

# People Place Progress



## “Driving Impact Across Inishowen: Measurable Outcomes, Strong Growth, and Community Connection (Jan–May 2026)”

From January to May 2026, Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) delivered a wide-ranging programme of community-led initiatives with strong measurable outcomes across inclusion, wellbeing, education, and enterprise. Health and wellbeing programmes reached diverse groups through initiatives such as Healthy Food Made Easy (6-week courses delivered across multiple locations), We Can Quit smoking cessation groups, and the 8-week Care4Carers programme, supporting participants to build confidence, improve lifestyle habits, and reduce isolation. Social prescribing activities—including regular Movies & Tea events, wellbeing cafés, walking programmes, and fitness classes—provided accessible opportunities for community connection. In parallel, environmental and sustainability outcomes included QQI Level 4 Environmental Sustainability training completions, biodiversity initiatives (e.g. Bat Watch and pollinator planting), and the establishment of the Eco Buncrana Network, engaging over 100 community stakeholders in climate action planning.

Significant progress was also made in education, skills development, and employment outcomes. IDP delivered accredited (supported by ETB Community Education Programme) and non-accredited training in areas such as digital skills, bookkeeping, payroll, safeguarding, and enterprise, with strong participation and completion rates recognised at the annual Celebration of Learners event. Targeted supports such as Jobseeker workshops, digital inclusion programmes, and youth employability sessions helped participants gain practical skills in CV preparation, interview techniques, and online tools. Enterprise development outcomes included fully subscribed Start Your Own Business and bookkeeping courses, as well as Local Enterprise Week events, supporting individuals into self-employment and strengthening small business capacity. Collectively, these initiatives improved employability, supported career progression, and enhanced local economic resilience. These achievements were underpinned by the commitment and collaboration of IDP’s people and governance structures. Advocating for rural development and a commitment to more and sustained investment is essential to ensure we can respond effectively to local needs.

The organisation strengthened its delivery capacity with the addition of five new staff members, contributing to expanded programme reach and innovation, particularly through the HARC and PEACEPLUS initiatives. At governance level, the 15-member Board demonstrated strong leadership and accountability, actively engaging in governance training workshops and undertaking skills audits during the period to ensure best practice and organisational effectiveness. Together, the combined efforts of staff, board, partners, and the wider community enabled IDP to deliver tangible, high-impact outcomes while positioning the organisation to build on this momentum throughout the remainder of 2026 and beyond.

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## PEACEPLUS Shared Heritage Project Launch

In January we were delighted to launch the SHARED Heritage PEACEPLUS Programme at our Buncrana office. This is a new countywide initiative celebrating Donegal's rich cultural traditions and strengthening cross-community and cross-border connections.

Delivered by IDP and funded by PEACEPLUS through the Special EU Programmes Body - SEUPB and Donegal County Council the programme will bring people together through workshops, exhibitions, theatre, and community-led events, helping build understanding, respect, and a shared future. A special thanks to, Cllr. Paul Canning, Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council and Chair of Donegal's PEACEPLUS Partnership, his colleagues in the Donegal County Council Peace Partnership Unit and IDP Chairperson Francis Burns for attending our launch.



## New PEACEPLUS-funded Making Peaceful Change project

In January we hosted partners from the Playhouse Derry and TWN Training for Women Network at our Buncrana office to discuss the new PEACEPLUS-funded Making Peaceful Change project.

The overall aim of the project is to use the arts as a medium to confront common challenges on both sides of the border. We look forward to sharing upcoming programmes with you.

The Making Peaceful Change project is supported by PEACEPLUS, a



programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body - SEUPB in partnership with the Playhouse NI, Training Women's Network, and Inishowen Development Partnership.

# January is a busy month for Healthy Food Made Easy classes

January was a busy month for our Sláintecare Healthy Communities Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) programme, with courses getting underway in Greencastle, Muff, Moville Men's Shed and Bunrana Youth Club. These courses offer people across Inishowen the opportunity to take part in fun, relaxed cooking classes.

Healthy Food Made Easy is a six-week healthy cooking course designed to help participants learn how to prepare tasty, nutritious meals on a budget. The course focuses on practical cooking skills, nutrition awareness, and building confidence in the kitchen, all delivered in a welcoming and supportive group setting.

No previous cooking experience is required to attend the HFME classes.



They are open to all adults and provide a great opportunity not only to learn new skills, but also to connect with others in the community.

Inishowen Development Partnership would like to thank all host venues and participants for their enthusiasm and engagement, and we look forward to continuing to support healthy eating and wellbeing initiatives across the region.



## Collaborating with social enterprises

We had a very successful morning for session one with Brian O'Neill and local Social enterprises who are exploring collaboration with local commercial businesses and strike a CSR plan for future community wealth building!



## IT classes popular



January proved to be a busy and popular month for IDP I.T. courses, with strong demand

across Inishowen. Sessions took place in Carndonagh, Buncrana and Muff, covering topics such as Digital Skills Online and Introduction to MS Word. The courses were well attended and provided participants with practical skills to build confidence using technology in everyday life. Thanks to IT trainer Denis Kelly for delivering these.

## NEW I-STAR project Launched in Buncrana

At the end of January we held the I STAR [Inishowen Standing together Against Racism] network launch at the IDP offices in Buncrana.

This is a collaborative initiative bringing community groups, local services & agencies, sporting organisations, and residents together to build a more welcoming, inclusive Inishowen.

We heard from various people who feel truly welcomed but also experiences of racism or anti-immigrant sentiments, whether here or for Irish who lived abroad.

Thanks to everyone who attended the launch including An Garda Síochána Donegal Donegal ETB Foroige , Tusla, community groups and our local and migrant community residents.



To find out more on the project contact:

[alison@inishowen.ie](mailto:alison@inishowen.ie) or [patricia.higgins@inishowen.ie](mailto:patricia.higgins@inishowen.ie) to get involved.

\*The ISTAR project is supported by the Ireland Against Racism Fund and Department of Justice Ireland

## Erasmus+ Eco Social Agriculture Field Visits

In January, IDP took part in a field visit as part of an Erasmus+ Eco Social Agriculture research project, in which IDP is a partner alongside Bluebook, Fondazione, and Campagna Amica. The visit included a stop at the farm of social farmer William McLaughlin in Malin, where participants learned more about the role of social agriculture in supporting inclusion, wellbeing, and sustainable rural development. The second part of the field trip brought the group to The Wild Alpaca Way at Malin Head, where John and Shaun McGonagle shared insights into how they developed the now popular visitor attraction. The visit highlighted the strong community focus and inclusive elements of the project, showcasing how rural enterprises can combine tourism, agriculture, and social impact.

These visits provided valuable learning and practical examples to inform the ongoing research and development of social agriculture models across partner regions.



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# IDP Marked Fairbruary as a Fairtrade Workplace



Inishowen Development Partnership marked Fairbruary this year as a recognised Fairtrade Ireland Workplace, celebrating Fairtrade values throughout the month of February. Activities got underway with a Fairtrade Coffee Morning for staff in IDP’s Buncrana office, the first of a series of events aimed at promoting Fairtrade products and highlighting the positive impact Fairtrade has on producers and communities worldwide. Throughout February, IDP highlighted the importance of choosing

Fairtrade and encouraged other local businesses and organisations to consider working towards Fairtrade Workplace status – an achievement led by IDP’s Green Team in 2025.

Organisations interested in becoming a Fairtrade Workplace were encouraged to engage with Changemakers Donegal, who provide mentoring through the Sustainability Passport programme, including guidance on achieving Fairtrade recognition.



# Healthy Food Made Easy in Carndonagh

Well done to everyone who completed our Sláintecare Healthy Communities Healthy Food Made Easy cookery programme. This course got underway at Lifeline Carndonagh in February.

