

April 2010

Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism News



Pic: Cuilcagh Mountain from the Burren, Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

Rushin House Caravan Park, Belcoo 8th in UK ...In the Top 100 Sites Competition

In the Top 100 sites competition run by Practical Caravan Magazine, Rushin House Caravan Park, Belcoo won the Regional Award for Northern Ireland and was placed 8th overall in the UK. Brenda & Cathal O'Dolan attended the awards ceremony which took place during the National Caravan and Boat Show in the NEC in Birmingham. Brenda said that they were "delighted with the award and wished to thank all the caravanners & campers who had voted for Rushin House. It is a fantastic achievement to be 8th overall in the UK and win the regional award."

Rushin House Caravan Park opened in 2007, achieving NITB 5 star accreditation in 2008 and were the first caravan park in Ireland or the UK to be awarded the EU Flower. In the Top 100 Sites competition, which is accepted as the industry standard, 300 sites throughout the UK are nominated and the caravanners then vote for their favourite site. The list of the Top 100 Sites is published in the current April edition of Practical Caravan Magazine. Nigel Donnelly, editor of Practical Caravan, said: "Our annual Top 100 Sites awards are voted for by caravanners who have paid to stay. Nobody votes for a site they don't like and I am confident that the sites on the list represent really great stays. Congratulations from all at FLT, keep up the good work."



Virtual Visit NI publishes its 360th High Definition Virtual Tour of Northern Ireland

This month Fermanagh Lakelands Tourism Member Virtual Visit NI published its 360th High Definition Virtual Tour of Northern Ireland. It's an iconic number for them as that's what they do...Northern Ireland in 360°. What started out as a humble beta has flourished into becoming one of the most visited independent travel and tourism websites for Northern Ireland. Virtual Visit NI now holds the largest global database of High Resolution Virtual Tours of Northern Ireland, covering visitor attractions, accommodation providers and food & drink establishments. Over the past year, they have had the great pleasure of photographing/capturing some of the most stunning properties and locations around Northern Ireland and working with some of the most forward-thinking companies and individuals within the tourism industry here. VirtualVisit-NorthernIreland.com allows visitors, domestic or international, to literally *get in the picture* and stand where the photographer stood, see and experience what they did and discover places they may never have seen.....or rediscover old favourites, showcasing & promoting Northern Ireland in stunning, high-resolution, full screen virtual tours and bringing the real world to desktops across the globe - a virtual prelude to the real-world experience that awaits you.

Local Restaurants Triumph at Irish Restaurant Awards 2010

Many of Fermanagh's best known restaurants triumphed at the Ulster regional Irish Restaurant Awards 2010, held in the Hilton Hotel in Belfast on Monday 29th March. Head Chef at Cafe Merlot, Gerry Russell walked away the top chef award. Cafe Merlot itself picked up the award for best restaurant & gastro pub in the county. Greek restaurant Dollakis picked up the award for best casual dining while Franco's won best customer service. The best hotel restaurant went to the Lough Erne Resort. Meanwhile local celebrity chef Neven Maguire picked up three awards including best chef, best restaurant and best customer service for his restaurant MacNean House in Cavan. All county winners will now compete for the Regional and All-Ireland title which will be announced at the Irish Restaurant Awards in the Burlington Hotel in Dublin on the 9th June.



**MacNean House & Restaurant
Blacklion, Co. Cavan**



RAMSAY'S BEST RESTAURANT

Let's help get some of Fermanagh's finest on there.....

Gordon Ramsay is looking for Britain's best restaurant and he wants to know where you love to eat. We have received an email from the Producer of Gordon Ramsay's latest programme . They are looking for nominations throughout Northern Ireland to be featured on the programme. Let's help get some of Fermanagh's finest on there. Visit www.bestnominate.com to nominate your favourite restaurant now.

National Trust opens Men's Way Apartment

a unique experience in an amazing place

The National Trust, Northern Ireland's largest conservation charity, celebrated the opening of Men's Way holiday apartment at Florence Court this month. The investment of £160,000 in the apartment is part of over £800,000 spend by the charity into its Fermanagh properties, Florence Court, Castle Coole and Crom, focused on improving the overall visitor experience, since 2008. Visitors to Florence Court can now explore this great Irish estate with a relaxing stay in the wonderfully atmospheric Men's Way holiday apartment. Situated in the Laundry Yard in the south wing, Men's Way served as living quarters for male servants at Florence Court and many of the original features have been retained providing an 'untouched' atmosphere in charming surroundings. The overall impression is of an apartment that has been left untouched for many years and it still retains the ambience of a past era. The rooms are very atmospheric, a feeling that is reflected through details such as colour, finishes, floors, light and textures. National Trust Holiday Cottages are in some of the country's most beautiful places, for further information log on to www.nationaltrustcottages.co.uk



Cutting the ribbon to open the atmospheric holiday apartment are Minister Arlene Foster and Reggie Price. Also pictured left to right are Hilary McGrady, National Trust, Jim Chestnutt, Fermanagh Property Manager and Jackie Price. Jackie Price was born in Men's Way.

