

Donegal County Council's Culture Division Presents...

May 1st – 31st 2025

# BEALTAINNE



**30**  
YEARS

**Donegal**  
**Bealtaine Festival**

An Age & Opportunity **arts** initiative



Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council  
Council of the Year 2025

# Helping You Live Well at Home for Longer

Are you or a loved one looking for support to live safely and independently at home? The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme is here to help!

**This free service is available across Ireland to ensure older adults can stay in their own homes, maintain independence, and enjoy a high quality of life.**



## Join us at our Drop-in Clinics!

We'll be holding drop-in clinics across Donegal during Bealtaine, where you can talk to local Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinators in person and learn how we can support you. **See page 17 for more details.**

## Get in touch today!

Visit [www.agefriendlyireland.ie](http://www.agefriendlyireland.ie) or contact your local Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator at 046 924 8899 to find out more.



**We provide support to help older people aged 65+ live in their own home with dignity and independence for as long as possible.**

- **Personalized Support** – Our dedicated Coordinators work with you to identify your needs and connect you with essential services.
- **Safe & Comfortable Living** – We assist in improving home safety, adapting your space, and accessing grants for home modifications.
- **Health & Wellbeing Focused** – We help link you to healthcare services, social supports, and community activities to enhance your quality of life.
- **Financial & Social Assistance** – Get guidance on benefits, entitlements, and services designed to make ageing at home easier.

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A big thank you to all the people involved in organising this year's festival, especially to the Culture Division Bealtaine Committee and all the Culture Division Staff spread throughout the county.

Thanks also to artists, performers, participating venues and to everyone who attends.



### FREE EVENTS

All events are **free** unless otherwise stated.



SCAN ME

### ONLINE BOOKINGS

Visit [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/)  
or scan the QR code with your phone's camera  
to bring you directly to the events page.



### FESTIVAL INFORMATION:

[www.donegalculture.ie](http://www.donegalculture.ie)

 @DonegalCountyLibrary

 @DonegalLibrary

 @donegallibrary

T: 074 91 75384

(Leave your number and we will get back to you asap)

E: [bealtaine@donegallibrary.ie](mailto:bealtaine@donegallibrary.ie)

## Welcome

We would like to warmly welcome you to the annual Bealtaine Festival. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Bealtaine Festival nationally. Bealtaine has grown into Ireland's largest co-operative arts festival with over 3,000 events taking place last year in cities, towns and villages throughout the country.

The national Bealtaine festival, co-ordinated by Age & Opportunity in partnership with local authorities and arts and older people's organisations, features older people as artists and performers, as event organisers and as audiences and participants. Janet Gaynor of the Donegal Older People's Council expressed their delight '...to be associated with the Bealtaine Programme and encourage people to attend the events...' It is this unique collaboration across generations that makes the festival special each year.

The pages of this brochure contain information on the large number of Bealtaine events taking place in County Donegal. It features a wide range of events in libraries, arts and community venues throughout the county and should include something to suit everyone. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity and attend as many Bealtaine events as you can. Bealtaine in Donegal is organised by Donegal County Council Culture Division in association with a wide range of partners and is co-ordinated by Donegal County Library, Donegal County Museum and the Regional Cultural Centre.

## Fáilte

Fáilte romhaibh uilig chuig Féile na Bealtaine na bliana seo. Beidh an Fhéile Bhealtaine ag ceiliúradh 30 bliain ar an bhfód i mbliana. Is í Bealtaine an fhéile ealaíne comhoibritheacha is mó sa tír agus beidh 3,000 imeachtaí siúl i gcathracha, bailte agus sráidbhailte ar fud na tíre.

Tá Féile náisiúnta na Bealtaine comhordaithe ag 'Aostacht & Deiseanna', i gcomhar leis na húdaráis áitiúla mar aon le réimse leathan eagraíochtaí eile ealaíon agus eagraíochtaí éagsúla a mbíonn ag plé le daoine scothaosta. Cuirtear daoine scaothaosta ag croílár na Féile - mar ealaíontóirí is mar oirfidigh, mar eagarthóirí 's mar taibheoirí, mar lucht féachanna is mar rannpháirtithe. Dúirt Janet Gaynor ó Chomhairle Dhaoine Scothaosta Dhún na nGall gur cúis mhór áthais dóibh.. 'a bheith bainteach le Clár na Bealtaine and daoine a spreagadh chun freastal ar na himeachtaí ...'Is í an comhoibriú speisialta sin, thar na gliúnta, an rud is suntasaí fán bhFéile achan bliain.

Istigh sa bhileog seo, gheobhfar na sonraí uilig fán réimse mhór imeachtaibh a bhéas ag tarlú le linn na Féile, i leabharlanna 's in ionaid ealaíon agus pobail, thart fá Dhún na nGall. Táimid cinnte go bhfuil rud inteacht ann do gach duine. Ba mhaith linn go mór go ndéanfadh gach ball den bpobal iarracht freastal ar an oiread imeachtaí agus is féidir leo, le linn na Féile speisialta seo. Tá Féile na Bealtaine i nDún na nGall eagraithe ag Rannán Cultúir Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall, i gcomhar le réimse leathan de comhpháirtithe agus tá sé á chomhordú ag Leabharlann Chontae Dhún na nGall, Músaem Chontae Dhún na nGall agus an tIonad Cultúir Réigiúnach.

