

APPENDIX 1

September to December 2017: Arts & Culture Report

Seamus Heaney HomePlace

Awards

Best Local Authority Tourism Initiative- Northern Ireland Local Government Awards (NILGA)

Best Visitor and Interpretation Centre by the Association of Heritage Interpretation (AHI)

Best NI Visitor Attraction 2017 - Northern Ireland Travel and Tourism Awards

In the 12 months since opening, Seamus Heaney HomePlace welcomed 42,532 paying visitors. The positive feedback from visitors has been overwhelming and the comments received from visitors exceptionally positive towards the facility and the staff team.

Links with tour operators continuing with a number of FAM trips hosted including sales calls with Abbey, CIE, Adams and Butler and Odyssey International.

Meeting held with Glenn Patterson, Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's regarding future possibilities for programming between HomePlace and Queen's, and linking with the soon to be announced Fellows at QUB.

Two meetings held with the Seamus Heaney Estate, attended by Anthony Tohill, CEO- Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities, and Brian McCormick, Manager- Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

Submission made to Invest NI under the Collaborative Growth Programme in conjunction with the Seamus Heaney Cluster Group to further develop scope for the Cluster to target and maximise opportunities through a clear roadmap with recommendations for action including required investment and resources.

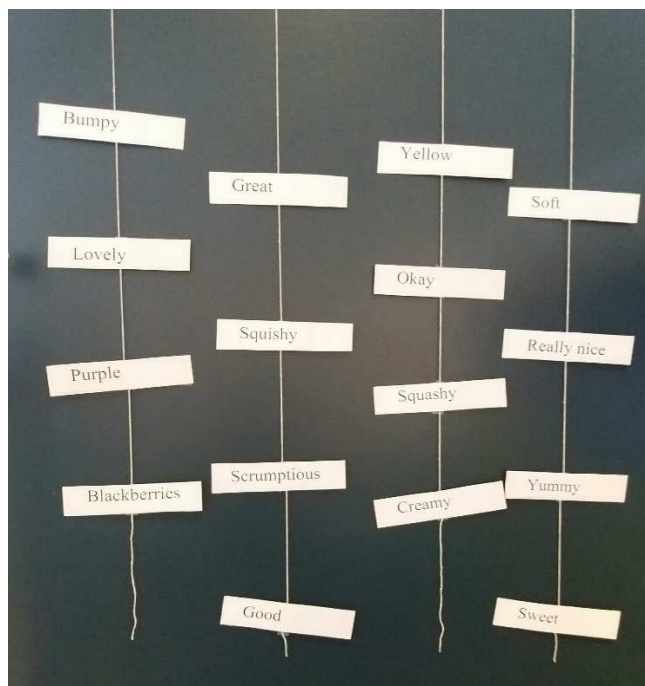
EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Appointment made of Julie Thompson who replaces Sheila Fullerton in the role of Education Officer.

Key Stage 1

In September and October the **KS1 Blackberry Picking** programme was attended by 3 schools and 81 pupils. Pupils created a word hoard of sensory language

describing their response to the picnic which was included in this programme, and this was added to the display in the creative zone.



Key Stage 2

In December St Brigid's and Cloughmills Primary Schools visited HomePlace as part of a shared education partnership. They visited the exhibition and took part in the **KS2 Churning Day** programme. Pupils responded enthusiastically to both and feedback was very positive. The event was also attended by Amelia Deehan from C2KNI Newsdesk, and her article will appear there at the beginning of the new term in January.

