

Féile

Partner Groups / Organisations in 2023/24

The success of Feile this year and over the last 32 years is largely due to the commitment of a multitude of groups, initiatives and volunteers who collaborate with us in our various events. The various partners bring a wealth of experience to the table across several disciplines including health & wellbeing, older people, education, children & young people, community development, the arts in all its forms, sport, heritage, peace & reconciliation work and have the professionalism, capacity, infrastructure community and statutory support to help in the delivery of a world class festival. The partnership approach ensures that Féile can produce a diverse, quality, value for money programme that reaches all sections / demographics of the community as well as audiences and visitors from across the city and beyond.

Partners in 2023/24 included

Triax Neighbourhood Management Team

Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership

Old Library Trust

Surestart Edenballymore

DEEDS (Dementia engaged and empowered in Derry & Strabane) Project

Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum

Gasyard Development Trust

St John's P.S

Long Tower P.S

Nazareth House P.S

Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir

Fountain P.S

Holy Child P.S

St Eugene's P.S

St Cecilia's College

St Joseph's Boys School

Cathedral Youth Club

Bishop Street Youth Club

Youthfirst

St Mary's Youth Club

Long Tower Youth Club

House In The Wells

Foyle Valley House

In Your Space

North West Carnival Initiative

Nerve Centre

Séan Dolanps GAC

Derry City FC

Trojans CYC

Creggan Scouts

Rath Mór Warriors

Oak Leaf Boxing Club

Bluebell Arts

Celtronic

Community Restorative Justice

Creggan Country Park

Destined

Ulster Orchestra

Museum of Free Derry

Pat Finucane Centre

Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin

Foyle Pride

Foyle Network Foundation

Dove House
Pilots Row Centre
Trócaire
Sollus
New Gate Arts Centre

Féile, Derry's biggest community arts festival returned for the 32nd year with a packed programme including music, literature, film, sport, history, comedy, art, carnival, fun days, health, discussions, tours and events and programmes for children, young people and older people.

A digital version of the programme can be viewed at link below.
https://issuu.com/gasyardfeilederry/docs/feile_2023_online

A film showing an overview of the festival can be viewed below.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZObnU36Yv8>

A summary of the various events is outlined below:

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Féile 2023 featured a number of community gatherings including

The Big Breakfast at Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership, Central Drive

Party in the Park/Big Bog BBQ at Pilots Row Carpark: The event coincided with the Apprentice Boys of Derry parade on Saturday 12th August and saw Pilots Row come alive for lots of family fun, transforming the area into a shared space where all cultures and traditions could come together for a positive community event that will benefit the wider area and the city.

House in the wells Annual Féile BBQ: The House in the Wells a harm reduction hostel and provides accommodation for homeless people with addiction issues. It provides an invaluable service to the community.

Lúghnasa at Cultúrlann: a day of activities centred around the pagan Lúnasa festival where attendees learned about ancient traditional practices related to this time of the year.

End of Harvest Barbecue at Ballymagowan Allotments: The annual end of harvest barbecue provided a great opportunity for allotment holders, and novices alike to come together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, to swap stories and enjoy food and company in a scenic environment.

Children, Young People & Family Events

Féile 2023 featured a number of family events

North West Spectrum Connecting Communities Family Festival: a festival of Music, Dance, Arts & Crafts for Autistic children, young people and their families.

Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps: Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps provided primary school boys and girls – between the ages of 6 and 13 – with an action-packed and fun-filled week of activity which revolves around maximising enjoyment and sustaining participant involvement in Gaelic Games. Féile sponsored 15 places for children from Bogside, Brandywell, Bishop Street, Fountain and Creggan neighbourhoods in receipt of free meals

Kids Health Week provided a variety of fun & creative activities with a breakfast club provided. Including Cookery and Nutrition Workshops, Arts & Crafts, Assault Courses, Football sessions, Basketball with Danny Quigley, Martial Arts with Pinta, Bug Hunts, Nature Walks, Games, Park Play, Relaxation Workshops, Circus Skills, Relax Kids; self-belief & empowerment Workshops, Sparks Music & 'Healthy Me' Action Mental Health Workshops & Bouncy Castles.

The Greatest Show: A family show featuring magicians, comedy acts and circus shows visiting communities across Bogside, Fountain and Brandywell neighbourhoods.

The Big Night Out: A family festival at Féile featuring fun for all the family including live music, magicians, comedy acts, circus shows, arts & crafts, facepainting, balloon modelling

Wan Big Street Party returned bigger than ever to Central Drive, Creggan with a wide range of fun packed family events which will include Petting Farm, amusements, performances, arts and crafts, a number of cultural workshops celebrating the diversity of our wonderful city and Silent Disco and workshops for families with additional needs.

CNP Family Bus Run: Join us for the big family trip to Bundoran. Bus leaves Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership at 9am. Price tbc. For more info contact Kellie @ CNP 71 281900

Art / Exhibitions

COVID Creations hosted by The Pink Ladies Cancer Support Group, is an exhibition of the art, poetry and song created by their amazing members during lockdown, a beautiful way to remember how we came through a time we will never forget.

Juvenilia: Award winning photographer Megan Doherty worked with a group of young women from St Mary's Youth Club, Creggan and Long Tower Youth Club, Brandywell to produce a new exhibition 'Juvenilia (works produced by an artist while young), documenting shared experiences between members of both these groups. The work explores adolescence, friendship, community and girlhood, captured through the lens of the observer, as well as the intimate and unique point of view of the girls themselves who created the work.

Camerawork: Camerawork Darkrooms Derry (Camerawork) was established in 1982 in Derry's Bogside to provide local people with the tools that would enable them to create their own black and white images. Derry in the 1980's resembled a war zone and it was not an uncommon sight to see international journalists capturing images of that conflict. It was against this backdrop that Camerawork photographers began recording everyday life in the city from its citizen's viewpoint. In existence for over a decade a huge archive was amassed numbering several thousand negatives that provide a fascinating portrayal of a people and place. The exhibition at Féile 2023 offered an opportunity for local people to cast their minds back at a time when everything appeared black and white.

