

APPENDIX 1

Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre

The spring programme of workshops and performances are almost complete. The programme has attracted a range of audiences and participants; it has been one of the Burnavon's most successful programmes to date. The occupancy rate at performances for the 2017 – 2018 year has increased to 77% capacity compared to 72% capacity in 2016 – 2017.

Attendance at workshops increased with numerous more workshops offered this year than in 2016 – 2017 (e.g. increase from 8 children themed workshops to 34 children themed workshops).

The summer programme of events is due to be circulated prior to Easter. The programme will offer a range of performances with the emphasise on summer workshops for children.

the burnavon *What's On in March*



A look back at our Winter season (January – March 2018).

The following performances were held (total of 28 staged performances).

- Pinocchio 12 staged performances during January
- Neil Delamere
- Scottish Ceilidh
- Derek Ryan
- Sharon Shannon
- Don't Die Wondering
- David Meade: Wizard of Odds
- Bump, Baby and Beyond
- Derryloran Boyne Defenders: 50th Anniversary Night of Culture
- Colin Murphy
- Roly Daniels
- I'll Tell Me Ma
- St Patrick's Day Concert
- Give My Head Peace
- Tommy Fleming

- Foster & Allen
- Lisa McHugh

In addition the Burnavon was utilised for numerous workshops, conference and meeting bookings, Chair and Civic Receptions, Core Programme sessions (Cookstown Folk Club, Cookstown Youth Choir, Superstars) and delivery of Outreach Programmes workshops.



Pinocchio performance by Stewartstown Amateur Dramatics Society January 2018



Sharon Shannon performed February 2018



Youth Cast of Pinocchio who performed to over 3500 patrons over the month of January



Derek Ryan performing to a full house

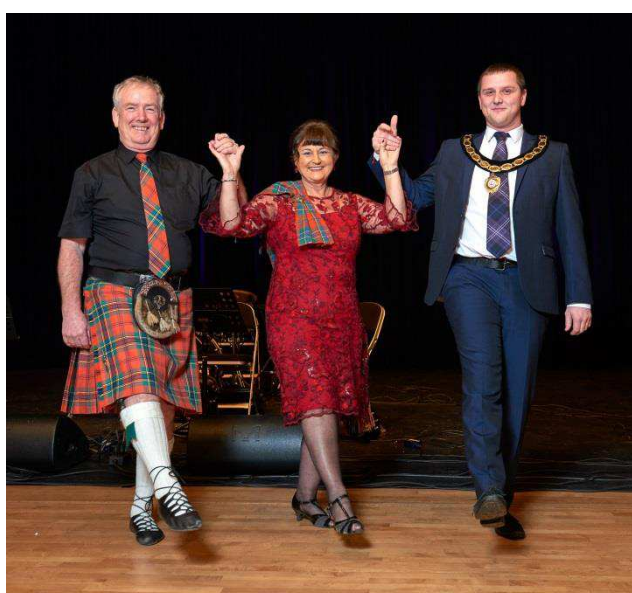
Events

Scottish Ceilidh

Over 100 people attended the Scottish Ceilidh at the Burnavon on 02 February. Celebrating its 10th year the ceilidh has become a popular annual event which is organised to celebrate Burns night.



Husband and wife team, Ken and Linda McLean, demonstrated each Scottish Country or Ceilidh dance routine and folk group, Risin' Stour provided live music throughout the evening.

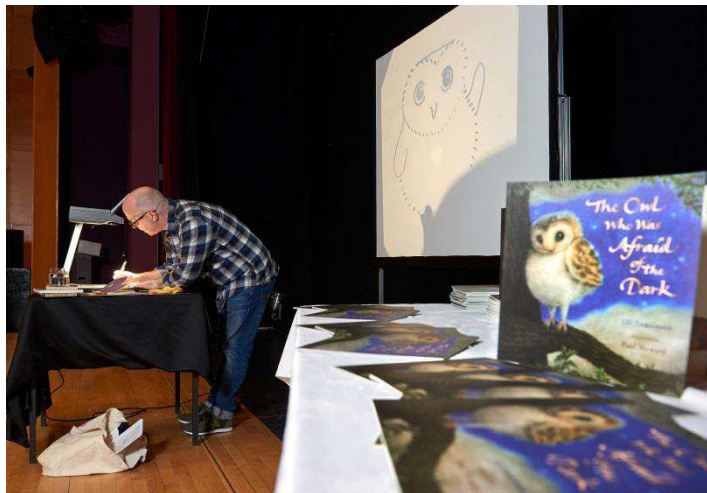


Paul Howard – Illustrator

240 school children attended our event with Paul Howard, Illustrator. Two workshops were facilitated by him on 06 March 2018.



Paul Howard is an extraordinarily talented illustrator who has illustrated many award-winning books from authors such as, Allan Ahlberg, Jeanne Willis and Michael Rosen, and has delighted children and reviewers across the world. Paul is probably best-known as the illustrator of Jill Tomlinson's animal stories which include the classic, *The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark*.



Demand was very high for this event and extremely positive feedback received from both pupils and teachers alike.

International Women's Day

Over 300 women attended the Burnavon's International Women's Day event which involved women's only workshops and free advice. There were lots of free activities, workshops and information on offer with something to suit everyone.



