

SHENANIGANS



Vol. 1 Issue 4

December 2000

COLM'S FIRST MESSAGE



Greetings,

Following one of our most productive and fun annual conferences, the Executive elected me to serve you as AOIFE's Chairperson for 2001. As someone who has been involved in various festive guises around a number of locations on the island I am deeply indebted for this opportunity to be Chairperson of our developing organisation.

I am honoured to be following in the tradition of previous Chairs - O'Loughlin, Moore and of course the Bould O'Donoghue.

I think that we, the community / voluntary sector, underestimate our role, our contribution and our value!!! Must we continue to justify ourselves as Festivals to Local Authorities, Arts Councils, Government Departments, Funding Bodies,

Vintners, Hoteliers, Chambers of Commerce etc? I think not.

I want to raise the profile of all our events by enhancing the profile and role of our representative organisation - AOIFE. AOIFE must be the identified Festivals' voice in all the "partnership" debates - ethnic tourism, sustaining communities and improving quality of lifestyle issues.

To be an effective representative organisation capable of advancing the needs of our members AOIFE must be resourced with fulltime staff that will provide better and increased services to members, thereby allowing a National Executive to focus policies and strategies that currently we have little time to think about - because we are so busy organising activities!

Your Executive has decided to fast forward the O'Keeffe Recommendations and seize the opportunity to create an all-island network that is festival-driven and capable of catering to a growing membership base of some 360.

That is not to say that we are jettisoning current services and

activities! The old reliables will continue - an improved Yearbook, Website, Advisor Panel, Insurance Scheme, Standards, Research, County Roadshows and of course our Cross Border Networking Project.

I believe the Membership will be well served this year with an excellent blend of enthusiasm and skills from your Executive and I look forward to working with you all in copperfastening the future of AOIFE. I hope to share and develop a number of very definite ideas with the membership as the year unfolds as I meet with many of you in our County Roadshows in the Spring.

Communication from the membership is important and I welcome any feedback - positive or negative - on our activities and ideas.

Have a very peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

Colm

"I'm an enthusiastic follower of craic agus ceol"

"My first festival experience was my hometown Fair and Festival, but when a student at the University of Limerick I was very involved in organising Rag Weeks", says Colm, who worked for three years as full-time Festival Director with the Mary From Dungloe International Festival in Donegal after leaving college.

It was during this time in Donegal that Colm became involved with the establishment of the East Meets West Cross Border Twinning Project linking community-based festivals. In 1996 Colm went along to an AOIFE AGM and has been involved at Executive level since. Colm admits to "enjoying festival frolics at home and abroad and I'm an enthusiastic follower of craic agus ceol".

When not working as Chief Executive of Ballinasloe Chamber of Commerce, Colm can also be found directing operations at the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival where he has been an active committee member for the past 7 years.

DEADLINE FOR YEARBOOK 2001

June Carey & Brid Moriarty are in the throes of finalising Yearbook 2001, planned for publication in February. Yearbook 2001 will feature full colour advertising facilities for Corporate Members.

MEMBER FESTIVALS

Are you sure that we have the dates of your event in 2001? If you are in any doubt please email your dates (together with the name and details of your event!) to junecareys@eircom.net or fax them to 066-718 0107 NOW!

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Advertising rates for 2001 are:

A full page in colour is IR£225, in black & white is IR£175.

A half page in colour is IR£160, in black & white the cost is IR£110.

Deadline for receipt of final copy is 5th January 2001 and space is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Advertisements may be submitted in EPS or TIF format, by Zip Disk, CD-ROM or Diskette.

If you have queries about format please email imagery@esatclear.ie There is a design charge of IR£40 for advertisements submitted without formatting/design. Note: Payment in full for your advertisement must accompany your advertisement!



FOR YOUR DIARY

Event Expo London Arena
16-18th January 2001

IFEA – Europe 2001 Conference
Rotterdam 25th – 28th January 2001.

AFO Conference Buxton,
Derbyshire 2nd – 4th February 2001.

National Outdoor Events Association (**NOEA**) will hold a forum in Belfast in late February.



"A TIME OF CHOICE"

In 1999 AOIFE had reached the end of the initial developmental stage. This and the climate of growth within the festival industry prompted the AOIFE National Executive to commission an external consultant, Jackie O'Keeffe, to examine the role of AOIFE and to offer choices for the future of the organisation.

