

Clare Heritage Week 2007

To Come Straight from the Hearth

County Clare, IRELAND, 9th August 07

Ireland's first audit of hedgehogs and the Clare Coastal Architecture Survey will feature in a series of public lectures being held during Clare Heritage Week 2007 from 27th-31st August.

The '**Open Hearth Series**' sees the Clare Heritage Office, in conjunction with the Clare Museum, presenting public lectures on some of the many Clare Heritage Plan projects undertaken in 2007.

"In a nod to other times when the 'Open Hearth' or fire place was the predominant location for the telling of history, this series is an attempt to further engage the general public in matters of heritage and culture", explained Tomas Mac Conmara, Acting Heritage Officer with Clare County Council.

He continued, *"It is imperative that the Clare Heritage Office provides the public with an insight into the projects undertaken by the office and to take the opportunity to illustrate the benefit of each. A considerable amount of actions have been progressed in 2007 in many areas of our heritage and with the **Open Hearth Series**, attendees will have the opportunity to have a glimpse into the level of effort put into each project."*

John Rattigan, Curator of Clare Museum said, *"Clare Museum began the lunchtime lecture series during Heritage Week 2002. In 2006, we agreed to host speakers fulfilling projects and initiatives outlined in the Heritage Plan. This year, in a further development of the concept, Clare Heritage Office and Clare Museum have moved the programme to evening time so as to attract greater numbers of people to the lectures."*

On Tuesday 28th August John Murphy and Elaine Keegan, Clare Biodiversity Officer and Database manager respectively, will present a biodiversity awareness evening. **Gráinneog, "Ugly Little Thing"**, will provide an update on the many biodiversity projects undertaken throughout the year including the first ever Irish Hedgehog survey and first Leisler Bat survey.

On Wednesday 29th Pádraig and Dónal de Barra from Kilkee and Miltown Malbay will speak about the placenames surveys that they are conducting in their respective areas, under the direction of the Clare Heritage Office and Clare Placenames Committee.

Sarah Halpin will present a talk on the Clare coastal architecture survey on Thursday 30th. On the same evening, Minogue Associates will present an illustrated talk on the first countywide antique farm machinery audit in Europe.

According to Alec Fleming, Clare County Manager, *"The '**Open Hearth**' series provides the Clare Heritage Office with an opportunity to promote some of the valuable work undertaken in 2007 and to present the findings of various surveys and projects."*

Niamh Barrett the Heritage Council's National Heritage Week Co-ordinator, explained that *"In terms of highlighting the importance of our built, natural and cultural heritage National Heritage Week is extremely important in encouraging groups across the county and country to celebrate in an overt fashion what area of heritage they feel is important and to present that to the broader community."*

Meanwhile, over fifty events are scheduled to take place around Clare during Heritage Week 2007. Clare County Council has confirmed that the events will include a range of talks, field trips and exhibitions aimed at encouraging people to take an interest in their local heritage.

Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. 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.

Further information and an events listing for Clare is available on www.heritageweek.ie.

Monday August 27th, 1.00pm-2.00pm

"Boots are made for Walking" - Walking Routes in Clare by Cyril Killeen, Clare Walking Routes Officer

"A Monumental Matter", Clare Field Monuments by Michael Lynch, Clare Field Monument Adviser

Tuesday August 28th, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

"Gráinneog 'Ugly Little Thing'" - Clare Hedgehog Survey by John Murphy, Clare Biodiversity Officer

"Bat Survey Begins" - The Clare Leisler's Bat Survey 2007 by Elaine Keegan, Database Manager

Wednesday August 29th, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

"Name Your Place" - The placenames of Kilkee & Miltown Malbay by Padraig de Barra & Donal de Barra

Thursday 30th August, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

"At the bottom of the field" - The Clare Farm Machinery Audit 2007 by Minogue Associates

"A Coastal View" - Clare Coastal Architecture Survey 2007 by Sarah J. Halpin of Clare Heritage Office

Friday 31st August, 1.15pm - 1.45pm

"The diversity in the Bio" - Clare's Biodiversity by John Murphy, Clare Biodiversity Officer