

*Thomas D'Arcy McGee
Summer School 2014*

*August 17th - 20th
Carlingford, Co. Louth*

The Famine in Ulster





Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School 2014



Loyola Hearn, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland

D'Arcy McGee attempted to unite the peoples of Ireland. He was chased from the country. He played a major role in uniting Canada. He was shot.

What his legacy has done, with the help of all of you involved with the D'Arcy McGee Summer School and the other "D'Arcy" initiatives, is to bring both Ireland and Canada closer together.

This year's theme "The Ulster Famine" is a great choice as Canada played such a role during the "famine" years.

The realization of the contribution that Canada made, strengthens the bonds between us. The realization of the tragedies of the famine, strengthens our collective resolve, never to forget these horrific times.

Congratulations to all involved and may this great initiative keep going for years to come.

His Excellency, Loyola Hearn,
Canadian Ambassador to Ireland



Denis Cummins

Dundalk Institute of Technology extends a warm welcome to everyone attending the third Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School. We were delighted with the outcome of the last two events; superb presentations, stimulating and controversial debates and a highly entertaining social programme helped us relax, but kept our minds firmly on the main subject.

This year's theme D'Arcy McGee: the Famine in Ulster, underpins the importance of McGee's legacy's to events in Ireland today. I am delighted that the programme provides a platform for expert and diverse views on these subjects.

I look forward with great anticipation to the proceedings.

Denis Cummins,
President, Dundalk Institute of Technology



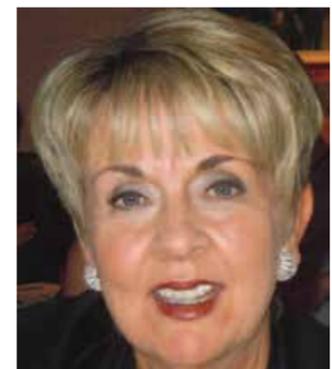
Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School 2014

Carlingford Louth Heritage Trust

Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust is delighted to be associated with the third annual Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School. At present, the Trust is completing the restoration of Carlingford Station House, a property set in a strategic location within the town. The building will house the Thomas D'Arcy McGee Interpretive Centre, together with tourist information and community facilities. The Trust wishes to acknowledge the encouragement of His Excellency, Loyola Hearn and support of businessman Pat O'Callaghan in fostering enduring links between Canada and Ireland.

This year, Carlingford Heritage Centre hosts an exhibition, "The Great Famine in South East Ulster", to compliment the theme of the Summer School. We wish the attendees a very enjoyable few days immersed in the academic and social aspects of the School.

Margaret Harold,
Chairperson, Carlingford Louth Heritage Trust



Omeath District Development Company LTD

Omeath District Development Company LTD is delighted to welcome you to this, the third annual Thomas D'Arcy McGee Summer School.

Following the success of the two previous summer schools, the delivery partnership of Dundalk Institute of Technology, The Carlingford Heritage Trust, The Carlingford Cooley Tourism Association and Omeath District Development Company wish to express a sincere thank you to our guest speakers, delivery associates and event coordinators. A particular acknowledgement must be paid to His Excellency, Ambassador

Loyola Hearn, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland for his continuous dedication and support of this Summer School and his tireless work of strengthening Canadian Irish linkages in many forms and we would like to take this opportunity to wish him success in all his future ventures. Finally we would like to thank you, for taking the time to share with us an inspiring, enlightening and memorable three day Summer School celebrating the life and works of Thomas D'Arcy McGee and an insight into one of the greatest unspoken legacies of our history "The Famine in Ulster"

Helen Thompson,
Manager Omeath District Development Company LTD

Carlingford and Cooley Tourism Association

The CCTA in its present form was established as a non-profit, voluntary company in 2001, by a selection of local business people and concerned individuals, to speak with one voice to promote Carlingford and Cooley.

CCTA has continued to promote the area with the help and support of our members. They represent a significant cross section of the local community with publicans, hoteliers, restaurateurs, community organisations, activity providers, shops, crafts people and artists who all pay an annual membership subscription to enable us to stage festivals and through our other activities, promote Carlingford and Cooley.

