

'Robert Burns' celebration event in Claudy hugely successful

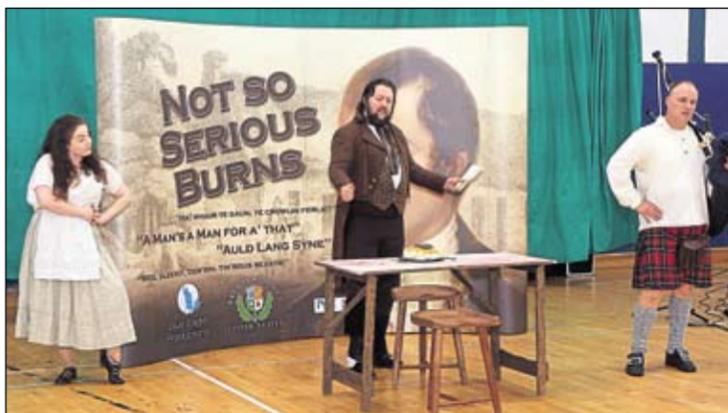
The Diamond Centre, Claudy recently hosted a 'Not So Serious Burns,' night, celebrating the life and enduring legacy of the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns.

Organised by Derry City and Strabane District Council's good relations department in conjunction with Bready and District Ulster Scots, the event took place on the eve of 'Burns Night' which is annually celebrated all over the world on January 25.

Burns, penned more

than 500 well-known verses and songs, including the famous traditional song, 'A Red, Red Rose,' and 'A Man's a Man for a That,' before he died at the young age of 37.

The main attraction of Burns Night is the Burns Supper. This traditionally involves participants donning tartan, listening to bagpipes, crooning Auld Lang Syne and reciting the great writer's songs and poems.



Keith Lynch with the Blue Eagle Productions, addressing the 'Haggis' during the 'Not So Serious Burns' event in The Diamond Centre, Claudy, organised by Derry City & Strabane District Council's Good Relations department. Included are cast members Alice Tate and Ivan Laird. 0119-0782MT.



The Mayor Councillor John Boyle, taking part in the 'Not So Serious Burns' event in The Diamond Centre, Claudy, organised by Derry City & Strabane District Council's Good Relations department. 0119-0788MT.



Keith Lynch, with the Blue Eagle Productions, addressing the 'Haggis' during the 'Not So Serious Burns' event in The Diamond Centre, Claudy, organised by Derry City & Strabane District Council's Good Relations department, pictured with the Mayor Councillor John Boyle, Pauline O'Neill, with the Good Relations department, James Kee, compare and cast members Alice Tate and Ivan Laird. 0119-0796MT.



Local and rural residents attending the 'Not So Serious Burns' event in The Diamond Centre, Claudy, organised by Derry City & Strabane District Council's Good Relations department. 0119-0740MT.

82 arrests made for drink driving

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Between the end of November last year and the beginning of January, 82 people were arrested for drink driving across the three policing districts of Mid-Ulster, Derry City and Strabane and Causeway Coast and Glens, according to the latest figures by the PSNI.

The figures relate to the PSNI's 2018/19 winter anti-drink drive operation.

In Mid-Ulster, the number of arrests made were 26, that figure has not changed in comparison to last year's figure which also was 26 arrests during the same period. In the Derry City and Strabane district, the number stands at 29, this figure also remains the same as last year's figure, which was also 29 arrests being made during the winter period. However, in



82 people were arrested for drink driving in local policing districts

the Causeway Coast and Glens district, the number of arrests increased by 6, bringing the number of arrests from the same period last year from 21 to 27 arrests for drink-driving and drug related offences being

made this year.

Overall, 322 drink drivers have been arrested between November 30, 2018 and January 1, 2019, resulting in a total of 38 less arrested in the previous year. These figures were for

both drivers and motorcyclists. The total number of arrests made during the anti-drink drive operation in 2018/19 has decreased by 10.6%, compared to the same period last year.

The winter campaign against the crime featured targeted operations at day and night where they teamed up with Garda traffic police to stop lawbreakers.

Commenting on the figures, Assistant Chief Constable Alan Todd said: "When we launched this operation at the end of November, we warned drivers not to take the risk because just one drink can impair decision making. Just one drink can cause a collision. Just one drink could kill."

"Early figures indicate that we tested over 11,000 people during the operation. While that figure is expected to increase as more information is downloaded, we detected and arrested 322 people for failing

those tests.

"They can now expect a court appearance where they will most likely lose their driving licence for one or more years, be fined, and will have great difficulty in obtaining car insurance in the future. Some are at risk of losing their jobs or even going to jail."

"One person was detected at over four times the drink drive limit, with a reading of 153 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millimetres of breath - the legal limit is 35 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath."

"At 14 years of age, the youngest person detected shouldn't have been on the road - let alone failing a breath test. This individual is being dealt with for a number of motoring offences including Taking and Driving Away. The oldest person detected was 83 years of age. Females accounted for 72 of the 322 arrests, compared

with 49 females arrested out of a total of 360 during the previous campaign."

Arrests and detections, were made at all times of the day, morning, noon and night during the winter period and right across all the road networks. One driver was detected at travelling at 101mph at 9am one morning, and also failed a roadside breath test, with an initial reading of 101mg, which is nearly three times the drink drive limit. Another driver was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs and as a result was involved in a collision. Approximately £3,000 worth of drugs was recovered from the vehicle, this led them to being further arrested on suspicion of drug offences. In another incident, police detected and arrested a HGV driver who was returning to their place of work, having carried out their morning deliveries.