Squarebear - Hood Art 2: An exhibition inspired by low-fi meme culture which shows how sesh culture and corporate globalism overshadow local Irish nationalism by referencing pop culture and art history. Squarebear uses symbols of youth culture, injecting art culture and pop iconography.

Street Art Tour: Street artists from across the globe have joined a new breed of street artists to leave their mark in towns and cities across Ireland. In recent years, the Derry collective, Peaball, have been leading the street art movement in Derry. This special event saw street artists take a group across the city and the Bogside and Creggan neighbourhoods and view artworks by acclaimed artists including Aches, Emic, Friz, Dave Bonzai, Razer and Noys.

History & Heritage

Gasyard Development Trust Call for Artefacts: Gasyard Development Trust put out a call for artefacts for their planned museum in Derry's Bogside which will chronicle the evolution of the peace process from a local perspective.

Residents Day at Museum of Free Derry: On Monday 14th August, residents could visit the award winning exhibition at The Museum of Free Derry, the people's story of government oppression, the struggle for civil rights, the descent into conflict, Free Derry and Bloody Sunday.

Foyle Valley Railway Museum Open Day & BBQ: Having been closed to the public since 2002 Destined recently took on the challenge of restoring the Foyle Valley Railway Museum to its former glory. At Féile 2023, Destined members led a tour of the museum.

Derry Cemetery Tour: Often the most interesting things lie not noticed and on your doorstep. This is certainly true of Derry City Cemetery. The history of the city and its links to the wider world are literally carved in the ageing headstones. Attendees heard the stories of industrialists, politicians, WW1 and WW2 victims, Irish patriots, law makers and law breakers, sports stars, pop stars and celebrities and visited the unmarked mass poor plots of Catholics and Protestants even divided in death.

Poetry & Literature

Book Launch: The Pen Behind The Wire by Eoghan 'Gino' Mac Cormaic: Greenisland Press is pleased to announce the publication of a selection of prison poems by Eoghan Mac Cormaic who served fifteen years in jail and was on the blanket protest for five years at a time when ten of his comrades died on hunger strike. Eoghan began writing poems on toilet paper and cigarette papers and smuggled them out to his family who kept them safe from British Army raids and seizure. Some of the poems were published in Republican News. A selection of these early 'blanket' poems, and other prison poems written after the protest, give us an insight into Eoghan and his comrades' lives—which even the prison couldn't contain—and allows us to look with them from their cell windows out into the world where hopes and dreams would be realised someday.

Andrea Carter in conversation with Neil Hegarty: Andrea Carter grew up in Laois and is the author of the Inishowen Mysteries series of novels. Andrea discussed her deep connection with Inishowen and Derry, her writing life, her love of crime fiction—and how place forms such a powerful thread in her writing.

Kerri Ní Dochartaigh in conversation with Neil Hegarty: Kerri ní Dochartaigh is a mother, writer and grower. She writes about place, nature and motherhood for the Guardian, BBC, RTE, Irish Times and others. Her first book, *Thin Places*, was awarded the Butler Literary Award 2022 and highly commended for the Wainwright Prize 2021. Her second book *Cacophony of Bone* published in May has been longlisted in the Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing 2023.

Music

Cafe Trad Sessions with Acadamh Ceoil Chaoimhín Úi Dhochartaigh: Trad musicians from Acadamh Ceoil Chaoimhín Úi Dhochartaigh, the North West's foremost hub for music teaching and learning performed at lunchtime sessions at cafes across the neighbourhood throughout Féile 2023.

Danny McGilloway: A Night of Storytelling, Song and Music: Danny McGilloway is an Irish folk singer, songwriter. A former member of the legendary 'Thundering Down', he has played extensively throughout Ireland, England, Scotland and Europe and has shared the stage with Christy Moore, Frances Black and Dolores Keane. For this special event, Danny and special guests told the story of growing up in Creggan through the 1950's, 60's, 70's and 80's.

Cormac Begley + support from Cáit Ní Riain: Cormac Begley hails from West Kerry, where his families' roots are firmly cemented in traditional music. Cormac's Begley's career has gone from strength to strength over the past year; winning Best Folk Instrumentalist 2022 at the RTÉ Folk Awards and Irish Times Album of the Year 2022, with his second solo album 'B'.

Our Space Music Night: showcase of Under 18's music talent.

Giuseppe's Ballroom: In collaboration with Foyle Pride, Giuseppe's hosted the finest of local DJs, cabaret and tasty refreshments to keep you entertained 'til home-time. An alcohol-free space, this is a world where you can dance freely, love openly, and sing your heart out without the headache.

The Future Sound of Derry: A series of live music gigs at venues across the city including Sandinos, The Nerve Centre, Bennigans and The Gweedore featuring Declan McLaughlin, John Deery, Queen Grace, Ports, Polar Bolero,

Theatre

My Corona: MY CORONA' is a hilarious new show by award-winning playwright Pearse Elliott, that packs a powerful punch! Starring Caroline Curran, 'MY CORONA' follows nurse Donna as she navigates her way through the day-to-day challenges of working in a care home during these unprecedented times. A no-

nonsense, modern-day hero, with a cracking sense of humour, Donna encapsulates everything about our wonderful NHS that is truly worth fighting for. A hilarious and heartfelt, state of the nation piece, 'MY CORONA' will have audiences rolling with laughter and clapping for the real superheroes of the last few years; our incredible Health Workers!

Discussions & Debates

The Choice for Unionism - Aaron Edwards: Since the Brexit referendum of 2016, extraordinary uncertainty has hung over the future of the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, creating a crisis of insecurity for the unionist community. Aaron Edwards explores the profound challenges facing unionism. He confronts the narrow beliefs and prejudices of unionists and loyalists, as well as outlining their more positive and forward-thinking aspects. By embracing these, Edwards argues, divisions can be healed, and a position reached of mutual acceptance, tolerance and understanding that will benefit everyone on these islands. Dr Aaron Edwards is a historian from Belfast who is the author of *A People Under Siege: The Unionists of Northern Ireland, From Partition to Brexit and Beyond*

Colum Eastwood in Conversation with Aoife Grace Moore: Uniting the people and public services of our island in a reconciled and prosperous new Ireland is the biggest and the boldest idea around. The conversation about what the future could look like is growing every day – people are openly and passionately discussing how we can build better public services, pay workers a fair wage, cut hospital waiting lists and create an ambitious new society that is a home for everyone who shares our island. SDLP Leader and Foyle MP Colum Eastwood was in conversation with journalist and broadcaster Aoife Moore about the power and potential of the movement for a new Ireland and how it offers the best opportunity to build a truly shared society.

