

HERITAGE OUTLOOK

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WINTER 2004



WATER HERITAGE DAY 2004
Creating awareness during Heritage Week

REELING IN THE YEARS
The heritage value of archives

BUILDING ON THE PAST
The sustainable reuse of buildings

HERITAGE EVENTS • THE DISCOVERY PROGRAMME • HERITAGE COUNCIL GRANTS PROGRAMME 2004



*The Heritage Council works to protect and enhance the richness,
quality and diversity of our national heritage for everyone.*

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HERITAGE OUTLOOK

C O M M E N T

We all know that 'working together' is the most effective way of getting things done. The three 'C's' - cooperation, communication and connectivity - have served us well in the past and are essential to our survival. It is also accepted that diversity makes the world interesting. Without it, there would be no opportunity to enjoy different aspects of the world's natural and cultural heritage, or to consume products from different environments. Each country, and indeed region, can be considered unique, having its own particular interest. Economists have long recognised this and, in this consumer age, we all contribute in some way to local economies, either through tourism or by consumption of products back home. We all thrive on such experience and variety.

If we accept this as the case, why do we persist in putting in place structures to deal with our cultural and natural heritage that don't take full account of the need for cooperation and communication to achieve connectivity. We still treat heritage sites, particularly natural heritage areas, as isolated islands with no links to other land uses. There is no emphasis on networks or connectivity; no clearly articulated context; no legislative base on which our society is based. Thankfully there are signs at a national and pan-European level that will support us in our endeavours.

At a national level, public attitudes are changing, as illustrated in a recent Heritage Council survey. This is particularly so with regard to our natural heritage, our wildlife, our landscapes. The evidence shows a significant positive shift in public opinion. This shift sees people beginning to re-establish links with, and place greater value on, these aspects of their lives. The reasons for this change are many and it is a shift all politicians will do well to heed.

At a pan-European level, in the EU, and indeed in many governments which are not member states, there is a realisation that nature conservation should be fully integrated, from a policy and funding viewpoint, with other policy areas such as agriculture, forestry and even social and health policy - in recognition of the associated impacts on quality of life. One only has to look at the new approaches to the Birds and Habitats Directives, to agri-environment packages and to approaches to rural development as a whole to see what is happening.

In Ireland, we have an opportunity to build on the success of our national parks and to develop legislation for these and other protected areas in a manner that highlights their relevance to the broader landscape and the countryside as a whole.

It is said that timing is everything, and the perfect time to secure commitment to this change in approach in Ireland won't come around too often. Let's hope we make the most of it.

Michael Starrett Chief Executive
AN CHOMHAIRLE OIÐHREACHTA

Heritage News

NEIGHBOURWOODS SCHEMES IN CORK

The Heritage Unit in Cork County Council has been working in partnership with local groups over the past year to establish two NeighbourWoods Schemes in Rochestown and Coolagowan. On October 9th, we planted 4,000 tree saplings, including oak, ash, birch, rowan, Norway maple, Scots pine, alder, hazel and holly at the Rochestown site. This is a 1.6ha greenfield site adjacent to a semi-natural woodland and a large residential estate. The new woodland will add to the biodiversity of the area by forming an extension to the adjacent semi-natural woodland and provide a refuge for native plants and animals. It will also provide an area for the local community to enjoy. Planning of the woodland was carried

out by Cork County Council, in close consultation with the local residents association. Work on the Coolagowan site is progressing well. This is a smaller roadside area on the outskirts of the village. It is being planted with native species including birch, rowan, hazel, whitethorn and holly. The Coolagowan Development Group have worked in developing and implementing the plan for this site, which will involve local children in the planting of this small woodland and in ongoing maintenance of the area. This project is funded by the Forest Service.

Sharon Casey, Heritage Officer, Cork County Council.



The Cork NeighbourWoods project has involved local children in native tree planting schemes

COUNTY GALWAY HERITAGE AWARDS

Con McCole and members of Carra, Mask, Corrib Water Protection Group Ltd, overall winner of the Galway County Heritage Awards, pictured with Nioclás O'Conchubhair, The Heritage Council; Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer; and Cllr. Willie Burke, Mayor of the County.



The Galway County Heritage Awards ceremony took place in the Claregalway Hotel on September 9th and was well attended by elected representatives, community groups, schools and individuals, amounting to over 400 people from all parts of the county. The judging panel were given a daunting task in trying to pick winners.

The winning projects included: the Bellevue Gate Lodges Restoration Group, Ballinasloe; Scoil Chaomhain, Inis Oirr, Árann; South East Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, Portumna; and Cargin Graveyard Committee. At the award ceremony, Nioclás O'Conchubhair, of The Heritage Council,

said: "If our heritage is to survive, it must be entrusted to the people who live closest to it, those who have the deepest understanding and greatest awareness of it. Therefore, the Galway County Heritage Awards is a very valuable programme as it recognises the voluntary contributions and work of people on the ground, who give so much to heritage by way of creating awareness, management and protection".

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council.



Children and teachers from Scoil na Chlochair, Oughterard, who received an Award for the Best School Heritage Project, pictured with Cllr. Willie Burke, Mayor of County Galway.

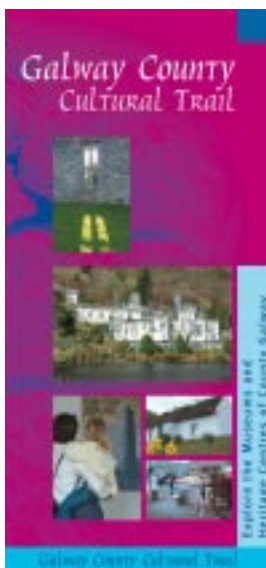
Heritage News

NEW CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORIC IRISH HOUSES AND ESTATES

In September, the President of NUI Maynooth, Professor John Hughes, announced the establishment of a Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates at the university. The centre's steering committee will include representatives of the Office of Public Works and the Irish Georgian Society. The Centre, based in the Department of Modern History, will be coordinated by Dr Terry Dooley. Dr Dooley is a prolific author on agrarian and political issues and a well-known lecturer. According to Dr Dooley, the main focus

of the new centre will be education and research. He intends to provide a meeting place for all those involved in the ownership and maintenance of historic houses, whether they are the original families, new purchasers, or public agencies. There will be summer schools, an annual conference, and a sophisticated electronic database to support the work of the centre. This should become an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the past, present or future of historic Irish properties.

GALWAY COUNTY CULTURAL TRAIL



A new promotional booklet featuring Galway's museums and heritage centres was launched in Kylemore Abbey in June. Thirty museums and heritage centres in Galway are featured in this full colour booklet, entitled 'Galway County Cultural Trail', which also contains a fold-out map so that visitors can plan their route. The centres featured in the booklet vary

from smaller museums such as Synge's Cottage on Inis Meáin, to larger visitor attractions such as Dartfield Horse World and Kylemore Abbey. The booklet has been produced as a result of an initiative by Galway County Museums and Heritage Centres Network and was developed in partnership with Galway County Council, Galway Rural Development, Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta Teo, The Heritage Council, Ireland West Tourism, Galway East Tourism, Údarás na Gaeltachta and GMIT, and is also an action of Galway County Heritage Plan 2004-2008. The booklet will be distributed in tourist offices, hotels, guesthouses and other visitor attractions throughout the county. For more information, contact Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council. Tel. 091-509000.

PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY IN WESTMEATH

As part of the Westmeath Heritage Plan, a series of leaflets promoting best practice for biodiversity have been produced by the Heritage Office of Westmeath Co. Council. The leaflets are aimed at Local Authority staff, developers and the general public, and contain advice on how to incorporate biodiversity into the development process. They explain the need to conserve biodiversity, the legal framework and describe the value of habitats in the county, such as wetlands, woodlands and eskers. Each leaflet offers practical advice on how to conserve and enhance biodiversity in development proposals, in the community and in households. The leaflets also list information sources and nature organisations. Copies are available from Bernadette Guest, Heritage Officer, Westmeath Co. Council, e-mail heritage@westmeathcoco.ie, Tel. 044-32077.



Heritage News

EXCITING RESEARCH ON KERRY'S FRESHWATER FISH



Char from
Muckross Lakes
© Fran Igoe

The Irish Char Conservation Group was founded to provide an education resource for both state agencies and the public. An important aim is to carry out much-needed surveys of our loughs and report back to policy makers. To date, the group have surveyed over 24 loughs in Ireland and collaborate with a number of research institutes at home and abroad. Some of the work is very sophisticated, including genetics and food web analysis and has not been carried out by the State in Irish freshwaters. Last year, the group surveyed 14 important loughs in Kerry, 13 of which had never been surveyed before.

Through this research, we identified four previously unknown populations of Arctic char in Kerry - at Lough Caragh, Cloon, Lough Derriana and Lough Cloonloughlin. In other areas, the first records in a hundred years were produced. The Arctic char in Coomasaharn lough was found to be particularly interesting as they were considerably different to other Irish char; for example, we found dwarf fish with higher numbers of gill raker-structures, which are used to sieve plankton. The way their internal parasites were expressed also suggested that this char population was very old and had developed a kind of immunity not normally associated with char in western Europe. The Kerry char have excited international scientists who recognise their importance in helping us understand how our fish evolved after the last Ice Age.

Important discoveries were not confined to Arctic char. In examining brown trout, large fish-eating 'ferox trout' were identified. The genetics of the trout proved particularly interesting and geneticists from Queens University made some important discoveries based on the survey's samples. Through examination of the mitochondrial DNA, it was found that the

Kerry brown trout showed genetic variability not seen throughout most of western Europe. The fact that some 'haplotypes' were found only in Kerry trout and in one other Irish lough high in the Cumberagh mountains suggests that these trout actually survived the last Ice age in a refuge somewhere off the south west of Ireland.

The surveys did also produce some negative findings. We failed to find Arctic char in Lough Accose (last record in 1982) or in the important sea trout lough, Lough Currane (last record in 1956). We also identified eutrophication processes in the latter. These findings were brought to the attention of the Southern Regional Fisheries Board, Kerry County Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service and we understand that they are trying to tackle issues affecting Lough Currane. But we must remember that we all must row in and lend our support, which must include adequate resourcing of these agencies and respect for the planning process and our environment.

It is clear that the native fish of Kerry are of national importance and of scientific interest. I would like to thank the various personnel of the Southern Regional Fisheries Board and National Parks and Wildlife Service who kindly assisted with the surveys. NPWS and the Kerry Heritage Office also provided financial support. The majority of the finance and the laboratory analysis came through members of the Irish Char Conservation Group, with collaboration by Queens University, Belfast; University of Waterloo, Canada; River Monitoring Technology Ltd, University College Dublin; ISACF, Institute of Freshwater research Drottingholm; and the University of Latvia.

Dr Fran Igoe, Irish Char Conservation Group

Heritage News

WATER HERITAGE DAY 2004

This year, the Heritage Council planned a special day to promote water, as part of Heritage Week, on September 11th. The purpose was to raise awareness among the general public and highlight the importance of water as part of our heritage. This was achieved by hosting events that focused on the heritage aspects of water in each county. The events were supported by a public relations and advertising campaign, water posters, leaflets, a press pack and through the Heritage Council's website. All aspects of water were celebrated, from its importance in providing wildlife and aquatic habitats, to folklore, industrial heritage

and archaeology. A series of Secchi Disk tests were also performed by voluntary groups in lakes and canals around the country. Participants were given clear instructions and asked to return their results for collation.

