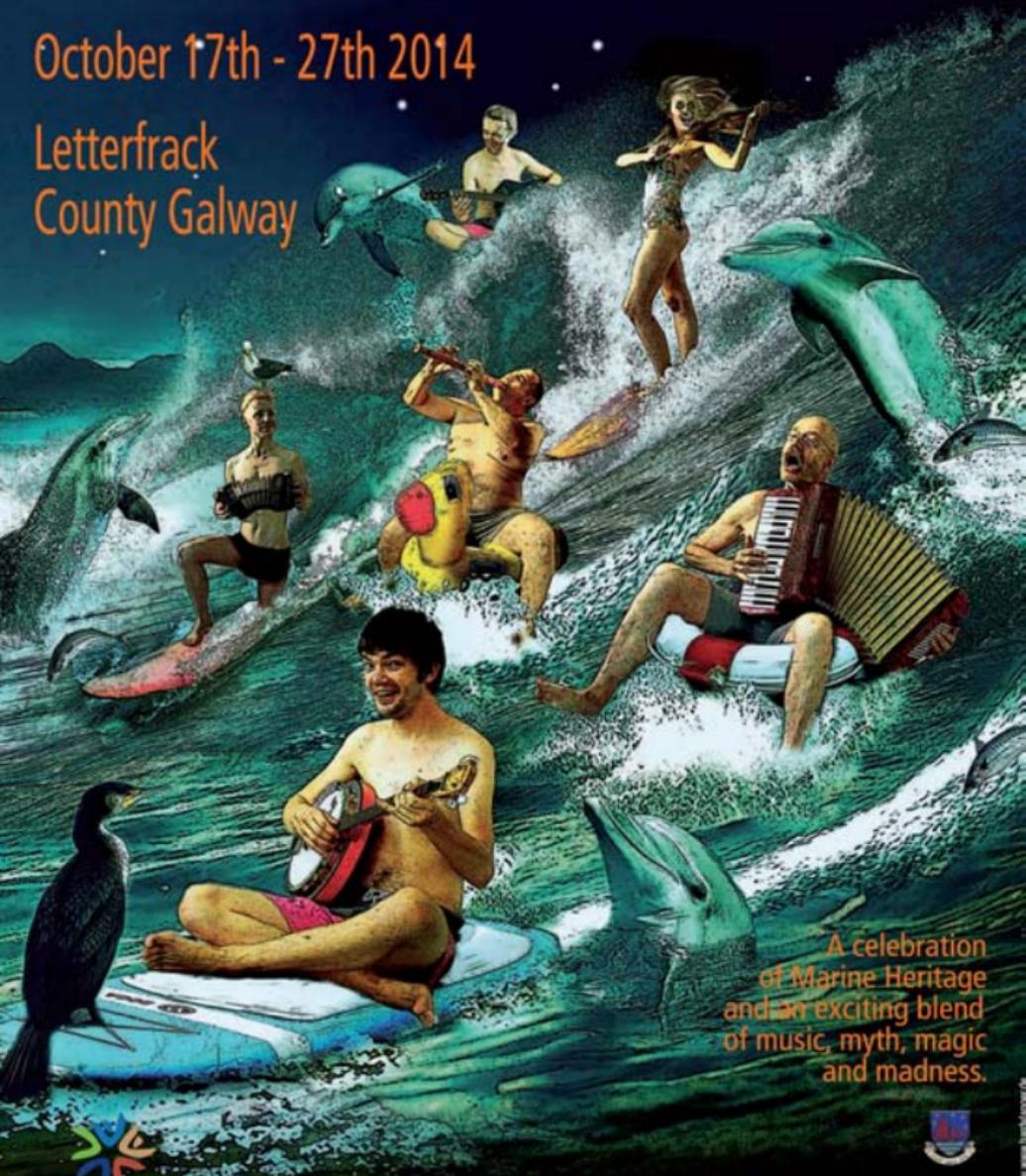


Conamara Sea Week

October 17th - 27th 2014

Letterfrack
County Galway



A celebration
of Marine Heritage
and an exciting blend
of music, myth, magic
and madness.

Welcome

A warm and heartfelt welcome to the 30th Conamara Sea Week Festival.

