

10
Anniversary

Roscommon LAMB FESTIVAL 2017

roscommon
lamb
festival '17

**26 APRIL
- 01 MAY**

**ROS
COM**

Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Roscommon



Chairman's Welcome

This year 2017 we celebrate our 10th birthday as a festival! Roscommon Lamb Festival is now well established as part of the annual calendar and it is thanks to the generosity of the voluntary committee members who have put in so much energy, time and talent into the running of the festival that it has survived and succeeded to the extent that is now evident. Thanks also to our funders and sponsors, Roscommon Leader Partnership, Local Enterprise Office, Roscommon County Council, Fáilte Ireland and the many businesses and individuals who have believed in our vision and have backed it financially.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary we remember two of our committee members who have sadly passed from this life. I refer to Oliver Burke who died in 2014 and to our beloved "Toko", Geraldo Marques who died last autumn. Both of these men were sons of the soil. Oliver in his capacity as chief agricultural officer with Teagasc had a great regard for the farmers of Roscommon and he enjoyed helping us to celebrate our sheep farming heritage. Toko was really a cultural ambassador for the Gaucho traditions of his native Brazil and he loved to share his many talents ranging from barbequing lamb in the style of Rio Grande do Sul, to his leather work, his horsemanship and his love of poetry. Oliver will be commemorated with the award of his memorial trophy at the special sheep sale at our opening ceremony at Roscommon Mart. Toko will be remembered at a tribute stand at our street party on Sat 29th April. We also remember Paddy Coffey of Lecarrow who was a very generous sponsor of the festival.

Our programme this year has an exhibition by emerging artists and designers from Co Roscommon. We are delighted to give some of these very talented people an opportunity to showcase their work in the county town. Special thanks to Mr Eugene Cummins CEO of Roscommon Co. Co. and to his staff for facilitating this exhibition and also the launch of the festival on 24th March. Thanks also to Úna Burke who will open the exhibition. Úna is from Knockvicar near Boyle and is now a world famous designer based in London.

Another new event celebrates "The Limestone Heritage of Co Roscommon". This conference starts with a lecture in the Co Library given by Dr John Feehan and this will be followed by field trips to a number of sites of interest. We have also commissioned a life sized sculpture of a ewe and lamb, carved from Lecarrow limestone by local craftsman Mark Feeley. This will be erected in Roscommon Town as a reminder of the importance of sheep farming to our county.

On Saturday evening a huge party in the Square will involve street entertainers, puppet shows, food stands and world class music from the King St. Bluegrass Band from Virginia USA plus some local musicians. The party will include a tribute to Toko and will feature a BBQ, the proceeds of which will go to the Mayo, Roscommon Hospice. An upcycled timber pallet display and competition will take place at the same time with cash prizes for the winners.

Our full programme retains most of our regular events and is available on our brochure and also on our website, www.roscommonlambfestival.com. I welcome everybody to Roscommon Lamb Festival 2017 and hope that people of all ages have an enjoyable and interesting time.

Gerry Browne Roscommon Lamb Festival

ROSCOMMON LAMB FESTIVAL THANKS THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR FUNDING & SUPPORT

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Heptavac-P plus



WEDNESDAY APRIL 26

11.30am: Official Opening of Lamb Festival 2017, Roscommon Mart.

Opening by Mr Joe Healy, President IFA. Presentation of Oliver Burke Memorial Trophy.

Music by King St. Bluegrass Band (from Virginia USA).

10am: Geological Heritage of Co Roscommon; Exhibition in County Library, open all week during library opening hours. Exhibition courtesy of The Geological Survey Of Ireland.

8pm: Thanksgiving for the Flocks of the Fields, St. Coman's Church of Ireland.
Gospel Music from USA.

THURSDAY APRIL 27

'THE LIMESTONE HERITAGE OF ROSCOMMON' - Conference

10am: Lecture by Prof. John Feehan in Co Library, followed by visits to examples of limestone architecture, local quarry and craft workshop.

11am: 'Animal Farm' - Roscommon Youth Theatre. Roscommon Arts Centre. Tel: 090 6625824

6pm: Tour of Mount Plunkett Nature Reserve. Tel: 087 6430710

6.30pm: 'St Comán's Monastery - where was it located'.

A talk by Noel Hoare, author of "Remembering St Comán", Roscommon Library

8pm: 'Animal Farm' - Roscommon Youth Theatre, Roscommon Arts Centre. Tel: 090 6625824

FRIDAY APRIL 28

10am: Opening of Special Farmers' Market.