Numerous events were organised by community groups, NGOs and local authorities to mark the day.



Children from City Quay School, Dublin 2, learning about the various ways to assess water quality and the importance of clean water.

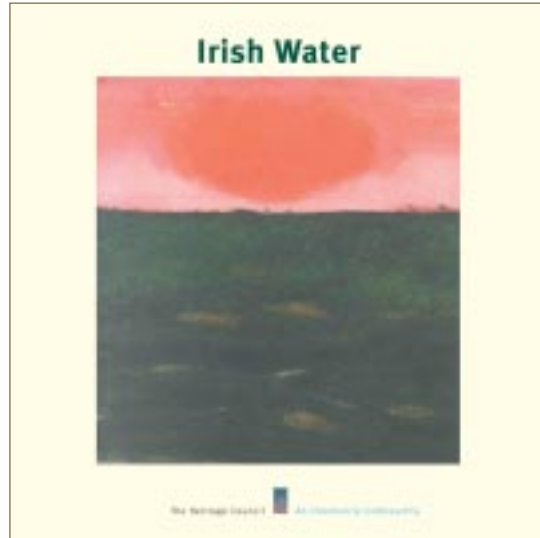


In Monaghan, Ballybay Scouts visited Ballybay Developments Association Wetland Farms to learn about the ecology of wetlands and water. Niall O'Connor, Environmental Officer, took groups of scouts out on a boat to carry out dissolved oxygen and Secchi Disk tests. Meanwhile, Bernie O'Flaherty, Executive Chemist with Monaghan County Council, and John McCullough, from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Castle Espie, Co Antrim, did some kick sample tests. The children identified freshwater shrimp, stoneflies and mayflies from their samples, and everyone went home with a better understanding of the importance of preserving our wetlands for future generations.

Heritage News



In Galway, the Carra Mask Corrib Water Protection Group Ltd and Lough Corrib Angling Federation highlighted the event through local newspapers and on Galway Bay FM. Information stands at Galway Shopping Centre and Eyre Square Shopping Centre displayed photographs, brochures and newsletters. The organisers said they were pleasantly surprised by the huge interest in the event and in particular the intense interest from young people.



An information booklet about Irish Water Heritage is available through the Heritage Council. To receive your free copy, please contact Amanda Ryan, email: Aryan@heritagecouncil.com

Transition Year students from St Thomas's Community School, Bray, carried out Secchi Disc tests at Bray Harbour. The Secchi Disc is a simple device used to estimate the amount of light penetration in a water body. It is used in routine monitoring of lakes as an indicator of how much suspended matter and algae is present in the water.



LOCAL HERITAGE AWARDS

Over 100 community groups were presented with Local Heritage Awards from the Heritage Council at a ceremony in Kilkenny Castle on September 2nd. The groups received specially commissioned plaques and grants, which were allocated to local heritage projects across the country. The funding package of almost €500,000 was offered to community groups and individuals for a wide variety of projects ranging from creating wildlife gardens and heritage walkways to education and awareness projects and creating conservation plans for villages, buildings, boglands, and hedgerows.

The Heritage Council has been running the Local Heritage Grant Awards Scheme since 1997. Funding comes from the National Lottery. To date, almost 600 community and local heritage projects have been funded. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage local groups to take an active interest in their own heritage and to enable them to undertake projects which protect and raise awareness of heritage as a rich and diverse resource. The projects also demonstrate the value of heritage as an asset to improve quality of life and provide opportunities for local enterprise. Many of the local initiatives originally funded by The Heritage Council have grown into major projects such as the Waterford Suir Valley Railway Project and the restoration of the Walled Garden at Kilmore Abbey. Ford Ireland has been supporting Local Heritage Grants since 2001 under the aegis of the Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environment Grants Programme.

The Discovery Programme

an introduction



Heritage Week activity at Tusk Abbey, Co Roscommon. In recent years, the Discovery Programme has offered short public programmes as part of Heritage Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge. All images courtesy of the Discovery Programme.

The Discovery Programme is an archaeological research institution, funded by the Heritage Council. Originally established on a personal initiative of Taoiseach Charles J Haughey in May 1991, the Discovery Programme Ltd was, with the consent of Minister Michel D Higgins, formally incorporated as a private, non-profit-making company in 1996. The Discovery Programme aims, through archaeological and related research, to work towards a coherent and comprehensive picture of human life in Ireland from earliest times; and to formulate the results in ways that can be communicated both to experts and to the general public. Because previous archaeological research in Ireland focused on the burial practices of the past, it was agreed from the outset that the habitation aspect of settlement would be a principle concern of the Discovery Programme. It was also agreed that, at least initially, a core period - the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age - should be focused on. This was a significant period in our past, when Celtic culture became dominant, but it was also something of a 'dark age', knowledge about which was very limited. Towards this end, a number

of long-term projects were established: the Ballyhoura Hills Project; the Western Stone Forts Project; the North Munster Project; the Tara Project; the Lake Settlement Project; and the Medieval Rural Settlement Project.

The principal aim of the Ballyhoura Hills Project was to identify sites that might belong to the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age in that area of Munster. Extensive topographic and geophysical surveys took place at a number of sites, while excavation was carried out at three monument complexes - Chancellorsland, The Claidh Dubh, and Conva.

The Western Stone Forts Project was initiated to study the distinctive group of large stone forts located along the western seaboard. The majority of these are concentrated in the Aran Islands, the Burren and on the Dingle and Iveragh peninsulas. The main focus of the North Munster Project was to achieve a detailed view of the processes and changes involved within the later prehistoric period in an area to the north and south of the lower Shannon and Shannon Estuary, an area well known for its major artefact finds from the period in question. The project also included

the pioneering survey of the Shannon intertidal zone, which was published in 2001.

Tara is one of the best known and most important ancient sites in Ireland. A number of monuments are visible on the hilltop itself and limited excavations during the 1950s demonstrated important activity there from the Neolithic period onwards. There is also a substantial body of early literary references to the site. Despite this, until the Discovery Programme began its work in 1992, very little was actually known about the monuments, their function and relationship to each other, or the way the site was actually used. The archaeological survey, published in 1997, more than doubled the number of known sites/monuments on the Hill. Many publications have come from this project, including *Tara: a select bibliography* (1995); *Tara and the Ark of the Covenant* (2003); and *Tara: Landscape and Kingship*, which is to be published shortly. A small but significant excavation was carried out at Tara in 1997, and in 1999, some additional geophysical surveying resulted in the discovery of a spectacular and previously unknown large enclosure on the hilltop.

The Medieval Rural Settlement Project began in 2002. There has been much investigation of medieval urban settlements over the past 20 years but rural sites have not received the same attention. There are three components to this project: a detailed examination of a small Gaelic lordship in County Roscommon; a Dublin module - to shed light on the nature and extent of the capital's hinterland and on the ways in which rural resources may have been developed to service the medieval city; and an investigation of a manor near Tullow, Co Carlow. Surviving documentary sources, survey, excavation, and environmental analysis are being used to investigate these issues.

As publishing is one of the most important aims of this research, the Discovery Programme established its own publication series in conjunction with the Royal Irish Academy. Since 1992, six in-house reports have been published, as well as five major research books. Discovery Programme staff have also published about 150 papers relating to their work in various external publications. There have also been a number of educational/popular publications, including two guide booklets, a Bronze Age educational pack, and a Tara educational poster with explanatory booklets. A Discovery Programme exhibition toured the country between 1998 and 2002, and a joint educational project with the Hunt Museum, Limerick, was very successful. The Discovery Programme also maintains an award-winning website and staff are in constant demand to give lectures.

To learn more about the Discovery Programme, see www.discoveryprogramme.ie



Scanned modelling of Fourknock's Passage Tomb, Co Meath.



Excavating a possible Mesolithic site at Lough Kinale, Co Longford. An area around Lough Kinale was chosen for the Lake Settlement Project, the objective of which is to explore long-term patterns in settlement and environmental change in a particular lake region. Significant excavations were carried out here in 2003.

Lough Boora Parklands

Aiveen Kemp explains the formation of raised bogs and explores a developed cutaway bog in Offaly



Somewhere between 7,000 and 6,000BC, the Stone Age hunters that inhabited a lakeshore of what is now the area of Boora, Co Offaly, may have noticed the size of their lake beginning to decrease as it became overwhelmed with vegetation, the first step on its way to becoming a fen. This was the beginning of the formation of a raised bog in Lough Boora. This type of peatland, known as oceanic raised bog, started to develop in Ireland as far back as 10,000 years ago and at one stage covered 311,300 hectares of the Irish landscape.

At the end of the last glaciation in Ireland, approximately 10,000 years ago, central Ireland was covered by a series of shallow lakes, remnants of the melting ice of retreating glaciers. The lake in Boora, Co Offaly, was one such lake, and would have been characteristic in its shallowness and by having a base of clay and glacial deposits covered by lake marl. The mineral-rich water of these lakes had its source in springs and from groundwater. As the floating plant communities of the lake died, their remains accumulated on the lake bottom to form a thin peat layer. The reeds and sedges growing on the lake's edges also contributed to the peat layer when they died, and over time this layer became thicker, until it was so thick that the roots of the sedges that invaded the peat surface could not reach the mineral-rich groundwaters below.

It was at this stage that the vegetation colonising the 'fen peat' changed. Sphagnum moss now colonised the peat due to its ability to tolerate the mineral-poor environment and obtain sufficient

nutrition from rainwater alone. Sphagnum moss is also able to draw up and hold up to 20 times its own weight in water. It also changes the acidity of its local environment and so facilitates the colonisation of acid-tolerant plants such as bog cotton, ling heather, and sundew. Raised bogs are so called because the surface of an intact raised bog is many metres above the surrounding landscape.

CUTAWAY BOG

Although over 93% of Ireland's raised bog has been removed to date, our remaining intact raised bogs are some of the most important in Europe and are some of the most extensive in the world. The importance of preserving what remains of our raised bog cannot be overemphasized, but what of the 6,000 hectares of raised bog that has already been exploited? These areas of raised bog that have been stripped of all of their commercially viable peat are known as cutaway bogs.

Some 2,000 hectares of cutaway can be found in the Boora bog-complex, 16 kilometres west of Tullamore in Co Offaly. During the early 1950s, Boora Bog was the first bog in the Irish midlands to be developed for the production of milled peat to generate electricity. This milled peat supplied the ESB station at Ferbane, which was the first station outside Russia to produce electricity from milled peat. By the 1970s, areas of cutaway were already emerging and Bord na Móna began to investigate ways in which these areas could be used. They focused initially on forestry and grassland plantations.

In 1994, some of the local Bord na Móna

workers in Boora set up a group that established an integrated land use plan for the then 1,170-hectare cutaway area in the Boora Bog complex. The Lough Boora Parklands Group, as it was called, is now made up of representatives from the local communities, the voluntary and enterprise sectors, the West Offaly Partnership as well as employees of Bord na Móna. Together they envisaged the parklands as a patchwork of commercial forestry, grassland, and amenities for tourism and education. This vision is certainly being fulfilled. There are now fishing lakes, walkways, bird hides, areas of natural re-colonisation and wetlands, making the parklands what the group had hoped for – “an integrated resource with something to offer everyone”.

