

coillte

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 06





Environment

Coillte had its Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate for good forest management renewed until 2011 following a periodic re-assessment carried out by Soil Association Woodmark, an independent firm of environmental auditors. The certification process requires Coillte to demonstrate that its forests are managed in accordance with strict social, environmental and economic criteria. Our forests have been FSC certified since 2001.

Coillte currently participates in three LIFE Nature Projects funded by the EU. Projects begun in 2002 and 2004 to restore active blanket bog and raised bog habitats respectively were supplemented in 2006 by a third project which aims to restore 550 hectares of priority woodland habitats at nine locations throughout Ireland.

These projects complement the Company's nature conservation strategy.

Forest management planning

During 2006 Coillte Forest developed detailed plans which set out the long term vision for the management of its forests. The plans address a wide range of economic, social and environmental objectives. Public consultation on these plans was carried out at 32 public meetings held throughout the country and through publication of the plans on the Coillte website.

Consultation was completed with our stakeholders and the Forest Service on a general felling licence for the period 2007-2010. Coillte also worked closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service on the development of requirements for the management of forest operations in river catchments that provide habitats for the fresh water pearl mussel and other species.

Lough Key Forest and Activity Park

Lough Key Forest and Activity Park is a 50:50 joint venture between Coillte and Roscommon County Council that is developing new visitor facilities at Lough Key, Boyle, County Roscommon. The construction phase of the project, which comprises the Lough Key Experience – a walk taking visitors down through historic tunnels and up into the tree canopy – a visitor centre incorporating a Boda Borg Adventure House, and a major new children's play area was substantially progressed in 2006 with the facilities scheduled to open in 2007. This €8 million investment is supported by Fáilte Ireland under the National Development Plan.

Recreation

Coillte initiated a Forest Recreation Infrastructure Upgrade Programme part funded under the National Development Plan administered by Fáilte Ireland in 2006. The programme involves 34 separate elements ranging from a major mountain bike facility in the Ballyhoura Mountains, to the Walkers Welcome initiative and the setting up of a new recreation website "Coillte Outdoors". The project involves a total investment of over €5.3 million. Elements of the projects are also supported by Cork and Limerick County Councils. This project will result in substantial enhancement of forest recreation facilities. It will benefit local users and support the tourism industry in its efforts to attract both Irish and foreign visitors.

Coillte contributed significantly to the development of the National Trails Strategy during the year, providing technical advice and chairing one of the working groups. Discussions were initiated with Mountain Biking Ireland with a view to developing a collaborative approach to managing the increasingly popular activity of mountain biking in our forests. Coillte also progressed a number of projects under the Neighbourwood Scheme operated by the Forest Service and these will be completed in 2007.

An Taisce North West Donegal Newsletter August and September 2006.

Dear Member.

Hope to find you well and enjoying what is left of our Summer. The following events have been arranged for August and September.

- Visit by An Taisce to "Restoring Active Blanket Bog in Ireland" with An Coillte at Croaghonagh, Ballybofey on Thursday the 31st of August. Meeting at Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey at 6pm sharp. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

6pm Tea/Coffee
6.15 Brief presentation of project
6.45 Depart for Croaghonagh
7.30 End of visit.

- Visit to Inisboffin Island on Sunday the 10th September @ 11am, meeting point – Magheraroarty Pier Dr. Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh has been invited to be our guide. Bring a packet lunch, life jackets on board. The cost for the day is 15€. Please book ahead with May McClintock (074 9122121) or Una Cronin (074 9151057)
- Lecture by Dr. Frank Sweeney at Ionad Cois Luiche, Dunlewey @ 8pm on September 21st (Autumn Equinox). Dr. Sweeney will give a lecture on his book "That Old Sinner", a comprehensive account of the LLSR railway between Letterkenny and Burtonport. He will outline the artefacts still to be seen on the line, particularly those that should be preserved. Admission 5€
- Volunteers needed on Saturday afternoon 30th September at LochBeag, Derryveagh, Gartan, to help restore and re-paint the seats adjacent to the An Taisce memorial cairn. Picnic afterwards if midges allow!
- Bob and Ann Kavanagh have opened their garden at Common, Raphoe and have begun a garden trail in East Donegal. Information available at 074 9145336.

