

For immediate release

September 2009

MORE WEDDING BELLS

*A new selection of Annie Brophy's Wedding Photographs, 1920s-1970s
exhibition at Christ Church Cathedral*

Beautiful wedding photos by Anne Brophy have been given a new lease of life in an exhibition by Waterford City Council.

As part of the Archives Awareness Campaign www.archivesawareness.com an ongoing celebration of all kinds of fascinating archive treasures throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom, Waterford City Council has purchased Anne Brophy's entire collection from the 1920s-1970s as a fitting tribute to her life's work.

Annie Brophy was a photographer of great skill and vision who lived and worked in Waterford city for much of the 20th century. She did not photograph the rich and famous, but the real people of her place, the city that was her home and the surrounding counties.

Her photographs always captured a moment in time, allowing readers the pleasure of experiencing that moment and those people.

Most families in the city and surrounding area have treasured examples of Miss Brophy's work in their homes. Important as the photographs themselves, are the memories people have of the day and time they were taken. A visit to her studio in Barker Street was an integral part of many important events in people's lives.

Weddings the ninth exhibition, organised from the Collection by Waterford City Archives, features another new selection from the over 60,000 negatives held by the Archives!

The exhibition will showcase 72 wedding groups spanning the length of Miss Brophy's long and productive career. The earliest photograph dates from 1929 and the latest is from 1974. The exhibition includes couples from Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Offaly, Dublin, Donegal and London! The content and style of the

photographs is varied, ranging from couples to large groups. The settings also vary from studio to garden to church. Each and every one of the pictures tells the story of young (and not so young) couples beginning their lives together.

Angela Owusu, Archive Awareness Campaign Officer said:

“This exhibition is an amazing display and shows how human life exists amongst records. It will give the local community the opportunity to learn that Archives are not just official records, collections but include the records of the millions of people and business that make up the histories and stories of our region and community”.

“This is an amazing display giving the local community an opportunity to discover that Archives are not just official records but a diverse collections of human life. These records reveal the simple and personal lives of millions of people and business that make up the histories and stories of the region and community who lived in it.

The exhibition will take place in the Christ Church Cathedral, one of the city’s most iconic buildings.

Donal Moore, City Archivist, said

“Christ Church Cathedral is a venue of superior quality and unique atmosphere in the heart of the city. It plays a vital role in the cultural life of Waterford and is one of the finest Georgian buildings in the country. It is a wonderful and appropriate location for this exhibition. As usual we have identified as many of the subjects as possible over the last few months. However there are still some that we need help with. I hope that people will come along to see if they are featured in the exhibition or who they can recognise.”

Ends

Notes to Editors

The exhibition runs until Saturday 26 October in Christ Church Cathedral, Cathedral Square, Waterford, Rep of Ireland

- Opening hours are Monday-Friday, 10.00-18.00; Saturday, 10.00-16.00

Admission is FREE

- Christ Church has been a constant presence in Waterford, in one form or another, since the 11th century. Built on a site of Christian worship which dates back to 1050, and probably before, the building is steeped in history.
- For further information on this exhibition or the Annie Brophy Photographic Collection please contact Donal Moore, City Archivist, on 051-843123, 087-8185715 or archives@waterfordcity.ie.
- For further details on **Heritage Week** events, locally, nationally and internationally, see www.heritageweek.ie. For further details on **Archives Awareness Campaign** events, locally, nationally and internationally, see www.archiveawareness.com.
- Archive Awareness is spearheaded by the National Council on Archives (www.ncaonline.org.uk) and funded by The National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (www.mla.gov.uk).
- Archive Awareness Campaign www.archiveawareness.com is an ongoing celebration of all kinds of fascinating archive treasures. It celebrates and promotes local and national archives. Throughout the year archives across the country open their doors to showcase history, hold open days and present workshops to help the public discover a piece of their own history.