



CLIFDEN

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

May 25th - June 4th 2012

visit: clifden2012.org [facebook.com/clifden2012](https://www.facebook.com/clifden2012)

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The committee is very proud of the level of low admission or free events we have been able to plan for the festival. Free doesn't mean no cost however. To meet these costs we are indebted to the generosity and support of our main festival sponsors, our business supporters and the wider community who have participated in the Friends of Clifden 2012 programme. Their support has made this event possible. On behalf of the committee, I wish to express our sincere thanks to all our sponsors, business supporters and friends. We hope you all enjoy the party.

Declan Mannion
Treasurer, Clifden 2012 committee

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www.clifden2012.org/links/friends-of-clifden-2012

Welcome

Ar son Choiste an Chlocháin, Dhá Mhíle agus a Dó dhéag, agus ar mo shon fhéin, cuirim fáilte romhaibh uilig chuig ceiliúradh bhreithlá an bhaile ságainne – Breithlá Dhá Mhíle agus a Dó dhéag.

Tá muidne, mar bhaill den choiste agus mar bhaill de mhuintir na háite, an-bhródúil as an gClochán agus as an gceantar máguaird agus aithníonn muid go bhfuil an bród céanna seo scaipthe go forleathan ar fud an cheantair. Tá cónaí orainn i gceann de na háiteanna is áille ar domhan, áit inar thug an Nádúr flaitiúlach ár suíomh dúinn, idir farraige agus sléibhte, áit ina raibh fir agus mná ag obair le chéile, mar atá fós, chun ár mbaile beo, briomhar a chruthú agus a chothú.

On behalf of the Clifden 2012 committee and on my own behalf, I welcome you to our celebration of the 200th Birthday of our town.

As members of the committee and of the community, we are proud of Clifden and the surrounding area and we celebrate the fact that this pride is widespread throughout the area. We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world, where generous nature has worked to give us our setting between the sea and the mountains, and where men and women have toiled together, and continue to do so, to create and tend to the growth of our lively and vibrant town.

This is a Birthday Celebration, with the big party taking place on Main Street on Thursday, 31st May. This is an occasion for all people with Clifden area connections and visitors to the town to come together.

But as you will see from this brochure and the website www.clifden2012.org, it is much more than this one celebration. We want to showcase our talents, our sports, our culture and our heritage. We want to celebrate our young people and our elders, all of whom have a vital role to play in the life of our community.

We celebrate the founding of the town by John D'Arcy, but we also remember the countless others who, over the two centuries of our existence, have played their part in this development.

I look forward to meeting you at the ten day party and beyond.

Breandan O Scanail
Chairperson, Clifden 2012 Committee

FRIDAY 25th MAY

Clifden 200 Official Opening and Reception

The Clifden 200 Festival will be officially opened by Mr Conor Newman, Chairman of The Heritage Council. Finger food and refreshments will be served. All welcome.

VENUE: Omev Suite, Clifden Station House Hotel

TIME: 7pm COST: Free

SATURDAY 26th MAY

Connemara before Clifden Seminar

A series of talks and discussions. Topics include Connemara geology, geography and archaeology, and life in the area in the 18th and 19th centuries. Speakers include: Dr Ronan Hennessy (NUIG), Michael Gibbons (Archaeologist) and Kevin Whelan (Director of the Keough Naughton Centre of the University of Notre Dame, Dublin).

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 9:30am-5pm

COST: Full Day programme - €20 *Advance booking required.*

Price includes coffee breaks and 3-course lunch.

For further information or booking please see www.clifden2012.org

Street Market – Crafts

Craft Market with a selection of outdoor and indoor stalls showcasing the very best of local and national crafts.

VENUE: Clifden Town Square TIME: 11am-4pm

Sean Nós Dancing – Children’s Workshop

Join The Cunningham Family for a fun Sean-Nós dance workshop. Parental supervision required.

VENUE: Alcock & Brown Hotel TIME: 2pm-3pm COST: Free

Story Telling for Children

The Connemara Pony is a unique part of the heritage of Clifden. Every year in August the biggest Connemara Pony Show in the world takes place on the show grounds in Clifden. The Connemara Pony is loved all over the world with societies throughout Europe and beyond.

Now Clifden has its very own Connemara Pony celebrity – Milly, the Connemara Pony – star of her very own children’s books ‘Milly Wild and Free in Connemara’ and ‘Milly Meets a Hero at the Horse Show’. The books are written by local author Nicola Heanue and illustrated by local artist Melanie Migneaux. Milly herself lives just two miles outside Clifden on Lough Fadda Connemara Pony Stud.

