

RANNÁN CHULTÚIR

CULTURE DIVISION



CLÁR AN ÁBHAIR

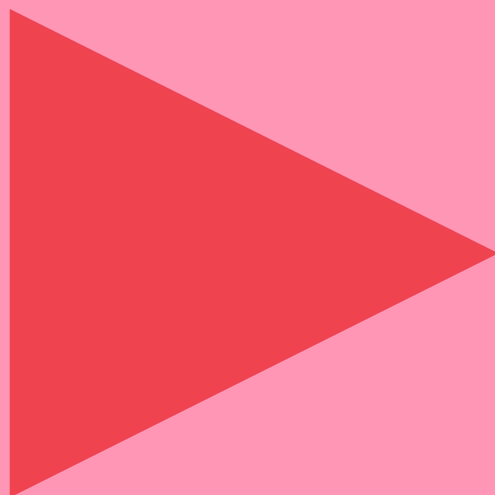
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RÉAMHRÁ

FOREWORD



Agus muid ag amharc siar ar bhliain seo a chuaigh thart, is cúis mhór bróid dúinn Athbhreithniú Bliantúil an Rannáin Chultúir don bhliain 2024 a chur i láthair. Déantar san athbhreithniú seo achoimre ar ár n-éachtaí maidir le rannpháirtíocht chultúrtha a neartú agus cruthaitheacht a chothú ar fud ár bpobail.

Tá seirbhísí Leabharlainne, Ealaíon, Iarsmalainne, RCC, Cartlainne, Oidhreacht agus Bithéagsúlachta mar chuid d'fhoireann an Rannáin Chultúir. Trí chlár nuálaíochta, comhpháirtíochtaí straitéiseacha, agus tiomantas na foirne, d'oibrigh muid le clár leathan agus éagsúil tionscadal, imeachtaí agus gníomhaíochtaí a chur ar fáil. Tá muid go fóill tiomanta dár bhfís mar atá leagtha amach in Cultúr le Chéile: Plean Straitéiseach don Rannán Cultúr 2022-2026 ina "spreagtar, cumasaítear agus saibhrítear gach duine inár sochaí trí ghníomhaíocht chultúrtha."

Tá áthas orainn an forbheathnú seo ar chuid dár mbuaicphointí i rith na bliana a chur i láthair. Áirítear leis na buaicphointí seo: Taispeántas faoin Daonnacht Choiteann, a forbraíodh idir na Seirbhísí Cartlainne agus Músaem agus PRONI; cuairt ón údar Paul Lynch a bhain Duais Booker i gcomhrá le Colm Tóibín; seoladh Mo Leabharlann Oscailte i Leabharlann Phobail Bhun Cranncha; Féile Punc Culture Shocks sa RCC; clár iontach Oíche Chultúir; ceiliúradh ar Bhaile Dhún na nGall 550 agus comóradh 25 Amharclann an Grianáin; seoladh Phlean Oidhreacht Chontae Dhún na nGall; imeachtaí a cheiliúránn Seachtain Náisiúnta na Bithéagsúlachta; agus clár leathan imeachtaí a cheiliúránn an éagsúlacht.

Ní bheadh an raon leathan agus éagsúil clár a chuirtear i láthair anseo indéanta gan paisean agus tiomantas ár bhfoirne, ár gcomhpháirtithe, agus na pobail a mbíonn muid ag freastal orthu. Iarraimid ort an t-athbhreithniú seo a léamh agus tionchar comhchoiteann ár gcuid oibre a cheiliúradh.

As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride that we present the Culture Division Annual Review for 2024. This review summarises our achievements in strengthening cultural engagement and fostering creativity across our communities.

The Culture Division team in Donegal County Council is made up of Library, Arts, Museum, RCC, Archive, Heritage and Biodiversity services. Through innovative programming, strategic partnerships, and the dedication of the team, we have worked to deliver a wide and varied programme of projects, events and activities. We have remained committed to our vision as set out in Cultúr le Chéile: Strategic Plan for Culture Division 2022-2026 "where everyone in our society is inspired, enabled and enriched by cultural activity."

We are pleased to present this overview of some of our highlights during the year. Highlights include: A Common Humanity exhibition, developed in collaboration between the Archives and Museum services and PRONI; a visit from Booker-Prize winning author Paul Lynch in conversation with Colm Tóibín; the launch of My Open Library in Bunrana Community Library; a Culture Shocks Punk Festival in the RCC; a wonderful Culture Night programme; celebrations of Donegal Town 550 and An Grianán Theatre's 25th Anniversary; the launch of the new County Donegal Heritage Plan; events celebrating National Biodiversity Week; and a wide programme of events celebrating diversity.

The wide and varied range of programmes presented here would not have been possible without the passion and commitment of our staff, partners, and the communities that we serve. We invite you to explore this review and celebrate the collective impact of our work.

Patsy Lafferty
Stiúrthóir Seirbhíse

Maureen Kerr
Bainisteoir Roinne

Patsy Lafferty
Director of Service

Maureen Kerr
Divisional Manager

Gníomhartha Straitéiseacha - Dul Chun Cinn in 2024

<https://www.donegalculture.ie/en/services/libraries/policies-and-publications/>

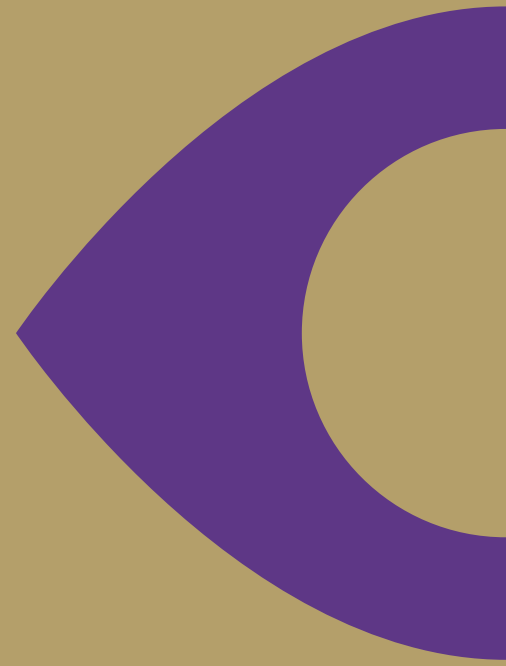
Sprioc	Gníomh 1	Gníomh 2	Gníomh 3	Gníomh 4	Gníomh 5
Sprioc 1: Cultúr a chomhdhlúthú chun freastal ar riachtanais reatha agus ar éilimh atá ag fás	Tacú le hinfheistíocht mhéadaithe sa Rannán Cultúir — 2 ghníomhaíocht	Clár ceannaireachta foirne agus forbartha fórsa saothair a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm don fhoireann agus don bhainistíocht — 3 ghníomhaíocht	Foireann na Rannóige Cultúir a leathnú chun freastal ar an éileamh ar sheirbhísí — 9 ghníomhaíocht	•Comhpháirtíochtaí atá ann cheana a neartú agus comhpháirtíochtaí nua a fhorbairt — 8 ghníomhaíocht	
Sprioc 2: Caighdeán saoil agus folláine a fheabhsú trí éagsúlacht, rannpháirtíocht agus páirtíocht ghníomhach sa Chultúr a mhéadú	Oideachas áitiúil agus náisiúnta a neartú agus a fhorbairt mar aon le cláir foghlama ar feadh an tsaoil, tacaíochtaí agus deiseanna - 9 ghníomhaíocht	Oibriú lena chinntiú go mbíonn deis ag gach duine páirt a ghlacadh i ngníomhaíocht chultúrtha — 8 ghníomhaíocht	Ár gclár bliantúil d'imeachtaí cultúrtha saor in aisce a neartú agus a fhorbairt — 9 ghníomhaíocht	Cláir agus gníomhaíochtaí for-rochtana a aithint, a fhorbairt agus a leathnú — 8 ghníomhaíocht	Cláir a cheapadh agus a fhorbairt a dhíríonn ar theaghlach agus ar dhaoine níos sine - 8 ghníomhaíocht
Sprioc 3: Tacú le gairmithe agus grúpaí cultúrtha a gcultúr agus a gcruthaitheacht féin a fhorbairt agus braistint áite agus féiniúlachta a threisiú	Scéimeanna deontais a chur chun feidhme chun tacú le gairmithe cultúir, grúpaí pobail agus tionscadail - 5 ghníomhaíocht	Leanúint de thacaíocht a thabhairt do ghairmithe cultúir i bhforbairt a ngairmeacha beatha — 2 ghníomhaíocht	Leanúint de thacaíocht a thabhairt d'fhorbairt foirmeacha nua agus nuálacha de léiriú cultúrtha agus cruthaitheach — 2 ghníomhaíocht		
Sprioc 4: Dea-chleachtas a chur i bhfeidhm agus a chur chun cinn i mbainistiú agus i bhforbairt an chultúir	Caomhnú agus leasú ár mbailiúchán cultúir a fheabhsú — 4 ghníomhaíocht	Straitéis DhiStraitéis Dhigiteach a fhorbairt chun deiseanna a chruthú le teicneolaíochtaí nua agus teicneolaíochtaí atá ag teacht chun cinn — gan aon ghníomhaíochtaí giteach a fhorbairt chun deiseanna a chruthú le teicneolaíochtaí nua agus teicneolaíochtaí atá ag teacht chun cinn — 2 ghníomhaíocht	Beartais agus prótacail a fhorbairt agus a chur chun feidhme chun dea-chleachtas a chinntiú — gníomhaíocht amháin	Pleananna straitéiseacha arna bhforbairt mar a comhaontaíodh le heagraíochtaí comhpháirtíochta a chur i gcrích — gníomhaíocht amháin	
Sprioc 5: Luach an Chultúir a chur in iúl	Plean cumarsáide agus margaíochta comhcheangailte a fhorbairt, a acmhainniú agus a chur i bhfeidhm dár seirbhísí cultúrtha — gníomhaíocht amháin	Feasacht a mhúscaill maidir le luach ár gcultúr — 5 ghníomhaíocht	Taighde an Choimisiúin agus sonraí a bhailiú maidir leis an gcultúr — 3 ghníomhaíocht		
Sprioc 6: Infheistíocht inár mbonneagar caipitil a dhaingniú agus a uasmhéadú	Maoiniú a fháil chun clár athchóirithe, cothabhála agus inrochtana ar ár bhfoirgnimh chultúrtha a chur i bhfeidhm — 4 ghníomhaíocht	Bonneagar cultúrtha nua a fhorbairt chun seirbhís d'ardchaighdeán a sholáthar — 2 ghníomhaíocht	Plean a fhorbairt, a acmhainniú agus a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le maolú ar an athrú aeráide agus oiriúnú don athrú sin — gan aon ghníomhaíochtaí		
Sprioc 7: Forbairt chultúrtha a threorú, comhairle a thabhairt di, eolas a chur uirthi agus tionchar a imirt uirthi	Comhairle a chur ar fáil do dhaoine aonair, do phobail agus d'fhoireann Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall agus do chomhaltai tofa ar cheisteanna cultúir — 7 ghníomhaíocht	Obair agus saineolas an Rannáin Cultúir a chomhtháthú tuilleadh le polasaithe agus cláir oibre Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall — 3 ghníomhaíocht	Ár n-ionadaíocht agus ár rannpháirtíocht inár gcomhlachtaí gairmiúla a mhéadú, lena n-áirítear straitéisí, tionscadail agus cláir — 6 ghníomhaíocht		

Strategic Actions - Progress in 2024

<https://www.donegalculture.ie/en/services/libraries/policies-and-publications/>

Goal	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4	Action 5
Goal 1: Consolidate and grow our resources for culture to meet existing needs and growing demands	Advocate for increased investment in the Culture Division – 2 activities	Develop and implement a programme of team leadership and workforce development for staff and management – 3 activities	Expand Culture Division staff to meet the demand for services – 9 activities	Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new partnerships – 8 activities	
Goal 2: Enhance quality of life and well-being through increasing diversity, engagement and active participation in Culture	Strengthen and develop local and national education and lifelong learning programmes, supports and opportunities – 7 activities	Work to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate in cultural activity – 6 activities	Strengthen and develop our annual programme of free cultural events – 9 activities	Identify, develop and expand programmes and outreach activities – 8 activities	Devise and develop programmes targeting families and older people – 8 activities
Goal 3: Support cultural professionals and groups to develop their own culture and creativity and reinforce sense of place and identity	Implement grant schemes to support culture professionals, community groups and projects -5 activities	Continue to support culture professionals in the development of their careers – 2 activities	Continue to support the development of new and innovative forms of cultural and creative expression – 2 activities		
Goal 4: Employ and promote best practice in the management and development of culture	Improve the preservation and conservation of our culture collections – 4 activities	Develop Digital Strategy to embrace opportunities created by new and emerging technologies – 2 activities	Develop and implement policies and protocols to ensure best practice – 1 activity	Deliver on strategic plans developed as agreed with partner organisations – 1 activity	
Goal 5: Communicate the Value of Culture	Develop, resource and implement a joined-up communications and marketing plan for our cultural services – 1 activity	Raise awareness of the value of our culture – 5 activities	Commission research and gather data on culture – 3 activities		
Goal 6: Secure and maximise investment in our capital infrastructure	Secure funding to implement a programme of refurbishment, maintenance and accessibility to our cultural buildings – 4 activities	Develop new cultural infrastructure to deliver a quality service – 2 activities	Develop, resource and implement a plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation – No activity		
Goal 7: Lead, advise, inform and influence cultural development	Provide advice to individuals, communities and Donegal County Council staff and elected members on culture issues – 7 activities	Further integrate the work and expertise of the Culture Division into Donegal County Council's policies and work programmes – 3 activities	Increase our representation on and participation in our professional bodies, including strategies, projects and programmes – 6 activities		

CLÁR ÉIRE ILDÁNACH CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME



Ba í an bhliain seo caite, 2024, an dara bliain den síneadh 5 bliana ar Chlár Éire Ildánach a bheidh ar siúl ó 2023-2027. I Mí Mhárta, ceapadh An tOifigeach Rannpháirtíochta um Phobail Ildánacha. Tacaíodh le héagsúlacht imeachtaí nuálacha, cruthaitheacha agus cultúrtha le linn 2024, lena n-áirítear 25 tionscadal ar bronnadh maoiniú orthu tríd an Scéim Dámhachtana Tionscadal Cultúir & Cruthaitheachta.

Bhí Cruinniú na nÓg, Lá Náisiúnta na Cruthaitheachta do Dhaoine Óga, níos mó agus níos fearr ná riamh, agus daoine ag glacadh páirte ann i níos mó bailte agus sráidbhailte ná riamh, ar fud na gceantar bardasach go léir. Rolladh amach tionscnaimh chruthaitheacha, ina raibh 323 duine spreagtha agus ealaíonta páirteach agus d'fhreastail 14,614 duine ar imeachtaí arna maoiniú ag an chlár in 2024.

Last year, 2024, was the second year in the 5-year extension of the Creative Ireland Programme which runs from 2023-2027. In March, the Creative Communities Engagement Officer was appointed. A variety of innovative, creative and cultural engagements were supported throughout 2024, including 25 projects awarded funding through the Culture & Creativity Project Award Scheme.

Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for Younger People was bigger and better than ever, engaging people in more towns and villages than ever before, across all municipal districts. Creative initiatives, involving 323 inspired and artistic individuals were rolled out and 14,614 people attended events funded by the programme in 2024.



Cruinniú na nÓg

Bhí Cruinniú na nÓg, Lá Náisiúnta na Cruthaitheachta do Dhaoine Óga, ar siúl ar an 15 Meitheamh, 2024. Ghlac 2844 leanbh agus duine óg páirt i mbreis agus 50 imeacht ar an lá, agus bhí imeachtaí ar siúl i ngach ceantar bardasach. Ghlac baill de Chomhairle na nÓg Dhún na nGall páirt i ngrúpa stiúrtha cláir Chruinniú na nÓg agus thug siad dearcadh agus ionchur an-luachmhar don duine óg sa phróiseas cinnteoireachta. Áiríodh leis an phróiseas roghnaithe clár meascán de thograí Gairmeacha Oscailte roghnaithe, comhoibriú le hIonaid Acmhainní Teaghlaigh, imeachtaí spriocdhírthe bunaithe ar Guth an Linbh aighneachtaí agus iarratais ar mhaoiniú breise.

D'fhiosraigh páistí a n-acmhainneacht chruthaitheach i raon gníomhaíochtaí cruthaitheacha ar nós fuála, sorcais, forbairt cluiche, na heolaíochta, na healaíona, na ceardaíochta, ceoil, súgradh mínéarta, agus scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach ar an lá.

Mar thoradh ar iarratais eile ar mhaoiniú ar éirigh leo, maoiníodh 3 thionscadal breise:

1. A dedicated programme for teenagers aged 14-18 years took place in 5 venues across the county, 4 in association with Foróige; the fifth was a drop-in event engaging over 60 teenagers thanks to Night-Time Economy funding.
2. A Shared Island Initiative enabled a cross-cultural exchange at Scoil Cholmcille, Letterkenny and Eglington Primary School, Derry/Londonderry in the week leading up to Cruinniú na nÓg, the highlights of which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/aCMoATl2TgQ>.
3. The third was a theatrical performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at An Grianán Theatre, in association with Youth Theatre Ireland.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for Younger People, took place on June 15th, 2024. An incredible 2844, children and young people participated in over 50 events on the day, with events taking place in each municipal district. Members of the Donegal Youth Council participated in the Cruinniú na nÓg programming steering group and gave an invaluable young person's view and input into the decision-making process. The programme selection process included a combination of selected Open Call proposals, collaborations with Family Resource Centres, targeted events based on Voice of the Child submissions and applications for additional funding.

Children explored their creative potential in a range of creative activities such as sewing, circus, game development, science, arts, crafts, music, messy play, and creative writing on the day.

As a result of successful additional funding pitches, 3 additional projects were funded:

1. A dedicated programme for teenagers aged 14-18 years took place in 5 venues across the county, 4 in association with Foróige; the fifth was a drop-in event engaging over 60 teenagers thanks to Night-Time Economy funding.
2. A Shared Island Initiative enabled a cross-cultural exchange at Scoil Cholmcille, Letterkenny and Eglington Primary School, Derry/Londonderry in the week leading up to Cruinniú na nÓg, the highlights of which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/aCMoATl2TgQ>.
3. The third was a theatrical performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at An Grianán Theatre, in association with Youth Theatre Ireland.



Scéim na nDámhachtainí Tionscadail Chultúir agus Chruthaitheachta

Cuireadh ar fáil trí Ghairm Oscailte Scéim na nDámhachtainí Tionscadail Cultúir & Cruthaitheachta deontais de €2,000 an ceann do ghrúpaí pobail agus do dhaoine aonair do thionscadail a spreag comhoibriú agus comhoibriú idir pobail agus speisialtóirí oidhreachta, ealaíontóirí, gairmithe cultúir agus/nó tionscail chruthaitheacha. Ceadaíodh 25 san iomlán as 75 iarratas. Ina measc bhí samhaltú nuálach 3D ar struchtúir shuntasacha oidhreachta agus tionscadal ceoil pobail trí Ghaeilge. Is féidir liosta de na hiarratasóirí rathúla a fheiceáil ag <https://www.donegalculture.ie/ga/services/creative-ireland/culture-and-creativity-project-awards/>.

Culture & Creativity Project Awards Scheme

The Culture & Creativity Project Awards Scheme Open Call offered grants of €2,000 each to community groups and individuals for projects that encouraged cooperation and collaboration between communities and heritage specialists, artists, culture professionals and/or creative industries. A total of 25 project awards were awarded out of 75 applications. They ranged from an innovative 3D modelling of significant heritage structures to a community music project as Gaeilge. A list of the successful applicants can be viewed at <https://www.donegalculture.ie/en/services/creative-ireland/culture-and-creativity-project-awards/>.



Stair Chomhroinnte Photo Museum Ireland: Tuairimí Éagsúla

Tionscnamh claochlaitheach a bhí sa tionscadal, ar cuireadh tús leis in 2023, agus ar ghlac pobail ón dá thaobh den teorainn páirt ann. Spreag sé iad lena n-oidhreacht a fhiosrú agus eispéiris a roinnt trí mheán na grianghrafadóireachta, ag nascadh a ngrianghraif phearsanta, agus scéalta teaghlaigh le heispéiris shóisialta agus pholaitiúla réigiún na teorann ar fud an 20ú hAois. Mar chomhoibriú idir an RCC, Photo Museum Ireland, Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, agus an Nerve Centre, Doire chríochnaigh sé le roinnt taispeántas in ionaid ar an dá thaobh den teorainn áit a raibh roinnt de na rannpháirtithe i láthair le labhairt le lucht féachana a raibh spéis acu ann. Is féidir leat tuilleadh a léamh faoi ag <https://photomuseumireland.ie/shared-histories-diverse-views/>.

Photo Museum Ireland Shared History: Diverse Views

The project, which began in 2023, was a transformative initiative which engaged communities on both sides of the border. It encouraged them to explore their heritage and share experiences through the medium of photography, linking their personal photographs, and family stories to the social and political experiences of the border region throughout the 20th Century. A collaboration between the RCC, Photo Museum Ireland, the National Library of Ireland, and the Nerve Centre, Derry, it concluded with several exhibitions in venues on both sides of the border where some of the participants were on hand to talk to interested viewers. You can read more about it at <https://photomuseumireland.ie/shared-histories-diverse-views/>.



Cruthaitheacht sa tSeanaois

Thug teiripe ainmhithe, an t-eispéireas zú peataireachta ó Jigsaw Farm, ainmhithe coimhthíocha agus dúchasacha chuig tithe cúraim san Iarthuaisceart, i gCo. Dhún na nGall agus i gceantair Údarás Áitiúil Chathair Dhoire & an tSratha Báin. Bhí teagmháil ag cónaitheoirí tithe cúraim le halpacaí, lachain, coiníní, muca, gabhair, muca guine, turtar agus go leor cineálacha eile ainmhithe.