## MINDSET



## MEDITATION



### 'Do you wear you?' with Helen O'Driscoll

Learning to dress ourselves in our own distinctive, meaningful and personal signature style allows us freedom from fashion trends and fads and a move towards a more authentic mirror of our inner selves. This inner outer alignment offers an important foundation to our sense of health and well-being, creating harmony. This workshop will support you to discover and truly wear you - the result, an opportunity to feel more confident and bolder, which will permeate into other areas of your life!

**Capacity: 20**

**Tuesday 13th May, 6pm - 7.30pm**

**Venue:** Twin Towns Community Library

**Thursday 15th May, 2pm - 3.30pm**

**Venue:** Milford Community Library

**Thursday 15th May, 6pm - 7.30pm**

Central Library, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384

### Sound Baths Workshop with Marie Fitzpatrick

A sound bath is a deeply relaxing, meditative experience which can take you on a journey of deep relaxation, tranquillity, and healing. Participants are asked to bring a pillow and blanket with them. Chairs will be available for those who may need additional support or prefer seated practice.

**Capacity: 12 Max**

**Tuesday 6th May, 11.15am-12pm**

**Venue:** Lifford Community Library

**Friday 9th May, 11.15am-12pm**

**Venue:** Ballyshannon Branch Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384





### Hand Printing Dance Hall Posters with Maggie Marley at Cló & Co Printmaking Studio

Take a step back in time to look at some of the famous Dance Hall Posters created by commercial print companies like Donegal Printing Company. An enjoyable morning spent reminiscing while experiencing the craft of letterpress printing. The instantly recognisable band posters were created using wooden type which were handset by the printer, inked and printed on large proofing presses. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and get inky as you print your own poster to take home.

*This workshop is funded by Donegal County Council & The Heritage Council as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan.*

**Capacity: 10 Max**

**Thursday 15th May, 10.30am-1.30pm**

**Venue:** Cló & Co Printmaking Studio Unit 4,  
Aughnagaddy, Ramelton, Donegal, F92ADT8

**Bookings essential:** [info@cloandcoprintmaking.ie](mailto:info@cloandcoprintmaking.ie)



### Acrylic Seascape – Painting Workshop

Join Artist Bernie Wilson (ART FARM) for a special Wild Atlantic Way seascape experience using various methods & acrylic techniques. Be ready to step out of your comfort zone with this workshop.

**Capacity: 12 Max**

**Monday 12th May, 10.30am-12.30pm**

**Venue:** Ballyshannon Library

**Wednesday 14th May, 10am-12pm**

**Venue:** Twin Towns Community Library

**Thursday 15th May, 10.30am-12.30pm**

**Venue:** Central Library, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384

**Thursday 15th May, 2.30pm-4.30pm**

**Venue:** Volt House, Raphoe

**Bookings:** (074) 917 3966

**Friday 16th May, 10.30am-12.30pm**

**Venue:** Carndonagh Community Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384

## CRAFTS



## CRAFTS



### Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter is for adults who enjoy knitting, crochet, cross stitch and other crafts. Participants can share tips, swap patterns, meet new people, learn new skills and bring along a project they are already working on or start something new.

**Every Tuesday in May – 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th, 2pm-4pm**

**Venue:** Central Library, Foyle Street, Derry

**Bookings:** All welcome. For more info call +44 (0)28 7122 9990

### Bealtaine Art Expression Workshop with Brigid Birney

This workshop centres around a meditation on Bealtaine, followed by self-expression through painting.

**Thursday 8th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Forge Family Resource Centre, Pettigo

**Bookings:** Call (071) 986 1924 or email [theforgefrc@gmail.com](mailto:theforgefrc@gmail.com)



### Creative Writing Workshop with Grainne McCool

Passionate about the power of words, Grainne will discuss the importance of both real and imaginary stories. Join her to explore framing stories, memory writing, and more. Discover your creative self through words with Grainne McCool M.A., freelance writer.

**Capacity: 15 Max**

**Wednesday 7th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Buncrana Community Library

**Wednesday 14th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Donegal Town Branch Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



### Poetry Workshop with Paddy Donoghue

Join acclaimed poet Paddy Donoghue for a bilingual poetry workshop in Irish and English! With awards and his acclaimed collection, 'Leave Taking', Paddy shares his passion and experience. Open to all genres and skill levels, this supportive environment encourages creativity and exploration. Rugadh Paddy Donoghue i nGleann Cholm Cille, in iardheisceart Dhún na nGall ach tá cónaí air faoi láthair i mBun Dobhráin, i Co. Dhún na nGall. Thosaigh sé ag scríobh sa mheánscoil agus tá sé ag scríobh ó shin.