BACK TO WATER

Some of the cutaway areas could not be drained sufficiently for agriculture or forestry, and were prone to flooding in winter. One such area is known as Turraun. Peat had been removed from the raised bog at Turraun for over 150 years, and in 1973 it was the first of Bord na Móna's peatlands to become cutaway. Before peat can be extracted from a site it has to be drained, and the site at Turraun was drained by a series of gravitational arterial drains that emptied into the Boora River. When peat extraction ceased at Turraun, the drains could not be maintained and the presence of a series of springs meant that the site had areas that were permanently waterlogged. Therefore, Turraun appeared to be an ideal choice for the creation of a cutaway lake.

Oceanic raised bog started to develop in Ireland as far back as 10,000 years ago and at one stage covered 311,300 hectares of the Irish landscape

In 1990, Dr Brendan Kavanagh of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland conducted a baseline survey of Turraun, and supported the recommendation by Bord na Móna that the site be developed into a wetland. Work to turn the cutaway area at Turraun into a wetland began in 1991. Much of the remaining peat was removed from the site and some was used to build three islands. The outflows were blocked and an embankment was built to the north of the site. The springs fed the basin with mineral-rich water to form a shallow lake of 60 hectares in area, which then became part of the Lough Boora Parklands. Because peat extraction in Turraun was stopped almost 20 years previously, vegetation had re-



Stripped Bare: Peat was removed from the raised bog at Turraun for over 150 years. In 1973, it was the first of Bord na Móna's peatlands to become cutaway.

colonised the site naturally, and now covered over 80 hectares.

There are actually over 140 hectares of naturally re-colonised areas in the parklands. As rushes are often the first species to colonise bare peat, they are one of the most common plants found. At Turraun, a variety of grass species have sprung up and some areas have developed into rich wildflower meadows containing bee orchids and common spotted orchids. Surrounding the wetlands at Turraun, bog cotton, water horsetail, *Phragmites* reeds, bulrush and marsh arrow-grass can be found. Because Turraun was one of the first cutaway areas to emerge, the process of regeneration has progressed to the stage of open woodland, with trees such as willow and downy birch present.



BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

Opposite: Home to over 1% of the Irish whooper swan population, Turraun Lake is now an internationally important wetland. Other waterfowl recorded at Turraun include tufted duck, mallard, wigeon, and teal with the most abundant waders being lapwing and snipe

Above left: Grey Partridge, © Brendan Kavanagh

Above right: Lapwing, © John N Murphy

BIRD HAVEN

Between 1990 and 1995, flocks of over 200 whooper swans were recorded at Turraun. Because this is over 1% of the Irish whooper swan population, Turraun has since been listed as an internationally important wetland. Other waterfowl recorded at Turraun include tufted duck, mallard, wigeon, and teal, with the most abundant waders being lapwing and snipe. Small numbers of Greenland white-fronted geese have been observed within the swan flocks.

The grey partridge, *Perdix perdix*, is one of Ireland's most endangered birds. It used to be a common game bird but the only remaining native breeding birds in the country are in the Lough Boora Parklands. This last remaining population numbered only 24 in 2000. Dr Brendan Kavanagh is in charge of the National Conservation Strategy for the Endangered Grey Partridge, sponsored by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Royal College of Surgeons

Common bog plants have begun to re-colonise Lough Boora Parklands

Right: Ling heather, *Calluna vulgaris*

Below Left: The common rush, *Juncus effusus*

Below Right: Bulrush, *Typha latifolia*

Images © Fergus Cooper



in Ireland and aided by the Curlew Trust. Some 150 hectares of undeveloped cutaway were leased to the project by Bord na Móna to be managed in such a way that was conducive to the survival of the birds. The project has created nesting banks for the partridges and has planted chick-rearing cover crops that are rich in the insects needed by young partridge chicks. Thanks to this project, partridge numbers have remained stable over the last four years. However, because of the small population size, the problem of inbreeding has arisen. According to Dr Kavanagh it was necessary to introduce a small number of wild grey partridge from abroad to the population to resolve this problem and increase genetic diversity. The birds were imported from France, and have bred successfully with the native birds. A limited number of these birds were recently released. Predation on nesting hens is also a threat to the partridges, so there is a permanent gamekeeper in the area, who controls fox and crow numbers.

According to Dr Áine O'Connor, of the National University of Ireland Galway, one of the reasons for the high density of birds found on

these lakes is the abundance and diversity of large invertebrates on which they can feed. The large numbers of invertebrates is a result of the absence of large fish predators in these water bodies. In fact, the largest predators present are invertebrates such as beetles and dragonfly nymphs.

In addition to the ecological value of the Lough Boora Parklands, the creation of the parklands has provided the local population with an invaluable amenity, but that should not distract us from the bigger issue here. Ireland's raised bogs are disappearing rapidly and we should do everything in our power to preserve those that remain.



Aiveen Kemp is a writer and Zoology graduate from TCD, who specialised in Freshwater Biology

IPCC: To find out more about Irish bogs and how you can help to conserve peatlands, contact the Irish Peatland Conservation Council.

Email: bogs@ipcc.ie Tel. 045-860133 www.ipcc.ie

We need to 'de-expertise' protected areas

Tim Christophersen talks to Michael Starrett, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council and President of EUROPARC, about protected areas.

How would you describe a successfully managed National Park in Europe?

In Europe, people always have to be factored into the management of any national park. There is no doubt in my mind that attempting to manage nature for nature's sake will not work. We have enough evidence from trying that approach in Europe and world-wide to know better now. High levels of community participation are critical to long-term success.

Do European protected areas have special characteristics compared to other regions of the world?

Back to those people again. Our population densities tend to produce special characteristics. I would like to think that we have gained much experience in conflict resolution as a result, but not all evidence would support this thesis.

There are only a few, and relatively small, marine protected areas in the pan-European region, in contrast to the recommendations of the World Parks Congress. What do you see as the main reasons for this?

Simple. We don't live in the sea. By our very nature we are a pretty selfish species and will only react when something affects us directly. It is only now that we are waking up to the fact that, directly or indirectly, the marine area is hugely significant to our survival and the quality of life we lead.

The CBD Conference of the Parties adopted a very ambitious Work Programme on Protected Areas earlier this year. In concrete terms, what does this mean for your work in the coming five years?

Both as President of EUROPARC and as Chief Executive of the Heritage Council of Ireland, the impact will be quite dramatic. Encouraging work with young people, seeking to promote wider community involvement and, of course, setting biodiversity in a wider landscape context will occupy a lot of time.

The theme of the EUROPARC 2004 annual meeting will be "The challenge of Natura 2000: Conservation and Opportunities for People". Do conservationists sometimes promise local stakeholders too much in terms of real opportunities from protected areas?

Not as I see it. It is, after all, their nature and their protected area. At least if it isn't, we are all fighting a losing battle. Of course, opportunity doesn't always translate into financial opportunity. Giving people



responsibility for, and ownership of, protected areas also represents opportunities.

Natura 2000 at present is a collection of more or less disconnected sites. How could it become a real network?

Let's await the outcome of EUROPARC 2004. I have my own views, of course, as evidenced by the need to set biodiversity within the context of the wider landscape (both natural and cultural landscape), but our members in Spain have been doing a tremendous job to ensure this year's conference is truly participative. The answer to your question will come from that participation.

What main threats to protected areas do you currently see in the pan-European region?

It would be easy to focus on the usual culprits such as lack of resources and poor legislation. However, at the risk of upsetting a lot of readers (many of whom may have voted for me as President of EUROPARC) I see the biggest threat as being a failure on behalf of us as practitioners to change our mindset. Whilst retaining the need for good science, we need to 'de-expertise' protected areas, i.e. make sure they are not viewed as the preserve of experts and that they are relevant to people in their everyday lives.

Please complete the following sentence: "In 2010, I would like Europe's protected areas to..."

... not need to exist at all because everyone shares the values and significance we attach to them, and applies those values across the whole range of our territories. OK - I am a realist. Maybe by 2020."

EUROPARC is a pan-European body with almost 400 members in 38 countries. EUROPARC is a member of IUCN, the World Conservation Union since 1985. Further information can be found at www.europarc.org and www.iucneurope.org

Michael Starrett was elected President of EUROPARC in 2002 and was appointed the first Chief Executive of the Heritage Council in 1996. He is a graduate ecologist and biologist and has worked in protected area management and policy development since 1979.



(This interview appeared in the latest newsletter of the IUCN Regional Office for Europe)

Michael Starrett

GALLERY Dermot Blackburn

Dermot Blackburn was born in County Antrim in 1952. In 1992/3, he studied Documentary Photography in Hartlepool and Middlesbrough. *“During my childhood, the fields outside my house in Summer would echo with the calls of Corncrakes - sadly no more. During my wanderings of the past 10 years I have made many trips to Mayo. There I visit a friend involved in the West Connaught Corncrake Watch. These visits enabled me to gain access to many fascinating places – the uninhabited islands off the*

coast of Belmullet – Inishglora, Inishkeeragh, and the Inishkeas. Although I consider myself more of a landscape / documentary photographer, the wildlife on these islands was a revelation to me, the sound of roosting Storm Petrels on Inishglora being one of the most astonishing sounds I have ever experienced. And, in summer nights, Mayo meadows - a renewed aural acquaintance with the Corncrake... Crex Crex”.

Contact Dermot Blackburn at:
www.dermotblackburn.com Tel: 0044-(0)7801277409



Magilligan Strand, County Derry. Don't be fooled by the seeming emptiness of this scene. The land just to the right is a military firing range, and

the tracks on the sand were made by a security vehicle that came to see what I was photographing. Nikon D100 digital, 20mm lens.

GALLERY



Craigagh Wood, near Cushendun, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Nikon D100 digital, 20mm lens.



Early morning mist dispersing, Larne Lough, from Muldersleigh Hill.

Larne Lough was classified on 4th March 1997 as both a Ramsar site and as a Special Protection Area. It has Northern Ireland's only breeding colony of Roseate Terns. The pylons from Ballylumford power station cross the lough at four points, causing a considerable obstacle for the many species of migrating birds

that use the lough. The large strip of land in the middle distance is the spoil from Magheramourne cement works (now closed) - In 1997 local residents (with assistance from Friends of the Earth) successfully overturned a proposal to create the largest 'Super Dump' in Europe at Magheramourne. In the far distance is the Antrim Plateau and the Glens of Antrim. Nikon F100, 80-200mm lens

GALLERY



Turf-fired power station, Ballacorrick, County Mayo.
Nikon F801s, 24mm lens.



Grasses on the wall of Ballycarry Causeway, crossing Larne Lough.
Nikon F100, 20mm lens, flash.

The **Dublin Print Depot** is a multi-bay, two-storey over basement, brick-faced building in the city centre dating to the early 1950s, originally designed as a printing works with offices. The building, which is not a Protected Structure, has recently been refurbished for new use as a digital media enterprise.

The building was in reasonably good condition before work began and therefore required a very low level of intervention in basic adaptation to its new use. All photos © Dublin City Council

Built to Last

Dublin City Heritage Officer **Donncha Ó Dúlaing** introduces a recent study that explores the sustainable reuse of buildings

A certain generation in Ireland, as elsewhere, grew up with the maxim ‘Waste not, want not’ and no philosophy could be simpler for the retention and reuse of the country’s historic built environment. The rehabilitation of old buildings across Dublin, for example, can play a pivotal role in the city’s sustainable development. Many buildings, although not formally protected, have sufficient interest, artistic, architectural and historic, to merit ongoing retention. In addition to an inherent attractiveness, they have stood the test of time and contribute to our streetscapes, lending character and confirming a sense of place and tradition. Undisturbed, such buildings also protect, potentially, underlying deposits of archaeology. Importantly, retention and reuse greatly reduces waste generation and associated environmental degradation.

