fair scene at Letterkenny Market Square as part of the Living History Walking Tours of Letterkenny organised by Donegal County Museum in association with Blue Eagle Productions and R&M Tours. Photo: Museum Service



'Knocking on The Workhouse Door' - Hiring Fairs and The Workhouse were brought to life in Donegal County Museum's hugely successful series of Walking Tours of Letterkenny
Photo: Museum Service

Letterkenny 400

Throughout 2011, the Museum was closely involved in Letterkenny 400, a series of free community events to commemorate the 400th. anniversary of the town's foundation. These events included walking tours and lunchtime lectures organised by the Museum, a drama production, 'Echoes of Time', written and directed by Kieran Kelly and produced by An Grianán Theatre, a series of exhibitions organised by the Donegal Library Service, a lecture programme in Cara House, a programme of family events and activities over the June Bank Holiday weekend, and in September, the official planting of a beech tree at Sentry Hill to mark the commemorative year.

“The event included a Burns poetry recital, Ulster-Scots music and dance and the serving of traditional haggis pies.”

Special Events

Robert Burns Event

On January 28, Donegal County Museum hosted the Ulster-Scots Agency as part of the Burns Week celebrations. The lunchtime event included a Robert Burns poetry recital, Ulster Scots music and dance and the serving of traditional haggis pies.

Hedge School

On April 16, Donegal County Museum in conjunction with History Ireland Publications hosted a History Ireland Hedge School in the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny. The theme of the Hedge School was 'The 1641 Depositions'. The panel of experts included Mícheál Ó Siochcrú (TCD), Jane Ohlmeyer (TCD), Patrick Fitzgerald (Ulster American Folk Park) and James Sharkey (Irish diplomat and former Ambassador). This was a unique opportunity for the public to learn more about the 1641 Depositions and to take part in a discussion on this controversial period in our history. A podcast of the Hedge School is available for viewing on the History Ireland website: www.historyireland.com



At the Letterkenny 400 Seminar organised by Donegal County Museum and Letterkenny Town Council, (l/r) Reginald Okoflex Inya, Nigerian Association Network Ireland; Caroline Carr, Assistant Curator, Donegal County Museum; Ciaran Martin, Development Officer, Letterkenny Town Council; Dr Paddy Fitzgerald, Centre for Migration Studies, Ulster American Folk Park; Cllr. Tadgh Culbert, Mayor of Letterkenny; Judith McCarthy, Curator, Donegal County Museum and Cllr. Dessie Larkin, Letterkenny Town Council and Donegal County Council. Photo: Museum Service



(l/r) Micheál Uas. Ó hÉanaigh, Director of Community, Culture and Planning, Donegal County Council and Cllr. Ian McGarvey attending the launch of the How We Remember exhibition at the County Museum. Photo: Museum Service

Heritage Office

Donegal County Council is committed to 'placing heritage at the heart of public life' in County Donegal, as set out in the National Heritage Plan and the Cultural Connections Strategic Plan for the Cultural Service Division 2009-2014. The County Donegal Heritage Office raises awareness of the county's rich heritage, provides advice and information to the public and Donegal County Council on heritage matters, proposes heritage policy, collects data and conducts research on aspects of County Donegal's heritage, promotes best practice in relation to heritage matters, and implements the County Donegal Heritage Plan in conjunction with the County Donegal Heritage Forum and The Heritage Council. An overview of the work of the County Donegal Heritage Office for 2011 is outlined in the following selection of heritage activities and highlights.



Some of the 'Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards' seminar participants discuss the conservation of Templecrone church ruins in Termon, Maghera with conservation architect Duncan McLaren and archaeologist Caimin O'Brien in October 2011.

Photo [Joseph Gallagher](#)

“ The booklet highlights traditional hand-held implements (spades, loys, rakes, sickles and flails) and horse-operated implements (swing ploughs, drill ploughs, harrows, seed drills, reaping machines and threshing machines), once widely used on Donegal farms.”

