H.E.A.R.T **Public Art Trail**

H.E.A.R.T. (Heritage, Environment, Art and Rural Tourism), is a cross-border initiative managed jointly by Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council which assisted a total of twelve towns and villages undergo significant heritage and environmental regeneration. In Donegal the towns involved are: Ardara, Ballybofey Stranorlar, Ballyshannon, Lifford, Moville, Ramelton and Raphoe. In Strabane, the towns / villages involved are: Castlederg, Donemana, Newtownstewart, Plumbridge and Sion Mills. One of the most imaginative and central parts of the HEART programme is the public art aspect. Internationally acclaimed and multiaward winning artists were selected to research local history and heritage, and create suitable and sensitive public art, as a long term tribute to each locality. Go on, get going and enjoy exploring the HEART Public Art Trail – there's a lot to see, learn and talk about and you can be sure of a friendly welcome!

1 The Matrimonial Tree Location Ballybofey/Stranorlar close to bridge linking both towns mmissioned Artist Cod Steaks Ltd



In 1982 Cod Steaks was established in a dockside shed with just 2 employees. An exciting, positive and challenging culture has forged an extraordinarily high standard of design and construction, making Cod Steaks one of the most significant forces in the British creative arts industry. Breathtaking creative solutions combined with a considered approach to both the environment and client's vision has ensured the company's steady growth, based almost solely on recommendation. From creating all the sets and models for the Oscar and BAFTA Award winning Aardman Animations films, to designing and building the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum's award winning PowWow! Exhibition, Cod Steaks' experience in design and construction has spanned the most widely diverse creative briefs.

varieties of tree would have been planted next to one another. At the time of the wedding these would have been grafted together, and left to grow from thereon as one. The two trees would have retained their unique characteristics, but formed a distinctive shape with the grafted section – like a bridge. Ancient examples of these Matrimony Trees can be found in the grounds of Summerhill House on the outskirts of Ballybofey. The twin towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar are two very distinct towns, joined by a bridge, and share a great historic friendship. The Matrimony Tree is an plifting and positive symbol that epitomises Ballybofey and Stranorlar's bond of unity, while celebrating their uniqueness.

The artwork takes the form of a real Matrimony Tree, but has been abstracted to give a unique ident for the town. Embedded into the 'bark' are foundry cast handprints, taken from local schoolchildren in Ballybofey. Each of the five National schools took part, with a print taken from the oldest and youngest pupils at Sessiaghoneill, Dooish, St Mary's, Robertson and Glencovitt. The impression of local people has most definitely been made on the artwork, and it is hoped this will encourage pride and ownership

Materials used

Constructed entirely from sheet metal, every inch of the tree has been hammered, rolled and formed into shape by hand, using traditional techniques. The internal ribbed skeleton is reinforced to ensure that it is completely robust. The Matrimonial Tree stands at nearly 5m tall, and from tip to tip is almost 4.5m wide.

2 Earth Mother Location: The town of Raphoe, in the grass area of the Diamond Commissioned Artist: Maurice Harron Installation Date: Monday 16th June 2008



Maurice was educated at St. Columb's College, Derry and Ulster College of Art & Design, Belfast. Specialising in Graphic Design and Sculpture and Maurice qualified as an Art Teacher in 1969. Having moved to Roscommon and he taught in the Convent of Mercy School from 1974 until 1989 when he moved back to Northern Ireland. In that year Maurice undertook his first public art work - 'Reconciliation' at Carlisle Square in Derry. Since then he has worked for the Western Education & Library Board as an advisory teacher in Technology & Design, in St. Columb's College and in Lumen Christi College as Head of Art & Design. Since 1991 the artist has undertaken over 30 large scale public art projects. In 1997 he then went on to set up his own foundry / sculpture studio at $Burt, County\ Donegal.\ Work\ is\ made\ in\ ceramic, fibreglass, bronze, aluminium\ and\ stone.$

The theme chosen was the Beltany Stone Circle, a 6,000 year old megalithic monument, connected with ritual worship of the Sun. The artist has designed a female bronze figure holding her hands out to cast a shadow on a bronze strip set in a rock.

Description

Raphoe - A bronze sculpture of a young woman from pre-Celtic era, standing on a low rock. She faces north, so that her shadow at mid-day falls on a rock positioned a little distance away. Her two hands make a diamond shape with the index fingers and thumbs and this shape will be projected onto a bronze strip set in the rock.

