

Culture night in West Cork

Sean O'Riordan

A large number of events are planned in North and West Cork for Culture Night, which takes place on September 20 from 5pm to 11pm.

The annual celebration of culture, creativity and the arts will take place at a number of locations throughout West Cork, from Adrigole to Bandon, Clonakilty to Dunmanway, Eyeries to Glenarriff and many points in between.

Adrigole will be celebrating everyone's creative nature when the Cahá Family Resource Centre will host an

exhibition of art by members of the public and in Bantry, the Library on Bridge Street will be alive with music when Bantry Community Choir will invite people to join them for *I Wanna Sing, Sing, Sing*. The Anam Cara Writers and Artists Retreat in Eyeries has invited people with musical talent to entertain.

Clonakilty will see a night of local talent too when a panel of judges will be on hand in The Dome in Clonakilty Lodge and prizes will be awarded to the best performance, best dressed, and most fun. Also in Clonakilty, there will be a Teenage Ceili (Ceili

na Déagóiri) in the GAA Complex.

Skibbereen Heritage Centre has an open evening for its Famine Exhibition and Lough Hyne Exhibition and in Schull, Newman's Corner House will host an event around who we are now, with shared songs, poems, and presentations.

Bandon Concert Band will be performing at the Town Hall and in Levis Corner House on Main St in Ballydehob there will be a very special celebration of Irish folk and traditional music.

Meanwhile, there are several events in North Cork. In

Banteer's Glen Theatre, there will be an evening of song, music, and storytelling; Doneraile's St Mary's Church of Ireland will host an exhibition of art work from young people with the theme "What I Love About Doneraile".

Charleville's Schoolyard Theatre & Arts Centre will have a night hosted by Ceoltóirí Clárach and in Fermoy's Community Youth Centre, Fermoy Musical Society will launch their production of *South Pacific*.

For years, the old Kiskeam Brass Band rehearsed by marching through the village using pitchforks with lit sods

of turf to show the way. The new Kiskeam Brass Band will recreate this scene and they hope to stir memories of the past.

Milford Community Hall will also host an evening of traditional song and dance and in Mitchelstown Library, one of Ireland's best known traditional singers, Len Graham, will perform.

In Newmarket Library, lucky Culture Vultures will learn about the rich musical tradition of Sliabh Luachra and in Millstreet, there will be a recital by the Millstreet Pipe Band in the town's Square at 7pm.

Rare plants for sale at Fota House

Fota House will host the Irish Specialist Nursery Association (ISNA) Plant Fair on Sunday. The organisers said there will be a selection of rare plants available for purchase.

The ISNA represents the smaller, specialised nurseries in Ireland. These nurseries offer a wide variety of plants, services and advice.

Most of the stock that they produce is propagated by themselves or sourced from other artisan producers.

They offer a large selection of plants ranging from the more common species to the rare and obscure cultivars. The Fair will run from 11am to 4pm and admission is €5.

'Magnificent' trees may be felled

Two "magnificent" trees outside a church in Youghal may have to be cut down as their roots have grown through the adjoining footpath and caused a number of people to trip up. Cllr Mary Linehan-Foley raised the issue at a meeting of the East Cork Municipal District Council. She said the trees are outside the Church on the Strand Road and could be dangerous: "A number of people have fallen as a result, some of them elderly. This is a health and safety issue." Council engineer Dave Clarke said he will send people to examine the area and if necessary fence them off for safety reasons.

An extravagant weekend of chocolate indulgence

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Chocolate makers, sugar crafters, and cake artists with global award-winning prowess will be at the annual Cork Baking and Chocolate Weekend in November.

Cork International Hotel will host the three-day event showcasing cake making experts and chocolatiers who have won major global honours in the burgeoning industry, including gold medallists in world-ranked events in America.

The event will take place from Friday, November 22, to Sunday, November 24, with competitions, workshops, displays, exhibitors, demonstrations and tastings.

The gold standard in ranking winners at global baking events, the British Sugar Craft Guilds, will send judges to rank the creativity on display. Paul Kelly, judge of the *Great Irish Bake Off* and

executive pastry chef of the Merrion Hotel, will be there along with William Curley, the world-renowned Scottish patissier who has won Britain's Best Chocolatier award four times.