Donegal's Farming Heritage

A free booklet entitled 'Donegal's Farming Heritage', by Dr. Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson, was launched in May along with the audit of heritage objects associated with farming and fishing in County Donegal, commissioned under the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 2.9). The booklet highlights the hand-held implements (such as spades, loys, rakes, sickles and flails) and horse-operated implements (such as swing ploughs, drill ploughs, harrows, seed drills, reaping machines and threshing machines) used in farming in the county. The mechanisation of agriculture and the conservation of Donegal's farming heritage are also addressed.



Pictured at the launch of the 'Donegal's Farming Heritage' booklet in May 2011 are (from left to right): Dr. Jonathan Bell & Mr. Mervyn Watson (authors of the booklet), Cllr. Cora Harvey (Mayor of County Donegal) and Dr. Liam Campbell (producer with UTV's 'Lesser Spotted Ulster'). Photo: Joseph Gallagher

National Heritage Week

National Heritage Week took place from Saturday, August 20th. to Sunday, August 28th. The County Donegal Heritage Office produced the highly popular 'County Donegal Heritage Week Event Guide'. There were over 90 Heritage Week events taking place in the county, 30 of which were organised by or hosted by Donegal County Council Cultural Services. In 2011, County Donegal was the county with the fourth most events taking place in the country, after counties Dublin, Cork and Galway.



Cover of the County Donegal 'Heritage Week' Event Guide produced by the County Donegal Heritage Office which proved very popular again this year. Photo: Joseph Gallagher

Survey of Dry-Stone Wall Types in County Donegal

Consarc Design Group was commissioned to undertake a survey of dry-stone wall types in the county as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 2.22). The survey included the identification and establishment of a typology of dry-stone wall types (and their general distribution) in the county as well as selected field survey and recording.

Audit of Historical Photographic Collections

An audit of historical photographic collections for County Donegal was commissioned by the County Donegal Heritage Forum, the Donegal County Archives and the County Donegal Heritage Office as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 2.4) and was undertaken by Rónán McConnell. The audit of historical photographic collections in public care identified those photographic collections that contained images from County Donegal and established a searchable database that gives people an overview of the Donegal places and themes addressed in

those collections. The database can be consulted in the Donegal County Museum and Central Library in Letterkenny, and in the Donegal County Archives in Lifford.

Survey of Booley Sites in County Donegal

Booleying was the practice of summer grazing of cattle and other farmland animals on upland and mountain pastures – a form of transhumance. John Cronin & Associates and Dedalus Architecture with Prof. Patrick Duffy, NUI Maynooth, were commissioned to undertake a survey of booley sites in the county, as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 2.3). The survey included establishing a searchable database of booley sites as well as selected field survey and an assessment of their heritage value and significance. John Kerrigan, Heritage Research Assistant, County Donegal Heritage Office, gave an illustrated presentation on 'Booleying in Donegal: from Medieval to Modern Times' in the County Museum in October.



Pictured at the 'Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards' seminar in Ionad an Mhachaire, Maghera in October are (l/r front row): Martin Hopkins, Cooley Cross Heritage Development Committee; Cllr. David Alcorn, Donegal County Council; Nóirín Farren, Teampall Cróine Conservation Group; Joseph Gallagher, Heritage Officer, Donegal County Council; and (back row): Duncan McLaren, Dedalus Architecture; Hugh Boyle, Killybegs Local Training Initiative; Ralph Sheppard, Gaia Associates; Dr. Hélène Bradley, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and Caimín O'Brien, Archaeological Survey of Ireland. Photo: John Kerrigan.



The County Donegal Heritage Office in association with the Cooley Cross Heritage Development Committee commissioned a conservation report on the Skull House in Cooley historic graveyard near Moville. Photo: Joseph Gallagher

“ The aims of the seminar were to provide participants with advice on the conservation of the built, cultural and natural heritage as found in historic graveyards and to promote best practice in their management, care and maintenance. ”

‘Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards’ Seminar

Over 130 people attended the free seminar on the ‘Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards’ in Ionad an Mhachaire, Maghery. The aims of the seminar were to provide participants with advice on the conservation of the built, cultural and natural heritage found in historic graveyards and to promote best practice in the management, care and maintenance of these graveyards. The free seminar was organised by Donegal County Council Heritage Office, Cultural Services and Roads and Transportation Directorate, in association with the Peadar O’Donnell Weekend and the Teampall Cróine Conservation Group.

