

# FESTIVAL OF RURAL ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

## A GREEN-DOOR WELCOME

*Jo Lewis*

INSPIRATIONAL HOMES ran its third Green-Door weekend -a Festival of Rural Architecture and Design- in August this year; a weekend of 30 homes and buildings of architectural and heritage interest, open to the public, for free, over three days.

This amazing opportunity to see inside homes, meet the homeowners, architects, designers and builders behind the restorations, extensions and new builds, attracted more visitors than ever this year with over 2,400 visits to the buildings and events and many homes having 100+ visitors. People travelled from as far away as Cork,

Limerick and Belfast.

County Leitrim is unique in that it has a large community of people who have built, renovated and extended homes and buildings using sustainable and often unusual ways of building and design, however it is also unique in its hospitality and it is this combination that makes Green-Door the success that it is.

The openness and generosity of all involved gave the event an ethos of honesty, belonging and community and through this the festival opened up debate; bringing people and ideas together and inspiring innovation and consideration for

the future for rural living, building, planning, architecture and design.

Conversations were started, plans for future events and meetings were made and enthusiasm, engagement and opportunities created and garnered.

With huge thanks to all of our funders and sponsors listed on our website including the Arts Council of Ireland, Leitrim Arts, Irish Design 2015, the Govt Policy on Architecture scheme and the Heritage Council.

*Please go to [www.inspirationalhomes.ie](http://www.inspirationalhomes.ie) or see Inspirational Homes on Facebook to keep up to date with future events.*



■ Dominic Stevens gives a tour of the Mimetic House outside Dromahair



■ John Bent greets visitors to his restored cottage just outside Fenagh



■ John Bent explains the renovation process of his cottage just outside Fenagh



■ Peter Cowman at his Eco-Village workshop in Leitrim village