The terms of reference of the review were to submit a Report to AOIFE which would examine the aims, functions and role of AOIFE, paying particular attention to internal functioning and the capacity of the organisation to enter into the next phase of development. The final Report was based on an extensive study of the organisation, services, membership and sectoral trends that impact on AOIFE. A comprehensive research programme was undertaken which combined consultative interviews with key informants, telephone questionnaires and interviews.

The resulting Report "A Time of Choice" was presented to

the AOIFE National Executive in October 1999 and to the AGM the following month. The Report contains fifteen sections covering the history of the organisation, the Constitution, membership, quality control, services, training and the formation of strategic alliances. The Report offered 117 recommendations, ranging from basic issues such as double-checking all information which is included in the annual Yearbook to more detailed and long-term recommendations regarding the formulation of policy and decision-making.

The National Executive met in late January 2000 to discuss the report in detail and to examine carefully the implications of each recommendation. A sub-committee, comprising Dan O'Donoghue, Gráinne McLoughlin, Angela McQuaid, Mary Phelan and Victor Ryan was set up to oversee the implementation of the recommendations.

The vast majority of

recommendations were adopted, some were deferred and a small number were rejected. An example was the recommendation (103) that we would not develop a website but link with another site. We rejected this recommendation as we believe that a dedicated website is an essential service. The recommendation (21) that AOIFE membership should be categorised into a two-tiered structure - larger events are those with paid/professional staff and smaller events are run by a voluntary team" was rejected as it conflicts with the long-standing principle that AOIFE considers all of its members equally and that the difficulties faced by smaller festivals are frequently similar to those experienced by larger, professional, events.

The one issue which was the subject of three recommendations (115-117) and which has not yet been adopted is employing an Executive Director for the organisation. Due to competing priorities - the website, the

guidelines and the new-look AOIFE Yearbook - it has not yet been possible to source commercial or State sponsorship to provide office space and meet administrative and operational costs. It is to be hoped that the new National Executive will pursue the matter.

An EGM was held at Conference 2000 to vote on 2 issues arising from the Report. The Motions were:

1. "With effect from AGM 2000, no officer may hold that one position for over three consecutive years"
2. "The title of Public Relations Officer to be amended to read as Communications Officer".

Both Motions were carried.

At the National Executive Meeting on November 25th Dan O'Donoghue was tasked with the responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of 'A Time of Choice'.



KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2001

"I regard the enhancement of services to members and growing our membership numbers as key priorities for 2001" Chairman Colm Croffy told *Shenanigans*. "Four Members of the National Executive will act as Regional Co-ordinators and they will constitute a personal contact for our members, identify festival event organisers who are not members of AOIFE and act as the linchpins for our proposed 'County by County Roadshow'. These are further developments of the existing programme to enhance and grow our services to our Members",

the Chairman added.

The four Regional Co-ordinators are:

Aileen Hennigan
Aileen's area of operation is counties Clare, Galway, Longford, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo.

Joseph Hodnett
Joseph's area of operation is counties Cork, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford.

Gerard McGuigan
Gerard's area of operation is counties Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Leitrim,

Monaghan and Tyrone.

Paddy Murphy
Paddy's area of operation is the greater Dublin area and counties Carlow, Kildare, Laois, Louth, Offaly, Meath, Westmeath and Wicklow.

"The Regional Co-ordinators are a support to members, to complement the services provided by the Arklow Office. They will also have a major role to play in the 'County to County Roadshow' in February, March and April when we plan to roll out the Roadshow" Colm concluded.



WEBSITE ACCESS

Delegates to Conference 2000 have already received the access code to privileged information on the AOIFE Website.

Festivals not represented at Conference are receiving the access code with this issue of *Shenanigans*.

Do please keep the access code confidential - it is exclusive to your Festival.

The website address is www.aoifeonline.com





CONFERENCE 2000 - SIMPLY THE BEST

“Best ever attendance”
“Best ever programme”
“Best ever conference”

Full marks to Aileen Hennigan who organised Conference 2000 - the most successful conference ever staged by AOIFE - and the Irish Showman’s Show. This year’s Conference attracted the largest number of Delegates ever and it was particularly heartening to note the number of Festivals represented for the first time.

“The Conference was the result of a significant input from the National Executive and our administration staff in Arklow” Aileen stressed, “I want to thank each member of the National Executive for their support and commitment. Elizabeth McLoughlin, Anne Kenny, Jo Goodison and Sandra Hogan were wonderful. I know they will understand if I single out Bríd Moriarty who was an incredible help to me”.

