

People Place Progress



**Inishowen
Development
Partnership**

Comhpháirtíocht Forbartha Inis Eoghain

Reflecting on a Remarkable Year 2025– Thank You!

As the new year begins we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements and community spirit that have defined 2025. From empowering individuals through training and education, to launching innovative environmental and wellbeing initiatives, hosting cultural collaborations, and supporting enterprise and social inclusion, it has truly been a year of connection, resilience, and growth across Inishowen.

In this edition, you'll find highlights from across Inishowen—from the launch of PEACEPLUS projects and sustainability strategies, to creative cultural collaborations, health & wellbeing programmes, and enterprise supports. Each story reflects the dedication of our team, board, partners, and community members who continue to make Inishowen a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking place to live and work.

A major milestone this year was our move to new premises on Buncrana's Main Street, ensuring IDP remains at the heart of the community. This move represents our commitment to accessibility and future growth. We are proud to also have acquired a community asset for future development, which, once funding has been secured, allow us to create a purpose-built space dedicated to supporting local people, groups, and initiatives for years to come. Of course we continue to have our office base in Carndonagh also and provide outreach across the peninsula in conjunction with our community partners.

None of our success would have been possible without you—our vibrant community, our dedicated voluntary board past and present, the unwavering support of our funders and partners and our dedicated staff. We pay special tribute to outgoing Chairperson Helen Nolan and long-time Director, Kevin Cooley who retired this year as board members. (See our next edition for profile of our new Chairperson, secretary and Board).

Your commitment and collaboration have helped us deliver impactful programmes, create opportunities, and build a stronger, more inclusive future for all. Thank you for being part of our story.

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Women Crossing Borders finale in Derry

In June we were delighted to have the Deputy Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council Niree McMorris and the Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council Niamh Kennedy at the final of our Women Crossing Borders Project at Da Vinci's Hotel in Derry.

Women Crossing Borders is a cross border project funded by the International Fund for Ireland – Communities in Partnership Programme and IDP manage it along with lead partners the Breen Centre in Co. Antrim. Thanks to Bill Pauley from IFI for joining us to hear first hand how Women Crossing Borders has impacted so positively on the lives of the women who took part.



⚽ Walking Football Friendly – Clonmany vs Greencastle ⚽

A fantastic first fixture took place in June as Clonmany hosted Greencastle in a competitive Walking Football match at Clonmany Community Centre.

Plans are already underway for a return leg, with Greencastle set to welcome Clonmany. Think your playing days are behind you? Think again!

Walking Football is a fun, inclusive way to stay active, meet others, and enjoy the beautiful game at your own pace.

If you're interested in joining a local Walking Football group—or would like support to set one up in your community—get in touch today.

Funding and guidance are available through the Active Inishowen Project. Contact Kevin: phone: 086 201 2746 or email: kevin@inishowen.ie



LANTRA Environmental Stewardship Course completed at IDP Carndonagh

Thanks to Annie Mullan and Rachel Bain for hosting the LANTRA accredited Environmental Stewardship Course on the 21st and 28th June 2025 in the IDP Office Carndonagh and Butterlope Farm, Plumbridge.

The course covered:

- Achieving Carbon Competence
- Understanding local and national citizen science initiatives
- Trees and plants of our native hedgerows and
- Introduction to priority habitats and species.

Well done to all participants who achieved this accredited course.



This is part of the Environmental Stewardship Programme which is a cross-border initiative delivered by IDP in partnership with Rural Area Partnership In Derry and funded by the Shared Island Civic Society Fund.



ChangeMakers attends IDEA Annual Conference in Dublin



Through our Change Makers Donegal programme, IDP is proud to be a member of the Irish Development Education Association – IDEA. Project Coordinator, Myra McAuliffe, was delighted to attend IDEA Annual Conference in Dublin this June. The national gathering brought together educators and advocates focused on international development, social justice, and global citizenship education. During the event, President Michael D. Higgins was awarded the Global Voice for Humanity Award.



Supporting parents with Sláintecare Healthy Communities Self Care Day

In June 2025 IDP also offered complimentary therapies and a personal screening workshop to parents who have attended the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Parents Plus Parenting Programmes in the first half of 2025. The session focused on self-care and minding yourself – sharing approaches and techniques in mindfulness, relaxation and taking time out for your wellness. At the morning session participants were



First silver service course completed

We were delighted to see the successful completion of our very first Customer Care & Silver Service Course, held in Buncrana in June. This innovative program was designed to help participants master the art of service and elevate every customer experience. The course was expertly facilitated by Martin Lynch, bringing a wealth of knowledge and practical skills to the sessions. This initiative was funded by Taste4Success



Launch of Donegal Sports Partnership Strategic Plan

In June IDP's Joe Sweeney and Kevin McLaughlin attended the launch of the Donegal Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2025-2029 in ATU Donegal Letterkenny. The plan was launch by Deputy Charlie McConalogue Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

QQI Environmental course gets underway in Buncrana

Week one of our QQI Level 4 Environmental Sustainability Awareness Course got underway in sunny Buncrana in June! Be the Change! Learn & Take Action is the perfect course for people who are passionate about the environment and want to make a real difference. Thanks to Aengus Kennedy of [Naturenorthwest](#) for leading our first session. This course is a collaboration between IDP, [Change Makers Donegal](#) and [Donegal ETB](#)



Support for Carers at IDP

In June we were delighted to have Clodagh Murray from **Age Friendly Ireland** and Malissa Gwaltney and James McIvor from **Citizens Information** Service to speak to participants from our 'Exploring Me – Care4Carers' programme around the range of supports available to those in a caring role.

Exploring Me is a self-discovery programme for individuals who have caring responsibilities giving them the opportunity to focus on themselves, their health and wellbeing and explore opportunities for development and employment.



Celebrating 'I Love Inishowen' Day with IDP and Changemakers



To mark the occasion, IDP and **Change Makers Donegal** are proud to unveil our brand new Local Sustainability Exhibition at the **Go Visit Inishowen**, Tourist Office in Buncrana!

This vibrant exhibition shines a light on everyday heroes from our community who are taking inspiring, sustainable actions as part of our Sustainability Passport programme and linking in with our ECO Inishowen work under Inishowen Is Ours Peace Plus under DCC.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part and to our brilliant collaborators at Artlink for designing the beautiful portrait panels that bring these stories to life.



You can find the exhibition at three locations across Inishowen: Buncrana, Carndonagh, and Moville. Have a look—maybe you'll spot a familiar face!

JUNE 2025

Social Prescribing Bus Trip to Ards

Our Social Prescribers had a great time on the bus trip to Ards & Dunfanaghy. The weather couldn't have been better and everyone had a great days craic and chat. Slaintecare Healthy Communities Social Prescribing Inishowen involves linking people with activities in their local area for health and well-being. For more email colleen@inishowen.ie or call us on 07493 62218



Easi Bookkeeping for Small Businesses in Buncrana

Our popular enterprise training course Easi-Bookkeeping for Small Businesses took place in June. The two day course is a great resource for smaller businesses who want to learn how to set up a Simple and Effective Bookkeeping system. The SICAP funded course provides you with the basic knowledge of bookkeeping and gives you the tips and templates to keep in control of your business activities.



Living Legacy a hit with community groups

Day two of our succession planning for community organisations with Jennifer McConnell from Living Legacy and funded by The Wheel Training Links 2025/6. Huge thanks to all the dedicated participants who are engaging with their boards and staff in this work



Power walk for the soul along the banks of Lough Swilly



As part of National Refugee Week in June, we gathered in Buncrana for a beautiful morning of reflection, connection, and calm during our Power Walk for the Soul.

Together, we walked slowly along the shores of Lough Swilly, taking time to pause, breathe, and be present—with ourselves, with nature, and with each other. We shared stories, Practiced peaceful meditation and connected across cultures and experiences

In a world that moves fast, this gentle walk reminded us that community, empathy, and presence are powerful tools for inclusion. Thank you to everyone who showed up with open hearts – including An Garda Síochána Donegal Anne McGreal who is a great supporter of our work



Care4Carers Buncrana comes to an end with calming sound bath

In June our 8-week 'Exploring Me – Care4Carers' programme came to a meaningful close yesterday with a calming Sound Bath Session led by Marie Fitzpatrick.

There's a well-known saying: "You can't pour from an empty cup." This sentiment captured the heart of the programme, which focused on the importance of self-care, health, and wellbeing. By prioritising your own needs, you're better equipped to care for others and take the next steps in your employability journey with strength and resilience.



Feel Good Afternoon Tea in Moville and Buncrana

In July our Sláintecare Healthy Communities Social Prescribing team held afternoon teas in Buncrana and Moville as part of the Feel Good Fortnight. We have a lovely time sharing stories, craic and recipes. Donations were made during the Tea to Insight Inishowen

A huge thanks to our local cafes for supplying goodies to the afternoon teas which were held at the The Exchange Inishowen and Moville District Family Resource Centre.



