

Comeraghs Wild Festival

EXPLORE THE NATURAL WILD BEAUTY AND
DIVERSITY OF THE COMERAGHS

CO. WATERFORD
19 - 22 SEPT 2013

Walks and Talks, Traditional Music, Story
Telling, Poetry and Film, Nature and Adventure

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WELCOME TO THE FESTIVAL!

FÁILTE ROMHAT!

Fáilte romhat don chéad Féilte an Chomaraigh!

As Chairperson of the Organising Committee, I am delighted that we have a festival which will highlight all that's wonderful about the Comeraghs.

I am proud to say that this is very much a community led festival with communities across the Comeraghs and the Copper Coast coming together to showcase the great natural amenities and activities we have here.

The festival programme encompasses heritage, nature, literature and music - all designed to showcase the beauty and heritage of the Comeraghs and expose visitors to the area's authenticity and unique sense of place. Events are taking place across the Comeragh mountains' communities, along the Copper Coast and in Dungarvan, the festival hub.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow committee members for working on developing the exciting programme, to our volunteers and to our various sponsors.

The Festival is a Waterford County Council initiative, in co-operation with the Comeraghs Mountain Forum and in partnership with Storytelling Southeast. We are particularly delighted to be associated this year with Tionól an Fhómhair, Waterford County Council's Irish Office's annual celebration of local cultural traditions.

Míle buíochas agus gach ráth don obair.

Ger Barron

Cllr Ger Barron
Chairperson



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT....? CAD É FÉILE AN CHOMARAIGH?

"So much to do...so little time!"

"Comeraghs Wild" has come about from a collaboration between the local communities in the Comeragh mountains and along the Copper Coast; Waterford County Council; the Comeragh Mountains Forum and Storytelling Southeast. Great support was also received from Waterford County Enterprise Board and Fáilte Ireland.

Our communities are strong and vibrant constantly striving to create a better environment for all. Many of our communities organise successful festivals and events during the year. But we acknowledge that we can be stronger if we work collectively – ní neart go chur le chéile.

Hence the beginnings of Comeraghs Wild...

"Comeraghs Wild" is a celebration of all that's good about this corner of south east Ireland.

We've got an action-packed programme of events and activities to participate in and enjoy. Something for all the family.

Mountain walks by full moonlight, night time trail runs, reflective meditation, music & storytelling and performance poetry with a Young People's Laureate are amongst the myriad offerings at our inaugural Comeraghs Wild Festival.

It is the only festival of its kind in the country and is designed to showcase the beauty and heritage of the Comeraghs and expose visitors to the area's authenticity and unique sense of place. Events are taking place across the Comeragh mountains' communities, along the Copper Coast and in Dungarvan, the festival hub.

We are proud of our spectacular scenery and intriguing heritage and want to show it off to the world!

One of the festival highlights is A Full Moon Walk in the Comeraghs up to Coumshingaun Lake to witness the harvest full moon rising to the east. There is the intriguing option of staying overnight in a tent with supper and storytelling. Other highlights include The Full Moon Trail Run which will also take place at night along the renowned Kilmacthomas trail run, lit only by the full moon. A Last Journey Walk across the Comeraghs from Ballymacarbry to Rathgormack, with music and story telling en route, linking two communities and ending with a night of music and food at the legendary Nell's Farmhouse, will be another "wild" experience over the festival weekend.

Heritage-themed initiatives include a three-hour Miners Trail that celebrates the mining heritage of Waterford's Copper Coast and a separate 6km guided walk of the former cotton mills and famine graveyard of Kilrossanty. Fans of "Big Houses" will enjoy a guided walk of the stunning Curraghmore Estate, built by the De la Poer family, led by its former butler.

The spiritual stillness of the Comeraghs merits its own event entitled The Sacred Wild. Taking place at St Helena's Church in the Nire Valley and in Dungarvan, The Sacred Wild features stillness, poetry, music and reflection that embody the Comeraghs' mystical environment.

A strong arts strand to the Comeraghs Wild Festival reflects the historic links between Wales and Waterford's Copper Coast and includes workshops and performance poetry with Young People's Laureate for Wales Martin Daws, Welsh storyteller Fiona Collins and Wales-based teenage author Lucy Christopher.

Irish-based talent is also highlighted with author Claire Keegan joining poet Mark Roper and storyteller Niall de Burca on the varied and exciting programme.

