

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



CELEBRATING
20 YEARS 1995-2015

Working for heritage | Working with communities

20
YEARS
1995-2015

HERITAGE

Outlook

To celebrate the 20 year anniversary of the Heritage Council we bring you a selection of articles from Ireland's leading academics, professionals, practitioners and policy-makers - examining the critical achievements in heritage over the last 20 years and highlighting the issues that will be central to the sector's development into the future.

Contents



Reflections of Council Members & the Chief Executive

Page

-
- | | |
|-------|--|
| 2 | Future-proofing Heritage in Ireland: Community, Education & Stewardship
Conor Newman, Chairman, the Heritage Council |
| <hr/> | |
| 5 | Through the Chair: Reflecting on 20 Years of Expert Guidance & Achievement
Michael Starrett, Chief Executive, the Heritage Council |
| <hr/> | |
| 8 | From Small Seeds: The Origins of the Heritage Council
Dr. Michael Ryan, former Council Member |
| <hr/> | |
| 10 | Formative Years: The Heritage Council 2000-2005
William J. Smyth, former Council Member |
| <hr/> | |
| 12 | A Particular Place: Heritage Council Projects on the Ground
Gráinne Shaffrey, former Council Member |
| <hr/> | |
| 14 | Landscape as Resource: the Heritage Council & the Outdoors
Dr Caro-lynn Ferris, current Council Member |
| <hr/> | |
| 16 | Highlights of the Heritage Council 1995-2015: An Archaeologist's Perspective
Professor Gabriel Cooney, current Council Member |
-

Produced by Isabell Smyth – The Heritage Council /
Edited by Geni Murphy / Designed by Ian Barry
ISBN: 978-1-906304-29-4



Established under the Heritage Act of 1995
Heritage Council, Áras na hOidhreachta,
Church Lane, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny
Tel: 056-7770777 Fax: 056-7770788
Email: mail@heritagecouncil.ie
www.heritagecouncil.ie

For further contact details see page 57.

Heritage Council Members:

Conor Newman (Chairman), Dr Ciara Breathnach, Prof. Gabriel Cooney, Mr Ted Creedon, Dr Brendan Dunford, Dr Caro-Lynne Ferris, Ms Catherine Heaney, Ms Mary Keenan, Dr Fidelma Mullane, Dr Kieran O'Connor, Mr Michael Parsons.

All rights reserved. The views, opinions and policies expressed in Heritage Outlook may reflect those of the contributors but do not necessarily reflect the views of the Heritage Council, Heritage staff or the magazine's editorial staff. While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this publication, no responsibility can be accepted by the Heritage Council for problems arising as a result of the magazine's content. Printed on paper comprising of fibres sourced from well managed sustainable forests and bleached without the use of chlorine.

Features

Page

-
- | | |
|-------|---|
| 18 | Mining Ireland's Cultural Resources
Beatrice Kelly, Head of Policy & Research, the Heritage Council & Isabell Smyth, Head of Communications, the Heritage Council |
| <hr/> | |
| 22 | So, What's New in Cultural Heritage?
Ian Doyle, Head of Conservation, the Heritage Council |
| <hr/> | |
| 25 | Local Authorities & Local Communities: Building Partnerships to Manage Heritage at Local Level
Dr Gerry Glabby, Heritage Officer, Fingal County Council |
| <hr/> | |
| 28 | Wild Child: Reconnecting Children with the Outdoors
Ursula Kilkelly, University College Cork |
| <hr/> | |
| 30 | Shaping a New Urban Policy for Ireland's Towns
Based on the findings of research reports commissioned by the Heritage Council |
| <hr/> | |
| 32 | Heritage in Conflict: How can we protect cultural property during war-time?
Dr Cathy Daly |
-

Partner Organisations Contributions

Page

-
- | | |
|-------|--|
| 34 | Brave New World: Reflections of a Conservationist
Dr Liam Lysaght, Director, National Biodiversity Centre |
| <hr/> | |
| 36 | Celebrating Research in Irish Archaeology: The Achievements of the Discovery Programme
Dr Edel Bhreathnach, CEO, The Discovery Programme |
| <hr/> | |
| 38 | Conserving our Heritage Buildings: Irish Landmark Trust
Mary O'Brien, CEO, Irish Landmark Trust |
-

Regulars

Page

-
- | | |
|-------|---|
| 40 | Image Gallery: Highlights from the last 20 years |
| <hr/> | |
| 48 | Events |
| <hr/> | |
| 53 | Publications |
| <hr/> | |
| 56 | Crossword |
| <hr/> | |
| 57 | Heritage Council Staff & Heritage Officer contact details |
-

Heritage Outlook Foreword

Setting the agenda for the next 20 years



I am privileged to provide this introduction to the special 20th Anniversary Edition of Council's occasional magazine, *Heritage Outlook*. The decision to suspend publication of the magazine in 2011 was not taken lightly but was an inevitable consequence of cuts to the Heritage Council's budget during the recent economic crisis. The magazine was missed by those both working in the heritage sector and by those with an interest in Ireland's diverse heritage. It was a valuable showcase to express ideas, to challenge convention, to present innovation and above all to highlight the valuable contribution that our natural and cultural heritage makes to this country's overall sense of well being. As an organisation we have enjoyed embracing the many digital platforms now available but there still remains a place for the printed word.

The reappearance of the publication at a time when we are celebrating the 20th Anniversary shows that we have survived, with confidence, the worst that the crisis could throw at us. It speaks volumes about the resilience and flexibility of the community-based model for heritage conservation, management and development that has been carefully imagined and constructed by the Heritage Council and a wide range of partners over the past 20 years.

In reading the contributions of those who laid the foundations you will see the origins of that building process and celebrate with us a selection of the thoughts and work that are ongoing. Most importantly you will have the opportunity to share in the views and vision that are setting the agenda for this organisation on behalf of the public it will serve for another 20 years.

The potential that heritage offers is immense and benefits everyone. Communities are clamouring for new frameworks that support their knowledge and commitment to their heritage and their sense of place. If the last 20 years has been about building to show what is possible, the next 20 years must be about investing in the potential of heritage to transform communities and provide a sustainable future. We hope you will join us on that journey.

Michael Starrett

Chief Executive, The Heritage Council

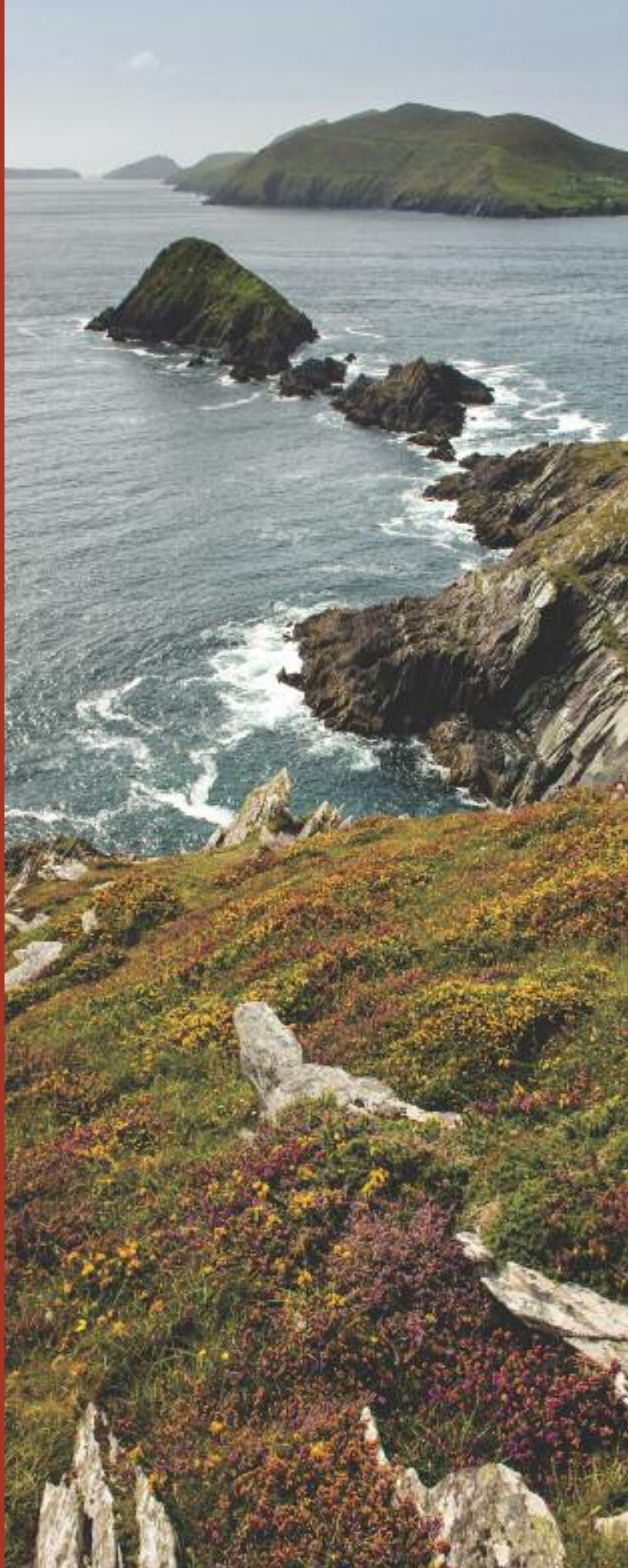
June 6th 2015

Future- proofing heritage in Ireland:

community, education
& stewardship



Conor Newman, Chairman, the Heritage Council



Muiris Ó Súilleabháin's memoir of life on the Great Blasket Island, *Fiche Bliain ag Fás, (Twenty Years a Growing)*, speaks directly to us from an Ireland the last rays of which have slipped silently over the horizon, into the realms of history. This and the recollections of his fellow Blasket chroniclers, Tomás Ó Croimhthain and Peig Sayers, were written, or in the case of Peig Sayers recorded, with a sense of urgency in the face of certain change: sensing they were an endangered species, and knowing that their story had value, these islanders recorded their lives for posterity.

Change was indeed in the air. Returning to the Blasket after two years 'abroad' in Connemara, Ó Súilleabháin remarked:¹

There was great change in two years - green grass growing on the paths for lack of walking; five or six houses shut up and the people gone out to the mainland. Fields which had once had fine stone walls around them left to ruin; the big red patches on the Sandhills made by the feet of the boys and girls dancing - there was not a trace of them now.

Yet, despite its ethereal qualities, heritage can also be surprisingly resilient. Eleven years after the publication of *Fiche Bliain ag Fás*, and in what is surely an *homage* of sorts; Evans was not a sentimentalist; to Ó Súilleabháin; one of the founding fathers of heritage studies in Ireland - Emyr Estyn Evans made the following observation:²

The Ireland I am writing about is one which is passing away, and some of the customs and tools described and illustrated in the following pages have almost entirely gone, but I have learnt that it is rarely safe to use the past tense in writing about Irish matters. I have more than once come across customs which were described as dead half a century ago: the old ways are an unconscionable time a-dying.

Evans, like others before him and since, was after the 'real Ireland' - in fact this is the title of the first chapter of his book. He too turned to the likes of Muiris Ó Súilleabháin as witnesses to a real but passing Ireland. In so doing, but inadvertently in his case, he helped create, if not a myth, then a cultural parallax that differentiated out at least two Irelands, one valorized as being more authentic than the other, but for all that, more trapped by history. Here is not the place to discuss how this stigmatism at the core

of Irish identity has played out, except to say that it is ultimately disenfranchising, of all sides.

Heritage is not a new concept, and its guardianship is not a new imperative but given the accelerated rate of change, globalisation and the social isolation of virtual reality, it is something we too approach with a sense of urgency. The wisdom of ages has taught us the value of belonging, and how to recognise and honour the myriad of things that in grounding us, in earthing us in social authenticity, contribute to our belonging to family, community and society.

This, I believe, is what President Michael D. Higgins meant when he said *"Knowledge of history is intrinsic to citizenship"*³.

To paraphrase Eric Hobsbawm, safeguarding **"the social mechanisms that link one's contemporary experience to that of earlier generations"** is the only defence we have against **"one of the most characteristic and eerie phenomena of the late 20th century, the spectre of the ahistorical, unlocated, non-citizen"**⁴.

This, ultimately, is the task of those individuals and organisations interested in safeguarding and promoting heritage. Heritage management is a social service.

