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UPDATED EVERY WEEK

LAST UPDATE: WEEK 39

entertainment grapevine

What's on at the Hill of the O'Neill?

Andy Irvine Presented by The Headline Agency

Saturday 29 September | 8pm | £17 / £15 Concession

Legendary Irish singer/songwriter Andy Irvine is coming to perform at Ranfurly House. With his impressive repertoire of Irish traditional songs and dexterous Balkan dance tunes, he creates an exciting new fusion of Irish and World Music not to be missed.

Between the achievements of his solo, group work and collaborations, he is a highly revered troubadour of the Irish music world. Andy Irvine never fails to deliver a pulsating, heartfelt performance!

'The Kings of the Kilburn High Road' By Jimmy Murphy

Presented by Castle Hill Theatre

(This production contains strong language throughout)

Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 October | 8pm | £10

"Oh Mary, this London's a wonderful sight...."

In the backroom of a pub on London's infamous Kilburn Road, five Irish construction workers gather to 'wake' their friend, Jackie. The sudden loss forces them to question their decision to come to London, where the streets are most definitely not paved with gold... Dark truths unfold when the winners and losers of the group gather, revealing their lives, loves, lost chances and broken dreams.

LEFT: Andy Irvine is coming to perform at Ranfurly House

Cliona comes to the Ryandale

CLIONA Hagan has been hitting the high spots recently and looks certain to receive a rapturous welcome from dancers when she appears with her band at the Ryandale Hotel, Moy on Saturday night.

The vivacious singer has certainly created a huge impression since she first took to the road just a few years ago and right now she looks destined for more success.

Her impressive record releases to date including the catchy 'One, two, three!' have helped to enhance her profile and keep her up among the leading country dancing attractions.

Her eagerly-awaited return to the Ryandale comes hot on the heels of her appearance on Declan Nerney's 'Hooley in the Sun' and next week she will feature on Nathan Carter's 'Carter on the Costa' country music extravaganza in Benalmadena, Spain.

Such an experience is nothing new to Cliona of course as she has been a regular performer on shows on the continent.

She is particularly looking forward to performing in the Ryandale because of the rapport she has already established with dancers there.

On the occasion of her last visit, she attracted a huge crowd and the indications are that it will be a case of same again on Saturday night.

Cliona is also hoping to enter the studio shortly in order to lay down tracks for a new album and she has a number of songs which she is particularly keen to record.

Over the course of the summer she appeared at numerous festivals all across the country and proved hugely popular with her dynamic stage presence lending an extra dimension to the atmosphere,

She has become a firm favourite in dancing venues up and down the country and she can certainly expect a warm welcome at the Ryandale on Saturday night where there will be a red-carpet welcome for her and her talented band.

Doors at The Ryandale open at 8.30 pm and Cliona and her band will be on stage at 11.00 pm.

The Ryandale MOY Tel: 028 8778 4629

North's No 1 Country Dance

Saturday 29th September

CLIONA HAGAN

DOORS OPEN 8.30 • COME EARLY

Saturday 6th October JOHNNY BRADY

Sat 13th October: PATRICK FEENEY

Sunday 30th Sept - SOCIAL DANCE 8.30-11.30 SEAN WILSON & TONY MAC
Live Music Every Saturday Nite in Top Bar 9.30pm-Late
Saturday 29th September: THE BELLAS

LOCAL TOP TEN ALBUMS

1. SEAN WILSON - 60 AT SIXTY
2. LED ZEPPELIN - THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME
3. JOHN O'NEILL - A PLACE THAT'S HOME
4. NICKI MINAJ - QUEEN
5. LENNY KRAVITZ - RAISE VIBRATION
6. PAUL WELLER - TRUE MEANINGS
7. ALTER BRIDGE - LIVE AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL
8. JOE BONAMASSA - REDEMPTION
9. GEORGE EZRA - STAYING AT TAMARA'S
10. ARETHA FRANKLIN - THE PLATINUM COLLECTION

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Irish Street, Dungannon • Tel: 028 8772 5286

Castle Hill Theatre Group to perform in Tyrone

THE Castle Hill Theatre Group Dungannon are set to perform six shows across two venues in Tyrone this October.

They will return to the Squarebox Theatre at the Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre which takes place at 8:00pm nightly from Wednesday 3rd to Saturday 6th October.

The Mid-Ulster men will follow it up with two live shows at the Craic Theatre in Coalisland from 8:00pm on 11th and 12th October.

The group's newest production 'The Kings of the Kilburn High Road' will be much anticapted following their previous performances were very well received in the county.

They previously left the crowds at the Squarebox Theatre in tears of laughter after they brought the timeless Laurel and Hardy back to life at Ranfurly.

The latest act is set in the backroom of a pub on London's infamous Kilburn Road, as five Irish construction workers gather to 'wake' their friend, Jackie. The sudden loss forces them to question their decision to come to London, where the streets are most definitely not paved with gold..."Oh Mary, this London's a wonderful sight..."

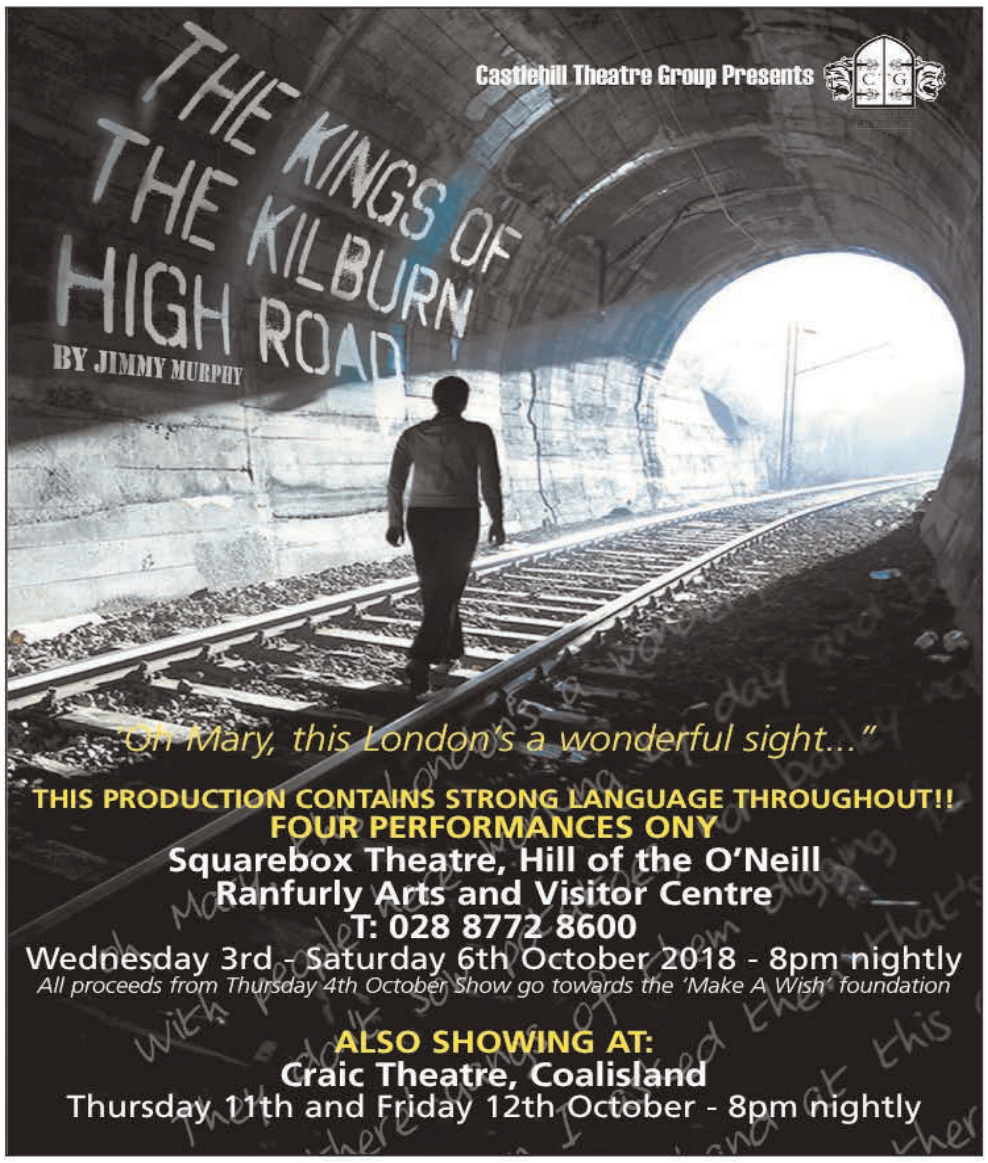
The group are also donating all proceeds from their Thursday evening show towards the "Make a Wish" foundation, who do fantastic work in helping make the wishes of a children diagonised with critical illnesses come true.

Tickets are now on sale and for more information please contact the Ranfurly Arts and Visitor Centre 028 8772 8600. For the Craic Theatre & Arts Centre, contact 028 8774 1100.

Alternatively you can call into the respective venues to book your place before they sell out. Please be advised, the production contains strong language throughout!

LEFT: The Castle Hill Theatre Group, Dungannon will perform four performances at Hill of the O'Neill.

Davisons Bar
Main St • Castlecaulfield
Tel: 028 8776 7691
Saturday 29th September
DJ CHRIS



County Tyrone

Fabulous Derek Ryan ready to take Lola's by storm

Derek Ryan, who returns with his multi-talented band to Lola's at the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh, on Friday night is certainly living life in the fast lane. Global travel, unprecedented recording successes and sold-out venues are very much part and parcel of Derek's itinerary right now yet not the slightest element of complacency is allowed to infiltrate his psyche.

Instead, Derek continues to set a hot pace for himself, as he seeks to conquer new horizons. His 'Unplugged Acoustic Session' tour will be stepped up next month and this will be the prelude to a more extensive concert tour with his full band in the early part of 2019.

