

# SHEANANIGANS

Vol. 4 Issue 1

MARCH 2003

## COLM'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

Hello - Spring is in the air and by now most of us have had our review meetings and are in active planning or pre-planning mode!

Many of you seasoned media watchers may have read of my trials and tribulations in a Galway High Court recently. In essence the Festival I'm critically involved with was being sued in a personal injuries case and the plaintiff was seeking substantial damages. Despite the best efforts of the Insurance Agents involved, it was not settled and went for a three and half day hearing. While being subpoenaed and spending some 3/4 of an hour in the witness box is not something I would recommend to any festival organiser, we believed all along that any Court should find in our favour. Subsequently the case was dismissed and the plaintiff was given a hefty bill for costs.

I am convinced that AOIFE needs to get more involved in advocating structural changes to our Personal Injury and Litigation System. What Insurance Companies in Circuit and High Courts are doing is wrong and everyone is paying for it. Settling exaggerated claims without the consent of the body insured is a nonsense and it is the Insurance Companies and the legal system that encourage claims through the non-contesting of actions.

If our festival had not heeded the timely advice and good practice on this as expounded by AOIFE I have no doubt but that it may

have been a very different story!

Our Health and Safety Roadshows are being rolled out in the month of April to regional centres. It is *not* an optional luxury for your festival to send someone if your festival has not previously sent someone. This is an opportunity to hear at first hand of some of the best practice examples in this huge and critical area.



The St. Patrick's Day Parades issue and the difficulty in obtaining insurance for the organisers, was another useful opportunity for AOIFE to grow its profile to a new audience. The Insurance scheme update for 2003 reflects the underlying industry sector issues i.e. the sizeable increases in premiums. Somewhere between 60-45% is the norm industry wide.

2002 saw an average of an 8% increase on AOIFE's scheme premiums, which was way below the average increases. This year a 40% average increase must be seen from this perspective, but we are again confident that the PJT Insurance Services' scheme still represents the best value for money in the

market.

Over the coming weeks many of you will receive a questionnaire in our first Baseline Study on Irish Festivals as supported by Bord Fáilte through the Cultural and Festivals Fund.

The compilation of this Study is fundamental to AOIFE credibly engaging in Advocacy for the Irish Festival Sector. The information, data and statistics provided by you will enable us to make a better case for all Festivals. If these confidential Questionnaires are not returned promptly the snapshot we get of the sector will be skewed or, worse still, the dissemination of the results will be delayed until late summer. Please don't long finger this prompt. It is a priority!

Little use is being made of our Website, Members Chat area or Bulletin Board, How many times at a seminar or conference have we heard "If only we could network more"? A virtual weekly on-line network is there at [www.aoifeonline.com](http://www.aoifeonline.com) for you to seek new acts, look for project partners, check the prices of suppliers, look for new ideas, all for FREE!!!

Please try and make better use of it! See you at the Health and Safety Roads Shows.

Take Care,

*Colm*

## IT'S TRALEE IN 2003!

It's official, *Conference 2003* will be held in Tralee on November 7,8 & 9! The venue is The Brandon Hotel, one of the leading conference venues in Ireland. The theme of Conference this year is "sustaining festivals: the next ten years".

One can judge the emphasis being placed on this year's conference that the Conference Team includes Aileen Hennigan (organiser of the Ennistymon Conference), Bríd Moriarty (organiser of the Portumna Conference) and June Carey (organiser of the Dublin Conference), in addition to Colm Croffy and Dan O'Donoghue. The team is being headed up by Secretary General Nicole Mulholland. The team is unusually reticent about plans but a source confirmed to *Shenanigans* that the plan is to 'knock our socks off' to celebrate AOIFE's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Now is the time to start planning your attendance at conference. Talk to your Treasurer now about the budget. **Remember that the AOIFE Annual Conference is the only training event specifically designed for festivals on this island. Now is the time to talk to your LEADER, Partnership, Arts Officer or local council to seek grant aid to ensure that your festival is represented.**

Most AOIFE folks will be expecting something very special to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. *Shenanigans* predicts that nobody will be disappointed ....

