

## **Press Release**

# **Explore Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Gardens during National Heritage Week**

As part of National Heritage Week 2010, which runs from 21st – 29th August, and to mark the ongoing celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the death of Mitchell Henry, Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Gardens will host a variety of events to showcase the history and natural heritage of Kylemore Abbey and Connemara itself.

Encompassing the rich and varied history of Kylemore Abbey, visitors to one of Ireland's top tourist attractions during National Heritage Week can take part in family friendly guided tours of the Abbey itself, learn about the flora and fauna during a nature walk through the woodlands and lakeshores at Kylemore and explore the six acre Victorian Walled Gardens while finding out more about the heritage flowers, bulbs and seed conservation with one of the gardeners.

Some exciting talks will also take place at Kylemore Abbey during National Heritage week with Paul Duffy, a former senior executive engineer for Galway City Council, giving an introduction to the engineering history of Kylemore Abbey and Connemara on Saturday, 21st August from 2.30pm. Attendants of the lecture will visit the disused lime kiln and hydro-electrical generator as well as learn more about the many disused mines and railways in Connemara as well as the Marconi Station. On both 25th and 28th August, architect Bríd Connell, who also works at Kylemore Abbey, will give a guided tour of Kylemore Abbey and the stunning Gothic Church with a particular emphasis on the architecture and history of the buildings, as well as a visit to the hydro-electrical generator, which has amazingly been generating electricity at Kylemore Abbey since 1890! On the final weekend of national Heritage Week, wildlife lovers and families will be in for a treat on Saturday, 28th August when popular Irish wildlife expert and artist Gordon D'Arcy will give a lecture about the wildlife of Kylemore Abbey and Connemara.

The 100th anniversary of the death of Mitchell Henry will take place in November, with a variety of events planned to celebrate his life and his commitment to Kylemore Abbey and Connemara. Mitchell and his wife Margaret Henry are credited for accomplishing the amazing architectural and engineering feat in the late 1800s of building the castle at Kylemore Abbey and creating an oasis of sophistication and beauty in this rugged part of world. The magnificent turreted castle the husband and wife team created is still set into the hills above the lake although it is now one of Ireland's top tourist attractions, and easily reached, being just 1 hour from Galway city and with thousands of visitors every year who explore the estate and learn more about its heritage and the Benedictine Community, who have made Kylemore Abbey their home since 1920.

Visit Kylemore Abbey during National Heritage Week and embrace all that the Kylemore Estate has to offer – all events are included in admission price to Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Gardens. Following any of the fantastic events taking place, relax and take in a woodland or garden walk, visit the restored rooms of the Abbey, gothic church, tea rooms, café and craft shop as well as the spectacular views.

Entry for children under 12 is free – please see below details of events taking place at Kylemore Abbey during National Heritage Week.

**For more information or to book places at the event, please contact:**

Bríd Connell, Kylemore Abbey

Tel: 095 41463

Email: [brid@kylemoretourism.ie](mailto:brid@kylemoretourism.ie)

Visit [www.kylemoreabbeytourism.ie](http://www.kylemoreabbeytourism.ie) for further details

**For further media information, please contact:**

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**National Heritage Week – Events at Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Gardens:**

**Saturday, 21st August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

14.30 – 16.00 Paul Duffy, Former Snr executive engineer, Galway City Council

*Introduction to the engineering history of Kylemore Abbey & Connemara*

14.00 – 16.00 Guided Nature Walk through the woodlands and lakeshores of Kylemore Abbey

14.30 – 15.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

15.30 – 16.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

**Sunday, 22nd August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

14.00 – 16.00 Guided Nature Walk through the woodlands and lakeshores of Kylemore Abbey

14.30 – 15.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

15.30 – 16.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

### **Monday, 23rd August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

14.30 – 15.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

15.30 – 16.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

### **Tuesday, 24th August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

14.30 – 15.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

15.30 – 16.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

### **Wednesday, 25th August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

13.50 – 14.30 Guided tour of Abbey & Gothic Church with architect Bríd Connell

*Learn about the architecture and engineering of the buildings at Kylemore Abbey and enjoy a tour of the hydro-electrical generator.*

### **Thursday, 26th August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

14.30 – 15.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

15.30 – 16.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

### **Friday, 27th August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

14.30 – 15.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

15.30 – 16.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

**Saturday, 28th August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

11.30 – 12.30 Guided tour of Abbey & Gothic Church with architect Bríd Connell

*Learn about the architecture and engineering of the buildings at Kylemore Abbey and enjoy a tour of the hydro-electrical generator.*

14.00 – 15.00 Lecture about the wildlife at Kylemore Abbey & Connemara with Irish wildlife expert and artist Gordon D'Arcy

14.30 – 15.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

15.30 – 16.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

**Sunday, 29th August**

11.00 – 16.00 Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey every hour

14.30 – 15.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners

15.30 – 16.15 Tour of the 6 acre Victorian Walled Garden with one of Kylemore Abbey's Gardeners