“excellence and innovation in design and production”

VISION

That Irish craft is recognised and valued worldwide for its excellence and innovation in design and production.

MISSION

That the Crafts Council of Ireland is the main champion of the craft industry in Ireland, fostering its growth and commercial strength, communicating its unique identity and stimulating quality, design, innovation and competitiveness.

CORE PURPOSE

The Crafts Council of Ireland is the representative voice and main champion of the craft industry representing all disciplines of craft makers.
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**Chairman’s Report**

2007 was a period of significant development for the Crafts Council of Ireland (CCol). Our most ambitious Strategic Plan to date was launched, many new market-led programmes were initiated and Una Parsons joined the organisation as Chief Executive.

The Crafts Council of Ireland is tasked with preserving, enhancing and developing the skills and craftsmanship, which we have inherited from past generations and which is now being carried forward by the many craftspersons across the country. This skill and craftmanship has produced such wonderful works as the Book of Kells, the Ardagh Chalice, Harry Clarke’s stained glass windows and John ffrdwich’s ceramics. It is part of what it is to be Irish and part of our contribution to the richness of culture in Ireland and throughout the world. It is also part of the beauty of craft in producing something unique by hand, which can be both functional and inspiring at the same time.

The national and global marketplace is going through huge upheaval and change at a pace never before experienced. The only way that our craft workers and the craft sector as a whole can compete and earn a reasonable living in this increasingly challenging and complex commercial environment will be by gaining a better understanding of the requirements of the new marketplace and the needs of today’s consumer. The aim of the Crafts Council is to support craftworkers throughout the country in achieving this goal and to work with them in furthering their craft and their businesses.

The Crafts Council of Ireland’s new three year Strategic Plan (2007-2009) builds on the previous strategic plan and continues its work of supporting and furthering craft businesses. It is based on insights into consumer attitudes and behaviour and the need to adapt to recent changes in the social, economic and commercial environment. It places the consumer, both collector and mainstream, firmly at the centre of its thinking. Four key areas have been identified in the Strategic Plan as having the potential to yield greatest results for effort and resources expended. These are: image and positioning, market-led craft, easy access to crafts and developing craft enterprises.

A number of new market-led programmes were initiated in 2007. These include enhanced partnerships with key national and local support agencies including Enterprise Ireland as well as County Enterprise Boards and Leader Groups and the start of a number of new retail initiatives, including Craft Regional Outlets and a dedicated craft shopping area in a selected Garden Centre.

We were also delighted to see the launch of a new Collectors club for craft collectors and enthusiasts entitled Álainn. Finally, The National Craft Gallery for a second year running had a significant presence at SOFA1 the Exposition in Chicago, which was very well received by collectors and media alike and led to important linkages for future development.

In September 2007 we welcomed Úna Parsons as our new Chief Executive. Úna is a Chartered Engineer with a wealth of experience and achievement in industry at all levels in Ireland and internationally. She also has a lifelong passion and interest in craft and is a collector in her own right. We are fortunate to have the talents and experience of Úna and we wish her well in leading and managing the Crafts Council as it moves into what promises to be a most exciting phase in our strategic development.

We extend a special thanks to Sarah Daly who was interim CEO from January 2007 to August 2007. Sarah maintained the focus and motivation of the organisation during a challenging time of change. We are indebted to her for fulfilling the role with integrity and accomplishment.

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1 Sculptural Objects & Functional Art
I would like to also acknowledge, on behalf of the craft industry, the excellent support provided by Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment - and to thank Minister Micheál Martin T.D. for his enthusiasm for and continued support of this vibrant sector. I wish him well in his new role as Minister for Foreign Affairs. I would also like to welcome Minister Mary Coughlan T.D., to the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment and look forward to working with her in furthering the role of the craft sector in contributing to government economic policies including its contribution to regional and tourism development and overall creativity in our society. I would also like to thank Minister for Trade and Commerce John McGuinness, T.D., who has shown great enthusiasm for the future development of the Irish crafts industry and who has provided ongoing support and encouragement to us throughout 2007.

I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow Board members and to the staff of CCOL for the work completed in the first year of the Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009. Already we can see the start of the significant changes that are to take place over the coming years - to secure a better and continued vibrant Irish Crafts Industry into the future.

Gerry Wycherley
Chairman
Tuarascáil an Chathaíocht

Ba threímhse forbartha suntasach i 2007 do Chomhairle Ceardáiochta na hÉireann (CCol). Seoladh á bPlean Straitéiseach a uaillehmhianaí riamh, cuireadh tús le mórán cláir nua atá faoi chinnireacht an mhargaidh agus tháinig Úna Parsons chuig an eagraíocht mar Príomhfhéidhmeannach.

Tá sé de dhualgas ar Chomhairle Ceardáiochta na hÉireann na scileanna agus an cheardaíocht atá againn ó dtús agus atá á thabhairt ar aghaidh anois ag go leor ceardáithe ar fud na tíre a chaomhnaí, a fheabhsú agus a bhforbairt. Tá a lán oibreacha iontacha tarthaithe ag an scil agus ag an gceardaíocht seo cosúil le Leabhar Cheannannais, Cailís Ardach, tunneoga gloine dhaite de chuid Harry Clarke agus ceirmacht de chuid John French. Tá sé mar chuim de cad a chiallaíonn sé le bheith Éireannach agus cuid dair rannnóideacht chuig saibhreas cultúrtha na hÉireann agus ar fud an domhain. Tá sé mar chuim chomh maith, d’áilleacht na ceirde agus rud uathúil a dhéanamh de láimh, rud gur féidir a bhfeidhmhacht is speag Éigil ag an am céanna.

Tá an ait mhargaidh náisiúnta agus domhanda ag dul trí mhóirathru agus aisteí agus luaí nár tharla ríomh. Is i an t-aon síl gur féidir lenár n-oibríthe ceirde agus an earnáil ceardaíochta mar iomlán dul in iomaíocht agus a chuid réasúnta a shaothrú sa chaomhshaoil tráchtála seo atá de shíor ag éirí níos dúshláiní agus níos conta nó trí tuiscint nó fhearr a fháil ar ríochtanna na háite mar gheall ar mhargaidh nua agus ríochtanaí thomhailteoirí an lae inniu. Is i aithníomh na Comhairle Ceardáiochta ná tacaíocht a thabhairt d’oibríthe ceirde ar fud na tíre chun an sproic seo a bhaint amach agus chun oibríthe leo agus a gceird agus a gnó a chur chun cinn.

Cuireann a Plean Straitéiseach trí bliana nua de chuim Comhairle Ceardáiochta na hÉireann [2007 - 2009] leis an sean-phlean straitéiseach agus forbráon é s’ar a chuid oibre ag tabhairt tacaíocht do ghnóthóirí ceirde agus le gnóthóirí ceirde a chur chun cinn. Tá sé bunaithe ar léargas isteach i ndearcadh agus rompar na dtomhailteoirí agus an gá chuim oiriúnú d’athruiteach a tharla le dánaisa sa chomhshaoil sóisialta, eacnamaíoch agus tráchtála. Cuireann sé an tomháiltir, idir chnuasaithéora agus príomhshrutha arao, go lóidir i gcroílár a chuid snaoinimh. Tá ceithre réimsí lárnaí ar isteach sa Phlean Straitéiseach a bhfuil an cumas acmhainneacha acu na torthaí is fearr a fháil d’onn iarracht agus ó ná haicmhainní a úsáideadh. Is iad seo ná: lómhá agus linné, ceird agat faoi chinireacht an mhargaidh, rochtain éasca chuir ceirdanna agus forbairt a dhéanamh ar fhiontar choirde.

Cuireadh tús le roint cláir nua atá faoi chinireacht an mhargaidh i 2007. Ina measc súd tá rannpháirtíochtaí feabhsaithe le príomh-ghníomhaireachtach tacaíochta áitúla agus náisiúnta lena n-aíréitear Enterprise Ireland chomh maith le Bord Fhiontaithe Chontae agus Grúpaí Leader agus tosú roint tionscnamh mhiondóilé, lena n-aíréitear Asraonta Ceirde Réigínúchacha agus limistéar tiomnaithe do shiopadóireacht ceirde in Ionad Gareadóireachta ar leith.

Bhí áthas orainn chomh maith le an seoladh de chlub Cnuaasaitheoirí nua i gcóir cnuaasaitheoirí agus díograiseoirí ceirde darbh ainm Álainn a fheiceáil. Ar deireadh, don dara bhliain as a chéile, bhí láithriocht suntasach ag an National Craft Gallery ag SOFA1, an Mórthaíseánanta in Chicago, a bhí rathúil go maith le cnuaasaitheoirí agus na meán cumarsáide arao agus tháinig naisc tábhachtach as d’fhobairt sa todhchaí.

Chuireamar fáilte roimh Úna Parsons in Meán Fhómhair 2007 mar áb Príomhfhéidhmeannach nua. Is Innealtóir Cuirte i Úna le mórán taisféas agus éachtá sa tionscal ag gach leibhéil in Éirinn agus go hdirnáisiúnta. Tá páscas agus suim aici le fada an la freisin i ceardaíocht agus is cnuaasaitheoir ina ceart féin. Tá an t-ádh orainn buanna agus taisféar Úna a bhéith againn agus guimid dea-mhéin urrth i gceannaireacht agus i mbainistí na Comhairle Ceardáiochta de réir mar a théann sí ar aithgaidh chuig an pas is corraithí inaír bfhobairt straitéiseach.

1 Ábhair Doibhthaithe & Ealaíne Fheidhmhach
Gabhaimid buíochas speisialta le Sarah Daly a bhí ina CEO eatramhach ó Eanáir 2007 go Lúnasa 2007. Choimeád Sarah an fócas agus an sprearadh don eagraíocht i rith tréimhse athraithe důsthlánáí. Támid i bhfiachra di as ucht an ról a comhlionaigh le hionracas agus le rath.


Ba mhaith liom mo bhúchhas a ghabháil le mo chomhghleacaithe ar an mBord agus an fóirinn an CCoil as ucht an obair a cuireadh i gcónaí sa chead bhliain den Phlean Straitéiseach 2007 - 2009. Támid ábalta túis na n-athruithe suntasacha a fheiceáil cheana féin atá le taltú i gcaithreamh na blianta atá le teacht - d’fhonn Tionscáil Ceardaíochta na hÉireann níos fearr agus níos beoga a dhaingniú isteach sa todhchaí.

Gearáid Ó Fuisirle
Cathaoirleach

Nora Duggan
Chief Executive’s Report

I am delighted to have this opportunity to report, for the first time on the progress, programmes and events completed during 2007 by the Crafts Council of Ireland.

Since taking up my position as Chief Executive in September 2007, I have been impressed by the commitment and dynamism of the crafts sector and by the expertise of the staff and team in Castle Yard, Kilkenny and the Island Mill in Thomastown. Equally, I have been struck by the enormous contribution made by so many of our members through the Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS).

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and contribution of my predecessor Sarah Daly who served as interim Chief Executive and of former Chief Executive Leslie Reed who helped shape the current Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009.

Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009

Whilst the Irish Crafts Industry is an incredibly, innovative and creative enterprising area with huge potential for growth and exploration it is relatively undiscovered by the Irish public. This lack of general public awareness about the craft process, craft products and the craft makers in contemporary Ireland, coupled with the lack of availability of craft product in the retail environment, is the key focus of our Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009. In 2007, the first year of the cycle covered by our Strategic Plan, a number of new programmes were initiated to promote the visibility of craft and to support the makers.

Membership

Our membership grew from 43 organisations at the end of 2006 to 45 at the end of 2007 and our register of craft enterprises grew by over 7% from 1,347 to 1,441. While these modest increases are welcome, it is recognised that more needs to be done to expand the register of members and clients. As a first step a review of CCoi benefits and services was initiated and the new position of Registrar created. This position will be filled in 2008. We also restarted the networking and best practice sharing information seminars for the GANS in October; these meetings were most useful in capturing feedback from members and in updating them on the implementation of our new programmes.