## THE MYSTERY OF THE LETTERS OF OFFER

With over 180 festivals funded under last year's Cultural and Events Funding Programme and increased applications for this year's round already in the pipeline, AOIFE is anxious to learn of Festivals that are having issues or concerns over the rollout and administration of the Bord Fáilte Scheme.

"Already a number of festivals have made contact with us about issues arising from the administration of the scheme last year and this has been very helpful

in assisting AOIFE to provide feedback to Bord Fáilte" Colm Croffy told us. "We meet with Bord Fáilte on a regular basis to tease out issues. We are aware that the type of scheme that is being operating is not to everyone's liking or indeed meets their objectives." Colm continued.

"We are aware that although the €100 administration cheques have been cashed since December, the majority of those that applied have yet to receive an acknowledgement, let alone

receive a Letter of Offer, despite the year being three months old" the exasperated Chairperson stated.

"I accept that changes in personnel and pressure on existing resources has depleted Bord Fáilte's capacity to respond as quickly as they would like and that doubts over the availability of the fund from the Department also slowed down the process".

"It is essential that we hear of everyone's involvement with the rollout and interaction with this fund so

far. We particularly want to know if your festival was successful in getting an offer, or in drawing down all the money or not. If we are armed with factual information we can address the obstacles and hiccups that arise from the implementation of any new scheme." Colm concluded. Please, please email your comments to [info@aoifeonline.com](mailto:info@aoifeonline.com) or telephone AOIFE now at 090 964 3779. Unless Colm & Nicole have the facts they cannot credibly pursue the issues with Bord Fáilte.

## VOLUNTARY ARTS IRELAND

Voluntary Arts Ireland, like its sister organisations in England, Scotland and Wales, is an initiative of the Voluntary Arts Network. All exist to promote participation in the arts and crafts. "Our shared focus is on developing the support available to arts groups that have volunteers at their centre" Brenda Kent explains.

"AOIFE is exactly the sort of body that VAI seeks to promote - a place where festival organisers can find the information, advice and encouragement they need to help make their own festivals

run smoothly. Sadly, not every art form is blessed with such a support (or infrastructure) organisation" Brenda told *Shenanigans*.

As a first step towards strengthening the infrastructure behind the voluntary arts, VAI is conducting research, funded by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of NI, to find out what is already out there.

So, if you are engaged in any art activity (they include knitting, bands, knot tying,

flower arranging and more in the definition of art and craft) that is run by or that relies on volunteers, then please give VAI a shout. Let them know what you do and whether or not you link into a support or umbrella body.

VAI has a comprehensive range of more than 50 briefing documents on Effective Management Committees, Recruiting Volunteers, Applying to Trusts etc., etc. "To find out more about Voluntary Arts Ireland just click on [www.vaireland.org](http://www.vaireland.org)"

Brenda concluded.

Brenda's last word: "Don't miss the first Voluntary Arts Conference. 16-17 May in Bangor, Co. Down"

For more information contact: Brenda Kent or Amanda Armstrong. PO Box 200, Downpatrick, BT30 6WE. Tel: 028 44 839327 Fax: 028 44 839192 Email: [info@vaireland.org](mailto:info@vaireland.org) Visit our website [www.vaireland.org](http://www.vaireland.org) and email us your news!

## A MESSAGE TO THE TALENT: BE IN TRALEE FOR 2003

Dan O'Donoghue is once again trawling the highways and byways in search of new talent for 'Showcase' at Conference 2003.



"We are ten years old this year and I want

'Showcase' to make a significant contribution to the celebrations" Dan enthused to us at *Shenanigans* recently. (We were a little bemused by the reference to age as we all knew Dan had last seen 40 on a gatepost).

"I'll put the smile on the other side of your face" he promised our intrepid reporter, "I just know that festivals throughout the land are putting out the word to acts looking for a wider

audience: be in Tralee for 2003 at AOIFE's biggest and best conference ever!"



Facilities at the Brandon Hotel are custom designed to accommodate both

'Showcase' and Festive Expo - the other subject close to Dan's heart (with apologies to his wife and children). "Colm & Nicole have been waxing eloquent about the AFO set up in Buxton and believe me when I tell you that we are going to knock your socks off this year" the Valentia Islander declared.