IDP is Good Market Approved



Inishowen Development Partnership

is Good Market approved from
June 30, 2025

Good Market is a digital commons for
nanna creatinn a better world

We're proud to share that Inishowen Development Partnership IDP is now officially People and Planet First Verified — one of the first in Ireland to achieve this global recognition! This verification is more than a badge — it's a commitment to doing business differently. It means we: Exist to solve social and environmental challenges
Put people and planet before profit
Operate with a sustainable revenue model
The People & Planet First mark is recognised in over 130 countries and helps build a fairer, more sustainable economy for all.
We're honoured to stand alongside other changemakers and grateful for the support of our community.

'Welcome to Buncrana' Guide for new arrivals launched



A new community resource designed to support residents at the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) Centres and others new to the community in Buncrana was launch in July.

The guide, which offers a practical and welcoming overview for those newly arrived in Buncrana, was inspired by IPAS resident Elizabeth Fawibe, who arrived in Buncrana from Nigeria a year ago.

The guide's content and structure were brought to life over the past number of months by Elizabeth and Patricia Higgins, one of our Connecting Communities Officer. "This guide is the result of months of collaboration, listening, and learning," said Patricia.

The guide is part of a broader effort by IDP to foster inclusion and access to services for all residents. " For more information visit:

www.inishowen.ie/publications

LEADER supports festivals in Buncrana & Carn

IDP's LEADER programme was delighted to support two community festivals – Buncrana and Carndonagh in July. Carn Traders (photo with Joint CEO Andrew Ward) hosted the Live in the Marquee 2025 event while Notorious Events Ltd hosted the Buncrana Music Festival on the Shore Front Buncrana. Great events promoting Inishowen and Donegal, providing a fuller experience and attracting visitors to the region.



Exploring the NWCD trails on e-bikes

In July through Active Inishowen (IDP/DSP) we held an e-bike tour to discover North West Community Development -NWCD trail network. A huge thank you to Peter Mullan, our knowledgeable and passionate guide for the day, and to Grass Routes for providing the e-bikes that made the journey so enjoyable and accessible.



CHANCE participants volunteer at Youth Drop in for IPAs in Buncrana



During the summer, Chance volunteers supporter a youth drop in space for young people from the Buncrana IPAs centres. Chance is a project co-designed and managed by IDP and funded by the International Fund for Ireland. Our participants



engage with the Chance Coordinator to get involved in volunteering and lifelong learning as well as career pathway development. This wrap-around programme is tailored to the individual needs with the emphasis on personal development for young people. Building on their personal strengths Chance offers participants a suite of opportunities – where



they are guides and advised on the next steps in their personal development. To date 36 young people aged between 16 and 25 years – who are not in employment, education or training –have been supported by Chance and the programme will continue until August 2026.

Popular Barista training in Buncrana

Congratulations to everyone who took part our one day Barista Training course in The Angler's Centre in Buncrana in July. Thanks to the expert team at the Dublin Barista School for delivering the training and to Taste4Success Skillnet for funding the programme.



Inishowen Is Ours: Study Visit to Rathlin Island Inspires Climate Action



As part of the new DCC PEACEPLUS "Inishowen Is Ours" project, IDP led a study visit to Rathlin Island with participants dedicated to climate action, environmental sustainability, and community development. The trip brought together stakeholders including ACRES Donegal, Barrack Hill Town Park, Clonmany Community Centre, Change Makers, Donegal County Council, Inishowen Rivers Trust, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Inishowen SEC, ECO activists, and students from the ETB QQI Environmental and Sustainability course. The group explored how island communities are addressing



climate change and building sustainable futures. Special thanks to the UU Future Island-Island Project, Rathlin Development & Community Association, and LIFE Raft for sharing insights on conservation, circular economy, climate action, and community resilience. The visit was an inspiring day of learning and connection, supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) through Donegal County Council.

Prevention of Aggression and Violence training

Well done to everyone who took part in the Prevention & Management of Aggression and Violence training held in Colgan Hall Carndonagh in July.

This full-day session for our Health and Social Care CE Participants was an important part of developing essential skills for those working in care roles.

The training was expertly delivered by Daren from Donegal Safety Services Ltd, with fantastic support and facilitation from IDP's CE Supervisor, Shauna Gallagher.

A big thank you to all involved for your



dedication to learning and creating safer, more supportive environments for those in your care!

Peace Plus Inishowen is Ours Launch in Carndonagh



We were delighted to launch our new cross-border environmental initiative 'Inishowen is Ours' at the new outdoor learning space – the Daisy – Barrack Hill Town Park & Community Gardens Carndonagh

The new project will aim to bring environmental regeneration, social inclusion, and peacebuilding to life across Inishowen.

Led by IDP and funded by PEACEPLUS through the Special EU Programmes Body – SEUPB and Donegal County Council this free programme will engage approx 120 participants in nature-based workshops, climate action, and community wellbeing.

Whether you're passionate about biodiversity, eager to become a climate change



champion, or simply want to connect with your community—this is your chance to make a difference to build a more peaceful, connected, and sustainable Inishowen. To get involved, contact Denise McCool at 07493 62218 or email denise@inishowen.ie

#HERoutdoors with Active Inishowen Project in Moville

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us on in August for our scenic Photography Walk along Moville Shore Path as part of #HerOutdoorsWeek which we held in collaboration with Donegal Sports Partnership and Sport Ireland. Led by newly accredited Lowland Leader Alan McLaughlin, in partnership with the Active Inishowen Project, participants explored the shoreline through a creative lens – whether using a DSLR, mirrorless camera, or smartphone. It was a relaxed, beginner-friendly session filled with stunning views, shared tips, and great company. A perfect way to connect with nature and creativity!



Peace Plus Project Inclusion

not Isolation launched in Moville



In August IDP launched another one of their new PeacePlus programmes. This is a Wellbeing Initiative called Inclusion not Isolation.

It is a community wellbeing programme delivered by Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) and funded through PEACEPLUS.

This initiative will support more than 110 people across Inishowen, focusing on mental, physical, and social wellbeing and connection – especially for those feeling isolated. The programme is supported by Donegal County Council and Special EU Programmes Body – SEUPB and is Inishowen wide.



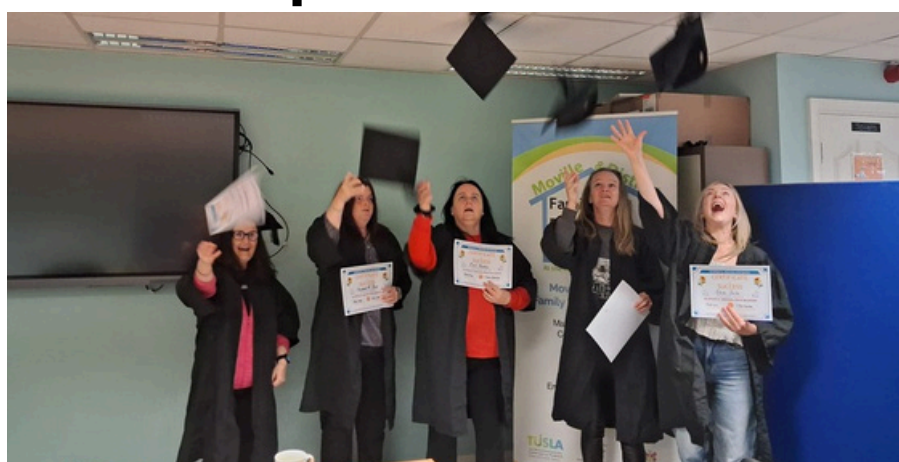
This project is part of Donegal's €7.6 million Local Community Action Plan. Thanks to Moville District Family Resource Centre for hosting our launch. Watch this space for the plans throughout 2026. For more contact enquiries@inishowen.ie or call 07493 62218.

Supporting the Inishowen Agricultural Show

We had a great weekend in July at the Inishowen Agricultural Show in Carndonagh. We got the chance to recruit for Fit4FarmLife and our many other programmes. Congratulations to all involved on another successful show and thanks to Inishowen Co Op for hosting us in their tent.



PEACEPLUS Hopeful Minds completed in Moville



Here we have some of the first graduates of the Hopeful Minds Programme offered during July and August in Moville FRC. This programme is part of a suite of supports



IDP at Clonmany Wellness Day

IDP was delighted to collaborate on the Clonmany Festival Wellbeing and Self-Care Day, held at Clonmany Community Centre on Wednesday, 6th August. This vibrant event brought the community together to focus on health, nutrition, and practical ways to support wellbeing.