Education, Training & Development

One of the key strands in our Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 is Education at all levels, from the provision of craft teaching at primary level through the promotion of craft as a career at second level to the recruitment of craft graduates at third level. In 2007 *Craft in the Classroom* had a very successful year, at primary school level, where craftspeople collaborated with teachers and schoolchildren to create fabulous work in 15 schools. At Second Level, the FACT Project: ‘Fine Art and Craft Together’ saw us working with local arts education providers - the Butler Gallery and Kilkenny County Council Arts Office - to pilot a collaborative art/craft based project for transition year students. At Graduate and Postgraduate Level, the interest in the 3rd Level Awards continues to grow each year and two awards worth €2,500 were made in 2007.

The high standards of skill and design in the Council’s Ceramics Design & Skills Course, was further acknowledged and recognised when 2007 ceramic student Karen Morgan took the overall prize at the prestigious House and Home/Habitat awards. After completing two years intensive training, the Council’s Jewellery Design & Skills Course students showcased their graduate work in the National Craft Gallery in July. The exhibition was an astounding success with great reviews and reaction from the public.
In relation to Enterprise Development, 2007 saw the start of the new Making It programme which in conjunction with Enterprise Boards, assists start-up businesses to find premises and provides mentoring and training for their first year of operation. The Council also provided Continued Professional Development for more established businesses in the form of workshops, seminars and specific training.

**Market Development**

To enable more direct access to craft by the consumer, the CCol facilitated the bringing together of interested parties with the objective of opening up new regional craft outlets in places where the sector is currently under-represented. 2007 saw the initiation of two retail outlets as well as the opening of a dedicated craft section in an established Garden Centre.

155 craftspeople exhibited at Showcase 2007 with 40 selected for the prestigious Source aisle. Whilst buyer numbers were slightly down, many exhibitors reported higher order levels and there was a definite air of optimism amongst buyers about the trading year ahead.

On the international scene, PORTFOLIO 2007 (a CCol digital catalogue of 67 leading craftspeople) and Irish Craft 2007 were launched at one of the world’s biggest fairs, SOFA, Chicago, USA. We sold over €90,000 of Irish craft in 3 days and attracted an incredible level of high profile media attention. Furthermore, as well as providing valuable introductions to America’s most important galleries, US Collector tours to Ireland also emerged as a significant opportunity for exploration, as major connections were made.

In November CCol launched a new Collectors’ Club entitled Alainn in the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks. This came about as a direct result of the Council’s consumer research and consumer focused Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009, which identified the Collectors Market as one with excellent potential for further exploration and growth.

**Public Affairs & Communications**

To ensure that the Irish craft sector thrives in the future, increasing its visibility is of paramount importance. To begin this process the Council undertook research in order to deepen its understanding of consumer perception and buyer behaviour. The output of this project was the development of a plan for the re-positioning of Irish craft which will form the backbone of a co-ordinated media relations and public information campaign over the coming years.

Throughout 2007, we also continued to celebrate Irish craft and promote more public awareness and recognition. This was achieved primarily through a number of integrated activities arising from our national and international Exhibitions Programme and through the publication of ‘Irish Craft 2007’ produced in association with one of our key partners, the Irish Arts Review. This striking and very welcome publication helped enhance awareness of the variety and quality of work on offer and resulted in major national television coverage which attracted a large Irish audience.

In June 2007, President Mary McAleese formally paid tribute to the major contribution craftspeople have made to the cultural life in Ireland by hosting a special reception in Áras an Uachtarán which was attended by a number of our PORTFOLIO craftspeople as well as staff and board members of CCol and Craft Northern Ireland.

As part of our campaign to make Irish craft more visible we took an information stand, for the first time, at the National Craft and Design Fair at the RDS, Dublin. This proved very productive and has encouraged us to ensure our presence at similar public events in the future.

**Summary**

2007, the first year in the current strategic planning cycle, saw the implementation of specific initiatives designed to develop and support the Irish craft sector. Both consumers and craft enterprises have welcomed this new direction which is being enthusiastically encouraged, at both local and national levels, by our key partners, in particular local Leader and County Enterprise Boards and our key funder and supporter Enterprise Ireland. I would like to thank these organisations for their contribution to our work.
Since joining the Crafts Council in September 2007 I have enjoyed the support of a very committed team whose achievements I would like to applaud. I have also been encouraged by the number of volunteers amongst our members and associates who have contributed most generously in terms of their time and expertise. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our predecessors; clearly a lot of our current success is built on the foundations laid by them. Finally I would like to thank the Chairman and Board of the Crafts Council for their unwavering commitment and support as well as all the Committees who work tirelessly on our behalf. There are some significant challenges ahead of us. I am confident that, with the expertise, enthusiasm and commitment of our staff and membership, we will successfully negotiate the challenges ahead.

Úna Parsons
Chief Executive
An Overview of the Crafts Industry 2007

There are two strands running through the heart of Irish craft - the economic and the aesthetic. Each is dependent on the other. Without a market there will be no craft, but if the craft is not innovative there will be no market. Looking back, the story of the wider Irish craft sector in 2007 is a subtle interplay between the creative energy that drives craft forward and the strategic planning that ensures its viability. It was also a story of the strengthening of interest in craft amongst Irish consumers, as well as its ongoing interest and promotion internationally.

The worth of the Irish Crafts Industry is estimated to be some €122 million (in 2006)² to the Irish economy - highlighting the important economic contribution craft makes. Craft has long been a key element of Ireland’s tourist product. It is part of Irish culture promoted internationally and results in many visitors coming to Ireland to seek an enriching experience of Ireland and its craft. Many also attend craft courses, where they can fully experience the art of the craft and gain a full understanding of the skill and knowledge involved. The possibilities for further growth and exploration in this area are significant and craft has become a focus of Tourism Ireland’s strategy and plan.

Regional craft co-operatives are playing an increasingly important role, particularly in the area of tourism/craft market development. In 2007, the Leitrim Design House published the book Into Leitrim, and launched the corresponding virtual craft trail of 26 studios within the county, while Craftmark had its 4th open studio event. Both Leitrim Design House and Louth Craftmark independently ran business development programmes in 2007, which was also the first full year of trading for Louth Craftmark’s retail gallery in Drogheda. Louth Craftmark continues to work closely with County Down Crafts as part of the cross-border network, Craftmark.

² CCOL Annual Industry Report 2005
Joe Kelly, director of Craft Northern Ireland, sees the current flowering of Northern Irish crafts as the expression of a re-invigorated region moving out of an extended period of isolation. ‘The craft economy is still tight for the individual maker,’ said Kelly, ‘but there are new economic possibilities. Ten years ago there was very little tourism in Northern Ireland, but this is improving dramatically. The craft sector still needs to make itself more visible and a lot of our work is about building partnerships and engaging with grassroots stakeholders.’ In the summer of 2007, Made in Northern Ireland: A Dynamic of Change, a three part exhibition referencing Northern Ireland’s strength in traditional textiles through linen, glass, jewellery, silver and ceramics, travelled to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, as part of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and the Rediscover Northern Ireland programme. The exhibition was also shown in Belfast’s Ormeau Baths Gallery in August 2007 as Making Changes: Contemporary Craft in Northern Ireland. Other key events included August craft month, which featured Craft Fest, an annual event run by Craftmark, the cross border network and an ongoing series of masterclasses organised by University of Ulster in conjunction with the Ormeau Baths Gallery.

In terms of its cultural significance, the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) has significantly added to its contemporary collection of craft. In 2007 it acquired ceramics by Stefanie Dinkelbach, Elaine Riordan, and Frances Lambe, glass by Peadar Lamb and Paula Stokes, and silver by Michael McCrory under the joint purchase scheme (CCol & NMI). Jennifer Goff, appointed as curator of furniture in 2007, has also instigated the purchase of a piece by the cabinetmaker, John Lee. Goff, who feels that it is important for the museum to support Irish design as well as craft, visited the Irish exhibits at 100% Design, London, in 2007 and proposed that the museum purchases the Gabriel sideboard by the Cork design company, Nest.

Throughout 2007 there were several other initiatives that have helped raise the profile of Irish craft, among them the publication of the Irish Arts Review First Annual Craft Edition late in 2007. Sonya Perkins, Chief Executive, described the Craft Edition as the culmination of several years of working closely with the Crafts Council. ‘Fine craft has a natural home in the Irish Arts Review. It’s a particularly dynamic area at the moment and we’re very committed to promoting its collectability. The Craft Edition pulled all the elements together with a review of the year and a showcase of each member of CCol’s PORTFOLIO. We have a readership of 50,000 so it reached a lot of people, both in Ireland and overseas, and there was an overwhelmingly positive response.’

During 2007, a significant amount of Irish craft and craftspeople were aired on National television via the Nationwide series on RTÉ, including a feature on Stephen Pearce, on 11 April, coverage of the Wild Geese Exhibition in Kilkenny on 16 April, and a feature on the Cork Potter, Robb Bradstock, on 16 July. Other developments in communication across the sector included a crafts news blog, irishcraftupdate.com, launched by Karen Harper in response to the huge demand for a site where craftspeople can network with each other and where the public can find out about crafts courses.

Looking to the high-end Collectors field, some interesting comments were raised by the collector and visual arts activist Mary Gallagher. ‘Something needs to be done to raise interest in collecting the applied arts and to raise the profile of craft in the country, because currently it’s hidden,’ said Mary. She also welcomed the new collectors club, Álann, launched in November 2007 by the Crafts Council. ‘It’s a very good idea to create a network and a forum for people who collect. It helps you to exchange ideas and gives you a chance to show off the work you got!’ Gallagher felt that the exhibitions that worked best in 2007 were those with a strong idea behind them and highlighted Seventeen Prime Makers, a Ceramics Ireland exhibition at Farmleigh Gallery, in terms of both content and venue. Internationally, she felt that Origin, the British Crafts Council show at Somerset House, was an interesting and accessible show.

On a broader spectrum, the increasing contribution made to the craft sector by people coming to live in Ireland from overseas has also been noted, with some talented makers, (like the Slovakian ceramicist Bozena Chandogova), coming to the country as students or graduate students. The National College of Art and Design sees between 25 and 30 students graduate annually from the Department of Ceramics, Glass and Metals, with a further five students obtaining postgraduate degrees. Around 30 students also graduate each year in Fashion and Textiles. Recent changes
in curriculum have incorporated new digital technologies in all areas and programmes, like the Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Newbridge Silverware, are helping to forge strong links between design teaching and industry. The faculty of design also organises a number of annual seminars to help bridge the gap between academia and the design industry.

The level of entries for particular categories in the RDS National Crafts Competition is a good benchmark for the health of individual craft disciplines. Johanna Suhr of the RDS noticed a particular leap in the standard of contemporary embroidery, exemplified by the work of Aileen Johnston, winner of the Award of Excellence. In response to the current strength of digitally printed textiles, next year’s competition will include a new multimedia category.

Craft is only sustainable when people are buying it, and many of those involved in craft express concern at fluctuating exchange rates, the spectre of an American recession, and the increasing importation of well designed handmade products from the Far East. The jury is still out on how these changes will impact Irish craft, but there is general agreement that innovation is the key to survival. Enterprise Ireland reports a high correlation between innovation, new product development, and business success and emphasises the need for creativity if Irish craft is to survive in a period of economic uncertainty.

For Waterford Crystal the highpoint of the year was the launch of their jewellery, but Brian Magee, sales and marketing director of Waterford Crystal, sees the influx of Asian products as a serious threat to the craft industry in Europe. ‘Small operators will survive by going upmarket, using precious materials and charging more, or by innovation. If you’re not incredibly innovative and clever, you haven’t a chance.’

Kathleen Moran, owner of the Kilkenny Design Centre, feels that there will be a swing back towards Irish handmade products. She backed up this conviction by re-branding her business as the ‘Kilkenny Design Craft Centre’ in 2007. ‘Our ethos is Irish craft and at the moment we’re deeply positioning ourselves by putting the word ‘craft’ in our business name.’ Moran thinks that there is currently a gap in the market for well-designed Celtic gifts in the €15 - €35 price point. Mary Lincoln, owner of Ardmore Pottery and Craft Shop in Co. Waterford, also feels that the public is finding it difficult to find handmade Irish goods of high quality and that this is largely due to the proliferation of imports and the decline of craft shops. She also finds that, as a buyer, it is becoming difficult to source Irish knitwear.

