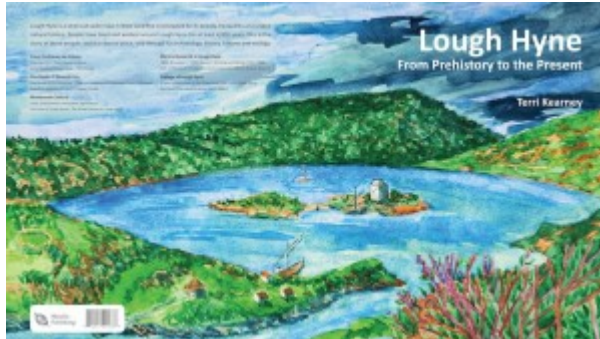


Lough Hyne: From Prehistory to the Present

August 9, 2013 by [Editor](#)



A NEW illustrated publication on Lough Hyne traces man's interaction with the lough for over 4,000 years. Terri Kearney utilises the physical landscape, local knowledge and folklore as well as historical sources to explore the unique aspects of Lough Hyne's heritage as well as revealing how the area was affected by some of the major events in history. Lough Hyne is much loved locally and this publication offers new insights into the area for its many fans.

Starting in prehistory with an interpretation of the archaeological landscape, the book looks at how early man lived, worked and worshipped at the lough through millennia. The reign of the O'Driscolls as lords of Lough Hyne is also covered.

This spans a pivotal period when an ancient system of Gaelic rule gave way to one of plantation and colonisation after the rebellions and land loss of the turbulent seventeenth century. By the early nineteenth century, Lough Hyne was densely populated with a high level of poverty and the living conditions of the poor are considered in the run up to the Great Famine.

The area lost almost half of its people during the years of the Famine itself and the experiences of the people of Lough Hyne reflect what happened in many such small coastal communities during those tragic years. The social history of the lough is also included including schools, set-dancing, the sandboats as well as the coffin stone and O'Sullivan's gate.

Other aspects of its heritage are unique to Lough Hyne, including its long history of marine research. It was first 'discovered' by scientists in 1886 and its long association with marine research is covered right up to the present day.

An insight into the work carried out by the researchers, as well as an exploration of the ecology of the lough, is the contribution of Dr Colin Little and Dr Cynthia Trowbridge, two scientists who have worked at the lough for many years. This chapter features extraordinary underwater photographs of the flora and fauna of the lough, offering a glimpse into this hidden marine world.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Peter Murray with glorious watercolours. His depictions of the people and events there – from the ships of the Vikings and the O'Driscolls to the inauguration of an O'Driscoll chieftain – bring the Lough Hyne of the past to life in vivid colour. The journalist and playwright Eoghan Harris has also contributed a foreword to the book.

The 210-page large format book features over 230 images and is on sale for €30 at Skibbereen Heritage Centre and all good bookshops in West Cork as well as being available online at the shop page on www.skibbheritage.com.