Family events include a talk on otters in the wild with Andrew Harrington, foraging in the mountains with foraging expert Andrew Malcolm and a questions and answers session with Irish broadcaster and climber Dermot Somers.

The Comeraghs Wild Festival is all about offering an authentic experience, "Comeraghs Wild" is a multi-strand festival but every event has a common thread of allowing visitors to actively engage with and experience the best of what the Comeraghs offer, be it heritage, mountain activities, music, arts or simple reflection. The Comeraghs Wild Festival has something for everyone.

See you there!

Please let us know what you think of your experiences at the weekend! We'd love to see your photos.

You can contact us, or forward your photos to:

Email: comeraghs@waterfordcoco.ie

Twitter: [@ComeraghsWild](https://twitter.com/ComeraghsWild)

Facebook: [/ComeraghsWild](https://www.facebook.com/ComeraghsWild)

Website: www.ComeraghsWild.com

THEMES AND ACTIVITIES

TÉAMAÍ AGUS GNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ

Capturing the essence of the Comeraghs...

In trying to convey what the Comeraghs means to us, we have three themes which permeate the festival programme...

1. INTO THE WILD

Actively experience the Comeraghs from the mountains to the sea in all its magnificent splendour...this part of the programme is for those who dare...for those who want action and excitement ...in the wild...

For a real taste of adventure, try the full-moon walk and overnight camp in the mountains or participate in the full moon trail run with fellow thrill-seekers. Not for wimps!

Or if you want to try out some watersports, get active – surfing in Bunmahon or kayaking on the Copper coast.

For something a little less frenetic, you can walk the wild Comeraghs on Sunday 22nd from Ballymacarbry to Rathgormack along the old “Botharín na Sochraide” or funeral path for a glimpse into the way our ancestors lived.

2. WILD AT HEART

Maybe a bit too young or a little too much grey hair for adventure sports? Well Comeraghs Wild has something for you too...

You can learn about foraging in the wild or walk the path our mining forebears took along the Copper Coast; for those interested in the biodiversity of the Comeraghs, learn about otters in the wild; or learn about our fascinating industrial heritage at various talks over the weekend.

You will have the opportunity to vicariously tread on exotic foreign shores and climb the highest mountains by joining renowned author and broadcaster Dermot Somers in Rathgormack.

You can hear well-known authors like Claire Keegan talking on the art of fiction; Lucy Christopher giving a reading from one of her books and poets like Mark Roper and Martin Daws giving us their take on the world through the medium of poetry. Those interested in storytelling are well-catered for as well over the weekend. And of course, the Comeraghs is steeped in the best of traditional Irish music and there will be plenty of that around for the festival.

3. THE SACRED WILD

Over the Festival weekend, we'll be inviting nature to fuel new creative projects and restore our inner spirits as we transition toward autumn.

Join us for an evening or a morning of poetry, reflection and music as we deepen our awareness of the sacred wild and the ways in which it communicates with the wild within us all.



SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

BEATHÁISNÉISÍ NA GCAINTEOIRÍ



Claire Keegan

Claire Keegan is a writer known for her award-winning short stories. Keegan has won the inaugural William Trevor Prize, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the Olive Cook Award and the Davy Byrnes Irish Writing Award 2009. She is a member of Aosdána.



Dermot Somers

Claire Keegan is a writer known for her award-winning short stories. Keegan has won the inaugural William Trevor Prize, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the Olive Cook Award and the Davy Byrnes Irish Writing Award 2009. She is a member of Aosdána.



Martin Daws

Martin Daws is an original. He combines modern poetry with hip hop lyricism, free jazz and fiction to create electrifying live performances and high quality recordings of spoken word and music. Few poets can claim such a wide mastery of spoken rhythm in their work.



Fiona Collins

Claire Keegan is a writer known for her award-winning short stories. Keegan has won the inaugural William Trevor Prize, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the Olive Cook Award and the Davy Byrnes Irish Writing Award 2009. She is a member of Aosdána.



Mark Roper

Claire Keegan is a writer known for her award-winning short stories. Keegan has won the inaugural William Trevor Prize, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the Olive Cook Award and the Davy Byrnes Irish Writing Award 2009. She is a member of Aosdána.



Lucy Christopher

Lucy Christopher grew up in Australia but now lives in Wales. She teaches Creative Writing at Bath Spa University, having received a first degree in their Masters Programme and where Stolen was part of her PhD in Creative Writing. Stolen won the Branford Boase Award (UK) and the Gold Inky Award (Australia).



