

STONE WALL BUILDING CARVING & LETTER CARVING WORKSHOPS 2016

Féile na gCloch | Inis Oírr, Aran Islands, County Galway

**Thursday 15th -
Sunday 18th
September
2016**



discoverinisoirr.com



PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 2016



Thursday 15th Afternoon

Meet at island Co-Operative building to set out work and workspaces.

5pm –
6pm Introductions and talks

Friday 16th

9am – 4pm – Workshops

5pm – 6pm – Talk

6pm – 7pm
Co-Operative Building
Film: 'Miles of Stone'
Documentary by
Frameworks Films

Saturday 17th

9am – 4pm - Workshops

5pm – 6pm – Talk

6pm – 7pm
Co-Operative Building
Film (repeat): 'Miles of
Stone' Documentary by
Frameworks Films

Sunday 18th

10am –
1.00pm Guided walk of
the Island or

10am –
1.00pm Workshops
B & C (only)

discoverinisoirr.com



Anima Loki by Alexandra Morosco

Thursday 15th**5pm - 6pm****Welcome**

Welcome and introduction to all staff and instructors with an outline of the programme for the weekend.

Book Launch & Readings

'A life in Stone', book launch and readings by Barry Feely from his book of the same title. Barry is a ninth generation stonecutter, retired company director (Feelystone) and author.

**Extract from
'A life in Stone'**

"Working with limestone that held the secrets of millennia was a joy to me. It never stood still. It was a constant battle with nature; its cracks, stylolites, fossils, flint, white horses (cracks filled with white minerals and fossilised) were always a challenge. You had to be optimistic and believe the good block was in the next cut. There was no way of avoiding bad blocks; they had to be removed at the same cost as the good blocks. It was like the good summers, the good blocks were worth waiting for. We often think nature is chaotic but it is not. It has a pattern. Our challenge is to understand it."

Friday 16th**5pm - 6pm****Talk****'Realising a Dream:
Harvey Fite and Opus40'**

Talk by Sean Adcock, master dry stone waller from Wales.

6pm - 7pm**Film****'Miles of Stone'**

Showing at the Co-Operative Building, 'Miles of Stone' is a 52 minute documentary by Frameworks Films. This documentary explores the 5,000 year old tradition of dry stone wall building in Ireland. Its focus is the annual 'Féile na gCloch' which takes place on Inis Oírr, the smallest of the Aran Islands off the west coast of Ireland. Here people come from all over Ireland, Europe and further afield to work alongside the islanders and master stone-wallers to build a stone wall on the island over the course of three days. The documentary follows the participants as they travel to the festival and documents their experiences during the festival. We also see some of the other activities that take place during the festival such as letter carving and sculpting. Along the way we learn about the history of dry stone wall building in Ireland, how it is such an important part of our heritage and what is being done to ensure the skills of stone wall building are preserved and passed on to future generations.

Saturday 17th**5pm - 6pm****Talk****'Stone, Earth, Fire and Water'**

A talk by Nigel Copsey, a stonecutter/carver, stone mason and authority on hot-mix lime mortars from Yorkshire, England.

6pm - 7pm**Film (Repeat)****'Miles of Stone'**

Repeat showing at the Co-Operative Building.

Sunday 18th**10am - 1pm****Guided Walk**

A Guided walk of the island by Dr. Patrick McGurn and Dr. Amanda Browne of the Aran Life Farming Walk starts from the Co-Operative Building.
Project (see www.aranlife.ie/)



INSTRUCTORS

Currach's Portal by Alexandra Morosco



Alexandra Morosco
Sculptor
Seattle, Washington,
USA



Tom Little
Letter Cutting
Stone cutting/carver
instructor
Cork, Ireland



Nick Aitken
Dry Stone Walling
Master dry stone waller
Scotland



Patrick McAfee
Dry Stone Walling
Stone mason and author
Dublin, Ireland

.....
A number of other highly experienced dry stone wallers will also be available to teach beginners.
.....