Healthy Food Made Easy is a six-week healthy cooking course designed to help participants learn how to prepare tasty, nutritious meals on a budget.



## Enterprise Training in full swing in February

Enterprise training was in full swing in February, with a range of programmes launched to support pre-enterprise development across Inishowen.

Our popular Start Your Own Business Course commenced, supporting individuals exploring self-employment and entrepreneurship. This was followed by our Easy Bookkeeping for Small Businesses course, a practical workshop focused on maintaining financial records and managing business accounts.

A Silver Service and Customer Care Programme, funded by Taste 4 Success Skillnet, also got underway, helping participants develop practical skills for the hospitality and service sectors.

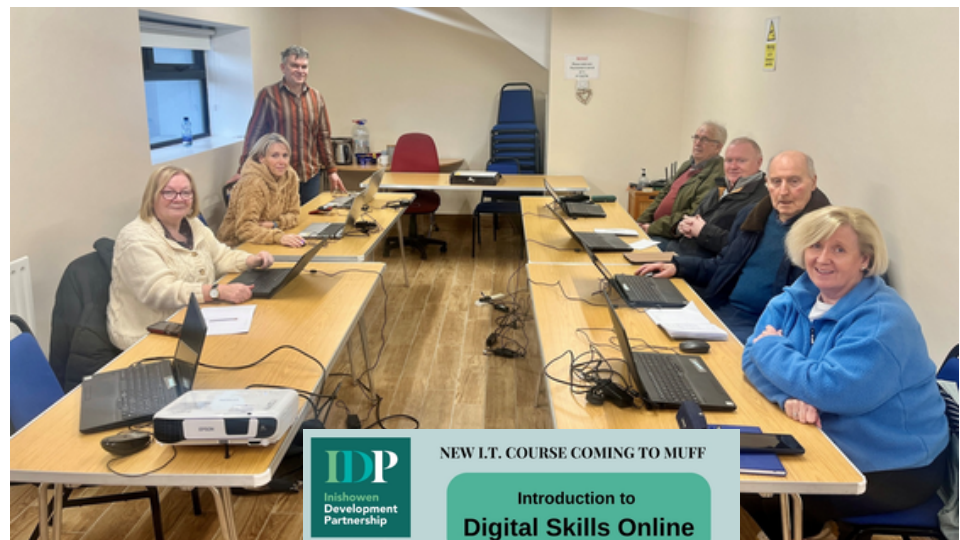
These programmes reflect IDP's ongoing commitment to responding to local training needs and supporting people to progress into employment, self-employment, and enterprise development.



## Digital Skills Training in Muff

There is great energy and focus from participants in Muff during IDP's Digital Skills course with our IT Trainer, Denis during February. This introductory programme supports adults to build confidence using email, online services, online safety tools, booking systems and more.

For more on IT Training with IDP call us on 074 93 62218 or alternatively email: [denis@inishowen.ie](mailto:denis@inishowen.ie)



**IDP**  
Inishowen  
Development  
Partnership

**NEW LT. COURSE COMING TO MUFF**

**Introduction to Digital Skills Online**

Start Date: **Wednesday 4th February 2026**  
Duration: **6-week course FREE**  
Time: **11am to 1pm**  
Location: **Muff Community Centre**  
St. Mary's Community Hall  
F93 1032

**PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED, SO BOOK NOW!**  
phone: 074 93 62218 email: [denis@inishowen.ie](mailto:denis@inishowen.ie)

## IDP staff take part in Diversity and Decision-Making training

We had great feedback on the learning over the two days from all the members of IDP team and the IFAN Integrating Communities subgroup who took part in the Diversity and Decision-Making 2-day Training which concluded in February.

The training was organised by Freya Stancombe-Taylor & Emma Lou Kerr, Intercultural Project Team (Diversity in Decision Making & Pride Not Prejudice) at [Donegal Travellers Project](#) - A project supported by PEACEPLUS; a programme managed by the [Special EU Programmes Body - SEUPB](#) through [Donegal County Council](#). Well done to all involved.



## Child safeguarding Training



Well done to everyone who took part in certified Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Training with [National Youth Council of Ireland](#) during February.

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.

## Unfinished Broadside at Millennium Forum

IDP enjoyed a memorable evening at the Millennium Forum in Derry in February for The Unfinished Broadside, a powerful production exploring Ireland and Scotland's role in the birth of America. The performance was supported through IDP's International Fund for Ireland-funded EMBRACE Programme.



## New Care4Carers Programme launch

We had a lovely morning today at the launch of our Care 4 Carers 2026 programme.

We welcomed back some of the 2025 crew and met some new family carers who are interested in taking some time out to prioritise themselves and their wellbeing.. without guilt! Care4Carers is a dedicated 8 week programme aimed at empowering family carers and helping them to prioritise themselves whilst caring. During the morning we heard from stress management expert Mary Bradley Wellbeing who gave some practical stress busting exercises and emphasised the importance of not trying to drink from an empty cup.



## Women and the Border workshop in Letterkenny

IDP took part in a productive workshop at Central Library, Letterkenny, which kindly hosted the event as part of the Transcending Borders Project.

The workshop, titled "Women and the Border," explored the barriers, gaps, and challenges experienced by women living in the Border region, particularly in relation to service provision and lived experience. The session also identified opportunities for collaboration and the development of meaningful cross-border connections. IDP would like to thank all organisations and individuals who contributed to an insightful and constructive discussion.

The Transcending Borders Project is funded under the Reconciliation Fund from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



## Full house for Movies&Tea

We had a great time at Movies & Tea at Buncrana Cinema during February.

A great crowd as always. Thanks to the cinema and St Marys Hall Buncrana for hosting and to all the volunteers who helped out.

Looking forward to the next one at the end of the month keep an eye on socials for updates



# Supporting Parents and Families Through Parents Plus



Throughout the year, IDP continues to support parents and families through the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme by delivering the evidence-based Parents Plus Programmes. These programmes provide parents with practical tools, guidance, and confidence to support their children's wellbeing while strengthening positive family relationships.

Recognising the many pressures faced by parents and carers, IDP goes beyond programme delivery by creating opportunities for self-care, connection, and wellbeing. Following each session, parents are offered dedicated space and time to relax, reflect, and connect with others in a supportive environment. These informal opportunities allow participants to build social networks, share experiences, and take valuable time for themselves.



## RISE Project Launches Across Europe

At the end of February, IDP's Tracey McGrory and Shauna McClenaghan travelled to Cáceres, Spain, to take part in the launch of RISE (Resilience, Inclusion & Sustainability through Empowerment), IDP's newest Erasmus+ funded project. RISE is an exciting international initiative designed to empower young people aged 18–30 to become climate leaders and changemakers within their communities. Bringing together partners and participants from six European countries, the project will provide opportunities for young people to develop skills in climate justice, sustainability, advocacy, and community engagement. The project marks an important step in supporting the next generation of climate advocates and strengthening international cooperation on sustainability issues. IDP is delighted to be part of this innovative partnership and looks forward to supporting young people as they rise together for a greener future.

# Keeping up with Fairbruary at ChangeMakers event in Moville



We were delighted to see people attending the Change Makers Conversations toward Action event in Moville in February enjoying Fairtrade Tea and Coffee in St. Eugene's Hall.

As a proud Fairtrade Ireland Workplace, IDP is delighted to support Fairbruary, shining a light on fairer choices that protect farmers, workers and our planet. Small switches — like choosing Fairtrade tea, coffee or chocolate — help make a real difference.

If you would like to consider becoming a Fairtrade workplace see more at : see more at [www.fairtrade.ie](http://www.fairtrade.ie) or connect with ChangeMakers: [www.changemakers.ie/sp/](http://www.changemakers.ie/sp/)



## Meeting with DCC climate action team

Members of the IDP team met with Donegal County Council Climate Action team members, Suzanne Bogan and Fiona Kelly at the Buncrana office. Suzanne gave the team an overview of the Mission Oriented Innovation (MOI) course and outlined a systems mapping exercise to aid with the further development of DCC's Interreg Mindset project.



