

AOIFE INSURANCE SCHEME - MAJOR CHANGES IN 2002

"With effect from 1st January 2002, all Member Festivals seeking to participate in the AOIFE Insurance Scheme must have a Safety Statement and one member of the Committee must be designated as the Safety Adviser for the Festival" Colm Croffy announced to Delegates to the Annual Conference.

"While this may be perceived initially as an additional burden on voluntary festival committees, it is a major step in the right direction in emphasising the necessity to be aware of our responsibilities and of our Duty of Care. It is the logical progression in our continuing campaign to encourage 'best practice' in regard to Safety" Colm told *Shenanigans*.

"The theme of safety was discussed at length at our National Executive Meeting of November 25 and we are now planning an appropriate series of Training Seminars" Colm explained. "These training seminars will provide the Festival Safety Adviser with practical training in areas such as the relevant legislation, hazard identification, risk assessment, crowd control and preparing a Safety Statement"

Details of the Training Seminars for Safety Advisers will be notified to Member Festivals as soon as possible. "I anticipate that the Safety Training Seminars will probably take place at a number of venues and we will ensure

that costs are kept to a minimum" Colm Croffy continued.

In the meantime Tadhg Moriarty, the National Executive Member with responsibility for safety-related matters, has promised that the website (www.aoifeonline.com) will soon see a number of new Safety Guidelines available exclusively to Member Festivals.

The AOIFE Insurance Scheme was established in 1995 and provides the necessary insurance cover for AOIFE Member Festivals each year. During this period it has provided continuity and certainty to AOIFE festivals regarding the scope and cost of their festival insurance. The scheme automatically provides public and employers liability cover. It can then be extended optionally, depending upon the Festival's requirements, to include: -

- Abandonment / Cancellation of event(s) through bad weather, non-appearance etc.
- All Risks cover on hired-in equipment, festival office contents, merchandising, artworks etc.
- Money cover on box office.
- Motor Insurance on courtesy cars and other hired in vehicles.

Peter Thomas, Chief Executive of PJT Insurances highlighted some serious difficulties that arose in 2001 because festivals contacted PJT too late. "If a proposal is faxed to us the day before a festival starts it is unreasonable to expect us to provide

a quotation and issue the policy documents in such a short time. Equally if a quotation is given in good time before the festival starts, but the festival does not instruct us to go ahead until the day before the festival starts then again it is unreasonable to expect us to put the cover in place and issue the policy documents that same day" Peter told *Shenanigans*.

"With so many festivals being covered, most within a fairly short time scale, the pressure on our staff is intense. The insurance certificates are complicated legal documents that have to be produced accurately, checked and signed. That is a process that takes some time. Equally indemnities cannot be granted without a full understanding of exactly who is being asked to be indemnified, and why" he continued.

New Insurance Procedures
To address these difficulties new Procedures are being put into effect in 2002.

Quotations will not be given by PJT Insurances unless the Member Festival submits a fully completed proposal form, with a draft or outline programme of events. That proposal form etc. should be sent to PJT Insurances as soon as possible but no later than 10 working days before the start of the Festival. PJT Insurances will then provide a quotation in writing, or by fax, within 48 hours.

Cover will then be arranged by PJT on 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, which clearly designates the name of the Safety Adviser
- Any other documentation requested at the quotation stage (e.g. certificate of insurance from Fireworks operators)
- A copy of the AOIFE Receipt confirming that the Festival is a current member of AOIFE (*the Insurance Scheme is only available to Member Festivals*)

These should be sent to PJT Insurances no later than 5 working days before the start of the Festival. They will then issue the certificate etc. within three working days.

PJT Insurances can be contacted at
39 Main Street
Santry Village
Dublin 9
Tel: 01-842 5813
Fax: 01-842 3830
Email: info@pjtins.ie 

NISO MOVED


The National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) has moved to new premises at Unit A11 Calmount Park, Calmount Avenue, Ballymount, Dublin 12. Phone number 01-465 9760 and fax number, 01-465 9765 are unchanged. NISO are also re-launching their e-mail newsletter "E-OSH" which contains NISO news along with other general health and safety issues. Forward your e-mail address to niso@iol.ie, indicating your interest in subscribing, if you would like to be added to the mailing list - which is free! 



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - SUPPORTING THE FESTIVALS SECTOR

"To begin we are inviting the Arts Officers of Ireland to come on board with AOIFE at county, corporation, borough and district level" is Colm Croffy's explanation for the new membership category announced at Conference.

