

feile na 3cloch

INIS OÍRR



Dry Stone Wall Building Workshop

Stone Carving Workshop

Letter Carving Workshop

On Location Sketch Outs

Lime Demonstrations

2025



Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th
September 2025

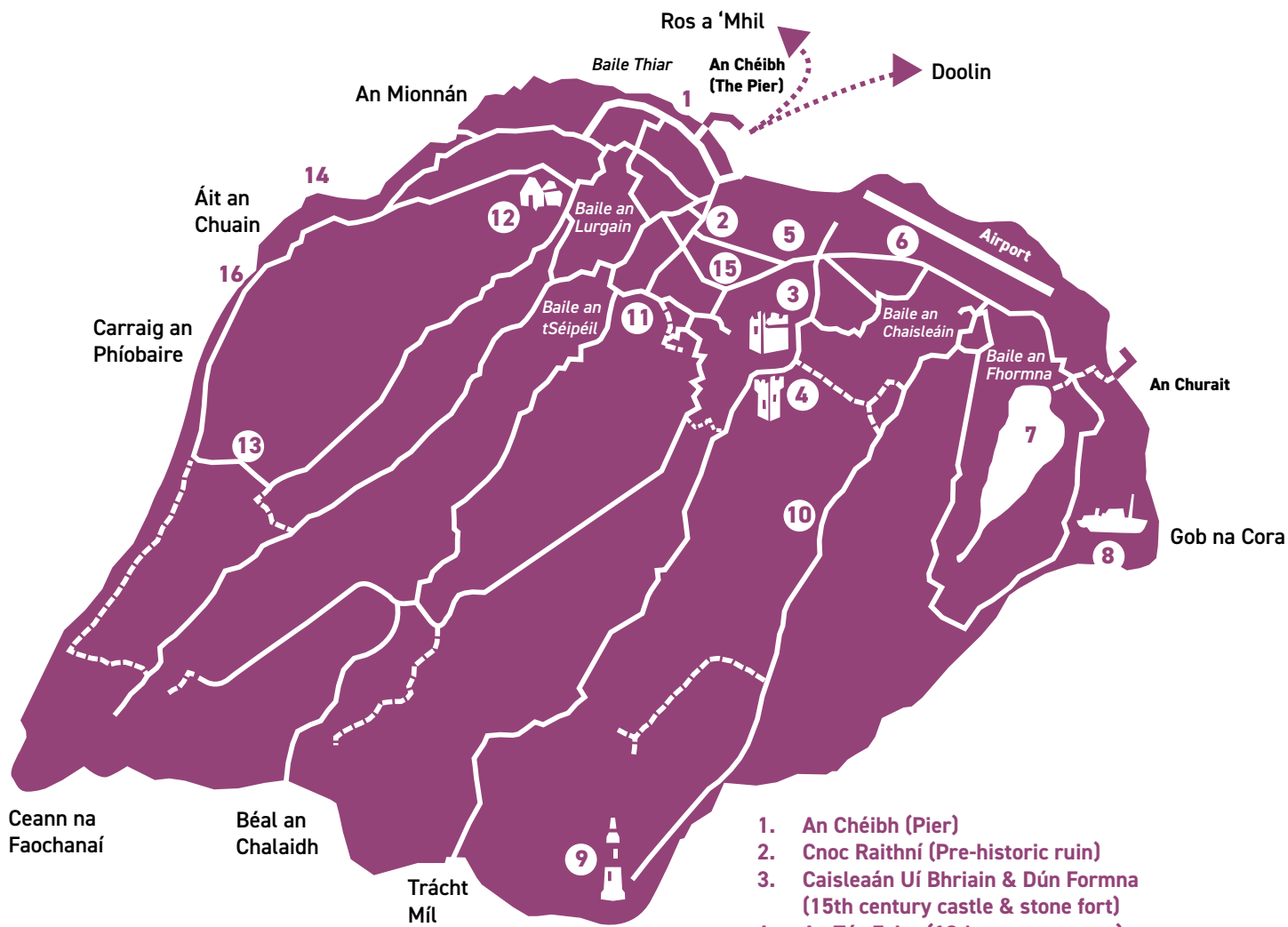
Inis Oírr

Aran Islands, County Galway

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Ceann na
Faohanaí

Béal an
Chalaidh

Trácht
Míl

Fardoras



SCALE: 1km

1. An Chéibh (Pier)
2. Cnoc Raithní (Pre-historic ruin)
3. Caisleán Uí Bhriain & Dún Formna (15th century castle & stone fort)
4. An Túr Faire (18th century tower)
5. Teampall Pól (Ruins of St. Pól's church)
6. Teampall Chaomháin (St. Kevin's church)
7. An Loch Mór (Lake)
8. An Plassy (Shipwreck)
9. Teach Solais (Lighthouse)
10. Cill na Seacht níníon
11. Séipéal (Church)
12. Cill Ghobnait (11th century church)
13. Tobar Éanna (Holy well)
14. Róna (Seal colony)
15. Páirc Peile & Spraioi (Playground & pitch)
16. Cloch Chuimhneachtáin (Memorial stone)



Comhar Caomhán Teo



Inis Oírr

Aran Island's Inis Oírr is our wonderful island home and a long-lived Atlantic community in constant celebration of its unique culture and modern ways. Recognised for a warm and outgoing spirit, and graced with a welcome that extends beyond our island waves, we delight in the company of all who visit.

Island Life

Beautiful island of big skies and shimmering seas. A dynamic mix of new and old, forever enriched by those who visit.

Family-Friendly Breaks

Our wonderful sun-bleached white strand is very popular for swimming, walking, watersports or just hanging about on long island summer days.

Wonderful Sights and Scenery

Cycle or walk the quiet and charming boreens to take in the many sites and artifacts of this karst limestone island. The island has a Blue Flag beach, An Trá, and Green Flag beach, Pól na gCaorach.

Relax and Unwind on Inis Oírr

Inis Oírr is an ideal spot for visiting, with excellent accommodation options: bed & breakfast, hotels, hostels, charming tearooms, restaurants and bars.

Traditional Music, Arts & Crafts

The island hosts the best in traditional music, art and craft courses. Regular music sessions and lively dances continue to lure legions of visitors to Inis Oírr.

Getting Here is Easy

Daily ferry services from Doolin and Ros a Mhíl. Aer Arann, based at Connemara Airport, Inverin, County Galway, do daily flights. Close to the Burren, the Cliffs of Moher are clearly visible from the island.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



OTHER EVENTS

Taking Place on Inis Oírr



Toibreacha
Beannaithe
Chontae na Gaillimhe
Holy Wells
of the County of Galway



The following exhibition is on
during Féile na gCloch 2025:

Toibreacha Beannaithe - Aibreán go Deireadh Fómhair

Is páirt é an taispeántas seo den Iniúchadh ar Thoibreacha Beannaithe Chontae na Gaillimhe, atá á dhéanamh ag an Sainchomhairleoir Oidhreachta, Zena Hoctor, ar son Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Is é Cormac Coyne, Coimeádaí an Taispeántais Tá sé á mhaoiniú ag an gComhairle Oidhreachta agus ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Tá Áras Éanna agus Comhar Caomhán Teo. ag tacú leis an taispeántas. Beidh an taispeántas ar siúl amuigh faoin aer i gclós Áras Éanna don Samhradh.

