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**WHAT'S ON ACROSS THE
COUNTRY THIS MONTH?**

THINGS TO DO IN IRELAND

AUGUST 2014

Make the most of summer with some of the great goings on this August. From fun festivals to rollicking rallies, there's no end of fun to be had right here at home. For full details go to www.discoverireland.ie

CELEBRATE SUMMER IN BRAY!

If you do like to be beside the seaside, (and who doesn't!), let your salty spirits soar at **Bray Summerfest, (July 5th - August 4th)**, in **Co. Wicklow** a month long extravaganza of funfairs, music, fireworks and, over its final weekend, the **Wicklow Food and Garden Festival (August 2nd - 4th)**.

SMILE AT A SCARECROW IN DURROW!

Take a straw poll to see who will win the All Ireland Scarecrow Championship, a highlight of the **Durrow Scarecrow Festival, (July 27th - August 4th)**, in **Durrow, Co. Laois**. Enjoy street performances, craft exhibitions and Jarvey tours, before meeting the residents of the Scarecrow Village, guaranteed to make you smile!

FIND FUN FOR THE SPROGS IN WATERFORD!

Grab the kids and head for **SprOg, (July 28th - August 3rd)**, the Pre-Spraoi children's festival in Waterford taking place at Garter Lane Arts Centre. Now in its 15th year of fun, there's a jam packed programme with a science theme, including pop up planetarium and racing rockets!

COME TOGETHER FOR ARTS IN OLDCASTLE!

Come together for **Le Cheile Arts & Music Festival** in Oldcastle, Co. Meath, **(July 31st - August 4th)**. Le Cheile is the Irish for together and the event brings together performances in music, drama, street entertainment, painting, poetry and more, often giving audiences a chance to see the stars of tomorrow in small intimate venues - think of the bragging rights!

KEEP IT COUNTRY IN CAHERSIVEEN!

Cahersiveen, on the Iveragh Peninsula in Co.Kerry, has been attracting visitors to its **Festival of Music & the Arts, (August 1st - 3rd)**, for two decades, with a variety of music, from folk to country, plus street entertainment and fun activities for all the family.

GO LOONY THIS LUNASA IN SLIGO!

Feel like dancing in Lunasa - the Irish for August? Then clear a space in your diary for the **Sligo Lunasa Festival, (August 1st - 7th)**. With 140 events taking place in 55 venues, you'll be spoilt for festive choice, including pub gigs, cafe culture celebrations, street party, children's workshops, outdoor cinema, art and photography markets, walks, talks and storytelling, almost all of which are free!

TURN BACK TIME IN BIRR!

Birr Vintage Week and Arts Festival in Co. Offaly, (August 1st - 8th), is the place to turn back time with a range of vintage and modern events including craft markets, the Ormand Flying Club's annual Fly-in display, and the Olde Time Traditional Fair. With busking, free kids' events, a donkey derby and more!

SEE A "FABULOUS AT 40" FESTIVAL IN DUNMORE!

The 40th **Dunmore Annual Festival in Co. Galway, (August 1st - 10th)** promises to be bigger and better than ever before, with soapbox racing, donkey derby, traditional market day, family table quizzes, road bowling, teen disco and fun run, with great music on the opening night from Mick Flavin & his band.

THREE REASONS TO MAKE A TRIP TO TIPP!

Festival Cluain Meala, (August 1st - 10th), sees the Tipperary town of Clonmel transformed into a hat trick of festival fun including bike races, music and street parties. Get three for the price of one visit here, with the **Medieval Town Walls Festival, Suir Valley Cycling Festival and Clonmel Busking Festival** all combined into one great time!

HAVE A SPREE IN WATERFORD!

Head to **Waterford for the Spraoi International Street Arts Festival, (August 2nd - 4th)**. It translates (from the Irish) to fun, exuberance and celebration, which is exactly what you'll find in an international programme taking place in the city's medieval streets and quays, including the Spraoi Parade.

HIT THE RIGHT NOTE IN ROSCOMMON!

Follow the sweet strains of music of the **O'Carolan Harp & Traditional Music Festival in Keadue, north Co. Roscommon, (August 1st - 4th)**. Enjoy a ceili, a sing song or bag a ticket to see stars such as Frankie Gavin and De Danann, plus street entertainment, door dancing competitions and great craic all round.