In association with the Heritage Council, and following public competition, a study was commissioned recently by Dublin City Council to focus debate on the sustainable reuse of buildings. The promotion of such environmental, economic and cultural sustainability is an objective of the Dublin City Heritage Plan (2002-2006). The study



aimed to identify salient issues and suggested further actions and research. It was carried out by Carrig Conservation, in partnership with McGrath Environmental Consultants, James P. McGrath & Associates and Murray O’Laoire Architects. The actions outlined in the report will be implemented, where feasible, through the Dublin City Heritage Plan and other partnership initiatives.

Five buildings were considered under diverse perspectives: economic, environmental and cultural. The potential reuse of each building was compared with estimates for the cost of replacement on the same site. Using ‘real-life’ refurbishment costs, the economic review examined each building and compared the costs for demolition / new construction with the costs of retention and reuse. The environmental review analysed the environmental impact and whole life cost of each building in the study. It detailed the differences and similarities between the existing buildings and their hypothetical replacements. Although more difficult to quantify, the cultural review attempted to establish the aesthetic, amenity and heritage values of each building, comparing these values with the replacement buildings.

Table 1

CASE STUDY BUILDING	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of reuse	€3,635,000	€555,000	€1,275,000	€705,000	€740,000
Cost of new build	€7,700,000	€925,000	€1,530,000	€710,000	€700,000
Cost benefit	€4,065,000	€370,000	€255,000	€5,000	€-40,000
Reuse percentage gain	53%	40%	17%	1%	-6%

Results from the sustainable reuse of buildings study, undertaken as part of the Dublin City Heritage Plan 2002-2006.

BUILDING ON FACT

In general, the conclusions of this research illustrate the advantages, both economic and environmental, of reusing and extending the lifespan of the building stock. The case studies showed that constructing new buildings on brown-field sites is more expensive than retaining and reusing existing buildings except in situations where the extent of building repair and refurbishment required is extremely high. As the repair costs decrease, the reuse option becomes progressively more economic to a point where reduced costs of as much as 50% can be achieved. The study has also shown that the reuse of buildings has greater value for the environment and cost savings over the future life of the buildings. Existing buildings can also

have greater aesthetic and heritage value.

The study supported the acknowledged international view that the reuse of buildings minimises the depletion of non-renewable resources and is, therefore, an essential component of sustainable development. A refurbished building was shown to perform better in environmental terms than a newly constructed building on the same site (if only hypothetically new for this study). In the buildings assessed, the environmental impact per square metre was shown to be less in the refurbished building than in new.

In most cases, the cost of servicing and running buildings during their lifetime far exceeds the initial costs of their construction. In four of the case studies under review, the

The facade of the Gilbert Library (now the Dublin City Archive and Library) before and after conservation. Below: the interior of the renovated Gilbert Library



No. 9 Merchant's Quay before, and after, conservation which included reinstatement of its third floor.
All photographs courtesy of Dublin City Council.



reuse option generated lower whole-life costs, making retention a better environmental option. Similarly, in four of the five, the reuse option also had lower capital costs. It follows that there should be a genuine interest in procuring buildings with low running and maintenance costs.

the reuse of buildings has greater value for the environment and cost savings ... of as much as 50% can be achieved

From a cultural perspective, the existing buildings were considered to have added value and thus outperformed the replacement buildings. Significantly, a study on the rental income of listed historic buildings in the United Kingdom has found that over the last five years they have consistently provided greater returns than unlisted properties. The potential economic dividend for properties in Dublin, and Ireland as a whole, should not be ignored.

EDUCATION

The study recommended that its results be widely disseminated to promote discussion and greater awareness. Strategies to this end envisage:

- A targeted conference on the sustainable reuse of buildings to key stakeholders.
- Existing education and training courses in related subjects should be reviewed.
- A series of simple, practical leaflets on

basic methods of conservation, such as window repair, roof repair, and weathering of buildings should be promoted.

- The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government leaflets (1996) should be revised and reissued and have regard to the environmental value as well as the cultural value of existing buildings.
- Special training and accreditation of the professions, contractors and suppliers should be encouraged.
- Technical guidance on the performance aspects of historic buildings should be prepared, demonstrating how Irish building typologies can be made conform with building regulations in terms of safety, structure and accessibility.
- Education about recycling of building components and materials is required for all those involved in the construction industry. This should be coordinated by a group consisting of the Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government, Sustainable Energy Ireland, and the professional and academic institutes.



Donncha Ó Dúlaing,
Dublin City Heritage Officer

Reeling in the Years

Hugh Maguire explores the heritage value of maintaining our archives

In 1604, having been served some rancid artichokes in a Roman tavern, the artist Caravaggio (c. 1573-1610) “seized the plate with the artichokes on it and threw it at the waiter’s face”. A year later, in a separate incident following a dispute over a prostitute, Mariano Pasqualone testified that he “felt a blow on the back of my head. I fell to the ground at once and realised that I had been wounded in the head [by Caravaggio] by what I believe to have been the stroke of a sword”. Whether or not such information serves to enhance our appreciation of his paintings, it certainly enhances our knowledge of Caravaggio as an individual. Of course, the only reason we know any of this is because of the survival of court records in the Archivio di Stato in Rome. Such records, together with bank accounts from institutions such as the Banco di Napoli, among others, accumulate to fill in a portrait of a celebrated figure in the history of western art. It is the task of the historian to sift through these archives, the accounts of thousands and thousands of people, to arrive at the information required to fill in a picture of one.



Bishop Street, Dublin, c. 1880.
© IAA Photographic Collections

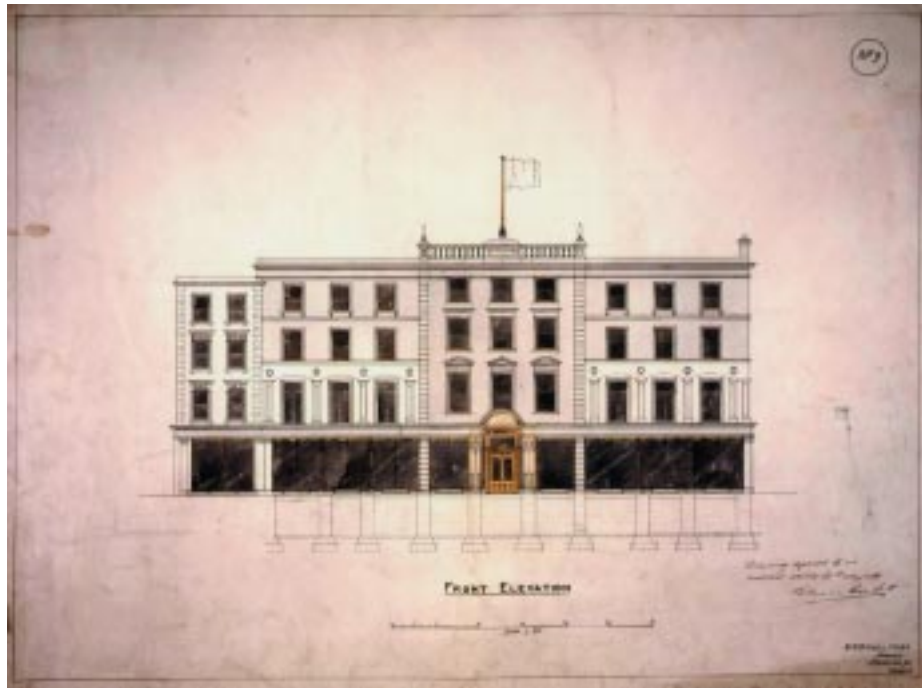
It is from such diverse material - sometimes meticulously filed and ordered, at other times bits and pieces of paper stuffed into folders and boxes - that we gain insights into the past. And such information is common to all our lives. Virtually everyone alive

in the developed world carries his or her own personal archive. Who hasn’t retained a birth certificate, a ‘Leaving Certificate’, a letter from a partner or parent or child? Then there are all the additional records: the birthday cards, wedding cards, and memory cards. Added to this are our bank records, health reports, pay slips, tax returns, the bits and pieces necessary to the administration of our own lives.

Added together across Ireland and across the generations, such archives (for that is indeed what they are) provide documentary evidence of the realities of our lives. They are not always the truth but they afford a potential truth. Letters may reveal personal insights, true opinions, or simply indisputable facts. Archives, regardless of their fragile state can provide a light, sometimes brilliant sometimes delicate, to shine on the darkness of our past and the greater darkness of our



Perspective view of Artane Industrial School, Dublin. Charles Geoghan, architect, 1871. Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



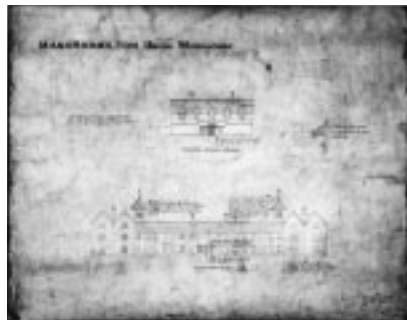
Front elevation of McBirney's, Aston Quay, Dublin. W.M. Mitchell, architect, 1899. Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive

present. The absence of such records in tribunals and investigations in recent years can throw a whole process into disarray. The media report that “records are not being made available” in a particular case. It may in fact be a reality that the records do not exist. They have not been destroyed through some devious machinations but simply destroyed through sheer neglect and the absence of any systems to ensure their survival.

Legislation exists to support an array of national and local authority archives. And the sector benefits from a highly dedicated and profes-

sionally trained, if undervalued, body of archivists. Together with official archives, there are masses of others with little or no legislative support, and certainly no financial support. These are held by the churches, religious orders, private institutions, families and individuals. The list is perhaps endless. And yet for all their ubiquity they can be ignored, perceived as fusty and dusty, the fodder of historians concerned with mutton exports to Twickenham in the 1860s. This fails to recognise the joy we all derive from archives on a daily basis. Consider the RTÉ footage of an All-Ireland hurling final, videos of ABBA concerts

Right: Elevations of entrance building and main block, Manorhamilton Union Workhouse, Co Leitrim. George Wilkinson, architect, 1840. Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



Far Right: IAA survey photograph, Castleboro, Co Wexford, 1985. Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



Detail from map of Dromana Estate, Co Waterford. Henry Jones, surveyor, 1751. Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



Audience at the popular comedy *A Jew Called Sammy* by John McCann in 1962. Courtesy of the National Theatre Archives.

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from the 1970s, episodes of the *Late Late Show*. Perhaps I lead a sheltered life, but can anything be more fascinating to watch than *Reeling in the Years*, all that old black and white television footage exuding a whiff of Brylcreem.

Throughout this year, the National Theatre, the Abbey, has been celebrating its centenary but has also been receiving attention for all the wrong reasons. Behind the scenes, literally and figuratively, and thanks to the availability of a professional archivist, the theatre has been rectifying the neglect of decades in getting its archival house in order (see www.abbeytheatre.ie/resources/). The

role of such a collection at a theatre of this prestige cannot be underestimated. Designs for costumes, sets, and stage directions, together with annotated scripts, provide insight into the history of theatre and drama across Ireland. It is not just enough, therefore, for the theatre to have a list of what was put on. The whole apparatus of staging is relevant to a full understanding of a production's history and its reception by the public. Such material is far from passive but instead is active, providing a quarry of potential inspiration to current and future directors and designers.