Key Stage 3

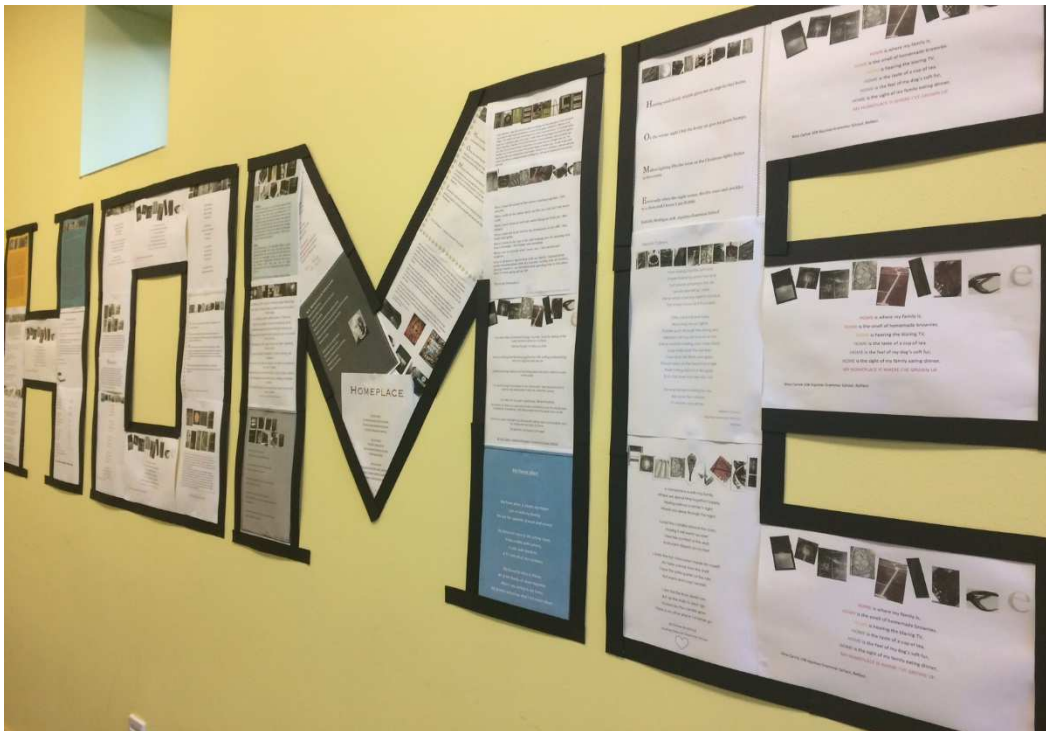
The **'My Place in the Landscape' programme**, in collaboration with the Lough Neagh Landscape Partnership and RSPB, saw 325 KS3 pupils from five local schools visit Seamus Heaney HomePlace over the course of the week beginning 22/9/17. The schools visited natural heritage sites at Lough Beg and Toner's Bog, and Seamus Heaney's grave on the same day.

In November, a follow-up outreach visit to the schools by project officers took place in order to assist pupils with the compilation of their portfolios and provide support for the creative writing aspect of their projects.

Portfolios and poems produced by pupils are due to be submitted in February 2018, and a celebration day will be held at HomePlace in March.

In November, the **KS3 Alphabets creative writing programme** took place, attended by 583 pupils from six schools. The interactive aspect of the day and the exhibition were particularly welcomed by pupils and staff.

Schools were invited to submit examples of their writing to HomePlace, and a display of this work has been created in the Glanmore room.



FIRST ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

The **Creative Zone** invited children to decorate the Heaney poetry tree. This was a very successful weekend with large numbers of families attending on both days.

OTHER VISITS

Twenty year 3 **Digital Media students** from the Design department at Letterkenny Institute of Technology visited in October. They have been working on projects based on the life and works of Seamus Heaney and have developed various design / animation / film / fashion / textile representations of Heaney poems following this.

It is hoped to showcase some of this work in the coming year at HomePlace.

There have been a number of **school visits to the exhibition** at HomePlace over this period – 7 schools with 118 pupils.

On 17th December, St Mary's Primary School Choir visited HomePlace and treated visitors to choral singing of Christmas carols.

Call it A Home From Home – Arts Programme

September saw the final programming by Doran Browne and concluded the introductory 12 Books 12 Months programme.

A highlight of the month was undoubtedly the weekend dedicated to the Human Chain collection which was curated by poet Paul Muldoon. Featuring performances by dancer and choreographer Jean Butler and legendary band Horslips and readings by Paul Muldoon, Ciaran Carson and American poet Kevin Young. Throughout the weekend, we welcomed more than 1000 ticket holders to The Helicon.



The season officially ended with a personal lecture by Seamus Heaney's friend Peter Fallon, and a sell-out concert by Lisa Hannigan.

October – December Arts Programme

Our new October – December programme featured a redesign but retained the same high quality literary based programme. Exploring Seamus Heaney's friends and influences, there were events exploring the work of Patrick Kavanagh and Michael McLaverty and an event with Robert McCrum.

A successful partnership programme with the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Monaghan was established and was supported by the Department for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, with £5000 of external funding.

Other links were made with the Linen Hall Library, the John O'Connor Writing School and Bellaghy Historical Society. Carolan's Welcome, a co-event with the Historical Society was a highlight of the season and was sold out.



Other sell out events included Fintan O'Toole, Ardal O'Hanlon, Ralph McTell and Capturing Seamus, which featured Colin Davidson, Eamonn McCabe and Geray Sweeney.

Future Planning

The new season Arts Programme Brochure has just been released, covering the period from January – April 2018. Containing a wide range of theatre, music and discussion events, along with a workshop programme, the season already includes three sell out events – with all tickets sold for Cara Dillon, Eddi Reader and Marian Keyes. Other events include Jimmy McGovern in conversation, a season of events on Robert Burns and a reading by a selection of up and coming Northern Irish poets.

Planning is already well underway for the May to August programme, which will include a week-long series of events to link in with the Peace IV project between Yeats's Sligo and Seamus Heaney in Mid Ulster.

Ranfurly House and Hill of the O'Neill Arts & Visitor Centre

Art Classes/workshops

A wide range of classes were offered from September to December targeting all age groups. Classes for adults ranged from: guitar lessons; pottery; jiving; floral art; acrylic painting; watercolour painting; sewing for beginners; and mindfulness. All classes were fully subscribed and proved very popular with participants.

