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# Derry Journal

Inishowen edition

ST. BRIGID'S COLLEGE



The Right Choice

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## Inside Today

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**CROSS CULTURAL** - Scoil Mhuire pupils Laura Wilson, Robyn Doherty, Aine Marie McDaid and Deborah Foley help Spanish exchange student Ricardo Rodriguez to make St Brigid's crosses which will be given to parishioners attending Mass at St Mary's Oratory. (0102PG22)

## Big thank you from Brooke's family

The Isle of Doagh family of pretty Brooke McBride, who underwent a life-saving operation, have given a heartfelt thanks to local people who helped them raise more than 40,000 euro for hospital facilities for children.

The two year-old is believed to be the world's youngest child with myeloproliferative, a life-threatening and rare blood disorder. She

Brooke was diagnosed last year. The illness which affects her platelet count and puts her at risk of a stroke.

Doctors said she needed a bone-marrow operation and luckily her hero six-year-old big brother Corey was the perfect match.

Corey underwent the crucial distraction operation to save his baby sister's life and now bubbly Brooke - who had to undergo a bout of chemotherapy treatment and painful bone marrow transplant - is bouncing back to health.

She had to stay in Crumlin Hospital for more than six weeks last year but her mum Sonia says she is 'doing great'.

After she was struck with the illness, Brooke's devoted mum Sonia and dad Kieran set about raising funds for the transplant unit at Crumlin hospital and the Ronald



The McBride family handing over more than 40,000 euro they raised for the Transplant unit at Crumlin Hospital and the McDonald House there. Pictured are dad Kieran McBride, Professor Owen Smith, mum Sonia and children Brooke (2) and Corey (6).

McDonald house, also at the Dublin-based hospital, where the family stayed to nurse Brooke back to health.

The family recently handed over the cash to the two vital charities and said they were wowed by the support and generosity from the

local community throughout the fundraising campaign.

Sonia told the 'Journal': "We just want to thank everybody for their generosity, the money will help lots of other children. We can't believe so much money was raised and we are just really grateful."

## Work to start at schools

Moville-based Senator Cecilia Keaveney has welcomed yesterday's announcement by her party colleague, Minister for Education and Science Mary Hanafin, that building work is to commence immediately on Scoil Eoghain in Moville and Clonmany National School.

"I am delighted with Minister Hanafin's announcement today

and I have no doubt that the news will also be greatly welcomed by both schools," the Fianna Fail Senator said.

"There has been a great track record of delivery in terms of educational needs into the county as a whole and Inishowen has particularly benefited.

"This is something that I have continued to work for over the

years and I am pleased that the Minister continues to act on my representations."

Colr Marian McDonald, who has worked closely with the school's Board of Management, said it was great news: "We've been lobbying for a long time to bring this project forward, and I am absolutely delighted that it can now go ahead."

## Join the SOS campaign for Malin Head station

By Donna Pryce  
donna.pryce@derryjournal.com

The 'Journal' is joining with Malin Head Community Association in the campaign to throw Malin Head Coast Guard station a lifeline and save it from sinking!

The vital Inishowen station, which has helped with more than 4,000 rescues over the past ten years, is currently under threat, with government plans to move services elsewhere.

This newspaper is now joining in the effort by the Association to gather thousands of signatures to help put pressure on the government to say the station has a future.

If the axe falls, 18 jobs will be lost. And local people hold out little hope of attracting other jobs into the area.

Association spokesman Charlie O'Donnell said yesterday: "We are now asking you, the people of Inishowen, to show your support for the people of Malin Head and help protect Inishowen from job losses. We all know how important jobs, buildings and history are to



I am against the closure of Malin Head Coast Guard Station.

NAME:.....  
ADDRESS:.....

Please send this petition back to the Donna Pryce, Derry Journal, 22 Buncrana Road, Derry BT48 8AA. Or if you would like to email in your support, email donna.pryce@derryjournal.com

our peninsula - please help us to help you save Malin Head Coast Guard station."

