

Galway Rural Development Company presents

# Traditional Ironwork

## Conservation & Current Practice



**Fridays 4th, 11th, 18th November 2011**

@ The Irish Workhouse Centre, Portumna, Co. Galway

Tour of Ironwork in Ballinasloe Cemetery 12th November 2011

### What is the course?

Traditional ironwork is a feature of the Irish landscape, ranging from formal classical designs associated with public buildings and spaces, demesnes and houses, to farm gates and tools for everyday use. Its conservation demands skill and knowledge. This course is a combination of a practical and theoretical course with 2 days of teaching and blacksmithing practice and one day of lectures. The one-day lecture course may be attended on its own.

### Who should attend?

The course is for anyone interested in historic ironwork and for those who own some or are in charge of looking after it. Places on 4th and 18th are limited to 20 participants who will get an opportunity to make two hand-forged pieces on 4th and take part in a forge-in to make a permanent sculpture on the 18th. More participants may attend but will be allowed to watch only. Master blacksmiths will be tutoring and demonstrating.

Places on 11th are limited to 80 attendees and are suitable for conservation officers, heritage officers, architects, engineers, owners/occupiers of historic buildings/protected structures, blacksmiths, local authority staff, elected members, community groups and interested individuals.



**Cost:** €20 per day / €40 for 3 days (includes refreshments & lunch)



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# Traditional Ironwork Programme



## Day 1: Friday 4th November - Practical Day

- 9.00 Registration
- 9.30 Introduction to the day and to the 3-day course  
**Katriona Byrne**
- 9.55 Health & Safety Instructions  
**Stephen Quinn, Master Blacksmith**
- 10.05 Identifying materials - wrought / cast / corrugated box / pure / pig iron, mild steel etc  
**Stephen Quinn, Master Blacksmith**
- 10.30 TEA/COFFEE
- 10.45 Basic forging skills – making a poker  
**Master Blacksmiths & trainees**
- 12.45 LUNCH
- 13.30 The Tools of the Blacksmith  
**Stephen Quinn, Master Blacksmith**
- 13.45 Basic forging skills - making an S-hook  
**Master Blacksmiths & trainees**
- 16.00 The Joints of the Blacksmith  
**Stephen Quinn, Master Blacksmith**
- 16.15 Return to AV Room
- 16.20 The Irish Workhouse Centre Project  
**Ursula Marmion SE Galway IRD**
- 17.00 Close

## Day 2: Friday 11th November - Lecture Day

- 9.00 Registration
- 9.30 Welcome - Katriona Byrne
- 9.35 The History of Iron Manufacturing in Ireland  
**Ali Davey, Scottish Ironwork Foundation, Author of DoEHLG's advice note on Iron**
- 10.05 Historic Ironwork – Why Conserve?  
**Katriona Byrne, Conservation Consultant**
- 10.30 Conservation Principles for Historic Ironwork  
**Mairin Doddy, Conservation Officer Galway Co Co**
- 11.00 TEA/COFFEE
- 11.30 Best practice in conservation of wrought ironwork  
**Paul Devlin, Master Blacksmith**
- 12.00 Best practice in conservation of cast ironwork  
**Ali Davey, Scottish Ironwork Foundation**
- 12.30 The challenges of planning & managing ironwork/stonework projects  
**Aine Doyle, Conservation Consultant**
- 13.00 LUNCH
- 14.00 Some interesting projects in conservation of structural ironwork  
**Dermot Nolan, Conservation Engineer**
- 14.30 Blacksmithing into the future  
**Stephen Quinn, Master Blacksmith**
- 15.00 Appreciation of vernacular ironwork  
**Shem Caulfield, Photographer**
- 15.30 Q & A
- 16.00 Walking tour of Portumna's ironwork
- 17.00 Close



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## Keynote Lecture

**Saturday 12th November 12.00-13.30**

### *Tour of Ironwork in Ballinasloe Cemetery*

Guided by Ali Davey (in conversation with Katriona Byrne, Stephen Quinn, master blacksmiths, Mairin Doddy)  
See the fabulous array of ironwork in this cemetery – ironwork from Scotland, Galway, Dublin and Belfast; identify the different repair problems and discuss how best to fix them. Meet at entrance to cemetery.  
Bring raingear and sensible footwear.



## Day 3: Friday 18th November - Practical Day: Forge-in

- 9.00 Registration
- 9.30 Traditional Blacksmithing in Ireland – a viable life choice?  
**David Shaw Smith, Author of Hands TV series on Blacksmithing**
- 10.00 Health & Safety Instructions  
**Stephen Quinn, Master Blacksmith**
- 10.05 The Difference between a Welder and a Blacksmith & forge-welding demonstration  
**Stephen Quinn, Master Blacksmith**
- 10.45 TEA/COFFEE
- 11.00 Blacksmithing project  
**Master Blacksmiths & trainees + spectators**
- 13.00 LUNCH
- 13.45 Creating a lead socket in stone for ironwork – demonstration  
**Stephen Quinn, Master Blacksmith**
- 14.00 Blacksmithing project  
**Master Blacksmiths & trainees + spectators**
- 16.00 Return to AV room
- 16.05 Presentation of Certificates and wrap-up  
**Galway Rural Development Co.**
- 17.00 Close

## Booking

Please complete the registration form below in order to book your place.

Name:

Organisation:

Position:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Please tick the box if you would like to be added to our mailing list:

How did you hear about us?

No. attending:  Total fee payable:

### Please tick which event you would like to attend:

- Fri November 4th Practical Day
- Fri November 11th Lecture Day
- Fri November 18th Practical Day and Forge-in
- Sat November 12th Tour of Ironwork in Ballinasloe Cemetery

€20 per day (including refreshments & lunch), €40 for 3 days. Tour free. Cheque/postal order/bank draft made out to Galway Rural Development Company c/o Grainne Smyth, Forward Planning, Galway County Council, Prospect Hill, Galway.

## For further information:

Contact Grainne Smyth on 091-509121 or email; gsmlyth@galwaycoco.ie

## Directions:

### From the Dublin/Athlone/Ballinasloe direction

The Irish Workhouse Centre is on the left as you enter the town.

### From the Loughrea/Galway direction

On entering Portumna, turn left at Al Hayes Motors, signposted for Ballinasloe. Then take the first right. You will see the Irish Workhouse Centre on your left.

### From the Tipperary direction

Drive over Portumna Bridge, continue straight, turn right at Bank of Ireland, continue on. The Irish Workhouse Centre is on your right.

### From the Woodford/County Clare direction

Continue straight ahead as you enter Portumna, turn left at Bank of Ireland, continue on and the Irish Workhouse Centre is on your right.

