

Spacers present a new comedy 'Splendid Isolation' in the Friary Hall

Spacers present a new comedy 'Splendid Isolation' in the Friary Hall, Anne Street. The play runs for three nights: Thursday 25th, Friday 26th and Saturday 27th April at 8pm.

Spacers' first production took place in the Friary hall back in 2017. The group came together to perform 'The Space' by Gráinne Jordan (hence the name Spacers).

In 2018 they brought Colin Calvert's one act comedy 'Mystery Tour' to the theatre in the Museum.

In 2019 they returned to the Friary Hall with a production of Tommy Marron's 'The Real McCoy'. Spacers were getting ready for their opening night in March 2020 production with Jimmy Kearey's 'I'm The One For You' when Covid struck and the country went into lockdown the week before. This is Spacers' first post-lockdown production.

Having had the last production stopped by Covid, it is fitting that Spacers return to the stage with a nod to the extraordinary circumstances of the past few years.

'Splendid Isolation' is set during the lockdown and follows the fortunes of various characters whose

lives are impacted by the lockdown. The play is written and set locally.

May McCartney owns the Splendid Lodge, a small independent hotel in Dundalk. As the hospitality industry suffers under Covid restrictions, May takes a decision to save her business.

She offers her premises as an isolation centre for travellers coming from abroad. Her niece Kate McCarthy, a journalist with the local paper, is desperate for a good story.

Local gossip Minnie Power likes to think she has her finger on the pulse of the town. She's happy to share her knowledge if the price is right. When the isolating guests start arriving the shenanigans start.

May McCartney, the owner of the Splendid Lodge, is played by Joanne Dalton.

Her niece Kate is played by Barbara Finegan. Patricia Reynolds plays Minnie Power.

Among the guests who end up in the hotel are Lisa, Pádraig, Ailbhe and Cici, played by Karen Maguire, David McArdle, Stephanie Rocks and Denise Tighe.

Kate's husband, local guard Frank Murphy, played



May McCartney, the owner of the Splendid Lodge, is played by Joanne Dalton

by Mark Matthews gets drawn into the intrigue. Joan Wilson is the director. She may have more than one finger in this particular pie.

Other Spacers who have been involved in this production either backstage, in technical roles or front of house include Amy Galligan,

Eimear Boyle, Damien O'Callaghan, Martina Clerkin Byrne, Mary Reilly and Maeva Montgomery.

Tickets priced €15 can be purchased by phoning Amy on 086 2268606, from any member of the cast and crew and from National Tile.

Oriel music links to be examined in new film

An award winning film which explores the musical links between the Oriel area and southwest Donegal will screen in Newry next week.

The screening of the award-winning documentary television programme, "The Life and Times of Johnny Doherty" at Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail this Wednesday 17 April offers an opportunity to examine and celebrate the extraordinary links between Oriel and southwest Donegal, which reach back many generations.

Since Peadar Ó Dubdha moved his Irish speaking college from Omeath to Rannafast in 1924, generations of families from this area have made annual pilgrimages to Rannafast and other areas of the Donegal Gaeltacht to improve their Irish, and immerse themselves in the rich traditions of music, songs

and poetry.

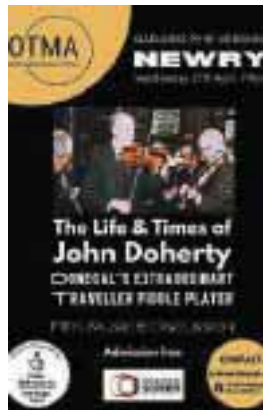
The musical talents of the famed Donegal travelling family, the Dohertys, dates back as far as the flight of the Earls in 1607.

The Hardee's left Doe Castle on the shores of Sheep Haven and since then continued the family business of travelling tinsmiths, musicians, storytellers and men of literature.

More recently, John claims that he was descended from Turloch Mac Suibhne, An Píobaireach Mór, whose ancestral home was south west Donegal in the 18th century.

The documentary will be presented by Bronagh McAtasney on behalf of NIScreen and she is keen to encourage questions and discussions on the material.

Volunteers from OTMA will also be on hand to locate



the documentary in the context of the Oriel Traditional Music Archive.


"Every young traditional musician, and certainly every fiddle player should attend this very important presentation.

"The intergenerational dimension of learning and

assimilating Irish traditional music is a key component of our tradition" says Tommy Fegan, piper and co-author of the book Free Spirits - Irish Travellers and Irish Traditional Music, and he adds that "without understanding the past, we can't hope to fulfil our musical ambitions for the future".