We may smile at the thought of Muiris Ó Súilleabháin being wrenched from the Blaskets all the way to Connemara but only because, if you'll pardon the contradiction, our world has shrunk to something a lot bigger. Like any big picture, however, it lacks real depth of field, sacrificing detail in favour of the bigger pattern. But we don't live out our lives in the bigger pattern. The bigger pattern does not offer a genuine homestead or genuine belongingness. We live, instead, in the detail. It is there you will find us. Because it is in the detail of daily lives that heritage is made, the philosophy of the Heritage Council has been to put people first, to listen and respond to the needs and ambitions of communities around their heritage, to ally with existing heritage-related organisations, and to create capacities where none existed before.

The ‘ground up’ approach adopted by the Heritage Council has made it a highly networked organisation, with an almost bewildering number and range of relationships, from national bodies to parish-level communities-of-interest.

People define what is heritage in the choices they make, consciously or unconsciously, between what vestiges of the past still matter and are worth holding on to, and what is discarded or let go. In this sense, heritage *per se* might be thought of as a process. And a surprisingly dynamic one at that; as more and more people engage with heritage, the range of heritages is expanding, and increasingly novel and often playful, sometimes even irreverent ways of embracing heritage are emerging. This is down to the accelerated rate at which the discovery, celebration and stewardship of heritage is transferring into public ownership. It is a phenomenon that is happening all over Europe right now. Though such a prospect may be daunting, challenging even, to authorities with statutory responsibility for aspects of the heritage, it holds the promise of delivering on ambitions championed repeatedly in international conventions of:

*“awakening or increasing public interest, as from school-age, in the protection of the heritage, the quality of the built environment and architecture [and] demonstrating the unity of the cultural heritage and the links that exist between architecture, the arts, popular traditions and ways of life...”*⁵. This is a goal worth pursuing.

Heritage *per se* is a comparatively young discipline and profession. This is the context in which the achievements of the Heritage Council over the past twenty years ought to be gauged. As a field of endeavour, and indeed an essential dimension of public policy, heritage was in its infancy when the Heritage Council was first established. Over the course of twenty years, the beginnings of a heritage sector have emerged, public consciousness of heritage *per se* has increased, consciousness of heritage as a publically-owned asset has increased,

and awareness of the myriad values of heritage has grown. The Heritage Council has played a key role in these developments. In addition to awareness-raising, advocacy, and the administration of highly successful grant schemes that have contributed directly to the conservation and presentation of heritage assets, an enduring legacy of the Heritage Council is the infrastructures of policy and capacity it has built and is building to manage and develop heritage as a social good.

Whereas there are academic/professional disciplines associated with different categories of heritage and combinations thereof, such as architecture, wildlife, history, archaeology, folklore, earth sciences and so on, heritage *per se* has given rise to a distinct discipline whose focus is on the intersection of these inheritances and the public. Concerned with when, where, how and why people engage with heritage, and in particular the management of those nexuses, the discipline of heritage has developed its own canon, skills set, methodologies and training. Similarly, public outreach and transdisciplinarity have emerged as areas of specialisation in their own right in the case of these other disciplines (e.g. public history and public archaeology). Thus, heritage and the suite of related disciplines are moving in broadly the same direction, guided by the principles of public authorship, public ownership and shared stewardship. ■

¹ *Twenty Years A-Growing* (translated by M. Llewelyn Davies and G. Thomson, Oxford University Press, 1953)

² *Irish Heritage: The Landscape, the People and their Work* (W. Tempest, Dundalgan Press, Dundalk. 1942)

³ Michael Littleton Memorial Lecture 2013. Remembering the 1913 Lockout. 19th June 2013.

⁴ Eric Hobsbawm 1994. *The Age of Extremes: the short twentieth century, 1914-1991*, London: Abacus, 3.

⁵ Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)



Through the Chair

Reflecting on twenty years of expert guidance and achievement

Michael Starrett, Chief Executive, the Heritage Council, June 2015

Commemorations are a time of reflection, as much as setting new goals for the years ahead. So it is entirely appropriate as we mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Heritage Council that I should reflect on the outstanding contribution made by the Council's chairpersons over the past twenty years, and especially since my own appointment as Chief Executive in 1996.

The first chairperson of the Heritage Council was **Freda Rountree** who held that post from 1995 until her untimely death in February 2000. In every sense of the word she was the true pioneer of Council's role and saw that it needed to carve its own niche and not try to sort out everything. She understood that the new organisation needed to complement the role of existing State heritage bodies with their responsibilities for state-owned property, and nationally designated and protected sites.

Freda recognised the need for something different and her own deep involvement with local community pointed the way. She believed strongly that community involvement had to be at the heart of everything we wanted to achieve and that Council should do that in a way that empowered, enabled and supported the importance of place to people. This led to the publication of our first **Strategic Plan 1997-2000**, and its three themes of collecting data, promoting pride, and proposing policy.

The community grants programme and the Heritage Officer network have their origins in this

approach, as did the innovative proposals that examined the impact of major land uses, such as forestry and agriculture on the national heritage. Council also carried out the first ever research on **Levels of Heritage Awareness in Ireland** during Freda's time in charge. The base line was set, allowing for change and public shifts in heritage awareness to be identified, evaluated and be fed back into the work of the Heritage Council.

Following Freda's tragic death, **Ruth Delany** was appointed as Chairperson for the short period up to the appointment of a new Council in July 2000. Her quiet and gentle manner allowed us to cope with grieving Freda's loss while keeping our focus on the long term goals that had been set. Ruth shaped influential proposals on Inland Waterways that ultimately led to the establishment of the cross-Border **Waterways Ireland**. She also drove the critical Waterway Corridor Studies project that led to a much more integrated approach on the management of Ireland's water catchment areas.

Ruth also stoutly defended Council's independence during her time in the chair. Council's critiques of the National Development Plan and the Tax Incentive Schemes for the Upper Shannon caused some tension at that time but hindsight shows the value of the contribution. It was Ruth too who secured agreement with the Church of Ireland that, should it decide to part with its Bishop's Palace in Kilkenny, and subject to planning permission, the Heritage Council would acquire the property as its

national headquarters.

It took eight years for that agreement to become reality under the guidance of **Tom O'Dwyer**, who succeeded Ruth as Chairperson. Tom brought a wealth of experience both at national and European level to guide the next stage of Council's development. It was Tom who secured the Ministerial agreement and the funding for us to finally acquire and develop the building into Áras na hOidreachta. As well as being Council's administrative headquarters, today the building provides a centre and focus for many community-led activities - through the location and use of its headquarters, Council is, in effect, practicing what it preaches.

Tom's oversight of the review of Council's founding legislation (as part of a commitment in the National Heritage Plan) and the clarity of purpose that was secured as a result proved invaluable to Council in maintaining its momentum. That momentum and Tom's intimate knowledge of the public service saw the realisation of major heritage infrastructural proposals and developments that had been the subject of discussion for many years. These included the **National Biodiversity Data Centre**, the **Irish Walled Towns Network** and the **Museum Standards Programme for Ireland**, as well as increased capacity for the community grants scheme.

The Heritage Officer network was expanded, Council published major policy proposals for Ireland's landscapes, on the future of Irish thatch

and on our maritime heritage. Many community initiatives and organisations, including the Wicklow Uplands Council, Woodlands of Ireland, Burren Beo and Bere Island received ongoing support from Council. These projects demonstrate the efficacy of a model for public service delivery that supported local communities to lead the conservation, management and development of their heritage. Tom also presided at the official opening of the new national headquarters by President Mary McAleese in April 2008 prior to the end of his second period as Chairperson.

Conor Newman succeeded Tom as Chairperson in 2008. All seemed set for him to continue to build on the achievements of his three predecessors. And then the Irish economy crashed. As a result, from the outset of his chairmanship Conor found the Heritage Council (and the wider heritage sector in general) being subjected to draconian cuts which only ceased last year. The budget available to Council shrank dramatically from €20m in 2008 to €7m in 2014. Also in 2011 it was proposed by Government that Council be absorbed into the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht removing its status as an independent advisory body. It was Council's steadfast view that this would undo years of work supporting community groups across Ireland and result in the loss of the heritage infrastructure needed to support local initiatives. In addition its independent policy advisory role would no longer be needed.



Left: Past Chairpersons - Tom O'Dwyer and Ruth Delany with current Chairperson, Conor Newman.

Below: The late Freda Rowntree - first Chairperson of the Heritage Council 1995-2000.





The current Board of the Heritage Council.

Led by Conor, Council vigorously resisted the proposed merger, arguing – as one commentator put it – that all that would happen if such a merger proceeded, was that most of what the Council did would be abandoned, and the rest would be politicised. An external critical review of the organisation resulted in the proposed merger being withdrawn (a decision supported by all political parties) and an acknowledgement that the work carried out by Council, and indeed the manner in which it carried it out, was not something that could be replicated by a Government Department.

This positive result was secured with unstinting support from all sectors with an interest in heritage matters. Local authorities, community groups, and individuals, all expressed their view on the value and significance of Council's work and supported its approach of working for and with them. Conor played a critical role in articulating the need for that support and in securing it. Amazingly, through Conor's steadfast advocacy, commitment and guidance, the entire heritage infrastructure that Council has imagined and supported has survived. It now remains primed and indeed is clamouring for ongoing and regular investment to realise its potential.

Notwithstanding all threat of mergers and reduction in budgets, Conor has articulated clearly the Council's commitment to support employment, education and heritage tourism through its community-based work. He has set out to provide a

wider understanding of the significant role that heritage can play in aiding, not only national recovery but just as critically in building stronger, more actively engaged communities. Published research on the ***Economic Value of the Built Environment*** and on the ***Children and the Outdoors*** has helped strengthen our arguments and given Council firm foundations to build on in the future. Further important policy proposals, including ***Proposals for Ireland's Landscapes*** and the need to ***Plan in Harmony with Heritage*** continue to emerge and to consolidate our service delivery within a firm policy framework.

Conor has also led discussion on the emergence of heritage as a discipline in its own right. Drawing on more traditional disciplines such as archaeology, architecture and biological sciences among others, and considering these diverse disciplines in an integrated manner marks another shift. Above all, under Conor's guidance, Council has achieved major national and international recognition for its work in recent years and continues to build successful partnerships at home and abroad.

Besides these reflections on the past twenty years our focus is now very much on the future and to realising the full potential of what has been put in place in the heritage sector. That will require commitment, understanding and flexibility from all of us if we are to secure essential, phased investment in and renewed support for our work. That will surely continue to motivate us all. ■



From Small Seeds:

The origins of the Heritage Council

Dr. Michael Ryan
former Council Member

The origin of the Heritage Council can be traced back to Frank Mitchell's Presidential Address to the Royal Irish Academy in 1979. In a wide-ranging paper he explored the state of archaeology in Ireland and the value of our heritage generally. Frank's vision was to see Government take a comprehensive view of all aspects of our heritage. His paper was read by the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey who kept the issues raised in his view. On his return to power in 1987, a committee was formed which included such figures as Maurice Craig, Frank Mitchell, Padraig Ó hUiginn, Anthony Cronin and Paschal Scanlan.

The committee was tasked to consider the possible formation of a body which could take the desired wide view of the heritage - natural and cultural. I had the pleasure of serving on that committee. A generous scope was defined which included replacing a number of statutory bodies with a single council. While legislation was being prepared, and in order to make some impact without delay, a non-statutory Heritage Council was set



The late **Charles J. Haughey** set up the first committee to consider the formation of a body which would have responsibility for the formation of policy on the national heritage.



While legislation was being prepared which would set out the scope and responsibilities of the Heritage Council, a non-statutory body was set up under **Lord Kilanin**.



President Michael D. Higgins, the first Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands formerly established the Heritage Council in 1995.

up under the leadership of Lord Kilanin which began immediately to develop policies and to provide grants for research. A parallel development, The Discovery Programme, was gradually brought within the Heritage Council's remit through the provision of its annual grant.

The completion of legislation enabled the first Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Michael D. Higgins, to establish the statutory Heritage Council in 1995. The very wide brief of that first Department was the closest Ireland had come to a Ministry of Culture on the continental model. The tendency in Irish politics to juggle the components of many government departments after each General Election certainly eroded the coherence of that first iteration of a cultural department but throughout the changes over the next decade, the Heritage Council kept its comprehensive role and coherence.

The establishment of the Heritage Council on a statutory basis was one of the lasting achievements of that Government and to serve on the Council in the early days of developing procedures, setting out parameters for policy formation and gradually building a staff was an exciting and demanding task.

The critical foundation task was to define staffing needs and recruit expert staff and, crucially, to appoint a CEO. In the first year or so, Members of Council were very hands-on but as the staffing arrangements bedded down, we had to learn to step back from executive functions and allow the talented staff to grow into their roles while we thought about strategy and development. This was helped by the charismatic leadership of Freda Rountree as Chair who guided the process of establishment and set the Council on the road to maturity before her premature death in early 2000. By then the Heritage Council had proved its worth in policy development, in well thought-through grant-schemes and vast amounts of encouragement to communities and public bodies.

