

## Other Local Experts in Ireland

**NAME:** Willie Daly

**OCCUPATION:** Matchmaker & Horse Whisperer

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: +353 065 7071385

[www.williedaly.com](http://www.williedaly.com)

[williedaly@eircom.net](mailto:williedaly@eircom.net)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Matchmaking Festival takes place every year during September and October in Lisdoonvarna, County Clare, Ireland. The Matchmakers of old were the dealers who attended street fairs, as it was they who know the farmers who had eligible sons and daughters around the country. They invited the farmers from all over Ireland to attend the Festival the following September, and it was they who collected the generous dowries when the matches were made. Today there are just two matchmakers left in County Clare, Mr. Willie Daly (Horse Dealer) who runs the riding centre outside Ennistymon and Mr. James White, hotelier, and proprietor of the Imperial Hotel, Lisdoonvarna.

**NAME:** Colm Quilligan

**OCCUPATION:** Dublin Literary Pub Crawl

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel +353 (0)1 670 5602

Mobile +353 (0) 87 263 0270

My direct lines is 8962320 or also try 8962308.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

20<sup>th</sup> year of the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl. Dublin Literary Pub Crawl:  
Historical Walking Tours of Dublin, Day tours to Wicklow & Glendalough, Old Library & the Book of Kells exhibition

**NAME:** Noel Murphy

**OCCUPATION:** Shannon Castle Entertainers

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: + 353 (0) 86-3845890

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Bunratty Castle was built in the 15th century by the Earl of Thomond and stands on the banks of the Rathy River. From here The Earl ruled over his Chiefdom and entertained lavishly, in fact he was famous for his hospitality. Following this tradition of hospitality, the world renowned Bunratty Medieval Banquet is held twice nightly throughout the year. For over 40 years the Ladies of the Castle, aided and abetted by the Earl's Butler, have welcomed guests from the four

corners of the globe to join them at The Earl's Banquet. The entertainment provided by the superb Bunratty Singers is a fitting compliment to a four course meal, a lively meal reception and of course good wine. We invite you to enjoy an unforgettable evening in the splendour of this magnificent castle.

**NAME:** Miles Breen

**OCCUPATION:** Renowned Award Winning Actor C/O Island Theatre Company, Limerick

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: +353 (0)61 410433

[info@islandtheatrecompany.ie](mailto:info@islandtheatrecompany.ie)

<http://www.islandtheatrecompany.ie/contact.htm>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The *Limerick 5 line verse* of poetry verse is a unique form of poetry synonymous with Limerick. The 'Limerick' is a form of comic verse consisting of five anapaestic lines of which the first, second, and fifth have three metrical feet and rhyme together and the third and fourth have two metrical feet and rhyme together. The 18<sup>th</sup> century Maigue poets, for Co. Limerick, writing in their native Irish, produced a great body of poetry, and the custom was widely adopted in other locations in Limerick City and County. Soon the neighbouring Counties of Cork, Clare and Tipperary began to pen the verse. The themes of these early works included love poems, drinking songs, poems on national affairs and satires on public figures. Two of the first, and most famous, exponents of the Limerick were poet and publican Sean O' Tuama (1706-'75), and his friend Andrias MacCriath (1710-1793). O' Tuama and MacCraith grew up together in Kilmallock, Co. Limerick and were educated in one of the many hedge schools of the time, with a traditional education incorporating Latin and Greek studies.

Actor Miles Breen is a wonderful orator and would be available to recite some *Limericks* for you.

**NAME:** Margaret O' Shaughnessy

**OCCUPATION:** Foynes Flying Boat Museum

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Email: [famm@eircom.net](mailto:famm@eircom.net)

[www.flyingboatmuseum.com](http://www.flyingboatmuseum.com)

Tel: +353 (0)69 65416

Mobile +353 (0) 87 2490830

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

.Margaret can talk about Irish coffee, it was invented in Foynes, and County Limerick in 1943, there is now an International Irish Coffee Making Festival

there annually. The port of Foynes played a central aviation role in world aviation during the 1930's and '40's with any movie stars and presidents who were flying from Europe to the US having to stop at Foynes flying boat airport to refuel. Actress Maureen O' Hara (of the 'Quiet Man' movie fame) is a patron of the Foynes Flying Boat museum which is dedicated to recapturing the famous flying boat era. This year they will have a Boeing flying aircraft kitted out as it would have been in that glamorous era.

**NAME:** Dr Billy Colfer

**OCCUPATION:** Historian - Wexford

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** +353 (0) 51 397 442

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Dr Colfer is a local historian, President of the Wexford Historical Society & member of the Heritage Council and author. His books include *Arrogant Trespass: Anglo Norman Wexford 1169-1400* (2002) and the best-selling work *The Hook Peninsula* (2004). He is an expert storyteller on the history of the county.

**NAME:** Stella Mew

**OCCUPATION:** Chief Executive Officer - Yeats Society

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Contact Number: 071 9142693

Email: [info@yeats-sligo.com](mailto:info@yeats-sligo.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Area of Expertise: Yeats & The Yeats Connections. The Yeats Society was founded in Sligo in 1958 in order to commemorate and honor the memory of W.B. Yeats, and to promote appreciation of his poetry and other writings, and an awareness of the other members of this talented family.

**NAME:** Catherine Crosse

**OCCUPATION:** James Hoban Architect of the Whitehouse

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [catherine@kceb.ie](mailto:catherine@kceb.ie); 00353 86-8245644

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Callan in Kilkenny is the home place of James Hoban original Architect for the White House in Washington.

**NAME:** Anne-Marie Diffley

**OCCUPATION:** Visitor Services Manager - Trinity College Library

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Trinity College Library

College Street

Dublin 2

Ireland

Tel: + 353 1 8962320

Fax: + 353 1 896 2690

Email: [adiffley@tcd.ie](mailto:adiffley@tcd.ie)

Web: <http://www.tcd.ie/Library/heritage/index.php>

**NAME:** Denis Leonard

**OCCUPATION:** Limerick Civic Trust

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: +353 (0)61 313 399

[info@limerickcivictrust.ie](mailto:info@limerickcivictrust.ie)

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

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

LIMERICK'S new look architecture has won much outside admiration for the developers of today. The preservation of the old Limerick has made Limerick Civic Trust a role model for the rest of the country. Projects on Georgian Limerick have won national and European environment awards for the trust. It has an impressive CV of achievement and the man with his hand on the tiller from day one is Denis Leonard, it's director said; "We have help start up 11 of these, and this is a great achievement to have people from Dublin, Cork, Waterford and major towns approaching us to find out what we have achieved and how we went about it. This something that Limerick can be proud of that the Civic Trust is the role model for the rest of the country."