“Conference 2000 was a team effort” Aileen Hennigan declared. “The management and staff at The Falls Hotel

could not do enough for us. Their friendly and attentive service created the ambience necessary for a successful conference”.

Former Chairman Dan O’Donoghue: “I accept totally that it was a team effort but every successful team has a Captain and Aileen Hennigan deserves the congratulations and gratitude of everyone in AOIFE for her incredible commitment and drive that made 2000 our best conference ever”.



An informal opinion survey conducted by *Shenanigans* confirms the view that Conference was a success. The majority of delegates we spoke with were very happy with the workshop programme,

the plenary sessions and the networking opportunities. Everything from the delegate information packs (Editor’s query: why no hangover remedies?) - to the Gala Banquet seemed to meet with the approval of delegates.

The National Executive asks that Delegates would complete the Evaluation Form and return it as soon as possible - Aileen Hennigan & Bríd Moriarty have already begun planning for Conference 2001.....! **S**



The Donal O’Driscoll Memorial Award, instituted in 1998, was awarded this year to Kevin Barry, a journalist with *The Irish Examiner*, in recognition of his series of articles on Irish festivals during the summer.

Kevin Barry was unable to attend the Presentation Ceremony as he was covering the US Presidential Election. The Award was accepted on his behalf by Brian Looney, Editor of *The Irish Examiner*. Mr. Looney thanked AOIFE for the Award and paid tribute to Mr. Barry’s outstanding journalistic skills.

This year’s award was an inscribed piece of Cara crystal. For the record the inaugural award was presented to Sylvia Thompson of *The Irish Times* and the 1999 award went to the TG4 series “*Féilte*”. **S**

A SPECIAL DELEGATE

A very warm welcome was extended to one delegate attending Conference 2001: Elizabeth O’Loughlin a founder member and first Chairman of AOIFE. Dan O’Donoghue extended a special welcome to Elizabeth in his opening remarks on Friday night and it was clear from the applause at the Gala Banquet that Elizabeth holds a special place in the hearts of AOIFE.

CONFERENCE BRIEFS

MARY STEPS DOWN

Joint Treasurer Mary Phelan stepped down at the 2000 AGM from the National Executive after three years and did not seek re-election. “I found my three years exciting and informative but time consuming and I want to concentrate on my ‘own’ festival, Ballinasloe Horse Fair & Festival” Mary explained to *Shenanigans*.

At the Gala Banquet Dan O’Donoghue presented Mary with a silver pendant as a token of esteem and gratitude from all the Members of AOIFE

and Joint Treasurer June Carey presented Mary with a bouquet of flowers.

IT’S ALL ABOUT BRANDING

Dan O’Donoghue’s farewell address at the Gala Banquet was noteworthy for his remarks on the importance of branding. Those in attendance were treated to a hilarious analysis of the importance of flexibility in marketing and sales, based on Dan’s friend who had thousands of Kerry T-shirts branded “Five In-A-Row Champions”. But then came that last-minute score from

Offaly and the entrepreneur was facing ruin.

The way Dan told it, his friend made a quick phone call to a printer and arranged to have the legend “...my A**e” added to the t-shirts and then sold every one of them in Offaly!

The applause that greeted Dan’s remarks was an indication of the esteem Dan is held in after two years as Chairman of AOIFE. Colm Croffy, on behalf of the outgoing National Executive, presented Dan’s wife Theresa with a bouquet of flowers. **S**

Send items for inclusion in *SHENANIGANS* to:
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Communications Officer
AOIFE Administration Office
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Arklow, Co. Wicklow
Fax (0402) 91030
email aoifeireland@eircom.net



PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES

Where Do We Go From Here?

It is possible that by the end of the summer of 2001, many, if not all AOIFE member festivals and events, may be affected by the Part XVI of the Planning and Development Act 2000. This particular section of the new legislation, which was enacted on 28th August 2000, concerns "Events and Funfairs" and the requirement to hold a licence to run such an event. The issue of Public Entertainment Licences has been a thorn in the side of many festival and event organisers in the UK since 1982 and it is likely, unless appropriate action is taken, that AOIFE members may be faced with many similar difficulties in years to come.

