

## **Waterford County Museum** (Press Release)

Waterford County Museum needs your help. The renovation by Dungarvan Town Council of the Old Town Hall building on St. Augustine Street, Dungarvan (their current premises) has presented them with the opportunity to greatly improve their exhibition space and the quality of their exhibition cases.

The cost of upgrading of the interior of their premises will be in the region of €100,000. Already they have sourced almost €70,000 of this money from the Waterford Leader Partnership, Blackwater Homes and numerous other local businesses'.

The new cases, lighting, architectural models, audio-visual presentations, displays and signage that they are currently fundraising for will greatly enhance the visitor experience for locals and tourists alike.

Museum curator Willie Fraher stated, "I feel that we have a one off opportunity for the county to obtain a museum that befits the county's rich cultural heritage. If the people of Waterford do not value and preserve our County's heritage no one else will do it for us."

The museum is appealing to the people and businesses of County Waterford for further donations to make up the €30,000 shortfall in funding. Over the past few weeks most businesses in West Waterford have received a mail shot from them detailing their future plans. In the coming weeks they will be contacting as many businesses as possible with a follow up phone call in order to further explain the project.

Committee member Willie Whelan said that "It is important that the people of County Waterford realise that this is their museum. We record all types of history and heritage countywide. Much of the history that we are preserving is social and commercial history.

While there is obviously a lot of attention on our architectural heritage, battles and famous people, we are equally committed to preserving the history of dramatic societies, sports teams and local businesses."

### **What Does the Museum Do?**

As part of their efforts to become a museum for all of County Waterford the museum continues to invest considerable time and effort into several initiatives.

- The museum will expand their service to the local schools. Over 300 children visited the museum during one week in April last year. This week-long lecture series and exhibition was so successful that they now plan to run this event annually and involve more schools throughout the county.
- As part of their history outreach programme the museum continues to mount temporary exhibitions in communities. Exhibitions have been mounted in Ring, Old Parish, Clashmore and Cappoquin. Exhibitions are scheduled for Portlaw and Touraneena in the coming months.

Visitors to Garvey's Supervalu on Main Street, Dungarvan will have seen the very successful photographic exhibition that was mounted by the museum in conjunction with the Dungarvan Main Street Traders. This exhibition has already been visited by over 1500 people.

Their award winning websites [www.waterfordcountymuseum.org](http://www.waterfordcountymuseum.org) and [www.waterfordcountyimages.org](http://www.waterfordcountyimages.org) continue to have 3500 different people visit them each week.

- They have mounted over 44 major exhibitions on topics as diverse as Dungarvan Crystal, Waterford's Maritime History, Waterford Postcards, Waterford & World War 1 and Sarah Purser.

- They have organised 132 lectures featuring contributions from eminent academics, authors and local historians. Topics covered are very varied and recently included Tom Crean, The Work Of The Folklore Archive In Waterford and Crotty The Highwayman.

- The museum has published 4 books, on Dungarvan's architectural heritage, the famine in Dungarvan Poor Law union and two guides to historic Dungarvan.

## **About The Museum**

*The museum is a voluntary non-profit organisation founded in 1984 to preserve the history of Co. Waterford. In this time they have achieved a national and indeed international reputation for the quality of our work. Awards they have won for our work include:*

- *Winner Of The Heritage And Environment Section of Waterford County Council Community & Voluntary Awards 2006.*

- *Awarded the Best Small Museum Web Site In The World 2006 title at the prestigious Museums & The Web International Conference held in Albuquerque, New Mexico for [www.waterfordcountyimages.org](http://www.waterfordcountyimages.org). From over 200 hundred museums worldwide, award winners were chosen by an eminent panel of 24 judges including representatives from the Science Museum - London, Rijksmuseum, Georgetown University, San Francisco MOMA and The Metropolitan Museum of Art - New York.*

- *Best Museum Publication at the Heritage council - Irish Museum of the Year Awards 2002 awarded to [www.waterfordcountymuseum.org](http://www.waterfordcountymuseum.org).*

### ***How Can I Help?***

***Any business or private individual that would like further information on this very important project can contact the museum directly on 058 45960 or email [history@waterfordcountymuseum.org](mailto:history@waterfordcountymuseum.org). Alternatively you can contact committee member Willie Whelan on 086 2748377.***

**Donations can be made payable to Waterford County Museum and sent to Waterford County Museum, St Augustine Street, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Ireland.**

All donations in excess of €100 will be acknowledged in a permanent form on a plaque displayed in a prominent place in the new museum building.

Contact us:

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