

WELCOMING THE SWIFTS

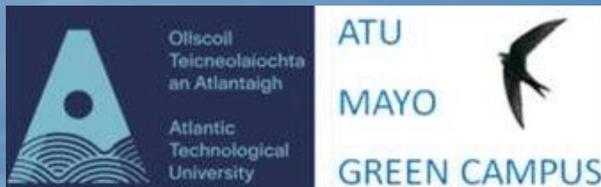
An afternoon of poetry and music to celebrate the return of the swifts to ATU, Mayo from their annual migration from Africa.

Thursday 12th May at 4.30 p.m. at the Sanctuary Garden/Reception, Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Mayo.

Light refreshments in the Sanctuary Garden/ Reception area.

Short talk by **Lynda Huxley, Swift Conservation Ireland/Mayo** and **Jarek Majkusiak, ATU** (10 minutes)

Poetry and Music by poet **Dr. Seán Lysaght** and uilleann piper **Diarmaid Moynihan** (20 minutes)



WELCOMING THE SWIFTS:

NOTE ON CONTRIBUTORS

- **Lynda Huxley** worked at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (now ATU) Mayo Campus for many years and was one of the founders of the Green Campus programme, with GMIT Mayo becoming the first IoT campus to achieve An Taisce Green Flag status. She is passionate about the environment and set up the *Swift Nest Box* project on the campus - the first major nest box project for Swifts in Ireland. She went on to form the voluntary conservation group *Swift Conservation Mayo* and subsequently *Swift Conservation Ireland*. She is now the country's leading expert on Swift conservation.
- **Jarek Majkusiak**, ATU is an honours graduate of the BA in Outdoor Education at Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. He has recently submitted his MSc. thesis on *Breeding biology of the Common Swift (Apus apus) in Ireland – the most north-westerly edge of the nesting habitat*. He is an active volunteer with Swift Conservation Ireland/Mayo and regularly assists with their conservation projects. He will be presenting his thesis project at the 6th International Swift Conference in Segovia, Spain in May 2022.
- **Seán Lysaght** taught for many years at the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. His prose publications include *Robert Lloyd Praeger: The Life of a Naturalist*, *Eagle Country* and *Wild Nephin*. The Gallery Press published *Venetian Epigrams, translations from Goethe* (2008), and six collections of poems. *Selected Poems* appeared in 2010. He received the 2007 *O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry*. His new collection of poems *New Leaf* will be launched at the Linenhall on 19th May.
- **Diarmaid Moynihan** has performed with many world-renowned traditional musicians and his compositions have been recorded by Lunasa, Michael McGoldrick, Kathryn Tickell and many more. A former winner of the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil and the Oireachtas he was a founder member of the award winning band Calico which toured across Europe and the USA. His new album, *Blackbrook*, recorded with Deirdre and Donncha Moynihan will be toured in Austria later this year.