A number of Urban District Councils and Borough Councils are already AOIFE members and they will form the nucleus of this new category. It is anticipated that a number of other organisations and statutory bodies will be exhorted to support AOIFE over the coming months.

"We are the voice of Irish Festivals. Beginning in January I will be contacting all Arts Officers inviting them to join. The membership fee is a modest €150/STG£100 and this provides each local authority with the opportunity to support the festivals sector at national level in addition to the work already being done at local level" Colm enthused. "I am confident that our invitation to become Associate Members will be taken up" 


IRISH FESTIVALS ABROAD

"I am delighted that my colleagues on the National Executive accepted my proposal that we should expand our membership to Irish festivals abroad" Paddy Murphy told *Shenanigans*.

Paddy has already been in talks with Irish festival organisers in the UK midlands and London. "The reaction has been very positive. Those I have spoken with recognise the benefits of networking with festivals at home and the benefits that can flow to everyone, particularly in the area of Acts Networking".

"Over the coming months I will be linking up with County Associations and Irish groups abroad to encourage them to establish this new link" Paddy promised.

You can help Paddy in this work by sending him contact details of any County Associations or Irish Festivals abroad. "I would value any information" Paddy agreed, "I will follow up on any contacts any where. I am convinced that this development can be of immense benefit to everyone".

Paddy can be contacted at 3 Roselawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Telephone number is 01-286 0080 and his email is murphy@eircom.net 

Hi Folks,

Once again the festival movement and your National Executive colleagues have elected me to serve as your Chairperson - I am honoured and humbled and sincerely hope that our next term will be another period of growth and development for AOIFE.

If you were in Portumna - thanks for making it such a wonderful 3-day conference. If you were not, please get to grips fairly fast with some of the major changes that are being rolled out and will impact your festival event in a very real way.



Feedback from the Conference has been very positive and over the next coming weeks we will get as much information from the speakers on the Members only section of our Website. We also want to see more communication from you about your festivals and events over the coming months.

Truth is we were a little disappointed that we are busy having to co-opt some fresh faces on to the National Executive to bring us up to our full complement of 14. But after our first new Executive meeting at

the end of November we have some definite ideas on the volunteers that should be able to assist us. I am also happy to report that the spirit and enthusiasm of your new Executive is very high indeed and augurs well for a productive term.

Paddy Murphy and I attend the All-Island Conference on Volunteering in Cavan some days ago and it was humbling to feel that all the work undertaken by AOIFE members is part of that huge worldwide tradition of giving. We'll be posting a conference report on the Website also.

Our Yearbook deadlines are fast approaching - with your full co-operation we will endeavour to have the publication out in jig time and it would be nice if you could prove past experience to an unnecessary tradition!

Finally to all AOIFE Members, Committees and their families may I, on behalf of the Organisation, wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and Prosperous 2002.

Slán agus Beannacht,

Calm

MEMBERSHIP FEES


The National Executive at their meeting on November 25th adopted the following Membership Fees with effect from 1st January 2002:

- Member Festival** €110 STG£85.00
- Corporate Member** €145 STG£110.00
- Associate Member** €150 STG£100.00
- International Member** €150 STG£100.00

Joe Hodnett, AOIFE Treasurer: "The decision to increase membership fees was taken reluctantly but it is a reflection of the Treasurers' Report presented at Conference. We are not relying solely on membership fees, we are actively considering other ways of generating revenues so that we can continue to develop and expand the range of

services available to all our Members".

The National Executive also decided that any Members failing to remit their membership fees prior to 31st December 2001 will be liable to pay the new rate applicable to their category of Membership.

A copy of the Treasurers' Report to Member Festivals is enclosed. 





YEARBOOK 2002

NEW EDITOR

Colm Croffy has taken responsibility for delivering Yearbook 2002 and he is urging all member festivals to email the following information:

- Full title of the Festival
- Contact Name & Full Postal Address (including Post Code where appropriate)
- Telephone, Fax and Mobile Phone Numbers
- Email and Website Addresses
- Dates of the Festival in 2002 (and 2003 if known)
- Month in which the 2002 festival will take place (if actual dates not known)

Confirmation of which of the following categories apply to your festival:

- Audience Participation
- Family & Children's Events
- Arts Events
- Street Events
- Indoor Arts/Visual Art Events
- Indoor Arts/Theatre Events
- Dance
- Comedy
- Music Events -
 - ◊ Folk Music
 - ◊ Traditional Music
 - ◊ Rock Music
 - ◊ Pop
 - ◊ Classical
 - ◊ Jazz/Blues
 - ◊ Country Music
 - ◊ World Music
 - ◊ Contemporary Music
- Heritage Events
- Sporting Events
- International Dimension
- Day Events
- Night Events
- Agricultural Events
- Fireworks

Together with a 40-word description of your festival.