**NAME:** Gerard Griffin

**OCCUPATION:** Dolphin Watching & Scattery Island Centre on the Atlantic coast of Ireland

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.discoverdolphins.ie](http://www.discoverdolphins.ie); [www.shannondolphins.ie](http://www.shannondolphins.ie); [www.heritageireland.ie](http://www.heritageireland.ie);

[info@discoverdolphins.ie](mailto:info@discoverdolphins.ie) Tel: +353 65 9051327

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Shannon estuary is Ireland's first marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and home to the countries only known resident group of bottlenose dolphins. The dolphins resident in the Shannon estuary are bottlenose dolphins and they belong to a single group of marine mammals called cetaceans, which includes all whales, dolphins and porpoises of which there are thought to be over 80 different species. Cetaceans fall into either of two categories, baleen whales and toothed whales, bottlenose dolphins are in the latter group. The bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) occurs worldwide in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate waters and in Europe the most important concentrations appear to be of the west coast of Ireland, the population in the Shannon estuary is the only

known resident group in Irish waters and is only one of six such groups in Europe. Each year calves are born between May and August, newborn calves are easily recognizable from their small size and neo-natal folds, which line their bodies; calves are observed on quite a number of trips during this period. Gerard Griffin operates a dolphin watching business from Co Clare, as well as a ferry service to Scattery Island which has a seasonal visitor centre. This Information Centre on the mainland interprets the island on which a monastery is situated. The monastery, consisting of a round tower and several churches, was founded by St. Senan in the early part of the 6th century. His most famous pupil was St. Ciaran of Clonmacnoise. A wonderful exhibition on the history of these monuments and on the wildlife of the area is housed in this Centre.

**NAME:** Bunratty Village Mills

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: +353 (0) 61-364321

Email: [brm@meadows-byrne.ie](mailto:brm@meadows-byrne.ie)

<http://www.ireland-withpatpreston.com/bunrattyvillagemills.htm>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Bunratty Village Mills opened in April 1998 and is a complete shopping experience. The Mills includes a cluster of shops including Meadows and Byrne Homestore, Sweater Barn, etc. The shops feature an array of products from Ireland and abroad. A 150 seater restaurant offers its visitors' quality locally produced foods. The new development features car/coach parking, picnic tables and a riverside walk. We are across the street from the famous 15th century Bunratty Castle and Folk Park and adjacent landmark pub known as Dirty Nellies.

**NAME:** Elaine Hiney Wall

**OCCUPATION:** Gardening expert

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[Hineywall@shannondev.ie](mailto:Hineywall@shannondev.ie)

Mobile: +353 (0) 86 8270439

Web: [www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Elaine is the head gardener with Shannon Heritage who operates a range of day visitor and evening entertainments around the Shannon Region. Elaine has been involved in a recent project to restore two secret gardens in the grounds of 15<sup>th</sup> century Bunratty Castle and 15<sup>th</sup> century Knappogue Castle both in Co. Clare. She is a gardening expert and can talk about the curative properties of plants.

**NAME:** Maria O' Gorman Skelly

**OCCUPATION:** Clarion Hotel Limerick City

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[mogormanskelly@clarionhotellimerick.com](mailto:mogormanskelly@clarionhotellimerick.com)

Mobile: +353 (0)86 8332323

Web: [www.clarionhotellimerick.com](http://www.clarionhotellimerick.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Maria works with the Clarion Hotel Limerick where all US four radio stations will be broadcasting from. She has agreed to provide a holiday prize (this has been co-ordinated through Delta airlines. The Clarion Hotel is Ireland's tallest hotel. Marie is a native of Limerick herself and can talk about local night life culture, the beat of the city and its people. Superbly located on Steamboat Quay, and just a few minutes walk from the city centre, the Clarion is the perfect retreat, with spectacular views over Limerick and its famous River Shannon.

**NAME:** Fairymount Farm - Walks & Trails

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: +353 (0)67 21139 / +353 (0)87 2726729

[kennyfarm@iol.ie](mailto:kennyfarm@iol.ie)

[www.fairymountfarm.com](http://www.fairymountfarm.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Discover Fairymount Farm's unique heritage, hill and lake walking trails. Up to 8 miles of interlinking trails throughout our 450acre organic sheep, horse and forestry farm which includes archaeological sites and Knockshegowna's 700ft hilltop with its breathtaking views

**NAME:** Mary Normoyle

**OCCUPATION:** Fanningstown Castle

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: 061-395989

[info@fanningstowncastle.com](mailto:info@fanningstowncastle.com)

[www.fanningstowncastle.com](http://www.fanningstowncastle.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Ireland as a honeymoon destination - rent your own castle.

Fanningstown Castle is a romantic, gothic style castle dating from the 12th Century nestled among dairy farms in the heart of Ireland's Golden Vale.

Comprising of 5 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, 3 bathrooms and a fully equipped kitchen and Golf and horseback riding can be arranged. Private fishing is available on the River Mague.

**NAME:** 'Woman of the House' (**Bean a tí**), Bunratty Folk Park, County Clare

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: Aodhagan Behan - 061-711246 / 086-2451535

Email: [BehanA@shannondev.ie](mailto:BehanA@shannondev.ie)

Web: [www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Bunratty Folk Park, recreates rural and urban life in 19th century Victorian Ireland. There is an extensive array of vernacular buildings; indicative of all of the social strata from the poorest one roomed dwelling to Bunratty House, a fine example of a Georgian residence for the gentry. Traditional jobs and crafts are also represented, milling, the forge, pottery, printing, baking, farming etc. Costumed characters that recreate the traditions and lifestyle of a bygone age animate the Folk Park. The characters include the Bean a Ti (woman of the house), R.I.C. policeman, Schoolteacher, Blacksmith and so on. Eithne is a traditional 'woman of the house' at Bunratty Folk Park which recreates what life was like in 19<sup>th</sup> century Ireland. The Folk Park has examples of thatch cottages from that period and animators dressed in period costume bring this period of Irish history to life for visitors. Eithne can talk about living conditions for people in those time, the famine years in Ireland which forces million of Irish people to emigrate to the US and Australia. She is also an expert on baking from that period and part of her job involves cooking traditional dishes like griddle break over an open fire at the Folk Park, porter cake (made from Irish Guinness), and scones and apple tarts.

**NAME:** [Mary Hawkes-Green](#)

**OCCUPATION:** [Burren College of Art](#)

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.burrencollege.com](http://www.burrencollege.com)

[admin@burrencollege.ie](mailto:admin@burrencollege.ie)

Tel: +353 65 7077200

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Burren College of Art offers today's art student the opportunity to study in a unique environment alongside top-ranking academics and artists. Set in the grounds of a 16th century castle against the stunning backdrop of the Burren in County Clare on Ireland's Atlantic coast, the Burren College of Art, founded in 1993 after years of planning and research on an international scale, represents a new and exciting departure in Visual Art education. The Summer Workshops offered are weeklong or weekend courses for amateurs or accomplished artists. The Summer School (4 or 6 week long) designed for college level and mature students wishing to engage in a conceptual period of creative activity. Studio and non-studio courses in photography, painting, sculpture and art history-Irish studies are offered. Classes combine

instruction in the studio with work on site in the Burren landscape. The Summer School culminates with an open exhibition.

**NAME:** Katherine Webster

**OCCUPATION:** New Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)

[mocklerp@shannondev.ie](mailto:mocklerp@shannondev.ie)

Tel: +353 86 8365836

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The new Visitor Centre, opening in early 2007, will include a major Interpretative area containing exhibits and display on a range of aspects of the Cliffs of Moher. Visitor facilities within the building, which will be subsumed into the contours of the hillside to minimize any visual impact, will include public toilets, a parent's room, a coffee shop, a retail shop and tourist information office and a restaurant with panoramic views of the Cliffs and Liscannor Bay. External facilities will include coach drop off and pick up points, bicycle parking, a picnic area, and six craft worker units for local traders and a large paved concourse at the building entrance with seating. The development will also include elevated viewing areas, landscaping, new pathways and a ranger service which is expected to greatly enhance the visitor experience at one of Irelands most significant and popular tourist locations. It is scheduled to open in 2007 with superb visitor facilities, cafe guide services, and auditorium and exhibition areas in a specially designed building. The foyer will be modern and spacious and will give access to the retail shop, tourist information office, exhibition centre and the cafe. Upstairs the restaurant will provide panoramic views of the Cliffs and Liscannor Bay.