The problem has not simply arrived on our doorstep. In late 1999, the issue was highlighted in the AOIFE newsletter and was immediately recognised as a cause for concern by T V Honan, Director of Waterford Spraoi. AOIFE prepared a submission to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government and circulated copies to all member festivals, requesting that they lobby their local public representatives in an effort to obtain an exemption for "community motivated events". Although AOIFE members contacted a large number of public representatives and we were even lucky enough to have a parliamentary question raised in the Dail on the issue, regretfully our efforts were in vain and Government subsequently passed the legislation.

However, all may not yet be lost. A number of sections of the new legislation require further regulations to be made and AOIFE intends to make further submissions in an effort to ensure the minimum level of discomfort to our members.

The Legislation

Part XVI of the Act is divided

into 13 sections, with the main sections as follows:

Section 229 sets out certain interpretations. An "event" includes musical, dance, public entertainment etc. events taking place outdoors or in temporary structures, or other events which may be prescribed by the Minister.

Section 230 sets out the obligation on persons who plan to hold an event covered by the legislation to obtain a licence.

Section 231 provides for regulations to be made concerning the procedure for applying for licences, including public notice of an application. The licensing authority may grant a licence with, or without conditions, or refuse to grant a licence. The conditions may refer to the safety of persons at the event, insurance cover, provision of transport, minimisation of disruption to the area etc.

Section 232 makes provision for codes of practice to be drawn up and issued by the Minister to provide practical guidance.

Section 233 provides that, when an authority becomes aware that an unauthorised event, or an event that is in contravention of the terms of a licence, is going to take place, it may issue a notice to prevent the event or contravention.

Section 234 imposes a duty on the holders of events, and on persons attending the events, to take reasonable care for the safety of all in attendance.

Section 235 provides for a power of inspection of lands or structures used in connection with an event by persons authorised by the licensing authority and the Gardai, and requires event organisers to produce information, documentation etc.

Section 241 provides for the making of regulations by the Minister in defining an "event".

The Concerns

Whilst both AOIFE and the majority of AOIFE members are, in principle, supportive of the legislation, there are a number of areas of concern including the financial implications for community orientated organisations, the general lack of definitions within the legislation and the fact that there is no avenue of appeal. Another major concern is the fact that most Local Authorities in Ireland have little, if any, experience with regard to event organisation – a factor which could lead to a lack of consistency between one area and another.

The Current Position

The latest information available from the Department of the Environment and Local Government indicates that this Part of the Planning Act will come into effect, more than likely, in April or May 2001, but that events being organised this summer may not be affected.

The precise definition of "events" will be the subject of regulations. As will licence fee costs. The Department has stated that it would welcome submissions relevant to these proposed regulations at this time.

The Department has also confirmed that guidance notes will issue to Local Authorities on each part of the legislation before they come into effect. Submissions in this regard are also welcome.

The Intention

Within the next few weeks, AOIFE proposes to prepare an appropriate submission to the Department in the context of the above. It is intended to circulate the submission to our members for comment before Christmas. We would, however, welcome comments at this stage to AOIFE Communications Officer, Victor Ryan at 086-8210048 or victorryan@eircom.net.



IRISH SHOWMAN'S SHOW 2000

This was the second Irish Showman's Show to be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference of AOIFE. Eleven of the twenty-six exhibitors were from England or Wales. "Although the exhibition was popular with attendees at the Conference it did not attract other organisers and is probably unlikely to until a more central location is used." said Stephen Lance, who organises the annual UK Showman's Show and who is the joint organiser of the Irish Showman's Show with AOIFE. "This subject, amongst others, is high on the agenda for discussion with AOIFE members as we are all keen to see the event move forward" Stephen told *Shenanigans*.

The following participated in The Irish Showman's Show 2000:

Access All Areas

Artists 2 Events

Carousel Enterprises

Co-Operation Ireland

CTC Party Hire

Event Technology

Fun & Games

Henderson Management

Higgins Furniture Hire

Insurex

LWP

Millennium Pyrotechnics

Muswell Manufacturing

Orakel

Parking Promotions

Party Poppers

Pelican Promotions

Peter Johnson Entertainments

Phoenix Fireworks

PJT Insurances

Rock Solid

Roustabout

Special Events

StageCoach

The Staging Company

Weather Direct



ARTS LEGISLATION REVIEW

The National Executive commissioned Simeon Smith of CAFE to research and prepare a submission to government on the review of arts legislation. The core elements of the resulting submission are:

That AOIFE is recognised as the representative body for the festival and event sector and as such should be involved in any government discussions that affect this sector.