## IDP at Social Enterprise conference in Derry



IDP's Ana McColgan attended the Social Enterprise NI Annual Social Value Conference in Derry in February. Here she met with Caroline Lynch from Rural Area Partnership Incorporated , IDP's partner on the HARC PEACEPLUS project. Both Development Officers work closely on supporting Social Enterprise Development.

## Sewing for Good during Fairbruary



Well done to everyone who took part in our PEACEPLUS Inishowen Is Ours Sewing for Good workshops at Buncrana Library! Over two sessions, participants came together to enjoy Fairtrade coffee, learn new sewing skills, create reusable bunting, and take home their very own upcycled project. A huge thank you to the **Donegal County Library** for being such supportive partners —

your space and staff helped make this a warm and welcoming community experience and to our facilitator Margaret Weir for her time and expertise. This project was delivered through the PEACEPLUS Programme, supported by the Special EU Programmes Body - SEUPB, funded through the Donegal County Council PEACEPLUS Local Co-designed Action Plan - Inishowen is Ours.

## Employment Support Workshops Across Inishowen

In February, IDP delivered a series of Jobseeker Jumpstart employment support workshops across Buncrana and Moville, supporting participants to build confidence and practical skills for their job search. The workshops covered job search strategies, CV preparation and interview readiness, and were facilitated by IDP's Employment Support team, including Employment Support Worker Shauna McSwine. The sessions provided a supportive and practical space for participants to focus on next steps towards employment.



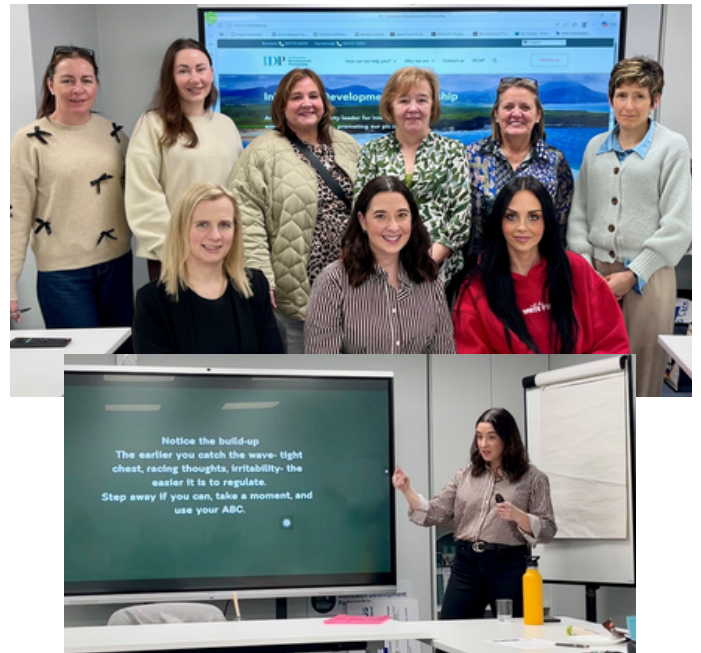
## Social Farming Erasmus+ project

IDP is proud to contribute to this collaborative journey toward more inclusive and resilient rural territories promoting rural sustainability. As part of the **#ErasmusPlus** project Seeds of Ecosocial Innovation. IDP explored how social agriculture can drive innovation, inclusion and sustainable development in rural areas. The event brought together partners from Italy and Ireland, regional authorities and sector stakeholders, creating a dynamic space for dialogue and exchange.



## Care4Carers 2026 starts in Buncrana

Day One of our 2026 Care4Carers Programme is complete, and what a powerful start it was! A huge thank-you to all the carers who took time out of their busy lives to join us. Your openness, energy, and support for one another set the tone for an incredible 8 week programme ahead. We're also deeply grateful to **Mary Bradley** of Mary Bradley Wellbeing for delivering such an empowering and impactful workshop. Her session helped us connect more deeply, share experiences, and open up about the everyday stresses and emotions that carers face. Here's to continuing this journey together—stronger, supported, and seen.



## DCITS complete IT training with IDP in Buncrana

Congratulations to all participants from Donegal Community Inclusion Training Services (DCITS) in Buncrana who successfully completed our Digital Skills programme at the end of February.

Over the course of the programme, participants showed great commitment and enthusiasm, developing valuable digital skills week by week.

A sincere thank you to our IT Trainer Denis Kelly for his expert guidance, and to the DCITS support workers for their ongoing encouragement throughout the programme.



## Local Enterprise week launch

In March, we were delighted to attend the opening event of Local Enterprise Office Donegal's Local Enterprise Week, "Communicating with Leadership and Impact."

The event featured insightful contributions from Terry Prone and Richard Curran, offering valuable perspectives on effective communication and leadership.



# IDP's celebrate its learners during

In March, we hosted our annual Celebration of Learners at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel in Buncrana, recognising the achievements of participants across a wide range of programmes.

A large number of learners received certificates in both accredited and non-accredited courses, including Environmental Sustainability, Employability Skills, Payroll, Bookkeeping, Chainsaw Certification and more. This year's event was particularly special as it marked the

first major celebration in IDP's 30th anniversary year, highlighting three decades of empowering communities through education, training and support.

We extend our sincere thanks to our learner speakers Olivia, Sean and Mildred, our MC Diane Greer, our dedicated tutors and partners, and especially Donegal ETB for their continued collaboration in making learning accessible across Inishowen.



March 2026

# annual Celebration of Learners Event



## Local Enterprise Week – Work Smarter, Safer Outcomes

In March, we were pleased to host a Local Enterprise Week event at An Grianan Hotel, Burt, titled “Work Smarter, Safer Outcomes” with Cyber Security Expert Dr Clare Ryan, CEO of ITUS. The event was formally opened by Brenda Hegarty from Local Enterprise Office Donegal and IDP Chairperson Francis Burns. It was encouraging to see such strong attendance from local businesses, reflecting the growing interest in digital innovation and security. The practical workshop explored how automation and AI can enhance efficiency and support business growth, while also focusing on the safe adoption of new technologies and key security considerations.

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office



## IDP at AONTAS STAR Awards in Dublin

In March, we were delighted to attend the AONTAS STAR Awards at Croke Park, held as part of the National Adult Learners’ Festival. The awards celebrate the positive impact of adult learning initiatives and recognise the vital contribution they make to individuals, communities and wider society. It was an inspiring event, showcasing the transformative power of lifelong learning and the achievements of learners and organisations across the country.



## Employment Skills Workshop at Foróige Buncrana

In March, our Employment Support Team visited the young people at Foróige Buncrana for an interactive workshop focused on preparing for the world of work.

The session covered key topics including building confidence for future job opportunities, understanding what employers are looking for, practical tips for CVs and interviews, and recognising individual strengths and skills. The group engaged enthusiastically throughout, contributing ideas and asking thoughtful questions. We are delighted to support and encourage them as they take their first steps towards further training, education and employment.

Our thanks to Foróige Buncrana for the invitation – we look forward to returning.



## Celebrating International Women's Day in Culdaff



In March, we enjoyed a wonderful morning in Culdaff celebrating International Women's Day with members of the local community. The event began with a scenic walk to Dunmore Head, where local historian Sean Beattie delivered an engaging talk on notable women from the area's past, bringing local history to life. Participants then returned to the Wee Hall in Culdaff for lunch and to learn more about the inspiring environmental initiatives

being developed through Eco Culdaff. The PeacePlus HARC Eco & Wellbeing Programme also provided a brief update on its upcoming plans. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate community, shared history and the inspiring individuals who continue to shape both. This event was funded through the PEACEPLUS Programme Inishowen is Ours, supported by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Donegal County Council.