Holy Wells Exhibition – April to October

This exhibition curated by Cormac Coyne forms part of the Holy Wells of County Galway Audit which is being undertaken by Zena Hoctor, Heritage Consultant on behalf of the Heritage Office, Galway County Council. It is being funded by the Heritage Council and Galway County Council. This exhibition is supported by Áras Éanna and Comhar Caomhán Teo. The exhibition will be showing in the Áras Éanna courtyard for the Summer.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



OTHER EVENTS

Taking Place on Inis Oírr



The following exhibition is on during Féile na gCloch 2025:

Áras Éanna

Echoes of the Isles Exhibition

Echoes of the Isles is a collaborative art exhibition exploring the cultural and ecological heritage of Ireland's Atlantic islands through contemporary visual art and digital heritage. The project was inspired by 18th century artworks which accompanied archaeological and cultural reports. Featuring new work by artists Róisín Doherty and John Flynn, the exhibition draws on themes of landscape, folklore, archaeology, and memory to reflect the richness and fragility of island life. Their artistic responses engage with both natural environments and enduring traditions. Echoes of the Isles focus on Galway's Island Heritage sites from Inis Oírr to Inishbofin.

The project is led by Gary Dempsey of ATU's School of Design & Creative Arts and supported by the Heritage Council through the Heritage Stewardship Fund. Blending visual storytelling with digital heritage, Echoes of the Isles offers a fresh lens on island knowledge, connection, and change.



Comhar Caomhán Teo



OTHER EVENTS

Taking Place on Inis Oírr



The following exhibition is on during Féile na gCloch 2025:

Áras Éanna@25

Amharc-Ealáin

Áras Éanna Celebrates 25 Years of Artistic Exchange and Island Inspiration Inis Oírr, Galway –Áras Éanna Arts Centre proudly marks 25 years as a unique creative hub on the smallest of the Aran Islands. Since opening its doors in 2000, Áras Éanna has grown from a modest initiative into a nationally recognised centre for visual art, performance, and artist residencies—drawing creatives from across Ireland and around the globe to the inspiring landscape of Inis Oírr.

To celebrate this milestone, Áras Éanna Celebrating 25 Years of Visual Art, presents a rich and varied exhibition of visual artworks by artists who have shaped—and been shaped by—the centre over the last quarter century. Featuring painting, printmaking, textiles, sculpture, and photography, the exhibition brings together work from artists based on Inis Oírr and as far afield as New York, Germany, and Switzerland.

Running from 12 July to end of September 2025, the show includes pieces from Áras Éanna's own collection alongside works from invited artists. Personal reflections and short texts accompany the artwork, offering insight into how time spent on the island influenced each artist's practice.

"Being asked to co-curate this exhibition has been an honour. Spending time on the island, revisiting the collection, and tracing the journeys of artists past and present has been both inspiring and thought-provoking. The island offers something rare—a space for artists to disconnect from outside noise and fully immerse in their work," said Fiona Hession, co-curator of the exhibition. This milestone exhibition highlights not only the centre's legacy but also the crucial role of artist development time—and the transformative potential of place. It is, above all, a celebration of creativity born of and shaped by the island.



Exhibition Curators: Dara McGee, Aras Eanna Artistic Director and Fiona Hession, Visual Artist.

Exhibition Artists: Seán Ó Flaithearta – Mick O'Dea – Geraldine O'Reilly – Carel Lanters & Erick Auf der Heide – Mick Mulcahy – Daniel Coleman – The Clarin Arts Group – Scoil Náisiúnta Caomhain – Maureen Fleming – John Behan – Mary Fahy – Joey Mason – Manfred Url – Tess Urbanska – Dara McGee – Dan Chóil Dan Ó Flatharta (RIP) – Margaret Tuffy – Mary Lee Murphy – Togra Muintir na nOileáin/áisitheoir Ceara Conway – Cecilia Danell – Pat Quinn – Cyril O'Flaithearta – Máirtín Taimín Ó Conghaile – Aisling Nic Craith – Mara Zsuzsanna – Dolores Lyne – Trish Coneely – Hughie O'Donoghue.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Instructors & Advisors

Eddie Farrelly ~ Festival Advisor, stonemason and traditional lime practitioner

Tom Little ~ Festival advisor, lettercarver and stonecarver

Eoin Madigan ~ Stone mason and lime practitioner

Fergus Packman ~ Drystone waller

James Moore ~ Sketcher and teacher

Aileen Anne Brannigan ~ Sculptor and craftswoman

Cáite Fealty ~ Stonemason

Alexandra Morosco ~ Sculptor of stone and bronze

Michael McGroarty ~ Stone Mason and monumental sculptor

Jessica Peel Yeats ~ Sketcher and writer

David Curtin ~ Stonecutter, stonecarver and drystone waller

Jason Morris ~ Stonecutter and stonecarver

Jo Hwanjin ~ Stonemason and Fine Artist

Sincere thanks to the following for all their help and assistance:

Sarah O'Donnell, Riarthóir Oifige, Comhar Caomhán Teo

Peadar O' Donncha, Rónán Ó' Gríofa, Siobhán Ní Dhonncha, Comhar Caomhán Teo

Martina Creaven, Senior Staff Officer, Galway County Council

Ita Gordon, Clerical Officer, Galway County Council

Anne Power, Senior Staff Officer, Galway County Council

Gina O'Shaughnessy, Assistant Staff Officer, Galway County Council

Tommy Murray, Caretaker, Galway County Council

James Duane, Caretaker, Galway County Council

Bernie Doherty, Galway Community Archaeologist

Dara McGee, Artistic Director, Áras Éanna

Oisín Ó Cualáin, Riarthóir Ealaíon, Áras Éanna

Davis Sandefur, Oifigeach Pleanála Teanga

Staff of Lasta Mara Teo

Cleas



Festival Photographer
Cormac Coyne



Graphic Design
Damien Goodfellow

Who Should Attend?

Stone Wallers, Farmers, Property Owners, Architects, Builders, Artists, Craftspeople, Archaeologists, Local Authority Staff, Rural Social Scheme Participants, ITB Employees, Local History Enthusiasts, REPS / AEOS Planners and anybody with an interest in building dry stone walls, carving, lettering and sketching.

Emilly Gough of Gough Tools will be present all weekend selling a selection of masons and carving tools. www.goughtools.com

Comhar Caomhán Teo



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Thursday 11th

5.30^{pm} – 6.30^{pm}

An Halla, Inis Oírr

Gonggitdolnori

by Jo Ye-ji

Gonggitdolnori is a traditional Jeju island (Korea) game in which five Gonggitdol stones are used to compete for dexterity and concentration, and it is handed down by various rules and names depending on the region.