But for the moment he is strongly focussed on bringing his own inimitable dancing programme into some of Ireland's leading venues, including the Silverbirch Hotel. "We are looking forward to going back there," smiles Derek. "Obviously we have been busy fulfilling festival engagements over the course of the summer, but it's nice to be back in the ballrooms again. There is always a tremendous atmosphere at the Silverbirch and let's just say that we aim to enjoy ourselves."

Derek's latest single 'Ya Can't Stay Here' has created a huge impact and is proving hugely popular at his dance dates. Indeed, his highly-acclaimed songwriting skills come to the fore strongly in this number and underline his versatility and boundless creative talent.

Throughout his career to date Derek has always shown a wonderfully distinct way of conveying the atmosphere and welcoming nature of rural Ireland. Derek has the incredible talent to immerse his audience into the country music lifestyle and community through his music.

Derek Ryan, who is set for Lola's at the Silverbirch Hotel this Friday night. SU3911LS18

'Ya Can't Stay Here' eloquently reflects the feel-good factor of the raucous, sing-a-long atmosphere that currently prevails in most of the leading dancing venues. "It's a number we enjoy playing and we will certainly be performing it at the Silverbirch Hotel," says Derek. Doors open there at 9.15pm and Derek and his band will be on stage at 11pm.

Top musicians to perform at Jim Conway Traditional Music Festival

THE committee of Cappagh Badoney Comhaltas Branch are excited to be hosting their fifth annual Jim Conway Traditional Music Festival on September 28 and 29.

The weekend gets off to a start on September 28 with a sold-out show in The Mellon Country Inn with the world famous, Cherish the Ladies.

Under the leadership of All-Ireland flute and whistle champion, Joanie Madden, named by The Irish Voice Newspaper as one of the 'Top 25 Most influential Irish Americans' of the past quarter century, these ladies create an evening that includes a spectacular blend of virtuoso instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements, and stunning step dancing.

Their continued success as one of the top Celtic groups in the world is due to the ensemble's ability to take the best of Irish traditional music and dance and put it forth in an immensely entertaining show.

On Saturday morning, September 29, Cappagh Badoney Branch will hold workshops in Plumbridge for intermediate and advanced students facilitated by these amazing musicians.

Joanie Madden will lead the flute and whistle workshop, Nollaig Casey will lead the fiddle workshop and Mirella Murray will led the tune workshop.

Later that afternoon, children from six years old, will take park in Lá Spraoi, enjoying fun and games while learning a cúpla focail Gaeilge.

The festival will finish off with a lively seisiúin in Plumbridge Hall on Saturday evening led by All Ireland champion musicians, Eugene McKenna, Sinéad McKenna and Jack Warnock.

Organisers promote the 12th annual Peadar Joe Haughey Irish language and culture festival which will be taking place at several venues, including the An Creagan centre..SU3903KM18

Annual festival to commemorate life and legacy of storyteller

The 12th Peadar Joe Haughey takes place at An Creagán Visitor Centre and other venues, between today (Wednesday, September 26) and Sunday, October 7. This Irish language and culture festival commemorates the life and legacy of Peadar Joe Haughey, a storyteller and one of the last native Irish speakers in the Tyrone Gaeltacht.

For the past 11 years, this festival has been organised by Peadar Joe's grandson Francis Clarke and his wife Mary. For the past number of years Francis has been supported by An Creagán Visitor Centre, Pobal ar a'n Iúl (Omagh branch of Conradh na Gaeilge), and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. The events will take place at Peadar Joe's homestead, at An Creagán Visitor Centre and also at Main Street, Omagh.

The festival begins tonight with a new addition to this year's line-up, a Pop-up Gaeltacht event at Sean Ógs bar, Main Street Omagh, for learners and fluent speakers of Irish alike. The Popup Gaeltacht event began as a monthly get-together for Irish speakers in Dublin, in November 2016 and since then, the pop-up Gaeltacht has spread, with events being held in Perth, Dubai, Vancouver, New York and even La Paz in Bolivia.

"This is about asking people to look deep inside themselves and at their own relationship with the language; not as a school subject or as something you hated," said Peadar Ó Caomhánaigh, co-founder of the Popup Gaeltacht along with Osgur Ó Ciardha. This is the first Pop-up Gaeltacht event in the Omagh area, and takes place at 9pm at Seán Ógs bar at Main Street, Omagh.

The next event is a talk on 'The Role of the Harp in Gaelic Society' by PhD student and Irish speaker Lauren O'Neill held at Peadar Joe's homestead on Thursday at 7.30pm.

The ever popular Oíche Ghaeltachta (Gaeltacht Singing Night), takes place as usual on Friday night, September 28. The night will begin with a singing workshop from 7.30pm, led by Sean-nós competition winner and Donegal native Máire Ní Choilm. The night will continue with Sean-Nós singers from different Gaeltacht areas. The Gaeltacht singing night is always one of the highlights of the festival, and is attended each year by singers from all over Ireland.

Saturday will see the return of the popular one day intensive Irish language course from 10am to 3pm in An Creagán, as well as a rang saibhreas for fluent Irish speakers who wish to add to their language. Following the classes on Saturday will be a presentation of the Francie Mac Annaidh Award to one adult learner who has excelled in their efforts to learn Irish in the past year. An open seisiún ceoil will be held in Paedar Joe's homestead on Saturday night beginning at 8pm.

On Sunday, Pobal ar a'n Iúl will be running a family day in collaboration with Glór na nGael at An Creagán from 12 noon to 3pm, for Irish speaking families. Activities will include art, games, facepainting and much more. The festival will close in a manner that Peadar Joe would surely be happy with - a storytelling session with several talented storytellers taking part. For more information about Féile Pheadar Joe 2018, get in touch with Irish language officer Michaeline Donnelly at 079555 92969.

Newtownstewart Cancer Focus Group to host 40th anniversary fashion show

Newtownstewart Cancer Focus Group will be hosting a fashion show as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations.

The event will be held at the Mellon Country Inn, Omagh, on Thursday, October 4, at 7.30pm.

Models on the night will take to the catwalk donning the latest fashion trends from ladies fashion boutique, Style of Omagh, Vixen, Omagh, and menswear store Kemps and Sons, Newtownstewart.

Tickets cost £10 each and there will be a surprise treat on arrival! All proceeds in aid of Cancer Focus NI.

On the night there will also be free entry to a draw for £100 cash.

For more information or tickets contact participating shops or telephone: 07917 194 222. Tickets will also be available at the door.

County Tyrone

SALLYS

THURSDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER
Bar KNOTTY PINE STRING BAND | 10PM

FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER
Bar RIAN MURPHY | 10PM

SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER
Bar SPINDOCTOR | 7PM
Lounge PREMIUM* | 10PM
Club SELECT SATURDAYS - DJ KEVIN | 10PM | 21+

SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER
Bar FLOWERS & GUITARS | 10PM
Club SUPER SUNDAY | 9PM | 18+

SALLYS
33-35 John Street, Omagh
028 8224 2521
info@sallysofomagh.com
www.sallysofomagh.com
/sallysofomagh1
/sallysofomagh
/sallysofomagh

BISTRO OPENING HOURS
MON – WED 10AM-8PM | THURS – FRI 10AM-9PM | SAT – SUN 10AM-8PM
BREAKFAST SERVED MON – SAT 10AM-12PM

Friends all smiles on a night out at Sallys of Omagh. SU3915LS18

Friends enjoying a night out at Sallys of Omagh. SU3915LS18

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
Comhairle Ceantair Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí
Strule Arts Centre Omagh

Lowry Promotions Presents
Take it to the Limit - A Celebration of the Eagles
THUR 27 SEPT 8.00pm £22.50

Paddy Keenan, Frankie Gavin & Dermot Byrne
FRI 28 SEPT 8.00pm £15.00

AMA Music Presents
Paddy Casey
SAT 29 SEPT 8.00pm £15.00

Malachy Duffin (Singer/ Songwriter Workshop followed by performance)
THUR 4 OCT 7.30pm £3.00

Isosceles Theatre Company Presents
Murder Just What the Doctor Ordered
FRI 5 OCT 8.00pm £12.50

Brendan Quinn Friends & Family Tour
SAT 6 OCT 8.00pm £12.50

Children's Workshop
Duff Balloons Presents
'The Great Inflate'
Balloon Modelling Workshop for Beginners - Big Kids (8-11 years)
THUR 27 SEPT - THUR 18 OCT (4 weeks) Session 1
THUR 15 NOV - THUR 6 DEC (4 weeks) Session 2
5.30 - 7.30pm Cost £30.00 (4 wks)

Gallery Exhibition
Connecting Communities through the Arts
UNTIL - 13 OCT 10.00 - 5.00 pm FREE

Box Office (028) 8224 7831
www.struleartscentre.co.uk
struleartscentre @StruleArts

Lots of acoustic sounds lined up for Sallys of Omagh

A great line-up of musicians are bound for Sallys of Omagh this weekend.

Singer-song writer Ryan Murphy is to return this Friday for an evening of chilled out acoustic.

"The talented Omagh native delivers a unique blend of laid back and mellow acoustic, and he's bringing it to Sally front bar. He's on from 10pm", a spokesperson for the venue commented.

The two piece acoustic act, Flowers and Guitars, are set to make their Sallys return on Sunday night.

"The duo from Armagh, Declan Corrigan on guitar and Emma Mallon on vocals, have been playing for over two years and are known for their varied brand of music ranging from the 1950s to the present day. They will be playing in the front bar from 10pm", the spokesperson continued.

Enjoying a night out at Sallys of Omagh at the weekend . SU39163LS18

INtune

Having fun out on Main Street, Omagh

Edwin and Evelyn celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary at Main Street, Omagh.

LEFT: Friends enjoying a night out at Main Street, Omagh.

