SWITCH ON CULTURE NIGHT

FRI 22 SEPT
CULTURENIGHT.IE
LETTERKENNY
CO. DONEGAL 2017
Culture Night 2017
Letterkenny, County Donegal
Friday, September 22nd. 6pm – 10pm.

Culture Night provides a terrific opportunity for families to sample aspects of Irish Culture and Heritage. This extraordinary night of cultural festivities has grown each year since its inception in 2006 with inspiring commitment from local authorities, cultural organisations and community collaborators throughout the country.

This will be Letterkenny’s 9th occasion to take part in Culture Night and the programme for 2017 offers 39 diverse events in 24 venues that celebrate our unique local cultural identity. This year’s event takes place in the context of the Creative Ireland programme, a government initiative leading the engagement of every citizen with our arts and culture. We are pleased to acknowledge the support and assistance of Creative Ireland in the presentation of this year’s Culture Night programme in Letterkenny.

The programme delivers a night-time experience of all types of culture - visual art, music, theatre, sculpture, spoken word, dance, moving image and more. Your trail through Culture Night Letterkenny will lead you all over the town, with indoor and outdoor events in diverse places from the Donegal County Museum to the Letterkenny Town Park taking in the The Swell Festival, North West Words and the Cathedral Quarter along the way. You can explore all sorts of happenings presented by the Regional Cultural Centre, An Grianán Theatre, The Central Library and Donegal County Council Heritage Office - to name but a few.

Full venues, programmers and events are listed throughout this programme.

P.S. Share the Culture Night Love! Don’t forget to hashtag your pictures with @culturenight / @culturenightdonegal!

www.culturenight.ie www.facebook.com/culturenight

Culture Night is brought to you by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Creative Ireland Programme in partnership with Donegal County Council (Cultural Services).

An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltacht and the Creative Ireland Programme in partnership with Donegal County Council (Cultural Services).

Inishowen Carnival - The Ancient Ones, 7.30pm & 9pm
The Inishowen Carnival Group presents The Ancient Ones, spirits plucked from the pages of ancient Irish mythology. This walkabout and dance performance will feature performers from across Donegal with the Aisling Academy and Dynamic Waves, along with two immense puppets. Come and meet Dagda the Forest Spirit, a half-stag / half-human symbol of life and fertility and The Morrigan Crow Spirit, a symbol of fate, death and the eternal cycle of life.

SpaceScape, 6pm – 10pm
The SpaceScape team led by artists Seamus MacManus & Siobhán McGranaghan will present an outdoor illuminated art installation inspired by the peaks of Donegal.

Children’s Workshops, 6pm – 9.30pm
Families are invited to co-create the Town Park experience this year! Facilitating artists will deliver art-making sessions in our special arts and crafts tent throughout the evening. Come and make illuminated lanterns and sculptures to guide your adventures through the park.

Presented by Donegal County Council Arts Service.
EXHIBITION: A VANISHED WORLD – THE LANDED GENTRY OF DONEGAL
6pm – 10pm
Curated by Donegal County Council’s Museum and Archives Services in association with the Heritage Office, this exhibition explores the world of the landed gentry in Donegal in the decades before the foundation of the State. From the social whirl of parties to the management of lands and gardens, the exhibition tells the stories of those who lived and worked in the vanished world of Donegal’s big houses.

EXHIBITION: A TREK THROUGH TIME – IMAGES FROM DONEGAL COUNTY ARCHIVES
6pm – 10pm
This touring exhibition from the Archives Service of Donegal County Council consists of 12 pull up display stands, each with text and striking and colourful images based on collections or themes strongly represented in the County Archives collection. These are: Arts & the Archives; Donegal Grand Jury; The Railways of Co. Donegal; Schools & Schooling in Co. Donegal; The Joseph Murray Collection; The Workhouses of Donegal; The GAA in Co. Donegal; Exotic and Eccentric Donegal; Donegal Archives of Emigration; Maps of Donegal; Elections & the Electorate; and Ladies of Donegal.