The station has been going for 106 years and boasts of being the oldest continuously manned radio station in Europe and possibly even the world. In 2003, its future look secure when staff were told it was to get a major makeover and station upgrade. However the Minister of Transport and Marine, Noel Dempsey, has now made it clear that its future is uncertain.

Hundreds of people turned out in force last Sunday at the Malin Head community centre to show their support for the much-loved base. Charlie O'Donnell told the

'Journal': "Here we have jobs that are in the area and in line with the government policy on decentralisation but here we have them contradicting that and being replaced.

"Malin Head has the experience and I would say people feel a sense of attachment because they are familiar with the people who work there and they have been well served by the Malin Head radio station over the years."

Charlie said the reasons given for the closure are because of electricity, broadband, location and staffing problems in the area.

Story continues on Page 2

Pub owner blames garda crackdown

## Red light for strip shows

By Laura Lynott  
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Strip shows in Moville have been barred by garda chiefs, according to an irate local pub owner, who says he believes the force is over-stepping the mark.

Bar-A-Cuda owner Mike Murphy told the 'Journal' that he can't understand why he's being ordered to stop strip shows and pole dancing when similar events are happening in other towns, including Letterkenny.

Mike, who brought the first strip and pole events ever to Moville, is angered at what he describes as the "one rule for one, another rule for another" style of policing.

It's thought a large number of residents complained to the guards about the pub events. And one of the most vocal anti-strip show campaigners was Buncrana's Christian Solidarity Party members, Mary Doherty, who met with gardai bosses. She's said she's delighted with what's happening.

Mike, who was running the shows with the help of his wife Judy, told the 'Journal': "I am really annoyed about all this. We ran mixed strip shows as entertainment - and then I was called into the local gardai barracks for a word."

Mike claims a senior garda told him to stop the shows or face problems when the bar was trying to get re-licensed this September.

Mike said: "This guard told me that there was local dissatisfaction and concern in the guards about the events. The senior garda



Bar-A-Cuda owner Mike Murphy says garda chiefs have shut down strip shows at his Moville establishment.

told me he was under duress from a superior to put an end to the shows.

"He said I was not allowed to stage the shows anymore, or it would have implications when it comes to us applying for a licence again. I thought this was highway robbery. We were doing nothing illegal, yet the guards were telling us we had to stop."

A number of clubs across Donegal are showcasing strip shows without any problem, according to Mike.

He added: "This has annoyed me. These other clubs are free to hold these shows, yet we aren't. Where is the fairness in that? I think there was peer pressure from the public and the guards want an easy life."

## Christian Mary is 'over the moon' about action

By Laura Lynott  
laura.lynott@derryjournal.com

The Christian woman who campaigned long and hard against Moville's new reputation as a strip show haven is delighted the gardai have stepped in to stop the controversial events.

Pleased-as-punch Mary Doherty, from Buncrana, stood outside the Bar-A-Cuda with fellow protestors some months ago in the fight against "depravity".

The 'Journal' spoke to an ecstatic Mary yesterday, who was delighted at the end of the town's strip shows.

Christian Solidarity Party member Mary said: "I am absolutely ecstatic about this. It was high time that kind of thing stopped. I am over the moon."

Mary and her fellow campaigners stood outside the Moville bar to protest against pole dancers and strippers in the summer and autumn. They said Hail Marys as young men entered the venue to see what was happening, and held posters aloft condemning pornography.

Mary then arranged a meeting with garda chiefs - and shortly afterwards the shows were stopped.

She told the 'Journal': "It takes someone to stand up and campaign to get things stopped. But a lot of people are afraid to

speak up. It is time people spoke up, to put pressure on people when things are wrong in society."

Mary added: "I want to thank the guards for this move, it's just fantastic news when leader in the community take control. They have done a great job and should be praised."

The vocal campaigner, who has set up the 'National Campaign against Pornography and Obscenity' in the wake of the strip show protests, is still determined to fight against pornography and images of scantily-clad people in the media.

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