

## **Neven Maguire opens Blacklion's First Festival**

[2 July 09] Award-winning chef Neven Maguire of Blacklion's MacNean House & Restaurant will officially open the village's first festival, Blacklion Fair Day Festival Weekend, on Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm at the Fair Green in the village.

The Festival, organised by Blacklion Traders Association, is being held to promote the village and bring more people to Blacklion to see what the village has to offer from its natural beauty to its spectacular food and dining experiences.

Blacklion has recently been awarded Geopark village status for its exceptional geological heritage. Blacklion Traders Association hope this award combined with Blacklion's first Fair Day Festival Weekend will attract more tourists, bringing a welcome boost to the local economy.

"Our aim is to promote the village and bring more people to the area" says Sean Nolan of Blacklion's Londis and founder of the Blacklion Traders Association. "The festival is the first of what will be an annual event and a lot of hard work has been put in by myself and other local business people to really put Blacklion on the map."

The Blacklion Fair Day Festival will see a wide range of events, family fun and entertainment throughout Blacklion from Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> to Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. With local pubs opening late for the weekend, festival highlights at the Fair Green include:

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July – Heritage talk by local historian, Harold Johnston at 8 pm, the Market House, Blacklion

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July

- Official opening of the festival by Neven Maguire, 8.30 pm
- Free outdoor gig, 8.30 to 10.30 pm with Johnny Gallagher and Boxy

Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> Fair Day

- Vintage car parade, 12 pm
- Cookery demonstration by Neven Maguire, 2 pm
- Fair Day also includes displays, stalls and a host of family entertainment

Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> July

- Swimming Gala, 3 pm at Lough MacNean
- Blacklion's Got Talent Final, 7 – 9.30 pm
- Live music from 9.30 by Eddie Cunningham

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> July

- Duck race under new bridge, 7.30 pm
- Live music by Shannon Aces, 8.30 pm
- Festival Finale from 10.30 pm

For more details on the Festival, call Sean Nolan on 071-9853946

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