Enjoying a good time at Bogan's Bar, Omagh

Friends all smiles on a night out at Bogan's Bar, Omagh. SU3916LS18

Enjoying a night out at Bogan's Bar, Omagh on Saturday. SU3917LS18

Lads having a good time at Bogan's Bar, Omagh SU3919LS18

Royal British Legion Club Omagh

Saturday 29th September
at 8.30pm

200 CLUB SUPPER DANCE

Music by
The Senators
Food by
The Moores
Tickets £10 Each
Tel: 07788 117665
to book your ticket

Seskinore LOL 457

Presents

Willie Drennan and friends

in the **McElroy Hall, Seskinore**
Wednesday 26th September at 8pm
Admission £10 (Children under 12 free)
Proceeds to the above lodge

Lola's SILVERBIRCH HOTEL

SILVERBIRCH HOTEL, OMAGH
Telephone: 028 8224 2520

Friday 28th September

DEREK RYAN
AND HIS BAND

Doors Open 9.15 * Band on stage 11.00pm

BRODERICKS
BAR | LOUNGE | OFF-LICENCE
23 GEORGES STREET, OMAGH
SATURDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER
MUSIC BY **MAJOR MINOR**
Live Sport on Large Screen BT Sport SKY SPORTS
Now Serving tea and coffee

INtune

All dressed up for Roald Dahl Day

All smiles during Omagh Integrated Primary School's Roald Dahl Day drama workshop in collaboration with Drumragh Integrated College, are primary school pupils, Cara, Fara, Olivia and Zach with Drumragh pupil Caitlin who acted out the role of 'Matilda'.IB3819KM18

All dressed up for Omagh Integrated Primary School's Roald Dahl Day, held in collaboration with Drumragh Integrated College, are, in the back row, Drumragh pupils Laura (Mrs Twit) and Dylan (Mr Twit) with, in the front row, from left, Omagh Integrated pupils Jamie, Zac, Katie and Senan.IB3822KM18

Taking part in Omagh Integrated Primary School's Roald Dahl Day drama workshop in collaboration with Drumragh Integrated College, are Omagh Integrated pupils with Drumragh pupil Molly as 'Miss Trunchbull'.IB3820KM18

A Drumragh Integrated College pupil takes on the role of 'Miss Honey' for a drama workshop held during the Roald Dahl Day organised by Omagh Integrated PS and Drumragh Integrated College. She is pictured with Omagh Integrated pupils, Patrick, Cara, Daniel and Cyprian.IB3821KM18

Ulster Orchestra is coming to Omagh stage

The Ulster Orchestra is back on the road and the latest in its 'On Your Doorstep' concert series sees the full Orchestra, conductor Eivind Gullberg Jensen and renowned German soloist Simon Höfele head to Omagh for a very special performance in Strule Arts Centre on Thursday, October 18, at 8pm. Tickets for the concert are available online at www.ulsterorchestra.org.uk or by calling 028 8224 7831.

'On Your Doorstep' is a very special opportunity to catch a full symphony orchestra in the intimate surroundings of your local arts theatre. It's hard to truly capture the power and effect of live orchestral music until you attend a show in person, and this programme strives to bring the Ulster Orchestra's passion and magic to every corner of Northern Ireland.

With world class soloists, guest conductors and, of course, the full 54-piece orchestra, there's no better time than to give the Orchestra a go – you may find that you know more classical music than you think!

The Ulster Orchestra brings Haydn's popular Trumpet Concerto and Tchaikovsky's final symphony, the Pathétique, to Strule Arts Centre as part of their On Your Doorstep programme. Symphony No. 6 is considered by both audiences and Tchaikovsky himself as the best thing he ever wrote. One of the most exciting trumpeters of his generation, Simon Höfele, shares the stage with the Ulster Orchestra and guest conductor Eivind Gullberg Jensen for this special night.

Howard Thornton, chairman of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Scott Lowry, Ulster Orchestra violinist and John Feely, vice-chairman Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, promote the Ulster Orchestra's forthcoming performance at the Strule Arts Centre in Omagh.SU3904KM18

THE MELLON COUNTRY INN
Tel: 028 8166 1224
Email: info@melloninn.com
www.melloncountryhotel.com
/TheMellonCountryInn

Saturday 29th September: Live Music in O'Brien's Bar with Brother's Inc. 8.30pm

Saturday 29th September: Live Lounge: 'The Chrissy Mac Show' 10.30pm. Free Adm.

Every Wednesday: Open Traditional Irish Music Sessions. 8pm O'Brien's Bar

Sunday 30th September: Sunday Night Social Dancing with White Lightning. £5 Adm. Light Refreshments Served. 9pm-11.30pm

Saturday 13th October: Rob Strong in aid of Chest, Heart & Stroke. Tickets £10.

Upcoming Event: Autumn Wedding Showcase Open Evening October 10th from 4pm. Now with 25% Off All Wedding Packages (T&C's Apply)

INtune

Celebration time at Broderick's Bar, Omagh

Roisin Sharkey and Aaron McKenna celebrating their engagement at Broderick's Bar, Omagh on Saturday night. PA3902LS18

Friends celebrating Roisin and Aaron's engagement at Broderick's Bar, Omagh. PA3903LS18

Joining in the engagement party celebrations at Broderick's Bar, Omagh. PA3905LS18

All smiles at Roisin and Aaron's engagement party on Saturday night at Broderick's Bar, Omagh. PA3904LS18

Birthday celebration at Broderick's Bar on Saturday night. PA3901LS18

Holly Villa staff reunion which took place in Broderick's Bar, Omagh on Saturday night. PA3907LS18

To order photographs from these pages please call into our office at 25-27 High Street, Omagh or call 028 8224 2721

Omagh TYRONE CONSTITUTION Est. 1844

INtune

'Cracking family variety show' coming to the Alley

A CRACKING night of entertainment comes to the Alley Theatre on Saturday, October 6, as the revered Scottish Senior Accordion Champion, Leonard Brown and his All Star Band, team up with renowned comedian Gene Fitzpatrick.

They will supported by up and coming country star, Chrissy Mac and the Smith McCarron Irish Dancers. This promises to be a hilarious and memorable family show!

Leonard Brown and his All Star Band have toured extensively across Scotland and England and he now brings his show to Northern Ireland for the first time.

Comedy legend Gene, Fitzpatrick, needs no introduction as he is a long established comedian that has entertained across the world for many years. He is guaranteed to have the audience rolling in the aisles!

The Smith McCarron Irish Dancers are coached by Don and Tracey who were lead dancers of Lord of the Dance.

Their enthusiastic youngsters will entertain on the night with their energetic performance.

Young country star, Chrissy Mac, is making quite a name for himself.

Now hosting his own TV show, he's becoming a sought after entertainer and will add a bit of sparkle to this great family variety show!

Tickets for the unmissable night's entertainment on Saturday, October 6, are £15 from the Alley Box Office.

Phone 028 71384444 or book tickets online www.alley-theatre.com

Popular comedian, Gene Kilpatrick, will be at the Alley Theatre on Saturday, October 6.SU3902CM18

Leonard Brown and his All Star Band will be performing at the Alley Theatre on Saturday, October 6. (Photo: Whyler Photos of Stirling).SU3901CM18

Newtownstewart Cancer Focus Group to host 40th anniversary fashion show

NEWTOWNSTEWART Cancer Focus Group will be hosting a fashion show as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations.

The event will be held at the Mellon Country Inn, Omagh, on Thursday, October 4, at 7.30pm.

Models on the night will take to the catwalk donning the latest fashion trends from ladies fashion boutique, Style of Omagh, Vixen, Omagh, and menswear store Kemps and Sons, Newtownstewart.

Tickets cost £10 each and there will be a surprise treat on arrival. All proceeds in aid of Cancer Focus NI.

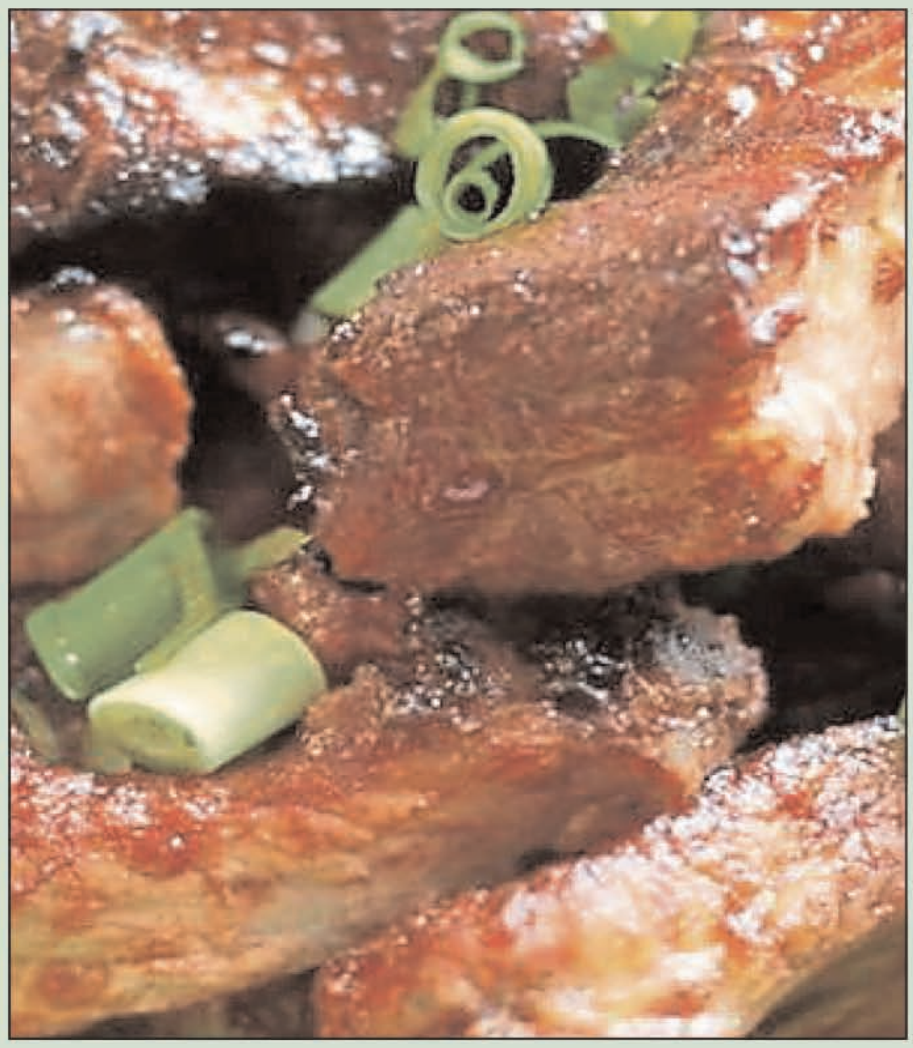
On the night there will also be free entry to a draw for £100 cash.