**NAME:** Bob Duff

**OCCUPATION:** Glin Castle Gardens

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.glincastle.com](http://www.glincastle.com)

[knight@iol.ie](mailto:knight@iol.ie)

Tel: +353 68 34364

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Glin Castle is the home of Desmond Fitzgerald, 29th Knight of Glin. The Castle was built in the 1780's on the south shore of the River Shannon. The garden has been extensively restored and includes a formal garden, pleasure grounds and a kitchen garden. Glin Castle is a member of Ireland's Blue Book and also Houses, Castles and Gardens of Ireland.

**NAME:** Chris Meehan

**OCCUPATION:** General Shannon Region tourism expert.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[oloughlink@shannondev.ie](mailto:oloughlink@shannondev.ie)

Tel: +353 86 6682405

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

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Kevin is an expert on Shannon Region Tourism products. He can tell you about how visitors to this region are designing their own 'action hero' vacations. They can choose from a range of activities like powerboat racing, shark fishing, flying lessons, surfing lessons with an Irish international champion.

**NAME:** Clare Tourist Council expert on the Burren Region

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: +353 87 2850926

[www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com) [www.burrencentre.ie](http://www.burrencentre.ie)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION;**

Paddy wears several hats and can talk about the famous Burren Region in Co. Clare which spans 100 sq miles and is often referred to as Europe's largest rock garden. It natures enigma and rare flowers that grow in the Mediterranean and Arctic grow here side by side in the crevices of the rock; hundreds of wild orchids grow here in May. It is a special area for nature lover, walker, artists etc. Paddy is working on another project to erect a memorial to John P Holland the founder of the submarine. John was born in the village of Liscannor in County Clare and he invented the submarine 125 years ago. He is buried in Patterson, New Jersey and the village of Liscannor will be twinned with Patterson.

**NAME:** John Ruddle

**OCCUPATION:** Shannon Heritage

**CONTACT INFORMATION;**

[ruddle.j@shannondev.ie](mailto:ruddle.j@shannondev.ie)

Tel: +353 86 3850621

[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Shannon Heritage is Ireland largest operator of managed day visitor attractions, and operates the longest running evening entertainment in Ireland. They operate mediaeval banquet at three authentic mediaeval castles at Bunratty and Knappogue castles in Co. Clare, and Dunguaire Castle in Galway. In total they operate eight day visitor attractions and four evening entertainment venues. They have a crew of Shannon Castle Entertainers dressed in mediaeval costume who perform nightly at a sumptuous banquet for guest to the castles. They also operate a traditional Irish evening at 19<sup>th</sup> Century Bunratty Folk Park in the grounds of Bunratty Castle, where people can step back in time over 100

years ago and be entertained by a Seanachi (traditional Irish story teller) with traditional Irish music and dance. Visit [www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com) for a full list of attractions which also include an opportunity to rent your own mediaeval castle for your vacation - it is also used as an exclusive wedding and honeymoon destination.

**NAME:** Peter Loughnane

**OCCUPATION;** Birr Heritage Town

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: +353 (0) 509 20791

Mobile + 353 (0) 87 9138687

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Turning back the clock to the elegance of the Georgian age, Birr has stayed true to 18th and 19th century character with its tree lined malls and avenues around formal and well-planned blocks of easy on the eye street vistas. Peter Loughnane of the County Arms Hotel in Birr, a family run hotel, is also Chairman of Mid Ireland Tourism. Birr Castle in the town was the world largest telescope (until recently). The telescope has been restored and now forms part of Irish first science heritage centre in the castle grounds which is also famed for its spectacular gardens which are open to the public.

**NAME:** Pdraigh Casey

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[p.casey@ballyhoura.org](mailto:p.casey@ballyhoura.org)

Tel: +3553 (0) 86-7605892

Web: [www.ballyhouracountry.com](http://www.ballyhouracountry.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Padraigh Casey of Ballyhoura Country in County Limerick. Padraigh heads a group which promotes a scenically beautiful area offering rural holidays. Situated in the Southwest region of Ireland, on the borders of counties Limerick, Tipperary and Cork, Ballyhoura Country is an area the undulating green pastures, of the Golden Vale, of woodlands, hills and mountains. Two mountain ranges, the Ballyhoura's and the Galtee's, offer walkers a unique experience to explore the Irish countryside at its best. With over 1,500km of off-road marked trails, the area offers much in the way of walks, from leisurely strolls through peaceful pastureland or forest tracks, to the [Ballyhoura Way](#), a 90km, long distance walk which traverses the area from east to west.

**NAME:** Karen Brosnahan

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[karen@meetlimerickshannon.com](mailto:karen@meetlimerickshannon.com)

[www.meetlimerickshannon.com](http://www.meetlimerickshannon.com)

Tel: +353 61 415201 Mobile: +353 87 9838967

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Meet Limerick-Shannon Conference and Sports bureau is a co-operative initiative which aims to build on the reputation of Counties Clare and Limerick as an excellent destination for meetings, conferences, exhibitions, incentive travel, elite athlete training and sporting events.

**NAME:** Dave Mahedy

**OCCUPATION:** University of Limerick

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[david.mahedy@ul.ie](mailto:david.mahedy@ul.ie)

Tel: +353 61 213555

Mobile: +353 (0)86 2541320

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Arena Sports complex at the University of Limerick. The University will be hosting the World Down Syndrome Games Sept. 06. Dave would be available to talk on this topic.

**NAME:** Claire McEnery

**OCCUPATION:** Shannon Airport Authority

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[Claire.McEnery@shannon](mailto:Claire.McEnery@shannon)

Mobile: +353(0) 87 2215329

[www.shannonairport.com](http://www.shannonairport.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Shannon International Airport is home to the world's first duty free shop. The idea was first invented there 1945 and since then has become a world wide phenomenon. The airport has just celebrated 60 years of providing air services to and from the US - many interesting stories and personalities association with that.

**NAME:** Mid Ireland Tourism

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Tel: +353 509 20923 / 23936

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

[info@midirelandtourism.ie](mailto:info@midirelandtourism.ie)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Lying in the very heart of Ireland, Mid Ireland Tourism embraces parts of Offaly, Tipperary, Laois, Westmeath and Galway. The region offers the visitor an amazing array of breathtaking inland scenery, vast tracks of bogland, rolling hills, meandering waterways and a wonderful tapestry of Irish farmland and

forestry. Presenting all sorts of challenges, Mid Ireland will satisfy even the most adventurous spirit. Dominated by the majestic River Shannon & the Slieve Bloom Mountains, this diverse and varied landscape generously provides for canoeing, rock-climbing, cycling & boating as well as horse riding, walking, bird watching & fishing.

**NAME:** Barratt Tours

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.4tours.biz](http://www.4tours.biz)

[info@4tours.biz](mailto:info@4tours.biz)

Tel: +353 61 384700

Tel (mobile): +353 87 2375986

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Barratt Tours is owned by Richard and Christine Barratt - a husband and wife team. They operate a full day tour programme from Limerick and Ennis. They visit various locations in the area including the famous Cliffs of Moher, The Burren, Aillwee Caves, Galway and surrounding area. They also visit Adare, Blarney, Muckross House and Killarney.