Pat McCarthy, craft consultant, agrees that retailers are showing a new respect and interest in craft. ‘Brown Thomas and Liberties of London are starting to look away from the big global brands and towards smaller and more specialist players who can provide something special. Retailers are increasingly dissatisfied with quality, sampling, and delivery when they source products from the Far East. They are looking at how they can source products more locally.’

In October 2007, the ‘Designyard Gallery’ moved to much larger premises on Dublin’s Nassau Street, directly opposite Trinity College. Despite the obviously tourist-orientated location, initial reports reflect a marked increase in Irish clientele with a particular interest in high-end sculptural pieces in metal, by Seamus Gill and Liam Butler, and in fused glass by Michael Ray. Contemporary jewellery is also strong, with a reported increase in younger buyers. This trend was also experienced by John Condon of Fado Jewellery, who noticed that more people were buying jewellery for themselves, rather than as gifts, in 2007. The growth occurred in the retail price bracket of €600 and over, and was consistent in both Ireland and the US. Condon linked this change with the increase in the price of gold and the consequently heightened awareness of its preciousness. He also reported that the decline of the dollar in 2007 put an extra strain on people trading in the US and bringing back their revenue to Ireland.

The trade fairs reflect the trading market, and Gerry Murphy, director of Showcase [Ireland’s largest gift and craft trade show], described 2007 as a good year with the stands sponsored by the County and City Enterprise Boards [CEBs] and LEADER groups as especially promising and fruitful. ‘This is the route for new craft enterprises to find a market,’ he said, ‘and new exhibitors and new merchandise are the lifeblood of any show.’
In 2007, 14 CEBs assisted 37 clients to exhibit at Showcase, and Kilkenny, Offaly, and Westmeath CEBs also undertook business development training programmes for small craft businesses. In County Cork, West Cork, South Cork, and Cork City CEBs came together to launch a combined business and development programme for the craft and gift sector.

Joe Kelly, Director of Craft Northern Ireland, also emphasises the importance of supporting and investing in both the creative and the business sides of the sector. ‘In 2007 a new batch of emerging makers joined Craft NI’s launch of making it 07, a two-year business start-up programme aimed at nurturing young talent in Northern Ireland.’

Irish people are still prepared to spend money on craft. The Christmas Craft Fair Dublin 2007 was the biggest yet, with over 400 exhibitors, and visitors spending an estimated €5 million. The ongoing relationship between craft and design was another positive element of the year. ‘Many customers like a handcrafted look and feel to pieces. Good production design enables lower prices while maintaining the key elements of human skill and material insight,’ commented the furniture designer Leo Scarff. This was underpinned by the Interior Design Show Dublin 2007 where designers like Shane Holland, Christine Hughes, Joseph Walsh, and Klimmek & Henderson, displayed high-end interior products that were partially or entirely handcrafted.

Overall, it would appear that 2007 was a year of significant change for the Industry, where businesses have had to face up to the on-going threats of cheap imports and competition from abroad. On the positive side, however, it has been a year of activity nationally and internationally where Irish craft has achieved high visibility and recognition. Perhaps most encouraging is the heightened interest with Irish consumers in Irish craft and a recognition of its uniqueness, quality and innovation. This change in perception bodes well for the Industry as its meets the consumer demand for expression of their own individuality and allows crafts people express and, ultimately make a business from, their craftsmanship, skill and recognised creativity.
Our Board Members 2007

Ministerial Nominees
Gerry Wycherley Chairman
Jean Byrne (re-appointed 13/9/07)
Jim Dunne (re-appointed 13/9/07)
Anna Foy (re-appointed 13/9/07)
Paddy Hopkins (appointed 28/2/07)

Elected Representatives
Christine Charlton
Sarah Daly (re-elected 19/6/07)
JP Donnelly
Emmet Kane (re-elected 19/6/07)
Anne Montgomery
Beth Moran
Loretta O’Brien
Laura O’Hagan (re-elected 19/6/07)
Peter Pollock
David Shaw-Smith

Founding Members
Patsy Duignan
Mary Mullin
Blanaid Reddin
Betty Searson
Our Executive Team

Úna Parsons
Chief Executive Officer (September - December 2007)

Sarah Daly
Interim Chief Executive Officer (January - August 2007)

Craft Education, Training and Development

Sharon Rollston
Education Programme Manager

Amanda Walsh
Education Programme Administrator

Gus Mabelson
Ceramic Design and Skills Training Course Co-ordinator

Jane Huston
Jewellery Design and Skills Training Course Co-ordinator

Emer Ferran
Enterprise Development Programme Manager

Mary Whelan
Enterprise Development Programme Administrator

Market Development

Nicola Doran
Retail Market Programme Manager

Cornelia McCarthy
Collectors Market Programme Manager

Vincent O’Shea
Exhibitions Programme Manager

Brian Byrne
Exhibitions Programme Assistant

Public Affairs and Communications

Caroline O’Riordan
Communications and Information Manager

Mary O’Shea/Emma Briscoe
Communications/Information Administrator (Job-share)

Operations

Nuala McGrath
Administration Manager

Breda Butler
Receptionist/Administrator

Mary Blanchfield
Finance Manager

Julie Jackman
Finance Administrator
Our Member Organisations

An organisation of organisations

The Crafts Council of Ireland is a limited company. The Council’s shareholders are represented by member organisations and institutions, which share the Council’s aims and objectives and are involved in the promotion of contemporary and traditional craft.

Members are:

- Subscribers to the Memorandum of Associations (founders) - 4
- Persons nominated by the Board of Crafts Council of Ireland to represent unincorporated associations upon which the Board may wish to confer the benefit of membership (Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS) - 35
- Corporate bodies (institutions, partners) - 10
- Individual persons whom the Board of Crafts Council of Ireland shall from time to time decide to admit to membership

Organisational membership confers:

- The right at an AGM to question the Council’s Board on their presentation of the Council’s activity and financial accounts of the previous year.
- The right to nominate any candidate to the Board of Directors.
- The right to vote candidates onto the Board of Directors.

Members are made up of the following:

Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS) and also corporate bodies that are typically institutions and partners.

The GANS represent the backbone of the Crafts Council’s clients and craft in Ireland. With the support of CCiO the GANS ran a very successful seminar in November 2007. This event restarted as a result of requests made at the Council’s AGM in June 2007. Essentially this was a strategic planning meeting for the GANS for 2007 – 2009 to explore how they could support the Council’s Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 and how the Council could provide support to their activities in helping sustain and grow both contemporary and traditional crafts in Ireland. It provided an abundance of vital feedback. This has marked a resurgence of a group that is hugely important to the Crafts Council of Ireland. We would like to welcome our new members Dunbrody Textile Academy.

Network Support Scheme

The following groups received financial support totalling €33,000 from the Crafts Council of Ireland in 2007.

- Feltmakers
- Ceramics Ireland
- Embroidery Artists
- Wexcraftnet
- Donegal Craft Village
- Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers
- Hands On
- Louth Craftmark Designers Network
- West Cork Craft & Design
- Irish Basket Makers Association
- Cork Textiles Network
- Westmeath Craft Guild
- The Design Tower
List of Member Organisations as of 31st December 2007

GANS Members - 20 by Craft Discipline

- Ceramics Ireland
- Dunbrody Textile Academy
- Embroidery Artists
- Feltmakers Ireland
- Federation of Jewellery Manufacturers in Ireland (FJMI)
- Guild of Irish Lacemakers
- Handweavers Guild of Cork
- Institute of Designers in Ireland
- Irish Artists Blacksmiths Association
- Irish Basketmakers Association
- Irish Guild of Embroiderers
- Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers
- Irish Knitwear Exporters’ Guild (IKEG)
- Irish Patchwork Society
- Irish Woodturners Guild
- Na Piobairi Uíleann
- Peannairí
- Quilters Guild of Ireland
- Society of Cork Potters
- Weaving Works

GANS Members - 14 by Region

- Cavan Monaghan Art & Craft Network
- Clare Association of Artists & Craftworkers
- Cork Textiles Network Group
- County Down Crafts
- Craftmark - Cross Border Network
- Royal Dublin Society
- Spiddal Craft Centre
- The Fire Station Artist’s Studio
- The Leitrim Design House
- Tower Design Group
- West Cork Arts Centre
- West Cork Craft & Design Guild
- West Kerry Crafts Guild
- Wexcraftnet Ltd

10 Corporate Members

- Association of CEO’s of City & County Enterprise Boards
- Country Markets Limited
- Crawford College of Art and Design
- Crawford Municipal Art Gallery
- Irish Countrywomen’s Association
- Limerick School of Art & Design
- National Committee for Science and Engineering Commemorative Plaques
- National College of Art & Design
- Network of Craft Development Officers
- University of Ulster
Summary of Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009

The Crafts Council of Ireland’s (CCol) role is to help sustain and further grow the Irish Crafts Industry - estimated in 2006 to be worth some €122 million annually to the Irish economy. The Council’s Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 is designed to build on its previous policies for the sector - Design, Marketing, Recognition, Education and Knowledge. These policies resulted in an increase in domestic consumer spend on craft in the region of €24m from 2003 to 2006 despite tough market conditions.

The national and global marketplace has changed dramatically in recent years - at a pace never before experienced. The aim of the Council’s Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 is to use its knowledge of both the market and the consumer to equip the craft sector with the information and skills necessary to compete and prosper in this dynamic environment.

The current plan is based on its insights into consumer attitudes and behaviour revealed in its research and recent changes [and impending changes] in the social, economic and commercial environment. CCol’s research has emphasised the need for the industry to be more responsive to changing patterns of consumption and in this Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009, the Council places the consumer firmly at the centre of its thinking. Key issues have been identified as having the potential to yield greatest results for effort and resources expended and these are developed in the following areas.

Education, Training and Development

To create a greater awareness of Irish craft at 1st, 2nd and 3rd level to help sustain the industry into the future. To work with craftspeople to facilitate the growth of their businesses in a way that fulfills their creative and commercial ambitions.

Market Development

To stimulate the creation of Irish craft that directly relates to consumer needs and preferences, in terms of product design, quality, and craftsmanship. To make craft products more accessible to consumers. This will mean exploring a variety of ways to bring craft to consumers.

Public Affairs and Communication

To promote Irish craft and design as an attractive and valuable alternative for the consumer and as an expression of contemporary Ireland. Through a dedicated Public Relations programme the Council aims over time to increase public awareness of the Irish craft offering, its uniqueness, the story behind the work and maker and where to find Irish craft.

The main focus and driving force of the CCol’s strategic objectives continues to be raising the turnover of the sector and the income of craftspeople. Understanding the consumers’ needs, providing the consumer with access to craft that fulfills these needs and raising consumers’ awareness of the range, diversity and quality of market-driven craft products are therefore all central to this plan.

Supporting and facilitating this activity are programmes designed to attract new talent to the industry, encourage school-leavers and graduates into the sector and facilitate the commercial development of new and emerging craft enterprises in partnership with City and County Enterprise Boards and other support agencies and educational bodies. New talent is the lifeblood of every sector and the CCol aim to ensure the sustainability of the craft industry in the long term by attracting, developing and supporting new and existing talent. Further details of 2007 programmes are outlined overleaf.

The CCol has invested substantially over the past years in understanding the consumer and the marketplace. From this research there is clear evidence that consumers are becoming more sophisticated and demand non-standardised, innovative and better-designed products. The international trend is moving away from mass produced, brand-led, ‘designer’ products towards the more creative, authentic and unique products that are design-led and quality-driven, but which offer consumers the opportunity to express their individuality, their personality and their sense of self. Craft is ideally placed to meet consumers’ desires to differentiate themselves and their homes - the aim of the plan is to ensure that craft enterprises are fully equipped to avail of this commercial opportunity.

We look forward to seeing the results in the years to come.
Craft Education, Training and Development

Key Objective
To create a greater awareness of Irish craft at 1st, 2nd and 3rd level to help sustain the industry into the future. To work with craftspeople to facilitate the growth of their businesses in a way that fulfils their creative and commercial ambitions.

1. Craft Education

Programme Activity 2007

Craft in the Classroom
A residency scheme designed specifically to inspire primary school children through the craft making process during their early developmental years.

In 2007, 15 craftspeople were paired with primary schools in counties Carlow and Wexford.