We look forward to seeing you at any of the events, non-members also welcome.

Una and May.

If you have an email address please send it to our membership secretary at decel@eircom.net. This will help us to cut down on the costs associated with keeping in contact with all our members.

HERITAGE WEEK

Seachtain Oidhreachta



AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 3

LÚNASA 26 - MEÁN FÓMHAIR 3



ÁISLANN CHILL CHARTHA TEO., KILCAR

Táseánntais pictiúirí ó déireadh an naoú céad déag go dtí lús na naoi déag seascaidí. Exhibition of old photographs of Kicar and the surrounding area from the end of the 19th century to the early 1960s. This selection of photographs is taken from the history archive in Aislann Chill Charttha.

Monday, August 26 – Sunday, September 3, 2006

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Venue: Aislann Chill Charttha, Kicar

Free

Full wheelchair access

Contact: Charlie Ó Dóinnnail

Tel: (074) 973 8378

E-mail: eolas@aislann.ie

AN TAISE (NORTH WEST ASSOCIATION)

Visit to An Coille Blainn Bog project (Life Nature IRL0400) after presentation on blanket bog project.

Thursday, August 31, 2006

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Meet: Jackson's Hotel, Ballydooley

Free

Partial wheelchair access

Contact: Una Cronin

Tel: (074) 918 6154

E-mail: una.cronin@twise.ie

ARDARA HERITAGE CENTRE

Traditional bread making and story telling for young and old with Biney Willow, Sillibucks.

Saturday, August 26, 2006

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Venue: Ardara Heritage Centre, The Diamond, Ardara

Portach

Special feature pages for young readers
Includes Animal Signs in the Wild
Poster and an invitation to join us for
the opening of the gardens at the Bog
of Allen Nature Centre



Bogs in Tierra del Fuego

Boardwalk on Lodge Bog • Peatlands Under Threat Campaign

Drain Blocks & Boardwalks DIY

IPCC are increasing our expertise in the area of peatland management, thanks to the acquisition of Lodge Bog, Co. Kildare last year. In this article, we share our experience and thoughts with you on how best to block drains and build boardwalks on bogs.



IPCC are undertaking a project to raise the water levels of Lodge Bog, an IPCC reserve in Co. Kildare. For the last year we have been monitoring the water levels in the bog. While the central area of Lodge Bog supports the typical vegetation of active raised bog and the water-table remains within 20cm of the surface, the marginal areas of the bog are suffering from desiccation. *Calluna vulgaris* (Ling Heather) dominates in these areas and the water level has dropped to more than a metre below the surface in some places.

Blocking the Drains

In 2006, IPCC will block 2,200 metres (50%) of drains on Lodge Bog. The aim of the programme is to maintain the water table within 10cm of the surface. By doing this it is

expected that the cover of *Sphagnum*-rich peat-forming bog vegetation will increase. This is vital if the raised bog is to have any long-term chance of survival.

Options for Dams

Various materials are available for drain-blocking including wood, metal, peat and recycled plastic. In Ireland, peat dams have been the most common material used, but the use of recycled plastic is now becoming more frequent. The disadvantages of using peat is that the machines used to excavate the peat can cause damage to the bog surface. In addition, the excavation of peat from the site will cause damage and if the peat is taken from the area adjacent to the drain, the series of excavation hollows can act as a secondary parallel drain. To

avoid these difficulties, IPCC have opted to use recycled plastic for blocking the drains on Lodge Bog.