Trí iarratais eile ar mhaoiniú d'Éire Ildánach, maoiníodh sraith Seisiún Samhraidh mionchónaitheachtaí ceoil i 9 suíomh cúram sláinte cónaithe i gCo. Dhún na nGall. Bhí siad seo ar siúl i samhradh na bliana 2024, ag cur ceoil, craic maith, agus amhránaíocht ar fáil do bhreis is 300 cónaitheoir. Cuireadh leis seo ag deireadh an Fhómhair ag 'Art from the Heart' a thug éascaitheoir criadóireachta isteach sna tithe cúraim le bheith ag obair leis na cónaitheoirí agus leis an fhoireann lena bpíosáí ealaíne féin a chruthú.

Thóg na tionscadail seo ar chaidreamh oibre san am atá caite le háiseanna cónaithe san Iarthuaisceart, chuir siad eispéiris bhríocha, chruthaitheacha agus spreagthacha ar fáil do na cónaitheoirí agus don fhoireann.

Creativity in Older Age

Animal Therapy, the petting zoo experience from Jigsaw Farm, brought exotic and native animals to care homes in the Northwest, in both Co. Donegal and in the Derry City & Strabane Local Authority areas. Care home residents engaged with alpacas, ducks, rabbits, pigs, goats, guinea pigs, tortoises and many more types of animals.

Through additional funding pitches to Creative Ireland, a series of Summer Session mini-music residencies in 9 residential healthcare settings in Co. Donegal were funded. These took place over the summer of 2024, bringing music, good craic, and a sing-along to more than 300 residents. This was complimented in late Autumn by 'Art from the Heart' which brought a ceramics facilitator into the care homes to work with the residents and staff on creating their own art pieces.

These projects built on past working relationships with residential facilities in the Northwest, provided meaningful, creative and uplifting experiences for the residents and staff.

Éagsúlacht a Cheiliúradh

I rith 2024, chuir Éire Ildánach ar chumas Oifigeach nua Ealaíne agus Éagsúlachta Cultúir Dhún na nGall turas a thabhairt do phobail éagsúla i nDún na nGall trí thacú le roinnt tionscadal.

Tháinig deireadh leis na ceardlanna Myths and Legends do phobail nua, arna seachadadh ag an Ealaíontóir Eve Li agus léiriúcháin Re-Act, i dtrí réimse, le lá ceiliúrtha inar taispeánadh a gcuid gearrscannáin ag Lárionad Cultúrtha Réigiúnach a bhí plódaithe.

Tugadh an-mholadh don taispeántas One Million Stars i nDún na nGall. Is tionscadal ealaíon pobail cuimsitheach é a nascann pobail ar fud na hÉireann i ndlúthpháirtíocht i gcoinne mí-úsáid teaghlaigh agus gach cineál foréigin.

Tríd an chlár Ealaíontóirí Nua/Ealaíontóirí atá ag Teach Chun Cinn, chuaigh Iarratasóirí ar Chosaint Idirnáisiúnta, pobail nua, dídeanaithe, agus Ionaid Acmhainní Teaghlaigh i gcomhpháirtíocht le healaíontóirí i gceithre ionad éagsúla le sraith de shé cheardlann a sholáthar.

Is príomhthosaíocht de chuid chlár Éire Ildánach é malartú eolais. Tríd an chlár Meantóireachta Ealaíontóirí, chuir Seirbhís Ealaíon Dhún na nGall, arna thacú ag Clár Éire Ildánach, deis ar fáil d'ionaid oideachais, ealaíon agus chultúir le dul i dteagmháil le beirt ealaíontóirí nua ó phobail Dhubha agus Mhionlaigh Eitnigh agus Tromlaigh Dhomhanda. Chuir gach ionad spás agus am ar fáil don dá ealaíontóir i gclár meantóireachta agus trí rannpháirtíocht sa chlár seo, rinne ealaíontóirí comhdhearadh agus comhchruthú ar bhunphíosáí saothair.

Mar chuid de chomhoibriú uathúil saibhir, chuaigh Seirbhís Ealaíon Dhún na nGall i gcomhpháirtíocht le Tionscadal Lucht Siúil Dhún na nGall agus an Lárionad Cultúrtha Réigiúnach le tionscadal scannán agus grianghrafadóireacht idirchultúrtha a chur i láthair mar chuid d'Fhéile Ealaíon an Earagail i mbliana. Léirigh an tionscnamh seo an pobal Romach in Éirinn, agus díródh go háirithe orthu siúd a bhfuil cónaí orthu i nDún na nGall. Is é croílár an tionscadail seo an clár faisnéise gearr SAM ROM; scannán cumhachtach a thugann léargas ar shaol na Romach trí agallaimh phearsanta agus radhairc phearsanta.

Celebrating Diversity

Throughout 2024, Creative Ireland enabled Donegal's new Arts and Cultural Diversity Officer to blaze a trail for diverse communities in Donegal by supporting several projects.

The Myths and Legends workshops for new communities, delivered by Artist Eve Li and Re-Act productions, in three locations, culminated in a celebration day where their short films were screened at a packed Regional Cultural Centre.

The One Million Stars exhibition toured Donegal to great acclaim. It is an inclusive community arts project connecting communities across Ireland in solidarity against domestic abuse and all forms of violence.

Through the New/Emerging Artists programme, International Protection Applicants, new communities, refugees, and Family Resource Centres partnered with artists in four different locations to deliver a series of six workshops.

Knowledge exchange is a key priority of the Creative Ireland programme. Through the Artist Mentor programme, Donegal Arts Service supported by Creative Ireland provided an opportunity for educational, arts and cultural venues to engage with two new artists from Black and Minority Ethnic and Global Majority communities. Each venue provided space and time for both artists in a mentorship programme and through engagement in this programme, artists co-designed and co-created original pieces of work.

In a unique and enriching collaboration, Donegal Arts Service partnered with Donegal Travellers Project and the Regional Cultural Centre to present an intercultural film and photography project as part of this year's Earagail Arts Festival. The initiative shed light on the Roma community in Ireland, with a particular focus on those residing in Donegal. The centrepiece of this project is the short documentary SAM ROM; a powerful film that delves into the lives of the Roma people through deeply personal interviews and intimate scenes.



CLÁR COMÓRTHA COMMEMORATIONS PROGRAMME



In 2024 fuair an Chomhairle maoiniú de €15,000 ón Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus na Meáin Chumarsáide do Chlár Comórtha 2024. Rinne an Rannán Cultúir cúig cinn de thionscadail chomórtha spéisiúla agus faisnéiseacha.

In 2024 Donegal County Council received funding of €15,000 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media for the 2024 Commemorative Programme. The Culture Division delivered five engaging and informative Commemorative projects.



Wainfest 2024

Bhí clár Deich mBliana Comórtha Céad Bliain á óstáil ag Seirbhís Leabharlainne Dhún na nGall mar chuid de Wainfest 2024 (5 go 13 Deireadh Fómhair). Bhain deich gceardlann, faoi stiúir triúr éascaitheoirí, le stair shaibhir na tréimhse suntasaí seo, agus ghlac páistí scoile ó gach cearn de Dhún na nGall páirt ann. Ghlac 280 duine óg san iomlán páirt sna seisiúin faisnéiseacha seo.

Reachtáil an staraí, an t-údar, agus an léachtóir an Dr Angela Byrne caint ar The Partition in Donegal 1921-1925. Rinne sí plé ar na tionchair shuntasacha a bhí ag an imeacht seo ar bhailte sa chontae. Lorg sí an comhthéacs stairiúil roimh an chríochdheighilt, ag ionchorprú foinsí príomhúla mar ghrianghraif, léarscáileanna, agus gearrthóga nuachtáin dhigiteacha leis an stair a thabhairt chun solais.

Rinne seandálaí agus bunaitheoir Claíomh (Músaem Stair Bheo na hÉireann), Dave Swift, sraith cainteanna ar na tráthanna rithabhachtacha i stair na hÉireann a d'fhéach le Poblacht Éireannach neamhspleách a bhunú. Le linn an tseisiúin, cuireadh na mic léinn i láthair na bhfaisean, an fheistis mhíleata, chultúr na n-arm, agus déantúsáin agus cuimhneacháin bhunaidh agus atáirgthe ón am seo.

Choinnigh an t-údar a bhuaigh duaiseanna Sheena Wilkinson aird léitheoirí óga le sraith ceardlann bunaithe ar a triológ stairiúil, 'Name upon Name,' 'Star by Star,' agus 'Hope.' Scrúdaíonn an tsraith seo saol na mban óga agus castachtaí casta na hÉireann ag tús an fichiú haois.

Wainfest 2024

Wainfest 2024 (October 5th to 13th), featured a Decade of Centenaries programme hosted by the Donegal Library Service. Ten workshops, led by three facilitators, delved into the rich history of this significant period, engaging school children from across Donegal. A total of 280 young people participated in these informative sessions.

Historian, author, and lecturer Dr Angela Byrne hosted a talk on 'The Partition in Donegal 1921-1925'. She explored the significant impacts this event had on towns within the county. She traced the historical context leading up to partition, incorporating primary sources such as photographs, maps, and digital newspaper clippings to bring the past to life.

Archaeologist and founder of Claíomh (the Irish Living History Museum), Dave Swift, held a series of talks on the pivotal moments in Irish history that sought to establish an independent Irish Republic. During the session, students were introduced to the fashions, military attire, weaponry culture, and original and reproduced artefacts and memorabilia from this time.

Award-winning author Sheena Wilkinson engaged young readers with a series of workshops based on her historical trilogy, 'Name upon Name,' 'Star by Star,' and 'Hope.' This series delves into the lives of young women and the intricate complexities of early twentieth-century Ireland.



Comhdháil Staire agus Chuimhneacháin 550 Bhaile Dhún na nGall

24 Lúnasa, Baile Dhún na nGall 550: Reáchtáladh Stair agus Chuimhneachán, comhdháil staire aon lae saor in aisce, san Óstán Central, Baile Dhún na nGall. Ba iad na staraithe Helen Meehan MA, ó Chumann Staire Dhún na nGall agus an Dr Matthew Potter, as Baile Dhún na nGall ó dhúchas agus Coimeádaí Mhúsaem Luimnigh a d'eagraigh é mar chuid de chlár Bhaile Dhún na nGall 550. Ba í seo an chéad chomhdháil riamh a bhí dírithe ar stair Bhaile Dhún na nGall amháin agus thug sé le chéile go leor de scoláirí ar stair Bhaile Dhún na nGall atá go fóill beo.

Trí pháipéar a bhí sa chéad phainéal. Labhair an Dr Fiona Beglane (ATU Sligo) ar 'Archaeological results in and around Donegal Town;' thug Sean Browne (OPW, Caisleán Dhún na nGall) an cúla faoi fhorghabháil Chaisleán Dhún na nGall ag na Sasanaigh i 1601; agus phléigh an staraí áitiúil Seamus O'Doherty an áit ar scríobhadh Annála na gCeithre Máistrí. Ba é an tOllamh Brendan MacSuibhne (Ollscoil na Gaillimhe) a thug an phríomhléacht ar fhear iontach as Baile Dhún na nGall, Thomas Ainge Devyr (1805–87), scríbhneoir agus gníomhaí polaitíochta a chaith seal fada in Éirinn, sa Bhreatain agus i Meiriceá ach a bhfuil dearmad beagnach déanta anois air. Reáchtáladh turas teoraithe timpeall Chaisleán Dhún na nGall do lucht freastail na comhdhála go léir díreach i ndiaidh am lóin. Ar an dara painéal bhí an Dr Matthew McGinty (Ollscoil na Gaillimhe) a labhair ar 'Red Hugh O'Donnell, Niall Garbh O'Donnell and the Siege of Donegal Abbey;' an staraí áitiúil Malachy Sweeney ar 'The Great Famine in Donegal' agus Seán Boner (Cumann Staire Dhún na nGall) faoin dóigh a 'Historians in Donegal Town made their own history for about 400 years.' Cuireadh críoch leis an chomhdháil le seoladh shuíomh Gréasáin Mhainistir Dhún na nGall Seamus O'Doherty le huaigheanna a chuardach i Seanreilig na Mainistreach.

Donegal Town 550 History and Remembrance Conference

On the 24 August, Donegal Town 550: History and Remembrance, a free one-day history conference, was held in the Central Hotel, Donegal Town. It was organised by historians Helen Meehan MA, of Donegal Historical Society and Dr Matthew Potter, a native of Donegal Town and Curator of Limerick Museum, as part of the Donegal Town 550 programme. This was the first ever conference solely dedicated to the history of Donegal Town and brought together many of the living scholars of Donegal Town's history.

The first panel consisted of three papers. Dr Fiona Beglane (ATU Sligo) spoke on 'Archaeological findings in and around Donegal Town;' Sean Browne (OPW, Donegal Castle) gave the background to the occupation of Donegal Castle by the English in 1601; and local historian Seamus O'Doherty discussed the topic of where the Annals of the Four Masters were written. The keynote lecture was given by Professor Brendan MacSuibhne (University of Galway), on the remarkable but almost forgotten Donegal Town man Thomas Ainge Devyr (1805–87), a writer and political activist whose lengthy career was played out in Ireland, Britain, and America. A guided tour of Donegal Castle for all conference attendees was held directly after lunch. The second panel consisted of Dr Matthew McGinty (University of Galway) who spoke on 'Red Hugh O'Donnell, Niall Garbh O'Donnell and the Siege of Donegal Abbey;' local historian Malachy Sweeney on 'The Great Famine in Donegal' and Seán Boner (Donegal Historical Society) about how 'Historians in Donegal Town made their own history for about 400 years.' The launch of Seamus O'Doherty's Abbey of Donegal website for searching graves in the Old Abbey Graveyard concluded the conference.



Cláir Faisnéise i nGairdíní Cuimhneacháin Theach na mBocht

Tá Gairdín Cuimhneacháin Theach na mBocht Leitir Ceanainn suite in aice le Músaem Chontae Dhún na nGall. In 2024 thug Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall faoi athchóirithe lena n-áirítear cosáin nua, suíocháin nua agus plandáil nua. Mar chuid den athchóiriú, tá dhá chlár faisnéise curtha isteach a léiríonn scéal an ghairdín agus an ceangal a bhí aige le coimpléasc Theach na mBocht Leitir Ceanainn a raibh ról suntasach aige i stair an cheantair ó lár na 1840idí. Soláthróidh na cláir faisnéise seo eolas ar stair an cheantair do mhuintir na háite agus do chuid teoirí.

Taispeántas Women 100

Léiríonn an taispeántas seo ó Mhúsaem Contae Dhún na nGall agus ó Chartlann Chontae Dhún na nGall spatsolas ar shaol na mban ó 1922 go 1980. Is minic nár tugadh aird ar chion na mban i stair na hÉireann. Trí na déantáin, na cartlanna agus na híomhánna sa taispeántas seo is féidir le cuairteoirí iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an tionchar a bhí ar shaol na mban i ndiaidh chruthú Shaorstát Éireann. Áiríonn leis an taispeántas topaicí ar nós Bean agus Sláinte; Mná agus Fostaíocht; Mná agus Polaitíocht. Áirímid chomh maith na scéalta faoi eispéiris laethúla na mban agus an stát Éireannach nua ag teacht chun cinn mar aon le scéalta na mban iontacha a bhí mar cheannródaithe i réimsí mar leigheas agus eolaíocht.

Workhouse Memorial Garden Information Boards

Letterkenny Workhouse Memorial Garden is located beside the Donegal County Museum. In 2024, Donegal County Council undertook renovations which included new pathways, new seating, and new planting. As part of the renovations, two information boards have been installed which reflect the story of the garden and its connection to the Letterkenny Workhouse complex which has played a significant role in the history of the area since the mid 1840's. These information boards will provide information on the history of the area to locals and visitors.

Women 100 Exhibition

This exhibition by Donegal County Museum and Donegal County Archives shines a spotlight on the women's lives from the 1922 to 1980. Women's contribution to the history of Ireland has often been overlooked. Through the artefacts, archives and images in this exhibition visitors can explore how women's lives were impacted following the creation of the Irish Free State. The exhibition includes topics such as Woman and Health; Women and Employment; Women and Politics. We also include the stories of the everyday experiences of women as the new Irish state emerged along with the stories of extraordinary women who were trailblazers in areas such as medicine and science.



Clár Deich mBlíana na gCuimhneachán sa Leabharlann

I ndiaidh gairm oscailte ar ealaíontóirí freagra a thabhairt ar an treoir, roghnaíodh an t-ealaíontóir Marie Barret don choimisiún seo - WOMEN 100 (Dún na nGall). D'éascaigh an dámhachtain tréimhse taighde tiomnaithe don ealaíontóir agus forbairt tionscadail grianghrafadóireachta. Roghnaigh an t-ealaíontóir fiche ban tábhachtach atá ag gabháil do chur chun cinn saincheisteanna forbartha pobail agus ceartais shóisialta i nDún na nGall faoi láthair. Scrúdaíonn an clár cineálacha sonracha eolais agus taithí sa dá phríomhearnáil seo sa lá atá inniu ann. Léiríonn na híomhánna gach bean agus a dtimpeallacht oibre i suíomh pobail. Tá cleachtais eagraithe agus rannpháirtíochta ag na mná aonair a nocht an próiseas taighde seo a bhíonn go minic faoi bhun thairseach na staire oifigiúla nó faoi thairseach na hinfeictheachta comhaimseartha. Áiríodh leis an tionscadal comhoibriú le heagraíochtaí comhlacha: Comhpháirtíocht Forbartha Inis Eoghain, Tionscadal Changemakers, Ardán Idirchultúrtha Dhún na nGall, Tionscadal Lucht Siúil Dhún na nGall, Comhghrúpa na mBan, Dún na nGall.

Library Decade of Centenaries Programme

Following an open call for artists to respond to the brief, artist Marie Barret was chosen for this commission - WOMEN 100 (Donegal). The award facilitated a period of dedicated research for the artist and the development of a photography project. The artist selected twenty key women who are currently engaged in promoting community development and social justice issues in Donegal. The programme examines specific forms of knowledge and experience within these two key sectors in the present day. The imagery depicts each woman and their work environment within a community setting. The individual women that this research process has uncovered have practices of organising and participation that are often beneath the threshold of official history or of contemporary visibility. The project included collaboration with associate organisations: Inishowen Development Partnership, Changemakers Project, Donegal Intercultural Platform, Donegal Travellers Project, Women's Collective Donegal.

SEIRBHÍS LEABHARLAINNE

LIBRARY SERVICE

Soláthraíonn an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne raon éagsúil acmhainní agus seirbhísí, go pearsanta agus ar líne. Áirítear orthu sin léitheoireacht a spreagadh ag gach leibhéal, scileanna digiteacha agus litearthacht a fheabhsú, foghlaim fhoirmiúil agus neamhfhoirmiúil a chumasú, tacú le soláthar faisnéise agus treorach ar go leor topaicí lena n-áirítear sláinte agus folláine, forbairt phearsanta agus a chinntiú go bhfuil áit ag daoine sa phobal le bualadh le chéile agus teacht le chéile.

Lean Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chontae Dhún na nGall ag fás i go leor réimsí. Tugadh breis agus 343,000 cuairt ar leabharlanna agus 178,000 mír ar iasacht ó leabharlanna, agus fuarthas rochtain ar acmhainní ar líne níos mó ná 146,000 uair. Lean an tseirbhís ar aghaidh ag forbairt clár oibre, stoic agus acmhainní ar líne le tacú lena ról sa phobal.

The Library Service provides a diverse range of resources and services, both in person and online. These include encouraging reading at all levels, improving digital skills and literacy, enabling formal and informal learning, supporting the provision of information and guidance on many topics including health and wellbeing, personal development and ensuring that people have a place in the community to meet and come together.

Donegal County Library Service continued to see growth in many areas. There were over 343,000 library visits and 178,000 items borrowed from libraries, while online resources were accessed more than 146,000 times. The service continued to develop work programmes, stock, and online resources to support its role in the community.



An Clár Ceart chun Léitheoireachta

Is clár náisiúnta é An Ceart chun Léitheoireachta chun litearthacht agus léitheoireacht a chur chun cinn do dhaoine de gach aois agus cúla. In 2024, dhírigh an clár ar thacaíocht do leanaí agus do theaghlaigh, lena n-áirítear seirbhísí leabharlainne do scoileanna agus d'Ionaid Luathfhoghlama ach ag aithint tacaíochta d'fhorbairt scileanna litearthachta d'aoisigh. Áiríodh ar na tacaí seo Spring into Storytime i mí Aibreáin, Réaltaí Samhraidh ó Mheitheamh go Lúnasa, My Little Library Bag agus Am Teaghlaigh i do Leabharlann i mí na Nollag. Bhain páistí, scoileanna agus teaghlaigh sult as réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí, comórtas agus imeachtaí i rith na bliana.

Léann Éire

Is tionscnamh de chuid Rialtas na hÉireann é an Léann Éire leis an spraoi a bhaineann leis an léitheoireacht a cheiliúradh. Tá an clár maoinithe ag Éire Shláintiúil le tacaíocht ó leabharlanna poiblí agus go leor eagraíochtaí a chuireann léitheoireacht, litearthacht agus na healaíona chun cinn.

Iarradh le linn an fheachtais ar gach duine 'seal beag léitheoireachta' a dhéanamh ar Lá "Léann Éire", Dé Sathairn, 25 Feabhra. Reáchtáladh imeachtaí i leabharlanna ar fud an chontae. Ba é an ócáid taispeántais do Léann Éire ná siompóisiam dar teideal Literature and Landscape. Ba cheiliúradh é an siompóisiam a reáchtáladh i Leabharlann Phobail Bhun Cranncha ar thírdhreach Dhún na nGall agus ar an tionchar a bhí aige i measc daoine eile, scríbhneoireacht an údair a bhuaigh Duais Booker agus Paul Lynch ó Dhún na nGall ó dhúchas. Tháinig dáréag scríbhneoir agus ealaíontóir as Dún na nGall le chéile sa leabharlann le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar scríbhneoireacht Dhún na nGall san am a chuaigh thart agus san am i láthair ag imeacht an-rathúil ar fhreastail 75 duine air.

