



CONNEMARA
PONY SHOW
CLIFDEN



THE 101ST CONNEMARA
PONY SHOW CLIFDEN

18th - 21st August
2026

CLIFDEN • CONNEMARA



4 Days of Ponies, Competition, Music & Family Entertainment

WELCOME TO THE CONNEMARA PONY SHOW

For a week every August, the town of Clifden becomes the world capital of the Connemara Pony.

Join us in Clifden for the 2026 Connemara Pony Show - the annual, premier and world-famous celebration of Connemara ponies, culture, and community!

4 days of competitions, family fun, food, music, entertainment, tradition and 4 days of Connemara pony sales.

Celebrating Ireland's native pony - strong, graceful, and beloved worldwide - every August in Clifden, Connemara - the Heart of the Wild Atlantic Way.



SHOW WEEK AT A GLANCE

Tuesday - Opening Day

Connemara Therapeutic Riding Demonstration
From Texas to Clifden Western Riding Discussion
Loose Jumping Competitions- 2pm to 5pm (approx.)
101st Show Welcome Reception with The Connemara Ramblers
Photography Exhibition and Best Window Displays

Wednesday- In-Hand Show Day

Traditional In-Hand Pony Classes
Official Opening with Minister Dara Calleary TD & Willie Mullins
Best Dressed Competition & Domestic Arts Competition
Tame Connie the Rodeo Pony! - Market Square
Dog Show and Irish Dancing Competition
The Showdown at the Station House Hotel

Thursday - Ridden Classes & Festival Night

Ridden and Working Hunter Classes
Tame Connie the Rodeo Pony! - Market Square
Face Painting, Magician and DJ Colin O'Malley
International Societies Reception and Tribute to Pat Lyne
Connemara Pony Tales Live Podcast
The Porter Bellys - Live on the Gig Rig

Friday - Finals & Parade

Working Hunter Classes
Clifden High Performance Competitions
Young Rider Derby and Puissance
Day 1 of the Connemara Pony Sales
Trad on the Gig Rig
Parade of Champions through Clifden
The Evergreen Brothers - Live on the Gig Rig
Barn Dance at Mullarkey's Bar

Saturday & Sunday - Cultural Market & Pony Sales

Connemara-Ukrainian Market at Clifden Town Hall (Sat)
Day 2/3/4 of the Connemara Pony Sales (Sat, Sun, Mon)
Live music throughout Clifden's pubs (All Weekend)



A Welcoming Start at The Showgrounds

TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST



Demonstration by Connemara Therapeutic Riding CLG

11.00AM TO 1.30PM

Discover how Connemara ponies support well-being in a live therapeutic riding demo for all abilities.

Free entry.

From Texas to Clifden - Western Riding Discussion 1.30PM TO 2.00PM

Texas-based equestrians Margaret Kitts and Tim Cobb discuss the Connemara Pony's versatility across disciplines. Tim recently rode five-year-old stallion Tresor D'or to a world title at the Western Dressage World Championships.

Free entry.



Loose Jumping Competitions 2.00PM TO 5.00PM (APPROX.)

A unique opportunity to see young Connemara ponies evaluated for natural jumping prowess —all without a rider. Don't miss the All-Ireland 3 Year Old Loose Jumping Championships.

Free entry.

101st Show Welcome Reception 6PM

Join us at the Show Marquee for live music by The Connemara Ramblers, drinks & nibbles. ALL welcome - locals and pony community alike.

Free entry.



Keep an eye out for the **Connemara Pony Show Photography Exhibition** by photographer **Rynes Walker** that celebrates the ponies, people and atmosphere that makes the Show so special.

Traditional In-Hand Classes & Family Favourites

WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST

@ THE SHOWGROUNDS

The Traditional 'In-Hand Classes' Pony Competitions **FROM 8.30AM**

The traditional and day long series of Connemara ponies being judged on conformation, breed characteristics, and overall presentation while led by a handler.

Official Opening of The Show 2026

Official Opening of Show 2026 by Minister Dara Calleary TD & Champion Trainer Willie Mullins.