As part of the day, our facilitator Katherine Kelly of Renua Nutrition delivered an insightful talk on three key changes to improve nutrition and gut health:

The event also featured a live cookery demonstration by Chef Gary McPeake, who prepared a delicious Thai Vegetable Curry using fully organic vegetables sourced from Whiteoaks Acorn Organic Farm in Muff and Clonmany Community Gardens.

This segment was proudly supported by Safefood Ireland under the Community Food Initiative, where IDP partners with our colleagues in Clonmany promoted the value of healthier eating and sustainable food practices.



Summer IT training in Buncrana, Carn and Moville



Congratulations to all the participants of our very popular IT courses completed at the end of August in Buncrana, Carndonagh and Moville.

Special shout-out to all the staff at the Moville District Family Resource Centre who were very accommodating with our very first Digital Skills Course held there.

Also pictured are participants of the Introduction to Excel course held in the IDP Buncrana, and our wonderful group of Ukrainian ladies who completed their Digital Skills Course with the assistance and translation skills of our own Hanna Soloviova with IDP's IT Trainer Denis Kelly.



For more information on upcoming IT classes or if you want us to provide outreach in your area email: denis@inishowen.ie to register your interest today

August 2025

Exploring Heritage and Innovation at Sliabh Sneacht

What a great afternoon exploring the new North West Community Development – NWCD trails at Drumfries in August. This was followed by a guest lecture at Sliabh Sneacht Centre, part of Heritage Week, to mark 200 Years since Thomas Drummond made history on Sliabh Sneacht, projecting a signal 67 miles to Belfast using a pioneering limelight device – a breakthrough in Irish mapping and surveying. An informative and enjoyable day, thanks to Kevin and everyone who helped made it such a success and in particular North West Community Development – NWCD for their initiative and Dr. Peter Wilson for his richly illustrated talk on Drummond's legacy.



CE participants take part in vital training

Well done to our Health & Social Care CE participants who took part in valuable training on restrictive practice and safeguarding during August at Colgan Hall Carndonagh and Buncrana Youth & Community Development. These sessions were delivered by Donegal Safety Services Ltd as part of the HSC CE Scheme. Thanks to our CE Supervisor Shauna Gallagher for coordinating the important training sessions, which support ongoing professional development and care standards in our community.



August 2025

Taking Climate Action in Carn at the TASC launch

Green training, promoting sustainable approaches to food, and encouraging more engagement and awareness of rivers are top of the agenda for the people of Carndonagh, according to a new environmental report launched recently.

The People's Transition Carndonagh project, which was led by TASC, Inishowen Development Partnership [IDP], and ECO Carn ran from June 2024 to August 2025 and consisted of three stages: mapping, community engagement and action-planning.

Find out more about ECO Carn and the groups involved by contacting Denise / Rachel at IDP and they will connect you to the organisations and people leading out on the projects.



A Powerful Evening at Clonmany Festival: Screening of Porcelain War

As part of the Clonmany Festival in August, the Concern Worldwide/Disappear Here Film Club, with support from IDP & ChangeMakers Donegal, hosted a special screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary 'Porcelain War'.

Porcelain War tells the extraordinary story of three artists who, amidst the devastation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, find resilience and hope through creativity. Their fight to preserve culture and beauty in the face of destruction is both heartbreaking and inspiring—a reminder of the power of art in times of crisis.

Entry was just €5, with all proceeds going toward the DHFF Short Documentary Bursary, supporting local filmmakers and storytelling initiatives.



We have moved to Buncrana's Main Street

August was an extremely busy month behind the scenes at IDP as we moved from our previous premises to our new office on Main Street, Buncrana, on Tuesday, 26th August.

IDP relocated to the former Post Office building, offering a more central and accessible location for the public.

The move ensures that IDP remains at the heart of the community, continuing to provide vital services and supports across employment, social inclusion, education, sustainability, and community development



IDP's move to the former Post Office in Buncrana is a temporary measure as they prepare to design and construct a new purpose-built facility at Ferris Lane.

Thank you to everyone who has been so understanding, helpful and patient with us during our move.

Cybersecurity workshop for SMEs in Buncrana



A huge thank you to all the local businesses who joined us at Inishowen Innovation in Buncrana at the end of August. This was a vital workshop on cybersecurity. It was great to have so many people in the room and share experiences and tips on how to stay safe online.

Special thanks to Helen Douglas for delivering such an insightful and practical session – from

identifying common threats to sharing actionable tips to keep your business safe online. The event was hosted by IDP in collaboration with Inishowen Innovation – ii – Inspiring Imagination, continuing our commitment to empowering local enterprises with the tools they need to thrive securely.

IDP shortlisted for environmental award

In August IDP was shortlisted as the Best Environmentally Conscious Workplace category at Ireland's Climate Change Leadership Awards! This recognition reflects our ongoing commitment to sustainability, climate action, and creating a workplace that puts the planet first. From green initiatives to community-led environmental projects, we're proud to be part of the movement for a better future.



IRELAND'S
CLIMATE CHANGE
LEADERSHIP AWARDS

FINALIST

**Best Environmentally
Conscious Workplace**

IDP
Inishowen
Development
Partnership

NWCD launch 80km Inishowen Trail Network

In September North West Community Development launched their impressive 80km Inishowen Trail network. A massive amount of work by NWCD went into developing, funding, and promoting the trails. IDP alongside Donegal Sports Partnership [DSP] was pleased to collaborate with NWCD through Active Inishowen and the ORIS programme and LEADER staff on this project in taking the trails to the next



level. Special thanks to Sport Ireland for attending the launch and adding these newly assessed trails network to their national register.

Barista Training completed in Carndonagh

Well done to everyone who completed our Barista training in the Colgan Hall Carndonagh in September.

The session was expertly delivered by the team at Dublin Barista School and the craic and the coffee were flowing at all times.

From espresso shots to latte art, everyone got hands-on and had great fun learning the craft.

Thanks to everyone who joined us – and to Taste4Success Skillnet for funding the training – we can't wait to see these new barista talents put to good use!



Love Donegal Day with IDP

We were delighted to join the Go Visit Donegal promotional campaign to promote all things Donegal on September 10th 2025. At Inishowen Development Partnership, we're proud to support the people, the place, and the progress that make our community thrive everyday.



Solidarity in Every Step for Gaza

We're proud that our IDP team members, together with our colleagues from Changemakers Donegal joined the Long Walk for Gaza in September. The walk, from Malin to Buncrana the length as Gaza itself took place while standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Gaza. Every mile walked was a message of hope, unity, and resistance. Huge respect to the organisers: Inishowen Palestine Solidarity Group Donegal IPSC and Derry IPSC- your dedication is inspiring.



Supporting Green Ribbon Month with Sláintecare Healthy Communities in Buncrana

The IDP Sláintecare Healthy Communities team were delighted to attend the Connecting for Life Family Fun Festival in St Marys Hall Buncrana on a rainy Sunday afternoon in September.

It was a very positive and uplifting event filled with fun, wellness, and community spirit. From eco therapy and art, to music, games, and healthy food – there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Well done to Insight Inishowen and all the organisers and volunteers for creating such a welcoming and supportive space to mark Green Ribbon Month and World Suicide Prevention Day.



Healthy cooking tips for family carers

Week 2 of our Care4Carers Exploring Me programme took place in September in Carndonagh.

The group of family carers were joined by IDP's Community Food and Nutrition Worker Niamh Britton. The participants worked together to make a homemade hearty vegetable soup and enjoyed a practical talk on all things nutrition and healthy eating with Niamh. Niamh gave great tips on how we can make small changes to improve our diet and overall wellbeing helping us to remain strong and healthy.



If you are a family carer and want to get involved in the next Care4Carers programme email employmentsupport@inishowen.ie for more information or call us on 0749362218

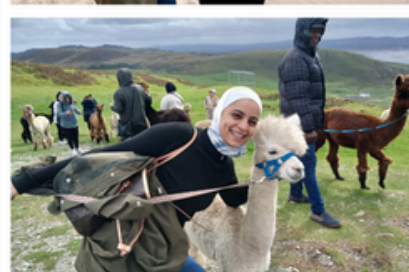
IDP's Farm Family Support Worker attends Ploughing Championships

IDP's Farm Family Support Worker Joe Sweeney had a great time at the National Ploughing Championships in Co. Offaly in September. While there Joe met with Fiona Power and John Canny from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine where they talked about our popular Fit4FarmLife Programme sharing the plans for Fit4FarmLife Autumn/Winter 2025 in Inishwoen.