The purpose of the exhibition is to showcase the variety of interesting and attractive archival collections held by the service and to introduce archival material to as wide an audience as possible. It aims to increase awareness of local archives and local history and demonstrate their inherent value.

TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS
6pm – 8pm
Join Sean Brogan of Tir Conaill Conservations and Ivor Kilpatrick, a thatcher from Raphoe who will demonstrate traditional building skills of the construction of a traditional slate roof and the thatching of a traditional vernacular cottage roof.

SERVANTS REQUIRED!
6.30pm & 8.30pm
The Countess of Leitrim has a number of open positions in her house. Please make your way to the RCC to listen to her stories.

COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN TRADITIONAL SESSION
8pm – 10pm
Specially for Culture Night, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Letterkenny in conjunction with the Donegal County Museum, will present a ‘Night of Traditional Music, Song and Dance’ which will feature a performance by the branch’s Senior Grúpa Ceoil. The Letterkenny branch has been in existence since 1957 and hosts a weekly traditional session on Tuesday nights at the Dry Arch Bar. All are welcome.

EXHIBITION: EXPLORING ARCHITECTURE: EAMON O’KANE
6pm – 10pm, Main Gallery, 1st Floor
A mid-career partial retrospective of the work of the Donegal born, Danish based artist, comprising of work in a range of media on the subject of architecture. Eamon O’Kane is a prolific artist who has exhibited all over the world during the past 20 years.

GALLERY TALK
8.30pm – 8.45pm, Main Gallery, 1st Floor
Gallery talk on Eamon O’Kane and the ‘Exploring Architecture’ exhibition by his father, the artist Eddie O’Kane.

EXHIBITION & ART WORKSHOP: BOTHÓG: CATHAL MCGINLEY
6pm – 10pm, New Gallery, Ground Floor
Cathal McGinley, RCC artist-in-residence (2017-2019) has created the Bothóg, a shelter, built out of paper. Cathal will deliver a unique origami workshop at 6pm inspired by his Bothóg exhibition.

VENUE 4
DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM
High Road, Letterkenny.
T: 074 9124613
W: donegalcoco.ie/culture/countymuseum

VENUE 5
REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTRE
Port Road, Letterkenny.
T: 074 9129186
W: regionalculturalcentre.com

VENUE 6
DONEGAL MUSIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP @ RCC
Regional Cultural Centre, Port Road, Letterkenny.
T: 074 9176293
W: donegaletb.ie

DROP-IN, HANDS-ON ART-ROOM
6pm – 10pm, Process Room, 1st Floor
The RCC has once again created a large-scale, hands-on, art-room curated by Harriet Purkis. The 2017 room was created in partnership with Eamon O’Kane and is based on his Frobel studio project. Children and families have the opportunity to experiment with a range of ideas and materials.

EXHIBITION: JOHN SOFFE: RCC LIVE 2007 – 2017
6pm – 10pm, Foyer Gallery, Ground Floor
Spectacular photographs of live music concerts at the RCC since it opened in July 2007 to mark the building’s 10th Anniversary. The exhibition includes a number of photos previously shown in 2014 together with a series of new images from the past three years.

EXHIBITION
6pm – 10pm, Foyer Gallery, Ground Floor
Building plans, models, photographs and reviews of the award-winning RCC building, designed by MacGabhann Architects. It includes the ‘Rising from the Ground’ photographic essay by Declan Doherty.

PERFORMANCE
6.30pm – 7.30pm: Main Gallery, First Floor
Performance reviews of the award-winning RCC building, with Eamon O’Kane and is based on his Frobel studio project. Children and families have the opportunity to experiment with a range of ideas and materials.

Tutors and students of the DMEP in performance, with Spanish cellist Victor Yélamo and Hungarian violinist Orsi Szabo-Yélamo.
**CULTURE NIGHT 2017 PROGRAMME**

**PERFORMANCE**
8pm – 8.45pm: Workshops 1 + 2, Ground Floor

Performances by the Errigal Groove Orchestra, a 12-piece jazz ensemble, and Saxet, a six-piece sax outfit, under the direction of well-known Donegal saxophonist Sean McCarron.

