

Sheep in quilts at the Verbal Arts Centre

Caorigh agus Olann is a project organised by Donegal County Museum as part of an international project also involving Museum Nord in Norway and East Iceland Heritage Museum. The theme of the project is Sheep and Wool, a subject common to each region. Exhibitions have taken place in Iceland and Norway and a joint website has been created www.woolandsheep.com

For its contribution, Donegal County Museum chose, **The Gweedore Sheep War** - an important event from Donegal history - as the theme to create a contemporary picture quilt, using Donegal wool and tweed as the main materials. The Museum invited the Letterkenny Irish Countrywomen's Guild members and a Donegal based artist Deborah J Stockdale to work together to design and create the quilt. Under the artist's guidance the group met in the Museum over a number of months. The quilt has taken over 150 hours to create.



Castleberg Women's Institute Banner



This banner was produced by three members of Castleberg Women's Institute as part of a cross border Banner Project involving Tyrone, Derry and Donegal and organised by Community Dialogue. Looking carefully at this textile you will see different elements of community life. Look at the flock of unusual sheep by the river – the faces are some of the members of the WI – the three black sheep are the three members who designed and made the banner. The gate into the field is in the form of the logo of the Women's Institute of Northern Ireland. The tweeds used in the banner were produced in Spamount Mill, a short distance from Castleberg but now closed.

The two quilts are put together as they both use sheep as a motive, tweed in the material, are part of cross border projects and the participants are member of sister organizations in these two parts of Ireland.

This textile display has been curated by Roberta Bacic, as part of the permanent rotating exhibition at the Verbal Arts Centre since March 2008. It will be on display 1st July to 15th August 2010.