

**Nuacht / News Jan 9 '09**

### **Not Enough Hours**

I am producing the second series of **Not Enough Hours**, which is a lifestyle programme. We are looking for a family that have undergone a dramatic change in the last few months and are trying to cope with that change. This would be a family where the mother up until now was able to be a stay at home mom, but now because of financial reasons has had to go back to work and is finding it difficult, a spouse who has been made redundant and has found themselves taking on the role of chief carer in the home or a spouse who's had to take on a second job.

Our programme deals with change management with regard to time. This means showing people how to cope with new routine's, new roles, or in the case of redundancy showing people how to make the most of the unwanted time they have by staying focused and motivated.

**Not Enough Hours** is a series of 8 half hour programmes, each one dealing with a different person or scenario. In terms of filming we film with them over a 7 day period from now until April. It is produced directly by RTE.

The series was very popular last year and got great results for all the participants hence another series. If you know of anyone who might be suitable, my contact details are teresa.smith@rte.ie or 012083078. We have already started filming and **I am trying to get this family ASAP** as I want to have one programme in the series representing the current changes that families have had to cope with.

Teresa

Teresa Smith  
Series Producer  
Not Enough Hours  
RTE  
Tele : **0035312083078**  
Email: teresa.smith@rte.ie

### **Winter Music Weekend, Sixmilebridge**

The 10th Anniversary of the "**WINTER MUSIC WEEKEND**" festival takes place from the 16-18th January '09. In Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare

Festival ethos : To enjoy a diverse range of acoustic music in small venues without the need of amplification. You will enjoy over 30 gigs/sessions/concerts/recitals and dancing (inc. Sets) in 6 venues covering most musical genres. Over 3,500 people visit the festival as there is something for everyone.

Families are encouraged to visit. The main venue, the COURTHOUSE is not licensed so families can enjoy the festivities together late into the night. Check out the rest of the site for further info about the festival and the activities of SMB folk club.

*For more details visit:*  
[www.wmw.ie](http://www.wmw.ie)

## **2009 Ennis Book Club Festival 6 – 8 March.**

The Ennis Book Club Festival, in association with Clare County Library, is a unique literary and social gathering for book clubs and readers everywhere. The programme includes author readings, discussions, workshops, walking tours, poetry, advice on organising book clubs and reading lists, chocolate tastings, and opportunities to meet other Book Club members.

**Join us in Ennis from 6 – 8 March 2009** to share a joy of reading and have a weekend break with friends in one of Ireland's most picturesque towns.

Authors/speakers will include **John Boyne, Jennifer Johnston, Salley Vickers, Gerard Donovan, Gerry Stembridge, Kevin Myers, Conor O'Clery, Mark O'Halloran, Terry Prone, Michael D. Higgins, Aifric Campbell, Allan Guthrie, Rita Ann Higgins, Medbh McGuckian and Micheal O'Siadhail** and many more.

*Further details at [www.ennisbookclubfestival.com](http://www.ennisbookclubfestival.com)*

*Email [info@ennisbookclubfestival.com](mailto:info@ennisbookclubfestival.com)*

*or tel. 087972 3647 / 085 784 2822*

## **Visual Stuttering**

**A New public art project commissioned, focusing on "farm aesthetics"**

**Visual Stuttering** is a project commissioned from artist **Eileen Healy** by Clare Arts Office. She will develop a project relating to documentation of Clare farms through the use of aerial photography.

This particular project emerged from a period of research co-funded by Clare Arts Office and Burren Connect which identified the need for a community-based process which acknowledged and defined local cultural elements and in particular engaged directly with farmers, as a marginalised group within the Burren. Initially the artist would like to hear from farm-owners who have aerial photographs of their farm.