Join Nicola for an afternoon of ‘Pony Fun’ as she reads from Milly’s latest book ‘Milly Meets a Hero at the Horse Show’ and learn a little bit about Connemara Ponies along the way. (Be sure to practice your pony sounds in advance!). There will be treats for all the children that attend on the day. Suitable for children aged 3-9 years.

VENUE: Clifden Library TIME: 3:30pm COST: Free

Let’s Get The Party Started!

Come along and join ‘Freeman of Connemara’ Ryan Tubridy on the Town Square to kick off the Clifden 200 festivities. Music, song and dance.

VENUE: Clifden Town Square TIME: 6pm COST: Free

‘Atlantic Steps’ – The Cunningham Family

‘Atlantic Steps’ is the inspiring epic story of Ireland’s oldest dance form, portrayed through the music, song, dance and Atlantic-Ocean-inspired energy of the Connemara region. Centred around the joyful dance and unbridled enthusiasm of the Cunningham family, the show continues to move festival and theatre audiences to their feet, bringing sean-nós dance to its rightful place on the world stage.

Advance booking recommended.

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 8pm

ADMISSION: €20. Family Ticket (2 adults and 2 children) €50.



SUNDAY 27th MAY

Ecumenical Service

Commemorating John D'Arcy – founder of Clifden, followed by re-dedication of John D'Arcy's tomb. All welcome.

VENUE: Church of Ireland TIME: 12pm

Traditional Boats Regatta

Featuring the boats of the Galway Hooker Society and currach racing in Clifden Bay. Onshore activities and demonstrations will include traditional boat building, sail making, live entertainment and traditional blessing of the boats.

Continuous complimentary shuttle bus leaves from Clifden Square from 12:30pm.

VENUE: Clifden Bay TIME: 1pm COST: Free

Rambling House Session

Craic, Caint agus Ceol.

VENUE: Mannions Bar TIME: 9:30pm-late COST: Free



MONDAY 28th MAY

Gardening Seminar *advance booking required*

Day 1 of a two day gardening festival. Illustrated talks on Three Centuries of Gardening in Connemara and 19th Century Plants and Seeds, followed by an afternoon bus trip to local Clifden Castle and Gleann Aoibheann gardens. Further details at www.clifden2012.org

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 10am-6pm

COST: Full Day €25 (*includes talks, lunch, coffee and bus trip*)

New Discoveries in Connemara History and Archaeology

A lecture with local historian and archaeologist Michael Gibbons. *Advance booking recommended.*

VENUE: Foyles Hotel TIME: 6:30pm COST: €5

Flower Arranging Workshop

An evening of flower arranging with John Spain.

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 8pm COST: €5

Celebrating the History of the Connemara Blacks

A gathering of the past and present at an exhibition on the history of Connemara Rugby Football Club as it enters its 40th anniversary year.

VENUE: Omev Suite, Station House Hotel

TIME: 8pm COST: Free

TUESDAY 29th MAY

Gardening Seminar *Advance booking required.*

Day 2 of a two day gardening festival. Illustrated talks about Regency Gardens and 'Growing Wild' – Biodiversity in Gardens followed by an afternoon bus trip to Ballynahinch Castle and Cashel House gardens. Further details at www.clifden2012.org

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 10am-6pm

COST: Full Day €25 (*includes talks, lunch, coffee and bus trip*)

Town Heritage Walk

Walk the Clifden town heritage trail with local historian and archaeologist, Michael Gibbons.

STARTING POINT: Clifden 200 festival office

TIME: 2pm-3pm COST: €5



An Evening with the Local Clifden Lifeboat Crew

Clifden Lifeboat on Display. Meet with some of the volunteer crew of Clifden Lifeboat and learn about the history of the Clifden RNLI.

VENUE: Station House Courtyard TIME: 6pm

Marconi lecture: 'A Titanic Misconception'

A behind the scenes, historical communications and above all, human story. Presented by Colman J. Shaughnessy, former Marconi Radio Officer and member of the Radio Officer Association.
www.radioofficers.com

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 7pm

Titanic Lecture – 'Waiting for Orders'

Philip Littlejohn will present a lecture about the experiences of his grandfather, Alexander Littlejohn, who survived the Titanic disaster when, as a first class steward, he was ordered to help crew lifeboat Thirteen. Unique among the relatives of Titanic survivors, Philip has actually visited the wreck on the seabed and has an audiovisual presentation about his dive in a Russian submersible.