Right to Read Programme

Right to Read is a national programme to promote literacy and reading for people of all ages and backgrounds. In 2024, the programme focused on support for children and families, including the library services to schools and to Early Learning Centres while also recognising support for adult literacy skills development. These supports included Spring into Storytime in April, Summer Stars from June to August, My Little Library Bag and Family Time at your Library in December. Children, schools, and families enjoyed an array of activities, competitions, and events throughout the year.

Ireland Reads

Ireland Reads is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. The programme is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote reading, literacy, and the arts.

The campaign asked everyone to 'squeeze in a read' on Ireland Reads Day, Saturday, February 25th. Events were held in libraries across the county. The showcase event for Ireland Reads was a symposium entitled Literature and Landscape. The symposium which took place in Buncrana Community Library was a celebration of the landscape of Donegal and how it has influenced among others, the writing of Booker Prize winning author and Donegal native Paul Lynch. Twelve Donegal writers and artists came together in the library to celebrate Donegal writing past and present in what was a highly successful event attended by 75 people.





Read DL

Is gluaiseacht léitheoireachta contae é Read DL, a ceapadh le muintir Dhún na nGall a thabhairt le chéile tríd an leabhar chéanna a léamh le chéile. In 2024 chuidigh an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne le clár léitheoireachta rathúil Read DL ar fud an chontae trí 2,000 cóip den leabhar roghnaithe *The summer I robbed a bank* a dháileadh ar scoileanna trínár gcraobhacha, ag éascú ceardlanna cruthaitheacha agus ag cur an imeachta chun cinn ar ardáin na meán sóisialta agus trí agallaimh ar Highland Radio.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl ón 1 go dtí an 17 Márta, le 54 imeacht ar siúl i leabharlanna agus in ionaid Taobh Tíre agus sa phobal i gcoitinne. Is féile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge a thugann deis do gach duine sult a bhaint as an Ghaeilge, cibé acu is cainteoir líofa, foghlaimeoir thú nó go bhfuil cúpla focal agat, le féilire imeachtaí siamsúla agus spraiúla do gach cineál spéise agus gach aoisghrúpa. Bhí an bhéim i mbliana ar imeachtaí beo, idir cheolchoirmeacha éagsúla i Leabharlann Phobail na Rosann le An Teach Ceoil, Comhaltas Mhín na Croise agus ealaíontóirí áitiúla eile, Fleá Filíochta agus Preab-Ghaeltacht i Leabharlann na Twin Towns, Club Leabhar na Gaeltachta i Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair leis an údar Michelle Ní Pháidín, Club Fichille, scéalaíocht, cainteanna staire, ceardlanna ciúine agus sóisialacha, cainteanna ciúnas agus cístíle. Tacaíonn Rannóg na Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall le Seachtain na Gaeilge sna leabharlanna.

Read DL

Read DL is a county-wide reading movement, designed to bring the people of Donegal together by collectively reading the same book. In 2024 the Library Service assisted with the successful Read DL county-wide reading programme by distributing 2,000 copies of the chosen book *The summer I robbed a bank*, by Stewart Foster to schools through our branches, facilitating creative workshops and promoting the event on social media platforms and through interviews on Highland Radio.

Seachtain Na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge ran from 1st to the 17th of March, with 54 events held in libraries and Taobh Tíre centres and in the wider community. Seachtain na Gaeilge is an international Irish language festival which gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy Irish, whether you are a fluent speaker, learner or have a cúpla focal, with a calendar of entertaining and fun events for every type of interest and every age group. The emphasis this year was on live events, ranging from a variety concert at Leabharlann Phobail na Rosann featuring An Teach Ceoil, Comhaltas Mhín na Croise and other local artists, Fleá Filíochta agus Preab-Ghaeltacht in Twin Towns Library, Club Leabhar na Gaeltachta in Leabharlann Phobail Gaoth Dobhair with author Michelle Ní Pháidín, Club Fichille(chess), storytelling, history talks, silent discos, science workshops, and Ciorcail Comhrá and Sean-Nós dancing. Seachtain Na Gaeilge in libraries is supported by Donegal County Council's Rannóg na Gaeilge.



Bealtaine

Cuireann an Fhéile náisiúnta Bealtaine, arna comhordú ag Aois & Deiseanna i gcomhpháirtíocht le húdaráis áitiúla, eagraíochtaí ealaíon agus daoine scothaosta, daoine scothaosta i láthair mar ealaíontóirí agus taibheoirí, mar eagraithe imeachtaí agus mar lucht féachana agus rannpháirtithe. Ba é téama na bliana seo ná 'Zest for Life', agus taispeánadh é seo ag an seoladh a bhí ar siúl i dTeach Chill Bharráin. Leis an imeacht oscailte seo, mheall Amhránaithe Gníomhach Scoir Bhéal Átha Seanaidh agus Banna Sráide Bhéal Átha Seanaidh a lucht éisteachta le rithim agus amhrán. Is é an ceiliúradh uathúil seo idir na glúnta a dhéanann an fhéile speisialta gach bliain. I mbliana bhí breis is 60 imeacht i leabharlanna, in ionaid Taobh Tíre, in ionaid ealaíon agus pobail agus in ionaid cúram lae i bhFéile na Bealtaine i nDún na nGall. I measc na n-imeachtaí agus na gceardlann a reáchtáladh le linn na féile bhí origami, péinteáil le huiscedhathanna, léachtaí staire, fíodóireacht saileach, pilates cathaoireacha, cainteanna ginealais, folcadáin fuaime, pictiúrlann, ceol agus rince. Ceiliúradh bríomhar ar chruthaitheacht ba ea Féile na Bealtaine 2024 agus muid ag dul in aois agus is buaicphointe seanbhunaithe í d'fhéilire na Rannóige Cultúrtha.

Bealtaine

The national Bealtaine Festival, coordinated by Age & Opportunity in partnership with local authorities, arts, and older people's organisations, features older people as artists and performers, as event organisers and as audiences and participants. The theme this year was 'Zest for Life', and this was showcased at the launch which took place in Kilbarron House. This opening event saw the Ballyshannon Active Retirement Singers and the Ballyshannon Street Band captivate their audience with rhythm and song. It is this unique celebration across generations that makes the festival special each year. This year the Bealtaine Festival in Donegal featured over 60 events in libraries, Taobh Tíre Centres, arts and community venues and day care centres. Some of the events and workshops that took place during the festival included origami, painting with watercolours, history lectures, willow weaving, chair pilates, genealogy talks, sound baths, cinema, music, and dance. The 2024 Bealtaine Festival was a vibrant celebration of creativity as we age and is a well-established highlight of the Cultural Division calendar.



Europe Direct

Chomhoibrigh Europe Direct i Leitir Ceanainn le meánscoileanna áitiúla agus d'óstáigh siad roinnt imeachtaí in 2024 lena n-áirítear cuairt ón iar-FPE Chris MacManus le toghcháin na hEorpa a phlé. Rinneadh Lá na hEorpa a cheiliúradh le hócáid le Cultúr na Polainne a léiriú lena n-áirítear teachtaireacht físe ó Ambasadóir na Polainne, an tUasal Arkady Rzegocki. Chuir ár n-imeacht Time to Move na deiseanna iontacha atá ar fáil do dhaoine óga a bheith ag obair, i mbun staidéir agus i mbun obair dheonach ar fud na hEorpa chun cinn. Bhí Maria Walsh FPE ina cathaoirleach ar an chomórtas bhliantúil óráidíochta poiblí Soapbox ar a raibh an téama, "Ní bagairt é AI don chine dhaonna." Ghlac scoileanna ó ar fud Dhún na nGall páirt, agus rinne an dá bhuaiteoir ionadaíocht thar ceann an chontae go bródúil ag na cluichí ceannais náisiúnta i mBaile Átha Cliath i mí na Samhna agus bhuail siad le Barbara Nolan, Ceannaire ar Ionadaíocht an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh in Éirinn.

Club Leabhar Ealaín na Léitheoireachta

D'fhill Club Leabhar Ealaín na Léitheoireachta de chuid na Comhairle Ealaíon ar an Chontae i mí Lúnasa le himeacht rathúil leis an údar ó Dhún na nGall a bhain Booker-Prize, Paul Lynch. Chuir Colm Tóibín, an Buaiteoir Gradaim Fhíchean na hÉireann, agallamh ar Paul Lynch faoi pheirspictíochtaí agus eispéiris óna shaol mar scríbhneoir. Le linn na hócáide, rinne an dá údar tábhachtacha smaointe a mhalartú agus chuaigh i mbun idirphlé bríomhar. D'fhreagair siad ceisteanna ón lucht freastail agus tháinig deireadh leis an tráthnóna le seisiún sínithe leabhar.

Europe Direct

Europe Direct Letterkenny collaborated with local secondary schools and hosted several events in 2024 including a visit from former MEP Chris MacManus to discuss the European elections. Europe Day was celebrated with an event to showcase Polish Culture including a video message from the Polish Ambassador, Mr. Arkady Rzegocki. Our Time to Move event promoted the wonderful opportunities available to young people to work, study and volunteer throughout Europe. Maria Walsh MEP chaired the annual Soapbox public speaking competition which had the theme, "AI is not a threat to humanity." Schools from across Donegal took part, and the two winners proudly represented the county at the national finals in Dublin in November and met with Barbara Nolan, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland.

Art of Reading Book Club

The Arts Council's Art of Reading Book Club returned to the County in August with a successful event with Booker-Prize winning Donegal author Paul Lynch. The Laureate for Irish Fiction, Colm Tóibín, interviewed Paul Lynch about the perspectives and experiences of his writing journey. Throughout the event, the two distinguished authors exchanged ideas and engaged in a lively dialogue. They answered questions from attendees and the evening ended with a book signing session.



Bailiúchán Léann Dhún na nGall

Tá breis agus 43,000 mír i mBailiúchán Léann Dhún na nGall i leabharlanna ar fud an chontae, agus tá an príomhbhailiúchán tagartha i seilbh na Lárleabharlainne, Leitir Ceanainn.

I measc na n-ábhar tá foilseacháin áitiúla, ábhar closamhairc, léarscáileanna agus míreanna i gcomhaid staire áitiúla. Baineann gach ábhar sa bhailiúchán le Dún na nGall, le hÚdair Dhún na nGall agus/nó curtha le chéile i nDún na nGall. Tá leabharliosta cuimsitheach de na teidil nua curtha le chéile agus tá sé foilsithe sa Donegal Annual/ Bliainiris Dhún na nGall, The Journal of the County Donegal Historical Society.

Chuir Roinn Staidéir Dhún na nGall fáilte roimh os cionn 1,000 cuairteoir in 2024, d'fhreagair breis agus 3,800 fiosrúchán a bhain le stair teaghlaigh agus áitiúil agus chuaigh i dteagmháil le pobal diaspóra na hÉireann go leictreonach, ag freagairt breis agus 500 ceist trí ríomhphost. Bhí ceisteanna ginealais/ stair teaghlaigh i measc na bhfiosruithe ba choitianta a fuarthas. Soláthraíonn an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne rochtain saor in aisce ar thaifd ghinealais ar Find My Past agus www.irishgenealogy.ie. Thug foireann na leabharlainne caint ar líne do Chumann Staire Teaghlaigh Thuaisceart na hÉireann i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. D'fhreastail seasca duine ó gach cearn den domhan ar an gcaint fhíorúil áit ar pléadh forbhreathnú ar acmhainní stair teaghlaigh na leabharlainne.

Lean an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne lena clár digitithe ar ábhar staidéir áitiúla agus cuireadh roinnt míreanna ar fáil ar shuíomh Gréasáin na leabharlainne.

Donegal Studies Collection

The Donegal Studies Collection consists of over 43,000 items held in libraries throughout the county, with the main reference collection being held in Central Library, Letterkenny.

Materials include local publications, audio visual material, maps, and items in local history files. All material in the collection is about Donegal, by Donegal authors and/or produced in Donegal. A comprehensive bibliography of new titles was compiled and is published in the Donegal Annual/ Bliainiris Dhún na nGall, The Journal of the County Donegal Historical Society.

The Donegal Studies department welcomed over 1,000 visitors in 2024, answered over 3,800 queries related to family and local history and engaged with the Irish diaspora community electronically, answering over 500 queries via email. Genealogy/family history queries were among the most popular queries received. The Library Service provides free access to genealogical records on Find My Past and www.irishgenealogy.ie. Library staff delivered an online talk to the North of Ireland Family History Society in October. Sixty people from all over the world attended the virtual talk where an overview of the library's family history resources was discussed.

The Library Service continued its programme of digitisation of local studies material with several items being made available on the library website.



Wainfest

Bhí Wainfest, féile bhliantúil ealaíon agus leabhar na bpáistí i nDún na nGall, ar siúl ó 5 go 13 Deireadh Fómhair, agus bhí 158 imeacht éagsúil agus spreagúil mar chuid de ar fud an chontae. Bhí an clár dírithe ar leanaí ó leanaí idir leanaí agus dhá bhliain déag d'aois, agus chuir sé eispéireas saibhrithe ar fáil a spreag rannpháirtíocht i leabhair, sna healaíona agus i scéalaíocht. Ar an téama '550 Eachtraí', rinne Wainfest 2024 ceiliúradh ar oidhreacht shaibhir Dhún na nGall in éineacht leis an tsaol bhríomhar reatha atá ann anois. I measc na mbuaicphointí bhí imeachtaí ar nós MC Grammar, bealach spráíúil agus idirghníomhach le foghlaim trí cheol, agus Roar Roar Dineasár, eispéireas spleodrach do lucht leanúna óga dineasáir. Príomhspríoc de chuid Wainfest is ea litearthacht leanaí a chur chun cinn ar fud Dhún na nGall, ag cuidiú le grá don léitheoireacht agus don chruthaitheacht a chothú agus naisc phobail a chothú.

Mo Leabharlann Oscailte

Tugadh isteach Mo Leabharlann Oscailte i Leabharlann Phobail Bhun Cranncha i mí Lúnasa. Cuireann an tseirbhís Mo Leabharlann Oscailte uaireanta oscailte sínte ar fáil, a sholáthraíonn rochtain leabharlainne do chomhaltaí ó 8 am go 10 pm, 365 lá sa bhliain. Trí na huaireanta foirne, mar aon leis na huaireanta méadaithe de chuid Mo Leabharlann Oscailte, is féidir le baill leabharlainne rochtain a fháil ar an leabharlann ag amanna a oireann dóibh, go háirithe dóibh siúd nach bhfuil in ann rochtain a fháil ar an leabharlann le linn amanna rialta foirne.

Wainfest

Wainfest, Donegal's annual children's arts and book festival, took place from the 5th to 13th of October, offering 158 diverse and exciting events across the county. The programme aimed at children from tots to twelve-year-olds, provided an enriching experience that encouraged engagement with books, arts, and storytelling. Themed '550 Adventures', Wainfest 2024 celebrated Donegal's rich heritage alongside its vibrant present. Highlights included events such as MC Grammar, a fun and interactive way to learn through music, and Roar Roar Dinosaur, a thrilling experience for young dinosaur fans. A key goal of Wainfest is the promotion of children's literacy across Donegal, helping to foster a love for reading and creativity while building community connections.

My Open Library

My Open Library was introduced at Buncrana Community Library in August. The My Open Library service offers extended opening hours, providing library access to members from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., 365 days per year. The staffed hours, combined with the extended My Open Library hours, allow library members to access the library at times that suit them, particularly for those who may not be able to access the library during regular staffed times.



Éire Shláintiúil ag do Leabharlann

D'éirigh le tionscnamh Éire Shláintiúil ag Do Leabharlann 2024 sláinte agus folláine an phobail a chur chun cinn trí shraith clár agus acmhainní tarraingteacha. I measc na mbuaicphointí tá sraith cainteanna leis an Dr. Kenneth Monaghan faoi chuidiú le daoine a tháinig slán as stróc sa bhaile agus súil dhomhain ar an Athrú Saoil leis an Dr. Caoimhe Hartley. Díríodh fosta ar Aireachas Cruthaitheach do Leanáí agus do Dhéagóirí agus ar sheisiúin Spraoi Céadfach do leanáí a bhfuil riachtanais bhreise acu Cuireadh níos mó teideal leis an bhailiúchán leabhar Éire Shláintiúil ag Do Leabharlann a sholáthraíonn rochtain ar shaibhreas faisnéise ar ábhair a bhaineann leis an tsláinte, a chuireann ar chumas daoine aonair cinntí eolasacha a dhéanamh faoina bhfolláine.

Moil Sláinte sa Litearthacht Dhigiteach

Rinne an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne i gcomhpháirtíocht le hOifig Chothaithe Sláinte an FSS agus BOO Dhún na nGall sraith ceardlann in ocht leabharlann. Ba é aidhm na gceardlann béim a chur ar fhoinsí iontaofa faisnéise sláinte ar líne mar aon le taispeántais ar an dóigh le rochtain a fháil ar na hacmhainní sin. Maoiníodh na Moil Dhigiteacha Sláinte tríd an chiste Comhoibrithe agus Nuálaíochta um Litearthacht Aosach don Saol.

Healthy Ireland at your Library

The 2024 Healthy Ireland at Your Library initiative successfully promoted health and wellbeing in the community through a series of engaging programmes and resources. Some highlights include a series of talks by Dr. Kenneth Monaghan about helping stroke survivors recover at home and an in-depth look at Menopause by Dr. Caoimhe Hartley. There was also a focus on Creative Mindfulness for Children and Teens and Sensory Play sessions for children with additional needs. More titles were added to the Healthy Ireland at Your Library book collection which provides access to a wealth of information on health-related topics, empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their wellbeing.

Digital Literacy Health Hubs

The Library Service in partnership with the HSE Health Promotion Office and Donegal ETB delivered a series of workshops in eight libraries. The aim of the workshops was to highlight reputable online sources of health information along with demonstrations on how to access those resources. The Digital Health Hubs were funded through the Adult Literacy for Life Collaboration and Innovation fund.

SEIRBHÍS EALAÍON

ARTS SERVICE

Tugann an tSeirbhís Ealaíon tosaíocht do chláir a chuireann ar chumas níos mó saoránach agus ó chúlaí éagsúla dul i ngleic leis na healaíona agus a thacaíonn le healaíontóirí agus eagraíochtaí ealaíon saothair nua a chruthú agus a scaipeadh.

The Arts Service prioritises programmes which enable more and a greater diversity of citizens to engage with the arts and which support artists and arts organizations to create and disseminate new work.



Clár Maoinithe Ioncaim Comhpháirtíochta Straitéisí

Cuireadh €107,000 ar fáil do líonra eagraíochtaí ealaíon lena n-áirítear Ionad Ealaíon Balor agus DCA Balor, Bealach Féich; Ionad Ealaíon na Mainistreach, Béal Átha Seanaidh; Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair, Artlink An Dúin Riabhagh, An Gailearaí Doire Beag agus Summer Palace Press, Cill Chartha.

Scéim Sparánachtaí d'Ealaíontóirí

Sholáthair Scéim Sparánachtaí na nEalaíontóirí sparánachtaí de €1000 an ceann do 45 de phríomhchleachtóirí ealaíon gairmiúla an chontae.

Féile Bhá Dhún na nGall agus na gCruach Gorm

D'fhill Carnabhal Bhéal Átha Seanaidh i ndiaidh ceithre bliana as láthair, lena Pharaid ildaithe ar an téama Miotais agus Finscéalta ag tarraingt lucht féachana ollmhór teaghlaigh chuig sráideanna an bhaile Cois Éirne, agus rinne Donegal Voices Messiah Handel (Cuid III) i mBaile Dhún na nGall mar chuid de Cheiliúradh Dhún na nGall 550, chomh maith le Béal Átha Seanaidh.

Reáchtáil an fhéile léiriú iontach Ciorcal Drámaíochta Dhún na nGall ar The Factory Girls le Frank McGuinness ag Halla Pobail Leghowney agus chuir an dara Féile Scannán Chuan Dhún na nGall, arna coimeád ag an déantóir scannán Caroline Harvey, clár gearrscannán le déantóirí óga scannán ó Thuaisceart agus Iarthuaisceart na hÉireann i láthair, thar dhá thráthnóna ag Eclipse Cinemas, Bun Dobhráin.

Strategic Partnership Revenue Funding Programme

€107,000 was provided to a network of arts organisations including the Balor Arts Centre and Balor DCA, Ballybofey; Abbey Arts Centre, Ballyshannon; Amharclann, Ghaoth Dobhair; Artlink, Fort Dunree; An Gailearaí, Doire Beag and Summer Palace Press, Cill Chartha.

Artists' Bursaries Scheme

The Artists' Bursaries Scheme provided bursaries of €1000 each to 45 of the county's leading professional arts practitioners.

Donegal Bay and Blue Stacks Festival

Carnival Ballyshannon returned after a four year absence, its colourful Myths and Legends themed Parade drawing a huge family audience to the streets of the Erneside town, while Donegal Voices performed Handel's Messiah (Part III) in Donegal Town as part of the Donegal 550 Celebrations, as well as in Ballyshannon and Glenties.

The festival hosted Donegal Drama Circle's excellent presentation of Frank McGuinness's The Factory Girls at Leghowney Community Hall and the second Donegal Bay Film Festival, curated by film maker Caroline Harvey, presented a programme of short films by young film makers from the North and Northwest of Ireland, over two evenings at Eclipse Cinemas, Bundoran.

Ealaíona agus Éagsúlacht Chultúrtha

Is geallsealbhóir straitéiseach é an Rannán Chultúir maidir leis an Straitéis um Chuimsiú do Mhionlaigh Eitneach agus Dhubha a sholáthar i nDún na nGall. D'oibrigh an tSeirbhís Ealaíon leis an Aonad um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus Scoileanna Cruthaitheacha le cuimsitheacht a chur chun cinn tuilleadh trí thionscnaimh ealaíon nuálacha agus pobalbhunaithe.

In ainneoin na ndúshlán mar bhacainní teanga agus meon frith-inimirceach, baineann an tSeirbhís leas as tírdhreach saibhir cultúrtha Dhún na nGall agus infreastruchtúr fisiceach le muinín a chothú agus le comhoibriú ealaíne a chothú do dhaoine ó Phobail Dhubha, Mhionlaigh Eitneacha agus Dhomhanda.