A warm and heartfelt welcome to the 30th Conamara Sea Week Festival. We would especially like to welcome President Michael D. Higgins who will officially open the festival on October 17th. President Higgins will also launch The Letterfrack Poetry Trail and open the Small Works Exhibition. President Higgins has always been a great supporter of our work and we are thrilled that he is coming to join us on this special occasion. Well known County Clare musician/composer - Conor Keane has composed a wonderful new piece of music in honour of his visit.

It is as always a space for expression for the whole community. The variety of events that are on the programme will excite, entrance, and involve hundreds of people in making fun.

Thanks to all who support Conamara Sea Week – FORUM, The Leader Programme, Connemara West, Connemara National Park, Connemara Community Radio, Galway County Council, The Arts Council, GMIT, Youthreach, VTOS, Connemara Chamber of Commerce, Kylemore Abbey, Renvyle House Hotel, Rosleague Manor, Creches, AIB Clifden, National Schools, Rogan's Gala, Supervalu, K2, Molly's Bar, The Bards Den, Monastery Hostel, The Lodge Letterfrack, Scubadive West and the myriad of individuals who put their shoulder to the wheel.

For further information on all events log onto www.ccecc.org or see local papers and shops. Email leo.hallissey@gmail.com or call 085 1154629

After the Light Parade – Wednesday 22nd Oct. 7.30pm Letterfrack Village.

The Quaker Village of Letterfrack in North West Conamara is a thriving centre of excellence with more than 500 people involved in education from Creche, Primary School, Conservation Centre, Youthreach, GMIT Letterfrack to VTOS.

Connemara Community Radio, Connemara West – local development organisation and FORUM community development organisation all positively contribute to establishing Letterfrack as a real centre of education.

The After the Light Project is in its fourth year and is now an integral part of the Conamara Sea Week Festival. It has been a great success bringing hundreds of people out into the night to celebrate the great energy and creativity now abounding in our village. The term 'after the light' suggests that we are going for the high ground, that we aspire to excellence in all that we do. And while we acknowledge the darker sides of our history we are clearly marking the fact that ours is a vibrant, energetic and outward looking place, a place full of possibility. Of course after the light could also suggest that the light is gone and this gives us an opportunity to dive into the underworld as we get ready for Halloween. "Not only was the parade around the buildings impressive and imaginative, the gathering together around the fire sculptures and the Lord of the Lights throne, with music, lights and small enactments was quite spectacular and so many people were present to participate and mark the event is testament to it's potency and strength. And future possibilities. This was, to my mind, community arts at it's very finest and the level of co operation, sharing and collaboration, and from so many sections of the education system- preschool through to students from the Furniture College- made this a remarkable and memorable event". Airt O'Briain Film Maker

"After the Light takes place by and for the community. I think this is what made it so impressive. I can't recall seeing the village so crowded, all ages were there, it was a real family occasion. The involvement of school children, Youthreach, GMIT and VTOS and many, many more was very inclusive in a meaningful way. The night was fantastic – the drumming, the animation, the sculpture pieces and most of all the fires and the lights. Thank you for brightening up the year". Mary Ruddy Community Activist / Broadcaster

Visiting Musicians

The poet Seamus Heaney talked about 'heart music' and during the Conamara Sea Week you will certainly hear music that comes from the heart played with passion and style. You will find sessions that are open, warm and friendly, encouraging the beginner as well as the faint of heart. You will find emerging players and old hands enjoying each other's company. A scatter of Ireland's finest 'old' hands will gather in our place and make mighty music over both weekends.

Mairtin O'Connor
Cathal Hayden
Seamus O'Dowd
Oonagh Keogh
Cara O'Sullivan
Geraldine O'Grady
Noel O'Grady
Sean Tyrell
Mary Bergin
Don Stiffe
Daire O'Neill
Donal Clancy
Josephine Marsh
Mick Kinsella
Seamus Cahill
Nathan Pilatzke
Plunkett O'Toole
Conor Keane
Maire Keane
David Power
Danny O'Mahoney
Ringo McDonagh
Ciaran Sommers
Gerry Whelan
Peter Molloy
Sean Regan
Joanas Guggenheim
Andrea Kirchofer



Joining with
Conamara's finest

Mirella Murray, Johnny Connolly, Marie Walsh, Marcus Hernon, Breandan Hernon, Prionsias Hernon, Liz Kane, Yvonne Kane, Gearoid Devaney, Johnny O'Halloran, Luke Murray, Phil Coyne, Sr. Karol, Neansaí Ní Choisdealbha, West Coast Grupaí Ceoil & lots of Conamara's finest young players.