SPEAKERS

Barry Feely
Roscommon,
Ireland

Sean Adcock
Wales

Nigel Copsey
Yorkshire,
England



Workshop

Dry Stone Wall Building



Friday 16th September (9am - 4pm)

Saturday 17th September (9am - 4pm)

- The workshop will include the building of a unique Aran Islands dry stone wall.
- The range and intensity of dry stone wall types and styles on the Aran Islands is probably unparalleled anywhere else in the world.
- This workshop will suit both experienced dry stone wallers and learners.

Lettering and Carving ~

A Timeless & Universal Language of Stone

- Stone Carving is a universal language. Across expanses of time and cultures, people have turned to stone to evoke everlasting inscriptions and sculpture in stone. Today, it offers the modern-day carver a place in the worlds of art, craft as well as the commercially viable trade of the memorial and commemorative arts. This is an opportunity for hands-on experience in stone carving and lettering. No previous experience is necessary for either of the two workshops. Participants should plan on arriving Thursday to be set up and ready for an early start Friday morning!

discoverinisoirr.com





B

Workshop

Carving with Alexandra Morosco

Friday 16th September (9am - 4pm)

Saturday 17th September (9am - 4pm)

Sunday 18th September (10am - 1pm)

■ This intensive workshop in stone carving allows just enough time for covering basics of tool use, and the initiation of a project. Participants should plan on bringing their stone home with them at the end of the course. It is optional for participants to work on concepts and design in clay and also try their hand on practice stones, which will be made available to the group. Clay will be available for modeling to explore concepts. All carving will be done with hand hammers and chisels on soft stone. A limited supply of tools will be on site to purchase, Participants are encouraged to bring tools with them. Please inquire to Alexandra directly with individual questions about tools needed for the workshop at: alex@moroscofinearts.com

Recommended tools for carving to bring or purchase onsite:

Most of our work will be completed with hand tools. We will have some power and pneumatic tools available for demonstration.

- Notebook, pencils, eraser for sketching and notes
- 1 or 1-1/2 lb. hammer
- single steel or tungsten carbide point.(1/2" or 5/8")
- minimum of two or three flat chisels
(we recommend tungsten carbide, 1/4", 1/2", 5/8")
- Minimum two claw (tooth) chisels (rough/fine)

discoverinisoirr.com





B

Introduction Talk

How Do We Make Our Mark?
by Alexandra Morosco

Friday 16th September 2016

9.30am - 10:00am

■ As a visual artist, craftsman, architect or builder, we leave a physical mark in the world. Why does this call to us? and how does it bring us alive? From a simple inscription to a symbol-laden sculpture, the element of talisman resides in the works we create. Teleo, the Greek root of the word talisman, means “to complete”. Through the vehicle of stone, we will explore what it is we want to say if we were to create our own Talisman, large or small. Throughout the ages, people have turned to imagery in objects to tell a story, hold special power or speak of the sacred; the ones “written in stone” are usually the most enduring. What story would you like to tell? Is it more or less important today than ever? Are objects and object-making viewed differently in 2016 than throughout history?

Please note: Participants are responsible for the transport of their personal project after the workshop. Note: there are weight limits to luggage and parcels on flights with Aer Arann.

discoverinisoirr.com





Workshop

**Letter Carving
with Tom Little**



Friday 16th September (9am - 4pm)

Saturday 17th September (9am - 4pm)

Sunday 18th September (10am - 1pm)

■ This workshop is suitable for participants with no experience and some. Whether you are dipping your toe for first time or need support in furthering your skills this is the place to be. Master lettercarver, Tom Little will guide you through the stages in creating a small lettering project which you can take home with you. There will be templates to choose from that will expedite the process of design and layout, or bring your own word or inscription. Topics covered will include; drawing letterforms, layout design, surface preparation, letter cutting techniques, and the use and care of chisels. It is hoped that this workshop will whet your appetite for further study and practice in this timeless craft.