On September 20th, the IDP Connecting Communities team welcomed some of our newest community members on a guided bus tour of the breathtaking Inishowen Peninsula. Expert guide John McCarron shared fascinating stories and local history as we explored this beautiful corner of Donegal. Highlights included a magical visit to Wild Alpaca Way, where John McGonagle led a scenic walk at Knockamenny with friendly alpacas, a stop at Malin Head, Ireland's most northerly point, and refreshments at the charming Cosy Cottage in Moville. The group also visited Greencastle Fort and the picturesque Shroove Lighthouse. It was a day filled with learning, laughter, and new friendships—a perfect way to showcase the beauty and heritage of Inishowen.

A Guided Bus Tour for New Community Members



Inishowen Walking Festival continues to grow

As part of the 2025 Inishowen Walking Festival, an unforgettable guided walk took place on Friday, September 12th, starting at 6pm. Co-ordinated by Exchange Inishowen, this gentle shorefront walk led participants to the Amazing Grace Viewing Point in Buncrana.

Along the way, walkers enjoyed the dramatic story of Buncrana's unique connection to the world's most famous hymn, accompanied by music that made the experience even more special. The Walking Festival, organised by Go Visit Inishowen, IDP and Inishowen Social Enterprise Network, ran from September 12th–20th, inviting walkers of all levels to explore the stunning landscapes of Inishowen through a series of guided walks.



Shared knowledge at environmental seminar at Iosas Centre in Muff

A brilliant positive day of shared knowledge and hope for the future of biodiversity in our region at our cross border environmental conference at Iosas Centre & Celtic Prayer Garden. Thanks to our speakers Julie Corry and Rachel Bain who are Biodiversity Officers with Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council and Karin Dubskey of Coastwatch. Also to Brendan Farren who led the walk in the stunning Celtic Prayer Garden. Special mention to our colleagues at Rural Area Partnership In Derry whom we collaborated with on this cross border project and to the team at Inishowen Rivers Trust for their support.



WE ARE A FAIRTRADE WORKPLACE

IDP is proud to be recognised for our commitment to ethical procurement, sustainability, and global justice.

Thanks to the incredible work of our Green Team and collaboration with our colleagues at Change Makers Donegal and their Sustainability Passport programme, we're making Fairtrade part of everyday practice. Being a Fairtrade Workplace means choosing products that support fair incomes and better working conditions for producers worldwide.

We encourage other local organisations to join the movement – together, we can build a fairer world, one workplace at a time.



Inishowen Co-Op Health & Wellbeing event a success



We had another great evening at the Inishowen Co-Op Health and Wellbeing event in Carndonagh in September. We heard talks on physical and mental health as well as amplifying the importance of farm safety. The Team shared all things Sláintecare, community food and Fit4FarmLife. Thanks to the Gareth, Lizzie and the team at the Co-Op for hosting us on the night.

Social Media for Business a hit in Buncrana

Thanks to everyone who came to our two part workshop 'Social Media for Business' at The Plaza Buncrana recently. There was a great turnout from the local business



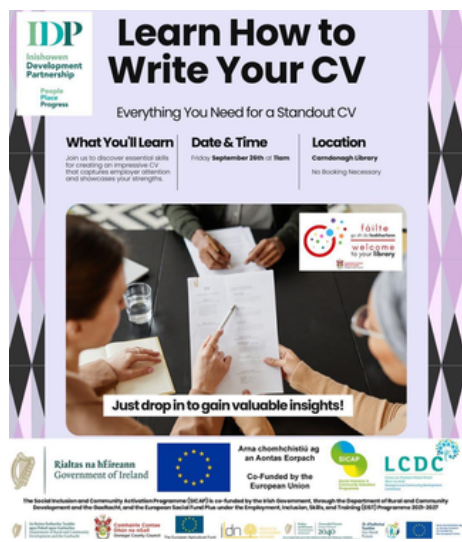
and we hope you found the classes informative and useful to help grow your social media profiles. Thanks to the training @jodie_harkin for delivering the training workshop and sharing her expertise.

Celebrating Public Library Day with CV workshop

To celebrate National Public Libraries Open Day, we were delighted to team up with Donegal County Library to host a free workshop: Learn How to Write Your CV. This took place on Friday, September 26th at 11am at Carndonagh Library.

It was an opportunity to gain valuable tips on creating a standout CV that captures employer attention and showcases your strengths.

This workshop is part of this year's theme Take a Closer Look, highlighting the vital role public libraries play in supporting learning, connection, and community.

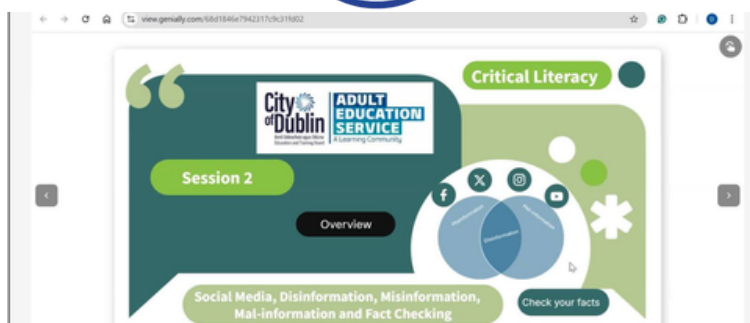


Media Literacy Training for IDP Staff with ALL Strategy

IDP staff took part in an insightful online Media Literacy Workshop hosted by Adult Literacy for Life to mark International Literacy Day on September 8th.

The session, led by Dee Keating of City of Dublin ETB focused on: Social media Misinformation and Fact-checking.

This training supports the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) strategy, helping educators and community workers to be provided with the practical tools and resources to help us—and our community—stay safe online and spot fake news.



Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding

Well done to everyone who took part in the certified Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Training with National Youth Council of Ireland at our Buncrana office in September. We were delighted to provide this training, supporting different sectors and organisations across the community. Great to see such strong engagement and commitment to learning.

Big thanks to Gary Duffy for delivering a really informative session and IDP's Pauline O'Connor for coordinating the training.

Looking forward to more opportunities like this to support our community.



Healthy cooking classes held throughout Inishowen

IDP's Community Food and Nutrition Worker Niamh Britton held five Healthy Food Made Easy cookery courses from September to November. The Sláintecare Healthy Communities courses were held in Fahan, Clonmany, Malin Town, Greencastle and Buncrana. The popular courses teaches you how to cook tasty, healthy meals on a budget. they are Free and open to all adults of all cooking abilities. Find out about future classes by calling IDP on 074 93 62218 or [email niamh@inishowen.ie](mailto:niamh@inishowen.ie)



Core English training in Merville Carn and Buncrana

From September through November, IDP's Employment Team delivered Core English Customer Service training across Merville, Carndonagh, and Buncrana, creating supportive spaces for learning and connection. These classes were designed to help participants break through language barriers, build confidence, and boost employability—whether for work, daily life, or personal development. The commitment shown by participants highlights the importance of accessible training opportunities in our communities. This marks the successful completion of our Core English programme for 2025, and we're proud of everyone who joined us on this journey to strengthen skills and open new opportunities.



Interested in future classes?
For details on upcoming sessions in 2026,
contact Emily at emily@inishowen.ie.

Settling in well on Main Street Buncrana

Yesterday we held the first staff meeting in our new Buncrana office home. We are settling in well on Main Street and a big thanks to everyone who supported us in our move



Healthcare CE Scheme Vacancies in Buncrana

Have you been unemployed for more than 12 months and are interested in getting employment in the healthcare sector in Inishowen? Then our new CE scheme could be the perfect opportunity to ease back into the labour sector at a pace that is suitable to you.

There are currently TWO vacancies in the BUNCRAHA area on our Health and Social Care Community Employment Scheme. To find out more contact our CE Supervisor Shauna by calling her on 086 1990219 or email: shaunagallagher@inishowen.ie

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

Health & Social Care

Are you:

- 01 Aged 21+
- 02 In receipt of an Irish social welfare payment for 12 months or more
- 03 Interested in a career in Health & Social Care
- 04 Would like to work in Inishowen

CONTACT SHAUNA,
CE SUPERVISOR, IDP

shaunagallagher@inishowen.ie or call 086 199 0219

Food in Mood a great success in Carndonagh

IDP's Community Food and Nutrition Worker, Niamh Britton, recently teamed up with Bill Vaughan to deliver a pilot Food in Mood course in Carndonagh.

Running from mid-October to November, this four-week programme explored how the foods we choose can influence energy levels, sleep, stress, mental clarity, and emotional wellbeing.

The course provided practical insights into the connection between nutrition and mental health, helping participants!



make informed choices to support overall wellbeing. As this was a pilot initiative, we're delighted with the

positive feedback and look forward to delivering more Food in Mood courses in 2026. Thanks to Sláintecare for funding it.

AI training for social enterprise staff

IDP staff and Inishowen Social Enterprise Network [ISEN] members recently enjoyed a training session exploring the potential of AI in community development at our Buncrana office.