The Arts & Culture Officer met with Mid Ulster senior citizens forum on Tuesday 19th Sept to advise members of the arts and culture programmes on offer in the Mid Ulster Council area with a view to encouraging more involvement with this age group.



Watercolour painting with George Gourley (4 week class)

Adult one day workshops

Bill Gatt professional artist delivered a portrait masterclass in Ranfurly House on Saturday 2nd September. Bill used a variety of art medium in his demonstration and encouraged participants to do likewise when they had the opportunity to try painting a portrait in the second half of the class.

Participants enjoyed hearing Bill's life story as a professional artist and were very impressed by his artistic skills.

Additional one day workshops on offer this season included: Furniture upcycling; batik painting; makeup workshops and Christmas floral art. All workshops were well received.



Make up workshop
by Saks Design

Children's art activities

Children's art activities this season included: B Dramatic Hip Hop dance; Children's drama; Step by step drawing, Festive candle making; Bath Bombs/soap making. This season's arts activities for children will end with Banyan Puppet Theatre Company's presentation of Goldilocks and the three bears on Friday 29th December.

Schools arts activities

Barking Dog Theatre Company presented Teddy' Day on the Farm to local schools: Sacred Heart Primary Rock; St Mary's Primary Fivemiletown and Derrylatinee Primary on Tuesday 10th October.



Pupils enjoyed meeting the
cast from Barking Dog who
presented Teddy's Day on
the farm.

INTO Film Festival

INTO Film returned to the Square box for the third year in November. Research has indicated film can make a central contribution to children and young people's educational and cultural development, supporting curriculum learning.

Films on offer this year included: Gruffalo and Gruffalo's child on Tuesday 14th November. 26 children from Howard Primary school, 53 from Newmills Primary, 23 from St Mary's Primary, Carland and 4 home schooled children attended.

On Wednesday 15th November Revolting Rhymes was viewed by 28 children from St Malachy's Primary Glencull, 24 children from St Mary's Carland, 32 children from Howard Primary and 10 home schooled children.

On Thursday 16th November 53 children from Fivemiletown Primary and 52 children from Newmills Primary School enjoyed the film Matilda. In total 305 children participated in this year's film festival over the three mornings.



School groups who attended the **INTO film Festival 2017**

The Arts & Culture Officer and the Education Officer met with the foster carers support group organiser and the Autism NI representatives to discuss tailored classes for these groups taking into consideration their special requirements and needs.

History Talks

The season of history talks began on Friday 15th September with a talk on the Wives of Hugh O'Neill by Professor of History at Maynooth University, Ms Marian Lyons.

Local historian and Chairman of the Sheils charity Peter Acheson gave a talk on the Sheils Houses in Dungannon on Friday 13th October. Residents of the Sheils House Dungannon were delighted to receive an invite and were very appreciative of the opportunity to hear the history of the institute. For many of the residents this was their first visit to Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre.

The talk on Friday 17th November featured, Dungannon born, Edgar Harper and his place in Aviation history, Guy Warner presented this talk.

The application for a blue plaque, on behalf of the history forum, to honour Edgar Harper and his marvellous work in aviation history has been successful and will be erected in 2018.

Square Box gigs September to December

The season opened with Dublin born Daoiri Farrell making his first appearance in the Square Box on Friday 8th Sept to a packed audience.

The Mc Peake Band which includes local singer song writer Paul Hughes performed to a full house on Saturday 16th September.

On Saturday 23rd September Brian Kennedy was very well received.

Bridget O'Neill launched her CD Tour on Saturday 30th September, this was her first visit to the Square Box.

Bronagh Broderick attracted a good audience on the first night of her tour on Saturday 7th October. Valley Voices, a local choir opened the evening.

Derryfubble accordion band made a return visit to the Square Box on Saturday 14th October.

Local Theatre group Castle Hill players presented The Memory of Water from Wednesday 18 to Saturday 21st October before touring with this sell out show to other local theatres.

Bardic Theatre presented two short plays by Harold Pinter directed by Sean Faloon: 'One for the road' & 'A Kind of Alaska' on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th November.

John Colleary comedian, based in Dublin, made his first appearance in Ranfurly House on Saturday 18th November he was supported by Tyrone comedian Terry Mc Hugh from Omagh.



Niall Hanna and his band
23rd November 2017

Local traditional singer and guitarist Niall Hanna launches an album of his version of traditional songs on Thursday 23rd November in the Square Box. Niall was the recipient of the Young Musician's platform Award from the Arts Council NI in 2016.