General manager of the Cork International Hotel, Carmel Lonergan, said: "It has become one of the major highlights, not just for the hotel, but for Cork as a region. We are seeing some of the best talent in the world descend on Cork for the weekend. With all that will be happening over the weekend, it is becoming a key event for Cork when it comes to family-friendly activities, tourism, local business and showcasing world-class talent."

The main exhibitor area will feature a variety of chocolatiers and bakers, while there will also be a children's zone with workshops for younger guests. Throughout



Aine O'Connor from Youghal with one of her sugar crafted cakes. Pictures: Brian Loughheed



Jacqueline Cullinane from Ballincollig, founder of the Cork Sugar Craft Association.



Lynn Smith, Carrigaline, confectioner and cake artist.



Maria O'Connor, Youghal, sugar crafter.



Brian Roche, Ballymacoda Baker Boy Cakes.

the weekend, a large marquee will host chocolate, baking and cookery demonstrations, while visitors can also indulge in mini tasting rooms, with 30-minute tasting sessions to gain a more in-depth culinary education regarding cocoa content within chocolate.

Co-founder of the Cork Sugar Craft Association, Jacqueline Cullinane, said the Cork Baking and Chocolate Weekend will involve standards seen in the best of international competition: "Irish artists are up there with the very best in the world, including British and Australian

cake makers. It is a wonderful craft to enjoy — it truly brings out creativity you never even realised you had, and it becomes a real family affair with multiple generations able to enjoy it together."

www.corkbakingandchocolate.com/

New premises for recycling bins

Killeagh Community Council is refusing to continue to house recycling bins for Cork County Council on their premises because people are dumping rubbish by them.

The community group has told Cllr James O'Connor that the county council will have to find an alternative.

"They no longer want the bins on their premises and have asked for them to be removed. I hope the council can provide a dedicated area, maybe the council site on the Cork Road. It's not good enough that people living there will have to travel to Youghal and pay a charge to dispose of recyclables," Cllr O'Connor told a meeting of the East Cork Municipal District Council.



Conrad Creedon and his son Micheal. Picture: Pet O'Connell

Entrepreneurial award for Cork hotel founder

Pet O'Connell

A businessman who established a hotel in his home village of Baile Mhúirne 50 years ago will be honoured with an award in memory of one of the area's most noted entrepreneurs.

Adding to this year's celebrations marking half a century since Conrad Creedon opened the Abbey Hotel is the announcement that he will be presented this weekend with Gradam an Dochtúra Uí

Loingsigh. The award recognises the entrepreneurial spirit, can-do attitude, and cultural appreciation synonymous with Dr Dónal Ó Loingsigh (1842-1913).

A GP, Dr Ó Loingsigh tended not only to the medical needs of his patients, but to the cultural and economic wellbeing of the Baile Mhúirne community.

The doctor founded several businesses, a community hall, and a livestock fair in the village, as well as promoting

Irish language and culture locally and nationally and founding branches of Conradh na Gaeilge.

Five years ago, his contribution to the village was formally recognised when the local cultural centre was renamed as Ionad Cultúrtha an Dochtúir Ó Loingsigh.

The centre now hosts an annual gathering in his memory, which takes place this Saturday at 2.30pm.

Jerry Lynch, a great-grandnephew of Dr Ó Loing-

sigh and one of the organisers of the gathering, said: "The award is being presented to Conrad Creedon in recognition of his contribution to employment, cultural promotion, and society."

"He has given huge employment full-time, part-time, and to students in the hotel over the years, and to various tradespeople in the local area."

This weekend's gathering will also see a presentation made to Ionad Cultúrtha an

Dochtúir Ó Loingsigh of a portrait of the doctor by Cork artist Pat Dowling.

Speakers include Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín of NUI Galway, on his research into the life and times of Seán Ó Cuill, Cúil Aodha. Art historian Dr Caoimhín de Bhailis will talk about a painting by Clonakilty artist Alfred Elmore, *The Martyrdom of Thomas a Becket*, while Dr Seán Ua Súilleabháin, UCC, will speak about Art Ó'Loighaire.

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