The session was delivered by Jodie Harkin, who guided participants through practical ways AI can support innovation and impact in our work.

It was a great opportunity to build digital confidence, share ideas, and explore new tools for community engagement. Thanks to everyone who took part.



We were hiring for new PeacePlus HARC team

In October IDP held a recruitment drive for four key positions as part of our Healthy Active Rural Communities (HARC) initiative, funded through PeacePlus.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a passionate team working to improve health and wellbeing across rural communities in Inishowen. We are looking forward to welcoming the new team members and kicking off the HARC project in January.

DEADLINE EXTENDED

THE HEALTHY ACTIVE RURAL COMMUNITIES (HARC) PROJECT

"A NEW BEGINNING FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES"

Funded by PEACEPLUS | Theme 4.2 Rural Regeneration & Social Inclusion

The Healthy Active Rural Communities (HARC) Project - "A New Beginning for Rural Communities" is a PEACEPLUS funded cross-border development of healthy & active rural communities across the Inishowen Peninsula in Donegal & the Faghann, Sperrin & Derry areas in Derry City & Strabane District Council area.

The HARC Cross Border PEACEPLUS Project was developed in partnership with the project lead - RAPH NI, alongside IDP, Sperrin Agri Sport CIC and Derry Valley Care Centre. It is supported by SEUPs under the PEACEPLUS Theme 4.2 Rural Regeneration & Social Inclusion.

JOIN OUR IDP PROJECT TEAM - WE'RE HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- **Peace Plus Coordinator Position** (DO2-IDP Salary Point €45,000 per annum pro rata)
- **1 x Development Officer** with specific responsibility for supporting **Older People and Carers**
- **1 x Development Officer** with specific responsibility for supporting **Eco and Well-being**
- **1 x Development Officer** with specific responsibility for supporting **Social Enterprise Development** (Above Development Officer positions is DO2 IDP Salary Point €38,395 per annum pro rata)

Full job descriptions for each position are available separately with details of recruitment specifications including application forms and deadlines on our <https://inishowenai.com>

Duration of Contract: The post will be offered initially on a fixed term contract until June 2026, subject to satisfactory completion of a 3-month probationary period. Continuation will be subject to funding for the post.

Hours: The posts will be full-time (Monday to Friday 9-5). Flexibility will be required as the work will include weekends and/or evenings if required.

How to Apply: Applications only on IDP's official application form to peacelplus@inishowenai.com stating clearly that it relates to the 'HARC (Theme of Specific Position)' accompanied by an up-to-date CV and cover letter. Only those who complete the official application form will be considered for the position.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Thursday 9th October 2025 at 12 noon. Shortlisting will apply. Those shortlisted will be notified by email. **Applications may be forwarded.** Provisional interview date week beginning October 20th 2025

Inishowen Development Partnership is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of society. The appointment is subject to normal recruitment procedures including Garda/Vetting

A project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) in partnership with RAPH NI, Inishowen Development Partnership, Derry Valley Care & Strabane Agri Sport

Celebrating the Launch of the HARC Project Healthy Active Rural Communities

In October, we proudly celebrated the official launch of the HARC Project – Healthy Active Rural Communities at An Grianán Hotel in Burt. This exciting cross-border initiative is set to bring transformative change to rural communities across Inishowen and the Faughan, Sperrin & Derg areas of Derry City & Strabane.

Led by Rural Area Partnership Incorporated and delivered in partnership with IDP, Spraoi agus Spórt, and Derg Valley Care & Healthy Living Centre, HARC is funded by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

This marks an exciting new chapter for IDP, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact HARC will have on rural communities—helping to build healthier, more connected lives. We were delighted to welcome Gina McIntyre, CEO of SEUPB, Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council Paul Canning, and Deputy Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council Alderman Niree McMorris to the launch event.



Highlighting the Arts – What an Inspiring Morning!

A huge thank you to Scoil Mhuire Buncrana Crana College Moville Community College and our wonderful hosts Carndonagh Community School – CCS Official for joining us for yesterday's Highlighting the Arts Careers event. Our incredible speakers – John D. Ruddy (Illustrator & Actor), Seamus Devenny (Musician, Performer & Composer), Fionnuala Deane (Managing Director, Dog Ears), and Peter Cunnah (Lead Singer/Songwriter, D:REAM) – were truly inspiring, sharing their journeys and passion for creativity with around 250 students from across Inishowen. This event is part of EMBRACE, a cross-border cultural collaboration developed by the North West Cultural Partnership in partnership with Inishowen Development Partnership – celebrating creativity, connection, and the power of the arts to bring people together. Funded by International Fund for Ireland



October 2025

Eco-Buncrana Launch

What a day we had at the Eco Buncrana Strategy launch in October in Buncrana Library. We planted trees, surveyed coastal biodiversity, took part in workshops on food preservation, IT repairs and creative upcycling. The days action were supported through Inishowen Is Ours Peace Plus. A memorable day with meaningful and important action & conversations. We are very much looking forward to seeing the Eco Buncrana strategy actions come into fruition and are hope-filled by the strong community spirit in Buncrana.

Thanks to everyone who helped and contributed to this great day: Special EU Programmes Body, PEACE PLUS, Donegal County Council, Donegal County Library Coastwatch An Taisce ChangeMakers, Porter Computers, & WI Club.



Tree planting as part of Eco Buncrana launch



Three new apple trees planted in Buncrana thanks to the hard work from pupils from St Muras National School Scoil Íosagáin and Scoil Mhuire Buncrana. This important environmental action was carried out as part of the Eco Buncrana launch. A huge thanks to all the students and their teachers as well as Colm Grant of Wild Inishowen Club and George McDermott of Donegal County Council. For further info contact: Denise/Rachel at IDP

New Waste Less Save More Booklet launched

As part of Climate Action Week IDP has launched a brand-new Waste Less Save More booklet aimed at helping households across Donegal cut down on food waste, save money, and adopt healthier, more sustainable food habits.

Packed with practical tips for managing food waste at home, the booklet also includes air fryer recipe ideas, simple meal planning advice, and much more to help families get the most out of their food.

The resource was developed by community food and nutrition workers Niamh Britton (IDP) and Donna McGettigan (DLDC), with support from Donegal County



Council and Sláintecare Healthy Communities. The booklet will soon be available at Healthy Food Made Easy courses, IDP & DLDC offices, local community venues, and online at www.inishowen.ie

DCB Facilitators highlighted in Rebuild Donegal Magazine

We're delighted to see our Community Facilitators, Anne Marie Lyons and Michelle Coyle, featured in the new magazine 'Rebuild Donegal'

Rebuild Donegal is a dedicated publication shining a light on the stories, challenges, and successes of homeowners rebuilding their lives after the impact of defective concrete blocks. It offers practical guidance on rebuilding, and expert advice to help families navigate the redress process and future-proof their homes. The article – "Guiding Families Through the DCB Scheme" – highlights how IDP's facilitators are helping families navigate the DCB process with empathy and expertise.



Showcasing Active Inishowen to Donegal Older Persons Council

Our Active Inishowen Officer Kevin McLaughlin represented IDP at the Donegal County Council and Age Friendly Ireland Donegal Older Persons Council event in Letterkenny in October. The event was a fantastic celebration of active aging, with engaging presentations and interactive sessions promoting health and well-being among older adults. Kevin showcased Active Inishowen's community initiatives, highlighting our commitment to supporting vibrant, healthy lifestyles across the region.



Menopause Awareness Month – October Workshops

In October, IDP partnered with Women's Collective Ireland-Donegal to host two empowering menopause workshops. Women from across the community came together to learn, share, and support each other in an open and informative space. The sessions explored physical and emotional changes, holistic approaches, and practical tips for overall wellbeing. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Market House Café for hosting. Your participation made these workshops truly special. Let's keep the conversation going –because menopause deserves to be understood and embraced!



Women's
Collective
Ireland
Donegal



Supporting Breast Cancer awareness month at IDP



This morning, we gathered at IDP for a coffee morning in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month and raise money for National Breast Cancer Research Institute. It was a moment to come together, reflect, and show solidarity with those affected by breast cancer.

We're thinking of everyone who is currently going through treatment, those who have come through it, and those who have lost loved ones. Breast cancer touches every community—including ours here in Inishowen



—and every workplace, including our own. Thank you to everyone who joined us, donated, and helped raise awareness. Your support means so much

October marked the conclusion of the second year of the Fit4FarmLife Programme, with a fantastic finale event at the Ballyliffin Lodge and Spa. This initiative, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, continues to focus on improving health and safety for farmers and their families.