For more information or tickets contact participating shops or telephone: 07917 194 222. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Healthy Cooking

With Sharron

Chinese style ribs



IN this week's healthy eating column, Sharron McCormick – who has just launched her new recipe book – brings readers her take on Chinese style ribs.

Ingredients

- Pork Steaks, fat removed and cut in half lengthways
- One teaspoon of 'Lazy Garlic'
- One tablespoon of soy sauce
- One tablespoon of balsamic vinegar
- One tablespoon of granulated sweetener
- One tablespoon of tomato puree

Method

1: Mix the garlic, soy sauce, balsamic vinegar, sweetener and tomato puree together in a dish and add the pork steaks.

2: Mix well to ensure they are thoroughly covered.

3: You can leave to marinade in the fridge for an hour or two or overnight or if you can't wait they will still be just as delicious if you cook them straight away.

4: Cook in a preheated oven at 175 for approx imately 25 minutes until browned and cooked through.

Tip: If you like a more char-grilled effect you can also pop them under the grill and they are also excellent on a barbecue.

For updates and other tasty recipes from Sharron visit www.withloverecipes.com

Inaugural Every Voice Fringe Festival arrives in Strabane!

LOCAL audiences can enjoy an extravaganza of choral singing, when an army of local singers from the Derry, Strabane and Donegal Choirs will come together as one group and take to the stage of the Alley Theatre on Friday to perform individual pieces and new collaborations under the theme of 'Joy'.

The Stand Up and Sing gala concert will begin a month-long celebration of all things choral under the programme of the Every Voice Fringe Festival, a new community singing festival, produced by Derry choir, Allegri, in association with the City of Derry International Choir Festival.

The diverse range of singers will perform together in concert after just four intensive weekly rehearsals led by Maurice Kelly, Every Voice Fringe Festival creative director.

In addition to audience favourites, the massed choir will perform the premiere of a piece specially commissioned for the festival entitled 'Every Voice', by Dr Shane Lynch, a noted US music professor and composer as well as City of Derry International Choir Festival 2018 adjudicator.

Lyrics have been penned by talented local poet, Micheál McCann, a recent graduate of The Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's University, Belfast.

The event will also see the debut of the new choir comprising students from Strabane's Class Act Theatre Group, run by Leah McCay and Ryan Quinn.

The group, which was formed in 2012, has quickly established a strong reputation with their high calibre of training and their new venture promises to continue that success.

During the week of the Choral Festival itself, running from October 20 to 28, local people will be able to catch informal performances in both locations as hotels, shops and community centres such as Asda and St Pat's Hall, become music venues.

Tickets are available now from the Alley Theatre website at www.alley-theatre.com or through the Box Office on 028 71 384444, priced at £8 with a £5 concessionary rate.

The theatre and Masala Indian Restaurant are also offering a pre-theatre meal deal ticket package for £20, including a glass of wine.

Singers in rehearsals getting prepared for Alley Theatre concert on Friday.SU3934CM18

Singers in rehearsals getting prepared for 'Stand Up and Sing' gala concert at the Alley Theatre this Friday.SU3935CM18

St Patrick's Hall Theatre Group confirm new pantomime

THE St Patrick's Hall Theatre Group will hold auditions for their new production of 'Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood' on Saturday, October 3, at 2pm.

The theatre group will be on the look out for young performers to play the role of nieces and nephews, a 'beautiful Maid Marion' and Robin's band of 'merry men and women'.

A spokesperson for the group said: "If you fancy treading the boards, acting, singing and having fun do send us a message and we will send you more information or just come along to the auditions.

"There will also be an open chorus invitation (P4 age upwards) which will be announced shortly."

The 'classic and hilarious' family panto will be jam packed with comedy, drama, singing and dancing as Robin Hood robs the rich to give to the poor and saves the babes from their wicked uncle the Sheriff of Nottingham – one not to be missed.

The pantomime will take place at the end of January 2019.

For more information about the event, visit the 'St Patrick's Hall Theatre Group' Facebook page.

Bard Theatre Group present thought-provoking 'Silence' at the Alley

BARD Theatre Group are returning to the Alley Theatre in Strabane at 8pm on October 12 and 13, to proudly present 'Silence' a new three-act play by Andrew William Tinney from an original script set in 1718.

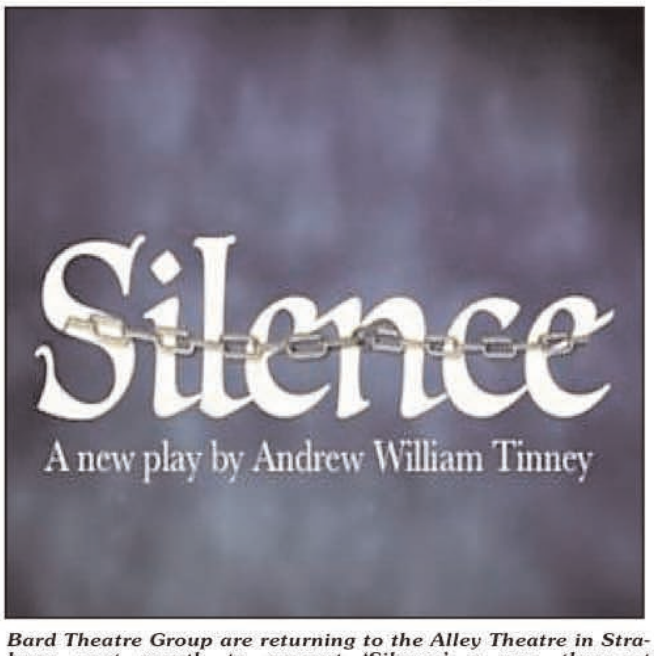
After the success of the group's first ever performance 'The Coarse Acting Show' Bard are returning with a new drama that will debut in the Alley before touring the circuit as part of the Irish Drama Festivals.

'Silence' tells the story of Ireland in the 1700's when the first migrants left for America. It follows Lucy, born a mute, her family and the people who shape their society.

Lucy cannot speak. She could never speak, not since birth... And though Lucy's life was spent in silence, she could hear. She could hear everything everyone said, even the words they said behind her back. Words like 'devil child!'

'Silence' is a tale of the harrowing brutality of humanity, the exploitation of religion and the tragedy that so often accompanies love.

A theatre spokesperson said: "Bard utilise theatrical storytelling using movement, multi-role actors and fast paced-action to present 'Silence'.



Bard Theatre Group are returning to the Alley Theatre in Strabane next month to present 'Silence' a new three-act play.SU3952CM18

"The audience can expect laughter and shock, scenes of joy and scenes without hope. The group's aim is to present humanity as it is, bare bones and thought-provoking!

"As the characters repeat throughout the play. This is not a happy tale but it is nevertheless an important one which Bard feel is worth telling of some of the people from Ireland who sought to escape the suffocating Penal Laws.

"There were others too who longed for escape for other reasons to flee their personal sufferings and the silence that dominated their lives."

Tickets for 'Silence' are £10, £8 (con) and are available online at www.alley-theatre.com or call 028 71384444.

To order photographs from these pages, please call into our office at: 31 Abercorn Square, Strabane or telephone 028 7188 6869 or visit www.strabaneweekly.co.uk

TYRONE & DONEGAL REPORTER Strabane WEEKLY NEWS Established 1908: Providing coverage of Derry City & Strabane District Council area & East Donegal

INtune

Enjoying a night out with 'The 4 Of Us' at the Alley Theatre

Michael and Paula Duffy enjoying a night out at the Alley Theatre.RC3645

Marcus O'Neill, with Brian and May Mills at the Alley Theatre to watch 'The 4 of Us' perform.RC3644

Joe and Tommy enjoying an evening out at the Alley Theatre.RC3639

Fans of 'The 4 of Us' who enjoyed their recent performance at the Alley Theatre, Caroline and Ronnie Doran, Veronica Lynch and Marion Crumley.RC3640

Maria and Peter were among those who enjoyed 'The Four of Us' show at the Alley.RC3642

Mary Forbes enjoying an evening out at the Alley Theatre to watch 'The 4 of Us' perform.RC3638

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INtune

World's biggest youth film festival to visit Strabane

by Aoife Curran

STRABANE is one of the locations as the world's biggest youth film festival visits Northern Ireland from November 7 to 23, with 21,677 free places available for film screenings and events for five to 19 year-olds.

Bookings are now open for the sixth Into Film Festival 2018, which is open to schools, colleges, youth leaders and home educators.

This year the Alley Arts Theatre is showing 'Revolting Rhymes' based on the much loved collection of short stories and poems by Roald Dahl, later this year.

This mischievous double-bill presents fairy tales in a way no one's seen before.

The stories of 'Snow White', 'Red Riding Hood', 'The Three Little Pigs', 'Jack & The Beanstalk' and 'Cinderella' are mixed together and served with a delightful, slightly naughty twist in a way that only Dahl could conjure up.