Dialogue between the past and present is a



Siobhan McKenna and Angela Newman in a scene from the 1976 production of *The Plough and the Stars* by Sean O'Casey. Photo: Fergus Bourke. Courtesy of the National Theatre Archives.

practitioners of the present and future may learn from the qualities and achievements of the past

Right: Tanya Moiseiwitsch, Designer, and her model box for a 1939 production of *Casadh an tSugain* by Douglas Hyde. Courtesy of the National Theatre Archives.



Below: The lighting plan and costume design from the 1927 Abbey Theatre production of *Caesar and Cleopatra* by George Bernard Shaw. Courtesy of the National Theatre Archives.

Below Right: Handbills, programme and posters from the National Theatre Archives collection. Courtesy of the National Theatre Archives.



characteristic of the best archival collections, as with the study of history itself. And nowhere is this more apparent than in collections such as the Irish Traditional Music Archive and the Irish Architectural Archive. Both collections not only act as receptacles of recordings on the one hand, and drawings and plans on the other, but provide tangible evidence for those creating music and architecture today.

In recent years, there has been a welcome growth in our awareness of architectural conservation and a concurrent growth in restoration skills. Consequently, the Architectural Archive has an enhanced, more dynamic, role in safeguarding our built environment and, ideally, in providing inspiration for contemporary architecture. As at the Abbey, practitioners of the present and future may learn from the qualities and achievements of the past. The Architectural Archive is about to reopen in purpose-built facilities at No 45 Merrion Square, the largest house on the square, dating from the 1790s. The refit and the archival

storage area, designed by the Office of Public Works, will not only prove innovative but will act as a beacon to other archive collections, exemplifying as it does the rewards of tenacity and dedication over many years (see www.iarc.ie).

Dr Hugh Maguire completed his PhD on Architectural History, at the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London. He is currently lecturing at the Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages at the University of Ulster, having previously lectured at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. He is the newly appointed Museums & Archives Officer with the Heritage Council.



Tax Incentives Schemes in Ireland

Throwing mud without first taking aim



North Main Street Cork: part of the 'living over the business' urban regeneration scheme allowing retention and restoration of the historic character of the city while also encouraging economic regeneration

Tax incentives for development in Ireland have been with us in their present form since the early 1980s. They began with the Temple Bar Renewal Scheme, followed by the first of two rounds of the Urban Renewal Scheme; the Seaside Resort Scheme and Town Renewal Scheme; and the Rural Renewal Scheme for the Upper Shannon. They have been a popular item on the political agenda for the last 20 years and have been consistently good for votes. But have they been good for planning? Can the planning system cope with the pressure-cooker environment that arises, and do we spend enough time planning what we want this increased development activity to achieve in the long term?

The purpose of the tax incentives that have been on offer in Ireland since the early 1980s is to promote development in areas that have been identified as being economically slow to develop, or have suffered from steady population decline.

The original of the species was the Temple Bar Urban Renewal Programme which was presided over by a company (Temple Bar Properties) that operated independently of the Planning Authority. It was recognised in this case that the level of management and coordination involved in implementing the scheme was beyond the available resources of the Planning Authority at the time and a dedicated organisation was required that could focus entirely on the task in

hand. A vision was formed and a plan was made. However, this has not always been the approach in subsequent incentive schemes.

When a quick-fix solution like a tax incentive scheme is applied over a short period of time, it is akin to throwing mud at a wall and hoping some of it will stick

Although a separate development company for each incentive scheme would be unnecessary, a vision and a plan is certainly not. Planning is a means of identifying spatial and socio-economic problems and addressing them in a structured way over an extended period of time. When a quick-fix solution such as a tax incentive scheme is applied over a short period of time, the result is akin to throwing mud at a wall and hoping some of it will stick. This has been the approach adopted in the Seaside Resorts Tax Incentive Scheme, which has left the towns they touched with as many problems (many of an environmental nature) as they solved.

The purpose of the Rural Renewal Scheme, which was applied to counties Longford, Leitrim, and parts of Cavan, Roscommon and Sligo, was to increase the level of development activity within these counties, with no corresponding increase in

planning staff whose job it is to ensure that all development complies with the principles of sustainable development. Nobody can deny that development is needed in these areas, nor that it brings certain socio-economic benefits to the areas, but are we getting value for money? Are the slash-and-burn techniques of the tax incentive schemes really the way to ensure long-term benefits for the majority of the population? Planners are under pressure when this happens and the quality of decision making suffers.

Whilst the renewal schemes for urban areas became more focused over time – from the Urban Renewal Scheme which designated whole areas of towns for incentives, to the Town Renewal Scheme which designated individual buildings within identified areas – this focus disappeared in the case of the Rural Renewal Scheme which designated entire counties. While the Rural Renewal Scheme has brought many sorely needed benefits to the region, how much valuable mud has slid off the wall and landed on the ground? What other benefits could have been achieved if a properly considered vision and plan were in place at the outset? In the case of the Urban Renewal Scheme and the Town Renewal Scheme, it was necessary to prepare a plan in advance of the implementa-

tion of the scheme. This was even done for towns that already had a Development Plan in place. This recognised that such incentives were likely to create a level of development that the Development Plans may not have anticipated and had not been designed to cater for. This was good planning. It was the creation of a vision before the scheme started. It made sure that people were agreed on what they would get before they got it. To fail to have done so would have been bad planning, or more accurately, an absence of planning.

What will the indicators of the success of the Rural Renewal Scheme be? Will we only look at the figures for economic growth, or will we also have the wisdom to take into account the environmental cost of this growth. An environmental cost that could have been significantly reduced if a proper plan and vision were in place from the start. It's much easier to know you've arrived when you know where you're going. Having in place a plan and vision is not just to satisfy the planners and environmentalists – it ensures focused development which achieves the widest benefits possible for the community – and it saves expensive mud.

Paddy Matthews is a Conservation Consultant with John Cronin & Associates

Right and Far Right: Scenes from a medieval Irish town where tax incentivised development fails to take account of the historic built fabric.



Issues of scale are a critical factor in preserving the character of historic townscapes. Apart from its physical bulk, this new development cuts across many historic property boundaries running back from the medieval street. Photo George Lambrick



A typical medieval lane-way off North Main Street, Cork. Such features are critical to maintaining the historic character of the city, reflecting its medieval layout. Note that the line of the lane-way is also marked by the new paving design which forms part of the conservation scheme for the historic centre of the city. Photo: Cork Corporation.

Designing an Irish Village

In 2003/4, three communities in Westmeath took part in the preparation of Village Design Statements.

Mark Brindley introduces this exciting new course for rural planning.

Irish villages that have not previously benefited from any sort of plan have had their form and character brutalised by inappropriate, unsympathetic and alien additions. The cutting and pasting of semi-detached suburbia onto the edges of our towns and villages, whilst maybe meeting commuter-driven housing demands, has also served to reinforce the problems associated with such piecemeal, unplanned, developer-driven housing on the fringes of our villages and towns. We have a legacy of developments that poorly integrate with the original village/urban form. The rise of the cul-de-sac development, with inappropriate highway design standards, allows cars to reach speeds unsuitable within such supposedly residential areas, and serves to reduce pedestrian access between developments and physically segregate new residential developments from the traditional village centre.

Unfortunately, patterns of development are dictated by land ownership, and limited foresight is being shown, or rather facilitated, by planning authorities bound by the ethos that development in any form is preferable to no development. I am passionate that the role of the professional planner is to, where possible, 'add value' to the development process 'in the public interest' and, as per the Planning Act 2000, 'in the interests of orderly planning and sustainable development'. It is no longer acceptable to entertain development proposals that perpetuate the suburban, semi-detached, cul-de-sac culture and the unsustainable pattern and form of development that goes with that. Hence the need to ensure that our towns and villages are permitted to grow in a sensible and rational manner with a suitable range of supporting services. The quality of the physical environment definitely affects the attitudes and behaviour of the local people. For example, segregated residential estates within their own system of segregated cul-de-sacs, with no direct walking routes to facilities or services, will make those facilities appear further away and increase the propensity to use the car. This for me is where the Village Design Statement can best assist.



Market House, Killucan

ACT LOCALLY

The Village Design Statement is an idea borrowed from the UK's Countryside Commission who felt similarly that the

identity and feel of the original village was being lost by inappropriate additions. The approach is easily adaptable to local situations and has already been undertaken in other rural counties in Ireland such as Sligo and Offaly.

The 'Village Design Statement' (VDS) is a good way to help all those involved with planning the future development of their village to understand its distinctive character and what makes it such a special place in which to live. A VDS describes the character of a village and provides broad design guidelines which address the qualities that local residents consider worthy of protection or improvement.

It is no longer acceptable to entertain development proposals that perpetuate the suburban, semi-detached, cul-de-sac culture



The Green, Tyrellspass



Left: Mill, Streete

Below: The Village Design Statement for Streete was launched by the then Chairman of the County Heritage Forum, Cllr. Jim Bourke on May 12th. The launch was attended by the local community, elected representatives, Council Executive and The Heritage Council.



Between September 2003 and March 2004, local communities in Streete, Killucan/Rathwire, and Tyrellspass were invited to participate in planning the future development of their villages. Westmeath County Council (WCC), with the generous financial support of the Heritage Council, was able to appoint consultants to undertake three VDSs for these three very different villages within the county. It was decided at a very early stage that the consultation process would not involve the Planning Section and was led by the County's Heritage and Conservation Officers, Bernie Guest and Sinéad O'Hara respectively. This decision was made because it was felt that there was a general mistrust of all things related to 'planning'. This perception is personally disappointing, but has been formed in part by the decision-making authority rather than the ability of individual planners in the organisation and the profession.

The consultants Manogue, Soltys-Brewster, in association with the Planning Section and following the advice of the Council's Community and Enterprise Section, identified the key community groups who were able to liaise with local people to promote interest in the project and elect representatives who formed a community steering group to input directly into the drafting of the guidelines. Meetings, workshops and follow-up sessions took place in all of the villages. The VDS has allowed the wider community to gain an understanding of their natural and physical environment, empowering them to formulate and create a guidance document, which provides the Forward Planning Section of WCC with a platform to better understand and inform future development patterns within all of the villages.

CONSTRUCTIVE CONSULTATION

The VDSs for Streete, Killucan/Rathwire, and Tyrellspass were launched on May 12th, 2004. The consultation process taught us that all the communities involved value their village, its

buildings, surrounding countryside and open spaces, and they are ready for the growth of their community - as long as development occurs in a measured and considered way that appreciates the current form.

This assessment, to planning professionals, developers, architects and design practitioners, serves to reinforce our role and responsibility to these communities and ensure that we do not accept the 'anywhere' developments which are increasingly eating into the fabric of our traditional urban and village form. The VDS experience has helped us move towards three-dimensional planning and away from the one-dimensional zoning approach, and is part of a general move towards delivering orderly developments which are complementary to the existing fabric of the village and provide permeability and the enjoyment of our built and natural environment.

While the consultative process has proved to be an overwhelming success in itself - building consensus amongst communities, bringing people together with a common purpose in some instances, and promoting an understanding of each village's unique character - the principal purpose from the planning officer's perspective is its ability to inform the statutory planning process.

It became increasingly apparent during the preparation of the VDSs in Westmeath that the future of our villages is best left in the hands of the community, who respect and cherish what is best about it, and to those who know the village well enough to determine its future, namely the local community.