Musicians welcome.

Concerts & Art

Kylemore Abbey Concerts

Thanks to the generosity of Sr. Maura and the Benedictine Community at Kylemore Abbey, we are holding three concerts in their lovely Gothic Church. All concerts start at 8.00pm.

Saturday Oct 18th features The Pipers Union - a new emerging super group formed in 2013 from the south east - they are now a tight knit trio incorporating traditional and contemporary styles. Mighty dance tunes, love songs, rousing ballads and haunting airs make for a magical night. The trio comprises of Donal Clancy – guitar/vocals; David Power – pipes and Ciarán Sommers – flute. Adm €10.00

Saturday Oct 25th – Sr. Karol's Classical Concert with Cara O'Sullivan soprano; Geraldine O'Grady and Oonagh Keogh violinists plus lots of special guests. Great music in a beautiful setting. This will be a truly memorable evening. Adm €15.00

Sunday Oct 26th - The mighty Mairtin O'Connor Band. Featuring Seamus O'Dowd – guitar/vocals; Cathal Hayden on fiddle and Mairtin O'Connor, one of the greatest exponents on the button accordion. This is a truly an unmissable night and a rare chance to see one of Ireland's finest bands in the beautiful surroundings of the Gothic Church. Adm €15.00

The Monastery Hostel Gig

Saturday 25th Oct - a very special evening with Jonas Guggenheim on accordion and Andrea Kirchofer on violin - a brilliant duo from Switzerland who will be joined on the night by Clare duo - the amazing Conor Keane on box and Maire Keane on flute. Eastern European music meets Clare Trad. This is a venue with a warm intimate atmosphere, which will make for a mighty evening of music. Candlelit dinner at 7.30pm. Dinner and Gig €20. 00. Booking essential. Contact Stephen on 087 2349543

The Letterfrack Poetry Trail

To mark its 30th year CEECC are proud to present The Letterfrack Poetry Trail, which will be launched by President Michael D Higgins on **Friday, Oct. 17th, 3.00pm in the National Park**. The trail consists of nine specially commissioned poems on plaques - 3 plaques in the National Park, 3 plaques in the Connemara West Centre and 3 plaques in the village of Letterfrack thus linking the park with the village. The poets in this project are Paula Mehan, Louis dePaor, Mary O'Malley, Joan McBreen, Eva Bourke, Theo Dorgan, Rita Ann Higgins, Michael Gorman and Moya Cannon – some of Ireland's most eminent poets. The poems explore the importance of place in all our lives. Some poems are site specific and others are more general in nature. This trail makes for an interesting thought provoking walk.

Small Works Art Exhibition

'Time and Tide' **Friday, Oct 17th – 3.00pm** – Connemara National Park.

This is a unique exhibition showcasing the work of some 30 established and emerging artists. All work is presented anonymously and is for sale at very modest prices of €80/€120. Thanks to generosity of the artists this is a great opportunity to purchase an original work of art.

Exhibition is open daily from Oct 17th – 27th. All welcome.

Weekend One

Friday Oct 17th

Official Opening – National Park – 3.00pm

By President Michael D. Higgins – Opening of The Letterfrack Poetry Trail and The Small Works Exhibition.

Trad Session – Molly's Bar – 5.00pm.

With the wonderful Kane Sisters Liz and Yvonne Kane – on blazing fiddles with Mirella Murray of Cherish the Ladies on accordion and Clare legend Conor Keane on box..

Trad Session – Oiche Chonamara – Molly's Bar - 9.30pm.

With Conamara's finest - Johnny Connolly –box; Marcus Hernon – flute; Breandan Hernon – fiddle, Prionsias Hernon - box who will be joined by the amazing Don Stiffe – guitar/vocals.

Saturday Oct 18th

Primary 5-a-side Soccer Blitz– Letterfrack NS – 11.00am.