The second year of Craft in the Classroom, culminated in 2007 with a review day, which gave the 2006/7 participants the opportunity to share and celebrate their achievements. The Review also enabled feedback and input into the development planning process for the next Phase.

FACT (Fine Art and Craft Together)
A Pilot Programme to develop a model of practice for artists and craft makers working with transition year students.

In 2007 the Crafts Council of Ireland, Butler Gallery, and Kilkenny County Council’s Arts Office developed a collaborative art/craft based pilot project [FACT] for transition year students in the Kilkenny area. The school programme ran for a period of 20 hours over 10 weeks from September to December 2007 and involved three schools - Grennan College, Thomastown, Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale and Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny. Each school was paired with six visual artists and designer makers, they were; Polly Minett (paper making) and Frances Traynor (glass), Brigitta Varadi (textiles) and Anne Harrington-Rees (fibre/basketry), Ann Mulrooney (sculpture) and Debra Bowden (print making). An exhibition took place in January 2008.

3rd Level Awards
An all-island award scheme to support final year undergraduates and postgraduates who demonstrate most potential to progress to craft-based practice beyond their current studies.

2007 saw the success of the second annual 3rd Level Awards Scheme. Two awards of €2,500 were made following interviews of all nominees by an independent selection panel. The postgraduate award was made to Derek Wilson, MA Fine and Applied Arts Graduate of the University of Ulster; the undergraduate award went to Gearoid Muldowney of the National College of Art and Design’s Craft Design programme, specialising in metals.

Educational/Information Stands
In Autumn 2007, CCoI participated in a public education/information event at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, which aimed to encourage and promote participation and employment in the cultural and creative sectors. The public feedback and response to CCoI’s presence at this event was very positive.

Education Committee
In 2007 an Education Committee was established to review options on the future of the Council’s ceramics and jewellery training courses. The committee recommended that research be commissioned resulting in the production of a report - an influencing tool for government which will inform the strategic development of craft education and training in Ireland, and the future of the Crafts Council’s current education and enterprise development programmes. This recommendation was approved by the Board and the study is being carried out in 2008.
2. Skills Training

Programme Activity 2007

Ceramic Design and Skills Training Course
A two year CCol training course in ceramic technical and design skills.
The Course, which started in 2006 and will run to July 2008 has 12 students.

CCol’s Jewellery Design and Skills Training Course
A two year CCol training course in jewellery technical and design skills.
11 jewellery course students successfully graduated from the course in 2007, culminating with a Graduate Show in the National Craft Gallery in July, which proved very popular with the public and media and generated substantial sales. A new group of 12 students started in Autumn 2007.

Accreditation of Crafts Council of Ireland Courses
Over the period 2005-2007 significant work has been carried out on curriculum development and on the documentation of the Council’s Ceramics and Jewellery Courses, with a view to achieving national accreditation.

In 2007, both the Council’s Quality Assurance Handbook [Training] and the Ceramics Course Curriculum document were completed, with the Jewellery Course Curriculum document scheduled for completion in early 2008.

Further Education Sectoral Activity: FETAC
Since 2005, CCol has participated on FETAC’s Standards Forum, contributing to policy in determining national standards for awards in the Further Education sector.

International
In May 2007 the CCol Education Manager was invited to speak at a round table event on Master Craftsmanship within a conference hosted by The Osservatorio dei Mestieri d’Arte in Florence, Italy. This contribution was well received and allowed the CCol the opportunity to learn from experience of other countries in this area.

Derek Wilson - joint winner of the CCol 3rd Level Awards 2007
3. Enterprise Development

Programme Activity 2007

Seminars
During the year the Crafts Council of Ireland ran a number of very significant seminars to enhance the
businesses of our clients. These included;

Making it in the US - 30th March 2007
The conference shared the experience of American makers of Irish descent. Practical advice, guidance
and mentoring workshops were given to Irish Designer Makers wishing to access the Fine Craft
market in the USA.

The Wild Geese Symposium [public day] - 31st March 2007
The symposium was open to retailers and makers and was the first of its kind run by CColl for the
public. 16 artists, collectors and gallery owners from the US took part, with approximately 100 Irish
delegates participating over the two days. Coinciding with the Wild Geese exhibition in the National
Craft Gallery an ‘in conversation’ session was led by art buyer Dr. Frances Ruane.

The event also enabled CColl to collect key information and research material on up-coming
opportunities in the US and Irish Collector markets.

Training
In 2007 consumer focused training programmes tailored to suit the business needs of craftspeople
were run nationwide. They included;

Getting your Product to Market - A Training Programme designed and run in conjunction with County
Enterprise Boards. In 2007, two programmes were held, one in Kilkenny and one in Westmeath.

Meet the Maker - This Programme provides craft businesses with professional development advice in
production and business through ‘one to one’ mentoring sessions with key business people.

During 2007 these sessions targeted craft businesses seeking to access the Collectors Market. The
Crafts Council plans to further develop this scheme in 2008.

Partnerships
A key focus in 2007 was to grow and develop partnerships with government agencies so as to
enable the delivery of enhanced enterprise services nationwide, tailored towards the needs of the
Crafts Industry.

Key development partners include Enterprise Ireland, the City & County Enterprise Boards,
and Leader groups. Throughout 2007, a number of meetings and advisory sessions were held in
order to promote a joint understanding of the particular needs of craftspeople in enterprise
training programmes.

As a result of this approach a joint training programme Getting your Product to Market was run
during 2007 in conjunction with the County & City Enterprise Boards and a Making it in Business
Programme for emerging craft businesses was developed. This is due to commence in 2008.
Market Development

Key Objective
To stimulate the creation of Irish craft that directly relates to consumer needs and preferences, in terms of product design, quality, and craftsmanship. To make craft products more accessible to consumers. This means exploring a variety of ways to bring craft to consumers.

1. Retail Market

Programme Activity 2007

Showcase
Ireland’s largest gift and craft trade show, held yearly in January in the RDS, Dublin. Showcase Ireland Limited is jointly owned by the organisers EXPO Events Ltd. and the Crafts Council of Ireland.

155 craftspeople exhibited at Showcase 2007, 40 of whom were craftspeople selected for the SOURCE Aisle. This number was up slightly on 2006 but down on previous years.

Key highlights of the 31st Showcase included the new CCoL Lifestyle Area and trend seminars.

Accessibility of Craft Products for Consumers
In line with the strategic objective of making craft products more accessible to consumers, research was undertaken to establish the best format/business model for partnering with Department Stores, Garden Centres and Regional Craft Outlets.

As a result of this work, the Arboretum Garden and Lifestyle Centre, Carlow - the only 5 Star Garden Centre in the country - was selected in 2007 to participate in the CCoL Pilot Project.

Seven craftmakers were selected and plans were agreed to develop a prestigious in-store area, branded as ‘Crafted Design’. CCoL worked with the seven makers and the Arboretum to finalise the

in-store structure, the merchandising and presentation of the craft product. The launch date is planned for March 2008. Discussions are ongoing with selected department stores.

Regional Craft Outlets
A key focus of 2007 was to enable the opening of new Regional Craft Outlets nationwide, primarily in areas where consumer access to craft is low.

Following on the research outlined above and development of an appropriate business model a Call for Expressions of Interest for consortia [made up of craftspeople and interested local funders] to implement regional craft outlets was made. Two projects were selected. The first was a cross county initiative from Offaly and Westmeath, and the second was a two venue initiative in Kerry. A project manager was appointed to assist each consortium throughout 2007. Both projects are now at an advanced stage and will open in Ballinahown, Co Westmeath and in Listowel, Co. Kerry in 2008.

Trend Forecasting
During 2007 extensive trend research was undertaken to look at consumer preferences, global retail trends and sectoral trends.

This information was disseminated via the CCoL client newsletter Stopress and through CCoL seminars. CCoL also worked with global trend forecaster, Michelle Lamb, to develop the Lifestyle Area at Showcase which highlighted key emerging themes and trends.

Retailer Support Programme
Continuing CCoL’s Retailer Support Programme research was undertaken to identify retailers’ needs and any gaps in services which may exist. This information will be used to roll out new services and supports for retailers in 2008.
Pricing Research
Extensive consumer research on pricing was undertaken in early 2007 and the results were disseminated via the CCoL client newsletter Stopress and CCoL seminars.

eBay Information
CCoL ran a series of articles on E-Bay to inform craftspeople on the use of E-Bay as a direct route to market. CCoL also worked with E-Bay to develop a seminar which was aimed specifically at craftspeople on how best to use E-bay. This seminar, which was held in the Autumn received a great response from many craftspeople interested in exploring on-line opportunities for their businesses.

New Product Development
The 50% scheme offers makers the opportunity to secure 50% of the cost of developing new, market-led product.

In 2007, 13 craftspeople received awards to develop new products for specific market opportunities.
2. Collector Market

Exhibitions Programme and the National Craft Gallery
The National Craft Gallery (NCG) was established by the Crafts Council of Ireland in December 2000, and presents dynamic and groundbreaking exhibitions from home and abroad. Its aim is to provide a stimulating and innovative programme of exhibitions of the best in Irish and international craftsmanship at the NCG and its touring programme.

2007 was the eighth year of operation and the busiest to date with 17 NCG exhibitions (3 from overseas and 6 touring shows visiting UK, Northern Ireland and USA).

The National Craft Gallery was visited by c.74,000 people in 2007.

A number of publications/catalogues were produced to coincide with gallery exhibitions, including; Ecology Mythology Technology, The Light Fantastic: Irish Stained Glass Art, A Life of Colour - John fFrench, Irish ceramic Artist, A Retrospective Exhibition 1951-2007, Wild Geese: The Irish in America and Irish Contemporary Ceramics.

The Exhibition Advisory Panel was formed in the latter part of 2007. Its objective is to prepare a policy which enables the staging of challenging exhibitions which promote creativity and quality within the craft sector and provides a context within which exhibitions are planned, staged and reviewed.

National Craft Gallery 2007 Exhibitions Programme
Features of the National Craft Gallery’s 2007 Exhibitions Programme included;

Tradition Transformed: Contemporary Korean Ceramics - showing the work of 30 Korean artists, many of international standing. The exhibition was opened by Korean Ambassador Kwon Jong Rak.


A symposium entitled Making it in the USA and a series of talks hosted by Dr Frances Ruane were organised around the exhibition. The exhibition was covered on RTÉ’s Nationwide television programme.

Quilt Art 20 - this touring exhibition celebrated the 20th anniversary of a group of dynamic quilters from America, Europe and Ireland.

Seomra - a stylish survey of contemporary Irish furniture and decorative objects.

CCol’s Jewellery Design & Skills Course - featured the work of the twelve 2007 graduates.

The Light Fantastic: Irish Stained Glass Art - celebrated contemporary practitioners of Ireland’s proud tradition of stained glass art. Curated by Mary Boydell, President of the Glass Society of Ireland and Audrey Whitty, Curator of Applied Arts at the National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks.

A Life of Colour - a retrospective exhibition of the work of celebrated ceramicist John fFrench, curated by Peter Lamb.

Ecology Mythology Technology - a collaboration of designer/makers and leading Irish architects, presented innovative work for tomorrow’s interior. Curated by Brian Kennedy, the exhibition was opened by Minister John McGuinness TD.

Regional Touring Exhibitions
CCol supported a range of regional touring exhibitions across the island of Ireland during 2007 including:

Side by Side at the Hunt Museum, Limerick - contemporary Irish craft stood alongside one of Ireland’s great collections.

In all over 2,000 people visited CCol regional exhibitions in 2007.
International Exhibitions:

During 2007 CCol actively supported the exhibition and promotion of Irish craft abroad by bringing the following shows to key events and locations:

*St. Patrick’s Presence, Leicester Square, London* - a stunning collection of the very best of contemporary Irish craft was on display at part of the London’s St Patrick’s Day celebrations.

*Seomra @ SEMA* - this exhibition of contemporary furniture and decorative objects toured to one of Paris’s leading venues.

*NCG @ SOFA, Chicago* - NCG played host to 18 of Ireland’s leading craftspeople at the 14th Annual international Exposition of Sculpture Objects & Functional Art [SOFA].

