

1st September 2020

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



Spirorbis

A memoir by Peter Vine

will be launched by **Doug Allan** at the
Clifden Arts Festival on Sunday, 20th September, 2020
published by Artisan House.

Peter Vine is a remarkable man – curious, energetic and with a persistence bordering on stubbornness to live life to the full. Spirorbis is a riveting inspirational read.

Prof. Tim Lynch, Consultant Neurologist and Clinical Director of the
Dublin Neurological Institute at the Mater Hospital.

In a lifetime of reading, I have never read a book like this – an eclectic collage of experiences and episodes from an extraordinary career. Wonderful!

Tom Kenny, Kenny's Bookshop and Art Gallery, Galway.

Peter Vine travelled extensively and worked in over thirty countries encountering some of the world's most intriguing cultures and places. From deep-sea diving in the South Pacific islands to book publishing and film production in the deserts of the United Arab Emirates, fish farming in Greece and Ireland and conducting research on the Spirorbis worm in waters from New Zealand to the Red Sea, Vine is a sympathetic observer and participant of life in the widely varying and rich mileaux in which he has lived and worked.

Spirorbis tells stories from Vine's life rather than the story of his life – stories of adventure, of exploration, of romance, of risk-taking, and of narrow escapes.

Why ***Spirorbis***? Spirorbids are tiny spiral tube worms living in almost every coastal marine habitat on our planet. Engaged in a worldwide study of their biology and zoogeography, Peter Vine found that they gave him an unparalleled opportunity for travel and adventure. It also led to the naming of a new genus after him, *Vinearia*, a distinction not granted to many.

50% of proceeds from sale of ***Spirorbis*** will go to support the work of
The Dublin Neurological Institute at the Mater Hospital.

Spirorbis will be launched by Peter's long-time friend and
fellow-adventurer, **Doug Allan**, 20th September, 2020, at 6 pm.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance at the event is not possible but a recording of the launch and the public interview of **Peter Vine** and **Doug Allan** by journalist **Lorna Siggins** will be broadcast on **Connemara Community Radio** (www.connemarafm.com) at 6 pm (repeated on Monday, 21st September at 1 pm).

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Notes for editor

Author

Peter Vine is a marine biologist and author with special interests in coral reef ecology, marine conservation, photography, and film-making. An adjunct lecturer at National University of Ireland, Galway, he has researched and published extensively on the Red Sea.

In 1964, at the tender age of 18 years, Vine spent a year teaching as a VSO volunteer on Tarawa in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands (now Kiribati). The travel bug had bitten and Peter continued to visit, study and work in many countries across the globe. He followed his studies to France, Greece, Barbados, Trinidad, Tobago, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Tahiti, Tuamotus, New Zealand, Australia, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, USA, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, China, Kenya, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Oman, Seychelles, and the United Arab Emirates. He dived to forbidden depths in the Red Sea, helped to investigate the Lough Ness Monster in Scotland, was caught in a hurricane in the North Sea, almost sank a British naval vessel, helped to produce an Oscar-nominated film around his home in Connemara, and directed major elements of a nation's participation in four World Expos.

Experimental fish farming in Saudi Arabia led to a commercial venture in Ireland, which in turn developed into a project aimed at establishing a worldwide aquaculture business. Tragedy in Ireland – a helicopter crash – resulted in a career change, and Peter turned to writing for a living. A series of books on the Red Sea and the Arabian peninsula countries led to his involvement in book publishing. Meanwhile, his film work included assistance on production of a BBC *Horizon* programme, a Discovery Channel film, *Arabia: Sand, Sea & Sky*, and *Tides of War*, which described the environmental impact of the Gulf War.

Retiring from his media-related activities at the end of 2015, Peter returned to his academic work, publishing more on his Red Sea research, and eventually compiling this eclectic collection of stories from his varied and intriguing life.

Peter is married to Paula and has three daughters, Catriona, Sinead, and Megan all of whom, with their respective partners, live and work in Ireland.

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Doug Allan is one of the world's best known and respected cameramen. He specialises in natural history, expeditions, and science documentaries in some of the wildest and most remote places on our planet. He has worked for BBC, Discovery, National Geographic and many others, filming for series like *The Blue Planet*, *Planet Earth*, *Life*, *Frozen Planet*, *Ocean Giants* and *Operation Iceberg*. In 2012 he published *Freeze Frame – a Wildlife Cameraman's Adventures on Ice*, a book about his filming experiences.

Artisan House Publishers, Letterfrack, Connemara, Co. Galway.

Artisan House is a specialist publishing company creating beautifully illustrated high-quality books and bespoke publications on a richly diverse range of subjects. Food and lifestyle, photography and the visual arts, music and poetry, and all things quirky appeal to us.

Their creative approach embraces the complete cycle from concept to final delivery including design, editing, translation, illustration, photography, and print management. This enables total oversight of the process to ensure publications of exceptional standard. Previous publications include *Sea Gastronomy: Fish and Seafood of the North Atlantic* by Michael O'Meara which won the Best Seafood Cookbook in the World Gourmand Award in 2016; *Connemara & Aran* by Walter Pfeiffer, shortlisted in the Irish Book Awards 2017, *Tapestry of Light* by Tina Claffey, which earned an Honourable Mention at the International Photography Awards in New York in 2019; and *from dream to dream: where science meets art* edited by Alannah Robins.

Artisan House was established in 2013, is a member of Publishing Ireland and based in Letterfrack, Connemara, Co Galway. www.artisanhouse.ie

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Spirorbis

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