Modelled in clay over a steel armature, silicone rubber and fibreglass moulds were made of the forms. Wax versions were made using the moulds. The wax patterns were dipped in a silica slurry over a few weeks to build up a thick ceramic shell. When ready the wax was burned out of the ceramic shells. Molten bronze is poured into the ceramic shells. The bronze sections were cleaned and welded together to form complete

Location: Centre of main roundabout in the town of Lifford. Commissioned Artist: Cod Steaks Ltd



The artwork is a celebration of Lifford's past, but has captured something fresh, proclaiming hope for the future. It is intended that the three coins will become

The three Coins are a good humoured, bold and iconic piece of artwork that contain within them many references to Lifford's past, present and future. Each coin looks as though it has literally been pushed into the ground, and each faces one of the three entrance ways to the town. The number of coins is significant for many reasons, including Lifford being the meeting point of 3 major rivers and roads. Their form can be read as gateways – Lifford being the gateway to Donegal. Moreover, the site was historically a place for throwing horseshoes and telling stories – as such the 'hoops' are also a gentle indication to that part of Lifford's history. Around the edges of the coins is a $Latin\ phrase\ that\ was\ commissioned\ specifically\ for\ Lifford;\ ``Praeterita\ Fecunda, Futura$ Praeclara". This literally translates to "rich and fertile past, bright, clear future" – as with all Latin, there are deeper messages carried in the sub-text, and it speaks of Lifford's significant history being the foundations on which a bright and hopeful future is built! Also written on the Coins is the Irish translation of Lifford which is 'Leifear' The detailed cut work around the Coins is pictorial references to Lifford's past and present, and the finish has been art-worked to replicate bronze.

Constructed entirely from steel, the Coins received final art working to replicate bronze. This was achieved using industrial standard paints, to endure the test of time and all weathers - from blizzards to blazing hot summers! The largest Coin is approximately 4.5m at its widest point, with the middle coin at 3.5m and the smallest at 2.5m. Their raised position on the roundabout ensures that they receive the maximum impact

4 The Flax Spinner Location: Sion Mills, at the top of Mill Lane Commissioned Artist: Eamonn O'Doherty Installation Date: Monday 30th June 2008



The artist works from his studio in Co. Wexford and has completed more than thirty large-scale public sculptures in Ireland, England, the USA and Europe. Six of his pieces can be seen throughout Northern Ireland.

Sion Mills grew up around Herdman's Linen spinning factory located on the picturesque river Mourne. The history of the village and its inhabitants was inextricably linked to the mill until its recent closure. The sculpture is intended to 'celebrate' the individual mill worker's contributions to the linen industry.

The bronze statue is one of a female flax spinner, as she works at a spinning machine. She wears an apron and is barefoot as was the tradition in the damp atmosphere necessary for successful spinning. The machinery metamorphoses at the rear into a large flax-plant in flower.

The work is fabricated and cast in bronze with an overall dark antique green patination, the flax flowers being patinated in a blue colour.

5 Starfields Location: The pieces of art can be viewed at the following schools all located in the town of Castlederg: Castlederg High School / St Eugene's High School / Edwards primary School / St Patrick's Primary School Commissioned Artist: Locky Morris

Locky Morris was born in Derry and studied in Belfast and Manchester. His work has been exhibited widely including "Directions Out" at the Douglas Hyde Gallery in Dublin 1987, the British Art Show touring Britain in 1990, New North 1990 and Strongholds 1991, both at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool, Kunst Europa in Germany in 1991, L'Imaginaire Irelandais in Paris 1996, The Puffin Room in New York in 1998, the Ellipse Arts Centre in Washington in 2000, Something Else touring Finland in 2002/3, The Trouble with Talkies at the ADI space in London 2005 and the Czech Museum of Fine Arts in June 2006. Throughout his career, his engagement with Derry City and its changing character has shaped his work, often showing in community centres and the street. For a number of years in the late nineties he concentrated solely on making music with his band Rare. In recent years he has been expanding his practice from object making to include text, sound and digital media.

A witnessed shower of meteoric stones that occurred along the Derg Valley in the direction of Killeter, near Castlederg at 3:30 pm in the afternoon of the 29th April 1844

Four Sculptural relief's made from stainless steel and stainless steel bar taking the outline mathematical Asteroid shape. Each element has been installed on a main wall of the four schools in Castlederg.

Materials used Stainless Steel

6 Rivers and Castles Location: A5, Newtownstewart By-pass (GNR Way)

Commissioned Artist: Denis O'Conno Installation Date: Thursday 31st July 2008



Sculpture Works is based in Wirksworth Derbyshire, it is made up of Denis O'Connor, Sculptor, Bernardine Rutter, Printmaker / Arts Education worker and Andy Mc Callum, Blacksmith. The company has worked with the medium of sculpture for over eighteen years in a variety of Public, and Studio based contexts. They have through their work successfully undertaken a variety of International and National Public Commissions These opportunities have allowed the company to make-work for Urban and Rural sites within the Public and Private sectors. The company normally runs practical workshops including casting, construction and printmaking and holds public exhibitions for local people to reflect on ideas and to keep everyone informed and excited about a project. This range of skills enables Sculpture Works to co-ordinate each project with particular emphasis on the needs of the individual client, public audience, and context.