Conservation Report on Skull House

The County Donegal Heritage Office, in association with the Cooley Cross Heritage Development Committee, commissioned a conservation report on the Skull House (one of only five mortuary houses in Ireland) in Cooley historic graveyard near Moville. The conservation report was undertaken by Dedalus Architecture and John Cronin & Associates. Cooley historic graveyard is a Recorded Monument protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) and is in the care of Donegal County Council.

Mary Immaculate College Geography Fieldtrip

Over 50 B.A. students and staff from the Department of Geography, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, came on their annual three-day field trip to County Donegal in October. The County Donegal Heritage Office assisted the Department of Geography with the organisation and delivery of the field trip again this year.

‘Nature’s Calendar’ Column

A monthly newspaper column entitled ‘Nature’s Calendar’ was written by Liz Sheppard and published in the Donegal Democrat newspaper as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 1.7). Each month, a different seasonal theme was addressed from a nature and wildlife perspective, and four different types of flora or fauna to look out for were highlighted. The ‘Nature’s Calendar’ articles can be consulted online at: www.donegalcoco.ie/heritage

Interpretive Signage for Tory Island

In conjunction with BirdWatch Ireland, the County Donegal Heritage Office secured funding from The Heritage Council for the preparation and manufacture of two interpretive panels highlighting the corncrake and the work taking place on Tory Island by BirdWatch Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in relation to the conservation of habitats for corncrakes (County Donegal Heritage Plan Action 4.12).

Other Events

As part of Culture Night in September, naturalist Stuart Dunlop, author of the ‘Donegal Wildlife’ blog, led short walking tours of the wildlife of the Cathedral Quarter in Letterkenny. Under the County Donegal Heritage Plan, Donegal County Council part-funded the fourth annual Heritage Evening in Ramelton on Friday, September 23rd., organised by Donegal Pet Rescue. In November, the County Donegal Heritage Office and the Central Library hosted the book launch of ‘Space for Nature: The Wildlife Story of a Donegal Farm’, by Liz Sheppard.

Regional Cultural Centre

Donegal County Council's vision for the Regional Cultural Centre (RCC) is to lead and assist cultural development in County Donegal and beyond, and to assist wider development in the County through culture. The Council's aim is to develop the RCC as a world-class centre for visual arts and socially engaged arts. The art form priority areas are visual arts, film and digital media, music, and education / community arts.

The RCC has organised a very full programme of high quality activities since it opened in 2007, a significant proportion of which have been organised in partnership with cultural, community and statutory bodies in the region and beyond. The RCC works particularly closely with the other elements of Donegal County Council's Cultural Services Division. The programme is made possible by annual funding from the Arts Council, Letterkenny Town Council, Donegal County Council and project funding from a variety of sources. The main project in 2011 was the International Fund for Ireland supported 'Sharing Stories' cross-border community film project.



Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny.
Photo: Regional Cultural Centre

“ The Regional Cultural Centre played a pivotal role in a range of festivals such as Bealtaine, Earagail Arts Festival, Wainfest , Culture Night, Social Inclusion Week, Heritage Week, Disability Week and the One Donegal Cultural Diversity Month.”

Exhibition Programme

Mhairi Sutherland and Locky Morris.

The exhibition programme in 2011 had a strong emphasis on artists and filmmakers from Donegal and Derry. It included two one-person shows – the ‘Arc of Fire’ video and photography installation on Donegal’s military history by Donegal artist Mhairi Sutherland and ‘this then’, a retrospective of the work of award-winning Derry artist Locky Morris. Morris is best known in Donegal for his spectacular large-scale public art works such as ‘Polestar’ in Letterkenny and his exhibition was held to coincide with the Earagail Arts Festival, from July to September.