Women were able to chat to the experts about making a change in their lives with healthy eating advice, and information about physical activity and exercise classes at their local leisure centre. Women's Aid were also on hand throughout the day for a chat, as was Action Cancer who were offering free health checks.

Female entrepreneurs such as Deirdre Chestnutt and Louise Loughran were on hand to give advice. And participants also had the chance to sample some taster workshops that are delivered at the Burnavon including willow weaving and felt making. This was an opportunity to celebrate local female artists and the creative industries of which they are part.



St Patrick's Celebration Concert

A full house attended the St Patrick's Celebrations this year.

Kicking off the night was Traditional Music in Schools group followed by the Cookstown Folk Club, both led by Donald Canavan.

Closing the night was Chasin' Hooley, a six piece, multi-instrumentalist band from Tyrone with a traditional Irish feel. This was their first visit to the Burnavon and the audience loved them.

Compere for the evening was TV and BBC Radio Ulster presenter, Lynette Faye.





Easter Family Fun Day

Our annual Easter family event is held on Saturday 24th March. The event will have hands on arts and craft workshops for children to enjoy, puppet shows, magic shows, Easter Hunt, face painting and lots more. Always one of the busiest days in the Burnavon's calendar of events. Images of event will be included in next update report.

Exhibitions

Painted Meadowlands of Tyrone and Donegal

Date: January 2018

Artist: Janet Graham

This exhibition was a homecoming for artist Janet Graham. Originally from Cookstown, she now works from her studio in Donegal.

The inspiration for these paintings stemmed from a great love of bogland and meadow flowers.



Older Persons Exhibition

Date: February 2018

Artist: Deborah Malcomson and residents from Westlands Home

Artist Deborah Malcomson worked with residents from Westlands Home on an exciting creative project. All the residents were hands on in creating many artworks from printing and decoupage to sculpture.

This project was funded by Mid Ulster District Council and engaged through the "Older Persons Programme" to develop community links for the Burnavon.



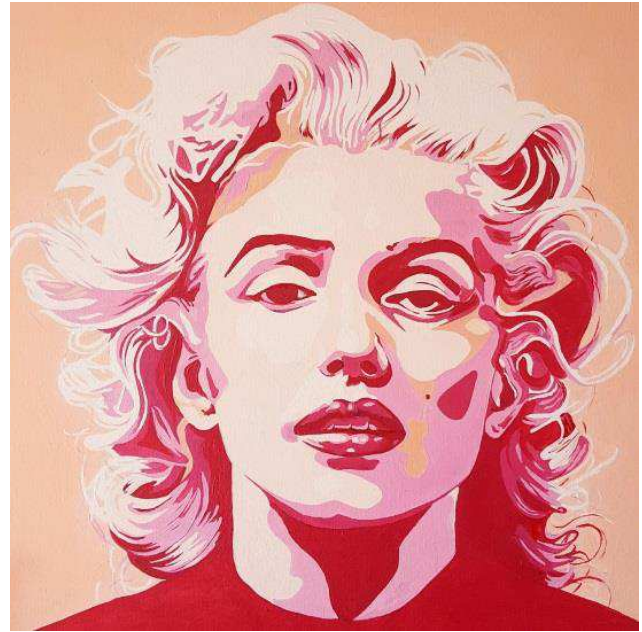
Chairperson attending opening of exhibition pictured with Artist and one of Westland Homes residents involved with project

Cult

Date: March 2018

Artist: Naomi Hassan

This is the first solo exhibition by local contemporary portrait artist Naomi Hassan. Hassan's portrait work is often influenced by pop culture, and integrating elements of abstraction and symbolic meaning.



Exhibition Bridewell

Local artists / pupils from Post Primary schools in Magherafelt, have created their own pieces of art, inspired by a variety of different subjects, movements and styles. This diverse range of art work is currently on display in the Bridewell, Magherafelt.

The six schools involved in the exhibition are St. Pius X College, Magherafelt High School, Rainey Endowed School, St Mary's Grammar School, Kilronan Special School and Sperrin Integrated College.



Art teacher from St Pius X College, Paula Diamond commented on the new exhibition:

"We are very excited to be involved in this exhibition. This show celebrates the creative and innovative work of pupils in the field of Art and Design spanning all schools in Magherafelt. It encompasses both traditional and contemporary work from a variety of disciplines, including Photography, Fine Art, Architecture, Fashion, Sculpture and Illustration. This impressive and wide ranging display will undoubtedly inspire the current generation of pupils in the Magherafelt Learning Partnership and broaden the horizons of all those interested in pursuing a career in the arts."



Workshops

Workshops at the Burnavon

Over 150 patrons have availed of workshops in the Burnavon since the end of January. Workshops included:

- St Brigid Cross Making
- Jiving
- Watercolours
- Furniture Upcycling
- Makeup Masterclass
- World Book Day
- Jewellery Making
- Lego Animation with iPads
- Mother's Day Card and Present Making



Figure 1 Mother's Day Card and Present Workshop



Workshops in Magherafelt

The Burnavon team piloted a number of workshops in the Magherafelt area, held in the Bridewell. To date two workshops have been completed; Floral Art and Furniture Upcycling, with each workshop fully booked.