**NAME:** Chris Meehan

**OCCUPATION:** Angling expert

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[meehanc@shannondev.ie](mailto:meehanc@shannondev.ie)

Tel: +353 61 710381

Tel (mobile): +353 86 9883198

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Chris Meehan, Shannon Development, is a keen angler and organizes the Angling Product Marketing Group in the Shannon Region. He has a vast knowledge of angling in the Region, on lakes, rivers etc

**NAME:** Gerry Lowe

**OCCUPATION:** Chairman Shannon Golf Partnership

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[gerrylowe@eircom.net](mailto:gerrylowe@eircom.net)

Tel: +353 86 2349092

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Ireland's Shannon Region has been carved by nature itself and its dramatic coast-line and unspoilt greenery is the perfect setting for superb golf courses. Golfers can test their skills on the wind-swept dunes of a championship links, challenge the hazards of courses created by some of the world's most famous designers, or just play a relaxing 18 holes on parkland of tree-lined fairways.

**NAME:** Joe Russell

**OCCUPATION:** Doonbeg Golf Club

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.doonbeggolfclub.com](http://www.doonbeggolfclub.com)

[links@doonbeggolfclub.com](mailto:links@doonbeggolfclub.com)

Tel: +353 65 9055610

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Doonbeg Golf Club is designed to be the ultimate links golf experience. Crafted by two-time British Open champion Greg Norman, the layout follows a routing sculpted by nature. Twelve of Doonbeg's fairways were simply mowed, and the putting green undulations generally follow the lie of the land. The course, situated between 1.5 miles of crescent-shaped beach and centuries-old dunes, affords ocean vistas from the green, fairway, or tee on 16 of the 18 holes.

**NAME:** Christina Byrne

**OCCUPATION:** Slieve Bloom Mountain and walking expert

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

[info@slievebloom.ie](mailto:info@slievebloom.ie)

Tel: +353 86 2789147

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The south midlands of Ireland, the north-eastern area of the Shannon Region are visually dominated by the Slieve Bloom Mountains (counties Offaly, Laois and Tipperary). Today these beautiful mountains (by Irish Standards Mountains, but in reality gentle rolling hills) offer a peaceful retreat from the bustling modern world. And hills they really are, as the highest point, are just over 529 meters high. A necklace of villages surround Slieve Bloom, each a study in itself but all linked by a common thread of fulsome hospitality. You will quickly feel at home here.

**NAME:** Sue Foley

**OCCUPATION:** Equestrian

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.clonshire.com](http://www.clonshire.com)

[info@clonshire.com](mailto:info@clonshire.com)

Tel: +353 61 396770

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Clonshire Equestrian & Polo Centre is situated just 20 minutes drive from Limerick City and 2.5km from the picturesque village of Adare. The centre is surrounded by 120 acres of private parkland.

**NAME:** Mike O'Donnell

**OCCUPATION:** Angelas Ashes Walking Tour

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.freewebs.com/walkingtours/](http://www.freewebs.com/walkingtours/)

[walkingtoursoflimerick@hotmail.com](mailto:walkingtoursoflimerick@hotmail.com)

Tel: +353 87 6353648

The Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Angelas Ashes*, was set in Limerick City, and written by local man Frank McCourt. The tour tells the story of Limerick from that book and locations from *Angela's Ashes* include: Windmill Street, Barrack Hill, site of the former Roden Lane, South's Pub, Leamys School, and the churches mentioned in the book and many other locations. The tours are conducted by Tour Guide Michael O'Donnell, with the approval of Frank and Malachy McCourt.

**NAME:** Lough Gur either Shannon Heritage

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[slattery@shannondev.ie](mailto:slattery@shannondev.ie)

[www.shannonheritage.com](http://www.shannonheritage.com)

[reservations@shannonheritage.com](mailto:reservations@shannonheritage.com)

Tel: +353 61 360788

(Tour guide + 353 (0) 87 2739199)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Visitor Centre at Lough Gur tells the story of the pre-Celtic settlers of Ireland who farmed and lived in this peaceful valley. The archaeology of the area provides evidence for the activities of the first farmers in the region, their dwelling, rituals, and burial sites as well as their tools and implements, many of which can be seen in the visitor centre. The story of the people stretches back over 5,000 years and continues to the present day in the people who still farm and dwell in the valley. The Visitor Centre houses an exhibition of artifacts and display panels as well as an AV show which interprets the area.

**NAME:** Pat Daly

**OCCUPATION:** Shannon Development - Limerick Riverside City

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

[dalyp@shannondev.ie](mailto:dalyp@shannondev.ie)

Tel: +353 61 410777

Mobile: +353 86 2259743

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Riverside City Project is a major partnership project and is an initiative that will give the City of Limerick & its hinterland a new focus and will act as a catalyst for a host of future developments. The vision for the Riverside City is people orientated: by 2020, Limerick will be a dynamic, attractive city on the

banks of the Shannon River - a place of opportunity, of respect and pride, with the highest quality of life and environment. The vision establishes a new development line that runs from the area of the new river crossing below Limerick City, to the Docklands area, Quayside and City centre, Kings Island and extending to the University of Limerick via the Park Canal. The breadth of this vision extends to the end of the first quarter of this century. In the next ten years alone, up to €1 billion will be invested by both public and private sectors and over 5,000 new jobs will be created. The Riverside City Project will open the doorway to new possibilities and projects that will involve regeneration in some places, and the development of Greenfield sites in others. Its jewel in the crown will be the restoration and development of the Park Canal. Limerick has earned a reputation as a 'vibrant, happening city with fab. clubs and discerning restaurants' - courtesy of the 'Lonely Planet' guidebook.

**NAME:** Andrew McWhinney

**OCCUPATION:** Limerick Co-Ordination Office

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

[info@limerick.ie](mailto:info@limerick.ie)

Tel: +353 61 400225

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The objective of this office is to co-ordinate and brings together the various organizations/ individuals in the Limerick to improve the City, and exploit Limerick's unique characteristics/qualities for the economic good of the City. This initiative is been backed by four partners; Limerick Corporation, Shannon Development, Limerick Chamber of Commerce and Limerick Civic Trust.

**NAME:** Oliver Dillon

**OCCUPATION:** Bunnratty Mead & Liqueur Company Ltd

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.bunnrattymead.net](http://www.bunnrattymead.net)

[info@bunnrattymead.net](mailto:info@bunnrattymead.net)

Tel: +353 61 362222

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

If music be the food of love then Bunnratty Mead is surely the drink of passion. First discovered by Irish monks in the Middle Ages, Mead (made from fermented honey) was believed to have the magical powers of virility and fertility. In ancient times it became the custom for the bride and grooms to drink Mead for one full moon after their wedding, hence the term "Honeymoon" still used today. Bunnratty Meade, the result of marrying pure honey and the fruit of the vine together with selected herbs recreates this legendary wine.

Oliver has the only official legal license to distill piotin (the Irish moonshine).  
He exports it to the States.

**NAME:** Katie Verling

**OCCUPATION:** Glór Irish Music Centre

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

[info@glor.ie](mailto:info@glor.ie)

Tel: +353 65 6845372

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Ennis, County Clare is home to Glór Irish Music Centre, built in recognition of the area's musical heritage and contribution to Irish traditional music. Glór gives you the opportunity to experience the ultimate traditional music 'session' and provides you with information about instruments, styles, dance, music and song through live musical demonstrations. Using fantastic musicians and friendly hosts, Glór demonstrates (in a predominantly non-verbal style) the richness and diversity of Irish music.

