

## West Galway

# Exploring 6,000 years of islands' unique history

6,000 YEARS of unique island history will be explored in the rugged surrounds of Inishbofin and Inishark off the coast of Galway as part of National Heritage Week. Over the course of a single day, participants will be taken on guided walks of the two islands by leading field scientists and ecologists, taking in breathtaking views of the Atlantic coast of Galway and Mayo. Starting on Inishbofin, the history, ecology and heritage of the 'island of the white cow' will be examined first, from the famous star-shaped Cromwellian fort that overlooks the harbour to the rich birdlife that the island supports. The neighbouring island of Inishark, whose last inhabitants were evacuated by the government in 1960, will also be explored. The day begins at Inishbofin Community Centre at 9am on 25 August and will take until 8pm. All money raised at the event will be donated to mental health services in Connemara. Contact cpsptourism@inishbofin.com or phone 095 41036 for more.

**Archaeology Tour of Sites in Moycullen Environs** Local Archaeologist Vincent Walsh will guide participants through various archaeology sites in the Moycullen Area. **Venue:** An Fuarán, Maigh Cúilinn **Organiser:** Moycullen Historical Society - email: walterfmcdonagh@gmail.com; 0872573329. Sat 18th 11am-1pm. Meet at 11am at An Fuarán and Car Pool.

**Storytelling For Children** Storytelling time with a staff member of Connemara National Park. **Venue:** Connemara National Park, Letterfrack. **Organiser:** Connemara National Park - email: siobhan.geoghegan@ahg.gov.ie; 095 41323 or 095 41054. Wed 22nd 2pm-3pm

**Seisiún Ceol, Amhánaíocht agus Damhsa.** Seisiún ceol, amhánaíocht agus damhsa ag ceiliúradh traidisiún an oileáin. **Venue:** Ag an gCrais i gCill Rónáin, Cill Rónáin, Inis Mór, Aírainn. **Organiser:** Mna Fiontracha - email: mnafiontracha@eircom.net; 087 2383538. Sun 26th 4pm-6pm (Ag braith ar aimsir)

**Maam Heritage Day - Féile an Mháma Weekend** Maam Heritage Day featuring an art exhibition, craft stands, carding, spinning and crocheting, butter churning and bread making, flower arranging, as well as music, song, poetry, and dance throughout the day. **Venue:** Maam Community Centre, Ionad Pobail an Mháma, Maam. **Cost:** €10 (includes lunch). **Organiser:** Maam Women's Group - email: anita.hanley@hotmail.com; 091571108. Sat 25th 11am-5pm

**Tree Walk For Children** Join a park guide for a tree walk through wooded areas and return to education room for activity. **Venue:** Connemara National Park, Letterfrack. **Organiser:** Connemara National Park - email: siobhan.geoghegan@ahg.gov.ie; 095 41323 or 095 41054. Sun 19th 2pm-3pm

**Oughterard Courthouse Restoration Project** Come take a look at a piece of History currently being restored by the locals of the Village of Oughterard. A photographic display of the building in its current state. A guided tour of the building. And a children's event organised for Aug 23rd at 11.30am. Check out our blog [www.wordpressoughterardcourthouse.com](http://www.wordpressoughterardcourthouse.com) and like us on face book. **Venue:** Oughterard Courthouse, Main Street, Oughterard. **Organiser:** OTDA - email: oughcourthouse@gmail.com; 091 552808. Sat 18th 12noon-4pm. Tue 21st 10am-2pm. Thu 23rd 10am-2pm

**Golden Mile** A guided walk, enjoying spectacular views with an insight to the local culture. Guided walk in Connemara. Heritage, Flora and Fauna described. **Venue:** Mile Órga, Léim, The 'Quiet Man Bridge', Leam, Oughterard. **Organiser:** Oughterard Heritage Group - email: kynemary@gmail.com; 086 0779114. Sun 19th 10:45am-12:30pm

**Live Heritage At Aughnanure Castle** A day full of family friendly activities. Open-air museum, archery workshop, prehistoric and medieval hunting, pottery workshop so you can take home your own medieval pot, special children's activities, artefact display of real artefacts discovered during archaeological excavations, plus much more. Event will take place both on the grounds of the castle and inside the castle. **Venue:** Aughnanure Castle, Oughterard. **Organiser:** OPW - email: aughnanurecastle@opw.ie; 091552214. Sun 19th 1.30pm-6pm