It is the atmosphere of that first statutory Heritage Council that I cherish in memory – we were pioneers of new ways of working for the heritage, listening as much as telling, consulting widely and bringing together disparate and sometimes clashing interests. For me the outstanding achievements were developing the grant schemes, setting up the Museums and Archives Committee and taking the first steps on the way to creating a quality assurance scheme for museums in Ireland, which is now the much-admired Museum Standards Programme for Ireland.

We also undertook the first ever landscape conference, a review of urban archaeology and developed the general policy of encouraging local community effort. The grants programme provided much-needed seed funding for communities and projects and the appointment of the first Heritage Officers in local authorities was a remarkable step forward. Above all, I recall with friendship and respect the members of Council, staff and the constructive relationships which were developed throughout the country. The Heritage Council of 1995-2000 was remarkable but credit is also due to the work of its non-statutory predecessor which blazed some of the trails that we followed. ■



Dr. Michael Ryan is an archaeologist who has written widely on prehistory, landscape development and Early Christian art in Ireland. He served as Director of the Chester Beatty Library and Keeper of Irish Antiquities in the National Museum. He was President of the Royal Irish Academy 2002-2005 and Chair of the Discovery Programme 2000-2010.

The board of the Heritage Council - referred to as Council members - is comprised of 11 members who are appointed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (previously the Minister for Environment) for a period of either four or five years.



Formative Years

The Heritage Council 2000-2005

William J. Smyth, former Council Member

I was a member of the Heritage Council from 2000 to 2005, which was then under Tom Dwyer's able chairmanship. In retrospect, I see my experience as a member of the Council as a different kind of geographical fieldwork. It was both refreshing and stimulating to deal with and respond to the often very different perspectives of both other Council members and equally the specialist committee members who were not on Council. I remember Ruth Delany as a most experienced and dedicated member, always helpful to the newcomer.

We held our inaugural meeting in Galway where the great maritime expert John de Courcy Ireland was a guest-speaker. We were all moved when he said: "I have waited a long time for this day". We managed to draw attention to the need to conserve many of our smaller port and fishing settlements as

Opposite: The former Bishop's Palace in Kilkenny, now Áras na hOidhreachta - the headquarters of the Heritage Council.

Right: The great maritime expert John de Courcy Ireland - guest speaker at the inaugural Heritage Council meeting in Galway.



well as helping out with vernacular boat-building and conservation. Council members from Co. Clare, Michael McMahon and Michael McNamara were to the fore on all aspects of rural Ireland. I still remember Michael McNamara regaling us with stories of the making of eel-traps and the intimate geographies of eel-fisheries. Maurice Hurley invariably provoked lively discussions with his contributions on archaeological issues.

The Council had many achievements in these five years. The gradual filling in of the county map with Heritage Officer appointments was major – they have since been towers of strength in championing the heritage agenda. More recently, I have experienced at a professional level how very effective such officers are within their varied communities.

For me, the most exciting annual event was the presentation of awards to community groups from all over the country. Heritage Council grants to these communities has been central to the achievement of core heritage objectives.

The key Education Committee was innovative on a number of fronts, including nurturing the publication of a text for post-primary schools on Geographical Fieldwork on heritage issues as well as supporting the publication of many books focused on local, country and national heritage initiatives. Before books can be written, the Heritage Council does and should continue to foster documentation, photographic and otherwise, of vernacular artefacts that might otherwise be ignored or lost.

Our Council was deeply involved in sustained negotiations with the Church of Ireland over the acquisition of the Bishop's Palace in Kilkenny for its new headquarters. Happily, this has been long since achieved. Regrets I have a few – I think we could have been more active and alert on key planning issues and in particularly in relation to Tara and the proposed motorway. That Conor Newman was later appointed Chairman of the Council provided reassurance in this arena.

In looking to the future, one would wish that the Council could retain if not enhance its independent role vis-à-vis government in the execution of its business.

That was certainly the intention of the founders of the Council twenty years ago. I would also advocate for equal attention and funding to be invested in the vernacular architecture, as is invested in what may be described as 'high' architecture. The conservation of many forlorn handball alleys around the country, farm villages in South Kilkenny, the Dingle peninsula and parts of Co. Louth stand as a testament to the positive contribution that this type of architecture make to our local landscapes and towns. As Ireland rapidly urbanises, as we fly past in our cars and as local memory is being lost, the Council ought to consider a pilot county project on highlighting townland nomenclature in the landscape.

Most importantly, the Heritage Council must sustain, through its officer corps at headquarters and its heritage officers in the field, the business of maintaining and strengthening support for all forms of community endeavour. Where the Council provides leadership, there is still a well-spring of dedication on the part of most parish communities to enhance their environments in so many diverse ways.

Beir bua agus beannacht. ■

Emeritus Professor William J. Smyth is a graduate of University College Dublin (UCD) and the National University of Ireland (NUI). He has lectured in UCD, NUI, in universities in Syracuse, New York and Los Angeles and was Professor of Geography at University College Cork between 1977 and 2009.



The board of the Heritage Council - referred to as Council members - is comprised of 11 members who are appointed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (previously the Minister for Environment) for a period of either four or five years.



The seminal Mayglass Farmstead conservation project, Co. Wexford, before and after conservation.

A Particular Place:

Heritage Council Projects on the Ground

Gráinne Shaffrey, former Council Member

“People exploit what they have merely concluded to be of value, but they defend what they love, and to defend what we love we need a particularising language, for we love what we particularly know”

Wendell Berry quoted in Robert McFarlane's essay: “From aquabob to zawn” Guardian Review, February 2015.

At this point in the Heritage Council's life, it is notable that the dominant drivers behind public legitimacy (and public funding) of the heritage sector forces the emphasising of value over love.

In practice, the instrumental registers louder than the intrinsic. In this, the heritage sector is no different to the arts and other cultural sectors. We exist in competitive times and, as such, the demand has been to argue the (primarily economic) values of heritage so that they are made available for ‘exploitation’, as Wendell Berry might have it. Such exploitation should not be seen as entirely negative – there are pragmatic reasons to exploit our heritage, such as the very essential utility of our historic building stock as purposeful accommodation for civic, commercial and everyday life. This is an increasingly sound position given climate change, the prerogative to prioritise use of existing resources and the need to regenerate our towns and villages.

Nonetheless, in considering the rich legacy of 20 years of Heritage Council activity, it is probably through the individual projects – the *particularising* of heritage – that care for and emotional connection with our heritage has been triggered most effectively. These projects primarily take place within the context of a general programme – Buildings at Risk; the Traditional Farm Building Scheme; Village Design Statements; Irish Walled Town Network, are some examples – although there have also been notable one-off projects such as the seminal Mayglass Farmstead Project. What these all have in common, however, is the combination of personal interactions, specific project focus and the achievement of tangible, positive, outcomes. They have been place-based and have engendered awareness, interest and care for place (the particular place).

The particular, somehow, tests and proves the strategy. And so the Heritage Council's approach of developing and implementing policy through projects and activities has left a rich legacy widely dispersed throughout the country. In taking this approach the Heritage Council may have sometimes operated within the shadows of the national

limelight, nurturing the grassroots. Twenty years on, it is worth celebrating the accumulation of projects, which have proven a gradually evolving, yet, consistent policy position.

Equally so, it is worth celebrating the effective operation of a double register – initiating programmes and supporting projects within these programmes. There are many illustrations:

- The Museum Standards Programme for Ireland with its 'hands-on' support for all scales of museum to set and, critically, maintain high standards.
- The Conservation Plan methodology introduced by the Heritage Council means that the concept and practice of integrated and holistic conservation planning for complex sites is now established practice.
- The Heritage Officer network which allows a certain individuality of voice within a highly supportive network is now closely integrated with other local authority departments and functions.
- The growing body of traditional farm buildings which have been conserved in partnership with the Dept. of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, exemplifies the Heritage Council's concern for the most humble of our heritage.

More recently, the Heritage Council has deployed its strength as 'honest broker' in facilitating assemblies of shared interest. The Traditional Buildings Skills Working Group is a current example which brings on board the educators, practitioners and professionals, becoming greater than the sum of its parts. This working group is beginning to make a significant positive impact on this sector, in particular in the area of apprenticeship and training.

Looking forward to the next twenty years and beyond, more interaction with and inclusion of the non-heritage sector will provide an effective way of communication and development.

There are many areas of heritage concern which align with interests lying well outside the immediate heritage spectrum -the cultivation of our land and our food; the future of our towns and sustainable settlement patterns; the interrelationship between environment and health; the management of our landscapes – rural, urban, seascape – and our management of climate change.

It is hoped that the Heritage Council can continue to operate at the project level and this will depend on the nature and level of funding. Developing policy through working groups, research and position papers remains critical but it will always be more effective when supplemented by action and implementation through exemplars and projects. These projects are the particularising language which helps us know our heritage and, in the knowing, we will continue to care and defend. ■



Above: The Traditional Farm Buildings Grants Scheme has seen hundreds of farm buildings throughout the country conserved for use into the future.

Left: The Buildings at Risk Scheme's restoration of the Clonaslee church spire.

Below: Fethard medieval festival, part of the Irish Walled Towns Network.



Gráinne Shaffrey is a Director with Shaffrey Associates Architects and was a Board Member of the Heritage Council between 2008-2013.

The board of the Heritage Council - referred to as Council members - is comprised of 11 members who are appointed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (previously the Minister for Environment) for a period of either four or five years.



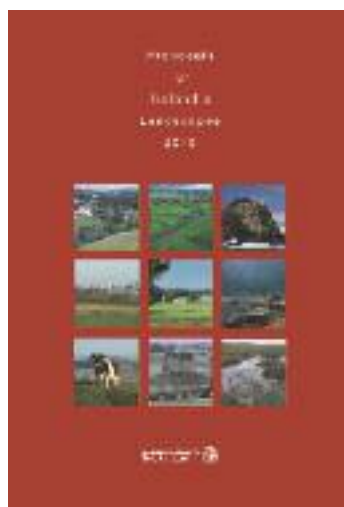
Landscape as Resource: the Heritage Council & the Outdoors

Dr Caro-lynn Ferris, current Council Member

From 2005 I have enjoyed the immense privilege of being a member of the Heritage Council. Having a personal interest in the role that outdoor recreation can play in helping individuals, communities and society to connect with and enjoy Ireland's rich heritage - this is the area of the Heritage Council's work that I believe is worthy of celebration.

Recognising that outdoor recreation contributes positively to the nation's health and well-being, community cohesion, environmental protection, rural regeneration and economic development, the Heritage Council has supported numerous initiatives both directly and indirectly that have been instrumental in delivering the aforementioned benefits.

Ireland's landscape is available to all for its beauty and exploration. By its support of the provision of trails, the Heritage Council has facilitated the enjoyment and experience of one of the most easily accessible heritage assets. The Heritage Council has directly supported initiatives



Seeking to promote the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, *Proposals for Ireland's Landscapes* sets out new ideas regarding how we might manage, plan and conserve Ireland's landscape into the future.



Pilgrims Paths provides seven walking trails around the country, developed in association with local communities, they follow the routes that medieval pilgrims would have taken.

such as the development of the Beara Breifne Way, the Pilgrim Paths and also allowed, through its grant programmes, many communities to awaken the interest of trail users to the local heritage of an area by providing for example, trail leaflets and interpretation panels. In addition, the Heritage Council's on-going support of organisations such as the Wicklow Uplands Council has enabled it, through partnership-working with local landowners and stakeholders, to provide improved access to the Wicklow Mountains.

The value of Ireland's inland waterways as a major outdoor recreation resource and heritage asset has also been recognised by the Heritage Council. In partnership with local authorities, government agencies and local communities it has led the preparation of five waterway corridor studies along the River Shannon. These comprehensive studies acted as the catalyst necessary for many of the areas to develop their outdoor recreation offering, resulting in increased numbers of people enjoying the outdoors and ultimately the natural and built heritage on offer.

As an advocate of partnership-working, the Heritage Council has delivered numerous outdoor recreation and heritage focused projects by collaborating with partners both north and south. An effective partnership with Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland saw the delivery of a successful two day conference on the impact of climate change on Ireland's landscapes and seascapes and consequently outdoor recreation. Also, a partnership with Coillte saw the completion of a major research project which considered the public good of Coillte's estate including the provision of recreation, landscape, habitats and species, in addition to cultural heritage.