*She can be contacted by e-mail*

*[aerialfarmphotographs@gmail.com](mailto:aerialfarmphotographs@gmail.com)*

*or by phone **087-7922618**.*

## **Ireland's Young Filmmakers Awards**

Regulations:

The new and exciting programme had been set up, with new additions to the already established

Young Filmmaker, Documentary, Group, Animation and audience awards. This year we are including an international Award to acknowledge talent from abroad. Another exciting addition is the 60 Second Shot Award in association with RTE that will run through broadcast on RTE's TTV and voted on by text message.

To be eligible for inclusion all entries must be:

- Supplied on DVD and/or mini DV player
- Made by 7-12 year old filmmakers considered in the Junior section
- Made by 13-18 year old filmmakers to be considered in the Senior section
- 15 mins or less in length\* (senior section) / 10 mins or less in length\* (junior section).

\*These times are inclusive of title and end credits.

Submission of entries:

Entries on DVD and/or mini DV tape only. Closing date for entries is Friday the 30th of January 2009.

Please enclose a €10.00 bank draft/ cheque per film made payable to Fresh Film Festival to cover administration costs.

*All correspondences should be directed to:*

**Ireland's Young Filmmakers Awards**

**Fresh Film Festival**

**Belltable Arts Centre,**

**69 O'Connell St.**

**Limerick, Ireland.**

**Tel/Fax : +353 (0)61 319555**

**Email : info@freshfilmfestival.ne**

### **Child Protection Training for Artists**

The Arts Office and the HSE have devised a training schedule for all those working in the arts. The following dedicated Arts Keeping Safe Programmes will take place on the following dates – venues to be confirmed:

Saturdays - 28th of Feb. and 7th of March - 10am - 4:30pm

Evenings - 20th of April, 27th of April, 5th of May, 11th of May, 18th of May

If interested in attending any of these course dates please contact the Arts Office as places will be limited. Only artists who have completed the programme will be engaged by the County Arts Office to + work with young people from June 2009.

*Source : Clan Arts News and Opportunities*

### **Important News re Contacting the Arts Office**

Please note that the main number for the County Arts Office has changed to **065 6899091**.

The email [arts@clarelibrary.ie](mailto:arts@clarelibrary.ie) remains the same.

*More information on the work of the Arts Office is available at*

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/arts.htm>

*and Clare news and events available at*

[www.clarefocus.ie](http://www.clarefocus.ie)

- *Events in Glór are listed on their website at*  
<http://www.glor.ie/whatson.asp>
- **Library events** are listed at  
[http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/events/library\\_events.htm](http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/events/library_events.htm)

## **Draft River Basin Management Plans**

*22nd December 2008*

Draft River Basin Management Plans (R.B.M.P.s) and related documents were published on 22nd December 2008, for the Shannon and Western River Basin Districts which between them cover the whole of County Clare. Each Draft R.B.M.P. is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (S.E.A.) Report with appendices, and a Habitats Directive Report with appendices.

*View the Shannon Draft RBMP and accompanying reports:*

<http://www.shannonrbd.com/>

*View the Western Draft RBMP and accompanying reports:*

<http://www.wrbd.ie/>

Copies of all documents will be available for viewing at the Environment Section counter in Áras Contae an Chláir.

The Draft R.B.M.P.s are consultation documents, which everyone is invited to read and to make comments. **Please forward your views on or before 22nd June 2009** to the following:-

### **Shannon R.B.M.P.**

Mr. Enda Thompson  
Limerick County Council,  
Shannon I.R.B.D. Office  
Mulkear House,  
Newtown Centre,  
Annacotty,  
Co. Limerick.  
Email: [info@shannonrbd.com](mailto:info@shannonrbd.com)

### **Western R.B.M.P.**

Mr. Pat Canney,  
Galway County Council,  
Western R.B.D. Office,  
Centrepoint,  
Lios Bán Industrial Estate,  
Tuam Road,  
Galway.  
Email: [pcanney@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:pcanney@galwaycoco.ie)  
*Source* : Clare County Council

*9th January 2009*

### **Irish Language Grant Scheme**

Cuireann Scéim Deontais na Gaeilge fáilte roimh iarratais ó eagraíochtaí atá ag eagrú taispeántais nó aon imeacht eile a spreagfadh spéis phoiblí sa Ghaeilge agus a chuirfeadh eolas, tairbhe agus cleachtadh na Gaeilge chun cinn nó a chuirfeadh feabhas ar chaighdeán na Gaeilge. Tá an Scéim seo dírithe ar imeachtaí a bheidh ag tarlú ón 1 Eanáir go dtí an 31 Nollaig, 2009.