Figure 3 Furniture Upcycling

Links with Schools Programme

Art Cart

Over the past three months the ArtCart (a bespoke mobile arts resource), and 2 tutors, have been going to 12 different schools offering them a range of innovative workshops. They have worked with up to 30 pupils in each of the schools, resulting in engagement with over 300 young people.

WheelWorks will also be providing 2 creative learning afternoons, for teachers, in the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre. Each learning station will be facilitated by two professional and experienced artists. This has been offered to the schools who have been participating in the ArtCart RoadShows.

Magherafelt Post Primary Schools Joint Workshops Event

Over 100 young artists, from the Magherafelt area, came together on Monday 5th March to take part in joint art workshops facilitated by Mid Ulster District Council.

This event offered Year 11 art pupils, from five local secondary schools, the opportunity to enjoy their selected art form under the expert tuition of professional artists in that field. Together pupils took part in a variety of different workshops ranging from willow weaving and pastel painting to comic book art and clay tiles.



Jonathan Alexander, Head of Art and Design and Moving Image Arts from Sperrin Integrated College, who hosted the workshops, commented on this fantastic opportunity:

“The workshops facilitated by practising artists were a very exciting opportunity for Art & Design students from across the Magherafelt Learning Partnership area. The creative industries are an important and ever developing part of our economy and it's fantastic for local students to meet with and share in the experience and expertise of Art, Craft and Design practitioners. We were delighted to host this event in Sperrin Integrated College and grateful to the facilitators for giving up their time.”



The five schools which took part in this project were Rainey Endowed Grammar School, Magherafelt High School, St Pius X College, Sperrin Integrated College and St Mary's Grammar School.

Outreach Programmes

Outreach in the Cookstown and Magherafelt area

Disability Arts Projects

As part of the Burnavon's Disability Arts Programme a number of projects have been undertaken / ongoing in the last three months:

- **Cookstown Primary Unit**

Over 40 children took part in a series of felt making workshops, resulting in over 40 individual finished framed felt pictures. They are currently undertaking art workshops on clay and mosaic. This will result in one large finished piece. All work will be displayed in the Burnavon throughout the month of June and returned to the unit in Cookstown Primary for permanent exhibition there.



- **Holy Trinity Unit**

Over 20 children are currently taking part in a similar project as delivered in Cookstown Primary Unit. The pupils will enjoy felt making workshops and clay and mosaic workshops.



- **‘One’ Cookstown Adult Centre and The Satellite**

Artist, Gwen Stevenson, is working with 20 participants from Cookstown Adults Centre and the Satellite Centre, on a weekly basis. These visual arts workshops will result in one piece of work from every participant. They are working with the theme of ‘One’, a broad subject which is currently producing a wide range of interpretations across a variety of media that reflects the personality and interests of the individuals that are producing them. This artwork will be exhibited in the Burnavon throughout April.

- **Kilronan Special School, Wizard of Oz production**

Through a project supported by Mid Ulster District Council Kilronan School, Magherafelt recently staged a musical production of “The Wizard of Oz”. Musical experts from RiChmusic and musicians from Live Music Now worked with senior pupils and staff at Kilronan School to bring this all together.

Principal Allison Millar commented on Kilronan’s experience:

"This was a fabulous learning opportunity for all of our senior pupils. We really enjoyed working with RiCH Music and the musicians from Live Music Now who are extremely talented and enthusiastic. Obviously the highlight of the project was putting on the performances for families and local schools."



Outreach Continued

Animation Project – Resources for Heritage Sites

Following a procurement exercise the Nerve Centre were appointed to deliver this project. Four comic books are in draft format, they relate to Tullaghoge Fort, Hill of the O'Neill, Beaghmore Stone Circles, and Ardboe Cross. The draft comics are currently being piloted with four local schools, through site visits and workshops, to test the animation assets created within the learning resources.

Strategic Partners

Each Strategic Partner has been offered the opportunity to work with Thrive (previously Audience NI). The purpose of this is to provide a support, guidance and mentorship programme to Mid Ulster District Council's identified Culture and Arts Strategic Partners, helping to establish projects and programmes designed to increase locally led and localised participation in arts and cultural activity. Thrive are holding 1-to-1 sessions with each of the groups to look at their specific audience development needs, and to create an audience development plan for each organisation.

Older Persons Projects

- **Westlands Home, Botanicals**

Artist Deborah Malcomson worked with residents from Westlands Home, helping them create many artworks from printing and decoupage to sculpture. This collaboration of work was exhibited in the Burnavon during February 2018 and is returning to Westlands Home as a permanent exhibition piece for everyone to enjoy.



- **Drapersfield House, Cottage Crafts**

As part of the Arts and Cultural Development Programme, within the Burnavon, artist Deborah Malcomson is working with residents from Drapersfield House on an exciting creative project. All the residents are hands on in creating many artworks from weaving and candle making to felt art. This collaboration of work will be exhibited in the Burnavon during July 2018 and then returning to Drapersfield House where they will be on permanent display.



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)



The Burnavon writers will be moving into next financial year as a fully constituted group with office bearers. They will continue to meet in the Burnavon and be supported through Culture and Arts Services.