In spite of significant resource constraints, the Heritage Council continues to progress new policy areas, most recently through its work with children and outdoor play. With a comprehensive understanding of the barriers and constraints to children's reduced contact with the outdoors and natural heritage now known, the Heritage Council is well placed to develop policy in this important area and recommend specific measures necessary to support children's engagement with the outdoors and natural heritage.

In moving forward it is fundamental that the Heritage Council continues to deliver objectives which encourage increased numbers of the population to enjoy Ireland's rich heritage through participation in outdoor recreation.

In particular, attention should be given to facilitate those communities that are currently under-represented such as the disabled, minority ethnic and those of high social need. However

without a doubt, the next few years will continue to remain a challenge for the Heritage Council as budgets are expected to remain constrained. Despite this, I have every confidence that the Heritage Council will continue to place partnership-working at the heart of everything it does, remain community focused, continue to strive for excellence in every aspect of its work, providing a quality service to its customers and stakeholders and deliver its activities with integrity whilst ensuring value for money. ■



View of Mount Brandon, Co. Kerry along the route of Cosán na Naomh - one of Ireland's most fascinating and beautiful old pilgrimage roads.



The Heritage Council's on-going support of organisations such as Wicklow Uplands Council, Burren Beo Trust and Woodlands of Ireland has enabled increased public access and appreciation of these special places



Caro-lyne Ferris has been a member of the Heritage Council's Board since 2005. She is a graduate of Liverpool University and Exeter University and has a PhD from Queen's University, Belfast. Caro-lyne has an MBA with specialism in Public Management from the University of Ulster. She has worked

with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Sport Northern Ireland, the Mourne Heritage Trust and Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland.

The board of the Heritage Council - referred to as Council members - is comprised of 11 members who are appointed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (previously the Minister for Environment) for a period of either four or five years.

Highlights of the Heritage Council 1995-2015:

An archaeologist's perspective

Professor Gabriel Cooney, current Council Member

My first formal encounter with the Heritage Council was in my then capacity as editor of *Archaeology Ireland*, the quarterly magazine that covers all aspects of Irish archaeology. In the news section of the Summer 1995 issue I wrote that the Heritage Act 1995, which established the Heritage Council on a statutory basis, had passed all stages in the Oireachtas and had been signed into law by the President, Mrs Mary Robinson. My initial perspective on the new Council was that of an observer interested in issues to do with archaeology and heritage as well as an active researcher.

It was a statement of intent to think about heritage, people and communities in a different way to move the headquarters to Kilkenny, which very quickly became Council's home as well as its working base.

My perspective has changed over the last ten years when I have had the privilege of serving as a board member of the Heritage Council. My enduring recollection is the quality of the work carried out by the staff of Council, the service and breath of expertise of all of the members of the board over that period, and how successfully Council coped with the dramatic decrease in resources over the last five years. I played an active role on committees and working groups and through this came to appreciate that we have to set specific areas of interest, like archaeology, in the wider context of heritage.





Opposite Page: Jerpoint Abbey, Thomastown, Kilkenny.

Above: The Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Research Framework.

Above Left: Excavation of an early medieval cemetery at Carrowkeel, County Galway.

Left: Established by the Heritage Council, the INSTAR web archive is one of the most important online archaeological information resources currently available in Ireland.

Heritage, tangible and intangible, cultural and natural, is about the role of the past in the present, and the value that we place on it.

There are some highlights of the work of the Council that stand out for me. In relation to archaeology, three highlights are the *Review of Research Needs in Irish Archaeology* (2007), the *Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Research Framework* (2009) and the establishment of the programme for Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR). From a broader perspective - the Heritage Officer network, established by the Heritage Council, now plays a vital role in the recognition of heritage at local authority and community level. The Museums Standards Programme for Ireland which now covers 61 museums; from major national cultural institutions to community museums, put in place a national, accredited programme of training and management that transformed this sector. Finally the engagement of Council with the landscape, as the arena in which we live and where we face the challenge of valuing inheritances from the past and managing the future, has had a major impact on the national debate about landscape strategy.

So what of the future? That news item I wrote in *Archaeology Ireland* in 1995 commented on the passing into law of the 1994 amendment to the National Monuments Acts, as indicative of government support for the protection of the archaeological resource. Since then we have been

through unprecedented economic growth and the subsequent period of austerity, when cultural heritage appears to have been targeted for excessive cuts in government spending. These appear to have been done without any coherent strategy, plan for the future or awareness of long-term consequences.

The challenge for Council over the next 20 years is to re-establish the central role of heritage in Irish society. This is not about going back to old paradigms but affirming the cultural value of heritage, its contribution to people and society and exploring heritage as a critical contributor of environmental, social and economic sustainability, which is the key national and global priority. ■



Gabriel Cooney is a current board member of the Heritage Council. He is Professor of Celtic Archaeology and currently Head of School in the School of Archaeology, University College Dublin. He chairs the Historic Monuments Council of Northern Ireland. A member of the Royal Irish Academy, he currently serves on the

Council of the Academy. He is an expert member of ICAHM (the International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management), and a member of ICOMOS.

The board of the Heritage Council - referred to as Council members - is comprised of 11 members who are appointed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (previously the Minister for Environment) for a period of either four or five years.



Mining Ireland's Cultural Resources

Beatrice Kelly,
Head of Policy & Research, the Heritage Council
& **Isabell Smyth,**
Head of Communications, the Heritage Council



Glasnevin Museum: One of 61 participating museums in the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (co-ordinated by the Heritage Council), which provides a framework for improved collections management and visitor experience.

Ireland's cultural heritage is vast, underappreciated and amazing! It is the stone circles on boggy mountain tops to 7th century manuscripts with monk's complaints written in the margins, to the medieval street layouts of our modern towns, to ruined abbeys beside misty rivers. It is the collections of 'stuff' bequeathed to us from earlier generations.

Not only is it amazing, it is a resource that helps us create better places to live and work and is a source of inspiration, enjoyment and entertainment.

This resource is made up of the over 500 museum collections and archives spread across the country, the hundreds of monuments we literally step over daily and thousands of records and artefacts in our libraries, museums, organisations and homes. These are the remnants of the creative energy and effort of previous generations, our shared inheritance as a country but how do we unleash the potential of this wonderful resource?

One way is through the use of digital technology. It allows us to re-visit, re-image and rediscover our heritage. On-line access to manuscripts, library and archival documents allows many more people the opportunity to engage with these collections whether for learning, developing new businesses or enjoyment. It also allows people from very different disciplines to collaborate, creating

something that is fresh and new such as the kind of creative work we see in animation, gaming and advertising – between architects and graphic designers, archaeologists and gamers and archivists and the Mad Men people. Those who are part of the new and valuable creative industries draw on the imagination of previous generations bringing a fresh approach and new business opportunities to places and objects we know well of old.

Our cultural heritage collections and sites have the potential to become a new source of funding for research projects, helping Ireland take part in the European research funding programme, Horizon 2020.

Digitization can help us to care for the original objects better too, by making what is called a digital surrogate for research or interpretation, thus allowing the original to be conserved and put to less use.

Better digital access to our heritage means that more nuanced and interesting tourism material can be provided; visitors can be encouraged to adventure to the more hidden sites and to explore less known aspects of the well-known sites. Some online tools are currently being developed in this area such as the monastic Ireland project **www.monastic.ie** but much more is possible.

With almost 1000 monuments in state care alone and 500 collections around the country,

what can be done to ensure access and awareness of this asset? Other European countries have been much quicker to recognise its importance and have invested substantially in digitisation schemes for objects, documents and books. For example the Dutch spend €5 million annually simply to store the digital version of their national library, while we spent €5.9 million for our entire National Library operations in 2013. Other countries such as France invest in their regional and local museums and art institutions. For example, in France a new branch of the Louvre has been opened recently in Lens, a post industrial town in the North East at a cost of €150 million.

Museums and collections are valued not just for their role in attracting tourists but are just as important for creating a sense of place in a town or region, a sense of pride and wellbeing. Places with a strong sense of pride and place find it easier to attract new businesses to start-up or relocate there according to IDA research. With its emphasis on citizen participation and engagement, cultural heritage has the potential to make a strong contribution to ‘smart cities’¹ an idea the EU is keen to develop; we need to foster the cultural heritage laboratory concept rather than the theme park.

The Heritage Council, along with the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland, the Butler Gallery and Rothe House are promoting the concept of



Rahan Monastic Site: One of nearly 1,000 monuments in state care around the country.

The Monastic Ireland project assembles accurate and comprehensive information relating to the history, landscape and material culture of Irish monastic houses c. 1100–1700, which is presented online at **www.monastic.ie**.

a 'treasury' of cultural collections to be included in the new development of the former brewery site in the heart of Kilkenny, a purpose built space for the storage, research, display and animation of collections relating to Kilkenny. Such a facility will complement the displays in St. Mary's, Butler Gallery and Rothe House and will provide a service to the residents of Kilkenny and county while providing an additional reason to visit the city. Such a resource will attract researchers as well as the potential for applied conservation skills training, including digital preservation leading to new collaborations and increased economic potential in a small regional city.

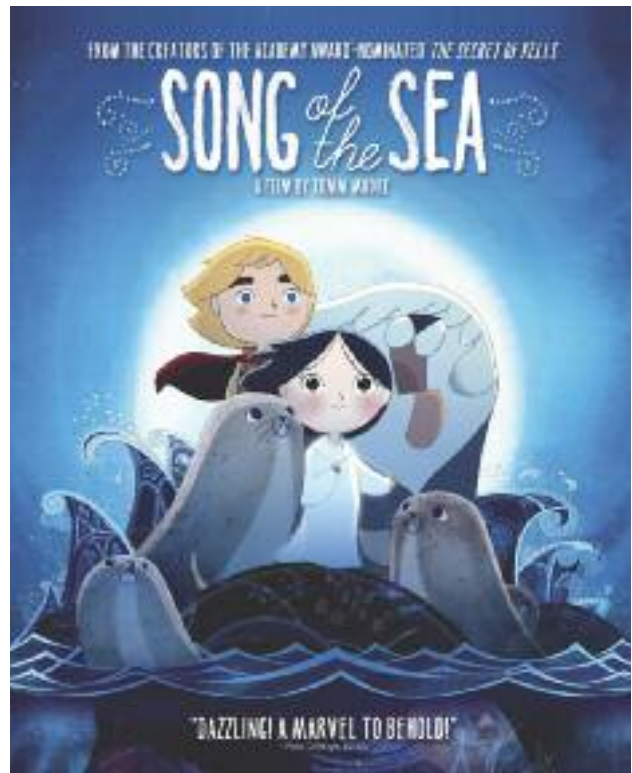
Inspiring Ireland (www.inspiring-ireland.ie)² the award-winning website for our cultural institutions shows us too what is possible online.

In some cases private companies are leading the way. Recognising the added value of their cultural heritage they are investing significantly in its care and conservation. Perhaps most visible to the public is the use of the Guinness archives that pop up in their advertising campaigns and are central to the Guinness brand, providing the rich content that is recognised across the globe.

Guinness currently employs four archivists to care for its collection while in contrast the State's policy and funding body for heritage, the Heritage Council, has neither Archivist nor Museums Officer.

The deserved recognition given to Cartoon Saloon's Oscar nominated films the Secret of Kells and the Song of the Sea speak to the technical and creative competence now available in Ireland but behind the skills is the rich folklore and heritage that inspired its founders, Tomm Moore and Paul Young, to retell the stories they loved in a contemporary format. Without a knowledge of or access to this heritage resource we lose a source of inspiration and a link with place that is hard to measure. Other technology and gaming companies, also based in Ireland, would benefit from greater access to our valuable cultural heritage ensuring that Ireland's creative reputation abroad is not just maintained but developed while shifting our work force from assembly line workers to creative developers.

We need as a country to recognise the potential and invest in this area, in collections management, conservation and digitisation to



The deserved recognition given to Cartoon Saloon's Oscar nominated films - the Secret of Kells and Song of the Sea speak to the technical and creative competence now available in Ireland.

unlock these cultural assets, to inspire new ideas and creativity, as well as enhancing existing industries like tourism. For ourselves as citizens too, greater investment in our cultural heritage would help boost pride in who we are while enhancing what we have and where we live. Lets join the dots on this! ■

¹. A smart city uses digital technologies to enhance performance and wellbeing, to reduce costs and resource consumption, and to engage more effectively and actively with its citizens. A smart city should be able to respond faster to city and global challenges than one with a simple 'transactional' relationship with its citizens. Interest in smart cities is motivated by major challenges, including climate change, economic restructuring, the move to online retail and entertainment, ageing populations, and pressures on public finances. The European Union has devoted constant efforts to devising a strategy for achieving 'smart' urban growth for its metropolitan city-regions. Arup estimates that the global market for smart urban services will be \$400 billion per annum by 2020. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_city

² The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) emerged from a national recognition of the need and responsibility to preserve the digital record of our culture and society. Our digital records and images are fragile and will be lost over time without a trusted national infrastructure to preserve them. DRI was launched in 2011, and we are now a cross-disciplinary team of nearly forty researchers and scholars, software engineers and system administrators, and digital archivists and librarians, working together to deliver digital preservation for Ireland.

