

Climate change event for Carrick

By Darragh Kelly

A special conference on climate change has been organised by the Sisters of Mercy, based in the Galilee community at Tintagh, near Boyle. The event takes place on this Saturday, October 7th from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. in the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Guest speakers will include Green Party leader and T.D. Eamon Ryan and Sr Nellie McLaughlin, a native of Inishowen and member of the Sisters of Mercy Northern Province, working in creation spirituality, ecology, and sustainable living.

Mr Ryan chaired the Digital and Energy Policy

groups for the Institute of International and European Affairs and also worked on www.climategathering.org. A founding chairman of the Dublin Cycling Campaign, he is married to writer Victoria White and the couple have four children.

This first conference is in keeping with the order's mission of spirituality and respecting the environment for future generations. One of the event organisers is Sr Mae McManus, one of four Sisters of Mercy based at the Galilee Community. "The earth needs to be respected. It's the first level of spirituality. Admiring and respecting the environment leads everyone into a deeper

spirituality. God is trying to wake us up to highlight what the next generation may say to us if the earth is impossible to exist in," she said.

The conference is one of a number of services provided at the Galilean Retreat in Tintagh with Taize prayer and scripture reading hosted at the centre which is a 'centre of spirituality' offering a variety of programmes to the general public.

For bookings contact 071 966 4101 or email galileecommunity@gmail.com The cost of the event is €10 which includes a light lunch. The organisers are hopeful of attracting a large attendance for what they say will be an informative and constructive event.



Nollaig Feeney, Heritage Officer; Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice, Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher, Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer, Orla Leyden, Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council and James M. Moran, Correal at the official opening of Gerard James Celebration Bridge at Correal, Athleague.

Bridging 900 years for Water Heritage Day 2017

The official opening of The Gerard James Celebration Bridge took place recently at Correal, Athleague.

Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice performed the official opening of the bridge over the 12th century Ballinturly, Correal, Ballygalda canal, which was built to drain excessive flood water from local turloughs into the River Shannon via the Hind River.

The guests included Cathaoirleach Cllr Orla Leyden, Cllr Kathleen Shanagher, Nollaig Feeney, Heritage Officer Roscommon County Council, Catherine Seale,

Community Water Officer, Cathryn Hannon, National Parks and Wildlife Office, neighbours and friends.

James M Moran, artist and writer, who designed and built the bridge, outlined the history of the turloughs, catchment areas and the function of the manmade and natural water courses.

With the aid of maps, photographs, and drawings he emphasised the need for reopening and maintaining these canals as open water drainage channels, if the future viability of farming, business, transport and social interaction in the locality



Gerard James testing out the Gerard James Celebration Bridge at Correal, Athleague.

was to exist into the future. The bridge is designed as a workable pedestrian bridge as the

Moran household had access to their home property during the 2 floods for many weeks

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European archaeologists visit for medieval summit

Delegates of the Ruralla XII Conference from all over Europe were welcomed to Co Roscommon last weekend by the cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council, Cllr Orla Leyden.

Ruralla is an international association for the archaeology of medieval settlement and rural life. It provides a conference of current research questions in rural archaeology from most participating European countries to strengthen the exchange of knowledge in, and the development of, archaeologically comparable studies, and to make archaeological results available to other disciplines.

The theme of the conference this year was

Transitions and Transformations in the Medieval and Early Modern Countryside.

The conference took place in Kilkenny and archaeologist Niall Brady brought the post-conference excursion to Co Roscommon. Roscommon County Council recognises that cultural heritage is important in terms of the local economy and job creation.

Heritage also enriches the quality of life of our citizens and contributes to their wellbeing and sense of history, place and community.

Roscommon County Council is delighted to support excursion as an action of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan.



A group of European archaeologists pictured at Rathcroghan Visitors' Centre, Tulsk. Pictures: Gerard O'Loing



Nollaig Feeney, heritage officer, Roscommon Co Council Niall Brady; Cllr Orla Leyden, Prof Claudia Theune, Vien