Mark Brindley is a Senior Planner with Tom Phillips and Associates Planning Consultancy. Mark has extensive experience in local plan preparation, Village Design Statements and action area plans, having worked as a Principal Planning Officer in the London Borough of Merton (UK) and more recently as an Acting Senior Executive Planner with Westmeath County Council's Forward Planning Section.

The Heritage Council Grants Programme

Through the Heritage Council's Grants Programme, we hope to encourage and enable people throughout Ireland to enjoy, record, conserve, restore and celebrate the distinctive qualities of their local heritage, their community and their environment. Applications are invited for imaginative and innovative proposals from organisations and individuals who wish to carry out projects that conserve Ireland's heritage and which match the Council's aims as set out in The Heritage Council Plan 2001-2005.

Since 1995, Council's grants have assisted hundreds of projects of varying scales and from diverse fields, each contributing to our heritage at local or national level. We have sought to conserve and enhance the built and natural environment by offering grants which reach

across the heritage spectrum. This year, the Council will allocate in the order of 2.3 million to its grants schemes. The Heritage Council is part-funded by the National Lottery and during 2005 will allocate funding to seven grant schemes:

- **ARCHAEOLOGY**
- **ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH**
- **BUILDINGS AT RISK**
- **LOCAL HERITAGE**
- **MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES**
- **PUBLICATIONS**
- **WILDLIFE**

Below is a sample of just some of the grants awarded as part of the Heritage Council Grants Programme 2004:

VICARSTOWN VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, CO LAOIS

Vicarstown in Co Laois is a tiny, unspoilt canal-side village in Co Laois which possesses a wealth of unique, natural and cultural assets. This year, the Heritage Council offered funding towards the cost of a Conservation Plan for Vicarstown, which will assess the current heritage assets of the village and make recommendations for future sustainable and sensitive development.



THATCHED PUBLIC HOUSE, CLONEEN, CO TIPPERARY

This building is a fine example of a more or less intact Victorian era rural public house. The character and atmosphere of the bar area is well retained. The virtually intact joinery, bar counter and shelving make a considerable contribution to this. When the owner applied for a grant from the Heritage Council, the roof was in appalling condition and considerable damage had been caused by woodworm and there were deflected, broken and collapsed roof members. A grant from the Heritage Council has allowed for the repair of the roof of the building and ensured it is preserved for future generations.

BORRIS HOUSE, CO CARLOW

The Heritage Council has been funding the repair of Borris House in Co Carlow since 1995. Borris House is one of Ireland's most important though least known country houses, for both historical and architectural reasons. Over the past ten years, much repair work has been carried out to the roof structure, parapets and other major elements in a repair programme that has been phased over a number of years. Grants from the Heritage Council have enabled the owners of Borris House to embark on a programme of essential repairs to the roof and external plasterwork of this historic house.



O'BRIENSBRIDGE COMMUNITY GROUP, CO CLARE

The Heritage Council has been supporting the development of a Heritage and Amentiy Walkway which will eventually stretch from O'Brienbridge in Co Clare to Limerick City. O'Briensbridge Community Group is a small group of very dynamic local people who have undertaken an ambitious project that will benefit not only the local community but a much wider audience for years to come. The work includes careful removal of vegetation, repair of crossings and culverts and the repair of a 17th century bridge.

IRISH SEEDSAVERS ASSOCIATION

The Irish Seedsavers Association is an organisation involved in the location and preservation of traditional varieties of fruits and vegetables. It is located at Capparoo, Scariff, Co Clare. The association received a grant to establish attractive educational facilities, in an accessible location where the group can demonstrate its work in other communities and support the research taking place at the main site in Co Clare. For details on the Irish Seedsavers Association, please see www.irishseedsavers.ie



RAPHOE TIDY TOWNS LTD.

During 2003, a website was launched that documents the daily changes in the flora and fauna of a small local wildlife heritage area in narrative and pictures. Funding was offered specifically for the photos and the roadshow to take place in 2004.

To learn more about The Heritage Council Grants Programme, please see www.heritagecouncil.ie

“BOOKS”

The Natural History of Ireland's Dragonflies By Brian Nelson and Robert Thompson

One should always caution about judging a book by its cover, but even before one opens this book, the stunning photograph of the Irish Bluet on the dust cover reveals the quality of this publication. Throughout, this book oozes quality, not just for the stunning photography of Robert Thompson, but also the cornucopia of information presented on all aspects of Ireland's dragonflies.

The Natural History of Ireland's Dragonflies is the culmination of Dragonfly Ireland, a four-year national survey of dragonflies on the island of Ireland. But it is much more than just the results from a short-term survey; it presents a synthesis of the accumulated knowledge and experience of the many dedicated dragonfly experts in Ireland. The main section of the book presents the accounts of the 35 species of dragonfly that occur, or have occurred in Ireland. A map showing the distribution of the species on a 10km square basis is supported by a beautifully written species account that summarises what is known about the species' biology and historical records in Ireland.

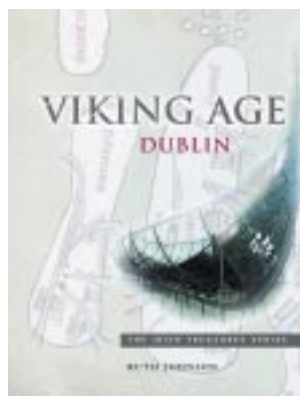
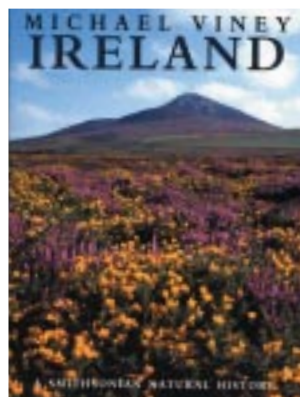
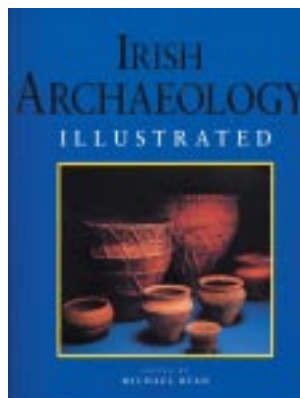
Further sections of the book provide information on general ecology, the history of the study of dragonflies in Ireland, their habitat requirements, and details of the key dragonfly sites on the island. Other aspects that are dealt with include conservation, studying dragonflies in the field and photography. Having a final section dealing with photography is unusual for a publication of this kind, but given the truly magnificent photographs and their overall impact, a chapter on photography fits well.

The landmark nature of the publication needs to be recognised. The high quality of this publication, and the professionalism of the national recording scheme on which it is based, sets a standard for biological recording initiatives worldwide that will be hard to better. Anyone who had only even a minor involvement in the survey will feel a sense of pride in the finished product.

Presenting the information on an All-Ireland basis is another very significant development. Political or administrative borders are irrelevant to biological organisms, so presentation of information on an All-Ireland basis is the appropriate scale for biological recording initiatives. By galvanising the cooperation of naturalists across the political divide, the survey and publication has highlighted the benefits of emphasising ecological, rather than political or bureaucratic, imperatives in dealing with our natural heritage.

It is hard to find fault with this publication, but I was a bit disappointed with the chapter on conservation. Only three pages are devoted specifically to conservation, and given the onslaught that our wetlands have experienced over the last number of decades from infilling, drainage and eutrophication, I would have expected this chapter to be a more impassioned call to arms to safeguard the habitats of our dragonflies. Instead the chapter is a careful reasoned presentation of the known status of dragonflies in Ireland, and surprisingly, according to objective criteria, identifies only two species that could be classified as threatened species. The authors accept that “massive loss of habitat must have had an impact on the populations of [dragonflies] and been particularly significant for some of the scarcer species” and identify the threat posed by eutrophication as a serious issue. Yet they choose instead to look at the glass as being half full, and highlight the fact that “many superb, natural freshwaters still exist” and hope that with increased appreciation of these special places it will allow us to hand them on to the next generation undamaged. It is a pity that the authors didn't identify the specific policies and actions required at the habitat level that are necessary to ensure that we safeguard dragonfly habitats for future generations.

One aspect of the book that is surprising is the adoption of a new vernacular nomenclature. As someone who would not have been aware of the ongoing discussion about proposing a new nomenclature, seeing unfamiliar vernacular names on first opening the book was surprising and a bit disconcerting. As the ‘traditional’ vernacular names of dragonflies evolved over time, and followed no clear structure, there was a need to attempt to standardise these. That the authors of *The Natural History of Ireland's Dragonflies* should take the bold step of using the publication as an opportunity to propose the definitive vernacular nomenclature for dragonflies in Ireland is testimony to their ambitions for this publication. As the



authors themselves acknowledge, only time will tell if the vernacular names they proposed will gain common currency, but judging by the overall importance of their work, I have no doubt but that the names they propose will become widely accepted.

In summary, this is a truly magnificent publication and one that should be on the shelves of anyone with an interest in Ireland's natural history.

Reviewed by Liam Lysaght, Wildlife Officer, The Heritage Council
Published by the National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland (2004).

ISBN 0-900761-45-8

The Illustrated Archaeology of Ireland Edited by Michael Ryan

"We are less sure of ourselves nowadays and we know there are many questions that archaeology simply cannot answer. Our modern theories about the past are just that, theories and not facts." So writes Michael Ryan in his notes on 'interpreting the evidence' of Ireland's archaeological stock. Making head and tail of our past through archaeological studies is a tricky business; but we can greater understand the present by learning more about the past.

The Illustrated Archaeology of Ireland is really a potted history of human development and settlement in Ireland. It is also a fascinating insight into how our ancestors lived. Archaeological advances greatly help us understand the social and economic habits of our ancestors. From the Stone Age to late medieval Ireland, this book details patterns of settlement and habitation sites. It looks at a wide range of activities such as burial rituals and ceremonies, manufacturing and industry, land settlement, art and craft traditions, and, of course, agriculture. Each of the seven sections (representing different eras) is complemented by sketches, photographs, diagrams and occasional time-charts, but the mix of illustration style is somewhat awkward and the layout often cluttered. That shouldn't take away from the text however; the credentials of the contributors are without question and the style is not too academic.

The urban geography of Ireland today is better understood by reading up on the early settlements and developments. Even ancient monastic sites have influenced the growth and development of urban areas, for example, at Lusk, Co Dublin. Of particular interest is late medieval urban development, at Kilkenny for example, and the spread of Anglo-Norman towns. For instance, Drogheda was part of a high concentration of Anglo-Norman developments in the east and south, especially in counties Louth, Meath, Kildare, Kilkenny and Limerick. These towns prospered as the old Viking port of Dublin expanded. It leads one to wonder if perhaps we should be blaming the Vikings or the Normans for our current traffic woes.

Ireland has one of the fastest rates of heritage destruction in the world, but maybe if more people were to read this book, we might not have the unnecessary and costly battles over conserving Ireland's heritage. Woodstown in Waterford, Carrickmines Castle in Dublin and Castle Lyons in Cork are just a few examples of ongoing rows between developers and conservationists. Surely these conflicts would be solved more easily through a greater understanding of the value and significance of the physical evidence for how we used to live.