The biennial awards which are run by the Arts Council in collaboration with BBC NI, aim to showcase and support the development of young musicians from a variety of genres by providing individual funding awards. This funding enables the recipients to spend a sizeable amount of time learning from a master musician, mentor, teacher or composer either in Northern Ireland or abroad. As well as this training opportunity, the awardees receive two professional radio broadcast engagements, including one with the Ulster Orchestra. Performances at this level raise not only the professional profile of the young musicians but also give a boost to their performance experience.

Celtic Soul made a return visit on Friday 1st December as did The 4 of Us on Saturday 2nd December, this was a return visit for both groups and they both operated on a ticket split arrangement.



Celtic Soul in the Square
Box – 1st December 2017

The Christmas Festive celebrations commenced on Friday 8th December with a full house for Karl Mc Guckin's 'Home for Christmas' with special guests the Cantabelles.

The following night, Saturday 9th December, the Bellas three Dungannon ladies continue the Christmas theme with their gig titled Bells and Baubles. Millbrook Entertainments decided to reschedule their gig planned for Thursday 14th December with Cliona Hagan until March 2018, due to other commitments. An evening of Irish traditional music and song on Saturday 16th December with Brid Harper, Tony O'Connell and Cyril O'Donaghue closed the Square Box gigs for the season. It was also an opportunity to promote the first gig for 2018, also a Traditional music night, with the Hayden Brother Cathal and Stephen on stage with Seamie O'Dowd, Saturday 13th January.

Temporary Exhibitions

Exhibitions this season commenced in September with the annual schools art exhibition by the Royal school and St Patrick' Academy. Mid Ulster District Council Chair Kim Ashton opened the exhibition applauding the students on their outstanding artistic talents.

In October art teacher at St Patrick's Maghera, Paddy O'Connor from the Moy, displayed landscapes in mixed media of local scenes. Paddy's artistic creations included: oil, chalk, pastel and charcoal paintings of Ben Bulbin, Lough Gill, Maeve's Grave and other hidden gems of the local landscape as well as scenes from picturesque Sligo.

Three local amateur artists who have been attending the acrylic painting class in Ranfurly House for a number of years, exhibited a selection of their work during the month of November.

The December exhibition was by local astro-photographer Martin Campbell. Martin, a retired teacher from St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon, introduced astronomy as a GCSE subject and established an observatory at the school, St Patrick's Academy is the only post primary school in Northern Ireland to have such a facility.

Our monthly exhibitions are frequently visited by the public, the space is also in much demand with artists with booking up to mid-2019.



Martin Campbell's cosmic connections photographic exhibition – Dec 2017

Halloween

Halloween drop in arts activities were very popular with the peak time occurring from 6pm to 7pm. The mild dry night encouraged a bigger audience than previous years. Children enjoyed making bat sculptures and paper lanterns to take home.

Flying bat sculpture
with Hazel Dunne





Halloween Paper Lanterns with Nicola Bernie

Christmas Activities

Christmas drop in Arts activities complemented the Craft fair and proved very popular on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November. Children had the choice of three art workshops with different activities.



Christmas tree arts activities



Decorate your own Christmas stocking workshop

Arts & Disability stakeholders Projects

As agreed at the Arts & Disability Stakeholders meetings each group is entitled to an eight week project, some groups have opted to split the number of weeks and offer participants two or more art forms.

The following projects have been delivered in outreach areas in the Dungannon South Tyrone area:

Willowbank Resource Centre, Dungannon, 8 weeks pottery with Ciara Crawford. Coalisland Day Centre (Oakridge) – 8 weeks textiles with Dasalee. McCague Centre (Oakridge), Aughnacloy – 8 weeks dance with Sheena Kelly. Parkanaur College – 8 weeks dance with Sheena Kelly. Oakridge SEC, Dungannon – 8 weeks dance with Sheena Kelly.

Visually Impaired Group – 4 weeks mosaics with Deborah Malcomson delivered in Ranfurly House. Inspire Wellbeing, Dungannon – 8 weeks storytelling with Moninne Dargan. Fiddes Court, Aughnacloy – 8 weeks pottery with Shauna McCann. Ardnaskea Court, Coalisland – 8 weeks arts & crafts with Gwen Stevenson, Chest, Heart & Stroke, Dungannon – 6 weeks glass painting, card making & decoupage with Hazel Busby. Sperrinview Special School, Dungannon – 8 weeks dance with Sheena Kelly.



Ardnaskea Court, Coalisland
Christmas Crafts with Gwen
Stevenson
Christmas Tree Decorations



Visually Impaired Group (VIP)
Mosaic workshop with
Deborah Malcomson

Projects planned for January to March 2018

Oakridge ISU, have requested 8 weeks of general arts & crafts activities.

Dungannon Hospice have also requested 4 weeks of general arts & crafts activities.

The Visually Impaired Group who meet in Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre have requested 4 weeks of Sea grass stool making with Deborah Malcomson

Chest, Heart & Stroke, Dungannon, have requested 2 weeks arts & crafts with Hazel Busby. All project will be completed by March 2018.