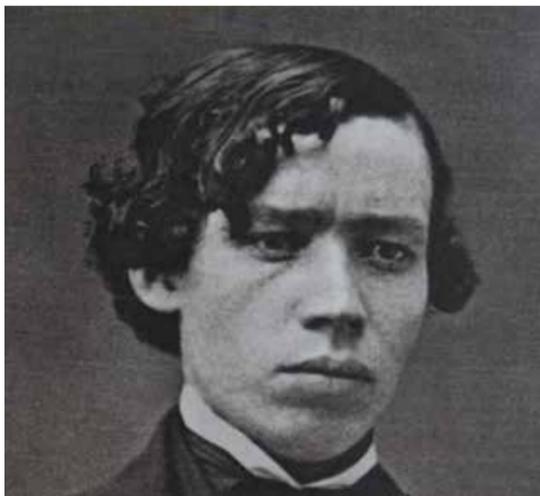
Frank O'Brien
Carlingford and Cooley Tourism Association (CCTA)





Thomas D'Arcy McGee

A journalist, politician, poet, historian and man of action, D'Arcy McGee was born in Carlingford in 1825. Raised near Cushendall in County Antrim, and in Wexford town, he was deeply influenced by Daniel O'Connell's campaign to repeal the Act of Union, and by Father Theobald Mathew's temperance movement. At the age of seventeen, he emigrated to Boston, where his speeches on Repeal and temperance quickly attracted the attention of the city's prominent Irish-Catholic nationalists. He was offered a job with the Boston Pilot; within two years, he was appointed editor of the newspaper. As his reputation grew, he was invited back to Ireland to become the parliamentary correspondent of the Freeman's Journal, and returned in 1845.



In Ireland, he joined the Young Ireland movement, and became a leading writer for its newspaper, the Nation. Radicalized by the Famine and by revolution in Europe, he became a separatist republican, and helped to launch the Irish Rising of 1848. A warrant was out for his arrest on the charge of High Treason. In October, he slipped out of Tremone Bay in Donegal, and escaped to the United States.

Describing himself as a "traitor to the British Government," McGee started up the New York Nation, blamed the Catholic Church for the failure of the Rising, attempted to revive revolutionary morale in Ireland, and called for an Irish assisted revolution in Canada. But within a year, he abandoned his physical force nationalism, on the grounds that the social and political consequences of the Famine and the failed Rising had made an Irish revolution impossible.

He concluded that the Irish should adopt constitutional methods to secure attainable reforms – a position that earned him the bitter enmity of his former revolutionary colleagues.

Increasingly concerned about the condition of Irish Catholics in the United States, and believing that they were becoming corrupted by the American way of life, McGee became drawn to Canada, where he believed Irish Catholics had happier and healthier lives. "The British flag does indeed fly here," he wrote, "but it casts no shadow." Moving to Montreal in 1857 and eventually becoming a cabinet minister in the Canadian government, he attempted to establish a pluralist British North American nation that would balance British order with American liberty, and develop a distinct cultural identity drawing on and transcending the country's different ethno-religious groups. In the process, he became a Father of Canadian Confederation.

An uncompromising opponent of the Fenian movement, he was regarded by many Irish nationalists as a man who had sold out his country in the pursuit of political power. In April 1868, he was shot dead by a Fenian sympathizer – the only federal politician in Canada who has been assassinated. 80,000 people attended his funeral. And the memory of "Canada's Martyred Celt" inspired a new generation of Canadian nationalists who set to realize his vision for the country.



Famine Exhibition

During the Summer School Carlingford Heritage Centre will host an exhibition *The Great Famine in Newry and Mourne*. It colourfully, and in detail, describes the pre-famine landscape, the arrival of the blight, and the reaction to it by all classes.

The exhibition, created by Anthony Russell, uses the Devon Commission, local newspapers, relief committee letters, Board of Guardian Minutes, eye witness accounts and remaining evidence from the landscape to tell the story of the Great Famine in Newry and Mourne.

Carlingford



Carlingford and the Cooley Peninsula, Co. Louth, Ireland, is located just over an hour's drive from Ireland's two Major cities of Dublin and Belfast. In 2008, Carlingford was honoured with the award of Ireland's European Destination of Excellence.