Recycled Plastic Dams

Recycled plastic is an impermeable material, very sturdy, light and easy to transport. The type of plastic dams that are commonly used are referred to as plastic sheet piling. Coillte have used these dams in many of the blanket bogs it is restoring. IPCC are liaising with a company in Northern Ireland who supply Geoflex recycled pvc sheets to organise a demonstration for IPCC staff and volunteers on Lodge Bog in order to test out the method in the field. The plastic sheets supplied measure 3 metres in length, are 30cm wide and 6mm thick. These sheets can be firmly slotted together to form dams

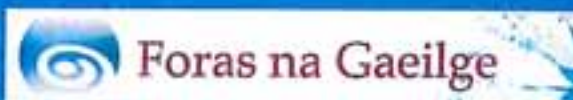
the Graduate

ONLINE YOUTH QUIZ

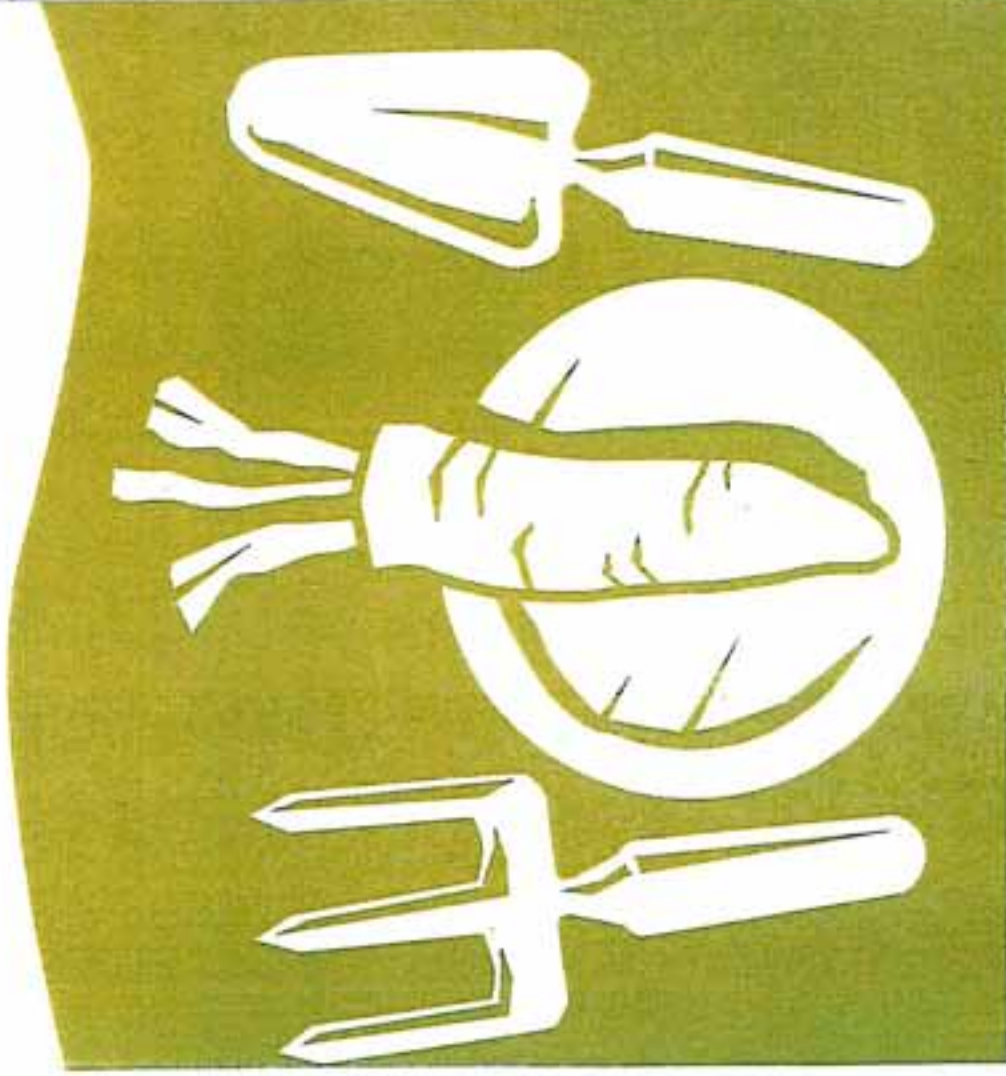


2005/2006

PRESENTATION CEREMONY



ORGANIC & GREEN GUIDE TO IRELAND 2005-2006



The Restoration of Blanket Bog in Ireland

In 2002 Coillte commenced an important habitat restoration project which is aimed at the restoration of blanket bog within a number of its properties. The project, which is jointly funded by Coillte and DG-Environment under the EU LIFE-Nature Programme, is a four-year scheme, the primary aim of which is to achieve restoration of blanket bog habitat within 1,212 hectares of land.