Lough Erne Resort.....

Best Par 3 18th Hole in the UK & Ireland



The Lough Erne Resort has received confirmation that 'Cygnets Rest' 18th Hole of The Faldo Course Lough Erne Resort (see left) has been chosen by Golf World as the BEST Par 3 18th Hole in UK and Ireland. This is a great achievement for the resort as they had strong competition from, the 18th at Forest of Arden and the 18th at St Pierre, and the 18th on Mahoney's Point Killarney.

Wine & Walking Weekend for Women.....

Charity Evening with Neven Maguire.....

Picnic with the National Trust.....

Cooking with the National Trust.....



Wine and Walking Weekend for Women..... 7th-9th May 2010

Belle Isle is delighted to join forces with Jane Boyce, Master of Wine and launch a new idea just for the ladies. Over 3 days expand your knowledge of wine, eat delicious food, enjoy walks around the beautiful Belle Isle Estate and stay in the comfortable accommodation on offer. An evening cruise on Upper Lough Erne whilst learning about champagne, will be one of the highlights of the weekend.

Picnic with the National Trust..... 7th May-23rd July 2010

The Belle Isle School of Cookery has teamed up with The National Trust at Florence Court for a series of new 2010 'Picnic with the National Trust' courses. The days begin at the cookery school where you will put together a sumptuous portable picnic to be enjoyed later at the nearby Florence Court Estate, along with a tour of the house. Bring along a group of family or friends to make a delicious picnic of terrines, pies, salads, sweet tarts and cordials.

Cooking with the National Trust.....12th-13th May 2010

This 2 day event, combines a day at the National Trust with an overnight stay at Belle Isle followed by a day at the cookery school. This course will involve using original recipes from National Trust properties. The hands-on course is aimed at showing you fascinating old recipes that can be adapted for modern life.

Charity Evening with Neven Maguire..... 18th May@ 7pm

A Charity Evening is being held at Belle Isle with Neven Maguire in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care and Fermanagh Women's Aid. Guests will be treated to cookery demonstrations by local celebrity chef Neven and Belle Isle School of Cookery's Liz Moore, during which you will be able to watch them creating exciting, seasonal dishes. This will be followed by light refreshments and a demonstration in planting hanging baskets and flower pots for the summer.

For further details please go to our website www.irish-cookery-school.com

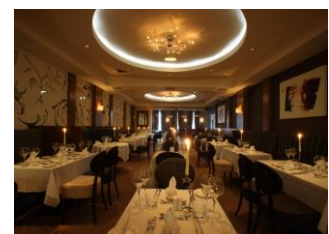
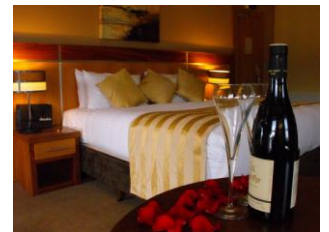
Telephone Andrea on 028 6638 7231 (048 6638 7231 from ROI)

Four Star Status for the Westville Hotel



The four star Westville hotel in Enniskillen, recently welcomed some special guests including Tourism minister Arlene Foster and the Chairman of NITB and well known hotelier Howard Hastings, to officially announce their four star status. Howard Hastings, NITB Chairman commenting on the Westville Hotels Four Star Status said *"I know from firsthand experience that NITB jealously guards its quality standards, and the award of four star status to any hotel is never lightly granted. Rather it is a hard earned badge and I am delighted the four star Westville Hotel has jumped through all the necessary hoops to gain this accolade"*. Speaking in front of 100 guests Nicky Cassidy, hotel owner continued, *"Recently the Lonely Planet Guide, rated us as the best place to stay in Enniskillen and the best place to eat in, not a bad start for our first year. But I would have to say it has definitely not been an easy task and I am sure we will continue to learn new lessons every day, but we are getting there and to be recognised as a four star hotel in a short space of time, makes all the hard days worth it. I would publically like to thank my family for all their support, the many companies, suppliers and individuals who have supported us along the way and most of all to the customers, within a very popular hospitality market they have given us a chance, thank you."*

For further information log on to www.westvillehotel.com



L-R Robert Gibson, Tanya Cathcart, Cllr Paul Robinson, Ciaran Mc Manus, Rodney Watson.

Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism AGM

Manor House Resort Hotel.....24TH March 2010

Cllr Paul Robinson, Chairman of FLT, welcomed everyone to the meeting including the guest speaker, Ciaran McManus, who sits on the recently formed Tourism Training Sub Group set up as part of the Destination Fermanagh strategy. In his role of Curriculum Manager at South West College, Ciaran gave an interesting and informative presentation on the opportunities provided by the College with regard to training and support for the Tourism & Hospitality Sector. Tanya Cathcart, Marketing Manager then gave a presentation on the review of activity during last season. She commented on the importance of a partnership approach to tourism marketing and acknowledged the role that the private sector played with regard to their support.

