



MEDIA RELEASE

EVENT ORGANISERS URGED TO REGISTER FOR CLARE HERITAGE WEEK 2007

County Clare, IRELAND, Friday, 1 June 2007 – The Clare Heritage Office is urging groups or individuals interested in organising events during Clare Heritage Week 2007 to register by 22nd June in order to avail of nationwide publicity.

Heritage Week, which will run from 25th August to 2nd September, is part of European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. Its main aims are to promote awareness of our built, natural and cultural heritage thereby encouraging its conservation and preservation, to promote Europe's common cultural heritage and to foster mutual understanding.

Locally the event is co-ordinated by Clare County Council and the Heritage Council with support from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This year activities are again expected to cover a broad range of heritage issues such as the Burren, biodiversity, and monuments and castle houses.

"Clare has been proven itself to be one of the most active counties in Ireland when it comes to heritage preservation and promotion", commented Tomás Mac Conmara, Acting Heritage Officer, Clare County Council.

He continued, *"The Clare Heritage Office would encourage enthusiasts in the county to view Heritage Week 2007 as an opportunity to display their own area of heritage be Natural, Built or Cultural to the broader public. Like Seachtain na Gaeilge, Heritage Week allows for the national focus to be placed on our heritage and presents a tremendous opportunity to engage more people in its protection and its promotion."*

Mr. Mac Conmara stated that there are many ways for interested groups and individuals to take part in Heritage Week 2007.

“If you can, involve children and families. Events can be held at a variety of venues, such as monuments and historical sites, parks and gardens, woodlands, wildlife reserves and inland waterways, schools, libraries and heritage centres. Involve organisations and people who are available to you such as local historians, wildlife experts, local authorities, schools, churches, community groups, youth clubs, drama groups, musicians, artists, and anyone who is willing to provide ideas, information and support. Events should be free of charge where possible throughout the week”, he said.

Meanwhile, events that are registered with The Heritage Council by 22nd June will receive publicity at a national level. The Heritage Council will work to promote Heritage Week nationally and provide all organisers with posters and programmes with which to promote their activities.

In 2006, over 50 events took place around Clare during Heritage Week. The events covered a broad range of heritage issues such as the limestone pavements of Ireland and Britain, Ennis placenames, seabird watching, the geology of Scatterry Island, songs around the Slieve Aughty, and whale and dolphin watching. Events included a fieldtrip to Inchicronan Abbey, a bat talk and walk, an exhibition of Clare Embroidery and a talk on the Field Monument Advisor Programme. Heritage Week 2006 was also marked with the publication of the findings of the Clare Cuckoo Survey 2006.

“In order to facilitate the needs of families it has been decided to hold Heritage Week 2007 at the end of August so that parents can participate in the various events, many of which are outdoors, with their children before they return to school. It is anticipated that all events will be free of charge”, he concluded.

For more see www.heritageweek.ie or call The Heritage Council on 1850 200 878. Event organisers may also contact the Clare Heritage Office on 065-6821616 or heritage@clarecoco.ie.

-ENDS-