Told as two separate short films, both are narrated by the big bad wolf, who seems to have all of the answers, as well as a story of his own to tell.

'Revolting Rhymes' are delightful animated adventures from the creators of The Gruffalo, with all of Dahl's playful language intact.

The Festival uses the magic of film to engage young minds in a broad range of topics. This year it will host 98 events in 34 different venues all over Northern Ireland; for programme details and to book free tickets visit www.intofilm.org/festival.

Held right across the UK, the festival will welcome an estimated audience of almost half a million young people and their educators offering a packed and varied programme, many linked to subjects in the curriculum.

The annual celebration of film and education is made possible through a wide collaboration with the UK cinema industry and funding from Northern Ireland Screen, Cinemagic, Nerve Centre and support from the BFI through Lottery funding and Cinema First.

The festival takes place throughout the UK as part of an on-going initiative to place film at the heart of young people's learning and personal development.

With support from all the major UK cinema chains and a variety of other venues the Festival provides access to the big screen at its best.

For programme information, to book tickets and download resources visit www.intofilm.org/festival

Schoolchildren from all over Northern Ireland will have the opportunity to see free films at this year's 'Into Film Festival' from November 7 to 23. Strabane's Alley Theatre has been selected as one of the venues.SU3903CM18

Intergenerational workshops enjoyed by all ages at the Alley Theatre

Fianna, Connlai and Tomas with dad, Robert Gallagher, at the intergenerational workshops at the Alley Theatre which was facilitated by Single Shoe Productions as part of the Culture Night celebrations.RC3903

Cara Eve with grandmother, Ann, and Filipa, from Single Shoe Productions, during the intergenerational workshops at the Alley Theatre.RC3902

'The Time Machine' classic coming to the Alley

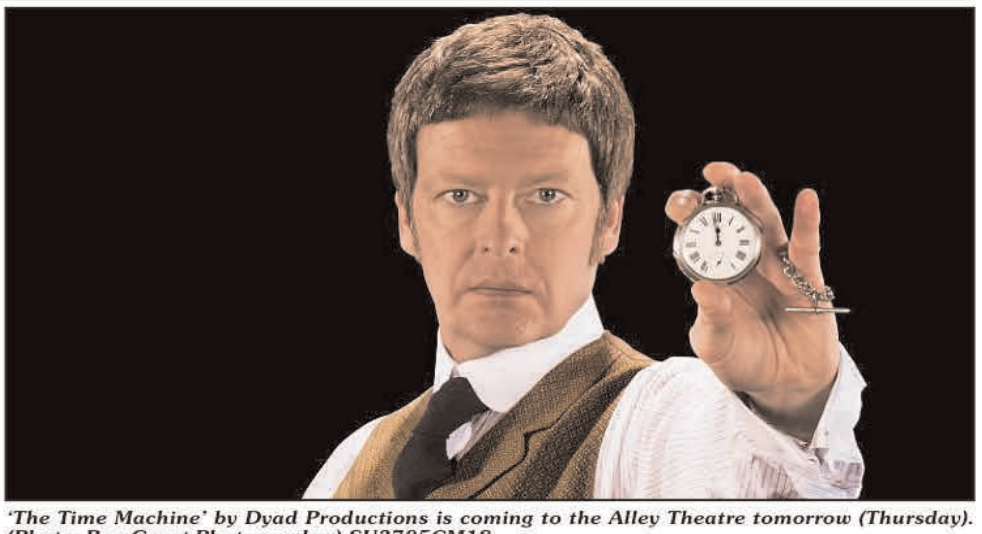
DYAD Productions is coming to The Alley Theatre with its new and radical interpretation of the HG Wells classic, 'The Time Machine' tomorrow (Thursday).

From the creators of 'Jane Eyre: An Autobiography', 'Dalloway', 'The Unremarkable Death of Marilyn Monroe', 'Christmas Gothic', 'I, Elizabeth', 'Female Gothic' and 'Austen's Women', 'The Time Machine' is a contemporary and thought provoking adaption of a timeless classic.

In this captivating and clever play, a Victorian time traveller transcends across the ages from 1900 to our own far future – from the fall of man to the end of the world – discovering the fate of our endeavours and uncovering our darkest fears. Can we change the future? Or has the end already begun?

Dyad Productions creates, produces and tours classic theatre with an innovative and contemporary emphasis. Written and directed by Elton Townend Jones, produced by Rebecca Vaughan and performed by Stephen Cunningham, it is a philosophical journey, a nightmare adventure, a cautionary tale – this is the story of us all.

A theatre spokesperson said: "This gripping production has received five star reviews and is a must see this autumn at the Alley Theatre. Get your tickets now by calling the Box Office on 028 71384444 or online www.alley-theatre.com priced at £12 and £10 for concessions. The performance starts at 8pm with bar facilities from 7pm."



'The Time Machine' by Dyad Productions is coming to the Alley Theatre tomorrow (Thursday). (Photo: Ben Guest Photographer).SU3705CM18

County Down

THE NIGHTSHIFT pictures by Liz Boyle

CORKY, Debs, Marzey and Aidan supporting Francie and Dessie Tribute Night. LB3927

PAT Kavanagh and Liam Tumilty. LB3929

ALEX, Patricia and Perri. LB3925

HAVING a great night at the Francie and Dessie Tribute Night in the INF. LB3928

NOEL McKevitt and Colman Rowntree. LB3924

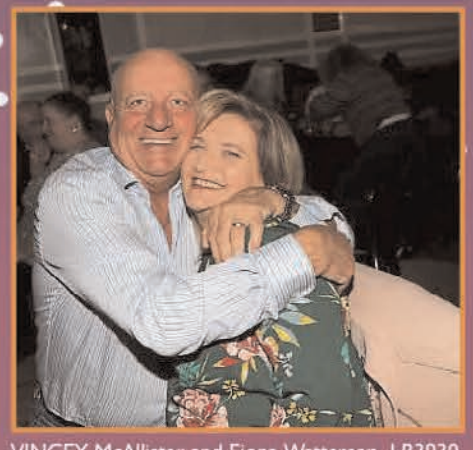
KEN and Ann having a great night. LB3922

FIONA and Davy Watterson. LB3921

ELAINE and Dermot Duffy. LB3919

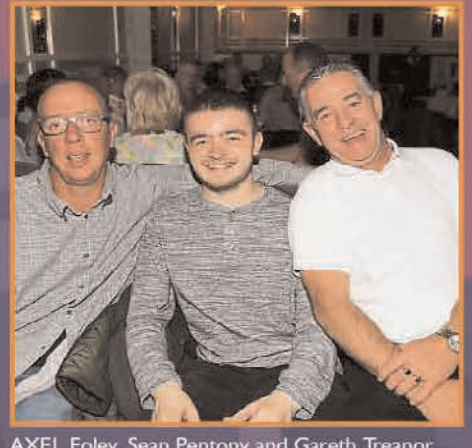
ARTHUR Quinn and Tina Maguire. LB3914

RAYMOND McGennity, son of Dessie with Jennifer, at the Tribute Night. LB3910



VINCEY McAllister and Fiona Watterson. LB3930

EUGENE McFarland, Malcolm and Michelle Toner and Mickey McLoughlin. LB3926



AXEL Foley, Sean Pentony and Gareth Treanor. LB3918

RAYMOND, Kate, Micky and Sean at Francie and Dessie Tribute Night in the INF Hall, Newry. LB3923

County Down

Have you got a fundraiser or a birthday party coming up? To have your event appear in the Nightshift call our office on 3025 1250

DESSIE'S sons Raymond and Pat McGennity, Francie's son Raymond Loughran at the Francie and Dessie Tribute Night. LB3917

MICKEY Loughlin, 'Axel' Foley, Joe Rice and 'Gaby' McGuigan. LB3920

PETER and Margaret McKeown, Ann Marie McKeown and Jennifer McGennity at the Francie and Dessie Tribute Night in the INF Newry. LB3916

MICKEY Hillen, Gerry Fitzpatrick and Pat McGennity. LB3915

ANNE Rooney, Eileen Hillen and Louise Proctor. LB3913

GABRIEL McGuigan, Joe Rice, Stephen Holland, Malachy Maguire and Mark Fleming.

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the vibe
Newry's No.1 guide to arts & leisure

CATHAL McDonnell at his exhibiton in Newry Library. Picture: NewRayPics.

Cathal captures 'our beautiful, magical part of the world'

by Colin **O'Neill**
colin.oneill@newrydemocrat.com

NEWRY Library is currently showcasing the fascinating work of Killeavy artist Cathal McDonnell, and a dander in off Hill Street to see it is highly recommended.

These pieces of art, you see, are not the run of the mill paintings you might expect.

Cathal's pieces on display are what are called "textured digital artworks" and are the culmination of eight years of research and development by this vastly experienced graphic designer.

"I use old and new technology to produce works with colour and texture," explained Cathal.

"I paint using a tablet and stylus with specialist software. I print with a very modern dye sublimation process, then hand-glaze and texture using techniques from the Dutch masters using modern acrylic polymers.

"The framed pieces on display are artworks in their own right. Some of the pieces explore virtual and augmented reality through your smartphone.

"In order to enjoy the immersive experience completely, I recommend people download and install the free apps, "ArtBeamer " and "Artivive".

Cathal returned to live in Newry four years ago, having lived and worked in New York, London and Amsterdam.

After leaving Art College, he began his career in the graphic design business by painting children's bedroom murals.

He has also produced hand painted signage and spent a lot of time "coach-lining" horse drawn carriages and buggies.

From these experiences he developed wall textures with paint using rag-rolling, graining and stippling techniques. The work took him all over Europe when Irish pubs were a new concept.

His exhibition in Newry Library is, however, a completely new departure for Cathal, and is a precursor to him launching McDonnellArt.com, which will offer a whole range of paintings.