## Easi-Bookkeeping for Small Business

In March, we delivered our EASI Bookkeeping for Small Businesses training at the IDP offices in Bunrana. This two-session course provided practical guidance for small business owners on maintaining accurate financial records, managing cash flow and preparing basic accounts. The programme was fully booked, highlighting the strong demand for accessible, hands-on supports for local businesses.

**EASI BOOKKEEPING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

**IDP**  
Development Partnership

Join our 2 practical Bookkeeping Sessions on how to:

- Maintain source documentation to ensure accurate and organised bookkeeping.
- Use cash books to track basic income and expenses.
- Keep detailed sales records for more comprehensive transaction tracking.
- Utilise analysed cash books to support budgeting and cash flow management.
- Manage minor expenses with the petty cash imprest system.
- Prepare accurate trading and profit & loss accounts.
- Support budgeting and financial planning through proper record-keeping.

**Dates:**  
Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th  
March 2026

Fully Booked

**Venue:**  
Inishowen Development Partnership Offices,  
Bunrana, F93 EE39

**To book your place see our website:**  
[inishowen.ie/whats-on/](http://inishowen.ie/whats-on/)

**IDP** 30 Years  
People Place Progress

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland | Co-Funded by the European Union | Anna chomhcheiliú ag an Aontas Eorpach | LCDC

## SICAP Small Grants launched

In March, IDP launched the SICAP Small Grants Programme, inviting Community and Voluntary Groups across Inishowen to apply. The programme supports groups that are making a positive difference in their local communities, helping to strengthen inclusion, participation and grassroots initiatives. A wide range of projects were eligible for support, reflecting the diverse needs and ambitions of communities across the region. We were delighted with the strong level of interest and the high quality of applications received. We look forward to supporting a variety of impactful community-led projects through this initiative.



Community & Voluntary Groups are invited to apply for

### IDP Small Grants Programme

Deadline for submission is  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 at 4:00 pm**

This programme is supported by the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

**To get your application form:**

☎ 074 93 62218

✉ Email: [rachel@inishowen.ie](mailto:rachel@inishowen.ie)

🌐 Website: [www.inishowen.ie](http://www.inishowen.ie)



## Threads of Time Series a huge success in Burt

Over March and April, we were delighted to deliver our Threads of Time series at An Grianan Hotel, Burt, bringing together a rich programme of talks celebrating heritage, storytelling and culture.

The series featured an outstanding line-up of speakers who shared their knowledge and passion across a range of fascinating topics:

- Jo Kerrigan, who explored Ireland's ancient traditions, including Brehon Law and the folklore of fairy forts
- Joe Mahon, who brought the hidden corners and everyday stories of Ireland vividly to life
- Professor Kevin Whelan, who guided audiences through centuries of Irish identity and cultural history
- Linda Ervine, who offered an engaging and accessible perspective on the Irish language
- Jan Carson, who inspired with her work in storytelling, community arts and peace-building

Each session was very well attended and sparked lively discussion, reflecting a strong interest in exploring our shared past and cultural identity.

We extend our sincere thanks to all speakers for their generous contributions, and to everyone who participated in making the series such a success. The Threads of Time programme highlighted the important role of storytelling and heritage in strengthening community connections.

This programme was supported through the PEACEPLUS Programme, under the Shared Heritage theme, and delivered in partnership with Donegal County Council.



## Chance Project visit Stormont, Belfast

This spring has been an exciting and educational time for participants in IDP's Chance Project, proudly funded by the International Fund for Ireland (IFI).

### Visit to Stormont

In March, a group of Chance participants had the fantastic opportunity to visit Stormont, where they met with Edwin (Edmund) Poots MLA. During the visit, participants learned first-hand about the workings of government, the importance of political engagement, and how decisions are made that impact communities across Northern Ireland.

The visit was made even more special as the group attended alongside another IFI-supported youth initiative, MYe Future (Milford). Bringing young people together from different projects created a valuable opportunity for shared learning, discussion, and building connections across communities.

As part of their wider educational programme, participants also took part in a guided tour of Stormont. This offered deeper insight into the history of the Assembly, the roles of different political parties, and the importance of democratic institutions. Continuing the theme of learning through experience, the group also visited Crumlin Road Gaol, one of Northern Ireland's most historic and significant sites. They explored the history of the prison, gaining insight into the social, political, and cultural context of its past. The visit encouraged reflection, discussion, and a greater appreciation of the region's history.



## Celebrating the International Day of Forests in Movice



In March, we celebrated International Day of Forests with a wonderful community event at Carnagarve, Movice, in partnership with Carnagarve Forest Friends. The afternoon brought together people of all ages to enjoy the beauty of the forest while taking part in a range of engaging activities. Highlights included an insightful talk by Forestry Consultant Ross Buchanan, hands-on bushcraft sessions, live

music and refreshments, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for all. Our thanks to everyone who joined us and contributed to such an enjoyable and memorable day. This event was supported through the HARC (Healthy Active Rural Communities) project, a PEACEPLUS-funded initiative managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

## International Social Prescribing Day in Buncrana

In March, we marked International Social Prescribing Day with a wonderful celebration at Buncrana Wellness Café.

The event highlighted the important role social prescribing plays in supporting health and wellbeing by connecting people within their communities.

A special thanks also to the Health Promotion Team within the HSE under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, whose co-funding and support make this work possible.



## Advocating for Rural Development and LEADER



In March, IDP's Joint CEO Andrew Ward played a leading role at a national engagement in Dublin, joining representatives and Local Development Company CEOs from across the country to present compelling evidence on over 30 years of the LEADER programme as a key driver of rural development.

Andrew is pictured alongside John Paul O'Shea, Cathaoirleach of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social Protection, Rural and Community Development; Senator Anne Rabbitte; and fellow

Local Development Company CEOs Roisin Lennon (Offaly LDC), Aileen Duffy, Eileen Linehan, Maura Walsh (IRD Duhallow) and Padraic Fingleton (DLDC).

Together, the delegation delivered a strong and unified message to Government and the European Union, highlighting the importance of sustained investment in Community-Led Local Development and the continued value of an area-based approach in supporting and strengthening rural communities.

On March 20th, we came together to celebrate our newest group of Hope Ambassadors – graduates of the 6 week Hopeful Minds programme at the Carrowmenagh Centre. Their celebration in McGrory's Hotel Culdaff marked another step in building a community where wellbeing and resilience take Centre stage.

We were joined by the two community facilitators and the co-founder of Resilio Hope Matters Marie Dunne and the Hope Ambassador Mandy Chisholm. The message is very clear there is "no health without mental health" and it needs to be the corner stone for all that we do. Hopeful Minds is a hope-based programme with a focus for participants on hope, wellbeing, resilience, and adaptive coping skills. Thanks to our 12 graduates, their community facilitators of hope and our hosts in the Carrowmenagh Centre.

## Hope is growing in Inishowen



This is part of the two-year programme, Inclusion Not Isolation, which is being delivered by Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP). The project is funded by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body – SEUPB through Donegal County Council, and forms part of Donegal's Local Community Action Plan.

## Office Administration Course Completion



In March, we were delighted to celebrate the successful completion of our six-week Office Administration course.

Participants showed great commitment throughout the programme, building their skills, confidence and readiness for the workplace. Their dedication to learning and personal development was truly inspiring, and they should be very proud of their achievements.



We were also pleased to welcome Claire McNicholl, Adult Literacy Organiser for Inishowen with Donegal ETB, on the final day. Claire shared valuable insights on further training opportunities and progression pathways, helping participants to consider their next steps as they continue their learning journey. Well done to everyone involved.

