

24th June 2010

Donncha O Dulaing in partnership with the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) continues on the 2010 Flight of the Earls fundraising walk on 13th June 2010 covering Pomeroy to Greencastle, Greencastle to Newtownstewart, Newtownstewart to Strabane.

The fifth of the 2010 Flight of the Earls walks, led by RTE Radio personality Donncha O'Dulaing and organised in conjunction with the Irish Wheelchair Association takes place on Sunday 4th July 2010 at 10am and features two separate walks, all of which take place simultaneously from Strabane to Ballindrait to Raphoe (registration at the Old Courthouse, the Diamond, Lifford at 10am and walk will commence at 10.30am at Bridge in Strabane) and from Raphoe to Letterkenny (registration at Volt House at 10am and walk commences at 10.30am).

The journey, will continue in September 2010 across Europe and will span six countries; Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Italy and will retrace the steps of the famous Irish Earls of long ago, Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, Rory O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell, The Maguires of Fermanagh, and dozens of elite soldiers and scholars who departed from Donegal to find refuge in Europe.

Speaking about this Historic event, Donncha said "I am seeking 98 people to join me in retracing the journey of Hugh O'Neill and his followers from Ireland through France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. The programme will include walks in all six countries and will end with a visit to the vatican where we will attend a Papal Audience".

The programme for 'The Flight of the Earls' walk is divided into two segments – The Irish Walks and the European Journey.

The European tour will leave Dublin on the 20th September 2010. During the ten days participants will visit many place of historical significance including Les Buissonnets (home of St. Therese) and a spectacular walk in the Alps through Jungfrau Valley. The final two days of the tour will be spent in Rome visiting many of the wonderful sites this amazing city has to offer.

“2010 is a very special year for the Association as we celebrate 50 years working on behalf of people with a disability. In 1986, Donncha led our first international walk to Israel, and he has subsequently led many other walks to support the work of the IWA. We are delighted that this year Donncha is leading this very special walk” said Kathleen McLoughlin, CEO of IWA.

For those who wish to participate in any of these walks please contact Seamus Casey, 00353877774700 or Gerrard McClellan 0044776905119

For further information on the Flight of the Earls event, please contact Helen Martyn on 087 241 5896 or the Fundraising Department of IWA on 01 818 6469 or by email donncha@iwa.ie