Carlingford is a magical village, full of character, and, is one of the best preserved medieval villages in Ireland. Raided by the Vikings in the 8th & 9th Centuries, historical records show that the Vikings occupied Carlingford Lough. They may have used the sheltered harbour as a temporary base, though this is unclear as no factual evidence, apart from the name Carlingford has been recorded.

With its history, narrow medieval streets and lanes that lead to the harbour, the majestic Slieve Foye mountain and the famous mountains of Mourne across the lough all combine to make Carlingford unique in Ireland. Today, the inherent natural beauty can equally be appreciated on land or sea. Carlingford has many things to offer such as guided walking tours, horse trekking through the mountains, sailing, a yacht charter, windsurfing, canoeing and water skiing.

Carlingford has many reputable restaurants, cosy pubs and great accommodation.

Enjoy the spectacular panoramic views and listen to the wealth of myths and legends which makes Carlingford a unique holiday experience! Carlingford is at the centre of much more too: within an hour's drive you can visit Newgrange and its famous 3000 BC prehistoric burial chamber, the Proleek Dolmen, and the Portal tomb, or why not head north and visit the Giant's Causeway, a world famous heritage site, within a two hour's drive?



Programme

Sunday 17th / Monday 18th, August, Four Seasons Hotel

19.30 Pre-Registration, Welcome – Carlingford Heritage Centre

Exhibition: The Great Famine in Newry and Mourne.

The exhibition will run in Carlingford Heritage Centre from August 17th to August 20th from 09.30 to 17.00. It records the changing landscape and society of South East Ulster and North Leinster from 1845 - 1850.

20.30 Gathering of the Clan - Taaffe's Castle

09.00 - 10.00 Registration

Chair: Jim Wells, MLA



Jim Wells was first elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1982 and has represented South Down at Stormont for twenty years. He is currently the Vice Chairman of the Assembly's Health Committee. A former member of Banbridge and Down Councils he has 17 years experience of local government.

10.00 Welcome address, Denis Cummins, President, Dundalk Institute of Technology

Denis Cummins is President of Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT). Prior to this, he held a variety of roles including lecturer in Computer Science for ten years, Head of Department of Computing and Mathematics, Acting Registrar and Head of School of Informatics and Creative Arts. He is a graduate of computer science from DkIT, University of Limerick and Trinity College Dublin. Mr. Cummins was the Chairperson of Institutes of Technology Ireland (IOTI) for 2013. He is Director with IOTI, An Cheim (Computer Services body for Institutes of Technology) and HEANet. He is also Chairman of Drogheda Civic Trust.



10.15 Special Guest, Loyola Hearn, Canadian Ambassador to Ireland



The Honourable Loyola Hearn (BA, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 1969) worked as a teacher in Renews and Trepassey, Newfoundland and Labrador, prior to joining the provincial government. He had extensive involvement in Community Development, Sports and Recreation, and Cultural organizations. He served in the Province's House of Assembly from 1982 to 1993, and was Minister of Education from 1985 to 1989, before entering federal politics.

Mr. Hearn was elected to Parliament in 2000, and he served until 2008. He served as Progressive Conservative Party House leader, Conservative Party House leader, Opposition House leader, Canadian Heritage critic, Public Works and Government Services critic, critic of the leader of the government in the House of Commons and Fisheries and Oceans critic. On February 6, 2006, following his victory in the 2006 federal election, he was named Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

In September 2008, Mr. Hearn announced that he would not stand for re-election. In November 2010, Mr. Hearn was appointed Canadian Ambassador to Ireland. He and his wife, Maureen, have a son, David, and a daughter, Laurita.

Programme

Monday 18th, August, Four Seasons Hotel



10.30 Keynote Speaker: Prof. David Wilson – *D'Arcy McGee and the Great Famine in Ulster*

David A. Wilson is a Professor in the History Department and the Celtic Studies Program at the University of Toronto, and is the General Editor of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography. He has written over a dozen books, including a two-volume award-winning biography of Thomas D'Arcy McGee.



