

CULTURE - DONEGAL

Interactive
Newsletter



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council



Above: *The Song House Ireland - poetry workshops planned for Colmcille 1500*

Colmcille 1500

The year-long commemoration marking the 1500th anniversary of the birth of Colmcille is well under way with over 70 events planned up until December 2021. A new Colmcille 1500 website has been set up to provide a central hub for people in the North West to collectively promote events for the historic anniversary, whilst also providing a platform to engage with national and international audiences.

Planned events include concerts, exhibitions, films, plays, conferences, lectures and other performances – mostly virtual at this stage until physical events can resume. A series of events are planned to celebrate the Saint's Feast Day on 9th June 2021, with celebrations continuing throughout the year, culminating in events to mark Colmcille's birthday on 7th December 2021.

Right: *St Columb's Park House – virtual trail planned for Colmcille 1500*
Photo: Access Heritage.

Planned events also include 18 awards through a Colmcille 1500 Grant Scheme to provide opportunities for local communities to engage in the 1500th commemorations with projects covering a range of themes including history, music, drama, literature, art, archaeology, spirituality, storytelling and folklore.

For further details of upcoming events for the summer visit: www.colmcille1500.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Colmcille1500NW
Instagram: www.instagram.com/colmcille1500

The programme is being co-ordinated by Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council with the support of key partners including the North West Development Fund, in conjunction with and supported by The Executive Office and The Irish Government.



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Left: *Decade of Centenaries Commemorations Programme Culture Division, Donegal.*

Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2021

The Culture Division has been successful in securing funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media under the Community Strand of the 2021 Decade of Centenaries programme as part of the Decade of Centenaries Initiative 2012-2023 to deliver 8 projects in 2021. These projects include, a Historian in Residence based in the Archives Service; a programme of activity for children during Wainfest; a lecture programme coordinated by the Library Service; artistic responses to the Decade of Centenaries through an Open Call for Artists and an Artist Residency; a WWI database based on the County Donegal Book of Honour; a virtual tour of Donegal County Museum's exhibition From Conflict to Division, Donegal 1919-1925 and an audit of publically accessible memorials relating to the Decade of Centenaries 1919-1923.

Right: *Sisters enjoying the 'Fly a Kite' Cruinniú na nÓg event 2020.*
Photo: Paul McGuckin



Cruinniú na nÓg

We have an exciting line-up of online events and activities for children and young people for this Cruinniú na nÓg. This year the national day of youthful creativity takes place on Saturday 12th June. We have events for everyone from 0-18, such as baking, music and movement, digital workshops and much more. Visit [here](#) for all you need to know.

ARCHIVES

Donegal County Archives and other local authority Archives Services are in partnership with Beyond 2022, an international project based in Trinity College with collaborators such as the National Archives of Ireland and the UK. The project seeks to re-create a 'Virtual Records Treasury' with virtual reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland (The Four Courts) and its archival collections, which were destroyed in the Civil War in 1922. The Taoiseach recently described Beyond 2022 as a "landmark initiative" in terms of innovation and international collaboration.

The surviving archives of Donegal Grand Jury, dating back to 1753, have been digitised and will form part of the recreated archival 'Treasury.' The project includes a conference commemorating the centenary of the May 1921 Custom House fire and a publication. For more on this amazing project, see [here](#).



Left: Excerpt from 'The Past in the Present' exhibition.

The Archives Service continues to provide outreach events online. For the festival of Bealtaine a presentation and demonstration of digitised archives has been uploaded onto Donegal County Council's YouTube Channel [here](#).

The Archives Service is gradually putting more of its resources online and free to view. Recently uploaded are three exhibitions celebrating Donegal's history and culture, and showcasing its archives: The Past in the Present, A Trek through Time and Celebrating 100 Years of Modern Local Government. Click [here](#) to access.



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ARTS

Right: Earagail Arts Festival 2021, Tumble Circus.

Per Cent For Art Opportunity

A further opportunity for visual artists arises with the on-going development of the N56. The third in a series of Per Cent for Art Commissions - this time associated with the Mountcharles to Inver Road Scheme - has just recently been advertised by Donegal County Council. An artwork that is sculptural and permanent in nature is being sought, with interested artists being invited to respond to the rich industrial, social and economic heritage of the area. Copies of the Stage 1 Commission Briefing Document and Application Form, are now available from the Donegal National Roads Office E: cian.friel@dnrdo.ie The Closing Date for receipt of completed Stage 1 Applications is 4.00pm on Monday, June 14th, 2021.



Earagail Arts Festival 2021

Earagail Arts Festival's 2021 hybrid programme of online and live events from 4th to 25th July, will feature a series of public participatory digital projects including interactive workshops and augmented reality installations, coupled with a return to live music, spoken word, touring circus and aerial performances from Tumble Circus (pictured) and Fidget Feet, and innovative theatre - from the islands of the Gaeltacht to the peninsulas of Inishowen and Fanad, from the streets of Letterkenny to Raphoe and Ballybofey, celebrating the people and the places of Donegal. Visit www.eaf.ie

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HERITAGE

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Ballyshannon Historic Towns Initiative

The Heritage Office and Conservation Office in partnership with the Ballyshannon Regeneration Group secured €200,000 in funding for Ballyshannon under the Heritage Council's Historic Towns Initiative. Donegal County Council has committed an additional €85,000 towards the conservation works and there are financial contributions from local property owners. The initiative will result in conservation works to 13 historic properties along The Mall and to the Manor House on Upper Main Street, Ballyshannon.