**Capacity: 12 Max**

**Wednesday 7th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Leabharlann Phobail na Rosann

**Wednesday 14th May, 6pm**

**Venue:** Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair

**Wednesday 21st May, 12.30pm**

**Venue:** Bundoran Community Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



**DANCE**



**MOVES & MELODIES**

Supported by  



Moves and Melodies is an age-friendly project in the Millennium Forum that includes song and dance workshops



**25** Forum  
 25th Anniversary

Upcoming 2025 Dates:  
 2pm - 3:30pm

Thursday, 23 January 2025  
 Thursday, 20 February 2025  
 Thursday, 20 March 2025  
 Thursday, 17 April 2025  
 Thursday, 22 May 2025  
 Thursday, 19 June 2025  
 Thursday, 24 July 2025  
 Thursday, 21 August 2025  
 Thursday, 18 September 2025  
 Thursday, 18 October 2025  
 Thursday, 20 November 2025  
 Thursday, 18 December 2025

## Moves and Melodies – Age Friendly Song and Dance Workshop

Moves & Melodies is an age friendly project for adults which offers song and dance workshops. There will be an opportunity to learn new dance skills and sing a range of songs styles. It is open to all and is also dementia friendly.

**Thursday 22nd May, 2pm-3.30pm**

**Venue:** Millennium Forum – Studio Theatre

**Bookings:** Pre-booking essential from [www.millenniumforum.co.uk](http://www.millenniumforum.co.uk) or call +44 (0)28 7126 4455.

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TEA DANCES

**Studio Theatre, Millennium Forum**  
 From 2pm - 3:30pm

### 2025 Dates

Thursday, 30 January 2025	Thursday, 31 July 2025
Thursday, 27 February 2025	Thursday, 28 August 2025
Thursday, 27 March 2025	Thursday, 25 September 2025
Thursday, 24 April 2025	Thursday, 23 October 2025
Thursday, 29 May 2025	Thursday, 27 November 2025
Thursday, 26 June 2025	

**Admission Free**

**Booking essential** at [www.millenniumforum.co.uk](http://www.millenniumforum.co.uk) or telephone 02871264455 (option 1)



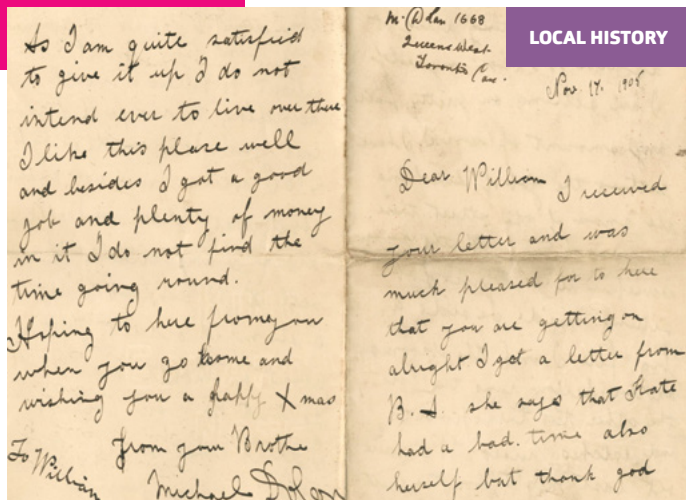
## Dementia Friendly Tea Dance

The Tea Dance is free with an afternoon of entertainment and music provided by Dougie Breslin. Light refreshments are served.

**Thursday 29th May, 2pm-3.30pm**

**Venue:** Millennium Forum – Studio Theatre

**Bookings:** Pre-booking essential from [www.millenniumforum.co.uk](http://www.millenniumforum.co.uk) or call +44 (0)28 7126 4455.



LOCAL HISTORY

### Caring for Precious Memories – a workshop on preserving your family archives

Find out how you can take care of your letters, photographs and other memorabilia. Learn how to record and store them properly and ensure they are preserved for future generations. The workshop will be given by Niamh Brennan, Archivist, Archives Service, Donegal County Council.

**Thursday 8th May, 6.30-7.30pm**

**Venue:** Central Library, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



LOCAL HISTORY

### Your Past in the Present Reminiscence Sessions with Niamh Brennan, County Archivist and Caroline Carr, Donegal County Museum

Donegal County Museum and the County Archives use items from their collections to enable people to reminisce about their lives and their communities. Join Caroline Carr, County Museum and Niamh Brennan, County Archivist who will bring items from their collections to help reminisce, have a laugh and to enjoy looking at past memories. For more information Tel. no.: (074) 9124613 OR [museum@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:museum@donegalcoco.ie).