6:30^{pm}

Halla Inis Oírr

Exhibition: 'Hands Across Europe ~ Lámha Trasna na hEorpa'

Showcasing three Short Films:

- 'Inis Oírr - A History Written in Stone'
- 'Boulouki Itinerant Workshop on Traditional Building Techniques' | Europa Nostra Award, and
- 'The Fountain at Pigadoulia - Restoration of a Traditional Infrastructure for Fresh Drinking Water'.

Thursday 11th -
Sunday 14th

Exhibition

Exhibition in Halla Pobal, Inis Oírr

'Jeju Stone Walls and Jeju Stone Park.'

About the Short Films

Inis Oírr - A History Written in Stone

In this short film Inis Oírr native Cathleen Ní Chonghaile will bring you on journey of discovery. Cathleen explores the rich archaeological and cultural heritage of Inis Oírr, the smallest of the Aran Islands. Through stunning visuals and expert narration, the video highlights the island's distinctive stone-built landscape—its dry-stone walls, ancient forts, ecclesiastical sites, and vernacular architecture—all of which reflect centuries of human settlement and resilience. The film offers viewers a glimpse into how the island's geology and geography have shaped its history, traditions, and way of life, making Inis Oírr a living archive of Ireland's past.

Boulouki Itinerant Workshop on Traditional Building Techniques | Europa Nostra Award Video

Boulouki is among the 26 outstanding winners in the category "Education, Training & Skills" European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Award 2024. This video was created by Yorgos Kyvernitis for Boulouki on the occasion of the announcement of the Europe Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2024. Footage from videos of past projects was used, created by Iason Athanasiadis, Yiorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Argiris Karagiorgas, Yorgos Kyvernitis, Eleni Mitropoulou,

Paraskevi Papadimitriou, Pietro Radin, Dimitris Stasinou, Giorgos Zoilis.

Music: Sea Terms - Alan Ellis; Fatal Flaws - Howard Harper-Barnes.

The Fountain at Pigadoulia

Restoration of a traditional infrastructure for fresh drinking water. This video was produced in the framework of the project "Connectivity Conservation Initiative for Fresh Drinking Water," wherein Boulouki is the main implementing organisation. The project aims to enhance the ecological connectivity of protected areas and roadless areas in the Northern Pindus region. The core actions of the project involve the restoration of two traditional freshwater supply infrastructures (fountains). The first restoration took place at the Pigadoulia area in the countryside of Kerasovo (Agia Paraskevi) village. The restoration was carried out through participatory processes during a five-day experiential workshop, utilizing traditional knowledge and modern sustainable practices while emphasizing the use of local materials and traditional building techniques with stone and mortar. During the restoration of the fountain, the provision of drinking water to wildlife through a small-scale water harvesting system took place by intervention in the existing structure.

Project partners: Hellenic Survey of Geology & Mineral Exploration, CALLISTO- Wildlife and Nature Conservation Society.

Support: Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust (PONT), A. G. Leventis Foundation, Municipality of Konitsa.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Friday 12th

6:00^{pm}

Halla Inis Oírr

Reception hosted by Galway County Council and Comhar Caomhán Teo

Introduction: Antoine O'Coisdealbha, Bainisteoir Comhar Caomhán Teo, and Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer Galway County Council.

6.15^{pm}

The Intangible Cultural Value and Transmission of Jeju Dry Stone Walling

by Mijeong, Jeong

Mijeong, Jeong will explore the intangible cultural heritage value of Jeju's stone walling, highlighting its historical and ecological significance, unique building techniques, and role in shaping the island's cultural landscape. She will also speak about the current state of preservation and transmission efforts, including community involvement and educational initiatives in Jeju, Korea.

6.45^{pm}

Collaborations: When Unlikely Marriages Make for Perfect Bonds!

by Alexandra Morosco

Alexandra will share a few projects she has worked on in her professional career as a sculptor involving Collaborative efforts- with the focus on how or why projects were more (or less) successful or rewarding-and sometimes only even possible only through creative partnerships. This talk is about the realities of what it takes, who and what to invite, what to watch out for and time-honored wins. We will look at how the collaborative process might show up in our working lives as creative trades people and artisans are inherently more prone to work solo. No matter how long one has been in the trades- When working collaboratively or as a team we are all at some point both the apprentice and the mentor!

Friday 12th & Saturday 13th

Comhar Caomhán Teo

Jeju-style Stone Sculptures

Kim Chang-won will create small, Jeju-style stone sculptures using stones from Inis Oírr.

Saturday 13th

An Halla, Inis Oírr

Talks

12.30^{pm}

The Value of the Vernacular

by Shane Lehane

In this illustrated talk, Shane Lehane will look at a number of obvious – and less obvious – exponents of Irish vernacular tradition and explore the spectrum of life values such traditions contain. Taking examples from the so-called mundane everyday chores to those of highly-skilled artistry and proficiency, a consideration of notions of empowerment, self-worth and time well spent is in focus.

5.00^{pm}

4 GRADA DRAGODID - Safeguarding Dry-Stone Heritage and Traditional Knowledge

by Duje Mikelić, Dragodid association, Croatia

5.40^{pm}

Stonship - Friendship Workshop and Congress October 2025: A Preview

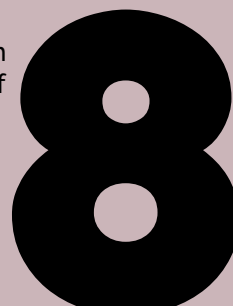
by Helmut Schieder

6.20^{pm}

From Stone Field to Vineyard: Using Drawing as a Tool for Exploration and Expression

by Jessica Peel Yates

Jessica Peel-Yates will present on connections between Inis Oírr and Langenlois, Austria, from the perspective of the artist notebooks of JesseJames developed during artist residencies in both locations.



Dry Stone Wall Building

Friday 12th September (9.00am - 4pm)

Saturday 13th September (9.00am - 4pm)

Sunday 14th September (9.00am - 12.30pm)

Friday 12th September

9.00am ~ 9:30am | Onsite

Brief Pre-workshop Walling Instruction and Demonstration followed by Toolbox Talk

The workshop will include the building of a unique Aran Islands dry stone wall. The range and intensity of dry stone wall types and styles on the Aran Islands is probably unparalleled with anywhere else in the world.

This workshop will suit both experienced dry stone wallers and learners.

Important notice: Steel toe cap footwear and protective gloves are mandatory.

Please bring suitable outdoor clothing as the weather can be unpredictable.

It is recommended that attendees bring their own walling hammer or a 1.5kg or 2kg lump hammer.



Comhar Caomhán Teo



LETTERCARVING & STONE CARVING WORKSHOPS



WHAT WE NEED IS HERE

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes"

The impulse to shape and make marks on stone to commemorate, celebrate and record is both timeless and uniquely human. The act of engaging hand, eye and imagination to create an object, is in itself a voyage of self discovery.