Registering for 'Showcase' couldn't be easier. Simply write to Dan O'Donoghue at 3 Urban Terrace, Boherbee, Tralee, Co. Kerry or email him on [danodon@eircom.net](mailto:danodon@eircom.net) 

## SAFETY ROADSHOWS 2003

### The Programme for each Roadshow is:

**10:15 - 10:30** Registration. Tea / Coffee / Scones

**10:30 - 10.45** Welcome and AOIFE Sector Update from a member of the National Executive

**10:45 - 11:00** **Role of a Festival Safety Officer and Safety Awareness**

**11:00 - 11:30** **Increasing claims culture / need for a new Safety Awareness**

A brief look into the escalating claims culture in Ireland. Examples of claims made against AOIFE member festivals in recent times and the impact and learning's to be gained from them. Why does my Festival need a Safety Statement?

**11:30 - 12:00** **Protecting Yourself and Your Festival from Harm**

An update on the most recent legislation governing Irish Festivals industry trends and methods of minimising exposure to the practicalities involved.

**12:00 - 12:25** **Happy Children**

How safe are kids at your Festival? What are your obligations to protect youngsters attending your event?

**12:25 - 1.00** **Rules & Regulations**

Ignorance is no defence - what are the main types of legislation and regulations governing "ordinary" festivals and events

**1.00 - 1:45** Lunch

*There are 2 strands to the afternoon programme: Strand 'A' for those with experience of the demands and responsibilities and Strand 'B' for those who are new to the Safety Officer role.*

**1:45 - 2:15** **A) Event Licensing & New Regulatory Controls for Larger Events**

*An update on the most recent legislation. What are our new legal requirements?*

**B) An introduction to Risk Assessment for Festival/Event organisers**

Demystifying "Risk Assessment" and viewing it in everyday terms. *Explaining the nuts and bolts of what makes up a Safety Statement. Where do we begin? What should it look like?*

**2:15 - 3:00** **A) Policing/ Security/ Environment/ Food / Licensing & Fire Regulation - Trends**

Current Topical Issues and trends in these critical Festival Management Areas

**B) Preparing YOUR Safety Statement - A practical workshop**

Explaining the nuts and bolts of what makes up a Safety Statement. Where do we begin? What should it look like? Begin to put together a Safety Statement for YOUR festival. By the end of this workshop you will have the backbone of YOUR festival's Safety Statement prepared

**3:00 - 3:30** **Manual Skills Training For Festival Volunteers**

A look at the role of Festival Stewards. How do they impact on overall safety? What are the personal safety implications for Stewards? What are the types of courses and briefings that you should be covering with them prior to your event.

**3:30 - 4:00** **How do we do that ?**

Questions and answers, wrap up and conclusion

### Who can attend?

Seminars are open to every festival. "We are not confining these seminars to Member Festivals or only to those Member Festivals availing of AOIFE's competitive insurance scheme" Tadhg Moriarty emphasises, "we invite all Member Festivals to attend and to pass on the word to other festivals about these unique training opportunities".

The Seminars are not focused exclusively on festivals in the south. While the Irish Event Licensing legislation does not apply in Northern Ireland, all festivals will benefit from the programme.

### Fee & Registration

The fee involved is €30 per delegate from Member Festivals and €60 for non-member festivals - almost unchanged from last

## "PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE"

**Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April Drogheda**  
**Boyne Valley Hotel**  
**(041 983 7737)**

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April Sligo**  
**Sligo Southern Hotel**  
**(071 62101)**

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> April Kilkenny City**  
**Newpark Hotel**  
**(056 60500)**

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May Mitchelstown**  
**The Firgrove Hotel**  
**(025 24111)**

year! The fee includes refreshments, a light lunch and full documentation. Each Delegate attending will receive a Certificate of Attendance. Yes they will, we promise!

There is no registration form, just contact the AOIFE Office to book places. The office can be contacted by telephone on 090 964 3779 or by email to [info@aoifeonline.com](mailto:info@aoifeonline.com)

AOIFE is not issuing a Registration Form. However we do need to know ahead of time how many delegates are attending each session. There is no limit on the number of Delegates that can attend from any individual festival. For this reason pre-booking is essential. We need to know the name of each delegate, the name of the festival and we need your cheque! 