## QQI Environmental Sustainability Awareness completed in Merville



In March, participants successfully completed a four-week Environmental Sustainability Awareness course (QQI Level 4), delivered at St Eugene's Hall, Merville. The programme brought together individuals with a shared interest in taking practical action to support sustainability within their communities, organisations and businesses.

Led by tutor Aengus Kennedy of Nature North West, and supported by guest speakers throughout, the course explored key environmental topics and encouraged participants to take positive, achievable steps towards more sustainable practices. Sessions combined theory with practical learning, helping to build both awareness and confidence in addressing environmental challenges.

The final session included a visit to Merville Community Gardens, providing participants with an opportunity to see sustainability



in action at a local level and to connect learning with real-life community initiatives.

This course was made possible through the support of Donegal ETB Community Education programme, and was delivered as part of the PEACEPLUS Inishowen Is Ours Programme, funded by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) in partnership with Donegal County Council.

## Exploring Me Programme for Family Carers

Over March and April, our family carers took part in the Care4Carers: Exploring Me Programme, an eight-week series focused on wellbeing, personal development and skills building. Throughout the programme, participants engaged in a variety of activities designed to support both physical and mental wellbeing. Sessions included a gentle Tai Chi taster with Tai Chi Donegal, chair yoga, and a relaxing and creative flower-arranging workshop with The Floral Bar, where participants learned new skills and took home their own Easter arrangements. Carers also benefited from practical supports, including a Health and Nutrition workshop with Community Food and Nutrition Worker Niamh Britton, and a Manage My Home session delivered by Donegal ETB at ICARE Buncrana, focusing on budgeting and money-saving tips. Workshops on employment support and a talk from Active Inishowen on the new Inishowen Trails network further encouraged participants to explore opportunities for the future. The programme provided a valuable space for carers to take time for themselves, connect with others, and build confidence and skills. A sincere thank you to all facilitators and partners who supported and delivered sessions throughout the programme. Care4Carers is funded by the Department of Social Protection through the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2024.



# HARC Art Classes for over 55s at Carrowmenagh



In April, we got off to a fantastic start with our Together Through Art programme at Carrowmenagh Community Centre, with a full house for the first session. Participants enjoyed a positive and engaging day painting together and connecting through creativity.

The programme is supported through the HARC (Healthy Active Rural Communities) project, a PEACEPLUS-supported initiative managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

# IDP's history of peacebuilding discussed in Brussels

In April, IDP Joint CEO Andrew Ward travelled to Brussels for a series of meetings alongside cross-border partner Philip O'Kane of Rural Area Partnership. During the visit, thanks to Gina McIntyre of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), there was an opportunity to discuss PEACEPLUS and reflect on IDP's long-standing work in peace building. Andrew also met with MEPs Nina Carberry and Ciaran Mullooly, as well as local Inishowen native John McGilloway, EU Policy Advisor, strengthening connections at EU level.





## Active Inishowen Walks in Buncrana, Shroove



In April, our Active Inishowen project delivered some excellent walks as part of the wider Guided Walk Series 2026. Over the weekend of 11–12 April, participants enjoyed a beginners' guided photography walk along the Buncrana Shore Path, followed by a Camino preparation walk on the Inishowen Head Loop. Both events were well attended and offered a great mix of relaxed learning and moderate challenge, while showcasing the stunning coastal landscapes of Inishowen and encouraging people of all abilities to get active outdoors.

Delivered with the support of local partners including Donegal Sports Partnership and Sport Ireland, the walk series successfully reinforced Active Inishowen's commitment to creating inclusive opportunities for people to connect with the outdoors.



## First Eco Buncrana Network meeting takes place

In April the first meeting of ECO Buncrana network took place. This is following on from the consultation process and strategy developed in 2025. Over 100 community members took part in the focus groups, from

youth, community and environmental groups, statutory agencies and local and newcommunity members, sharing ideas, concerns and solutions. Already actions have been taken from the strategy with more in the planning.



Eco Inishowen Advisory Group



## DCB Childs Art Project in Moville

IDP successfully delivered a Wellbeing and Resilience Programme for Transition Year students at Moville Community College, supporting young people living with the challenges of homes affected by Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB). The programme, which concluded earlier this year, was provided free of charge through Tusla funding as part of wider supports for families impacted by the DCB/MICA crisis. It was developed and delivered in partnership with Foróige and Donegal Youth Service, with eco-art therapy at its core.

Through a series of creative and outdoor workshops, students built confidence, teamwork and coping skills. The programme report noted that participants engaged very well and benefited from exploring stress factors while working collectively to build resilience. Further programmes are planned for Buncrana and Carn to ensure continued support for young people across Inishowen.



## Strength and Motion Classes for over 55s in Buncrana

In April, we saw a fantastic turnout for the first week of our Strength and Motion classes in Buncrana. It was great to see such enthusiasm and energy from everyone who took part. A big thank you to Oisín O'Flaherty Fitness and Performance for delivering an engaging and supportive session.

Following the success in Buncrana, the programme expanded to Carndonagh, with Strength and Motion classes for over 55s focusing on improving strength, balance and mobility in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

This free 8-week initiative is supported through the HARC Project, funded by PEACEPLUS and the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



## The Third Chapter Society in Muff



In April, we were delighted to see a strong turnout for the first meeting of the Third Chapter Society at The Treehouse Restaurant in Muff. It was encouraging to see such a diverse group come together for an engaging afternoon of conversation, helping to create a positive and welcoming atmosphere as the initiative begins to take shape.

This initiative is supported by PEACEPLUS through the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and delivered as part of the HARC Project.



## HACCP upskilling training for CE participants in Carn

In April, IDP's Community Employment Supervisors organised HACCP training for CE participants in Childcare and Health & Social Care at Colgan Hall, Carndonagh.

This training is a vital component in these sectors, helping to ensure high standards of hygiene, food safety and care for the communities they support.

A sincere thank you to Martin Lynch for delivering an informative and engaging session, and well done to CE Supervisors Shauna Gallagher and Pauline O'Connor for organising this valuable opportunity for participants.



# We Can Quit success in Buncrana and Carn

Huge congratulations to the two recent groups who have successfully completed IDP's Sláintecare Healthy Communities We Can Quit programme.

The programme was delivered with one group at the Pastoral Centre in Carndonagh and with a second group in Inishowen Engineering at Drumfries. This was the first time IDP has worked with a local business in Inishowen to deliver We Can Quit, and we are hopeful this will encourage more workplace-based groups to take part in the future. Participants showed real commitment and dedication to giving up smoking, with the peer and group support playing a key role throughout the programme. The shared experience, encouragement and understanding within each group were central to supporting positive change. A sincere thank you to our excellent facilitators, Orlaith McNamee and Sheila Keyes, for their guidance, encouragement and ongoing support. Well done to everyone involved.



**We look forward to running another We Can Quit programme this autumn – email [claire@inishowen.ie](mailto:claire@inishowen.ie) if you are interested in signing up or workplaces are interested in signing up.**



## IDP attend Universal Design Workshop at Donegal ETB

In April, IDP staff were pleased to attend a Universal Design Workshop in Letterkenny, which focused on practical and inclusive approaches to ensuring that services and information are accessible to all.

The workshop was delivered by Helena Farrell, Universal Design Lead with Cork Education and Training Board, and provided valuable insights into how small, thoughtful changes can significantly improve accessibility and inclusion in everyday practice. Staff found the session both informative and inspiring, and we look forward to applying these learnings across our work.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Adele McElhinney, Regional Literacy Co-ordinator with Donegal ETB,



for organising the workshop through the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy. As a proud member of the ALL network, IDP is committed to continuing engagement in initiatives that support inclusive and accessible services.

## Pension and Retirement Guidance session in Moville



In April, we held a very informative Pension and Retirement Guidance session at Moville Men's Shed. It was a great morning, with plenty of discussion, questions and shared learning among attendees. Many thanks

to James and Emma from Citizens Information for their time and expertise in delivering such a valuable session, and to the team at Moville Men's Shed for their warm welcome and support in hosting the event.