Pádraig Ó Macháin

A native of Lismore, Co. Waterford, Pádraig is a graduate of UCC and of the University of Edinburgh. He was appointed Professor of Modern Irish at UCC in 2012, having formerly held the position of Professor in the School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

Ger Crotty

Ger Crotty has been a member of the Portlaoigh Heritage Centre Committee since 2008. Ger obtained a BA in History and Sociology in 2007 from UCC as part of the Oscail distance education programme.

Andrew Harrington

Andrew works with Waterford County Council as part of the Mammals in a Sustainable Environment (MISE) Project, which is EU-funded (Interreg IVA). Andrew's talk at Ballymacarbry for the Comeraghs Wild festival will describe some of the wild mammals present in the Comeragh Mountains, as well as the other wildlife in the area.

Andrew Malcolm

Andrew Malcolm has been collecting edible mushrooms for the last 21 years from the Lismore area. Over those years he has gradually built up knowledge of what's good to eat, and equally importantly, what not to eat! At present Andrew supplies The Cliffhouse Hotel, Dunbrody and Clancys with both plants and fungi that he finds on the beaches and forests of West Waterford.

Declan Terry

Declan Terry developed his interest in storytelling from an early age through hearing his father and uncles regaling listeners with tall tales around the kitchen fire. He has won many awards, including numerous Munster titles and a prized All-Ireland title in Scór and has graced the stage with his local drama group, Aisteoirí an tSean Phobail.

Gerard Mullen

Gerard Mullen's Waterford Harvest garden, won the best in show prize for his lush wetland wild habitat theme at the 2013 Bloom Garden festival at Pheonix park. The design was inspired by the Comeragh Mountains in Co. Waterford. Gerard, from Dungarvan, has won several awards and international recognition with two previous Gold medals at Bloom.

Grace Wells

Grace Wells won the Eilis Dillon Best Newcomer Bisto Award for her first book, the children's novel, 'Gyrfalcon'. Her poetry and short stories have been published widely and she reviews Irish poetry for the University of Chicago's online literary journal, 'Contrary'.

James Lenane

James Lenane is recognised as one of Ireland's foremost storytellers and is well known in theatre circles as an accomplished award winning actor and director. James is the holder of an All-Ireland Scór title for recitation - storytelling. He has been the resident Seanachai with The Booley House traditional show since 1998.

Lanie O'Hanlon

Lani O' Hanlon is a writer, dance/movement artist, therapist and experienced creative arts facilitator. Author of 'Dancing the Rainbow, Holistic Well Being through Movement' Mercier Press '07. She works as a creative arts facilitator/ director, internationally and with the Skyros programme.

Matthew Parkes

Matthew Parkes is the geological curator in the Natural History Museum, having previously worked in the Geological Survey of Ireland on Ireland's geological heritage. He was a founder member and journal editor of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland.

Niall de Búrca

Renowned for shows full of energy, wit and superb timing, Niall has performed in places as diverse as Tehran and the European Parliament in Brussels. Now living in Dublin, Niall travels worldwide inspiring people of all ages.

Rose Ryall

Rose Ryall is the Conservation Officer working for Waterford County Council

VILLAGES AND TOWNS

POBAIL AN CHOMARAIGH

BALLYMACARBRY

Ballymacarbry village sits at the gateway to the Nire Valley. The village is gathered in the broad arms of the Comeragh Mountains which surround the area. Ballymacarbry won a prestigious "Pride of Place" award in 2011 and is an exceptional destination for those interested in activity pursuits.

COPPER COAST

Named for the historic metal-mining industry, the scenic Copper Coast is a stretch of the southern coast of County Waterford. The area was declared a European Geopark in 2001 and a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2004 and is a superb location to participate in water-sports of all types as well as enjoy natural marvels such as the Fenor bog and the beautiful, yet secluded, Anne Valley trail.

DUNGARVAN

A popular seaside resort town and harbour at the mouth of the Colligan river, Dún Garbháin (meaning "Garbhan's fort") was recently designated one of Ireland's "Smarter Travel" towns. As a vibrant, scenic town with all amenities nearby, Dungarvan makes for the perfect hub for the Comeraghs Wild Festival.

KILMACTHOMAS

Gateway to the breathtaking Mahon Falls as well as the "Magic Road", Coill Mhic Thomáisín, or just "Kilmac", makes its home on the River Mahon (which in turn is habitat to Kilmac's stock of Wild Brown Trout). It lies on the R677 immediately north of the N25 national primary road from Dungarvan to Waterford.