LAY SIEGE TO ENNISCORTHY!

Rebels, redcoats and history buffs will make a sortie to Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford for a re-enactment of the **Battle of Vinegar Hill, (August 2nd & 3rd)** to see pike charging Rebels and musket wielding Redcoats recreate the most significant battles of the 1798 Rebellion. Expect drama - and fun - for all the family, including a rebels v redcoats polocross match!

STEAM YOUR WAY TO STRADBALLY!

Get all steamed up at the **50th National Steam Rally in Stradbally, Co. Laois, (August 3rd - 4th)**, with steam engine demonstrations, a slow steam race, vintage cars, motorbikes, and a parade of vehicles. There are also mounted pony games, mobile pet farms, and a steam train ride through the woodlands.

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME IN CLARE!

Do a little time travel this August at the **Lughnasa Festival at Craggaunowen, Co. Clare (August 3rd - 4th)**, where costumed characters span periods from the Bronze Age through to the 16th Century, with showcase events such as a Brehon Law trial. Experience life on a crannog and see how Iron Age Technology compares to today's!

KEEP IT COUNTRY IN CLONMANY!

Open air music from Ireland's leading country music stars is guaranteed to get your toes tapping and your hips jiggling at the **Clonmany Festival, (August 3rd - 10th)**, a week of summer fun for all ages in Inishowen, Co. Donegal, including raft races and cycle rides, treasure hunts and talent competitions.

ROCK, ROLL AND RUN IN DUBLIN!

Join in the **Rock'n'Roll Half Marathon Fun Run in Dublin, (August 4th)**, with live bands to keep your mind off your muscles along the way! With cheer teams and entertaining water stations, it culminates with a finish line festival featuring great music acts guaranteed to keep that adrenaline flowing!

TROT ON TO DUBLIN!

Get your mane and tail groomed for the style of the **Dublin Horse Show at the RDS Showgrounds in Dublin, (August 6th -10th)**. Even if you wouldn't know one end of a horse from another, it's the place to be for great family entertainment, craft stalls, fashion shows, music and, of course, dare devil equestrian displays.

HAVE A TRADITIONALLY GOOD TIME IN FEAKLE!

Feakle in Co. Clare is famous for its top notch traditional music. Come August, it's also home to the **Feakle International Traditional Music Festival, (August 6th - 11th)**, when aficionados and artists from around the world hit all the right festival notes with concerts, sessions, readings and ceilis with free events for grown-ups and kids.

GALLOP TO LIMERICK!

Come see 100 fully costumed Jacobean horsemen ride through the streets of Limerick for the first time in more than 300 years as part of the **Sarsfield Festival, (August 8th - 10th)**, a celebration of Limerick's historical hero Patrick Sarsfield. Witness a re-enactment of an historic 1690 ride to Ballyneety, followed by a stunning sound and light show spectacular.

TASTE THE FLAVOURS OF CAVAN!

What does Cavan taste like? Find out at **Taste of Cavan Food Festival, (August 8th - 9th)**, with lots of fun and loads of food, top chefs and talented artisan producers. Check out the event that showcases the best of Cavan fare and some of the hottest name in Irish kitchens.

HAVE FAMILY FUN IN CORK!

It's family fun all the way at the **Rosscarbery Family Festival in West Cork, (August 8th - 17th)**, with a programme that will appeal to all generations from day-glo UV discos for teens to sandcastle competitions for kids and pig racing for all! Enjoy the Beat on the Street music event, pub singing contests and the Monster Rag Parade.

HAVE AN ART ATTACK IN KILKENNY!

Kilkenny Arts Festival, (August 8th - 17th), is the Marble City's annual creative bonanza, including classical and choral performances, a performance of Beowulf, the story of Ireland set in stone, Cartoon Saloon workshops, street theatre, art, music and poetry recitals, lectures and dance, music sessions and the return of Shakespeare's Globe theatre. It's much ado about something great!

SET SAIL TO GALWAY!

The Cruinniu na mBad Boat festival in Kinvara, Co. Galway, (August 8th - 10th), is a celebration of the majestic Galway Hookers that used to ferry turf along the coast. See vessels up to 150 years old, many with signature red sails, plus boat races, a parade of sail, music and farmers markets and fancy dress competitions for what is always a great family event.

