

PROJECT CHILDREN IS COMING TO MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM



Monaghan County Museum are delighted to announce the forthcoming exhibition this October to celebrate the Project Children archive arriving at its new home at the Peace Campus.

Project Children was started by Irish born brothers Denis and Patrick Mulcahy and others in the United States in 1975. Project Children offered children from both Catholic

and Protestant backgrounds to escape the Troubles in Northern Ireland by taking them for a six-week stay with host families across the US. These summer reprieves from Northern Ireland also allowed children from the different religious traditions to mix together in a way denied most of them back home.

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**Campas Sióchána
Mhuineacháin**

**Monaghan
Peace Campus**



Comhairle Chontae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

PROJECT CHILDREN

IS COMING TO MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM (CONTINUED)



Project Children participants arriving at JFK airport

What began in 1975 when 6 children, three Protestant and three Catholic, came to New York expanded into a project that would see 23,000 children from Northern Ireland having the opportunity to experience summers free from the threat of violence back home. To mark the 50th Anniversary of its inception the archive has arrived at the Monaghan Peace Campus which will serve as its permanent home. From October 7th – 11th a series of events will take place to mark this anniversary of Project Children including the official launch of the archive at Monaghan Peace Campus and its accompanying exhibition.



Denis Mulcahy being honoured at the Oval Office with President Clinton.

IRELAND AM

LIVE BROADCAST FROM MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM

On the morning of January 16th, the museum was beamed into homes across the nation as Monaghan County Museum played host to Ireland AM. It was with great excitement that Deric Hartigan, TV presenter and weatherman, made his live morning broadcast from the museum galleries.



Deric Hartigan with the Monaghan County Museum team

Welcomed by Curator, Liam Bradley the programme was a great opportunity to showcase our groundbreaking new exhibition 'Bordering Realities - Monaghan People and Stories' over the airways. Liam talked Deric through the unique stories pertaining

to our county and the surrounding area that form the narrative of the exhibition. The visit generated a lot of additional interest in the museum and the exhibition from all over the country.

MUSEUM EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED AT THE MUSEUM

This March, the museum was delighted to host International Women's Day in collaboration with the Women's Collective Ireland-Monaghan -Dochas for Women.

On the day the group were given a tour of the museum galleries

with Curator Liam where they heard the stories of some of the local women of history. This was followed by a presentation by our Research Officer Theresa. This talk provided insights into some of the amazing women from Monaghan who have contributed so much through their work for diversity and equality.



Irish Women's Collective Monaghan celebrating International Women's Day at Monaghan County Museum.

EASTER WORKSHOP

Easter was celebrated in the museum with a basket-making workshop for all ages. Led out by Anann's Arch Artists, participants were offered the chance to learn the ancient craft

of basket weaving using items easily found or recycled from material found around the home. Great fun was had and each participant got to take their own Easter basket masterpiece home.



Participants weaving Easter baskets at the museum's workshop



ULSTER SCOTS MUSICAL TRADITIONS

In May, the museum hosted a pilot event where the Ulster Scots Agency invited schools from the area to a workshop on the history and heritage of Ulster Scots. On the day the sun shone and the students were able to enjoy music from a piper and some traditional dancing at the outdoor stage of the Peace Campus.



Students from the Royal School, Cavan listening to the piper.

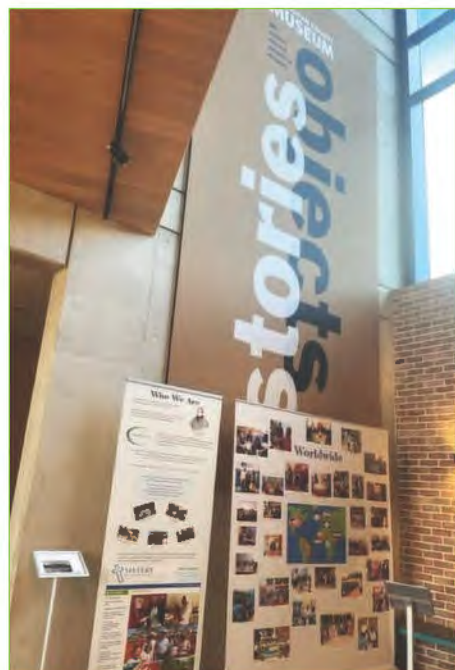
THE STORY OF THE ST. LOUIS SISTERS IN MONAGHAN 1859 – 2025



A postcard from the museum's collection of the St. Louis Convent photographed from across the lake.