I measc na dtionscadal a chómhaoinigh Éire Cruthaitheach agus a chuir an tOifigeach Ealaíon agus Éagsúlachta Cultúir ar fáil bhí, clár meantóireachta le healaíontóirí agus meantóirí ó Dhún na nGall, ón Úcráin, ón Afraic Theas, ó Tóga agus ón tSomáil; an scannán pobail Roma Sam Roma ('We Are Roma'): an chéad cheiliúradh Dhún na nGall Mela leis an phobal Indiach; African Male Voices Choir, an tsraith suiteála agus ceardlann One Million Stars agus an tsraith Ceardlanna le hEalaíontóirí Nua agus Ealaíne atá ag Teacht chun Cinn le hlarratasóirí ar Chosaint Idirnáisiúnta, ar fud an chontae.

Arts and Cultural Diversity

The Culture Division is a strategic stakeholder in delivering on the Black and Minority Ethnic Inclusion Strategy for Donegal. The Arts Service has worked with the Social Inclusion Unit and Creative Schools to further promote inclusivity through innovative and community-based arts initiatives.

Despite challenges like language barriers and anti-immigrant sentiment, the Service leverages Donegal's rich cultural landscape and physical infrastructure to build trust and foster artistic collaboration for individuals from Black, Minority Ethnic and Global Majority Communities.

Among the projects co-funded by Creative Ireland and delivered by the Arts and Cultural Diversity Officer were, a mentorship programme with artists and mentors from Donegal, Ukraine, South Africa, Togo and Somalia; the Roma community film Sam Rom ('We Are Roma'); the inaugural Donegal Mela celebration with the Indian community; the African Male Voices Choir, the One Million Stars installation and workshop series and the New and Emerging Artists Workshop series with International Protection Applicants, around the county.



Oíche Chultúir

Chuir an Rannán Cultúir a 16ú ceiliúradh bliantúil Oíche Chultúir i láthair a ghin thart ar 6,500 cuairt ar ionaid agus imeachtaí cultúrtha ar fud an chontae. Gné ar leith den chlár ba ea an éagsúlacht chultúrtha a chuimsigh rannpháirtíocht grúpaí rince agus córúla Indiacha, Úcránach agus Afracach a bhí lonnaithe i nDún na nGall chomh maith le léirithe focal labhartha agus téatair ag ealaíontóirí áitiúla Éireannacha, as an Afraic Theas, as an tSiombáib, as Tóga agus as an tSomáil.

Infheistíocht a dhéanamh i gCruthú Saothar Ealaíne Nua

Thacaigh an tSeirbhís Ealaíon le léiriú Ionad Ealaíon Balor de dhráma nua Shaun Byrne, *One Night at Glenlough*, le Charlie Bonner (Stiúrthóir), Frankie McCafferty agus Aidan Moriarty, a rinne machnamh ar thuras Dylan Thomas ag Glenlough, Gleann Cholm Cille i samhradh na bliana 1935. Thacaigh an tSeirbhís freisin le clár saothar nua le Carolina Cabanas, Polina Shapkina, Janelle Peters, Emma Pool agus Holly Treddenick, mar chuid d'Fhéile Rince Aer Éireann.

Tugadh tacaíocht agus ardán do léiriúchán Carnival Inis Eoghain do Pharáid Fhéile Pádraig Bhaile Átha Cliath, *Critters*, mar lárphiosa den Oíche Chultúir, agus tugadh cúnamh don Bluestack Chorale a Fhéile Ceoldráma Thamhnach an tSalainn a chur i láthair i mí Iúil.

Culture Night

The Culture Division presented its 16th annual Culture Night celebration which generated some 6,500 visits to cultural venues and events around the county. Cultural diversity was a particular feature of the programme which included participation by Donegal based Indian, Ukrainian, and African dance and choral groups as well as spoken word and theatre performances by locally based Irish, South African, Zimbabwean, Togolese, and Somalian artists.

Investing in the Creation of New Artistic Work

The Arts Service supported the Balor Arts Centre's production of Shaun Byrne's new play, *One Night at Glenlough*, with Charlie Bonner (Director), Frankie McCafferty and Aidan Moriarty, which reflected on Dylan Thomas' sojourn at Glenlough, Glencolmcille in the summer of 1935. The Service also supported the programme of new works by Carolina Cabanas, Polina Shapkina, Janelle Peters, Emma Pool and Holly Treddenick, part of the Irish Aerial Dance Festival.

Inishowen Carnival's production for the Dublin St. Patrick's Festival Parade, *Critters*, was supported and platformed as a centrepiece of Culture Night, while the Bluestack Chorale was assisted to present its Mountcharles Opera Festival in July.



AMHARCLANN AN GHRIANÁIN

Rinne Amharclann An Grianán ceiliúradh ar 25 bliain i gcoirílár an phobail le Taispeántas Scéalaíochta An Grianán a bhí coimeádaithe go speisialta agus Ceolchoirm Mhór Comóradh 25 le Moya Brennan, Muireann Bradley, Grúpa Ceoil agus Drámaíochta Leitir Ceanainn, Geamaireacht Leitir Ceanainn agus Cumainn Cheoil, Little John Nee, The John D.

I measc bhuaicphointí an chláir bhí an comhléiriú de dhráma Ultan Pringle, Boyfriends, a bhain taitneamh as ritheanna díolta amach ag An Grianán agus ag Project Arts Centre i mBaile Átha Cliath. Bhí Ultan ina Scríbhneoir Cónaithe san amharclann fosta, ag cuidiú le scríbhneoirí áitiúla le forbairt ságartha. Thacaigh an amharclann fosta le greann íontach Aoife Sweeney O'Connor atá ag teacht in aois, An Evening with Wee Daniel, agus bhí an pianódóir So Young Yoon mar Ealaíontóir Cónaithe an Chompántas Ceoil Seiftithe, ag obair leis an fhidléir ó Dhún na nGall Seamus Gibson.

I measc imeachtaí a tháinig ar ais, bhí Trad Week agus the Sound! Féile Fuaimrian Scannán leis an RCC, féilte na Coimeádaithe Óga First Coicís agus Lasta agus an 15ú Féile Rince Éireannach faoi stiúir Fidget Feet.

Reachtáil an Theatre Plaza athchóirithe sraith imeachtaí pobail lena n-áirítear Bród Leitir Ceanainn, Lá na hAfraice, agus Mela Dhún na nGall.

IONAD EALAÍON NA MAINISTREACHA

Chuir Ionad Ealaíon na Mainistreach i mBéal Átha Seanaidh clár gnóthach scannán, téatar, ceoil agus grinn i láthair. I measc na mbuaicphointí bhí an 71ú Féile Drámaíochta Bhéal Átha Seanaidh i mí an Mhárta agus seónna grinn le Dylan Moran, Pat and Faye Shortt agus Conal Gallen chomh maith le rogha imeachtaí ceoil lena n-áirítear Remembering Ronnie, léirithe ag mac Ronnie Drew, Phelim; Agallamh i gcuimhne Dave Fanning le Donal Gallagher mar chuid d'Fhéile Ómós Idirnáisiúnta Rory Gallagher agus ceiliúradh Gradam Gnóthachtála Saoil sa Cheol Fhéile Rhythm agus Gormacha Bhéal Átha Seanaidh ar an ngiotáraí rac-cheoil iomráiteach Éireannach, Pat McManus.

AN GHRIANÁN THEATRE

An Grianán Theatre celebrated 25 years at the heart of the community with a specially curated Story of An Grianán Exhibition and a 25th Anniversary Gala Concert with Moya Brennan, Muireann Bradley, Letterkenny Music and Drama Group, Letterkenny Pantomime and Musical Societies, Little John Nee, John D. Ruddy and The Henry Girls.

Among the programme highlights was the co-production of Ultan Pringle's play, Boyfriends, which enjoyed sold-out runs at An Grianán and Dublin's Project Arts Centre. Ultan was also the theatre's Writer-in-Residence, assisting local writers with play development. The theatre also supported Aoife Sweeney O'Connor's coming-of-age queer comedy, An Evening with Wee Daniel, while pianist So Young Yoon was the Improvised Music Company Artist-in-Residence, working with Donegal fiddler Seamus Gibson.

Returning events included Trad Week and the Sound! Film Soundtrack Festival with the RCC, the First Fortnight and Lasta Young Curators festivals and the 15th Fidget Feet-led Irish Aerial Dance Festival.

The revamped Theatre Plaza hosted a series of community events including Letterkenny Pride, Africa Day, and the Donegal Mela.

ABBAY ARTS CENTRE

Ballyshannon's Abbey Arts Centre presented a busy programme of film, theatre, music, and comedy. Among the highlights were the 71st Ballyshannon Drama Festival in March and comedy shows with Dylan Moran, Pat and Faye Shortt and Conal Gallen as well as a selection of music themed events including Remembering Ronnie, performed by Ronnie Drew's son Phelim; Dave Fanning's memorable interview with Donal Gallagher as part of the Rory Gallagher International Tribute Festival and the Ballyshannon Rhythm and Blues Festival's Lifetime Achievement in Music Award celebration of legendary Irish rock guitarist, Pat McManus.



FÉILE EALAÍON AN EARAGAIL

Chuir an 37ú Féile Ealaíon an Earagail clár leathan i láthair ar bhain breis is 41,000 duine sult as agus bhí 346 ealaíontóir ann.

Sraith TG4

Mar thoradh ar chomhpháirtíocht na féile leis an chomhlacht léiriúcháin atá lonnaithe i nGaoth Dobhair, Aniar, bhí sraith seacht gclár eile do TG4, Ceol ón Earagail, a mheall breis agus 350,000 lucht féachana. I measc na n-ealaíontóirí a bhí i láthair bhí Fídl, Bríghde Chaimbeul, Aidan O'Rourke, Saileog Ní Cheannabháin, Lisa O'Neill agus go leor eile.

Sorcas, Ealaíona Sráide agus Taispeántas

I measc na n-imeachtaí i nGaoth Dobhair agus i gCaisleán na Finne bhí Sorcas an Tumble, Cabaret Uno, The Grannies agus Quentin Reynolds. Bhí an taibheoir sráide ón Chatalóin Joan Català ag Glebe House and Gallery ina bhuaicphointe ar leith.

An Gaeltacht agus na hOileáin

Mar chuid den tiomantas atá ann an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn trí imeachtaí Gaeltachta a reáchtáil, chuir an fhéile imeachtaí ar siúl in Iarthar Dhún na nGall lena n-áirítear an saothar rince den scoth, Fág do Lorg | Ná Fág Lorg, le Breandán de Gallaí agus Na Mic Ua gCorra agus Ériu, ar Oileán Ghabhla.

Ealaíontóirí ar Cuairt

I measc buaicphointí ó ealaíontóirí idirnáisiúnta, chomh maith le healaíontóirí seanbhunaithe agus ealaíontóirí Éireannacha atá ag teacht chun cinn, bhí Boubacar Traoré (Mali), Muireann Bradley, West Ocean String Quartet, Mohammad Syf Khan (An tSiria), Gazelleband (An Phalaistín/RA), Big Cheeks (Ruanda), Eoghan Ó Cheannabháin, Muireann Nic Amhlaoigh agus Bassekou Kouyate (Mali)).

EARAGAIL ARTS FESTIVAL

The 37th Earagail Arts Festival presented a wide-ranging programme which was enjoyed by over 41,000 people featuring some 346 artists.

TG4 Series

The festival's partnership with Gaoth Dobhair-based production company, Aniar, resulted in another seven-part series for TG4, Ceol ón Earagail, which attracted over 350,000 viewers. Artists featured included Fídl, Bríghde Chaimbeul, Aidan O'Rourke, Saileog Ní Cheannabháin, Lisa O'Neill and more.

Circus, Streets Arts and Spectacle

Events in Gaoth Dobhair and Castlefin featured Tumble Circus, Cabaret Uno, The Grannies and Quentin Reynolds. Catalan street performer Joan Català at Glebe House and Gallery was a particular highlight.

An Gaeltacht and Islands

In its commitment to promoting the Irish language by hosting Gaeltacht-based events, the festival presented events in West Donegal including the stellar dance work, Fág do Lorg | Ná Fág Lorg, by Breandán de Gallaí and Na Mic Ua gCorra and Ériu, on Oileán Ghabhla.

Touring Artists

Highlights of international artists, as well as established and emerging Irish artists, included Boubacar Traoré (Mali), Muireann Bradley, West Ocean String Quartet, Mohammad Syf Khan (Syria), Gazelleband (Palestine/UK), Big Cheeks (Rwanda), Eoghan Ó Cheannabháin, Muireann Nic Amhlaoigh and Bassekou Kouyate (Mali).



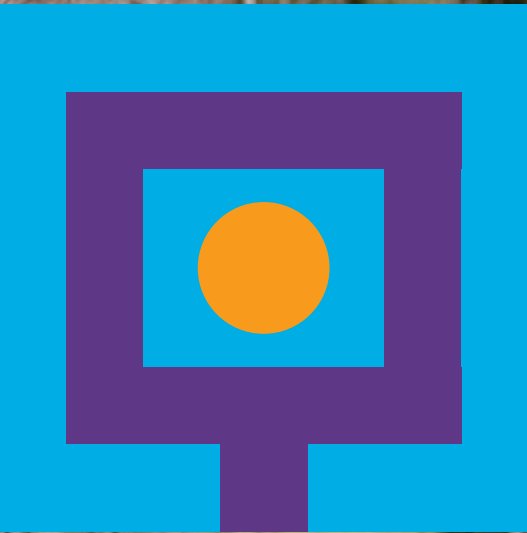
AN tIONAD CULTÚRTHA RÉIGIÚNACH

REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE



Tá an tIonad Cultúrtha Réigiúnach (RCC) ar a dtugtar “ar cheann de na háiseanna ealaíon is fearr sa tír” ag The Irish Times, ag soláthar clár cuimsitheach de ghníomhaíochtaí ealaíon agus pobail ar ardchaighdeán ó bunaíodh é in 2007. Faigheann an clár bríomhar seo tacaíocht ó mhaoiniú bliantúil ón Chomhairle Ealaíon, ó Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, agus deontais a bhaineann go sonrach le tionscadail ó fhoinsí éagsúla.

The Regional Cultural Centre (RCC) described as “one of the finest arts facilities in the country” by The Irish Times, has been delivering a comprehensive programme of high-quality arts and community activities since its inception in 2007. This vibrant programme is supported by annual funding from the Arts Council, Donegal County Council, and project-specific grants from a variety of sources.





Mol Ceolmhar

Tá cáil air mar cheann de na moil cheoil is ilúsáidí in Éirinn, agus lean an RCC lena chlár oideachais ceoil dinimiciúil i gcomhpháirtíocht le Comhpháirtíocht Oideachais Ceoil Dhún na nGall (DMEP). In 2024, chuir an DMEP oideachas ceoil ar fáil do 1,748 cónaitheoir i nDún na nGall, a chuimsíonn raon aoise suntasach idir 7 agus 70. I measc na gclár bhí Ceolfhoireann Óige Dhún na nGall, Ceolfhoireann Aireagail Dhún na nGall, Ceolfhoireann Teaghrán Sóisearach, agus ensemble éagsúla, a bhí go léir lonnaithe go bródúil ag an RCC.

Choimeád Sound Studio an RCC a chlár cónaitheachta ealaíontóra ceannródaíoch, ag tabhairt rochtain thar na bearta do cheoltóirí áitiúla, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta ar áiseanna den scoth lena gcuid oibre a fhorbairt agus a bheachtú.

Chomh maith leis sin, reáchtáil an RCC eispéiris agus féilte ceoil beo dodhearmadta le linn 2024, ag glacadh le seánraí ar nós na hÉireann traidisiúnta, rac-cheol, punc, bluegrass, ceol tíre, ceol domhanda, ceol tíre, clasaiceach, snagcheol agus electronica, rud a dhaingnigh a cháil mar fhealltóir cultúrtha.

A Musical Hub

Renowned as one of Ireland's most versatile music hubs, the RCC continued its dynamic music education programme in partnership with the Donegal Music Education Partnership (DMEP). In 2024, the DMEP provided music education to 1,748 Donegal residents, spanning an impressive age range of 7 to 70. Programmes included the Donegal Youth Orchestra, Donegal Chamber Orchestra, Junior String Orchestra, and various ensembles, all of which were proudly based at the RCC.

The RCC Sound Studio maintained its cutting-edge artist residency programme, offering local, national, and international musicians unparalleled access to world-class facilities to develop and refine their work.

In addition, the RCC hosted unforgettable live music experiences and festivals throughout 2024, embracing genres such as traditional Irish, rock, punk, bluegrass, country, world music, folk, classical, jazz, and electronica, further cementing its reputation as a cultural beacon.



Seachtain Cheoil Thraidisiúnta Leitir Ceanainn 2024

Bhí Seachtain Traidisiúnta Leitir Ceanainn 2024, ceiliúradh bliantúil ar cheol traidisiúnta, tíre agus domhanda na hÉireann, ar siúl ó 19 Eanáir go 31 Eanáir. Arna chur i láthair ag an RCC agus Amharclann an Grianán, chuir an fhéile taipéis shaibhir de thaibhithe agus d'imeachtaí pobail saor in aisce ar fáil. Ar na buaicphointí bhí Ceol na nÓg (Seisiún Traidisiúnta na nÓg), Pop-Up Gaeltacht & Trad Seisiún, agus dhá cheolchoirm am lóin san Eatery in Amharclann an Ghrianáin. Chuir ealaíontóirí den scoth ar nós Luka Bloom, Scullion, Rónán Ó Snodaigh, Arcanadh, Brigid Mae Power, Nodlaig Ní Bhrollaigh, agus Iarla Ó Lionáird léirithe iontacha ar siúl, rud a d'fhág go mairfeadh Seachtain Cheoil Thraidisiúnta 2024 sa chuimhne ar feadh i bhfad.

Letterkenny Trad Week 2024

Letterkenny Trad Week 2024, an annual celebration of Irish traditional, folk, and world music, took place from January 19th to 31st. Co-presented by the RCC and An Grianán Theatre, the festival offered a rich tapestry of performances and free community events. Highlights included Ceol na nÓg (Young People's Trad Session), a Pop-Up Gaeltacht & Trad Session, and two lunchtime concerts at The Eatery in An Grianán Theatre. World-class artists such as Luka Bloom, Scullion, Rónán Ó Snodaigh, Arcanadh, Brigid Mae Power, Nodlaig Ní Bhrollaigh, and Iarla Ó Lionáird delivered captivating performances, making Trad Week 2024 one to remember.

Na hAmharc-ealaíona

Lean an RCC ar aghaidh ag dul i bhfeidhm go mór lena chlár sár-amharcealaíon, a fuair léirmheasanna náisiúnta iontacha. I measc na dtaispeántais in 2024 bhí ealaíontóirí cumasacha ar nós Ann Quinn (Éire), Lorraine Tuck (Éire), Richard Noble (SAM), Serena Caulfield (Éire), Sarah Lewtas (RA), Kian Bensen Bailes (Éire), Sue Morris (RA), Hanna Pidkaliuk (Úcráin), Veronica Buchanan (Éire), Seamus Gallagher (Éire), Paul McCarthy, Seamus Gallagher (Éire), Seamus Gallagher (Éire), Paul McCarthy agus Seamus Gallagher (Éire). Chuir seónna grúpa le Conflict Textiles (An tSile), Club Grianghrafadóireachta Leitir Ceanainn, agus One Million Stars (Úcráin) tuilleadh doimhneachta le tairiscint an RCC.

Tugadh moladh ar leith do thaispeántas Ann Quinn, ina bhfuil pictiúir dhúisitheacha spreagtha ag a feirm in Oirthear Dhún na nGall. Mheall an seó breis agus 30 grúpa scoile ó 12 scoil, agus bhain an rannpháirtíocht is airde amach le linn a rith seacht seachtaine.

Amharclann RCC

Tháinig fás leanúnach ar chlub scannán an RCC in 2024, agus léiríodh scannáin idirnáisiúnta a bhain gradam amach gach seachtain a mheall lucht féachana áitiúil agus lucht féachana araon.

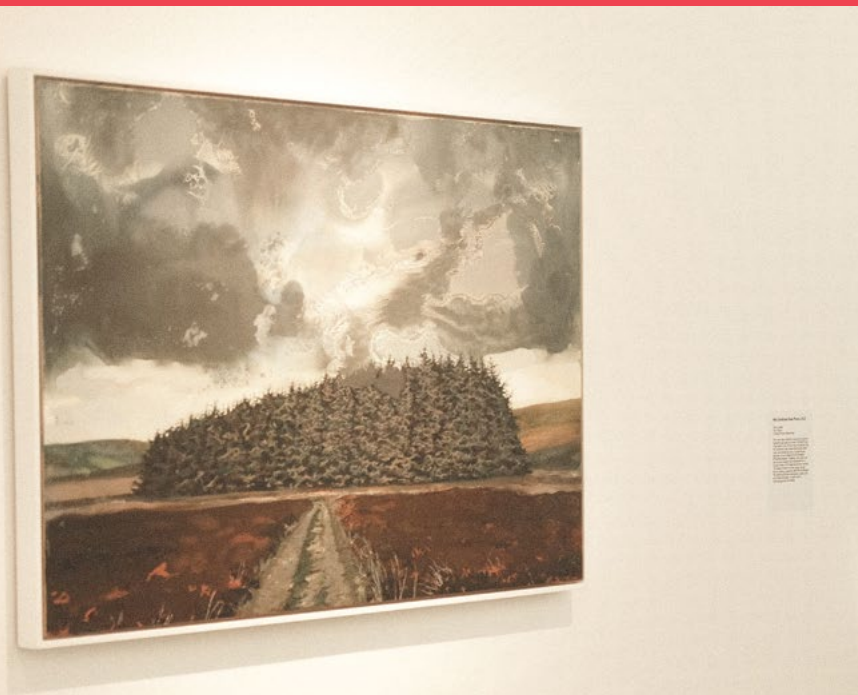
Visual Arts

The RCC continued to shine with its exceptional visual arts programme, which received glowing national reviews. Exhibitions in 2024 featured talented artists such as Ann Quinn (IRE), Lorraine Tuck (IRE), Richard Noble (US), Serena Caulfield (IRE), Sarah Lewtas (UK), Kian Bensen Bailes (IRE), Sue Morris (UK), Hanna Pidkaliuk (Ukraine), Veronica Buchanan (IRE), Seamus Gallagher (IRE), Paul Murray (IRE), Cara Donaghey (IRE), and Mórág McCafferty (IRE). Group shows by Conflict Textiles (Chile), the Letterkenny Photography Club, and One Million Stars (Ukraine) added further depth to the RCC's offering.

