

The Western Development Commission is delighted to once again support Roscommon County Council in organising the Douglas Hyde Conference. Douglas Hyde spoke of the “Strange and graceful legend attached” to the land of our region. As an organisation charged with fostering growth in that same region, we share his passion and desire for its betterment. We are particularly happy that this important forum for debate is held in the WDC’s home town of Ballaghaderreen.

The WDC is actively supporting the development of the region’s cultural and creative sector and we recognise the central role of the Western Region’s heritage in this. We welcome this opportunity to celebrate the local protectors of that heritage.

Individual lectures - €10.00
Student, senior citizen and unwaged - €20.00
Conference fee - €40.00
Accommodation is not included. Please note that payment for an individual lecture does not include lunch.



Ian Brannigan, Acting Chief Executive, Western Development Commission

Douglas Hyde

Conference Fee:

Schedule	
09.30 am – 09.45 am	Registration
09.30 am – 09.45 am	Welcome address – Chairperson
Session 1:	
09.45 am – 10.00 am	Opening <i>by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paddy Kilduff</i>
10.00 am – 10.30 am	Developing the Western Region's Cultural and Creative Sector. <i>Pauline White</i>
10.30 am – 11.00 am	“...upon Irish lines alone can the Irish race once more become what it was of yore”; Official propaganda and the creation of the Irish state and nation, 1922-49. <i>Kevin Hora</i>
11.00 am – 11.30 am	CultúrIann Mcdam Ó Fiaich - a blueprint for community-centred Irish language promotion and development. <i>Concubhar Ó Liatháin</i>
11.30 am – 11.45 am	Tea/Coffee
Session 2:	
11.45 am – 12.15 pm	Rebuilding the past: Irish vernacular buildings. <i>Eoin Donnelly</i>
12.15 pm – 12.45 pm	The Irish harp: past, present and future. <i>Paul Dooly</i>
12.45 pm – 1.15 pm	Understanding, preserving and presenting the deserted medieval walled town of Rindoon, Co. Roscommon. <i>Kieran O'Connor</i>
1.15 pm – 2.30 pm	Lunch
Session 3:	
2.30 pm – 3.00 pm	Oughtera's Journey - collecting and sharing our heritage in the digital age. <i>David Collins</i>
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm	The legacy of Douglas Hyde in 21st century traditional storytelling. <i>Niall de Búrca</i>
3.30 pm – 4.00 pm	Holy wells, stones and trees. Caring for and protecting pilgrimage traditions and sites in modern Ireland. <i>Louise Nugent</i>
4.00 pm – 4.15 pm	Tea/Coffee
Session 4:	
4.15 pm – 4.45 pm	Kilmovee Cois Tine Heritage Centre. Preserving aspects of our heritage. <i>Bridie McMahon</i>
4.45 pm – 5.15 pm	Maximising the potential within our community. <i>Michael Fraín</i>
5.15 pm – 5.45 pm	Panel Discussion

Lakes and Legends Solas Festival
17th to 19th July 2015
Ballaghaderreen
Contact Eimear/Patricia at 094 98 62565

Conference Convenor and Chairperson
Michael O'Dea, poet and teacher.

When Douglas Hyde spoke of the need to protect “the notes of nationality”, our language and customs”, he recognized the need to preserve our past in order to secure our future. The last few decades have seen the emergence of a renewed sense of pride in our Irishness that may forever put Hyde’s fears to rest. With this conference we want to celebrate the people and organizations who are in the front line of the efforts to protect our heritage: the activists, curators, archaeologists, linguists, musicians, archivists, story-tellers, agus pobal labartha na Gaeilge that contribute to keep “the notes of nationality” alive.

Saving the notes of nationality: A Celebration of the Protectors of Irish Heritage

Comhdháil Dhubhghlais de hÍde, the Douglas Hyde Conference is a fundamental part of Roscommon County Council’s annual programme of events since 1988. This conference is a focal point of the cultural and literary diary of events in the county and over the years has provided a unique opportunity to contemplate, consider and debate a variety of issues.