Visual Artists Ireland Newsletter

Visual Artists Ireland approached the Arts Officer in Ranfurly House for a regional profile on the Art Centre, this article including an image of the public art piece featured in their November/December newsletter. Their newsletter is distributed to member organisations throughout Ireland.

Events Guide February – May 2018

The Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre events guide for the period February to May has been circulated by email and hard copy to an increasing contracts list.



Education Activity

During the period 1st September to 31st December 2017, 1326 pupils/students with 153 staff (total 1479) participated in 57 education events at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre.

Northern Ireland Forest School Awards

Northern Ireland Forest School Awards (NIFSA) is an environmental awareness initiative which encourages local schools to visit and take on an ownership of their local Council Park. It has been operating successfully at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park since April 2017 as part of the education programme at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House.



Three local schools have been participating in NIFSA at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park:

- Dungannon Primary School
- Gaelscoil Aodha Rua
- St. Patrick's Primary School



The P2 class from Dungannon Primary School has completed its programme, the P4 class from St Patrick's Primary School will conclude its activities in January 2018 and the class from Gaelscoil Aodha Rua will begin its programme early in the New Year.

Words on the Hill



“Words on the Hill”, poetry writing workshops for Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils which use the historical facts connected to the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation of Ulster as stimuli for writing, took place from Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th October. This programme is facilitated by Liz Weir and the Education Officer.

Four Key Stage 2 and 3 classes from three schools participated in this programme:

- St Ciaran’s College (2 x Year 8 classes)
- Lisfearry Primary School
- St Patrick’s Primary School, Annaghmore
- Total number of pupils and staff: 94

The poems which the pupils began to write during their visits have now been completed and sent to the Education Officer. They will be published in a book which will be available in early 2018.

History on the Hill

“History on the Hill” is a heritage education programme for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils which combines history, drama and puppetry. It took place in Ranfurly House and the Hill of The O’Neill from Monday 9th to Friday 13th October. It was facilitated by Time Steps Living History and the Education Officer.

Five classes from two local schools, Howard Primary School, Moygashel, and St Patrick’s Primary School, Dungannon, took part in this programme. 133 pupils and staff participated.



Dungannon: Where I Live



“Dungannon: Where I Live” is a learning activity which aims to assist school pupils to participate in learning outside the classroom by exploring their local built environment and heritage. It is currently running as a pilot programme with local schools so that pupil resources can be developed in collaboration with the teaching staff in these schools.

This programme ran from 6th to 9th November with 4 P5 classes from St Patrick’s Primary School, Dungannon, and on 28th November with 1 P6/7 class from Blessed Patrick O’Loughran Primary School, Castlecaulfield. A total of 141 pupils and staff participated in these activities.

Old Time Toys



“Old Time Toys” is an activity for Foundation/Key Stage 1 pupils which runs as part of “A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House”. As it is a very popular event and is always overbooked during the Victorian Christmas week (4th-8th December), an extra week of workshops is added in late November.

This programme took place from 21st to 24th November and was facilitated by Time Steps Living History. It was attended by pupils and staff from five schools:

- Gaelscoil Aodha Rua

- Holy Trinity Primary School, Cookstown
- Dungannon Primary School
- Blessed Patrick O'Loughran Primary School, Castlecaulfield
- Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh

A total of 126 pupils and staff attended.

A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House

During the week 4th to 8th December, “A Victorian Christmas in Ranfurly House” is celebrated. Ranfurly House, originally a Victorian bank which was constructed in 1854, is the setting for three activities in which children can learn about the traditions, games and artwork of a Victorian Christmas. These activities are “Victorian Christmas Customs”, “Victorian Christmas Art” and “Old Time Toys”.



A total of 470 pupils and staff participated in the week of Christmas learning activities. The following schools took part:

- Birches Primary School, Portadown
- Derrylatinee Primary School
- St John's Primary School, Moy
- St Patrick's Primary School, Annaghmore
- St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon

Other School/College Visits

- South West College, Dungannon Campus: there have been two visits by students and staff from this college during this period. The first visit took place on 20th September when 16 students and staff took part in a tour of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House which was led by the Education Officer. This tour formed part

of the induction programme for new students to SWC. The second visit took place on 26th October when a group of 7 students and staff took part in a tour that forms a part of their studies.

- St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley: 48 students and staff from St Ciaran's College took part in guided tours of the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster exhibition and the Hill of The O'Neill on 29th September 2017. All of the students who participated were members of the college choir who were about to take part in a visit to Rome. While in Rome they intended to visit the resting place of Hugh O'Neill at San Pietro in Montorio. The tours of this centre took place at the request of the college so that the students could better comprehend the historical links between Dungannon and Rome.
- Aghnacloy College and St Ciaran's College: 87 students and staff from the two colleges took part in two connected learning visits to this centre, one on the morning and one in the afternoon, on 16th November 2017.
- Drumglass High School: A Year 8 class from this school took part in a Numeracy Trail and tour of the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster exhibition and the Hill of The O'Neill on 30th November 2017. 24 students and staff participated in this visit.