Think 32 presents: Why is there a reluctance to properly plan and prepare for a Border Poll/Irish Unity: Two years ago we asked a panel 'What should the governments be doing about Irish Unity?' In the time since despite the continued growth of the conversation around the constitutional question and with very little forward movement on the issue, we return to this topic for this year's Gasyard Feile asking 'Why is there a reluctance to properly plan or prepare for a Borderpoll/Irish Unity? Hosted by award winning journalist, Patricia Devlin, the panel featured Jim O Callaghan FF TD, Lynn Boylan SF TD, Writer, Academic and Historian, Aaron Edwards and Writer & Campaigner, Emma De Souza.

Was there a Derry influence in the Good Friday Agreement?: Twenty five years on from the Good Friday Agreement, Allison Morris led a discussion with negotiators Mark Durkan and Mitchel McLaughlin to reflect on the that momentous time and the progress since, while also looking forward as the conversation on constitutional change in Ireland develops and expands.

'25 Pieces' - Brian Rowan in Conversation with Freya McClements: Irish Times Northern Editor Freya McClements in conversation with journalist and author Brian Rowan about his '25 Pieces' exhibition. Drawn from his extensive news archive of his contacts with the many sides to the conflict, the accompanying exhibition booklet follows the hard road to Good Friday 1998, and the story since. It is a conversation about codewords and ceasefires, decommissioning and demilitarisation, agreements and disagreements, prisoners and the often broken politics of peace.

Professor Colin Harvey: A Pathway to a New Ireland: Colin Harvey is Professor of Human Rights Law, Director of the Human Rights Centre and Fellow of the Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast. 25 years since the Good Friday Agreement and a United Ireland seems to be closer than ever. In this seminar, Professor Colin Harvey will outline a pathway to a New Ireland.

Older People's Events

Older peoples Bus Run: This year's Bus Run went to Ards Monastery to explore the beautiful grounds, relax and enjoy the scenery, then onto the Silver Tassie Hotel for a lovely two course meal.

Brandy Balls Snooker Competition

Deeds Tea Dance at Bishops Field Sports Centre, Central Drive

Summer Madness Bingo at Bishops Field Sports Centre, Central Drive

Dander-ball Tournament: football tournament for over 55's at Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium

Social night at Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership, Central Drive

Film

Stephen Gargan: There & Back Again: On November 27th 2022, Stephen Gargan passed away. A grandfather, father, brother, son, partner, friend and activist, he is missed every day. Born in Dublin, Stephen was involved in community activism in Derry for many years. A founding member and former festival director of Gasyard Wall Féile, he also was a co-founder and director of Gaslight Media Trust. A leading campaigner for the Bloody Sunday families for many years, he co-produced the drama-documentary film 'SUNDAY'. He also co-developed the 'Epilogues' and 'Just Us' Education Programme with Jim Keys. Until his untimely passing, he was a key member of the Bloody Sunday March Committee. Féile have co-produced a film celebrating Stephen with his family, friends and comrades.

406 Days - The Debenhams Picket Line: a captivating documentary following the 1,000 Irish Debenhams workers who were made redundant through a generic email in April 2020 after Debenhams shut all 11 Irish stores. The workforce, 95% female, had been denied an earlier agreed redundancy package. They voted to go on official strike and blocked stock being removed from the 11 stores by the liquidator. The workers remained on the picket lines, through the COVID-19 pandemic for 406 days, making this the longest industrial dispute in Irish labour history. The telling of the very human stories of courage, determination, and friendship that lay behind the conflict are told here. This is a contemporary story about inequality and a struggle for fairness by an extraordinary group of ordinary people.

Burned - Protecting the Protectors: A documentary telling the true story of one person's quest to understand decades of firefighters' cancers. The Pink Ladies Cancer Support Group has long been highlighting the risks of PFAS chemicals especially with flame retardants and met with Di Cotter, the wife of the firefighter in the story on World Cancer Day 2019. Since then, we have been raising awareness on the high risk of cancer in firefighters including through exposure in their turnout gear.

Mincéir: a unique piece conveyed in the shape of a 55min documentary that brings the audience on a journey across the Irish Traveller's culture exploring their past traditions, present transitions and future views. It portrays how their culture has evolved through the collaborations of various members of the community from very different backgrounds including story tellers, wagon makers, singers, writers, actors, flower makers, tinsmiths, cooks and recyclers.

Be Yourself? - LGBTQIA+ Perspectives in Derry in 2023: This new Féile production follows Dee McLaughlin, a youth worker from Creggan, as he meets with a range of members of the LGBTQIA+ community in Derry to share stories about the issues they have faced in the past, those they face today and their hopes for the future.

Who Would Jesus Bomb?: Around 3 million US troops have gone through Ireland's Shannon Airport since 2002. Who Would Jesus Bomb? explores Ireland's complicity in the global War on Terror, and how a small number of Christian activists risked their freedom trying to stop the American war machine and save lives. 20 years on from the disastrous US-led invasion of Iraq, this film aims to raise important questions about Irish neutrality, spark debate about forms of activism, and challenge what it means to be a Christian.

Into The Weeds follows groundskeeper Dewayne "Lee" Johnson and his fight for justice against Monsanto (now Bayer). Dewayne Johnson, a Bay Area groundskeeper, suffered from rashes in 2014 and wondered if they were caused by the herbicide he'd been using. As his health deteriorated, Johnson became the face of a David-and-Goliath legal battle to hold multinational agrochemical corporation Monsanto accountable for a product with allegedly misleading labelling. Roundup, which is sold in more than 130 nations, is a glyphosate-based herbicide, and has been a signature product for Monsanto for over four decades. Scientists raised concerns about its environmental impact and carcinogenic properties, but Monsanto's deep-pocketed corporate lawyers, lobbyists and marketers deflected numerous studies and disputed the findings.

