

MEDIA RELEASE

CLARE IS WHERE THE ART IS!

Inaugural meeting of Clare Traditional Arts Forum to take place later this month

County Clare, IRELAND, Thursday Nov 16th 2006 - The newly established Clare Traditional Arts Forum will hold its inaugural meeting in Ennis, County Clare on November 27th 2006. The Forum aims to consolidate Clare's very 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', meanwhile, produced the CD 'Flute Players of Roscommon, Vol. 1' showcasing a number of stalwart flute players in Roscommon.

Meanwhile, 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 first meeting of the Clare Traditional Arts Forum in The Maguire Suite, Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, County Clare at 6.30pm on November 27th 2006.

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

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Note to Editors:

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