

FEILE NA 3CLOCH

INIS OÍRR



Hands Cross Europe
Lámha trasna na hEorpa

2023

Thursday 14th
to Sunday 17th
September 2023

Inis Oírr

Aran Islands,
County Galway

Dry Stone Wall Building Workshop

Stone Carving Workshop

Letter Carving Workshop

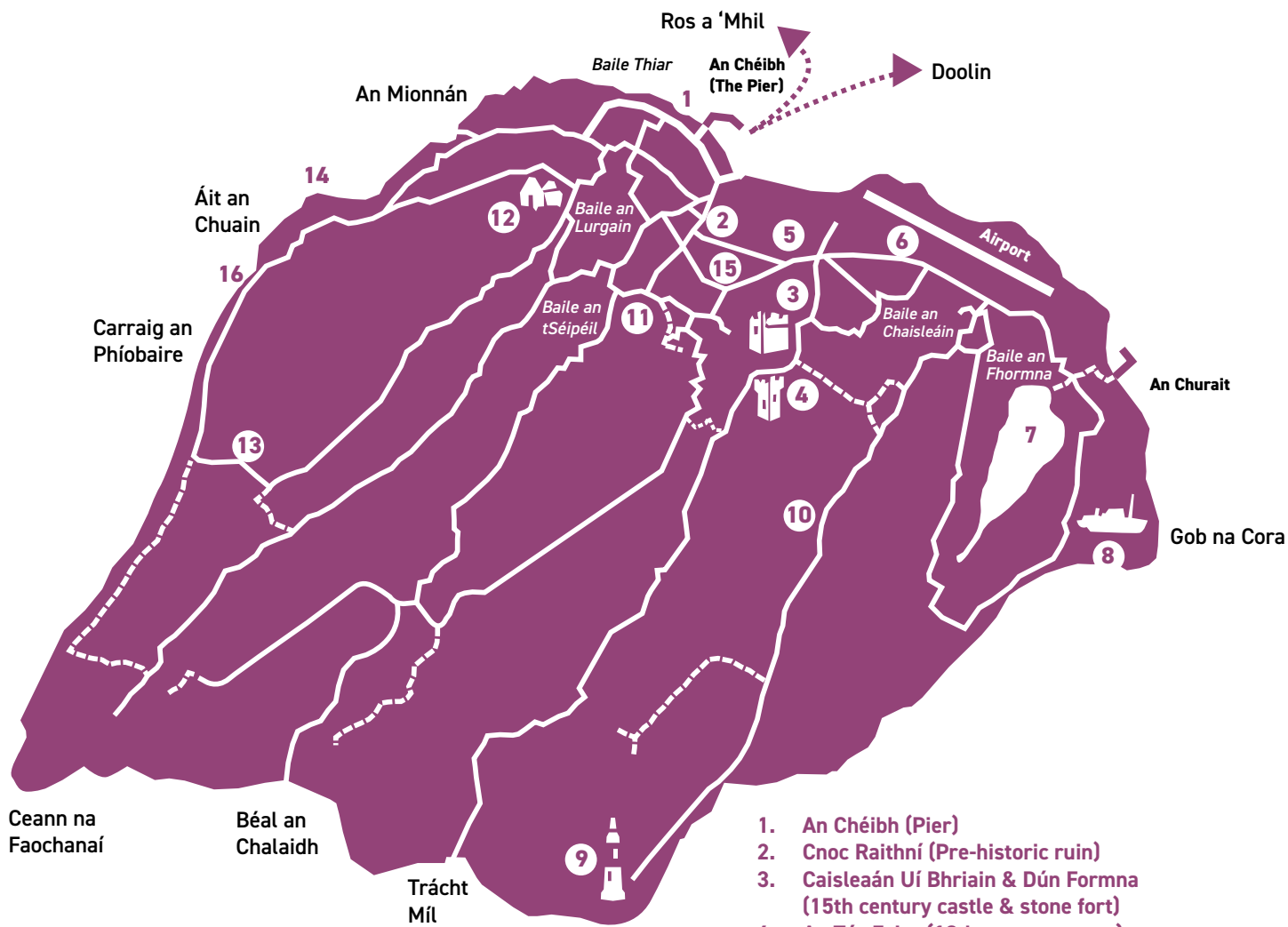
On Location Sketch Outs

Hot Lime Mortar Mixing and
Application Workshop

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



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 niníon
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)



