



Fáilte Ireland

National Tourism Development Authority



Culture & Heritage July - Sept 2009 Events, News & Features



Culture

Summer is truly upon us, bringing with it an abundance of **Festivals & Events** of every shape, size and theme, located in even the most far flung corners of the country. In the ever changing sphere of **Contemporary Culture & the Arts**, there is no shortage of things to see and do, both by day and by night; exhibitions, theatre, music, art, sculpture, film and indeed many combinations of the above. Locals and visitors alike can become acquainted with Ireland's **Traditional Culture** during the months of July to September, with numerous festivals focusing on the ancient arts of music, song, dance and storytelling. Ireland's North West is emerging as *the* destination for those seeking a close encounter with the traditional arts and their practitioners this summer.

Heritage

Ireland's long and colourful heritage is being celebrated in a variety of ways during summer 2009. There are the new walking trails being developed to help visitors explore our **Historic Towns**, and numerous festivals honouring our history and people, many of which are hosted in the magnificent settings of our historic buildings. There are also opportunities to experience our **Natural** heritage, through the beauty of our gardens which are in their full glory during the summer months, and the wonder of our landscape and wildlife.

CULTURE

Arts Festivals



Kilkenny Arts Festival 2008

July 4-12: Clonmel Junction Festival, County Tipperary. A nine day festival offering a rich mix of modern theatre, dance and music. Great family entertainment. www.junctionfestival.com

July 4 – 18: Earagail Arts Festival, various locations, County Donegal. A bi-lingual, multi-disciplinary festival offering a high quality, national and international programme. www.eaf.ie

July 11 – 19, Kinsale Arts Week, County Cork. A multi-disciplinary arts festival, featuring local, national and international work including visual art, theatre, music, literature, film, dance and family entertainment. www.kinsaleartsweek.com

July 13 – 26. Galway Arts Festival, Galway City & County, Internationally renowned and one of Ireland's largest festivals. Expect the unexpected along with superb theatre, dance, spectacle, visual art and music from around the world. www.galwayartsfestival.com

July 31 – August 2: Waterford Spraoi, Waterford City. Featuring international street theatre and music in various locations throughout the city. All events are free. www.spraoi.com

August 7 – 16: Kilkenny Arts Festival, Kilkenny City & County. An arts festival that is internationally acclaimed for its unique mix of art forms, stunning venues and great atmosphere. Classical, jazz & traditional Irish music, visual art, theatre, dance, literature, film, street and children's events. www.kilkennyarts.ie

Something Different.....

August 21 – 26: Rose of Tralee International Festival, Tralee, Co. Kerry, Celebrating 50 Years, the 2009 Rose of Tralee International Festival will welcome 50 Roses from all over the world and is responsible for the annual week-long invasion of the town of Tralee! www.roseoftralee.ie

September 11 – October 4: Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival, Lisdoonvarna, County Clare. Europe's biggest singles event with music and dancing day and night, meet Ireland's matchmaker Willie Daly. www.matchmakerireland.com

September 24 – 27: Galway International Oyster Festival, Galway City. A celebration of Galway and the Native Oyster. www.galwayoysterfest.com

HERITAGE

Heritage Festivals

July 18 – 19: Carrigtwohill Medieval Festival & Country Fair, Barryscourt Castle, Carrigtwohill, County Cork.

Set in the magical surroundings of Barryscourt Castle, this new festival is set to become Munster's top contemporary Festival, incorporating both



culture and craic, while presenting an exclusive insight into medieval life, Carrigtwohill can boast the Oldest Fair Day in Ireland. The Market Place brings the ultimate ingredient to the Festival with an array of both indoor and outdoor stalls, featuring local artisan foods and crafts, including cookery demonstrations, tastings and pigs on the spit. www.carrifest.com or www.heritageireland.ie

August 1 – 9: Carlow Floral Festival Trail, Co. Carlow. A trail showcasing 16 different gardening attractions. www.carlowfloralfestival.com

August 14 – 21: 41st Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festivals, Birr, Co. Offaly. Fair; vintage parade; street theatre; exhibitions; historical tours; film, drama; children's events; vintage and modern sports; pub entertainment; donkey derby; live music; fireworks & more. www.birrvintageweek.com

August 22 – 23: Irish Game and Country Fair, Birr Castle, Co. Offaly. One of the two great game fairs of Ireland featuring the best of country sports & ountry lifestyle. www.irishgameandcountryfair.com