Trojans YVG – Unnus Summus: The board and members, players past and present of Trojans FC, and residents of Creggan feature in a film that documents the history and positive contribution the club and its members make to the Creggan neighbourhood and wider area.

Freedom & The Sesh: A Squarebear Joint: In 2023, Féile approached acclaimed artist Squarebear to take part in a documentary film with Féile's Ruairi Campbell. The film follows Squarebear's day to day habits and the creative contributions that come from that.

Sport/Games

Little Kickers: In partnership with Surestart & Trojan's FC, a morning of fun and introduction to football skills specifically designed for toddlers from 18months. A light snack & water will be provided.

Martin McGuinness Fly Fishing Competition: The Martin McGuinness Memorial fly fishing competition returned to the Fullerton Reservoir in Donegal. Martin's love of angling was well known and whenever he managed to find a bit of spare time, he would take the opportunity to do a bit of fishing. Such times allowed him not just peace and quiet away from his hectic political duties but also provided him with a bit of space to reflect and recharge.

Damp Dash Aquathlon: The Damp Dash Aquathlon in association with North West Triathlon Club returned to the beautiful surroundings of Creggan Country Park. The Sprint Distance aquathlon featured a 750 metre swim followed by a 5 km run.

The Ryan McBride Foundation – Summer Camp: The Ryan McBride Foundation was set up following the passing of the much loved Derry City captain. The Foundation aims to support, assist and inspire young players to achieve what Ryan achieved and to assist groups that Ryan supported during his life. Féile hosted a three day summer scheme for children aged 4-13 featuring lots of footballing fun. Féile sponsored a limited number of free spaces for young people from the Bogside, Brandywell and Fountain areas who are entitled to free school meals.

Pádraig Barton Cup: The 7 Aside football competition in memory of young Republican Pádraig Barton featured teams from across the city from the 2012 year group.

BJ McVeigh Memorial Cup Pool competition was held in the Wells in honour of our friend and colleague BJ McVeigh. Staff, Residents and guests took part in a 1 frame knock out tournament for the trophy. Inclusive Group Cycle/Lunch: members of the local community joined Destined members for a cycle out the line.

Ryan McBride Cup: Teams from the 2016 year group from across the city celebrated the spirit of the late Derry City FC captain Ryan McBride in a new competition with a twist. As well as teams competing for the Ryan McBride Cup there will be additional prizes awarded for fair play, team work, respect, leadership, passion, commitment and loyalty.

Superheroes Race at Jog In The Bog: Children dressed up as their favourite Super Hero and ran 1K from the Free Derry Corner to the Gasyard Centre!!

Colm Quigley Jog In The Bog: The Annual Colm Quigley Jog in The Bog returned as hundreds of runners took to the streets of the neighbourhood held in memory of the late North West Triathlon legend, Colm Quigley.

Sean Keenan Quiz: The Sean Keenan Quiz returned to Féile 2023. Quizmaster Christopher 'Pinta' McKnight tested the team's knowledge of Irish History, Sports and Culture.

Communities In Transition

Stage Production: City Til I Die

Rehearsals for Féile's 'City Til I Die' stage production took place from January – March 2024 with the finished production premiering on 11th / 12th March at Long Tower Youth Club. The play followed the relationship of a football / Derry City mad grandfather and grandson over the course of a season as they share stories on the terraces at the Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium, learning the wonderful history of the club, the positive contribution the club and its fans make to the Brandywell and Creggan area and wider city and how being a supporter enhances the lives of so many residents and what it truly means to be a Derry City supporter.

The first night of the play was attended by 150 young people from youth clubs from across the city. The second night performance of the play was for the general public and attracted a sell out audience of 250+ people.

The play can now be viewed online at

https://youtu.be/d_6vitXpJTI

Please see below a link to a film with audience feedback

<https://youtu.be/nrg0cW4RROQ>

Below are some quotes from audience/press

'Emotional, heart warming and thought-provoking.'

'Absolutely amazing.'

'Sensational. Should be more than one night'

'I thought it was phenomenal.'

'It really showed how much the club means to young people. That play really needs to be seen more'

'The play was fantastic. Being from Southend Park, there was a lot of nostalgia, a lot of memories.'

'I thought it was very good, very informative.'

'Really, really brilliant play.'

'Absolutely brilliant. A lot of sad moments. a lot of happy moments. A great history lesson in relation to the club. The actors and actresses done the club and the city proud.'

"It's absolutely unbelievable... it's madness how good it was, it got everything down to a T!

"I thought it was really interesting.. it made me learn a lot about local history to do with the club"

"I wouldn't go to every [Derry City] match, but it's inspired me to go to more"

"It was amazing! Everybody come see 'City Til Die!'"

"I thought it was absolutely lethal and I would definitely go again, it was very inspirational"

"I came and didn't know what to expect, but it was superb - really emotive, historical... I thought it was absolutely brilliant... and that's from a Belfast man!"

'it's made me think that I should be going to more games... if you don't get to see 'City Til I Die', you've missed out!'

Equinox

The equinox, or Cónocht an Earraigh in Gaelic, has held a special place in Ireland for thousands of years. Some speculate that the close proximity of the spring equinox to St Patrick's Day is due to a merging of ancient Celtic traditions with more modern Christian rituals.

The Creggan neighbourhood hosted a new festival, Equinox on Wednesday 20th March, a time for creativity, sharing stories, cleansing and celebration and featured a series of events taking place across Creggan from sunrise to sunset.

A film documenting the days events can be viewed at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2pwhQ1fuf0&t=7s>

Programme elements included

Dawn Chorus at Creggan Country Park with local people joining choirs to welcome the sunrise on the equinox.

