

61st Anniversary of Bonniconlon Show

THIS year Bonniconlon Agricultural Show & Gymkhana celebrates 61 years since its establishment.

The event, now recognised as one of the most successful argi events in the country, attracts in the region of 30,000 people annually, and this year will be extra special as it marks 61 successful years.

Bonniconlon Show was founded in 1949 to facilitate an exhibition event of all farm and garden produce, animals (including horse and pony show and jumping) and crafts; as well as attracting visitors to the north Mayo village to create a meeting point for exiles to gather and to see again the cultures and traditions of rural life.

New location huge success for Bonniconlon Show

THE 2008 Bonniconlon Agricultural Show & Gymkhana saw the event move to a new location which facilitated the biggest and best show to date.

The new show-field and parish centre, approximately 500 metres along the Attymass Road sees the show extend over a 200-acre area which facilitates a host of exhibitions, classes, attractions, and live entertainment. Four new access points also mean the location lends itself to greater entry and exit routes for exhibitors and show-goers alike.

Chairperson John O'Hara said the 2008 change of location was a huge success for the organising committee:

"Making a change such as this was a big upheaval at the beginning as it involved a lot of planning and organisation, on top of the normal workload. The community and the committee worked together and I am delighted to say the new location worked fantastically well in its inaugural year. We now have more space, a greater facility and greater access for show-goers."

All-Ireland finals for Bonniconlon

BONNICONLON Agricultural Show & Gymkhana this year presents a host of All-Ireland Finals. In conjunction with the Irish Shows Association (ISA), the 2009 Bonniconlon Show Ltd All-Irelands include:

- All-Ireland Domestic Arts Competition Final
- All-Ireland Non Pedigree Male & Female Calf Finals
- Texoil All-Ireland Ewe Competitions
- The Irish Draught 3 Year Old R.I.D. Mare Championship
- The Pony Broodmare 4 Year Old & Over Championship
- Mountain Ram Championship
- All-Ireland Poultry Final
- Three-Year-Old Horse Lunging Competition
- Pony Lunging Competition
- All-Ireland Sheaf Throwing Competition