Throughout the programme, participants engaged in a range of activities designed to promote wellbeing and farm safety, including:

Accredited chainsaw training for over 30 farmers

Safe tractor driving training for more than 80 young people

Health checks and wellbeing support

Health and safety talks, including expert input from Shane McHugh of Teagasc Sligo/Leitrim/Donegal
Distribution of risk assessment booklets, essential tools for farm safety

The finale event brought together farmers and their families to celebrate their commitment to health and safety. IDP

Chairperson Francis Burns addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of these initiatives in building safer, healthier rural communities.

We extend our thanks to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for funding this vital programme and to everyone who participated and supported Fit4FarmLife. Planning for Year 3 is already underway, and we look forward to continuing this important work in 2026.



Pension Auto Enrollment workshops for community groups and businesses

IDP hosted two successful training sessions on Pension Auto Enrolment—one for local commercial businesses at our Buncrana office, and another for community groups and social enterprises at Colgan Hall, Carndonagh.

Delivered by MLMG Financial Hub the sessions provided practical guidance on employer responsibilities, key dates, and how to keep employees informed.

Attendees also had the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences.



Understanding and Sharing Cultures in Carndonagh

In October, IDP hosted a four-week Understanding & Sharing Cultures course at our Carndonagh offices as part of the Inishowen Is Ours Programme supported by DCC PEACEPLUS.

The sessions created a welcoming and inclusive space where participants could share aspects of their own culture, learn about others, and explore both similarities and differences. Attendance was excellent, and the conversations highlighted the richness of diversity in Inishowen and the importance of inclusion in building stronger communities.

Thank you to everyone who joined and contributed to these meaningful discussions.

This course is part funded by our Inishowen is Ours PEACEPLUS programme through the Special EU Programmes Body – SEUPB and Donegal County Council and our SICAP programme for more on this

see: www.eufunds.ie



Social Media Training Empowers Local Groups

In October, IDP hosted a two-part Social Media Training for social enterprises, community organisations, and charities at our Buncrana office.

The free sessions, supported by The Wheel Training Links programme, focused on building confidence and practical skills to boost online presence.

Participants learned how to create effective social media strategies, identify target audiences, and craft engaging content. The second session provided hands-on practice, covering content creation tips and tools to make posting easier. It was fantastic to see local groups embrace new digital skills to strengthen their community impact.

A huge thank you to our trainer, Emma Murray, for delivering such an engaging and informative programme.

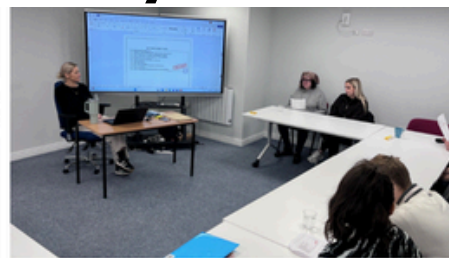


Empowering Young Adults at iAdult Day Service

In October, IDP partnered with the amazing young adults from the iAdult Day Service in Buncrana to deliver a series of courses focused on building skills and confidence for the future.

Our IT trainer, Denis, led digital skills training over several weeks, helping participants develop essential computer skills. One highlight was a fun Halloween-themed session where learners designed spooky posters using MS Word. It was fantastic to see their creativity shine and their progress grow with each class—well done to everyone involved!

Alongside this, Employment Support Officers Emily and Paddi



worked closely with the group to prepare them for the world of work. Through CV building, interview preparation, mock interviews, and workplace communication training, participants explored career pathways and gained tools to break down barriers and unlock their potential. This collaboration is all about empowerment—helping young adults build confidence, skills, and opportunities. We're inspired every day by their resilience, talent, and determination.

Inishowen Heritage at Trinity



IDP's Shauna McClenaghan and Tracey McRory had the privilege in October of presenting our Inishowen Heritage Detectives programme as part of the Heritage Ireland Summit in Trinity College Dublin. They were delighted and honoured to be among a roomful of heritage enthusiasts and experts

Shaping our Digital Future

In October Ana McColgan represented IDP at the NW 2025: Shaping Our Digital Futures Conference hosted by ATU Donegal in Letterkenny on behalf of the North West Tertiary Education Cluster (NWTEC).

The event brought together leaders from education, industry, and research to explore the future of digital skills, AI innovation, and the evolving digital economy across the North West region and beyond.

It was a fantastic opportunity to engage with key stakeholders and contribute to shaping the region's digital future.

October 2025

Movies & Tea continues at Buncrana Cinema

Another Fab day last week at the Movies and Tea at Buncrana Cinema where people gathered to watch the Robert Redford classic *The Sting* before enjoying a lovely lunch and chat together.

It was great to see new faces coming along.

Movies and Tea will be back in November- keep an eye on socials for more info or to find out about Social Prescribing activities contact Colleen on 086 040 6950



IDP represent Inishowen at first LDCN summit

IDP team members were proud to represent Inishowen at the first-ever Local Development Companies Network Summit, held in Ballina on October 30–31. The event brought together leaders from all 49 Local Development Companies across Ireland to share ideas, celebrate community successes, and shape the future of inclusive, resilient communities.

The Summit featured powerful contributions from government,



academia, and civil society — including Ministers Jerry Buttimer, Dara Calleary, and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, who spoke passionately about the importance of innovation, ambition, and investment in community-led local development.

Vital Voices with ChangeMakers at Buncrana Cinema

Buncrana Cinema hosted Vital Voices on Tuesday, October 21st—a free event celebrating diversity through poetry, music, and storytelling. Organised by Donegal County Council Arts Office IDP and ChangeMakers Donegal, with support from Creative Ireland,

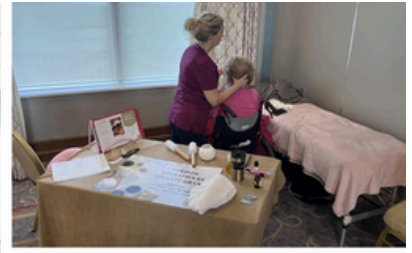
the evening brought together an inspiring lineup of artists from Ireland and beyond. The event also featured a vibrant showcase from the EMBRACE Project, with the dynamic Sollus Highland Dancers and acclaimed musicians Tom Byrne (harmonica and accordion) and IDP's Tracey McRory, a



multiple All-Ireland Fiddle Champion and renowned harpist.

Celebrating carers at special event in Buncrana

At the start of November, we concluded our Care4Carers 2025 programme with a special wellness day dedicated to family carers. The event brought together carers, their families, and friends for a morning of relaxation, connection, and gratitude. We extend heartfelt thanks to all the information stand holders and the incredible practitioners who generously shared their time and expertise to give something back to our carers. Your support made this day truly meaningful.



IDP proud to join Donegal Giving initiative

Inishowen Development Partnership is proud to join Donegal Giving in November in Letterkenny. this fantastic initiative celebrating generosity and community spirit across the county. Donegal Giving shines a light on the incredible work happening locally and the power of collaboration to make a real difference. A huge thank you to Evelyn McGlynn for bringing everyone together for such an inspiring event!



Childcare vacancies through CE Scheme in Buncrana

Are you interested in a career in Childcare? There are currently vacancies available now in the Buncrana area under the Community Employment Childcare Scheme! Are you:

- Aged 21 or over
- In receipt of an Irish social welfare payment for 12 months
- Looking to gain experience and training in the childcare sector

Full training provided free of charge

To apply or learn more, contact: IDP CE Supervisor Pauline O'Connor via email on: pauline@inishowen.ie or call her directly on 086 173 9920



Eco Cultural Partnership workshops

Throughout November, Inishowen Development Partnership, in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland and Go Visit Inishowen, hosted a series of consultation workshops to launch the Inishowen Eco Cultural Partnership—and we want YOU to be part of it!

This exciting initiative aims to create a shared vision for: Sustainable Tourism, Cultural Heritage Preservation and Ecological Conservation Workshops in Muff, Moville, and Buncrana brought together local businesses, community groups, and individuals to share ideas and shape a roadmap for a sustainable and culturally vibrant Inishowen. We're excited to see how this project will development and grow. Together, let's build a future that values our environment, heritage, and community.

Sustaining ourselves through the winter

IDP hosted two community sessions in Buncrana with Patsy Toland of ChangeMakers Donegal, sharing practical tips for staying comfortable, saving energy, and accessing supports this winter. Attendees enjoyed tea, chats, and a light lunch while hearing from Citizens Information Officers and the Age Friendly Ireland Homes Coordinator about financial supports, home improvements, and free services to help everyone stay safe and independent. Thank you to all who joined us—together, we're finding simple, sustainable ways to support each other through the season. 



