

## SPEAKERS

**ALI DAVEY** researched 19th century decorative architectural ironwork in Dublin, for her Masters thesis in Urban and Building Conservation at UCD. She joined Historic Environment Scotland (HES) as a Research Fellow in 2006, researching architectural ironwork made and found in Scotland. She has written the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Advice Series publication on the care of architectural ironwork, and the HES Short Guide on the care of architectural cast ironwork. Ali is currently a Project Manager in the Conservation Directorate at HES where her work focuses on the use and supply of traditional building materials. She is a Trustee of The Scottish Ironwork Foundation.

**JOHN HOGAN** is an Artist Blacksmith for the last 20 years. He trained in the Belmullet Blacksmithing School. He worked in Dublin before setting up his own business in Mayo. Over the last few years, he has worked on numerous projects, ranging from small commissions to large public sculpture, including restoration and architectural ironwork.

**MARTEEN LANE** is a native of Ballinrobe with 5 years tour guiding experience. She holds a BA (Hons) Degree in Heritage Studies and gives walking tours in Ballinrobe and Galway City.

**MELANIE LORIEN** is a craftmaker who works with straw, and is particularly interested in the traditions and folklore associated with the harvest, St Brigids Day, Straw Boys, Wren Boys and Mummers. Melanie is a member of the International Guild of Straw Craftsman and their representative in Ireland. She regularly demonstrates at The National Museum of Country Life and other heritage events around the country. Melanie is also an organic gardener and a former Woodland Conservation Ranger.

**NICHOLAS PRINS** is a heritage building contractor for the last 14 years. He specialises in the repair of historic roofs. Before that he managed Lissadell House and Estate for the Gore Booth family. He is also a suckler farmer in County Sligo.

**AVERIL STAUNTON** has a Research Masters in Heritage and Tourism and is the author of "Liquid Light; the Harry Clarke stained-glass windows at St. Mary's Church"

**AQUILLA COOPER, PETER CASSIDY and JAMES O'TOOLE** are Master Blacksmiths and are members of the Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association (IABA). THE IABA is the gateway to forge work in Ireland today. Their mission is to keep the craft alive, and to this end they educate, encourage, advise and support the young members coming through the ranks.

### FAMILY FESTIVAL. SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES. FREE PARKING

For further details see [www.mayococo.ie/heritage](http://www.mayococo.ie/heritage)

The Festival is an Action of the *County Mayo Heritage Plan* in association with Ballinrobe Community Development Council. Funded by The Heritage Council and Creative Ireland in association with Mayo County Council.

# HERITAGE IRON & CRAFT FESTIVAL



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Ballinrobe Library Grounds, The Parish Centre  
and Church Lane Car Park

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMME



## FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - BALLINROBE LIBRARY

7.30pm – 7.40pm	<b>Welcome</b> by <i>Peter Hynes</i> , Chief Executive Mayo County Council <b>Official Opening of Festival</b> by <i>Cllr Blackie Gavin</i> , Cathaoirleach Mayo County Council
7.40pm – 8.20pm	<b>Traditional Ironwork - History, Challenges and Conservation</b> Talk by <i>Ali Davey</i> , Historic Environment Scotland
8.20pm – 9.00pm	<b>Get Rich or Die Forging!</b> Talk by <i>John Hogan</i> , Artist Blacksmith

