

TULSK GATHERING WEEKEND

Friday 26th, Saturday 27th, and Sunday 28th July

Friday 26th July 2013, 5pm to 6pm - Festival Launch in the Rathcroghan Café

Official welcome to Tusk, light entertainment, meet and greet, and canapés from the new Rathcroghan Café Menu. All Free.

Saturday 27th July 2013

10am Local Genealogy Info Gathering Morning, Rathcroghan Visitor Centre

2pm Unveiling of Local Children's Gathering Mural Project

2.30pm Genealogy Workshop, at Rathcroghan Centre & Tusk Graveyard (Free)

'Exploring your Ancestry in Tusk'

5pm to 6pm Meals available at Rathcroghan Café

Saturday Evening Entertainment at Tusk Inn

Sunday 28th July 2013

12 noon Free Family Fun Day – Bouncy Castle, Face Painting, Storytelling

1pm – 3pm Family Barbeque at Rathcroghan Visitor Centre

3pm – 4pm The History of Tusk Graveyard and Priory (Free)

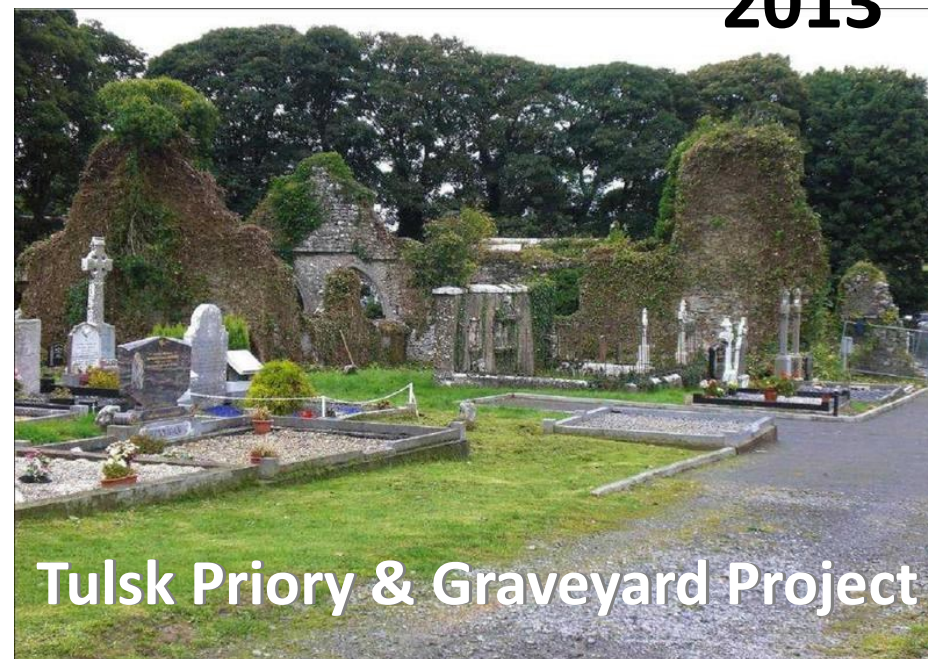
4pm – 5pm Tusk Priory Conservation Project Presentation (Free)

5pm Opening of New Photographic Exhibition, Rathcroghan Visitor Centre
"Tusk, Then and Now." (Free, runs through August)

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**We would love to talk to anyone who has old photographs of Tusk they'd like to be included in the exhibition - we can quickly scan and then return them to you immediately.**

More details on [www.Tusk.ie](http://www.Tusk.ie), Email [info@rathcroghan.ie](mailto:info@rathcroghan.ie), or phone us on **071 9639268**: Monday - Saturday 9am to 5pm, & Sunday 12 to 4pm.



Dr. Niall Brady, of the Discovery Programme, who directed the Medieval Rural Settlement Project in Tusk from 2003, hoped that their archaeological finds "would reinforce the importance of Tusk as a Key Heritage Attraction."

Today, we need just a little more work to make that dream a reality.

The Medieval Village of Tusk has been the key to the West of Ireland for over a thousand years. The Dominicans began to build Tusk Priory in the early 1400s, and rose to great power through the 1500s.

The English Queen Elizabeth recognised the importance of Tusk, and sent her General Richard Bingham in the 1590s to control the whole of Connacht from a 'secure' base in Tusk. Not so secure, as it turned out, due to local opposition, and on-going sieges; the letters of apology to explain his failures all mention Tusk. The locals here have always been strong headed, and independent, it would seem.

In 2009, following extensive partnership with the Discovery Programme, and the Gifford Conservation Report on Tusk Priory commissioned by Roscommon County Council, the Manager of Cruachan Aí (Rathcroghan Visitor Centre), and the board of Tusk Action Group, began working with Roscommon Leader Partnership to conserve the Priory at Tusk, which is in direct danger of collapse.

Though it has stood in unchanged condition since beyond local living memory, Tusk Priory needs our support today. It proves a daily danger to the many locals and visitors who walk in the graveyard, while there are huge concerns with regard to removing the ivy that sheaths the building - as the ivy roots are clearly seen to be, in some places, the only thing that is keeping the crumbling 600 year old stones together.

The scope of works planned to conserve Tusk Priory has been carefully crafted, in consultation with the expert team of Howley Hayes Architects, based on an extensive grounding of archaeological research, engineering advice, and architectural surveying.

The 2013 - 2014 Conservation Plan includes:

- ◇ Ivy and vegetation removal and treatment
- ◇ Masonry repairs to stonework using traditional techniques
- ◇ Specialist structural repairs and propping
- ◇ Use of lime mortars, grout and render

The Graveyard and Tidy Towns committee members take great pride in our village, and work hard to provide visitors to Tusk with a beautiful and restful memorial to family members and loved ones. Tusk Action Group want to ensure a monument that will outlast all of us, securing a key heritage attraction that will attract vital cash flow, employment and economic development to the community for generations to come.



Roscommon County Council are now the applicants for the grant funding for this project, with Tusk Action Group as the major contributing stakeholder. The Centre Manager is working closely with the county Heritage Officer to facilitate the Conservation Project, which has been approved for funding by Roscommon Leader Partnership.

***The Overall Project Costs are as follows:***

|                        |                                  |                 |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total Project</b>   | <b>Survey &amp; Construction</b> | <b>€175,614</b> |
| 75% Grant Aid          | Roscommon LEADER Partnership     | €131,710        |
| 20% Match Funding      | Roscommon Co. Council            | €35,123         |
| <b>5% Contribution</b> | <b>Tusk Community</b>            | <b>€8,780</b>   |

What can you do to help stabilise Tusk Priory, and preserve our valuable heritage and tourist attraction for generations to come?

- ◇ **You can Visit the Centre Today and Pledge your Contribution**
- ◇ **While you're there, leave an email address so you can stay informed**
- ◇ **You can attend the Fundraising Tusk Gathering on 26th - 28th July**
- ◇ **You can look up the website [www.Tusk.ie](http://www.Tusk.ie) , and tell your friends!**