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 Galway. 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



Áras Éanna Arts Centre, Inis Oírr

www.araseanna.ie

Thursday 14th to
Sunday 17th
September

Buoys

After the great success of Áras Éanna's 'Curracha' exhibition which saw 21 artists decorate 21 currachs displayed throughout the island during the Covid restrictions of the summer of 2021, Áras Éanna have plans to hold an outdoor exhibition on Inis Oírr on a bi-annual basis. The fishermen of Inis Oírr did a

coastal clean up of the island gathering washed up nets, broken fish crates and an abundance of sea buoys. The idea was formed to re-purpose these buoys as pieces of Art.

20 Artists including established names, emerging artists and artists from diverse backgrounds were tasked in decorating these buoys

and they are on display in the open air at the lighthouse until the end of September.

This is a fantastic way in exhibiting Art that also showcases the scenic beauty of Inis Oírr



The following exhibitions are on during Féile na gCloch:

Old Aran in Colour

After the success of this exhibition last summer we are delighted to show this wonderful colourised photographic exhibition of old photos of the Aran islands at the Áras Éanna courtyard.

Based on the book 'Old Ireland in Colour' by Galway University academics John Buckley and Sarah-Anne Buckley.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



OTHER EVENTS

Taking Place on Inis Oírr



Áras Éanna Arts Centre, Inis Oírr

www.araseanna.ie

Thursday 14th to
Sunday 17th
September



Preserving the Plassey

Philip Jacobsen spent some of his childhood living on Inis Oírr and has been a frequent visitor to the island since. Inis Oírr is one of the great loves of his life. Philip has a deep respect for the island, its people and its unique landscape.

The Plassey has been an important part of the landscape over the last 50 plus years. Over this time Philip has witnessed the changes in the Plassey and its gradual demise and wanted to preserve it and its memory in art form. During frequent walks Philip picked up broken away pieces and saw in the rusty discards a potential canvas. Using only the naturally broken off fragments of the ship that time and Mother Nature offered up, Philip has created these unique and once-off pieces.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Instructors



Aileen Anne Brannigan ~ Sculptor, lettercarver and stonecarver

David Curtin ~ Stonecutter, stonecarver and drystone waller

Eddie Farrelly ~ Festival Advisor, stonemason and traditional lime practitioner

Eoin Madigan ~ Stone Mason and lime practitioner

Fergus Packman ~ Drystone waller

James Moore ~ Sketcher and teacher

Jessica Peel Yeats ~ Sketcher and writer

Kevin Carrigan ~ A bricklayer/stonemason

Michael McGroarty ~ Stone Mason and Monumental Sculptor

Nettie Emerson ~ Stonecutter and stonecarver

Séamus May ~ Drystone waller, stonecarver

Tom Little ~ Lettercarver and stonecarver

Olivier Doome ~ Self-taught dry stone specialist, Luxembourg

Guillem Palou Mas ~ Drystone waller, Spain

Antoni Coll Isern ~ Drystone waller, Spain

Jean Claude Henrion ~ Mason instructor, Belgium

Ms Antonia Theodosiou ~ Co-author of a manual on building drystone in Cyprus, Cyprus

Talks

Thursday | 6pm

Halla Inis Oírr Ireland

Kenneth Curran | DSWAI Trustee: Tipperary, Ireland, Dry stone waller and tutor **'Water & Dry Stone'**

Rónán Crehan: brick / stone layer, Inis Oírr Clochan, Ireland **'Inis Oírr Clochan Project'**

Friday | 6pm

Civic reception hosted by Galway County Council and Comhar Caomhán Teo & Launch of Exhibition 'Hands across Europe ~ Lámha Trasna na hEorpa'

Introduction: Chloe Ní Mháille Bainisteoir Comhar Caomhán Teo, Paddy Crowe founding member of Féile na gCloch, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer Galway County Council.

Welcome by Councillor Liam Carroll, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway.