In all almost 45,000 people visited the international CCol exhibitions.

Partnerships with US Galleries and SOFA Chicago 2007

For the second year, the Crafts Council took a major booth at the *Sculptural Object Functional Art (SOFA)* show in November 2007. The Show is ‘the’ marketplace for the fine art community - galleries, curators and fine craft press and high-end collectors with over 40,000 collectors attending.

Curated by Brian Kennedy, a range of work by 17 Irish designer makers was shown including furniture, baskets, jewellery, woodturned objects, ceramics and textiles. The total value of sales was $125,900 (€90,500). The Irish work was not only well received by the buying public and press, but linkages were made with US galleries to show Irish work all year round.

A significant outcome of *SOFA 2007* is the number of collector groups, galleries and press that are interested in coming to Ireland on a fact-finding mission in 2008 to explore the possibilities of bringing US Collector tours to Ireland.

Irish Craft 2007 - a CCol publication with the Irish Arts Review and Standard Setters

A 64 page publication entitled *Irish Craft 2007* was produced for the Winter edition of the Irish Arts Review publication.

This was distributed through the Irish Arts Review to 15,000 people interested in Irish visual culture and to collectors attending SOFA Chicago 2007. In addition, the Irish Arts Review continues to profile Irish designer makers in the editorial *Design Portfolio* section in the magazine. Four Standard Setters, [1-page advertorial on a single maker in each issue] were selected by Irish Arts Review for 2007. They were Michael McCrory, Richard Kirk, Bernie Leahy and Denis Brown.

CCol’s PORTFOLIO 2007

Set up in 2005, PORTFOLIO is CCol’s digital catalogue of some of Ireland’s leading craftspeople selected by an International panel of experts.

In 2007, the International selection panel met in September and assessed 83 submissions. Five new members were selected - Michael Moore, Alison Kay, Karen Morgan, Muriel Beckett and Jane Murtagh. The 2008 - 2009 Portfolio will have 45 members.

A highlight of the year was meeting President McAleese at Áras an Uachtaráin in June. CCol PORTFOLIO members, CCol Board members, Craft NI Board, staff of CCol and Craft NI and guests attended. The event received excellent coverage for the PORTFOLIO craftspeople in the regional press.
**Bursary**

The *Bursary Award* is a significant award for craftspeople, worth up to €20,000. It is designed to acknowledge, recognise, and encourage excellence in craftsmanship by enabling makers to access and explore new research opportunities and techniques.

The winner of the 2007 - 2008 awards was Kevin O’Dwyer, Silversmith who was awarded €19,500 to pursue collaborations with leading US glass artists and a key residency that will enable the exploration of integrating glass and silver in new work.

An evaluation of this programme is underway to improve its future delivery.

**Collectors**

CCol is committed to working with key cultural partners to ensure the continued development of a National Contemporary Collection of Irish Craft as well as the on-going purchasing of Irish Craft by the Department of Foreign Affairs

Throughout 2007, the *Joint Purchasing CCol Scheme* with the National Museum of Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs continued. Pieces were purchased for embassies in Madrid, Lisbon and the Hague.

**Partnerships with Irish Galleries and Álainn (Collectors Club)**

Research conducted on Irish Collector needs identified that improved ‘access’ and ‘profile raising of artists’ is required to strengthen opportunities in this area. The information gained will become a key focus in the development of all Collector programme activity and partnership building in 2008. The National Craft Gallery took part in a new *Culture Night Kilkenny* trail in December 2007. It is intended to have frequent openings in 2008 which will be further promoted.

**Álainn**

Álainn - A new CCol membership scheme aimed at Collectors and potential Collectors of fine Irish craft was launched at SOFA in November and officially launched in Ireland in Collins Barracks, Dublin. This scheme offers members regular communication on all things to do with fine craft, invitations to gallery openings and special events and discounts on NCG special exhibitions. Initial feedback was very positive for this new initiative which opens up new opportunities for the high-end consumer to access more craft and to meet with the individual makers.

Kevin O’Dwyer
Bursary Winner 2007
Public Affairs and Communications

Key Objective
To promote Irish craft and design as an attractive and valuable alternative for the consumer and as an expression of contemporary Ireland. Through a dedicated Public Relations programme the Council aims over time to increase public awareness of the Irish craft offering, its uniqueness, the story behind the work and maker and where to find Irish craft.

Programme Activity 2007

Consumer Research & Branding
A key focus of the Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 is to raise greater public awareness of Irish craft.

Based on in-depth consumer research, which explored perceptions of Irish craft, buyer behaviour and emerging trends a new proposition for the positioning of Irish craft was developed. This work will be rolled out further in 2008.

Public Relations
Following on from the above a more focused PR campaign with the aim of increasing public awareness of the Irish craft offering and its uniqueness was initiated.

This is a long-term campaign but we are delighted to see that already in 2007 we have secured higher media coverage results including top national television coverage with the Late Late Show, TV3 and Nationwide. Other highlights include our International newspaper coverage on the Crafts Council of Ireland’s presence at SOFA, Chicago in 2007.

Towards the end of 2007 the services of a new digital media monitoring service was employed to help track and measure media results. In total there were 197 CCoI generated media hits recorded for this period.

Advertising/Promotions
In 2007 the CCoI advertised in a number of key retail and educational publications [eg. Irish Arts Review, What’s on, Glance.]

In addition to paid advertising the Council also received a large amount of free publicity through extensive articles in magazine features, including Irish Arts Review, House & Home and Ireland of the Welcomes.

Throughout 2007 a number of key high profile events were held, some of which produced excellent national and International press coverage.

Highlights include:
- Exhibition Openings at the National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny
- SHOWCASE 2007, RDS, Dublin
- Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 Launch, Dublin
- International coverage: SOFA, Chicago (Sculptural Objects & Functional ART)
- Launch of Álainn, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin
- Meeting with President McAleese, Áras an Uachtaráin, Dublin
- Culture Evening, National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny

Photography and Images
The Crafts Council produces a large volume of professional images for a variety of purposes including press, publications and for archive purposes. All these images are held on the Crafts Council of Ireland’s digital Image library and on Image-Bank - an on-line digital bank of press quality images promoted to the press.
At December 2007 there were 670 licensed images available for dissemination to press. Furthermore, a CD of Image-Bank 2007 was produced and distributed to all International journalists who attended SHOWCASE, Ireland’s largest craft and gift trade show.

**Website - www.ccoi.ie**
The Crafts Council of Ireland’s dynamic website www.ccoi.ie continued in 2007 to be utilised as a key information tool for its clients, providing information on up-coming opportunities, news and events, promoting current, past and up-coming National Craft Gallery exhibitions, and hosting over 1000 individual web pages promoting its registered members.

In 2007 a large amount of information and images were uploaded to the site, in particular to the re-developed news and opportunities listings areas. An enhanced Google based search function has also dramatically improved the search capability and has made a significant increase in traffic to the site. The number of visitors to the website in 2007 continued to show an upward trend from 4,371 visitors recorded for the month of December 2006 compared to 9,158 for the same period in 2007 - an increase of 110%.

The total recorded number of visitors for the 12 month period in 2007 was 102,744.

**Publications**
The Crafts Council produced a number of high quality print and digital publications in 2007 to help promote awareness and appreciation of Irish Craft. In addition to the exhibition related publications the Council produced the following Corporate publications:

- **Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009** [Published in digital format only - PDF]
- **Annual Report 2006** [Published in digital format only - PDF]
- **Crafts Council of Ireland bi-monthly newsletter Stopress** - 6 issues.

CD’s produced in 2007 include the **PORTFOLIO 2007** CD (a CCoI digital catalogue of some of Ireland’s leading craftspeople) and the **AVANTcraft DVD**; showcasing highlights of the **AVANTcraft 2005 - 2006 project**. All Crafts Council of Ireland print publications are also made available digitally where possible.

**Information Events**
In 2007 the Crafts Council of Ireland had a presence at a number of events to increase awareness and education of Irish craft. They included; **Showcase International Trade Show; The National Crafts & Design Fair, Dublin** and an educational event at the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

Denis Brown
DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Board of Directors at 29 April 2008
G Wycherley (Chairperson)
D Shaw-Smith
E Kane
J P Donnelly
L O’Hagan
J Byrne
A Montgomery
L O’Brien
P Pollock
S Daly
C Charlton
J Dunne
A Foy
B Moran
P Hopkins

Solicitors
Beauchamps
2 Wellington Quay
Dublin 2

Bankers
Allied Irish Banks plc
Bank Centre Branch
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Bank of Ireland
Parliament Street
Kilkenny

Secretary and Registered Office
Una Parsons
Crafts Council of Ireland, Castle Yard, Kilkenny

DIRECTORS REPORT

The directors present their report together with audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2007.

Directors’ responsibilities for financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirement in preparing the financial statements. The directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and comply with Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2006. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company’s website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.
Books of account

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the company’s obligation to keep proper books of account are the use of appropriate systems and procedures and employment of competent persons. The books of account are kept at Castle Yard, Kilkenny.

Principal activities

The principal activities of Crafts Council of Ireland is the development of the Irish craft industry through programmes in marketing, exhibition, information services and training, which promote the highest standards of excellence in design and marketing throughout the sector.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act

Section 12 of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 requires a statement of payment practice. Crafts Council of Ireland’s payment practice is to pay suppliers within the prescribed payment date as defined by S.I. No. 388 of 2002 (late payment in commercial transactions).

Auditors

The auditors will be appointed in accordance with section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

On behalf of the board

G. Wycherley
P Pollock
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ REPORT

to the members of Crafts Council of Ireland Limited (Limited by Guarantee)

We have audited the financial statements which comprise the income and expenditure account, balance sheet, cash flow statement and related notes. These financial statements however have been prepared under the accounting policies set out in the statement of accounting policies.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors’ responsibilities for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland) are set out in the Statement of Directors’ Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the company’s members as a body in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, and are properly prepared in accordance with Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2006. We state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit, and whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account. We also report to you our opinion as to:  

• whether the company has kept proper books of account;
• whether the directors’ report is consistent with the financial statements.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors’ remuneration and directors’ transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We read the directors’ report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company’s circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements:

• give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company’s affairs as at 31 December 2007 and of its surplus and cash flows for the year then ended; and
• have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2006.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion the information given in the directors’ report is consistent with the financial statements.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Leggettsrath Business Park, Dublin Road, Kilkenny

1st May 2008
### Income and Expenditure Account

**Year ended 31st December 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>4,061,471</td>
<td>3,531,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>[3,662,544]</td>
<td>[3,804,863]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(deficit) for year before taxation</td>
<td>398,927</td>
<td>[273,825]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus retained/(deficit absorbed) for the year</td>
<td>397,177</td>
<td>[273,825]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Movement in Surplus Retained

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at beginning of year</td>
<td>109,958</td>
<td>383,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus retained/(deficit absorbed) for the year</td>
<td>397,177</td>
<td>[273,825]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at end of year</td>
<td>507,135</td>
<td>109,958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All amounts dealt with above relate to continuing operations.

---

**Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Loses**

The company had no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the surplus retained/(deficit absorbed) above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

**Note of Historical Costs Profits and Losses**

There is no difference between the surplus/(deficit) before taxation and the surplus retained/(deficit absorbed) for the year as stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

On behalf of the board

G. Wycherley
P Pollock
### BALANCE SHEET

Year ended 31st December 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>222,299</td>
<td>281,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>222,300</td>
<td>281,332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Current assets**   |       |       |
| Debtors              | 284,883 | 335,114 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 1,218,999 | 932,549 |
|                      | 1,503,792 | 1,267,663 |

| **Creditors**        |       |       |
| - amounts falling due within one year | (1,122,250) | (1,294,023) |
| Net current assets/(liabilities)      | 381,542 | (26,360) |
| Total assets less current liabilities | 603,842 | 256,972 |

| **Creditors**        |       |       |
| - amounts falling due after more than one year | (96,707) | (145,074) |
| Represented by       | 507,135 | 109,958 |

---

### CASHFLOW STATEMENT

Year ended 31st December 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash inflow from operating activities</strong></td>
<td>302,368</td>
<td>282,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taxation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital expenditure and financial investment</strong></td>
<td>(16,008)</td>
<td>(53,020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash inflow before use of liquid resources and financing</strong></td>
<td>286,360</td>
<td>229,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase in cash</strong></td>
<td>286,360</td>
<td>229,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**On behalf of the board**

G. Wycherley  
P Pollock
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies adopted by the company are as follows:

Basis of preparation
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1983 and 1990 to 2006. Accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

Historical cost convention
The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention. The currency used in these financial statements is the euro (€).