Contact Brendan 0879865023.

Concert in Kylemore Abbey – The Gothic Church – 8.00pm

The Pipers Union - a new emerging super group formed in 2013 from the south east - they are now a tight knit trio incorporating traditional and contemporary styles. Mighty dance tunes, love songs, rousing ballads and haunting airs make for a magical night. The trio comprises of Donal Clancy – guitar/vocals; David Power – pipes and Ciarán Sommers – flute.

Trad Session – Molly's Bar – 9.30pm

Featuring the legendary Kerry box player Danny O'Mahoney and the amazing bodhran maestro Ringo McDonagh and a scatter of friends.

Sunday Oct 19th

Family Fun Day

Fly Your Kite – 1.00pm a magical celebration at the Connemara West Centre.

All ages welcome. Some specially designed kites will be flown for the first time.

Mini Boat Regatta – 2.00pm (boats under 20cm). Sail your own specially designed boat in the Connemara National Park.

Connemara's Biggest Book Fair - 3.00 – 5.00pm in the Ellis Hall Letterfrack.

For all the family.

The Killary Challenge - 3.30pm Connemara West.

A challenging set of tasks for adults and young people. Teams of 5. Trip to K2 Adventure Centre for the winning team.

Trad Session – Molly's Bar – 5.00pm.

With the ever popular duo – Inishbofin's Johnny O'Halloran on box and Waterford's Gerry Whelan on banjo and they will be joined by rising talent Inishbofin's Luke Murray on guitar/vocals and the gifted Mirella Murray on accordion.

Weekend Two

Friday Oct 24th

Active Ages – Rosleague Manor – 1.30pm

An Intergenerational Day to remember with great food, mighty music and lots of fun.

Trad Session – Molly's Bar – 9.30pm.

Talented flute player Peter Molloy will be joined by the exciting Sean Regan on fiddle and the gifted Noel O'Grady on bouzouki. This is a mighty trio and they will certainly make the rafters ring!

Saturday Oct 25th

Music Workshops – for all ages in Letterfrack NS – 11.00am to 3.30pm.

These workshops are gentle, welcoming spaces which will encourage young players to improve and also give a chance to the not so young to blow the dust off forgotten skills.

Fiddle – Yvonne & Liz Kane; Flute – Mary Bergin; Box – Marie Walsh. Please bring a packed lunch. Students 10.00; Adults 15.00.

Trad Session – Molly's Bar – 5.00pm.

With well known troubadour Sean Tyrell who will launch his new CD 'Moonlight on Galway Bay'. An amazing singer. Able to breathe fresh life into the most clichéd songs.

The Monastery Hostel Gig – Candlelit dinner at 7.30pm.

Jonas Guggenheim on accordion and Andrea Kirchofer – violin - a brilliant duo from Switzerland who will be joined on the night by Clare duo - the amazing Conor Keane on box and Maire Keane on flute. Eastern European music meets Clare Trad. This is a venue with a warm intimate atmosphere, which will make for a mighty evening of music. Dinner and Gig €20. Contact Stephen on 087 2349543

Kylemore Abbey Concert – The Gothic Church – 8.00pm.

Sr. Karol's Classical Concert with Cara O'Sullivan soprano; Geraldine O'Grady and Oonagh Keogh – violin plus lots of special guests. This concert will take place in the Gothic Church, which provides a lovely setting for this very special concert. Tickets €15.00

Trad Session – The Bards Den – 9.30pm.

With four amazing musicians – The Kane Sisters – Liz and Yvonne on fiddle; Marie Walsh on box and Mary Bergin on flute/whistle. An exciting tumble of tunes and a memorable evening of mighty music.

Indoors

Music Workshops

Saturday Oct 25th for all ages, 11.00am to 3.30pm – Letterfrack NS. These workshops are great occasions with brilliant teachers and a lovely gentle ambience, which encourages all the participants to make great music.

If you feel like blowing the dust off forgotten skills you would be more than welcome.

Participants must be able to play jigs, reels and hornpipes. Fiddle – Liz and Yvonne Kane; Box – Marie Walsh; Whistle/Flute – Mary Bergin. Please bring a packed lunch.