KILROSSANTY

Kilrossanty is an area of outstanding beauty located in the spectacular foothills of the Comeragh Mountains, not far from Dungarvan. It is situated on the scenic Comeragh Drive, where the nature walks and woodlands provide excellent recreation activity for many outdoor pursuits. Kilrossanty is an area where famous battles were fought and stories told and is a key location on the Sean Kelly Cycle Tour of Waterford.

MILLSTREET

One of Ireland's secret gems, Millstreet is an iconic village that, to the passerby, is almost like a film set ready to roll cameras on a 1950's movie. Millstreet has just one pub, The Mill Bar, which is a regular haunt of traditional music where the céad míle fáilte of the proprietors provides a unique experience of rural Waterford at its best.

PORTLAW

Portlaw is an idyllic town bounded to the North by the river Suir and the Comeragh mountains to the West. It is a town steeped with industrial heritage, home to the Marquis of Waterford and the picturesque Curraghmore estate.

RATHGORMACK

Rathgormack's (meaning "Cormac's ringfort" from Ráth Ó gCormaic) hiking centre with its climbing wall is a primary entryway for many hikers to the stunning Comeragh Mountains as well as to the wealth of interesting walks in and around this captivating village.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

CLÁR NA NIMEACHTAÍ

Culture Bus / Bus Cultúir

The Comeraghs Wild Festival will operate a 'Bus Cultúir' between Dungarvan and a number of specified events in the Comeragh Communities during the festival Sept 19th – 22nd 2013.

Point of Departure: Dungarvan Public Library. Cost €5 per trip or €15 weekend ticket includes all events.



TIMETABLE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH

Depart 9.30pm: Oíche go Maidin Traditional Music Session in Walsh's Pub Millstreet

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST

Depart 10am: Claire Keegan workshop in Kilmacthomas

Depart 12pm: Artisan Seafood Lunch and Fiona Collins Storytelling Event Bunmahon

Depart 1pm: Gerard Mullins Gardening Talk Portlao & Tour of Curraghmore Gardens

Depart 5.30pm: Dermot Somers Talk Rathgormack

Depart 7.00pm:

Niall DeBurca Storytelling Event Ballymacarbry

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND

Depart 10.30am: The Sacred Wild – Ballymacarbry

Buses will collect those going on 'The Last Journey' at end of the walk in Rathgormac and transport to Nell's Cottage or back to Ballymacarbry to point of departure.

NB: Tickets for bus must be booked and purchased in advance by calling 058-21169

THURSDAY 19TH SEPT. - AFTERNOON TO EVENING

VENUE	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
Kilrossanty	'The Sacred Wild' Creative Writing Workshops - Grace Wells & Lani O' Hanlon						
Ballymacarbry					Official Opening: 'Oidhreacht na Gaeilge i gceantar an Chomaraigh' (Irish Language Heritage in the Comeraghs) le Pádraig Ó Macháin - Free Event Ballymacarbry Community Centre		
Dungarvan	'The Sacred Wild' Evening of Poetry/ Reflection/ Music, Old Market House Arts Centre. Free Event						

FRIDAY 20TH SEPT. - MORNING TO AFTERNOON

VENUE	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm
Copper Coast			Mining Heritage Exhibition <i>Copper Coast Geopark Centre, Free Event</i>				
	The Annestown Heritage E-Trail <i>Podcast</i>						
Kilmacthomas	Photographic Exhibition by Andy Kelly <i>Public Library - Normal Opening Hours</i>						
Dungarvan		Performance & Reading <i>Martin Daws / Lucy Christopher Dungarvan Public Library Schools Event</i>				Martin Daws <i>The Plaza, Dungarvan Free Event</i>	

FRIDAY 20TH SEPT. - AFTERNOON TO EVENING

VENUE	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
Portlao				Industrial Heritage Rose Ryall & Ger Crotty, Heritage Centre			
						Story Telling & Traditional Music James Lenane & Declan Terry Cotton Mills Pub - Free Event	
Kilmacthomas	Performance & Reading Martin Daws / Lucy Christopher Kilmacthomas Public Library Free Event						
				Full Moon Trail Run €15			
Millstreet					Oíche go Maidin Music in Millstreet		
Dungarvan					Claire Keegan / Mark Roper Dungarvan Library		

