Letterkenny, County Donegal
Friday 20 September, 6pm – 10pm
This exceptional night of cultural festivities takes place once a year, as part of an all-island celebration of arts, heritage and culture. Culture Night has grown steadily since its inception in 2006, with inspiring commitment from local authorities, cultural organisations and community collaborators throughout the country.
This will be Letterkenny’s 11th occasion to take part in Culture Night, providing a truly unique opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy Irish Culture and Heritage. In common with other participating towns and cities, Letterkenny will once again light up to an evening of accessible, family friendly events. The programme for 2019 offers over 50 diverse events in 27 venues that explore, celebrate and showcase our unique local cultural identity. And all completely free of charge!

Our programme invites you to come with us on a night-time journey through all types of wonderful culture. Along the way you will discover visual art, music, theatre, sculpture, spoken word, dance, moving image and much more. Your trail through Culture Night will lead you to indoor and outdoor events in diverse places from Century Cinemas to Central Library and on to the Town Park taking in the Cathedral Square and the Letterkenny Courthouse along the way. You can explore all sorts of happenings presented by the Regional Cultural Centre, An Grianán Theatre, The Glebe Gallery, Donegal County Council Archives Service and The Heritage Office – to name but a few.
Full venue and events are listed throughout this programme and online at www.culturenight.ie

STAY SOCIAL

Don’t forget to share your stories of Letterkenny Culture Night 2019
@CULTURENIGHT
@CULTURENIGHT DONEGAL
#CULTURENIGHT

Culture Night is co-ordinated by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, in partnership with Donegal County Council Culture Division.
Is í An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta a dhéanann comhordáil ar Oíche Cultúir, i bpáirt le Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall (Rannán Cultúir).
The Museum always rises to the occasion with a packed and diverse programme of events for Culture Night. This year you can explore several exhibitions including:

The Traditional Boats of Ireland, a collection of watercolours and illustrations by Dónal MacPolin which document the disappearing boat-building tradition around the Irish coast.

The Letterkenny Folk Festival featuring photographs, posters and leaflets from the collections of Sally Blake and Billy Watson to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the festival.

All Aboard the Donegal Railways! To commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the closure of the main railway lines in Donegal and in association with the Donegal Railway Heritage Centre, visitors can also watch footage from the heyday of the trains and share memories of the railways of Donegal.

Capture the Past See the Future Time: 7pm - 9pm
VR experience and Location Based Gaming
In association with Ulster University, visitors are invited to explore a Virtual Reality reconstruction of the 15th Century Medieval St Catherine’s Church in Killybegs. You can also take an interactive guided walk through Letterkenny using the latest location-based gaming to visit various historic locations and play interactive challenges and games. (Smart-phone with mobile data is required)

These activities are part of the Connected Culture and Natural Heritage in the Northern Environment (CINE) project funded by the Northern and Arctic Periphery Programme (ERDF).

Installation: A Space Beyond The Rainbow Time: 6pm - 10pm
This illuminated outdoor art installation will enchant children and adults alike. Come along and find out if there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow! A magical visual journey created by the SpaceScape team of Seamus MacManus and Siobhán McGranaghan.

Following the huge success of last year’s event, we are delighted to welcome back Letterkenny Courthouse to our programme.

This year, we have an additional and very special event with our 2019 Culture Night ambassador, poet Annemarie Ní Churreáin. From Cloughaneely in northwest Donegal, she has been awarded several literary fellowships and is the 2019/20 Writer-In-Residence at NUI Maynooth.

Guided Tours
Time: 6pm, 6.30pm, 7pm and 7.30pm
Visitors are invited to an after hours guided tour of this landmark four storey civic building, which sits on an elevated site overlooking Letterkenny, conducted by Geoffrey McGonagle, Court Office Manager and Liam Devenney, Court Office Service Officer.