Talks from Helmut Schieder and Reiner Vogler, Austria, long-time friends and supporters of the festival

- The wonderful spirit of world-wide friendship at the 'Stein & Wein' Festival 2023
- Spreading the art of Dry Stone Walling among Austrian children

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.

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

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Talks

Saturday 16th

11am - 1pm

Greece

Stavroula-Villy Fotopoulou and
Ioanna Ntoutsis

ICH aspect of the DS Technique
in Greece and also specific
aspects of the construction
practices and use.

Luxembourg

Olivier Doome

Dry-Stone walling in
Luxembourg and the
neighbouring regions.

Spain

Maria del Mar Taltavull
Manchado

Drystone Heritage in Mallorca.

Andorra

Eva Arasa

Past and Present of Dry Stone
Construction in Andorra

2:30pm - 4pm

Slovenia

Boris Čok

Karst drystone walling typology and
techniques.

Belgium

Jean-Claude Henrion

How to become a dry stone waller in
Wallonia, Belgium.

A short talk presenting the different
types of stones in Wallonia and the
career path of the presenter.

Croatia

Talk 1 : Julia Bakota Švenčbir

Dragodid - Rolling the stones of
engagement.

The talk will share dry stone
interpretation practices in different
Croatian communities as an answer
to the Festival Lámha trasna na
hEorpa theme.

Talk 2: Filip Šrajer

Suhozid.hr - Croatian open dry stone
geportal

The talk will share efforts to
establish a crowdsourced database
on dry stone objects, actors and
activities.

5pm - 6pm

France

Dry Stone Construction in all
contexts and times

PowerPoint Presentation on SPS
(Society for the Multidisciplinary
Study of Drystone) and the
UNESCO nomination

Cyprus

Talk 1: Ms Antonia Theodosiou
The Drystone Building Heritage.

Talk 2: Dr Christos Zoumidis

Agricultural mountain drystone
terraces: lessons learned from
field and participatory research
in Cyprus.

**PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO
CHANGE**

Comhar Caomhán Teo



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Workshop

Dry Stone Wall Building

Friday 15th September (9.00am - 4pm)

Saturday 16th September (9.00am - 4pm)

Sunday 17th September (9.00am - 12.30pm)

Friday 15th 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 on Inis Oirr



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 Oirr, 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



Stone Carving

with Aileen Anne Brannigan and Nettie Emerson

Friday 15th September (9.00am - 4.00pm)

Saturday 16th September (9.00am - 4.00pm)

Sunday 17th 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

with Tom Little

Friday 15th September (9.00am - 4.00pm)

Saturday 16th September (9.00am - 4.00pm)

Sunday 17th 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 Carving Teo



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Workshop

On Location Sketch Outs Father Ted's Craggy Island Draw Away

Thursday 14th September | 3pm ~ 5pm

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

Friday 15th September | 10am - 1pm

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

Friday 15th September | 1.30pm - 4pm

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

Saturday 16th September | 10am - 1pm

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

Saturday 16th September | 2pm - 4pm

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

Sunday 17th 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 and be part of the exhibition of work done 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



Workshop

TE

Hot Lime Mortar Mixing and Application Workshop

with Eoin Madigan

Friday 15th September | 9.30am - 4.30pm

Saturday 16th September | 9.30am - 4.30pm

Comhar Caomhán Teo

This workshop will commence in An Halla where attendees will learn about conservation principles, lime mortar mixing and application.

Participants will be upskilled in wall preprend lime pointing and will also assist in building of a small kiln on site where they will burn limestone to make quicklime.

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.

Chloe Ní Mháille



Chloe Ní Mháille, 24 year old and very proud Mayo Woman now living on Inis Oírr for the past 3 years. Chloe graduated from Maynooth Univeristy with first class honours in Social Science Community Development and youth Work in June 2020, and then went on to become

Manager of Comhar Caomhán Teo in October 2020. Her first Féile na gCloch festival was virtual due to the covid19 pandemic! Last year was her first in person festival, and it goes to show nothing beats being there. Chloes hopes the festival in its 18th year now, will be another roaring success and would like to thank the community of Inis Oírr, Áras Éanna, Cleas, Galway County Council and all festival attendees and collaborators for their continued support.