**Tuesday 13th May, 11.30am**

**Venue:** Ionad Lae Anagaire / Annagry Day Centre (Open to clients only)

**Wednesday 14th May, 2pm**

**Venue:** Ballyshannon Community Hospital (Open to residents only)

**Wednesday 21st May, 2pm**

**Venue:** Malin Social Centre at K&M Connolly Foundation, Malin Town (Open to all)

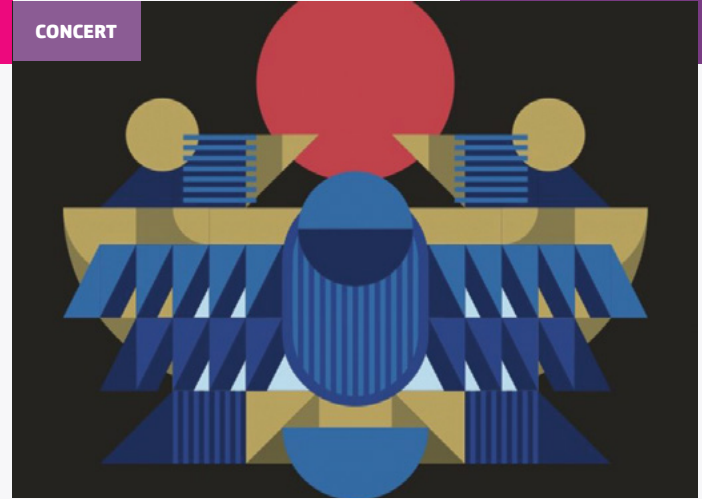
**Thursday 22nd May, 2pm**

**Venue:** Ramelton Community Hospital (Open to clients only)

## LOCAL HISTORY



## CONCERT



## Echoes of the Past: Reminiscing in Stranorlar and Ballybofey

Join us for a heartwarming reminiscence session, hosted in collaboration with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, the Ballybofey, Stranorlar & District Historical Society, the Donegal County Museum and County Archives. Together, we'll explore cherished memories and stories from olden times in the Finn Valley area, celebrating our shared history and the enduring power of memory.

**Tuesday 20th May, 11.30am**

**Venue:** Twin Towns Community Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



## Jóhann Jóhannsson: Drone Mass

Presented by Chamber Choir Ireland & Crash Ensemble  
Jóhann Jóhannsson: Drone Mass (Part of Sound! Soundtrack Film Festival 2025). Experience Jóhann Jóhannsson's Drone Mass with Chamber Choir Ireland and Crash Ensemble. This richly atmospheric work, inspired by ancient Coptic hymn, highlights Jóhannsson's genius. Following the sold-out Irish Premiere at Kilkenny Arts Festival, Crash Ensemble and Chamber Choir Ireland tour this iconic work with Guest Conductor Gabriel Crouch.

**Friday 9th May, 8pm**

**Admission:** €25 / €22

**Venue:** Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.regionalculturalcentre.com](http://www.regionalculturalcentre.com) or call: (074) 912 0777



CONCERT

### Gentecorum

Music Network presents multi-award-winning folk ensemble Gentecorum. Winners of Ensemble of the Year at the 2024 Canadian Folk Music Awards, Gentecorum are celebrated as being among the foremost champions of Québécois traditional music. Their unique blend of lively, foot-stomping energy, masterful musicianship and captivating stage presence has won them fans worldwide.

**Thursday 15th May, 8pm**

**Admission:** €15 / €12

**Venue:** Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.regionalculturalcentre.com](http://www.regionalculturalcentre.com)  
or call: (074) 912 0777



CONCERT

### Stuart Bailie – 40 years a Music Journalist

**“A Career Retrospective Interview” by Stephen Rennicks, followed by an audience Q&A.**

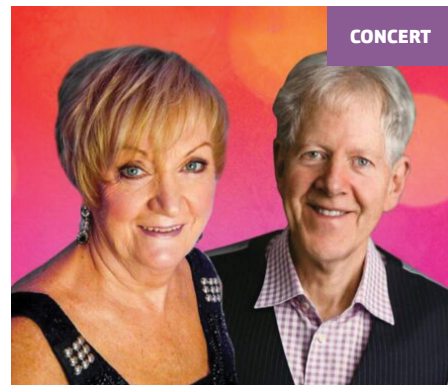
Join Ireland’s most acclaimed music journalist, Stuart Bailie in conversation with Stephen Rennicks as they look back on 40 years of unforgettable interviews, from U2 and Van Morrison to the power of punk during the Troubles. Expect iconic stories, music insights and an audience Q&A. Ask Stuart anything including if Paul Weller fancied a fight after a less than positive live review?

**Friday 23rd May, 8pm**

**Admission:** €10

**Venue:** Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.regionalculturalcentre.com](http://www.regionalculturalcentre.com)  
or call: (074) 912 0777



CONCERT

### Philomena Begley and Ray Lynam

Philomena Begley and Ray Lynam, legends of Irish Country music, have enjoyed 6 decades of success with countless No.1 hits like “Blanket on the Ground” and “Gypsy Joe and Me.” They’ve performed from Ireland to Tennessee, sharing stages with stars like George Jones and Tammy Wynette. Don’t miss this chance to see Country Music royalty! Special guest: Mick Flavin. Early booking advised.