11.30 Coffee Break

11.45 Open Forum

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Chair: Michael Blanch, Committee for the Commemoration of the Irish Famine Victims



Michael is chairman of the Committee for the Commemoration of the Irish Famine Victims (CCIFV) and a founding member of the National Famine Commemoration Committee. Michael and his wife Betty were the only people at the first Famine Commemoration in Dublin in 2003. It was Michael who persuaded the Irish Government to set up the annual commemoration for the victims of the Great Famine. He is still a fervent agitator.

Anthony Russell – *The Great Famine in two Ulsters*

Recently retired from The Faculty of Education, Anglia Ruskin University Anthony spent most of his academic career developing digital higher education projects from Denmark to refugee camps on the Thai Burma Border. An historical geographer he has been the academic consultant to DkIT and Ulster University's 'Borderlands' degree. He is the author of Irish Academic Press' forthcoming book, *The Lives, Politics and Tragedy of John Mitchel and Jenny Verner*.



15.00 Dr. Jason King, Montréal – *Father Dowd, The Grey Nuns and the Montréal Famine Sheds*



Jason King has been a lecturer at the University of Limerick and NUI Maynooth, an Assistant Professor of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University, and a visiting professor at the Université de Montréal and University College Cork. He established a digital Irish Famine archive (<http://www.history.ul.ie/historyoffamily/faminearchive/>) of the Montreal Grey Nuns' 1847 annals which is being expanded to include the records of Father Patrick Dowd.

16.00 Open Forum

19.30 Summer School Evening Meal - After Dinner event: "Farewell to Carlingford"

A Farewell Tribute to the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Loyola Hearn. Friends and colleagues from Canada and Ireland celebrate the Ambassador's four years in strengthening Canadian-Irish relations.

Dundalk Institute of Technology recognises the outstanding contribution Loyola Hearn has made to Canadian Irish cooperation as Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, 2010 to 2014. During this period, he has particularly applied himself to promoting academic, economic and cultural links between Carlingford, the birthplace of Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Dundalk Institute of Technology and Co. Louth. For these services, we are pleased to award him the Honorary Fellowship of Dundalk Institute of Technology.

(Funds will be raised on the night in support of Trócaire's anti-poverty and hunger programmes)



Programme

Tuesday 19th, August, Four Seasons Hotel

09.30 Chair: Robert Kearns, Ireland Park, Toronto



Robert G. Kearns is President and Founder of Kearns Insurance Corporation and Kearns Investment Corporation. Originally from Dublin, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Archaeology and Greek and Roman Civilizations from University College Dublin, before immigrating to Canada in 1979.

Speaker 1: Brian MacDonald, Clogher Historical Society - *The Deafening Silence: Monaghan's Tragedy 1845 - 1851*

Brian was Director of Research with the Clogher Historical Society's 'New Millennium Project' in the late 1990s. He co-ordinated an extensive trawl of documents relating to the Famine period and its aftermath across the Diocese of Clogher, as well as mapping the impact of population change between 1841-51 on a townland-by-townland and Civil Parish basis.



Speaker 2: Paddy Fitzgerald, Mellon Centre, Omagh - *Ulster Migration, Hunger and Denomination, 1550 - 1850*

Paddy Fitzgerald is Lecturer and Development Officer at the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park and an Honorary Research Fellow in History at Queen's University Belfast. In 2008 he co-authored with Dr. Brian Lambkin *Migration in Irish History, 1607-2007*.

11.00 Coffee Break

11.15 **Speaker 3: Dr. David Getty; Head of Humanities, Dundalk Institute of Technology - *Poor Houses, Poor Law and Policy (Focus on Ulster)***

Dr David Getty is the Head of Department of Humanities and Director of the Humanities and Social Science Research Centre at Dundalk Institute of Technology. His academic expertise is in social policy with a particular interest in the history of Irish social policy, the economic and political context of welfare, social exclusion, comparative welfare systems and social enterprise.



12.30 Open Forum

13.00 Lunch

14.00 - 14.45 **'Populate or Perish' - Australia's Irish Famine Orphan Girls - Carlingford Heritage Centre**

Anne Cunningham (Nee McArdle) was born in Carlingford and moved with her parents to Dundalk at an early age. Migrating to Sydney Anne completed an MA and PhD in History at Macquarie University in Sydney. Anne's field of speciality is nineteenth and early twentieth century Irish Australian Catholic Church history.