## AOIFE LAUNCHES MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT

“This is one of the most important projects on which AOIFE has ever embarked” is how Colm Croffy assesses the importance of the research project currently being piloted with 12 festivals.

“It has taken 10 years for AOIFE to arrive at the point where we can commission the first in-depth research on the economic impact of Irish festivals and the contribution we make to tourism” Colm told *Shenanigans*.

12 festivals have agreed to pilot the research before 350 festivals throughout the Republic are issued with a detailed questionnaire, comprising 9 sections. “To achieve as comprehensive a picture as possible we will be inviting festivals that are not AOIFE members to participate” Colm Croffy explained, “we will not be segregating results between members and non-members”.

It has taken 8 months to finalise the scope of the research, define the

parameters and select a firm to conduct the project. The pilot phase of the project will be completed and reviewed this month and the main research phase will be undertaken in April and early May. The interim results will be published in June and the final Report will be presented at Conference in November.

Colm Croffy again: “Irish festivals fulfil many roles; as well as having a financial impact on our local and regional economies, we are catalysts for community development, instruments of civic pride, centres of arts development, hubs of creativity and celebrations of cultural diversity. We have a positive impact upon Ireland’s tourism industry and have a key role to play in countering social exclusion, reinvigorating local communities, preserving



and promoting Irish culture.”

“As the primary advocate for the Irish festivals movement, AOIFE needs to be able to make an effective business case for festivals to its key stakeholders. However, there is currently a lack of baseline data, both quantitative and qualitative, which

summarises our economic, cultural and social impact. Specifically, there are a number of barriers which currently impede AOIFE and its members when attempting to

make the case for festivals, including:

- The myth that festivals are low impact, social activities that bring little added value to our communities
- The assumption that festivals are a minor player in the Irish tourist industry

- The lack of knowledge about festivals’ direct spending powers (including festivals’ significant employment of artists and suppliers)
- The belief that festivals contribute negligibly to our local economies
- The missing connection between festivals as an integral part of the cultural fabric of Ireland and the country’s Unique Selling Points ‘product’ for tourism
- The resulting belief that festivals should be low priority areas for support”

the AOIFE Chairperson declared.

“When the project is completed we will have the first baseline data that has been scientifically gathered and interpreted. It will be of immense importance as we go forward. While the costs of the project are significant we are satisfied that the investment is critical to our future plans to secure resources and recognition to develop the festivals & events industry” Colm concluded.



## WHO WILL KNOW?

“There is no question that the raw data provided by festivals will be seen by anyone other than the research organisation Fiona Goh Consulting” Secretary General Nicole Mulholland emphasised to *Shenanigans*.

Your favourite Newsletter suggested to Nicole that there would be an understandable level of concern that the information provided - particularly the financial data - would be made available to *Shenanigans* or indeed anyone else!

“To achieve meaningful results we need accurate and comprehensive

**TOP SECRET**

responses. Yes, the questionnaire seeks in-depth financial data regarding expenditures and revenues together with a blunt assessment of the level of support received and the quality of external

relationships. Frankly I would not expect festivals to provide these data without our cast iron guarantee of total confidentiality. People need to understand that what will be reported is summary statistical information - not the details of individual festivals. The questionnaires will not be returned to AOIFE but directly to Fiona Goh Consulting” our genial Secretary General declared with more than a hint of steel in her delivery! We are assured.



Questionnaires  
need to be  
completed  
accurately,  
fully  
and returned  
**WITHIN 2 WEEKS**  
please!



## AOIFE LAUNCHES MAJOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Fiona Goh Consulting is the UK-based firm commissioned to conduct the Research Project for AOIFE. "We carefully reviewed the options available to us to select a company that had demonstrated understanding of major festivals research projects. A key factor in our decision making was that Fiona Goh has previous experience in the festivals sector in Britain and we believe she has a good 'feel' for festival organisers" Secretary General Nicole Mulholland told *Shenanigans*.

"Delegates to the Portumna Conference will recall Fiona Goh presented the findings of the research project conducted by the British Arts Festivals Association (BAFA) in 2000. The depth of research was similar to what we are about to conduct. Our project is not confined to arts-based festivals and we are satisfied that Fiona Goh Consulting has the necessary experience to conduct this wide ranging review of the festivals & events sector" Nicole concluded. The research project will supply the data to support the business case for festivals in Ireland.

Specifically, the research will:

- Quantify the economic impact of festivals, including hard data on the direct spend of festivals and an analysis of festivals' income and expenditure patterns.
- Be representative of the whole festivals movement, including members and non-members.
- Evaluate the cultural impact of festivals, including qualitative and quantitative studies on programming developments and commissions.

- Measure the size and growth patterns of the festivals movement nationally.
- Assess the impact of the festivals movement on the tourism sector.

Additionally, the research will address specific questions that will aid AOIFE in targeting services to members. In turn, the research will be able to be used as a development tool for AOIFE in identifying strengths and weaknesses

amongst its current membership, delivering relevant services to its membership and targeting and recruiting new

members.

Final words from Fiona Goh: "The research framework will form the basis of a template for future repeat research, which would probably be undertaken every other year. This keeps the work alive and relevant to those quoting and using it, and adds value by providing a longer-term analysis of the Irish festivals movement. There is also an inherent profile value in the publication of a festivals report, and its regular updating and re-publication will give AOIFE and its members repeated opportunities to place festivals at the top of the agenda for the media, funders, sponsors and other key stake holders."

"We are delighted to have been commissioned to conduct this exciting project" Fiona Goh responded when we contacted her. "This is a major exercise and I am confident that we will achieve a high level of response to our questionnaires."



The questionnaire comprises 9 sections:

**Section 1** seeks basic contact details.

**Section 2** asks for a summary background on the festival, the status of the organisation (committee, limited company, etc.); content and venues of the festival, and festival objectives.

**Section 3** is in two sections: salaried staff and volunteers, including the duties undertaken by volunteers, motivating and managing volunteers, community activities undertaken by the volunteers and training provided to volunteers.

**Section 4** refers to audience numbers and *local* accommodation facilities. The origin of customers, attendance levels, audience research conducted and the accommodation facilities available locally.

**Section 5** deals with media, the extent and nature of the coverage and media coverage records retained.

**Section 6** seeks financial information relating both to expenditure and revenues. What is sought is purely for statistical purposes to assess the proportion of revenues gained from different sources together with an analysis of expenditures. In order for the research to be most useful, accurate information is needed.

This will be kept entirely confidential - no one in Ireland will see it! Please note that in order to get the depth of information required, it may be necessary to consult with your festival Treasurer.

**Section 7** concentrates on health & safety issues and insurance data.

**Section 8** concerns what are titled 'external relationships' and seeks to assess the relationships enjoyed with key service & support providers and beneficiaries of the industry. This section also seeks information on web sites, their impact and importance.

Finally **Section 9** deals with AOIFE, training providers and training needs, together with a brief 'attitude survey'.

This is evidently a very detailed questionnaire and it is critical that the information provided is both accurate and complete.

The other key consideration is that festivals would complete the questionnaire and return it as soon as possible - and certainly **within 2 weeks of receipt.**



Send items for inclusion in *SHENANIGANS* to:  
The Editor  
*Shenanigans*  
AOIFE  
Enterprise & Technology Centre  
Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
email [shenanigans@iol.ie](mailto:shenanigans@iol.ie)

## AOIFE INSURANCE SCHEME

The AOIFE Liability Insurance scheme has been renewed for 2003 by PJT Insurance Services. The main features for 2003 will include:

- Public Liability Limits of €1,500,000 or €3,000,000
- Employers' Liability Limit of €7,500,000
- Procedures and required timescale similar to 2002 but to be enforced strictly.

"There will be increases in premiums, as is the case throughout the world-wide insurance market but these have been kept as

low as possible. Adequate capacity, however, has been guaranteed to ensure that all AOIFE Festivals can avail of the scheme if required." Peter Thomas told *Shenanigans*.

As last year, AOIFE Festivals will be required to appoint a festival safety officer and to draw up a written safety statement. Assistance in this can be provided by AOIFE - see page 3 of this issue of *Shenanigans*. The steps taken so far have been applauded by AOIFE's insurers and have helped to avoid the level of increases in premium experienced elsewhere. It is in everyone's interest to

keep working to make our festivals safer, to reduce and minimise accidents and claims.