Seamus Heaney HomePlace

Work on the Sensory garden is well underway at HomePlace. Funding was secured under EB (Northern Ireland) Limited- The Landfill Communities Fund for £17,500. Work is due to be completed in May.



HomePlace has featured in the Tourism NI television, radio and print 'Say Hello to More' campaign focused on attracting visitors from ROI to NI and from a HomePlace perspective, Mid Ulster in particular.



Early discussions have taken place with Raphaëlle Rodocanachi, Cultural Attaché and Head of the Visual & Performing Arts Department at the French Embassy to the UK around basing programming around Seamus Heaney's final published poem *Banks of a canal* and its references to French artist Gustave Caillebotte.

As identified within the five Year Culture & Arts Strategy a Marketing Officer for SHHP, Maria McCann Russell has been appointed. Maria took up post on 20th March 2018.

Meetings have been held with Business to Arts and Irish Museum of Modern Art examining the possibility of developing a membership scheme for HomePlace to further strengthen the network of local supporters of the facility and engage more closely with our audience base.

The National Library of Ireland are due to open their Seamus Heaney exhibition- *Listen Now Again*, which will focus on the writer's archive, showing the writer at work behind the scenes. Both the Seamus Heaney HomePlace exhibition and the Exhibition at the National Library in Dublin will complement each other and together will provide a fuller picture of the richness and depth of Seamus Heaney's work and his legacy. A collaborative approach with NLI is ensuring that HomePlace is featured within the Dublin exhibition. Discussions with Tourism NI have been initiated targeting visitors to Dublin and encouraging them to attend HomePlace.



In conjunction with Big Telly Theatre Company SHHP is holding an interactive experience for all ages on Saturday 31st March.



**Magherafelt
Town Centre**

 never
Magherafelt
better

Saturday 31st March 2018
11.30am to 2.30pm | Tickets: £5

www.SeamusHeaneyHome.com

 Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Our Churning Day programme in January was attended by 125 pupils from 4 primary schools.

This programme also appeared as the lead article on the C2K Newsdesk early in January, coinciding with schools returning after the Christmas holiday break. Schools thoroughly enjoyed the programme, and feedback from teachers has been very positive.

The end of January marked the beginning of the KS5 Frost/Heaney Lecture Series. The series will finish on 20th March.

This programme has been fully booked from November 2017, and 2 extra dates were arranged, so that all schools who had expressed an interest in attending had the opportunity of doing so (a total of 9 schools participated with attendance by 560 pupils).

In terms of feedback, some teachers took the time to send unsolicited feedback following their visit; this was generally very positive.

A number of schools have brought AS classes to visit the exhibition during March. Interest in an associated lecture based on non-CCEA examination board specifications has been noted; there are plans to look at the extent of interest for such a lecture, and the feasibility of organising this.

Our KS4 Lecture Series was available on 4 dates during February, and covered the new CCEA specification which includes a Heaney poem in each of the 3 anthologies (identity, relationships and conflict), and the outgoing CCEA specification with the Heaney/Hardy and Nature and War anthologies.

World Book Day was marked by storytelling sessions delivered by Billy Teare and Kathleen O'Sullivan on 1st and 2nd March. 3 primary schools attended, one of which brought all their classes to the event. Pupils also enjoyed making bookmarks to celebrate World Book Day, and schools had the option of including a tour of the exhibition.



World Poetry Day will also be marked on 21st and 22nd March by a Creative Writing workshop delivered by local author Bernie McGill. This event is fully booked. Schools will also have the opportunity of exploring the exhibition during their visit.

March also saw the introduction of a new education programme to HomePlace. Kilonan Special School brought class S1 to a programme designed for KS3 pupils with severe learning difficulties. Our 'Digging' workshop was a big hit with pupils, who also enjoyed a tour of the exhibition.

Throughout January and February schools participating in the *My Place Within the Landscape* programme continued to complete their portfolios and poems. These were submitted in February.

Representatives from Seamus Heaney HomePlace, were involved in assessing the submissions, and the completion of the programme was marked on 15th March with a Celebration Day event held at HomePlace.

Certificates and commemorative pens were presented to pupils, before Myra Zeph, Children's Writing Fellow, presented the winning poems to a rhythmic accompaniment provided by the drummers from Releasing Rhythms and the audience. The programme has been very well received, with positive feedback from the organisations involved, including teachers and pupils.



Arts Programme

The January to March programme started off strong with two sell out shows – one by local musicians and poets featuring Anne Treacy and Maura Johnston and a visit by acclaimed television director Jimmy McGovern.

In February we held a fortnight of events celebrating the links between Burns and Heaney and this proved very popular. Supported by the Good Relations Programme, the fortnight included a discussion panel on Ulster Scots, a sell-out concert by Eddi Reader and a celebration of the Cullybackey writer Ian Cochrane, which featured the re-publication of one of his novels.



Unfortunately, due to Storm Emma and the treacherous weather conditions in the UK, our Eliza and Martin Carthy concert had to be postponed, however this has now been rescheduled to take place in June 2018.

Looking forward to April, we have a sell-out visit by Marian Keyes and will be taking part in Poetry Day Ireland with a reading by four young up and coming Northern Irish poets, presented by Damian Smyth of the Arts Council.