Particular praise was given to the Ann Quinn exhibition, featuring evocative paintings inspired by her farm in East Donegal. The show attracted over 30 school groups from 12 schools, achieving record engagement during its seven-week run.

RCC Cinema

The RCC's film club experienced continued growth in 2024, with biweekly screenings of award-winning international films that attracted local and visiting audiences alike.



Féile um Chur Chun Cinn Scannán agus Fuaime

Bhí cur chun cinn agus léiriúchán scannán go fóill lárnach do mhisean an RCC, le ceardlanna rialta agus imeachtaí líonraithe eagraithe i gcomhpháirtíocht le hOifig Scannán Dhún na nGall.

An Fhuaim! Rinneadh ceiliúradh san Fhéile Scannán Soundtrack ceiliúradh ar an trasnail idir ceol agus scannán i stíl iontach. Bhí an RCC agus Amharclann an Ghrianáin ina chomhóstaigh ar an chlár, agus taispeánadh scannáin íocónacha mar aon le scóir cheoil bheo, ceardlanna le cumadóirí agus dearthóirí fuaime, agus seisiúin chruthaitheacha do gach aoisghrúpa. Ba chloch mhíle don imeacht é a hainmniúchán don Fhéile is Fearr ag Gradaim Sármhaitheasa Rialtais Áitiúil 2024.

The Pig's Back

Bunaithe in 2021, lean an iris liteartha The Pig's Back ag bláthú in 2024. Bhí scríbhneoirí mór le rá as Éirinn ar nós Latifah Akay, Kevin Breathnach, Kimberley Campanello, Laura Cassidy, Gary Grace, Kate Kiernan, agus Alexandra Ye ag scríobh sa chúigiú eagrán.

Cuireadh an iris ar fáil i bpríomhchathracha mar Leitir Ceanainn, Baile Átha Cliath, Gaillimh, Béal Feirste, Doire, Glaschú agus Dún Éideann agus is amhlaidh go raibh teacht ag níos mó daoine uirthi dá bharr. Méadaíodh díolacháin ar líne a lucht éisteachta go breis agus 12 thír, rud a dhaingnigh a tharraingteacht idirnáisiúnta.

Féile Punc Culture Shocks

Imeacht shuntasach i 2024 ba ea an fhéile cheoil Culture Shocks a díoladh amach i Leitir Ceanainn, a d'eagraigh Martin McIntyre and Rebellious Jukebox de chuid an RCC. Arna maoiniú trí Scéim Phíolótach Imeachtaí ar Siúl Déanach san Oíche de chuid na Roinne Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán na Roinne, chuir an fhéile dhá oíche de thaibhithe ardhuinnimh ar fáil, lena n-áirítear bannaí mór le rá ar nós 999, The Outcasts, agus Paranoid Visions.

Chomh maith le ceol beo, bhí taispeántas cartlainne Downtown Dancer, léiriúcháin scannán, cainteanna, agus tacair DJ déanach san oíche mar chuid den fhéile. Thaistil lucht leanúna na rac-cheoil ó áiteanna ar fud na hÉireann agus na Ríochta Aontaithe leis an ócáid chultúrtha uathúil seo a cheiliúradh.

Film Promotion and Sound! Festival

Film promotion and production remained central to the RCC's mission, with regular workshops and networking events organised in partnership with the Donegal Film Office.

The Sound! Soundtrack Film Festival celebrated the intersection of music and film in spectacular style. Co-hosted by the RCC and An Grianán Theatre, it featured screenings of iconic films paired with live musical scores, workshops by composers and sound designers, and creative sessions for all ages. Its nomination for Best Festival at the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024 marked a milestone for the event.

The Pig's Back

Founded in 2021, The Pig's Back literary journal continued to flourish in 2024. Its fifth issue featured prominent Irish writers such as Latifah Akay, Kevin Breathnach, Kimberley Campanello, Laura Cassidy, Gary Grace, Kate Kiernan, and Alexandra Ye.

Expanding its reach, the journal became available in key cities like Letterkenny, Dublin, Galway, Belfast, Derry, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. Online sales extended its audience to over 12 countries, solidifying its international appeal.

Culture Shocks Punk Festival

A standout moment in 2024 was the sold-out Culture Shocks music festival in Letterkenny, organised by RCC's Martin McIntyre and Rebellious Jukebox. Funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Late-Night Events Pilot Scheme, the festival delivered two nights of high-energy performances, including legendary bands such as 999, The Outcasts, and Paranoid Visions.

In addition to live music, the festival featured a Downtown Dancer archive exhibition, film screenings, talks, and late-night DJ sets. Fans of punk rock travelled from across Ireland and the U.K. to celebrate this unique cultural event.

MÚSAEM CONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM

Tríd Sheirbhís na Músaem, déanann Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall caomhnú agus ceiliúradh ar chomhchuimhne an chontae agus a phobail, trí dhéantáin a bhaineann le stair Dhún na nGall a chaomhnú, a thaispeáint agus a léirmhíniú.

Through the Museum Service, Donegal County Council conserves and celebrates the collective memory of the county and its communities, by preserving, displaying, and interpreting artefacts related to the history of Donegal.



Clár Taispeántais

D'eagraigh an Músaem clár éagsúil taispeántas sa Mhúsaem agus in ionaid eile.

Lean Taispeántas Thithe na mBocht Chontae Dhún na nGall a bhí á choimeád ag an Mhúsaem agus ag Seirbhís Chartlann an Chontae go dtí Aibreán. Ag baint úsáide as cartlanna agus grianghraif, d'inis an taispeántas scéal thithe na mbocht i nDún na nGall ón Drochshaol go dtí gur dúnadh iad i 1923. Maoiníodh é trí Scéim Taispeántais na Músaem Réigiúnacha faoin Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus na Meán. Bhí leagan camchuairte den taispeántas ar taispeáint fosta i Músaem Theach na mBocht, Dún Fionnachaidh.

I mí Feabhra, sheol an Músaem a thaispeántas le Suirbhé Seandálaíochta Chontae Dhún na nGall a cheiliúradh, suirbhé ceannródaíoch a rinneadh breis is 40 bliain ó shin. Ba é Contae Dhún na nGall an chéad chontae in Éirinn a ndearnadh suirbhé iomlán ar a shuíomhanna seandálaíochta agus a foilsíodh i bhfoirm leabhair. Insíonn an taispeántas seo scéal an tsuirbhé agus cuimsíonn sé rogha íomhánna de shuíomhanna seandálaíochta ar fud an chontae. Bhí an Músaem ina óstach fosta ar chaint ar Shuirbhéireacht Seandálaíochta Chontae Dhún na nGall leis an Dr Brian Lacey, Dé Sathairn 20 Aibreán. Ba é an Dr Lacey Stiúrthóir bunaidh an tsuirbhé. Is é Músaem Chontae Dhún na nGall baile Shuirbhé Seandálaíochta Chontae Dhún na nGall agus fuair sé Maoiniú Maoirseachta Oidhreachtá ón gComhairle Oidhreachtá chun sleamhnáin agus líníochtaí an tsuirbhé a dhigitiú agus chun an taispeántas a chruthú.

I mí Aibreáin, d'óstáil an Músaem taispeántas tarraingteach ealaíne – 'Pysanky in Ireland' i gcomhar le hIonad Saorálaithe Dhún na nGall. Taispeánann an taispeántas taispeántais Pysanky, traidisiún náisiúnta uibheacha péinteáilte na hÚcráine agus ligeann sé do chuairoteoirí dul i ngleic le taipéis shaibhir oidhreacht chultúrtha na hÚcráine.

Ó Bhealtaine go Meitheamh, osclaíodh an taispeántas "An Olympic Journey" sa Mhúsaem. Léirigh an cnuasach uathúil seo de phóstaeir Oilimpeacha na cluichí ó 1896 – 2021.

Exhibition Programme

The Museum organised a varied programme of exhibitions both in the Museum and in other venues.

The Workhouses of County Donegal exhibition which was curated by the Museum and the County Archives Service continued until April. Using archives and photographs, the exhibition told the story of the Donegal workhouses from the Great Famine to their closure in 1923. It was funded through the Regional Museums Exhibition Scheme under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. A touring version of the exhibition was also on display in the Workhouse Museum, Dunfanaghy.

In February, the Museum launched its exhibition celebrating the Archaeological Survey of County Donegal, a pioneering survey which took place over 40 years ago. County Donegal was the first county in Ireland to have a full survey of its archaeological sites undertaken and published in book form. This exhibition tells the story of the survey and includes a selection of images of archaeological sites from all around the county. The Museum also hosted a talk on the Archaeological Survey of County Donegal by Dr Brian Lacey, on Saturday 20th April. Dr Lacey was the original Director of the Survey. Donegal County Museum is the home of the Archaeological Survey of County Donegal and received Heritage Stewardship Funding from the Heritage Council to digitise the survey slides and drawings and to create the exhibition.

In April, the Museum hosted a captivating art exhibition – 'Pysanky in Ireland' in collaboration with the Donegal Volunteer Centre. The exhibition showcases Pysanky, the Ukrainian national painted eggs tradition and invited visitors to delve into the rich tapestry of Ukrainian cultural heritage.

From May to June, the exhibition "An Olympic Journey" opened in the Museum. This unique collection of Olympic posters represented the games from 1896 – 2021.

Also, in May the Museum hosted the exhibition 'A Trek Through Time' curated by the Archives Service of Donegal County Council which showcases highlights from the County Archives collection.



Chomh maith leis sin, i mí na Bealtaine d'óstáil an Músaem an taispeántas 'A Trek Through Time' arna choimeád ag Seirbhís Chartlainne Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall a thaispeánann buaicphointí ó bhailiúchán Chartlann an Chontae.

Ó Iúil go Nollaig, agus mar chuid d'Fhéile Ealaíon an Earagail, d'eagraigh Músaem Chontae Dhún na nGall taispeántas de shaothair an ghrianghrafadóir Declan Doherty dar teideal, 'Life Through A Lens.' Tá Declan ar dhuine de na grianghrafadóirí gairmiúla is mó taithí agus aitheanta i nDún na nGall. D'oibrigh sé mar phreas-ghrianghrafadóir leis an Donegal News ar feadh breis agus 40 bliain ó 1979 – 2023 agus cuireann sé go rialta le nuachtáin náisiúnta na hÉireann.

Lean an Músaem lena chomhpháirtíocht le hIonad Oibrithe Deonacha Dhún na nGall le comórtas grianghrafadóireachta agus taispeántas a sholáthar a rinne ceiliúradh ar Obair Dheonach sa Phobal.

I mí Mheán Fómhair agus i mí Dheireadh Fómhair, rinne an Músaem óstáil ar an taispeántas Peace Heroines. Déanann an taispeántas taistil seo atá á choimeád ag HerStory, ceiliúradh ar ról na mban ón ghnáthphobal go dtí leibhéal an rialtais i gcothú na síochána i dTuaisceart Éireann thar theorainneacha, deighiltí polaitiúla agus reiligiúnacha.

From July to December, and as part of the Earagail Arts Festival, Donegal County Museum organised an exhibition of the works of photojournalist Declan Doherty entitled, 'Life Through A Lens.' Declan is one of Donegal's most experienced and well-known professional photographers. He worked as a press photographer with the Donegal News for over 40 years from 1979 – 2023 and is a regular contributor to Ireland's national newspapers.

The Museum continued its partnership with the Donegal Volunteer Centre to deliver a photographic competition and exhibition which celebrated Volunteering in the Community.

In September and October, the Museum hosted the exhibition Peace Heroines. This travelling exhibition curated by HerStory, celebrates the role of women from grassroots up to government levels in the building of peace in Northern Ireland across borders, political and religious divides.

Clár Imeachtaí an Mhúsaem

I rith na bliana d'eagraigh an Músaem clár imeachtaí sa Mhúsaem agus in ionaid ar fud an chontae agus ghlac sé páirt i gclár na n-imeachtaí sin.

Le linn Fhéile na Bealtaine, rinne na Seirbhísí Iarsmalainne agus Cartlainne sraith Seisiún Meabhrúcháin in ionaid sna Cealla Beaga, i mBaile na Finne, i gCúil na gCuirridín agus i gCluain Maine.

Le linn Sheachtain na hOidhreachta, réachtáil an Músaem roinnt imeachtaí lena n-áirítear Stair Bhéil Do Bunrang leis an Dr Arlene Crampsie; Dhún na nGall – A History of its People and Culture le Charlie Gallagher; agus imeacht mar chuid de thionscadal DACCHE.

D'Oíche Chultúir d'eagraigh an Músaem imeacht staire beo le Nora Gallagher (aka Maura Logue) agus Laoch Ceilteach (aka Charlie Gallagher) agus réachtáil sé taispeántas ag ceiliúradh ár n-oidhreacht iarnróid sa Stáisiún Bus i Leitir Ceanainn.

Mar chuid de Wainfest réachtáil an Músaem sraith ceardlann le Charlie Gallagher, dar teideal 'From Hunting to Warriors - History and development of arms and combat in Ireland.'

D'óstáil an Músaem fosta lá allamuigh de chuid Chumann Staire Chontae Dhún na nGall, arbh é a bhí ann ná caint le Hugh Devlin, mar chomóradh ar chomóradh céad bliain ar an stailc a tharla in Ospidéal Naomh Conaill i 1924; Imeacht Blas ar an Ghaeilge do sheachtain Uilechuimsitheacht Shóisialta; seoladh Féile Liteartha Ceathrún na hArdeaglaise; cainteanna ar an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda leis an Chol.(ar scor) Declan O'Carroll agus Caroline Carr le Lá an tSaoiste a chomóradh i gcomhar le Grúpa Oidhreachta Pobail Leitir Ceanainn; agus thug sé cainteanna éagsúla do ghrúpaí ar fud an lathuaiscirt.

Museum Events Programme

Throughout the year the Museum organised and participated in a programme of events both in the Museum and in venues throughout the county.

During the Bealtaine Festival, the Museum and Archives Services delivered a series of Reminiscence Sessions in venues in Killybegs, Fintown, Killygordon and Clonmany.

During Heritage Week, the Museum ran several events including Oral History For Beginners with Dr Arlene Crampsie; Donegal – A History of its People and Culture with Charlie Gallagher; and an event as part of the DACCHE project.

For Culture Night the Museum organised a living history event with Nora Gallagher (aka Maura Logue) and a Celtic Warrior (aka Charlie Gallagher) and held an exhibition celebrating our railway heritage in the Bus Station in Letterkenny.

As part of Wainfest the Museum held a series of workshops with Charlie Gallagher, entitled 'From Hunting to Warriors - History and development of weapons and combat in Ireland.'

The Museum also hosted a County Donegal Historical Society field day which was a talk by Hugh Devlin, to commemorate the centenary of the strike that took place at St. Conal's Hospital in 1924; a Social Inclusion week Irish Language Taster Event; the launch of the Cathedral Quarter Literary Festival; talks on World War I by Col.(ret.d) Declan O'Carroll and Caroline Carr to commemorate Armistice Day in conjunction with the Letterkenny Community Heritage Group; and also delivered a variety of talks to groups throughout the Northwest.





Tionscadail Músaem

D'oibrigh an Músaem ar roinnt tionscadal i rith na bliana lena n-áirítear an tionscadal Working Over By Donegal/Scotland, taispeántas Comóradh 25 An Grianán, taispeántas ar chomóradh céad bliain Rialtas Áitiúil in Éirinn agus léiriú an taispeántais, A Common Humanity Full Circle an Ann Doherty Collection.

Gníomhaíocht Dhigiteach ar Athrú Aeráide le Timpeallachtaí Oidhreachta (DACCHE)

Lean an Músaem ar aghaidh lena chuid oibre ar thionscadal Chlár Forimill Thuaisceart an AE agus an Chláir Ealaíne de chuid an AE um Gníomhaíocht Dhigiteach ar Athrú Aeráide le Timpeallachtaí Oidhreachta (DACCHE) arna éascú ag Kate Robb ó John Cronin and Associates.

Is é cuspóir foriomlán an tionscadail DACCHE ná cumas pobal beag agus eagraíochtaí oidhreachta a thógáil le haghaidh oiriúnú don athrú aeráide, maolú agus athléimneacht trí imscrúdú agus léiriú a dhéanamh ar an dóigh ar féidir le réitigh dhigiteacha agus teicneolaíochtaí atá ag teacht chun cinn feabhas a chur ar rannpháirtíocht shóisialta agus athruithe iompraíochta sochaíocha a bheith mar thoradh orthu <https://www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/dacche/>.

Tá eagraíochtaí comhpháirtíochta sa tSualainn, san Iorua, agus in Éirinn - an tSualainn (Fondúireacht Jamtli – Comhpháirtí Ceannais; Lárionad Nordach um Fhoghlaim Oidhreachta & Cruthaitheachta), an Iorua (Ollscoil Nord; Tindved Kulturhage), Éire (Músaem Contae Dhún na nGall)

In 2024 aithníodh trí shuíomh, mar aon le grúpaí pobail áitiúla gaolmhara. Is iad sin:

1. Inis Caoil, Port Nua agus baill den phobal ar spéis leo
2. Caisleán Mhic Shuibhne, Rinn Naomh Eoin agus Pobal Dhún Cionnaola Teo
3. Grúpa Staire agus Oidhreachta Inis Eoghain Thiar, An Port Bán/An Tóin Dubh, An Dún Riabhach

Ghlac na grúpaí pobail páirt i dtaighde, i ndoiciméadú agus in insint scéal a láithreáin oidhreachta. Reáchtáladh roinnt imeachtaí i rith na bliana agus d'óstaigh an Músaem cruinniú de chuid Comhpháirtithe an tionscadail i mí Dheireadh Fómhair.

Museum Projects

The Museum worked on a number of projects throughout the year including the Working Over By Donegal/Scotland project, the An Grianán 25th Anniversary exhibition, an exhibition on the centenary of Local Government in Ireland and the display of the exhibition, 'A Common Humanity: Full Circle' the Ann Doherty Collection in PRONI, Belfast

Digital Action on Climate Change with Heritage Environments (DACCHE)

The Museum continued its work on the EU Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme project Digital Action on Climate Change with Heritage Environments (DACCHE) facilitated by Kate Robb of John Cronin and Associates.

The overall objective of the DACCHE project is to build capacity of small communities and heritage organisations for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience by investigating and demonstrating how digital solutions and emergent technologies can improve social engagement and lead to societal behavioural changes <https://www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/dacche/>.

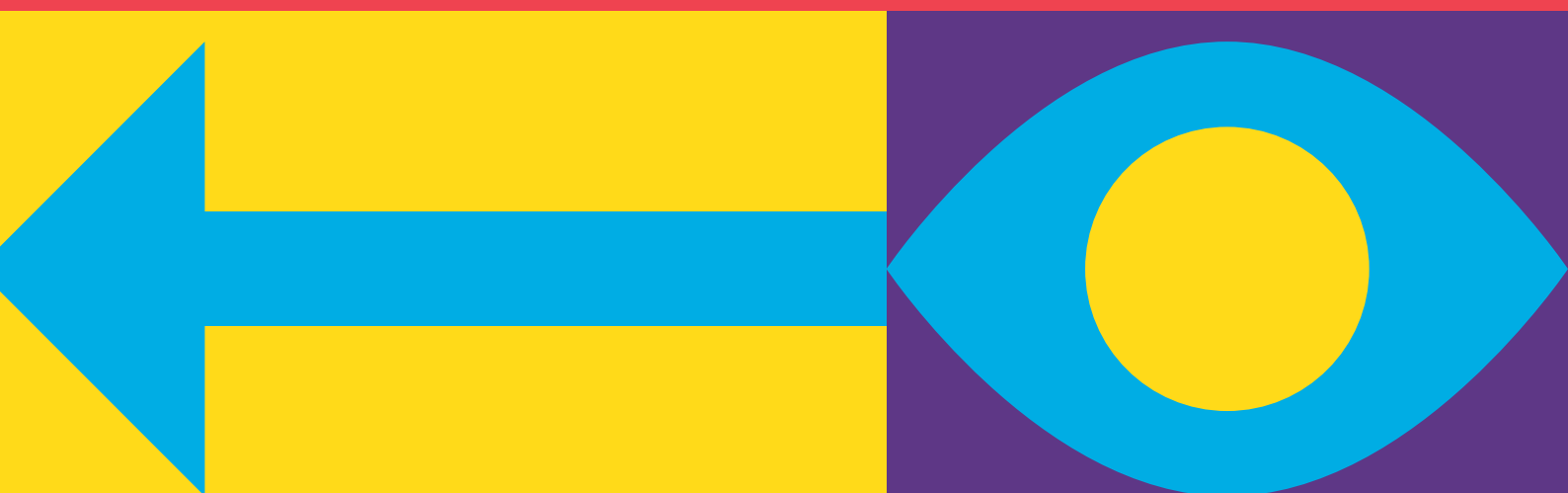
Partner organisations are in Sweden, Norway, and Ireland - Sweden (Jamtli Foundation – Lead Partner; Nordic Centre of Heritage Learning & Creativity), Norway (Nord University; Tindved Kulturhage), Ireland (Donegal County Museum)

In 2024 three locations were identified, together with associated local community groups. These are:

1. Inishkeel Island, Portnoo and interested community members
2. McSwyne's castle, St. John's Point and Dunkineely Community Ltd
3. Portbane/Tonduff, Dunree, West Inishowen History and Heritage Group

The community groups took part in researching, documenting, and telling the story of their heritage site. A number of events were held during the year and the Museum hosted a Partner meeting of the project in October.

