

Heritage of County Clare

County Clare, 27th February 2008

The Heritage Section of Clare County Council has announced details of a major heritage conference scheduled to take place in Ennis at the end of April.

The conference, which will focus on community action, is being organised to explore the formation of the new Clare Heritage Plan, 2008-2013. The conference will feature presentations on such issues as funding, community heritage, built heritage, natural heritage, networking and the effectiveness of the Clare Heritage Plan since its introduction in 2003.

The event will also include addresses by Junior Environment and Energy **Minister Tony Killeen** and **John Gittins** of the Cheshire Landscape Trust, along with representatives of various community organisations from across Clare.

Mr. Gittins, who spoke at the last Clare Heritage Conference in June 2001, will discuss the importance of communities taking responsibility for their own heritage while Minister Killeen will explain how the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government can facilitate such actions.

“The five years since the launch of the first Clare Heritage Plan have seen a significant increase in heritage awareness and activity across Clare”, stated **Ms. Congella McGuire**, Heritage Officer with Clare County Council.

She added, *“The Clare Heritage Plan outlines objectives and actions that are deemed necessary to improve the conservation and promotion of our county’s heritage. We have built up a considerable network of community contacts since 2003 and we will be consulting with all of these people in relation to the formation of the new heritage plan, which will broadly inform heritage initiatives over the next five years”.*

“The conference presents a tremendous opportunity for members of the general public to have their say on the formation of the plan”, explained Ms. McGuire.

County Clare has been leading the way in the appreciation and protection of heritage in Ireland for some time now. Clare County Council was one of the first counties to appoint a Heritage Officer and produce a Heritage Plan.

Commenting ahead of the upcoming conference, **Cllr. Pat Hayes**, Cathaoirleach of the Clare Heritage Forum, said, *“Consultation with community groups and organisations is key to the development of any new Heritage Plan.”*

The Chairman of Clare County Council’s Community and Cultural SPC continued, *“Community groups and activists are the most effective tools in addressing heritage issues, which is why it is important that the Clare Heritage Section maintains its strong relationship with local communities”.*

The Clare Heritage Conference takes place on 24th/25th April, 2008, at the Temple Gate Hotel in Ennis. *For further information contact the Heritage Section of Clare County Council (065-6821616).*

1 Apr 2008

Heritage Education week at Clare Museum, Arthur's Row, Ennis, Co. Clare on Tuesday, 8th April, 10.30 and 11.30am/ Thursday, 10th April, 10.30 and 11.30am

Heritage Education Week is targeted at primary schools, particularly 4th-6th classes. The purpose of Heritage Education Week is to generate greater interest and appreciation of our heritage in a practical and pupil friendly way.

On **Tuesday, 8th April**, Simon and Maria O'Dwyer will give a presentation and demonstration of prehistoric musical instruments of Ireland. Simon has been employed as a heritage specialist by the INTO and The Heritage Council for the past 7 years. He has conducted studies into prehistoric and medieval musical instruments in Ireland. One of the highlights of this event will be Simon's playing of replicas of Bronze Age and Iron Age horns. Three such original Bronze Age horns are displayed in the museum and the event represents for the students a unique opportunity to hear and experience these sounds not usually heard in these parts for over 2000 years! Two presentations 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. (approx. 45 minutes in length)

On **Thursday, 10th March**, students from around County Clare will witness a demonstration of the traditional Traveller craft of copper smithing. Members of St. Joseph's Traveller Training Centre in Ennis will perform these demonstrations. Two presentations 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. (approx. 45 minutes in length)

Cuireadh/Invitation

**The Clare Heritage Forum
invites you to the launch of the**

Clare Antique Farm Machinery Study
at Clare Museum, Ennis
Monday April 14, 2008, 7.30pm
by Dr. Hugh Maguire, Heritage Council

**Presentation on 'The Development of Clare Farm Machinery 1800-1950'
by Minogue Associates, Project Consultants**

**The Clare Farm Machinery Study was the first study of its kind to be
conducted in Ireland or Europe**

The Heritage of Clare

<http://www.clarecoco.ie/Heritage/HeritageofClare.html>