A plastic dam in a bog drain at one of the project sites

The main focus of the project, active blanket bog, is listed as a priority habitat for conservation under Annex 1 of the E. U. Habitats Directive and the areas for restoration either lie within,

or adjacent to, candidate Special Areas of Conservation. A total of 14 sites, most of which are located along the western seaboard of Ireland, were selected for restoration. At most sites the main restoration measures employed are the removal of trees and the blocking of any existing drains.

About Coillte

Coillte Teoranta (The Irish Forestry Board) is a leading Irish company which operates in forestry and related businesses. The company's shareholders are the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, who own the shares on behalf of the Irish State. Please consult our website - www.coillte.ie

For further information please contact the following:

Kevin Donnellan - Project Manager

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Caroline White - Public Relations

Phone - 0719162663 E-Mail: caroline.white@coillte.ie

Website: www.irishbogrestorationproject.ie

Department of Botany,
National University of Ireland, Galway

The Restoration of Afforested Blanket Bog Habitat in Ireland

Dr John Conaghan

Wednesday 22nd March

10.00am

Máirín de Valera Seminar Room

Department of Botany

Áras de Brún

Everybody welcome

Centre for Irish Studies

Sean-nós Singing Workshop with Maire Uí Dhríoghráin, Seán-nós Singers-in-Residence at HLB Galway
Date: Tuesday, 21 March 2006
Location: Seminar Room, Centre for Irish Studies, Distillery Road
Time: 10.00-12.00

Mind, Body & Soul Programme

Drumming Workshop for Adults, The Easler Eganua
Date: Tuesday, 21 March 2006
Location: The Hub, Áras na Mac Léinn
Time: 20.00

Music for Galway Informal Talk

"What We Hear" - an informal talk by Robert Taub focusing upon his concert programme for the 22nd Ma. [\[Read More\]](#)
Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2006
Location: Áras Maasna Uppier, Cube/angle Building
Time: 10.00

Department of Botany

"The Restoration of Afforested Blanket Bog Habitat in Ireland" Speaker: Dr. John Conaghan.
Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2006
Location: Síle de Valera Seminar Room, Áras de Brún
Time: 10.00

National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES) Seminar

"SEPRS - a nanoscale tagging technique of DNA, explosive and drug detection". Speaker: Professor Eve. [\[Read More\]](#)
Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2006
Location: Seminar Room, NCBES, Orban Building
Time: 12.00

Faculty of Law Research Seminar

"The Ethics of Immigration Law". Speaker: Professor Pieter Boukes, Institute of Immigration Law, Utr. [\[Read More\]](#)
Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2006
Location: Room 410, 2nd Floor, Arts/Science Building
Time: 14.00-15.00

Faculty of Arts

Information Evening for 2nd Arts students to launch the new BA in Humanities and Society Course
Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2006
Location: D'Arcy Thompson Theatre, Concourse, Arts/Science Building
Time: 10.00

Irish Centre for Human Rights Public Lecture

"Using the Women's Convention to make Women's Rights happen: Recent developments and possibilities". [\[Read More\]](#)
Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2006
Location: Seminar Room, Irish Centre for Human Rights, Earl's Island
Time: 19.30

Department of English

"Circumblers Perpetuate": A Finnegan's Wake Reading Group.
Email: frances.mccormack@nuigalway. [\[Read More\]](#)
Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2006
Location: Meeting Room 5A-006, St. Anthony's
Time: 12.30-14.00