In order to improve the effectiveness of the service to AOIFE Festivals the scheme will be handled in the PJT office, from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003, by Nicola McDermott (who will be well known to many AOIFE Festivals) assisted by Aisling Brown.

All AOIFE Festivals will shortly be receiving the 2003 proposal forms and procedures. In order to ensure the smooth operation of the scheme would all Festivals please return their completed

proposal forms as early as possible. PJT will then provide you with the quotation in the timescale set down in the 2003 procedures and will let you know what documentation is needed to finalise the insurance and the final date by which the documentation and payment will need to be made.

PJT Insurance Services can be contacted at:

Tel. (01) 840 1254

Fax (01) 813 1070

e-mail [info@pjtins.ie](mailto:info@pjtins.ie)

[nickie.mcdermott@pjtins.ie](mailto:nickie.mcdermott@pjtins.ie)

[aisling.brown@pjtins.ie](mailto:aisling.brown@pjtins.ie)

## INSURANCE PROCEDURES

1). Quotations will not be given unless they are accompanied by a fully completed proposal form, with a draft or outline programme of events.

2) That proposal form etc. should be sent to PJT as soon as possible but **no later than 15 working days** before the start of the Festival.

3) PJT will then provide a quotation in writing, or by fax, within 2 working days.

4) Cover will then be arranged upon receipt of:

- A cheque for the premium
- The original proposal form (if PJT had only previously received a fax)

- A copy of the actual programme of events

- A copy of the Festival Safety Statement

- Any other documentation requested at the quotation stage (e.g. certificate of insurance from Fireworks operators).

- Details of any specific indemnities requested by local authorities, venues etc.

5) This should be sent to PJT **no later than 10 working days** before the start of the Festival.

6) PJT will then issue the certificate etc. **within three working days**.

### HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR UPDATED INFORMATION FOR 2003?

Festivals, Corporate and Associate Members are urged to ensure that your data is correct and up to date.

You can check your data online at [www.aoifeonline.com](http://www.aoifeonline.com)

Updates and amendments should be sent to  
AOIFE

The Enterprise & Technology Centre,  
Creagh, Balinasloe, Co. Galway

Tel 090 964 3779 Email [info@aoifeonline.com](mailto:info@aoifeonline.com)

## NEED TO KNOW ... NICE TO KNOW

Tadhg Moriarty recommends we all visit what he describes as "a very good safety-related web site" [www.crowdsafe.com](http://www.crowdsafe.com) "The site is full of research, history, excellent links and broad general information" the National Executive Member with responsibility for Safety, Health & Welfare enthuses.

Patrick Burns of Dundrum, Co. Down has been in touch to let us all know that the **Annual All Ireland Busking Competition** will take place in Dundrum on August 16<sup>th</sup> 2003. "Last year's competition attracted buskers from all over Ireland and the UK. We're looking for all types, singers, musicians, magicians, clowns, bed of nails, whatever!" Patrick told *Shenanigans*. In addition to a serious cash prize money there is a special prize for the most unusual act. "The competition is open to both adults and children. The 2002 event was a great day all the family". For more information you can log on to [www.dundrumfestival.com](http://www.dundrumfestival.com) or phone Patrick at 028 4375 1412. The mailing address is 89 Decourcey Way, Dundrum, Co. Down BT33 ONZ

The **James Joyce Centre** at 35 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1 continues to present fascinating lectures on matters Joycean. In recent weeks topics featured included a look at Joyce's distinctive brand of Hiberno-English in examples from Dubliners to Finnegans Wake; James Joyce & Contemporary Irish Poetry and 'The Theft of Joyce'. For details of future events contact the Centre at 01 878 8547, Fax: 01 878 8488, email: [joycecen@iol.ie](mailto:joycecen@iol.ie) and Website [www.jamesjoyce.ie](http://www.jamesjoyce.ie)

AOIFE Corporate Member **RentTheWall.com** is celebrating their new look

and title by offering a special introductory discount of 10% off their prices if you book before the end of March. To find out more about their product and prices email [info@rentthewall.com](mailto:info@rentthewall.com) or phone 01-278 0504.