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.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



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Biographies



Kevin Carrigan

Kevin Carrigan is a bricklayer/stonemason with 37 years experience. He has worked on the restoration of a diverse range of projects including religious and military buildings, bridges, walled gardens, farm buildings, cottages,

follies etc. When the lime renaissance began he was one of the first to start their re-use. Initially lime was a small part of his works, but over the years this has grown and nowadays he works exclusively with lime.



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.



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.



Aileen Anne Brannigan

Aileen Anne Brannigan is a Stone Carver, Letter Carver, and Sculptor is a native of Kilkenny City where she is based.

Her stone working career began in 1982 with a four-year apprenticeship as a stonecutter, after which the art of letter carving

was studied extensively 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.

She has been involved in the creation of several high-profile monuments; A Celtic cross of her creation stands in McMahon Street Quebec City honouring the people of Quebec caring for Irish famine victims.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Biographies



In Glasnevin Cemetery... The National Famine Memorial, The France Ireland Memorial, and unveiled in July this year the Civil War Monument commissioned by the Department of Defence.

Aileen Anne has a studio workshop in Kilkenny where she makes and creates. She teaches stone carving part time at an addiction treatment centre in Kildare, and with the Kilkenny Carlow ETB in Windgap.

This is Aileen's second year to teach at the Feile na gCloch festival on the island of Inis Oírr and it is a highlight of her working year.



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..



David Curtin

David Curtin is a Lahinch based stonecutter, stone carver and dry stone waller who has just finished his apprenticeship under the guidance of Tom Little in Kerry, 2018-2023. He was first driven towards stone in 2016,

whilst living in Australia where he travelled the country building walking and biking tracks, dry stone bridges, paths and more. For the last four years he has been

working with Eoin Madigan, a sixth-generation stone mason, at Madigan Traditional Masonry (MTM). Here he has explored the world of conservation masonry and lime mortar practices which focuses on maintaining Ireland's ancient and historical buildings. David also involved with SPAB Ireland helping to spread awareness on how to maintain and protect Ireland's built heritage.



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.

Rónán Crehan



Rónán Crehan, Inis Oírr Clochan Project. is a Brick/Stone layer by trade and originally from Co. Meath. Rónán completed his apprenticeship in Brick/Stone laying in 1994, working on many building sites as a brick/Stone layer in Dublin.

Rónán then moved to Co.

Donegal just over twenty years ago and over the course of that time, he has worked as a stone mason contractor and also a Drystone walling instructor until he joined the Office of Public Works five years ago. Rónán works in the heritage services in the preservation and maintenance of the national monuments of Ireland.

Rónán is also a member of the Dry Stone Walling Association of Ireland and helps run dry stone walling workshops for land owners and anyone who is interested in learning the skills of the craft.

Rónán has been influenced by people he has met at Feile na gCloch and other Stone festivals over the years and has gained a lot of knowledge and improved his skills because of it.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Biographies

Kenneth Curran



Kenneth is a drystone waller currently blending traditional and creative drystone work. His passion for dry stone construction developed while working full time in Irish Archaeology. After retraining in Kerry ETB in Traditional Stonewall, Kenneth established his own business

(EarthStone) and then acquired Train the Trainer qualifications in Dry Stone. Kenneth currently holds a DSWAUK Level 2 Certificate and is working towards a Level 3. SQA L3 qualified in Masonry Conservation, and will advise on and work with hydraulic lime mortars, hot lime and clay mortars. Kenneth's unique approach to understanding and creating dry stone projects is driven by a multidisciplinary background. As well as his stone working credentials Kenneth is a Licence eligible archaeologist and has qualifications and experience in anthropology and chemistry.

As a founding member of the Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland and a current Trustee of the organisation Kenneth believes that future generations of wallers will benefit greatly from the current growth in the profession and the recognition internationally of Ireland's dry stone cultural heritage.

Kenneth indulges his passion for empowering future generations of dry stone wallers through tutoring on a National and International level.

Séamus May



Séamus started building with stone around 2001 to the current day and in late 2007 he did a two month workshop with an Academy called ADA in Florence relating to stonecarving. On the back of that experience Séamus applied for a third level degree between 2008 and 2011

and finished a fine arts degree in sculpture with G.M.I.T. Then between 2014 and 2018 Séamus finished a stonewalling and stonecarving apprenticeship in Tralee under the guidance of Tom Little.