Events at the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark

The Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark has just produced a jam-packed events programme for the 2010 year. See below the listings of events for May. For further information on any of these events or to receive a copy of our events calendar for 2010, please contact the Marble Arch Caves Visitor's Centre on 028 6634 8855 or visit the website www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com. Furthermore, if you would like to join the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark mailing list and receive up-to-date information on all events and activities within the Geopark then please contact the Marble Arch Caves Visitor's Centre on the telephone number above or via e-mail at martina.magee@fermanagh.gov.uk.



Events taking place in May:

Monday 3 rd	May	Fossil Fun Day
Saturday 8 th	May	Woodland Wildlife Walk: Marble Arch National Nature Reserve
Saturday 22 nd	May	Caving with Martel: Guided Caving Trip
Sunday 23 rd	May	International Biodiversity Day: Magho Cliffs Nature Walk
Sunday 30 th	May	Geopark Gourmets: 'Taste' of the Geopark



Who is it on Castle Island and what do they really do?

Life one great adventure

It's just interesting sometimes to meet people and find out what they really do, I recently met Paul from LIFE, the current incumbents on Castle Island, Enniskillen. And I had thought that it was just about Canoeing & Kayaking how wrong can you be! Life is about

People... and our belief in them,
Adventure... and our passion for it, and, our
World... and everyone and everything within it!

Just as our brand has grown to be a market leader so too have the extent of the services we offer. As we say 'from the growing up to the growing out' we want to bring a little bit of 'Life' to every step of your journey. **Perhaps 'The Elixir Of Life'**. An event with a difference, trolls, poisons, pygmies and of course antidotes, all intertwined in an adventure based treasure hunt, not to mention the odd team task en-route! Or if at that level, it may well be High Performing Leaders? If so it could be 'Operation EVAC' that you need, The Wilderness Search and Rescue Experience - Team Building where a life depends upon it! And we can provide anything from A Fun Break...maybe Laser Clay pigeon shooting, an exhilarating fast Rib trip round the Lough or Archery on the Lawn! Or, if they've done them all and brave enough, for the ultimate team building event go 'Wild'! The ultimate team experience, a 24 hour outdoor event challenging the team on the very basics – Can you survive without a mobile phone?

Does it have to be outdoors? No, not at all, fantastic indoor programs such as **'The Ultimate Team Player'** the team must endeavour to clone what you determine to be the ultimate team player. These are only a sample of the unique and innovative programs Life can tailor to the customer's requirements. And where do we do all this, well anywhere is the answer, Castle Island, the Life centres in the Mourne, maybe at the customer's own venue, or further a field, Life have recently returned from Canada where they had 6 children on a wilderness expedition to rebuild their self confidence and esteem, so no limits!

So if you want to have a Life experience contact the team on 0844 770 5477; web www.onegreatadventure.com.

Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism Trade Familiarisation Trip

Date: Thursday 29th April 2010

Venue: Bus departing from Enniskillen Tourist Information Centre @ **9.30am Sharp**

Balmoral Show

Date: 12th-14th May 2010

Venue: Kings Hall, Belfast
Trade Participation Full.

Northern Ireland Tourism Meet the Buyer Workshop 2010 ** New Date**

Date: 20th May 2010

Venue: Europa Hotel, Belfast

Time: TBC

Further Information on www.nitb.com

Garden Festival Hillsborough Castle

Date: 21st-23rd May 2010

Venue: Hillsborough Castle

Trade Participation Available contact Theresa- theresa@fermanaghlakelands.com

Lakelands & Inland Waterways Roadshow

Date: Thursday 3rd June 2010

Venue: TBC

This event is open to all tourism providers and will give an insight into the Lakelands & Inland Waterways Initiative that Fermanagh is involved in. Find out ways in which you can participate.

New Developments on www.findfermanagh.com

Ways in which you, our members can participate

Blog

Introduction of a blog on the home page. This is where we will be posting interesting news and developments. Consumers and trade members can then comment on the postings we have made, so feel free to give us your feedback.

Trade Page

Launch of the trade page. This can be found under 'Information' and then 'Tourist Trade'. This gives useful information for the trade including how to become a member, information on the Destination Fermanagh Strategy and useful dates for your diary. Please let us know if there is something in particular you would like to see on there.

Fermanagh Hotels Page

A new page has been launched dedicated to the Fermanagh Hotels. This can be found under the 'Accommodation' search.

Photo Gallery

A Photo Gallery has been set up to enable both Consumers and Trade to download pictures for both printing and web purposes. This can be found under 'Information' then 'Photo Gallery'

Events Listings

All Events have been uploaded to the website for rest of 2010. Any new events or changes please keep us posted.

For more information log on to www.findfermanagh.com