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**VENUE 7**
**AN GRIANÁN THEATRE**

Port Road, Letterkenny.
T: 074 9120777
W: angrianan.com

**THEATRE: I HEAR YOU AND REJOICE**
8pm (Duration 80mins, no interval)

Written & Performed by Mikel Murfi - Presented by Loco & Reckless Productions Ltd.

Following the sellout success of The Man In The Woman’s Shoes, Mikel Murfi returns with his new one-man show. I Hear You and Rejoice is a tender and joy filled account of a most unlikely marriage. Late in his life, Pat Farnon, a cobbler and all-round contented man, marries the redoubtable Kitsy Rainey. It’s a match made in heaven, in more ways than one.

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**VENUE 8**
**ARTWORKS PICTURE FRAMING**

Port Road (opp. An Grianán Theatre)
T: 074 9125073
E: info@artworksframing.ie

**OUTDOOR FILM SCREENING**
7.30pm – 9.30pm

Artworks presents its annual outdoor screenings of locally made and independent Short Films, Animations and Video. This year’s selection includes pieces by Steve McCollum, Brenda Kelly, Daniel McGarrigle, Charlie Doherty, Guy Barriscale and Steven Crane amongst others. Screenings run in a 40 min loop.

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**VENUE 9**
**THE MASONIC HALL**

Port Road next to An Grianán Theatre.

**OPEN EVENING**
Open To The Public, 7pm – 9pm

One of the oldest buildings on the Port Road, is home to Pioneer Masonic Lodge 271. Members of the public are invited to partake of refreshments, learn about the history of Freemasonry in Donegal – the Letterkenny Lodge has been in existence since 1873 - and hear about the present-day charitable work of the Masons.

Please Note: Numbers admitted at any one time may need to be restricted. Unsuitable for buggies and wheelchairs due to steep stairs. Further Info, contact Museum 074 91 24613.

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**VENUE 10**
**THE LOFT**

16-18 Port Road, Letterkenny,
T: 074 912964 / 074 9188271

**PERFORMANCE & EXHIBITION**
6pm – 10pm

Managed by Donegal Youth Service and Foróige, the LOFT will host live music performances from young musicians and will also be unveiling their new mural at the front wall of the Letterkenny Boxing Club. This mural was created by the DYS Worldwide Voices project, funded by the National Youth Council of Ireland Artist in Residency Programme. Artist in residence was Frank Sauccian.

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**VENUE 11**
**FLORENCE FOOD COMPANY**

Florence Food Company, 63 Upper Main Street.
T: 086 2218038

**NORTH WEST WORDS**
8pm – 9pm & 9.15pm – 10.15pm

North West Words present Irish language writer and poet Proinsias Mac a’Bhaird, and poet and regular national radio contributor Denise Blake, in a special Culture Night double bill.

Proinsias Mac a’Bhaird’s reading will begin at 8pm followed by a short traditional music session. Proinsias is the author of 10 books in Gaelic including 3 collections of poetry. He has won many awards, been published widely in literary journals and founded An Chúirt Filiochta. He is finishing his latest novel and will have a children’s book published this year.

Denise Blake will read at 9.15pm, followed by the Open Mic. Denise’s poetry collections, Take a Deep Breath and How to Spin Without Getting Dizzy, are published by Summer Palace Press. Her third collection will be published soon by Revival Press. Denise is also a regular contributor to Sunday Miscellany on RTE Radio 1.

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**VENUE 12**
**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Upper Main St., Letterkenny.
W: tpcL.org

**OPEN EVENING & PERFORMANCE**
6.30pm, 7.30pm, & 8.30pm

Built just over 100 years ago, Trinity Presbyterian Church is full of character. There will be a short presentations throughout the evening on the different aspects of the Presbyterian tradition. There will also be musical pieces by the church choir, a brief history of the Presbyterian church in Letterkenny, and a short DVD clip of a church service from earlier this year.
CULTURE NIGHT 2017 PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2017

VENUE 13
THE COTTAGE
49 Upper Main Street, Letterkenny.
E: info@swellfestival.com
W: swellfestival.com

THE SWELL FESTIVAL LIVE
10pm – Late

No ferries required as Oileán Arainn Mhór’s Swell Festival of music and arts comes ashore for a special, mainland Culture Night presentation. Expect another incendiary performance by the amazing SCENERY from Derry, this will be jam packed so get in early!