Case Studies

Case Study 1 Monastic Ireland

The aim of the Monastic Ireland project is to assemble accurate and comprehensive information relating to the history, landscape and material culture of Irish monastic houses c. 1100–1700, presented online through www.monastic.ie.



The Monastic Ireland project offers a gateway to:

The Visitor is led through a summary of a site's history and given a guided tour centred on an interactive plan of the foundation. The tour provides a gallery of images and explanatory texts on the site's architectural remains of the foundation.

The Researcher is provided with a comprehensive listing of sources and, where available, links to information from medieval and early modern sources, a database of images, and where applicable information on previous archaeological work at specific sites.

The Student and their teachers are offered resources that can be used by primary and secondary schools, undergraduates and local history communities. This provides an important outreach aspect to the Monastic Ireland project.

*The **Monastic Ireland** project has been funded through the **Fáilte Ireland Applied Research Scheme** and the **Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Built Heritage Scheme)**, **University College Dublin (Phase 1: 2011-2013)** and the **Irish Research Council (2014-2016)**.*

www.monastic.ie

Case Study 2 Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI)



Over 60 sites across the country take part in the Museums Standards Programme for Ireland (co-ordinated by the Heritage Council), which benchmarks and promotes professional standards of collection care and visitor management.

Each museum unravels unique stories from our history and natural heritage, from the glamour of Foynes as the centre of the aviation world in the

1930s and 40s at the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum, to the clatter of newspaper and printing industries at the National Print Museum (Dublin) with its still operational printing presses; from the development of Ireland's oldest city, Waterford, at Waterford Treasures to memories of Polar explorer Earnest Shackleton told in his birthplace, Athy; from displays of tractors and fast forgotten equipment at the Irish Agricultural Museum in Wexford – as well as the museum's family of peacocks! Visitors can take part in a range of activities at each institution to experience at first hand diverse aspects of Ireland's heritage and history.

By joining the programme, these museums are committed to ensuring their visitors have the best possible experience as well as managing their diverse collections appropriately. Achieving accreditation also gives reassurance and a guarantee to others who lend them objects for display, that these objects will be cared for properly. Over half of sites in the programme have achieved a level of accreditation. In Jan 2015 25 sites had reached full accreditation with a further 11 at the interim stage. Eight sites have been awarded maintenance of full accreditation certificates meaning they have held full accreditation for three years or more. This number continues to increase annually.

For a full list check

www.heritagecouncil.ie/museums-archive

Case Study 3 3D Icons

Over 130 monuments and buildings from Ireland, including decorated high crosses, the island monastery of Skellig Michael, the passage tombs of Knowth and Newgrange, and the ceremonial landscape of Tara are now featured in a European wide digital collection of highly accurate 3D models. The Discovery



Programme scanned the monuments in Ireland and is now liaising with the Irish Film Board to help promote these resources to film companies working or wishing to work in Ireland.

The 3D-ICONS project was co-funded through the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).

www.3dicons.ie



So, what's new in cultural heritage?

Ian Doyle, Head of Conservation, the Heritage Council

'Cultural heritage is a significant force for 21st century Europe. Not only is it at the heart of what it means to be European, it is being discovered by both governments and citizens as a means of improving economic performance, people's lives and living environments.'

This sentence appears at the start of a new report issued by the EU Commission entitled 'Getting cultural heritage to work for Europe'. This report and recent documents signal a new and growing interest from the EU Commission in cultural heritage.

The term 'paradigm shift' is a much used if not over-used term. At present it is being used in heritage discussions, papers, publications and seminars to describe a shift, sometimes a challenging one, towards new forms of practice, new approaches to heritage management where there is less comfort in old certainties and more of a grappling with new realities. So what does this mean, is this a reality or simply another example of the emperor's new clothes, this time applied to heritage?

The answer from this writer's perspective is that there has never been a more exciting time to work in cultural heritage. Amid the growing recognition from the EU Commission of the value of cultural heritage, the discipline itself continues to evolve and levels of community engagement and involvement are growing steadily. That said this is also a challenging time for Irish heritage in terms of the level of resources available and the lack of a national strategy for heritage. And heritage itself is challenging. As we embark on the Decade of Commemorations in Ireland, strains are already

apparent involving competing views about how we remember events that can be seen as difficult or divisive. The issue of Magdalene Laundries and mother and baby homes with all of their associated memories of marginalisation and infant mortality rates, illustrates that not all of our heritage can be celebrated, but it has to be remembered.

Yet, internationally we can point to the broadening of inclusivity and participation in cultural heritage. This perhaps is best represented in documents such as the ICOMOS Burra Charter or the Council of Europe Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage to Society. Both of these documents highlight the need for greater public involvement in the opportunities and challenges which cultural heritage presents and represent a move away from an expert-dominated view.

In particular, the Burra Charter articulates a set of values that recognises that different individuals and groups might perceive and value cultural heritage in different ways.

Equally, there is a recognition that Charters like this were written explicitly with disenfranchised local groups (indigenous peoples) in mind, and while such groups are not immediately obvious in Europe, local communities were often ignored about decisions relating to their heritage which were taken by government bureaucracies. While Ireland has yet to ratify the Faro Convention, communication and public engagement are becoming more and more understood as basic elements of practice. The ongoing development of community archaeology projects in Ireland demonstrates this and the volume of applications to the Heritage Council's 2015 Community Heritage Grants programme also echoes this shift and shows how communities are working in partnership with experts in caring and safeguarding collections, habitats, monuments and landscapes.

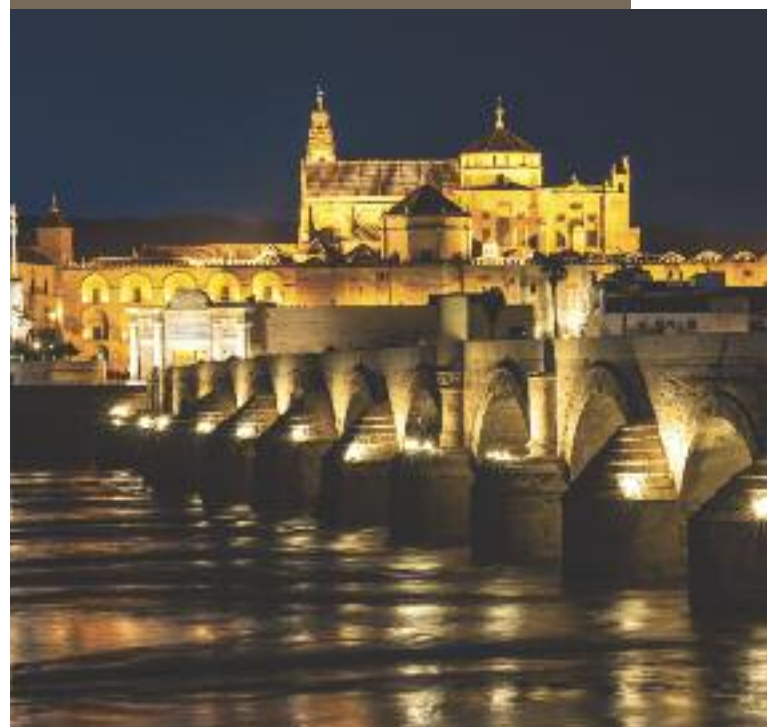
Other notable trends have been an awareness that landscape-based approaches are crucial to the protection of heritage assets. The protection of actual monuments and buildings was achieved in law many years ago but the need to care for their setting and wider context has been a more difficult issue. The development of a conservation ethos based on the dynamic management of change, epitomised by the European Landscape Convention, has gone some way to assisting this. Tools which place an emphasis on dialogue and participation such as Village Design Statements, characterisation studies and Conservation Plans can go a long way to address this. The recent approval by government of the National Landscape Strategy (NLS) and the recognition of Ireland's need to progress the European Landscape Convention in such a strategy is also a significant development. The



Opposite: The Palace of Versailles. © Dennis Jarvis

Above: People, Place and Policy: Growing Tourism to 2025.

Below: Córdoba, Southern Spain. © Danel Solabarrieta





A Venice street © Artur Staszewski.

implementation of the NLS after its launch will be of crucial importance and is something the Heritage Council will be urging.

We have also seen a realisation that heritage contributes significantly to tourism. This is a critically important area with estimates suggesting that this contributes €415 billion annually to Europe's GDP and the vast majority of what attracts visitors to Europe is heritage.

Notably, for perhaps the first time in Ireland, the recently launched *People, Place and Policy: growing Tourism to 2025* flags heritage as a key asset that underpins the authenticity of the overall tourism offering. This is all positive, yet again the trend internationally is to stress that seeing heritage just as a tourism resource is a narrow view that misses its full potential. As pointed out by Peter Bacon and Associates in a report for the Heritage Council the repair and maintenance of historic building stock contributes significantly to the wider economy. Moreover the role of heritage in providing attractive

and vibrant places through heritage-regeneration schemes, particularly in urban areas is also widely accepted.

So, while there are a lot of positive things happening and perhaps even more that is not covered here such as the vast potential of digital heritage and the growing recognition of the importance of intangible heritage, arguably we are more stuck in a paradox rather than a paradigm shift. We have a vast resource of heritage assets and a well-educated and energised heritage sector that is critically absorbing exciting international thinking. Local communities have a growing appetite for caring and promoting heritage sites yet paradoxically ours is a sector where restrictions on resources and a lack of a high level national vision have hampered progress. The vision from the EU Commission is that Europe can become a centre of heritage-led innovation and not a heritage theme park. Can Ireland meet this challenge over the next decade? ■

Local Authorities & Local Communities

Building partnerships to manage heritage at local level

Dr Gerry Glabby,
Heritage Officer,
Fingal County Council

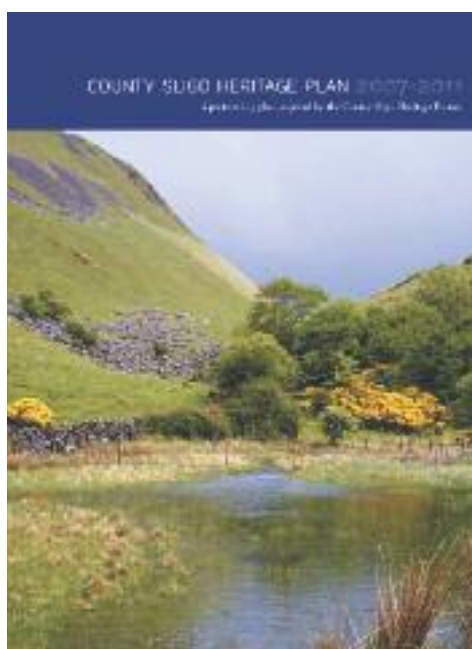
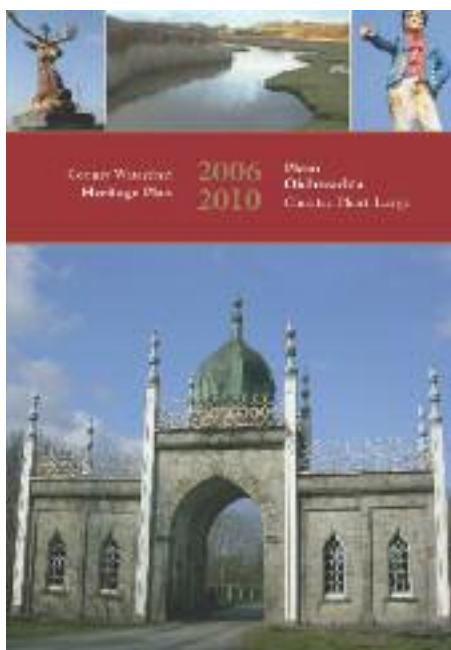


Below: Volunteers clear willow and birch at Lullymore West Bog during Heritage Week. © Gary O'Neill.