10am-6pm: Opening of Local Enterprise Craft Marquee. Market Square.

11am: 'Animal Farm' - Roscommon Youth Theatre. Roscommon Arts Centre. Tel: 090 6625824

2pm: Farm Walk on Sheep Farm of Willie John Fitzmaurice. Lisnacella, Athleague.
Tel: 087 2467019

5pm: Roscommon Lamb Festival welcomes arrival of 'Cycle Against Suicide Tour'. CBS Yard

7pm: Opening of Exhibition of Emerging Artists and Designers, Áras an Chontae.

8pm: 'Animal Farm' - Roscommon Youth Theatre. Roscommon Arts Centre. Tel: 090 6625824

9pm: Lamb Jam Session with King Street Bluegrass & South Roscommon Singers Circle.
Murray's pub, Knockcroghery.

SATURDAY APRIL 29

10am–6pm: Local Enterprise Craft Marquee.

10am: Wool and other Hand Craft Displays and Workshops. Marquee, Market Square.

10am–7pm: Art Exhibition of Emerging Artists and Designers. Áras an Chontae.

11am: Leather Design Workshop with Úna Burke. Áras an Chontae.

Multi-award winning leather designer and artist hosts a hands-on workshop in leather-working techniques.

11am: 'Old Roscommon' - Walk and Talk with Gerry Shannon and Noel Hoare.

Meet at Museum/Tourist Office.

11am: Heritage Walk in Rindoon. (Signposted from Lecarrow)

2pm: Guided Walk in St John's Wood. (Signposted from Lecarrow)

11am: Display of Upcycled furniture, clothes, jewellery etc. Marquee, Market Square.

2pm: Open day at Energy Efficient House. Timber frame, cellulose fibre insulation, air exchange, masonry stove, photovoltaic panels. Tel 087 2808225

5pm: Display and judging of upcycled wooden pallet creations. Market Square.

5pm until late: Street Party including tribute to Geraldo Marques, aka 'Toko'. BBQ, food stands, street entertainers, puppet shows. **Concert on The Square with 'King St Bluegrass Band' from Virginia USA.**

SUNDAY APRIL 30

8am: International Sheepdog Trials, Walsh's Field.

8am: Wool Merchant's Cup, Roscommon Golf Club. Mens and Ladies Competitions.

10am–6pm: Local Enterprise Craft Marquee.

12pm: Nature walk in Mote Park. Meet at Roscommon Golf Club.

2pm: Family Fun Day at Loughnaneane Park Entertainment for all the family, Sheep racing, climbing wall, Craft village, food stalls, Pet Lambs, Bo Peep and much much more.

7pm: Launch of All Ireland and All Nations Shearing and Wool Handling Championships
Marquee, Market Square.

9.30pm: Céilí with 'Glenside Céilí Band', Hannon's Hotel.

MONDAY MAY 1

3pm: Carers Mini Marathon. Assemble at Hannon's Hotel.

