

Press Release

Ennis, County Clare, IRELAND, Friday November 24th 2006 – Book lovers from across Ireland and the UK have been invited to take part in the inaugural Ennis Book Club Festival in County Clare from March 2nd-4th 2007. The event, which is being supported by Clare County Library, will be a social and literary gathering to bring together some of the 150 Library Book Clubs and 300 Private Book Clubs that exist nationwide. The Festival programme will also feature author visits, readings, lectures, music, workshops, exhibitions and cookery demonstrations in various venues around Ennis.

Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. Joe Reidy said that the event - one of the largest of its kind in either the UK or Ireland – will provide a welcome boost to tourism in the county capital while presenting a unique opportunity for book club members to meet and exchange ideas about all aspects of literature *“Those who make the trip to County Clare will enjoy poetry in the cosy cafes, readings in the many restaurants and shops, and drama on street corners as they wander through the narrow streets and lanes of Ennis”*, Mayor Reidy said.

Throughout the three-day Festival, events will be held in such venues as Glór Irish Music Centre and the De Valera Library as well as in various hotels, cafes, bookshops and restaurants around Ennis. According to Frances O’Gorman, Festival Chairperson, *“The Festival programme has a very broad brief as it is not confined to any one form of literature. It will include poetry, drama, food, travel, and political writing as well as fiction. We are keen to give the book clubs an eclectic mix that won’t be found at any other literary festival and that reflects the reading passions of many in the country. There will also be a section for Irish language book clubs.”*

“We are delighted that over twenty writers and a number of Book Clubs have already agreed to take part”, stated Ciana Campbell of the Ennis Book Club Festival Committee. She continued, “Book Clubs from Ireland the UK are invited to get together in Ennis to share their joy of reading, to meet authors, to discuss books, and to have a weekend break with friends. The festival offers an ideal opportunity for comparing notes and chatting with other Book Club members from all over the country. Non Book Club readers are also invited to come along and to find out how to go about setting up a club in their own area.”

Meanwhile, an official website providing information on various festival events has been launched. www.ennisbookclubfestival.com also provides links to other County Clare sites.

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