In early March the Sisters of St. Louis closed their Monaghan Convent after 166 years in the town. To mark this historic event in the county an exhibition charting the history of the St. Louis Order, from their arrival in 1859 to Mill Street in Monaghan Town went on display, just for one day at the St Louis Secondary School. To allow more visitors the exhibition moved to Monaghan County Museum in the Peace Campus for the rest of the month. Many past pupils of the three schools run by the Order took the chance to visit this excellent exhibition that marked the end of the era of the St. Louis nuns in Monaghan Town.

The St Louis Exhibition on display at the Monaghan County Museum



BARRY McGUIGAN:

THE CLONES CYCLONE AT MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM

In April we were delighted to welcome Barry McGuigan back to the museum. He was here to talk about the upcoming 40th anniversary of his world title win against Eusebio Pedroza and to promote the special event commemorating his historic victory that was held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on Sunday June 8th.



Barry discussing his World Championship fight.



Barry with the museum team.

MUSEUM VISITORS TO BORDERING REALITIES EXHIBITION

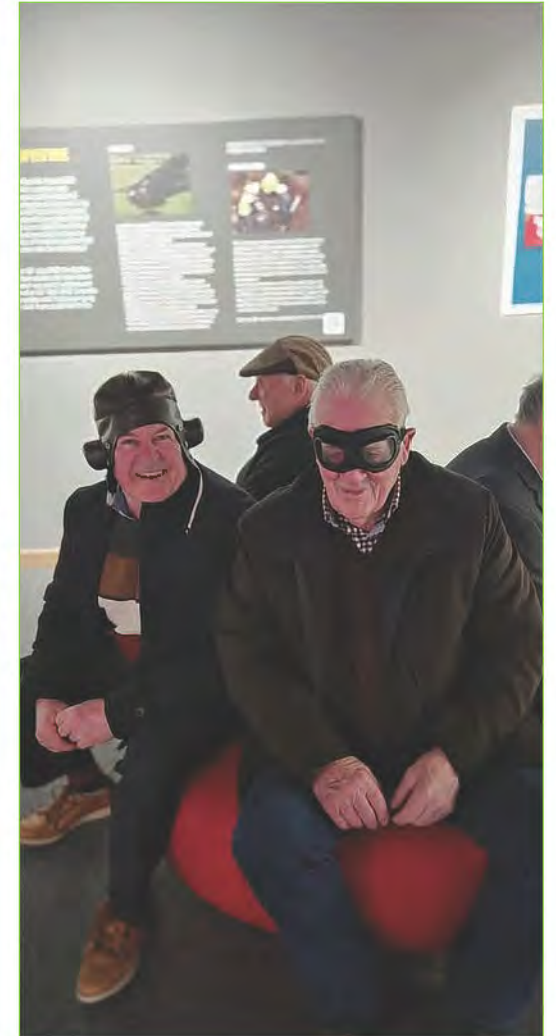
Our Bordering Realities - Monaghan People & Stories Exhibition continues to attract many visitors from varied places and all walks of life. From school visits, group tours and individual visitors, we would like to share some images of our guests enjoying their visits to the museum at the Monaghan Peace Campus.



Pupils from Scoil Phádraig, Carron, Tyholland on a visit to the museum.



The Toplink Group from the Rural Health Partnership enjoying their visit.