Information Technology Seminar

"Neighbourhood counting as a measure of similarity". Speaker: Ma Wang, University of Ulster.
Date: Wednesday, 22 March 2006
Location: Room 206, Information Technology Building
Time: 13.00

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THE RESTORATION OF BLANKET BOG IN IRELAND

Dr. John Conaghan
Project Ecologist

Blanket bogs are one of Ireland's most widespread and important natural habitats. The habitat supports a range of specialized plant and animal species, many of which are considered to be rare and threatened in a European context such as marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*), the otter and the merlin. It has been estimated that blanket bogs once covered approximately 10% of the land surface of Ireland. Over recent centuries however more than 80% of the habitat has been lost or modified due to practices such as peat-cutting, afforestation and agricultural reclamation. In 2002 Coillte commenced a project which was aimed at the restoration of blanket bog within a number of its properties. The project, which is jointly funded by Coillte and DG-Environment under the EU LIFE-Nature Programme, is a four-year scheme the primary aim of which is to achieve restoration of blanket bog habitat within 1212 hectares of land. The main focus of the project, active blanket bog, is listed as a priority habitat for conservation under Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive and the areas for restoration either lie within, or adjacent to, candidate Special Areas of Conservation. A total of 14 sites, most of which are located along the western seaboard of Ireland, have been selected for restoration. At most sites the main restoration measures employed are the felling of conifers and the blocking of any existing drains.

Although the sites are afforested with conifers to varying degrees, most still contain significant areas of blanket bog vegetation. The main plant species growing in these open bog areas are purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), black bog rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), common bog-cotton (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and various *Sphagnum* mosses. As the afforested areas within sites vary considerably in terms of tree age and growth rate a

number of different approaches are required in order to achieve restoration of the blanket bog habitat.

Restoration Techniques Used

At sites such as Emlaghdauroe, Co. Galway and Shanvolahan, Co. Mayo much of the timber was extracted by conventional tree harvesting methods. Trees were felled and removed by machine and the resulting ground surface was covered by cut stumps and conifer branches. As there is little bog vegetation remaining in these areas, which have been under tall conifers for 30 to 40 years, the recovery of blanket bog at these sites will be relatively slow, especially in the short term. In addition to the removal of the mature conifer crop, levels of conifer regeneration will have to be monitored into the future and any conifer seedlings/saplings will have to be removed. At many of the sites within the project, such as Eskeragh and Owenanirragh in Co. Mayo, there were areas of conifer plantation where the trees were small in stature due primarily to poor growth rates. As a result, the trees had not achieved a closed canopy and a cover of bog vegetation, mostly dominated by either purple moor-grass or ling heather, was present. Most of the trees in these areas were felled manually by chainsaw and left on site. In order to allow better regeneration of the bog vegetation and to facilitate the blocking of drains, felled trees were windrowed and, in one of the Co. Mayo sites, chipped by machine. The prospects for the recovery of bog vegetation in these areas are generally good with purple moor-grass the main bog species to recolonize. If a blanket bog surface is drying out it may be prone to colonisation from conifers seeding in from adjacent areas of plantation. In such areas there is generally a low density of colonising trees present and, as a result, these trees are easily removed by manual felling. The felling of conifers

regenerating on intact blanket bog is being carried out at a number of sites in the Slieve Blooms, Co. Laois.

As blanket bogs require a high water-table in order to survive any active drains within the site areas were dammed, by hand, using interlocking plastic piling dams. The blocking of drains with peat was also carried out at a number of sites. This blocking of drains will slow water movement and thus reduce the rate of water loss from the sites. This will, in turn, lead to a raising of water levels in the surrounding areas and assist the re-wetting/restoration of the blanket bog habitat. The damming of drains is being carried out to varying extents at all sites and the resultant changes in water levels within the peat is being assessed using a number of Water Level Range Gauges (WaLRaGs).