The unique environment of Inis Oírr, the company of fellow travellers with their own story to share, with the guidance of experienced tutors is the perfect place to make this journey.

WELCOME!



WHICH COURSE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

We realize this can be a difficult decision, so if you don't have a clear idea of the direction you want to take, we suggest that you decide on the day. It will be an easier decision to make after you have seen some demonstrations and carved your first line in stone - be guided how you feel. Bring ideas that appeal, or be inspired by the surroundings when you are here.

Both workshops are suitable for participants with no experience and some. Whether you are dipping your toe for the first time or need encouragement in furthering your skills, this is the place to be, in an atmosphere of fun, fellowship guided by experienced instructors.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



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Stone Carving

Friday 12th September (9.00am - 4.00pm)

Saturday 13th September (9.00am - 4.00pm)

Sunday 14th September (9.00am - 1.00pm)

Relief carving: This will be fun and is the easiest carving technique to master. Low relief carving with textured backgrounds. Designs can be carved on a panel or a small block of stone. Inspiration will be taken from being on the island, sea or nature. Create a beautiful carved object as a lasting memento.

Carving in the round: A stone bowl scooped out and rounded and if time allows it can be decorated with relief carving or lettering. Or a simple abstract animal form should be possible to make over the weekend and if not completed it will be well on the way and can be finished at home later.

The above are suggestions but if you have an idea in mind do bring it along for consideration. The most important thing to learn will be the techniques, these skills will last a lifetime.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS TO BRING

Tools can also be purchased from R J GOUGH'S onsite shop.

Essential PPE: Safety boots/shoes. Comfortable work clothes. Pencils, sharpener, ruler . Dummy hammer 600grm, lump hammer 1000grm, steel or tungsten carbide point ½" or 5/8" Guillet Fort tungsten carbide carving chisels 4mm, 8mm, 12mm, claw chisel 20mm, tungsten carbide scriber.

Estimated cost of tools: 175 euo. A limited number of tools will be available on loan for the workshop.

Stone for your project is included in your course fee. A selection of stone types and sizes will be available to choose from.

Note: Participants are responsible for the transport of their personal project after the workshop. There are weight limits to luggage and parcels on flights with Aer Arann.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Letter Carving

Friday 12th September (9.00am - 4.00pm)

Saturday 13th September (9.00am - 4.00pm)

Sunday 14th September (9.00am - 1.00pm)

This workshop invites you to make your mark by exploring the medium of the carved letterform. You will be guided through the basics of drawing letterforms, layout design, lettercutting techniques, and the use and care of chisels. It is suggested, though by no means necessary, that you have a small project in mind before coming on workshop. Often best results are achieved with a specific goal in mind.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS TO BRING

Tools can also be purchased from R J GOUGH'S onsite shop.

Essential PPE: Safety boots/shoes. Comfortable work clothes. Pencils, sharpener, ruler .
Lettercarving: Dummy hammer 600grm, Guillet Europ lettering chisels 4mm, 6mm & 8mm.

Estimated cost of tools: 110 euro. A limited number of tools will be available on loan for the workshop.

Stone for your project is included in your course fee. A selection of stone types and sizes will be available to choose from.

Note: Participants are responsible for the transport of their personal project after the workshop. There are weight limits to luggage and parcels on flights with Aer Arann.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Workshop

On Location Sketch Outs Drawing Together

Thursday 11th September | 3pm ~ 5pm

Cnoc Raithní the bronze age monument.
(Meet at monument).

Friday 12th September | 10am - 1pm

The *Plassy* shipwreck (meet at An Halla at 9.00am for minibus to location).

Friday 12th September | 1.30pm - 4pm

Harbour and beach (meet outside Una's café).

Saturday 13th September | 10am - 1pm

O'Brien's Castle (meet at An Halla at 9.00am to walk up together).

Saturday 13th September | 2pm - 4pm

Join a sketch out to capture the creation of a drystone wall.

Sunday 14th September | 10am - 1pm

Teampall Caomhán.

Spend three days exploring Inis Oírr through sketching. Capture the magic scenery and culture of the smallest of the Aran Islands in your artists's notebook. Experience this intimate island through drawing her castles, shipwrecks, churches, seascapes and iconic drystone walls.

- Through on location sketch outs you will discover the rugged beauty of this jewel in the Atlantic. Enjoy the creative camaraderie over the weekend.
- This long weekend is for the self-motivated sketcher who wants to enjoy a fun and sociable time drawing on location in an ancient landscape. All levels of experience welcome.
- Join a sketch out to capture the creation of a dry stone wall.
- Lectures on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings by stone masons, stone carvers, enhance your experience and understanding of the island and the festival.
- Each day starts with a 30 minutes workshop with tips and inspiration from experienced sketchers.
- Leave the island with a sketchbook full of memories.

What to Bring

Definitely sketchbooks, drawing pencils, pens, pencil sharpener, eraser. Perhaps loose leaf pages, watercolours, paint brushes, easel, colour pencils, oil pastels, or whichever medium / mediums you like to draw with.

This is an outdoor event. Irish weather is famous for offering 4 seasons in one day. Make sure to bring warm clothes, sturdy shoes and good rain gear. Inis Oírr has a lovely beach, so pack your bathers if you want to take the plunge. Be prepared to walk around 4km a day between sketch locations and the pubs.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



13

Workshop

TE

Lime Mortar Demonstrations

with Eoin Madigan

Friday 12th September | 9.30am - 10.30pm

Saturday 13th September | 9.30am - 10.30pm

Comhar Caomhán Teo

Come and learn about the full pallet of lime mortars available for the use in conserving our built heritage. Focus will be on mortars made from Irish Lime. These Lime mortars have proven to be the best at dealing with our ever increasing wet climate. Come for an hour and leave with knowledge for a lifetime!

Demonstrations will be delivered by Eóin Madigan who's is a sixth generation Mason and who specialises in the use of historic mortars.

Spaces are limited to 10 people.



Comhar Caomhán Teo



Lime Demo

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Biographies



Marie Mannion



Marie was Galway County Council's first ever Heritage Officer and took up that position in 2000. Prior to this she lectured in Heritage Studies in Atlantic Technological Institute, Galway and was Manager of Galway West Genealogy Centre. She holds an MA in Geography and H Dip in

Education from the University of Galway as well as other related qualifications.

Marie works extensively with the heritage communities of County Galway in achieving their heritage objectives and delivering actions in Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan.

Marie is a founding member of Féile na gCloch. Marie is also a member of Ireland's National Expert Advisory Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Paddy Crowe



Paddy Crowe is a former manager of Inis Oírr's Community development Cooperative, Comhar Chaomhán. Paddy is a founding member of Féile na gCloch, which was established in 2005. Prior to his role as manager of Comhar Chaomhán, Paddy was a skipper (ferry captain). Paddy is a

pro-active member of the local community, and continues to serve on community boards. In his spare time, Paddy enjoys photography and has a keen interest in nature and the environment, working closely with agencies such as the IWDG.