**Sunday 25th May, 8pm**

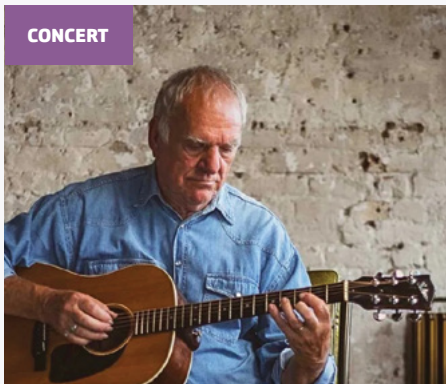
**Admission:** £26.50

**Venue:** The Alley Theatre, Strabane

**Bookings:** [www.alley-theatre.com](http://www.alley-theatre.com)  
or call +44 (0)28 7138 4444



## CONCERT



## Ralph McTell

**The 'Time Drift of the Road' Tour.** Legendary British singer-songwriter Ralph McTell embarks on his most extensive Irish tour in 2025, marking his 80th year. A stalwart of the folk scene for over five decades, McTell is famed for his Ivor Novello award-winning hit "Streets of London." This tour celebrates his enduring passion for live music and artistry. Reflecting on past shows in Ireland, McTell looks forward to this milestone tour, promising a moving celebration of life and song.

**Saturday 17th May, 8pm**

**Admission:** €34

**Venue:** An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.angrianan.com](http://www.angrianan.com)

or call 074 912 0777

## CONCERT



## 'Bach to Beatles'

Join musicians from St Agnes' CCMA Late Starters Orchestra, Sounds Ensemble (Dublin), and the Donegal Chamber Orchestra. Over 70 musicians will perform well-known classical hits and popular tunes, including works by Corelli, Handel, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Les Misérables, and The Beatles.

Presented by Donegal Music Education Partnership and St Agnes' Community Centre for Music and the Arts (Dublin) in association with Donegal Chamber Music Society and the Regional Cultural Centre.

**Saturday 17th May, 6pm**

**Venue:** Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.regionalculturalcentre.com](http://www.regionalculturalcentre.com)

or call: (074) 912 0777



donegal  
music  
education  
partnership



DONEGAL  
CHAMBER  
MUSIC SOCIETY



## CONCERT



## Andy Irvine

Known for his impressive repertoire of Irish traditional songs and Balkan dance tunes, Andy Irvine fuses Irish and World Music uniquely. Having toured worldwide with bands like Sweeney's Men, Planxty, and Mozaik, Andy continually explores new musical styles, including Balkan folk. With a career spanning over forty years, he is a highly revered troubadour, consistently delivering pulsating, heartfelt performances. Don't miss this extraordinary artist!

**Friday 9th May, 8pm**

**Admission:** £25

**Venue:** The Alley Theatre, Strabane

**Bookings:** [www.alley-theatre.com](http://www.alley-theatre.com)

or call +44 (0)28 7138 4444



CONCERT

## Patsy Cavanagh

Join Inishowen singer/songwriter Patsy Cavanagh for an intimate concert of heartfelt music. Enjoy songs like 'Home to Donegal,' 'The Old Schoolyard,' 'I wish you well,' and 'Can't hold the years back'.

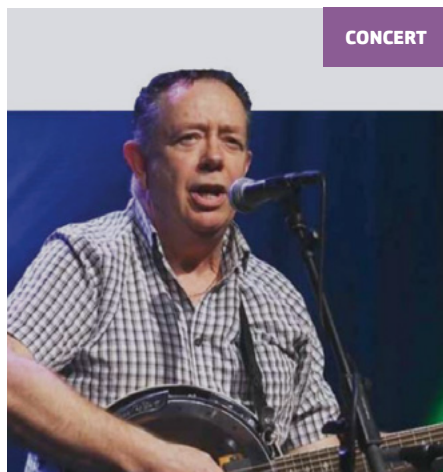
**Tuesday 20th May, 1.30pm**

**Venue:** Buncrana Community Library

**Thursday 22nd May, 7pm**

**Venue:** Carndonagh Community Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/)  
or call (074) 917 5384



CONCERT

## Alan Chapman

Enjoy an afternoon of music with Alan Chapman, a self-taught musician from Bundoran and a well-known figure on the South Donegal music scene. Originally captivated by the tin whistle, Alan showcases his versatility on the bass, acoustic guitar, and banjo. Don't miss this delightful performance!

**Friday 23rd May, 2pm**

**Venue:** Bundoran Community Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/)  
or call (074) 917 5384



CONCERT

## Noel Wilson and Noeleen Ní Cholla

Beirt amhránaí iad seo atá gradaim áitiúla agus idirnáisiúnta bainte amach acu. Beidh siad ag ceol roinnt amhráin áitiúla le linn na ceardlainne seo agus beidh lúcháir orthu má tá fonn ort a bheith páirteach sa cheol ach tá fearadh na fáilte romhat éisteacht fosta. These are two singers who have won both local and international awards. They will sing local songs, and they will be delighted if you join them in song. However, you are more than welcome to sit and listen as well.

