



Press Release - 27 April, 2017

Walks to suit all in popular Foxford Festival

The ever popular Foxford Walking Festival takes place this year over the June Bank Holiday weekend, on Saturday, 3rd and Sunday, 4th June with walks to suit all ages and levels of fitness.

A large crowd gathered in Foxford Woollen Mills on Thursday evening for the launch of the festival by local Councillor, Neil Cruise. Councillor Cruise said he was delighted to launch the festival and complemented Foxford Ramblers Walking Club for organising the event which he said was a great opportunity showcase the area. He said Mayo Co. Council was committed to developing the full tourism potential of the county and walking offered tremendous potential in this regard. Festival chairman, Michael McNeeley, said the purpose of the festival was to encourage more visitors to Foxford and the wider area which had so much to offer with its spectacular scenery as well as a wide range of activities and attractions such as Foxford Woollen Mills and many other visitor centres and attractions. He hoped that holding the festival over the bank holiday weekend would result in more people being able to take part in this year's event.

The festival will feature six guided walks over the two days with hard, moderate and easy/family walks each day. On Saturday, the hard walk is over 16km stretch of the Ox Mountains from Drunsheen, near Bonniconlon, to Boyhollagh, near Attymass. A good level of fitness is required for this walk and water proof boots and rain gear are essential. Saturday's moderate walk is from Foxford, through scenic Tavnaghmore, to L. Conn and back to Foxford. An easy, family friendly walk will take participants along the River Moy towards Rinnany village and back to Foxford.

Sunday's hard walk is a climb of Nephin starting from Lahardaun and following a steep route over some rocky terrain to the summit and returning via a completely different route to the townland of Prughish on the opposite side of the mountain. This climb should only be attempted by those with a high level of fitness and experience of hill walking. Suitable boots and gear are essential. The moderate walk on Sunday is an ascent of scenic Laranmore Mountain near Foxford while the easy walk is a pleasant stroll through Drummin Wood, adjacent to Lough Cullin.

Bus transfers will be provided for all walks except Saturday's moderate and easy walks which start and finish at Foxford Sports and Leisure Centre where all walkers must register each morning. The fee is €15 for hard walks, €10 for moderate with no charge for easy walks. Fees include bus transfers (where applicable) and light refreshments for all before and after walks. Walkers doing hard or moderate walks should bring food, water and a hot drink. Please see www.foxfordwalkingfestival.com for more information.

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