DAWN:

Domestic Abuse Awareness Network

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DAWN was established early in 2005, with the support of County Leitrim Partnership. The Partnership has, since its inception, identified women as a priority for its work in the County. It seeks to raise awareness of the issue of domestic violence against women, particularly in South Leitrim, and to ensure that women living in South Leitrim who are affected by violence know of the services that are available to them. The Partnership recognises that violence against women remains a daily reality for many women's lives throughout Leitrim. It felt that it was necessary to establish a support structure in the South of the County for women experiencing violence, as this area is severely under resourced in terms of services to assist women. While recognising the trojan work of WAVES (a support service for women experiencing domestic violence, based in Sligo, and servicing Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan) in south Leitrim, the establishment of DAWN is seen as vital to further develop supports and awareness of domestic violence in South Leitrim. DA WN focuses its efforts on the towns and villages of South Leitrim as follows;- Annaduff; Aughavas; Ballinamore; Bomacoola; Carrick-on-Shannon; Carrigalllen; Cloone; Dromod; Drumreilly; Drumshanbo; Drumsna; Eslin; Fenagh; Gortlettragh; Gowel; Keshcarrigan; Kiltubrid; Leitrim Village; Mohill; Newtowngore; Roosky.

DAWN works closely with WAVES and networks with agencies who work to support women affected by domestic violence in the County. DAWN is represented on the North West Regional Planning Committee on violence against women (NWRPC) which is supported and administered by the Health Service Executive (HSE). This Committee was established as part of a Government response to violence against women, to highlight the issue and to identify what services and resources are needed to tackle the problem.

Currently DAWN is organising a Pilot Project—the focus of this project is to raise the awareness of domestic violence among transition year students in South Leitrim. DAWN hopes to do this by inviting the students to view the one woman play 'Don't say a Word' written and performed by Patricia Byrne and directed by Shauna Kelpie of Sole purpose Productions.

This production encourages audience participation and discussion following the performance, and will give the students an opportunity to explore and reflect on their awareness of, and attitude to domestic violence against women.

Death of Honorary President of Leitrim Peoples Association in London. The death has taken place in her 90th year of the Honorary President and founding member of the Leitrim Association in London of Nora McGreal. Nora MaGreal died peacefully on Sunday morning 11th June in the Good Hope Hospital Sutton Coalfields Birmingham in the presence of her Children grandchildren and other relations and friends. She had lived with her daughter Mary since last November and had been in hospital for the past 3 weeks. Born Nora McGrail in Knockacullion in the parish of Aughnasheelin in December 1916 she was reared with her aunt Margaret McGourty and family in Stradrina Ballinagleara as here mother the late Brigid McGrail died shortly after Nora's birth. She immigrated to Scotland in 1937 and the following year joined her sister the late Maggie Boyle in Maidstone Kent where they both worked as psychiatric nurses. She married Francie McGreal of Slievnakilla Balinagleara in London in 1945. Her late husband who played football with Ballinagleara, Drumkeran and Fenagh Leitrim and Tara's London died in 1973. Nora and her husband and Michael Mulvanerty and others founded the Leitrim Association in 1952. Her daughter Mary was also Secretary of the association. Among the many Leitrim friends who were in the association with them were Eamon Sheridan and Jim McGarry. She latter became involved with the North Leitrim/West Cavan Association. Her house at Blanford Road in Chiswick London was open to all visitors and it became a stop over place for the many Leitrim People who visited London. Anyone from Leitrim was always welcome. Many visiting priests from Kilmore and Ardagh and Clonmacnoise Diocese stayed with her indeed many had keys to her house and could come and go as they pleased She along with Frankie were also member of the Tara's Club which had as its main driving force Prinsious Redican who is still involved in GAA in London In 2002 she was made a presentation by the Leitrim Association for her Life long commitment to the Leitrim association in London. She is the last of the McGrail family from Knockacullion who all had a passionate interest in Irish Traditional Music and dancing to die. Her funeral arrangements will be made later in the week and will take place to Ballinagleara Church where she will be buried beside her late husband Francie in Fahy graveyard. She is survived by her son John London, Mary Birmingham, grandchildren Marianne, Laura, Kevin and Sinead her nephews, Francie Joe McGourty Ballinagleara, Arthur Boyle Keadue and nieces Bridie Reynolds Dublin, Mary Slack New York and Kathleen Cornyn Dowra and a large circle of friends and relations.
Ar Dheis De go raibh an Ainm Dhilis