**NAME:** Maeve Martin-Kelly

**OCCUPATION:** Adare Heritage Centre

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

[info@adareheritagecentre.ie](mailto:info@adareheritagecentre.ie)

Tel: +353 61 396666

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Historical Exhibition - giving the history of Adare in 5 different languages dating back to the 1200's. Also housed in the centre are very attractive craft shops, Tourist Information Office and a 70 seater restaurant.

Adare Castle Tours - Guided tours of Adare Castle have commenced. The tours are conducted daily from Wednesday to Sunday inclusive in the months of July, August and September and may be booked through the Adare Heritage Centre.

**NAME:** Tomas MacConmara

**OCCUPATION:** Clare Genealogical Centre

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.clareroots.com](http://www.clareroots.com)

[clareheritage@eircom.net](mailto:clareheritage@eircom.net)

Tel: +353 65 6837955

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Clare Genealogical Research Centre was founded in 1982 by the late Dr. Ignatius ( Naoise) Cleary and is now widely recognized as the leading centre of its kind in the country. The centre houses the most comprehensive research

material, held at any one location, to enable persons with Clare roots to trace their ancestry. We have indexed all available parish registers for the 47 parishes and now hold data on over 500,000 people who were born in this country during the 19th Century.

**NAME:** Willie O'Callaghan

**OCCUPATION:** Aran Islands Cruise

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[www.ocallaghanangling.com](http://www.ocallaghanangling.com)

[mocallaghan.ennis@eircom.net](mailto:mocallaghan.ennis@eircom.net)

Tel: +353 65 6821374

Tel: +353 86 2673704

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

A family runs business offering excellent deep sea fishing or a visit to all three Aran Islands, operating out of Liscannor, Co. Clare. Visit all of the three Aran Islands and view the spectacular Cliffs of Moher on the way with the only cruise of its kind which enables you to do it all in one day, giving ample time on each island for sightseeing, laze on the beach, or stroll around and commune with the magic that is Aran. Goes deep sea fishing for groups and individuals off the West Coast, available for charter. The sea fishing catchment area ranges from North Kerry in the South up to Galway Bay. The boat is fully licensed and fully equipped with the most modern electronics for safety, navigation and fish detection. He offer romantic sunset cruises in the Atlantic Ocean at the base of the 700 feet high Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare.

**NAME:** Dan Mullane

**OCCUPATION:** Mustard Seed at Echo Lodge

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[mustard@indigo.ie](mailto:mustard@indigo.ie)

Tel: +353 69 68508

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Nestled in the heart of the County Limerick countryside is The Mustard Seed at Echo Lodge, a converted 19th century convent. Set on ten acres, the celebrated country house is surrounded by mature trees, orchard & kitchen garden where fresh herbs & vegetables are gathered daily for the preparation of dinner. The talented kitchen brigade creates exquisite culinary delights for the discerning diners. An extensive wine list compliments the enticing menu. Dan, the owner is passionate about food and entertaining and has extensive knowledge of the food industry in Ireland.

**NAME:** Anita Carey

**OCCUPATION:** Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

[reservations@adaremanor.com](mailto:reservations@adaremanor.com)

Tel: +353 61 396566

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Formerly the home of the Earls of Dunraven, Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort in County Limerick, Ireland, is now the ultimate luxury five star vacation destination complete with an 18 hole championship golf course, a luxurious Spa, world-class dining facilities, an Equestrian centre, fishing, shopping, sightseeing and a host of other estate activities guaranteed to make memories which will last a lifetime. The house is owned by American couple Tom & Judy Kane.

**NEWS CONTACTS ADDED**

**NAME:** Dennis Exton

**OCCUPATION:** Fishing Guide, Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel:086-2468810

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"We have some very pleasant fishing waters in this part of the world - a combination of river and lake angling and - for those who want it - exciting deep sea fishing in the Atlantic, all within a small, compact area. I've been taking visitors out fishing for more than 20 years and, by now, I know my way around. It gives me so much pleasure when I can provide a memorable moment or two to a visitor. I have something of a reputation as a story-teller and, even if the fish aren't biting, I'll surely find a way to keep my customers amused. It's all part of the service. We have a lot going for us in this Region and I make it my business to direct visitors to the top places, where they're certain to have a good time. I know the area like the back of my hand - where to shop, where to get the best pint and the best food, and where the craic is to be found. My job is to ensure that they enjoy their time here and I'll do whatever it takes. I've become quite well known over the years, I hope for all the right reasons, and it's wonderful when one of my guests makes a return visit or recommends me to a friend. That's when I realise I've got one of the best jobs imaginable; I'm out in the open air on beautiful waters in the Shannon Region, doing what I enjoy most and bringing joy to others while I do it."

**NAME:** David Hickey

**OCCUPATION:** Proprietor, South's Pub, Limerick City

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel:087-6488689

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"A good pub is a lot more than a good pint - although you can't have one without the other. There's no doubt that Ireland's pubs are an essential part of our attraction for many visitors and I like to think that mine is one of the best.

It's hard to define what makes a great pub. Some of the ingredients can't be bought or built - they just happen. I've tried to create an atmosphere that's warm and welcoming, where customers are encouraged to express themselves, and it seems to have worked. The artistic set rub shoulders with the sports fanatics - and Limerick is full of both; we get our share of raconteurs and a sprinkling of local characters, as well as the University crowd. I guess we're a fair reflection of the social scene in Ireland's third largest city - a city also recognised as the spiritual home of Irish rugby. We even got a mention in *Angela's Ashes!* There's a special buzz during the big horse racing events in Ireland and across the water. Racing fans congregate in the Bar on the big racing days - and there's the added attraction of a bookmaker right next door! Visitors from overseas seem to love the place and we love to have them here. Our bar staff function as impromptu tour guides and sources of information on everything that's going on in the city, and the locals are always willing to offer opinions on virtually any topic. Our Pub is not just a place to drink - it's a total experience and that's the way we want it."

**NAME:** Noel Wallace

**OCCUPATION:** Restaurateur, Bunratty Manor, Co. Clare

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 086-8206576

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"Ask tourists about their holiday experience and, sooner or later, they'll talk about food - its quality and variety, the friendliness and efficiency of the service, the ambience of the restaurants they visited and, of course, value for money. That's why I take my responsibility as a restaurateur very seriously. A high proportion of my guests are overseas visitors. They are recommended to my restaurant by their hotels and guesthouses - or by word of mouth - and they come with high expectations. My staff and I are determined that these expectations will be met and, indeed, exceeded. We leave nothing to chance. Good food is about attention to detail, in both the cooking and the presentation. We're not competing with the best restaurants in the Region; our competitors are the best restaurants in Los Angeles or London, Chicago or Cologne. We have a head start because of the quality of the fresh ingredients that are available to us. Ireland is rightly famed for the output of its farms and the quality and variety of seafood from the waters around our coastline. We make the very most of these riches to produce both Irish and International dishes that we hope will be remembered long after a holiday in the Region comes to an end."

**NAME:** Richard Keays

**OCCUPATION:** Farmer, Murroe, Co. Limerick

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 087-2056354

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"The Golden Vale, where I have my beef and dairy farm, is well named. It has some of the richest and most productive land in Ireland, a country that has traditionally produced fine food, not only for its own people but for much of Europe. It's a matter of great pride to people like me that Irish beef and lamb and Irish dairy produce have the status of premium products in food outlets across the Continent and further afield. Generations of my family have farmed this land. Farming is in our blood. Of course, it's a much changed business nowadays; we operate to very strict rules and guidelines and everything we produce must be traceable back to the farm from which it originated. That's the way it should be. There can't be any compromise with food quality and food safety and everyone in the Irish food industry at every level works hard to maintain the high reputation we have achieved. From time to time, tourists stop by our farm and it's very pleasing indeed when they recount good food experiences they have had during their stay in the Region. While their focus may be on the skills of the chefs in the various restaurants they visited, I can feel happy that I and my farming colleagues have played our part."