Other Events

- **The Heartland Project**

This is a proposed heritage and literacy project which has been developed by Peter Lant (Ranfurly Education Officer) and Sheila Fullerton (former Education Officer at Seamus Heaney HomePlace). Up to ten heritage sites across the Mid Ulster District Council will be identified. Children in local schools will find out about the site from an archaeologist/historian and then write creatively about what they have discovered about the heritage site. They will be aided in their writing by Myra Zepf, the first Children's Writing Fellow for Northern Ireland, and the writing will then be published in a book.

Peter Lant met Myra Zepf at Ranfurly House on 15th September, and a further meeting with Myra took place on 29th November in Belfast when Peter Lant and Tony McCance were able to provide more detail on the proposed project. The project is scheduled to begin in September 2018.

- **NIFSA/Tree Planting with the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council**



Northern Ireland Forest School Awards at the Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park was celebrated on 24th October when Councillor Kim Burton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, planted an oak tree in the park. She was assisted by a number of the pupils from local schools who are participating in NIFSA.

- **Digital Technology, Young People and Heritage Conference**

The Education Officer attended this conference at the Ulster Museum on 2nd November. It was a free event and was organised by the Nerve Centre. Much useful information was learned and useful contacts were made.

Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre

The Autumn programme of performances and workshops are now complete. The programme has attracted a range of audiences and participants.

During this period the following performances were staged:

- Donna Taggart
- Peace Concert
- Stars of Country
- Elvis Spectacular
- Norman Fox Missionary Celebration
- Dirty Dusting
- Andrew Maxwell
- Seann Walshe
- Some Guys Have all the Luck
- Bjorn Identity
- Cookstown Youth Resource Centre
- The Fureys
- Bagatelle
- Legions of American Country
- Sons of William Celebration Concert
- Romeo & Juliet Ballet
- Thomas James Takes a Wife
- More Power to Your Elbow
- Conal Gallen x 2 nights
- Humpty Dumpty x 2 performances
- Carol & Jimmy's Christmas Party
- The Sands Family
- Christmas Country Show
- Christmas Concert Celebration
- Sperrin Choir x 2 nights
- The High Kings x 2 nights
- Santa Claus Goes To Broadway
- The Motown Sensations



In addition the Burnavon hosted numerous workshops and rehearsals to support programmes funded through the Arts & Cultural Development programme as well as extensive use of the exhibition space, meeting and conference facility.