VENUE 15
NO. 1 CHURCH LANE
Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter Committee.
T: 086 3452457
W: instagram.com/cathedralquarterletterkenny

A CELEBRATION OF THE CRERAND BROTHERS
8pm

The dedicated team behind the Cathedral Quarter committee are working hard to regenerate and preserve this historic area of the town, bringing it back to life by highlighting it’s unique heritage and culture. No. 1 Church Lane is synonymous with the Crerand family who moved into the house in 1914.

Brothers John & Gerard Crerand were well known characters around the town. John established the first motoring school in Letterkenny and is best known for delivering the newspapers particularly the Evening Press.

Memories of the Crerand brothers will be recalled on the night. Portraits have been created by artist Bernie Wilson of ART FARM.

DIGITAL TOUR
Cathedral Quarter Heritage Tour

Guide yourself around twenty historic sites in the Cathedral Quarter using their brand new app via donegal.maps.arcgis.com. Information and photographs were collated by John Nee and Kieran Kelly. This information was put together in an interactive map by Darragh McDonagh of Donegal County Council. This map is a collaboration between Letterkenny Cathedral Quarter group and Donegal County Council under the EU IMPROVE project.

VENUE 16
UNIVERSAL BOOKS

Church Lane, Letterkenny.
T: 074 9161869

PERFORMANCE
6.30pm & 8.30pm

‘They SHOOT Poets Don’t they?’ Everything isn’t as it looks at Universal Books on our very OUT THERE Culture Night programme. What is reality..? Only the Poet will decide! Don’t be Late!

VENUE 17
WHOLEGREEN

Church Lane, Letterkenny.
T: 074 9112296
W: wholegreen.ie

DEMONSTRATION
6pm – 9pm

Wholegreen is a predominantly vegan wholefood cafe which makes incredible fresh food cooked with love. This year they will open their doors and introduce their culinary arts to culture night explorers. Don’t miss the chance to take part in cup-cake making, cookery demonstrations and more!

VENUE 18
MICHI

6, Church Lane, Letterkenny.
T: 086 0867455
W: michi.ie

OPEN STUDIO
7pm – 9pm

Award winning knitwear designer Michelle Mc Carroll will give an insight into her design and production process. From a simple ball of yarn to finished garment, this is an opportunity to meet the designer, see the process, and view some of her contemporary knitwear designs.

VENUE 19
CONWAL PARISH CHURCH

Church Lane / Cathedral Square.
W: facebook.com/conwalandgartanparish

GAUDIUM CHAMBER CHOIR
7pm – 8.00pm

Drawn from all over North Donegal as well as Co. Derry, Gaudium Choir was founded late in 2013. It has performed in a variety of venues including Ards Friary, Raphoe Cathedral and Rathmullan House and one of its specialities is presenting high-quality choral liturgies, such as Solemn Vespers for Pentecost in Carrigart in 2015. Tonight’s programme will present a representative sample of the choir’s varied repertoire. Expect any from plainsong to pop!

VENUE 20
ST. EUNAN’S CATHEDRAL

Sentry Hill Rd, Letterkenny.
T: 074 9121021

THE CONWAL SINGERS AND GUESTS
8.30pm, Duration: 1 h 30 mins

The Conwal Singers, Letterkenny shall host an evening of reflective choral music at St.Eunan’s Cathedral. Special guests shall include Derg Valley Choir, Tir Chonaill Choir and The Donegal Abbey Singers. The highlight of the...
evening shall be a massed choir performance with over 100 voices of the music of John Rutter. The accompanist for the evening is Denise Roper. Choral conductors include Karen Patton, Dawn Stevenson, Berni Canny and Eileen Carr.