SEIRBHÍS CARTLAINNE ARCHIVES SERVICE



Is é sainchúram na Seirbhíse Cartlainne oidhreacht chartlainne mhuintir Chontae Dhún na nGall a chaomhnú agus a chur ar fáil do na glúnta seo agus do na glúnta atá le teacht. Déanann sé é seo trí bhailiúcháin de bhunús poiblí agus príobháideach a bhaineann le stair agus cultúr Dhún na nGall a fháil, a chatalógú, a chaomhnú, a dhigitiú agus a stóráil go slán, agus trí rochtain phoiblí ar a chartlanna a sholáthar. Oibríonn an tSeirbhís Cartlainne i gcomhpháirtíocht le go leor grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí poiblí agus príobháideacha. Cheiliúir an tSeirbhís Cartlainne a 25ú bliain in 2024.

The Archives Service's remit is to preserve and make accessible the archival heritage of the people of County Donegal for present and future generations. It does this through the acquisition, cataloguing, conserving, digitisation, and secure storage of collections of public and private origin which relate to the history and culture of Donegal, and through the provision of public access to its archives. The Archives Service works in partnership with many public and private groups and organisations. The Archives Service celebrated its 25th year in 2024.



Donegal Castle

County Donegal



Na Cartlanna & Taifid a bhainistiú

Tugadh cuidiú do thaighdeoirí ag seomra léitheoireachta na Cartlainne, ar an ghuthán, trí ríomhphost agus trí na meáin shóisialta in 2024, lena n-áirítear iad siúd ar spéis leo stair teaghlaigh agus stair áitiúil. I measc na dtaighdeoirí bhí mic léinn dara agus tríú leibhéal, lucht acadúil, ginealaithe, grúpaí staire agus iriseoirí. Rinne an tSeirbhís bainistiú fosta ar thaifid neamhreacha Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, ag tabhairt comhairle, agus ag déanamh moltaí maidir le caomhnú na gcartlann. Chuidigh an cartlannaí leis an fhoireann le taifid údaráis áitiúil (neamhchartlainne) a choinneáil, a chur i gcartlann agus a dhiúscairt. Rinneadh aistrithe móra taifead idir a taisclanna in 2024 agus rinneadh mórthionscadal ina cuireadh an t-ábhar i mboscaí.

Lean an tSeirbhís Chartlainne ar aghaidh ag lorg cóiríocht bhuan do bhailiúchán cartlainne an Chontae agus do thaifid neamhreacha. In 2024, ceapadh seirbhís ailtireachta sheachtrach, agus cuireadh coiste ar bun agus tháinig sé le chéile go rialta i rith na bliana, leis an tionscadal a bhfuiltear ag súil a shlánóidh Scoil na bPrioirí i Leifear a thabhairt chun cinn agus leis an tionscadal a fhorbairt mar Ionad Cartlainne an Chontae amach anseo.

Managing the Archives & Records

Researchers were assisted at the Archives reading room, by phone, email and through social media in 2024, including those interested in family and local history. Researchers included students at second and third level, academics, genealogists, history groups and journalists. The Service also managed Donegal County Council's non-current records, giving advice, and making recommendations regarding the preservation of archives. The archivist assisted staff with the retention, archiving and disposal of (non-archival) local authority records. Large transfers of records between its repositories took place in 2024 and a major re-boxing project was carried out.

The Archives Service continued to seek permanent accommodation for both the County archives collection and for non-current records. In 2024, an external architectural service was appointed, and a committee was set up and met regularly during the year, to further the project which it is hoped will secure the Prior School in Lifford and progress the project developing it as a future County Archives Centre.

Taispeántais & Imeachtaí

Rinneadh feachtais leis an tSeirbhís Cartlainne a chur chun cinn ar na meáin shóisialta le linn Sheachtain Fiosraigh Do Chartlann agus imeachtaí agus féilte eile i rith na bliana.

Taispeánadh taispeántais chamchuaire ag roinnt ionad. Chuir an tSeirbhís Cartlainne cartlanna amach i measc an phobail agus rinne cur i láthair ar théarmaí éagsúla stairiúla. Cuireadh taispeántas de chuid Ghrúpa Cartlannaithe Rialtais Áitiúil (LGARM) ar taispeánt i dTeach an Chontae ag comóradh 125 bliain de rialtas áitiúil nua-aimseartha. Mar chuid den taispeántas, foilsíodh leabhrán comórtha i gcomhar leis an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil & Oidhreacht. Chuidigh an tSeirbhís Cartlainne le taispeántas Comóradh 25 Bliain Amharclann an Grianáin. Le linn bliana ina raibh toghcháin náisiúnta agus áitiúla, chuir an Chartlann taispeántas i láthair ar an téama Toghcháin i nDún na nGall ag an Chartlann i Leifear. Chomhoibhig an tSeirbhís fosta leis an Mhúsaem ar na taispeántais a bhí acu amach anseo.

I mí na Bealtaine, ghlac an cartlannaí páirt i bhféile Bealtaine, in éineacht leis an Mhúsaem, ag tabhairt cartlanna agus déantáin chuig ionaid lae agus grúpaí pobail eile do sheisiúin chuimhneacháin Past in the Present ar fud an chontae.

Tharla mór-chomhoibriú idir an Chartlann, an Músaem, agus Oifig Taifead Poiblí Thuaisceart Éireann (PRONI), Béal Feirste in 2024. Taispeánadh rogha de shaothar saoil an fhótairiseora idirnáisiúnta Ann Doherty A Common Humanity in PRONI i ndiaidh cuireadh uathu. Labhair an cartlannaí ag an seoladh i mí Mheán Fómhair. Cuireadh cartlann fhairsing ghrianghraif Ann Doherty i dtaisce sa Chartlann cúpla bliain ó shin.

Digitíú ar an tSeanchas

Le maoiniú ó Chiste Maoirseachta na Comhairle Oidhreacht agus ó Éire Ildánach, rinne tan tSeirbhís Cartlainne digitíú ar roinnt bailiúcháin seanchais agus béaloidis. Ba iad seo na taifeadtaí seanchais a bhronn Anne McMenamin agus Mary Phelan, an Donegal Folklore project (1990s) agus an chartlann béaloidis Sheoirse Uí Dhochartaigh. Ceapadh an comhlacht Crystal Media leis an obair seo a dhéanamh. Mar chuid den tionscadal, rinne an Dr Arlene Crampsie Ceardlann ar Introduction to Oral History do phobail agus do ghrúpaí oidhreacht, don tSeachtain Oidhreacht, sa Mhúsaem.

Exhibitions & Events

Campaigns to promote the Archives Service took place on social media during Explore Your Archive Week and other events and festivals during the year.

Touring exhibitions were displayed at a number of venues. The Archives Service brought archives out to groups and gave presentations on a variety of historical themes. A Local Government Archivists Group (LGARM) exhibition commemorating 125 years of modern local government was exhibited in County House. To accompany it, a commemorative booklet was published in collaboration with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The Archives Service contributed to An Grianán Theatre's 25 Year Anniversary exhibition. During a year that included national and local elections, the Archives presented an exhibition on the theme of Elections in Donegal at the Archives in Lifford. The Service also collaborated with the Museum on their upcoming exhibitions.

In May, the archivist took part in the festival of Bealtaine, along with the Museum, bringing archives and artefacts to day centres and other community groups for Past in the Present reminiscence sessions across the county.

A major collaboration between the Archives, Museum, and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), Belfast took place in 2024. A selection of international photojournalist Ann Doherty's life work A Common Humanity was exhibited in PRONI at their invitation. The archivist spoke at the launch in September. The extensive archive of Ann Doherty's photographs had been deposited in the Archives a few years ago.

Oral History Digitisation

With funding from the Heritage Council's Stewardship Fund and from Creative Ireland, the Archives Service digitised several oral history and folklore collections. These were the oral history recordings donated by Anne McMenamin and Mary Phelan, the Donegal Folklore project (1990s) and the Seoirse Ó Dochartaigh folklore archive. The company Crystal Media was appointed to carry out this work. As part of the project, Dr Arlene Crampsie gave an Introduction to Oral History workshop for communities and heritage groups, for Heritage Week, at the Museum.



Forbairt na mBailiúchán

I measc na mbailiúchán a cuireadh i dtaisce sa Chartlann in 2024 bhí: taifid toghcháin lena n-áirítear ábhar feachtais ó thoghcháin 2024; taifid ghnó agus trádála lena n-áirítear ó Sweeny's Hotel i mBéal Átha Seanaidh; cartún Donegal Vindicator; páipéir mhuintir Harveys Bhéal Átha Seanaidh; cnuasach grianghraf digiteach a bhaineann le Féile Mháire an Chlocháin Léith; taifeadtaí staire béil ó phobal LGBTQ+ Dhún na nGall; agus dhá bhailiúchán shuntasacha ó staraithe áitiúla. Bhí tabhartais níos lú ann fosta. Ullmhaíodh bailiúcháin eile le haghaidh digitithe i rith na bliana.

Tugadh conradh do chartlannaí ar feadh tréimhse ghearr le bailiúchán de ghníomhais agus de dhoiciméid dhlíthiúla Thiarna Liatroma a phróiseáil, a shórtáil agus a liostú. I measc na mbailiúchán eile a liostaíodh i mbliana bhí cláir scoile agus leabhair rolla, Comhairle Baile Bhéal Átha Seanaidh (tráinse 2) agus Comhairle Ceantair Uirbeach Bhun Cranncha (tráinse 2) go páirteach.

Collection Development

Among the collections deposited in the Archives in 2024 were: electoral records including campaigning material from the 2024 elections; business and trade records including from Sweeney's Hotel in Ballyshannon; Donegal Vindicator cartoons; family papers of the Harveys of Ballyshannon; a digital photographic collection relating to the 'Mary from Dungloe' Festival; oral history recordings from the LGBTQ+ Donegal community; and two significant collections from local historians. There were also other smaller donations. Other collections were prepared for digitisation during the year.

An archivist was contracted for a short period to process, sort and list the Lord Leitrim collection of legal deeds and documents. Other collections listed this year included school registers and rollbooks, Ballyshannon Town Council (tranche 2) and Buncrana Urban District Council (tranche 2) in part.



Comhoibriú le hEagraíochtaí Seachtracha

Chomhoibrigh an cartlannaí, mar aon le baill eile Ghrúpa Cartlannaithe agus Bainisteoirí Taifead Rialtais Áitiúil, le cartlannaithe áitiúla eile, an Chomhairle Oidhreachta, an Chartlann Náisiúnta, LGMA, TUSLA, Ranna rialtais, Cumann na gCartlann agus na dTaifead (ARA) agus comhlachtaí eile ar thionscadail náisiúnta éagsúla agus saincheistanna maidir le cartlanna, caomhnú agus rochtain ar thaifid iar-thithe agus institiúidí máithreacha agus leanaí.

I mí an Mheithimh, thug Coiste Staidéir Stairiúil Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann cuireadh don chartlannaí labhairt ag a gcomhdháil mhór ar Chartlanna, Rochtain agus Cearta an Duine; agus thug sé léacht ar ábhar rochtana ar chartlanna na n-údarás áitiúil a bhaineann le hinstiúidí mar thithe contae agus tithe máithreacha agus leanaí.

I rith na bliana, bhí an cartlannaí mar chuid d'fhoireann a d'oibrigh go comhoibríoch ar thionscadal 'Donegal-Scotland' a reáchtáil an Oifig Oidhreachta agus a thaistil go Glaschú agus Dún Éideann le haghaidh ceardlanna poiblí mar chuid den tionscadal i mí Dheireadh Fómhair.

Foilseachán dátheangach cuimhneacháin an Ghorta Mhoir Scanraithe faoina bhfuil i nDán: An Gorta Mór i gContae Dhún na nGall a scaipeadh ar leabharlanna agus ar scoileanna agus thug an t-údar an Dr Hilary McLaughlin cur i láthair ar a cuid taighde sa Mhúsaem.

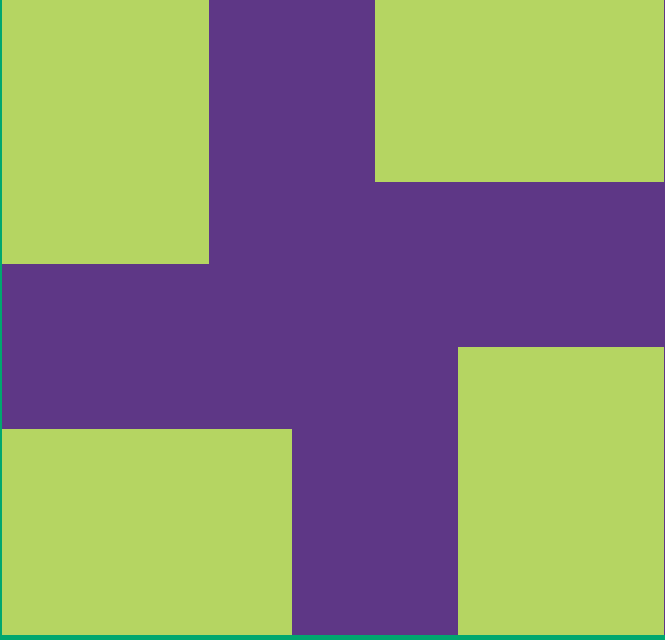
Collaboration with External Organisations

The archivist, along with other Local Government Archivists & Records Managers Group members, collaborated with other local archivists, the Heritage Council, the National Archives, the LGMA, TUSLA, government Departments, the Archives & Records Association (ARA) and other bodies on various national projects and issues regarding archives, preservation and access to records of former mother and baby homes and institutions.

In June, the archivist was invited by the Historical Studies Committee of the Royal Irish Academy to speak at their major conference on Archives, Access, and Human Rights; and gave a lecture on the subject of access to local authority archives relating to institutions such as county homes and mothers and baby homes.

During the year, the archivist was part of a team that worked collaboratively on the Heritage Office run 'Donegal- Scotland' project and travelled to Glasgow and Edinburgh for public workshops as part of the project in October.

The bi-lingual commemorative Great Famine publication *The Consequences will be Fearful: The Great Famine in County Donegal* was distributed to libraries and schools and the author Dr Hilary McLaughlin gave a presentation on her research at the Museum.



OIFIG OIÐHREACHTA CHONTAE DHÚN NA NGALL COUNTY DONEGAL HERITAGE OFFICE

Is é ról Oifig Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall ná feasacht a ardú, comhairle a sholáthar, sonraí a bhailiú, polasaí a fhorbairt agus dea-chleachtas a chur chun cinn maidir lenár n-oidhreacht chultúrtha, thógtha, seandálaíochta agus nádúrtha. Déanann sí maoirseacht ar fhorbairt agus cur i bhfeidhm Phlean Oidhreachta an Chontae i gcomhpháirtíocht le Fóram Oidhreachta an Chontae. Ceapadh Oifigeach Foirne buan in Oifig Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall i mí Bealtaine.

The role of the County Donegal Heritage Office is to raise awareness, provide advice, collect data, develop policy, and promote best practice in relation to our cultural, built, archaeological and natural heritage. It oversees the implementation of the County Heritage Plan in partnership with the County Heritage Forum. A permanent Staff Officer was assigned to the County Donegal Heritage Office in May.





Plean Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall

Sheol Virginia Teehan, Príomhfheidhmeannach na Comhairle Oidhreachta, Plean Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall nua i mí Bealtaine i gCaisleán Loch lascaigh. Is plean straitéiseach é an Plean Oidhreachta Contae a aithneoidh, a chaomhnóidh agus a bhainistíodh ár n-oidhreacht thógtha, seandálaíochta, chultúrtha agus nádúrtha chomh maith lena cur chun cinn agus brí a bhaint aisti. Mar chuid de chur i bhfeidhm Phlean Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall, choimisiúnaigh Rannóg an Chultúir, i gcomhpháirtíocht le hIonad Mellon ar son Léann na hImirce, taighde agus dearadh faoi choinne taispeántais ar shaol oibre mhuintir Dhún na nGall i réimse slíte beatha in Albain idir 1940 agus 1990. Reáchtáladh imeachtaí bailithe eolais i nGlaschú agus i nDún Éideann go luath i mí Dheireadh Fómhair agus d'fhreastail 170 duine orthu. Tá an tOifigeach Oidhreachta ina bhall de Mheitheal Phlean Gníomhaíochta um Bithéagsúlacht Dhún na nGall, a bunaíodh faoi choimirce Fhóram Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall

County Donegal Heritage Plan

The new County Donegal Heritage Plan was launched in May in Lough Eske Castle by Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of The Heritage Council. County Donegal Heritage Plan is a strategic plan for the identification, conservation, management, promotion, and interpretation of our built, archaeological, cultural, and natural heritage. As part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan, the Culture Division in partnership with the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies commissioned research for, and the design of, an exhibition on the working lives of Donegal people in a variety of occupations in Scotland between 1940 and 1990. Information-gathering events were held in Glasgow and Edinburgh in early October attended by 170 people. The Heritage Officer is a member of the new Donegal Biodiversity Action Plan Working Group established under the auspices of the County Donegal Heritage Forum.





Ailtireacht dhúchasach & Oidhreacht Seandálaíochta

Trí Scéim Deontais Deisiúcháin Tuí Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, a bhfuil gradam bainte aici, tacaíodh le 30 miontionscadal deisiúcháin tuí. Bainistíonn an Oifig Oidhreacht agus an Oifig Caomhantais an scéim tras-stiúirtheachta, rud a thugann sainchomhairle d'úinéirí maidir le caomhnú na tuí agus tugann maoiniú faoi choinne miondeisiúcháin tuí. San áireamh sa chomhoibriú tras-stiúirtheachta, fosta, bhí scéim phíolótach ar an tionscnaimh saothraithe ábhar tuí, coimisiúnú trí ghearrscannán ar an tuí a rinne triúr déantóirí scannáin, tacaíocht do Scoil Tuíodóireachta Chontae Dhún na nGall nua i gCill Chluanadh Bheag agus páirt i ngearrchúrsaí a réachtáladh i Scoil Tuíodóireachta Dhún na nGall. D'fheidhmigh an tOifigeach Oidhreacht mar ionadaí ar Líonra Oifigeach Forbartha na nÚdarás Áitiúil ar Straitéis na hOidhreacht Dúchais Tógtha - Grúpa Stiúrtha Tuíodóireachta a bhunaigh an Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil & Oidhreacht.

Vernacular Architecture & Archaeological Heritage

Donegal County Council's award-winning Thatch Repair Grant Scheme supported 30 small-scale thatch repair projects. The Heritage Office and the Conservation Office manages the cross-directorate scheme that provides specialist advice to owners on the conservation of thatch and allocates funding for small-scale thatch repairs. Cross-directorate cooperation also included the piloting of a sustainable growth of thatch materials initiative, the commissioning of three short films on thatch by young filmmakers, support for the new Donegal Thatching School in Kilclooney and contributing to short courses run in the Donegal Thatching School. The Heritage Officer served as the Local Authority Heritage Officer Network representative on the Built Vernacular Heritage Strategy - Thatch Steering Group established by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.



Bhí Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar cheann de na seacht n-údarás áitiúla ar fad sa tír a fuair maoiniú €20,000 ón Chomhairle Oidhreachta chun Seandálaí Pobail páirtaimseartha a cheapadh ar bhonn conradh ar son seirbhíse. Agus é ag obair leis an Oifig Caomhantais agus le hlarsmalann an Chontae, chuidigh an Seandálaí Pobail lefeasacht a ardú, comhairle a thabhairt, agus dea-chleachtas a chur chun cinn maidir lenár n-oidhreacht seandálaíochta, agus go sonrach, d'oibrigh sé le grúpaí pobail agus le foireann na comhairle ar chaomhnú na seandálaíochta atá le fáil i 50 reilig atá faoi choimirce Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall. Mar chuid de chur i bhfeidhm Phlean Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall, tugadh páirtmhaoiniú d'Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh i Sligeach chun tochailt seandálaíochta a dhéanamh i nDíseart.

Donegal County Council was one of only seven local authorities countrywide to secure funding of €20,000 from The Heritage Council for the appointment of a part-time Community Archaeologist on a contract for services basis. Working with the Heritage Office and County Museum, the Community Archaeologist helped to raise awareness, provide advice, and promote best practice in relation to our archaeological heritage, and in particular, worked with community groups and council staff on the conservation of the archaeology present in the 50 historic graveyards in Donegal County Council guardianship. As part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan, part-funding was provided to the Atlantic Technological University in Sligo to undertake an archaeological dig at Disert.



Tionscnamh Bailte Stairiúla na nGleannta

D'éirigh le Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall €350,000 a fháil ón Chomhairle Oidhreachta agus ón Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil & Oidhreachta faoi choinne Tionscnamh Bailte Stairiúla na nGleannta. Is comhpháirtíocht é Tionscnamh Bailte Stairiúla na nGleannta idir Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall (An Oifig Caomhantais & an Oifig Oidhreachta), lontaobhas Brian Friel, Ailtireacht Dedalus, úinéirí réadmhaoine agus an pobal áitiúil. Rinneadh oibreacha caomhantais ar na Labhrais/Radharc an Iarnróid (teach mháthair an drámadóra Brian Friel sna Gleannta) agus Teach Cúirte na nGleannta (atá ligthe ar léas d'lontaobhas Brian Friel le hIonad Brian Friel a bhunú). Is Struchtúir Chosanta an dá fhoirgneamh. I measc na n-oibreacha, bhí deisiúcháin struchtúrtha, deisiúcháin ar an díon agus ar an tsimléar, pointeáil roghnach agus rindreáil le moirtéal aoil, deisiúchán ar earraí uisce báistí, deisiúchán ar shaisfhuinneoga, siúinéireacht, bainistiú fásra, suiteáil draenach Francaí agus dabhaí séarachais, agus deisiúchán ar bhalla teorann.

Mar chuid de Thionscnamh na mBailte Stairiúla, fosta, bhí oibreacha caomhantais ar gheata áirse cruaike ar cuid de chúirtealáiste Eaglais Naomh Cónaill é, atá ina Struchtúr Cosanta chomh maith. Mar chuid den tionscnamh, fosta, péinteáladh larsmalann Naomh Cónaill, a bhíonn á reáchtáil ag an phobal, agus rinneadh feabhsúchán ar an rochtain ar an fhoirgneamh do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas. Coimisiúnaíodh Imvizar le Conair Brian Friel a dhearadh ó Na Labhrais go Teach Cúirte na nGleannta, agus coimisiúnaíodh an dearthóir gairdíní agus an láithreoir teilifíse Diarmuid Gavin le plean bainistithe tírdhreacha a ullmhú do Na Labhrais. Rinne an tOifigeach Oidhreachta agus an tOifigeach Caomhantais cur i láthair mar chuid de Thionscnamh Bailte Stairiúla Rath Mealtáin ag seimineár gréasáin Thionscnamh náisiúnta na mBailte Stairiúla a d'óstáil an Chomhairle Oidhreachta i mí Eanáir.