Storytelling -. Equinox will celebrate many elements of Irish culture. Storytelling is one of these elements. The idea is for the school children, young people, residents to have the opportunity to experience the art of storytelling throughout the day of the event. Stories covered a range of themes including local history, legends, mythology and will give participants a greater appreciation and pride of their culture, history and their neighbourhood. The Human library element of the programme will give participants the opportunity to meet notable figures from across the community who will share their life experiences, challenging culture and identity perceptions.

Willow craft workshops – young people worked with the artist Brendan Farren to create a willow art piece that was displayed at the

Spring Clean: community cleanup with school children, youth clubs, sporting groups and community organisations taking part in clean-ups throughout the day.

Art Workshops on the theme of setting intentions. Finished artworks will feature in finale 'A Quare Stretch' event.

Music / Dance performances in schools, community settings throughout the day.

Sport: Workshops where participants will get the opportunity to try out various sports including Gaelic Football, Hurling, Soccer

Heritage Tours telling the history of the area.

The Big Dander - community walk encouraging local people to get out and about in the area

Genesis: A photographic project celebrating the young people of the neighbourhood.

A Quare Stretch: The key event of the day was The Quare Stretch. Féile worked with local young people and the artist Paddy Bloomer to transform The Bishop's Field area of Creggan, a green space in the heart of the community, into a cultural event space for one evening only. The centrepiece was a barn which will be specially constructed for the event which became the main indoor event space for Equinox. The evening event saw the community come together for an evening of music, ceili dancing, food, to welcome the Equinox sunset. The event featured musical performances from The Armagh Rhymers, CCÉ Baile na gCailleach. and Dara. The barn was dismantled following the event. As with all Féile's initiatives, the event operated under our Leave no Trace ethos, hopefully inspiring young people in the area that it is possible to have gatherings, cultural events in the area with the support of residents, that don't involve anti-social behaviour, environmental destruction and attract negative media coverage of the area.

Some feedback from the public / partners is shown below.

'Was absolutely amazing.'

'Very poignant and beautiful.'

'It was beautiful & so uplifting. Thanks to the organisers it was a great event & a lot of hard work.'

'Such a lovely event - thank you to the organisers.'

'Really beautiful way to start the day! Thanks everyone we loved it.'

'So positive'

'What a fabulous initiative'

Thank you for involving us. The pupils really enjoyed it and the weather was perfect for it.

'Great to be part of Equinox programme of events! Well done everyone.'

'Thank you so much for thinking of us and involving us in this wonderful unique project. It has strengthened our links with the school too.'

'Excellent stuff from dawn til dusk! Huge congratulations to everyone who took part with Féile, wonderful to see, well done!'

'It was great to be involved again and have young people from the centre give back to the community. They took part in everything from building the barn through to lifting rubbish and ensuring the site was left like we found it. These events highlight what can be achieved through collaboration and working together.'

'The girls really enjoyed themselves and the vast majority had never performed in public before.'

Graffiti On The Walls Street Art initiative

Street Art Training for young people: Young people from Holy Child Primary School, St John's Primary School and St Joseph's Boys School took part in Street Art workshops where they try street art techniques, working with professional artists.

Transformation of Creggan Shops: Central Drive is the main thoroughfare in Creggan and is the location of many of the shops, businesses and community organisations of the area as well as the local primary school and library. In recent years, there have been continued concerns about traffic, rubbish, graffiti and anti-social behaviour in the area. The Creggan shops on Central Drive have been covered in paramilitary graffiti, threats and obscene language for a number of years. The shops are across the street from a local primary school and most of the area's community facilities. The appearance adds to the stereotyping of the area as unsafe, unwelcoming and under the control of paramilitaries. As part of Féile's Communities In Transition project, Creggan Shops underwent a transformation with local arts collective Peaball working with community groups and young people to create new artworks on the shutters and panels of the shops which have often been the site of unsightly graffiti. In addition to the new murals, a new artwork celebrating the motto of Holy Child Primary School 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day' has replaced long term graffiti on Central Drive.

Large scale murals: Two new large-scale artworks from world renowned mural artists, Emic and Friz were completed on Central Drive, joining the acclaimed James McClean mural by Aches that was completed in 2022.

'The Derry Dryad' by Friz is inspired by Doire (oak grove) and the sacred position that the oak tree held for Ireland's ancestors. Dryads were tree spirits in Irish and Greek mythology and were said to be the protectors of the trees and the forests.

'Younger Days' by Emic, features a young person walking in nature. The figure blends together with the foliage to represent growth with birds taking off into the sky to represent achievement. The dusky colours are intended to be warm and peaceful. The mural took inspiration from the poem 'Blackberry Picking' by Seamus Heaney, which is a nostalgic look back at his lost youth and growing up. Additional community involvement included students and teachers from Holy Child P.S taking part in an outdoor art class where they drew their own versions of the new murals by Emic and Friz.

Outdoor Gallery:

Féile worked with local schools, youth clubs to create an outdoor gallery on Central Drive and Fanad Drive in Creggan. The gallery had several elements.

Award winning photographer Megan Doherty worked with a group of young women from St Mary's Youth Club and Long Tower Youth Club to produce a new exhibition 'Juvenilia (works produced by an artist while young), documenting shared experiences between members of both these groups. The work explores adolescence, friendship, community and girlhood, captured through the lens of the observer, as well as the intimate and unique point of view of the girls themselves who created the work.

Students from Holy Child P.S produced a beautiful exhibition 'Imagining The Future' featuring their artworks on what they love about Holy Child & Creggan and their hopes for the future while 'Palette of Promise' featured a series of stunning artworks by emerging artists from St Cecilia's College and St Joseph's College, the post primary schools of Creggan.

Below is a film documenting the project which shows what Central Drive looked like before and after the transformation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Di5vRoy9dDc>

The Graffiti On The Walls Project was featured on BBC Newsline. You can watch the feature at the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=270337572247082&ref=sharing>

The project has been welcomed by residents and local organisations. Some feedback below.

'It is great to see the community come together to work with Féile to try and reimagine the area. Some of the art on display from small scale schoolwork to large scale murals is amazing and gives everyone involved a sincere sense of pride in Central Drive. People are coming into our building commenting on how bright, uplifting, and positive this project has been for the local community. Hopefully, this can act as a catalyst for further projects and world class art'. George McGowan from Old Library Trust.

