



Heritage Week 2017

**IRISH WORKHOUSE CENTRE –
STILL REACHING OUT**



**NATIONAL
HERITAGE
WEEK** h

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council





WHO WE ARE

- ✖ The Irish Workhouse Centre is operated by S-E Galway IRD Ltd, a not-for-profit charity overseen by a voluntary board, using voluntary guides and temporary summer guides.
- ✖ We also operate a local training initiative (LTI) programme providing year-round IT training.
- ✖ Our efforts also reach to supporting those suffering with mental and intellectual disabilities through a dedicated resource focusing on older people at risk of isolation, and
- ✖ We own the Alor Star Mental Health Centre in Portumna – with both initiatives fully backed and operated by the HSE.
- ✖ We lead many of the tourism and community efforts for the region. We are home to the local historical society and publish a 20-page quarterly regional history journal with SEGAHS.



OUR HERITAGE WEEK 2016

From Aug 20 to Aug 28 the Workhouse hosted the following series of events.

- ✖ Sat Aug 20 @ 09:30: Family Day –Free activities and tours (Free Family Tours)
- ✖ Sat Aug 20 @ 11:30: Build the Workhouse – Minecraft (booking required)
- ✖ **Sun Aug 21 @ 12:30: Archaeologist's Answers with Mary Healy (Q&A)**
- ✖ **Sun Aug 21 @ 13:30: Prátaí na Éireann with Margaret Hickey (Talk) and Mary Smith (music related to the famine era and after)**
- ✖ Mon Aug 22 @ 15:30: Workhouse Objects with Aileen O'Dowd (Talk & Tour)
- ✖ **Tue Aug 23 @ 15:30: The War before the Great War with Aron Donnelly (Talk)**
- ✖ **Wed Aug 24 @ 9:30: Co Galway Club Hurling 1884-1934 (Exhibition - Sport)**
- ✖ Thur Aug 25 @ 15:30: Parish Registers with Dolores O'Shea (Talk -

OUR FOCUS - REACHING OUT



The Irish
Workhouse Centre

CONNACHT TRIBUNE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016

I
e
s
t
l
i
S
t
u
n
room to the Seanad with great clarity. The girls met Minister Sean Canney and were relaxing in the Dail restaurant, snacks and drinks, compliments of

Heritage Week

This year's Heritage Week programme at the Irish Workhouse Centre in the last week of August is the strongest and most varied programme to date.

There will be events for children, as well as lectures, tours and exhibitions every day from Saturday August 20 to Sunday August 28.

Two events for children require pre-booking: a Minecraft workshop on Saturday August 20; and a Dirt Diggers archaeology event on Saturday August 27. Bookings for both events can be made by contacting (090) 9759200.

For a full list of events, log on to www.heritageweek.ie, or check out the Irish Workhouse Centre's Facebook page.

Drama Group



Sixty-eight year old cyclist, John Cofer, who was first over the finish line in the 10k Hand In Hand charity cycle in Portumna last Sunday. John, who lives in Kinvara, is originally from Wexford.

day between August 20 and 28.

There are talks on the Potato and the Famine; The French Connection – the War before the Great War; Co. Galway Club Hurling – the Early Years; Researching Catholic Parish Registers for Genealogy; Portumna Soldiers, and an exhibition entitled Portumna of Old.

All events are online on www.heritageweek.ie/whats-on and on www.facebook.com/HouseofPortumna/events. Most events are free.

Castle events

Portumna Castle & Gardens offer a host of free Heritage Week events, starting this Sunday with Period Costume Workshops, running at 2.30 and 4pm.

Laura Thorpe will be in the castle for the afternoon, running workshops and open discussions on the progression of fashion in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Audience participation will be encouraged with opportunities to take photos while dressed in period costume.

Portumna soldiers

The first lecture of the South East Galway Archaeological and Historical Society's autumn season will be by Steve Dolan on 'Portumna Soldiers in the Nineteenth Century' and will focus primarily on the men from the Portumna region who served in British forces.

The lecture takes place next Thursday, August 25, at 7:30pm in the Irish Workhouse Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Kettlebells

Portumna Kettlebell Club enjoyed plenty of success at this year's Cup of Ireland competition in Wexford, with gold and silver medals and personal bests achieved across the board.

Achievements included Maggie Duff 16kg, Silver Snatch, Gold Long Cycle; Olivia Cahalan 16kg, Gold Snatch, Silver Long Cycle; Mary Burke 16kg, Gold Long Cycle; Rob Moeren 20kg, Gold Biathlon; Damien Burke 16kg, Gold Biathlon, Gold Long Cycle; Pat Kelly 24kg, Gold Long Cycle; Steve Killeen 24kg Gold Biathlon, 28kg Silver Long Cycle.

Vintage Club

A meeting of Portumna Vintage Club will be held tonight (Thursday) at 9.30pm in O'Meara's Bar. The Club will be taking part in the Threshing in Shragh this Sunday.

