



Delphi Events Calendar – What’s on in May

Time for our round-up of all the goings-on in the Galway, Connemara and Southwest Mayo region. A Bank Holiday Weekend gets us off to a great start - a guarantee of a huge variety of events to choose from.

Friday 1st to Sunday 31st

Bealtaine Festival

This Festival will see hundreds of events for, by and featuring older people all across Ireland, offering theatre, visual arts, music and more. This year’s theme is ‘And catch the heart off guard’ from Seamus Heaney’s poem ‘Postscript’. The Bealtaine Festival is Ireland’s unique nationwide celebration of creativity as we age and is an initiative of Age & Opportunity.

See: www.bealtaine.com/

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd

Leenane Walking Festival

In its 8th year, the Leenane Mountain Walking Festival has become a major successful event for Connemara and the area. Designed to suit all levels of walkers from casual low level walks to the more experienced, each day there’s a choice of at least 4 walks from strenuous to low level or something a bit different with a geology & archaeology fieldtrip included. This year’s programme includes the firm favourite Mweelrea Mountain walk as well as Maamtrasna, Ben Gorm and the Sheffreys to name a few.

See: www.leenanevillage.com

Connemara Mussel Festival

A celebration of Killary Mussels harvested from “One of the Forty Places to See Before you Die” takes place on the glorious Renvyle Peninsula in North Connemara. This is the eighth year of the festival and promises that more mussels will be eaten here this weekend than in any other part of the country. Last year, over a ton of mussels were eaten and organisers are set to harvest three tonnes of Killary Mussels for this year's celebrations, which include music, fun, mussel cooking competitions.

See: www.connemaramusselfestival.com/

Friday 1st to Monday 4th

Féile Cois Cuain Louisburgh

A wonderful celebration of traditional Irish music and song; show-casing talent of all ages from near and very far. The town of Louisburgh comes alive with music and the sheer joy of life – not to be missed.

See: www.feilechoiscuain.com/

Friday 1st to Saturday 9th

Galway Theatre Festival

Now in its seventh year, the festival will take place throughout the city with the inclusion of more venues than before; the soon-to-be-reopened An Taibhdhearc will host two shows, as will Druid Lane Theatre, the Town Hall Theatre, and of course, the Nuns Island Theatre. Galway theatre companies feature heavily in the programme with Blue Teapot, Mephisto, Fregoli, Moonfish, and Vagabond all involved.

See: www.galwaytheatrefestival.com

Saturday 2nd

Clare Island Adventure Race

The Clare Island Adventure Race 2015 will appeal to both experienced and novice adventure racers. There are two options – for the experienced racer the full course will be the perfect warm-up race for a busy season ahead. With the climb of Knockmore, this race is no picnic and will present a real challenge.

See: www.clareislandadventures.ie/adventure-activities/adventure-race-2015/

Walk Connemara

Join our Delphi Lodge Hill-Walking Expert, Paul Phelan, for an Introductory Twelve Bens Mountain Hike. A moderately difficult four-six hour mountain hike of three adjacent peaks in the rugged 12 Bens; Ben Lettery, Ben Gleniskey and Ben Gower. Features wild mountain landscape, stunning views and spectacular blanket bog. Exhilaration, dramatic views and a great opportunity to walk in ancient footsteps

See www.walkconnemara.com/calendar.html

Friday 9th

Connemara Adventure Challenge

32.5 km stand-alone sprint race The Connemara Adventure Challenge is unique in that you will not be competing or (confusing yourself!) with those doing a longer version of the race as there is only one distance. Killary Harbour, Connemara Magical scenery in unspoilt, dramatic valleys, forests and harbours. An incredible setting that just has it all.

See: <http://gaelforceevents.com/en/connemara-challenge>

Darkness into Light 2015

In 2009, the Phoenix Park saw the first of the yellow t-shirt clad people assembling at an unthinkable hour. There were about 400 people that morning, all huddled together in the blackness and the cold, standing behind the starting line. Who would have guessed that five years on, the little event we call Darkness Into Light would be the symbol of hope it has become and this year takes place at Westport House.

See: www.destinationwestport.com/event/darkness-light-2015/

Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th

Galway Early Music Festival

This annual Galway event features concerts by top international performers, workshops, schools events and music and theatre in the Galway City Museum and in the street. The Festival has a unique, relaxed and friendly atmosphere and highlights the medieval town of Galway and the artistic and cultural richness of the area.

See: www.galwayearlymusic.com/festival.php

Saturday 16th

Famine Walk

This annual AFRI (Action from Ireland) walk commemorates a 'journey of horror' taken by hundreds of people on March 30th/31st 1849.

See: www.afri.ie/key-events/

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th

Galway Blue Challenge

This challenge involves a charity cycle from Maam Cross to Croagh Patrick, a climb of Croagh Patrick followed by an overnight stay in Westport, then a cycle back to Galway the following day. All in aid of the Galway Autism Partnership.

See: www.galwaybluechallenge.org

Thursday 20th to Saturday 24th

Mayo International Choral Festival

This festival takes the form of several international male/female adult choirs travelling to Mayo each year, to partake on a competitive and non-competitive basis. Their visit will include a number of evening and daily performances county-wide, tours of Mayo and a gala concert in the Royal Theatre Castlebar on the Saturday night. The theme of the festival is to allow choirs to meet with other choirs, relax and enjoy a great weekend in the beautiful West of Ireland.

See: www.mayochoral.com/

Friday 22nd to Monday June 1st

Connemara Bog Week

A week packed with a mix of music, sport, 'craic' (a colloquial term for fun...only more so...) and stunning landscapes. Included in the week is the Connemara Walkabout, three gentle days of walking in a magical landscape in the company of scientists, musicians, poets and artists.

See: www.cecc.org/index.php/our-events/conamara-bog-week.html

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th

Galway African Film Festival

The Galway African Film Festival was set up in 2008 to showcase the very best in African Cinema. It is the result of ongoing collaboration between the Galway One World Centre, Galway Film Society and the Huston School of Film & Digital Media.

See: <http://galwayafricanfilmfestival.org/festivals/2013-2/>

Saturday 23rd

Tour de Connemara

This event offers participants the choice of 140km or 80km routes and will travel through some of the finest coastal and mountainous landscape in Ireland and is part of a weekend festival of cycling that will provide activity and entertainment for all.

See: www.tourdeconnemara.com/

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th

Féile na Tuaithe – Festival of Country Life

Free family festival at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life. Craft and food stands, craft demonstrations, music, and lots more for the family to enjoy. Free entry, demonstrations and workshops, games, children's activities, storytelling, music and face painting as well as a tented craft and food market with an extensive range of carefully selected stands.

See: www.museum.ie/en/exhibition-list/country-life-temporary-exhibitions

Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st

Galway Hooker Festival

2015 will be the second year of this festival celebrating Galway's status as a maritime city. The Galway Hooker Sea Festival will run over the June Bank Holiday Weekend with a focus on maritime activities and will feature family events, including seafood trails, music, dance and entertainment.

See: www.galwayseafestival.com

Other things to do in May...

Walking

May's a great time for walking in Connemara - for a list of scheduled walks go to:

www.walkconnemara.com

Craft Fairs

For Craft and Food Galway's famous bustling market with hundreds of stalls selling fresh produce and locally produced crafts. Open Saturdays and Bank Holidays from 8am to 6pm and Sundays 12 noon to 6pm.

Westport also hosts an indoor market on Thursdays from 8.30 am till 1.00 pm – fantastic food and wonderful locally crafted goods. Get there early!