Future Monitoring

The efficacy of these various bog restoration measures are being monitored over the lifetime of the project. Changes in the vegetation composition following tree removal is being monitored in permanent plots which are surveyed at regular intervals. The quality of water in streams which flow out of felled areas is also being monitored at a number of locations. Although the complete rehabilitation of active blanket bog habitat may take decades to achieve at some of the sites it is anticipated that by the end of this project the recovery of the habitat generally will be well progressed. An important aspect of this project is that it will provide valuable information regarding the most appropriate and cost-effective bog restoration techniques in Ireland and it is hoped that this information will be of value to any future bog restoration programmes in the country.

For further information please contact: Kevin Donnellan - Project Manager -
E-Mail - kevin.donnellan@coillte.ie



C/Trk



Woodland habitats

An EU-funded environmental project called Life Nature, which is aimed at restoring priority woodland habitats in Ireland, is set to see a massive 550.8 hectares of woodland habitat restored over the next few years.

At present, nine sites throughout the country are being restored and you can take a look at three of these in the coming year, when they open to the public for forest walks and research projects. These are: Clodhar in Co Galway; Hazelwood in Co Sligo; and Cahar in Co Tipperary.

Four native woodland habitat types found in Ireland are recognised under the EU Habitats directive as

being critically rare and restricted in their distribution, not just here but across the EU. The habitats have been given priority status and the sites, which are owned and managed by Coillte, are being restored to their original state. That means that any man-made interference must now be removed. For example, any spruce or beech trees planted must be taken up and drains must be blocked or removed.

"Because of the increasing pressure of modern living, with construction, lands being reclaimed for farming, the widening of roads and forestry, a lot of these habitats

are in danger," says project manager, Sean Quinly. "We don't need to endanger anything more than we have already done."

The programme will finish in 2009 and a project will then be put in place to manage the sites in the future. Coillte is also running two other EU-funded projects, one that will see the restoration of almost 2,000 hectares of blanket bogs and another that will see the restoration of more than 570 hectares of raised bogs.

A website for the habitats will be up and running before the end of the year. For further information, call 028 7553274.

Farmers warn Connacht Gold they have no future without viable milk prices

SCONE 2006 dairy farmers attended the IFM meeting chaired on Thursday night in Knock by President Peadar Kirby in protest at the Connacht Gold 0.44c/l April and 0.58c/l May price cuts.

Speaking after the meeting, IFM Chairman Chairman Mick O'Connell said: "The price cuts are a direct result of the fact that the milk price is too low to cover the cost of production. We are not getting a fair price for our milk."

and jeopardise the future of milk production and processing in the west of Ireland. Angry farmers challenged the Chairman of Connacht Gold, Mr. Peadar Kirby, who spoke at the meeting, over the price cuts and requested the board to review the cuts. "Significant milk is very thin but

yet they have done little to raise any farm commodity prices. This is a major problem in Connacht Gold, where 70 per cent of the milk goes to be processed into basic commodities." He said: "The higher cost of producing milk in the west of Ireland makes

producers have suffered more than the east of Ireland. That supports work in Connacht Gold to get the milk price at the very top of the normal range, and then work to cut costs and co-operate with other processors in the region and further afield to allow that price," he added.

Mr. Kennedy said: "However, the logic of systems that price dairy which Connacht Gold, Lactal and Guala had last year must be challenged and stopped immediately. That is what producers, meeting in Connacht, Kerry and Knock have demanded," he concluded.

Three Mayo students win trip to US with 'Graduate Online' youth quiz

The Graduate Online Youth Quiz winners (from left) Emma Tully, Erin O'Sullivan, and Alan Bensen from St. Columba's College, Westport, and Alan Bensen from St. Columba's College, Claremorris, were the winners of an all-Ireland quiz held in New York City on the 10th of May.

The winners of the quiz were Emma Tully, Erin O'Sullivan, and Alan Bensen, who were announced at an official ceremony at the Poughkeepsie Hotel in New York City. The winners were accompanied by their school principals, Mr. John O'Sullivan and Mr. Alan Bensen.

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The Graduate Online Youth Quiz is a free online quiz for primary and secondary school students. It is a quiz that tests students on their knowledge of the world and Ireland. The quiz is available on the website www.graduateonline.ie.