Since finishing the apprenticeship Séamus is working in the areas of Architectural conservation and restoration, monumental masonry, Drystone walling and stone sculpture.

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



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 Tironaill 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.

Rainer Vogler | Austria



Rainer works at the wine school Krems, where he started reviving the in Austria nearly lost art of DSW by organising courses 20 years ago. In 2023, due to his initiative the DSW School Austria was founded, consisting of 16 trainers and offering workshops all over Austria and in Germany.

Rainer's favourite DSW activities include children's workshops and work with rough stones, e.g. at alpine projects. Everyone can see his efforts of spreading the handicraft at several films about DSW at www.landimpulse.at. Rainer has two adult children, of whom one is skilful at working with wood, the other with metal, while his partner is a farmer – so the family covers a diversity of elements.

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.

Comhar Caomhán Teo



Biographies

Jean-Claude Henrion | Belgium



Jean-Claude Henrion is a Belgian mason. Since he was young, and in the family tradition, he works with shale and sandstone. For 30 years, he has also been an instructor at the Walloon institution "Le Forem" where he trains job seekers in the masonry trade to reintegrate them into the

construction sector. At the same time, he was able to train in the dry stone technique, particularly in Burgundy and the Cévennes in France. In 2013, he passed the qualification exam offered by the Artisans Bâisseurs en Pierres Sèches (CQP). He integrates dry stone into his lessons as often as he can, and regularly continues to build structures and promote the technique in Wallonia.

Maria del Mar Taltavull Manchado | Spain



Ms. Maria del Mar Taltavull Manchado, geographer and technician in the "Dry stone and Hiking Unit" at the Environment Department. Participates in the creation and management of the "Ruta de Pedra en Sec" (the Dry Stone Route is a hiking long distance walk) and in

several publications from the Environment Department related to dry stone heritage and hiking.

Olivier Doome | Luxembourg



Olivier Doome, is a self-taught dry stone specialist who started walling in his parents estate at the age of 16 in the Belgian Ardennes. Having built up a long life experience notably in South of France, he is now a key actor in Belgium and Luxembourg where he delivers training

to upcoming amateur and professional dry stone practitioners.

Stavroula-Villy Fotopoulou | Greece



Stavroula-Villy . Fotopoulou was born and grew up in Kalamata, Greece. She got her Bachelor's Degree in Archaeology from the University of Athens. She got a Master's Degree in Contemporary History from the University of Athens, on collective

memory and management of cultural heritage. She got a Master's Degree in Folklore from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, on life-stories and gender. Her speaking and writing skills in English are excellent, while she has a moderate communicating ability in French and Spanish. She works in the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, after graduating from the National School of Public Administration. She has served in various positions since 1996; she is Director of Modern Cultural Heritage since 2014.

She has represented the Ministry of Culture in UNESCO, the EU and several bi-lateral or regional meetings as expert in relevant fields of cultural management.

Biographies

Ioanna Ntoutsis | Greece



Ioanna Ntoutsis holds a diploma in chemical engineering and an MSc in the "Protection of Monuments – Materials and Interventions" from the National Technical University of Athens

(NTUA). She is a core member of Boulouki itinerant workshop in traditional building techniques, during the last 3.5 years, working in the design of various research and educational programmes on historical materials and techniques. She is the principal investigator of the project 'Burning the bones of the earth', supported by EMKP-British Museum, on the study of traditional lime kilns technology in Greece and Albania. She has participated as a research associate in various NTUA programs related to the characterization and the conservation of cultural heritage materials and as a laboratory teaching assistant. She has, also, worked in industries of the primary sector in the fields of minerals processing and lime production. She is a PhD candidate at the Ionian University (GR).

Filip Šrajer | Croatia



Filip Šrajer, PhD, architect and researcher. One of the founders and currently a member of the board of 4 GRADA DRAGODID, Croatian civil society organisation focused on dry stone education and interpretation. Editor of Suhozid.hr and Croatia's contact point for the

inscription of dry stone on the UNESCO ICH list. Regularly gives lectures and tutors workshops in dry stone walling.