**NAME:** Eimear Laffan

**OCCUPATION:** Receptionist, Adare Manor, Co. Limerick

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 087-6880196

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"First time guests to Adare Manor are inevitably hit by the 'wow factor' and we like to keep them that way throughout their stay with us. It's that kind of place. Built in the 1830's, it's a true 5 star luxury property, but with some extraordinary features. It's got 52 chimneys, one for every week, and 365 leaded glass windows, one for every day in the year! I have an exciting job and I meet lots of famous people - especially since our golf course has established itself as one of the best in the country. We've in the second year of hosting the 'Irish Open', and last year; one of our national sporting heroes, Pdraig Harrington, was the winner, and he went on to win the 'British Open' a few weeks later. That was a great thrill for us all. The town of Adare is truly lovely, with its thatched houses and many historic monuments, and the estate itself - all 840 acres of it - has just about everything. The River Mague, one of the best trout fishing rivers in the country, runs right through it. Nearby, we have Ireland's newest race track in Patrickswell and we have lively days -and nights - when local race meetings take place. I feel very privileged to be here and I like to think

that our guests feel the same - my colleagues and I certainly make every effort to ensure that they do."

**NAME:** Pat Foudy

**OCCUPATION:** Garage proprietor, Foudy & Daughter, Ennis, Co. Clare

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 086-2513505

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"There's no better way to make a friend than to offer a helping hand to someone in trouble. That's generally the picture when I make the acquaintance of visitors to the Region. They've broken down - probably something simple - but, these days, there are fewer and fewer places where they can go for help. It's amazing how many of them manage to find me. They're so pleased and relieved that I'll come and fetch them and with my daughter - who is in the business with me, and a few lads will do the little repairs necessary to get them on their way. I suppose we're a bit unusual - many businesses like ours have shut their doors. But we like what we do and there's plenty of work to keep us going. Unlike many businesses, we have no shortage of satisfied customers who go out of their way to tell us how they feel - and that's job satisfaction. Traditionally, garages served a dual purpose; a filling station and a vital centre for repairs and vehicle maintenance. Nowadays the filling station element is the domain of contemporary forecourts. But my back-street, garage has stood the test of modern times and continues to provide the not so glamorous element of motoring; attending to repairs, punctures and breakdowns. The tourist business is very important to the entire Region and I like to think that we play our part in supporting it."

**NAME:** Jimmy Brohan

**OCCUPATION:** Shopkeeper, Ennis, Co. Clare

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 086-8596222

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"You don't find too many shops like mine around these days - and maybe you'll think it's just as well! I can't really give a precise description of what we are; General Store is the closest I can get. We sell things that people need and they don't have to fit into any special category. We're happy to stock farm implements and haberdashery alongside novelty gifts and school supplies. We have more stock than we can ever display indoors, so the cobbled footpath comes in very handy! We get lots of tourists. Curiosity brings them in, but you'd be surprised how often they find the very thing they've been looking for for ages - so there's method in our madness. We send visitors away happy - not just because they've got what they wanted - but with a sense of achievement that they managed to find it in our somewhat unusual retail environment. Among this array and dissarray of everything and anything there may lurk a little piece of

Irish antiquity. I offer 21st century visitors to the historic market town of Ennis a traditional rural Ireland shopping experience. It's a long way from the military organisation of the modern supermarket, but it's an experience that people remember - and isn't that what good holidays are about?"

**NAME:** Jennifer Frawley

**OCCUPATION:** Garda (police women), Birr, Co. Offaly

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel:087-1317735

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"I was delighted to be posted to Birr. It's a Heritage Town and it's been beautifully restored and maintained in recent years. From a professional standpoint, when people have nice surroundings, they tend to treat them with respect and that makes my job easier. Tourists arrive in Birr from far and wide. They come to Birr Castle - an amazing place, not just architecturally but also because it's been a center of scientific and engineering innovation since the 19th century. Its great telescope is one of the engineering wonders of the world. We're also very close to the famous monastic site of Clonmacnoise and to the Slieve Bloom Mountains, which have become a Mecca for hill walkers. My job and that of my colleagues is to keep our visitors safe and secure while they're in our town. We try to be proactive, offering a helping hand when we can. Nowadays, we get around on bicycles - the very essence of user-friendly, not to mention eco-friendly policing - so we're very visible. We see ourselves as an essential part of the tourism product, a signal to our visitors that we value them and that they are important to us."

**NAME:** Ryan McCann

**OCCUPATION:** Golf Pro, Nenagh Golf Club, Co. Tipperary

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 087-9339338

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"Ireland has many famous golf courses, some of them numbered among the best in the world. A dozen or more will feature on any list of 'must play' courses for serious golfers. But, there's another side to Irish golf - hidden gems that are well designed and lovingly maintained. Most important, they are easily accessible and won't break the bank! Nenagh is one such golf course. It's been in existence since 1929 and the original 9 hole track was designed by Alister McKenzie, who worked with Bobby Jones on the design of Augusta National. For decades, it was regarded as the best 9 hole layout in Munster. A new, 18 hole course was completed in 2001 and has won much praise. As the resident professional, I'm well aware of its qualities and I get great pleasure from the reactions of visitors who often arrive with modest expectations. Inevitably, they sing the praises of the course and the great value golf that we offer. The Shannon Region has many fine golf courses, just a few of which feature in the

international golfing press. Check out some of the others - it can be very rewarding."

**NAME:** Dorothy Landers

**OCCUPATION:** 'Clondanagh Cottage', Tulla, Co. Clare

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 086-8268862

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"I like the intimacy of the B&B business; we get close to our guests and their families, whatever the length of their stay, simply because they're sharing our home. Kids just love it. They pitch in with the chores, often having new experiences that will live with them long after they get home, - like collecting fresh eggs from our farmyard hens and bringing them to the kitchen to be cooked there and then; or feeding the donkeys on our donkey farm. We've made some great friends over the years - my mother ran this business before I did - so we've been around a long time. We get cards and greetings from former guests who still have fond memories of their holidays with us many years later. They remember the house and the food and the hospitality and they also recall the great music sessions down the road in Tulla, the stories of the poet, Brian Merriman, and his famed 'A Midnight Court', and a local woman, Biddy Early, who possessed both visionary and healing powers. I never tire of meeting new people. I want them to feel at home the minute they walk through the door and I take great personal pleasure from looking after their needs while they're here. I suppose it's a kind of vocation!"

**NAME:** John Burke

**OCCUPATION:** Proprietor, Armada Hotel, Spanish Point, Co. Clare

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel:086-8508499

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"*The Armada Hotel in Spanish Point* - now there's an evocative destination! Visitors are inevitably fascinated by both the name of the town and of my hotel, recalling, as they do, very colourful periods in Irish history when the great European powers brought their own conflicts on to our shores. From the windows of my establishment, they can look out over the same rugged coastline where the Armada came to grief in 1588, when many of its ships were wrecked during a storm. The unfortunates who made it to shore were executed by the local Lord. Today's visitors get a much more civilised welcome! We pride ourselves on creating an atmosphere that's warm and friendly, in keeping with the traditions of Co. Clare. It's no surprise that Clare has been the cradle of Irish traditional music - much of which evolves from social interaction between musicians and their audiences. I have no doubt that it's also inspired by the grandeur of the landscapes in this part of the world. We have the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher on our very doorstep and so many natural attractions that

few visitors get to see them all. Combine all of that with a good product and a high standard of service and you get happy customers. That's my mission in life and I'm pleased to say that all my staff have the same objective."