## Start Your Own Business course in Carn

In April, we were delighted to deliver our popular Start Your Business course in Carndonagh for the first time in 2026. The programme saw a full room at Colgan Hall, with participants bringing a wide range of business ideas to life.

We look forward to seeing these ideas continue to develop in the months ahead. For more information on enterprise supports with IDP, contact Enterprise Officer Sinéad McDaid at [sinead@inishowen.ie](mailto:sinead@inishowen.ie).



## Digital Skills IT Classes get underway in Moville

In April, our Digital Skills course got underway at Moville District Family Resource Centre as part of Donegal County Council Social Inclusion Week. The programme aims to build confidence in using online tools, email, and digital security in everyday life.

A big thank you to IT tutor Denis Kelly for leading the sessions, and to Michael McDermott and the team at Moville District Family Resource Centre for their support in hosting the course. We also thank everyone who took part in this valuable initiative.



**Pictured L-R: Michael McDermott Moville Resource Centre and Denis Kelly IDP's IT trainer**



# HARC Project Move and Mingle in Carrowmenagh



In April, we were delighted to launch the first session of our Move and Mingle programme at Carrowmenagh Centre. This initiative brings people aged 55 and over together to enjoy gentle movement, connection, and conversation in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Move and Mingle is delivered as part of the HARC (Healthy and Active Rural Communities) Project and is funded by PEACEPLUS through the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). For more information please contact [hannah@inishowen.ie](mailto:hannah@inishowen.ie).

## Health and Wellbeing improving at Moville Men's Shed



In April, our Health and Wellbeing Programme began at Moville Men's Shed, offering a mix of practical and informative sessions. Early activities included a healthy cookery workshop, health checks, and talks on nutrition, alongside sessions

on falls prevention, focusing on balance, strength, and reducing risks. The programme is part of the HARC Project, supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by SEUPB. For more information, contact [hannah@inishowen.ie](mailto:hannah@inishowen.ie).

## Weaving Connections for over 55s in Carrowmenagh

In April, the Weaving Connections Through Heritage programme got off to a fantastic start at Carrowmenagh Centre. Participants enjoyed a relaxed and welcoming first session, with plenty of conversation and a strong sense of connection while beginning to learn and share spinning and weaving skills. This free 6-week course for people aged 55+ focuses on creativity, heritage, and social connection. The programme is delivered by IDP as part of the HARC Project, supported by PEACEPLUS and the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



Congratulations to all 11 participants who successfully completed our 12-week QQI Level 5 Payroll, Manual & Computerised programme! Over the past 12 weeks, participants gained valuable payroll knowledge and practical skills to help them work effectively in an office environment. Well done to everyone on this fantastic achievement and to the Trainer Emma Farren. We wish you every success in your future careers and future learning journeys. This programme was part-funded by the Donegal ETB Community Education Programme.

## QQI Level 5 Payroll course



## BAT Watch continues in Moville

The Bat Watch programme got off to a fantastic start in April at Moville Men's Shed, with a great turnout for the first session. Since then, participants have been getting hands-on with bat detectors, learning about local bat habitats, and even building and installing their own bat boxes. Bat Watch is delivered as part of the Healthy and Active Rural Communities (HARC) Project, supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



Participants from the CE Health and Social Care programme recently completed their People Moving and Handling training, an essential step in preparing for roles within care settings. This important training equips participants with the knowledge and practical skills needed to support others safely, while also protecting their own wellbeing. It is a key requirement across many placements and greatly enhances employability within the health and social care sector.

## CE Participants Complete Moving and Handling Training



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection

A sincere thank you to Donegal Safety Services Ltd for delivering the training, and to CE Supervisor Shauna Gallagher for organising the sessions and for her continued support of participants throughout the programme.

# Retirement/Entitlements session at Carn Men’s Shed



In May, we were delighted to see a full room at our Retirement Entitlements & Budgeting session held at Carn Men’s Shed.

A sincere thank you to our guest speakers—Ann from Citizens Information and Elaine and Rachel from MABS (Money Advice & Budgeting Service)

—for practical advice and leading an informative Q&A session that was of great benefit to all who attended. We also extend our thanks to Carn Men’s Shed for their warm hospitality. We look forward to hosting more informative sessions like this in the future.

# Celebrating 40 years of the International Fund for Ireland

In May, IDP’s Joint CEO Shauna McClenaghan attended an event marking 40 years of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI)—a milestone celebrating decades of peacebuilding and community development.

It was inspiring to be among community leaders and partners who continue to strengthen connections and build trust across communities.

For over 30 years, IDP and its predecessor organisations have been proud to work alongside IFI, supporting communities to grow, reconnect, and create a more positive future.



# ChangeMakers Donegal Connect with North West Leadership Network

This week Our team member, Myra McAuliffe, from the Change Makers Donegal met with fellow members of the Holywell Trust’s Leadership Collective. The network met with Steven Lindsay, the President of the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce and CEO Anna Doherty to learn about the Chamber’s significant work in the North West City Region. Last month, the Londonderry Chamber, along with the Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce presented to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement at Leinster House, highlighting the region’s potential.



# IDP's new HARC Team makes impact



Since coming together in January 2026, the new HARC team at Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) has already made a strong and positive impact across our communities. Working as part of the Healthy Active Rural Communities (HARC) Project, the team is contributing to a transformative initiative focused on improving health, wellbeing and social inclusion throughout Inishowen and beyond. The HARC project, supported through PEACEPLUS funding, represents a major investment in rural communities. The strength of the HARC initiative lies in its dedicated team, who bring a wealth of experience, energy and passion to their roles:

- Christina Perry, PEACEPLUS Programmes Coordinator,
- Meg O'Doherty, Development Officer – Eco and Well-being.
- Hannah McGettigan, Development Officer – Older People and Carers, and
- Ana McColgan, Development Officer – Social Enterprises, a long-standing and highly respected member of the IDP team,

In just a few short months, the team has hit the ground running—engaging with communities, building relationships, and laying the foundations for programmes that will deliver long-term benefits. Through their work, the IDP HARC team is already contributing to these goals, ensuring that the needs of local people are at the heart of programme delivery.

### Looking Ahead

As the HARC project continues to develop throughout 2026 and beyond, the energy and commitment of this team will be central to its success. Their early achievements are a testament to the positive impact that collaboration, community engagement and strong leadership can bring.

We look forward to sharing more updates as their work progresses and as new programmes and opportunities are rolled out across the region.

*HARC Project*

Healthy and Active Rural Communities



## Making Peaceful Change gets underway

May also seen our new Team Member Michael Abbott join the team under our new Making Peaceful Change Project. "Making Peaceful Change" is an ambitious arts-based peacebuilding initiative led by The Playhouse in Derry in partnership with IDP. It is supported by PEACEPLUS programme and the Special EU programmes Body and it uses creativity, workshops, and storytelling to heal communities, confront shared challenges, and amplify local voices across the border region.



## HARC Hiking Programme kicks off



The HARC Hiking Programme got off to a fantastic start this May, with our first hike exploring the spectacular Urris Hills. Led by the excellent team at Far and Wild, participants enjoyed a memorable day taking in the stunning landscapes while connecting with others in the great outdoors. It was also a pleasure to welcome Ciara Steele from Peace-AIR through ERNACT on the day.



The programme continues this month with an ecological and historical tour of ancient Irish woodland in Glentogher, guided by Ross Buchanan. This promises to be a fascinating journey through local heritage and biodiversity.



Running from May to October, the HARC Hiking Programme offers monthly guided hikes across Inishowen, including a cross-border event in partnership with RAPID NI. All hikes are led by qualified Mountain Leaders, making them accessible, safe, and enjoyable for participants of all experience levels.