**Thursday 8th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Milford Community Library

**Wednesday 14th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Leabharlann Phobail na Rosann

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/)  
or call (074) 917 5384



PLAY



## Murder for Two

A hilarious high-energy musical whodunit, Murder For Two is a madcap murder mystery with a twist. Two actors play thirteen characters... and the piano. They put the LAUGHTER into MANSLAUGHTER! A loving homage to the canon of murder mystery plays, Murder For Two is a hysterical blend of music, mayhem and murder. When famous novelist Arthur Whitney is found dead at his birthday party, it's time to call in the detectives. The only problem is, they're out of town. Enter Officer Marcus Moskowicz, a neighbourhood cop who dreams of climbing the ranks. With the clock ticking, it's up to Marcus to prove his super sleuthing skills and solve the crime before the real detective arrives. This award-winning Broadway show is gloriously silly, devilishly clever and fantastically funny. You won't want to miss this killer musical comedy!

**Thursday 15th May, 8pm**

**Admission:** €18 / €15

**Venue:** An Grianán Theatre,  
Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.angrianan.com](http://www.angrianan.com)  
or call 074 912 0777

**Sunday 18th May, 7pm**

**Admission:** £20 / £18

**Venue:** The Playhouse, Derry

**Bookings:** [www.derryplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.derryplayhouse.co.uk)  
or call +44 (0)28 7126 8027

PLAY



## No Citation

An acclaimed new play with original songs by Kyron Bourke, presented by Teatro Nua Productions. Followed by drinks and music in the plaza. After successful runs in Belfast and Dublin, "No Citation" returns to the stage. This theatrical and musical event weaves powerful storytelling with original jazz compositions. It follows Jeremy d'Wolfe McCarthy, a legendary piano man facing his final judgment. Finding himself in the derelict Dimitri's Piano Bar, McCarthy attempts to entertain with his latest songs but is haunted by ghosts from his past. As he realizes this may be his final performance, he desperately tries to set the record straight, allowing the audience to arbitrate the fate of this deeply flawed but ultimately human protagonist.

**Thursday 1st May, 8pm**

**Admission:** £25 / £22.50

**Venue:** The Playhouse, Derry

**Contact:** [www.derryplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.derryplayhouse.co.uk) or call +44 (0)28 7126 8027



FASHION



POETRY

### Sustainable Fashion with Sheila from Circular Dress Collaborative

Join Sheila Clancy O'Donnell, CEO of Circular Dress Collaborative Letterkenny, to learn about the benefits of sustainable fashion and how to elongate garment life. Circular Dress Collaborative is a consignment hub dedicated to the principles of resale, repair, repurpose, and rebuild. They encourage consumers to eliminate the need to throw textiles out and instead repair and repurpose.

*Supported by the European Commission*

**Friday 23rd May, 12pm-1.30pm**

**Venue:** Buncrana Community Library

**Thursday 29th May, 6pm -7.30pm**

Central Library, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384

### James Finnegan

Join Letterkenny poet James Finnegan for a captivating poetry recital featuring his latest collection, *A Butterfly and its Shadow*. The second-prize winner in the 2022 Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition and a prolific writer, James has been published in the Irish Times and various anthologies. A former teacher at St Eunan's College, his post-retirement years have seen his reputation grow. Published by Revival Press, this collection, dedicated to his wife Livinia, showcases his rare insight and talent.

**Thursday 22nd May, 6pm**

**Venue:** Central Library, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



## NATURE



## NATURE



### Caint Fhiáin le hEanna

Eanna Ni Lamhna will be talking about the interesting things that wild creatures do and bursting a few myths as well such as bats are not blind, squirrels don't hibernate and fish-eating birds like herons and kingfishers actually cannot swim at all. Beidh scéaltaí aici faoin crann saileach, agus an crann trim comh maith le pictiúirí deasa des na feileacain agus feithidí eile. This talk is funded by Donegal County Council & The Heritage Council as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan.

**Tuesday 6th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384

### Garden Birds through the Seasons with Aengus Kennedy

Join Aengus Kennedy of Nature North West as he explores what garden birds do in the four seasons. The talk will start by exploring and listening to some lost sounds, birds that were once very common but are now sadly lost or in severe decline. Then Aengus will discuss what common garden birds get up to and how they survive through the year. You will finish by listening to and learning some of the bird songs that you will hear everywhere at this time of year.

**Wednesday 28th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Moville Branch Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384

Photo Credit: Molly Bell

NATURE



## Abundance of Sea Life in Donegal Bay

Join Michael Bell in Bundoran Community Library for a fascinating slideshow about the abundance of sea life in Donegal Bay. This lunchtime talk during the Bealtaine Festival will also celebrate National Biodiversity Week, an annual week of activity and events to raise awareness about Ireland's Biodiversity. This talk is funded by Donegal County Council Biodiversity Office with support from The Heritage Council, through the County Biodiversity Action Plan programme.