Working in Ireland Workshop

On November 26th, IDP hosted a well-attended Working in Ireland workshop at our Buncrana office. The session provided practical guidance for those navigating employment in Ireland, covering key topics such as the Irish tax system (Income Tax, PRSI, USC, and pensions), mastering MyWelfare and Revenue Online, understanding employment rights and entitlements, and workplace etiquette and culture. Participants left with valuable knowledge and confidence to manage work and life in Ireland. A big thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed



Celebrating Cross-Border Collaboration for Nature

Over the past year, communities from Inishowen, Donegal, Derry, and Strabane came together through the NCCES Project—an inspiring initiative that used our shared love of nature and biodiversity to build lasting relationships across borders. Led by Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) and Rural Area Partnership Incorporated (RAPID) in Derry, the project brought citizens and community organisations together through educational workshops, study visits, and a final Citizen Assembly.

Now available to download:

- Final Project Report – a full summary of workshops, training, and outcomes

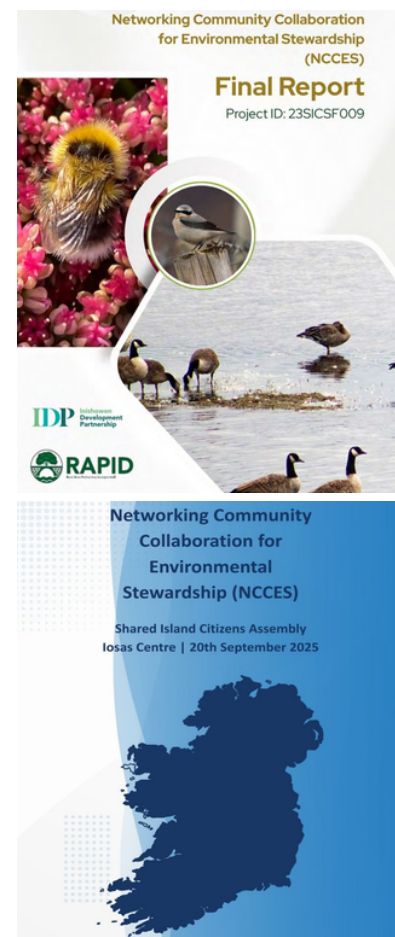
- Citizen Assembly Report – insights, recommendations, and the voices of 44 participants from 19 groups across the region

Download both reports here: www.inishowen.ie/publications
A huge thank you to Butterlope Farm and Inishowen Rivers Trust for their expertise and commitment. Together, we're building a stronger, greener, and more connected North-West.

This project was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs under the Shared Island Civic Society Fund.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Around 120 senior cycle students from five local schools gained hands-on experience with cutting-edge construction technology when the Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) training rig returned to Buncrana in September. Delivered by Mount Lucas LOETB in partnership with Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP), the programme showcased modern, energy-efficient building techniques and gave students practical exposure to industry-standard equipment. The initiative strengthens links between education and the construction sector, helping young people explore career pathways

NZEB Training for local schoolkids



while deepening their understanding of sustainable building practices.

Certified Bookkeeping course completed in Buncrana

Congratulations to all participants who completed the QQI Level 5 Manual & Computerised Bookkeeping in November at IDP Buncrana. Over the course of 10 weeks, learners developed essential finance and accounting skills, gaining practical knowledge in both manual and digital bookkeeping systems.



Guided by trainer Emma Farren, the programme provided a strong foundation for those looking to enhance their professional skills or progress toward further qualifications in business and finance. This course was part-funded by the Donegal ETB Community Education Programme, ensuring accessible learning opportunities for our community.

E-admin programme wraps up for 2025

Our E-Admin Programme 2025 wrapped up in Carndonagh in November, and what an amazing journey it has been!

Over five weeks, participants gained valuable skills in digital collaboration, computer applications, Excel, and financial processes. A huge thank you to our fantastic tutors, Helen Douglas and Emma Farren, for their expertise and support throughout the course. Well done to everyone who completed the programme—you've taken a big step toward boosting your digital skills and confidence!



Start Your Own Business Course in Carn

In November we held our last Start Your Own Business course of 2025 in the Colgan Hall, Carndonagh with facilitator Stephen Friel of Friel Consulting.

SYOB helps you understand all the legal requirements for starts up, explores finance and funding opportunities, and teaches you how to carry out market research, marketing, and sales strategies

For more on Enterprise Training opportunities in 2026 contact our Enterprise Officer Sinead McDaid by emailing sinead@inishowen.ie or call us on 07493 62218



IDP attends Government Supply Expo on Procurement

It is great to have our own stand. This event is about exploring public procurement and collaboration opportunities for Inishowen social enterprises and local businesses. Procurement can be a powerful driver for positive change, and events like this help us understand what we can be part of and what can be delivered in Inishowen!

Ana McColgan representing IDP at the Government Supply Expo on Procurement at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin in November. While there Ana, who is a key part of our Social Enterprise team, connected with fellow Donegal person John Logue at the SERIreland



Showcasing ALL Strategy at Donegal ETB Seminar

IDP team members were delighted to attend the Donegal ETB seminar today in Letterkenny. The seminar showcased the incredible work being done through Adult Literacy for Life and Community Education initiatives. The event spotlighted a range of innovative projects, including two

of our own: Change Makers Donegal – showcased by Coordinator Myra McAuliffe and our C&I Funded project Drive to Thrive. It was an inspiring day filled with collaboration, creativity, and a shared commitment to inclusive, community-driven education.



Move to Improve a hit in Buncrana and Carn

Our 10-week Move2Improve programme for over-55s came to a successful close in November, following twice-weekly sessions in Buncrana and Carndonagh. The final assessment days showed incredible progress – participants reported improved mobility, increased fitness, and loved the chance to connect in a relaxed, social setting. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and brought

such positivity and energy to each session. Your commitment made this programme shine! Delivered in partnership with Donegal Sports Partnership and funded by the National Lottery (HSE), this initiative promoted health, wellbeing, and community spirit across Inishowen. Watch this space for an exciting new programme in 2026!



Making a Will with IDP and Citizen's Information

Inishowen Development Partnership, in collaboration with North Connacht & Ulster Citizens Information Service, recently hosted two informative sessions in Culdaff and Clonmany on Making a Will: What You Need to Know.

We were delighted with the strong attendance and the high level of engagement throughout both events. Your questions and contributions helped make these sessions truly valuable,

supporting our shared goal of providing clear, accessible information to the community. A sincere thank you to everyone who joined us and to local solicitor Róisín Doherty for delivering such practical advice.



Solar Meitheal review in Carndonagh

Inishowen Sustainable Energy Community concluded our Solar Meitheal in Carndonagh with a review of solar quotes led by Paul McNama, Energy Expert at ATU. The initiative was of great benefit, with many participants now better informed and several already moving ahead to install solar panels at their homes. A huge thank-you to everyone who took part and supported the process!



Community Wellness Café in Carndonagh

Our Sláintecare Social Prescribing Link Worker Colleen Kearney had a great time at the Community Wellness Cafe at Corner Coffee in Carndonagh

The Community Wellness Cafe runs every Tuesday at Corner Coffee from 11.00am to 1.00pm every Tuesday,

With board games and socialising for all. All are welcome. If you're on your own fear not, there is always someone to chat and play games with



November 2025

Inspiring AONTAS Summit

In November IDP's Denise McCool and Patricia Higgins attended the AONTAS Summit which included the launch of the Irish Journal of Adult & Community Education: The Adult Learner 2025.

The 2-day summit featured insightful panel discussions, including learners, community orgs, academics and policymakers. A big thank you to AONTAS for creating space to share ideas & research, highlight the impact of community education and promote inclusive education opportunities for all.



Child and vulnerable adult training with IDP

Well done to everyone who took part in certified Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Training with National Youth Council of Ireland at our Buncrana office. We were delighted to provide this training, supporting different sectors and organisations across the community. Great to see such strong engagement and commitment to learning.

Big thanks to Gary Duffy and Eileen Hegarty for delivering a really informative session and IDP's Pauline O'Connor for coordinating the training.



Exploring Social Analysis with community groups in Buncrana

In November, IDP Buncrana hosted a Social Analysis and Community Work Practice workshop with tutor Francine Blaché-Breen. The session featured practical exercises and discussions on how social analysis can strengthen community work and create meaningful change.

Well done to everyone who contributed and took part



Celebrating 30 years of Community Employment

IDP is proud to celebrate three decades of impact through the Community Employment Programme. This milestone reflects years of dedication to creating opportunities and strengthening communities.

In the photo, we are joined by Teresa Mc Guinness, Assistant Principal for Community Employment Programmes in the North West region (Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal), along with Thomas Timlin, Community Development Officer, Department of Social Protection. Also pictured are IDP CE Supervisors Pauline O'Connor, representing Childcare, and Shauna Gallagher, representing Health and Social Care.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the success of Community Employment over the years. Here's to continuing this important work and supporting communities into the future!