Julia Bakota Švenčbir | Croatia



Julia Bakota Švenčbir, mag.ing.agr., coordinator in 4 GRADA DRAGODID, Croatian civil society organisation focused on dry stone education and interpretation. Seven years experience in developing and implementing dry stone programs, trainings and events aimed at

practitioners, researchers, skill bearers and volunteers.

Dr. Christos Zoumides | Cyprus



Dr. Christos Zoumides is a Research Scientist at the Energy, Environment and Water Research Center (EEWRC) of the Cyprus Institute. He holds a B.Sc. in Economics and Environmental Science from the University of Stirling (2007), a M.Sc. (with Distinction) in Ecological Economics

from the University of Edinburgh (2008), and a Ph.D. in Environmental Management from the Cyprus University of Technology (2014). For the past decade, his research work focused on science-society cooperation to operationalize the concept of ecosystems services, as well as on analysing and mapping costs, benefits and trade-offs of water and land management practices and climate change adaptation options

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Biographies

Eva Arasa | Andorra



Eva is a Historian and journalist, working for the Ministry of Culture and is the Andorran focal point for the UNESCO 2003 Convention.

Antonia Theodosiou | Cyprus



After studying architecture and environmental engineering in Germany, Antonia returned to Cyprus in 1986. She runs her own bureau focussing on architectural and environmental projects. As a volunteer, she is founder and active member of a number of

Cypriot and international NGOs, notably Friends of the Akamas, International Association of the Cultural Landscape, and the Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organisations, where she has served as president for a number of years.

Antoni Coll Isern | Spain



Antoni Coll Isern completed the drystone wallers' training course of the Consell de Mallorca in 1993-94 and then continuing his training with different courses about maintenance of the dry stone heritage for four years. After that he worked by his own account, making different

jobs always in relation with drystone. 20 years ago he returned to work for the Consell de Mallorca and since then he's been working in the maintenance and protection of dry stone heritage and has been also master in different introduction courses of the craft.

Guillem Palou Mas | Spain



Guillem Palou Mas is a drystone waller with more than 30 years of experience. He was trained at the drystone wallers' school of the Consell de Mallorca between 1991-93 and then continuing his training with different courses about maintenance of the dry

stone heritage and the occupational training of the craft. He has extensive experience in the occupational training field and in the maintenance and protection of dry stone heritage.

Guillem Palou participated in different European projects related to these areas, especially at the Carrefour Pierre seche where helped to design a European training course about the drystone waller profession.

As a member of the drystone waller's guild ('Gremi de margers'), he was part of the team that drafted the Professional Qualification EOC 689_2 Dry stone construction.

Boris Čok | Slovenia



Boris is a retired shop manager. His surname Čok is spelt in English like Chalk!

Boris is an amateur researcher, writer, co-creator of documentaries for RTV SLO, tourist guide, lecturer and carrier of the skills of the heritage of Karst dry wall construction.

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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 5pm for 6pm 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 Ruairi

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: Bríd 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.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

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

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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..



Lettering and Carving

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/letter-carving-workshop-tickets-700131912397?aff=oddtcreator>



Sketching

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/on-location-sketch-outs-tickets-700701847087?aff=oddtcreator>



Lettering and Carving

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/letter-carving-workshop-tickets-700131912397?aff=oddtcreator>



Hot Lime Friday

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/hot-lime-mortar-mixing-friday-tickets-700703592307?aff=oddtcreator>



Stone Carving

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/stone-carving-workshop-tickets-700701606367?aff=oddtcreator>



Hot Lime Saturday

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/hot-lime-mortar-mixing-saturday-tickets-700705447857?aff=oddtcreator>



Comhar Caomhán Teo



Enquiries...

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Chloe Ní Mháille
Bainisteoir
Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oírr, Co na Gaillimhe,
H91 D27X
R.Phost: bainisteoir@discoverinisoirr.com
Oifig: 099 75008
www.discoverinisoirr.com
Facebook / Instagram: Comhar Caomhán Inis

An action of Galway County Heritage Plan

Comhar Caomhán Teo



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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 caomhnóir 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, oidhreachta 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