You can write to Colm at the AOIFE Office at 1 Upper Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow or fax the information to

0402-91030. Alternatively you can email the info directly to us at shenanigans@iol.ie

You must submit the information this year - **the closing date for information is 31st December 2001.**

"I cannot emphasise too strongly the absolute necessity of receiving complete information as soon as possible" Colm stressed, "last year an astonishing number of festivals failed to submit information. As a result Festivals missed out on both the Yearbook and the website - two key information sources!"

CORPORATE MEMBERS & YEARBOOK ADVERTISERS TAKE NOTE!

Gráinne McLoughlin is responsible for all advertising-related matters in Yearbook 2002. She is currently contacting all Corporate Members and other advertisers from last year's Yearbook to afford them priority booking of advertising space in next year's publication.

The advertising rates for Yearbook 2002 for Corporate Members are:

Full Page Colour	€355
Half Page Colour	€255
Full Page B & W	€295
Half Page B & W	€195

Priority will be given to Corporate Members.

The advertising rates for Yearbook 2002 for other advertisers (i.e. those who are not Corporate Members) are:


Full Page Colour	€455
Half Page Colour	€355
Full Page B & W	€395
Half Page B & W	€295

Advertising will be accepted on CD-ROM, disk or hard copy. There will be an additional charge for those requiring their advertisement to be designed/laid out. Details of this service will be advised

by Gráinne. "It's time we upgraded *all* our advertisements" Gráinne told us, "the standard of the yearbook has continued to rise and it is to be regretted that a small minority of advertisers simply send in a photocopy of a photocopy of a photocopy of a copy of an advert. The reproduction and quality are very poor and in my professional opinion the advertisers are failing to capitalise on the opportunity the yearbook presents".

To contact Gráinne to book your advertising space, please write to her at AOIFE Office, 1 Upper Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow clearly marking your envelope 'Yearbook Advertising' or fax Gráinne on 0402-91030. She can also be contacted by email at gronia@indigo.ie

The deadline for submission of advertising copy is 10 January 2002. A cheque in full settlement must accompany all advertising copy.

AOIFE reserves the right to amend or refuse any advertisement submitted for inclusion in Yearbook 2002. 

Music Network

(www.musicnetwork.ie) is compiling an online directory of instrumental/vocal teachers in Spring 2002 and they would like to hear from any private instrumental or vocal teachers anywhere in Ireland. Séamus O'Reilly of Music Network told *Shenanigans*, "we want to hear from any teachers anywhere on the island who would like to be included in this directory. Contact Séamus O'Reilly of Music Network at The Coach House, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2. You can phone Music Network at 01-671 9429, fax them at 01-671 9430 or email learnmusic@musicnetwork.ie


STEPPING DOWN. NOT STEPPING OUT.

Five Members of the National Executive decided not to seek re-election at the AGM on the grounds that they wished to devote more time to their own festivals. Chairperson Colm Croffy made a presentation to each one at the Gala Banquet.

Aileen Hennigan, Gerard McGuigan and Bríd Moriarty had all served for 2 years on the Executive. Aileen served as Conference Co-ordinator in 2000 and as Regional Co-ordinator, Gerard had served as Regional Co-ordinator and headed up the Advisory Council while Bríd has served as Joint Treasurer and co-ordinated Conference 2001.

Gráinne McLoughlin jokingly told *Shenanigans* she had served on the National Executive for 'more years than I care to remember' but in his remarks Colm confirmed that it had been 'at least 7 years' during which time Gráinne had served for 2 terms as Vice Chairperson.

Victor Ryan is a founder member of AOIFE and has been accurately described as 'an immense resource for the entire festival industry'. Formerly National Secretary, in recent years Victor has served as Communications Officer and maintained the many international links AOIFE enjoys, in addition to holding the Health & Safety portfolio within the National Executive.


Each of the 5 has stressed that they will continue an active involvement in AOIFE. This is already being borne out by the fact that Gráinne McLoughlin is handling all advertising for Yearbook 2002 and the feature article in this issue of *Shenanigans* was prepared by Victor Ryan! 