The company has designed and fabricated a piece of artwork, which makes reference to; the historical importance of the town's castles, 'Harry Avery's castle and Turlough O'Neill's castle. The work also reflects on the architectural importance of the 'Old Bridge' a six arch structure, along with the physical and geographical formation of the town's landscape, directed by the towns rivers, Mourne Strule and Owenkillen.

"Conceptually we have designed a sculpture that makes a symbolic link with the areas past histories. The work forms a type of 'Signage' for the town, highlighting the architectural gems of Newtownstewart".

Materials used

Grade 314 Stainless Steel combined with local Limestone

7 Sculptured Bench Location: Beside Children's Play Park, in the town of Plumbridge Commissioned Artist: Brian Connolly



Installation Date: Monday 21st July 2008

Artist's background

Brian Connolly was born in Ballymoney Co. Antrim in 1961 and was awarded an M.A. in Fine Art at the University of Ulster in 1985. He is currently an Associate Lecturer in Fine & Applied Art, Sculpture, at the University of Ulster, Belfast, He has recently been involved in the evolution of "Interface" - Research Centre, at the University of Ulster, which will develop Research Projects relating to the reality of 'Contested Spaces'. As an artist much of his past work has evolved out of a series of dialogues with the specifics of place, location, context, or site. He has created Interventions, Performance Art Works, Install-actions, & Installations, in a wide range of places both locally and internationally. $These \ include: Churches, Monasteries, Castles, City \ Streets, Squares \ or \ Alleyways, a \ River$ Source, Beach, Funeral Parlor, as well as Art Galleries & Museums. Brian has also a broad experience with Public Art Commission Processes as a Commissioned Artist, as a member of Design Teams, and as part of organizing committees and selection panels. The artist has created durable Public Artworks for various locations including: Dublin Port, St. Anne's Square, Belfast, Royal Victoria and Antrim Hospitals, Microsoft Ireland's Headquarters in Dublin, Knockbracken Healthcare Trust, and Coleraine Borough Council etc. Brian is currently on the management committee of Flaxart, Beyond, and Moyle $\,$ Art in Public Places, all which initiate or develop projects that deal with aspects of

The work relates to the history of Ireland and the context of Plumbridge through the ages from pre-Christian era to the present day. Pertinent imagery and history from the $\,$ area is incorporated within the work.

Six horizontal slabs of Limestone are placed together to form a bench six meters long and one meter wide. The six stone panels depict imagery based on six periods of history, from the pre-Christian era to the present day. A central river image passes through all these panels and epochs, making its way past seasonal star maps and local flora and fauna. These images are shot-blast into the surface of the stones. Details and layers of imagery and references can be glimpsed within the work.

Materials used

Cut Limestone slabs with Shot-blasted imagery.

8 Sport Sculpture Location: Donemana, junction of Longland Road and Berryhill Road Commissioned Artist: Maurice Harron Installation Date: Monday 23rd June 2008



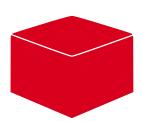
The work illustrates the areas two proud sporting traditions, cricket and gaelic football and contains both male and female figures

Description

Ten bronze figures, male and female, representing cricket and gaelic football, arranged in two spirals. Height approx 3 metres, fixed on a 600mm high plinth.

Modelled in clay over a steel armature, silicone rubber and fibreglass moulds were made of the forms. Wax versions were made using the moulds. The wax patterns were dipped in silica slurry over a few weeks to build up a thick ceramic shell. When ready the wax was burned out of the ceramic shells. Molten bronze was poured into the $ceramic \, shells. The \, bronze \, sections \, were \, cleaned \, and \, welded \, together \, to \, form \, complete$ sculptures.

9 Moville Benches Location: Moville Green, at the Seafront close to the Pier. Commissioned Artist: Michael Disley Installation Date: Friday 22nd August 2008



Michael has an office based in a quarry in Yorkshire where he produces a range of large scale figurative artworks. His work is easily understood, humorous and well crafted. Having over twenty five years' experience of carving and sitting public work in stone, Michael has worked on projects and produced items for the Chelsea Flower Show, and public pieces of art for Dublin, Belfast as well as for a number of major towns and cities

The artist has produced a total of 15 stone benches for Moville Green all sited on the sea front. A number of the benches have local input as these were carved by the local community who took part in a number of workshops and local historical and cultural research group sessions. The theme for the benches is mainly inspired by the local flora and fauna of the area and the history and culture of the town of Moville.

Two very distinct types of benches are provided. The workshop benches are Limestone cubes which are topped with granite. The larger benches are constructed of grit stone and topped with granite. The provision of benches at Moville Green will provide people $\,$ with the opportunity to sit and admire the beautiful views of the harbour and surrounding areas.