Bagatelle



Stars of Country



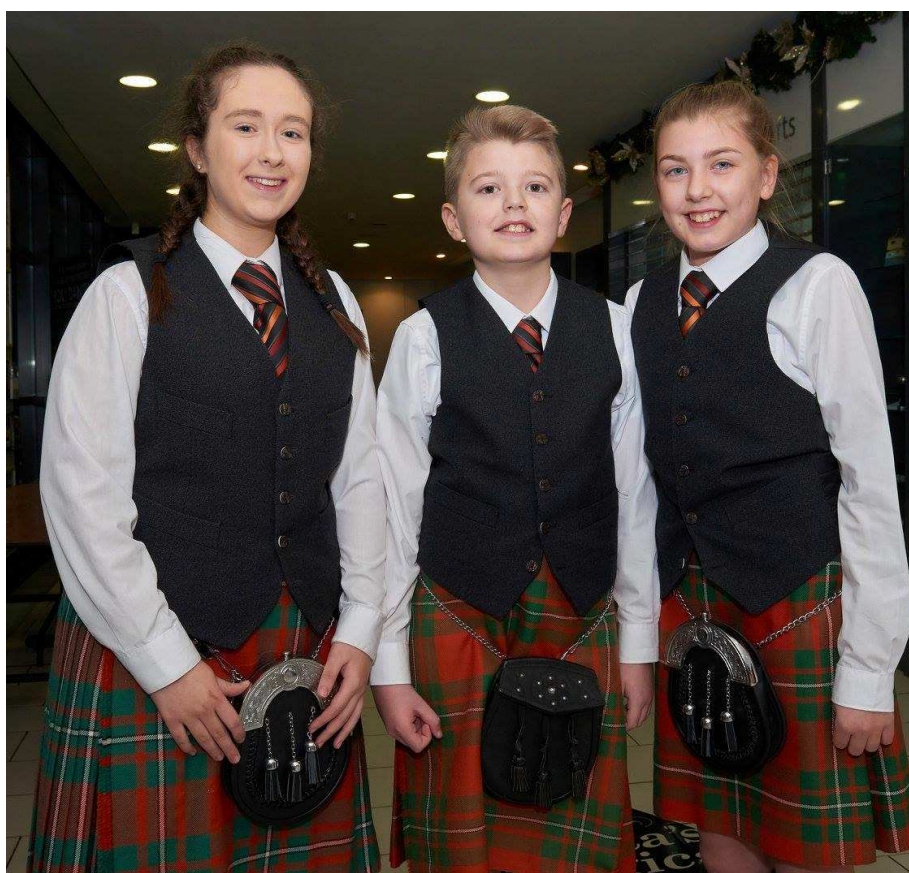
The Fureys



The High Kings



More Power to Your Elbow



Ulster Scots Juvenile Pipe Band



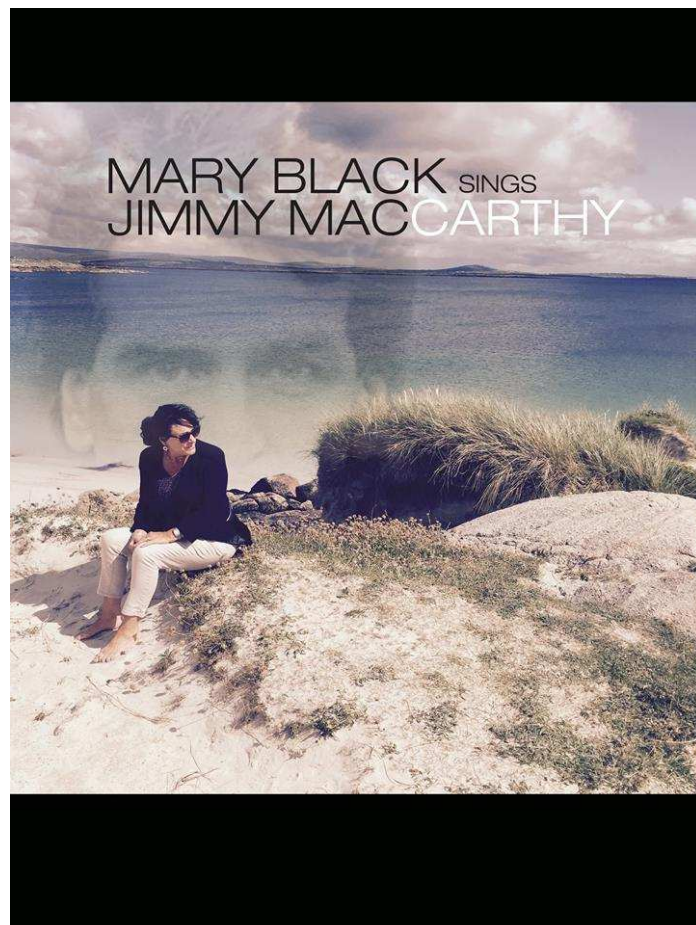
Family Entertainment – Humpty Dumpty & Santa's Magical Grotto



The Spring programme of events has been circulated. The programme is extensive with a variety of performances and workshops to suit all. Some of the highlights:



Derek
Ryan
February
2018



Mary Black
April 2018



Colin Murphy March 2018



Peter Corry April 2018



Ulster Orchestra April 2018

Events

Paul Cookson

As part of our “Links with Schools Programme” the Burnavon hosted poet Paul Cookson on 20th September during his visit to Northern Ireland. The event “Bringing Poetry to Life” included the Poet reciting, discussing and performing to 315 local P5 school children. To promote the theme of Creative Writing, while encouraging the promotion of reading and education, each child was presented with a Paul Cookson book “Dinosaur Poems” from the Burnavon/Mid Ulster District Council.



WW2 Exhibition

An exhibition, ‘Over Here: the U.S Soldier in World War II’, was held from Thursday 21 – Saturday 23 September. This was a very successful exhibition attended by both members of the public and also primary school children. The exhibition looked at the 75th Anniversary of US Forces arriving in Ulster. Everyday bits and pieces of kit, equipment and belongings, so familiar to GIs and many local people, were showcased. This was complimented by a history talk, from local historian John McCann, and also a guided tour of Killymoon Castle.





Student attending exhibition

Winter Craft & Food Fair

The Winter Craft & Food Fair, was held on 25 and 26 November, over 50 stall holders presented a range of quality, hand produced ceramics, wood, craft, textiles, jewellery, artwork, accessories and food. The craft fair attracted an audience of over 3000 and feedback has been very positive.





Christmas Family Fun Day

The Christmas Family Fun Day took place on Saturday 02 December 2017 to compliment Small Business Saturday. There were over 1000 people in attendance, enjoying a day of family entertainment and taster workshops for children.





Christmas Celebrations Concert

The Christmas Celebrations Concert took place on Wednesday 13th December, with over 300 people attending. There was programme of festive entertainment from Cookstown Youth Choir, Traditional Music in Schools Project, Ulster Scots Juvenile Pipe Band and Cookstown Folk Club.

The evening was a celebration of local musical talent in our district.