■ There will be a range lettering projects to choose from or you can bring along an idea for a wordform you would like to carve.

Stone

A range of stone types and sizes will be available.

Tools

Bring along the following:

Dummy hammer 600grms (a lump hammer of similar weight will do), Guillet Europ chisels 4mm, 6mm, 8mm, 10mm. These can be purchased from Richard Gough, 24 Little Mary St Dublin 7. Tel: + 00 353 (0)1 8731 400. Some tools will be available for purchase at workshop. Also bring A3 drawing pad, ruler, pencils (4H, B).

discoverinisoirr.com





Introduction Talk

Letter Carving Past & Present

by Tom Little

FRIDAY 16th

9.00am - 9:30am

■ An introductory talk on the craft of letter carving illustrated with notable examples past and present.



discoverinisoirr.com



BIOGRAPHIES

SEAN ADCOCK

Sean is a member of the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain and holder of its Master Craftsman certificate. He lives in North Wales where for the last 30 years he has worked primarily in restoring field walls. He is co-author of "Dry Stone Walling" generally regarded as the leading practical guide in the craft and author of "Stonework". Sean has walled around the UK as a keen competitor in DSWA competitions (now retired). Twice a runner up in the Grand Prix championship he won 36 professional competitions on various stone types across Wales and from the Cotswolds to Yorkshire. Also a member of the US based Stone Foundation, Sean has instructed on many courses in the USA and earlier this summer was lead waller on the Stone Foundation restoration of Opus 40 a designated US Historic Place and one of the world's most important earthwork sculptures.

NICK AITKEN

Nick is a drystone dyker based in the Scottish Highlands. For 21 years he worked for The Highland Council, working with many rock types and getting into the remotest corners of the Highlands and Islands. He is a professional member of the Dry Stone Walling Association, qualified as a master craftsman, instructor and examiner.

His international walling experience includes projects in New England, Kentucky, the Pacific Northwest and Austria. Nick is proud to be associated with the Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland and their 'Gathering of Stones' project.

NIGEL COPSEY

Starting out as a dry-stone waller in Cornwall, Nigel trained after 1989 as stonemason and carver at Weymouth College, working largely thereafter in the conservation industry across the south and south-west of England, and regularly after 1999 in Vermont, USA, as well as in Granada, Andalusia. Nigel was consultant stonemason for the Irish Hunger Memorial project in Battery Park City, New York, 2001. Since 2001, Nigel has worked extensively as consultant and practitioner in the field of building conservation and repair in North Yorkshire upon a wide range of vernacular and

high status buildings, as building conservation consultant for the Fitzwilliam Estate in Malton, designing, specifying and executing major repair projects to a wide range of historic buildings within the town, as well as researching, designing and specifying a number of building repair and conservation projects on behalf of Natural England, most recently at Scampston Hall. Nigel has contributed to several volumes of the recently published *Historic England Practical Conservation* series.

A committed SPAB-member Nigel is also a Professionally Accredited Conservator-Restorer and determined advocate for the thoroughgoing use of traditional materials in the care and repair of old buildings and a leading advocate for the routine use of like for like hot mixed lime mortars for most applications, working extensively with Historic England and international partners in the delivery of practical training and education in the informed use of traditional quicklime mortars for the like for like and compatible repair of historic buildings. A Research Associate of the Dept of Archaeology, York University, Nigel regularly delivers hot mixed earth and lime mortars and traditional skills training and leads the Practical Skills module for the MA Conservation Studies. Nigel has a BA(Hons) Political Science from the University of York and a PGDip in Building Conservation from Bournemouth University.

www.nigelcopsy.com

Barry Feely

Barry Feely was born in Boyle, Co Roscommon in 1940 and became the ninth generation of stonecutters in his family. He started work in the stone yard in 1955 and together with his brother Pat, went on to build the company to be a nationwide organisation that employs 120 people. He is now retired from his direct involvement in the family business, which has continued into the 10th generation but he has returned to his roots as a craftsman and helps with the company's altar restoration work.