Landmarks

The summer exhibition programme also included ‘Landmarks’, a collaborative photographic and film project commissioned by North 55 on the subject of the Derry/Donegal border, and ‘High Shelves and Long Counters’, a photographic and text exhibition by Heike Thiele and Winifred McNulty on the last of the traditional shops in the North West of Ireland which the RCC presented in An Grianán Theatre.

Destination Donegal and Sharing Stories

The RCC commissioned two major exhibitions that provided rich insights into aspects of life in the area. The very popular ‘Destination Donegal’ exhibition, in association with the One Donegal project, featured the stories of 10 people who immigrated to Donegal from various parts of the

world, as told through photography, quotes, video interviews and personal objects. ‘Sharing Stories’, the two-year IFI funded cross-border community film project in County Donegal and Derry City which was organised in partnership with the Nerve Centre Derry, culminated in 18 completed short films, a major exhibition, a conference and a website www.sharingstories.com

Súil na nÓg

The 15th annual exhibition of Junior Certificate Art from Second Level Schools throughout County Donegal, in partnership with the Donegal Art Teachers Association, was once again full of creative fireworks. A very successful and busy 2011 exhibition programme also featured ‘Altered Images’, an innovative exhibition designed to stimulate engagement with the visual arts by people with disabilities, organised by South Tipperary and Mayo County Councils and the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

Music Programme

The RCC continued its music development programme in partnership with the County Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership that is based in the RCC. It featured a year-long programme of national and international classical, jazz, traditional, world music concerts and youth rock gigs in association with Donegal Chamber Music Society, Music Network, Earagail Arts Festival, Donegal Youth Services, Coláiste Ailaigh and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

The music programme also included performances by major international artists such as Carmen Souza (Portugal), Netnakisum (Austria), Alexei Gorlatch (Ukraine), The Wilders, Brian Conway and Peggy Seeger (all USA), John Cooper Clarke, Martin Simpson and Spiers & Boden (all England), together with leading local acts such as Fidil and The Henry Girls. One of the musical highlights of the year was BEO, the series of youth rock gigs and workshops organised by Transition Year Students from Letterkenny Second Level Schools.

Community Programme

There was an extensive community programme, which was characterised by the development of a deepening relationship between the RCC and a range of arts and community groups and statutory organisations. A wide variety of events were held in partnership with Donegal County Council, HSE West, Donegal VEC, Donegal Youth Services, Cara House, Donegal Home School Association, Port na Fáilte Intercultural Resource Centre, Letterkenny Photographic Club, An Grianán Theatre, Earagail

Arts Festival, schools and other arts and community groups.

The 14th annual Bealtaine Festival in Donegal celebrating creativity in older people, co-ordinated by the RCC and Cultural Services in partnership with arts and older people's organisations, was the biggest county Bealtaine programme in Ireland. It featured 143 events countywide, almost half of which were held in libraries, and covered an enormous range of activities.

There was an extensive yearlong children and youth programme including the 14th annual Wainfest. The RCC was also fortunate to be able to play a role in a range of other festivals such as the Earagail Arts Festival, Culture Night, Social Inclusion Week, Heritage Week, Disability Week and the One Donegal Cultural Diversity Month.



Aidan O'Donnell of Donegal traditional band Fidil, in performance with Senegalese kora (African harp) player Solo Cissokho, at the Regional Cultural Centre, as part of Earagail Arts Festival.
Photo: John Soffe



An image from 'High Shelves and Long Counters', an exhibition by Heike Thiele and Winifred McNulty on the last of the traditional shops in the North West of Ireland, which was presented by the RCC at An Grianán Theatre as part of its Earagail Arts Festival programme.
Photo: Heike Thiele

Special Visitors

The year was marked by two very special visits. The RCC was featured on Winning Streak on RTE One television on May 21st as a National Lottery good cause. Michael D Higgins visited the Suil na nÓg exhibition on October 14th and met with some of the participating schools, as part of his Presidential election campaign.

For Further information visit our website
www.regionalculturalcentre.com

“The Regional Cultural Centre was featured on RTÉ's 'Winning Streak' in May as a National Lottery good cause.”



