

ENNIS, CO. CLARE INIS, CO AN CHLÁIR
MAY 20 – 28 BEALTAINÉ, 2012

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LET'S DANCE

Fleadh Nua has always been a Set Dancer's paradise. Perhaps, it has to do with the line-up of bands. Possibly, it is because it offers people the opportunity to dance on one of the best dance floors in the country. Or maybe they just have a great time. For whatever reason, dancers flock to Ennis in their droves every year for the Fleadh. And what a programme is in place for this year!!

❖ **CÉILITHE AND SET DANCING WORKSHOPS**

In keeping with longstanding tradition, the Tulla Céilí Band gets proceedings underway in Cois na hAbhna on Thursday, 24th May. Its back to the Gort Road venue for fans of Johnny Reidy and his Band as they take to the stage on Friday, 25th May. Cois na hAbhna will no doubt be filled to capacity on Saturday, 26th May for the Abbey Céilí Band. If you prefer your dancing al fresco be sure to head for the Abbey Street Car Park on the afternoon of Sunday, 27th May for our open air Céilí with Dave Culligan and his Band. The dancing action resumes in Cois na hAbhna on Sunday evening with the Star of Munster Céilí Band. Banish the Monday morning blues with Michael Sexton on 28th May – venue to be confirmed. If you haven't danced yourself into a state of total exhaustion by this stage, the Four Courts Céilí Band are on hand to put dancers through their paces in Cois na hAbhna on the evening of Monday, 28st May.

And in case you are worried that your steps aren't up to scratch fear not as our programme of Set Dancing Workshops under the expert guidance of Dance Master, Dick O'Connell will have you "dancing at home" and "round the house" in no time. Details will be available on our website www.fleadhunua.com and in the Official Programme in due course.

❖ **COMÓRTAS RINCE NÁISIÚNTA / NATIONAL DANCING CHAMPIONSHIP**

Cois na hAbhna – 11.00 a.m. Saturday, 26th May

On Saturday, 26th May the august surroundings of Cois na hAbhna play host to the National Dancing Championships where groups battle it out for honours in Sets and Half Sets (under 8, 10, 12, 15 and 18 years), 4 and 8 Hand Céilí Dances (under 12, 15 and 18 years) and at senior level Sets, Half Sets, Ladies' Sets and 4 and 8 Hand Céilí Dances. Entry forms are available for downloading at www.fleadhunua.com Full details may be obtained from Pádraig Mac Mathúna (065 – 6821228) and Attracta O'Dea (065 - 6822627 and 086 - 0834797).



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❖ COMÓRTAS DAMHSA AR AN SEAN-NÓS – SEAN NÓS DANCING COMPETITION

Auburn Lodge Hotel – 1.00 p.m. Saturday, 26th May

Few expressions of traditional culture have enjoyed a change in fortunes as dramatic as sean-nós dancing or damhsa ar an sean-nós. Having come perilously close to extinction in the closing decades of the last century, recent years have seen a resurgence of interest in this older style of traditional solo Irish dance. No longer confined to the heartlands of Connemara, sean-nós dancing has exploded on to scene both nationally and internationally. With a marked emphasis on improvisation and expression, the "low to the ground" footwork, improvised steps, free movement of the arms, and the "battering steps" of an accomplished sean-nós dancer backed by lively musicians are quite simply a joy to behold. Following on the outstanding success of the inaugural Sean Nós Dancing Competition in 2011, dancers and followers alike are expected to return in droves to the Auburn Lodge Hotel on Saturday, 26th May for this year's competition. Entry forms are available for downloading at www.fleadhnua.com Further details and application forms are available from:

Attracta O'Dea 39 Dún na Rí, Tobartaoscán, Ennis, Co. Clare.

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