Jaipur Literary Festival

In January, Cathy Brown Arts Programmer travelled to the Jaipur Literature Festival in India with Glenn Patterson from the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queens, to showcase the work that both organisations are doing on an international stage. The Jaipur Literary Festival is one of the world's biggest literature festivals and the public event included a screening of the Seamus Heaney documentary *Something to Write Home About* and a discussion on the work being done at HomePlace and the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry.

This was a very successful trip, with many great connections being made and some of the writers and performers that were met there are already confirmed to come to speak at HomePlace in the forthcoming season.



The Durbar Hall – venue for the ‘Something To Write Home About’ Discussion.

Future Planning

The new season Arts Programme Brochure is currently with the designer and will be on sale from the end of March. Containing a wide range of theatre, music and discussion events, along with a workshop programme, the season includes Barry Douglas, Duke Special and Andrew Motion. Courtesy of the Peace IV funding programme, there will be a series of events exploring the links between Heaney and Yeats taking place in August and we are working closely with the Yeats Society and Sligo County Council on planning for that. We are also excited to be working with the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queens to present a showcase event with their three new Fellows – Peter Wilson (aka Duke Special) Jo Baker and Doireann Ni Ghriofa, further strengthening the links between the two organisations.

Planning is already well underway for the Autumn 2018 season, which will include a showcase of local musical talent – Music From the HomeLand and a specially curated Christmas show by Anthony Toner featuring top poets, musicians and performers.

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

Burns Night celebration on Hill of The O'Neill

Killyman & District Cultural Group hosted a celebration of the life and works of the national bard Rabbe Burns on Hill of The O'Neill indoor events space on Friday 26th January. The event was supported by Mid Ulster District Council as part of Council's Arts & Culture programme of activities.

The large audience in attendance, (100 participants) were warmly welcomed by Kenny Montgomery, Chairman, Killyman & District Culture Group.

Guests were served a Burns night traditional meal following the parade, piping in and address to the haggis. The drum major display for the event was provided by Louis Anderson (All-Ireland Champion of Champions Novice Junior Drum Major).

Several traditional toasts were offered before the Portadown Scottish country dancers delighted the audience with displays of traditional Scottish dance routines. The entertainment for the evening was provided by Men in Black.

The evening closed with a vote of thanks by Alastair Cardwell, Vice Chairman of the Killyman and District Culture Group.



Piping of the Haggis by Selkirk Grace, Cavanapole Historical & Cultural Group



Parading of the Haggis by Isaac Beattie, Cavanapole Historical & Cultural Group



Drum Major display by Louis Anderson



Portadown Scottish Country Dancers



Men in Black



Killyman & District Culture Group - Event organisers with MUDC Chair Councillor Kim Ashton, Arlene Foster MLA and Adrian Martin, La Scala.

Square Box events

Cathal & Stephan Hayden together with Seamie O'Dowd presented a selection of tunes from their recent album Bow Bros to a packed audience on Saturday 13th January.

Backwest made their first appearance in the Square box on Saturday 3rd February. It was also a first appearance for Gareth Dunlop on Saturday 10th February. Gareth was supported by local singer, songwriter and St Patrick's Academy music teacher, Mairead Duffy.



Back West performing in the Square Box

Ulster Scots multi-instrumentalist, story teller and singer Willie Drennan and his band delighted the audience with a high energy show on Saturday 24th February. Willie played the fiddle, flute and the Lambeg drum. He was joined on stage by Davy Angus on double bass, flute and vocals and David McClean on guitar and vocals



Willie Drennan & Band

On Saturday 3rd March Bernadette Morris returned to the Square box to launch an EP of her own original material. Bernadette and her band presented her own fresh take on traditional Irish folk songs.



Bernadette Morris & Band



Cuig

Local multi - talented musicians and All Ireland Award winners Cuig performed to a full house on Saturday 10th March.

This five piece band, with members from Armagh and Tyrone, released their critically acclaimed debut album, 'New Landscapes', representing the realisation of a two year musical journey. Cúig were awarded "Best New Irish Band 2016" by the Irish American News. ‘

Eleanor Mc Evoy will take to the stage in the Square Box on Saturday 24th March with her solo show involving, singing, her stories and, anecdotes. This is Eleanor's first visit to the Square Box. Her current tour included gigs in Australia, Germany and the UK.

Classes/Workshops

Classes and one day workshops have been popular again this season. Adult evening classes included: Guitar; Pottery; Floral art; Acrylic painting; Jiving and Mindfulness.

Adult one day workshops included: textile art, stained & paint fused glass.

Children's classes/workshops included parent and toddler art; comic art masterclass; glass mosaic sculpture; Emoji art workshops, mother's day card making; mother's day bath bombs and soap making and an animating with logo masterclass.



Children's glass mosaic sculpture workshop

South Tyrone Men's shed

Our outreach arts programme offered opportunities to local men attending the South Tyrone Men's Shed to learn skills in wood carving (4 weeks, 3 afternoons per week), with Geoff Tulip and pottery (6 weeks, 2 hours per evening) with local artist Shauna McCann both courses finish in March. This is a follow on from last year's very successful programme. Comments from participants:

"As well as a great personal development opportunity for men it is also an occasion to make new friends with a common interest and learn a new skill."