Tom Little



Tom Little comes from a family tradition of working stone going back generations. He considers his father, stonecutter Ted Little and sculptor/lettering artist Michael Biggs important early influences. Exploring the possibilities of material and letterform, he works as a stonecarver, lettering

artist, drystone waller, product designer and trainer.

Tom Little has completed commissions for public and private clients and exhibited widely. He has designed and created a successful product range of lettering pieces for Wild Goose Studio. He was a craft judge for the annual RDS Craft Competition 2012-2014.

Since 1992, Tom Little has designed and run courses in stonecutting, stone carving and drystone wall construction, for Kerry Education & Training Board with many of his students going on to make successful careers in stone working.

Currently he is delivering the national Stonecutting and Stonemasonry Apprenticeship training programme.

Antoine Coisdealbha



Antoine Coisdealbha was born and raised on Inis Oírr, an island that holds a special place in his heart. He began his role with Comhar Caomhán in July of this year. Antoine is a seasoned mariner, holding a First-Class Honours degree in Nautical Science from Munster Technological University

in Cork. His career has included serving as a marine pilot for both the Port of London and the Port of Galway.

This marks Antoine's first participation in Féile na gCloch, and he is eagerly looking forward to attending. He would like to express his heartfelt gratitude to the community of Inis Oírr, Áras Éanna, Cleas, Galway County Council, as well as all festival attendees and collaborators, for their unwavering support.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Biographies



Eddie Farrelly

Eddie Farrelly is a traditional dry stone waller/stone mason from Co Cavan, now based in Dublin. He is a long-serving member of the Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland. He instructs at dry stone workshops throughout

Ireland and abroad.

The scenic beauty of the well-maintained dry stone farm walls, stone faced earth ditches and stone buildings which enhanced his childhood landscape instilled in him a passion for the promotion, protection and conservation of Ireland's dry stone heritage. He has a keen interest in the underrated benefits of dry stone wall habitats and the ecological value that they represent.

While respecting the ancestral traditions of the artisans of our dry stone heritage, he takes particular pleasure in sharing knowledge and skills at community workshops so that the craft may be safeguarded into the future. He attributes most of his learned skills to his inspirational mentor, Master Stone Mason and Author, Patrick McAfee.

Eddie was awarded a BSc Degree in Applied Conservation Skills from SETU Waterford, a National Crafts Certificate in Metal Fabrication from TU Dublin and he holds a Stonescaping Certificate.

He has extensive experience in working with traditional lime mortars, earth mortars and cob for the conservation and restoration of historic buildings and structures and he enjoys demonstrating how to cook limestone for the production of traditional quicklime.



Fergus Packman

Fergus is a Dry stone waller from Connemara, Ireland. Trained with the National Trust on the Ysbyty estate in Snowdonia, North Wales. Now based in Connemara working with the local granites and limestone of the area.



Alexandra Morosco

Alexandra Morosco, sculptor of Stone and bronze - returns to Inis Oirr for her 10th time after a too-long sabbatical! In addition to the basic carving class and instruction on tools and their use, In 2025 she hopes to share her

perspective on Collaborations, and all the ways they might show up in our working lives and the value of seeing each as a gift and an apprenticeship- no matter how long one has been carving or in the trades- we all are at some point both the apprentice and mentor! Morosco has been creating sculpture professionally for 35 years in stone and bronze, now with her focus in the last five years on memorial arts and what she calls "legacy sculptures". She feels creating a Legacy Sculpture together with a client is an extraordinary creative process attained through the art of remembering. In a crucible of trust, vision comes through deep listening and applied intuition. Through this model she connects Fine Art & Healing Arts in a most extraordinary fashion. She lives on a forested rural island north west of Seattle, and works in the world.



David Curtin

David Curtin is a Lahinch based stone cutter, stone carver and dry stone waller. He completed his apprenticeship under the guidance of Tom Little between 2018 and 2022. He was first driven towards stone when living in Australia where he

travelled the country building walking and biking tracks, dry stone bridges, paths and more! As a professional mason, he has explored the world of conservation Masonry and lime mortar practices with a focus on maintaining Ireland's ancient and historical buildings. David has also been involved with SPAB Ireland helping to spread awareness on how to maintain and protect Ireland's built heritage. He is thrilled to be back again teaching at Féile na gCloch on Inis Oirr.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Biographies



Eoin Madigan

Eóin Madigan is a sixth generation Stone Mason and lime practitioner from the Burren region of Co. Clare. His Family has a long tradition of working with stone that stretches back at least 200 years that they know of. It is said they followed the Church building from

the East to the West Coast of Ireland. They then settled in a small town called Kilfanora where they set up their workshop making headstones and architectural pieces on request. Eoin is passionate about conserving our built heritage and in particular the mortars used to build them. In 2005 he completed a nine-month dry stone walling and stone cutting course run by master craftsman Tom Little in Tralee Co. Kerry. From there he became an active member of The Buildings limes forum Ireland and again, under the guidance of master craftsman Pat McAfee he gained his knowledge and love for historic mortars.



Cáite Fealty

Cáite is from Fanad Peninsula, Co. Donegal. She is a third generation Stonemason. Cáite completed a Dry Stone Wall FETAC course in 2013 and Train the Trainer course in 2024. While she works part-time with stone she

also works as a Tour Guide at Fanad Head Lighthouse. Cáite has a passion for Dry Stone Walling. It's such an ancient craft and she believe its important to keep it alive. Cáite has been running a Dry Stone Wall Workshop in her community over the last three years, teaching and passing-on this tradition to locals, visitors and the next generation.



Gary Dempsey

Gary is a co-founder and creative director of Digital Heritage Age and Lectures at Atlantic Technological University (ATU) - Galway City on a variety of modules including Heritage; Working as a heritage professional since

2010 Gary has keen interest in community heritage management, collection and promotion. His current research examines the development of stonemasons in medieval Ireland.



Jason Morris

Jason is a stone carver and sculptor living and working in Curracloe County Wexford. He first began working with stone in 2003 for a local stonecutter family. In 2008 Jason enrolled into University College Dublin and holds an honours

degree in Archaeology, focusing his studies on medieval Irish and European architecture. Between 2014 and 2018 Jason completed a stone cutting and stonewalling apprenticeship in Tralee under the guidance and mentorship of Tom Little. Since 2014 Jason has been employed by the OPW National Monuments Service and has worked on a number of major heritage sites in the southeast region, and has experience working in areas of architectural stone cutting, conservation and restoration. In 2022 Jason took a career break from the OPW to focus on family and his own work in abstract sculpture. Jason's work would comprise of abstract sculptural forms, deep relief carvings and letter cutting. Jason's sculpture work has been exhibited in 'Bloom, Sculpture In Context' and Wexford Arts and currently has sculpture on display in The Maker's House Wexford. Jason is passionate about his craft and enjoys teaching anyone who is interested in learning to carve in stone.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Biographies



Aileen Anne Brannigan

Aileen Anne Brannigan, Stone Carver and Letter Carver, is a native of Kilkenny city where she lives and has her studio workshop.