Depreciation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets other than leasehold improvements and computer equipment on the straight line basis at the rate of 20% per annum. Depreciation is provided on leasehold improvements and computer equipment at 16½% and 33⅓% respectively per annum on the straight line basis.

Leased assets
Where tangible fixed assets are financed by leasing agreements which give rights approximating to ownership ['finance leases'], they are treated as if they had been purchased outright at their fair value; the corresponding commitments are shown in the balance sheet as finance leases. Depreciation is calculated in order to write off the amounts capitalised over the estimated useful lives of the assets by equal annual instalments.

The excess of the total rentals over the amount capitalised is treated as interest, which is charged to the income and expenditure account in proportion to the amount outstanding under the lease. Leases other than finance leases are operating leases and the rentals thereunder are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the periods of the leases.

Grants
Revenue grants receivable are credited to the income and expenditure account in the same period in which the expenditure to which they relate is charged. Grants relating to fixed assets are treated as deferred credits and are included in the balance sheet and amortised to the income and expenditure account annually over the useful lives of the related fixed assets.

Overhead allocation
All general overhead and administration costs are charged to administration and training administration as appropriate.

Foreign currencies
Assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are translated into euro at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date or where appropriate at the rates specified in related contracts. Differences arising on transactions are included in the results for the year.

2. Company Status

The company was incorporated on 21 September 1976 to promote, encourage and advance the welfare and identity of all crafts. The company does not have a share capital and the liability of the members is limited by guarantee. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of it being wound up, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before he ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required not to exceed one euro.
3. Surplus/(deficit) for the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(deficit) for the year is stated after charging:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- wages and salaries and superannuation payment</td>
<td>653,470</td>
<td>533,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- social welfare costs</td>
<td>65,182</td>
<td>60,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- other pension costs (note 5)</td>
<td>21,700</td>
<td>22,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>740,352</td>
<td>616,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directors’ costs</td>
<td>55,885</td>
<td>13,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditors’ remuneration</td>
<td>6,650</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>75,040</td>
<td>93,707</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Tax on surplus/(deficit) for the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The charge based on the surplus/(deficit) for the year comprises:-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporation tax</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Factors affecting the charge for the year:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(deficit) before tax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(deficit) for the year multiplied by the standard rate of Irish corporation tax 12.5% (2006: 12.5%)</td>
<td>49,866</td>
<td>(34,228)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Effects of:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Items not deductible for tax purposes</td>
<td>2,134</td>
<td>3,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timing differences not provided</td>
<td>4,972</td>
<td>(1,807)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilisation of losses forward</td>
<td>(56,098)</td>
<td>31,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference in rates</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current tax charge for year</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No deferred tax liability was recognised due to the availability of losses coming forward.

5. Pensions

Pension contributions are paid into a unfunded contributory defined benefit scheme administered by the Crafts Council of Ireland.
6. Tangible Fixed Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1st January 2007</td>
<td>288,836</td>
<td>176,986</td>
<td>180,647</td>
<td>2,230</td>
<td>648,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,066</td>
<td>8,942</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31st December 2007</td>
<td>288,836</td>
<td>184,052</td>
<td>189,589</td>
<td>2,230</td>
<td>664,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Depreciation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1st January 2007</td>
<td>94,820</td>
<td>157,819</td>
<td>114,729</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>367,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge for year</td>
<td>46,316</td>
<td>8,426</td>
<td>20,298</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net book value</strong></td>
<td>147,710</td>
<td>165,645</td>
<td>135,277</td>
<td>2,230</td>
<td>422,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest in associated undertaking at cost</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Debtors amounts falling due within one year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sundry debtors</td>
<td>200,079</td>
<td>189,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>84,804</td>
<td>134,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>284,883</td>
<td>335,114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Creditors amounts falling due within one year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trade creditors and accruals</td>
<td>284,751</td>
<td>262,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporation tax</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income received in advance</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>121,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAYE/PRSI</td>
<td>18,169</td>
<td>22,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAT</td>
<td>27,020</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions and union dues</td>
<td>87,373</td>
<td>77,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Ireland (Note 9(i))</td>
<td>454,867</td>
<td>761,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income - unamortised grants (note 10)</td>
<td>48,320</td>
<td>48,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,122,250</td>
<td>1,294,023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income - unamortised grants (note 10)</td>
<td>96,707</td>
<td>145,014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) The amount shown above relates to an advance payment of €751,842 given by Enterprise Ireland during 1998 and 1999 as an interest free loan to the Council to be paid back when European funds were received. €554,857 was received from Europe and is due to Enterprise Ireland, the balance was written off by Enterprise Ireland.

Details of transactions and balances between Crafts Council of Ireland and Showcase Ireland Events Limited are set out in note 16 to the financial statements.
### 10. Deferred Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unamortised grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1st January 2007</td>
<td>€290,000</td>
<td>€290,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions during year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31st December 2007</td>
<td>€290,000</td>
<td>€290,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortisation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 1st January 2007</td>
<td>€94,653</td>
<td>€48,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortised to income and expenditure account</td>
<td>€48,320</td>
<td>€48,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At 31st December 2007</td>
<td>€144,973</td>
<td>€93,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net book value at end of year</td>
<td>€145,927</td>
<td>€193,347</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 11. Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) to net cash inflow from operating activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(deficit) for year before taxation</td>
<td>€398,927</td>
<td>(€273,825)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in debtors</td>
<td>€50,217</td>
<td>€595,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in creditors</td>
<td>(€173,510)</td>
<td>(€84,601)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>€75,040</td>
<td>€93,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant amortisation</td>
<td>€48,320</td>
<td>€48,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net cash inflow from operating activities</td>
<td>€302,368</td>
<td>€282,582</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 12. Gross cash flows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporation tax</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital expenditure and financial investment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets</td>
<td>(€16,008)</td>
<td>(€53,020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt of capital grant</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance leases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 13. Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase in cash</td>
<td>€286,360</td>
<td>€229,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net funds at beginning of year</td>
<td>€932,549</td>
<td>€762,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net funds at end of year</td>
<td>€1,218,909</td>
<td>€932,547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14. Employees
The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was 15 [2006: 15].

15. Capital Commitments
There was no capital expenditure authorised or contracted for at 31 December 2007.

16. Related Party Transactions

17. Approval of Financial Statements
The financial statements were approved by the directors on 29 April 2008.
## Detailed Income and Expenditure Account

**Year ended 31st December 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Ireland</td>
<td>3,250,000</td>
<td>3,055,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programmes and gallery exhibitions</td>
<td>53,649</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showcase trade fair income</td>
<td>309,487</td>
<td>276,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short courses and consultancy</td>
<td>3,771</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry revenue</td>
<td>10,131</td>
<td>15,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council member subscriptions</td>
<td>5,712</td>
<td>4,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft industry contributions</td>
<td>4,372</td>
<td>33,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Interreg IIIB</td>
<td>31,406</td>
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**Net surplus/(deficit) for year**

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Appendices
Appendices

1. History of the Crafts Council

The Crafts Council of Ireland (CCol) is the national design and economic development organisation for the craft industry in Ireland. Its activities are funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment via Enterprise Ireland.

In 1970 the World Crafts Council Conference was brought to Ireland, organized by the Irish Society for Design and Craftwork, Dr Muriel Gahan, the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) and Blanaid Reddin among others. It was an event which inspired many and which resulted the following year in the formation of the Crafts Council of Ireland as a voluntary body under the chairmanship of Frank Sutton, with a committee of honourary officials. The RDS provided office facilities and subscriptions were raised by members.

In 1976 the Council became a Limited Company, was funded to support its mission for the Irish craft industry by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Justin Keating, and was funded by the Industrial Development Authority to employ a staff of two at Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge. Its brief was to work for the improvement of standards in craft and the welfare of craftspeople, and to act as advisors to the Government in matters concerning crafts.

From 1973 to 1983, a Management Committee of fifteen people was elected by ballot at the Council’s Annual General Meeting to devise policy and oversee its implementation by the Secretariat. In 1983, however, the Articles of Association were amended to allow the Minister for Industry and Commerce to nominate five members of the Management Committee, while the remaining ten members continued to be elected by the Council members. Elections are held annually, when the three longest serving elected members retire by rotation. Ministerial appointments are for a period of three years. In order to centralise administration, the Crafts Council moved to Castle Yard Kilkenny in 1997.

Over the years, the aims and objectives of CCol have evolved and developed to meet the needs of the industry and ensure its growth and development. CCol’s third Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 clearly outlines the policy objectives and maps out the activities until the end of 2009.

CCol is based in Kilkenny and employs 13 people full time and a number of part time/temporary contractors and project managers. It has 45 Member Organisations, 1,441 registered crafts enterprises and in 2007 operated with a budget of €4,061,471.
2. List of Committee/Taskforce Members

Audit Committee
Emmet Kane Chairperson
Christine Charlton
Anna Foy
Úna Parsons
Peter Pollock

Exhibitions Advisory Panel
Mary Gallagher Chairperson
Jean Byrne
Sarah Daly
Beth Moran
Úna Parsons

*Finance Committee
Gerry Wycherley Chairperson
Sarah Daly
Paddy Hopkins
Laura O’Hagan
Úna Parsons

Education Committee
Jim Dunne Chairperson
Anne Montgomery
Loretta O’Brien
Laura O’Hagan

*The primary objective of the Finance Committee is to:
- Assist the Board in overseeing financial risk
- Manage strategy, policy and treasury transactional matters delegated to it by the Board
- Review and approve major financial transactions on behalf of the Board
3. Register of Craft Enterprises

The Register of Craft Enterprises is a database of craftspeople who are, in essence, the clients of CCoI and to whom all projects, services and activities are tailored.

There were 1441 craftspeople registered as at 31st December 2007. Registration is dependent on the fulfilment of certain CCoI criteria including:

- Applicants must be a craftsperson as recognised by CCoI, that is ‘one who
  - possessing and using the skills, including the design skills necessary
  - exercises direct control over the shaping, fashioning and use of material and
  over the development and application of design and who then offers these objects
  for sale’
- Design led applicants must be either a designer/maker, designer /manager
  or designer
- Applicants must be resident in Ireland, or else an Irish citizen living within the EU
- Applicants must practice a craft discipline recognised by CCoI (more details are
  available on the CCoI application form).
Registration confers: Access to all CCoI services and activities.

Numbers of crafts people by craft discipline and by geographical region

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Northern Ireland (156)
- Down: 61
- Antrim: 42
- Armagh: 10
- Derry: 12
- Fermanagh: 11
- Tyrone: 20

Overseas (10)
- UK: 9
- Canada: 1

**Total**: 1441

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5. Members’ Reports

CERAMICS IRELAND

Laura O’Hagan, Chairperson, CCol Representative and Féile Clai Project Assistant
Vicki Sutherland, Secretary
Peter Coleman, Treasurer
Patricia Casey, Membership Secretary
Cormac Ó Bréartúin
Paddy Weston
Anrí Ó Braonáin
Mide Reddin
Elaine Riordan, Student Representative
Jane Jermy
Rosemarie Durr
Grainne Watts, Féile Clai Project Assistant, Magazine Co-editor
Tina Byrne, Féile Clai Project Manager, Magazine Editor

Ceramics Ireland aims to foster creativity, passion and excellence, raising the standard, quality and profile of all ceramic activity in Ireland. There were 242 members at the end of 2007.

