

## ARTHUR KINGSLEY PORTER PROJECT » BOOK AND FILM PLANNED

# Exploring mysterious disappearance in Donegal

The potential spin-offs from a new book and film about the mysterious disappearance of a Harvard professor, multi-millionaire and owner of Glenveagh Castle will make the people of Donegal "smile again".

The bold claim was made this week by Mr Thomas Williams, the man behind the Arthur Kingsley Porter Project.

The book and film deal will tell the story of Arthur Kingsley Porter who mysteriously disappeared while spending a night at the fisherman's hut he built on Inishbofin island on July 8, 1933.

Sightings of the professor continued to be reported from locations all over the world for many years after his disappearance.

Many theories were proposed as to the fate of Kingsley Porter. Recent facts reveal the inner turmoil that Kingsley and his wife, Lucy, grappled with before his disappearance and carried with them to their graves.

It was while visiting Glenveagh Castle, some seven decades later, that Mr Williams discovered the Professor's incredible story.

Along with author, Lucy Costigan, and photographer, Michael Cullen, he began a journey to unearth the full truth of Kingsley Porter's disappearance. Now, a major international



Arthur Kingsley Porter.

feature film and documentary are planned by Lugh Films who are based in Donegal.

Both films are based on the book by Lucy Costigan entitled, *Glenveagh Mystery: The Life, Work and Disappearance of Arthur Kingsley Porter*.

Speaking to the Donegal News this week, an upbeat Mr Williams said the potential tourism and business spin-offs from the project are "enormous".

"Maybe, with the help of the Arthur Kingsley Porter Project, we can make the people of Donegal smile again and help them through the current doom-and-gloom," Mr Williams said.

From the initial idea to write a script for a film documentary on the professor's mysterious disappearance, many offshoots have begun to

take root in the realms of film, publishing, tourism, the visual and performing arts and in the regeneration of Inishbofin island.

Mr Williams said that Tourism Ireland in New York are waiting for the publication of the book and the premier of the film so that they can begin promoting both in the United States.

"Culture and Heritage Tours, based in Sligo, are contracted with us to design Arthur Kingsley Porter tours, banquets and archaeological conferences in Ireland for global distribution. Donegal Airport, Patrick Gallagher Travel and Boyce Travel are sponsoring the Porter project and are assisting with the movement of tourists throughout Ireland. The Project team are also in negotiations with The Donegal Association to see in what way they can assist in the promotion of the project at home and abroad," he said.

Eight artists are currently signed up to create a unique collection of jewellery, knitwear and artworks based on the life of Arthur Kingsley Porter and Lucy.

The group is also working with Fr Brian Ferry and Inishbofin Island's Development Officer, Charles Sweeney, to have the infrastructure in place to begin the regeneration of the island.

"So far, Fr Ferry has met with a group of stonemasons who are travelling to the island to survey the remnants of the Kingsley Porter hut located on the north-east side of the island. The plan is to reconstruct the Porter hut based on its original design and construction.

"Fr Ferry, along with the Arthur Kingsley Porter team, also envisages a craft centre on the island that will be co-ordinated with four companies where tourists will be transported to the island by Culture and Heritage Tours," he said.

Mr Williams also stressed the project is not interested in "making millions" off the back of the memory of Kingsley Porter and the people of Donegal.

"We are just ordinary people who are not interested in making millions from others. In fact, we have turned down lucrative offers from international companies and chose to use Donegal ones instead. We are only interested in taking on this fascinating project and to promote Donegal worldwide in a very big way," he concluded. The book will be published by Merrion and will be launched in Glenveagh Castle on November 17. Lugh Films will begin shooting the drama during 2013/14. For further information log on to [www.arthurkingsleyporter.com](http://www.arthurkingsleyporter.com)

## SHOP LK VOUCHERS » MONEY STRAIGHT BACK INTO LOCAL ECONOMY

# Letterkenny Chamber celebrates €1m landmark

From small beginnings but with a big vision Shop LK, that started way back in 2004, has reached its €1million milestone.

Shop LK is run by Letterkenny Chamber with all revenue being invested back into the brand through advertising and promotion. With sales increasing over the last two years by over 25% per year Shop LK has reached its first €1million sooner than expected and the Chamber and Shop LK participants are celebrating.

The first buyer was Kathleen Dunworth, Ramelton and the €1m buyer, Elaine Callaghan, Letterkenny

To mark this important milestone Letterkenny Chamber had a celebration coffee morning for invited guests including the Mayor, councillors and some of the many businesses that participate in the scheme.

John Watson, Chamber President said: "We are proud of the success of Shop LK. It is a credit to those who came up with the idea in 2004 who had the vision to see that it would be a huge success.

"We have nurtured and developed the Shop LK concept and consider it to be our flagship brand that is well recognised in Letterkenny and the surrounding area.

This €1million has been spent right here in Letterkenny and it's not just about the money. Each time a voucher is bought it reinforces the idea of local shopping, of supporting local businesses and protecting local jobs. This is one of the most successful initiatives of its kind, we led the way and we are now seeing the results.

Shop LK Vouchers, that are valid for a year, are bought all year round by individuals, groups and businesses whose staff have opted to have them instead of cash bonuses.

The Shop LK initiative offers local consumers an opportunity to support their local town in a really tangible way.

Letterkenny Chamber makes no money from the sale or redemption of vouchers so every cent brought in through Shop LK is invested back into the promotion of the brand throughout the year. This year with financial assistance from Letterkenny Town Council Shop LK will embark on a promotional campaign to really put Letterkenny on the map. This year it is intended to get the message out to everyone in the North West and Northern Ireland that Letterkenny is the place to be for a wide variety of shops and choice all in one place all wrapped up in excellent service.

The €1million has been spent on a wide variety of goods and services, from an oil fill to a beauty treatment, from a gourmet meal to a quick sandwich, from weekly grocery shopping to the perfect gift. Over 90 outlets, from household names to local independent traders, accept the vouchers reflecting the fantastic variety that is available in Letterkenny. Available in €5, €10 and €20 denominations they make the perfect gift for old and young alike, for families, for those moving house or getting married. The list of uses is endless.

Toni Forrester of Letterkenny Chamber who has watched the initiative develop and mature over the last three years said: "Reaching the €1m milestone is great news for Letterkenny Chamber, great news for the 90 Shop LK members that contribute so much to the scheme and great news for Letterkenny.

It's been great to be able to celebrate with the people who make it happen, those who came up with the idea in the first place and those who have supported Shop LK all along.



Chamber President John Watson cuts the cake as Letterkenny Chamber Celebrates €1million spent on Shop LK Vouchers. Photos: Clive Wasson



Tom Crossan, Jimmy Kavanagh and John Watson as Letterkenny Chamber Celebrates €1million spent on Shop LK Vouchers.



John Watson, Chamber President and Toni Forrester, Chamber CEO Letterkenny Chamber Celebrating €1million spent on Shop LK Vouchers.