Duration 30 mins

Body, Voice & Sentence(s) – Poetry Reading Time: 7pm - 8pm
Join us for a special reading by Donegal poet Annemarie Ní Churreáin. Drawing inspiration from the very rich and ancient relationship in Ireland between poetry and law, Ní Churreáin will read from her books Bloodroot (Doire Press 2017) and Town (The Salvage Press 2018), looking closely at the themes of landscape, roots, and the power of the human voice to excavate the past.

Reading will be followed by an audience Q&A.

“This is an extraordinary collection, finely crafted and rooted in place, politics and history”
Mark Roberts, The Rochford Review Issue 26
The team at the RCC once again offer something special for all ages and interests this Culture Night with visual art, film and family workshops.

Upstairs in Gallery 1, the National Football Exhibition is made up of six zones, each designed to give you an overview of the various different aspects of football in Ireland. Visitors can explore memorabilia displays, interactive stations with videos, quizzes and an opportunity to step up to the mic and record your own commentary!

The Upstairs Foyer presents the Exhibition - ‘When I Was a Child’. Following on from the highly successful ‘I am Donegal’ exhibition, Peadar Mc Daid invites 50 artists, photographers and writers to present work on small wooden 8”x10” panels that reflects something from their childhood - a memory, a place, a toy, a pet or a self portrait.

Accompanying Peadars' exhibition in Workshop 3 is the Screening ‘An Artist's Work is Never Done’. Created by Peadar and his nephew David, this short film focuses on the working lives of a number of artists in Donegal, offering insights into their thought processes, work and surroundings.

Downstairs Gallery 2 and Foyer is where you will find ‘Donegal’s Atlantic Way’, an exhibition by Michael Sugrue. This is a unique collection of photographs and poems capturing Donegal’s natural and rugged beauty. The pictures tell a story of the unfolding of the day from dawn to twilight and beyond.

Workshop 1 will be turned into the Kids & Craft Drive-in Movie from 6pm - 8pm. Families are invited to drop in and build their very own car for our Culture Night indoor drive-in movie experience. Art facilitators will help kids to design and build a car using recycled cardboard boxes and art materials. Once your car is built it’s time to park up and enjoy a selection of short animated movies!

DMEP@ REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE
074 91 76293  donegaelib.ie

Performance: The Donegal Youth Orchestra
Time: 8pm - 9pm
Come along to the RCC auditorium and experience the majestic sounds of a full orchestra at an open rehearsal under the baton of conductor and composer Vincent Kennedy.

Audition to be our Ambassador Theatre Plaza 6pm
We were delighted when the An Grianán brochure, designed by Donegal based graphic design company, OD Design was selected for inclusion in Ireland’s 100 Archive, a living archive which maps the past, present and future of Irish graphic design. Central to the design was placing our audience at the heart of the theatre and celebrating our community. Find out more about 100 Archive, the design process and audition to be the An Grianán Ambassadors to feature on our brochure!

Performance: Loco Live
Time: 7pm - 10pm
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Outdoor Film Screening
Time: 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Artworks Picture Framing will once again hold their very popular outdoor screenings of locally made short film, animation and video. Contributing artists this year will include Steven Crane, Valerie Wurmli, Charlie Joe Doherty and Steve McCollum amongst others. Film selection will run on an approximately 45 minute loop.

The Masonic Hall
Tour: Open House
Time: 7pm - 9pm
The Masonic Hall, one of the oldest and most distinctive buildings on the Port Road, is home to Pioneer Masonic Lodge 271. Especially for Culture Night, members of the public are invited to view the building. Visitors can partake of some refreshments, learn about the history of Freemasonry in Donegal – the Letterkenny Lodge has been in existence since 1873 – and hear about the present-day charitable work of the Masons, from the local Lodge members themselves. Officers from the Provincial Grand Lodge will also be in attendance.

Please Note: Due to space limitations, numbers admitted at any one time may need to be restricted. Access within the building is restricted as there are steep stairs which are unsuitable for buggies and wheelchairs.