In addition to the documentary, OTMA is presenting a fascinating story on a recent surprise find of a song written over 40 years ago, and thought to have been lost. It has a political, cultural and a humorous twist.

The event is organised by the Oriel Traditional Music Archive and will take place on Wednesday 17th April, 7pm-9pm in the Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail, Newry. Everybody is welcome. Admission is free.



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

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Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended**

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The development will also include the construction of new connections to the existing estate road; provision of new cycleway, footpath, and public lighting along the boundary with the R170; new estate roads and homezones within the site; 123no. car parking spaces including both on-street and in-curtilage parking; cycle parking; hard and soft landscaping including public open spaces, playground, and private gardens; boundary treatments; ESB substation; lighting; laying of underground sewers, mains and pipes; underground pump station and attenuation tank; and all associated works.

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Mid Louth Civic Services Centre, Fair Green, Ardee, Co. Louth, A92 RYT2.

(Inspection and purchase - during public opening hours between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday)

In accordance with Article 81A(5) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, Louth County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination pursuant to the provisions of article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

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**Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer, Louth County Council.
16.04.2024**

**Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant
Closing Date 1st of May**

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to trial



phoe.

the Supreme Court, but if it was successful it was likely that a retrial would be ordered.

The barrister said if a retrial were ordered, the reporting on his guilty plea would "reflect very badly" on his client.

testimony

Det Insp Phillips agreed with Pdraig Dwyer SC, defending, that by the time the report was compiled in October 2019, Mr Cahill had not expressed intimidation concerns.

The defence counsel said they were not objecting to the hearsay evidence but wanted to outline that there was no suggestion of intimidation in the charge against his client.

The trial continues at the Special Criminal Court.

Sisters of St Louis presented with Dundalk Civic Award

The Sisters of St. Louis have been honoured with a Civic Award by the Municipal District of Dundalk in recognition of their significant contribution over the last 75 years to the town and people of Dundalk.

A civic reception was hosted by Louth County Council in County Hall on Monday attended by Sisters from the order and members of the St. Louis Secondary School community, elected representatives of Dundalk Municipal District, officials from Louth County Council, and members of the local community.

Earlier this year, the last four nuns who had been living in the convent departed, bringing to an end the Order's 75 year presence in Dundalk.

The Sisters of St. Louis is a French religious order that arrived in Ireland in 1859. Ninety years later, the Order was invited by Cardinal D'Alton, to set up a convent in Dundalk.

Four St. Louis sisters, Sr. Jeanne D'Arc, Sr. Hildegard, Sr. Dymna and Sr. Therese opened a secondary school on the site beside the historic 15th century Castletown Castle on September 4 1950. The school, which was originally opened with 16 pupils, quickly expanded in numbers and is now one of the largest schools in Dundalk.

The Civic Award presented by

Cathaoirleach of Dundalk Municipal District, Cllr. Sean Kelly, recognised 'the opportunities afforded by the education given by the Sisters to the children of Dundalk and surrounding areas can never be underestimated, and their memory will remain foremost in the living history of the county.'

The award also noted the donation in October 2023, by the Sisters of St. Louis, of a piece of land on the Bellewstown Road, Dundalk 'for future development as a public amenity, leaving a lasting legacy for the community they served so well.'

Cllr Kelly, reflected on the contribution which the St. Louis Sisters made to Dundalk, and the community in Fatima.

He highlighted the lasting impact of the education provided at Dún Lughaidh as "The cornerstone of a promising future for so many young women, which transformed the lives of local families."

"I am proud to present this award to the Sisters of St. Louis, on behalf of the members of the Municipal District of Dundalk, in recognition of their immense contribution."

Joan Martin, Chief Executive of Louth County Council paid tribute to the Sisters of St. Louis for championing the education of generations of girls and young women across Dundalk and beyond.



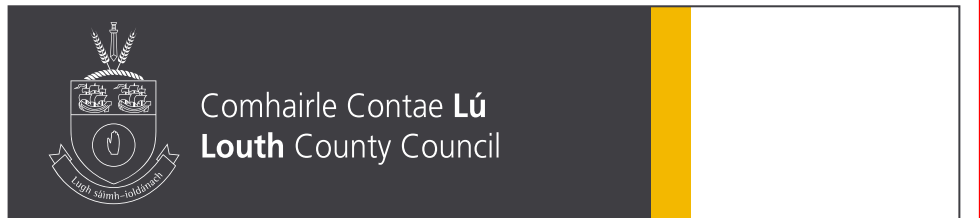
At the Civic Reception to honour The Sisters of St. Louis hosted by Dundalk Municipal District.