VISITOR ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to the Ulster American Folk Park, this year's Travel & Leisure News "Visitor Attraction of the Year". The award was announced at a gala ceremony held by NI Travel & Leisure News, hosted by Angela Rippon. The award was presented by Northern Ireland's Shauna Lowry. The museum, which this year celebrated 25 years of Living History, has proved that it is still the best, despite stiff competition.

John Gilmour Director of the museum welcomed this award for the museum. "We are delighted to receive this award for the second time, it reflects the quality of product and experience which the folk park now offers to many thousands of people. The award is a testament to the warmth of welcome and high quality interpretation which our visitors receive." he said.

The Ulster American Folk Park is the ideal place to learn the story of the people who left these shores. Situated on the banks of the River Strule in Omagh, the museum tells the story of the floods of emigrants who left Ireland for the New World of America in the 18th & 19th Centuries. 



The Donal O'Driscoll Memorial Award was presented for the second time to Mughshot TV for the series "Féilte" on TG4.

WINNERS ALL

4 Festivals took home some beautiful crystal compliments of the Irish Table Top Group as winners of the 'Best Idea', 'Best Poster', 'Best Brochure/ Flyer' and 'Best Programme'. The lobby of the Shannon Oaks Hotel was ablaze with colour as festivals exhibited posters, brochures, flyers and programmes demonstrating the creativity and ingenuity employed by many small festivals who, with limited budgets, consistently produce excellent literature.



Best Idea

Armagh's Apple Blossom Festival won the award for 'Best New Idea' at Conference. The idea was simple and effective: organise teams to break out of the old city gaol and with only a £5 note for each team they had to travel as far as possible to raise funds for charity. That the teams raised £9,000 is clear evidence of the success of the idea. A Railbreak Voucher from Iarnród Éireann was also presented to Eamonn McNeill of the Apple Blossom Festival, in addition to the Crystal Bowl.



Best Programme

"Absolutely the right decision" was the delighted comment from Maurice Galway, Artistic Director of Samhlaíocht Chiarraí-Kerry Arts as he walked to the stage to accept

the crystal piece for 'Best Programme'.




Best Brochure/ Flyer

"We're thrilled" Phil Conyngham of Drogheda Samba Festival told us as she accepted the crystal piece as winner of the Best Brochure/ Flyer.



Best Poster

Baboró International Children's Festival was a worthy winner of the Best Poster award. Lali Morris, Director of the Festival, accepted the award.

Firmly wearing her professional hat as an executive of the Irish Table Top Group, Gráinne McLoughlin was on hand to present the crystal awards. 

SPECIAL THANKS

All those who attended Conference 2001 will be aware of the major input by 3 corporate members: SoundTrax, Kelly Display Contracts and Guinness.

Guinness supported the Gala Banquet, SoundTRax provided all PA & Lighting required for Showcase, the Gala Banquet and plenary sessions. Everyone admired the beautiful Registration Desk provided by Kelly Display Contracts.

Míle Buíochas!



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Following the National Executive Meeting on November 25 the following assignments were adopted:

Colm Croffy, Chairperson, will assume responsibility for Yearbook 2002 and communications in addition to co-ordinating the strategic development of AOIFE. Pending expansion of the National Executive Colm will act as Regional Co-ordinator for Members in Galway, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo & Roscommon. Colm can be contacted at 'Guaire', Hawthorn Crescent, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Telephone 087-221 5406, Fax 0905-44466 croffyc@indigo.ie

June Carey, Vice Chairperson, will assume responsibility for Conference 2002 and act as Assistant Treasurer. She will deputise for Colm in his absence. June can be contacted at Scrahan Cross, The Spa, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Telephone 066-713 6362, Mobile 087-908 2919, fax 066-712 1853 junecareys@eircom.net

Karen Bonner will be responsible for compiling the AOIFE Archives of Minute books, correspondence, programmes and preparing data for inclusion on an archive area within the AOIFE website. Karen can be contacted at 44 Heathervue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Telephone 01-287 7870, Mobile 087-279 3096 kbonners@eircom.net

Miley Carroll will be responsible for Regional Co-ordination in counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford & Wexford. Miley can be contacted at Newline Road, Staplestown, Co. Wexford. Telephone 0402-36257, Mobile 086-259 9694 sales@aughrimotors.com

Anita Deasy will act as Recording Secretary, with responsibility for communications between the National Executive. Anita's

home address is 10 An Tobairín, Desert, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. Mobile 087-912 7726 anitadeasy@hotmail.com