AOIFE is committed to improving the quality of festivals throughout the island and is keen to work with the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands to enhance the artistic quality of its member festivals.

AOIFE can provide relevant and up to date information on the festival and event sector. However, these efforts need to be adequately resourced if they are to be thorough, relevant and scientifically robust.

Festivals and events potentially concern many government departments. We suggest the creation of a working group, drawing together the Department of Arts, Heritage Gaeltacht and the Islands, An Chomhairle Ealaíon,

Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Department of the Environment and Local Government, AOIFE and other relevant bodies to formulate an integrated policy which would allow the festival sector to reach its full potential in Ireland.

That AOIFE be involved in all future research into Festivals initiated by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands and/or An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Most AOIFE members are happy with the level of service they receive from An Chomhairle Ealaíon and value the fact that it operates at arms-length from Government. However, it is important that An Chomhairle Ealaíon recognise that it only funds a very small section of the festival sector in Ireland and that it needs to create a dialogue with the sector as a whole when formulating policy relating to the sector.

The process of the formulation of the arts policy needs to be clarified and clearly located within one body.

AOIFE is heartened to see that the current make up of An Chomhairle Ealaíon includes people with experience of festivals and events and would hope that this will always be so.

Regional Arts Boards would be an improvement over the currently centralised system. However, Regional Arts Boards should not replace the role of An Chomhairle Ealaíon, rather they should enhance and develop on it.

Funding for Regional Arts Boards should be additional to the monies already committed to An Chomhairle Ealaíon and funding decisions made independently of Arts Council decisions.

Regional Arts Boards would allow for greater personal contact time between festival organisers and arts board staff and should lead to a greater understanding of the valuable work being carried out by festival events at a local level. Regional Arts Boards should not have the responsibility of supporting what are essentially national events such as the St. Patrick's Festival. Such large-scale national events should be supported through the national budgets of the Arts Council and other relevant government bodies.

Local Authority Arts Officers, while not directly the responsibility of An Chomhairle Ealaíon or the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and

the Islands are an important support for the festival sector. However, they are often under funded and overworked and we urge the Department and An Chomhairle Ealaíon to continue in their efforts to improve the Arts Officer system.

While there are some mechanisms in place to facilitate Irish artists to travel abroad, there is less to facilitate international artists to come to Ireland. This would greatly enhance the programmes of many festivals. For example, a scheme whereby Artsflights could be used in reverse would be a very beneficial to festival organisers.

The creation of an international touring and performance grant which could facilitate festivals to bring in high quality acts and entertainers from other countries.

The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Síle De Valera TD, was invited to address Conference 2000 but she declined the invitation due to her heavy schedule of commitments. The Minister asked that her good wishes be extended to everyone who attended Conference.

S

DUNCANNON: POISED FOR MAJOR GROWTH

Sand sculpting. Surely this is of interest only to toddlers with buckets and spades? Not likely! San Diego, Singapore, China and the Canary Islands stage sand sculpting events that attract large number of entries - and Duncannon in County Wexford is poised to become a major event on the global sand sculpting calendar.

"We are inundated with enquiries from Irish groups, artists and festival organisers who have seen pictures of the exceptional sand sculpting



created at our 2000 Festival" Brendan Power of Cockleshell Arts Centre in Duncannon told *Shenanigans*. "Our sand facilitates higher build, deeper carving and greater precision sand sculpting."

Brendan again "We see immense potential for Duncannon. We have had 14 enquiries alone from Holland in addition to firm enquiries from Denmark, England, France, Italy, Norway, Spain and Wales".

Brendan and his colleagues have mounted a major sponsorship drive to raise IR£12,000. They are confident that their Festival has the capacity for major growth over the next 4-5 years. "This is three dimensional live art which compels the spectator to revisit the work" Brendan enthused. "Now all we need is the sponsorship!"

Anybody out there interested in sponsoring an unique event? Contact Brendan Power at 051-389 434

S



COLM CROFFY CHAIRS 2001 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE



The Members of the National Executive are:

Karen Bonner
44 Heathervue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
Tel. 01-287 7870 Fax 01-287 7870 Mobile 087-279 3096
Email: aoifeirl@iol.ie
Karen retains the position of National Secretary of AOIFE with special responsibility for Membership.

June Carey
Scrahan Cross, The Spa, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Tel. 066-713 6362 Fax 066-718 0107 Mobile 086-846 2940
Email: junecareys@eircom.net
June has been elected as Vice Chairperson. She will continue to act as Joint Treasurer.

