



## **Delphi Lodge Events Calendar – What’s on in August**

### **Patrick**

To be confirmed

Described in the national media as a “tour de force” and following sell-out performances over the summer of 2016, “Patrick” will return to the Westport theatre stage every Tuesday night for July and August 2017. The show centers on original pieces of live music, dance and cinematic imagery as collaborative forms of narration to explore the story of Ireland’s Patron Saint – Patrick.

For tickets and more info check out [www.westporttheatre.com](http://www.westporttheatre.com)

### **Ballinrobe Races**

To be confirmed

The Ballinrobe Races are a real family event. Entertaining families since 1921 at this racecourse, we pride ourselves on our racing heritage coupled with a tangible appreciation of the future. Ballinrobe has a rich tradition of horseracing. Records show that Ballinrobe hosted a steeplechase back in 1834 and there are records of meetings back as far as 1774. The Ballinrobe Races hosts the best in the business under the benign shadow of the Partry Mountains and the majestic strength of the old oak trees. At Ballinrobe, the races are an integral part of the community; the spirit is free and westerly, the air is fresh, the scenery is splendid, the people are the best. The bookies will entertain, the covered pavilion will comfort, and the sun will shine.

Find out more @ [www.ballinroberacecourse.ie](http://www.ballinroberacecourse.ie)

### **Westport Harvest Festival**

To be confirmed

Westport House

Find out more @ [www.westporthouse.ie](http://www.westporthouse.ie)

### **Newport Grainne Uaile Festival**

To be confirmed

The annual Grainne Uaile Festival takes place on the August Bank Holiday weekend in Newport and includes live music on streets, crafts display, barbecue on street, raft race, club challenge, fancy dress and more.

Family Friendly Festival including live music for four nights Thursday to Sunday with children’s events, bingo, sean-nós dancing, children’s fancy dress disco, Irish dancing, traditional Irish music. Lots of fun events for children in a safe environment.

For more visit [www.hotelnewport.ie](http://www.hotelnewport.ie) or call 098-42464

## **Omey Island Walk**

**approx. 5.6 km / 1 to 2 hours / Omey is a tidal island, accessible on foot 2 hours before low water to 2 hours before high water (check tides beforehand on sailing.ie).**

The walk starts either at the car park at Claddaghduff Church or on the edge of Omey Strand, where there is also a car park for visitors. Step out across the strand following, for the first 300 metres, the line of signposts in the sand – Connemara’s only sub-sea road. The island, one mile square, is stretched out in front of you. We will return on the road ahead of us, but for now will strike out to the right and head across 600 metres of sand towards the north-east edge of the island and the beautiful graveyard built on a former monastic site associated with Brendan the Navigator. The site serves as the last resting place for the people of Omey and the surrounding mainland.

Following the beach and keeping the low, black rocks on your left, you are heading now along the northern edge of the island. Don’t be tempted to venture inland as the rocky shoreline edged with sand cliffs is particularly beautiful. A series of eroding midden site, ancient rubbish heaps, cascade onto the beach as you go along. The most obvious sign to look for is groups of fine cracked stone at your feet. You pass a tiny stream and up onto a small but prominent round-topped hill called *Crocán na Mban*. The site was an early Christian period monastic site. The route westerly from here is a clear, huge panorama; westward to the cliff-bound High Island, where a relatively intact monastic site survives.

Omey island is a magical place only 600 metres offshore, nestled beneath the projecting prow of the Aghrus peninsula and sheltered from the worst of the Atlantic swells by the islands of *An Cruach*, (Cruach), *Ard Oilean* (High Island) and *Oilean na mBráthar* (Friar Island).

## **Clifden Beach Road / Sky Road Walk**

Leave Clifden by the Beach Road, descending towards the quay. Directly ahead on the hill opposite is a monument to John D’Arcy, the founder of Clifden and the man who built Clifden Castle. Just after the ball alley and childrens’ playground you will arrive at Clifden Quay. The walk continues along the estuary overlooking Faul peninsula on the far side and, as we continue, a fine vista opens over Clifden Bay. The mouth of the estuary has many hidden rocks, and the navigation channel is marked with stone beacons. For further details <https://www.connemara.net/clifden-beach-road-and-sky-road-walk/>

## **Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden**

Kylemore Abbey and Victorian Walled Garden Originally built as a Castle in 1867 as a romantic gift, Kylemore Abbey and the surrounding mountains and lakes are steeped in history. Learn of tales of tragedy, romance, engineering initiatives and royal visits. It became home to a community of Benedictine Nuns in 1920 and has been renowned as a place of spirituality and education.

One mile west of the main Abbey building are the 6-acre Victorian Walled Gardens, built by Mitchell Henry at the same time as the construction of Kylemore Castle between 1867 and 1871. This garden was one of the last walled gardens to be built during the Victorian period

in Ireland and is the only garden in Ireland that is located in the middle of a bog. The garden was so advanced for the time that it was even compared with Kew Gardens in London.

<https://www.kylemoreabbey.com/>

### **Connemara National Park**

The Connemara horizon is dominated by more than fifty magnificent mountains in four tightly packed ranges, the Twelve Bens, Maum Turks, Partry and Sheffrey. Diamond Hill in the Connemara National Park, with its wood and cut stone path, offers a very safe way to go hill-walking. 500 metres high, Diamond Hill rises above the small village of Letterfrack. This is one of the finest hikes in the country. It commands huge ocean, island and mountain views in all directions. From its sharp edge summit it looks down on Kylemore Abbey and deep into the Twelve Bens mountain range. On the slopes of the mountain are the remains of an abandoned 19th century farm and a megalithic tomb built by the first farmers of the area 5,000 years ago.

<http://www.connemaranationalpark.ie/>

### **Beaches**

Connemara's beaches are all individual, coming with their own different types of sand, rocks and an infinite variety of small shells. The Coral Strand in Ballyconneely is unusual for its golden coral sand. It's also easy to access, with plenty of space to park, and might be a slightly warmer swimming spot than other beaches! Shortly afterwards (turning right) you will find the beaches of Mannin Bay, a collection of white sandy beaches. Whatever the weather, a stroll in Mannin will leave you feeling refreshed and contented. Just off the Clifden to Roundstone road (a few kilometres before Roundstone), Dog's Bay and Gurteen are two dramatically beautiful beaches which lie back to back. Glassilaun, in Renvyle, where scenes of the movie Tristan and Isolde were filmed, is another glorious beach in North Connemara. From the village of Tully Cross, take the left turn by the church and follow the elevated coast road towards Little Killary Bay.