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 8pm

COST: Full evening - €5

All proceeds in aid of Clifden Lifeboat. Please support.

WEDNESDAY 30th MAY

Clifden and its Hinterland – Exploring Clifden and Connemara History *Advance booking recommended.*

A three hour field trip with local historian and archaeologist Michael Gibbons. Explore the life and times of Clifden and Connemara over the past 7,000 years. See a 6,000 year old Megalithic tomb, 3,000 year old standing stones, an Iron Age fort, a Viking burial site, ancient kitchen midden, a 400 year old intertidal-zone forest and Clifden castle.

Bus leaves from the Clifden 200 festival office at 10am sharp.

TIME: 10am-1pm COST: €20

An Afternoon trip to Kylemore Abbey and Gardens *Advance booking recommended.*

A guided tour of the historical Kylemore Abbey and Gardens followed by tea/coffee in the café.

Bus leaves from the Clifden 200 festival office at 2pm sharp.

TIME: 2pm COST: €15 (includes bus, guided tour and refreshments)



Uncovering Our Connemara Roots Genealogical Conference

30th MAY-1st JUNE *Advance booking recommended.*

Booking form for the Genealogical Conference is available for download at www.clifden2012.org and can be requested by email from info@clifden2012.org

DAY 1

Genealogy Welcome Reception

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 5pm-6pm COST: *see below*

In Search of a Better Way of Life: Emigration from Connemara in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

A talk by Dr Gerard Moran, National University Ireland, Maynooth.

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 6pm-7pm COST: *see below*

Gala 4 Course Dinner and Entertainment with traditional music and Sean-Nós dancing

VENUE: Omey Suite, Station House Hotel TIME: 8pm

COST: €38 (includes welcome reception, talk and gala dinner)

Photo above: Peggy and Paddy Roche of Fahy with baby Joseph Roche and Esther Roche (Whelan) © Mary Pryce.

THURSDAY 31ST MAY

Uncovering Our Connemara Roots Genealogical Conference

DAY 2

Lectures – Sources: Home and Abroad

9–9:45	Registration, tea/coffee
9:45–10	Welcome by Ms Marie Mannion – Heritage Officer, Galway County Council
10–11	Rob Goodbody – <i>Introduction to Land Records</i>
11–12	Gregory O'Connor – <i>National Archives Sources</i>
12–12:20	Coffee break
12:20–1:20	John Grenham – <i>UK Sources</i>
1:20–2:15	Lunch
2:15–3:15	Eileen O Dúill – <i>Finding Cousins in the United States of America: Research in American Sources</i>
3:15–4:15	Simon Fowler – <i>Researching Ancestors who Served in the British Armed Forces</i>
4:15–4:45	Question and Answers Open Forum
4:45	Coffee and close

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 9am–5pm

COST: €15 (includes coffee and lunch)

Street Party

It is time to meet up with old friends and maybe make new ones. We are calling everyone with a Clifden connection and visitors to the town to come and join us. The Street Party will bring together the present residents of Clifden with those who lived here at different times over the past years. We will have descendants of some of the earliest families from our town. This street party will also celebrate our musical heritage, and will give us an opportunity for storytelling on a major scale. Live entertainment. *Beidh Fáilte roimh go leir.*

VENUE: Main Street and Market Square TIME: 6pm COST: Free



The Robert Burns of Connemara? The Life and Legacy of Micheal Mac Suibhne ('The Poet Sweeney'), 1760–1820

A talk by Dr Irene Whelan.

VENUE: Station House Hotel TIME: 8pm COST: €5

FRIDAY 1ST JUNE

Uncovering Our Connemara Roots Genealogical Conference

DAY 3

From Grace O'Malley to John D'Arcy

A coach trip with local historian and archaeologist Michael Gibbons. Explore the Clifden, Errislannan and Errismore Peninsulas including the homes of Grace O'Malley and Caileach an Clochán. See the Alcock and Brown landing site, The Marconi Station and many more historical Clifden connections along the way.

Bus leaves from the Clifden 200 Festival Office at 10:30am sharp.

TIME: 10:30am–1pm COST: €20

Scoil Mhuire Marching Band

A musical performance on the town square by local school children.