Check out <https://biodiversityweek.ie/> for more free events in your area during Biodiversity Week 16th – 25th May.

**Monday 19th May 12.30-1.30pm**

**Venue:** Bundoran Community Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384

NATURE

## 'DONEGAL'S WEATHER THROUGH THE AGES'

FROM 'DEEP FREEZES, BIG WINDS TO MIRAGES'

- JOIN CAROLINE FROM

DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM

FOR A FASCINATING EXPLORATION OF DONEGAL

WEATHER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES



## 'Donegal's Weather through the Ages' with Caroline Carr, Donegal County Museum

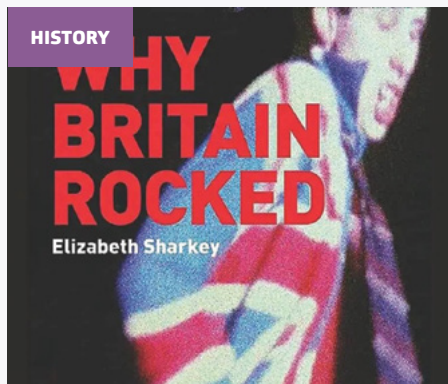
From Deep Freezes, Big Winds to Mirages - join Caroline for a fascinating exploration of Donegal Weather events throughout the centuries. Afterwards there will be a short film (10mins) on weather as part of the DLDC Climate action film series.

**Thursday 1st May, 6.30pm**

**Venue:** Dunfanaghy Workhouse, 1-6 Church meadows, Dunfanaghy

**Bookings:** Call (074) 913 6540

or email [dunfanaghyworkhousetours@gmail.com](mailto:dunfanaghyworkhousetours@gmail.com)



### “Why Britain Rocked: How Rock Became Roll and Took Over the World”

Join Amazon bestselling author Elizabeth Sharkey in conversation with Beatles expert Dr. Richard Mills, with live music from Shetland fiddle player Chyan Davidson. Exploring her book *Why Britain Rocked*, Sharkey traces the Celtic roots of British pop, from ancient migrations to musical legends like The Beatles, Kate Bush, David Bowie and Ed Sheeran, arguing that Irish musicality shaped rock and roll itself.

**Friday 2nd May, 8pm**

**Admission:** €10

**Venue:** The Alley Theatre, Strabane

**Bookings:** [www.alley-theatre.com](http://www.alley-theatre.com)  
or call +44 (0)28 7138 4444



### Mná na nGall - Donegal Women 1922 – 1980 Curator's Tour

Join us for a special Curator's tour of *Mná na nGall - Donegal Women 1922 – 1980*. Enjoy a cup of tea, while you explore our Women's exhibition - *Mná na nGall Donegal Women 1922 - 1980*. This powerful exhibition displays how women's rights were eroded under the new Irish Free State Government and how women fought to regain these rights over many decades. It also shines a light on some of the female trailblazers from Donegal in areas including medicine, science and the arts and ExtraOrdinary Donegal women.

**Saturday 3rd May, 2pm**

**Venue:** Donegal County Museum, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** Call (074) 912 4613  
or email [museum@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:museum@donegalcoco.ie)



### Foyle Yarn Spinners

Join the Foyle Yarn Spinners for a magical evening of storytelling, poetry, and good company.

**Monday 12th May, 7pm**

**Venue:** Verbal Arts Centre, Derry

**Bookings:** [www.theverbal.co](http://www.theverbal.co)  
or call +44 (0)28 7126 6946



Age Friendly  
**IRELAND**  
Healthy Age Friendly Homes

AGE FRIENDLY

### Healthy Age Friendly Homes with Age Friendly Ireland

Age Friendly Ireland will host drop-in clinics throughout Bealtaine, dedicated to supporting older individuals in living independently and with dignity in their own homes for as long as possible. Discover how to adapt your existing home, explore relevant grants, and gain access to a variety of housing, health, and social care supports to empower you to live the best life you can in your community.

**Friday 9th May, 11am-12.30pm**

**Venue:** Carndonagh Community Library

**Wednesday 14th May, 11am-12.30pm**

**Venue:** Lifford Community Library

**Friday 16th May, 11am-12.30pm**

**Venue:** Leabharlann Phobail na Rosann

**Tuesday 20th May, 11am-12.30pm**

**Venue:** Milford Community Library

**Tuesday 27th May, 11am-12.30pm**

**Venue:** Donegal Town Branch Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



STORYTIME

### Intergenerational Storytime

Experience the joy of Intergenerational Storytime sessions in libraries across Donegal this Bealtaine! Children and grandparents are invited to gather together to enjoy listening to a story and create cherished memories through the magic of storytelling.