Domestic Arts, Crafts & Produce Show

Celebrate local creativity with home produce, handcrafted items, and garden produce competitions.
Pre-entry only – all entries must be on display no later than 10:15am.

The Dog Show **2.00PM**

The always popular competition for various breeds of dogs. Competition commences at 2.00pm.
Entries welcome on the day from 12 noon.

Best Dressed Competition **1.00PM**

Celebrating style, suitability and sustainability – Step out in style and celebrate the timeless tradition of the Connemara Pony Show! Judging from 1pm – Fantastic Prizes. This year's categories are Best Dressed (Male or Female), Most Appropriately Dressed Female, Most Appropriately Dressed Male and Most Sustainable Outfit (new category for 2026!).
Register for free at the Show Marquee between 12pm & 1pm.

Facepainting - **12.30PM**

Fabulous face painting for the kids & big kids at heart!

Irish Dancing Competition **2.00PM**

Enjoy the tradition of local Irish dancers as they perform and compete. *Entries accepted on the day.*

The Show Marquee

Enjoy some food & beverages in the Show Marquee! Also... be sure to visit our stand here at the marquee for the limited edition Show assorted merchandise

Can You Tame Connie the Rodeo Pony? **@ Market Square 11.30AM TO 5PM**

Climb aboard and hold on tight as Connie twists, turns and bucks! Test your riding skills, challenge your friends and see who can stay in the saddle the longest in this fun-filled experience for all ages.

The Showdown @ Clifden Station House Hotel **8.00PM**

Get together for music, drinks, and a relaxed evening.



Supreme Champion

What pony will be crowned Supreme Champion 2026? Results from 6pm approx.



Domestic Arts Show

There's plenty of competition happening outside of the Rings too!



TICKETS

Tickets on the Gate

Showgrounds Entry Fee
(Wed. 19th August)

Adult €15

OAPs/Students €10

Age 12-18 €10

U12 Free

3 Day Showgrounds Pass
(Wed/Thu/Fri)

Adults: €30

OAPs / Students Age 12-18: €20

IN TOWN

Street Traders & Family Fun! – All Day

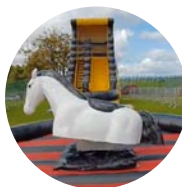
See the stalls with crafts, local produce, and artisanal delights along with fabulous face painting for kids, and kids at heart

THE TRADITIONAL 'SHOW DAY'
IN CLIFDEN, CONNEMARA



The Show Marquee

Grab some food and a beverage at the Show Marquee



Can You Tame Connie the Rodeo Pony?

Try your luck! From 11.30am to 5pm @ Market Square, Clifden

The Connemara Pony

Ireland's native pony, shaped by the wild beauty of Connemara and admired throughout the world.

A PONY BORN OF THE WEST

The Connemara Pony originated on Ireland's Atlantic seaboard, where the rugged landscape, traditional farming life and generations of careful breeding helped shape a pony of exceptional character.

KNOWN FOR

Its intelligence, kind temperament, sure-footedness and versatility.

Equally at home as a family pony or in competition, the breed excels across a wide range of disciplines, including show jumping, eventing, dressage, driving and working hunter classes.

FROM CONNEMARA TO THE WORLD

Today, the Connemara Pony is bred and admired worldwide, with enthusiasts across Britain, Europe, North America, Australia and beyond.

Yet its roots remain firmly here in Connemara, where ponies are a familiar sight in fields, on hillsides and along quiet country roads.

They remain a living symbol of the region's heritage, natural beauty and enduring spirit.



Ridden & Working Hunter Classes

THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST

THE SHOWGROUNDS

Ridden and Working Hunter Classes

FROM 7.30AM

Exciting ridden & working hunter competitions, including the Champion Ridden Pony & Irish Green Hunter Final.