The Loft Youth Project
Time: 6.30pm - 10pm
Performance: Join us in the Loft Letterkenny for a wonderful cozy evening of tunes from 3 of Donegal’s best young songwriters featuring Oscar Jennings, Euphoric and Lachlann Ó Fionnain. With comfy sofas, free tea / coffee and some calming acoustic songs this is the perfect gig to unwind to!

Multi-Cultural Food: Throughout the night you will have the opportunity to sample some food from across Europe and beyond, prepared by young people involved in programmes in DYS.

Exhibition: While you are there, take time to view the exhibition of collaborative youth art pieces designed to address the theme of Youth Mental Health.

The Loft is a community-based resource managed by Donegal Youth Service and Foróige, providing a broad range of activities and developmental programmes for young people aged 12 to 24. There is a strong emphasis on cultural activities, reflecting the exceptional talents and aptitude of local teenagers in the areas of music, visual art, drama and filmmaking, among others.

Music: The Swell Festival Live
Time: 10pm - Midnight
The Swell Festival is delighted to welcome Shauna McDaid to this years programme. Using a distinctive blend of rich, soft and powerful vocals, Shauna brings her songs to life in a uniquely emotive way. There is a particular, haunting beauty to her traditional and folk noir stylings, that lingers in the air long after the last note has been delivered. Just back from two sold out German gigs, Shauna is also working on her debut album in Attica studio.

Alternative Music Showcase
Time: 9pm - Late
Disturbance is Letterkenny’s monthly source of Rock, Psych, Punk and a bevy of other alternative sub-genres and we have a special show planned for Culture night 2019. We are bringing our outdoor Burrito Loco stage from Disturbance Fest ’19 back to The Central’s Beer Garden with local prog rockers Kessler Effect and Derry’s neo psychedelic punks The Barbiturates set to rock the place out of it.

Music: The Swell Festival Live
Time: 9pm - Late
The Cottage, in association with Swell Festival, present Gas Hands and Happy Out.

Gas Hands are a three piece melodic punk band from Derry. They are Dylan Bradley (Guitar / Vocals) and Michael Brown (Drums) – previously of Lost Avenue – with Nolan Donnelly (Bass). Their debut single, Move, is out now on Little Rocket Records.

Happy Out are a post-indie rock trio from Letterkenny. Their live performances are the stuff of legend, as evidenced by appearances at Swell, Stendhal and Earagail Arts festivals, as well as recent support slots with Titus Andronicus among others.

Exhibition:
Aul Éire (artists Steven Crane, Claire McLaughlin and Paul Rooney) have assembled some of the finest local artistic talents and asked them to create three pieces, each the size of a beer mat (95mm x 95mm), for an auction exhibition on Culture Night.

Euphoric
Kessler Effect
Spoken Word / Poetry Night
Time: 8pm - 10pm
North West Words has been hosting a monthly reading series in Letterkenny since 2010. Presenting writers reading in English, or in Irish, often alongside local musicians, it also provides an opportunity for local writers to read their work in an open mic.

Trish Bennett: 8pm
Trish is a border bandit from County Leitrim who’s settled herself into a bee loud glade in Fermanagh. She writes about the shenanigans of her family, and other creatures. Sometimes she rants. Bennett’s won or been placed in several competitions, and was Shortlisted in the Aurivo / Donegal Creameries & North West Words Poetry Competitions in 2017 and 2018.

Rodney Deery Music: 8.20pm
Rodney comes from an esteemed musical family, his mum and dad Mai and Vivian, were part of the biggest dance bands in the country during the dance hall days. A singer, he also plays piano, saxophone, clarinet, performing regularly with wife Claire and his father. His 8 year old daughter Rose sometimes joins in, making it three generations performing together.

Colin Hassard: 9pm
Colin is a poet from Belfast. He is a two-time Ulster Poetry Slam Champion, was Runner Up in the Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing 2018 and was selected as one of Eyewear Publishing’s Best New British and Irish Poets. A resident poet on BBC Radio Ulster’s ‘Science & Stuff’, he has toured his own show and has regularly performed at major Irish festivals including Electric Picnic, Belfast International Arts Festival and Lingofest.