He has published four books: *A Technical Guide to Irish Blue Limestone* (Joint Editor), *The Feely Family Story*, *The Killoran Martin Family Story* and *Great Characters – Stories of Wit & Laughter*.

Alexandra Morosco

Alexandra Morosco is a Sculptor who works predominantly with the human figure, Morosco works on both large scale and small personal pieces. Her works are allegorical in nature-which she thinks of as visceral storytelling. She often uses the human figure as the storytelling vessel. Alexandra has been carving stone since 1990, and has been engaged with educational venues of teaching and coordinating stone working symposiums since 1998. Currently, she is working on a series titled: "Evoking Ireland", a sculptural reflection of what she finds most evocative in the people, place and landscape of Ireland; a subject of her passion of which has been strengthened by carving a memorial for fisherman lost at sea in 2013. Ms. Morosco also participated as in an artist-in-residence at the Aras Eanna/ Arts Center on Inis Oirr, in the fall of 2014 and returned to Ireland to carve a memorial in 2015, commissioned by the UN for the late Caomhan Seoighe, of Inis Oirr. Ms Morosco considers Inis Oirr as her heart's second home to where she lives in the Northwest US, outside of Seattle, Whidbey Island, Washington.

Visit www.moroscofinearts.com for more information.

Tom Little

Tom Little was born in Dublin and grew up in Ballinasloe, Co Galway and comes from a long family tradition of stone working. While he considers letter carving to be his main craft discipline he also has extensive experience in stone cutting, stone carving, drystone walling, product design and training. Following his training with Roe & O'Neill, Dublin, Tom Little went on to study letter carving with the sculptor and letter carver Michael Biggs. This period was to have a formative influence on his development as a craftsman. He has undertaken many commissions throughout Ireland. He is a founder member of Letter carvers Guild Ireland.

Tom Little also works as a trainer with Kerry ETB where he delivers courses in traditional stonewall construction and stone cutting."

Pat McAfee, Stonemason

Patrick McAfee (Dublin, Ireland) stonemason and author of 'Irish Stone Walls', 'Stone Buildings' and 'Lime Works'. Patrick is a board member/director of the Stone Foundation (USA) and Building Limes Forum Ireland involved with both hot-mix lime mortars and dry stone throughout Europe and North America.

Who Should Attend?

Stone Wallers, Farmers, Property Owners, Architects, Builders and Craftspeople, Archaeologists, Local Authority Staff, Rural Social Scheme Participants, ITB Employees, Local History Enthusiasts, REPS / AEOS Planners and anybody with an interest in stone walls.

Transport to Inis Oírr

Workshop participants must book their own travel to Inis Oírr.

There is one ferry company between Rossaveal, Co. Galway and Inis Oírr and there are other ferry companies operating between Doolin, Co. Clare and Inis Oírr.

Ferries

The following are their contact details:

Aran Island Ferries: 091 568903

Web: www.aranislandferries.com

Doolin Ferry: 065 7075555 / 065 7071710

www.doolinferry.com

After Hours: Liam @ 087 958 1465

Email: info@doolinferry.com

Doolin 2 Aran Ferry: 065 7075949

Web: www.doolin2aranferries.com

Air Travel

Workshop participants must make their own travel arrangements. They can fly with Aer Arann from Inverin in Connemara, Co. Galway.

Aer Arann

Contact number: 091 593034

Web: www.aerarannislands.ie

Accommodation

Please note: It is recommended that you book your own accommodation and transport prior to booking this course.