IDP support HIVE Cancer Support in Carndonagh

On November 27th, IDP was delighted to support Hive Cancer Support in hosting an important session at Colgan Hall, Carndonagh. The event focused on practical ways to reduce exposure to environmental toxins and introduced safer alternatives for personal care, cookware, and cleaning products.

Participants also learned about a helpful app that makes finding affordable, safer products easier. The session provided clear, easy-to-follow guidance on choosing safer cosmetics, household cleaners, baby products, and food options—valuable tips for anyone interested in healthier living.



A big thank you to Hive Cancer Support for bringing this vital conversation to Inishowen and to all who attended and engaged.

Digital Transformation for ISEN members in Moville

A huge well done to the group of ISEN members who recently completed the E-Admin- Digital Transformation Training Programme with IDP in Moville. This three-week programme, funded by **the Wheel Training Links**, delivered by Clare Ryan, CEO of ITUS, covered a wide range of practical topics to support the integration of digital supports and software that can help with the everyday running of social enterprises.

We want to acknowledge the commitment shown by ISEN members, who attended & fully engaged in the intensive training from start to finish.



Around 120 senior cycle students from five local schools gained hands-on experience with cutting-edge construction technology when the Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) training rig returned to Buncrana in September. Delivered by Mount Lucas LOETB in partnership with Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP), the programme showcased modern, energy-efficient building techniques and gave students practical exposure to industry-standard equipment. The initiative strengthens links between education and the construction sector, helping young people explore career pathways

NZEB Training for local schoolkids



while deepening their understanding of sustainable building practices.

Housing Information Session in Carndonagh

In November, our DCB Facilitator, Michelle Coyle, represented IDP at Donegal County Council's Housing Related Information Session in Carndonagh Public Service Centre. This event provided valuable guidance on housing supports and services available locally, and Michelle was on hand to share information and answer questions

from the community. A big thank you to Donegal County Council for hosting such an important session and to everyone who came along!



Easi Bookkeeping for SMEs in Buncrana

Well done to all our small businesses who completed our Easi Bookkeeping course in our Buncrana office during November. Over the two sessions our SMEs explored key topics such as: Understanding basic bookkeeping principles, Setting up and organizing business financial records, Tracking income, expenses, and cash flow. Thanks to our trainer Bridgita Kelly for your expertise and knowledge.



Supporting the community through Small Grants Programme



The SICAP [Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme] 2025 Small Grants Programme launched in Spring. A total of 27 Community & Voluntary groups and Social Enterprises were awarded funding for their projects to support a more sustainable, inclusive, and empowered community in Inishowen. A broad range of activities featured in the programme including projects for young people, older people, refugees, family fun, and environmental projects. Grants were awarded to:

- Aileach Youth & Community Centre,
- Barrack Hill Community Gardens,
- Barrack Hill Town Park,
- Buncrana Community Garden,
- Carndonagh Active Retirement,
- Carndonagh Ladies Club,
- Carrowmenagh Community Centre,
- Colgan Hall Community & Resource Centre
- Desertegney Foroige Youth Club,
- Donegal Travellers Project,
- Drumfries Youth Club,
- Dunree Boxing Club,
- Foyle Beekeepers Association,
- Greencastle Festival Committee,
- Greencastle Community Centre,
- iCARE,
- Inishowen Horse Riding for the Disabled,
- Inishowen Tractor Run,
- Lifeline Inishowen,
- Malin Head Community Association,
- Mill River Conservation Group,
- Moville Community Gardens,
- Quigley's Point Community Centre,
- Sliabh Sneacht Centre,
- Spraoi agus Sport,
- Swilly Gardening Club and
- Wild Inishowen.



Malin Head Community Centre ran a series of craft group classes to combat social isolation

ZUMBA CLASSES

WITH KAT

If you are an adult, and have Temporary Protection Status, then why not join our Zumba Classes, and feel the excitement of exercise with music that keeps you motivated!

Where - The Colgan Hall

When - Friday 29th August
Friday 5th September



Colgan Hall Carndonagh hosted Zumba classes for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine



Mill River Conservation Group held a Nature Connect & Balance event in Swan Park, Buncrana.

IDP represents Inishowen at European Energy SHARE RES Event

In November, Áine McLaughlin, IDP Development Officer and member of the Inishowen Sustainable Energy Community, attended the SHARE RES Interregional Event in Cyprus. The two-day event focused on renewable energy and community-led initiatives, with updates on energy communities, policy improvements, and visits to innovative projects like the Phaethon project and Aradippou's photovoltaic park. This participation reinforces IDP's commitment to sustainable energy and a greener future for Inishowen.



First Aid training in Carndonagh

In November, IDP organised First Aid training at our Carndonagh office, delivered by Donegal Safety Solutions.

The session was well attended and provided participants with essential skills for responding to emergencies, including CPR, wound care, and managing common injuries.

A special thank you to our Tús and RSS supervisors for taking part and showing commitment to safety in the workplace and community. IDP is proud to support practical learning opportunities that strengthen local skills and confidence.



QQI in Food Safety completed in Carndonagh

At the end of November, participants successfully completed the QQI Level 4 Food Safety course, incorporating HACCP, in Carndonagh. Over four weeks, learners gained essential knowledge on food hygiene, safety processes, and best practices for handling and storing food—skills that are vital for anyone working in the food industry. A huge well done to everyone for your commitment and achievement!

This programme was delivered in collaboration with Taste4Success.



Career Conversation Day at Scoil Mhuire Buncrana

On November 21st, IDP's Employment Support team took part in Career Conversation Day at Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana. The event gave students the opportunity to explore career options, ask questions, and gain practical advice on pathways to employment.

We were delighted to engage with young people and share insights on CV preparation, interview skills, and local opportunities. A big thank you to Scoil Mhuire for hosting such an informative and inspiring event.



Train the Trainer completed in Buncrana



Congratulations to our 15 newly qualified trainers in Inishowen!

After 12 weeks of dedication, participants have successfully completed the QQI Level 6 Training & Development course, gaining practical skills in delivery, planning, assessment, and evaluation.

Special thanks to facilitator Diane Greer, whose knowledge and support guided the group throughout the course.

Thanks to Donegal ETB's Community Education Support Programme for part-funding this opportunity.

We're excited to see the positive impact these trainers will bring to our community and beyond!



Digital Skills taster course in Carn

Congratulation to all participants who took part in our 4-week Digital Skills Taster Course at Wesley Hall, Carndonagh. Over the four sessions, participants learned how to:

- Master basic keyboard skills
- Navigate essential websites
- Use the internet more easily

and efficiently

- Stay safe online

Thank you to everyone who took part, and a special thanks to our IT trainer, Denis Kelly, for delivering the course.

If you're interested in joining future classes, you can get in touch at denis@inishowen.ie



AI Workshops for SMES and unemployed

In early December, IDP hosted two exciting workshops at our Buncrana office, introducing participants to the practical uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in business and employment—both delivered by trainer Jodie Harkin. AI for Business session focused on how AI can improve efficiency, amplify sales, and boost brand visibility. Attendees explored the latest tools and trends shaping the future of AI for Job Seekers was fully booked, reflecting strong interest in how AI can support job searches. Participants learned how to use AI for CV enhancement, job market insights, and personal branding.



White Christmas a big hit at Buncrana Cinema



What a day we had at the final Movies and Tea at Buncrana Cinema of 2025. The festive atmosphere couldn't have been better and it was great to see such a large number of people supporting the Cinema Club. A special thanks to all the helpers and especially The Exchange Inishowen and Buncrana Gardaí for supplying the hot food.



Social Prescribing Festive Bus Trip

What a truly lovely day spent together on our Social Prescribing Inishowen festive day out in December. We enjoyed a beautiful meal at Cromore Halt Guest Inn before some t some relaxed browsing and shopping at Flowerfield Arts Centre , Portstewart. To find out about Social Prescribing activities contact Colleen on 086 040 6950

Christmas Wreath making with ladies in Carn

IDP recently hosted a Christmas wreath-making workshop at Barrack Hill Community Gardens, Carndonagh, bringing together a lovely group of women for a creative and festive afternoon. It was delivered in partnership with the Inishowen Women's Group. A greener Christmas thanks to BHTP teams creative skills!



New Year Greetings from IDP

Everyone at IDP would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, funders, and partners for all their support throughout 2025. Wish you and your families a Healthy & Happy New Year. We look forward to working with you in 2026.

IDP attend Donegal Local Enterprise Awards

IDP were delighted to attend the Local Enterprise Office Donegal Awards 2025, celebrating the Rising Stars of Donegal's Small Business sector. Local enterprise are the heart of our communities. Congratulations to all award winners, with a special mention to the 3 Inishowen Winners, Karen McCormick inCharge Ltd, Anthony Kelly Hitch and Ciara & Gareth McGlynn Niche SSP. Fantastic achievement, well done all