August 22 – 30: Heritage Week, Nationwide. Celebrates Ireland's natural, built and cultural heritage with thousands of activities across the country. Events include nature and archaeological walks, seminars, tours of historical buildings, food fairs, music, dance, whale watching, wildlife excursions and many more. Many events free. www.heritageweek.ie

September 12 – 13: Harvest Feast, Enniskillen/Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. Including nature walks on farms; raw, vegetarian and kids cookery classes, an open air mint tea bar; introductions to community food and care farming projects; bread making; children's story telling; wine, cheese and chocolate tasting. The Feast emphasises all that is great about great food: regional specialities, heritage and traditional food alongside the exotic, and learning for adults and children alike. www.harvestfeast.ie

September 22 – 24: National Ploughing Championships Machinery & Livestock Exhibition, Athy, Co. Kildare. A cross section of everything associated with Rural Ireland. www.npa.ie

Traditional Culture

Spotlight on: The North West

- A New Hub for Traditional Music in Ireland

Delight in the cultural calendar of the North West this summer with shows in traditional music and dance, pub sessions and fun aplenty! With its vibrant culture of traditional music, song and dance, you won't have any difficulty in tracking down a local session or performance in the North West. 22 venues (pubs, hotels and even a cinema!) throughout the counties of Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo will offer extra events from June through September. As these events will take place in the afternoons and early evenings, they are suitable for all ages, and for both early birds and the night owls. So why not take in a slice of real Ireland: an afternoon or an evening of lively music in a cosy pub. And if you're feeling *particularly* energetic, why not get on your dancing shoes and join in - you can learn the steps as you go!

www.discoverireland.ie/northwest

What's On: July - September Traditional Culture



Festivals & Events

July 18 – August 10: John Millington Synge, Photographer, Siamsa Tíre, National Folk Theatre of Ireland, Tralee, County Kerry. Synge bought a second hand camera during his first visit to the Aran Islands and the exhibition consists of photographs which were taken in **Connemara, Wicklow** and **West Kerry** between 1898 and 1905. www.siamsatire.com

July 31 – August 2: Ballyshannon Folk & Traditional Music Festival, County Donegal. An annual festival of folk and traditional music attracting some top artists; includes concerts, busking, workshops. www.ballyshannonfolkfestival.com

August 5-10: Feakle International Traditional Music Festival, Feakle, County Clare. Celebrating the best of Irish traditional music, especially the distinctive style of east Clare with workshops, concerts, dance as well as walks and talks. www.feaklefestival.ie

August 16 – 23: Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Tullamore, County Offaly. The largest annual celebration of Irish culture, music, song and dance in the world, run by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Over 10,000 musicians compete for the coveted All Ireland Titles in their field. The Fleadh is also a showcase for concerts, ceiliithe, parades, pageants and impromptu street sessions. www.fleadh2009.com

Historic Ireland

Ireland's Historic Towns

The towns and villages of Ireland offer visitors a great insight into our past, with each one having their own unique story to tell. Whether it's a stroll through the steep and colourful streets of Cobh - the final port of call of the Titanic, or making a pilgrimage to Ballyshannon - the birth place of legendary guitarist Rory Gallagher- or standing atop the historic Vinegar Hill in Enniscorthy, the range of experiences to be had by visitors is enormous. So with this in mind, a series of Historic Walking Trails around 50 towns in Ireland is currently being developed. These trails will guide the visitor around the main heritage sites & attractions of each of the towns, and bring their story to life for them through their interpretive panels. Downloadable versions of maps for these walks are currently being developed, available from www.discoverireland.ie/historictowns from July '09.

New Boyne Valley Brochure

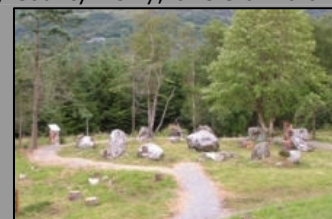
Visitors to Ireland can now discover Ireland's rich heritage with the help of the new Boyne Valley brochure. The brochure includes detailed information on the key historic sites in the area (such as Newgrange, Loughcrew Cairns and the Hill of Tara), as well as accommodation, activities and food. Further info from: maeve.mckeever@failteireland.ie or www.discoverireland.ie/eastcoast