Roscommon Town

Walsh's Field

Loughnaneane Park



Market Square

Mart

Arts Centre

Aras an Chontae

St Comans Church

Library

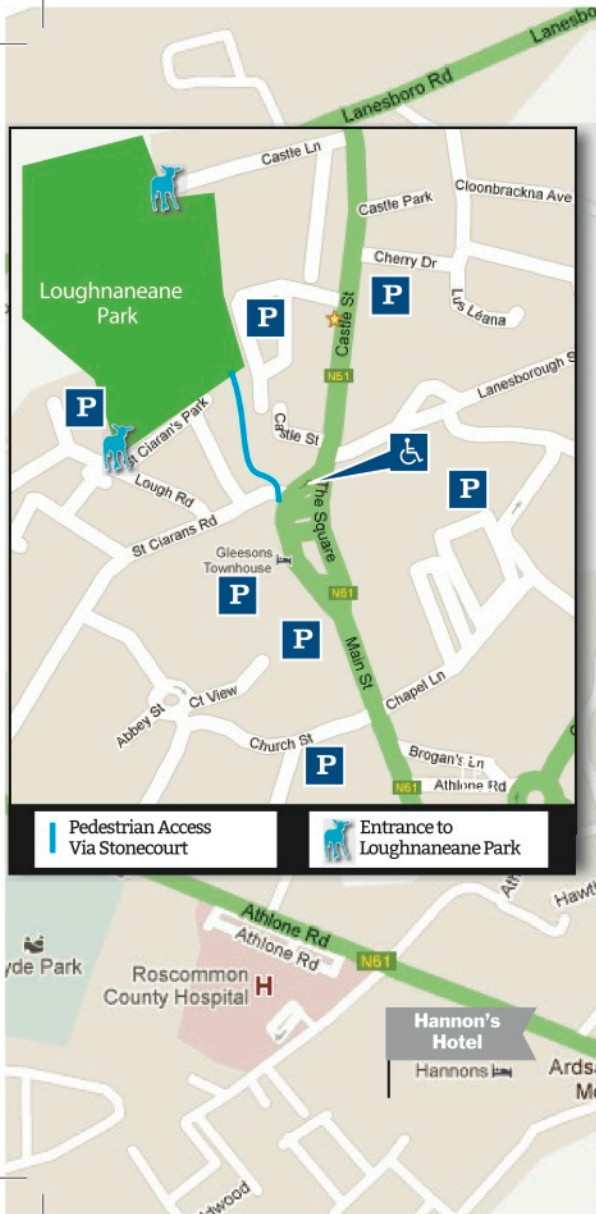
Park for Free



in Roscommon

Hyde Park

Golf Club



Co. Roscommon



Wednesday | 26 Apr



OFFICIAL OPENING ROSCOMMON LAMB FESTIVAL 2017

11.30am Roscommon Livestock Mart

Official opening ceremony and Special Sheep Sale in Roscommon Livestock Mart performed by Mr Joe Healy, President IFA. Presentation of Oliver Burke Memorial Trophy. Music by King St Bluegrass Band (Virginia USA).



GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF CO ROSCOMMON Karst, Turloughs and Eskers

10am County Library, Roscommon

This exhibition is a visual exploration of the geological heritage of County Roscommon, celebrating the wealth of important sites identified as County Geological Sites. These sites were identified following a county geological audit which was carried out for Roscommon County Council with the support of the Heritage Council in 2012. These are also described in a book 'Karst, Turloughs and Eskers' which is available from the Heritage Office, Geological Survey Ireland and Rathcroghan Visitor Centre.



THANKSGIVING FOR THE FLOCKS OF THE FIELD

8pm St Comán's Church of Ireland

An ecumenical service of thanksgiving for, and blessing on, the flocks of sheep of the county. On this first night of our Lamb Festival we will be acknowledging God as the creator and sustainer of all life and give thanks for all creatures - great and small. Gospel Music from USA.

Everyone welcome (about 1 hour)

CONFERENCE

'THE LIMESTONE HERITAGE OF ROSCOMMON'

10am County Library, Roscommon

The Limestone Conference will commence with a lecture by renowned author and lecturer, Dr John Feehan, described by Michael Viney as 'one of Ireland's top ecologists and communicators of



nature'. Commencing in Co Library and continuing with field trips to a number of sites of interest. Registration necessary. Tel: 087 6546512.

TOUR

Mount Plunkett Nature Reserve

6pm Lecarrow

Lamb and beef producing farm that exists in harmony with nature, leaving room for barn owls, kestrel, kingfishers, and many more. Featured on TV and radio programmes. Details: 087 6430710.



ANIMAL FARM

11am & 8pm Roscommon Arts Centre

Be captivated as Roscommon Youth Theatre members play out Orwell's mordant fable of a revolution betrayed. The action follows the rebellion of the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm. Booking: Arts Centre, tel: (090) 662 5824.

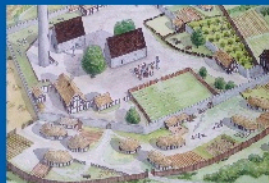


ST COMÁN'S MONASTERY

'Where was it located'

6.30pm County Library, Roscommon

A talk by Noel Hoare, author of "Remembering St Comán" explores the evidence of a medieval monastic site associated with St. Comán in Roscommon and where the monastery may have been located.



Friday | 28 Apr



FARMERS MARKET: A TASTE OF ROSCOMMON

10am Marquee, Market Square

Artisan food producers from around Co. Roscommon will display their produce with opportunities to sample and purchase. Also included is a stand devoted entirely to sheep's cheeses from Ireland, UK and the Continent. Situated at back of Bank of Ireland.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE CRAFT MARQUEE

10am-6pm Craft Marquee, Market Square - **OPENING**

Craft tent situated at the front of the Bank of Ireland is reserved for crafters from Co. Roscommon who are in business producing high quality craftwork of different kinds.



ANIMAL FARM

11am Roscommon Arts Centre

Be captivated as Roscommon Youth Theatre members play out Orwell's mordant fable of a revolution betrayed. The action follows the rebellion of the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm. Booking: Arts Centre, tel: (090) 662 5824.