'It has been a privilege to be part of this project and a great opportunity to spread our school motto of 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.' Thank you Féile Derry for brightening up our community with such positive messages and images.' Pat Concannon, Principal Holy Child P.S

'Absolutely amazing well done children about time our communities are shown in good news media instead of all the doom and gloom our City is an amazing place to live.'

'Absolutely stunning and fantastic!!'

'Amazing stuff we all love Creggan.'

'Brilliant it's great to see the kids the next generation take such pride in their area. Other areas should follow this example.'

'It looks amazing brightens up whole place amazing work.'

'Brilliant great to see.'

'So beautiful'

'Very impressive art work ...beautiful.'

'Passed this past night. Just wow!'

'How fantastic is this for boosting a child's confidence.'

'These artworks are amazing! Some of these actually looked like photographs. Such creative talent in our schools!'

'This is class ! Proud as punch.'

'You could not fail to smile at this! Well done to all the young people involved, the world is a better place because of you.'

'Absolutely love this. Well done to all the children at Holy Child P.S and to Féile for bringing this project to life. I love Creggan and its great see such a positive news piece about our area.'

'Brilliant to see their art on display in Creggan and to see them on BBC tonight.'

'We are so proud of all our pupils who took part in this project. It was lovely for our children to voice their aspirations for the future on BBC Newsline tonight'

'Brilliant Concept'

'Just fantastic'

'This is class !! Brilliant to see the wains' work on display ... Well done to all involved.'

3) Imagine Create:

Imagine Create

This training programme involved at risk young people from local primary schools from St John's P.S and Holy Child P.S. 24 young people completed a programme of creative arts training.

Amanda Murphy, VP St. John's Primary School said

"Gasyard Wall Féile spoke to us as leaders on the ground and really got a sense of what our children's needs are. We have a lot of difficulties in Creggan when it comes to paramilitary groups, addiction issues, lack of mental health services, there are huge possibilities for these children to be vulnerable in the future. When we worked together to create a project that gives them confidence and self esteem to grow and to aspire to great things that creates such potential for the future generations of Creggan. It's so important, the more we work together and hear our children's voices, the more we can address their needs. It wasn't like traditional learning in school, reading from their textbooks, it was more explorative. They got the chance to meet different tutors from different walks of life and hear their stories. We noticed improved levels of peace and tranquillity amongst the pupils. They were very grounded when doing these workshops. Seeing them engaged in something very practical and having a tangible piece of work at the end of it was really satisfying.'

Pat Concannon, Principal Holy Child Primary School:

'We identified a group of children who we felt could benefit from more creative learning. The pupils that took part were of mixed abilities so we were glad to find a different outlet from them through this course. We have to expose these children to opportunities in fashion design, DJ'ing, Street Art etc, at an earlier stage for their futures.'

The second phase saw participants do a more focused project on music production/street art.

Check this film of acclaimed musician Dafé working with students from Holy Child P.S and St John's P.S, teaching various songwriting / rapping techniques.

<https://youtu.be/jtCo-P BgH0>

Creative Pathways Course

This training programme was targeted at at-risk young people from local post-primary schools, St Joseph's Boys School and St Cecilia's College. 8 young people completed the course achieving an OCN Level 3 qualification in Creative Arts & Digital Technologies.

Joe Lafferty, St. Cecilia's VP:

"Initially there were some problems logistically, but once the girls got into the course, they absolutely loved it. It was great working with Féile and making this course possible for the students. There were aspects of the course that they didn't think they would enjoy but by the end of the course they loved all aspects of it. Taking part in this course has given them skills that they can take forward with them in their lives and it has opened up different job opportunities for them in the future."

Fiona Harrigan, St. Joseph's Boys' School VP:

"The interests of the pupils were sparked immediately due to the creative opportunities involved in this course. The impact of this project was huge, there was total engagement and increased attendance from the pupils. We can see how proud their parents are after achieving in this course. The unique skills and talents that the pupils have been able to display through this course has been amazing to see."

Below are some quotes from the participants:

"I didn't have any experience in filmmaking, photography or event management before doing this course."

"I enjoyed being able to take photos as part of this course."

"I was proud of setting up our own event space and displaying our photographs for people to see."

"It was great seeing people's reactions to what we made."

"I learned how to use DSLR cameras and how to plan and manage events."

"I learned about different angles when it comes to taking photos."

"Having this qualification will be great for my C.V. when I'm applying for jobs in the future."

"I liked that this course was practical and hands on with professional video equipment."

"After taking part in this course I know a lot more about cameras and video editing."

"This course showed me how much goes into planning and putting on your own event."

"I would really like to take more photos and do more events after taking part in this course."

After the conclusion of the course, tutors gave their opinions about their thoughts on the impact of the course, engagement with participants and recommendations they would have:

Photography Tutor:

"It was exciting to watch the development of the students through the course. The group was quite standoffish and afraid to come forward and interact at the start. But over the weeks they became very confident and started asking relative questions more and more. The social aspect of photography brought the group out of their shell as well. There was a noticeable lift in mood when we would go through their work and putting together their portfolio. Also the peer to peer learning was quite significant. Some who would get it straight away were demonstrating and helping others. Also with our project deliverables having a looser subject matter, they were able to have a bit of fun with their work or go down an avenue of more artistic and serious output which meant that they didn't feel restricted. The only recommendations moving forward would be better access to editing software and a regular space from week one if the schools could provide it, or perhaps a separate space like Nerve Centre where the distraction of other aspects of school life weren't there and access could always be guaranteed. The curve of not only their learning but also their personal development over the 10 weeks was great to see and be a part of."

Filmmaking Tutor:

"I thought the Creative Pathways Course was a success. The filmmaking element was well-received, and most students showed significant improvement in both technical and creative skills. It was a pleasure to see some of the participants grow throughout the course and come out of their shells as they learned more about the art of

filmmaking. The students' feedback was really positive, I think they appreciated the hands-on approach and the collaborative environment. If we were to do something like this again, I would want to carry out the teaching in a location outside of school so that our classroom and access to necessary equipment can remain consistent week to week. Overall, I feel that an impact has been made when it comes to building creativity in young people that may not have realised they had much in the first place."