"As most of us are unemployed or retired it is great to do something useful, preventing loneliness and isolation."



Wood carving at the South Tyrone Men's Shed

History Forum

The Dungannon history forum are keen to capture stories from the older residents in the local community. To assist the History Forum with the progression of this project the Arts & Culture Officer approached Queens University Belfast requesting a work place student from their Masters degree course in Arts Management to work with the history forum co-ordinating and carry out interviews. Queen University are keen to assist and will offer this opportunity to their current cohort of students. Costs to Council will include, an Access NI check on the student, plus any travel expenses the student occurs visiting locations for the interviews. Where possible most interviews will take place in Ranfurly House.

Edgar Harper Blue Plaque to be erected at No 3 Northland Place. Dungannon.

The Arts & Culture Officer on behalf of Dungannon History Forum made an application to the Ulster History Circle for a blue plaque to honour the achievements of Dungannon born Mathematician Edgar Harper. Together with Professor George Hartley Bryan, Edgar Harper devised a theory that is applied to aeronautics and determines the stability of the aeroplanes we fly in. The application has been successful and the History Forum at their March meeting in Ranfurly House agreed a date for the launch, Wednesday 2nd May at 11.30am.

This plaque will be located at Edgar Harper's birthplace, No 3 Northland Place, the property is owned by Mr Namik Saygi. Mr Saygi has given permission for the blue plaque to be erected on the front wall of his house.

History Forum talks

The February talk titled - A Miserly and Beggarly War – Dispelling the Myths of Tyrone's Rebellion focused on the Nine Years War (1593-1603), this talk was presented by James O'Neill and was very well attended.

Sebastian Graham (Heritage Angels Award Winner 2017) gave an insight into Dungannon's diverse range of wind and water powered mills such as corn, flax, weaving, beetling and even a bark mill! His talk highlighted the development of the numerous mills in the area: Dicksons Mill, Milltown, the scutching mills at Lisdernot, Lowertown and Killymaddy, the spade mills at Keenaghan and Mullaghteige and many more.

Arts & Disability Stakeholder programme

New project, people living with Parkinson's Project

As an extension to our Arts & Disability Stakeholders Programme, a focus group has developed with a number of stakeholders: physiotherapists, health care professionals from the two Trust's, promoting wellbeing team, the Area Manager for Parkinson's Northern Ireland, the Manager and Arts & Culture Officer, Ranfurly House. This project will offer dance classes in Ranfurly House to people living with Parkinson's. Studies suggest dance may be able to improve motor and non-motor disabilities in Parkinson's patients compared to other exercise interventions. Research made available to the focus group, completed by Limerick University highlights the benefits of, in particular set dancing, to improve Health and Well-Being.

There are approximately 2,600 Parkinson sufferers across NI, around 1 in every 500 of the population. Estimated prevalence is 235 people in the Mid-Ulster Council area with 30 diagnosed each year.

Training will be offered to staff to assist with participants engaging with this project.

Projects currently on offer as part of the Arts and Disability programme include: Pottery at Fiddles Court, Aughnacloy delivered by Shauna Mc Cann; Glass Mosaics and Pottery at Dungannon Hospice delivered at South Tyrone Hospital by Shauna Mc Cann, General crafts at Beechvalley for Chest Heart & Stroke patients delivered by Hazel Busby. The Visually Impaired Persons group enjoyed a Sea Grass project delivered by Deborah Malcomson in Ranfurly House.

All projects will finish before the end of March.



Glass project with the South Tyrone Hospice



The Visually Impaired group's sea grass project in Ranfurly House

Exhibitions:

Exhibitions this season included: January - Vogue Rites of Passage textile exhibition by Helen Heron. This exhibition twinned 8 poems from Michael Longley's works from 1973 – 2006, with 8 poems of Seamus Heaney's taken from his anthology 'Field work 1979.

February - Matthew Rafferty Faces & sky. Local artist Matthew Rafferty paints with oil and acrylic paint. He is interested in finding abstract forms and enhancing colours found in his subject's faces and sky.

In March Clonoe camera Club exhibited for the first time in Ranfurly House. This group was formed in 2014 by a small group of local amateur and professional



photographers with a desire to improve their photographic skills and share their knowledge and skills with others in the club.

St Patrick's Day

Despite the very cold weather St Patrick's Day was a very busy event in Ranfurly House with various nationalities enjoying the family focused activities. Dungannon Comhaltas entertained family and friends from 12.30 in the events space, before joining in with the parade in the town. The Armagh Rhymers performed in the Square box encouraging visitors to participate. Arts & Crafts activities, children's entertainment and live music by John Hagan and friends created a jovial atmosphere throughout the building.

The Muddlers club took to the stage in the outdoor events space at 4pm, indoor arts activities and children's entertainment proved very popular in the events space from 4pm to 6pm.



Muddlers Club in the Dome – Hill of The O'Neill



Dungannon Comhaltas young musicians

Easter Saturday

A fun filled day of Arts activities is planned for Easter Saturday with a build your own kite workshop, Easter treasure trails will focus on the shops in the town in partnership with the Trader Association as well as a trail in Ranfurly House & Hill of The O'Neill. Children's Books Ireland is back with their every popular book clinic with book doctors offering a free prescription to young readers. Through the day Jump, Jiggle and Jive will entertain families and Jumping clay workshops will offer children the opportunity to make their own clay bunny to take home.