Joseph Hodnett is the new Treasurer of AOIFE while retaining regional co-ordination responsibilities for Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary. Joe lives at 2 The Mews, McCurtain Hill, Clonakilty, Co. Cork where his phone number is 023-34952. Mobile 086-245 4823, fax 023-34944 jhodnett@indigo.ie

Tadhg Moriarty assumes responsibility for all health & safety-related matters. Tadhg's address is 5 The Maples, Burma Road, Strandhill, Co. Sligo. His mobile number is 086-831 8243 tadhgmoriarty@yahoo.com

Paddy Murphy retains responsibility for Acts Networking while assuming responsibility for implementing the new 'international' category of membership for Irish festivals abroad. Paddy also acts as Regional Co-ordinator for Festivals in Dublin, Kildare, Laois, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath & Wicklow. Paddy lives at 3 Roselawn Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow telephone 01-286 0080. murphy@eircom.net

Dan O'Donoghue has taken responsibility for all Corporate Member matters while retaining responsibility for Expo 2002 and Showcasing at next year's conference. Dan can be contacted at 3 Urban Terrace, Boherbee, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Phone 066-712 5304, fax 066-718 0107 and mobile 087-799 1224 danodon@eircom.net

Mark Patton will act as Regional Co-ordinator to Members in Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Monaghan, Sligo & Tyrone. Mark's home address is 4 Springwell Grove, Groomsport, Co. Down BT19 6LD. Telephone 028-9145 9834.

Miley Carroll has been a member of the committee of County Wexford Strawberry Festival for 7 years and currently serves as Vice Chairperson and PRO. His involvement with the festival began, and also continues, as a major sponsor of the event through his Škoda main dealerships in Aughrim (Wicklow) and Clonard (Wexford).



"I agreed to go forward for election to gain a deeper insight into how festivals can be improved and to access the advice needed to develop our own festival further" Miley told *Shenanigans*, "I know the Strawberry Festival has the potential for further growth, this has been clear to me from a sponsor's perspective".

"I'm deeply involved with the GAA in Wickow, Wexford and Carlow but I still find time for festivals, photography and hill walking".

"I believe I can bring a sponsor's point of view to the National Executive's deliberations. I am deeply interested in the future of the Strawberry Festival and of the festival industry in Ireland" Miley continued, "I look forward to both the challenge and the enjoyment".

Anita Deasy attended her first AOIFE Conference this year and found herself elected to the National Executive. "I was stunned" the Clonakilty-based owner of a beauty salon told *Shenanigans*. "I am only in my second year as a member of the Clonakilty August Festival Committee and I had accepted the post of P.R.O., but now it seems I am going to have even less time to devote to walking and swimming - my other hobbies".



"The thing that impresses me most about AOIFE is the networking. Meeting other festival organisers, listening

and learning, these are immense benefits to all of us" Anita concluded.

Anita is a qualified beautician and aromatherapist and her salon also offers relaxation massage. With all the demands on her time, *Shenanigans* believes she may be the one most in need of relaxation!

A Civil Servant for 17 years and currently with the Construction Service, an agency of the Department of Finance & Personnel, **Mark Patton** also edits & produces "C-HERE" the staff magazine within the department.



"I wish I had more time for everything" Mark admitted to *Shenanigans*. "In addition to my membership of the committee of the Eagle Wing Festival I take an interest in community affairs generally, I follow motor racing and sport in general; I like a spot of DIY and I try to assist local community-based charities". When pressed by your Reporter as to why he had decided to devote even more of his free time to the festival industry Mark laughed and said "I decided to run for the National Executive because I was asked to!"

Mark was Chairperson of the festival this past year and this year continues as a member of the organising committee. The Eagle Wing Festival takes place under the aegis of the Groomsport Village Association and is supported by North Down Borough Council Central Community Relations Unit as the festival is designated as a community relations event. One feels sure that he will continue his involvement with the village association: his wife Heather is chairperson!





CONFERENCE BRIEFS

A warm welcome was extended to Elizabeth McLoughlin, AOIFE Administrator at the Gala Ball. Elizabeth had been unwell earlier this year but she and husband Tommy made the trip to Portumna where Elizabeth was on duty welcoming Delegates and Exhibitors at Registration.

Founder of AOIFE Eileen O'Loughlin was also on hand to be acknowledged and welcomed at the Gala Ball. Eileen continues to take a deep interest in all AOIFE matters and never misses a conference.