15.00 - 17.30 **"Death or Canada" A Gemini and IFTA Nominated, two-part Canadian-Irish docudrama - Carlingford Heritage Centre**



Mark G. McGowan, Professor of History, the University of Toronto and the founder of its Book & Media Studies Program. He served as Principal of St. Micheal's College, 2002-2011, and as Acting Vice-Provost (Students) of the UofT in 2013. The recipient of four University teaching awards he has written many award-winning books and articles on the Catholic Church in Canada and the Irish.

19.00 **"The Trials and Trial of Trevelyan"**; A courtroom drama, by Larry McArdle Carlingford Courthouse Charles Trevelyan, Permanent Under-Secretary to the British Treasury, is charged with genocide against the Irish Nation, in respect of his handling of the Great Irish Famine of 1848 Special Guest; Pete St. John, author of *The Fields of Athenry*. First 60 registered participants only

21.00 **Canadian/Irish Folk night - Hosted by Ambassador Loyola Hearn, Village Hotel Carlingford**

Programme

Wednesday 20th, August, Four Seasons Hotel

09.30 Chair: Dr. Patricia Moriarty, Head of School of Business & Humanities, Dundalk Institute of Technology



Patricia comes to Dundalk IT from a leading Dublin private college where she held a number of roles including Head of School of Business and Head of Department of Management. Previous to that she was Director of Academic Affairs at Hibernia College Dublin and lectured at Dublin City University. Patricia is a Registered Organisational Psychologist and was awarded her doctorate from Trinity College.

Speaker 1: Professor Mary Daly, UCD, Dublin - *The Great Famine: What, if anything, was different about Ulster?*

The first female to be elected as President of the Royal Irish Academy Professor Mary Daly is one of Ireland's most prominent senior historians and is a member of the government's Expert Advisory Group on Commemorations. She is professor of history at UCD and served for seven years as Principal of UCD College of Arts.



Speaker 2: Piaras McEinri - *Emigration and Diaspora in AIF*



Piaras is a Lecturer in Geography and European Studies at the Department of Geography in University College Cork and was Director from 1997-2003 of the interdisciplinary Irish Centre for Migration Studies, focusing on Irish and comparative international migration research. He served in the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1976 to 1981 with postings in Brussels, Beirut and Paris.

11.00 Coffee Break

11.15 **The D'Arcy McGee Politicians' Forum, followed by an open forum with attendees "The Legacy of the Famine"**



Danny Kennedy MLA, Deputy Leader, UUP, was appointed Minister for Regional Development (DRD) on 16 May 2011. He has been a member of Newry and Mourne District Council from 1985-2010 (Chairman 1994/5), a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly since 1998, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee on Education and Chairman of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister Committee.

Barry McElduff, is an elected Sinn Féin MLA for West Tyrone. From Carrickmore, Barry has a strong interest in the GAA, especially gaelic football, and in the Irish language. Barry is a graduate of Queens University Belfast. In 2012, Barry published his first book, *KEEP 'ER LIT*.



Dominic Bradley, SDLP MLA, Newry and Mourne, is the SDLP spokesperson on finance and Deputy Chair of the NI Assembly's Finance and Personnel Committee; he also sits on the Culture Arts and Leisure Committee. He has represented the Newry and Armagh constituency since 2003. Formerly a teacher of Irish and English he is an advocate for the Irish language and has a strong interest in community affairs.



Jim Wells, DUP MLA, was first elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1982 and has represented South Down at Stormont for twenty years.

13.00 **Summer School reflections - Professor David Wilson**

13.15 **Thomas D'Arcy McGee 2014 Summer School Conclusion; Mr Andrew Griffith, Chairman of DkIT Board of Governors**



'Famine in Ulster?'

- Anthony Russell

The 'Famine in Ulster' is an exciting and controversial topic for the D'Arcy McGee Summer School. As a Young Irishman, McGee was as angrily eloquent as Ulsterman John Mitchel in condemning British policy. It was McGee who first referred to 'sailing coffins'. Despite the transformation of his political views, as he journeyed from Ireland to the USA and Canada, seeking social justice for the disadvantaged Irish remained a constant.