He outlined how, latterly, this opportunity came about.

"We returned to Belfast in 2005 where I continued to work in graphic design," said Cathal.

"At that point most of my business was still in New York (God bless the internet!) and I still have some regular clients in New York".

Ever on the move, and always learning, Cathal then moved into 3D CAD (computer-aided design) design, mostly to do renders for new housing developments and interiors of bars and restaurants.

This type of work disappeared with the financial crash in 2008. He then set his skills towards web design, with social media following quickly.

"Since then I have developed websites and E-Commerce for numerous businesses," he continued.

"I have developed social media presence and advertising campaigns for lots of diverse clients.

"Over the past eight years I have been trying to find a way to combine my digital and practical skill bases, which has led to this exhibition.

"I have been selling pieces to a number of regular clients. I have been perfecting techniques and experimenting with different media to the point where I feel I am ready to go to market".

On his return to this part of the world, clearly a re-invigorating experience, Cathal added: "I fell in love with the whole area again. Perhaps it was being away for so long that when I returned I could see the whole landscape with fresh eyes.

"We live in a beautiful, magical part of the world. I can regularly be found driving around before dawn looking for a sunrise to capture, or wandering the shores of Carlingford Lough trying to get 'that' shot".

Shane stars in Verdi opera

by Colin **O'Neill**
colin.oneill@newrydemocrat.com

WARRENPOINT man Shane McCormick will be part of the cast of the Guiseppe Verdi opera Rigoletto when it comes to the Grand Opera House on September 30.

One of the world's best loved operas, featuring such well known tunes as Donna è Mobile and Caro Nome, this production from NI Opera is being staged in co-operation with the Opera Nacional de Chile.

Multi-award winning Verdi baritone, Sebastian Catana, making his UK debut, stars as Rigoletto, while Cardiff Singer of the World Nadine Koutcher is Gilda and Davide Giusti, winner at Placido Domingo's Operalia World Opera Competition 2017, is the Duke of Mantua.

Twenty-three-year-old Shane is a member of the chorus and spoke to the Democrat about his excitement at the upcoming production.

"I am absolutely looking forward to it," said Shane. "It's a great cast and a very exciting venture with our new artistic director Walter Sutcliffe. So it's a really great opportunity.

"There are some songs in Rigoletto that people hear all the time. People always say to me: 'What is this opera about? I've never heard anything about it.'

"But through advertisements on TV and TV shows, people know all of the opera songs. So they will be able to go and listen to something and say: 'Oh yeah I do know that song,' and it will probably have been in an insurance ad or something. So the songs are actually really recognisable from this opera".

OPERA star Shane McCormick.

Shane has no family connections to opera, but at such a tender age, he has already achieved so much, from graduating from the London College of Music in 2017 with a First Class Honours degree in Music Performance, studying under the tutelage of internationally renowned tenor Anthony Roden, to singing with the Irish choral ensemble Anúna touring Asia and Europe for several months.

It was during a production of The Flying Dutchman with Northern Ireland Opera in 2013 – his first engagement as a professional singer - that Shane decided that a career as an opera singer was for him. He was just 17. He has not regretted that decision for a single moment.

"I absolutely love what I do, and feel very privileged to have the opportunity to do something that I love," said Shane.

"But it's very challenging at times as well. There are such a huge deal of things to remember.

"Not only the melody to the songs, the words to the songs, but also when you're singing in a foreign language – it's remembering whilst you're singing in Italian, there is also the English translation running in the back of your head because you need to know exactly what you're actually singing.

"There's also the choreography, and where you're supposed to be standing on stage, to what's happening at this moment, and what that person's saying. You have to be in control of absolutely everything and understand absolutely everything that's happening".

If you are thinking about going to see this production, but are unsure, then perhaps this endorsement from Walter Sutcliffe will sway you.

"Rigoletto is one of the wonders of the world. Forget Wagner," he said.

"Forget the Pyramids. This is the piece that takes our potential for darkness, negativity, self-absorption and blind idiocy and immerses it in a sound world that pushes our deepest emotional buttons.

"It throws us down a tunnel to give us one of the purest experiences of the power of musical drama".

Remote Control

By Colin O'Neill

AS I have noted before in this column, I think Jamie Oliver gets a lot of unfair press.

And, aside from sheer jealousy and resentment at his outstanding success, I have never understood why.

From relatively humble beginnings, the Essex man has, through graft and talent become one of the most recognisable TV chefs around. To boot, he appears to be a grounded family man who does not take himself too seriously.

Taking the health of the UK seriously has, however, opened him up to widespread opprobrium. The tone of this has been: 'Who does he think he is, telling us we are too fat and that we need to eat better, so that we will feel better, live longer, and take the strain off a beleaguered National Health Service?'

He has also been lambasted for how he looks and how he talks – personal criticism which says more about those dishing it out than it does Oliver.

Anyway, he has a new show on the go: Jamie Cooks Italy, and it's great, in a sexy, romantic, coffee table bookish kind of a way.

Many people will hate it. And that is both no surprise (it is Oliver after all) and totally understandable.

The series sets out to meet the masters of Italian cooking – the grandmothers, hear their ancient and trusted recipes and then try to rustle them up alongside his old buddy and Italian chef Gennaro Contaldo.

Without even seeing this show, you will know how it goes. Jamie meets the grannies (or nonnas as they are in Italian), they love him and he adores them, the two chaps nervously cook the dish hoping they do the recipe justice and then the little old lady gives her (inevitable) seal of approval.

And all the while, in the background, there is impossibly beautiful Italy. And Vespas, Fiat 500s, espressos, and casually stylish, but gorgeous Italians.

There is much cliché, and I really don't care. Oliver fairly bursts with enthusiasm, has great on screen rapport with Contaldo, and most importantly of all – the recipes he chooses to follow, like his own, are, as always, accessible, unfussy and superbly carried off.

Tree-mendous exhibition

NEWRY, Mourne and Down District Council will host an exhibition of artworks on the Trees of Kilbroney from Friday, October 5 to Monday, October 29 in the Carroll Gallery, Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Newry.

The exhibition accompanies the publication of an art book that celebrates the Trees of Kilbroney, published by Light 2000 Community Group in Rostrevor.

The book was inspired by the group winning the Northern Ireland Tree of the Year Competition in 2016 and achieving sixth place in the European Competition in 2017.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairman Councillor Mark Murnin said: "It was a real coup to have a tree from Kilbroney Park succeed in the Northern Ireland Tree of the Year competition in 2016.

"It is a real pleasure that we are able to host an exhibition of the art book and artwork inspired by the trees of Kilbroney. I would urge people to go and see this beautifully produced book and artworks inspired by our district's glorious trees."

The book was produced with the aid of a grant from the Woodland Trust, further grants from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Heritage Lotteries Trust, and sponsorship from local businesses.

Artwork on display in Sean Hollywood Arts Centre include a piece of tapestry by retired legal secretary Kathleen Carville; an abstract by Frances O'Reilly; a digital work by well-known artist Jasper McKinney; a collage by Australian artist Meredith Russell as well as more traditional representation works by Victor and Heather Cirefice, Seamus Collins and Moya Murphy. In addition to the artworks and book on display, a number of limited edition prints may be purchased.

For further information on the book please contact enquiries@light2000.org

THE Shadow of the lark by Jasper McKinney MBE

at the movies

FILM REVIEW: MILE 22

STARRING: Mark Wahlberg, Iko Uwais
DIRECTED BY: Peter Berg

Wahlberg's B-movie is choppily directed

MARK Wahlberg once again reunites with director Peter Berg for this violent B-movie about a frenetic counter-terrorism operation.

Remarkably, this is their fourth film together in less than five years in what has been a relatively solid partnership, though the returns here are more diminishing than ever. It's a film well suited to the current climate developing in today's global politics, though in this case, that's not exactly a good thing.

Both star and director have shown they are more than capable of delivering interesting work in the past but if it is anything to go by; cynical, gory, and incoherent boilerplate offerings like this are not something they consider to be beneath them.

Jimmy Silva (Wahlberg), a hot-tempered black ops agent, heads a strike force stationed at a US embassy in an unnamed Southeast Asian country.

Li Noor (Iko Uwais) a mysterious Indonesian police officer hands himself into the embassy, claiming to have vital information. He informs the officials that he knows the location of several batches of caesium, a highly toxic substance that could potentially be used by terrorists to kill thousands.

He has with him a disk containing information on the caesium's whereabouts and will only tell them the code to unlock the disk if they grant him asylum in the US.

The embassy reluctantly goes along with the plan, instructing Silva and his team to escort Noor through the city's streets to the airport. Supervising the operation from a secret base, using a drone's eye view, is a man called Bishop (John Malkovich, sporting an inexplicable hairpiece). The team's journey to the airport quickly goes awry, as they are set upon by hordes of Indonesian soldiers, armed with bombs and machine guns.

As the bullets fly and the body count increases, Silva and his subordinates must race to get Noor to the airport, with the fate of countless lives in their hands.

Berg is a bit of a Jekyll and Hyde director. On one hand he has made, thoughtful acclaimed dramas like Friday Night Lights and Patriots Day. He has also displayed proclivities reminiscent of his friend Michael Bay in the likes of Hancock and Battleship. His latest effort certainly falls into the latter camp and is worse for it. Typical of the kind of disposable action fare Hollywood often dumps between the summer and Christmas markets (see Resident Evil, The Hitman's Bodyguard) Mile 22 is a 90 minute slog of numbing violence, stupid, jingoistic dialogue, poor performances and barely intelligible storytelling.

Everything feels nasty and perfunctory, from the cheesy opening credits to the humdrum, reactionary message. Wahlberg has proven before he can actually act but here he borders on obnoxious self-parody.

His character has an annoying tick of snapping a wristband to settle his nerves, which doesn't seem to stop him from going on self-satisfied diatribes about militarism and geo-politics. Malkovich meanwhile seemingly just wants to pick up the cheque.