Open Mic: 9.20pm - 10pm

Performance: Comedy
Time: 6pm
The Elusive Theatre Company on behalf of the Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter present a comedy with a cast of 15 to 20 members. Directed by Joe Dowling. Duration 20 minutes.

Interrogating Climate Breakdown
5.30pm - 6.15pm takes a look at the wide-ranging issues driving climate breakdown, extending an invitation to discuss causes, consequences and alternatives.

Climate Breakdown: What are we doing about it?
6.30pm - 7.15pm This engaging and participative session will examine specific factors contributing to climate breakdown and ecological degradation.

Creating our Vision for a Greener Future
7.30pm - 8.15pm Participants will use art-based methods to examine issues of sustainability and climate breakdown, co-creating their visions for a healthier, more sustainable society.

Is Mise Interactive Installation.
'I am', the start of a powerful statement and one that becomes more fluid as we grow, evolve and become more diverse. Who, we ask, are you? Curated by local artist Maeve Peoples who invites you to come along, grab a card, a pen and add your thoughts.

Music: David Adams, Organist with the Donegal Chamber Orchestra
Time: 7pm - 8pm
An evening with International Prize Winning Organist David Adams who will be joined by the Donegal Chamber Orchestra led by Victor Yelamo. Celebrating the 130th birthday of Conwal Parish Church’s amazing piped organ, originally built by Ireland’s leading 19th century organ builder, William Telford in 1889. Refreshments will be served after the performance.
The Conwal Singers and Guests
Time: 8.30pm - 10pm
The Conwal Singers, Letterkenny, bring together over 100 choral singers for an evening of reflective choral music with their friends Derg Valley Choir, Tir Chonaill Youth Choir and the Donegal Abbey Singers.

Singing together, within the splendid acoustic of St.Eunan’s Cathedral, the highlight of the evening shall be the massed choir performances of choral favorites from Vivaldi, Tallis, Bruckner, Handel and others. Each choir shall also perform their individual pieces. The finale for the evening will be the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah. Accompanist for the evening Denise Roper. Conductors include Chris Wright, Berni Canny, Karen Patton and Eileen Carr.

The Glebe Gallery presents an outdoor workshop – ‘See Letterkenny in a Different Light’
The Glebe Gallery are leaving their home in Churchill for this very special experience. Join artists Morgan Ferriter and Bernie Wilson as they guide you through the process of painting outside at night. Please remember to dress for the outdoors! Although some materials will be provided, participants are encouraged to bring their own materials/easel. All levels are very welcome.

‘Residents of the Church Lane’ Walking Tour
Time: 7pm - 8.15 pm
Presented by the Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter in association with the Heritage Office and Conservation Office, Donegal County Council. The Church Lane is a street of immense social and historical importance to the town of Letterkenny. Named after the building of Conwal Parish Church in 1636, people have been living on the Lane ever since then. This quaint little street has produced innovative and resourceful individuals along with some great characters and we want you to hear their stories on this tour of the area with Cathedral Quarter Secretary Donnan Harvey. Conservation architect Duncan McLaren will also highlight aspects of the built heritage of Church Lane and the on-going conservation works as part of the Heritage Council’s Historic Towns Initiative.

The Jessica Harkin Family Magic Show
Time: 6pm - 6.45pm
Jessica Harkin is an award-winning professional magician from Donegal. Prepare to be amazed by her illusions and sleight of hand in a show that promises to get your Culture Night off to a magical start. So please join us for an evening of Donegal craic and magic.