Any truth in the rumour that AOIFE Chair Colm is buying a vineyard in France?

The Evaluation Forms were very complimentary about all the speakers but Helena MacMahon of the Foynes Irish Coffee Festival took top marks consistently for her parade workshop(s). One evaluation form suggested that next year Helena be given 2 hours for a workshop.

Anybody who needed a 'cure' on Sunday was quickly restored to full consciousness by the sessions on safety. Some of the facts & figures detailed by Peter Thomas of PJT were sobering and Donal MacMahon's presentation of Fireworks Safety was outstanding. Martin Lavelle of Galway County Council was direct and timely and those who stayed for the 'hands on' session on safety statements from Victor Ryan & Tadhg Moriarty got a head start following Colm's announcement of changes to the AOIFE Insurance Scheme.

Lots of fun with the admission 'bracelet' to the Gala Banquet provided free of charge by Linden Nicholls

of Orakel UK. Linden is a staunch supporter of AOIFE and a very stylish dancer!

The 'Friday Programme' targeted at full-time Directors & Administrators was evaluated very highly by participants. *Shenanigans* hears that an informal network of festivals with an arts focus has come together following this programme. No doubt the presence of the Arts Council, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the British Association of Arts Festivals had something to do with this!

Among the delegates at Conference was Angela McQuaid of Dundalk Maytime Festival making a welcome return visit. Stalwart attendee Gerard Madden of Timoleague told *Shenanigans* he has "never missed an AOIFE Conference, they're great!" Ian Malcolm was wearing two hats at Conference, representing Mitchelstown Music Festival and the new Ballyhoura Festivals Committee. Newcomers to Conference included Maria Moynihan of Dublin's St. Patrick's Festival, D J Lloyd of Anglesey Oyster & Shellfish Festival, Norma Flaherty of Galway's Cuirt Literature Festival and Galway County Arts Officer Marilyn Gaughan.

Bui Bolg, the Wexford based corporate member, were unable to participate in Festive Expo and are planning a mail shot to all delegates. Check out their new website www.buibolg.com

Who had the largest delegation at Conference 2001? A number of festivals vied for the title including Samhain Halloween Parade, Clonakilty August Festival, Greystones Arts Festival,

Cashel Cultural Festival and the Great October Fair & Festival of Ballinasloe but the largest number of delegates from one festival represented Puck Fair. Special mention must go to Herring Gutters Festival, one of AOIFE's newest member festivals, who fielded 2 delegates.

Paddy Murphy is renowned for taking photographs at Conference but this year we had four other avid snappers: Belinda Jackson and Philip Page of GlobalSalsa.com the AOIFE website designers and Nuala McNally and Nicole Mulholland of Co-operation Ireland. These latter four were using hi-tech digital cameras and were to be found photographing all 'n' sundry in various flattering and not-so-flattering poses! However a few well stuffed brown envelopes in the right pocket (*Editor's note - mine*) ensured that only the most flattering of images were used!

Joe Hodnett proved his expertise as a DJ until the wee small hours. Now we know why he's a regular at Rugby Clubs, Birthday Parties, Bar Mitzvahs and all other late nite hooleys in Clon.

It wasn't all fun 'n' games at conference. Pity poor Dan O'Donoghue who was presenting Showcase while others in the bar were imbibing tea & coffee and nobody thought to offer Dan a cuppa. Dan's not too upset though, comments bear out that Showcase was extremely successful and Dan promises it will be repeated at Conference

2002. *Shenanigans* hears on the grapevine that one participating act took 27 bookings as a result of their Showcase.

June Carey's expression when she was presented with a bouquet of flowers at the Gala Banquet was a delight. For once she was on the receiving end of a surprise presentation.

Full marks to Vinnie Kilduff and John Sanders who held everyone enthralled on Friday night. The music was 'pure magic'.

Special thanks to everyone who made the inaugural Festive Expo a resounding success. Business was done and first time exhibitors were fulsome in their praise and planned to be back in strength for Festive Expo 2002.

Top marks to the management and staff of the Shannon Oaks Hotel & Country Club. Nothing was too much trouble, it was 'service with a smile' all the way.

June Carey has begun her search for the venue for 2002. Pencil in November 8, 9 & 10 in your 2002 diary as the likely dates. Here's a thought: why not start a savings scheme among your committee and make the AOIFE Conference your getaway weekend break after your festival?



Send items for inclusion in *SHENANIGANS* to:
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AOIFE Administration Office
1 Upper Main Street
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