The National Wax Museum Plus Re-Opens

The National Wax Museum Plus will re-open this summer at 'The Armoury', Foster Place, off College Green, Dublin 2, (formerly the Bank of Ireland Arts Centre). New elements include a vivid Ice Age to present day panorama, an interactive science laboratory celebrating Irish inventors and their contribution to innovation, knowledge and discovery; and a live recording and video studio linked to YouTube. www.waxmuseumplus.ie

Bonane Heritage Park

Bonane Heritage Park, County Kerry, offers a vibrant and living link to the first settlers who colonised the Irish countryside and is unique in that it has an abundance of well-preserved multi-period archaeological sites, from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age right up to pre-famine times. The Park offers visitors a 2,000 metre walk on gravel paths through 5,000 years of history while enjoying some breathtaking scenery. www.bonane.com N.B. Limited facilities for visitors.



Summer Theatre at Fota House, Cork

July 21 – August 22: The Tailor and Ansty by Eric Cross, Fota House, County Cork.

The highly successful theatre production of the remarkable local story of **The Tailor and Ansty**, will be performed in the grounds of Fota House, Cork, this summer. www.fotahouse.com

August 28 – 30: Coleman Traditional Festival, Ceoláras Coleman, County Sligo. Traditional music weekend including a fiddle competition. www.colemanirishmusic.com

September 4 – 6: Cape Clear International Storytelling Workshop, Cape Clear Island, County Cork. Enjoy superb storytelling and music in Cape Clear's spectacular scenic surroundings. The atmosphere is relaxed and easygoing, and the background provided by the island's stunning scenery promotes a festival of unique standing in the world of storytelling. www.capeclearstorytelling.com

September 11-13: Tulla Traditional Music Festival, County Clare. A great weekend of music, song, dancing, workshops, recitals, concerts and ceilithe. www.tullatradfestival.com

September 24 – 27: Johnny Keenan Banjo Festival, Longford Town. Celebration of Irish traditional, American bluegrass and folk music. www.johnnykeenan.com

Traditional Summer Schools



July 4-11, Willie Clancy Summer School, County Clare.

Nearly a thousand students from every part of the world attend daily classes taught by experts in Irish Music and Dance. In addition a full program of lectures, recitals, dances ceilithe and exhibitions are open to the public.

Email angleann@oceanfree.net

July 18-25: Joe Mooney Summer School of Traditional Music, Song Dance, County Leitrim. A full programme of workshops offered in flute, fiddle, banjo, bodhrán, whistle, mandolin, concertina, button accordion, piano accordion, harp and uilleann pipes, presented professionally by musicians of the highest calibre. Attending the open air set-dancing is a must. <http://joemooneysummerschool.com>

July 27 – August 2: Scoil Acla, Achill Island, County Mayo. Cultural summer school with concerts, writing workshops and dance. A wide range of classes for all traditional instruments, Dance workshop, Set dancing, Sean nós singing, Basket weaving and Creative Writers workshop. *Craic agus ceoil* for all the family. www.scoilaccla.com

August 4 – 9: Sliabh Luachra Summer School, County Cork. To find the real, authentic style of traditional music and culture, a trip to this discreet location amongst the mountains and valleys of Cork is a must, where Irish musical and cultural traditions have lived undisturbed and unchanged for generations. www.sliabhluachra.com

2009 Museum of The Year Awards

Kerry County Museum has been named **2009 Museum of the Year** at the Museum Awards to coincide with National Museums Day – with Knock Museum, Co. Mayo, receiving a Commendation.

The **Museum Awards** aim to highlight and celebrate the achievements of museums and collections, together with their curators and staff, as they strive to care for and protect our heritage. Other winners are listed on The Heritage Council's website: www.heritagecouncil.ie

Natural Ireland

Brochure - Gardens Open 2009

This brochure provides a comprehensive list of over 300 gardens which are open to the public in Ireland in 2009 and is now available from Fáilte Ireland: www.garden.ie/gardens_to_see.aspx

Summer/Autumn Programme 2009 - Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and Ashdown Castle

Talks/Events at 3.00 p.m. in the Visitor Centre

June 28: Create a feast for your picnic – join Helen and Clare

from The Phoenix Park Café to learn how to create the perfect picnic food for summer outings.

July 26: Birds of Ireland – Facts, Folklore and History

Bird lovers and general public alike will find this illustrated talk on the folklore, history and historical peculiarities of Irish birds fascinating.

August 2: Medieval times – brought to life in Ashdown Castle beside The Visitor Centre with a living history re-enactment with Irish Arms from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

August 16: Join Don Doran, Deer Keeper in the Phoenix Park, for an Update on the Park's most famous inhabitants.