Over the past 20 years local authorities have become central to the management of natural and cultural heritage at local level. This development can be traced to the introduction of the local government reform programme known as *Better Local Government* in the mid-1990s, which led to a broadening of local government activity with a renewed focus on working with and supporting communities. It also has its roots in the consolidation and updating of the planning code in 2000 which greatly enhanced its heritage and environmental focus, giving local authorities increased responsibility for safeguarding the architectural, archaeological and natural heritage. Today through the work of heritage officers and other heritage professionals, local authorities work to protect, manage and to promote pride and awareness in local heritage in communities across the country.

Beginning in 1999 with a pilot programme in three counties initiated by the Heritage Council, there are now heritage officers in 28 local authorities across the country. In addition a small number of larger authorities employ additional heritage professionals such as architectural conservation officers, archaeologists, field monuments advisors, archivists, museum curators and biodiversity officers. Heritage expertise has allowed local authorities to develop heritage plans and biodiversity action plans which set out 5-year action plans for natural and cultural





Below Left: Image from Clare County Council's heritage app.

Below Right: Rahan Church Chancel Arch after profiling by Offaly County Council's 3D laser scanner.



heritage at local level. These plans enable local authorities to work with local and national stakeholders to promote a partnership approach to heritage management.

Despite a reduction in heritage funding in recent years, local authorities have also adopted new approaches to manage heritage including the development and implementation of Conservation Plans, Village Design Statements and Public Realm Plans.

New technology has been used to increase access to our heritage such as Offaly County Council's high-resolution 3D scanning of monuments and Clare County Council's Heritage app which provides information on over thirty ecclesiastical heritage sites in Clare. New partnerships have been forged such as *Action for Biodiversity* – a cross border project involving Meath, Louth and Monaghan County Councils and seven local authorities in Northern Ireland which delivered benefits for biodiversity across the north-east in recent years. Substantial investments have been made such as Fingal County Council's €10 million investment with Fáilte Ireland which has re-vitalised Malahide Castle and Gardens. Creative approaches have been used to bring our heritage to new audiences such as Dublin City Council's *Dublin Tenement Experience* developed in collaboration with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and The Irish Heritage Trust which gave visitors an opportunity to experience life in a Dublin tenement during the centenary of the Dublin Lock Out in 2013.

Local authorities, like Fingal County Council, are leading the way in introducing new thinking and innovative approaches to heritage management such as green infrastructure planning which integrates the management of our natural heritage into land-use plans so that social, economic and environmental benefits are maximised. And European funding is being used, through programmes such as LEADER, INTERREG, LIFE and PEACE, to work with local communities putting these new approaches into practice. A key element in all these achievements has been the support of the Heritage Council through funding support, its support for the heritage officer programme and through its commitment to a partnership approach to heritage management at national and local level.

The Government's current programme of reform for local government, *Putting People First*, provides an opportunity to further strengthen heritage management at local level in the coming decade. In particular the establishment of local enterprise offices (LEOs), local community development committees (LCDCs) and the development of local economic and community plans (LECPs) provide for a more coherent and integrated approach to local



This page & Opposite: County & City Heritage Plans highlight the strategic importance of heritage and each plan outlines proposals for managing and promoting heritage at a county level.

and community development and so provide opportunities for more co-ordinated heritage management at local level.

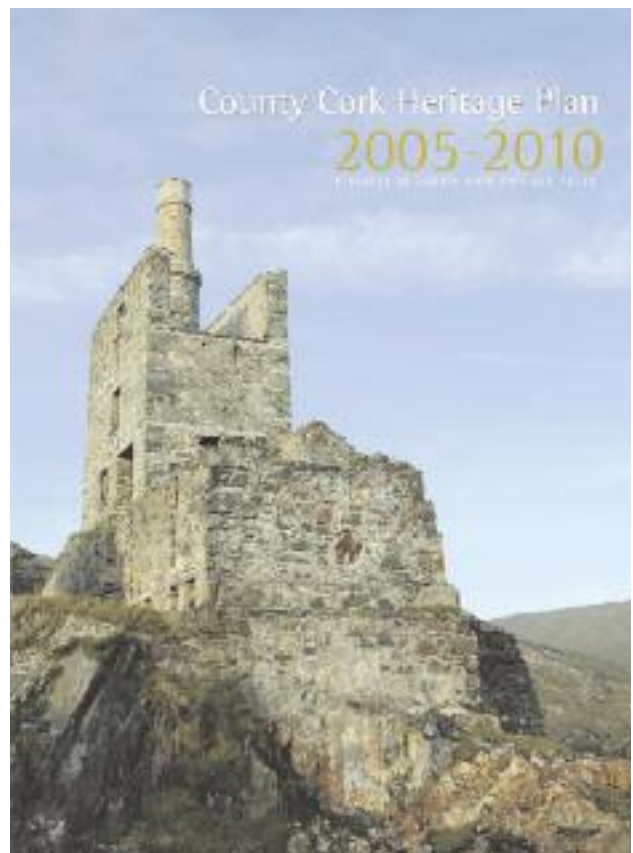
In doing this we need to build on the renewed focus on heritage in our local communities.

As we weathered the economic crisis, we have been re-discovering the wealth of heritage on our doorsteps and its importance in maintaining the connections between people and place which underpin strong and vibrant local communities.

Communities have been engaging with their heritage in new and exciting ways, for example, through community archaeology initiatives, by developing local heritage trails, in re-discovering traditional building skills, in local biodiversity initiatives, and in the rapid growth of Heritage Week which last year saw over 1,800 local heritage events taking place nationally.

We have begun to understand more fully the many ways in which heritage sustains and strengthens our communities and its importance in underpinning economic recovery. Our heritage is instrumental in making Ireland an attractive place to live, work and invest in. The economic importance of heritage has been emphasised recently in the Government's tourism policy, *People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025* which states that our heritage is an invaluable national asset which sustains the tourism industry. It also envisages a much greater role for local authorities in working with communities to promote tourism at local level.

Finally as we look to the future we must also recognise the need for greater investment in our heritage. There is an ongoing need to invest in the protection and management of our heritage as a valuable national resource, and we must provide the necessary organisational infrastructure and funding if we want to realise its full potential in community and economic development in the years to come. ■



Community archaeology project with students from the National University of Ireland's Kilkenny Campus working with Kilkenny Archaeology on a dig at Heritage Council HQ, 2012.



wild child

RECONNECTING CHILDREN WITH THE OUTDOORS

The Heritage Council has long supported outdoor education for children especially through its Heritage in Schools programme, operating since 1999. In 2014 over 96,000 children benefited from the programme across Ireland. The benefits for children's health and wellbeing from having greater access to the outdoors is more widely recognised today amongst health practitioners but not enough support exists for teachers and schools to make this a reality for all children. The Heritage Council hopes that a report it recently commissioned by UCC law department will help clarify the current situation and outline a way forward for those working across various government departments and organisations with a remit for children's welfare. The findings of the report are discussed by its authors below.

Childhood is changing, and lifestyles, urbanisation and commercialisation of children's activities are changing children's experiences of their leisure and play time. Research shows that fewer children

play outdoors and those that do, use the countryside, parks and beaches less frequently. Factors changing children's play patterns include parents' anxieties about children's safety and the reduced availability of creative outdoor spaces. The importance of play and participation in cultural and artistic life is well recognised as fundamental to children's health, development and well-being. Play and education are rights of the child under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). According to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, play should involve children having both space and opportunity to play outdoors unaccompanied in a diverse and challenging physical environment, opportunities to experience, interact with and play in natural environments and the animal world, and opportunities to explore, understand and shape the cultural and artistic heritage of their community (2013). The UNCRC also requires that children have a say in matters that affect them.

A study conducted recently by University College Cork for the Heritage Council sought to further our understanding of children's experiences of the outdoors by talking to children about their experiences. The study comprised a desk-based review of research, law and policy, and it heard directly from children in three different schools based in rural, city and town environments. It sought to provide the Heritage Council with an impression of children's views about the outdoors and the environment and how this relationship might be improved.

The research found that children's relationship with the natural environment has received little attention in national law and policy. No explicit policy supports children's engagement with the outdoors, and although some elements of the Irish primary school curriculum support children's access to the outdoors, the character and ethos of individual schools frequently determines the level of contact children have with the outdoor environment even where natural areas, such as school gardens and natural play areas, are available.

At the same time, it is clear that schools have unmatched potential as places to nurture children's relationship with nature, particularly where their access is limited in their home environments. However, they must be supported and encouraged to do this, preferably in an integrated way where the outdoors is seen as an integral part of the school life, rather than as a discrete subject (e.g. nature) to study at specific times.

Research shows that there are significant benefits associated with children having contact with the outdoors and the environment, including for their health and well-being. Play is central to these benefits and it enhances children's development and their lives more generally. Risk, challenge and flexibility are some of the core components of play and these are best provided by the outdoor environment:

"At the seaside I always look for a rock pool, it's fun because you don't know what's in there. I might try and catch little fish, it was very hard, I almost fell in with the seaweed and my dad just caught me." (City school boy, 8/9 years)

The study also concluded that the changing nature of children's lives is a major concern in Ireland and that the child-nature connection is under serious threat. Certain groups, including children with disabilities, face particular challenges in this regard. The children that participated in the research made clear that all things being equal, they prefer to play outdoors rather than indoors. And they relish the freedom of exploring and playing in an unstructured manner although the location, weather and friends all help to determine whether

outdoor play is attractive. The barriers to children's greater use of the outdoors include school rules in relation to break-time activities, participation in sport, and the role played by gatekeepers (e.g. parents, teachers) whose attitudes strongly influence children's behaviour.

This study highlights the importance of the outdoor environment and nature to children's lives. It reassures that children want to play outdoors but the opportunities for them to do so can be limited by adults' attitudes and environmental factors. The study recommends that greater emphasis be attached to children's use of the outdoors and the natural environment. Schools should be encouraged to educate children and young people about their connection to the natural world and to facilitate their access to outdoor play and learning spaces. Public and political awareness of the issue should be stimulated by identifying the benefits to children of contact with the outdoors.

Work should begin on the adoption of a national policy framework to guide all activity in this area.

More importantly, this study makes the case for listening to children's views and taking them into account in decisions about their lives, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the national participation policy soon to be adopted by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Adults working with and for children, including schools and the Heritage Council, should place children at the heart of their decision-making. Children have a unique perspective on their lives and a valuable role to play in ensuring that measures adopted on their behalf truly meet their needs. ■



This research was undertaken by: **Ursula Kilkelly, Helen Lynch, Angela O'Connell, Alice Moore, Sarah C Field and Ulli Falcini**, University College Cork.



Shaping a New Urban Policy for Ireland's Towns

One third of Irish people live in towns but over the years towns have suffered from a policy vacuum, poor planning and external pressures. The history of our governance and planning is one where thematic policy has been trumped by the electoral cycle. In that context towns have slowly become a 'hidden-Ireland' in policy terms. Unlike cities or rural areas, individual towns do not have either the population numbers or the political cohesion to advance their agenda or command attention. There is a need to give cohesion and focus to the agenda that towns individually, have not been able to bring to bear in national policy terms. If heritage buildings in our town centres are allowed to continue to deteriorate, the socio-economic viability of these areas will be undermined and could decay beyond a critical point from which recovery would be particularly difficult.

Vibrant historic street-scapes appeal to people for shopping, work and leisure and this is reflected

All international research highlight the financial and jobs benefits that arise from the conservation and restoration of historic building stock. Historic and vernacular buildings are the principle assets of our heritage towns. If we want heritage to keep delivering we need to invest in it. This is not just about money. We need the investment of a new philosophy.

Isabell Smyth, Head of Communications, the Heritage Council
& **Colm Murray**, Architecture Officer, the Heritage Council

Community-led Village Design Statements, landscape partnerships, core funding for curatorial organisations, support for new initiatives and the Heritage Towns Initiative all point to the benefits to be gained by new approaches.

Opposite: Dingle, Co. Kerry.

This page: The Heritage Council's national Community-led Village Design Statement Programme and Toolkit provides an opportunity for meaningful public participation in the Irish planning system.

in the most successful thriving towns and urban areas across Ireland. Research shows that investing in our built heritage delivers broad public benefits.

What measures can we take to ensure a future for Irish Towns?

