

# Calendar of Events 2008

## 1st – 3rd February

### **Merriman Winter School** Westport, Co. Mayo

Bringing together a group of people with a keen interest in, and experience of, Irish literature and the arts, politics and current affairs, to share their knowledge and passions. From all backgrounds and ages, participants attend lectures by noted scholars, enjoy set dancing and singing sessions and deepen their knowledge of the area. Mostly they have fun!

T: 087 9324725 W: [www.merriman.ie](http://www.merriman.ie)

## 24th & 25th May

### **Féile na Tuaithe – A Celebration of Country Life** National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Turlough, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Weekend-long celebration of Irish country life, featuring contemporary and traditional music, craft and country market products and family events. Suitable for all the family.

T: 094 9031733 E: [tpark@museum.ie](mailto:tpark@museum.ie) W: [www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)

## 26th & 27th May

### **Ballinrobe Races** Ballinrobe Racecourse, Co. Mayo

Ballinrobe Racecourse has a long established tradition of racing in various forms, with meetings recorded as far back as 1774 and steeplechases included in the 1834 meeting. This picturesque racetrack boasts exceptional views and excellent facilities, which were upgraded in 1998.

T: 094 9541811 W: [www.hri.ie](http://www.hri.ie) / [www.ballinroberacecourse.ie](http://www.ballinroberacecourse.ie)

## 30th May – 2nd June

### **Castlebar Blues Festival** Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Visit Castlebar this June Bank Holiday weekend for one of the longest-running blues festivals in the Country – the 15th Castlebar Blues Festival.

T: 094 9023111 W: [www.castlebarblues.com](http://www.castlebarblues.com)

## 16th June

### **Ballinrobe Races** Ballinrobe Racecourse, Co. Mayo

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## 18th & 20th – 22nd June

### **52nd Westport Sea Angling Festival** Clew Bay (from Westport Quay), Co. Mayo

4-Day Angling Event – 1 day shore angling (Wednesday 20th) and 3-day boat angling (Friday – Sunday) all fished in the beautiful waters of Clew Bay.

T: 087 7656202 / 098 27297

## 1st – 6th July

### **Mayo Fleadh Cheoil (Fleadh Cheoil Mhaigh Eo)** Westport, Co. Mayo

A festival of traditional Irish music, song, dance and story-telling, celebrating the traditional Ireland. Competitions in Irish traditional music, song and dance (all age groups) and Irish conversation.

T: 098 29603

## 21st & 22nd July

### **Ballinrobe Races** Ballinrobe Racecourse, Co. Mayo

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## 23rd – 27th July

### **Westport Music Festival** Westport, Co. Mayo

A family orientated festival running nightly with music acts to suit all age groups.

W: [www.westportmusicfestival.com](http://www.westportmusicfestival.com)

## 27th July

### **Croagh Patrick Pilgrimage** Murrisk, Westport, Co. Mayo

Located six miles (approx. 9.5km) west of Westport on the Louisburgh Road, Croagh Patrick is one of Mayo's most famous landmarks and an international place of pilgrimage. In 441AD, Saint Patrick is said to have spent 40 days and nights praying

and fasting on its slopes. Throughout the year people of all ages and of all degrees of devotion, climb up the rock path to the summit while the traditional pilgrimage always takes place on the last Sunday of July each year.

T: 098 25711

### **31st July – 03rd August**

**Newport Grainne Uaile Festival** Newport, Co. Mayo

Festival of street music and sporting events, to be enjoyed by adults and children alike – ideal family festival.

T: 086 1525726

### **11th August**

**Ballinrobe Races** Ballinrobe Racecourse, Co. Mayo

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### **22nd – 24th August**

**Gaelforce West Adventure Race & Festival** Grounds of Westport House Estate, Co. Mayo

Two races run in tandem over a weekend with an Adventure Festival at Westport House, historic home of Grace O'Malley, Ireland's Legendary Pirate Queen. Gaelforce 6 is a 65km run/cycle/climb/kayak for novice racers, and Gaelforce 12 is a 72 hour unsupported expedition.

T: 098 28316 / 28324 W: [www.gaelforcewest.ie](http://www.gaelforcewest.ie)

### **24th August**

**Ballinrobe Races** Ballinrobe Racecourse, Co. Mayo

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### **19th – 21st September**

**Clare Island Singles Weekend** Clare Island, Co. Mayo

A festival for young people aged 30 years plus which includes Ballroom of Romance, computer dating, blind dating and romantic walks on the island.

T: 098 26525 / 25087 W: [www.clareisland.org](http://www.clareisland.org)

### **20th – 21st September**

**Windsurfing & Wavesailing Championship & Festival** Keel, Achill Island, Co. Mayo

Annual wavesailing competition

T: 098 26525 E: [info@windwise.ie](mailto:info@windwise.ie) W: [www.windwise.ie](http://www.windwise.ie)

### **22nd September**

**Ballinrobe Races** Ballinrobe Racecourse, Co. Mayo

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### **27nd September**

**Westport Horse Fair** South Mall, Westport, Co. Mayo

Horse Fair with ponies & horses for sale and show classes for horses & ponies in the morning.

T: 098 28940 W: [www.hri.ie](http://www.hri.ie)

### **03rd – 12th October**

**Westport Arts Festival** Westport, Co. Mayo

Westport Arts Festival has long since established itself on the West coast calendar as an exciting and diverse event. The festival is a locally-run event for the enjoyment of the thousands of tourists who visit the area annually.

T: 095 27375 W: [www.westportartsfestival.com](http://www.westportartsfestival.com)

### **4th & 5th October**

**The Helm Skate Festival** Westport, Co. Mayo

2-day Fishing Festival for common & other species of skate in the Clew Bay area. Prize fund of €6000.

T: 098 26194 E: [thehelm@eircom.net](mailto:thehelm@eircom.net)