

Registration Form

Title: _____ First Name: _____
Surname: _____
Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

Registration Fee

Please tick appropriate box:

Friday Launch:.....Complimentary to day delegates.....

Day Delegate:

Saturday Lectures, Lunch, Teas & Coffee€30.00.....

Commemorative Railway Dinner (Sat):€35.00.....

Guided Walk (Sun):.....€10.00.....

Total Payment

I enclose a cheque/bank draft for €
payable to: Clifden Chamber of Commerce Railway Weekend
2008.

Please post to:

Michele Hehir, Market Street, Clifden, Co. Galway.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

DATES

Friday, 18th April, 2008 to Sunday 20th April, 2008.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Launch at Clifden Station House.

Saturday registration and lectures at Station House Theatre.

PAYMENT

Payment must be received in Euro by March 31st, 2008.

Cheques should be made payable to Clifden Chamber of Commerce
Railway Weekend 2008.

CANCELLATION

A refund of fees (less €10.00 administration charge) will be given,
provided that notice of cancellation is received in writing on or before
March 31st, 2008. After this date, no refunds will be given.

ENQUIRIES

Ms Michele Hehir, Market Street, Clifden, Co. Galway

Tel: 00353 87 0520295

Email: michele@clifdenchamber.ie

Website: www.clifden.ie

How did you hear about this conference? Please tick...

Mailing Advert Internet Other

If Other, please tell us:



CLIFDEN HERITAGE RAILWAY WEEKEND

CELEBRATING ONE OF THE
GREAT LOST RAILWAYS OF IRELAND

FRIDAY 18TH TO SUNDAY 20TH APRIL 2008



The Galway – Clifden Railway

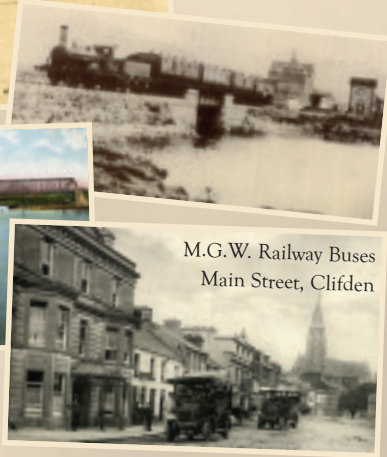
by Paul Duffy



Left: Voting card on Clifden Railway proposal.
Below right: Recess 1925.



Corrib Viaduct 1900



M.G.W. Railway Buses
Main Street, Clifden

The first mention of serving Connemara with a railway came in 1834 with a plan for a Dublin – Galway – Bertroughboy Railway. This led to the proposed Irish Eastern and Western Railway linking Dublin and Galway. This line was set out and surveyed under the direction of William Bald, who may have had some assistance from William Dargan who had already cast a contractor's eye on Bald's proposed route for a Dublin- Drogheda Railway in preparation for the Parliamentary Enquiry into the various proposals put forward by different companies for this line. Dargan, did construct the M.G.W. Railway from Mullingar to Galway many years later.

The first organized attempt to have a Galway – Clifden Railway constructed occurred in 1860.. This was the proposed West Galway Railway designed by S. U. Roberts, who was also engineer to a later proposal "The Galway, Oughterard and Clifden Railway". Both of these plans and several subsequent ones failed due to lack of supporting finances. It wasn't until a free grant towards construction costs was made available that a railway became a reasonable possibility.

Various proposals were put forward by rival companies. Finally the Midland Great Western Railway was selected and awarded a grant of €264,000 towards the cost of constructing the line. Work started on building the railway in January 1891 and the line was completed and opened for traffic as far as Oughterard on January 01st 1895 and the Clifden section on July 01st of the same year. The line only operated for forty years and closed in 1935. This closure must rank as the greatest infrastructural loss suffered in County Galway in the twentieth century.

Programme

Friday 18th April, 2008

- 7pm** Official Launch of Railway Weekend by Minister Eamon Ó Cuiv, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, followed by the reissue of *The Clifden Railway* by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill.
- 10pm** "*The Titfield Thunderbolt*" (1953, Comedy) at the Station House Theatre.- When British Railways announce the closure of the Titfield to Mallingford branch line a group of local residents make a bid to run it themselves, backed by a monied member of the community who is attracted by the complete lack of licensing hours on trains. Unfortunately the local bus company starts to use methods that can hardly be seen as fair competition, to the extent that the whole project is threatened.

Saturday 19th April, 2008

- 9am** Registration
- 10am** "*The Archaeology and History of Connemara and its Offshore Islands*" by Michael Gibbons. Michael Gibbons is a member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. He has 25 years of experience as an archaeologist and recently completed a 5 year term as a member of the Archaeology Committee of the Heritage Council. He has worked with the Department of Antiquities in Jerusalem and for the Museum of London City Excavation Programme
- 11am** Tea & Coffee break.
- 11.30am** "*Tracking through Connemara*" by Paul Duffy. Paul Duffy is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Ireland. He has lectured and published extensively on Irish Engineering Heritage.
- 1pm** Lunch
- 2pm** "*The Connemara Railway*" by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill. An illustrated talk on the history of the Galway to Clifden line, highlighting the social and economic impact of the railway on Connemara. Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill is a native of Clifden and the author of five books on the history of Connemara. Her most recent book, *Alexander Nimmo & The Western District*, was awarded the Galway County Best Heritage Publication Award for 2006.
- 3pm** Tea & Coffee break.
- 3.30pm** *William Dargan & Ireland's Railway Heritage* by Fergus Mulligan. Fergus Mulligan was born in Co. Leitrim and is the author of several books on history. His PhD from Trinity College is *A Business life of William Dargan 1799-1867* and he now runs a publishing company.
- 8pm** Commemorative Railway Dinner.

Sunday 20th April, 2008

- 10am** Guided walk on Clifden Railway Line.

Accommodation Offers – must be booked directly by email or telephone quoting Clifden Railway Weekend

Benview House

Tel: 095 21256

Email:

benviewhouse@ireland.com

Web: www.benviewhouse.com

B&B: €40.00 per person sharing / €55.00 single occupancy



Clifden station 1910.

Buttermilk Lodge

Tel: 095 21951

Email: buttermillodge@eircom.net Web: www.buttermilkdodge.com

B&B: €35.00 per person sharing / €50.00 single occupancy

2B&B: €65.00 per person sharing / €95.00 single occupancy

Clifden Station House

Tel: 095 21699

Email: info@clifdenstationhouse.com

Web: www.clifdenstationhouse.com

B&B: €80.00pps. **2B&B, 1Dinner:** €169.00pps (Fri night dinner only)

Foyles Hotel

Tel: 09521801

Email: info@foyleshotel.com Web: www.foyleshotel.com

B&B: €45.00 per person sharing; **2B&B, 1D:** €119.00 per person sharing

The Quay House

Tel: 095 21369

Email: res@thequayhouse.com Web: www.thequayhouse.com

B&B: €65.00 per person sharing, inclusive of full breakfast, afternoon tea on arrival and VAT

Waterloo House

Tel: 095 21688

Email: pkp@joyces-waterloo.com Web: www.jyces-waterloo.com

B&B: from €44.50 pps. **2B&B:** from €34.50pps/night

