

Féile Bríde 2020

Rekindling; Revitalizing; Re-wilding; Restoring

Saturday February 8th

Solas Bhríde Centre

Kildare Town

Registration at 9.35am



**SOLAS BHRÍDE
CENTRE AND
HERMITAGES**

INTRODUCTION

The Earth was small, light blue, and so touchingly alone, our home that must be defended like a holy relic!

The Earth was absolutely round.

I believe I never knew what the word round meant until I saw Earth from space. ”

These words from cosmonaut Alexi Leonov, give some sense of the wonder of our extraordinary Planet home and of the awe and reverence in which we should hold her. Spectacular, miraculous, breathtaking, astonishing are all words that are attributed but none adequately describe her motherly elegance and exquisite beauty.

But it is as if governments and corporations, down the years, instead of nurturing and caring for this life sustaining treasure, have felt compelled to abuse, neglect and exploit her. And now our planet is clearly in distress – manifested through fires, floods, storms and tsunamis.

It is long past time to stop, to listen and to act. Not only is our planet crying out but other voices are being raised too, especially the voices of the young. Greta Thunberg has become a world leader, speaking truth to power, exposing the emperor’s ‘no clothes’- doing what those in power have abysmally failed to do.

“We must make sure that 2020 is the year of action,” she says, “the year when we bend the global emissions curve, we are going to put pressure on those in power, we are going to make sure that they will act and they will take responsibility.”

Féile Bríde 2020 will be a response to Greta’s call to action. This will be the first year of the decade of real change. We must rekindle the flame; revitalize our energies; re-wild whenever and wherever possible and restore our awesome planet to its former glory. We must in the words of poet Brendan Kennelly ‘begin again,’ because

*‘something that will not acknowledge conclusion
insists that we forever begin.’*

- Joe Murray

CLÁR

- 9.35am **Registration**
- 10.00am Fáilte, Solas agus Ceol: Welcome, Light and Music
Carrying and placing of flame to the accompaniment of beautiful music from Cormac Breatnach, Steve Cooney, Emer Lynam and Roger Whelan
- 10.15am Seeds of Change – Clare O’Grady Walshe
- 11.05am **Breathing space**
- 11.15am ‘We are the Ark’ – Mary Reynolds
- 12.05pm **Music**
- 12.15pm Every Day is Earth Day – Nellie McLoughlin
- 1.00pm **Lunch and Tree Planting**
- 2.00pm Rousing recital from members of the Dublin Ukulele Collective
- 2.30pm Rewilding - Letting Nature take care of itself - Shivam O’Brien
- 3.20pm Conservation, Education and Recreation – Michael Long
- 4.00pm *Waltzing on Borrowed Time*
- 4.15pm Evaluation
- 4.30pm **Ends**

BIOGRAPHIES

Clare O’Grady Walshe is a post-doctoral research associate in Politics and International Relations at the School of Law and Government in DCU. She recently published a book entitled ‘Globalisation and Seed Sovereignty in sub-Saharan Africa’. A former director of Greenpeace Ireland and Trustee of Greenpeace International Council she was a board member of Irish Seedsavers Association and Children in Crossfire. She worked part-time for ten years as Afri’s Development Education Coordinator.

Mary Reynolds is a reformed Irish landscape designer, bestselling author of ‘The Garden Awakening and nature activist. ‘Dare to be Wild’ is a film about Mary’s Chelsea Gold Medal winning adventures. She is a proud patron of Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland and strives to do as much as she can to re-educate people on how to live in harmony with nature in their own patch of land – to become guardians rather than gardeners.

Nellie McLaughlin is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy who works in the areas of cosmology, ecology and sustainable living. She runs retreats and conferences in creation spirituality throughout Ireland and internationally. She is author of Out of Wonder, the evolving Story of the Universe and Life’s Delicate Balance.

Shivam O’Brien is a storyteller, carpenter, poet, writer, pilgrim and lover of the woods and the wild. He exemplifies the Celtic tradition, and brings a reverence for indigenous and spiritual traditions. He lives in Wales on 200 acres of mountain, streams, woods and meadows which is now entirely wild land allowed to follow its own untameable direction.

Michael Long. Having qualified as a Farm Manager, Michael worked with Gorta in Kenya in the East Pokot region from 1980 to ‘84. On his return to Ireland he joined St. Patrick’s Kiltegan and was ordained in 1991. He worked in Zambia for five years before joining the Kiltegan Leadership team in Ireland for six years. He completed a Masters in Culture and Spirituality in 2004 and since then has been based at Cabragh Wetlands working in the areas of conservation, recreation and education.

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This event is organised in partnership with St. Patrick’s Missionary Society Kiltegan and Cairde Bríde. Thanks also to the Spiritans, the Presentation Sisters, the Mercy Sisters, Porticus and Irish Quakers Faith in Action.

Feile Bríde is a part of a week-long series of events taking place in Kildare organised by the Brigidine Sisters and Cairde Bríde. Further information can be found here: <http://solasbhríde.ie/>

8 Cabra Road, Phibsborough
D07 T1W2

Telephone: +353 1 8384204

Email: admin@afri.ie

Website: www.afri.ie

Facebook: [afriireland](https://www.facebook.com/afriireland)