Showground Admission Fees (Thursday)

Adults: €12 | OAP & Students: €6

| Age 12-18: €6 | Under 12: Free

3 Day Showgrounds Pass (Wed/Thu/Fri)

Adults: €30 | OAP & Students: €20

| Age 12-18: €20 | Under 12: Free

Note: Live scoring available for certain classes on <https://iplive.app/>



The Porter Bellys
FROM 8PM - GIG RIG

CLIFDEN TOWN & MARKET SQUARE

Can You Tame Connie the Rodeo Pony? 5.30AM - 10PM

Climb aboard and hold on tight as Connie twists, turns and bucks! Test your riding skills, challenge your friends and see who can stay in the saddle the longest in this fun-filled experience for all ages.

Facepainting

6.00PM

Fabulous face painting for the kids & big kids at heart!

Magician On the Square

6.00PM

Be amazed by a magical performance on Clifden Square - Fun for all the family!

DJ O'Malley on the Gig Rig

6.00PM

Enjoy the town square atmosphere of the 101st Connemara Pony Show with DJ Colin O'Malley - lively entertainment on Clifden's Gig Rig

'The Porter Bellys' - Band on the Gig Rig

8.00PM

Soak up the Show atmosphere with one of Ireland's leading Folk-Rock Bands - @ThePorterBellys live on the Gig Rig.

STATION HOUSE THEATRE

International Societies Reception

7.30PM

A warm welcome for International Connemara Pony Societies to meet breeders, judges, and fellow pony enthusiasts.



Tribute to Pat Lyne

This year there is a special tribute to Pat Lyne - a renowned author, breeder, and international judge of the Connemara pony. Speaker on the night is Tom McLoughlin, author, historian and former CPBS president. Photo: Ruth Rogers



Connemara Pony Tales Live Podcast

9.00PM

Join podcast host of the show Connemara Pony Tales Lucinda Kelly & breeder Joe Burke for a special Live recording. Lucinda will be joined by a panel of winners for the week, international guests and breeders to discuss individual stories and share highs from Show Week.

High Performance, Puissance and the Parade of Champions

FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST

THE SHOWGROUNDS

Working Hunter Classes **FROM 7.30AM SHARP**

Connemara ponies jump fences and show good manners, testing their ability and suitability as a safe, reliable hunter.

Clifden High Performance Competition

Elite ponies demonstrate jumping ability, movement, and breed excellence.

Young Rider Derby **NEW FOR 2026!**

A fast-paced timed challenge for riders aged 16–25, taking on a thrilling course against the clock!

Puissance (High Jump) Competition

A thrilling showjumping spectacle where Connemara ponies attempt to clear increasingly high jumps.

Note: Live scoring available for certain classes on <https://iplive.app/>



Showground Admission Fees (Thursday)

Adults: €12 | OAP & Students: €6
| Age 12–18: €6 | Under 12: Free

3 Day Showgrounds Pass (Wed/Thu/Fri)

Adults: €30 | OAP & Students: €20
| Age 12–18: €20 | Under 12: Free



CLIFDEN TOWN & MARKET SQUARE

Trad on the Gig Rig

5.30PM

Enjoy local live trad music, song & dance.

The Parade of Champions **6.00PM (APPROX.)**

Grand showcase through the streets of Clifden of The Show's top Connemara ponies, celebrating their success.

The Evergreen Brothers

Band on the Gig Rig

7.30PM

The penultimate event of the Friday of Show Week is the Evergreen Brothers - a Galway folk band drawing from American roots, country, Irish traditional elements and blues. @theevergreenbrothers

CLIFDEN MART

Connemara Pony Sales - Day 1 **FROM 9.30AM**

Visit the Connemara Pony Sales in Clifden running for 4 days (Friday to Monday) 21–23 August, with over 650 lots, top-class ponies for every discipline, and global buyers. *Pony Sales catalogues available at Sweeney Oil Service Station, Galway Road, Clifden.*

MULLARKEY'S BAR

Barn Dance

FROM 9.30PM

Enjoy a Barn Dance at Mullarkey's Bar featuring foot stomping bluegrass and country classics from some of Connemara's finest talent. Fancy Dress Welcome!

Weekend Events

SATURDAY 22ND & SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST

CONNEMARA PONY SALES From 9.30am

Visit the Connemara Pony Sales in Clifden running for 4 days (Friday to Sunday) 21st–24th August, with over 700 lots, top-class ponies for every discipline, and global buyers.