Materials used

Limestone and granite slabs, and grit stone are the materials used.

10 Ramelton Art Benches

Location: The Public Amenity Area, in the centre of Ramelton Village Commissioned artist: Brian Connolly Installation Date: Friday 29th August 2008



This work takes the form of six pieces built into a park design, and these are based on differing eras of Irish and local history from the Pre-Christian era to the present. Local

Six separate Limestone slabs form a series of benches, within the new park in Ramelton. \\ Each bench measures two meters by one meter. The six stone panels depict imagery based on six periods of history, from the pre-Christian era up till the present day. Imagery $\,$ and text is derived from aspects of the town's local history and will also refer to broader aspects of culture. These images were shot-blast into the surface of the stones. Details $\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) \left(\frac$ and layers of imagery and references can be glimpsed within the work. \\

11 The Three Fates Location: Herron's' Field, Ardara, County Donegal Commissioned artist: Elizabeth Caffery Installation Date: Tuesday 24th June 2008

Based in Sligo, Elizabeth Caffery has exhibited in group and sole exhibitions throughout Ireland, the UK and Europe, and was artist in residence in the Portuguese Azores. She has been widely recognised for her work, winning numerous awards. Elizabeth is employed both on a full time capacity and as a visiting lecturer, teaching subjects such as; working with ceramics, sculptural studies and fine art & design. She is a member of the network, Visual Artists Ireland and has experience of working on private collections in Bermuda, New York, London, Nice, Dublin and Sligo,

living landscape, the surrounding district, is a vital resource. However the interdependency between its need to attract tourists and that of carefully monitoring our impact is a delicate balance. We too will become the catalyst for its demise unless this is carefully governed. To consider this space / place in a meaningful sense there were two aspects which I was drawn to, both of which are essential and both are intertwined. It is that of the Owentocker river and the weaving heritage of Ardara, each of which serves as a life line to the area. The lines in the chosen forms are suggested by the movement of the river and that of the patterns $\slash\hspace{-0.4em}$ movements employed in the act of weaving. In Greek mythology Clotho is the spinner, spinning the thread of life from her $distaff to her spindle. Then \ Lachesis, measures the thread of life with her rod, all otting$ us our portion and finally Atropos, the cutter of the thread. It is she who chooses the $\,$ manner of a person's death. These characters are suggestive of the triple aspect of birth, life and death, aspects which are known and understood universally. Illustrated in the form of tree trunks these different elements are symbolically represented by the budding, knotting and callus formations employed in a tree's growth, each telling of particular environmental and external conditions. As a result, the historical and environmental are intertwined, resulting in an artwork which can be interpreted on many levels and which has taken its basis from Ardara's past, but reconsiders its history

Description

three metres high, the lines and movement of which are reminiscent of botanical forms.

Hand altered and welded bronze rod

in a more universal context."

Installation Date: Friday 8th August 2008

"The artwork celebrates the area's rich industrial/social history and culture. The Mall Quay, Ballyshannon's port with reference to its shipping heritage, was the first port in Ireland to import coal. It also was a port of departure for immigrants fleeing the famine. The ancient title of the River Erne 'Morning Star', its listing in the Annals of the four masters, the first settlers in Ireland on Inis Saimer, the demise of the Abbey Assaroe with particular reference to the name Port na Morray [port of the dead], the solemn funeral procession being broken by the sound of the abbey bell, the loss of the Falls

The sculpture is of a 'landmark' scale, 6.5 meters in height, it is made up of a number



imagery and history is included within the artwork.

 $Cut\ Limestone\ slabs\ with\ Shot-blasted\ imagery.$



"The impact of Ardara within its surrounding environs can never be understated. It's

The work is composed of three welded bronze rod forms, each approximately two to

Materials used

12 Morning Star

Commissioned artist: Denis O'Connor

Location: The Mall, Ballyshannon



of Assaroe, rhythmic flowing movement, were other influences which shaped the work."

of forms, such as the flowing 'water line' which makes reference to the Assaroe falls and River Erne. The Boat form which makes reference to the Mall Port, is elevated above the waterline and is positioned to look out towards the Atlantic ocean.

Materials used Grade 316 L Stainless Steel and Limestone



Rural Development









County Council, Strabane District Council and the private sector. 111A programme, the International Fund for Ireland, Donegal Development and Border Action through the EU's INTERREG HEART is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Rural

> Email: rconnolly@strabanedc.com Fax: +44 (0)28 7138 1348 Tel: +44 (0)28 7138 2204 ext 266

RL85 8DX Northern Ireland Co. Tyrone Strabane 47 Derry Road Strabane District Council

HEART Programme Manager Roisin Connolly at For further information contact:









