Clifden 200 Festival

Two Day Garden Festival

Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th May 2012

Clifden, Co. Galway

A Series of Illustrated Talks

& Coach Trips to

Local Connemara Gardens

www.clifden2012.org

Monday 28th May

Venue: Station House Theatre**. Day Cost:** €25

10.15 am: ***Welcome and introduction***

Illustrated talks

10.30 am: ***Three Centuries of Gardening in Connemara***
Local Garden Historian, Breandan O Scanaill will look at various gardens around Connemara and will trace their history.

11.30 am: Coffee break

11.45 am: ***19th Century Plants and Seeds***
Dave Breslin from Irish Seed Savers will look at popular fruits and vegetables from around the country, but with special reference to Co Galway.

1.00 pm: Lunch

2.00 pm: ***Bus Trip to local gardens***
1. Clifden Castle. The ruins of John D'Arcy's home still contain vestiges of the old garden. Photographs and maps will help trace these gardens.
2. Gleann Aoibheann. An original D'Arcy garden from the 1830's.
Now being gardened organically contains many areas for wildlife and a small arboretum. Refreshments served in house.

Evening Programme

8.00 pm: ***An evening of flower arranging***.
The ever popular John Spain will give a demonstration of flower arranging. John's arrangements will look at various styles popular over the years. The arrangements will be raffled at the end of the demonstration.
Venue: Station House Theatre
Admission: €5

Tuesday 29th May

Venue: Station House Theatre. **Day Cost:** €25

10.30 am: ***Regency Gardens***.
Belinda Jupp will speak about the garden styles that were fashionable during the late eighteenth century and early into the period of the foundation of Clifden.

11.30 am: Coffee break

11.45 am*: "Growing Wild" - Biodiversity in Gardens*
Elaine O Riordan from People and Nature will look at how to increase the range of habitats within the garden.

1.00 pm: Lunch

2.00 pm. ***Bus Trip to local gardens.***

1. Ballynahinch Castle. One of the oldest gardens in Connemara. The foundations were planted by the Martins, who were at one time the owners of most of this area.

2. Cashel House. Beautiful country house gardens, containing trees and shrubs from a wide range of climates and locations. Great use of herbaceous planting throughout. Refreshments served in house.

Biographies & Backgrounds of Speakers

Breandan O Scanaill was born in Clifden and has developed a great interest in both gardening and history. Over the past few years he has researched the background of the early gardens in Connemara. A founder of the Connemara Garden Trail, he has lectured on this history, to groups from many countries and closer to home.
His own garden, which will be visited as part of the festival, dates from the early 1830's, and is an original D'Arcy property.

Dave Breslin: Irish Seed Savers Association was founded by Anita Hayes in 1991, and exists as a living testimony to the richness and wealth of the agricultural legacy of our ancestors. The work was initially done on a small farm in Co. Carlow before moving to Capparoe, Scarriff in 1996.
Through the hard work of staff, volunteers and the generosity of subscribers and friends of Irish Seed Savers they have grown steadily since that time. In 1997 the Native Irish Apple collection was inaugurated by President Mary Robinson.
In 1998 an Irish Brassica project was started in co-operation with the Wellesbourne Gene Bank in the U.K.
Irish Seed Savers currently offer a wide range of Workshops on subjects such as Organic Gardening, Bee Keeping, Making the most of your Polytunnel, Cheesemaking, Creating an Orchard and many more. They also have a colony of hives of the Native Black Bee since 2008.
Dave Breslin will talk to us on the work of the project and the types of fruits and vegetables which would have been grown in the west of Ireland during the growth of the town.

John Spain was born and brought up in Kinnitty, Co. Offaly. When he left school initially he went to train as a chef in the then RTC College in Galway. After qualifying from there and a short time working in the industry he decided that it just wasn't for him. He returned to school for a year and then went on to UCG now NUIG, here he studied English and Philosophy for three years. After leaving college he went to work in various positions mainly in the caring professions both in Ireland and the UK. He returned to Ireland in December 1998, and worked as a social worker until 2003 when 'mid life crisis' took him in to the world of floristry, initially working in a shop in Westport and then moving on to Branch Flowers in Galway, from there he has never looked back. He has worked with some great florists' including the great Richard Haslam who is a great mentor and friend. Having opened Avant-Garde Florist in 2008 and closing in December 2011, he is now working as a freelance florist.

Belinda Jupp is a garden & historic landscape consultant with many years experience in researching, recording, conserving and restoring historic parks, gardens and demesnes
She has worked on many sites, mostly in Ireland, North & South but also in England & Wales
She made an inventory of over 400 historic sites in the six counties of Northern Ireland and has begun the inventory in the south, in which three counties have so far been surveyed
Her most recent work is the conservation and restoration of a late eighteenth town garden in Merrion Square in Dublin

Elaine O'Riordan is the manager of 'People and Nature' the Galway County Biodiversity Project. This is a partnership project between Galway County Council and NUI Galway supported by the Galway County Heritage Forum, the Heritage Council and Galway Rural development. The People and Nature project celebrates the wonderful biodiversity in County Galway which includes many rare and interesting plants, animals and habitats and also the relationship that the people of County Galway have with the natural environment. Galway people have a very important role in the conservation and management of this biodiversity. This talk will look at some simple ways in which gardeners may make a little space for wildlife in their homes and locality

Booking Information

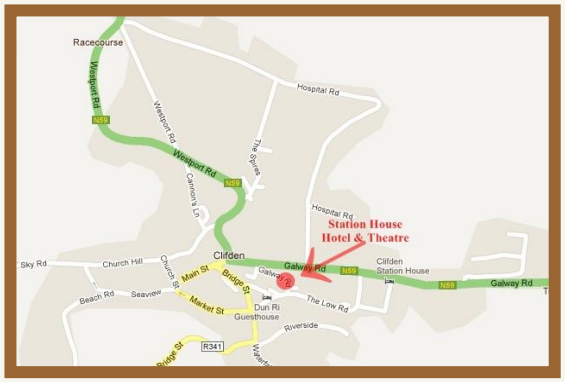
Advance booking is essential.

To reserve a place for the Gardening Festival, please contact Irene on 087-9017406 or email irene@clifden2012.org.

Monday 28th May
Day Programme €25
(Including coffee, lunch & coach trip)
Evening programme € 5

Tuesday 29th May
Day Programme €25
(Including coffee, lunch & coach trip)

Location



For details of all events throughout the Clifden 2012 celebrations please see our website - www.clifden2012.org

Galway County Heritage Forum
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council
NDP National Development Plan Transforming Ireland
LEADER
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas
Forum Connemara Ltd
An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail, Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs
Galway County Council
Connemara
Fáilte Ireland National Tourism Development Authority