



# Dundalk to get a “creative hub”

## Half million euro grant

By Gene Yore

LOUTH Craftmark, based at Quayside Business Park Mill Street Dundalk, has been awarded €550,000 to build an enterprise centre in the town.

“The funding will be used to build a creative community hub,” said Sarah Daly Craft Development Officer Louth Craftmark.

“This will also include work units for creative enterprises involving theatre, film, dance, crafts.

“We were the most natural applicant as we combine both business and creative skills.

“We have a broadly-based board of directors and it is certainly a very exciting time for us all. However, we will need match funding, so there is plenty of work to be done.”

Louth Craftmark was set up in 2000 to represent the local craft makers in Louth and stimulate the development of the craft sector.

Louth is recognised as an area of emerging strength in terms of arts, culture and crafts activities and Louth Craftmark has set out to tackle economic hardship, skills deficits and social barriers faced by craftspeople living and working in the county.

Louth Craftmark offers skills development through workshops, exhibitions, showcase events, craft fairs, professional development and networking opportunities.

The Community Enterprise Centre scheme marks a partnership between the state, Enterprise Ireland and the local community.

It provides facilities for new businesses to set up and prosper. Since the launch of the first scheme in 1989, a total of €50.8m has been approved and the impact of the programme at a local level, both urban and rural, has been significant.

“The Government through Enterprise Ireland has supported 134 communities, and the 105 completed centres are now home to approximately 1,000 successful businesses, employing approximately 5,000 people,” an Tanaiste Mary Coughlan said when she announced the most recent funding.



• Sarah Daly