**A Day In The Life** Guided Tour to Dan O' Hara Homestead including turf cutting demonstrations. Min 12 pax required for guided tour. Other facilities include audiovisual, history & artefacts room, crannog, ringfort & clochaun. **Venue:** Connemara Heritage & History Centre, Lettershea, Clifden. **Cost:** €8 Adults / €7 Students and Seniors / €4 Children / €20 Family **Organiser:** Dan O' Hara Homestead - email: danohara@eircom.net; 095 21246 Sat 18th

12noon-1.30pm. Mon 20th - Sun 26th 12noon-1.30pm

**Heritage Walk** A guided walking tour on the edge of Oughterard with emphasis on local history. **Venue:** Heritage Walk, Church Car Park, Oughterard. **Organiser:** Oughterard Heritage Group - email: kynemary@gmail.com; 086 0779114. Sun 26th 10:45-12:30

**Connemara Pony Information** History and management of Connemara ponies. **Venue:** Connemara National Park, Letterfrack. **Organiser:** Connemara National Park - email: siobhan.geoghegan@ahg.gov.ie; 095 41323 or 095 41054. Mon 20th 2pm-4pm. Wed 22nd 2pm-4pm. Fri 24th 2pm-4pm

**Walk & Talk Through Kilariney Wood** **Venue:** Kilariney Wood, Near An Teaghlach Uilinn Nursing Home Moycullen **Organiser:** Moycullen Active Retirement Association - email: walterfmcdonagh@gmail.com; 0872573329. Wed 22nd 11am-12noon

**Family Walk & Talk Through Coill Chill A' Ráithne (Kilrainey Forest) Maigh Cúilinn.** **Venue:** An Fuarán (Tony's Cafe), An Fuarán, Maigh Cúilinn, Galway. **Organiser:** Moycullen Walking Club & Moycullen Historical Society - email: walterfmcdonagh@gmail.com; 0872573329. Sun 26th 10am-12noon

**Talk On Development Of Connemara, Late 19th-Early 20th C.** Day time talk on the development of Connemara in the late 19th to early 20th century. **Venue:** Connemara National Park, Letterfrack. **Organiser:** Connemara National Park - email: siobhan.geoghegan@ahg.gov.ie; 095 41323 or 095 41054. Mon 20th 3pm-4pm

**Inishbofin In Years Gone By - Photography Exhibition** Photography exhibition looking back over the built, cultural and natural history of the island of Inishbofin. A community project, collecting and archiving photographs working towards a semi-permanent exhibition. **Venue:** Inishbofin Island. **Cost:** Fundraiser Event - Any money raised is going towards Mental Health Services in Connemara. **Organiser:** Community of Inishbofin Island - email: cpsptourism@inishbofin.com; 095 45989. Sat 18th 9.30pm-11pm

**Shark Bofin Heritage Challenge: Island Walks** A unique event exploring 6,000 years of Islands history, archaeology and wildlife, led by leading field scientists and guides. Explore the natural, cultural and built heritage of the Islands during a series of walks and hikes. **Venue:** Inishbofin and Inishark Islands, Inishbofin Community Centre. **Cost:** Fundraiser Event - Any money raised is going towards Mental Health Services in Connemara. **Organiser:** Michael Gibbons, Peter O'Toole, Inishbofin Islandy - email: cpsptourism@inishbofin.com; 095 45989. Sat 25th 9am-8pm

**Traditional Island Market Inishbofin** A traditional Island Food and Craft Market selling home grown and home produced foodstuffs and crafts. On sale will be fish, shellfish, baking, preserves, vegetables; traditional island crafts such as knitting, handmade candles, wood crafts, pottery, basketry etc. **Venue:** Inishbofin Community Centre **Organiser:** Inishbofin Community Market - email: cpsptourism@inishbofin.com; 09545989. Mon 20th 1pm-3pm. Sat 25th 9am-8pm