Small Arts/Culture/Heritage/community Grants

Small Arts/Culture/Heritage/community Grants have now closed with the inclusion of the community grants there has been an increase in applications with 164 submissions this year.

Education Report

During the period 1st January to 20th March 2018, 724 pupils/students with 76 staff (total 800) participated in education events at Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre.

Northern Ireland Forest School Awards

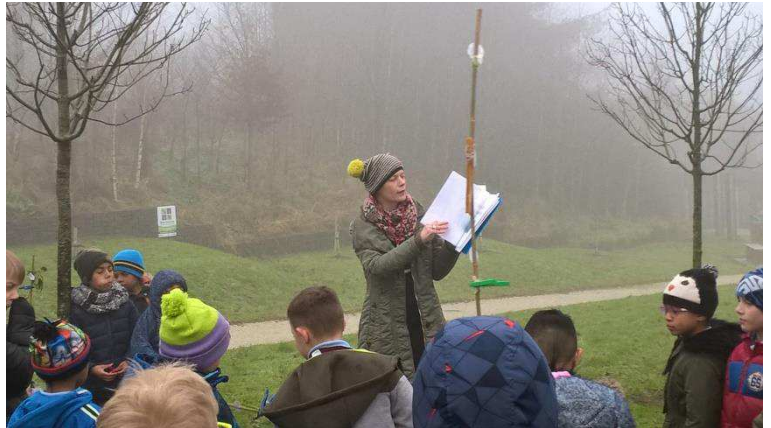
Northern Ireland Forest School Awards (NIFSA) is an environmental awareness initiative which encourages local schools to visit and take on an ownership of their local Council Park. It is continuing to operate successfully at Hill of The O'Neill Heritage Park as part of the education programme at Hill 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

A P2 class from Dungannon Primary School has completed its NIFSA course, and a P4 class from St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon, has recently finished its NIFSA programme. A P5 class from Gaelscoil Aodha Rua will soon conclude its NIFSA sessions.



Words on the Hill



“Words on the Hill”, poetry writing workshops for Key Stage 2 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 5th to Friday 9th February. This programme was facilitated by the writer and storyteller Joe Brennan, with assistance from Ranfurly House staff.

Five Key Stage 2 classes from two schools participated in this programme:

- St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon (4 classes)
- Derrylatinee Primary School
- Total number of pupils and staff: 140

The poems which the pupils began to write during their visits will be sent to the Education Officer. They will then be published in a book which will be available in mid-2018.

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.

Classes from two schools have recently participated in this activity:

- 23rd February: P6 class from Windmill Integrated Primary School
- 15th March: P7 class from Dungannon Primary School

The Workhouse

“The Workhouse”, which is offered jointly with Dungannon Library, is a learning activity in which Key Stage 2 pupils have the opportunity to research the Irish Famine and Dungannon Workhouse in Dungannon Library, and then be admitted to the workhouse in a living history presentation in Ranfurly House. The stimulus for the programme is the novel “Under the Hawthorn Tree” by Marita Conlon McKenna, a moving story which chronicles the lives of three siblings during the Irish Famine.



217 pupils and staff from 8 schools participated in this programme which ran from 26th February to 9th March. The schools that participated are:

- Howard Primary School
- Edendork Primary School (2 classes)
- Derrychrin Primary School
- Lisferty Primary School
- Our Lady's Primary School, Tullysaran
- St Joseph's Primary School, Galbally
- Gaelscoil Aodha Rua
- St John's Primary School, Moy

Below are comments from some of the teachers:

- An excellent experience for the children who really enjoyed the wonderful performance of the teacher. Howard Primary School.
- This was a very enjoyable and beneficial workshop and we would certainly recommend our Rang 6 class to come again next year. Gaelscoil Aodha Rua.
- As always, this workshop and presentation was excellent. Our P7s always enjoy this day. Edendork Primary School.
- Excellent. It gave the children a good idea of how harsh the regime was. Lisferty Primary School.

Create a Castle!

“Create a Castle!” provides an opportunity for Key Stage 1 pupils to begin to understand the historical facts relating to the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster. They participate in storytelling, take a guided tour of the Hill of The O’Neill to stand on the site of the O’Neill and Chichester castles and then construct castles from recycled materials with an artist. This heritage education activity is oversubscribed again this year, and ten classes have taken part in this programme during March 2018.



The schools that participated are:

- St Patrick’s Primary School, Dungannon (4 classes)
- Howard Primary School
- Derrylatinee Primary School
- Edendork Primary School (2 classes)
- Desertmartin Primary School
- Knocknagin Primary School



Below are comments made by some of the class teachers:

- Very calm, well organised event which had great historical content at the children's level. St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon.
- A very enjoyable experience for both staff and pupils. It was a perfect end to our class topic, "Castles". Howard Primary School.
- A great chance for the children to work together and to be creative in a lovely relaxed atmosphere – thank you! Derrylatinee Primary School.

