

Uisce Álainn



May 3rd Sligo

An inspiring event celebrating life, well-being and our environment.

Paddlers from Sligo and beyond will be gathering to participate in a paddle on the Garavogue River and Lough Gill.

A first for Sligo, this event will open with “Awakening the Dragon and Dotting of the Eye” Ceremony followed by the commemorative Flower Ceremony.

The Dotting of the Eye, Awakening of the Dragon Ceremony, an ancient Chinese custom, will open the dragon’s eyes, ward off evil spirits and prepare the river for voyage. The ceremony not only blesses and cleanses the area for the event, but also the spectators and participants.

The Flower Ceremony is a beautiful commemorative ceremony that involves both spectators and participants in a moment of reflection for lives lost to cancer, those lives being represented by a flower. People will be invited to take a flower during a minute of silence after which they place the flowers in the river which gently absorbs them into its environment.

As event participants head off on their watery voyage, the public will be invited to The Gate Lodge for light refreshments or to join some of the free guided walks with Bird Watch Ireland, Rivers Trust, and The Wellness Warrior.