

Press Release February 2008
For Immediate Release

TED FEST II

Events in Clare

KILFENORA 25th –27th February

The kettle has almost come to the boil as organisers gear up for Ted Fest II, which after the mammoth success of Ted Fest I is going to be a week long celebration, with events taking place country-wide, and two Ted Fests on the go. And what better place to start the week long festivities than in the very heart of 'Ted Country', with [Ted Fest Kilfenora](#).

It's 10 years since *Father Ted* was filmed in Co Clare, and writers Graham and Arthur will be guests for an evening of conversation and memories as part of Ted Fest Kilfenora, to be held in The Community Hall (an actual location from the series.) Graham and Arthur will also be unveiling a plaque to commemorate the area's unique connection with Fr Ted.

In the run up to the festival, Peter Phillips of Friends of Ted will be spending 40 Days and 40 Nights pushing a milk float all round Ireland to raise money for Down Syndrome Ireland and Down Syndrome Northern Ireland. Paddy Power are hosting the website and taking bets on the push - see www.ted40.com. There is also a donation link on the website where people can support the initiative by sponsoring one cent per mile, a total donation of €7.98. The milk float will go from Ennistymon to Doolin via Kilfenora on 26th Feb, being pushed by a team from *The Clare People* and Friends of Ted. Forming a centrepiece to the Kilfenora events, a parade will welcome the milk float when it arrives in town, and passes round the actual roundabout used in the episode 'Speed 3' before proceeding past Mrs O'Reilly's house.

Fans of the legendary sitcom will be well aware of the 'Lovely Girls' competition. The final regional heat for Paddy's Lovely Girl 2008, also sponsored by Paddy Power will take place at Ted Fest Kilfenora, in Vaughan's Barn. Heat winners, drawn from this and earlier events in Galway, Belfast, Dublin and Cork will get to compete in the final during Ted Fest Inis Mor on Saturday March 1st.

Judges will be looking for "thoughtful dress sense", and will take a dim view of unnecessarily high hemlines and excessive make up. Traffic-cone navigation is a key factor, and a lovely laugh is essential. Girls are required to bring along something they've made especially for the night.

All finalists will have their hair styled for the event and will have their very own escort from the Island. The winner will get 2 free flights with Aer Arann, 2 nights hotel accommodation and their portrait shot by top UK celebrity photographer Paul Rider, who has shot everyone from Ant and Dec to Colleen McLoughlin.

All wannabe lovely girls must enter the competition by e-mailing their contact telephone number to loveliness@friendsofted.org, including 'I am a Lovely Girl' in the subject header. And this year there will also be an online search for the loveliest girl – for more details see www.friendsofted.org.

Other events in the Kilfenora shindig will include the Ecumenicelli Dance in Vaughan's Barn, The All-Ireland Blondes-only Snakes and Ladders Championships, acoustic karaoke with the singing Postman, All-Ireland Open Elvis look-alike contest, and Pat Mustard Memorial Night featuring Mrs O'Reilly and the Hairy Babies.

Ted Fest Kilfenora will conclude with a walk down memory lane, with a Ted Trail Day led by Janet Cavanagh of Ted Tours, taking in the Parochial House, Song for Europe waterfall, 'The Picnic Spot' and the caravan park from Hell.

Ted Fest II enjoys financial support from Failte Ireland. The Craggy World Cup is sponsored by Paddypower.com. Aer Arann, Aran Direct and Aran Island Ferries are Ted Fest travel partners. Friends of Ted would like to acknowledge the Aran Islands Hotel for providing accommodation to artists and crew.

For tickets to Ted Fest Kilfenora events and information on Ted Fest II check out www.friendsofted.org

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