- The Heritage Council recommends that the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government initiate consultation and research on the role of towns in Ireland's economic recovery, with a view to producing a 'white paper' on urban policy.
- The Heritage Council proposes a **Living Town Tax Incentive Scheme** to protect and enhance heritage streetscapes and buildings. This is to encourage investment in protecting and enhancing heritage buildings. The Council is concerned that, with the collapse of public funds available for such investment in recent years, many older buildings in town centres, which are under-used and in need of investment, will decline further.
- The Heritage Council is recommending the revamp and expansion of the **Living Cities Initiative**, which was introduced on a pilot basis in Budget 2013, and rename it a **Living Towns Initiative**. This would provide allowances against income tax for owner-occupiers and investors with investments in excess of 2% of the building's value. Preliminary estimates suggest this would represent a gross Exchequer cost of €5.8 million annually.
- Many older buildings in town centres are under-used and in need of investment, but the amount of public funds available for such investment has fallen in recent years. For example, the grant scheme operated by the Heritage Council, which had provided over €8 million annually in grants to a range of projects, including the built heritage a few years ago, was reduced to €3.8 million in 2012 and was suspended altogether in 2013 due to a lack of resources. In such circumstances alternative supports for the built heritage need to be provided.
- **Support for new types of governance and stakeholder involvement in the management, use and appreciation of towns.** The new paradigm in urban heritage management – Historic Urban Landscape – requires stakeholder ownership and involvement. In order for this to work, State support for partnerships of this form

requires a new and different form of engagement with the public than the State conventionally provides. The Heritage Council provides models in many of its modes of operation to facilitate and encourage community-led heritage initiatives. Community-led Village Design Statements, landscape partnerships, core funding for curatorial organisations, support for new initiatives (such as the Chambers of Arts, Heritage and Culture) and the Heritage Towns Initiative all point to the benefits to be gained by new approaches.



Other fiscal incentive options for consideration include:

- The cut-off limit for investment in restoration of heritage properties that can retain VAT exempt status should be raised from 25% to 65% of their value.
- The stamp duty on heritage buildings in designated areas should be abolished.
- The Capital Gains Tax exemption that currently applies to principal private residences should be extended to all heritage properties in defined areas such as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs).
- Re-introduce incentives for 'Living over the Shop'. ■

This article is based on the findings of two research reports carried out by the Heritage Council, *The Economic Impact of Ireland's Historic Environment* (ECORYS UK) 2012 which was followed in 2014 by *An Assessment of Possible Fiscal Incentives in Relation to the Built Heritage in Ireland's Towns*, Peter Bacon and Associates.



Heritage in Conflict

How can we protect cultural property during war-time?

Dr Cathy Daly

On February 26th, Isis released a video of its fighters ransacking Mosul museum in Syria. It has also been reported that they burned the city's library and bulldozed the 3,300 year old archaeological site of Nimrud, once a capital of the region. Alongside these public shows of destruction there is mounting evidence that they are engaged in organised looting of archaeological sites and museums to fund their reign of terror. As Professor Amr al-Azm wrote in an open letter to the UN, they are "*turning antiquities into guns pointed at Syria's own people*".

The outcry over these events demonstrates that damage and looting of cultural property is no longer accepted as inevitable in warfare, a shift in attitude due largely to events in the twentieth century. The advent of modern weapons in World War II together with the unprecedented scale of that conflict resulted in the flattening of many of Europe's historic cities. This combat also saw large scale looting of cultural artefacts and the birth of military efforts to prevent the plunder, a story portrayed by the movie *Monuments Men* (2014). Following these experiences, and with the subsequent creation of the United Nations, there was an appetite at international level to create an agreement that would protect both built heritage and artefacts during wartime.

The resultant 1954 UNESCO *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* has, to date, been introduced into law in 126 countries, including Syria and Iraq, and by major

military powers such as Russia and the USA. Sixty years have elapsed since the Convention was drawn up and Ireland, despite being one of the original signatories in 1954, has not yet formally adopted it. Apart from Ireland only three other signatories have failed to ratify; Andorra, Philippines and the United Kingdom.

With the end of the Cold War and the rise in ethnic and nationalist conflicts, a new threat to cultural heritage was seen to emerge in Europe. This was the deliberate destruction of the heritage of opposition communities, a process referred to as 'cultural genocide'. In the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s, heritage was targeted by nationalists in an attempt to create a uniform ethnic and religious identity. The destruction of mosques by Serbs in Bosnia, Serbian churches by Albanians in Kosovo, or the deliberate destruction of the historic bridge of Stari Most in Mostar by Croats were all examples of attempts to eliminate the built heritage with which particular groups identified.

It is a sense of a shared identity and culture that links one generation to the next. In many societies that distinctiveness is expressed in buildings, art, and archaeological artefacts. Until this February over one hundred and thirty generations of Mosul's inhabitants had lived and died alongside the statues of Nineveh.

These cultural assets also bear witness to a shared past where different ethnic and religious groups co-existed successfully, a story that does not suit the fundamentalist manifesto of groups like Isis.

Habib Afram, the president of the Syriac League of Lebanon was quoted in the Guardian following the bulldozing of Nimrud "They are not destroying our present life, or only taking the villages, churches, and homes, or erasing our future – they want to erase our culture, past and civilisation," (6.3.15).

Left: All three tombs next to the shrine of Uwais al-Qurani and Ammar Bin Yasser in Raqqa Syria have been destroyed according to the UNITAR-UNOSAT report.

The preamble to the 1954 UNESCO Convention states that *damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world*. During peacetime, those countries that have passed the treaty into law, are expected to prepare for the safeguarding of cultural property in emergencies. One of the suggested measures is the creation of refuges for collections away from potential fighting. Luckily many of the smaller artefacts from Mosul's museum had in fact been moved for safe keeping in line with these practices during the American invasion of Iraq, and thus survived the Isis attack.

The Convention has its own symbol, a quartered 'Blue Shield'. It can be displayed on buildings and personnel to mark them as non-military targets. In countries such as Holland and Austria you may spot it as mounted wall plaques, ironically some countries are now wary of displaying the Blue Shield fearing it will be intentionally targeted. The staff at the Baghdad museum painted the symbol on the roof of the building during the second Iraq war so it would be visible from the air, it was never shelled by the US forces.

Countries that have adopted the Convention undertake to protect and safeguard cultural property in their own territory and in the territory of another State in times of war. In the 2011 Libyan conflict for example, the US military integrated an inventory of cultural property sites into 'no-strike' lists for their air force.

The intentional destruction of cultural property without *Imperative Military Necessity* is now considered a war crime in international law and, although rare, military leaders have been prosecuted under the 1954 Convention.

Below: An ISIS militant uses a power tool to destroy a winged-bull Assyrian protective deity (lamassu) at the Ninevah Museum in Mosul, Iraq, 26th February 2015.



Above: The Four Courts on fire during the civil war, 30th June 1922. Image by National Library of Ireland.

Below: The Blue Shield on a museum roof must be large enough to be seen from high altitude. This symbol was painted on the roof of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad prior to the 2003 invasion and was never shelled by US forces. Photo courtesy of Dr John Malcolm Russel.



Serbian General Pavle Strugar was convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia for *the destruction or willful damage of institutions dedicated to religion, charity and education, the arts and sciences, historic monuments and works of art and science* in the shelling of the Old Town of Dubrovnik, a World Heritage site. Strugar was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Perhaps the best known instance of cultural losses during conflict in Ireland is the Four Courts explosion of 1922. The destruction of documents being stored there (parliament records, wills from the sixteenth century, parish registers, census returns) has left a large gap in our knowledge about our own past, one that anyone tracing their family history will be familiar with. It seems fitting therefore that in this Decade of Commemoration, the Irish Government is finally drawing close to ratifying the Convention. In March of this year, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan stated that his Department were at work preparing a bill that would enable ratification of the Convention. Cultural heritage is not just our history, it is the part of ourselves which we pass into the future. With this move towards protecting cultural property in emergencies, the outlook for Ireland's heritage just become a little brighter. ■

Cathy Daly holds a PhD in cultural heritage management and a MA in World Heritage Studies. She is a founding member of the Irish National Committee of the Blue Shield, the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross. All opinions expressed are the author's own. Contact the author: www.drcathydaly.com.



Twenty years ago Ireland was embarking upon a journey of change for nature conservation. We were preparing to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity, the world's largest international agreement and about to introduce the first national legislation implementing the EU Habitats Directive. There was a frisson of excitement with the creation of a newly established statutory body for heritage - the Heritage Council, overseen by a board of strong, independent personalities. It was a time of hope for nature conservation, a kind of bold new world; or at least we hoped.

The Convention on Biological Diversity was a global cause for celebration as 194 countries signed up to take action to halt biodiversity loss. It copper-fastened cross-sectoral mainstreaming of biodiversity action and clearly articulated the 'think globally - act locally' mantra. It meant that biodiversity, at a policy level, was the responsibility of all, and not just a narrow sectoral interest. The ratification by Ireland of the Convention in 1996 provided the context for much of the excellent work that has been done by local communities around the country, ably assisted by the Community Grants Scheme from the Heritage Council, and the work done by local authorities through the Heritage Officer network.

With the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive came, what I call - 'technocratic

Brave New World

Reflections of a Conservationist

Dr Liam Lysaght

conservation' to Ireland; an approach guided by priority setting, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.

It is a more objective, science-led approach to conservation with clear objectives, supported by a strong legislative framework.

It has elevated nature conservation from a 'back-room' activity to placing it firmly at the core of public policy. This is exactly what we hoped would happen 20 years ago, but I'm not sure it has had the desired effect in terms of conservation.

Great strides have been made by some nature NGOs, such as Bat Conservation Ireland, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, and by BirdWatch Ireland in improving knowledge of nature. Organised surveys, using both professional and voluntary recorders, provide much high quality data in an extremely cost efficient manner. This has been improved further by the establishment in 2007 of the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Thanks to the work of the Data Centre, Ireland now has a biodiversity informatics infrastructure equivalent to, or better than, most European countries.

For a country that sees itself as a global player in information and communication technology, it is only fitting that this too applies to the field of bioinformatics.

Yet, Ireland is continuing to experience biodiversity loss. My wish for the next 20 years is that we can make better use of these scientific, technological, legislative and administrative advances to halt overall biodiversity loss in Ireland. Building the evidence-base is only one side of the equation; influencing decision-making and ensuring people have an appreciation of the true value of biodiversity and the services it provides to Irish society, is the other. I would like to see nature conservation become unfettered by the negativity that has enveloped it, and a large national campaign initiated to celebrate what is special about Ireland's natural heritage.

I regret that, unlike my father, I never experienced a countryside of flower-rich meadows and extensive wetlands, or was deafened by the sounds of corncrakes calling of a summer's evening; my wish is that my grandchildren don't have to grow up in a countryside even less diverse than I experienced as a child. ■

Dr Liam Lysaght is the Director of the National Biodiversity Centre (NBDC). Based at Waterford Institute of Technology, the centre was established by the Heritage Council in 2007, it is funded annually by the Heritage Council and the National Parks & Wildlife Service.





Celebrating research in Irish archaeology:

The Achievements of the Discovery Programme

Dr Edel Bhreathnach,
CEO, The Discovery Programme



**The Discovery
Programme**

Centre for Irish
Archaeological Research

The Discovery Programme will celebrate 25 years in existence in 2016 and like the Heritage Council, which is now in its 20th year, will have much to celebrate, not least having established itself firmly in the national and international archaeological research community. All sectors of Irish archaeology north and south - universities, national cultural institutions, other national agencies and both commercial and professional bodies have contributed to the development of the Discovery Programme's research programmes. And these programmes have made a significant difference to our understanding of Ireland's landscape and its past!

For over two decades, Discovery Programme teams have conducted large-scale excavations and landscape surveys, advanced new remote sensing technologies and delved into historical and topographical sources. Many practitioners of Irish archaeology today got their initial training or progressed their careers working with the organisation. As a result we now know a lot more about some of Ireland's most important monuments and landscapes:

- Dún Aonghasa on Inis Mór is a Late Bronze fort that was re-furbished in the ninth century AD.
- The Hill of Tara is a prehistoric ceremonial landscape that was the setting for the inauguration of the most powerful king in Ireland and the scale of its monuments reflect its position as the centre of a prehistoric society's world.
- Dublin and its hinterland was a busy economic region in the late medieval period as it and other towns, such as Drogheda, were trading hubs and

urban centres with markets and civil and ecclesiastical administrations from courts to mendicant friaries. Their populations suffered the consequences of political and economic turmoil as well as disease and problems with food and fuel supplies in times of war and bad weather.

These are but a few anecdotes from the extensive information gathered by Discovery Programme researchers and published in academic and popular books and many articles worldwide, and also preserved in our ever-growing archives.

Since its inception the Discovery Programme has pioneered the use of new technologies in archaeology and landscape studies. These have ranged from geo-physical surveys to the use of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) - a remote sensing technique used to study the earth's surface and to detect archaeology in a landscape.