Please see enclosed a list of accommodation and transport providers. Please also make your own arrangements for evening meals.

discoverinisoirr.com



Leaba & Bricfeasta in Inis Oírr Bed & Breakfast in Inis Oírr

Baile an Fhormna / Formna Village

Caitríona Uí Chatháin

Phone: +353 (0)99 75090

Fáilte Ireland Approved

Máire Ní Fhlatharta

Phone: +353 (0)99 75083

Baile Thiar / West Village

South Aran House

Phone: +353 (0)99 75073

Fáilte Ireland Approved

Ostán Inis Oírr

Phone: +353 (0)99 75020

Fáilte Ireland Approved

Brú/Hostel

Phone: +353 (0)99 75024

Fáilte Ireland Approved

Máire Searraigh

Phone: +353 (0)99 75024

Máire Foley

Phone: +353 (0)99 75037

Barbara Uí Chonghaile

Phone: +353 (0)99 75025

Baile an Chaisleáin / Castle Village

Bríd Póil

Phone: +353 (0)99 75019

Áine Uí Ghríofa

Phone: +353 (0)99 75983

Baile an tSéipéil / Chapel Village

Bernie Uí Dhonncha

Phone: +353 (0)99 75088

Pádraig Ó Donncha

Phone: +353 (0)99 75000

Baile an Lurgain / Lurgan Village

**Tigh Ruairí Ó Conghaile
(Rory's B&B):**

Phone: +353 (0)99 75002

www.tighruairi.com

Bríd Brennan

Phone: +353 (0)99 75125

Self Catering

For a full listing of self catering can be found on the following link:
[discoverinisoirr.com/
accommodation/
selfcatering/](http://discoverinisoirr.com/accommodation/selfcatering/)

Evening Meals

Evening Meals can be booked at the following:

Tigh Ruairí: 099 75002

www.tighruairi.com

Ostán Inis Oírr: 099 75020

www.hotelinisoirr.com

South Aran House (bookings only) 099 75073

www.southaran.com

Information on Inis Oírr & It's Services

Contact: Comhar Caomhán Teo, Inis Oírr, Árainn,
Co. na Gaillimhe.

Phone: 099 75008

Fax: 099 75071

discoverinisoirr.com

Recommendations & Advice

Recommendations & Advice for All Participants

It is recommended that Course Participants are suitably dressed for the workshop and wear steel toe-capped boots, sturdy shoes or walking boots, work gloves and dress for the weather.

Recommendations & Advice for Stone Carving / Lettering Participants

Supplies: Stone & Tools

Please bring or expect to purchase new tools for working hands-on your own project

Recommended tools to bring or purchase:

- Most of our work will be completed with hand tools. We will have some power and pneumatic tools available for demonstration
- Notebook, pencils, eraser for sketching and notes
- 1 or 1-1/2 lb. hammer
- Single steel or tungsten carbide point. (1/2" or 5/8")
- Minimum of two or three flat chisels (we recommend tungsten carbide, 1/4", 1/2", 5/8",)
- Minimum two claw (tooth) chisels (rough/fine)

discoverinisoirr.com



REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and return with your payment to:

Stone Workshop 2016, c/o Ms. Gráinne Smyth, Forward Planning, Áras an Chontae,
Galway County Council, Prospect Hill, Galway, Ireland.

Tel: 00353 91 509121 Email: gsmyth@galwaycoco.ie

We suggest that you photocopy this form for your records.

Title: _____ Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Registration Fee: € _____

Please tick the appropriate box...

Workshop A ☐

STONE WALL BUILDING

Full Workshop Fee

All lectures, demonstrations
tea/coffee and lunches
included Friday to Sunday €75

Partial Workshop Fee

Friday Lectures
workshop, tea/coffee & lunch €25

Saturday workshop
tea/coffee & lunch €25

Sunday workshop
tea/coffee & lunch €25

TOTAL: € _____

Workshop B ☐

CARVING

All lectures, demonstrations, tea/
coffee and lunches included Friday
to Sunday
NB: Limited number of places for
this workshop

Full Workshop Fee: €100

No partial workshop fee available

Full payment is required to secure
booking

Workshop C ☐

LETTER CARVING

All lectures, demonstrations,
tea/coffee and lunches
included Friday to Sunday
NB: Limited number of places
for this workshop

Full Workshop Fee: €100

No partial workshop fee
available

Full payment is required to
secure booking

I enclose a cheque/bank draft for € _____ Euros payable to Galway County Council 'Stone Workshop 2016'
and send to:

Stone Workshop, C/o Ms. Gráinne Smyth, Forward Planning, Áras an Chontae, Galway County Council, Prospect
Hill, Galway, Ireland.