Sept 6: Guided tour of the **Victorian Kitchen Walled Garden** with Declan Bermingham and Margaret Gormley, Phoenix Park.

Phoenix Park Shuttle Bus

Get on board the bus and explore 1,752 acres of this National Historic Park. Experience; peace and tranquillity, landscape and wildlife, historic buildings, visitor centre and Dublin Zoo.

www.phoenixpark.ie



Contemporary Culture & the Arts

Spotlight On:

Lough Boora Sculpture in the Parklands (recent winner of the Business to Arts award): The magnificent wetlands and wildlife wilderness of Lough Boora, County Offaly, now play host to some of the most innovative land and environmental sculptures in Ireland. The artists, inspired by the rich natural and industrial legacy of the bog lands, have created a series of large-scale sculptures that are now part of the Parklands permanent collection. A paradise for outdoor enthusiasts interested in its unique flora and fauna, now enhanced by innovative works of art that change with the weather, through the seasons and the years. Come visit the Parklands and stimulate all the senses as you explore this expansive unencumbered landscape.



www.sculptureintheparklands.com

What's On: July - September Arts & Contemporary Culture

Theatre

**Tickets can be booked via the theatre's own website Also available to purchase from The Dublin Tourism Centre, Suffolk St, Dublin 2.

The Abbey Theatre, Dublin:

July 22 – September 19: *The Rivals* by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. It is summer, and Lydia Languish is yearning for the charming but penniless Ensign Beverley – the cunning alter ego of a roguish Captain Jack Absolute. R.B. Sheridan's *The Rivals* is a feisty and spirited celebration of everyday life, and one of theatre's most enduring comedies. www.abbeytheatre.ie

The Gate Theatre, Dublin:

July 9 – August 8: *Present Laughter* by Noël Coward. From the creative team that brought you the acclaimed Gate Theatre productions of Oscar Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan* (2005), W. Somerset Maugham's *The Constant Wife* (2006) and Noël Coward's *Private Lives* comes Coward's brilliant comedy of manners, oozing with charm, panache and verbal wizardry. www.gate-theatre.ie

Museums & Galleries

The Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin:

Ending Sept 20: *Cubism: Mainie Jellett, Evie Hone, May Guinness*. Cubist inspired works of these three artists, who were at the vanguard of modernism in Ireland, will be shown alongside works by Albert Gleizes & André Lhôte. www.hughlane.ie

The Natural History Museum, Dublin:

Ongoing throughout summer months: *The Dead Zoo At Large - Treasures of the Natural History Museum*.

Step back in time and savour the atmosphere of the Natural History Museum. A wide selection of the 10,000 exhibits from the Merrion Street museum has been brought back into the light. Old favourites include giant deer, Spoticus the giraffe and the families of badgers, foxes and otters. www.museum.ie

Kells Bay House and Gardens, Kells, Co Kerry



This unique garden has thrived for 150 years under the micro climate of Kells Bay. It comprises 40 acres, features Europe's largest collection of tree ferns and

Ireland's largest palm tree, and is surrounded by woodland and a river. Facilities include a tea room/café and garden centre. www.kellsgardens.ie

Airfield Farm & Gardens

Airfield is a city farm with formal gardens situated on a 35 acre estate in South Dublin. It is a space where people of all ages can nurture their spirit, feed their mind and body surrounded by the wonders of the natural world. Check out their website for their art and education programmes. www.airfield.ie

Whale Watch Ireland

Irish waters are among Europe's richest for cetaceans, with an impressive 24 species recorded to date. In 1991 the Irish government accepted an IWDG proposal, declaring Ireland a whale and dolphin sanctuary- the first of its kind in Europe. Whale Watch Ireland Day 2009 will be held on Sunday 23rd August, with coverage at fifteen watch sites around the country, making it the biggest event since it started in 2001. See www.iwdg.ie for more detail.