Glenties Historic Towns Initiative

Donegal County Council was successful in securing €350,000 from The Heritage Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for the Glenties Historic Towns Initiative. The Glenties Historic Towns Initiative represents a partnership between Donegal County Council (Conservation Office & Heritage Office), The Brian Friel Trust, Dedalus Architecture, property owners and the local community. Conservation works took place to The Laurels / Railway View (playwright Brian Friel's mother's home in Glenties) and Glenties Courthouse (that has been leased to the Brian Friel Trust to establish the Brian Friel Centre). Both buildings are Protected Structures. Works included structural repairs, roof and chimney repairs, selective pointing and rendering with lime mortar, repair of rainwater goods, sash window repairs, carpentry, vegetation management, installation of French drain and septic tank, and the repair of a boundary wall.

The Historic Towns Initiative also involved conservation works to the steel-arched gateway which forms part of the curtilage of St. Connell's Church, also a Protected Structure. The initiative also included the painting of the community-run St. Connell's Museum and the improvement of disabled access to the building. Imvizar was commissioned to design a Brian Friel Trail leading from The Laurels to Glenties Courthouse, and garden designer and television presenter Diarmuid Gavin was commissioned to prepare a landscape management plan for The Laurels. The Heritage Officer and the Conservation Officer also presented on the Ramelton Historic Towns Initiative at the national Historic Towns Initiative webinar hosted by The Heritage Council in January.

Oideachas & Feasacht

Bhí Seachtain Náisiúnta na hOidhreachta ann i mí Lúnasa agus bhí breis agus 120 imeacht ar siúl trasna na tíre. Déanann an Chomhairle Oidhreachta agus Oifigigh Oidhreachta na nÚdarás Áitiúil comhordú ar Sheachtain na hOidhreachta. Chruthaigh an Oifig Oidhreachta Treoir Imeachtaí do Sheachtain na hOidhreachta i nDún na nGall, rud a foilsíodh ar na nuachtáin áitiúla agus thug siad marsantacht Sheachtain na hOidhreachta do lucht eagraithe imeachtaí saor in aisce. Thacaigh sí, fosta, leis an tionscnamh nua 'Teach Oscailte Oidhreachta' mar chuid de Sheachtain na hOidhreachta. Ag gradaim Sheachtain Náisiúnta na hOidhreachta i mí na Samhna, ainmníodh dhá ghrúpa oidhreachta, atá lonnaithe i nDún na nGall, do ghradaim náisiúnta agus bhain Grúpa Oidhreachta Thamhnach an tSalainn Gradam na Nasc, na mBealaí & na Líonraí. Mar chuid den Oíche Chultúir i mí Mheán Fómhair, sheol an t-aitire Orla Murphy an leabhrán Donegal Traditional Shop Fronta & Signage i siopa Ernest Speer i Leitir Ceanainn. Tugadh páirtmhaoiniú d'Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann chun taighde a dhéanamh agus Atlas Bailte Stairiúla Bhéal Átha Seanaidh a chruthú, rud a sheolfar in 2025. I gcomhpháirtíocht le Seirbhís Leabharlann an Chontae, rinne an Oifig Oidhreachta urraíocht ar cheithre cheardlann Wonders of Wildlife do pháistí le hÉanna Ní Lamhna mar chuid de Wainfest chomh maith le deich gceardlann Save the Bees do pháistí.

Tionscnaimh Fhiadhúlra agus Bhithéagsúlacht

I gcomhpháirtíocht le Seirbhís na bPáirceanna Náisiúnta & an Fhiadhúlra, sheol Malcolm Noonan T.D, Aire Stáit don Dúlra, Oidhreachta & Athchóiriú Toghchánach, an leabhar Native Woodlands of County Donegal le Seán Ó Gaoithín i bPáirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Bheatha i mí Márta. Lean Oifigí Oidhreachta na nÚdarás Áitiúil agus na hOifigí Bithéagsúlachta, i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Ionad Náisiúnta um Shonraí Bithéagsúlachta, de bheith ag déanamh urraíocht ar Ghradam bliantúil na nÚdarás Áitiúil do Phailneoirí mar chuid de Chomórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara le grúpaí áitiúla a spreagadh chun gníomhartha atá báil do phailneoirí a chur i bhfeidhm ina gcuid bailte agus sráidbhailte. Rinne an tOifigeach Oidhreachta agus an tOifigeach Bithéagsúlachta comhobair ar roinnt tionscnamh a bhaineann leis an fhiadhúlra agus leis an bhithéagsúlacht, mar shampla, urraíocht ar cheardlanna agus dáileadh foilseachán.

Education & Awareness

National Heritage Week took place in August with over 120 events taking place across the county. Heritage Week is coordinated by The Heritage Council and Local Authority Heritage Officers. The Heritage Office produced a County Donegal Heritage Week Event Guide that was published in local newspapers and provided Heritage Week merchandise for event organisers free-of-charge. It also supported the new Heritage Open House initiative as part of Heritage Week. At the National Heritage Week Awards in November, two Donegal-based heritage groups were nominated for national awards and the Mountcharles Heritage Group won the Connections, Routes & Networks Award. As part of Culture Night in September, the Donegal Traditional Shop Fronts & Signage booklet by architect Orla Murphy was launched in Ernest Speer's shop in Letterkenny. Part-funding was provided for the research and production of the Ballyshannon Historic Towns Atlas by the Royal Irish Academy that will be launched in 2025. In partnership with the County Library Service, the Heritage Office sponsored four Wonders of Wildlife workshops for children by Éanna Ní Lamhna as part of Wainfest and ten Save the Bees workshops for children.

Wildlife & Biodiversity Initiatives

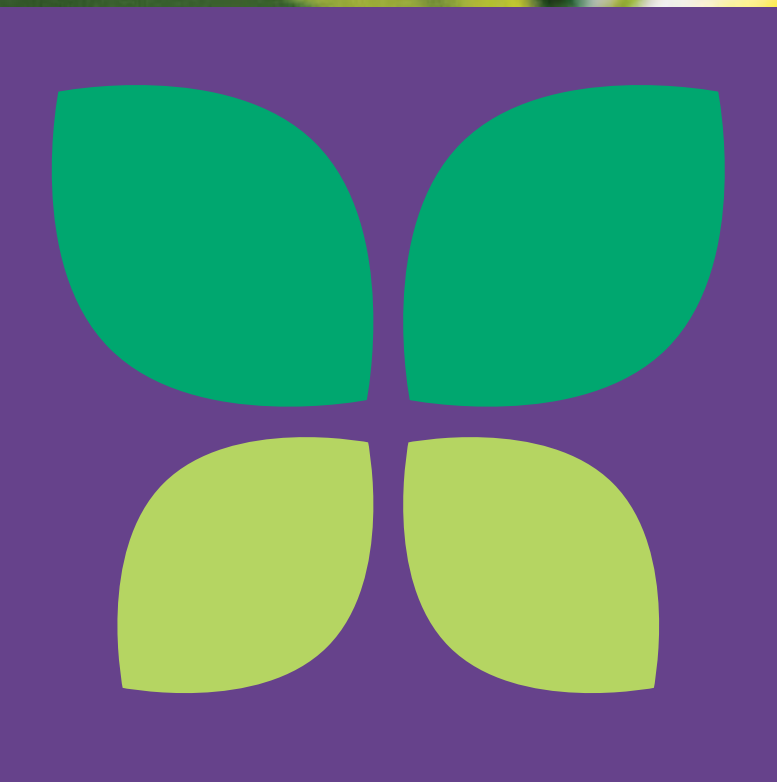
In partnership with the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the Native Woodlands of County Donegal book by Seán Ó Gaoithín was launched by Malcolm Noonan T.D., Minister of State for Nature, Heritage & Electoral Reform, in Glenveagh National Park in March. Local Authority Heritage Offices and Biodiversity Offices in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre continued to sponsor the annual Local Authority Pollinator Award as part of the Tidy Towns Competition to encourage local groups to implement pollinator-friendly actions in their towns and villages. The Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer collaborated on a number of initiatives in relation to wildlife and biodiversity such as sponsoring workshops and distributing publications.

AN OIFIG BITHÉAGSÚLACHTA BIODIVERSITY OFFICE

Is é ról Oifig Bithéagsúlachta Chontae Dhún na nGall feasacht a ardú, comhairle a thabhairt, sonraí a bhailiú, polasaí a fhorbairt agus dea-chleachtas a roinnt maidir leis an bhithéagsúlacht. Déanann sí maoirseacht ar fhorbairt agus cur i bhfeidhm Phlean Bithéagsúlachta an Chontae amach anseo i gcomhpháirtíocht le Fóram Oidhreachta an Chontae agus le Meitheal Bhithéagsúlachta Dhún na nGall. Is comhpháirtíocht é Clár na nOifigeach Bithéagsúlachta idir an Chomhairle Oidhreachta agus na húdaráis áitiúla.

The role of the County Donegal Biodiversity Office is to raise awareness, provide advice, collect data, develop policy, and promote best practice in relation to biodiversity. It oversees the development and future implementation of the County Biodiversity Plan in partnership with the County Heritage Forum and Donegal Biodiversity Working Group. The Biodiversity Officer Programme is a partnership between The Heritage Council and local authorities.







Plean Gníomhaíochta um Bithéagsúlacht Chontae Dhún na nGall

Tá forbairt Céadphlean Gníomhaíochta um Bithéagsúlacht Dhún na nGall faoi lánseol, agus forbairt comhpháirtíochtaí agus teagmháil le páirtithe leasmhara inmheánacha agus seachtracha ar bun in 2024. Anuraidh, ullmháíodh agus feidhmíodh céim chomhairliúcháin phoiblí an réamhdhréachta, mar ar lorgaíodh tuairimí an phobail, páirtithe leasmhara, agus grúpaí pobail trí Chlinicí Buail Isteach ar an Bhithéagsúlacht agus ceistneoir ar líne le cuidiú linn na mórdheacrachtaí atá roimh an bhithéagsúlacht agus na gníomhartha a d'fhéadfaí a dhéanamh le dul i ngleic leo a aithint.

Nuair a bheidh an t-aischothú faighte, dréachtóidh an Oifig Bithéagsúlachta plean, le tacaíocht ó Mheitheal Bhithéagsúlachta Dhún na nGall, agus rachfar i gcomhairle le comhaltaí na Comhairle agus le hoifigigh ar na bearta fóirsteanacha a bheidh le cur san áireamh. Cuirfear dréachtphlean i láthair ag cruinnithe de chuid na Comhairle le faomhadh tosaigh a fháil sula mbeidh próiseas Athbheithnithe Phoiblí ann níos moille in 2025.

County Donegal Biodiversity Action Plan

The Development of the first Donegal Biodiversity Action Plan is well under way, with 2024 being a year of partnership building and internal and external stakeholder engagement. Last year saw the preparation and roll out of the pre-draft public consultation phase of the Action Plan, where views were sought from members of the public, stakeholders and community groups via drop-in Biodiversity Clinics and an online questionnaire to help identify the key issues facing biodiversity and potential actions to address these.

After feedback is gathered, the Biodiversity Office will draft a plan, supported by the Donegal Biodiversity Working Group, and liaise internally with Council members and officers on appropriate measures to be included. A draft plan will be presented at Council meetings for initial approval before a further Public Review process begins later in 2025.

Oideachas & Feasacht

Is ról tábhachtach de chuid na hOifige Bithéagsúlachta réimse imeachtaí agus gníomhaíochtaí for-rochtana a chomhordú agus a reáchtáil chun an fheasacht ar an bhithéagsúlacht agus an gníomhú ina leith a ardú trí Sheachtain na hOidhreachta, Seachtain na Bithéagsúlachta, Seachtain na bhFálta Sceach, Seachtain Náisiúnta na gCrann, Wainfest, Bealtaine agus laethanta náisiúnta eile. In 2024, phleanáil, reáchtáil nó mhaoinigh an Oifig Bithéagsúlachta 45 imeacht, ina raibh tuairim is 1200 duine páirteach.

Mhaoinigh an Chomhairle Oidhreachta, trí Phlean Gníomhaíochta um Bithéagsúlacht an Chontae, 19 gcinn de na himeachtaí poiblí nua spleodracha seo ar théama na bithéagsúlachta, imeachtaí ina ndearnadh teagmháil le lucht féachana 500 duine. I measc na n-imeachtaí, bhí loinneog bhreacadh an lae, Siúlóidí Coillearnaí, cláir eolaíochta shluafhoinsithe agus 'Taiscéal do Chladach' ag Teach Solais Fhánada, Bun Dobhrán agus Toraigh.

Le maoiniú a fuarthas ó Sheirbhís na bPáirceanna Náisiúnta agus an Fhiadhúlra, tríd an Chiste Gníomhaíochta um Bithéagsúlacht Áitiúil, reáchtáil an Oifig Bithéagsúlachta clár imeachtaí eolaíochta sluafhoinsithe, suirbhéanna ar phailneoirí, taispeántais gníomhartha praiticiúla, ag ardú feasachta ar an bhithéagsúlacht, agus ag cuidiú le níos mó taifid bhitheolaíochta de chuid Dhún na nGall agus gníomhartha praiticiúla a chur i mbéal an phobail.

I measc bhuaicphointí an tionscadail, bhí sciurdturas ar leabharlanna Dhún na nGall, cainteanna do theaghlaigh mar chuid de thionscadal Réalta an tSamhraidh, teagmháil le fairtheoirí éan nua chun rannpháirtíocht a spreagadh i Suirbhé Éan Gairdín na hÉireann agus a lámha ag éirí clábarnach agus iad ag cur 'Síolta ar son Beach' i Leitir Ceanainn agus i gCarn Domhnaigh.

Education & Awareness

A key role of the Biodiversity Office is to coordinate and deliver a range of outreach events and activities to raise awareness and action for Biodiversity via Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week, Hedgerow Week, National Tree Week, Wainfest, Bealtaine and other national days. In 2024, 45 events were planned, delivered, or funded by the Biodiversity Office, engaging with approximately 1,200 people.

The Heritage Council, through the County Biodiversity Action Plan programme funded 19 of these new and exciting biodiversity themed public events, engaging an audience of 500 people. Events included a dawn chorus, woodland walks, citizen science programmes and 'Explore Your Shore' at Fanad Lighthouse, Bundoran and Tory.

With funding received from National Parks and Wildlife Service, through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund, the Biodiversity Office delivered a programme of citizen science activities, pollinator surveys, practical action demonstrations, raising awareness of biodiversity, and helping to put more Donegal biological records and practical actions on the map.

Project highlights included a whistle-stop tour of Donegal libraries, delivering talks to families as part of the Summer Stars project, engaging with new bird watchers to encourage a higher participation in the Irish Garden Bird Survey and getting our hands mucky whilst planting 'Bulbs for Bees' in Letterkenny and Carndonagh.

Tionscadail Thábhachtacha Bhithéagsúlachta Ciste Gníomhaíochta um Bithéagsúlacht Áitiúil (CGBÁ)

Fuair Oifig Bithéagsúlachta Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall maoiniú €98,982 ón tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra faoin Chiste Gníomhaíochta um Bithéagsúlacht Áitiúil le haghaidh 7 dtionscadal bithéagsúlachta:

1. Sconsaí díbeartha Creachadóirí a Chothabháil

Ba í príomhaidhm an tionscadail seo na sconsaí creachadóra a chothabháil do shéasúr goir 2024 lena chinntiú go raibh siad ag feidhmiú go héifeachtach agus chun leanúint le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar líon na lapairí pórúcháin chun treochtaí leanúnacha a oibriú amach.

2. Suirbhé Allamuigh ar Bhogaigh Dhún na nGall 2024 an suirbhé leanúnach ar bhogaigh an chontae

Rinne Suirbhé Allamuigh ar Bhogaigh Dhún na nGall 2024 (DGWS 2024) suirbhé allamuigh ar rogha de shuíomhanna bogaigh a aithníodh roimhe seo le linn thionscadal Suirbhé Bogaigh Chontae Dhún na nGall 2022 (Crushell et al. 2022) nach raibh mórán eolais éiceolaíochta ar fáil ina leith.

3. Bithéagsúlacht Dhún na nGall a chur ar an Léarscáil

Chuir Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall clár i gcrích a chuimsigh gníomhaíochtaí san eolaíocht saoránach, suirbhéanna pailneoirí, taispeántais ghníomhaíochta praiticiúla agus ardú feasachta faoin bhithéagsúlacht chun cuidiú le níos mó taifead bitheolaíochta ó Dhún na nGall agus gníomhaíocht phraiticiúil chun tacú leis an bhithéagsúlacht a chur ar an léarscáil.

Key Biodiversity Projects Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF)

Donegal County Council Biodiversity Office secured €98,982 in funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund for 7 biodiversity projects:

1. Maintenance of Predator Exclusion Fences

The main aim of this project was to maintain the predator fences for the 2024 breeding season to ensure they were operating effectively and to continue to monitor the breeding wader populations to determine ongoing trends.

2. Donegal Wetlands Field Survey 2024 the on-going county wetlands survey

Donegal Wetlands Field Survey 2024 (DGWS 2024) undertook a field survey of a selection of wetland sites previously identified during the 2022 Counties Donegal Wetland Survey project (Crushell et al. 2022) for which little or no ecological information was available.

3. Putting Donegal Biodiversity on the Map

Donegal County Council delivered a programme of citizen science activities, pollinator surveys, practical action demonstrations and biodiversity awareness raising to help put more Donegal biological records and practical action to support biodiversity, on the map.



4. Tionscadal Pórúchán Lapaí Oileán Thoraí – rannpháirtíocht agus monatóireacht pobail.

Chuidigh tionscadal Thoraí le feachtas a ardú faoi luach Thoraí do lapairí pórúcháin agus le ceistanna a thógáil amhail suaitheadh le ceithre imeacht a reáchtáladh ar Thoraigh don scoil, do chónaitheoirí agus do chuiditheoirí.

5. Iniúchadh Speiceas Dhún na nGall a nuashonrú

Tionsaítear sa tuarascáil speiceas seo liosta cuimsitheach de na speicis flóra agus fungais (gan miocróib san áireamh) atá le fáil i gContae Dhún na nGall. Braitheann sintéis an liosta seo go mór ar an méid a chuireann na taifeadóirí aonair iomadúla a chuireann a dtáifid phearsanta agus a mbarúlacha féin chuig bunachair shonraí éagsúla.

6. Tacaíocht chun an foilseachán ‘Birds of Donegal’ a fhoilsiú.

Beidh The Birds of Donegal, a scríobh an fear áitiúil Ralph Sheppard ar an chéad chuntas iomlán ar éin uile an Chontae. Taitneoidh sé le gach éanbhreathnóir in iarthuaisceart na hÉireann, agus le daoine a bhfuil spéis ghinearálta acu i dtimpeallacht nádúrtha na hÉireann.

7. Cuil Bhealtaine na hÉireann a thaifeadadh – stádas caomhantais a bhunú

Tionscnaíodh an togra comhpháirtíochta seo le UCD agus le go leor údarais áitiúla chun dul i ngleic leis an easpa taifead a rinneadh ar an cuil Bhealtaine le déanaí chun an liosta dearg leantach a bhí le déanamh in 2022 a chríochnú. Rinneadh suirbhéanna tiomnaithe, ar fud na tíre, le linn 2024 agus díródh ar gach cineál gnáthóige fionnuisce. Chuir an tionscadal fosta le hacmhainní a fhorbairt a chuideoidh le pobail/iascairí a bheith rannpháirteach i dtionscnaimh san eolaíocht saoránach amach anseo.

4. Tory Island Breeding Wader project – community engagement and monitoring.

The Tory project helped to raise awareness about the value of Tory for breeding waders and flag issues like disturbance with four events held on Tory for the school, residents, and visitors.

5. Updating the Donegal Species Audit

This species report compiles a comprehensive list of the species of flora and fungi (excluding microbes) found in County Donegal. The synthesis of this list relies greatly on the contribution of the many individual recorders that submit their own personal records and observations to various databases.

6. Support to publish ‘Birds of Donegal’ publication.

The Birds of Donegal, written by local Ralph Sheppard, will be the first complete account of all the birds of the County. It will appeal to all birdwatchers in the north-west of Ireland, and to people with a more general interest in the natural environment of Ireland.

7. Recording Irish mayfly – establishing conservation status

This partnership project with University College, Dublin and multiple local authorities was initiated to address the lack of recent mayfly records to complete the follow up red listing that was due in 2022. Dedicated surveys, across the country, were conducted throughout 2024 and all freshwater habitat types were targeted. The project has also started developing resources that will help in engaging communities/anglers in future citizen science initiatives.

Tacaíocht Grúpa Pobail

Cuireann an Oifig Bithéagsúlachta tacaíocht ar fáil do ghrúpaí pobail chun cuidiú lena ngníomhartha bithéagsúlachta féin a bhaint amach. I rith 2024, chuimsigh sé seo cuairteanna suímh ar neart Grúpaí pobail agus Bailte Slachtmhara, tacaíocht glaonna gutháin, comharthaíocht agus tacaíocht duine le duine chun a spásanna áitiúla a chosaint agus a fheabhsú ar mhaithe leis an bithéagsúlacht. Chuidigh an Oifig Bithéagsúlachta fosta le hiarratais ar mhaoiniú agus chuir sí tacaíocht phraiticiúil ar fáil ag céimeanna éagsúla. Rinne an tOifigeach Bithéagsúlachta cur i láthair ar obair na hOifige Bithéagsúlachta lena n-áirítear forbairt ar an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Bithéagsúlachta atá le teacht ag go leor imeachtaí agus ceardlann faoi stiúir an phobail lena n-áirítear dhá imeacht Lónra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí.