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Mr. Pat Carroll, head of information systems, Mayo Co. Council (sponsor) presenting

Ms. Caroline White, head of information, Celticus Banquet Room restaurant project (sponsor) presenting students Alan Bensen with his prize.

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Annagry man declares as independent election candidate



BY HARRY WALSH

All Annagry based father of two plans a €55 million 120 bed facility in Dungloe as part of his strategy to win the general election in Donegal South West. John Doherty (38), who is to stand as an independent candidate, also proposes to radically change the existing planning laws, introduce drug education for adults and "migration management". He becomes the sixth person to declare that he will contest the election...

'Motorway! Don't hold your breath'

BY HARRY WALSH

PROMISES of a motorway link from Dublin to Donegal moved a step closer to reality this week. It follows confirmation that there is 'agreement in principle' to a major cross-border upgrade of the Dublin to Donegal route. According to Minister for Agriculture, Mary Coughlan, provision for a full motorway connecting Letterkenny, Derry and Dublin will now be included in the National Development Plan which is due to be...

A true Gaeltacht hero



A Loughanure man has been named as one of only seven people to receive an award in recognition for his community work over the years. Eugene Greaves, Chairman of the local development organisation, Coiste Míonathagraí Luch an Iuir is to receive the Laoch na Gaeltachta (Gaeltacht Hero) award from Míthéal Forbartha na Gaeltachta (MFG) at a gala function in Galway on Tuesday, December 19. Laoch na Gaeltachta recognises the voluntary work by an...

Letterkenny Credit Union loaned over 14 million euro

'Watch' scheme launched for Lower Main Street area



BY CATHERINE COOK

Superintendent Peadar Kearney has expressed his satisfaction with the levels of garda manpower in Letterkenny at the weekends. Speaking at the launch of a neighbourhood watch scheme for Letterkenny's Lower Main Street last week, the Superintendent also welcomed the provision of the new Garda Reserve Force. "I attended a meeting last week in relation to the Garda Reserve Force, and realistically we will be looking at...

Restoration of Donegal bogland proving popular with visitors



BY CRONAN SCAMHLON

The restoration of a blanket bog near Barmore Gap outside Ballybofey is proving to be a popular attraction ->BR> among nature lovers. Croaghonagh Bog comprises 33 hectares of blanket bog close to Lough Mourne in the Barmore Gap, approximately eight kilometres from Ballybofey. The bog is one of just 16 sites around the country which Coillte are restoring as part of an important habitat restoration project. The...

Taxi driver hits back at 'bad press' following fare increases

By Cathriona Gallen

A LOCAL taxi driver has hit back at allegations that fares have doubled in price since the introduction of the meter system in September. Angry that the local taxi service has received 'bad press' in recent weeks, Mr John Doherty said that contrary to popular opinion many fares had stayed the same and others had actually reduced in price. He said customers going to the Cottages in Glenowilly are paying the same...

MORE NEWS HEADLINES

- ▶ New late night bus service between Letterkenny and...
- ▶ Annagry man declares as independent election...
- ▶ SVP coping with increased demands for local...
- ▶ SFDNM041206- Crime in Dumanagh
- ▶ Belfast cancer care solution is only 'short term'...
- ▶ ahdnm15112006-howlgothere
- ▶ ahdnm26112006-ermycolumn





National Heritage Week gets underway

This year national Heritage Week takes place from Saturday, August 26th until Sunday, September 3rd.

Since 1991, European countries celebrate their heritage over the course of European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. In Ireland, the importance and value of our heritage are indicated by the week-long programme of events during National Heritage Week.

Heritage Week is co-ordinated by The Heritage Council in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and Local Authority Heritage Officers.

Over 600 events are taking place across County Donegal and 600 nationwide throughout the week - and most of them are free.

"The main aim of Heritage Week is to raise awareness of our natural, built and cultural heritage and to encourage its conservation and preservation," explained Joseph Gallagher, County Donegal Heritage Officer.

