



# CARRICK-ON-SUIR

## A HUB OF ART AND CULTURE

Carrick-on-Suir has attracted artists for many generations, both as a subject and as a place to live, with its beautiful surrounding landscape, rich culture and heritage.

Of course, for many artists those two things inevitably become fused together, the spirit of one's surroundings naturally seeps into the work itself.

Carrick-on-Suir boasts three noteworthy cultural venues, two award winning performing arts groups and a vibrant commercial arts collective all situated in and adjacent to the Ormond Castle Quarter - the historic and cultural heart of the town.

Starting at the newly renovated Ormond Castle and Tudor Manor House, along the Butler Trail, one can meander down to the **Brewery Lane Theatre and Arts Centre**, a hidden gem located down a medieval heritage laneway. Step inside and you will find yourself in an intimate 75-seater theatre space. As soon as the performance begins, its intensity will make you feel like you are part of the set!

This space was formerly a section of the malt house of Feehan's Brewery, which closed in 1910 and was taken over by Smithwicks, who used it as a storehouse until the 1940s. **Carrick-on-Suir Drama Group** bought the building in the late 1970s and with a lot of work and dedication converted the old store into the present day theatre. Having been established in 1955, the **Drama Group** opened **Brewery Lane Theatre** in 1980. For over sixty years this treasured theatre company has provided top-class entertainment to the people of Carrick-on-Suir and its hinterland. The group has consistently produced a standard of amateur theatre drama for the local community that rivals any professional company of thespians, and has nurtured generations of young active talent in the town.

Developed by the **Drama Group's** members over the past four decades, **Brewery Lane Theatre and Arts Centre** is a lovely venue. Attending a play or concert in this intimate auditorium is a special experience. This venue has become the heartbeat of the town's arts community, continually hosting award-winning amateur drama productions, a vibrant Film Club, monthly Tearoom Sessions that welcome world class musicians, acclaimed Creative Writing weekend and workshop series, Poetry & Literature reading nights, folk music sessions, visual art workshops, exhibitions and so much more.

Just a few short steps away, up along the main street, you can visit the vibrant and quirky, **Tudor Artisan Hub**, an Aladdin's cave of creative treasures, an eclectic collective of over fifty artists from Carrick-on-Suir, the Suir Valley region and beyond. It has five rooms spread over two floors and it is brimming with unique 'one-off' handcrafted products in a space teeming with character and charm.

Housed in a former Technical Institute built circa 1910, located steps from the **Tudor Manor House**, and nestled between two award-winning theatres, partnering and collaborating with both theatre spaces, the **Tudor Artisan Hub** links the old world charm of **Brewery Lane Theatre & Arts Centre** - home of the **Brewery Lane Drama Group** - with the new pulsating **Strand Theatre** - a deluxe 360-seated theatre venue, which is home to the **Carrick-on-Suir Musical Society**.

The **Hub** is quickly becoming the nerve centre and link for all cultural engagements in the town. It is a dynamic, energetic commercial

place that engages with new emerging talent as well as established artists across all disciplines regardless of age or ability. It is a place where creative like-minded people, with a common vision come-together and collectively initiate new and exciting projects. As such it is a network of actors, filmmakers, animators, graphic designers, songwriters, musicians, visual artists, photographers, crafters, cartoonists, journalists, and crafters.

Over the June Bank Holiday weekend, Carrick-on-Suir is transformed into a haven for local and visiting artists, performers and cultural enthusiasts, as it hosts its annual **Clancy Brothers Festival of Music and Arts**. During the festival, the **Tudor Artisan Hub** becomes the official festival booking office and the backbone of the event.

The festival honours the musical legacy of the local world-famous influential Irish Folk music group - The Clancy Brothers - whom together with Tommy Makem achieved international fame during the folk revival of the 1960s. Carrick-on-Suir is very proud of the Clancy Brothers and their achievements and it is only fitting that their contribution to Irish culture and music should be recognised and celebrated with an annual festival. Now in its tenth year, this unique festival has grown from strength to strength. Once again,

2017 promises to produce a vibrant and diverse festival programme, catering for all ages and tastes. A visit to Carrick-on-Suir is a must on the June Bank Holiday Weekend to see this picturesque town transform into Ireland's folk and traditional music capital.

Neighbouring the **Hub**, on Dillon Bridge, is the lavish 360-seated **Strand Theatre**. Formerly a cinema, the renovated space first opened its doors in 2008. The **Strand Theatre's** primary aim is to provide a "theatrical state of the art facility" for the people of Carrick-on-Suir and its hinterland, that incorporates a theatre, rehearsal rooms, a dance studio, meeting rooms and a set construction workshop. The **Strand Theatre** is home to the renowned **Carrick-on-Suir Musical Society**. Founded in 1943, the **Musical Society** has provided seventy-four years of entertainment, with over 109 productions. The **Musical Society** also boasts a top-class Performance Art Academy School for Children and Youth.

Collectively these three Arts venues, all within close proximity to each other, showcase the very best of Irish Arts and Culture in the-atre, musicals, music, arts, film, writing and crafts. Perhaps there is nowhere in Ireland where one would find such excellence in the Arts Scene, let alone in a small market town like Carrick-on-Suir. Carrick-on-Suir is certainly a place with a thriving Arts Scene.

[www.brewerylanetheatre.com](http://www.brewerylanetheatre.com)  
[www.carrickmusicals.com](http://www.carrickmusicals.com)

