**PRESS RELEASE**

**INSERT DATE**

**(Your organisation’s name) to host (type of activity, i.e. workshop / lecture / reading / concert / etc.) in (your town or county) to mark**

**National Heritage Week 2019**

(Name of organisation) has today (dd.mm.yy) announced that it will host a public (type of activity) during National Heritage Week 2019, which takes place nationwide from **17th to 25th of August.**

(Insert brief description of activity and key details – what, where, when and why)

Speaking about the event, (insert name of spokesperson) of (name of organisation) said: “[If

desired, add one or two sentences in the first person about this event (example: We are

very excited to showcase our … and hope that many people will be able to join us for our

event. The annual Heritage Week programme is a great opportunity to learn more about

your local heritage and make connections with new people and stories].”

National Heritage Week is a celebration of Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage and aims to generate awareness, appreciation and preservation of our wonderful resources. It will showcase the joy, diversity and accessibility that can be found within our country’s rich heritage. As a nation of storytellers, all of our heritage is linked to stories of people, places, moments and things. This will all be showcased and celebrated through the theme of ***Pastimes* from *Past Times.***

The Heritage Week programme features events for all ages, most of which are free to attend. It will be a call to action for people to discover, interpret and embrace their heritage and in turn create their own new pastime - to become an explorer, an archaeologist, a storyteller, a wildlife enthusiast.

With almost **2,000** events taking place throughout the country, there is undoubtedly an event for everyone, no matter their age or interests. The eclectic offering of events in this year’s schedule includes picnics and parties, talks and tours, ceilís, crafts and *craic,* all of which serve to make our country’s heritage more inclusive than ever.

Speaking ahead of the launch of Heritage Week 2019 the CEO of the Heritage Council, Virginia Teehan said *“The theme of this year’s National Heritage Week – ‘Pastimes | Past Times’ – is one that will appeal to anyone who can remember what it is to be a child, who has a hobby, enjoys a craft, is an enthusiastic collector, plays an instrument or just likes to tell stories. We hope this year, as in previous years, you find something to enjoy by yourself, with friends or with family.”*

Coordinated by the Heritage Council since 2005, National Heritage Week has become one of Ireland’s largest cultural events. Last year, more than half a million people attended hundreds of events across the country, most of which were hosted by communities, volunteers and individuals who champion Ireland’s heritage in its many forms.

For a full listing of all National Heritage Week events around (county/town) and around the

country please go to www.heritageweek.ie or pick up a brochure from your local library and

Tourist Office.

**ENDS**

**Images Available: Insert Link to Images**

**Contact: (Insert your contact details)**

**Note to Editors:**

**About National Heritage Week:** National Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days – a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union in which more than 40 countries participate each year. The main aim of European Heritage Days is to promote awareness of our built, natural and cultural heritage and to promote Europe’s common cultural heritage. For further information, visit: [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie).

**About the Heritage Council**: The Heritage Council was established under the Heritage Act 1995 with responsibility to propose policies and priorities for the national heritage. It works in cooperation with a range of agencies, communities and individuals to promote education, enjoyment and understanding of our national heritage. For further information, visit: [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie).