

PRESS RELEASE

RTE Tracks and Trails programme showcases Howth looped walks New Outdoor Recreation Series for RTE

Senator & TV Personality Feargal Quinn will take in the scenic Howth cliff walk to the summit, passing the Bailey Lighthouse, meeting and greeting local residents and experts and visiting some hidden gems on Howth Head, as part of a new RTE television series beginning this week. The Howth Programme will be broadcast on **December 18th**. The series is supported by the Irish Sports Council with a number of other partners, and was developed to follow the popular first series which aired on RTE in 2010.

Senior Parks Superintendent with Fingal County Council, Kevin Halpenny, outlined the strong collaboration between local volunteers and the Council that ensured the Howth looped walks are open again for the public. "In 2006 Fingal County Council developed a conservation plan for the protected area of Howth peninsula which led to the development of four looped pathways and important conservation work", he explained. "Since then, 'Howth Pathways', a local volunteer group, has carried out extensive path clearance and the Council has carried out heavier site work and provided signage, way-marking and a leaflet describing each of the walks", he said. "Its a great opportunity when a prominent RTE programme opens this hidden treasure to so many more people who we hope will enjoy it", Kevin continued. "The walks are easily accessible from Howth Dart Station", he said, "and we encourage as many people as possible to tune in on December 17th and to take the opportunity to enjoy these magnificent walks the next chance they get".

Starting with a programme featuring Sports Broadcaster Tracy Piggott, the series features well know personalities including Comedian Colin Murphy, Meteorologist and Presenter, Evelyn Cusack, Broadcaster Jim Sherwin and Senator Feargal Quinn, taking on the challenge of walking, cycling and paddling on some fantastic trails around the country. Areas featured in the new series include South Tipperary, the Burren in Co. Clare, Achill Island, Co. Mayo, and Lough Erne, Co. Fermanagh - all of which have fantastic trails waiting to be explored.

The first programme in the Tracks and Trails Series 2 will air on RTE 1 at 7.30pm on Sunday 20th November. A summary of each programme featured in the series is outlined below and full details of all five programmes in the series is available on www.irishtrails.ie

ENDS 18/11/11

Tracks & Trails Series Schedule

Programme 1: Co. Tipperary - November 20th at 7.30pm RTE1

South Tipperary is the location as Tracy Piggott starts her walk on the Tipperary Heritage Way from the Knockmealdown Mountains to the Rock of Cashel.

Programme 2: Shannon / Erne , Co. Cavan and Co. Fermanagh - November 27th at 7.30pm RTE1

Belfast comedian, Colin Murphy, cycles, canoes and walks on the Kingfisher Cycle Trail and the Lough Erne Canoe Trail from Belturbet in Co. Cavan to Enniskillen.

Programme 3: Achill, Co. Mayo – December 4th at 7.30pm RTE1

Jim Sherwin makes a welcome return to television as he cycles the new Greenway from Mulranny with two grandsons and walks the Atlantic Drive in Achill Co. Mayo.

Programme 4: The Burren, Co. Clare – December 11th at 7.30pm RTE1

Well known senior meteorologist Evelyn Cusack takes time out from forecasting the weather to enjoying it as she walks the Burren Way and Blackhead Loop Walk in Co. Clare

Programme 5: Howth, Co. Dublin – December 18th at 7.30pm RTE1

Senator Feargal Quinn takes in the scenic Howth cliff walk to the summit, passing the Bailey Lighthouse, meeting and greeting local residents and experts and visiting some hidden gems on Howth Head.