Beartas agus Obair Straitéiseach

Tá ról ag an Oifig Bithéagsúlachta maidir le tacaíocht a thabhairt do Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall chun a riachtanais laistigh den Dleacht Bithéagsúlachta (An tAcht um Fhiadhúlra (Leasú) 2023) a chomhlíonadh trí oiliúint roinne, tacaíocht tionscadail chaipitil/athghiniúna, de réir mar is gá, agus comhordú a dhéanamh ar thuarascálacha bliantúla Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an Dleachta Bithéagsúlachta mar a éilíonn an tAcht. I rith 2024, chuir an tOifigeach Bithéagsúlachta tús le líonrú inmheánach tábhachtach le ranna éagsúla de chuid Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall chun tionchar a imirt ar fhorbairt beartais agus ar thionscadail straitéiseacha. Áiríodh leis seo ionchur i bhforbairt an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Aeráide, an PÁEP agus an Phlean Turasóireachta.

Community Group Support

The Biodiversity Office offers support to community groups to help achieve their own biodiversity actions. During 2024 this included site visits to numerous community and Tidy Towns Groups, phone call support, signposting and one-to-one support on protecting and improving their local spaces for biodiversity. The Biodiversity Office also assisted with funding applications and provided practical support at various stages. The Biodiversity Officer presented on the work of the Biodiversity Office including the development of the forthcoming Biodiversity Action Plan at many community-led events and workshops including two Public Participation Network events.

Policy and Strategic Work

The Biodiversity Office has the role of supporting Donegal County Council to deliver on its requirements within the Biodiversity Duty (The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023) via departmental training, capital/regeneration project support, as required, and coordination of Donegal County Council annual reports on the implementation of the Biodiversity Duty as required by the Act. During 2024, the Biodiversity Officer began important internal networking with a variety of Donegal County Council departments to influence policy development and strategic projects. This included input to the development of the Climate Action Plan, LECP and Tourism Plan.

FOTHEIDIL GRIANGHRAF

Leathanach 9

Cruthaitheacht ag Teach Cúirte Leifir, Cruinniú na nÓg 2024

Grianghraf: Ruth Keough

Leathanach 11

Rannpháirtithe ar Chlár Ealaíontóirí & Meantóirí 2024 ar an ardán le linn Oíche Chultúir in Amharclann an Ghrianáin.

Grianghraf: North West Newspix

Leathanach 12

Páirc lán stucaí lín Cur chuige cruthaitheach chun fás inbhuanaithe tuí a chur chun cinn mar gheall ar an tionscadal "A Roof Over Our Heads".

Grianghraf: Fiachra Mangan

Leathanach 13

Cónaitheoir de chuid Brentwood Manor ag baint taitnimh as Teiripe Ainmhithe mar cheann de thograí Chruthaitheacht sa tSeanaois.

Grianghraf: Clive Wasson

Leathanach 15

Rannpháirtithe, teaghlach agus cairde ag oscailt an taispeántais One Million Stars

Grianghraf: Clive Wasson

Leathanach 17

Ceardlann le Dave Swift le linn Wainfest

Grianghraf: Central Library

Leathanach 18

Ceardlann leis an Dr Angela Byrne le linn Wainfest

Grianghraf: Central Library

Leathanach 20

Grúpa ban ó Ionad Acmhainní Teaghlach Ráth Bhoth ag tabhairt cuairte ar thaispeántas Mná na ngall

Grianghraf: Donegal County Museum

Leathanach 21

An t-údar a bhuaigh duaiseanna Sheena Wilkinson ag gabháil do léitheoirí óga i rith Wainfest 2024.

Grianghraf: Paul McGuickan

Leathanach 23

An taibheoir MC Grammar

Grianghraf: Paul McGuickan

Leathanach 25

Am spraoi ag seoladh Wainfest

Grianghraf: Paul McGuickan

Leathanach 26

Cathaoirteach Clr Niamh Kennedy ag úsáid pod cruinnithe agus áiseanna digiteacha i Leabharlann Pobail Bhun Dobhráin.

Grianghraf: Noir Photique

Leathanach 27

Bernie Wilson le rannpháirtithe na péintéireachta aicríl ag obair le linn Fhéile na Bealtaine

Grianghraf: Library Staff

Leathanach 28

Lá na hEorpa ag Ionad Europe Direct, Leitir Ceanainn

Grianghraf: Clive Wasson

Leathanach 29

Paul Lynch, údar a bhuaigh Duais Booker, á chur faoi agallamh ag an údar Colm Tóibín ag imeacht an chlub Leabhar Ealaín na Léitheoireachta i Leabharlann Charn Domhnach

Grianghraf: Library Staff

Leathanach 30

An taibheoir Maura Logue i ról 'Nora Gallagher' ag seoladh Wainfest i gCaisleán Dhún na nGall

Grianghraf: Paul McGuickan

Leathanach 31

Seoladh Réaltaí an tSamhraidh i Leabharlann Dhá Bhaile

Grianghraf: Library Staff

Leathanach 33

Anda Luma ó Chlár Meantóireachta Ealaíontóirí sna hEalaíona agus san Ilchineálacht Chultúrtha, ar an ardán le linn imeacht an Chabaret Domhanda in Amharclann an Ghrianáin, ar Oíche Chultúir.

Grianghraf: Ruth Keogh

Leathanach 35

I measc na rannpháirtithe i gClár Meantóireachta Ealaíontóirí sna hEalaíona agus san Éagsúlacht Cultúir de chuid na Seirbhíse Ealaíon, bhí c/d. Karen Quinn (Scríbhneoir, meantóir), Anda Luma (Ealaíontóir), Kokou Gogrey (Ealaíontóir), Deborah Stockdale (Amharcealaíontóir, Meantóir) agus Hanna Pidkaliuk (Ealaíontóir).

Grianghraf: Joe Boland, North West Newspix.

Leathanach 37

Ed Devane ar an ardán ag conair dealbhóireachta soilsithe Turas Úr Artists Collective ag Gairdín Theach na mBocht, Leitir Ceanainn ar Oíche Chultúir.

Grianghraf: Ruth Keogh.

Leathanach 39

Athghairm. Bailchríoch cheiliúradh 25ú Amharclann an Ghrianáin Ceolchoirm Mhór Chomórtha i mí na Samhna. Le linn na himeachta chonacthas léirithe de chuid Moya Brennan, Éirí - compántas damhsa Bhreandáin de Gallai's, Grúpa Drámaíochta agus Ceoil Leitir Ceanainn, Cumann Ceoil Leitir Ceanainn, Cumann Geamaireachta Leitir Ceanainn, Amharclann na nÓg - An Grianán, The Henry Girls, John D. Ruddy agus Little John Nee.

Grianghraf: Paul McGuckin.

Leathanach 41

An t-amhránaí agus giotáraí aitheanta ó Bhealach Féich Muireann Bradley ar an ardán mar chuid d'Fhéile Ealaíon an Earagail in Amharclann an Ghrianáin i mí Iúil, i ndiaidh di dul i bhfeidhm ar lucht féachana Hootenanny le Jools Holland ar BBC 2 Oíche Chinn Bhliana.

Grianghraf: Donna El Assaad.

Leathanach 43

An t-ealaíontóir Sarah Lewtas ag ullmhú do thaispeántas RCC Samhradh 2024

Grianghraf: Declan Devlin

Leathanach 44

An t-iriseoir ceoil John Robb i mbun sínithe ag seoladh leabhair an RCC

Grianghraf: Michael McGlinchey

Leathanach 45

Féile Punc Culture Shocks 2024

Grianghraf: John Soffe

Leathanach 46

Seoladh thaispeántas Ann Quinn

Grianghraf: Charlie Joe Doherty

Leathanach 49

Charlie Gallagher, Laoch Ceilteach ar Oíche Chultúir

Grianghraf: Donegal County Museum

Leathanach 51

An taispeántas Turas Oilimpeach á chrochadh

Grianghraf: Donegal County Museum

Leathanach 53

Cuairt á tabhairt ar an taispeántas Obair Dheonach sa Phobal

Grianghraf: Donegal County Museum

PHOTO CAPTIONS

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Creativity at Lifford Courthouse, Cruinniú na nÓg 2024.

Photograph: Ruth Keough

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Participants on the Artists & Mentors Programme 2024 performing at Culture Night in An Grianán Theatre.

Photograph: North West Newspix

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A field of flax stooks. A creative approach to promoting sustainable thatch growth through the project "A Roof Over Our Heads".

Photograph: Fiachra Mangan

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Resident of Brentwood Manor enjoying Animal Therapy as one of the Creativity in Older Age initiatives.

Photograph: Clive Wasson

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Participants, family and friends at the opening of the One Million Stars Exhibition.

Photograph: Clive Wasson

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Workshop with Dave Swift during Wainfest

Photograph: Central Library

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Workshop with Dr Angela Byrne during Wainfest

Photograph: Central Library

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Women's group from Raphoe Family Resource Centre visit the Mná na nGall exhibition

Photograph: Donegal County Museum

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Award-winning author Sheena Wilkinson engaging young readers during Wainfest 2024.

Photograph: Paul McGuickan

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Performer MC Grammar

Photograph: Paul McGuickan

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Fun time at Wainfest launch

Photograph: Paul McGuickan

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Cathaoileach Cllr Niamk Kennedy using meeting pod and digital facilities in Bundoran Community Library.

Photograph: Noir Photique

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Bernie Wilson with participants of the acrylic painting working during the Bealtaine Festival

Photograph: Library Staff

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Europe Day at Europe Direct Centre, Letterkenny

Photograph: Clive Wasson

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Booker Prize winning author Paul Lynch being interviewed by author Colm Tóibín at the Art of Reading Book club event in Carndonagh Library

Photograph: Library Staff

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Performer Maura Logue appearing as 'Nora Gallagher' at the Wainfest launch in Donegal Castle

Photograph: Paul McGuickan

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Summer Stars Launch in Twin Towns Library

Photograph: Library Staff

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Anda Luma, Arts and Cultural Diversity Artist Mentor Programme, performing in the Global Cabaret event at An Grianán Theatre, on Culture Night.

Photograph: Ruth Keogh

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Participants in the Arts Service's Arts and Cultural Diversity Artist Mentor Programme included l/r. Karen Quinn (Writer, Mentor), Anda Luma (Artist), Kokou Gogrey (Artist), Deborah Stockdale (Visual Artist, Mentor) and Hanna Pidkaliuk (Artist).

Photograph: Joe Boland, North West Newspix

Page 37

Ed Devane performing at Turas Úr Artists Collective's illuminated sculpture trail at The Workhouse Garden, Letterkenny on Culture Night.

Photograph: Ruth Keogh

Page 39

Curtain call. The finalé of An Grianán Theatre's 25th. Anniversary Gala Concert in November. The event featured performances by Moya Brennan, Breandán de Gallaí's Ériu dance company, Letterkenny Music and Drama Group, Letterkenny Musical Society, Letterkenny Pantomime Society, An Grianán Youth Theatre, The Henry Girls, John D. Ruddy and Little John Nee.

Photograph: Paul McGuckin

Page 41

Acclaimed Ballybofey singer and guitarist Muireann Bradley performing as part of the Earagail Arts Festival at An Grianán Theatre in July, following her memorable appearance on Jools Holland's Hootenanny show on BCC 2 television on New Year's Eve.

Photograph: Donna El Assaad

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Artist Sarah Lewtas preparing for RCC Summer 2024 exhibition

Photograph: Declan Devlin

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Music journalist John Robb signing autographs at RCC book launch

Photograph: Michael McGlinchey

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Culture Shocks Punk Festival 2024

Photograph: John Soffe

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Launch of Ann Quinn exhibition

Photograph: Charlie Joe Doherty

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Charlie Gallagher, A Celtic Warrior on Culture Night

Photograph: Donegal County Museum

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Hanging the exhibition An Olympic Journey

Photograph: Donegal County Museum

Page 53

Visiting the exhibition Volunteering in the Community

Photograph: Donegal County Museum

FOTHEIDIL GRIANGHRAF

Leathanach 54

Grúpa Cli-mates, Scoil Mhuire, Bun Cranncha ag An Dún Riabhach le haghaidh imeacht DACCHE

Grianghraf: Donegal County Museum

Leathanach 57

Greanadh de Chaisleán Dhún na nGall, 1843, bronnata in 2024

Íomhá: Donegal County Archives

Leathanach 58

Foireann Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall taobh amuigh de Theach an Chontae, Leifear, 1959, bronnata in 2024 (Cóipcheart Cartlann Chontae Dhún na nGall)

Grianghraf: Donegal County Council

Leathanach 60

Daniel Sweeney, Mark Blank (taisceoir) agus Niamh Brennan (cartlannaí) agus cartlann dhigiteach an uasail Blank Fhéile á bronnadh ar an Chartlann ag ionad seirbhísí poiblí an Chlocháin Léith, Lúnasa 2024

Grianghraf: Pat McCole

Leathanach 61

Le linn Fhéile na Bealtaine, grúpa staire ón tSraith Bán ag an Chartlann, Bealtaine 2024 (le caoinchead: Cartlanna Chontae Dhún na nGall)

Grianghraf: Donegal County Archives

Leathanach 63

Tochailt seandálaíochta ag suíomh oidhreachta Disert ag bun na gCruach faoi stiúir Ollscoil Theicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh, Sligeach agus páirtmhaoinithe faoi Phlean Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall.

Grianghraf: Joseph Gallagher

Leathanach 64

Baill d'Fhóram Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall i gcuideachta an Clr Martin Harley (Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall), Clr Barry Sweeney (Cathaoirleach, Fóram Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall) agus Virginia Teehan (Príomhfheidhmeannach, An Chomhairle Oidhreachta) ag seoladh Phlean Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall i gCaisleán Loch Éisc i mí Bealtaine.

Grianghraf: Clive Wasson

Leathanach 65

Ag seoladh an leabhair Native Woodlands of County Donegal i bPáirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Bheatha bhí (ó chlé go deas): Joseph Gallagher, Oifigeach Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall; Seán Ó Gaoithín, údar agus Príomhgharraíodóir i bPáirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Bheatha; agus Malcolm Noonan T.D., Aire Stáit um Dhúlra, Oidhreachta & Athchóirithe Togcháin.

Grianghraf: National Parks & Wildlife Service

Baint lín. Mar chuid de chur i bhfeidhm Phlean Oidhreachta Chontae Dhún na nGall, coimisiúnaíodh tionscnamh inbhuanaithe ábhar tuí agus léiríodh trí ghearrscannán chun an próiseas fáis agus bainte a thaifeadh.

Grianghraf: Conor Farren

Leathanach 66

Mar chuid de Thionscnamh Bailte Stairiúla na nGleanntach agus i gcomhpháirtíocht le hIontaobhas Brian Friel, críochnaíodh caomhnú agus deisiúcháin struchtúracha ar Theach Cúirte na nGleanntach.

Grianghraf: Joseph Gallagher

Leathanach 67

Coimisiúnaíodh deisiúcháin chaomhantais ar an taobh amuigh agus ar an taobh istigh de The Laurels – teach mháthar Brian Friel sna Gleannta – mar chuid de Thionscnamh Bhailte Stairiúla na nGleanntach arna bhainistiú ag an Oifig Oidhreachta, an Oifig Caomhantais agus Iontaobhas Brian Friel.

Grianghraf: Joseph Gallagher

Leathanach 68

In óstán stairiúil Dorrian's Imperial Hotel le linn a gcuirte ar Bhéal Átha Seanaidh tá baill d'Fhoireann Atlas Bhailte Stairiúla na hÉireann agus ionadaithe ó Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall agus ó Ghrúpa Athghiniúna Bhéal Átha Seanaidh Ó chlé go deas: Jennifer Moore (Cúntóir Eagarthóireachta, IHTA, Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann), Judith McCarthy (Coimeádaí, Músaem Contae Dhún na nGall), Sarah Gearty (Eagarthóir Cartagrafach & Bainistíochta, IHTA, Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann), Barry Sweeney (Grúpa Athghiniúna Bhéal Átha Seanaidh), Alison Roche (Iníon Léinn SPUR, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad), An Dr. Angela Byrne (Údar, IHTA Bhéal Átha Seanaidh, Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann), An tOllamh Howard Clark, Bord Eagarthóireachta IHTA), An Dr. Joseph Gallagher (Oifigeach Oidhreachta, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall), An Dr. Michael Potterton (Cathaoirleach, Bord Eagarthóireachta IHTA, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad), An Dr. Ruth McManus (Bord Eagarthóireachta IHTA, Ollscoil Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath) & an tOllamh Anngret Simms (Eagarthóir Comhairleach IHTA).

Grianghraf: Royal Irish Academy

Leathanach 71

Bláth na Cuaiche san Earrach
Grianghraf: John Soffe

Leathanach 72

An 1ú Cruinniú de Ghrúpa Oibre Bithéagsúlachta Dhún na nGall
Grianghraf: Donegal County Council

Leathanach 75

Caomhnú ialtóg Éireann agus díograiseoirí nua ialtóg ar shiúlóid ialtóg ag Coillte Dhroim Bó
Grianghraf: Ruth Keough

Taitneamh á bhaint as siúlóid dúlra treoraithe trí Ards Friary i gcomhar le Nature North West
Grianghraf: John Soffe

PHOTO CAPTIONS

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Cli-Mates Group, Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana at Fort Dunree for DACCHE event

Photograph: Donegal County Museum

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Engraving of Donegal Castle, 1843, donated in 2024

Image: Donegal County Archives

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Donegal County Council staff outside County House, Lifford, 1959, donated in 2024 (Copyright Donegal County Archives)

Photograph: Donegal County Council

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Daniel Sweeney, Mark Blank (depositor) and Niamh Brennan (archivist) at the handover to the Archives of Mr Blank's Mary from Dungloe Festival digital archive at Dungloe public services centre, August 2024

Photograph: Pat McCole

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During the Festival of Bealtaine, a history group from Strabane at the Archives, May 2024 (Credit: Donegal County Archives)

Photograph: Donegal County Archives

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Archaeological dig at Disert heritage site in the foothills of the Bluestack Mountains led by Atlantic Technological University, Sligo and part-funded under the County Donegal Heritage Plan.

Photograph: Joseph Gallagher

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Members of the County Donegal Heritage Forum pictured with Cllr. Martin Harley (Cathaoirleach, Donegal County Council), Cllr. Barry Sweeney (Chairperson, County Donegal Heritage Forum) and Virginia Teehan (Chief Executive, The Heritage Council) pictured at the launch of the County Donegal Heritage Plan in Lough Eske Castle in May.

Photograph: Clive Wasson

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Pictured at the launch of the Native Woodlands of County Donegal book in Glenveagh National Park are (from left to right): Joseph Gallagher, County Donegal Heritage Officer; Seán Ó Gaoithín, author and Head Gardener at Glenveagh National Park; and Malcolm Noonan T.D., Minister of State for Nature, Heritage & Electoral Reform.

Photograph: National Parks & Wildlife Service

Harvesting of flax. As part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan, a sustainable thatch materials initiative was commissioned and three short films to document the growing and harvesting process were produced.

Photograph: Conor Farren

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As part of the Glenties Historic Towns Initiative and in partnership with the Brian Friel Trust, conservation and structural repairs were completed to Glenties Courthouse.

Photograph: Joseph Gallagher

Page 67

Conservation repairs to the exterior and interior of The Laurels – Brian Friel's mother's home in Glenties – were commissioned as part of the Glenties Historic Towns Initiative managed by the Heritage Office, Conservation Office and the Brian Friel Trust.

Photograph: Joseph Gallagher

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Pictured in the historic Dorrian's Imperial Hotel during their visit to Ballyshannon are members of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas Team and representatives from Donegal County Council and the Ballyshannon Regeneration Group. From left to right are: Jennifer Moore (Editorial Assistant, IHTA, Royal Irish Academy), Judith McCarthy (Curator, Donegal County Museum), Sarah Gearty (Cartographic & Managing Editor, IHTA, Royal Irish Academy), Barry Sweeney (Ballyshannon Regeneration Group), Alison Roche (SPUR Student, Maynooth University), Dr. Angela Byrne (Author, IHTA Ballyshannon, Royal Irish Academy), Prof. Howard Clarke (IHTA Editorial Board), Dr. Joseph Gallagher (Heritage Officer, Donegal County Council), Dr. Michael Potterton (Chair, IHTA Editorial Board, Maynooth University), Dr. Ruth McManus (IHTA Editorial Board, Dublin City University) & Prof. Anngret Simms (IHTA Consultant Editor).

Photograph: Royal Irish Academy

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Cuckoo Flower in Spring

Photograph: John Soffe

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1st Meeting of the Donegal Biodiversity Working Group

Photograph: Donegal County Council

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Bat Conservation Ireland and new bat enthusiasts on a bat walk at Drumboe Woods

Photograph: Ruth Keough

Enjoying a guided nature walk through Ards Friary with Nature NorthWest

Photograph: John Soffe

ACRAINMNEACHA

ATU	Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh
ARA	Cumann Cartlann agus Taifead
DACCHE	Gníomhaíocht Dhigiteach ar Athrú Aeráide le Timpeallacht Oidhreachta
DMEP	Comhpháirtíocht Oideachais Cheoil Dhún na nGall
ED	Europe Direct
ETB	Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna (Dhún na nGall)
EU	An tAontas Eorpach
HSE	Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
LECP	Plean Áitiúil Eacnamaíochta agus Pobail
LGMA	An Ghníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil
FEP	Feisire de Pharlaimint na hEorpa
OPW	Oifig Na nOibreacha Poiblí
RCC	Ionad Ciltúir Reigiúnach
READ DL	Léigh Dún na nGall (tionscadal léitheoireachta pobail)
TG4	Teilifís na Gaeilge
TUSLA	An Ghníomhaireacht Leanaí agus Teaghlaigh

ACRONYMS

ATU	Atlantic Technological University
ARA	Archives & Records Association
DACCHE	Digital Action on Climate Change with Heritage Environment
DMEP	Donegal Music Education Partnership
ED	Europe Direct
ETB	(Donegal) Education and Training Board
EU	European Union
HSE	Health Service Executive
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
OPW	Office of Public Works
RCC	Regional Cultural Centre
READ DL	Read Donegal (community reading project)
TG4	Teilifís na Gaeilge
TUSLA	Child and Family Agency in Ireland