P7 members of the TMIS programme who performed at the Christmas Celebration Concert

Mid Ulster District Councils Food Bank Appeal

The Food Bank was held on 7th December in the Burnavon to support the local community in need this Christmas.

"1 in 5 are living below the poverty line in the UK"
How can you help?

Mid Ulster Christmas Food Bank Appeal

You can help with a **simple donation** from your weekly shop & make a real difference to the lives of children, families, older people and some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Bring your donations to
The Burnavon, Cookstown
 Thursday 7th December 2017
 from 10am to 1pm

Vineyard Church, Dungannon
 The Stone House, Car Park
 Food Bank Drop In
Tuesdays 7pm to 8.30pm
Thursdays 10.30am to 1pm

For further information visit
www.midulstercouncil.org/foodbank

Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
 District Council

Exhibitions

We continue to support local artists to display works within the Burnavon Gallery. This season local textile artist Patricia England and Pastel Painting artist Grace Scott have featured.

Patricia England (November)



Fields of Pastel

Art Exhibition by Grace Scott (December)

Grace studied art at school and worked for a number of years before taking a career break to raise her family. Now some years later she has returned to art and started her own business. Having found soft pastels as her preferred medium she now specialises in Pastel painting with a realistic appearance. This exhibition is a great opportunity to view or purchase her latest work.



Workshops

The autumn programme of workshops is now complete with 260 patrons taking part in a range of activities for children and adults.



Watercolours and Basket Weaving





Halloween Crafts for Kids



Gift Wrapping with "Gift Wrap Guru" Jane Means



Jiving



Felt Making

Support Services (weekly)

The following weekly sessions continue to be delivered as part of the Burnavon programme and its associated outreach programme.

- Cookstown Folk Club
- Burnavon Writers Group
- Cookstown Youth Choir
- Superstars Club Musical Theatre Group
- Traditional Music in Schools Project (delivered in local schools)
- South West College

The Traditional Music in School Project, Cookstown Folk Club and Cookstown Youth Choir recently performed at events at the Burnavon.



A member of Cookstown Folk Club providing street entertainment at the Burnavon Christmas Family Fun Day

Outreach

Creative Learning for Teachers – ArtCart Project

This was a development of our recent ArtCart Roadshow project in Mid Ulster which identified the need for further creative learning aimed at teachers so they could continue with the work Wheelworks had previously done with the schools through the roadshow. There were two creative learning sessions provided in the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre focusing on animation and Minecraft facilitating 24 teachers from local primary schools in total.



Older Persons Project

Artist Deborah Malcomson is working with residents from Westlands Home on an exciting creative project. All the residents have been hands on in creating many artworks from printing and decoupage to sculpture. This collaboration of work will be exhibited in the Burnavon during February 2018 and then returning to Westlands Home as a permanent piece for everyone to enjoy.

Animation Project

The overall aim of the project is to develop links between Arts and Cultural activity and a number of the key heritage sites within the region, Tullaghoge Fort, Beaghmore Stone Circles, Ardboe Cross and Abbey and The Hill of the O'Neill. Resources will be developed in the form of comic illustrations for Key Stage 2 students that will help interpret the heritage of each of the four sites for a young audience, both engaging the youth in the arts activity while also interpreting understanding and heritage of the regions key sites. The project will link with schools through the use of workshops targeting STEM criteria.

Following a tender process the contract for this was awarded to The Nerve Centre. Draft resources for two of the sites have been received, and workshops will begin with the schools in the New Year.

Strategic Partners

Each strategic partner has been offered the opportunity to work with Audiences NI (now thrive). The purpose of this is to provide a support, guidance and mentorship programme to the strategic partners, helping to establish projects and programmes designed to increase locally led and localised participation in arts and cultural activity. Audiences NI will hold 1-to-1 sessions with each of the groups to look at their specific audience development needs, and create a plan for each organisation.

Blas – BBC Radio Ulster – Irish Language Magazine Show

On Wednesday 6th December the Burnavon was delighted to host the BBC live broadcast of Blas. The live broadcast gave us the opportunity to continue to promote our diverse cultures within the Mid Ulster district area through language. Local musicians and representatives from the Irish Language speaking community attended and were interviewed.





BLASLIVE

Fáilte romhat bualadh isteach am ar bith ó 18.30 fá choinne sóláistí agus comhludair. Nó murar féidir leat a bheith ann, éist sa bhaile ar BBC Raidió Uladh.

**Live radio programme from
Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown
WED 6th DECEMBER 19.00-19.30**

Come along anytime from 18.30 for refreshments and good company. Or if you can't join us, listen at home on BBC Radio Ulster.



CAINTCEOLCRAIC
www.bbc.co.uk/radioulster
www.bbc.co.uk/gaeilge

BLAS BEO

Ie MÁIRE BHREATHNACH

Amharclann an Burnavon ar an Chorr Chríochach
DÉ CÉADAOIN 6ú NOLLAIG 19.00-19.30