Her stone working career began in 1982 with a four-year apprenticeship as a stonecutter after which she went on to study Letter Carving in the UK.

Practical experience was gained working in Quarry workshops, Stone Yards and Marble works, and as assistant to sculptors and letter carvers.

Her creative work will mostly include abstract animal sculpture and hand carved lettering.

Commissioned work to date includes, Celtic crosses, Per Cent for Art commissions and public and private memorials.

Aileen Anne has been involved in the creation of several high-profile monuments; A Celtic cross for Quebec City to honour the people of Quebec for their care of the Irish Famine Victims, and in Glasnevin Cemetery Dublin, Aileen Anne was involved in the creation of The National Famine Memorial, The France Ireland Memorial and The Civil War Monument which was commissioned by the Department of Defence in 2023.

Aileen Anne teaches stone carving part time in Cuan Mhuire Addiction Recovery Centre Athy, Co. Kildare.

This is Aileen Annes third time to teach at Féile na gCloch on Inisheer.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



James Moore

James Moore studied fine art at IADT Dun Laoghaire and Limerick School of Art and Design. His creative output encompasses illustration and graphic design, plein air drawing and painting, sculpture and conceptual work. James organized and participated in an art exchange entitled "Home, Home away from Home" which led to workshops and exhibitions in Chapeco, Brazil and Dublin, Ireland. James finds inspiration from story-telling in all its forms. He is interested in the natural world and is currently exploring the possibilities that come from more stylised art. James loves to share his passion for drawing and creative thinking. He has taught in Ireland, Brazil, France and Austria.

Helmut Schieder | Austria



Helmut Schieder is a landscape gardener who lives with his family in Austria.

He loves working with nature. He is fascinated by stones and plants and likes to work with people. He went to the horticultural school 'Gartenbauschule', Langenlois, He works

with apprentices in various horticultural practices. He has worked with natural stones in garden design for a long number of years and with the actual dry stone walls for the past 10 Years. He has been totally consumed with dry stone walls ever since.

One of his most wonderful discoveries by practicing this ancient craft was to get to know so many wonderful stone wallers.

Biographies

Michael McGroarty



Michael McGroarty is third generation Stone Mason and Monumental Sculptor in his native Mountcharles, Co. Donegal, living there with his wife Mairead and 3 children. Michael is recognised for his quality workmanship and highest standards in all kinds of stone work and is highly regarded in the industry by Dry Stone Wall enthusiasts.

Michael is involved in the production and installation of headstones in County Donegal and all surrounding counties, and is most especially well known for his craftsmanship in producing unique and exceptional headstones from local sandstone and one of only a few nowadays able to undertake the craft of lead lettering.

Other fine examples of Michael's work in Co. Donegal are Donegal County Council Public Art projects including Standing Stones Monument 2001 – 3.2m in height made from Mountcharles Sandstone, the standing stones are a reinterpretation of the idea of an enclosure of stones seen in stone forts, clustered towards the centre and radiating outwards.

Another of note is The Map Wall, Barnesmore Gap, again 2001 and a DCC PA project consisting of 8 panels of Mountcharles Sandstone showing Co. Donegal and all place names of the John O'Donovan County Survey of 1893. Other recent works of note include conservation and restoration work of listed Pier Walls and steps at Ramelton Quay wall, Moville Pier, Mountcharles Pier, and Creevy Pier Ballyshannon. Furthermore and of note is conservation work of Ecclesiastical buildings including Church of Ireland Donegal, and currently consolidation of stone work of Old Kilbarron Church, also Ballyshannon.

Michael has been a member of Tirconaille Dry Stone Wall Association and for over a decade a friend to many of the DSW groups throughout the country. With preservation of our Irish landscape at heart Michael is a regular at DSW events helping to promote and preserve our dry stone wall heritage for future generations through facilitation of workshops and stone wall building at the many DSW festivals across Ireland, passing on his experience, learnings and skill-set to DSW enthusiast, Ireland and beyond. This year Michael – being recognised for his excellent craftsmanship - was kindly invited by our DSW colleagues in Austria to show and share his skill set and knowledge there to European, Asian and American students.



Duje Mikelić

Duje Mikelić, Dragodid association

Passionate about promoting the heritage of dry stone construction and teaching building techniques throughout the Mediterranean and broader. An active member of Dragodid association, having led more than forty workshops across Croatia and Europe over the past three years. Runs an independent craft business focused on landscape research and maintenance. Currently dedicated to mastering the skills of building complex dry stone structures such as shepherds' cottages, wells, and ponds.

Born in Split, Croatia. Completed a Bachelor's degree at the University of Zadar and a Master's degree at the Faculty of Science in Zagreb. Holds degrees in Geography and Cultural Anthropology, with a specialization in spatial planning and dry stone structure heritage. Part-time firefighter, nature lover, hiking and biking enthusiast.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Biographies



traditions and food and the interaction of material culture and time. He is an archaeologist and has worked for many years as a demonstrator in the Department of Celtic Civilisation.

Shane embodies a hands-on appreciation and passionate enthusiasm for vernacular craft. He is an accomplished beekeeper and recently wrote a comprehensive history of honey and beekeeping in 'Honey and Beekeeping in Ancient Ireland' in Irish History Food: A Companion (Royal Irish Academy 2024). He has built his own currach, has a detailed knowledge of Irish baskets, along with a practical familiarity with vernacular architecture and furniture. He is an advocate of letter-writing and calligraphy and works with the Historic Graves Project recording and building an appreciation of letter-carving. He has been a regular and constant visitor to the Aran Islands bringing groups of students each and every year.

Shane appears on many television and radio programmes exploring many different aspects of Irish folk tradition. He writes a regular column on folklife for The Farmers Journal. He is a resident folklorist and very popular contributor on the National Television Network (RTÉ) on 'The Today Show' expounding many different aspects of Irish folk custom. His new book 'Old Ways to New Days: The Folklore, Traditions and Everyday Objects that Shaped Ireland' (Hachette Ireland 2025) is to be launched on October 2nd.