Colm Croffy
'Guaire', Hawthorn Crescent, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Tel. 0905-44460 Fax 0905-44466
Mobile 087-221 5406 Email: croffyc@indigo.ie
Colm is Chairperson of AOIFE.

Aileen Hennigan
Teeling Street, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Tel. 096-22678 Fax 096-22680
Mobile 087-645 2151
Aileen will jointly co-ordinate Conference 2001 and the Irish Showman's Show. She will also act as a Regional Co-Ordinator.

Joseph Hodnett
2 The Mews, McCurtain Hill, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
Tel. 023-34952 Fax 023-34944
Mobile 086-245 4823 Email: jhodnett@indigo.ie
Joseph will act as a Regional Co-Ordinator.

Gerard McGuigan
32 Velsheda Court, Belfast BT14 7LZ
Tel. 02890-209234 Email:

gerard.mcguigan@ntlworld.com
Gerard will liase with Co-Operation Ireland and will also act as a Regional Co-Ordinator.

Gráinne McLoughlin
170 Heathervue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
Tel. 01-287 7308 Fax 0402-31065
Mobile 086-832 9686 Email: gronia@indigo.ie
Gráinne will act as Administrative Co-Ordinator. Her areas of responsibility will include directing the activities of the staff at the Arklow Office, the continuing application of IT within the association.

Brid Moriarty
Dunmaniheen, Killorglin, Co. Kerry
Tel. 066-976 2366 Fax 066-976 2366 Mobile 087-286 7020
Email: moriartybrid@eircom.net
Brid is Joint Treasurer and will

jointly co-ordinate Conference 2001 and the Irish Showman's Show.

Tadhg Moriarty
2 Rochfort House, Patrick Street, Dublin 8
Mobile 087-235 2615 Email: tadhgmoriarty@yahoo.com
Tadhg has been appointed Standards Co-ordinator. He is responsible for the continuing development of the Guidelines Project.

Paddy Murphy
3 Roselawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Tel. 01-286 0080 Email: murphy@eircom.net
Paddy retains his responsibilities for Acts Networking and will also act as a Regional Co-Ordinator.

Dan O'Donoghue
3 Urban Terrace, Boherbee, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Tel. 066-712 5304 Fax 066-712 1100 Mobile 086-259 5339
Email: danodon@eircom.net
Dan has been appointed Strategic Development Co-ordinator with particular responsibility for co-ordinating the implementation of 'A Time of Choice'.

Victor Ryan
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Mobile 086-821 0048 Email: victorryan@eircom.net
Victor retains his position as Communications Officer and his research responsibilities. 



Joseph

You come to your first AOIFE Conference. You're Chairman of Clonakilty August Festival. The Treasurer nominates you for election to the National Executive. You are elected. That was **Joseph Hodnett's** first conference!

"I was amazed" Joseph told *Shenanigans*. "Our Festival has been a member of AOIFE since 1993 and I am amazed and delighted to be elected!"

Joseph and his wife Deirdre, who has been Treasurer of Clonakilty



Tadhg

August Festival for the past 3 years, have one daughter, Rachel. Joseph is Property Manager with John F. Kerr Auctioneering & Property Services in Clonakilty. Joseph also works as part-time DJ. "I think it was my love of music that drew me to the festival!"

"This was my first conference and I won't miss them in future. The opportunity to network and learn from others is simply incredible! Seeing two excellent fireworks displays gave me a basis for comparison with the display we stage. Even for that alone

conference was worthwhile."

A Member of Puck Fair Committee, **Tadhg Moriarty** brings an interesting experience to the National Executive: he worked in event marketing and promotions for Guinness and Coca-Cola, spending a year with each company. "It was very challenging but also very rewarding. It has given me a very valuable insight into event management and promotions and has also given me some appreciation of the scale of volunteer input throughout the festivals sector" Tadhg told *Shenanigans*.

"In my travels around the country it often amazed me that so-called

'amateur festivals' often delivered a better event than the professional entertainment promoters. There is an incredible pool of talent in festival organisations up and down the country' Tadhg exclaimed.

Tadhg's area of responsibility with Puck Fair is Safety Officer. "Safety must be the foundation of everything we do in our festivals. No matter how good your safety record, one moment of inattention or one corner cut can have tragic consequences".

Tadhg works as a sales representative with Eircell; single, he is Dublin-based. He will not admit to any specific 