Heritage Weekend Donegal
16th & 17th August 2019

This was the second Heritage Weekend event to take place in Donegal. West Inishowen Heritage Group provided a tour of the Sledrin which is being investigated as being a site of a battle between Shane ‘The Proud’ O’Neill and the O’Donnells. The group also visited Lough Fad, Meendoran to view the Crannog on the Lake and the Rock Art.
Sliabh Sneacht Centre, Donegal

In the evening Sliabh Sneacht Centre hosted the group at the official launch of the Inishowen Heritage Trail and Exhibition with a Medieval Banquet. The banquet included performances following workshops with a group of young people (8-14) based at the Centre to develop a small dramatic performance based on an events linked to the Cineal Eoghain with song by Dumfries children’s singers, traditional Irish dancing from Valerie Harkin School of Dancing with music from Inishowen Traditional Music Group.
The guest speaker was Dr Sean Beattie, a professional research historian, Chairman of Donegal Historical Society.
Fahan Heritage Walk, Fahan

the group took part in Fahan Heritage Walk, led by Fahan Heritage group who are primarily dedicated to the conservation of the site of St Mura’s early Christian monastery, particularly the 7th C. cross. St Mura was the Patron Saint of the Cineal Eoghain.

The group visited the grace of Agnes Elizabeth Jones (1832 – 1868) of Fahan, who became the first trained Nursing Superintendent of Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary. She gave all her time and energy to her patients and died at the age of 35 from typhus fever. Florence Nightingale said of Agnes Elizabeth Jones, ‘She overworked as others under work. I looked upon hers as one of the most valuable lives in England.'
About the programme

The purpose of the programme is the provision of the research, management and facilitation of a bespoke programme that will engage and develop sustained linkages through shared heritage between Mid Ulster District Council and Donegal County Council and groups within these areas.

The shared heritage will focus on The O’Neill and clans of Ancient Ulster with significance for Mid Ulster and Donegal. The programme presents an opportunity for joint working between both Councils and local interest groups. The programme is not only focused on bringing people together from across the border but also people from different community and religious backgrounds; with the aim of seeking to make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society and developing sustainable cross border contacts.

This project is supported by the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). The timeline for the delivery of the Programme is to commence June 2018 and complete May 2020.

Activities

1. Research into heritage of the O’Neill and clans
2. Development of a booklet and interactive app
3. Facilitation/ connection of local interest groups in Mid Ulster & Donegal
4. Heritage Weekends: 2 in Mid Ulster 2 in Donegal
5. Study Visits and workshops: 3 Mid Ulster Visits 3 Donegal Visits

Participants

Donegal History Forum Members
Ardara GAP Heritage + History Group
Ballybofey and Stranorlat historical society
The Colgan Heritage Group
Cineal Eoghain Inishowen
Cooley Cross Heritage Group
Craoibhin an Teamann (Termon)
Culdaff and Oloncha Heritage Group
Donegal GAP Heritage and History Group
Donegal Heritage
Fahan Heritage Group
Lands of Eogain Group
Leitir Corrn Mill, Kilcar
Kilcar Heritage Committee Coiste Oidhreachta Chill
CharthaMcGinley Clan of Donegal
Newtoncunningham & District Historical Society
Oireas
Rathmullan Historical Society
Raymochy Historical Society
Sliabh Sneacht Centre
Ulster Local History Trust (UHT) Donegal Historical Society
West Inishowen Historical Society

Mid Ulster History Forum Members
Aughnacloy and Truagh
Ancient Clan O’Neill
Broughderg Groups/ cookstown
Cinéal Eoghain
Caledon Regeneration Project
Clans of Ulster
Clogher Historical Society
Donaghtmore History Group
Desertcreate Church of Ireland
Eglsh Historical Society
Killeshial and Clonasess
O’Neil Country Historical Society
Stewartstown and District Local History Society

The programme is open to all groups that have an interest in participating throughout the duration of the Peace IV Cross Border Heritage Programme between Mid Ulster District Council and Donegal County Council

The aim of engaging groups of interest in both areas is to identify O'Neill and Ancient Clans heritage linkages, gather local information and knowledge and develop sustained community linkages between Donegal and Mid Ulster.