SHEEP FARM WALK

2pm Athleague

Experience some of the realities of sheep farming on the farm of Willy John Fitzmaurice, Lisnacella, Athleague. Signposted from Athleague. Tel: 087 2467019.



CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

5pm CBS yard

Roscommon Lamb Festival welcomes arrival of 'Cycle Against Suicide Tour'. Raising awareness as they cycle across the 32 counties of Ireland, the aim of 'Cycle Against Suicide Tour' is to spread the message: "it's ok not to feel ok; and it's absolutely ok to ask for help."



ANIMAL FARM

11am & 8pm Roscommon Arts Centre

Be captivated as Roscommon Youth Theatre members play out Orwell's mordant fable of a revolution betrayed. The action follows the rebellion of the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm. Booking: Arts Centre, tel: (090) 662 5824.



EXHIBITION

Emerging Artists & Designers

7pm Áras an Chontae

An exciting exhibition by emerging local artists and designers. Exhibition will be opened by internationally-renowned leather designer and artist, Úna Burke.



LAMB JAM SESSION

**With King Street Bluegrass
& South Roscommon Singers Circle
9pm Murray's pub, Knockcroghery**

From Virginia, USA, King Street Bluegrass is a kickin' acoustic mix of Bluegrass, Folk and Country, with some spicy originals thrown in.



Saturday | 29 Apr



LOCAL ENTERPRISE CRAFT MARQUEE

10am-6pm Craft Marquee, Market Square

Craft tent situated at the front of the BOI is reserved for crafters from Co. Roscommon who are in business producing high quality craftwork of different kinds.



TRADITIONAL HANDCRAFT DEMOS & WORKSHOPS

10am Marquee, Market Square

The traditional craft workshop and display area at the back of BOI. This tent is devoted to demos and display of traditional crafts, with an emphasis on education and interaction.



EXHIBITION

Emerging Artists & Designers

10am-7pm Áras an Chontae

Visit this exciting exhibition by emerging artists and designers from Co. Roscommon. Open to all.



WORKSHOP

Leather Design Workshop

11am Áras an Chontae

Multi-award winning leather designer and artist, Úna Burke, will host a hands-on workshop showcasing the traditional leather-working techniques she uses to create her elegant, sculptural accessories and will exhibit samples of her own work which has been worn by Lady Gaga, Rihanna and Madonna among others and has appeared in films such as 'The Hunger Games'. Numbers limited. Tel: 083 8536363.



OLD ROSCOMMON

11am Meet at Museum/Tourist Office, Market Square

Take a stroll through times past in Roscommon in the company of Noel Hoare and Gerry Shannon.



HERITAGE WALK RINDOON

11am Rindoon (Signposted from Lecarrow).

Heritage Walk in Rindoon: The best preserved abandoned medieval town in Ireland

2pm: Guided Walk in St John's Wood. (Signposted from Lecarrow.)



DISPLAY OF UPCYCLED FURNITURE/CLOTHES etc.

11am Marquee, Market Square

ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSE

2pm Antogher Rd. Roscommon

Tour of Energy Efficient House featuring timber frame, cellulose fiber insulation, air exchange, masonry stove, photovoltaic panels. €10. Booking essential. Tel 087 2808225.



UPCYCLED WOODEN PALLETS

5pm Market Square

Display of Upcycled Wooden Pallet Creations in The Square. Judging at 5pm with prize fund of €500 for winning entries. Details tel: 086 0403413



STREET PARTY

5pm until late Market Square

Roscommon Lamb Festival hosts a Street Party in Market Square, Roscommon from 5pm until late, including puppet shows (€2) and drumming workshops (€5) for children, street performers, food stalls and live music concert with King Street Bluegrass Band from Virginia, USA. A tribute to Geraldo Marques aka 'Toko' will be part of this evening and will include a Brazilian BBQ, the proceeds of which will go to the Mayo Roscommon Hospice. Visit www.roscommonlambfestival.com & Facebook page. Tel: 087 9439446.



Sunday | 30 Apr



INTERNATIONAL SHEEPDOG TRIALS

9am Walsh's Field, Castlerea Rd.

Watch the unique bond between farmer and sheepdog in this display of skill and mastery.



GOLFING COMPETITIONS

10am Roscommon Golf Club

Wool Merchants Cup & 9 hole Ladies Golf Competitions.
Details: 090 66 26382.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE CRAFT MARQUEE

10am-6pm Craft Marquee, Market Square

Craft tent situated at the front of the Bank of Ireland is reserved for crafters from Co. Roscommon who are in business producing high quality craftwork of different kinds.