**NAME:** Adrian Daly

**OCCUPATION:** Coach driver, CIE Tours International, Shannon Airport

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 086-3520656

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"I get to meet visitors when they're at their lowest ebb. They've just arrived at Shannon Airport, sometimes after a long flight, they're tired and maybe a little more sensitive than usual. My challenge is to create a good first impression - and you know how important first impressions are! People like me can have a huge impact - for better or worse - on visitor satisfaction. We've all experienced the grumpy, couldn't care less kind of people, who get your back up and make you question the wisdom of your holiday choice. That's not me - nor my colleagues in the Region who work in this business. We take pride in our work. We make it our business to be knowledgeable about anything and everything that our customers may need from us - and you simply wouldn't believe some of the requests we get! I'm sometimes asked what skills are needed to do this job; well, apart from the obvious, you need to be a diplomat, a good negotiator, a storyteller, something of an historian, a paramedic, a photographer, an authority on food and wine and a very good listener. Airports make enormous impressions on visitors on arrival and departure and my colleagues and I play a big part in making Shannon Airport Ireland's most visitor-friendly airport.

It's great fun and I doubt there are many people who can claim to have friends in as many parts of the world as I can."

**NAME:** Paul McLoone

**OCCUPATION:** GM - Fáilte Ireland North West

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Tel: 00 353 (0) 87) 2222 834

Email: Paul.McLoone@faiiltiereland.ie

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Paul is a tourism expert on the region - covering the Counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan - the Northwest region is a landscape whose captivating beauty has inspired famous poets and writers and offers a stunning array of activities, from walking, boating, world class golf and angling set against a backdrop of lush countryside and stunning Atlantic coastline.

**NAME:** Martin Enright

**OCCUPATION:** Coordinator of The James Morrison Traditional Festival, Chairman of the *Sligo County Board of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri*, Headmaster of Coolbock National School

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Contact Number: 071 9167560

Email: coolbockns.ias@eircom.net

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Area of Expertise: Traditional Irish Music. *Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann* is the largest group involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music. We're a non-profit cultural movement with hundreds of local branches around the world.

**NAME:** Roisin McCarthy

**OCCUPATION:** Communications Manager - Temple Bar Cultural Trust

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** (Mobile) 086 377 1783

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"Feel free to contact me should any media wish to get in touch. If you cannot reach me here on the landline or cell feel free to contact my colleague Julie Momboisse on 01 677 2255 / [jmomboisse@templebar.ie](mailto:jmomboisse@templebar.ie)"

"We are exploring some ideas to run in conjunction with the festival here in Temple Bar so we will come back to your office on these next week."

**NAME:** Lisa Fitzsimons

**OCCUPATION:** Brand Manager - GUINNESS STOREHOUSE

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

St James's Gate, Dublin 8, Ireland

Tel: +353 1 408 4800

Direct: +353 1 643 5624

Fax: +353 1 471 4634

Email: [lisa.fitzsimons@diageo.com](mailto:lisa.fitzsimons@diageo.com)

Website: [www.guinness-storehouse.com](http://www.guinness-storehouse.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

"Guinness Storehouse hosts a 3 day festival (15-17 March) of live music, food and dance and has proved a very popular and lively attraction for visiting journalists in recent years. If interested, we can also facilitate live broadcasts from Guinness Storehouse with sufficient advance notice."

**NAME:** Siobhan Colgan

**OCCUPATION:** Abbey Theatre Dublin

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [siobhan.colgan@abbeytheatre.ie](mailto:siobhan.colgan@abbeytheatre.ie)

**NAME:** Mark French

**OCCUPATION:** Musical Pub Crawl

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Led by two professional musicians who perform tunes and songs while telling the story of Irish music and its influences on contemporary world music.

**NAME:** Michael Healy-Rae

**OCCUPATION:** Member of the Kerry County Council, representing the Killorglin electoral area

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** (Phone) 087-246-1678

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

He was first elected in 1999 and retained his seat with an increased vote in the 2004 local elections. Michael is the youngest son of Jackie Healy-Rae, TD for Kerry South) and a brother of Councilor Danny Healy-Rae who represents the Killarney electoral area on Kerry County Council. In the autumn of 2007, Michael took part in the 'Celebrities Go Wild' charity television show on RTÉ and emerged as the winner having received the largest number of votes from the viewing public. He is expected to contest the Kerry South constituency at the next general election in a bid to retain his father's seat when he retires from national politics.

**NAME:** Martin McIver

**OCCUPATION:** Managing Director - Creative Events

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

20 Stephens Street Lower

Dublin 2

Ph: +353 1 475 3313

Fax: +353 1 475 1324

Em: martin@creativeevents.ie

<http://www.creativeevents.ie>

**NAME:** Annette Nugent

**OCCUPATION:** Marketing Director - The Ark

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** 01 670 7788 mobile 086 682 0971

annettenugent@iol.ie

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Europe's first cultural centre for children, hosts cultural work by children, for children and about children.

**NAME:** Isobell Cassidy

**OCCUPATION:** Chief Executive - Lissadell House & Gardens

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Contact number: 071 9163150

Email: [isobelcassidy@lissadellhouse.com](mailto:isobelcassidy@lissadellhouse.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Area of Expertise: Gore Booth Family, William B Yeats, Constance Markievicz

**NAME:** Sean McLoone

**OCCUPATION:** Manager - Donegal Castle

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Contact number: 074 9722405

Email: donegalcastle@opw.ie

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Area of Expertise: History of Donegal & the Castle. Donegal Castle began by the O'Donnell family, lords of Tyrconnel, as a great tower castle in the late 15th century. The tower, built on a bend in the River Eske, was 35 x 55 feet in size, with walls eight feet thick. Hugh Roe O'Donnell was forced to set fire to his tower to keep it out of English hands about 1600, when capture by Mount Joy, the Earl of Essex' successor, seemed imminent. O'Donnell left to fight in Kinsale and was later exiled and died in Spain. English Captain Basil Brooke came to Ireland in 1598. He fought valiantly in Munster and in the conquest of Ulster. For his service he was appointed servitor of Ulster Plantation, and in 1616 was knighted by James I. In 1623 Sir Basil was granted the borough of Donegal including the strong turreted tower that had been the castle of the O'Donnell chiefs.

**NAME:** Austin Crowe

**OCCUPATION:** Owner - Dundrum House Hotel

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Email: [dundrumh@iol.ie](mailto:dundrumh@iol.ie) Phone: +353 (0) 627116

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Austin and his family are the proprietors of one of Ireland's best known Inland resort Hotels. It is surrounded by an 18 hole golf course designed by Ryder Cup hero Philip Walton. The Hotel has 84 bedrooms, apartments and self catering houses on site. Austin is a great Local and Tipperary historian and entertainer. He sings the Tipperary county anthem Slievenamon (Mountain of the Women) beautifully.