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

How did you hear about this conference? Mailing ☐ Advert ☐ Internet ☐ Other ☐

Your particular interest in attending...

.....

.....

.....

Payment

Payment must be received in Euro.
Cheques should be made payable to:
‘Galway County Council – Stone Wall Workshop’

Cancellation

A refund of fees (less €20 administration charge) will be given, provided that notice of cancellation is received in writing on or before 9th September 2016. After this date no refunds will be given.

Enquiries

Marie Mannion
Heritage Officer,
Forward Planning,
Áras an Chontae,
Galway County Council,
Prospect Hill, Galway
Tel: 00353 91 509198
Email: mmannion@galwaycoco.ie
Website: www.galway.ie

Gráinne Smyth / Marian Donohue
Forward Planning,
Áras an Chontae,
Galway County Council,
Prospect Hill, Galway.
Tel: 00353 91 509121/509165
Email: gsmyth@galwaycoco.ie
or mndonohue@galwaycoco.ie
Website: www.galway.ie

Galway County Council

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway, excluding Galway City. The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of roads, water supply schemes, drainage facilities, housing, fire stations, libraries and burial grounds. It is the custodian of the environment and through its planning and environment policies seeks to enhance the county while protecting its unique character and atmosphere. It also plays an active role in the development of the county's industrial, business, social, arts, heritage and cultural affairs.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

Tá Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe freagrach as ceantar riaracháin Chontae na Gaillimhe, seachas ceantar Chathair na Gaillimhe. Tá an Chomhairle freagrach as pleanáil, dearadh agus tógáil bóithre, scéimeanna soláthar uisce, saoráidí draenála, tithíocht, stáisiúin dóiteáin, leabharlanna agus reiligi. Is caomhnóir an chomhshaoil í an Chomhairle agus déanann sí iarracht, trína polasaithe pleanála agus comhshaoil, feabhas a chur ar an gcontae chomh maith lena thréithe agus a atmaisféar uathúil a chosaint. Tá ról gníomhach aici chomh maith maidir le forbairt gnóthaí tionscail, gnó, sóisialacha, ealaíon, oidhreacht agus cultúir an chontae.

Comhar Caomhán Teo

Is comharchumann forbartha pobail é Comhar Caomhán Teo atá ag feidhmiú ar Inis Oírr ó 1971. Tá ról lárnach ag an gComharchumann i bhforbairt an oileáin – idir forbairtí eacnamaíocha, sóisialta agus cultúrtha. Tá ról ceannasaíoch ag Comhar Chaomhán Teo. i gcur chun cinn agus i mbainistiú áiseanna éagsúla ar an oileán. Tá ról láidir stocaireachta ag an gcomharchumann ag plé leis na ranna stáit éagsúla agus feidhmíonn an comharchumann mar bhrúgrúpa agus mar ghuth láidir do mhuintir an oileáin. Tuilleadh eolais le fáil ar discoverinisoirr.com

Comhar Caomhán Teo

Comhar Caomhán Teo is a community development cooperative operating in Inis Oírr since 1971. It has a central role in the economic, social and cultural development of the island. Comhar Caomhán Teo has a leading role in developing and managing various facilities on the island. It has a vibrant role in dealing with various state departments and the cooperative acts as a voice and lobby group on behalf of the island community.

Further information at
discoverinisoirr.com

discoverinisoirr.com



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



An action of Galway County Heritage

GALLERY