The Club's annual Vintage Show as part of the Shorelines Arts Festival will take place at the Irish Workhouse Centre on Sunday, September 18, from 12 to 4. Further information from www.vintagoclub.ie

Heritage Week

Next week's Heritage Week programme at the Irish Workhouse Centre is the strongest and most varied programme to date, with events for children, lectures, tours and exhibitions every

Nenagh Guardian, Connacht Tribune, Parish Newsletters, Text Alerts, Social Media, Posters – ALL FREE!

You Retweeted

IrishWorkhouseCentre @irishWorkhouseC · Aug 27
Amazing Day today with our Dirt Diggers @HeritageWeek
@IrishWorkhouseC

Kilfenora Timeline shared South East Galway Archaeological & Historical Society's photo
August 18 at 9:22am

South East Galway Archaeological & Historical Society
August 17 at 1:51pm

Like Page

national heritage week

Heritage Week shared Irish Workhouse Centre - Portumna's photo
August 3

Minevention
will be at
The Irish Workhouse Centre
Portumna, Co. Galway – 20th August 2016
Get more information by visiting bit.ly/mvworkhouse

Come along and meet ShakeDoctor and SolidarityGaming, help build a replica of the Workhouse in a Build Battle Challenge, have a tour of the Workhouse, as well as a quiz, a free-building lego room, plus games on Xbox

Irish Workhouse Centre - Portumna • CoderDojo Athlone
Published by Dolores O'Shea (M) · August 3

Hi CoderDjols could I tell you about an exciting Minecraft event with YouTubers ShakeDoctor & Solidarity Gaming happening at the Irish Workhouse Centre - Portumna during Heritage Week. All details here: bit.ly/mvworkhouse. Thanks for sharing to your page!

Love Comment Share

8



REACHING OUT 2016



The Irish
Workhouse Centre

- An event idea organised and targeted at a new audience was the idea of mixing groups together than wouldn't necessarily find themselves attending each other's events.
- To that end it was decided to combine three events on Sunday August 21st (the first Sunday) i.e.
 - (i) a talk by Workhouse Archaeologist Mary Healy on the excavations and discoveries on the N6 and N18 motorways - supported by exhibitions donated by road Infrastructure Ireland,
 - (ii) a talk by Writer, Artist and Journalist Margaret Hickey titled 'Prátaí na Éireann' based around the foods of Ireland in the nineteenth century and focusing on the potato, and finally
 - (iii) an Irish music interlude by well-known Irish musician Mary Smith who played beautiful airs from the nineteenth century.



South East Galway Archaeological & Historical Society
@SEGAHS

Home
About
Photos
Likes
Videos
Events
Posts
Manage Tabs

Promote ▾



South East Galway Archaeological & Historical Society shared Irish Workhouse Centre - Portumna's photo.

August 21 at 5:30pm · €

A really great all-round day at the Workhouse. A big thank you to Mary Healy, Margaret Hickey, and Mary Smith. Will be hard to top that, this week!



Irish Workhouse Centre - Portumna
Published by Steve Dolan [!]. August 21 at 5:27pm · €

Thank you to everyone for making it such a terrific start to 'Heritage Week'. This afternoon our own archaeologist Mary Healy spoke on the major recent archaeology digs in Co Galway; and then writer, journalist, and poet Margaret Hickey gave a lecture on 'Prátaí na hÉireann, the Potato and the Famine'. Finally, we were treated to the most wonderful airs from Mary Smith. Great day.





REACHING OUT 2016

- ✖ Another event targeted at a new audience was a special talk given by Aron Donnelly on the Franco-Prussian War.
- ✖ The number of German and French residents in the region was considered in plans for HW 2016 and a topic of interest to both was chosen.
- ✖ We also invited several French & German visitors to the talk over the previous week - both tourists (Workhouse is also Tourist Office), and Visitors.
- ✖ The event was also publicised on-line through social media and members of the local community with German or French links were also invited.
- ✖ Bilingual Workhouse staff welcomed tourists in both German and French and we explained the Irish connections to the Franco-Prussian War.
- ✖ The talk was all of whom joined us after.



Irish Workhouse Centre - Portumna August 16 at 5:48pm -

HERITAGE WEEK LECTURE: This day week, Tuesday August 23rd at 3:30, we will be hosting a special free talk by our own Aron Donnelly on the Prussian War. This one-off lecture focuses on a forgotten war which greatly influenced the later Great War. There is no admittance charge. <http://irishworkhousecentre.ie/heritage-week-2016/>





REACHING OUT 2017

OUR ADVICE

- ✖ PLAN and PLAN and PLAN
- ✖ Ask for help and work with others – partnerships with local societies and groups
- ✖ Reach out...

OUR PLANS FOR HERITAGE WEEK 2017

- ✖ 27 Activities planned for 2017 (3 per day) – AIMING BIG
- ✖ 9 Events in the Workhouse.
- ✖ 9 Events in other towns and counties.
- ✖ 9 Publications produced for the nine days.

WITH SINCERE THANKS



The Irish
Workhouse Centre