Reviewed by Joe Donnelly

Published by Town House and Country House, Dublin

ISBN 0-946172-33-1

IRELAND By Michael Viney

Anyone who has read Michael Viney's weekly column 'Another Live' in *The Irish Times* will know Viney as an excellent writer on all aspects of Ireland's natural heritage. In this book, it is his talent for writing that helps the reader to absorb many quite complex subjects, such as the models for possible land bridges between post-glacial Ireland and the continent, or the proposed reasons for the extinction of the giant Irish deer. Andrew Kitchener and Nigel Monaghan's research into whether the giant Irish deer could have used its enormous antlers in battle is described as follows: "Among the odder events on the rooftops of Dublin city in the spring of 1985 were pro-

tracted, slow-motion battles between two extraordinary figures, half-man, half-deer. Confronting each other on the flat roof of the National Museum, [Kitchener and Monaghan] repeatedly raised and lowered huge antlers, locking the tines at different angles and pushing at each other in a circling struggle on the asphalt". This is just one example of how Viney breathes life into his subject.

In this 336-page book, Viney describes all that Ireland has to offer – its intricate balance of geology, plants, animals, and climate – and in doing so emphasises the fragile beauty of this country. His writing style is reminiscent of the wonderful late Stephen Jay Gould, who he refers to often, and we can only feel extremely lucky to have such a writer in residence to explain the importance of protecting our natural heritage. I would like to suggest that this book could be used as an aid for each new Minister for the Environment. If they understand what is held in its pages, they will understand the importance of their role in cherishing our wild places.

A Smithsonian Natural History, Published by the Blackstaff Press

ISBN 0-85640-744-5

Viking Age Dublin By Ruth Johnson

Who were the Dublin Vikings? This easily digested publication seeks to answer this question. This book explains how the Vikings shaped early Dublin between c.795AD and 1170. The tales of the early Viking raids on monastic communities around our coast paint the Vikings as fearsome pirates. In 837AD, a fleet of 60 Viking ships at the mouth of the River Liffey, estimated to have carried 2,000 warriors, must have made some spectacle.

When the Vikings settled in Dublin, they were not the first. There were already Irish settlements at Áth Cliath (fort of the hurdles) and Duibhlinn (black pool) south of the Liffey. Johnson's description of the lifestyle of the Vikings is most interesting, as are the intriguing names of the Viking kings of Dublin, such as 'Ívarr the Boneless', 'Óláfr the White' and 'Sitriuc Silkenbeard'.

Johnson details the findings of several high-profile excavations in the city. In describing the discovery of typical Viking houses she writes: "In some instances, the ash was still in the hearth from the last fire and the grass bedding was still green when exposed by the archaeologist's trowel". These were dark smoky places with no chimneys, but simply a hole in the roof. A house excavated at Christchurch Place revealed that the bedding was infested with fleas, flies and mites and the house itself had rampant woodworm. A fermenting carpet of vegetal matter was spread deliberately on the house floor. This warm compost probably offered heating and insulation but the smell of ammonia must have been unpleasant. Moss was used as toilet paper, while richer individuals may have used scraps of wool. An eleventh-century Arabic account tells of Dubliners killing 'baby whales' – this may refer to the Vikings hunting porpoises in the Irish Sea for food. Iron harpoons, probably made for this reason, were found at Fishamble Street. A number of horse-bone ice skates were found in Dublin and were used for skating on frozen lakes and rivers, using wooden poles for propulsion. Board games, a toy sword, spinning tops, and model ships were also found.

Colour photographs show the many weapons, jewellery and other objects found at Dublin sites. Copper alloy toilet sets held tweezers and an 'ear scoop' and would have been carried on the Viking's belt. Every man, woman and child had their own comb which were usually carved from red deer antlers, shed by the animal each year. Similar artefacts have been found in both Dublin and Norway. *Viking Age Dublin* is an excellent concise introduction to these intriguing people.

Reviewed by Juanita Browne

The Irish Treasure Series

Published by TownHouse, Dublin

ISBN 1-86059-208-2

THE SHANNON WAY

This is the Shannon Way. Poised between possibilities
I stand, close to the loved Shannon,
River of all our histories.
I hear them now, voices of men and women

I never met but who are, and will remain
My sisters and brothers. They speak to me
Of unrecorded suffering and pain.
I listen. I watch the Shannon flowing free

As a passionate legend of love
Rhythmical as the heartbeat of this land
Binding you and me

Till we together hear all the voices
Of this ageless river, and grow to understand
The beckoning, mesmeric sea.

By Brendan Kennelly



Letters to the Editor

FREEDOM TO ROAM?

Dear Editor,
Keep Ireland Open (KIO) would like to correct misstatements and subjective comments in the article 'Freedom to Roam?' by Eleanor Flegg in *Heritage Outlook* Summer 2004.

Ms Flegg writes that the access issue has exacerbated the urban/rural divide. Not so simple, I feel. It should be remembered that the vast majority of people outside the cities are not farmers and have no connection with the land. The latest figures show that 6% of the population are now engaged in farming. That the rural community need the economic spin-off from agriculture is undoubted, but in many countries, the economic value of tourism is much greater.

She then writes about "walkers tramping across the family farm". The only reason we do this is that in many areas there are no access routes or rights of way available. She then goes on to devalue the importance of rights of way by stating that the "network is limited". We are inclined to disagree, although nobody knows for sure, due to the scandalous neglect by local authorities in listing rights of way. However, the one county that has done a list - Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown - has come up with 28 rights of way (all rural).

The importance of possible negligence claims by recreational users has been greatly exaggerated. The Occupiers Liability Act 1995 appears to be working well - one case in nine years. Anyway, claims can and should be covered by insurance. FBD insurance tell us the cost of a comprehensive public liability policy is a couple of hundred euros.

Ms Flegg's description of KIO as being 'militant' is truly amazing. We are certainly pro-active in seeking legislative change and make no apology for that. We are totally committed to non-violence which is more than can be said about two of the farm organisations.

She completely misrepresents our campaign for new legislation when she says it "amounts to freedom to roam". Our proposals are twofold: to making the listing of rights of way

mandatory and to have freedom to roam over rough grazing land (approximately 7% of the country).

Finally, Ms Flegg is totally inaccurate when she refers to the law in other countries. Scotland has freedom to roam virtually everywhere thanks to the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. In Sweden, freedom does not "rely on tradition" but is grounded in common law. She is quite wrong in saying that other European countries "do give some legal protection". On the contrary, they give considerable protection. Under the CROW Act (2000) in England, four million acres of uplands are being opened up to add to 255,000km of public rights of way.

Yours truly,
Roger Garland, Chairman, Keep Ireland Open

Dear Editor,
I read with great interest Eleanor Flegg's article 'Freedom to Roam?' in the Summer issue of *Heritage Outlook*. As you are no doubt aware, here in England things have gone full circle and the authorities are now actively encouraging farmers to diversify into tourism and to welcome visitors onto their land. It prompted me to produce this cartoon.

Congratulations on the magazine. It really is first class.

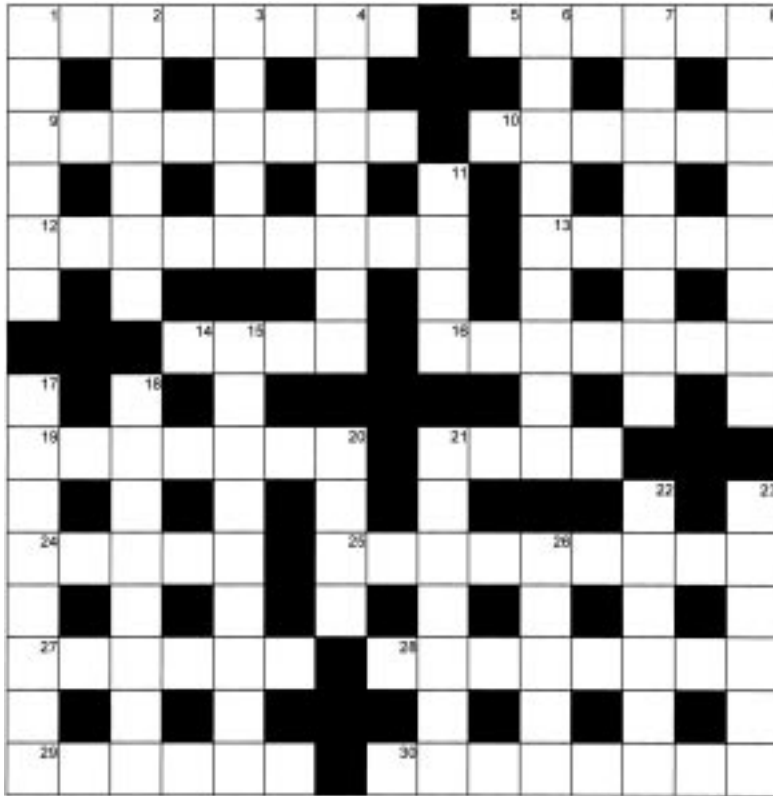
With kindest regards,
John Shiels, Nr. Kendal, Cumbria.



The editor welcomes your letters, articles, poetry and comments. Please send submissions to: The Editor, *Heritage Outlook*, The Heritage Council, Kilkenny. Or email: mail@heritagecouncil.com. Your comments and feedback are most welcome. Please include contact details.

Crossword No. 3

(compiled by Nóinín)



ACROSS

1. Native wildflower with slender stems and blue bell-shaped flowers (8)
5. And 21 Across. Could this gilded omen be an environmental initiative in Tipperary? (6,4)
9. Give an account or representation in words (8)
10. Male reproductive organ of a flower (6)
12. Expanse of scenery (9)
13. Furze by any other name (5)
14. And 26 Down. Annual community-based competition introduced in 1958. (4,5)
16. Laments the passing of these sleeveless garments. (7)
19. Irrigation channels usually around fields and by country roads (7)
21. See 5 Across
24. You'll find this furniture in Cahir (5)
25. Island boundary (9)
27. Written agreement such as of Limerick, Nice, Maastricht, etc. (6)
28. Structures used as fortification, as along sides of ships (8)
29. Nymphs or divinities of the woods (6)
30. Occurring at particular periods of the year (8)

DOWN

1. Heaped or crowded mass of people (6)
2. Insurrection - ours took place in Easter 1916 (6)
3. Farm buildings for storing grain, brans, etc. (5)
4. There's plenty of reading here - maybe in Kildare Street (7)
6. Could a long coat be this shape (9)
7. Modestly or shyly (8)
8. With no meaning, absurd (8)
11. Could this long piece of wood also be a ray of light? (4)
15. Genetic or familial (9)
17. Informed and enlightened (8)
18. Game plan (8)
20. Subdivision of larger religious group (4)
21. Determine size, quantity, extent or amount (7)
22. Large lemon-like fruit (6)
23. Tall hedgerow plant with spiny bracts formerly used for combing fibres (6)
26. See 14 Across

To win a book voucher worth €50, please send your completed grid, plus name and address, to:

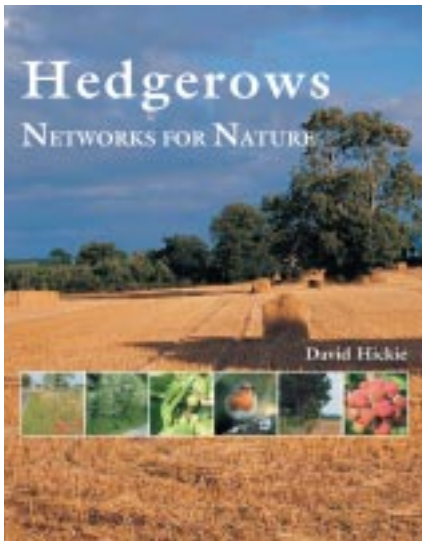
HERITAGE OUTLOOK
Crossword Competition,
Attention: Isabell
The Heritage Council,
Rothe House, Parliament
Street, Kilkenny, Co
Kilkenny.