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Showcase Performances
Time: 6.30pm - 8pm
It’s Open Night with ZoNa Dance Co. in their state of the art dance studio where Jessica Peoples and her company extend an invitation to watch and enjoy a Showcase Performance in classical repertoire from Swan Lake, Don Quixote, highlights from the smash hit performance of the Lion King and the premiere viewing of new dance film by Zona Dance Company’s Senior Ensemble, Amber’s Waiting Room filmed on location in Convoy, Co.Donegal by DNK Productions.

ZoNa Dance Company has established themselves as the premiere classical dance school in the Northwest for both children and adults; with renowned performances and internationally experienced instructors. Jessica Peoples not only drives the passion of ZoNa Dance with her vision of inspiring children and adults to love the art of dance but she also seeks to foster a curiosity and wonderment to explore classical dance movement in a safe and open environment.

Sakura Pooka – Directed by Sai Sankar (11 minutes)
The first Tamil short film made in Ireland. Shot against the backdrop of the beautiful Donegal landscape, Sakura Pooka is an inspirational story on the choices we make based on the hints life gives us.

Gaza – Directed by Garry Keane and Andrew McConnell (92 minutes)
It’s hard to imagine anybody living a normal life in the Gaza Strip. Frequently labeled as the world’s largest open-air prison, this is a beautiful portrait of everyday Gazan citizens, leading meaningful lives beyond the rubble of perennial conflict.

Gaza depicts a people plagued by conflict but not defined by it, painting a tender portrait of a beleaguered humanity.

Developing an Intercultural Arts approach in Donegal
Over a period of six months from December to May last, a series of conversations and research was initiated by Donegal Intercultural Platform and Donegal County Council Arts Office, to develop a framework for Intercultural Arts for Donegal, from the perspective of the county’s Black and Minority Ethnic communities. The project brought a wide range of people together to share and develop opinions and priorities for their communities through meaningful dialogue and artistic expression. The outcomes, findings and recommendations of the project are outlined in the published Report which will be presented and launched on Culture Night.

Sakura Pooka – Directed by Sai Sankar

This event is free but ticketed. Please contact caoimhe.bicproject@gmail.com or telephone 086 8580298 to R.S.V.P

Poetry Made Easy
A light hearted evening of poetry readings, where audience members are invited to read their favourite Irish language poems, or works as Gaeilge that they themselves have recently composed. Everybody is welcome.

Refreshments will be served.

Cláraigh do dhán, le (interested poets are invited to register their poems in advance) Seán Ó Daimhín: seansdaimhin@ccdhunnangall.ie Róise Ni Laifeartaigh: rmcclafferty@donegalcoco.ie 074 91 94275

Taispeántas / Exhibition: Turas Tríd Stair
Also showing at the Old Courthouse on Culture Night will be Turas Tríd Stair /A Journey Through History. This is a touring exhibition as Gaeilge, on a theme of Donegal life through the ages. The exhibition is presented in association with the Archives Service of Donegal County Council.
VENUE 1 / PINEHILL STUDIOS
Performance: Dance Showcase
6.30pm - 7.15pm
Workshop: Dance Workshop
7.15pm - 8pm

VENUE 2 / LETTERKENNY TOWN PARK
Inishowen Carnival Presents: CYBERTRIBE
Installations: from 6.30pm
Performance: 8pm - 10pm

VENUE 3 / DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM
Exhibitions: 6pm - 10pm
• Traditional Boats of Ireland
• The Letterkenny Folk Festival
• All Aboard!
• Capture the Past See the Future VR

VENUE 4 / FAMINE MEMORIAL GARDEN
Installation: A Space Beyond The Rainbow
6pm - 10pm

VENUE 5 / LETTERKENNY COURTHOUSE
Guided Tours: 6pm - 7.30pm
Poetry Reading: Annemarie Ní Churreáin 7pm - 8pm

VENUE 6 / REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE
Exhibitions:
• National Football
• When I Was a Child
• Donegal's Atlantic Way
Workshop: Kids & Craft Drive-in Movie 6pm - 8pm
Performance: The Donegal Youth Orchestra 8pm - 9pm