**VENUE 21**

**ST. EUNAN’S CATHEDRAL**

‘LIFE ON THE LEDGE’ WALK & TALK
6.30 pm – 7.15 pm
Presented by: County Donegal Heritage Office, Donegal County Council.
T: 074 9172576
E: heritage@donegalcoco.ie

Join Aengus Kennedy of Nature North West for a walk and talk on the wildlife that survives and thrives in the built environment around us. Aengus specialised in Field Ecology at University College Cork, has worked in environmental education for over twenty years and is a heritage specialist on the Heritage Council’s ‘Heritage in Schools’ scheme. The walk will start at St. Eunan’s Cathedral and finish on the Main Street.

**VENUE 22**

**THE CENTRAL LIBRARY**

Oliver Plunkett Road, Letterkenny.
T: 074 9124950
W: donegallibrary.ie

**BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE LIBRARY**
6.30pm–8.30pm

Central Library and Europe Direct Information Centre presents an intercultural programme of music, drama, poetry, song and storytelling for Culture Night.

Staff at the Central Library Letterkenny have spent the last 30 years gathering every article, book and author associated with Donegal into one library we call this the Donegal Studies Collection. During this short tour, you will learn about the resources we have available for you to trace your Donegal ancestors or research the history of the county. This tour will run every 20 minutes with a maximum of 10 people.

**THE HAZELS POLISH FOLK GROUP**
6.30pm – 7.30pm

The Hazels Polish folk group, under director Leszek Jarowski, will perform a programme of Polish folk music and will be joined by children from Donegal’s Polish community in song and poetry. This group are no strangers to Central Library as they took part in last year’s Culture Night as well as in the Polska Éire 2015 Festival in Letterkenny. They will also be hosting a Polish Christmas Carol Evening in Central Library in December.

**ANDREW GALVIN**
7.30pm – 8.15pm

Andrew is a Donegal-based poet, playwright, performer, and ardent alliteration advocate. On the night you can expect short dramatic extracts from his plays (The Crowning Guest and The Fool and The Moon) as well as a selection of original poems and songs performed in his own erudite and inimitable style.

**VENUE 23**

**ZONA DANCE CO.**

Altmore House, Mulroy Business Park, Canal Road (behind Diver’s Hyundai).
T: 086 8222189
W: zonadanceco.com

**PERFORMANCES & DANCE WORKSHOP**
6pm – 7.30pm

It’s Open Night with ZoNa Dance Co. dance studio where Jessica Peoples and her company extend an invitation to all to come along and enjoy student Showcase Performances by the Senior Ensemble in ballet and contemporary dance. This will be followed by Open Dance Workshops for all ages (6.45pm – 7.30pm).

ZoNa Dance has established themselves as the premiere classical dance school for both children and adults in the Northwest. The school trains and educates dancers both at recreational and pre-professional levels and to provide an accessible resource for students, teachers and the wider community.

**VENUE 24**

**OLD COURTHOUSE LIFFORD - ALLEY THEATRE STRABANE**

The Old Court House, The Diamond, Lifford
T: 074 9141733 (from ROI), 00 35374 9141733 (from NI)
Alley Theatre, Railway St., Strabane
T: 028 71384444 (from NI), 0044 28 71384444 (from ROI)

**CROSS BORDER CULTURE WALK**
6pm – 7.15pm Old Courthouse (Music and Readings)
7.15 – 8pm Cross Border Culture Walk
8pm – 10pm Alley Theatre (Foyle Opera)

Get in the groove with a brisk walk on our Lifford Strabane Cross Border Cultural Trail, commencing at Lifford Court House with readings and music from the Gateway Writers Group, Patricia Morris, Martin McColgan, Denis Bonar and Bryan McWilliams, then stopping off for further performances at the four public artworks.

Next stop will be Strabane’s Alley Theatre, where Foyle Opera will present an evening of arias, songs and choral works from a selection of popular operas and shows, from 8pm.