Roscommon County Council is once again delighted to bring together many leading thinkers, academics, poets, writers, musicians and speakers to discuss, debate and provide an opportunity for an interesting and challenging day’s reflection for this year’s theme of ‘Saving the notes of Nationality: A Celebration of the Protectors of Irish Heritage’.

Mr Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, Roscommon County Council

Comhdháil Dhubhghlais de hÍde, the Douglas Hyde Conference attracts visitors from all over Ireland, Europe, and indeed even further afield, for one reason - it is a wonderful celebration of Irish culture. Our culture and identity are what helps to stand us apart and mark us as unique amongst others. It is certainly worthy of this annual celebration in honor of the first president of Ireland, Dr Douglas Hyde. I would like to take this opportunity to offer a very special welcome to all visitors and speakers and contributors to the county for this - what has now become in the calendar of literary events – an important conference.

Cllr Paddy Kilduff, Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council

Location:

Situated on the west bank of the River Shannon, County Roscommon is easily reached from all parts of Ireland as it is serviced by the N4, N5 and N6 National Primary routes as well as the Dublin-Sligo and Dublin-Westport rail routes.

Ballaghaderreen is situated in the north west of the county and is an exit off the N5, signed Ballaghaderreen. The Douglas Hyde Conference will be held in the BMW Regional Assembly which is located in The Square, Ballaghaderreen in the centre of Ballaghaderreen.

A nearby attraction that may be of interest is the Douglas Hyde Centre in Portahard, 3 miles east of Ballaghaderreen on the N5. The Douglas Hyde Centre is an interpretative centre at the site where Dr. Douglas Hyde, Ireland’s first President, is buried. The interpretative centre and grounds are maintained by Roscommon County Council.

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For further information please contact:

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Organised by Roscommon County Council.
www.roscommonarts.com/hyde

DHCH

Douglas Hyde Conference 2015

Comhdháil an Chraoibhín 2015

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Paul Dooley

is one of the leading exponents of the Irish harp in its historical form and style. Performing since 1986, he has appeared on numerous CD recordings and television programmes. Dooley has spent the past two decades working on the Robert ap Huw manuscript, the oldest collection of harp music in existence. In the more recent past he has resumed harp-making, building a variety of small harps, reproductions of the surviving medieval harps and researching string-making techniques. He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Limerick.

Bridie McMahon

is a native of Claremorris, Co. Mayo. A graduate of Maynooth University, she qualified as a Tutor/Trainer in Adult/ Community Education and Rural and Community Development. Over the years she has been very involved in many aspects of community development. In the early 90's she was employed by IRD, Kiltimagh as Community Development Officer & Arts Co-ordinator. Later she managed Kilmovee Community Housing Project, and was instrumental in securing the Family Resource Centre Programme for Kilmovee. A member of the Mayo Society, New York, she is presently working on a book of reflective writings due for publication in early December.

Eoin Donnelly

is a forester-woodwright, a member and former chairman of Muintir na Coille Co-Op Ltd. His past projects include the refurbishment of The Irish National Heritage Park, Co Wexford and the construction of an 11th century Hiberno/Norse House at the National Botanical Gardens Dublin, to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the battle of Clontarf. Eoin can be seen at various venues and shows around the country, promoting and demonstrating traditional Irish greenwood skills; he is an accomplished pole-lathe turner.

David Collins

returned to Ireland in 2002 after a career in digital imaging and has been a member of the Oughterard Heritage Group for the last six years. David works voluntarily with the County Galway Heritage Office and the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life. On behalf of these organisations he advises, educates and mentors communities in the digitising of their culture and heritage.