Phase 3 - Woodstock Gardens Officially Launched

The latest phase in the restoration and development of the Woodstock Gardens and Arboretum in the village of Inistioge, Co Kilkenny, has now been



launched. Carved out of the Kilkenny landscape, this setting is a complex of formal and informal gardens, which includes an arboretum with specimen trees from Asia and South America, a rose garden, yew walk and terraced garden. It includes the restoration of the Winter Garden, Arboretum, Walled Garden and Flower Terrace. Earlier phases of the project included the restoration of the Turner Conservatory, the addition of a rustic summer-house and the installation of a fountain to replace the original and further development of this magnificent garden is planned.

www.woodstock.ie

The National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin:



Ending August 23: Harry Clarke's Illustrations for Hans Christian Andersen's 'Fairy Tales'. Admission free. The 1916 edition of these famous stories is lavishly illustrated with 16 colour plates by Irish artist Harry Clarke (1889-1931). These exotic and highly imaginative compositions display the artist's mastery of colour and line and are reminiscent of his intricate stained glass designs.
www.nationalgallery.ie
Harry Clarke (1889-1931): The Garden of Paradise
Photo © National Gallery of Ireland

Chester Beatty Library, Dublin:

Ending August 2: Haydn: A Bicentenary Celebration. Haydn (1732-1809) created extraordinary music for almost every genre and the Library will display an original autographed score of one of Haydn's cello concertos (1783) and several first editions of his published works, including some early Dublin editions. www.cbl.ie

Festivals & Events

July 7 - 12: Galway Film Fleadh, Galway City. Includes screenings, master classes and seminars, debates, workshops and seminars. www.galwayfilmfleadh.com

July 3 - 5: Blackstairs Opera in the Castle, Kilkenny City. Unique opera performances in the grounds of Kilkenny Castle. www.blackstairsopera.com

July 5 - 11: West Cork Literary Festival, Bantry, County Cork, A writers festival with extensive workshops on the art of writing in all its forms, plus several readings each day from world renowned authors. www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie

August 28 - 31: Festival of World Cultures, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin. Ireland's first Global Carnival! A kaleidoscopic programme of concerts and club nights, fairs and markets, street events and much more! www.festivalofworldcultures.com

September 5 - 20: Dublin Fringe Festival, Dublin. A full-on, immersive arts experience that is jam-packed with live gigs and performances. Spanning theatre, dance, music and visual arts across many Dublin venues including the much-loved Spiegeltent in Dublins Iveagh Gardens. www.fringefest.com

September 24 - October 11: Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival, Dublin. The oldest, dedicated specialist theatre festival in Europe. www.dublintheatrefestival.com

September 25: Dublin Culture Night, various locations across Dublin. For one night only Dublin city's museums, galleries, churches, historic houses, artists' studios and cultural centres will open their doors late into the night with hundreds of free activities for all the family! www.templebar.ie

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Useful Links

www.discoverireland.com
www.failteireland.ie
www.nci.ie

Sheep's Head Announced as European Destination of Excellence 2009

Sheep's Head in Bantry, Co Cork, has been awarded the title of *European Destination of Excellence - Tourism and Protected Areas*. The competition is funded and organised by Fáilte Ireland and the European Union.



The competition was designed for destinations that have developed the tourism potential of their protected areas in a sustainable manner. The other four finalists were **Ballyhoura** in Counties Limerick and Cork, **Slieve League** in South Donegal, **Erris** in North West Mayo and the **Greenbox in the North West** (including Leitrim, parts of Cavan, Sligo, Donegal and Monaghan).

The Sheep's Head Peninsula is located in West Cork and offers a long distance walking route including the Sheep's Head Way, which traverses a number of protected areas such as Special Protection Areas, which are protected for birdlife. It also has a wealth of wildlife habitats, many of which are protected as candidate Special Areas of Conservation and offers visitors loop walks, coastal, hill top, cliff side and river walks, angling, cycling, local food produce and much more.

Christian Ireland

Nano Nagle Room Opens at An Díseart

Founded in 1996, Díseart aims to help people to access and interact with Irish culture and spirituality - including language, literature, history, archaeology, folklore, theology, spirituality and music. It offers educational courses and cultural activities. In addition, Díseart also has a wonderful series of Harry Clarke (1889-1931) stained glass windows in the chapel, which depict in detail, six major scenes from the life of Christ.

Nano Nagle Room: A new Nano Nagle Room will be dedicated on **21 June**, with a contribution of religious art from Eleanor Yates, a young mural artist from the US. The walls of the room tell the exciting story of the life and labours of the Foundress of the Presentation Sisters, who arrived in Dingle in 1829. A further element of this tourism product is a wonderful garden which contains a nuns' graveyard. Visitors are welcome to walk there and enjoy it as part of their visit. www.andiseart.ie

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Useful Links

www.discoverireland.com
www.failteireland.ie