SATURDAY 21ST SEPT. - MORNING TO AFTERNOON

VENUE	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm
Copper Coast	The Miners Trail - Following The Footsteps Guided Walk from Copper Coast Geopark Centre. €5			Artisan Seafood Lunch Copper Coast Geopark Centre - €5	Tales from Wales - Storytelling Fiona Collins Copper Coast Geo. C. - Free	Our Mining Heritage Dr. M. Parkes - C. C. Geo. C. 3.15 - 4.30pm Free Event
	The Annewstown Heritage E-Trail Podcast					
Portlao					Gerard Mullen Bloom Garden Festival Winner The Cotton Mill €5	Guided Walk Basil Croeser, Curraghmore Estates 3.30 - 6pm €5
Kilmacthomas		Claire Keegan - The Art of Fiction Kilmacthomas Library. Free				
Ballymacarbry	Mammal Detecting - Where Otters tread in the Wild Andrew Harrington, MISE project Ballymacarbry Community Centre	Foraging Walk in the Wild by Andrew Malcom Meeting point: Ballymacarbry Car Park				
Dungarvan		Joint Writing Workshop Lucy Christopher/ Martin Daws - Dungarvan Library				

SATURDAY 21ST SEPT. - AFTERNOON TO EVENING

VENUE	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
Kilrossanty	Guided Mill / Graveyard Walk by JP & Sean Murphy incl. refreshments 3 - 6pm €5		Local Culinary Delights / Set Dancing Traditional Music / Story Telling Martin Daws €5				Music in Micilins Bar
Kilmacthomas					Award-winning Film Documentary & Talk: 'The Brothers' 8.15 - 9.15 The Workhouse Kilmacthomas €5		
Ballymacarbry					'Wild Ways & Tales' Storytelling with Niall de Burca €5, €8 including Bus Cultúr from Dungarvan		
Rathgormack			Illustrated Talk by with Dermot Somers Community Centre (6.30pm - 7.30pm) €5		Full Moon Walk Lead by Michael Whelan featuring Musicians. Meet at Carpark		

SUNDAY 22ND SEPT. - MORNING TO AFTERNOON

VENUE	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm
Copper Coast	The Annewstown Heritage E-Trail Podcast						
Kilmacthomas							Open Air Music Event Free Event
Ballymacarbry			Open Air Music Event Reflection/Music/ Poetry Nire Valley Church. Free Event		"The Last Journey - crossing the wild Comeraghs" lead by Michael Desmond/Music on walk from the Nire to Rathgormack.		

SUNDAY 22ND SEPT. - AFTERNOON TO EVENING

VENUE	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm
Rathgormack	Martin Daws/ Lucy Christopher Storytelling/ Poetry/ Traditional Music/ Refreshments - Nell's Farmhouse €5						
Copper Coast					Festival wrap up in Hayes' Bar		



FOOD & ACCOMMODATION

BIA & LÓISTÍN

Accommodation

There's a wide variety of accommodation on offer in the Comeragh and Dungarvan region. With hotels and guesthouses, first class bed and breakfast homes, old heritage style houses, self-catering cottages, caravan parks and hostels, there is something to appeal to all needs.

Many are offering special rates and inclusive packages during the Comeraghs Wild Festival. Full details on Festival specials can be found on www.comeraghswild.com or on www.itsafeeling.com.

Restaurants

Dining out in this area is a truly amazing experience. County Waterford has an excellent reputation as a good food destination. A number of award winning chefs and restaurants serving the best of local produce can be found right around the county including Ireland's only Michelin Star restaurant outside of Dublin. There is something to suit all tastes. A list of restaurants offering festival specials can be found on the website www.comeraghswild.com



HOW TO GET HERE

CONAS TEACHT ORAINN

Getting to Waterford

Flybe operates flights daily to Waterford Airport. Aer Lingus operates several daily flights to Cork Airport.

Rosslare Europort is a one hour drive to Waterford City and 90 minutes to Dungarvan. www.stenaline.ie / www.irishferries.ie

Waterford is easily accessible from Dublin and the East Coast on the M9. Routes N25 and N72 gives ease of access from the South West of Ireland. For information on visiting the South East of Ireland visit www.discoverireland.ie



GUIDE TO TRAVELLING TIMES BY CAR FROM DUNGARVAN:

TO MILLSTREET 16 minutes
TO BALLYMACARBRY 24 minutes
TO RATHGORMACK 29 minutes
TO PORTLAW 31 minutes
TO ANNESTOWN 34 minutes

Comeraghs Wild Festival



2 mi
5 km



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www.ComeraghsWild.com



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