VENUE: Clifden Town Square TIME: 1:30pm COST: Free

A Day in the Life of our Ancestors

Rediscover the past with a guided tour to Dan O' Hara's Cottage. Guided Tour in a tractor drawn carriage to Dan O' Hara's Cottage with turf cutting demonstration, storytelling and bread making demonstration in front of the open fire. Also view the audiovisual, history and artefacts room and visit reconstructions of a crannog, ringfort and clochaun. To book please call (095) 21246 or 21808 or email danohara@eircom.net. *Advance booking required.*

TIME: 2:30pm and 4:30pm COST: Free

Tour of the Historic St Joseph's Church

A personal tour of the historic St Joseph's church by Canon James Ronayne P.P. touching on the buildings and priests associated with the parish since early 1800s.

VENUE: St Joseph's Church TIME: 6pm COST: Free



Sean Keane in Concert

Sean Keane, who hails from the famous traditional music family from Caherlistrane, Co. Galway, needs no introduction to lovers of folk, traditional and indeed country music. Not to be missed!

VENUE: Station House Theatre TIME: 8:30pm
COST: €15 (students €10)

SATURDAY 2nd JUNE

19th Century Town Development Seminar

Advance booking required.

9:30am–10:20am	Registration
10:20am	Welcome and Introductions by Dr Irene Whelan
10:30am–11:30am	<i>Clifden's Contemporaries – Ireland's Other New Towns</i> by Rob Goodbody
11:30am–12am	Coffee break
12am–1pm	<i>Galway in the 19th century: a 'bustling, rough-and-ready town'</i> by Paul Walsh
1pm–2:30pm	Lunch Break
2:30pm–3:30pm	<i>Clifden: John D'Arcy's Legacy</i> by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill
3:30pm–3:45pm	Coffee break
3:45pm–5:30pm	FORUM - <i>Perspectives on the Future of the Irish Small Town</i> chaired by the Hon. Justice Mr Michael Moriarty (see panel on page opposite)

PANEL:

- > Mr Phil Hogan, T.D., Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government
- > Ms Martina Moloney, Galway County Manager
- > Mr Michael O'Neill, CEO Connemara West
- > Mr David McWilliams, Economist, Broadcaster and Author
- > Mr Conor Skehan, Department of Environment and Planning in the School of Spatial Planning at Dublin Institute of Technology

VENUE: Station House Theatre

TIME: 9:30am-5:30pm

COST: €25 Full Day Seminar (*includes coffee breaks and 3 course lunch*)

Naomh Feichín Gaelic Football

Come along and see a fine display of Gaelic Football from the children of the local Clifden GAA club.

VENUE: Clifden GAA Grounds, Hospital Hill

TIME: 10:30am

The Craft of Bodhran Making

A talk by Malachy 'Bodhran' Kearns on Bodhran Making, its history, and unique playing technique and the meaning of Celtic Designs at Roundstone Music Craft and Fashion Shop which lies within the walls of an old Franciscan Monastery in the quaint fishing village of Roundstone, just a short scenic drive from Clifden.

Here you can see Ireland's oldest craft – Bodhran making. The Bodhran (bow-rawn) or Irish Drum is Ireland's oldest musical instrument and this ancient craft is carried on at Roundstone Music. Complimentary tea/coffee and special offers for visitors.

VENUE: Roundstone TIME: 12pm COST: Free

Town Heritage Walk

Walk the Clifden town heritage trail with Michael Gibbons.

STARTING POINT: Clifden 200 festival office

TIME: 1pm-2pm COST: €5

Clifden 200: Living History Project

The *Clifden 200: Living History Project* will present an afternoon of street theatre, music and dance and will transport you back in time by recreating Clifden's market from the 1800s. Children from Clifden, Claddaghduff and Kingstown National schools have been working with drama practitioner Megan Vine and artist Shelly Mc Donnell over 5 weeks to learn about the story of the town and some of the people who made it what it is today. In this performance the three groups will come together to tell the story their way, and to showcase their talents in drama, music and dance.

VENUE: Starting at Clifden Town Square TIME: 3pm COST: Free



Dublin Baroque Players

Founded in 1966 with a focus on the Baroque era, the Dublin Baroque Players have since broadened their repertoire and acquired a classical sized wind section.

