

Wind Turbine Course

Be part of a seven day workshop to build a 4.2 metre grid connected wind turbine.
Learn new skills and meet new people .
All experience levels welcome to take part.



This course covers all the practical elements of building a 4.2 meter diameter wind turbine and gives an overview of all the technical aspects needed to create a wind based renewable energy system. Participants will get hands on experience welding a turbine mounting, carving wooden blades and building the electrical generator using magnets and copper coils. Its great fun and very empowering!

The course will be run in by V3 Power a D.I.Y Renewable energy cooperative and based on Hugh Piggotts wind turbine designs. It will be hosted by Rosspport Solidarity Camp in Pollathomais, County Mayo.

Dates: Sat. 4th August - Friday 10th August
Cost of course (includes accomodation in camp house and food):
300 euro (waged) or 200 euro (unwaged)

Make a deposit of 100 euro to secure your place on the course - PLACES LIMITED.
For more information contact us at
0851141170 or at rosspportsolidaritycamp@gmail.com



FREE!

July, 6th 2012

ERRIS NEWS



Community Information - Erris, County Mayo, Ireland

Mayo County Council AGM disrupted by Shell construction noise

Mayo County Council's AGM was disrupted by a recording of an unbearable noise that came from Shell's compound in Glengad all through the June bank holiday weekend.



Glengad residents bring Shell noise to Mayo County Council AGM

On Tuesday the 26th of June Glengad residents and supporters entered the council chambers in Castlebar. Heads turned in astonishment as the terrible noise which struck Broadhaven Bay filled the council chamber. At Glengad the noise had continued 12 hours a day for four days but after 10 minutes all but 2 of the councillors had vacated the chamber. Glengad resident Colm Henry said:

"When we tried to make our complaints there was no-one to turn to - both Shell and the council offices had closed up for the weekend. It's sad that we had to go all the way into Castlebar to make our point. We are being systematically tortured here and have been forgotten by our politicians both locally and nationally."

Thousands of lugworms found dead on Glengad and Rossport beaches

On the 2nd of July, thousands of dead Lugworms were found in the sands around Sruwaddacon estuary.



Lugworms discovered dead on the strand at Glengad

The dead lugworms were on both sides of the estuary, both on Glengad beach and Rossport strand. Further dead lugworms were also found at the east end of Sruwaddacon estuary at Aughoose.

Lugworms are almost never to be seen above the sand yet sections of the beaches were littered with both dead and almost dead lugworms. Rossport resident and ferryman Ray Corduff said he had never seen this occurrence before.

The Marine Institute has said that the deaths were caused by an algal bloom which is toxic to certain species of marine life. Evidence of the bloom has been discovered from Donegal to Clare.

A previous bloom on this part of the coastline lasted throughout the summer of 2005. A fisheries investigation into lugworm kills in Wexford in 1976 concluded that those deaths were also likely to be caused by an algal bloom.

Meitheal Iorrais 14th - 15th July 2012

Meitheal Iorrais – a gathering to celebrate and grow community resilience – will be taking place at the Rossport Solidarity Camp in Aughoose, Erris Co. Mayo on the 14th/15th July, 2012

The weekend will include a 'meitheal' at the camp gardens and local farms, workshops, discussions, kids activities, music and fun!

The Solidarity Camp

At the invitation of the local community, the Rossport Solidarity Camp was set up in June 2005 with the intention of supporting the people of the area in their stand against the Corrib Gas Project. The camp has set up at strategic points of opposition to Shell in Rossport, Glengad, and now in Aughoose. Over the years we've built strong ties with the people and the place itself.

Seven years on, reflecting over our years in Erris, we now return to our roots to celebrate this connection to community, diversity, the land and sea.

Erris and the Meitheal

Erris, steeped in a history of resistance over the centuries, has a strong tradition of farming and fishing in the most adverse of conditions. For generations people have eked out their survival along the remote coast, slowly and surely reclaiming land from bog.

During the meitheal gathering, it is our intention to share in these experiences, of what locally is called *muinhin*, which means of the place, and *cointeann*, which means the tension felt when that place and its people are being torn apart. We would like to open up questions and discussion about the nature of community resilience and sustainability and take a look at the schism that often seems to exist between the movements for personal sustainability and the fight against corporate and state power. Where should we be putting our energy and how can we work together with clearer understanding?

Come join the Meitheal!

The programme has been put together to give as much time as possible to walk the land, to remember the beauty of this place, so we have placed our talks and discussions together, leaving space during the day for fresh air, work and play. We are open to suggestions on how to improve on the above so if you have any ideas of other topics for discussion, let us know.

Looking forward to hearing from you and hope to see you for the Meitheal!