Tá foirmeacha iarratais agus treoirlínte ar fáil ó Oifigeach Forbartha na Gaeilge, Oifig na Gaeilge, Comhairle Contae an Chláir, Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir.

Is é an **6 Feabhra, 2009 ar 4:00** i.n. an dáta is deireanaí le haghaidh iarratais.

Ní ghlacfar le hiarratais i ndiaidh an dáta seo, i gcás ar bith.

**Scéim Deontais na Gaeilge** invites applications from organisations hosting an event, which would stimulate public interest in the Irish Language, provide a knowledge, appreciation and practice of the language or improve the standard of the language. This Scheme is aimed at events which will take place between 1st January 2009 and 31st December 2009.

An application form and guidelines are available from Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, Oifig na Gaeilge, Comhairle Contae an Chláir, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co Clare.

The closing date for receipt of application forms is **6th February 2009 at 4:00p.m.**

Applications after this date, shall not be accepted.

Source : Clare County Council

*Brussels, 16 December 2008*

### **Environment: major additional effort needed to halt biodiversity loss by 2010**

The EU will fail to meet its target of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 unless there is significant additional effort over the next two years. This is the key conclusion of the first comprehensive assessment of progress in implementing a Biodiversity Action Plan to halt biodiversity loss in the EU. Despite some encouraging results, notably with the further extension of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas and important investments in biodiversity, the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem concerns into other sectoral policies remains an important challenge. The new Communication from the Commission identifies priorities for further action.

*"This continuing loss of biodiversity is critical, not just because of the intrinsic value of nature, but also because of the resulting decline in vital 'ecosystem services.' We have set an ambitious biodiversity target for 2010, we know what needs to be done and we have the tools to achieve this. I therefore call on all Member States to redouble their efforts to sustain the variety of life, and the health of the ecosystems that underpin our prosperity and well being"* said Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas.

### **An enormous effort required**

In 2006, the European Commission produced an Action Plan to halt biodiversity loss by 2010, setting out concrete actions and outlining the responsibility of Community institutions and Member States. Today's report is an overview of progress, and represents the last real opportunity for stock-taking before 2010. The report studies four main policy areas: biodiversity in the EU, the EU and global biodiversity, biodiversity and climate change, and the knowledge base. A summary of progress in each Member State is included for the first time.

The main conclusions are that an enormous effort will be required if the EU is to meet its 2010 target, and that intensive efforts will be needed, at the level of both the European Community and the Member States, if the EU is to even approach its objective.

EU policies and legislation already provide a strong basis to address the biodiversity challenge but they need to be effectively implemented. The new assessment highlights priority measures for the coming years. These range from more action to manage and restore sites in the Natura 2000 network to restoring ecosystem health and services in the wider EU countryside and in freshwater and marine environments.

### **Biodiversity in the European Union**

There are many positive elements in the assessment. Targeted actions to reverse the decline of endangered species and habitats have been successful, but these need to be replicated on a much larger scale. The Natura 2000 network has been significantly extended and now comprises more than 25 000 sites, covering 17% of the EU land territory, but additional efforts are needed to finalise the network, especially for marine protected areas.

There is progress too in the protection of marine and freshwater ecosystems, notably with the adoption of the new Marine Strategy Directive, although the failure to adopt the Soil Framework Directive leaves a major legislative gap. The Commission recently presented options for an EU strategy to address the increasing threat of invasive species.