National Heritage Week

National Heritage Week takes place from 14th - 22nd August 2021. This year's theme is 'Heritage for Everyone / Inclusive Heritage'. If you want to take part in Heritage Week, more information is available at: www.heritageweek.ie



Left: Aerial View of the Mall, Ballyshannon. Photo: Teresa Maguire

Community Heritage Grants Announced

The Heritage Council has awarded €139,381 to 16 heritage initiatives in County Donegal under its Community Heritage Grants Scheme which represents over 11% of the national funding available. Successful projects are highlighted [here](#).

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding

The Heritage Office has secured €45,766 in funding for a Tracking Irish Breeding Curlew project in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland, a Wetland Survey of County Donegal and a Survey of Breeding Snipe in partnership with BirdWatch Ireland.

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LIBRARIES

Libraries Re-open

It is with great pleasure we announce a phased re-opening of libraries. As part of the phased approach to re-opening and taking account of public health guidance, library opening hours have been reviewed. Details of new opening hours and services are available [here](#).

Summer adventures begin with our Summer Stars Reading Programme

Libraries guarantee a summer of fun with lots of online events and reading with our Summer Stars Reading Adventure programme. More details are available on the [library website](#).

Summer Lecture Series

The Local History section is proud to present two lecture series. The first series is themed around the Decade of Centenaries and will be available online from June to September. The second series entitled Colmcille 1500: Books and Beyond will be available online during Heritage Week, 14th -22 August. For further information, contact CentralLibrary@donegallibrary.ie



Little Library Initiative

Donegal Libraries are liaising with local Early Learning and Care settings to receive free book bags. Under this initiative, which aims to encourage a love of books and reading among young children, more than 4,500 early learning and care settings nationally are invited to collect free book bags and other resources from their local library, including our very own locally produced *Babbling Babies: multilingual nursery rhyme and action song book*.



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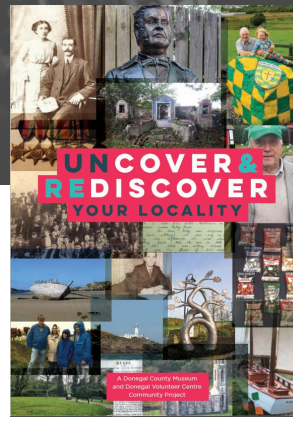
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MUSEUM

Exhibition 'From Conflict to Division, Donegal 1919-1925'

Donegal County Museum has developed a new exhibition 'From Conflict To Division, Donegal 1919-1925'. This exhibition examines the events of the War of Independence, the Civil War and Partition in Donegal. These events transformed the island of Ireland and have had a lasting legacy on Irish politics and society, right up to the present day. The exhibition will continue until the end of August 2021 and the Museum would welcome the loan of further artefacts and archives to add to the story of this period. This exhibition forms part of the Echoes of the Decade Project funded through the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



Left: 'UnCover & ReDiscover Your Locality' booklet cover.

UnCover & ReDiscover Your Locality booklet

In spring the Donegal Volunteer Centre in partnership with Donegal County Museum invited people to 'UnCover & ReDiscover Your Locality'. Through this community project volunteers were encouraged to find out about their local heritage and to share with the Museum what they had uncovered or even rediscovered. The submissions received are a miscellany of eclectic and wonderful stories, poems and photographs. They have been gathered together in an attractive booklet which is available [online](#) and in hard copy, free of charge.



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www.donegalcoco.ie/culture/countymuseum

REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE

Turas | Pilgrimage

Summer Exhibition Programme

Regional Cultural Centre, An Gailearaí, Artlink & The Glebe Gallery

This 'journey' will traverse through Donegal's cultural landscape via a multi-venue exhibition featuring ten Irish based artists exploring the societal shifts that shape our collective identity.

Turas will run from 19th June to September 2021 as part of the national 'Colmcille 1500' celebrations and present current work from a selection of established and emerging artists, chosen to represent a wide range of contemporary practice throughout Ireland.

In addition, Turas will also include a curated programme of accompanying events in tandem to the exhibition scheduling, including sonic art installations, film screenings and live art performances. Exhibition venues will include Regional Cultural Centre, An Gailearaí, Ghaoth Dobhair, the Glebe House & Gallery, Churchill and Artlink Fort Dunree, Buncrana.



Above: *Embroidery Frieze - The Politicians* by Ursula Burke.

This multi-venue collaboration seeks to provide valuable opportunities to both creative practitioners as well as a broad scope of professional creative workers. The developed public project will present a coherent programme that will be easily accessible and designed to operate within safe conditions in accordance with the COVID 19 pandemic guidelines.

Artists include Ursula Burke, Anthony Haughey, Frances Hegarty, Sarah Lewtas, Basam Al-Sabah, Aideen Barry, Sean Hillen, Cliodhna Timoney and Celina Muldoon.



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