Sean nós Dance Workshop

Sunday 26th, 4.00pm – Ellis Hall, Letterfrack.

This is a great opportunity to learn from one of Ireland's greatest sean nós dancers – the legendary Gearoid Devaney whose dancing has enthralled audiences all over the world.

Sunday Oct 26th

Guided Shore Walks – 2.00pm

Glassilaun Beach - meet in the car park at Glassilaun Beach – 2.00pm.

With marine biologist Dave McGrath who will help unravel the secrets of this most beautiful beach

Renvyle Peninsula - meet Renvyle House Hotel – 2.00pm.

With local ecologist Mags Flaherty who will explore the Renvyle Peninsula

Sean nós Dance Workshop – Ellis Hall Letterfrack– 4.00pm.

With Gearoid Devaney – Oireachtas winner. Adults €10.00, Children €5.00.

A great opportunity to learn from one of the all time great sean nós dancers.

Trad Session – Molly's bar – 5.00pm.

A fantastic gathering with Mick Kinsella – harmonica; Josephine Marsh – box and Seamus Cahill – guitar/vocals who will be joined by sean nós dancer Gearoid Devaney and Canadian Clog Dancer Nathan Pilatzke who guests with The Chieftain's on tour.

Kylemore Abbey Concert – 8.00pm.

Featuring the mighty Mairtin O'Connor Band. Seamus O'Dowd – guitar/vocals and Cathal Hayden on fiddle. This is an unmissable night and a rare chance to see one of Ireland's finest bands in the beautiful surroundings of the Gothic Church. Admission €15 waged.

The Final Session – Molly's Bar – 9.45pm.

The final gig of the festival – a last hurrah for the 30th birthday celebrations and it will be a special night as we launch 'Draíocht na Feadóige' – new CD by amazing flute player Neansaí Ní Choisdealbha who will be joined by Conor Keane on box; Daire O'Neill on flute and sean nós dancer Gearoid Devaney and Canadian Clog Dancer Nathan Pilatzke. Lots of special guests.

Schools Programme

Monday 20th to Friday 24th

Throughout the week we have a vibrant schools programme. In conjunction with the Heritage in Schools Project we will have ecologist/artist Gordon Darcy; ecologist Mags Flaherty and marine biologist Dave McGrath visiting primary schools in our area. Three enthusiastic teachers with an in-depth knowledge of Connemara. Field trips are an integral part of our programme as they give children a real hands on experience of their own place.

Chess Competition

Tuesday Oct 21st 7.00pm – Letterfrack NS.

U12 and U14's competition. All young players are welcome. Admission Free.

Outdoors

Family Fun Day

Sunday Oct 19th

This is a great day for all the family. A healthy outdoor event for all ages and its absolutely free. The day starts with the magic of **kite flying** so, bring along your kite at 1.00pm to Connemara West and let it rip. In the National Park at 2.00pm you will be able to display your boat building skills as we launch our annual **mini boat regatta**. Please remember boats can be made from any kind of material but should not be longer than 20cm's. After the excitement of the regatta you'll need a break so why not visit **Connemara's biggest Book Fair** in Ellis Hall. While browsing through the books don't forget to gather your team for the **Killary Challenge**. Teams of 5 made up of children and adults will take part in this great fun event and remember the winning team will be going on a trip to the Killary Adventure Centre. **Sponsored by AIB Clifden.**

Guided Shore Walks

Sunday Oct 26th 2.00pm.

Glassilaun Beach - meet in the car park at Glassilaun Beach — 2.00pm.

With marine biologist Dave McGrath who will help unravel the secrets of this most beautiful beach Renvyle Peninsula - meet Renvyle House Hotel – 2.00pm.

With local ecologist Mags Flaherty who will explore the Renvyle Peninsula

Lots of excitement for all the family. These walks are FREE but do remember sensible clothing/footwear.

Sorry, no dogs.

Primary school 5-a-side Soccer Blitz

Saturday Oct 18th – 11.00am, Letterfrack NS.

This is a lovely sporting event, a great occasion for family. Teams come from all over Conamara and Brendan and Paddy Joe provide them with a memorable day's fun. As usual Virginia and the backroom team provide large amount of tea, coffee, sandwiches which greatly adds to the day.