Adeline Chausson of the French Theatre Company **Compagnie du Hasard** is anxious to contact festivals with an interest in staging street opera this summer. "We will be presenting Mister Pillon's Holidays with 9 actors and musicians, a street opera that mixes a lot of songs from Rossini's 'Barber of Seville' with extracts from Weber, Mozart, Janequin and Offenbach, adapted for a street orchestra (violin, accordion, balafon) and singers." Compagnie du Hasard will present the show at Clonmel Junction Festival on 11th and 12th of July. "We would of course divide the travel costs with other festivals!" Adeline emphasised. Interested? Then phone Adeline on 00 33 2 54 570 570 or email [compagnie.hasard@wanadoo.fr](mailto:compagnie.hasard@wanadoo.fr)

The indefatigable Mary Blake is one of *Shenanigans'* consistent correspondents and includes us on all news releases (there's a message in that: if you don't tell us how can we tell others?). In times of doom 'n' gloom it is heartening to note that the **Ulster American Folk Park** reports an increase of 14.6% in visitor numbers in 2002 over the previous year. 126,071 visitors passed through the portals of one of Ulster's key attraction last year, up on 110,533 in 2001.

**The Celtic Fiddlers** from St. John's, Newfoundland, is a vibrant group of young musicians whose goal is to keep Irish/Newfoundland music alive, particularly in our youth. The fiddlers, ages 15-24, are accompanied by piano, bodhrán, bass,

guitar and drums. They have gained a worthy reputation and are quite an active group. At present the group has sixteen performers. The group has previously performed in Cork, Kilkenny, Killarney, Birr, Dublin, Galway and Limerick in addition to an impressive listing of North American and European festivals and events. The Celtic Fiddlers will be visiting Ireland from June 30 through July 9 and are looking for gigs. If you want more information contact Ms. Korona Brophy, 6 McGill Cr., Mount Pearl, Newfoundland A1N 2Z8, Canada. Tel. + 709-364-7193 or 709-753-7510, fax + 709-753-2117 email [koronab@hotmail.com](mailto:koronab@hotmail.com) or [k.brophy@roadrunner.nf.net](mailto:k.brophy@roadrunner.nf.net)

On April 2nd DIT, will host a half-day **seminar on competitiveness and strategies for growth within the tourism industry**. The seminar will examine ways to increase performance in the tourism industry by learning from other industries that have successfully introduced performance enhancement strategies. The seminar will be chaired by Ciarán Mulooly, RTE broadcaster and chairman of Longford Tourism Ltd. Speakers include Tony Lenehan (CERT), Joan O'Connor (AIB Bank), Mary O'Sullivan (Beaumont Hospital) and Peter Jordan (Irish Ferries). For more information contact Jean Cahill, Head of Innovation and Industry Services, Faculty of Tourism and Food, DIT, Cathal Brugha St., Dublin 1. Tel. 01 814 6083; fax 01 874 8572 or email [jean.cahill@dit.ie](mailto:jean.cahill@dit.ie)

**CHECK OUT**

**MEMBERS' FORUM**  
[www.aoifeonline.com](http://www.aoifeonline.com)

**AFO Conference 2003** Colm Croffy and Nicole Mulholland attended. This was the second time AOIFE had a keynote presentation slot on the main Saturday programme of Conference. Over 150 delegates attended, delegates were positive about the general festival scene.

Key areas of conference included:

- Roll out of initial phase of data from a baseline study
- Significant changes and debate on UK Childcare policy and issues pertaining to inspection of the people working with Childcare.
- Home Office agenda on paying for police has been stymied somewhat.
- Bad news on the Ministry of Arts and Culture (MAC) review of the Public Entertainment Licensing Regulations
- Secretary General Nicole Mulholland's Keynote Presentation on future development of AOIFE was warmly introduced and received.
- Modest exhibition space did brisk business.

A *detailed* report on the AFO Conference can be found in the 'Members Area' of [www.aoifeonline.com](http://www.aoifeonline.com).

# CONFERENCE 2003

## Your Conference Team



*Nicole*



*June*



*Colm*



*Aileen*



*Brid*



*Dan*

**sustaining  
festivals:  
the *next ten years.***

**AOIFE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
BRANDON HOTEL, TRALEE**

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 7, 8 & 9, 2003**