Friday 21st Sunday 23rd
Saturday 22nd Monday 24th

Sales Catalogue available at
Sweeney Oil Service Station, Galway Road, Clifden



BID ONLINE



CONNEMARA
PONY SALES



CLIFDEN TOWN HALL Connemara / Ukrainian Market 3-6PM

Celebrating Connemara and Ukrainian culture with a pony-themed market, local crafts, live music, kids' activities, and free tea and coffee - a fun, family-friendly event!

♪ Enjoy Live Music in
Clifden's Great Pubs ♪





CONNEMARA PONY SHOW CLIFDEN

SUMMARY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AUGUST 2026

TUESDAY – 18TH

THE SHOWGROUNDS (FREE ENTRY TODAY)

Demonstration by Connemara Therapeutic Riding CLG
11.00am to 1.30pm (approx.)

Discover how Connemara ponies support well-being in a live therapeutic riding demo for all abilities. **Free entry.**

From Texas to Clifden - Western Riding Discussion
1.30pm – 2.00pm

Texas-based equestrians Margaret Kitts and Tim Cobb of ISE Equine Endeavors will discuss the Connemara Pony's versatility across disciplines. Tim recently rode five-year-old stallion Tresor D'or to a world title at the Western Dressage World Championships. They will be at the Showgrounds to discuss the breed's ability to excel across disciplines. **Free entry.**

Loose Jumping Competitions
2pm to 5pm (approx.)

A unique opportunity to see young Connemara ponies evaluated for natural jumping prowess —all without a rider. Don't miss the All-Ireland 3 Year Old Loose Jumping Championships. **Free entry.**

101st Show Welcome Reception
6.00pm – 7.00pm

Join us at the Show Marquee for live music by *The Connemara Ramblers*, drinks & nibbles. ALL welcome - locals and pony community alike. **Free entry.**

Connemara Pony Show Photography Exhibition
A selection of memorable Connemara Pony Show moments, captured by photographer Rynes Walker, celebrating the ponies, people and atmosphere that make the Show so special.
@RynesWalkerPhotography

CLIFDEN TOWN & MARKET SQUARE

Best Window Displays
Have a ramble through the town to see all the themed entries for the Window Display Competition.

STATION HOUSE MUSEUM

'Connemara and its Ponies' – Screening Daily
12.00pm - All Week

'Connemara and its Ponies' (1971) by David Shaw Smith is rare archival documentary 30 mins in length. **Free entry.**

PLEASE NOTE: All events, times and programme details are subject to change.

Check our socials 'Connemara Pony Show Clifden' & ConnemaraPonyShow.ie



WEDNESDAY – 19TH

THE SHOWGROUNDS

The Traditional 'In-Hand Classes' Pony Competitions
From 8.30am

The traditional and day long series of Connemara ponies being judged on conformation, breed characteristics, and overall presentation while led by a handler.

Official Opening of The Show 2026
Official Opening of Show 2026 by **Minister Dara Calleary TD** & Champion Trainer **Willie Mullins.**

Domestic Arts, Crafts & Produce Show
Celebrate local creativity with home produce, handcrafted items, and garden produce competitions.
Pre-entry only – all entries must be on display no later than 10:15am.

The Dog Show
2.00pm
The always popular competition for various breeds of dogs. Competition commences at 2.00pm. *Entries welcome on the day from 12 noon.*

Best Dressed Competition
1.00pm
Celebrating style, suitability and sustainability — Step out in style and celebrate the timeless tradition of the Connemara Pony Show! Judging from 1pm – Fantastic Prizes. This year's categories are Best Dressed (Male or Female), Most Appropriately Dressed Female, Most Appropriately Dressed Male and Most Sustainable Outfit (new category for 2026!).
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Irish Dancing Competition
2.00pm
Enjoy the tradition of local Irish dancers as they perform and compete.
Entries accepted on the day.

THE SHOW MARQUEE

- Enjoy some food & beverages in the Show Marquee!
- Also... be sure to visit our stand here at the marquee for the limited edition Show assorted merchandise

CLIFDEN TOWN & MARKET SQUARE

Street Traders & Family Fun!
All Day
See the stalls with crafts, local produce, and artisanal delights along with fabulous face painting for kids (and kids at heart!)