NATURE WALK MOTE PARK

12pm Meet at Roscommon Golf Club

This guided walk through Mote Park on the outskirts of Roscommon Town will travel through the town lands once associated with St. Comán and later owned by the Lords Crofton. A rich variety of tree species and flowers showing off their lovely spring colours will be on view along the route and participants will also have the opportunity to try out the innovative Mote Park Interactive Heritage Tour using QR codes strategically located along the walk.



FAMILY FUN DAY

2pm Loughnaneane Park

A great day out with something for all the family! Children's amusements, Climbing Wall, FAI soccer skills competition, Pet Lambs/Bo Peep/Boy Blue Competitions, Food stalls, Sheep Racing, Live Music with Billy Garvin, Pony Rides, Archery, Craft Demos, Display of Rare Sheep Breeds, Sheep Shearing, and lots lots more!



SHEEP SHEARING LAUNCH

7pm Marquee, Market Square

Launch of the 2017 Kepak All Ireland & All Nations Sheep Shearing & Wool Handling Championships, which take place on the grounds of St. Brigid's GAA Club, Kiltoom, on the June Bank Holiday weekend.

Details: 086 0876933



CÉILÍ

9.30pm Hannon's Hotel

A great night of dancing with Glenside Céilí Band. Tickets €10. Details: 086 889 3897.



Monday | 01 May

CARERS MINI MARATHON

3pm Hannon's Hotel

Family Carers Ireland Care to Run 10km & 5km.
Admission €15. Details 086 809 9494.



Running alongside the festival...

EXHIBITION OF PRINTS AND MIXED MEDIA WORK

by Frances Crowe, fibre artist

Art Wall, Roscommon University Hospital, Athlone Road

From April 22nd- May 22nd

Open 8am-8pm daily

Please contact Frances on 087 7760250 for a guided tour during the festival
and

KIDS ART & CRAFT WORKSHOP

AT GRANGE STUDIO

Saturday April 29th

and

WOVEN TAPESTRY WORKSHOP

AT GRANGE STUDIO

Sunday April 30th

Learn how to incorporate raw wool from local sheep into your creations

Other Events in Roscommon

STROKESTOWN POETRY FESTIVAL

27TH APRIL – 1ST MAY 2017

TOWARDS A THIRD REPUBLIC

The Percy French Festival

Castlecoote House, Co Roscommon

5th–7th July 2017

Toko

Geraldo Marques, known to all his many many friends and loved ones as “Toko” was born in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil in 1963 and spent much of his youth on the family farm in the Rio Grande do Sul region of south Brazil. His formative years were steeped in the Gaúcho traditions of the pampas and he soaked up all of the crafts and lore that went with that way of life. It was a life of cattle and sheep farming with the Gaúchos tending their herds and flocks on horseback much of the time.

He was an extraordinarily gifted artist and craftsman and while still a young man he set up his own leathercraft and shoemaking business in his home place. Mass production of factory-made footwear meant he could no longer make a living at this work in Brazil and so he ended up in Ireland, in Roscommon where he found work in Hannons’ Poultry Factory first and later on in Athlone Pharmaceuticals.

Toko had a natural charisma which enabled him to move freely in his new environment and he made many friends here in Roscommon. In 2008 he married Mella Stephens, a Roscommon native and this union facilitated a wonderful cultural exchange between the Brazilian migrant community and the local population. 2008 was the inaugural year of the Roscommon Lamb Festival and Toko was the head chef at the famous Brazilian BBQ, held for the first time that year. The BBQ was one of our flagship events every year and it converted many people to eating Roscommon lamb. His skills as a BBQ chef were legendary and he presided over many wedding feasts and other celebrations in the Roscommon area.

He was a great horseman and an outstanding memory is that of Toko dressed in traditional Gaúcho clothes, riding at the front of the Lamb Festival float in the Easter parade. He proudly carried the flag of his native Brazil alongside the primrose and blue flag of Ros Comán. In April 2015 he opened his workshop in Church St to resume his career as a shoemaker and leather craftsman and to pass on his craft to his children. Little did anyone think then that just eighteen months later, in early October 2016, Toko would succumb to cancer. His passing caused great sadness for his family and many friends both Brazilian and Irish. The Lamb Festival is poorer for his passing.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis. Descanse em paz.







For more information visit
www.roscommonlambfestival.com

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