

Medieval Midsummer Festival in Tulsk

Cruachan Aí Heritage Centre will again this year celebrate the history and heritage of the Medieval village of Tulsk, situated in the Rathcroghan Royal Complex (nominated last month for inclusion on the tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage Status, along with other provincial royal sites such as Tara). A weekend of talks, tours, and family fun is planned for Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th June.

On Saturday, we will see the return of noted academic speakers, historians, and professors from some of Ireland's top Universities, for a scheduled programme of talks and tours which is sure to fascinate and entertain. Respected local historian Seán Neary of Elphin, will enlighten us with regard to Conry, the esteemed scribe to the royal O'Conor clan. Denise Murray, of University College Cork makes a welcome return.

We are most delighted to announce the appearance of Dáithí Ó hÓgáin: recently retired Associate Professor of Irish Folklore at University College Dublin, radio and television broadcaster, and author of over 40 books – many of which are used as standard reference texts by academics and students world-wide. Lauded as 'an international authority on folklore and traditional literature', Professor Ó hÓgáin will present us with a talk entitled 'Monster Cats and heroes at Cruachain – some Me-



dieval stories'.

Talks will begin at 12 noon on Saturday, and there is a charge of €5 per person for entry to each speaker. Special rate day passes will be available, and those who attend the talks on Saturday will receive a 20% discount on Family tickets when you visit Sunday's Family Faire.

On Sunday 20th, we'll experience a Family Faire filled with craft and food stalls, Living History displays of authentic Medieval traditional costume and crafts, archery, face painting and storytelling for your kids. There will be historic weaponry and battle re-enactments in the afternoon, including the Champions Matches, and be sure to watch out for the local children's Rathcroghan

Living History Club, part funded by the Heritage Council, who will be celebrating the culmination of their weekly 'Medieval Madness' programme with their very own encampment; showing off newly acquired costume, cooking and battle skills throughout the day.

Gates open at 3 pm on Sunday, with a charge of €5 per adult, and children €3. Make sure you check out what's happening in Tulsk after the match!

A special rate Family Ticket will be available. All fund raising over the Medieval Midsummer weekend is in aid of Cruachan Aí Heritage and Community Centre; supporting local communities, Roscommon Enterprise and Tourism.

Turf cutters reject Finneran's statement

Members of the Turf Cutters' and Contractors' Association this week rejected statements by Minister of State Michael Finneran in last week's Roscommon People in relation to misinformation on the issue of turf cutting.

PRO for the Turf Cutters' and Contractors' Association, Cllr. Luke Flanagan said, "Junior Minister Michael Finneran in last week's Roscommon People states that in relation to the turf-cutting ban 'there has been a lot of misinformation on the issue'. The Turf Cutters and Contractors Association would love to know exactly what misinformation has been spread. What exactly is our Junior Minister for the Environment talking about? The great irony however is that it is Junior Minister Michael Finneran who is spreading misinformation. I am sure it is not deliberate however.

"He states in last week's press release that, 'This Habitats Directive is necessary to protect a small number of bogs that are classified as Natural Heritage areas'. To say that this is a minor error would be the understatement of the century. Let us get this clear for you Minister, the Habitats Directive has nothing to do with National Heritage Areas (NHAs). NHAs are one hundred percent under the direction of the Irish Government. The areas that our Junior Environment Minister is talking about

are actually SACs, in other words Special Areas of Conservation.

"Our Junior Minister then travels further into the mire of 'misinformation' when he states that 'some 32 bogs are affected by the ban which comes into effect from last week, and a further 24 SACs will be affected by the end of next year and 72 by the end of 2013'. Where does one begin on this misinformation? For a start it is 23 bogs that will be affected next year, not 24. He also suggests that 72 sites will be affected in 2013 due to their SAC status. Does this man know anything? The bogs he refers to in this case are in fact all National Heritage Areas and the number of sites affected is 75 not 72.

"As for John Gormley 'announcing the end of the derogation', well that has to be biggest joke of all. There never was a derogation in the first place. Even his own department has admitted that at this stage. Given that this is an undeniable fact, why then does Junior Minister Finneran keep spreading misinformation with regard to this imaginary derogation? So next time before Michael Finneran goes accusing people of spreading a 'lot of misinformation', he should check his own information first. We always check ours because it is so, so important to have one's facts correct. Especially when dealing with a subject as important as this one."

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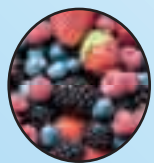
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