Ceramics Ireland held their AGM at the RDS, Dublin in January. A number of events took place throughout the year including the Wendy Kershaw workshop hosted by Anne-Marie O’Shea, in Kenmare, Co. Kerry. In March a workshop generously funded by the Korean Embassy and facilitated by CCOI and coincided with a special viewing of Tradition Transformed, the Wild Geese workshop featured three American ceramic artists Thomas Kerrigan, Robert Briscoe and Matt Kelleher demonstrating together and was facilitated by Gus Mabelson and Féile Clai. 17 Prime Makers exhibition sponsored by Féile Clai took place in Farmleigh Gallery

A group travelled to the International Ceramics Festival, Aberystwyth, Wales, The Féile Clai team of Tina Byrne and Pea Restall, [Wales] gave an overview of Féile Clai and The Way Forward, A facilitated session was held in Collins Barracks to focus on a 3 - 5 year business plan.

Ceramics Ireland, once again sponsored a prize of €500 at RDS National Crafts Exhibition for Excellence in Ceramics, which was won by Karen Morgan. The Scarva Travel bursary for 2007 was awarded to Elaine Riordan for her travel to China.

CLARE ASSOCIATION OF ARTISTS AND CRAFTWORKERS

Conor Maguire, Chairman
Laura Burke, Secretary
Larry Stewart, Treasurer
Ray Forde
Gerry Ruane
Our AGM was held in February 2007 electing a new committee. Kilmihil Summer festival, Craft Fair in the community hall was attended by 16 makers and all reported excellent sales and positive reaction from visitors. Kilkee Annual craft fair was well attended by makers and the public. CAAC took a marquee at the National Ploughing Championships and 9 members attended the 3 day event which was a resounding success in both direct sales and new commercial contacts.

Killaloe Annual Craft Fair - good attendance by makers, 30+ but a poor public response. This event is to be moved from its present date in November to the summer to increase its public profile. Gort Annual Christmas Craft Fair - poor attendance by makers owing to a clashing event in nearby Portumna, but well attended by the public. Ennis, a new venue for the Christmas craft fair at West County Hotel and first time use of radio advertising campaign which proved to be much more effective than traditional newspaper advertising. The Fair was a great success with attendees from as far away as Cork and Limerick.

A retail exhibition was organised at Glór Irish Music Centre and ran for two weeks. This event raised our profile within the arts community in Clare and sales, while slow, were still substantial considering the lack of advertising and promotion.

CORK TEXTILES NETWORK
Carmel Creaner, Chairman
Lesley Stothers, Treasurer
Bridget Dwyer, Membership Secretary

This was a busy year for the Network as we established our web site in July www.corktextiles.com highlighting our activities and gallery of members’ work. We had our annual exhibition of members work in St. Finbarre’s Cathedral Cork entitled Ocean Tied, which was opened by presenter Tom McSweeney in June. This exhibition was transported to Schull for Schull Arts Week in July. In June a two-day workshop (Sculpting with a quilting Stitch) was organised in Fota House with Cindy Huss who travelled from the US. Many members gave workshops to children and adults throughout the county in libraries and schools during the Bealtaine festival and summer months. Two skills exchange days were organised where one member shares a particular skill with a group for a morning, always providing time for a catch up with other members.

COUNTY DOWN CRAFTS
Karl Harron, Chairman
Alison Fitzgerald
Anne Nicholls
Fiona Kerr
Garvan Traynor
Heather Wilson
Jill Graham
Karen Shannon
Lorraine & Tony Rea
Mark Hanvey
Rachel McKnight

County Down Crafts (CDC) is funded by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to provide the following; a Newsletter, Website, Exhibition Programme, Seminar, Photography Scheme and Information Library/Resource Centre

Membership remained at around 120 Artist/Designer/Makers and CDC continued to work with Louth Craftmark through the cross-border partnership, Craftmark.

As part of Craft Northern Ireland’s Making It Programme supported by the National Lottery, through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, CDC continued to host Mixed Media Artist Heather Wilson on her two-year residency. In March 2007 CDC hosted a Seminar, Talking Shop/Gallery, with speakers from The Makers Guild in Wales who run their own shop/gallery, Craft in the Bay, Cardiff.
CDC moved its Office from Downpatrick to Space CRAFT, Belfast, in March 2007. On Friday 1st June 2007 CDC opened its own shop, gallery and exhibition area at Space CRAFT, a 280 metre squared venue, at the Fountain Centre, College Street, Belfast. Space CRAFT is a non-profit taking social economy enterprise. Participants pay a rental or a commission to have their work represented and are required to work as Space CRAFT assistants in a voluntary capacity.

Space CRAFT hosted the RDS National Crafts Competition Winners Exhibition in September 2007. Now in its 10th year, Narrow Water Castle Craft Fair, 9th - 11th November 2007, continues to go from strength to strength, is self-sustaining and even makes a profit for the Network that is then used to develop and fund other projects.

CRAFTMARK
Sarah Daly
Ronan Dennedy
Karl Harron
Jan Irwin
John McIntaggart
Garrett Mallon
Karen Shannon
Joanne McKenna
Heather Parker
Liz Christy
Declan Campbell
Martin Patterson

Craftmark, the partnership between County Down Crafts and Louth Craftmark, is a cross-border economic development initiative. Craftmark’s East Border Region Programme 2006-2008 is a two-year events, training and support programme funded predominantly by the European Union through the East Border Region Interreg IIIA Partnership.

The Official Launch took place on 10th March 2007 at Carlingford Heritage Centre. Pat McCarthy [Pat McCarthy Design Studio] and Lorraine Egan [Enterprise Ireland] spoke about retail trends and how to find inspiration for product development.

At Showcase Ireland 2007, Craftmark took a Group Stand in Hall J, The Enterprise Hall, which features first time and emerging exhibitors. Nine Artist/Designer/Makers attended the British Craft Trade Fair at Harrogate. In May, 33 Artist/Designer/Makers in the East Border Region opened their studios to the Public. This Open Studios Weekend was part of CRAFT MAP 2007 and is accompanied by a Guidebook.

Craftmark took 10 Artist/Designer/Makers to the National Crafts & Design Fair at the RDS in Dublin from 5th to 9th December 2007.

EMBROIDERY ARTISTS
Mildred Cullivan, Chairperson
Aisling McLoughlin, Treasurer
Patricia Curran, Secretary

Embroidery Artists (formally known as the Embroidery Designer Group) was founded in mid 1970’s by the late Ms Cecil O’Donohue, the then Head of Embroidery at the National College of Art & Design in Dublin. The aim of the group was to establish embroidered textiles as an important contemporary art form. To this end graduates were encouraged to make and exhibit new work on a biannual basis.

The initial exhibitions were intended to stimulate interest in stitched textiles, to illustrate to the public the scope of contemporary work in the medium and to develop a market for the collection of stitched textiles in Ireland.

Last year (2007) the group celebrated its thirtieth birthday. The exhibition, held in Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre, Co Dublin, was entitled 30 something. The exhibits reflected the groups’ aspiration to
link heritage and tradition to modern interpretation. The nature of each individual’s work was based on their own creative expression and encompassed a range of processes and materials.

**FELTMAKERS IRELAND**
Colleen Prendiville, Chairperson
Sheila Ahern, Secretary
Susan Walsh, Treasurer
Elizabeth Bonnar
Holly Angle
Maureen Cromer
Gina Faustino
Kathrina Hughes
Ger Kane
Clodagh McDonagh
Suzanne Phelan
Eleanor Roche

We have had another really great year with a range of activities keeping our members busy. Our workshop programme included visits by renowned textile artist Monika Auch in June (supported by a grant from the CCoL Network Support Scheme) and also Jeanette Appleton in November.

During October 2007 we held our exhibition *Turning of the Seasons* in the lovely venue of the Visitors Centre in the Phoenix Park. This was a great opportunity to showcase our members’ talent and nearly 200 visitors came along to view it.

Our involvement with the Dochas Centre at Mountjoy Women’s Prison continued when we ran our feltmaking classes during their summer programme. We are looking at the possibility of extending our involvement and are planning a 4 – 6 week course of feltmaking techniques - perhaps under the Arts in Prison scheme.

Our regular monthly get-togethers have continued to be very popular with members and lots of people new to felting. Topics have included jewellery making; working with children; cobweb felt, silk paper etc. We keep in touch with all our members throughout the country with our quarterly newsletter - full of items on members’ activities, book reviews and news and info on all things ‘felt’. All in all a great year for feltmaking in Ireland and we look forward to continuing our work developing our profile and supporting our members.

**HANDWEAVERS GUILD OF CORK**
Rose Glynn, Chairperson
Gerda Merz, Treasurer
Eileen O’Connor, Secretary

We held ten meetings in 2007 in different venues in and around Cork City. At our AGM in January one of our members, Mary Shiel, told us about her recent travels in Peru. She showed us some fabulous photos and textile souvenirs that she had brought back. At another meeting she gave a workshop on Backstrap Weaving based on a course that she herself had done in Cusco, Peru. We had a follow up meeting in October. In May Pascale showed us how to make crochet bags using finely spun yarn and in June we had our Annual Dying Day at Gwen Furney’s picture postcard farmyard in Cloyne. We tried natural dyes bought from Pure Tinctoria in England. In November Heather showed us how she makes woven bookmarks on a bead loom. The other meetings were all about spinning.

**IRISH BASKETMAKERS ASSOCIATION**
Joe Hogan, President
Martin O’Flynn, Chairman
Norbert Platz, Secretary
Katrin Schwart, Treasurer
Heike Kahle, PR officer
Brendan Farren, Newsletter
Highlights of last year included a big willow day at Future Forests nursery and garden centre in Kealkil, Co Cork, organised by the association and two split hazel basket courses subsidised by the Crafts Council with Lluís Grau from Galicia. With the support of CCol we were also able to produce a new leaflet promoting the IBA. Our valuable and unique heritage collection of Irish baskets found a permanent exhibition space at Carriganass Castle, near Bantry in Co. Cork. There are 78 members in the organisation to date.

IRISH GUILD OF EMBROIDERERS

Carol Hawkins, Chairperson
Myriam Broadhead, Treasurer
Ann Wickham McDonald, Secretary
Tess Flynn, Events
Jean McKenna, Library
Kerry Pocock, Exhibitions
Eithne Carey and Jenny Donohue, Newsletter
Brid McCabe, Membership

The Dublin based Guild meets on the first Saturday of each month from September to May each year in the Parish hall, Mt Merrion. The Guild is self-funding from members’ subscriptions. Its main emphasis is contemporary embroidery but with an appreciation of traditional techniques. There is a textile related lecture at most meetings, together with demonstrations by members of particular techniques. Each April, the Guild holds an experimental day. At this members can take workshops sampling new techniques. In 2007 these included the use of solubles, big and bold hand stitching, bondaweb and backgrounds. In addition the Guild organises a weekend away ‘stitch retreat’ for members each year. During the year the Guild also holds a number of workshops for members. In 2007 these included those led by Ruth Jarman, Rosemary McCarthy Morrogh and Janet Edmonds. A newsletter goes out to members four times a year.

The Guild holds its November meeting with a speaker at the Knit and Stitch Show, in Dublin. It also runs a display stall there, exhibiting samples of members’ work. Every two years the Guild holds a juried exhibition. In 2007 this was held in the American College in Merrion Square. The guild has a membership of 64 members.

IRISH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS

Peter Hoare & Florence Harmelin, Co-chairpersons
Diane Murphy & Kate Hamilton, Co-secretaries
Una Rice, Treasurer
Fionnuala Aston Ardee & Sara Cullen, Co-Webmasters
Cheryl Marling, Newsletter Editor

The Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers elected a new committee in January 2007 composed of a majority of new members. In 2007 we had 118 members.

The IGWSD produces a newsletter every 2 months, which is sent to 118 people in six counties.

The committee worked on the two main events of the year: a spinning workshop given by New Zealander Ann Field in September and the Knitting and Stitching Show at the RDS in November.

The spinning workshop was held on the grounds of Birr Castle on the 29th & 30th September. Anne Field taught her twelve students to use methodology of pre-determining size and twist of the yarn to produce skeins of fine, medium and coarse yarn.

The Knitting and Stitching Show 2007 was a busy event for the Guild.

Co-chair persons Peter Hoare and Florence Harmelin represented the IGWSD at the GANS meetings. Member Beth Moran is currently our CCol Board representative.
The society is moving from strength to strength with seven branches throughout the country. Branches meet every month, many with guest speakers and/or workshops together with visiting shops to gather those much needed supplies.