GET LOST IN MUSIC IN SLIGO!

Sing along to Sister Sledge, and The Riptide Movement, at the **Sligo Summer Arts and Entertainment Festival, (August 8th - 9th)**, running from 6pm to 11pm each day. Strut your stuff at what is Ireland's biggest disco- and it's free!

TAKE THEM TO TULLAMORE!

One of the biggest events on the agricultural calendar, **Tullamore Show in Co. Offaly, (August 10th)**, is the ultimate country lifestyle event, with livestock displays and pet shows, horticulture and fashion, trade stands, entertainment, crafts, dog agility demos and performing arts!

MAKE FOR MAYO FOR FESTIVAL FUN!

Enjoy all the fun of the **Belmullet Festival in Co. Mayo, (August 10th - 18th)**, with racing, busking, a treasure hunt for both pedestrians and motorists, plus a kids' fantasy football event and Heritage Day.

HARVEST SUMMER'S FRUITS IN CLARE!

Celebrate nature's bounty at the **Kilmurry Harvest Festival at Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare, (August 10th - 16th)**, with a jam packed itinerary including the All Ireland Vintage Rally, a traditional Field Day, birds of prey displays, archery, equestrian events, carriage driving and sheep racing!

HAVE A FUN TIME AT THE FLEADH!

Prepare to be wowed, thrilled and entertained at the **Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in Sligo, (August 10th - 17th)**. For lovers of traditional music and dancing, this is the big one, with the cream of the country's young talent wowing audiences from far and wide.

FESTIVE FUN FOR EVERYONE AT BALLINAMORE

Enjoy a full week of activities at the **Ballinamore Family Festival in Co. Leitrim, (August 10th - 17th)**, with free open air music, daily activities for kids, tea dances, a funfair and games for grownups, all in the heartland of Ireland.

BE A GIDDY GOAT IN KILORGLIN!

Celebrate Ireland's oldest fair - **the Puck Fair in Kilorglin, Co. Kerry, (August 10th - 12th)**. It wouldn't have lasted more than 400 years if it wasn't good fun, would it! With loads of free street entertainment, music and traditional parade plus a chance to see the crowning of Queen Puck, it's the king of festivals and all dedicated to a goat!

TAKE ARTISTIC LICENCE IN TERRYGLASS!

The Terryglass Arts Festival in Co. Tipperary, (August 13th - 17th), includes almost every art form, from visual arts to theatre, dance and music, with workshops for adults and kids, and everything from plate spinning to puppet shows typically on the bill of fare!

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD!

West Wicklow's Hollywood Fair, (August 13th - 17th), is the place to go for everything from storytelling and scarecrow building to steam threshing. Soak up the gentle atmosphere with traditional craft displays such as bread making and stone cutting, try your hand at the tug of war or your luck at duck racing! Being Wicklow, there's sheep shearing too!

SAIL AWAY TO CORK!

Heir Island off West Cork may be tiny but it punches above its weight on the high seas, being the birthplace of not just one but two unique boats, the Heir Island lobster boat and the Heir island sloop. Come celebrate its maritime history at the **Heir Island Regatta, (August 14th)**, with all sorts of other boat life - including mermaids, dinghies and mirrors putting on a nautical display.

PICK A ROSE, AND A WINNER, AT TRALEE!

Enjoy the fun of the **Rose of Tralee International Festival in Co. Kerry, (August 15th - 19th)**, with talented ladies of Irish descent from all over the world battling it out for the top prize! It also includes top notch street entertainment, carnival, live concerts, circus, markets, funfairs and fireworks - the works!

BE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH IN WESTPORT!

Blaze a trail to **Gaelforce West in Westport, Co. Mayo, (August 16th)**, the original and still one of the toughest Irish adventure races. Tackle a 67km course including trail running, cycling and kayaking through some of the most spectacular scenery in Ireland. Join in, or just cheer them on, either way you're on to a winner!

EXPERIENCE A CLASH OF THE CURRACHS IN GALWAY!

Witness the uniquely Irish spectacle of Currach racing, and join in a celebration of the skill and expertise of local and visiting boatmen as they pit themselves against one another in the highly competitive - and fun! - **Inishbofin Regatta, (August 17th)**, off the stunning Galway coast.

