

MEDIA RELEASE

CLARE TRADITIONAL ARTS FORUM TO MEET NEXT WEEK

County Clare, IRELAND, Friday, 1 June 07 - The recently established Clare Traditional Arts Forum will hold its second meeting in the Maguire Suite of the Old Ground Hotel in Ennis on Wednesday 13th June 2007 from 6pm. The meeting will be facilitated by Margaret O’Sullivan of ‘Key Cultural’ and will feature two separate sessions from 6–7.30pm and 8–9.30pm. Anyone involved in the traditional arts, including musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, organisations, promoters and festival organisers are invited to attend.

The Clare Traditional Arts Forum aims to gather Clare’s strong musical tradition by assisting individuals and organisations to work together on shared projects of interest, thereby putting them in a stronger position for accessing funding at national and local level.

According to Tara Connaghan, Clare Arts Office, *“The Forum is being set up by the Arts Office of Clare County Council with support from the Arts Council of Ireland. The role of the Arts Office will be to organise meetings, offer support, advice and assistance as required. The Forum members will determine the activities of the forum.”*

“The Clare Traditional Arts Forum will open up various opportunities for the traditional arts in County Clare where people can get support for ideas or projects they want to undertake and hopes to see a number of projects come to light within the first year of the Forum. The Forum is also an opportunity for people to find solutions to problems, deficiencies or issues in the sector in general or for their own projects”, Ms. Connaghan added.

The benefits of forums and networks are widely known and can be seen in various communities throughout the Ireland. For example, the Roscommon Traditional Arts Forum - the first of its kind in Ireland – has undertaken various projects including the

transmission of traditional arts in primary schools and the production of marketing brochures and an on-line archive. *'Feadogmor Music'*, and also produced the CD *'Flute Players of Roscommon, Vol. 1'* showcasing a number of stalwart flute players in Roscommon. Meanwhile, Clare has a number of very successful forums in situ including the Clare Heritage Forum, Forum Gaeilge an Chláir, Clare Tourism Forum and Clare Community Forum among others.

The Clare Traditional Arts Forum met first last November and received a positive response. The second meeting hopes to start the ball rolling on ideas and projects. All traditional musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, festival organisers, promoters, traditional arts organisations and anyone involved or interested in the traditional arts are invited to attend the meeting of the Clare Traditional Arts Forum in the Maguire Suite of the Old Ground Hotel on Wednesday 13th June from 6–10pm.

For further information contact Tara Connaghan in the Clare Arts Office on 061-364062 or shannonarts@clarelibrary.ie.

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