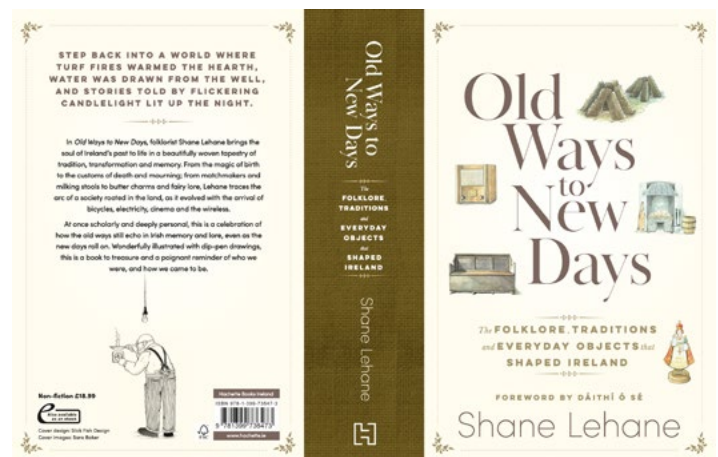
Shane Lehane

'The Value of the Vernacular'

In this illustrated talk, Shane Lehane will look at a number of obvious – and less obvious – exponents of Irish vernacular tradition and explore the spectrum of life values such traditions contain. Taking examples from the so-called mundane everyday chores to those of highly-skilled artistry and proficiency, a consideration of notions of empowerment, self-worth and time well-spent is in focus. Vernacular tradition boasts a plethora of intangible and often ill-perceived positive life benefits, and this talk seeks to illustrate and celebrate these significant contributors.

Shane has been lecturing in folklore, archaeology, history, and the arts for close on 40 years. He is Course Director of Cultural and Heritage Studies in Cork College of Further Education and Training, Tramore Road Campus and also teaches with the Department of Folklore & Ethnology at University College Cork.

Shane is noted for delivering dynamic, illustrated, and entertaining lectures on a variety of topics relating to Irish custom, tradition, and belief. He has specialised research interests in Irish material culture, folklife, vernacular



Comhar Caomhán Teo



Biographies



Jo Hwanjin

Jo Hwanjin is a Jeju Island-based stonemason, who established the Dolbitna School of Art in 2015, where he teaches traditional stone wall building techniques. He is known for his work in preserving and promoting Jeju's traditional "doldam" (stone wall) culture through workshops, public installations, and participation in cultural exchanges. He has collaborated with Irish stonemasons and artists and contributed to cultural events sharing the cultural significance of Jeju's stone heritage. He learned the traditional craft of stone wall construction from his father, a stonemason, and has continued the practice as a stonemason in Jeju. Mr Jo has a background in fine arts, he photographs Jeju's stone walls and document the lives and work of local stonemasons. Mr Jo's work explores the cultural significance of Jeju's stone craftsmanship, and he continues to research and publish books that preserve the stories and skills of Jeju's stonemasons.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Mi Jeong

Mi Jeong is a curator and researcher at Jeju Stone Park, operated by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province in South Korea. Her work focuses on the preservation, transmission, and promotion of Jeju's traditional dry stone walling, a practice of outstanding cultural and historical significance. She is currently leading Jeju's efforts toward the multinational UNESCO inscription of dry-stone heritage, actively advancing international collaboration, scholarly exchange, and public engagement.

Biographies



Jo Ye-ji

Jo Ye-ji is an artist who is immersed in her family's love of stone and stone structures. She is a native of Jeju island, Korea. Jo Ye-ji will give a demonstration on GonggidoInori which is a traditional Jeju island (Korea) game.



Jessica Peel Yates

Jessica has been developing and exploring communities through visual story telling and sketching for over 15 years. She loves joining the dots between people, words and images. And if some wit can be found along the way, so much the better. She loves creating communities, events and exhibitions that inspire and engage. Influenced by the street jazz culture of 1920's New York, with its atmosphere of improvisation, rule breaking and respect, Jessica seeks life's rhythmic syncopations.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Inis Oírr Beo

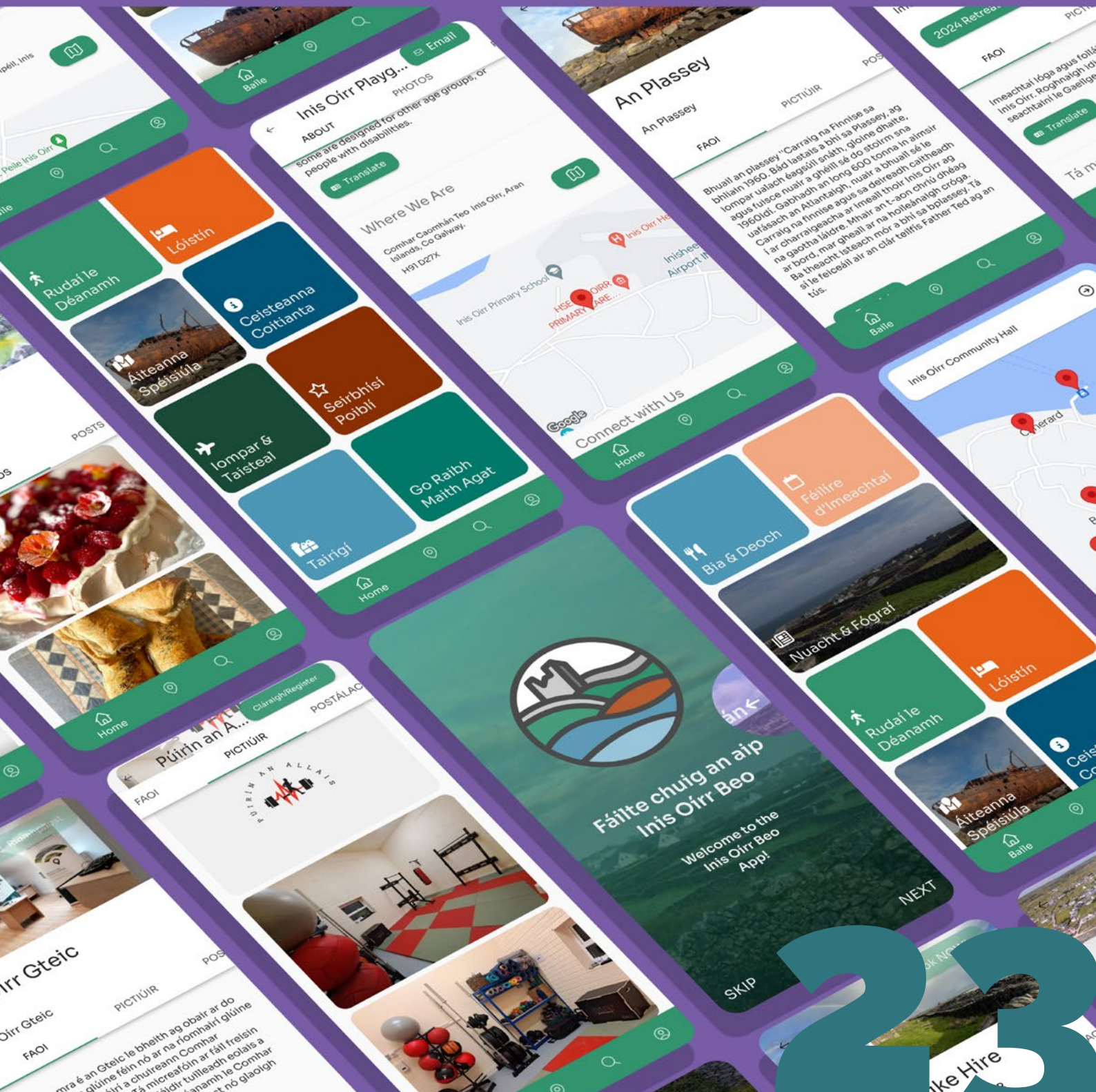


Inis Oírr
Beo

Visiting Inis Oírr, download our app
for the latest island information



inisoirrbeo.com



Recommendations & Advice for All Participants

It is recommended that Course Participants are suitably dressed for the workshop and wear steel toe-capped boots, sturdy shoes or walking boots, work gloves and dress for the weather. Sketchers should bring walking boots or shoes, warm clothes and rain gear.