VENUE 7 / AN GRIANÁN
Theatre: Waiting Tables For Godot, sitting at 7pm and 8pm
Audition: Audition to be our Ambassador. Theatre Plaza 6pm

VENUE 8 / BUS ÉIREANN STATION
Exhibition: Donegal Railway Memories 6pm - 10pm
Performance: Little John Nee – Waiting On a Train. 6.15pm & 8.15pm (30 mins)

VENUE 9 / BURRITO LOCO
Performance: Loco Live
7pm - 10pm

VENUE 10 / ARTWORKS PICTURE FRAMING
Outdoor Film Screening
7.30pm - 9.30pm

VENUE 11 / THE MASONIC HALL
Open House: 7pm - 9pm

VENUE 12 / THE LOFT YOUTH PROJECT
Music/Exhibition/Food: 6.30pm - 10pm

VENUE 13 / BLAKES BAR
Music: The Swell Festival Live Shauna McDaid 10pm - Midnight

VENUE 14 / THE CENTRAL BAR
Music: Alternative Music Showcase 9pm - Late

VENUE 15 / THE COTTAGE
Music: The Swell Festival Live Gas Hands and Happy Out 9pm - Late
Exhibition: Aul Éire

VENUE 16 / DILLONS HOTEL
Spoken Word / Poetry Night
• Trish Bennett: 8pm
• Rodney Deery Music: 8.20pm
• Colin Hassard: 9pm
• Open Mic: 9.20pm - 10pm

VENUE 17 / INSOMNIA CAFE
Performance: The Elusive Theatre Company 6pm (20 mins)

VENUE 18 / WHOLEGREEN
 Talks Installation & Workshop:
• Interrogating Climate Breakdown 5.30pm - 6.15pm
• Climate Breakdown: What are we doing about it? 6.30pm - 7.15pm
• Creating our Vision for a Greener Future 7.30pm - 8.15pm
• Is Mise Interactive Installation

VENUE 19 / MI CHELLE KNITWEAR
Open Studio: 6pm - 9pm

VENUE 20 / CONWAL PARISH CHURCH
Music: David Adams, Organist with the Donegal Chamber Orchestra 7pm - 8pm

VENUE 21 / ST. EUNAN’S CATHEDRAL
Performance: The Conwal Singers and Guests 8.30pm - 10pm

VENUE 22 / CATHEDRAL SQUARE
Plein Air Art Workshop:
6.30pm - 8.30pm

VENUE 23 / CATHEDRAL SQUARE
Residents of the Church Lane Walking Tour: 7pm - 8.15pm

VENUE 24 / THE CENTRAL LIBRARY
• The Jessica Harkin Family Magic Show: 6pm - 6.45pm
• Behind the Scenes in the Library Tour: 6pm - 7.40pm
• Exhibition Celebrating the History of Irish Local Government 6pm - 8pm

VENUE 25 / CENTURY CINEMAS
Launch of Intercultural Arts Research Project: 5:30pm
Film Screening:
• Sakura Pooka (11 mins)
• Gaza (92 mins)

VENUE 26 / ZONA DANCE CO
Performance: Dance Showcase 6.30pm - 8pm

VENUE 27 / THE OLD CATHEDRAL
Filolocht Furasta / Poetry Made Easy 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Taispeántas / Exhibition Turas Tríd Stair 7.30pm - 9.30pm

CULTURE NIGHT 2019 / IN BRIEF
High Road De Valera Road Port Road Port Road Upper Main St Main Street Lower Main St Church Lane Castle St O'Plunket Road Pearse Road Paddy Harte Road Neil T. Blaney Road Ramelton Road Ballyraine Road Middle Road The Farm Road Lower Ard O Donnell College Road Plunkett O`Boyle Tce Convent Road New Line Road Glencar Road Circular Road Canal Road Pearse Road 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 17 18 19 20 23 21 22 13 16 14 15 24 25 26 04 03 01 TO LIFORD (24km) TO PINEHILL (2.6km)