Members of Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership's Errigal Groove Orchestra, with RTE presenter Jerry May, who provided the entertainment when the Regional Cultural Centre was featured on 'Winning Streak' in May.

Photo: The National Lottery



'Atlantic Bunker Rim, Fort Dunree', from Mhairi Sutherland's 'Arc of Fire' exhibition, seen at the Regional Cultural Centre in March.
Photo: Mhairi Sutherland.



Presidential candidate, Michael D. Higgins, visited the Súil na nOg Junior Certificate Art Exhibition at the Regional Cultural Centre in October.
Photo: Donna McBride, Donegal News

Public Art

“The commissioning of Public Art gives the public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art in their everyday life.”

The commissioning of Public Art, utilising the Per Cent for Art Scheme, gives the public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art in their everyday life and provides the artist with the challenge and opportunity to create work for public engagement and response. Donegal County

Council are proud of their truly integrated and comprehensive Cultural Services Division and the long standing Public Art Programme of Donegal County Council is integral to this service offering an ambitious program of work each year.



Stained Glass Windows by artist George Walsh for the oratory at the 28th. Battalion's headquarters at Finner Camp.
Photo: Paul McGuckian

“The new Public Art Agency managed two projects on behalf of Dooish National School, Ballybofey and Finn Valley College, Stranorlar.”

‘How We Remember’

‘How We Remember’ was a PEACE III funded series of projects in celebration of the Donegal-based 28th Battalion of the Irish Defence Forces and their continuing contribution to peace, both at home and abroad. The projects included the commission of a series of Stained Glass Windows by artist George Walsh for the oratory at the 28th. Battalion’s headquarters at Finner Camp, a major exhibition at Donegal County Museum on the peacekeeping work of the Battalion nationally and internationally, and a specially commissioned film by Steve McCollum, ‘Rockhill Remembered’, on reminiscences of former serving personnel at Rockhill Army Barracks. The series was accompanied by a comprehensive Education Programme.

Killybegs PlaySpace

Killybegs PlaySpace is an architectural commission, in partnership with the Irish Architecture Foundation, where an architect is commissioned to design and deliver a PlaySpace for Killybegs. The award of the commission to Lotus Architects, Dublin, headed by Peter Tansey, followed a competitive process which was completed over the course of the year. When installation is completed in 2012, Killybegs will have the first and only architecturally designed PlaySpace in Ireland.

‘The Happy Prince’

The writing of ‘The Happy Prince’ was completed this year. This new orchestral commission by composer Vincent Kennedy and playwright Little John Nee for the Donegal Youth Orchestra, is based on an adaptation, in a Donegal style, of Oscar Wilde’s famous short story for children, ‘The Happy Prince’. Rehearsals began in late 2011 and the premiere performance is scheduled to take place in April 2012.

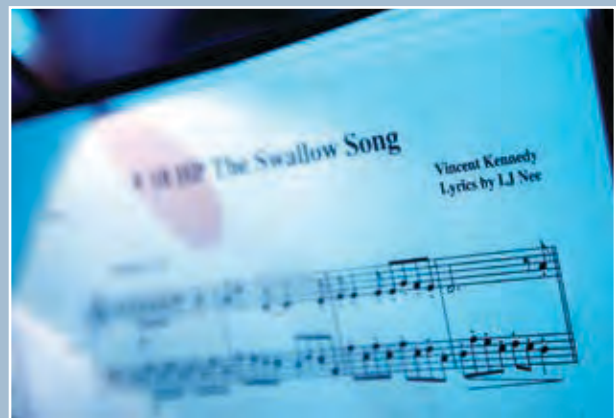
Public Art Agency

The Public Art Agency, a new initiative of the Council’s Public Art Office, also managed two projects on behalf of Dooish National School, Ballybofey and Finn Valley College, Stranorlar. Dooish National School commissioned artist Antony Lyons on the theme of climate change and the work was installed in June while Finn Valley College commissioned a new work by artist Locky Morris. This was installed in November.