Transport to Inis Oírr

Workshop participants must book their own travel to Inis Oírr. There are ferry services operating from Rossaveel, Co Galway and Doolin in Co Clare.

Ferries

There is a bus from Galway city to Ros a Mhíl leaves at 4:45pm for 6:30pm ferry. The following are the ferry contact details:

Aran Island Ferries, Rossaveel

Phone: +353(0)91 568903
www.aranislandferries.com

Doolin Ferry

Phone: +353(0) 65 707 5555
+353 (0) 65 707 1710
www.doolinferry.com
Email: info@doolinferry.com
After Hours: Liam @ 087 958 1465

Air Travel

Flights are available to Inis Oírr, from Inverin, Connemara, Co. Galway.

Aer Arann Islands

Phone: +353(0)91 593034
www.aerarannislands.ie

Accommodation

Accommodation can be arranged by calling this number **(083) 085 1695**. Please make your own arrangements for evening meals.

Cafes

Cafe Úna

Tea, coffee and home baking
Phone: (086) 381 3300 | Open
9.30am - 4.30pm

Evening Meals

Advance booking is essential. Evening Meals can be booked at the following:

Tigh Ruairí

Phone: +353 (0) 99 75002
www.tighruairi.com

Ostán Inis Oírr

Phone: +353 (0)99 75020
www.hotelinisoirr.com

Island Tours

Wanderly Wagon Tours

Phone: Brid Seoighe +353 87 238 2394

Horse and Cart Tours

Trevor McHale
Phone: +353 87 753 1593

Bicycle Hire

Rothai Inis Oírr

Phone: +353 (0)99 75049 or (0)99 75033
rothaiinisoirr@gmail.com | www.rothai-inisoirr.com

Joyce Bike Hire

Joycebikehire.ie
Joycebikehire@gmail.com
Phone: (086) 352 3462

Health

Aran Seaweed Baths and Spa

Phone: +353 (087) 760 0684

Health Centre and Doctor

Phone: +353 (099) 75976 or +353 (087) 098 9998

Aran Acupuncture

Phone: (087) 778 7730

Taxi

Private taxi

7 days a week
Phone +353 (086) 067 8215

Siob an Phobal Cleas

Operating 7 days.
Phone: (087) 229 8039 / (099) 75979

Shops & ATM

Siopa XL O' Conghaile

Phone: (099) 75115, only island ATM. Most businesses accept card, but please bring cash as it cannot be guaranteed ATM will always be available with weekend demand.

Shop opening hours:

Monday to Saturday: 9:30am - 5:30pm
Sunday: 9:30am - 2:00pm



Inis Oírr
Beo

Information of Inis Oírr and its services

Contact: Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oírr, Árainn, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Phone: +353 (0)99 75008
Mobile: (083) 085 1695
Web: www.discoverinisoirr.com

Comhar Caomhán Teo



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Payment and booking your place at Féile na gCloch

Places are limited and must be paid for and booked using the following links...



Drystone Wall Building

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dry-stone-wall-building-workshop-25-tickets-1590913106929?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1



Sketch Out

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/on-location-sketch-outs-25-tickets-1591123807139?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1



Letter Carving

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/letter-carving-workshop-25-tickets-1590975844579?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1



Lime Mortar Demonstrations Friday

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lime-mortar-demonstrations-with-eoin-madigan-25-tickets-1591048231089?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1



Stone Carving

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1591039936279?aff=odtdtcreator>



Lime Mortar Demonstrations Saturday

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lime-mortar-demonstrations-with-eoin-madigan-25-tickets-1591119042889?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&keep_tld=1



Comhar Caomhán Teo



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Enquiries...

Marie Mannion

Heritage Officer

Forward Planning, Áras an Chontae,
Galway County Council, Prospect Hill, Galway

Tel: 00353 91 509198 | 087 908 8387

Email: mmannion@galwaycoco.ie

Antoine O'Coisdealbha

Bainisteoir

Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oirr, Co na Gaillimhe,
H91 D27X

R.Phost: bainisteoir@discoverinisoirr.com

Oifig: 00353 99 75008

www.discoverinisoirr.com

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Comhar Caomhán Teo



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**FÉILE
NA
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INIS OÍRR

Galway County Council

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, water supply schemes, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. It is the custodian of the environment and through its planning and environment policies seeks to enhance the county while protecting its unique character and atmosphere. It also plays an active role in the development of the county's industrial, business, social, arts, heritage and cultural affairs.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

Tá Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe freagrach as ceantar riaracháin Chontae na Gaillimhe, seachas ceantar Chathair na Gaillimhe. Tá an Chomhairle freagrach as pleanáil, dearadh agus tógáil bóithre, scéimeanna soláthar uisce, saoráidí draenála, tithíocht, stáisiúin dóiteáin, leabharlanna agus reiligi. Is caomhnoir an chomhshaoil i an Chomhairle agus déanann sí iarracht, trína polasaithe pleanála agus comhshaoil, feabhas a chur ar an gcontae chomh maith lena thréithe agus a atmaisféar uathúil a chosaint. Tá ról gníomhach aici chomh maith maidir le forbairt gnóthaí tionscail, gnó, sóisialacha, ealaíon, oidhreacht agus cultúir an chontae.

Comhar Caomhán Teo

Is comharchumann forbartha pobail é Comhar Caomhán Teo atá ag feidhmiú ar Inis Oírr ó 1971. Tá ról lárnach ag an gComharchumann i bhforbairt an oileáin ~ idir forbairtí eacnamaíocha, sóisialta agus cultúrtha. Tá ról ceannasaíoch ag Comhar Chaomhán Teo. i gcur chun cinn agus i mbainistiú áiseanna éagsúla ar an oileán. Tá ról láidir stocaireachta ag an gcomharchumann ag plé leis na ranna stáit éagsúla agus feidhmíonn an comharchumann mar bhrúghrúpa agus mar ghuth láidir do mhuintir an oileáin. Tuilleadh eolais le fáil ar discoverinisoirr.com

Comhar Caomhán Teo

Comhar Caomhán Teo is a community development cooperative operating in Inis Oírr since 1971. It has a central role in the economic, social and cultural development of the island. Comhar Caomhán Teo has a leading role in developing and managing various facilities on the island. It has a vibrant role in dealing with various state departments and the cooperative acts as a voice and lobby group on behalf of the island community. Further information at discoverinisoirr.com

Comhar Caomhán Teo