Can You Tame Connie the Rodeo Pony?
11.30am to 5pm
Climb aboard and hold on tight as Connie twists, turns and bucks! Test your riding skills, challenge your friends and see who can stay in the saddle the longest in this fun-filled experience for all ages.

CLIFDEN STATION HOUSE HOTEL

The Showdown
8.00pm
Get together for music, drinks, and a relaxed evening.

THURSDAY – 20TH

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Ridden and Working Hunter Classes **From 7.30am**

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DJ O'Malley on the Gig Rig **6.00pm**

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Connemara Pony Tales Live Podcast **9.00pm**

Join podcast host of the show Connemara Pony Tales Lucinda Kelly & breeder Joe Burke for a special Live recording. Lucinda will be joined by a panel of winners for the week, international guests and breeders to discuss individual stories and share highs from Show Week.

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Puissance (High Jump) Competition

A thrilling showjumping spectacle where Connemara ponies attempt to clear increasingly high jumps.

Limited Edition Show Merchandise

@ ConnemaraPonyShow.ie/Shop
& at the Showgrounds Marquee



UP TO DATE
SCHEDULE

CLIFDEN TOWN & MARKET SQUARE

Trad on the Gig Rig **5.30pm**

Enjoy local live trad music, song & dance.

The Parade of Champions **6.00pm (approx.)**

Grand showcase through the streets of Clifden of The Show's top Connemara ponies, celebrating their success.

The Evergreen Brothers - Band on the Gig Rig **7.30-9.30pm**

The penultimate event of the Friday of Show Week is the Evergreen Brothers - a Galway folk band drawing from American roots, country, Irish traditional elements and blues.

CONNEMARA PONY SALES @ CLIFDEN MART

Day 1 of Connemara Pony Sales **From 9.30am**

Visit the Connemara Pony Sales in Clifden running for 4 days (Friday to Monday) 21-24 August, with over 700 lots, top-class ponies for every discipline, and global buyers. *Pony Sales catalogues available at Sweeney Oil Service Station, Galway Road, Clifden.*

MULLARKEY'S

Bar Barn Dance **From 9.30pm**

Enjoy a Barn Dance at Mullarkey's Bar featuring foot stomping bluegrass and country classics from some of Connemara's finest talent. Fancy Dress Welcome!

SATURDAY – 22ND

CLIFDEN TOWN HALL

Connemara/Ukrainian Market **3.00pm to 6.00pm**

Celebrating Connemara and Ukrainian culture with a pony-themed market, local crafts, live music, kids' activities, and free tea and coffee — a fun, family-friendly event!

CONNEMARA PONY SALES @ CLIFDEN MART

Day 2 of Connemara Pony Sales **From 9.30am**

Day 2 of Ireland's leading & largest sale of Connemara ponies & horses continues.

🎵 *Enjoy Live Music in Clifden's Great Pubs* 🎵

SUNDAY – 23RD

CONNEMARA PONY SALES @ CLIFDEN MART

Day 3 of Connemara Pony Sales **From 9.30am**

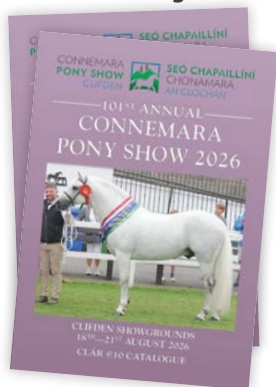
MONDAY – 24TH

CONNEMARA PONY SALES @ CLIFDEN MART

Day 4 of Connemara Pony Sales **From 9.30am**



Official Show Catalogue



Available in The Showgrounds
from Tuesday 18th August -

€10

Limited Edition Show Merchandise



@connemaraponyshow.ie & The Showgrounds Marquee

WITH THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, SUPPORTERS & DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS



Funded By
An Bóthar Taidhleachais,
Bia agus Mairt
(Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine)



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HORSE SPORT
IRELAND