"Heritage Week provides an opportunity to celebrate our Irish heritage and our shared European heritage," he added.

In Donegal, the Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council has organised over 20 free events including an illustrated presentation and exhibition on Bundoran's railways; a lecture on "The Life & Times of Michael Davitt" at the County Museum; a display of

William Lawrence photographs in Letterkenney; a talk on the place-names of Inishowen in Buncrana; a

heritage table quiz in Camdonagh; a half-day seminar on the care and conservation of archives and artefacts in Stranorlar; archival displays in Dungloe and Donegal Town; and photographic exhibitions and competitions in Millford & Ramelton.

Meanwhile, Glenveagh National Park has a full programme of week-end events including nature walks, garden tours, displays, traditional music and children's entertainment. Other events include guided tours of Glencolmcille,

Ballyshannon, Clonmany and Rathmullan; a field day organised by the Donegal Historical Society; fieldtrips to Croughbeg court tomb and cairn, and St. Cartha's church and graveyard by the Kilcar Tourism Committee; wildlife

talks in Dunree and Raphoe; a visit to An Coille blanket bog pro-

ject by An Taisce; an open day at The Workhouse in Duffagh; free family history consultation and advice by Donegal Ancestry in Ramelton; and guided forest walks in Drumboe Woods.

The County Donegal Heritage Office has produced a free booklet of Heritage Week events in County Donegal. Copies of the brochure are available at central, regional and branch libraries, public services centres, museums,

heritage centres and the County Donegal Heritage Office. It can also be consulted online at www.donegalcoo.ie. A countrywide guide of Heritage Week events produced by The Heritage Council is also available. It can be viewed online at www.heritageweek.ie.



Heritage Week in Donegal

Heritage Week takes place from Saturday, August 26 until Sunday, September 3 this year. Since 1991, European countries celebrate their heritage over the course of European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. In Ireland, the importance and value of our heritage are indicated by the week-long programme of events during National Heritage Week. Heritage Week is coordinated by The Heritage Council in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and Local Authority Heritage Officers. Over 600 events are taking place across the country throughout the week. "The main aim of 'Heritage Week' is to raise awareness of our natural, built and cultural heritage and to encourage its conservation and preservation" explained Joseph Gallagher, County Donegal Heritage Officer. "Heritage Week provides an opportunity to celebrate our Irish heritage and our shared European heritage."

There are over 60 events taking place across County Donegal in recognition of Heritage Week and most of them are free. The Cultural Services Division of Donegal County Council has organised over 20 free events including an illustrated presentation and exhibition on Bundoran's railways; a lecture on 'The Life & Times of Michael Davitt' at the County Museum; a display of William Lawrence photographs in Letterkenny; a talk on the placenames of Inishowen in Buncrana;

a heritage table quiz in Carnonagh; a half-day seminar on the care and conservation of archives and artefacts in Stranorlar; archival displays in Dungloe and Donegal Town; and photographic exhibitions and competitions in Milford & Ramelton.

Glenveagh National Park has a full programme of weekend events including nature walks, garden tours, displays, traditional music and children's entertainment. Other events include guided tours of Glencolumbkille, Ballyshannon, Clonmany and Rathmullan; a field day organised by the Donegal Historical Society; fieldtrips to Croaghbeg court tomb and cairn, and St. Carita's church and graveyard by the Kilear Tourism Committee; wildlife talks in Duzree and Raphoe; [a visit to An Ceillie blanket bog project by An Taisce](#); an open day at The Workhouse in Dunfanaghy; free family history consultation and advice by Donegal Ancestry in Ramelton; and guided forest walks in Drumboe Woods. The County Donegal Heritage Office has produced a free booklet of 'Heritage Week' events in County Donegal. Copies of the brochure are available at central, regional and branch libraries, public services centres, museums, heritage centres and the County Donegal Heritage Office. It can also be consulted on-line at: www.donegalcoco.ie. A countywide guide of 'Heritage Week' events produced by The Heritage Council is also available. It can be viewed on-line at: www.heritageweek.ie