Event Management Tutor:

"Throughout my strand of the course I thought the students were very eager to learn and willing to try new things or experiences that might have made them anxious. Over the last 10 weeks they all challenged themselves with something new and pushed themselves past where they thought they were capable of going as event organisers. After the first couple of weeks they decided their event was going to be an exhibition of their photographs and screening of their film. They then learned how to put on an event safely, promote it and contact vendors to organise food/event space. It was a great experience watching them grow into more confident event organisers as the weeks went on. My only feedback would be to work on the timing of the class as there was sometimes a clash with the students lunch time, which meant there was a delay at the beginning of some of the classes. Other than that, it was a rewarding experience for myself and a joy to watch the students learn together and become much more confident young people."

Sporting Heritage Films: Féile worked with the members of Oak Leaf Boxing Club, Rath Mór Warriors Kickboxing Club and residents of Brandywell/Creggan on two films that documented the history and positive contribution these clubs and their members make to the Creggan and Brandywell neighbourhoods and wider area.

Oakleaf Boxing Club - From Little Acorns, Mighty Oaks Grow

Eugene O'Kane Jr., Head Coach Oakleaf Boxing Club:

"This film captured our mission as a club and the positive impact we've had on the community. For over three decades, we've been dedicated to promoting the physical and mental health benefits of boxing for people of all ages.

Seeing our story shared with a wider audience is great to see. It's a testament to the hard work and commitment of our members, coaches, and supporters who have made this club a cornerstone of our community. We're excited to welcome the new faces inspired by seeing our story in the film and continue our legacy of fostering strength, resilience, and unity through the sport of boxing."

Below is some feedback from viewers of the film.

'Great work for the community by Oakleaf Boxing Club!! Many of my friends are involved in this club and I have huge respect for them all!! Well done!!'

'absolutely fantastic thanks for the support everyone.'

'Well done Eugene the film was a brilliant advertisement for amateur boxing and also showed your lifelong dedication to the sport. Young Eugene will be the next leader that Oakleaf boxing club will continue to grow especially when you move into your new premises..I wish you all the best for your continued success'

'Brilliant. Great memories at Oakleaf Boxing Club with great people'

'That's class and wish uz all the best in the future.'

'Well done, dedication paid off, well deserved.'

'This is class!! Well done all.'

'What a documentary - powerful.'

'Amazing well done to all involved.'

'An amazing club with amazing coaches.'

'What a watch an amazing club.'

'Brilliant watch. Fair play to Eugene O'Kane and buge and every one else for carrying this club forward so many years. Some dedication. Well done.'

'This wee club is in the blood of everyone that steps foot into it, what it has done for myself aswell as many others is give us a place to go we're people value you for just being you, and that's unique. Eugene O'Kane snr and Jnr have both put blood sweat and tears into that place and now they deserve all the rewards there getting, along with every single coach past and present.... Well done Oakleaf Boxing Club... it's a special place.'

'Eugene is a gentleman. A life dedicated to inspiring our young people.'

'Huge respects for my lifelong friends Eugene and his beloved father Eugene O'Kane on their sterling work with the Oakleaf Boxing Club!! Well done to the both of you!!'

Rath Mór Warriors - Release Your Inner Warrior

The Creggan neighbourhood is known for its strong community spirit but has also faced social and economic challenges. In this context, the Rath Mór Warriors Kickboxing Club emerged as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for positive change. Founded by Sean McGill, the club aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for individuals of all ages to engage in kickboxing, a sport that promotes discipline, fitness, and mental toughness.

In late 2023, Féile sat down with Sean McGill to discuss production of a film that documents the history of his club right up to the present day success story of Creggan man and role model, Conal McBrearty. "Rath Mór Warriors: Release Your Inner Warrior" is a documentary that delves into the heart of the Creggan neighbourhood, showcasing the transformative impact of the Rath Mór Warriors Kickboxing Club. The film, produced to celebrate the club's positive contributions to the community, highlights how kickboxing fosters physical and mental well-being, while also documenting personal stories of resilience and transformation.

The film can be viewed at this link - www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTzcMk3Kags

Sean McGill, Rath Mór Warriors Head Coach:

"We're absolutely thrilled to see the recent surge in new members at our gym. The history documentary, produced by Féile, has shone a light on our humble beginnings and the incredible journey we've been on, and it's heartening to see so many people of all ages from Creggan, Brandywell and the wider city inspired to join us. Our gym is more than just a place to train—it's a community."

Here are some quotes from participants in the film about the impact Rath Mór Warriors has had on their lives:

"I started coming to kickboxing because I struggled with my mental health. This is the best thing for stress relief and getting rid of any anxiety."

"I started in here in the worst state of my life but in the year and a half since I've been here there's been a massive difference. The weight has come off and I feel I have so much more control over my life and health."

"It's great for my mental health and it relieves stress, especially when you're stuck behind a laptop all day."

"I've gotten a lot stronger and I'm a lot fitter. It makes you feel better when you have something to do and you enjoy it."

"It's been great physically for me, I'm in my mid 40s and I can keep up with 16 year old boys in here. I have 2 kids, coming here is a release for me. It allows me to get the stress of the working day out."

"When you come here you always leave with a smile on your face because it's such a warm team to train with."

"Mentally and physically, it's one of the best things I've ever done."

We followed up with Sean McGill to discuss the impact of the film.

Here is some feedback from viewers of the film

'Great role model for the younger ones. Class.'

'Hate walking into the gym. Love coming out. Always worthwhile, never regret it. Great film.'

'Well done to Sean and Mark, it is great the way you have helped the young people, they will go a lone way the way you taught them. Congratulations to all concerned.'

'One of the best coaches. Calm, positive, works hard on one's who struggle If only he really knew how much he's lifted people up - their spirits, their confidence.'

'Well done Sean. Great video. Great to see the work and the success you have achieved. Keep up the amazing work.'

'My son has not long started but loves it! He came home after a session and said he felt inspired..amazing!'