**NAME:** Labhras O Mhurchu

**OCCUPATION:** Director General - Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** +353 (0) 62 61122 email: [bruboru@comhaltas.com](mailto:bruboru@comhaltas.com)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann is an organization which exists to promote Irish traditional music and culture. He is also a member of Seanad Éireann (The Senate) since 1997 and is now serving a third term. Labhras and his wife Una run Bru Boru which is a cultural centre at the foot of the Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary. It is home to the study and celebration of Irish music, song, dance, and theatre and Celtic studies. It also incorporates a folk theatre, Genealogy

centre, restaurant and other amenities. Bru Boru has performed world wide. Events they have played at include Expo in Japan and Spain, China, Europe and the US.

**NAME:** Denis Heffernan

**OCCUPATION:** Community Activist in Emly

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** +353 (0) 62 57249

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Emly was a cathedral city until the 16th century. It is situated in the Golden Vale at the foot of the Galtee Mountains and is now a top performer in Ireland's national Tidy Towns Competition. It is an area rich in history and folklore and Denis can bring all this alive with his own brand of commentary.

**NAME:** Roy Galvin

**OCCUPATION:** Musician and Dancer - Tig Roy

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Email: [tigroy@eircom.net](mailto:tigroy@eircom.net); +353 (0) 62 37032

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Roy Galvin well known for his contributions to radio programs and appearances on TV .He plays a range of musical instruments including the fiddle, flute and pipes. He has performed overseas and performed. In the US and Canada. Tig Roy provides activity weekends which include yoga, meditation, cookery classes, hill walking, Set dancing, horse riding and traditional Irish music. They also provide classes, courses and workshops in traditional Irish Music and Irish language. The centre is situated at the foothills of the Galtee Mountains, the highest inland range of mountains In Ireland and noted for its delightful scenery.

**NAME:** Terry Flynn

**OCCUPATION:**

Clancy Brothers Music Festival,

Carrick on Suir,

Co Tipperary

Dates: 13 - 15 June 2008

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[terry@terryflynntours.com](mailto:terry@terryflynntours.com)

00353 (0) 51 601111

00353 (0) 86 2468381

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Clancy Brothers Music Festival is a three day festival celebrating the cultural wealth of the Carrick on Suir region. Taking its Name after the town's most famous sons, the legendary Clancy Brothers, the festival will have a focus on folk music. One of the key objectives of the festival is to attract tourists to

the town particularly from the US where the Clancy Brothers still have a huge following. Events will include an evening with Liam Clancy, a Talent Competition Final, Fold Music Trail, and River-Town-Roots - a writer's view of the Clancy hometown by Michael Cody.

**NAME:** Jack Burtchaell

**OCCUPATION:** Historical Walking Tour of Waterford

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** 00353 87 261 9407

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Jack Burtchaell's multi award winning 1 hour walking tours are the perfect way to see the sights, including Reginalds Tower, the oldest urban civic building in the country.

**NAME:** Eamonn McEaney

**OCCUPATION:** Waterford Museum of Treasures Merchants Quay Waterford

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** email: emceneaney@waterfordcity.ie

Phone: 00353 87 2515 080

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Waterford Museum of Treasures at the Granary brings together the artifacts of one thousand years of Ireland's oldest city together.

**NAME:** TV Honan

**OCCUPATION:** Spraoi Festival

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [tv@spraoi.com](mailto:tv@spraoi.com), 00353 51 841808

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Spraoi Festival, held over the August Bank Holiday weekend in Ireland, is an annual riot of color, energy and excitement with an atmosphere that is unique among Irish festivals. It takes over city centre areas of Waterford for three days, transforming the streets and quays of the city into a giant stage for acts from all over the world. Spraoi is committed to the advancement of street arts, and the festival produces, premieres and showcases some of the best in the world. The festival is also a platform for top quality world music. And it's all free!

**NAME:** Louis Flynn

**OCCUPATION:** Waterford Crystal Kilbarry, Waterford

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** 00353 87 648 4698; [lflynn@waterford.ie](mailto:lflynn@waterford.ie)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Take a tour to Waterford Crystal, see at first hand the famous crystal crafted, it's a real working environment but you can get very close up to the process and see the work almost through the eyes of the artisans. The Waterford Crystal Gallery is home to the world's largest display of Waterford Crystal, in addition

you can see beautiful displays of Wedgwood, Stuart Crystal & John Rocha to name a few.

**NAME:** Countess Ann Bernstorff

**OCCUPATION:** Ross Tapestry Project, New Ross, Co. Wexford

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** +353 (0)51 445396

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Ros Tapestry Project is regarded as one of the most important heritage projects in Ireland today. It is a unique venture between volunteers and professional artists working together on the production of fifteen large scale embroidered panels which tell the story of Norman activities in the South East and the foundation of New Ross in 1207. On completion in 2010 the Ros Tapestry Project will be the central focus of a significant tourist initiative in New Ross, Co. Wexford. An internationally renowned artist, Countess Bernstorff is also a great local character who brings to life the story of the Tapestries.

**NAME:** Sean Reidy

**OCCUPATION:** CEO, Dunbrody Famine Ship, New Ross, Co. Wexford

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** +353 (0)87 2713776; jfktrust@iol.ie

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Sean Reidy is CEO of the Dunbrody Famine Ship, a full scale replica of the original ship built in 1845 which transported emigrants to North America. Visitors to the ship are admitted by ticket, and meet actors in costume and character who tell of conditions endured on board and in Ireland during the time of the famine. John F. Kennedy's grandfather, Patrick, took passage to America from New Ross so this ship is of special significance to the Kennedy family.

**NAME:** Patrick Grennan

**OCCUPATION:** Kennedy Homestead, Dunganstown, New Ross, Co. Wexford

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** +353 51 388264

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Kennedy Homestead, birthplace of President John F. Kennedy's great-grandfather Patrick Kennedy, celebrates the story of five generations of the Kennedy dynasty. Patrick Grennan runs the Visitor Centre and is a descendant of the Kennedy family who has farmed the property at Dunganstown for 7 generations.

**NAME:** Ursula Sinnott

**OCCUPATION:** Marketing & Dev Manager, Wexford Festival Opera

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** 00353 (0)53 9122400

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The world famous Wexford Festival Opera has established itself as one of the World's leading and most progressive opera festivals. It has a considerable international reputation for providing a platform for highly regarded productions of lesser known operas. Central to the Festival's appeal is the unique "Wexford Experience" that it creates for its audience. Ursula Sinnott is the Marketing & Development Manager of the Wexford Festival Opera, which will run from 16 October to 2 November 2008 in the new Wexford Opera House.

**NAME:** Eileen O'Rourke

**OCCUPATION:** Carlow Floral Festival

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [eorourke@carlowtourism.com](mailto:eorourke@carlowtourism.com); phone: 00353 59 9130411

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Carlow is the birth / burial place of Walt Disney's Grand Parents. Carlow Floral Festival 2-10 August 2008 is a celebration of the beautiful gardens and garden centers in county Carlow.

**NAME:** Dermot Mulligan

**OCCUPATION:** Proposed Carlow County Museum

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** 00353 59 9170300 [dmulligan@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:dmulligan@carlowcoco.ie)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Proposal for County Museum in Carlow. They have a large quantity of artifacts already.

**NAME:** Pat Nolan

**OCCUPATION:** Celtic Festival in Kilkenny

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [pnolan@iora.ie](mailto:pnolan@iora.ie) 00353 56 7721483

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The Celtic Festival celebrating Irish culture

**NAME:** Pat Tynan

**OCCUPATION:** Kilkenny City Walking Tours

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [tynantours@eircom.net](mailto:tynantours@eircom.net) 00353 87 2651745

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Historic Walking Tours of Medieval Kilkenny.