Followed by Music with Mickey Finn Traditional Group and Refreshments

## SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

11.00am – 1.00pm	<b>Masterclass* on Railing Panels;</b> making a decorative railing panel with hand forged water leaf detail with <i>Aquilla Cooper</i>
11.30am – 12.30pm	<b>Storytelling</b> as Gaeilge with <i>Sheena Duddy</i> in Ballinrobe Library
11.30am – 1.30pm	<b>Music</b> by <i>Martin Crossey &amp; Ryan Carney</i> and Open Mic. Venue: Church Lane Car Park
1.00pm – 2.15pm	<b>Walking Tour of Historic Ballinrobe</b> Take a walking tour of the historic town of Ballinrobe with experienced guide <i>Marteen Lane</i> . Highlights include Cranmore House, the Bower's Riverside Walk, the Courthouse, and Kenny's House. The tour starts at the John King statue in Cornmarket.
2.00pm – 4.00pm	<b>Masterclass* on Heritage Forging Techniques;</b> Repairing and restoring wrought iron gates from Carrownalecka Graveyard with <i>Peter Cassidy</i> . Following the masterclass, Peter will continue to work on the repair of the gates until completion on Sunday afternoon.
2.00pm – 4.00pm	<b>Joyce Country Comhaltas (Children)</b> Venue: Church Lane Car Park.
2.15pm – 3.00pm	<b>Tour of Harry Clarke Windows, St Mary's Church, Ballinrobe</b> St Mary's Church is home to a magnificent collection of windows by the internationally renowned stained glass artist Harry Clarke. Local historian <i>Averil Staunton</i> will give a guided tour of the windows. All ages are welcome.
3.00pm	<b>Komà</b> Komà drumming group will bring the West African blacksmithing beats to the Ballinrobe Heritage Iron and Craft Festival. Venue: Ballinrobe Library Grounds.
4.00pm – 4.45pm	<b>Harvest, Love and Hiring Fair Favours**</b> Talk by <i>Melanie Lorien</i> about 'Harvest Bows' or 'Throw away Love Knots of straw', simple twists of wheat made by farm workers at the end of each harvest. Join Melanie to discover more about these old rural customs. Venue: The Parish Centre
4.30pm – 6.00pm	<b>Music</b> by <i>Martin Crossey &amp; Ryan Carney</i> and Open Mic. Venue: Church Lane Car Park
9.30pm	Music with <i>Graham Sweeney</i> and local musicians in John Biggins' Pub.

## SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

9.30am – 10.30am	<b>Irish Artists Blacksmith Association AGM</b>
12.30pm – 1.30pm	<b>Cleary Coyne Comhaltas</b> Venue: Church Lane Car Park
1.30 pm – 2.00pm	<b>The Challenge of Conserving Hollymount Church Spire.</b> Talk by <i>Nicholas Prins</i> . Venue: Ballinrobe Library
2.00pm – 4.00pm	<b>Masterclass on making small pieces and basic forging skills*</b> aimed at young/new blacksmiths or hobbyists, with <i>James O' Toole</i>
2.00pm – 3.00pm	<b>Partry Trad Group and Dancers</b> Venue: Church Lane Car Park
3.00pm – 3.30pm	<b>Partry Children's Choir</b> Venue: Church Lane Car Park
4.00pm–4.45pm	<b>The Spirit of the Corn**</b> Talk by <i>Melanie Lorien</i> about the folklore & traditions of, and the superstitions around, harvest time. Venue: The Parish Centre
From 4.00pm	<b>Trad Session</b> in O'Hare's, Cornmarket with Joyce Country Comhaltas

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**Vintage Display** Venue: Church Lane Car Park and Parish Centre Car Park

**Blacksmithing Workshops and displays; Food; Entertainment; Music and Dance and Craft Demonstrations** will take place throughout day on Saturday from 10.00am to 5.30pm and Sunday from 10.30am to 4.00pm

### Exhibition of Ironwork Pieces

Exhibition of artistic and contemporary ironwork designed and crafted by master and artistic blacksmiths. Also on display will be functional ironwork pieces for the home and garden. Venue: The Parish Centre.

### 'Heritage in Schools' Project

Leading up to the festival, the pupils of St Joseph's National School took part in a 'Heritage in Schools' project to create artistic metal pieces, reflecting the rich heritage of Ballinrobe. This project was facilitated by *Mark Wilson*, artist blacksmith and coppersmith. Over the weekend Mark, assisted by Transition Year metalwork, woodwork and art students from Ballinrobe Community School, will be making a forged frame for these pieces. Venue: Library Grounds

Basket Weaving, Pottery Making, Wood Turning, Traditional Straw Craft, Vintage Displays, Food, Walking Tours, Talks, Storytelling and lots more for all the family to enjoy.



\*All Masterclasses will take place in the library grounds

\*\*Melanie's talks will be in the Parish Centre, where she will also be giving straw craft making demonstrations throughout the weekend, and displaying a large collection of unusual straw items from around the world