## Baking and Bonding with HARC Project in Carrowmenagh

In May, our 6-week Bake & Bond programme got underway at Carrowmenagh Centre. Participants learnt new recipes but most importantly, enjoyed great company along the way. The programme is specifically designed for older people and carers, offering a welcoming space to take time out, build confidence, learn practical skills, and connect with others in the community. Thanks to Carolyn McKinley for leading the sessions.

Bake & Bond is delivered as part of the Healthy and Active Rural Communities (HARC) Project, supported by PEACEPLUS and managed by Special EU Programmes Body.



## HARC Growing Workshops in Carn



The HARC Growing Workshops got off to a fantastic start in May at Carndonagh Nursery & Garden Centre, with a great turnout and plenty of positive energy.

Participants enjoyed hands-on learning in growing preparation and techniques, while also connecting with others interested in sustainable growing and healthy rural communities.

Thanks to everyone who took part, and to Donald Logue for facilitating such an engaging session. We look forward to the months ahead as the group continues to learn and grow together.

The HARC Project is funded by PEACEPLUS and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



## Threads of Time comes to a fantastic end

Our Threads of Time series came to a fantastic close this month with a memorable final day exploring some of Inishowen's most treasured heritage sites. From ancient fairy forts to the beautiful surroundings of Oakfield Park and the iconic Beltany Stone Circle, participants were expertly guided throughout the day by Dessie McCallion, whose knowledge and passion brought each location to life. Feedback on the series has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to connect, learn, and explore together. Adding to the experience, the day was blessed with glorious blue skies and sunshine from start to finish. Threads of Time forms part of the SHARED Heritage Programme and is funded by PEACEPLUS through the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Donegal County Council.



# Steps to Healthy Living with iAdult



Congratulations to all participants who recently completed our Steps into Healthy Living programme at iAdult, Buncrana. Over six weeks, participants built confidence and developed new skills through personal trainer-led fitness sessions and hands-on cookery classes in a supportive and welcoming environment. This was delivered in collaboration with Sláintecare Healthy Communities.



## Movies and Tea continues in Buncrana

Movies & Tea brought another great turnout, with attendees enjoying a relaxing afternoon at Buncrana Cinema, followed by lovely refreshments in St Mary's Hall, Buncrana. These monthly gatherings continue to provide a welcoming space for people to connect, unwind, and enjoy good company. A sincere thank you to everyone who came along, and to the staff and volunteers at St Mary's Hall for their support on the day. Movies & Tea runs monthly—keep an eye on our social media channels for details of the next event. For more information on social prescribing activities across Inishowen, please contact: [carmel@inishowen.ie](mailto:carmel@inishowen.ie)



In May, IDP launched its first Introduction to Healthcare Programme in Buncrana, and what a fantastic seven-week journey it has been. Developed in response to the growing demand for healthcare professionals across Inishowen, the programme provided participants with valuable insight into the local healthcare sector, helping them explore career opportunities, key employability skills, and progression pathways within the industry. Throughout the course, participants also completed a range of certified training modules, enhancing their knowledge and confidence as they considered future employment & Training opportunities in healthcare.

## Introduction to Healthcare Programme completed in Buncrana



## DCB Financial Support evening in Buncrana

Our Defective Concrete Blocks Financial Information Evening, held at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel in Buncrana in May, was very well attended and provided homeowners with clear and practical guidance on the supports available.

We extend our sincere thanks to the financial institutions, SEAI, and all participating organisations who delivered presentations and offered one-to-one support on the evening. We would also like to acknowledge our DCB facilitators, Anne Marie Lyons and Michelle Coyle, for their valuable support and coordination throughout the event. Events like this play an important role in supporting our community, and we are pleased to have brought key services together under one roof.

For more information on DCB supports through IDP, visit: <https://inishowen.ie/support/dcb-mica-support/> or call 07493 62218.



# ChangeMakers Donegal Annual Gathering



There was a powerful focus on food, farming, and land at the ChangeMakers Donegal Annual Gathering in St. Mary's Hall, Buncrana, in May.

The Annual Gathering, which marked the close of the June '25–May '26 programme, brought together an inspiring line-up.

This included Rupa Marya (Trinity College Dublin), Ollie Moore (Talamh Beo), Mahmoud Zwahra, a farmer from Bethlehem, Palestine, and Joanne Fullerton of ChangeMakers Donegal.

With immense energy in the room, attendees engaged in meaningful conversations on local resilience and what food sovereignty means to us here in Donegal. They enjoyed a Food is Medicine-themed light supper prepared by Cúl a' Tí, celebrating the connection between local organic food, health, and community. On the evening of Friday, May 15, a group of up to 60 people participated in a Farm Walk at Muineagh Organic Farm in Buncrana. The event was led by local organic farmer Bernard De Ceuster, and visiting Palestinian farmer Mahmoud Zwahra also shared his thoughts, stating, "...I can see that you can see what is tomorrow, but in Palestine we cannot see what is tomorrow... so enjoy this, and keep rooted and connected to land because this is what gives you the power".

The weekend attracted around 140 attendees over two days, highlighting the community's strong interest in supporting local farmers, eating healthy organic food, and engaging with nature together with others.



## Field of Her Own a massive success at the Milk Bar

What a fantastic day at The Milk Bar for the Donegal IFA “Field of Her Own” event at the end of the month. From the warm and welcoming atmosphere to the stunning setting, it truly was a memorable occasion.

The day was filled with inspiring and honest conversations, with speakers sharing valuable insights and experiences that resonated with everyone in attendance. Every detail was thoughtfully delivered, contributing to an event that felt both meaningful and uplifting.

We at IDP were delighted to support this important initiative. Thank you to Shannon and the team at The Milk Bar, as well as everyone working behind the scenes to make the day such a success. We would also like to acknowledge the wonderful stall holders and supporters whose contributions added so much to the event.



## Understanding and Sharing Cultures in Buncrana

May marked the conclusion of our Understanding & Sharing Cultures course at Buncrana Community Library—and what a fantastic few weeks it was.

Throughout the programme, participants came together to explore different cultures, share personal perspectives, and engage in open and meaningful discussion. Each session was filled with thoughtful conversation, mutual respect, and a genuine sense of connection.

The Understanding Cultures course was supported under the Inishowen Is Ours Programme and part-funded by the PEACEPLUS



Programme through the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Donegal County Council.

# Strong turnout for Active Inishowen Bike Week



Malin Head



Slabh Sneacht

IDP was delighted to be involved in Bike Week this May, supporting a range of inclusive and community-focused cycling activities across Inishowen.

Throughout the week, participants took part in guided community e-bike sessions throughout the peninsula, as well bike maintenance and safety workshops. These events provided a great opportunity for individuals and families to get active, explore local routes, and enjoy the outdoors in a safe and supportive environment.

It was wonderful to see such strong turnout and enthusiasm at each event, highlighting the positive impact of Bike Week in promoting healthy lifestyles and community connection.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make Bike Week 2026 such a success! Bike Week was led by our Active Inishowen project worker Kevin McLaughlin, for more on this see:

<https://inishowen.ie/support/active-inishowen/>

## Greencastle



Inch Island

## Muff Greenway - Derry



Bike Mainenance Movable



Redcastle



Tip O'Neill



## Celebrating Africa Day through drumming

In May, we were delighted to celebrate Africa Day with our Rhythms of Connection workshop at The Exchange Inishowen, as part of a wider weekend of events.

The day brought together music, song, and drumming in a vibrant celebration of culture and community. Facilitators from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Ireland shared their talents and traditions, creating an inclusive and energetic atmosphere for all who attended. Participants connected through rhythm and creativity, making it a truly memorable experience.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the day so special. This project has been supported by Donegal County Council.



Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council



In May, IDP was delighted to launch a new addition to its Employability Ready series – Social Media & Marketing for Administrators. This free training programme was developed in response to local labour market needs and is designed to help participants develop the digital, communication and marketing skills that are increasingly sought after by employers across a wide range of sectors. Throughout the course, learners will build confidence and practical skills in key areas including social media for the workplace,

## Social Media & Marketing for Administrators



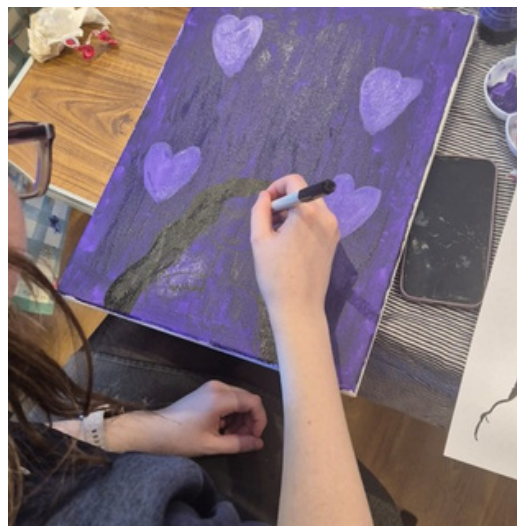
Canva and digital content creation, and PowerPoint and professional communication. The programme provides participants with valuable hands-on experience and helps enhance their employability in today's evolving workplace.

## IFAN Stronger Together

Our longstanding network under Inishowen Family Action Network IFAN continues to collaborate throughout the first half of 2026 with three in-person meetings in February, March and May. This is a space for joining the dots and hearing all about partners work including the new Education Welfare Officer covering Inishowen, the new IDP HARC Project and the changes happening at TUSLA the Child and Family Services.



## Supporting GO Purple Day in Carndonagh



In May, Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) was proud to support Lifeline Inishowen's Go Purple Day 2026, an important community initiative aimed at raising awareness of domestic violence and highlighting the support services available across Inishowen.

Participants from our Stronger Together

Programme, supported under the LCDC PEACEPLUS Inclusion Not Isolation Programme, got involved in a creative and meaningful way by producing a range of beautiful purple-themed artworks in advance of the event. The artwork reflected the spirit of solidarity, hope, and community support that Go Purple Day represents.

## Ukrainian Workshop on Enterprise Supports

We were delighted to host a workshop showcasing the wide range of supports and resources available to Ukrainians who are interested in starting or developing a business in Ireland. Thank you to our interpreter, Hanna Soloviova, for facilitating clear and effective communication throughout the session, and to Enterprise Officer Sinead McDaid for sharing insights on business start-up opportunities and the enterprise supports available to aspiring entrepreneurs.



# HARC Sea Swimming Lessons underway at Ludden Beach

What a fantastic evening we enjoyed in May at Ludden Beach in Buncrana for the launch of our Sea Swimming Lessons!

Delivered as part of the Healthy Active Rural Communities (HARC) Project, these sessions are all about building confidence and encouraging people to try something new in a safe, welcoming, and supportive setting. We're delighted to see such enthusiasm and community spirit as participants take their first steps into sea swimming.



## LDCN Communications Meeting in Mullingar



In May, IDP's Communications Officer Katie attended the National Local Development Companies Network Communications in Practice meeting in Mullingar.

This was a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, and learn from colleagues across the country on strengthening communications and community engagement.



## Supporting Alzheimer's Tea Day

In May, IDP Development Officer Áine McLaughlin attended an Alzheimer's Tea Day event at Spraoi agus Spórt, Carndonagh, alongside Bronagh Doyle from ALONE Donegal.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to show support for the important work of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, helping to raise awareness and vital funds for individuals and families in our communities living with dementia.

Thank you to everyone involved for the warm welcome, engaging conversations, and, of course, the tea.



# Evaluation of Social Prescribing Launch

In May our Team Lead for Health and Well-being Patricia Lee was invited to speak on the panel at the launch of the Department of Health Realist Evaluation of Social prescribing.

This evaluation amplified the value of social prescribing connecting in addressing isolation and loneliness. IDP has offered social prescribing in Inishowen since 2013 and was the second pilot initiative in Ireland with the first social prescribing programme being offered in Mayo in 2012.



## IDP attends workshop at Royal College of Surgeons

Our Team Lead for Health and Well-being at IDP is on the steering group for the Department of Health commissioned evaluation of Sláintecare Healthy Communities and in May attended the outcomes workshop in Royal College of Surgeons framing the future for SHCP.



**IDP** Inishowen Development Partnership  
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# Buzzing for World Bee Day thanks to Greencastle Community Centre

On 20th May – World Bee Day, Inishowen Development Partnership was proud to become the first local organisation to adopt a Pollinator Pitt-Stop planter

A huge thank you to Greencastle Centre and the dedicated volunteers behind this wonderful initiative, supported by the Change Makers Donegal Seeds of Change Fund. These planters, filled with pollinator-friendly flowers and bee water stations, are a simple but powerful way to support biodiversity in our community



# Love your Heritage Walk in Moville



We spent a fantastic morning at the end of May at our “Love Your Heritage – Stories of Then & Now” in Moville

The group enjoyed a lovely guided walk along the shore path before gathering in St. Eugene’s Hall - for tea, scones and great conversation. It was wonderful to hear local memories and reflect on how our community has changed over time. A big thank you to Patsy Toland from Change Makers Donegal for leading such an engaging and insightful discussion, and to everyone who joined us and shared their stories.



# Changing the Conversation with I-STAR

In May, we delivered an engaging online session, “Changing the Conversation: Countering Fear & Building Inclusion,” hosted by the Hope and Courage Collective through our I-STAR initiative. The session provided practical, supportive guidance to help participants respond to challenging conversations with clarity while promoting inclusion and understanding.

**Changing the Conversation: Countering Fear & Building Inclusion**

We're hearing more difficult conversations about migration. This practical session will help you respond with clarity. Learn simple, proven ways to challenge fear-based narratives and promote inclusion.

**May 27th 2026**  
Wednesday

Time: 12:30 - 2:20pm  
Online

Delivered by: The Hope and Courage Collective

Places limited. Register by scanning QR or through What's On on IDP website.

The I-STAR initiative is funded by Ireland Against Racism Fund.

Logos at the bottom: Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland, European Union, Anra chomhchaitís ag an Aontas Eorpach Co-Funded by the European Union, SUGAR, and PEACEPLUS.

## Bus Trip to Creative Gardens and Portstewart

In May, we enjoyed a fantastic day trip to Creative Gardens and Portstewart – with beautiful sunshine to match!

This collaborative outing, delivered in partnership with Sláintecare Healthy Communities Social Prescribing and our new HARC Project, provided a wonderful opportunity for people to relax, connect, and enjoy a change of scenery.

A brilliant day filled with great company, fresh air, and shared experiences.



## Buncrana Tidy Towns lunchtime meet up at IDP

We were delighted to welcome Seamus McLaughlin from the Buncrana Tidy Towns Initiative to speak with IDP staff and volunteers. Seamus delivered an engaging and practical session, highlighting the inspiring work of Buncrana Tidy Towns and sharing simple, sustainable actions we can all take in our daily lives to support the environment. As a Fairtrade Ireland Workplace, IDP is committed to promoting sustainability, biodiversity, and community-led



initiatives. We are proud to support and learn from local groups who are making a positive impact across our communities.

# IDP

Inishowen  
Development  
Partnership

People  
Place  
Progress



# SAVE THE DATE!

Week beginning October 12<sup>th</sup> 2026



## Inishowen Development Partnership

Celebrating 30 years of working with and supporting communities and individuals across the Inishowen Peninsula, Co. Donegal.

Join us as we celebrate three decades that have helped shape Inishowen over the past 30 years.

### People. Place. Progress.

More details coming soon!



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag  
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