Only Uwais and Lauren Cohen as Silva's second-in-command emerge with their reputations unscathed.

Quite apart from its general phoned-in aesthetic, Mile 22 is a film hampered by bad direction and violence rarely seen outside of horror movies. Despite having martial arts star Uwais's inestimable skills at his disposal, Berg makes the decision of filming the actor's big fight sequence so that you can barely tell what's happening.

Frantic shaky cam cinematography and choppy editing hampers the whole scene so that instead of a set-piece similar to a classic Hong Kong actioner, we are left confused by lazy craftsmanship.

These problems also plague much of the other, street-level action that takes up most of the runtime. The same can be said of the storytelling, featuring jarring plot twists that barely make any sense and leave far too much unexplained. The ending is laughably abrupt, with numerous questions left unanswered.

Coupled with the excessive blood-letting, with Berg indulging in numerous disturbing details (such as suicides and a drone operator laughing gleefully after taking down an enemy), it all adds up to a wholly unsatisfying experience.

A choppily directed, disjointed mess, Mile 22 finds director and star scraping the bottom of the action barrel.

** MATTHEW McCAUL*

Rowan's rambles

with Rowan Hand

IN the rough and tumble of a problematic world it is seriously unfashionable to think gentle thoughts and to give consideration to the writing and musings of gentle people.

It is therefore not a bad thing to take a moment out and to shine a light on such matters, to analyse the words of great people whose philosophies, if acted upon, would make the world a better place, where the lion could indeed lie down with the lamb.

Such a man was Francis. He was a man of the town of Assisi in Italy. He is in Dublin today in the heart and the spirit of Brother Kevin in the Franciscan Capuchin Centre for the needy, so many of them homeless.

The Francis Prayer is interesting.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace…." It's got a good ring to it, straight out of the story book of life, of good life, but not easy to implement. It is I suggest basic to our humanity that we fight, break from peace, to achieve what we need for ourselves and those we love. To fight is seen to be the way forward, to drive evil away, to deliver well-being for the poor and needy; it can be an option when all else fails and we can, time and time again, make the excuses for not being an instrument of peace. It is worth discussing no doubt. Had Francis and Ghandi the better take on it?

"Where there is hatred let me sow love…." Like the first line of the Franciscan prayer it is challenging. To do such a thing is to answer a call to action. It goes beyond turning the other cheek. The notion is that we go on the offensive, become pro-active, take a chance on doing the more difficult thing and taking the moment to step back and see what happens, see how the world can be better. In a world that lacks love, I suggest it is worth taking a chance and going through life planting seeds of love.

And it is happening already….efforts for the homeless people, fund-raising for little Ellen, the Kevin Bell Trust, PIPS, my people in Africa, the schools, the hope for a better future, the love held in a warm and gentle smile.

Yes we are on the journey. Let the sowing continue.

"Where there is doubt, faith…" doubt about what, faith in what? The prayer draws us into the realm of religion and I have difficulty here. One person's religion is another's right to hate and to kill. So, I suggest, the requirement is to look beyond religion and to find the face and the heart of God.

It is my observation that God is infinitely greater and infinitely more important than the stories of the Bible, narratives that are finite; a beginning, a middle and an end.

We are right to doubt and to allow doubt to drive us forward on the journey to discover the truth about who we are and where we are going.

An acceptance of our transient state is a good starting point.

Please may I suggest that you do not take my analysis but that you give yourself the job of finding out for yourself.

Try writing your own prayers, much better, I suggest, than reading the prayer of Francis.

I recall the prayer the old lady told me about: "I know that Jesus loves me." It was her prayer, speaking to herself, reminding herself, and, at times, telling a neighbour, "God loves you".

I first heard that line first from the Dominican, Father Joseph Ralph. In his early days in Newry it might have been Joseph's mantra, "God Loves You".

I went for it then and hold onto it now.

Finally for now I take you back fifty years and my time of meeting Alex Watson, the Presbyterian Minister of Harmony Heights church outside Lisburn.

Every time you met Alex he would greet you, "God bless you Brother", accompanied by the warmest handshake.

You always felt better leaving Alex than when you arrived.

On the journey thus far I have had the privilege of knowing many Alex Watson's…. Joe Ralph, John Kearney, Donall O'Cathain of my African Schools' Project, Paulina our first Headmistress, Sr. Mary Taylor, Charlie Byrne.

Now, so many years later, I am, at last, able to be an Alex Watson, for me and for others.

Entertainment news

@ulstergazette

LISNADILL PARISH CHURCH
DANCE
in Armagh Orange Hall
FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER
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Remembering The Quiet Man in the Northern Bar

IRISH language and culture group, Ciorcal Comhra Ard Macha will host a commemorative night for Peter Hughes or Peadar O hAodha in the Northern Bar, Armagh on Tuesday October 2 from 9pm.

Peter, along with his late brother Francie, were founding members of an Ciorcal Comhra Ard Macha in 2006.

Known otherwise as The Quiet Man, Peter spent many years working in England and on the Isle of Mann. He returned to Armagh in the mid 90s to look after his elderly mother, Elizabeth and brother Aiden.

Aiden and Peter were still bringing their mother into the Irish language and music night in the Sation Bar when she was 96 years old. And despite her age she was still able to give members the 16 verse ballad of Pat O'Donnell.

Peter was the main singer for Ciorcal Comhra with powerful renditions of Skibereen, Foggy Dew, Gabham Molta Bhride and his own personal stamp on Ellan Vannin.

A stalwart of the organisation he travelled with the group to their annual events. He is sorely missed by all his friends in the Ciorcal Comhra Ard Macha.

Peter Hughes

The night in his memory will take place on Tuesday October 2 in the Northern Bar, Armagh starting at 9pm.

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BIG BREAKFAST & CAR WASH
Aughnagurgan Orange Hall
Saturday 29th September
9.30am - 12.30pm
Proceeds in aid of
Drew Nelson Memorial Fund

Jimmy Buckley
Country Music Weekend

Friday 5th to Sunday 7th October
Abbey Hotel Donegal
Artists Include:
• Robert Mizell
• Philomena Begley
• Cliona Hagan And
• Jimmy Buckley
2 B&B plus two evening meals, all the shows, coach travel (pick up @ The Buttercrane and The Armagh City Hotel) All for £245
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Eilidh to bring ray of Sunshine to Market Place

SINGER songwriter Eilidh Patterson will be at the Market Place Theatre this Sunday as part of her Northern Ireland tour.

Derry-born Eilidh is celebrating the release of her new album, Sunshine, which is her third to date.

Recorded at the Foundry Music Lab in Glasgow and working closely with award-winnng engineer Sandy Jones, Eilidh has produced some of her best work to date.

From the ukulele-driven title track 'Sunshine' to the stomping declaration of 'True Love is Returned' to an achingly beautiful new recording of ' When I Don't Feel Like Singing Any More', Eilidh's pure voice covers all genres with ease.

Her new collection features several of the songwriter's musician friends from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Nashville including Ruth Trimble, Cup O'Joe, John McCullough, Yvonne Lyon and Ron Block.

With her songs that cut straight to the heart, Sunshine pulses with positivity and showcases Eilidh as a writer and singer of substance.

Eilidh, with Yvonne Lyon playing support, will take to the stage at 8pm. Admission is £11.

National Poetry Day in Armagh

THE City Chapter will hold an evening of poetry on Thursday 4 October 2018 at 7.30pm in Armagh City Library, Market Street, Armagh. This event will celebrate National Poetry Day with poets Gráinne Tobin and Mel McMahon.

Both poets are known to local people and it is hoped that there will be a good audience so that National Poetry Day may be well celebrated in Armagh.

Organised by the partnership of libraries in Armagh, the City Chapter publicly thanks the John Hewitt Society for the continued financial support which it gives for this annual event.

Gráinne Tobin grew up in Armagh as the eldest of a large family. She taught for many years in further and adult education in Lurgan and in Shimna Integrated College in Newcastle, County Down where she lives. Her books are Banjaxed and The Nervous Flyer's Companion (Summer Palace Press).

A third collection, The Uses of Silk, is due out in November 2018 from Arlen House. Gráinne has won poetry competitions and contributed to magazines and anthologies, including Word of Mouth (Blackstaff), When the Neva Rushes Backwards (Lagan Press), On the Grass When I Arrive (Liberties Press), Washing Windows (Arlen House) and Something About Home (Geographies Publications).

Her work is included in Poetry Ireland's archive and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's online Troubles Archive, and one of her poems is on permanent display as a public sculpture.

Speaking in advance of National Poetry Day, Gráinne said, "This is the legendary home-town gig for me. Poetry started for me in Armagh, and I am really thrilled to be back on National Poetry Day."

Mel McMahon was born in Lurgan in 1968. His work has appeared widely in journals and anthologies and has been broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster. Mel has been short-listed for several literary prizes and was a prize-winner in the FSNI Poetry Competition (2015). His work has been nominated twice for the Forward Prize for best individual poem and his first book of poems, Out of Breath, was published by Summer Palace Press in 2016.

He is currently Head of English at the Abbey Grammar School, Newry. His second book of poems, Beneath Our Feet, published in 2018, is an exploration of the last few years of war poet, Wilfred Owen's short life.

Mel will be reading his poetry in Ors, France, as part of events to mark the centenary of Wilfred Owen's death. Before leaving for France, Mel agreed to join the City Chapter for this event and spoke about reading in Armagh, saying, "I'm delighted to be part of events to mark National Poetry Day in Armagh. Poetry can provide opportunities for life, awareness and insight so it's great to see a special day being set aside for its promotion."

Members of the City Chapter invite people to come along to hear Gráinne and Mel read their poetry. While National Poetry Day has the theme of 'change' this year, this special day will always wish to celebrate poetry's power to bring people together.

Admission to the event is free with donations greatly needed and appreciated for the City Chapter.