'Going to need a bigger gym after that video! Top class. Well done all involved.'

'Brillant video. Well done to you all'

'That was brilliant. Well done everyone.'

'What yourselves & the club are doing for your community and youth goes far beyond just coaching or fighting or fitness. You're arming the next generation of young people with a choice, belief & goal.....for whatever walk of life they choose.'

'Class. Well done.'

'Keep up the amazing work.'

'Unbelievable work Sean McGill & the team.'

'One of the most genuine and good fellas in the sport, someone who truly care abouts kickboxing in this country.'

'A fantastic watch.'

'Great watch! What a club, joined 11 years ago and was the best thing I ever done, gave me so much confidence in life that I carried through to adulthood and it's my therapy to clear the mind! Sean McGill has always been there for us to help us learn, give advice when needed and is an amazing role model & coach.'

'Unreal. Great wee movie what a great gym - goosebumps watching that lads unreal.'

'Fantastic work Sean McGill and all at Rath Mor Warriors - dedicated and passionate as always. Great to see some recognition.'

'Great club and a great story!!!'

'Making a big difference in a small town.'

Oakleaf Boxing Club - From Little Acorns, Mighty Oaks Grow

In 2023/24, Féile worked with the members of Oak Leaf Boxing Club and residents of Brandywell/Creggan on a film that documents the history and positive contribution the club and its members make to the Creggan and Brandywell neighbourhoods and wider area.

The film was well received by audiences and can be viewed at the following link
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ih2JlE2F64&t=1523s>

Below is feedback from Eugene O’Kane Jr., Head Coach Oakleaf Boxing Club:

“This film captured our mission as a club and the positive impact we’ve had on the community. For over three decades, we’ve been dedicated to promoting the physical and mental health benefits of boxing for people of all ages. Seeing our story shared with a wider audience is great to see. It’s a testament to the hard work and commitment of our members, coaches, and supporters who have made this club a cornerstone of our community. We’re excited to welcome the new faces inspired by seeing our story in the film and continue our legacy of fostering strength, resilience, and unity through the sport of boxing.”

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Streets Alive Summer

Streets Alive funded projects in summer 2023 included

- 1) The Big Night Out, a collaboration with Surestart Edenballymore, which took place in squares, parks and streets across the neighbourhood
- 2) Healthy Kids Summer Scheme
- 3) Ryan McBride Summer Scheme & GAA Cúl Camp – places funded for kids on free school meals.
- 4) A Day for Ryan McBride – 20 clubs from across city came together in celebration of football at Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium
- 5) Older People's Bus Run to Ards
- 6) Our Space Music Night
- 7) Music at Older People's Homes & House In The Wells

Streets Alive Autumn

Féile supported New Gate Arts Centre on their Halloween event, Conquer The Dragon, as part of DCSDC 'Awakening The Walled City' which saw thousands of people from across the city and beyond converged on the Fountain neighbourhood to see dancers from Sollus Highland Dancers tame a huge dragon that had invaded the city.

A film documenting the event can be viewed at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7T3F9oVMnQ&t=13s>

Féile delivered a Halloween family day at Long Tower Youth Club in association with Surestart Edenballymore.

A film of the day's activities can be viewed at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1umGpgfKf8>

Streets Alive Winter

Féile's Christmas programme includes Older People's Dance at Maldron Hotel, Dove Garden's Christmas event, Choral events, Christmas event in the Fountain and events at Foyle Valley House and House In The Wells.

A film giving an overview of Streets Alive Christmas events can be viewed at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v2ZLMJxU58>

Féile's Christmas Carol Service can be viewed at the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWWn9bCz4qM&t=81s>

Streets Alive Spring

1) International Women's Day 2024

a) Inspirational Local Women Exhibition: 48 women's photos were erected on the fence line of Meenan square in the centre of the Urban Village area. Very positive feedback from local residents and high interaction on social media posts.

b) Walk for Gaza: Women from across neighbourhood came together in solidarity with the women in Gaza

c) Remembering Roisin Barton: An event celebrating the contribution of Roisin Barton that also featured awards recognising local women's contribution to the community.

2) St Patrick's Day music at Féile at various locations across the Bogside, Brandywell and Fountain neighbourhoods including Cathedral Youth Club, William St Residential Home, Foyle Valley House, House In The Wells and Alexander House.

3) Older People's St Patrick's Day Dance at Maldron Hotel in partnership with Older People's Sub group.

4) On World Storytelling Day, Féile delivered storytelling sessions at 5 local primary schools in the Urban Village area: St Eugene's, Long Tower, Nazareth House, Fountain PS and Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir.

5) Anthony Hegarty 1km Race: 8 local primary schools took part in a 1KM Race, to celebrate Derry's only Olympic Medallist, Anthony Hegarty from Nailor's Row, who won a silver medal at the 1920 Olympics held in Antwerp.

A film documenting the Anthony Hegarty 1km Race can be viewed at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN68TNk2Gdc&t=72s>

6) Easter Bonnet Parade: 5 primary schools created their own Easter bonnets and then took part in an Easter Bonnet parade on Derry's Walls.

7) Celtronic Kids: Over 350 kids/ adults attended Celtronic Kids, the family electronic music event for 0–4-year-olds and their parents/guardians at Long Tower YC. A collaboration between Celtronic, Féile Derry and SureStart Edenballymore.

A film documenting the Spring Streets Alive events can be viewed at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/VlxGGzGJHPA>

Féile Media

Féile Media's operations continues to expand.

Féile Media creates broadcast standard films, documentaries, promotional films, community films and social media content for individuals, organisations and clients across the city and beyond. The innovative and groundbreaking content produced by Féile Media has been positively received by statutory organisations, community organisations, clients and residents with a number of films already featured on BBC Television and film festivals.

Clients have included

Gaslight Media Trust

Old Library Trust

Education Authority

Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum

Triax

Sean Dolan's GAC

Celtronic

Triax Neighbourhood Management Team

Surestart Edenballymore

Holywell Trust

Radius Housing

Iona Enterprises

Community Restorative Justice

Radius Housing