Closing date: March 31st 2005

Congratulations to
M. O'Donoghue, from
Templeogue, Dublin 6, who
sent in the winning entry to
our last crossword competition.

Answers to Crossword no. 2, Heritage Outlook Summer 2004: Across: 1. building; 5. useful; 9. riparian; 10. pollan; 12. excessive; 13. fells; 14. agog; 16. pilgrim; 19. educate; 21. bass; 24. grike; 25. greenways; 27. ritual; 28. wildlife; 29. worlds; 30. wetlands. Down: 1. Burren; 2. impact; 3. dirks; 4. nearing; 6. snowfalls; 7. folklore; 8. lonesome; 11. keep; 15. graveyard; 17. hedgerow; 18. quainter; 20. ergo; 21. beehive; 22. nation; 23. islets; 26. nodal.

Notice Board



HEDGEROWS - NETWORKS FOR NATURE

On November 17th Professor David Bellamy launched Networks for Nature's new book on Irish hedgerows, entitled *Hedgerows - Networks for Nature* at the Networks for Nature Conference. The book covers the history and function of hedgerows; their aesthetics and threats; what local authorities can do to help; and has useful sections on hedge management, planting, and restoration.

ENFO has recently published three full-colour, bilingual posters on Ireland's hedgerow wildlife, in association with NfN. These are based on the panels of the Hedgerows Exhibition, produced by the two organisations last year. NfN also intends to carry out a GIS-based Hedge Survey next year.

TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS WEEKEND. 28TH-29TH MAY, 2005.

Venue: The Warehouse Albert Quay, Cork.

Organisers: Irish Georgian Society in association with Cork City Council

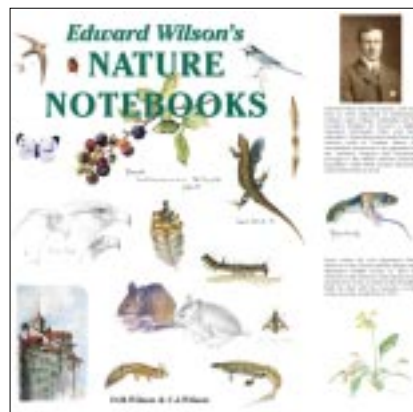
The objective of this weekend is to demonstrate traditional building skills used in the restoration of older buildings, and to provide conservation/restoration advice and information. It is aimed at the general public and the event has traditionally been free. Stands are provided for selected local craftspeople to actively demonstrate their skills - including stonecarving, thatching, restoration of sash windows, historic paint effects, use of lime-based mortars and renders, recreating historic wallpapers, restoration of decorative plasterwork, ironwork (with a forge), wood carving, stained glass, signwriting, pointing, etc.

Commercial firms, which supply appropriate materials and services, take exhibition stands. At the event, the Irish Georgian

Society provide an advice centre on restoring period properties, with books, leaflets and expert advice on hand. In Cork, in 2005, it is intended to have several photographic sections - of Areas of Special Architectural Character, and one of Buildings of Cork, old and new.

The Irish Georgian Society has a Chapter in Cork which will be active in organising this event. Cork City Council is assisting IGS and is providing the venue. The budget to stage the event is €20,000 to €30,000, so funding/sponsorship is being sought. The Society aims to provide an educational and lively weekend, and endeavours to break even.

For more on this event and the IGS, contact the IGS office, Tel. 01-676 7053, email: info@igs.ie



EDWARD WILSON'S NATURE NOTEBOOKS

Dr Edward Wilson of the Antarctic is remembered as the artist of the British Antarctic Expedition of 1910-1912, led by Captain Scott. During the expedition, Wilson studied and drew biological specimens and made finished watercolours. The expedition reached the South Pole in January 1912 after a journey of nearly a year. On the return journey, the expedition hit unseasonably bad weather and Wilson died along with team members Scott and Bowers on March 29th. The specimens, diaries and sketchbooks were recovered by the search party the following spring.

This book displays over 500 images from Wilson's forgotten sketchbooks, and was compiled by his great-nephews, brothers Christopher J. Wilson, Warden at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, and Dr David M. Wilson, Antarctic Historian from Enfield, Middlesex. It is probable that Edward Wilson's place in the history of art is as the last major painter of exploration art, an art form largely created by the fusion of science, cartography and art by William Hodges who had accompanied Captain Cook's second expedition from 1772-75. With the

death of Wilson, the major media for recording feats of exploration passed primarily to photography and film and the aesthetic technique and vision was subsumed.

The paintings span Edward Wilson's short life (1872-1912). The Irish chapter shows some of his finest landscapes. Edward Wilson was also famous for his work on Red Grouse and that work was, in fact, the first full work ever completed on a single bird species. That work made Wilson one of the 10 best ornithologists of the early 20th Century. Edward Wilson is a key figure in shaping the 20th and 21st Century Conservation Movement.

All royalties from the publication go to Edward Wilson Memorial Projects.

ISBN 1-873877-70-6

For more information, email: books@naturalrapture.ie

SALESPERSON REQUIRED

The Heritage Council wishes to recruit a freelance salesperson to sell advertising space in its biannual magazine *Heritage Outlook*, on a commission basis.

The ideal candidate will have extensive experience in media sales and an interest in heritage issues.

Please send curriculum vitae and cover letter detailing relevant experience to:

**Isabell Smyth,
Communications Officer,
The Heritage Council,
Rothe House, Kilkenny,
Co Kilkenny.**

or email:

mail@heritagecouncil.com



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What is Heritage?

Under the National Heritage Act (1995), 'heritage' is defined as including the following areas:

- Monuments
- Archaeological Objects
- Heritage Objects
- Architectural heritage
- Flora and Fauna
- Wildlife Habitats - Landscapes
- Seascapes and Wrecks - Geology
- Heritage Gardens and Parks
- Inland Waterways

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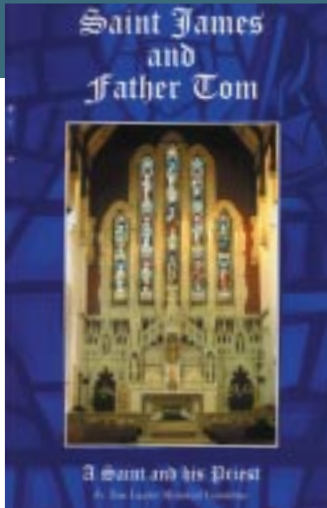
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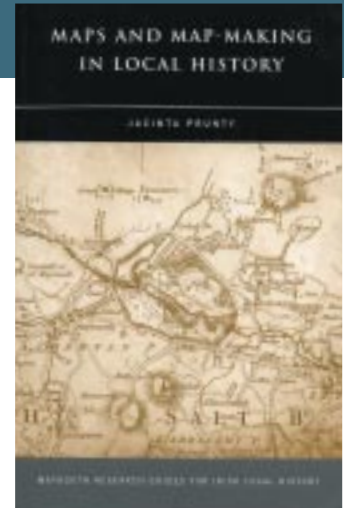
Heritage Council Grants Programme 2004



**Saint James and
Father Tom –
A Saint and his
Priest**
*Edited by Terence
Houlihan and
Billy Browne*

In 1884, Fr Thomas Lawlor was transferred from Valentia Island to become parish priest of Killorglin. Such was the dismal state of the parish church and schools that he was initially reluctant to take the post, but Fr Tom was to play a leading role in the revitalisation of the parish, including building a new church, restoring another and building six new double primary schools and teachers' residences.

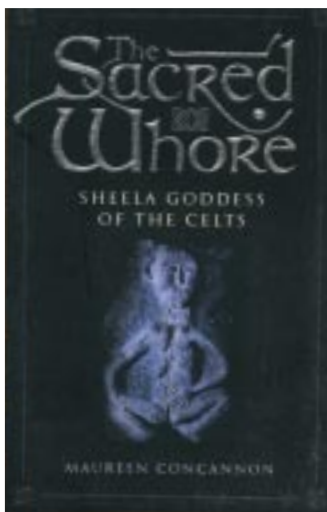
Published by Fr Tom Lawlor Memorial Committee
ISBN 9-780954-816100



**Maps and Map-
making in Local
History**
*By Jacinta
Prunty*

This book aims to introduce the local history practitioner to the world of maps – the special character and appeal of maps as an historical source, why they are invaluable in local history research, and questions that must be asked of them. The historical background to map creation in Ireland is outlined with details on the major classes of cartographic and associated material and the repositories wherein they may be found.

Published by Four Courts Press ISBN 1-85182-699-8



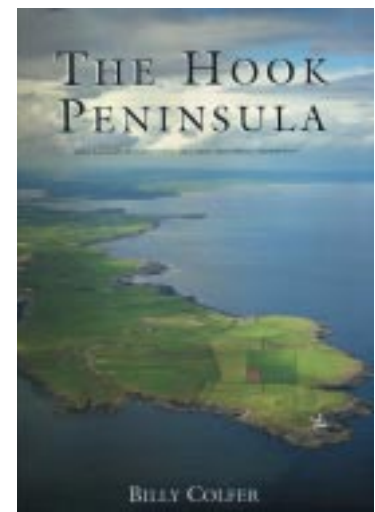
**The Sacred
Whore – Sheela
Goddess of the
Celts** *By Maureen
Concannon*

Unnoticed and ignored for centuries, ancient carved stone images of naked female figures are being rediscovered on early churches, medieval castles and bishops' tombs. Is this a signal to pay attention to the feminine side of the human psyche?

This book tells the story of these mysterious carvings, their history, location and psychological significance. Called *Sheela na gigs*, these figures are symbols of fertility and new life. Originally symbols of God as 'Great Mother' in pre-Celtic society, the Celts integrated them into their druidic religion to later become part of Celtic Christianity. Then the victory of the Roman over the Celtic Church gradually turned the Divine Hag into a Harlot. But to the Irish, Sheela personified the land, landscape and fertility. Anthropology, archaeology, mythology, history and psychology are combined to produce this first study of the subject for many years.

Published by The Collins Press ISBN 1-903464-52-8

Through the Heritage Council's Grants Programme, funding is allocated to seven grant schemes: Archaeology; Architecture Research; Buildings at Risk; Local Heritage; Museums and Archives; Publications; and Wildlife. These publications received funding through the Heritage Council Grants Programme 2004.



**The Hook
Peninsula**
By Billy Colfer

Located in county Wexford, this region was the first to be conquered by the Anglo-Normans and its landscape was shaped by the establishment of two Cistercian abbeys (Tintern and Dunbrody) in the Middle Ages. The location of the peninsula beside a major estuary and busy shipping lanes was of vital importance. The Hook figured prominently in the Confederate Wars of the 17th century and in the 1798 rebellion. Today the peninsula attracts holiday makers and the insatiable demand for holiday homes presents a challenge for admirers of this marvelous but vulnerable landscape.

An eye for detail and an intuitive understanding of his local community creates a vivid story, while Colfer's obvious love for the Hook infuses the volume with an underlying passion. In these beautiful pages, an astonishing array of maps, photographs, paintings, archive sketches and new drawings ensure that the Hook landscape is given a radiant treatment.

Published by Cork University Press ISBN 1-85918-378-6