Entertainment news

Murderously good entertainment in store at the Market Place Theatre

The Garth Brooks Story

AS the darker nights draw in, The Market Place Theatre in Armagh is staging drama to match. 'Murder: Just What The Doctor Ordered' on Thursday 4 October will follow the true tale of Burke and Hare and their murderous exploits in Edinburgh between 1827 and 1828.

Sixteen people are slaughtered, and the devil and all his works prowl the streets of Auld Reekie. Dr Robert Knox, scientist, doctor and anatomist supreme, waits in Surgeons Square to buy bodies for the sake of advancing medical knowledge. His door is chapped, a body is delivered, money is paid and no questions are asked.

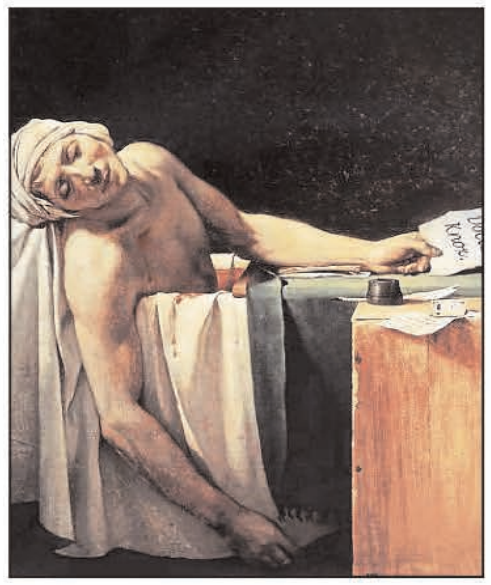
A trail of terror leads from West Port to the dissection table. Murder will out and a price must be paid, even by the anatomist supreme.

There's a change of pace on Friday 5 October with The Garth Brooks Story, featuring Trevor Smith and his 'Friends In Low Places' band, who have been touring Ireland and Europe for over five years now. This incredibly successful show pays tribute to the biggest selling solo artist of the 90's and country music legend, Garth Brooks. Trevor and his eight-piece band perform live all of Garth's greatest hits including 'Baton Rouge', 'The Dance', 'If Tomorrow Never Comes', 'Standing Outside The Fire', 'Thunder Rolls' and many more, as they take the audience on a journey through all of the pinnacle moments of Garth's music career with their spectacular stage show.

Then on Saturday 6 October, The Outlaws return by popular demand to perform the music of American singer songwriters Willy Nelson, Guy Clark, Steve Earle, John Prine, Jerry Jeff Walker and more. This is Outlaw Country at its best with the music of a host of Americana greats brought to life in a celebration of songwriting genius and great musicianship. Expect to hear 'LA Freeway', 'Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain', 'Crazy', 'Hello In There', 'Desperados Waiting On A Train', 'Copperhead Road', 'If I Needed You', 'Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys', and 'Mr Bo Jangles'.

Tickets for all performances can be booked through the Box Office on [028] 3752 1821, or online at www.visit-armagh.com/marketplacetheatre

And to keep up-to-date with the latest news at the Market Place Theatre, you can follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/marketplacearmagh) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/mptarmagh) where you will find all the latest information, special offers and video previews.



'Murder: Just What The Doctor Ordered'

Derek Ryan to perform charity concert in Killylea in aid of the Air Ambulance

COUNTRY music singer songwriter, Derek Ryan, will perform a special show on October 17th at Killylea Church Hall to help raise much needed funds for the charity Air Ambulance Northern Ireland (AANI).

The show forms part of Derek's new 'Song Writer Sessions' tour, a series of 11 evenings of intimate, acoustic performances with special guest Niamh McGlinchey which will take place across the months of October and November.

The charity partnership comes after sisters, Joanne Hale and Susan Bloomer, approached Derek to see if he would dedicate a show in their hometown of Killylea to support Air Ambulance Northern Ireland.

Joanne and Susan are two of AANI's many registered fundraising volunteers who are doing what they can to raise awareness for the charity, which has just celebrated its first year in service.

The Charity, AANI, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), provides the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for the region and responds to seriously ill or injured patients 12 hours a day, 7 days per week. The fundraising will play a part in helping to raise the £2million required each year to keep this vital service operational.

Speaking about their fundraising efforts, Joanne said: "My sister and I began to fundraise for AANI after the death of a family friend and the charity has become very close to our hearts. We're absolutely thrilled that Derek will be performing this special concert in aid of AANI and hope the event helps to raise plenty of money for the charity. "We are also organising a tractor run as part of our fundraising efforts and this will be the third year we will be doing it for the Air Ambulance, along with two other charities. It will take place at Killylea Church Hall on October 27th and we're expecting a great turnout!"

Kerry Anderson, Head of Fundraising for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland said: "We're delighted to have the support from Derek Ryan and from Joanne and Susan who, along with all of our fundraisers, go above and beyond to help raise awareness and funding for the charity. Air Ambulance NI needs to raise £2million each year to maintain this service so events such as this are crucial."

Derek Ryan will perform at Killylea Church Hall on October 17th. Doors open at 7pm and tickets are £20 and can be purchased from the Spar, Killylea or through Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.com/e/derek-ryan-song-writer-session-killylea-church-hall-tickets-47302809978

From its base near Lisburn, the air ambulance can reach any part of Northern Ireland in approximately twenty-five minutes. Its primary role is to deliver advanced critical care, benefitting those whose lives are at serious risk following significant injury or trauma, by bringing urgent medical assistance directly to the patient at the scene.

To find out more about Air Ambulance Northern Ireland and how you can support the charity, visit Air Ambulance Northern Ireland's Facebook page, visit www.airambulanceni.org or call 028 9262 2677.

Air Ambulance NI volunteers Sue Bloomer and Joanne Dale along with Derek Ryan ahead of his acoustic concert in Killylea Church Hall on Thursday 17th October. The event, organised by the Killylea sisters, will support the worthy work undertaken by the Air Ambulance charity.

County Tyrone

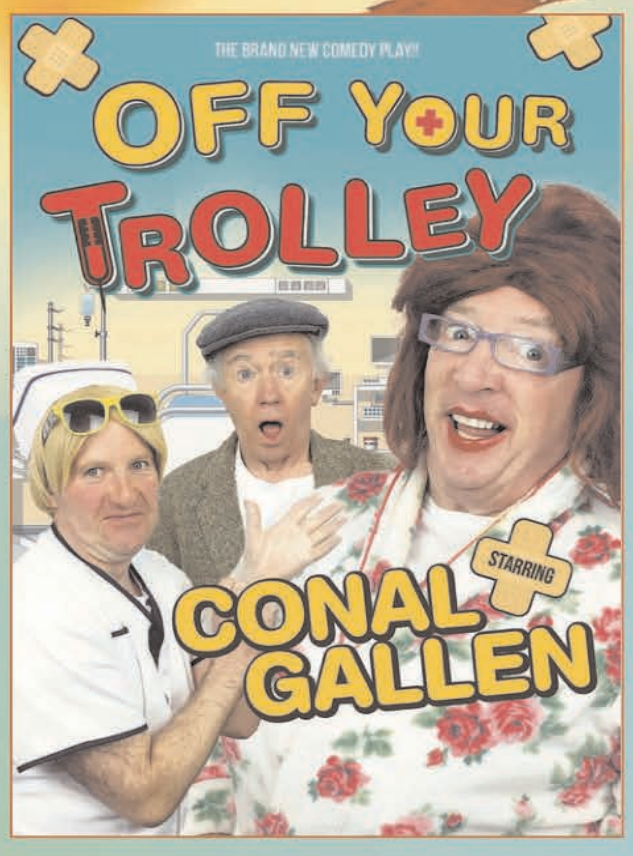
What's on this October in the Burnavon

This October offers a jam packed programme of events in the Burnavon, with music, comedy, workshops and more!

On Friday October 5 local comedian Kevin McAleer will deliver an evening of living hilariously in the moment! With his side-splitting show 'Guru' Kevin McAleer touches down in Cookstown for mindfulness, bananarama yoga, fire walking with dolphins, avocado dream therapy and tai chi with chai tea!

Come along and join Cookstown folk club, Music Service for Pipes and Drums, Sollus Highland Dancers, Sean Girvan School of Irish Dance and RSPBANI at Fusion, a night of music, song and dance celebrating local culture! Fusion comes to the Burnavon on Saturday 13 October and showcases a blend of Irish, Ulster Scots and World Folk Music together on fiddles, pipes, banjos, drums and whistles.

The country music tribute act, Legends of American Country returns to the Burnavon on Thursday 25 October for another fantastic night of toe tapping country classics. Showcasing highly acclaimed tributes to Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Tammy Wynette and Kenny Rogers and 5 new tributes to icons George Jones, Charley Pride, Patsy Cline, Glen Campbell and Don Williams. For country music lovers, this is a night not to be missed.



Award winning father and son duo Conal and Rory Gallen present their 4th comedy play 'Off Your Trolley' on Friday 26 October. A rip roaring, laugh a minute tale of life in a hospital ward! Join Bridie, Willie, Dick, Betty and the infamous Father 'Big Mad Micky' O'Reilly as they show us hospital life as it has never been seen before!

The audience can expect a night of classic hits as well as new material from one of the most successful Irish bands in history, The 4 of Us. On Saturday 27 October, enjoy a cabaret style performance with songs from their current album as well as familiar hits including 'Mary' and 'She Hits Me'.

The Burnavon offers a range of both adult and children's workshops beginning this October including, Autumn Floral Art, Autumn Felt Making for Kids, Gift Wrapping With designer Jane Means and Kids Halloween Crafts. This month's exhibition is 'Divided Societies ' presented by Linen Hall Library and on show throughout October.

Comhairle Ceantair Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster District Council

For information or booking on any of the shows or workshops please contact the Box Office on 028 8676 9949 or Book online www.burnavon.com