At the Civic Reception to honour The Sisters of St. Louis hosted by Dundalk Municipal District. With Cllr. Sean Kelly are Sr. Siobhan, Sr. Bernardine and Sr. Hannah, the final nuns to leave Dundalk.



At the Civic Reception to honour The Sisters of St. Louis hosted by Dundalk Municipal District.



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Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme 2024

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The Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme is available to local retailers and business owners within County Louth. Shopfronts are one of the most important elements in determining the character, quality and perception of retail streets and it is hoped to promote good quality shopfronts through this initiative. To help businesses achieve this, Louth County Council has also published a **Shopfront Design Guidelines** booklet.

Details of the scheme are available on www.louthcoco.ie or you can request the design guidelines, application form or make enquiries by emailing: shopfrontgrant@louthcoco.ie.

The 2024 Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme will open to applications on **Monday 15th April, 2024** and the closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00pm on **Friday 27th September, 2024**.

Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, Louth County Council

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Guns Re'Loaded to rock Barrel Venue

ANOTHER special rock 'n roll treat beckons for Drogheda when the latest Guns 'N Roses kids on the block, the Guns Re'Loaded tribute band, return to the Barrel stage at McHugh's on Saturday, 20th April, for one of their increasingly incendiary shows. The band made their McHugh's debut back in March, last year, when they played a storming show before a sell-out crowd and have now become regular visitors to the venue.

Guns 'n Roses were one of the most popular bands worldwide of their time after they emerged during the mid-'80s, and for the next 10 or 15 years or so through various line-up changes and libel suits, they managed to thrill and infuriate crowds at all the top venues, cities and festivals on the planet.

Tickets now on sale from Ticketstop - <https://ticketstop.ie/event/4746/guns-reloaded-at-the-barrel-venue-drogheda>



Sarah O'Halloran representing Hubert Tully's in this year's Louth Rose pictured during their visit to King John's Castle in Carlingford.



Aishling King representing the Lennon Group and Ella Coyle, Fox's Jewellers during the Louth Rose contestants visit to King John's Castle.



Louth Rose Entrants Delight in Mystery County Tour with Enthralling Stops and Experiences.

Louth Rose entrants embark on mystery tour

THE 2024 Louth Rose Entrants embarked on an enchanting mystery tour across the picturesque landscapes of County Louth.

Joined by esteemed Emma Barry, the Louth Rose of 2022, and center coordinator Clodagh Murray, the roses indulged in a day filled with exploration and adventure.

The journey commenced at Long Acre Alpaca Farm in Glack Ardee, where Catherine and Matthew warmly welcomed the group, introducing them to the charming residents of the farm, including the herd of male alpacas.

A leisurely stroll accompanied by Phoenix and Percy offered a glimpse into farm life, followed by a delightful feeding session before the next leg of the adventure.

Continuing their voyage, the

roses were graciously received by Sarah and Teresa at Listoke Distillery and Gin School.

Here, amidst the fragrant aromas of botanicals, they savored the signature Listoke Gin and Tonic while immersing themselves in the artistry of gin-making and the intricacies of the distillation process.

Carlingford beckoned next, where the roses were guided through its storied streets by local expert Laurena Rafferty, unraveling the rich tapestry of history and heritage, culminating in a visit to the majestic St John's Castle.

The adventure continued to unfolded at Sky Park Carlingford, where Andrew, Micheal, and their team arranged an array of activities, from navigating the maze to testing their skills at mini golf and trampoline basketball, ensuring laughter

and camaraderie filled the air.

As dusk descended, the roses gathered at Fitzpatrick's Bar to savor a well-deserved meal, reflecting on the memories woven throughout the day.

Clodagh Murray Louth Rose Center Coordinator extends heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsor sites and attractions that contributed to the success of the tour, with special appreciation to Ciaran, Pat and Irene of Pat Keenan Coach Hire for their generous support in providing the transportation and ensuring seamless navigation throughout the day.

Applications for the Louth Rose are still open, inviting aspiring candidates to apply online at www.roseoftralee.ie or by reaching out to Clodagh at louthrosecentre@roseoftralee.ie



Emma Barry, the current Louth Rose with contestants in this year's Rose competition, Sarah O'Halloran, Amy Moynagh, Aishling King, Ella Coyle, Justine McGuirk, Niamh Clinton and Aoife Finlay



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