The Great Famine in Ulster was more complex than our political positions might like to admit. For many Unionists, if it happened in Ulster, it happened in the peripheral counties, especially Monaghan and Donegal. Industrial Ulster, Belfast and its Tenant Right hinterland, were not affected. For Nationalists, whose perception owes much to John Mitchel, perhaps industrial Ulster did survive but the nationalist population across the island, including the rest of Ulster, was the victim of genocidal British policy.



The potato was cultivated on marginal land above Omeath

Such generalizations ignore pre-famine descriptions of County Down, "the best conditioned quarter of Ireland", from the Devon Commission, from diaries and from the Belfast Penny Journal.

'Many of the dwellings I saw upon the roadside looked to me like abodes of extinguished hope...groveling, despairing, almost idiotic wretchedness. I did not know man and woman, upright and made in the likeness of God could live in styes lie swine with swine.'

This perception was written in July before the Famine happened. Not surprisingly, when the potato did fail thousands were drawn by the industrial development of Belfast. Their rural to urban migrations helped create and populate the Falls and the Shankill. Many migrants lie as famine victims in Friar's Bush cemetery on the Stranmillis Road. Newry, Newtownards and other towns had soup kitchens and relief committees.

Perhaps we could explain the above as the tragedy of the marginalized, the landless cottiers and labourers, who lived in mud cabins, but this would be to ignore Quaker evidence from the once prosperous rural linen triangle, evidence from the birthplace of the Orange Order, Loughall.

'I have myself witnessed the living lying on straw, by the side of the unburied dead, who had died three days before. Many deaths from actual starvation have actually occurred amongst the able bodied, without reckoning the aged and infirm...or the very many children who have died from the same cause. I have been called to see a girl of four years old, a few weeks ago a strong healthy girl, who was so emaciated as to be unable either to stand or move a limb.'

The rural weavers and tenant right farmers of mid Ulster were suffering from competition from the mechanized linen industry in Belfast. The failure of the potato was an additional cruel blow. The eyewitness accounts from Drumcree tell of emaciation.

As the Great Famine moved up the social scale, largely ignoring ethnicity, many emigrated. They funneled out through ports like Derry and Warrenpoint. The Newry Commercial Telegraph commented:

'Emigration is taking place at an alarming rate. It is the industrious, thrifty class that is being drained. Day after day there are to be seen passing through the leading thoroughfare, on their way to Warrenpoint, carts upon which are seated ...young and hale looking men and women.'

In Dublin, John Mitchel and D'Arcy McGee, whilst concerned about a famine that was socially beneath them, geographically beyond them enjoyed 'Nights and suppers of the Gods'; at the same time the 'Beau Monde' of Newry 'sat down to a sumptuous repast, where all the delicacies that the season could afford were found in the greatest abundance'.



Tenant Farm, Kilbroney Valley, Co. Down

The Great Famine was a social famine. It inflicted misery, especially upon cottiers, labourers and small tenants. It was a geographic famine, generally between east and west but also between neighbouring townlands. The Great Famine was shorter, less intense in Ulster than in Munster and Connaught. The rapid industrialization of Belfast offered an additional escape but, regardless of ethnicity, there was a famine in Ulster.

Acknowledgements



Dundalk Institute of Technology
Summer School Management Team

Patricia Moriarty
David Getty
Fiona Oster
Karl Mernagh
Michelle Goss
Deirdre Mulligan
Brianain Erraught

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Thomas D'Arcy McGee
Summer School Coordinating Committee

Larry McArdle
Anthony Russell
Tommy Fegan, DkIT
Jamie Callaghan, DkIT volunteer
Margaret Harold, Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust
Frank O'Brien, Carlingford and Cooley Tourism Association
Frances Taylor, Omeath District Development Company Ltd.
Helen Thompson, Omeath District Development Company Ltd.

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Thomas D'Arcy McGee
Summer School Consultative Group

David Wilson
Tommy Fegan
Anthony Russell

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Acknowledgements

Pat O'Callaghan
Larry McArdle
Louth County Council
Alphie Mulligan & family
Omeath District Development
Dundalk Institute of Technology
Carlingford Lough Heritage Trust
Ambassador Loyola Hearn & friends
Carlingford and Cooley Tourism Association

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