Concubhar Ó Liatháin

is the Events and Marketing Manager at Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich in Belfast. A native of Cúil Aodha in West Cork, he has worked as a journalist and columnist as well as in the fields of TV production and cultural activism. He has been an editor of the Irish language daily newspaper, Lá, and the marketing manager for CeangalG, an EU funded project aimed at enhancing the links between the Gaeltacht of Ireland and the Gaidhealtachd of Alba. He is 'Cléireach' of Ireland's longest living bardic school, Dámhscoil Mhúscaí, and has established a Belfast version, Damhscoil Loch Lao, since his recent move to that city.

Micheal Frain

is a community activist based in Ballaghaderreen. He is a member of numerous community development organisations including Roscommon

Leader Partnership, the Western Development Commission and the Council for the West. In recent years, Micheal has been involved in the development of a community-based tourism strategy aimed at communities where the tourism potential has not yet been realised. Last year he was delighted to help launch the "Lakes and Legends" tourism strategy in the greater Ballaghaderreen area. He is also a member of the tourism co-operative which is charged with delivering this exciting project.

Kieran O'Connor

has a PhD from University College, Cardiff in Wales. In the 1990s he worked for the Archaeological Survey branch of the National Monuments in counties Wexford, Sligo, Roscommon, Westmeath and Longford. He has also taken part in excavations and field surveys in England, Wales, Greece and Crete. O'Connor was appointed a Research Fellow at the Discovery Programme, Dublin, in 1997 and appointed director of the Medieval Rural Settlement project there in 1999. He joined the staff of the Dept of Archaeology, NUI, Galway in 2000 and was appointed to the Board of the Heritage Council in 2012. He has been successful in turning much of his research on medieval Roscommon into guidebooks and guide-leaflets for the cultural tourism sector.

Louise Nugent

has a PhD degree in archaeology from University College Dublin where she specialised in the archaeology of Irish Medieval Pilgrimage. She works as a commercial archaeologist and heritage consultant and has published a number of articles relating to her research. In 2012, Louise set up the blog Pilgrimage in Medieval Ireland (pilgrimagemedievalireland.com) as a tool to share aspects of her research on medieval pilgrimage and modern pilgrimage rituals, with a specialist and non-specialist audience.

Niall de Búrca

is one the top traditional storytellers working today. Raised in the west of Ireland, he emigrated at a young age, spending many years in New Zealand. He

now lives in Dublin. Niall has performed in theatre, festivals and on television in countries as diverse as Norway, South Africa, Argentina and Iran. Douglas Hyde was a major influence on his development as a performer.

"His ability to evoke a wide range of emotions from his rapt audiences enables him to bewitch people with his stories and make listening to him as well as watching him an unforgettable experience" Vienna Review of Books

Kevin Hora

a native of Roscommon, has taught public relations and political communication in further and higher education in a number of Dublin colleges since 2001, and holds a PhD in history from Trinity College. His thesis, in preparation for publication by Routledge, examined the use of official propaganda for state and nation building in the Irish Free State. Married, he lives and lectures in Dublin.

Pauline White

is a policy analyst with the Western Development Commission (www.wdc.ie). Her work involves analysing socio-economic data and policy as it impacts on the Western Region. Pauline wrote the 2009 report 'Creative West: The creative sector in the Western Region', worked on the EU-funded 'Creative Edge' project and is currently working on the new €2m, three-year transnational 'Creative Momentum' project to develop skills and innovation, collaboration opportunities and export activity among creative and cultural enterprises. Pauline also undertakes analysis of labour market and enterprise issues in the region.

Michael O'Dea

is a teacher in Rathmines College in Dublin. As a poet, he has published three collections and in 2013, he co-edited The Roscommon Anthology with his brother, John O'Dea. A dedicated community activist in Dublin, this latter publication has turned his attention to the pressing need for greater recognition of rural Ireland's cultural heritage.



Thursday 16th July 2015

**BMW Regional Assembly (Northern & Western Regional Assembly),
The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon
www.roscommonarts.com/hyde**