**Wednesday 21st May, 4pm**

**Venue:** Carndonagh Community Library

**Tuesday 27th May, 2.30pm**

**Venue:** Twin Towns Community Library

**Wednesday 28th May, 10.30am**

**Venue:** Central Library, Letterkenny

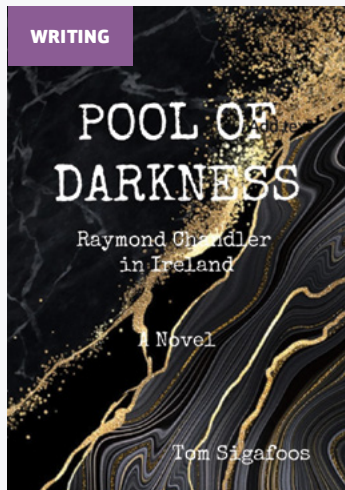
**Wednesday 28th May, 4pm**

**Venue:** Bundoran Community Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



## WRITING

LEAVE  
TAKING

Paddy Donoghue

## FILM CLUB

**Late Blooming: The Hits and Misses of Aspiring Authors Over 60**

Join authors Tom Sigafoos and Paddy Donoghue in conversation as they share reminiscences and readings about their experiences as older writers trying to find publishers for their work, their work process, editing, and promotion. Sigafoos is the author of the historical crime novel *Pool of Darkness: Raymond Chandler in Ireland* and Donoghue recently published his debut collection of poetry "Leave Taking." The event will also include a Q&A session.

**Friday 23rd May, 3pm-4.30pm**

**Venue:** Bundoran Community Library

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/)  
or call (074) 917 5384

**'The Old Man and the Sea'**

Based on the novel by Ernest Hemingway. Santiago goes out on his usual fishing trip and makes a huge catch, the biggest of his life. Then a shark attacks and tries to steal his catch. Santiago battles with the shark for days. He returns to the shore beaten, tattered and torn, and his catch consisting now of mostly bones.

**Thursday 8th May, 2.30pm**

**Venue:** Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



FILM CLUB

### 'One Life'

'One Life' tells the true story of Nicholas Winton, who rescued hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis on the verge of WWII.

**Thursday 15th May, 2.30pm**

**Venue:** Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



DOCUMENTARY

### Niall Mac Giolla Bhríde An Trucaílin Donn

Clár a dhíríonn ar imeachtaí saoil agus ar oidhreacht Niall Mhic Ghiolla Bhríde, feirmeoir, file agus gníomhaí teanga Gaeltachta arbh as an Craoslach i dTír Chonaill dó. Dírítear ar na himeachtaí a thit amach ina shaol nuair a gearradh fineáil air siocair a ainm a bheith scríofa i nGaeilge ar a charr capaill.

**Friday 16th May, 11am**

**Venue:** Central Library, Letterkenny

**Bookings:** [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/) or call (074) 917 5384



### Mná na nGall - Donegal Women 1922 – 1980

This powerful, must-see exhibition explores how women's rights were eroded under the new Irish Free State and how women fought to regain these rights over many decades. It also shines a light on some of the female trailblazers from Donegal in areas including medicine, science and the arts and our ExtraOrdinary Donegal women.

#### Throughout May

**Venue:** Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny

**Opening Hours:** Monday-Friday, 10am-4.30pm. Saturday 1- 4.30pm

**Bookings:** No booking required. All Welcome.



### Obair na mBan/Women's Work

Is grúpa pobail iad Mná Phort Mhaise a thagann le chéile maidin Chéadaoin in Ionad Mhachaire Rabhartaigh. Faigheann siad rochtain ar chúrsaí trí ETB, HSE agus eagraíochtaí eile. Den chuid is mó baineann siad sult as comhluadar a chéile agus malartaíonn agus roinneann siad scileanna agus taitní saoil lena chéile. Tá an t-ealaíontóir Mary Toland ina ball agus d'oibrigh sí leis an ngrúpa ar thionscadail éagsúla.

Mná Phort Mhaise is a community group that come together on Wednesday mornings in Ionad Machaire Rabhartaigh. They access courses through ETB, HSE and other organisations. Mostly they enjoy each other's company and exchange and share skills and life experience with each other. Artist Mary Toland is a member and has worked with the group on various projects.

#### Throughout May

**Venue:** Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair

**Bookings:** No booking required. All Welcome.

T: 074 91 75384

E: [bealtaine@donegallibrary.ie](mailto:bealtaine@donegallibrary.ie)

[www.donegalculture.ie](http://www.donegalculture.ie)

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# 30 YEARS | Donegal Bealtaine Festival

An Age & Opportunity **arts** initiative

## #DonegalBealtaine



### FREE EVENTS

All events are **free** unless otherwise stated.



SCAN ME

### ONLINE BOOKINGS

Visit [www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/](http://www.donegalculture.ie/en/events/)  
or scan the QR code with your phone's camera  
to bring you directly to the events page.



**HERE**  
FOR ARTS  
& CULTURE  
NORTH WEST