Member States are increasingly making use of EU funds to support nature and biodiversity, especially in relation to agriculture and regional development policies, although the real benefits for biodiversity remain to be determined. Further work is also needed to better integrate biodiversity considerations into different sectoral policies.

### **The EU and Global Biodiversity**

Outside the EU, global biodiversity loss is running at unprecedented levels, with ecosystems frequently degraded to crisis point. New issues such as biofuels and food security have emerged as major challenges to sustainable development. An ongoing study on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, initiated by the European Commission and Germany, will help decision makers direct more attention to this issue and the link to poverty eradication. There is also a need to enhance understanding of the impact of EU consumption of food and non-food commodities such as soy beans, palm oil and metal ore, and of how it contributes to global biodiversity loss.

### **Biodiversity and climate change**

The report calls for wider recognition of the critical role ecosystems play in strengthening resilience to environmental stress and reducing exposure to climate change. In 2009 the Commission will issue a white paper on adapting to climate change that should strengthen the synergies between biodiversity and climate change policy.

### **The knowledge base**

Given the critical importance of knowledge to support the development of biodiversity policy there is a continuing need to ensure that adequate funding levels are provided at both Community and Member State level. The Commission also supports the proposal to establish an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), to strengthen independent scientific advice to global policy making.

*Source* : Europa Environment

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/index_en.htm)

## **Building public education, awareness and participation**

National/Sub-national public awareness campaigns/initiatives (E4.1):

Based on the ECNC analysis of the Flash Eurobarometer Report, over half of the respondents from Ireland had never heard of biodiversity (52%). This compares unfavourably with an EU-27 average of 35% of respondents who have never heard of biodiversity. Of those who had heard of biodiversity in Ireland, 22% knew what it meant. In addition, 22% of respondents felt that they were well informed about biodiversity loss. A substantial number of respondents from Ireland had never heard of the Natura 2000 network (94%). Of those who had, only 1% knew what it meant. Despite not knowing what it means, 71% of respondents from Ireland felt they made personal efforts to protect biodiversity.

Two objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan involve improving public awareness of biodiversity issues. They are: to develop a targeted education and awareness strategy for the specific purpose of promoting the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Ireland; and to develop an Internet-based national Clearing House Mechanism.

A national public awareness campaign on biodiversity titled 'Notice Nature' won an EU award in 2007 of the Green Spider Network (GSN) for best practice in communicating environmental issues. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and to encourage everyone to play their part in its protection.

*Source* - Country Profile **Ireland**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/bap\\_2008.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/bap_2008.htm)

## **East Clare charity leads the way in Climate Change education**

CELT, the East Clare based environmental education and training charity are starting the new year in fine style. They have received an award of 3,000 euro from the Department of Environment towards education for Climate Change, which will go towards an inter-active education programme for schools and youth groups in East Clare. CELT are developing the programme with support from the government's Change Campaign and Eco-Unesco Regional Centre of Excellence in Sustainability Education at University of Limerick.

By way of celebration and as a fundraiser to support the programme, CELT are holding a Social evening at Ryans Bar, Scariff on Friday 9th January, 9pm onwards, with buffet and a traditional music session with Ged Foley (of Patrick Street fame) and friends - all welcome (cover charge 5 euro).

Also now is the season for tree planting and the CELT Tree Nursery is becoming very popular. They have a wide range of Certified Native trees and shrubs available along with Walnut and Sweet Chestnut plus a selection of fruit and nut species including cob nuts, blueberries, blackcurrants, raspberries, redcurrants, whitecurrants, josta berries, Worcester berries and Tay berries. Most of these are available by post in bare-root form though some are in pots.

*For further information contact*

Sarah or Bob,

CELT - Centre for Environmental Living and Training,

Main St, Scariff

Tel: 061-640765

Mail [info@celtnet.org](mailto:info@celtnet.org)

*and see* [www.celtnet.org](http://www.celtnet.org)