Internet Whispers 2

Work on ‘Internet Whispers 2’ commenced. This is a short film commission with Cinemagic Film Festival Belfast, Donegal Film Office, Letterkenny Institute of Technology, University of Ulster and Expression College, San Francisco. The project has been designed to highlight the possibilities and explore the potential of the new broadband resource now available in Donegal as a result of the completion of the Project Kelvin initiative. It is scheduled to premiere in March 2012.

Further details on these and all projects can be found on www.donegalpublicart.ie



The musical score for ‘The Swallow Song’, from ‘The Happy Prince’, with music by Vincent Kennedy and lyrics by Little John Nee.

Photo: Paul McGuckian

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLANNING DIRECTORATE

Mícheál Uas Ó hÉanaigh, Director of Service, County House, Lifford

LIBRARY SERVICE

Library Administration Centre

Donegal Library Service
Donegal County Council
Rosemount Lane
Letterkenny
County Donegal

Eileen Burgess
County Librarian / Divisional Manager
Cultural Services
T. +353 (074) 9121968
E. eburgess@donegalcoco.ie
W. www.donegallibrary.ie

Maureen Kerr
Senior Executive Librarian
T. +353 (074) 9121968
E. maureenkerr@donegalcoco.ie
W. www.donegallibrary.ie

Donna Quinn
Senior Executive Librarian
T. +353 (074) 9175384
E. dquinn@donegalcoco.ie
W. www.donegallibrary.ie

Central Library, Letterkenny

Central Library
Oliver Plunkett Road
Letterkenny
County Donegal

Helen McNutt
Executive Librarian
T. +353 (074) 9124950
E. hmcnutt@donegalcoco.ie
W. www.donegallibrary.ie

MUSEUM SERVICE

Donegal County Museum
High Road
Letterkenny
County Donegal.

Judith McCarthy,
Museum Curator.
T. +353 (074) 9124613
E. judith.mccarthy@donegalcoco.ie

ARCHIVES SERVICE

Donegal Archives Service
Donegal County Council
Three Rivers Service
Lifford
County Donegal.

Niamh Brennan,
Archivist.
T. +353 (074) 9172490
F. +353 (074) 9142290
E. archivist@donegalcoco.ie
W. www.donegalcoco.ie/archives

HERITAGE OFFICE

Heritage Office
Donegal County Council
Station Island
Lifford
County Donegal.

Joseph Gallagher,
Heritage Officer.
T. +353 (074) 9172576
E. heritage@donegalcoco.ie

ARTS SERVICE

Donegal County Library
Donegal County Council
Rosemount Lane
Letterkenny
County Donegal

Traolach Ó Fionnáin,
Arts Officer.
T. +353 (074) 9121968
E. traolach@donegalcoco.ie

REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE

Regional Cultural Centre
Port Road
Letterkenny
County Donegal

Shaun Hannigan,
Director.
T. +353 (074) 9121250
E. sean.hannigan@donegalcoco.ie
W. www.regionalculturalcentre.com

PUBLIC ART

Public Art Office
Donegal County Council
Public Service Centre
Neil T. Blaney Road
Letterkenny
Co. Donegal

Terre Duffy,
Public Art Manager
T. +353 (074) 9194200
E. terre.duffy@donegalcoco.ie
W. www.donegalpublicart.ie

Published by Donegal County Council Cultural Services
Rosemount Lane
Letterkenny
County Donegal
t: +353 (0)74 9121968

Contributors: Eileen Burgess, Donna Quinn, Helen McNutt, Judith McCarthy, Joseph Gallagher,
Niamh Brennan, Terre Duffy, Shaun Hannigan, Traolach Ó Fionnáin.

Design: Fiona O'Reilly (www.onthedotmultimedia.com)
Printed by: Browne Printers Ltd, Letterkenny

Donegal County Council Cultural Services acknowledges the invaluable support of all its funders
and partner organizations, without whose assistance the projects and programmes described in
this publication would not have been possible.



Letterkenny Town Council



Ballyshannon Town Council

