

Craft demonstrations at Bloom 2010 a great success

11th June 2010: *The craft demonstrations organised by the Crafts Council of Ireland in conjunction with eight member craft guilds at this year's Bloom festival once again proved to be extremely popular with both children and adults.*

Bord Bia's Bloom in the Park is Ireland's largest gardening, food and family event and took place over the June Bank holiday weekend (3rd - 7th June) in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. According to the organisers, despite some rain, the event attracted some 60,000 visitors.

Guilds in attendance included: The Irish Basketmakers Association, The Irish Patchwork Society, The Irish Woodturners Guild, The Irish Guild of Embroiderers, Ceramics Ireland, The Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association, Feltmakers Ireland and The Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.

"We consider Bloom - Ireland's flagship gardening and artisan food show - to be a great opportunity for increasing the public's awareness of Irish craft making. With visitors attracted by the move towards more sustainable living, enhanced lifestyles and the 'slow movement', this event provides a perfect audience fit to illustrate the wealth and depth of skill amongst craftspeople in Ireland" said Úna Parsons, Chief Executive, Crafts Council of Ireland.

Commenting on the demonstrations, Suzanne Phelan of Feltmakers Ireland said the response to their stand from the public was just fantastic attracting a diverse and interesting mix of people.

A big attraction this year was the Irish Patchwork Society's quilt making demonstration involving the making of a large quilt in aid of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. Other highlights included Ceramics Ireland's potter's wheel,

which was very popular with children and the 'outdoor' blacksmithing forge set up by the Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association, which continued to capture a large audience throughout the duration of the show.

According to Bord Bia planning for Bloom 2011 is already underway, scheduled to take place from June 2nd - 6th. At next year's event the Crafts Council of Ireland plan to have a significant craft presence with 2011 being designated as Ireland's Year of Craft.

For more information go to: <http://www.bloominthepark.com>

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For reference:

Susan Brindley

Crafts Council of Ireland

Tel: 056 7761804/ 7796131

Mob: 086 3895938

About the Crafts Council of Ireland (CCol)

The Crafts Council of Ireland (CCol) is the national design and economic development organisation for the €122 million crafts industry in Ireland. CCol is responsible for fostering the growth and commercial strength of the crafts industry in Ireland, communicating its unique identity and stimulating quality design, innovation and competitiveness. Based in Kilkenny, the Crafts Council of Ireland has 53 member organisations and over 1,900 registered craft enterprises. Its activities are funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment via Enterprise Ireland.