**IRISH WOODTURNERS GUILD**

Peter Mulvaney, President
Chris Hayes, Chairman
Willie Creighton, Vice Chairman
Eugene Grimley, Secretary
Margaret Creighton, Treasurer
Roger Grealy, Membership Secretary
Joe Laird, Development
Evan Petty, Member
Peter Lyons, Journal Editor

The AGM was in March and proposed a variety of changes to improve the functioning of the organisation. Chapter seminars started in March too with the Gorey and District group leading the field. Each month after that there was at least one seminar around the country, from Kerry to Ulster and many venues in between, representing most of the chapters and all well subscribed. These seminars did not rely solely on local demonstrators but invited turners of international renown too, so as to provide a better mix for their supporters.

The National Seminar in October, hosted by the Mayo Chapter, was a resounding success with demonstrations from American, French, UK and Irish turners. This was particularly gratifying for the Mayo people, as they have also won the right to stage the special seminar in 2008 to mark our 25th anniversary.
2007 saw the start-up of two new chapters, the Cross Border and Donegal chapters. The Guild continued to support the production of the quarterly journal, our official publication, which records most of our activities. Each member receives a copy so all can be kept informed of developments or planned events. The Guild made its customary award of €500 to the winner of the RDS craft competition for woodturning. We are pleased to say, that it was won in 2007 by Kirk Nuzum from the Gorey and District.

Overall it was a successful year for the Guild with membership growth steady and all looking forward to an even better year in 2008.

**LEITRIM DESIGN HOUSE**

**Board of Directors**

Joe Lowe, Chairman
Geraldine McMenamin, Secretary
Inga Lloyd
Eugene Finnegan
Chris Killala.

**Steering Group**

Scott Combes
Seamus Dunbar
Peter Fulop
Geraldine Gray, LDH manager
Angela Hope
Erika Marks
Niall Millar
Anna-Marie O’Rourke, Craft Development Officer
Eunan Sweeney
Brigitta Varadi
Sandra Vernon

Now in its 7th year of business, the Leitrim Design House is an innovative centre of excellence providing the ideal platform for small creative businesses to achieve economic growth through product and business development and provision of marketing opportunities and training programmes. Noted recently, in the Sunday Independent as a vehicle for the renaissance of the Irish Craft Industry, it is the only one of its kind in the North West.

Courses delivered in 2007 include; Start your own creative business, Creativity in the Marketplace, Developing facilitation skills (Mediation leadership training for community artists) and Portfolio Preparation Courses for leaving cert students, all of which have been well attended by designers from Dublin, Mayo, Tyrone, Donegal and Sligo, Roscommon as well as Leitrim.

These sectoral courses and advanced crafts skills training and workshops have enabled over 400 individuals to attain accreditations, up skill within their business and advance on to third level courses within the past two years. Many of the courses are tailored for community groups and individuals working with groups.

**Other programmes organised include:**

Advanced craft skills workshops in a range of disciplines, which were hosted at the Leitrim Sculpture Centre and the Dock. Nine in house exhibitions have taken place in 2007 at the Leitrim Design House including graduate shows from NCAD and GMIT and LIT. Other highlights include the Art of Fashion, an all Ireland Fashion event with the work of 50 designers and makers from all over Ireland, INTO LEITRIM, a rural tourism and cultural project with 26 of Leitrim’s leading artists and designers and "Afternoon tea", an exhibition of ceramic work from 25 of Ireland top designers.

With over 250 members mainly from the Northwest and Northern Ireland, the Leitrim Design House has been critical in the development of the crafts sector in the region. The retail outlet has grown steadily with an annual turnover in excess of approx €200,000 in direct sales for members through the retail gallery and through trade events.
LOUTH CRAFTMARK DESIGNERS NETWORK

Joanne McKenna, Chairperson
Sarah McKenna, Secretary
Cathy Prendergast, Treasurer
Nanette Ledwith
Fiona Thornton
Garrett Mallon

Our membership has increased from 6 to 22 members. We received network support from CCol which was used for a seminar on PR and marketing given by Maggie Ruane, followed by a social networking evening. A PR and media campaign and photo shoot is planned for early 2008 with renowned stylist Wendy Grant and photographer Philip Lauterbach.

Members of the network participated in the highly successful Fashion Show in October at Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda. Cathy Prendergast and Joanne McKenna were made directors of Louth Craftmark® Highlanes (retail outlet) as network representatives.

RDS CRAFTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Ms Bernardine Hurley, Chairman
Ms Ida Delamer
Mr Michael Gorman
Ms Mary O’Reilly
Ms Veronica Rowe
Ms Clodagh Ryan
Mr Paddy Weston

The RDS was founded in 1731 to promote arts, agriculture, science and industry in Ireland. In 1746 the RDS established The Dublin Society Schools of Drawing, which eventually became the National College of Art and Design (NCAD). Craft exhibitions were held from 1834 onwards. The RDS was also instrumental in the establishment of the Crafts Council of Ireland in 1971. Membership for 2007 was 4,956.

The RDS National Crafts Competition is not just Ireland’s oldest competition but it is its largest. This annual competition provides a platform for professional and amateur craft designers to compete together for prestigious awards. 2007 saw, yet again, another very successful year. Independently adjudicated, the overall prize fund in 2007 was €28,350, one of the largest in Europe. Entries were received from every county in Ireland, as well as from Irish craft designers overseas. Forty three per cent of the submissions were by first time entrants and fifteen per cent by graduates. The Competition and subsequent exhibitions are recognised as a valuable forum for gaining international recognition and has been the launching pad for many of today’s top craft designers.

The exhibition of winners and commended entries is one of the highlights of the annual Fáilte Ireland Dublin Horse Show, which attracts tens of thousands of national and international visitors each year. In association with the Crafts Council of Ireland work made as part of the Crafts in the Classroom Primary School Residency Programme is also included in the exhibition.

The Winners Travelling Exhibition established in 1999, is very successful in increasing the profile of craft workers, and promotes a greater awareness of Irish craft. The 2007 Winners Travelling Exhibition first visited Space CRAFT, Belfast in September, then travelled to the Craft Granary in Cahir, Co. Tipperary and to the Market House Gallery in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. It returned to the RDS in December for the annual National Craft & Design Fair, which was visited by over 30,000 people with a specific interest in craft. The report from all of the venues was excellent, with high visitor attendance and a very positive reaction to the exhibition.
FIRE STATION ARTISTS’ STUDIOS

Board
Michael Rafferty, Chairperson
Roisin Hogan
Pauline Kane
Peter Kearns
Brian Kennedy
Ger Power
Mel McGiboin
Gemma Tipton

Staff
Clodagh Kenny, Director
Liz Burns, Development Manager
John Carrick, Workshop Manager
Pauline O’Connell, Master Class curator
John Travers, Digital Media Coordinator

Located in Dublin’s North Inner City, the Fire Station Artists’ Studios was established in 1993 to address the needs of professional visual artists. It primarily provides subsidised combined live/work studios for Irish and international artists, sculpture workshop facilities, training opportunities for artists, platforms for debate and commissions collaborative art projects with local partnerships.

Some activities for 2007 included:
Arts in Context: Talk Series with acclaimed American curator and critic, Mary Jane Jacobs around the notion of socially engaged arts practice

Art and Architecture; The Negotiation of Public Space: talk series with Jeremy Till, Professor and Director of Architecture, Sheffield University.

Fire Station and Gertrude Contemporary Arts Space (GCAS) International Exchange: An exciting exchange programme established between Fire Station and GCAS in Melbourne Australia.

Master Class Programme: Programme included; Specialised Glass, Sound in Art, Performance Art, Video Art and Metal Workshops.

Digital Workshops: Introduction to AVID Express Pro, Portfolio Web Design using Flash and Photoshop.

100 Flowers to Bloom - a collaborative arts project with Dublin Port Company, local students from St Josephs National School, East Wall and Liverpool artist David Jacques

12 Angry Films - a collaborative art project with artist Jess Jones, in partnership with Dublin Docklands Development Authority.

Streets - An ongoing arts project with Railway Procurement Agency (RPA) and artist Ciara O’Malley focusing on Luas line at Connolly Station, Dublin

WEST CORK ARTS CENTRE

Majella O’Neill Collins, Chairperson
Gerald O’Brien, Treasurer
Alyn Fenn, Secretary

Some of our activities for 2007 included:

Children’s Arts Festival/Exhibition - workshops/performances for 3 to 13 year olds.

Tours for schools of a children’s exhibition from a classroom-based project based on Stephen Brandes’ exhibition Chutzpardiso.

Provided theatre training and performance opportunities for 4 groups (4 to 19 year olds).

A series of exhibitions also took place and included paintings, projection and video installations.
Research for Youth Arts Development Plan to be published in November was also undertaken. This will form the basis for a Youth Arts Strategy in the region for 3 years. We continued to work with BTEI to develop FETAC modules in painting/drawing and in pre-school arts education.

Finally, we were successful in establishing a 3rd Level Honours Degree programme, BA in Visual Arts on Sherkin Island with partners Sherkin Island Development Society and Dublin Institute of Technology, beginning January 2008.

WEST CORK CRAFT AND DESIGN GUILD
Kieran Higgins, Chairman
Thomas Kay, Treasurer
Alison Ospina, Development Officer
Etain Hickey, Secretary

The WCCDG was started back in 1997, an initiative of the then Bantry Integrated Development Group. The idea was to set up a marketing and support network for craft producers in the region and some of the original members are still with the Guild. We have joined a European network for Social Enterprises (DESEO) and through that hope to participate in a wider range of activities and secure support for our future plans.

The Guild has been fortunate to attract the attention and support of Cork County Council for our proposal to develop premises in West Cork. Aitricticy is going to assist with the cost of a feasibility study for premises. We also secured funding of €2,000 for a subsidised photography scheme from West Cork Enterprise Board, as well as funding from CCol (Groups and Networks Fund) and from Cork County Arts Office for producing a film/DVD.

In October we were invited to give a presentation about the Guild to the other GANS members. We had an exhibition at West Cork Arts Centre launching our Ten Year Celebrations, curated by Sarah Foster and opened by Arts Officer Ian McDonagh. We also held exhibitions during Schull Arts Week and Cat and the Moon, Sligo.

Altogether we raised €7,500 through grant funding during the year, which is a record for us and demonstrates the Guild’s credibility, profile and importance within the region and beyond. During the last ten years we have developed a good track record. The local funding agencies consider the Guild to be a group whose work is valuable and worth supporting. In 2007 we had 23 members.

WEST KERRY CRAFT GUILD
Ali Burnard, Chairperson
Sue Redican, Treasurer
Cate Sweeney, Secretary

Over the last year West Kerry Craft Guild have had some new members joining the Guild and some old members have left, we now have 14 members. We changed our constitution at our AGM in February and voted on allowing two visiting Artists from outside West Kerry, but within Munster to join. This allowed Ali Burnard and Coolea Candles to join.

We are also working on a new website for An Galearraí Beag (our outlet in Dingle) and we are also working on a new brochure to help promote our shop and our products.

WEXCRATNET LTD
Wexcraftnet Ltd., trading as Selskar Design, was established in 2000 with the objective of supporting, promoting and developing the craft sector in Co Wexford. The network has been operating from the Westgate Heritage Centre in Wexford town since 2002 and has raised the profile of the centre as a venue for quality craft and design, developing the two floors into sales and exhibition space.
Over 60 Co. Wexford craftspeople have exhibited and sold from the Centre, many with fulltime crafts businesses. The project has been supported by CCoL, Wexford Co. Enterprise Board and WORD for Training, Promotion and Marketing. For the first time in 2005, Wexford craftspeople had a group stand at Showcase which was a direct result of Wexford CEB training delivered to Wexcraftnet members.

The operation and success of Westgate Centre has been due primarily to the high level of commitment and determination of the network members who have given their time to staff the centre, very often at the cost of their own businesses. 2007 has been a very difficult year for the network, as we have had to face the hard reality that without support for a Manager and Retail Staff for the centre (which was the original plan when we opened) we cannot continue. The vision for Westgate, fulfilling its potential of being the venue for high quality craft and design and a resource for the network etc., cannot be sustained on goodwill or at the expense of individual craft businesses. We are at a crossroads and reviewing the different options open to us.
Acknowledgements

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