More School/College Visits/Events

- South West College, Dungannon Campus: A group of Business Administration students, with their lecturer, took part in a guided tour of Hill of The O'Neill & Ranfurly House, led by the Education Officer, on Tuesday 27th February as part of their studies.
- Heartland Project: The preparations for this heritage project continue. The Education Officer is in the process of meeting owners of heritage sites. This planning will continue after Easter.

Language Development

Regional and Minority Language Policies Launched



At the Mid Ulster District Council Regional Minority Languages Policy Launch hosted in the Burnavon on 7th December.

On the 7th December the Burnavon Arts Centre hosted the launch of Council's Irish language and Ulster Scots language policies. Invited speakers Dr Pádraig Ó Tiarnaigh of Conradh na Gaeilge and Frank Ferguson of the University of Ulster spoke eloquently of the central place of our local languages in Mid Ulster society and praised the content and direction of Council's new policies. Councillor Dominic Molloy added that both policies seek to enable Mid Ulster District Council to create user friendly services for the district's indigenous language speakers and to protect, promote and celebrate the contribution of Irish and Ulster Scots to local culture.

Tús & Nasc



SAOR
FREE

FINDING A WAY TO LEARNING THE IRISH LANGUAGE

BEALACH LE GAELIGE A FHOGHLAIM

A series of FREE workshops at two levels, suitable for complete beginners and those with some Irish.

The aim of this programme is to open the door to people from all walks of life who have never had the opportunity to learn Irish or about the cultural heritage of the language.

CÁ HUAIR WHEN: 3rd Saturday of each month
20/1/2018, 17/2/2018, 10/3/2018*, 21/4/2018, 19/5/2018
10am – 1pm – refreshments available

LÁTHAIR VENUE: An Carn, Maghera

OIDÍ TUTORS: Brian Ó Doibhlin
& Séamus Mac Conmidhe

*The course will not take place on 17/3/2018 but on 10/3/2018 instead.

AN CARN
132A Tirkane Road, Maghera, Co. Derry, BT46 5NH
0044 28 795 49978 | info@ancarn.org
ancarn.org

Facebook.com/ancarn11 Twitter.com/ancarn11



Recent publicity for TÚS programme at An Carn

Promoting Opportunities to Learn

The adult education programme across Mid Ulster has again proved extremely successful this year with Council supported multi-level evening classes and one-day intensive courses taking place in 8 central locations across the district.

Also proving popular is our TÚS and NASC programme at Hill of the O'Neill and An Carn, aimed at attracting non-traditional learners to the Irish language. The Tuesday morning Intermediate class at the Burnavon remains popular.

Pobal an Ghleanne

OÍCHE AIRNÉIL
SOCIAL NIGHT
WITH LINDA ERVINE

2018
BLIAIN NA
Gaeilge
Gaeilge Sheo | Irish belongs to us all
125 ATHBHEOCHAN

Linda Ervine, a well known Irish Language Activist will speak about her work with 'Turas' and developing the Irish language in East Belfast. A great night is in store for all!

Followed by music, conversation and company with
Clogher Valley Comhaltas
Friday 9th March
Tailor's House, Ballygawley @ 7.30pm

Fáilte romh chách | Everyone Welcome

f t i

Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

SEACHTAINÍD
GAEILGE
le enérgia

COMHALTAS

Publicity for a recent Language Activity Funded event in Ballygawley

Irish Language in the Community – Funding for Activities

25 groups submitted applications to the Irish Language Activity Fund in relation to implementing Irish Language strands into their programmes throughout 2017-2018. These range from youth, sports, drama, educational and cultural based groups.



Course participants at the recent language workshops in Swatragh

Projects are now coming to an end with many highlights including “Love our Irish language, learn our Irish Language, with us!”, an outreach Irish language course run by Granaghan and District Womens Group, which attracted participants from Swatragh, Maghera, Ballinascreen, Inisrush and Ahoghill. Feedback has been extremely positive, with one participant stating “This was a lovely welcoming group and it gave me the courage to speak Irish for the first time in over 50 years.”

Cultural Awareness Talk

The Irish Language Officer delivered a Language Diversity workshop for 12 councillors on 15th February in Council Offices Magherafelt. The workshop sought to give an overview of the various languages spoken in Mid Ulster and explored the legal and cultural background to Council’s promotion of regional minority languages.

Seachtain na Gaeilge in Mid Ulster

Nine projects across the district received support under our Gaelfest programme as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, the annual national celebration of the Irish language. These were;

An Carn - Clár Sheachtain na Gaeilge as per 17/18 Action Plan
 Dianchúrsa, léacht, ceolchoirm, comhordaitheoir, Lá na Scoileanna
Pobal an Ghleanna - Oíche Airneáil do Dhéagóirí
Glór Mhachaire Fíolta - Lá Teaghlaigh agus Mórshiúil Beo
Gaelscoil Aodha Rua - Rhymetime as Gaeilge
Feis Oileáin agus Cluaine - Feis Teanga agus Cultúir
Edendork GFC - Tráth na gCeist in Éadán na dTorc
Institute of Irish Learning - Ceardlann Déanamh Cartaí
CCE Dhún Geanainn - Ceardlann Amhránaíochta
St Marys PS, Ballinascreen - Lá Gaeilge