**Wild Colours: Wool Dyeing** Learn about natural wool dyeing on this workshop. Two workshop times 11-1pm and 2.30 - 4.30pm. Age 12 plus. **Venue:** Sheep and Wool Centre, Leenane. **Cost:** €10 **Organiser:** Sheep and Wool Centre - email: leenane@eircom.net; 095 42323. Wed 22nd 11am-4.30pm. Workshop from 11-1pm and repeated from 2.30-4.30pm

**Upcycling Tweed Accessories** Recycling tweed into hat, bags and accessories with Patricia Kirwan Doyle. **Venue:** Sheep and Wool Centre, Leenane. **Cost:** €10. Thu 23rd 10am-4pm

**Talk & Demonstration: The Big Wheel** Learn about the big wheel that was used for spinning wool. See live demonstration of the big wheel. A skill that is rarely seen today. **Venue:** Sheep and Wool Centre, Leenane. Sun 26th 2pm-3pm

**Felt-making For All Ages: Recycling Tweed Coats/Knitwear Natural Wool Dyeing. Talk and Demonstration On The Big Wheel** Felt-making for All. Textile artist, Deirdre Duffy will run this fun felt-making workshop. Drop in event. Children must be accompanied by adult. **Venue:** Sheep and Wool Centre, Leenane. Sun 19th 12noon-4pm

**Tour Of Private Collection On Display** Take a guided tour of the magnificent private collection of the local historian John Bhaba Jeaic Ó Conghaola on permanent display in the Heritage Centre since June 2009 for tourists and locals alike to enjoy. **Venue:** Lettermullen & Gorumna Heritage Centre, Callahullaim, Lettermullen, Connemara. Donations welcome. **Organiser:** Lettermullen & Gorumna Heritage Centre - email: ionadoidhreachtaletir.meallain@gmail.com; 091 551744. Sat 18th & Sun 19th 2pm-6pm. Mon 20th - Fri 24th 11am-4pm. Sat 25th & Sun 26th 2pm-6pm

**Open Day** Conservation Letterfrack are specialist conservators and restorers for historic interiors, furniture and wooden objects. **Venue:** Conservation Letterfrack workshop, Connemara West Centre, Letterfrack. **Organiser:** Conservation Letterfrack - email: sven@conservationletterfrack.ie; 095 41036 Sun 26th 11am-5pm

**Exhibition & Activity Day At The Oughterard Show** Visit the Connemara National Park tent at The Oughterard Show where children will learn about nature through displays and arts & crafts. **Venue:** Oughterard Show Grounds, Oughterard. Sun 26th 9am-5.30pm

**Shore Walk And Seaweed Identifications** This is a foreshore walk to peer into rock pools and identify the common seaweeds found there. Weather depending there will be the option of going for a snorkel afterwards from the beach. **Venue:** Pier / Beach Spiddal, An Spiddeal. **Organiser:** Seasearch Ireland, Galway Branch **Name:** Tony O'callaghan - email: tony\_o'callaghan@hotmail.com; 087 2227490. Thu 23rd & Fri 24th 6.30pm-10.30pm

**Mini Ranger Day** Experience Ranger life! Packed lunch provided. Ideal for children 5-12 years, parent supervision required. Booking essential: 095 41323. **Venue:** Connemara National Park, Letterfrack, Connemara. **Organiser:** Connemara National Park **Name:** Siobhan Geoghegan-Krone - email: siobhan.geoghegan@ahg.gov.ie; 095 41323 or 095 41054. Sat 25th 12noon-4pm

**Fun With Nature For Kids** Please bring boots and rainwear. Places are limited to 15 children per session and adults must stay with child/children. **Venue:** Connemara National Park, Letterfrack. Tue 21st & Thu 23rd 11am-1pm

**Guided Walk** As this walk covers rough, wet, boggy terrain, it is essential to have appropriate footwear and rainwear. **Venue:** Connemara National Park, Letterfrack. Wed 22nd & Fri 24th 11am-1pm

**Guided Walk** Walk Sruffaunboy and Lower Diamond with our guide and learn about the history, flora, fauna, traditions, and geology of the area. **Venue:** Connemara National Park, Letterfrack. Sat 18th 12noon-1.30pm. Sun 19th 12noon-1.30pm. Sat 25th 12noon-1.30pm



Diamond Hill, Letterfrack: walk on the wild side.