MEITHEAL IORRAIS

A gathering to celebrate and grow community resilience
July 14th -15th July 2012



Community Meitheal Walks Workshops
Discussions Kids Activities Ceili and fun!

Rosspport Solidarity Camp, Aughoose, Co. Mayo



For more information contact:

www.rossportsolidaritycamp.org

Phone: 0851141170

email: meithealiorrais@gmail.com

PEOPLES' FORUM SEMINAR

Human Rights in Erris – Reports and Reportage

INVER COMMUNITY CENTRE

7th JULY 2012

10.30am - 4.30pm



SPEAKERS: Table Observers presentation, Betty Schult, William Hederman, Delegate from Irish Centre for Human Rights NUI Galway

TO BE CONFIRMED: Front Line, Editors from the Mayo News, Western People, Conaught Telegraph & Mayo Advertiser, Members of the Dáil Committee on Natural Resources

Lunch 1 - 2pm Followed by open forum for discussion
To be chaired by Andy Storey

For further details contact: 087 9591474

email: maurah.ias@eircom.net

Come to the Rosspport Solidarity Camp Day of Solidarity on Friday 13th July 2012

In support of the communities in Erris under occupation by Shell and the state



Arrive Thursday 12th if possible
Bring a tent, sleeping bag, warm clothes & rain gear
Food provided - donations welcome

For more details: www.rossportsolidaritycamp.org or ring 0851141170

A visit from Norway...

Economist and fisherman Bjørnar Nicolaisen and his wife Ingrid travelled from the North of Norway to spend time with the community of Kilcommon. Bjørnar is secretary of the Norwegian fishermen's union Andøy Fiskarlag, who successfully work to protect their fishing grounds from intrusion of gas and oil exploration works. While the couple enjoyed beautiful weather, fishing trips, traditional music and an immediate sense of friendship and common ground, they were shocked about the state of occupation and destruction that Statoil, co-owner of the Corrib Gas Project, has brought to Erris. 'We, the Norwegian people are Statoil', Bjørnar said, 'and we Norwegians certainly don't agree with what is being done to this community.'

When he heard that Shell have received permission from Minister for Energy Pat Rabbitte to carry out seismic testing off the Mayo coast for 100 days starting from the 1st of June, he had serious words of warning, especially for fishermen.

Seismic testing is an exploration technique used by oil and gas companies to explore the ocean for oil and gas sediments. In order to measure these sediments, large ships fire high-intensity air guns deep into the ocean. The sound energy from these air guns is potentially damaging to many species of marine life, including whales, dolphins and seals.

The blasts from seismic air gun can reach volumes of 260 decibels (anything above 180 decibels is believed to be harmful to marine mammals). The injuries that may be caused by sounds at this level include permanent hearing loss, disorientation, brain haemorrhaging and death.

"The fish went away, Catches went immediately 60% down... And it never came back. It's been 3 years since the last shooting they did and it never came back... It [Seismic shooting] scares fish at least at distances of 18 nautical miles (which is about 33km), Co-existence is impossible."

- Bjørnar Nicolaisen

Meanwhile the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group has lodged a complaint with the European Commission and the Department for Energy. The Group says that the Department is in potential breach of article 12 of the EU Habitats Directive by issuing the license to Shell E&P Ireland.

I believe that fisheries should be more powerful than oil industry because we give food - the most needed energy - to people. Now I have visited Ireland and met all you very nice and decent people who are struggling against corrupt politicians, authorities, Shell, Statoil.

I am so impressed with what you all have done so far and what you have achieved already. I have seen the sadness in your eyes, and this was confirmed when I saw the pictures we took in Ireland. The only times you all really looked happy was when I captured you doing the stuff that makes you happy - fishing and farming and being in the environments you love. Just like myself.

All the best for all of you,

Bjørnar N.

...and visitors from Switzerland

A group of sailors from Switzerland visited Broadhaven Bay and anchored at Rinroe Pier over the June bank holiday weekend. They came ashore to enjoy a bit of solid ground under their feet when they went for a walk along the Cliffs of Benwee Head and stocked up on groceries in Carrowteige. They were met at the pier by local residents and a banner was raised on the yacht to show solidarity with the community here.

'The Corrib Gas Pipeline is already marked in on our maps. Should it ever carry raw high pressure and unodorised gas, we would not feel safe to enter Broadhaven Bay any longer. The scary, constant industrial noise from the Shell compound which woke us up in the morning and lasted all day was a stark reminder of what lies in store for this most special place for nature and people' said Rachel Sameli a member of the crew.



Swiss sailors in Broadhaven Bay over the June bank holiday weekend