PROGRAMME:

Bach: *Orchestral Suite No. 1*

Faure: *Theme et Variations*

Bach: *Violin Concerto in a minor*

Soloist: Roisin Walters (violin)

Ravel: *Tombeau de Couperin*

VENUE: Church of Ireland TIME: 8pm COST: €10

SUNDAY 3rd JUNE

Railway Walk

A guided walk along the old railway line from Clifden to Ballynahinch. Refreshments will be served in Ballynahinch Castle. Walking boots required.

MEETING POINT: Clifden 200 Festival Office

TIME: 1:30pm COST: €20 (Children €5)

Sky Road rok Challenge

Details on www.visitconnemara.com TIME: 2pm



Ceilí Mór – Matt Cunningham Band

Matt Cunningham and his band are well-known in Ireland, England, and America as one of the finest and most respected bands for traditional Irish Set and Ceili dancing anywhere.

VENUE: Alcock & Brown Hotel

TIME: 9pm COST: €10

MONDAY 4th JUNE

Street Market – Artisan Food

Artisan Food Market to take place at Clifden Town Square. A selection of outdoor and indoor stalls showcasing traditional, local, national and international foods.

VENUE: Clifden Town Square TIME: 11am-4pm

Fun Run from Workhouse to Courthouse

Recreating this historical race for children of all ages.

VENUE: Galway Road, Clifden TIME: 12noon COST: Free

Tom Mannion Memorial

Connemara 7's Gaelic Football Tournament

Naomh Feichin GAA club, celebrating its centenary in 2012, host a sevens tournament between the various Connemara GAA clubs.

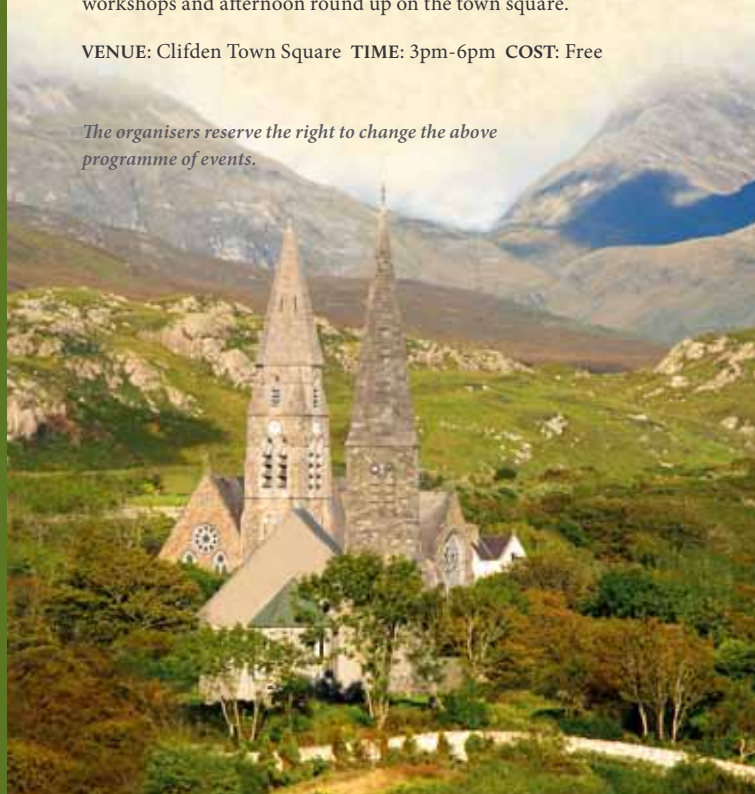
VENUE: Clifden GAA pitch TIME: 12noon COST: Free

Street Entertainment

A selection of activities, street entertainment, family fun, circus workshops and afternoon round up on the town square.

VENUE: Clifden Town Square TIME: 3pm-6pm COST: Free

The organisers reserve the right to change the above programme of events.





CLIFDEN TOWN

MAP AND VENUES

1. Alcock & Brown Hotel
2. Church of Ireland
3. Clifden Library
4. Clifden Station House Hotel
5. Clifden Town Square
6. Foyle's Hotel
7. Mannion's Bar
8. Station House Courtyard
9. Station House Theatre
10. St Joseph's Church



Further Information
Please check clifden2012.org for further info and additional events.

Festival Office
Located in the Station House Grounds from 21st May–4th June for ticket sales and information.
Tel: 087 602 9467.

Bookings
Bookings can be made on clifden2012.org, by email to info@clifden2012.org or by phone to 087 602 9467.

*Front cover illustration by Mark Joyce.
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