ENJOY MASTERFUL PERFORMANCES IN BANTRY!

Celebrating traditional music in its purest form, **Masters of Tradition in Bantry, Co. Cork, (August 20th - 24th)**, brings together artistes such as Steve Cooney, Ivan Goff & Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh, Ghost Trio, Martin Hayes and many more, including American country and blue grass maestro Ricky Skaggs.

RACE TO KILLARNEY!

Feel the thunder of the turf at one of the summer's hottest racing tickets, the **Killarney August Festival, (August 20th - 23rd)**. Great sport, great fun and great fashion guaranteed - with flat racing one day and jumps the next - plus a fantastic shopping spree prize for Ladies' Day - why not try your luck at the Tote!

HAVE A LAUGH IN KERRY!

Grab that bowler and swivel that cane and head to the **Charlie Chaplin Comedy Film Festival in Waterville, Co. Kerry, (August 21st - 24th)**. Enjoy a fun filled homage to the great man himself in the picturesque village that so enchanted him. With screenings, workshops, Chaplinesque street entertainment and loads of laughs guaranteed!

DOWN SOME DISHES IN DONEGAL!

Give yourself a tasty treat with a visit to **Taste of Donegal Food Festival, (August 22nd - 24th)**, a three day celebration of great food and drink, with a tented food village on the pier. Whet your appetite on celebrity chef demonstrations, master classes, guided wine and beer tastings, entertainment and so much more.

CRAFT YOURSELF A PINT IN DOOLIN!

For the best of beer make a beeline for the **Doolin Craft Beer Festival in Co. Clare, (August 22nd - 24th)**. With winning ingredients including top notch craft brewers from around the country, some of Clare's best musicians and food from local artisan producers, there'll be great craic brewing all round!

HEAR SWEET SOUNDS IN TUAM!

Hit the **SugarBeat, (August 23rd)**, Galway's latest outdoor music festival, taking place in Tuam Stadium, with 10 acts on two stages, including Damien Dempsey, Mundy, Keywest, Raglans, Amazing Apples and many more.

GET ON YOUR BIKE IN WATERFORD!

Cycle alongside one of Ireland's greatest ever sportsmen, Sean Kelly, in his native county of Waterford, for the annual **Sean Kelly Tour (August 23rd - 24th)**. Up to 6,500 participants take part and, with routes running from 12km to 160km, there's something for legs of all abilities in this fun sporting challenge!

SEE DOUBLE IN SLIGO!

Got a twin? Have twins? **Twin Fest Ireland in Co, Sligo, (August 23rd)**, is the festival that brings together identical, fraternal, young and old twins, triplets and quads. A fun and quirky date for your calendar it's got a feel good factor like no other! Enjoy family friendly entertainment, craft stalls, farm animals, Irish dancing, music, magic shows and more!

BE GAME FOR A GREAT DAY OUT IN BIRR!

The **Irish Game and Country Fair (August 23rd - 24th)** takes place in the stately surrounds of **Birr Castle, Birr, Co.Offaly**. Enjoy an array of country sports including clay shooting, fishing and gundog competitions, medieval jousting, a huge tented village of trade stands and a Fine Food Festival.

CELEBRATE YOUR HERITAGE ALL OVER IRELAND!

Get all the family involved in one of the activities scheduled to celebrate **National Heritage Week, (August 23rd - 31st)**. This year's theme is "Generations exploring heritage together", so it's the perfect excuse to bring everyone together. Enjoy 1700 special events in various venues designed to bring heritage to life - everything from traditional music to dinghy racing!

MAKE A MATCH AT LISDOONVARNA!

Find your soulmate at the iconic Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival in **Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, (August 29th - October 5th)**. Enjoy the fun, music and dancing, and, whether you're gay or straight, you might just find 'the one' too. Look out for Willie Daly, Ireland's only matchmaker.

TAKE A TRIP TO YESTERYEAR IN TUBBERCURRY!

Enjoy the fun of bygone times at **Tubbercurry Old Fair Day Festival in Co. Sligo, (August 9th - 13th)**. There is family fun with pig racing, arts and crafts a pet farm, and kids movies. Don't miss Old Fair Day, with the sights and sounds of fair days gone by including spinning, weaving and basket making demos, thatching and thrashing displays.

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