Even Tommy Bowe and Barry McGuigan, who feature in our Bordering Realities - Monaghan People & Stories Exhibition popped in to say 'hello'!

WHAT'S THE STORY: VICTORIA CROSS: A TALE OF HEROISM AND HARDSHIP

Every object in the museum has a unique story to tell, very often connected to its past ownership, where it comes from and what it was used for. If this object could talk it would tell a story of the unbelievable heroism of the owner. This object is the Victoria Cross, one of the rarest military medals in the world and is awarded to members of the British Armed Forces. Established during the Crimean War by Queen Victoria in 1856, with the aim of recognising individual acts of gallantry irrespective of rank, length of service, wounds or any other qualities except for "conspicuous bravery".



Private Thomas Hughes' medals. Left to Right: The Victoria Cross, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal.
© National Army Museum, London.



Private Thomas Hughes
©Imperial War Museum (IWM Q 66182)



This Victoria Cross was awarded to Co. Monaghan man Thomas Hughes (1885-1942). Hughes was born in Corravoo, near Castleblayney and enlisted in the 6th Battalion Connaught Rangers. On the 3rd of September 1916, Private Hughes found himself under attack in the village of Guillemont in Northern France. Despite being wounded in an attack early in the day's fighting, following first aid treatment he returned to the firing line. On spotting an enemy machine gun, he ran forward and succeeded in shooting the gunner and capturing the gun. He also brought four German soldiers back with him as prisoners. For this act of heroism Hughes was awarded the Victoria Cross in Hyde Park, London where he received his medal from King George V on June 2, 1917. He was later promoted to the rank of corporal. However, despite being lauded as a hero, the Ireland Thomas Hughes returned to following the war was a different country than the one he left. The Easter Rising of 1916 had happened and those Irish men who fought in World War I returned to a country largely hostile to them. Thus, it was for Thomas Hughes who lived out the rest of his life in difficult and straitened circumstances. He died in Co. Monaghan on 8 January 1942, aged 56 and sometime after, his Victoria Cross was sold by his sister and later acquired by the National Army Museum (NAM), London. Now, on loan from NAM the medal has made a return to Thomas Hughes's home county and is on display here in the Monaghan County Museum. This return allows the people of the area to hear the story of Thomas Hughes's incredible gallantry and his story to be told to a new generation of people

NEW ACQUISITION

A very recent donation to the museum collection is this sword pictured below.



The sword was discovered during renovation works at the St Louis Convent in Monaghan town. The sword was found in an area of the convent where plays and other social activities took place. The sword has been identified as a British light cavalry sword, of the 1796 pattern. This was a common sword of the period and were collected by many people with an interest in militaria. How it ended up where it was found is unknown – could it have possibly been used as a prop in a play?



NEW MUSEUM EDUCATION AND EXPLORER PACKS LAUNCHED

Museum's New Primary School Resource Classroom Pack

For schools visiting the 'Bordering Realities – Monaghan People and Stories' exhibition there is a new resource pack available. To help make this story more accessible to primary schools, we have developed a teacher resource pack and associated worksheets, which can be accessed at the link below or through the Monaghan County Museum website. This pack will allow you as a teacher to plan and facilitate tours of the new museum for your class.

<https://monaghan.ie/museum/education/>



DISCOVERING MONAGHAN MUSEUM

Classroom Pack for
Primary School Teachers

Museum's New Children's Resource Explorer Pack

For families or friends visiting the museum with children there is now a new Explorer Pack available. Inside you will find fun-packed activities to complete as you visit the museum including History Hunts, What's my Story, a chance to design your own banner and uniform/costume, select your favourite object, and to pack a suitcase!

These new packs are available to pick up at the reception in the Peace Campus when you visit.



DISCOVERING MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM

Explorers Pack

PLEASE CHECK MUSEUM WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES
www.monaghan.ie/museum/ and Facebook page or call us on 047 82928

 @MonaghanCountyMuseum  Twitter:@museum_county  Website: <https://monaghan.ie/museum/>