More recently, our technology unit has conducted 3D scanning projects on buildings and monuments throughout Ireland, including scanning ogham stones and early medieval inscribed slabs and high crosses. As part of the EU project '3D Icons', the Discovery Programme has created 3D models of many well-known buildings and

monuments – the monasteries of Clonmacnoise and Skellig Michael, the Walls of Derry and the decorated stones preserved in the Boyne Valley passage tombs at Knowth and Newgrange.

The 3D Icons website - www.3dicons.ie, along with the Monastic Ireland website - www.monastic.ie, are two new resources produced by the Discovery Programme as part of its work with communities and schools. We will continue our intense research on Irish archaeology using different approaches to the evidence – anthropological, scientific and technological – but our future lies in a strong partnership with the public. This partnership is best expressed in the Discovery Programme's themes for its work in the next few years: *Discovering the Ancient Landscapes and People of Ireland* and *Becoming Custodians of Our Past*. Bigí linn inár bhfionntar tré thírdhreachanna na hÉireann! ■

The Discovery Programme receives an annual core grant from the Heritage Council.

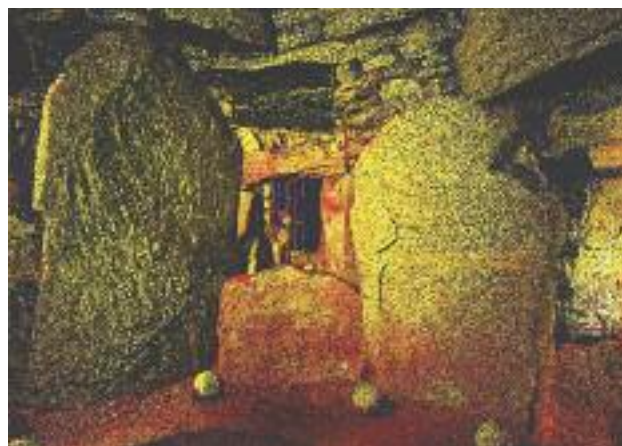


Opposite: Surveyors for The Discovery Programme at Newgrange, Co. Meath.

Above: The Hill of Tara, Co. Meath.

Below : Archaeologists investigate the grounds around Tully Holy Well, Co. Laois.

Below Bottom: Inside the tomb at Newgrange, Co. Meath.

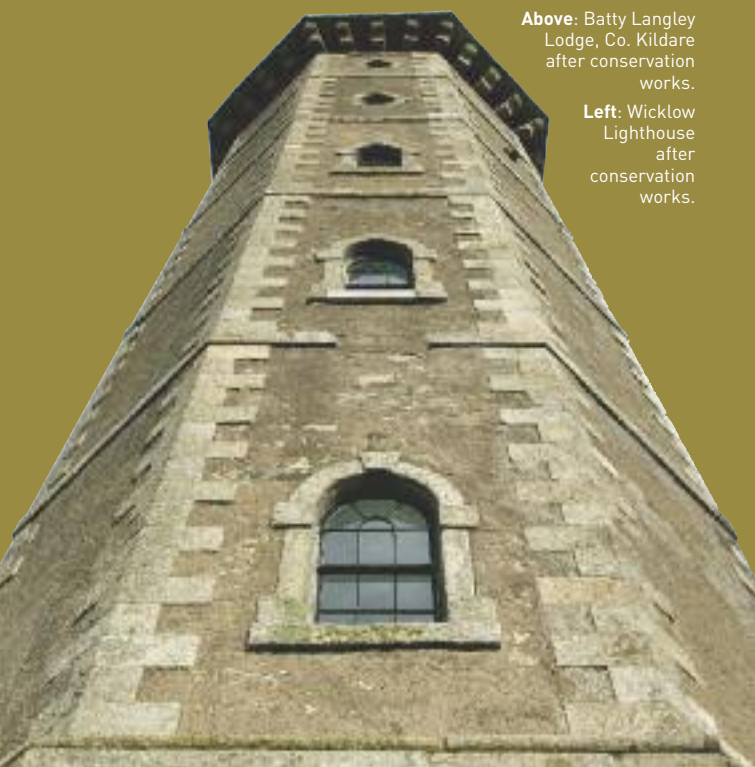




Conserving our
heritage buildings

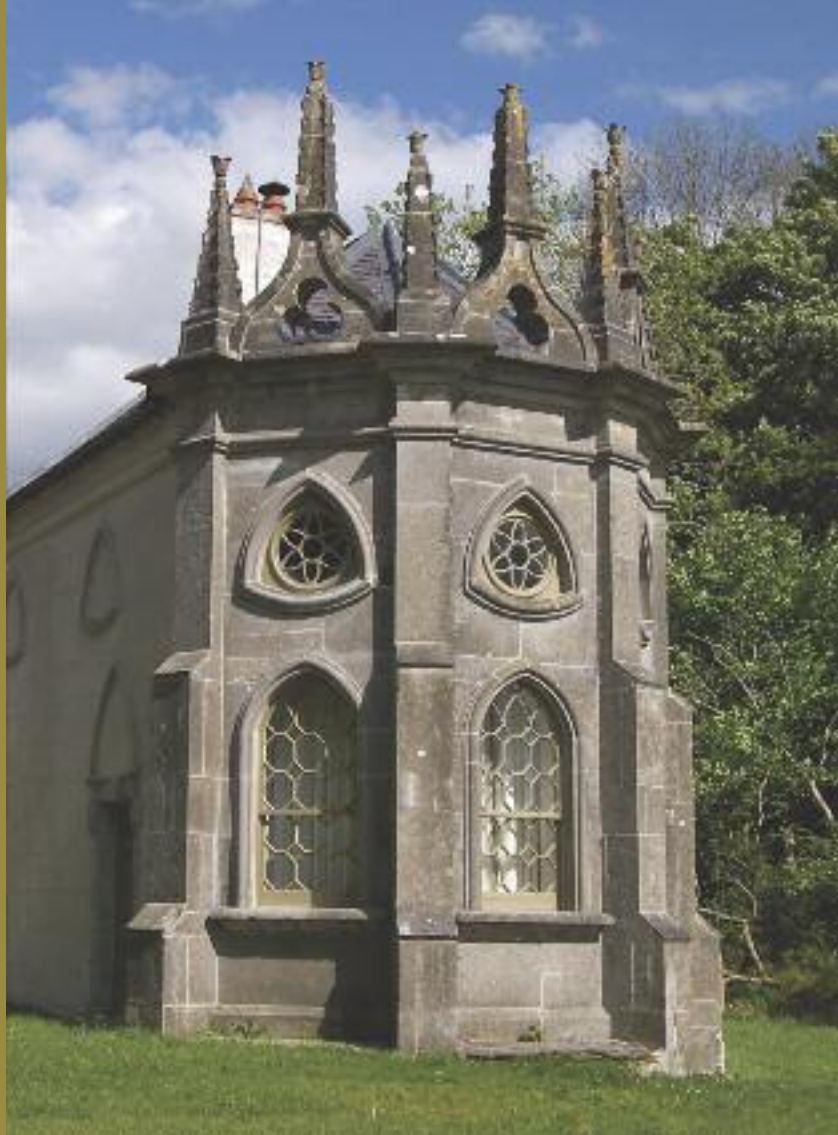
Irish Landmark Trust

Mary O'Brien, CEO, Irish Landmark Trust



Above: Batty Langley Lodge, Co. Kildare after conservation works.

Left: Wicklow Lighthouse after conservation works.



Founded in 1992, Irish Landmark Trust was set up in order to save historic Irish buildings at risk of being lost through neglect, abandonment, or inappropriate use. By 1996 the case for the conservation of the small, vernacular building had been clearly established and had evoked an ever-widening understanding and acceptance amongst all sections of the community.

At the same time, the Heritage Council had been established as a central driving force in conservation, amongst other things, of the architectural heritage and as a source of funding support. But key gaps remained. Still scarce resources meant that buildings that were constructed to serve greater creations, or to fulfill historic functions no longer required, had little hope of survival. The simple idea that generated Irish Landmark was that they could be saved through making them publicly accessible as holiday accommodation. It was also clear that these buildings had the capacity to make a vital contribution to their local communities – through not only the direct benefit of employment and spending power of the guests who would stay in them, but also through retaining a part of the local cultural history.



Salterbridge Gatelodge, Co. Waterford before and after conservation.



Merrion Mews, Dublin before and after conservation.

The target buildings for Irish Landmark are a wide and contrasting group – ranging from castles to cottages, the simple to the sophisticated; but what they all have in common is that they are of architectural and cultural significance.

Because of their building type, many are difficult to adapt, without significant intervention, for contemporary everyday use. They are, however, perfectly suited to short-let holiday use: in fact the very constraints which limit their use for permanent living can be the attractions for those wishing to escape briefly to an authentic experience of Ireland's built heritage. This marriage – the conservation of good buildings and the creation of a new tourism project – has proven to not alone be sustainable, but is playing a vital part in protecting our built heritage and supplying an added value tourist product.

Irish Landmark's first project was the restoration of Wicklow Head Lighthouse. At approx. 95 feet high and a void interior, it presented some unique and difficult challenges, but this proved a useful learning ground for the future work of the organisation.

To date Irish Landmark has ensured the survival of 25 architecturally important properties.

The use of these conserved properties as holiday homes has made them accessible to a wide spectrum of people and, in turn, is helping to embed awareness of architectural heritage in successive generations.

The last two decades have not always been easy and we have faced many challenges. If the experiences of these years have taught us anything, it is that we must be capable of adapting quickly to changing circumstances, while retaining our clarity of purpose. We can not forget the support of our donors and funders, including the Heritage Council, without their support we would not be in a position to continue our work of conserving and maintaining some of Ireland's most wonderful architectural gems. ■

Irish Landmark Trust receives funding from the Heritage Council on an annual basis.

Gallery Heritage Council 20th Anniversary

Some of the fantastic initiatives, programmes and grant-aided projects that we've been involved in over the years.



The conserved Ballina Weir - Tidy Towns Heritage Award Winner 2012, the award is sponsored by the Heritage Council. Shown here is the weir before and after restoration.



Children enjoying the benefits of the outdoors with Eanna Ní Lamhna through the **Heritage in Schools Programme** - an initiative of the Heritage Council.





Every year the Heritage Council holds a **National Heritage Week Photo Competition**, here are some of the winners from 2010.



Elodie Leveque conserving a document at the National Gallery of Ireland as part of her internship through the **Heritage Council's Conservation Internship Programme**.



Gallery Heritage Council 20th Anniversary

Some of the fantastic initiatives, programmes and grant-aided projects that we've been involved in over the years.

Over 100 community groups from all over the country being presented with the much-coveted **Local Heritage Awards** from the Heritage Council at a ceremony in Kilkenny Castle, 2004.

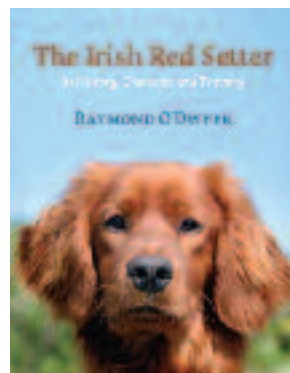


The first **Walled Towns Day**, held as part of Heritage Week in 2006, the day has since gone from strength to strength and is now held in 23 towns annually all over Ireland.

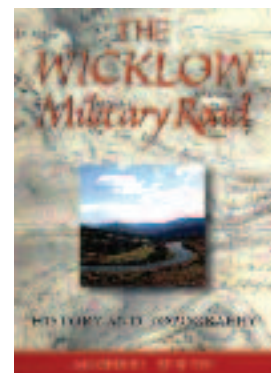


Below: The staff of the Heritage Council (many of whom are still with us!) as they enjoy the official opening of their new home at the Bishop's Palace, Kilkenny in 2008. **Left:** President Mary McAleese at the official opening of the Heritage Council's new headquarters in 2008.





Just a selection of some of the wonderful publications supported through the Heritage Council's grant scheme.



Children enjoy a visit to the Casino in Marino during **Heritage Week 2007**.



Evan Duggan at the **National Biodiversity Centre's annual Young Recorder's Event** held in Waterford, 2009.

Gallery Heritage Council 20th Anniversary

Some of the fantastic initiatives, programmes and grant-aided projects that we've been involved in over the years.

Batty Langley Lodge, Co. Kildare - one of the many heritage buildings all over the country conserved by the **Irish Landmark Trust**, which receives an annual grant from the Heritage Council.



Biodiversity Training Day 2009.

Enjoying **National Heritage Week 2005.**



Minister Jimmy Deenihan with Chief Executive Michael Starrett and Chairman, Conor Newman at the **'Your Place or Mine'** conference, 2012.



Youghal Medieval Festival 2011 - an initiative of the Irish Walled Towns Network.

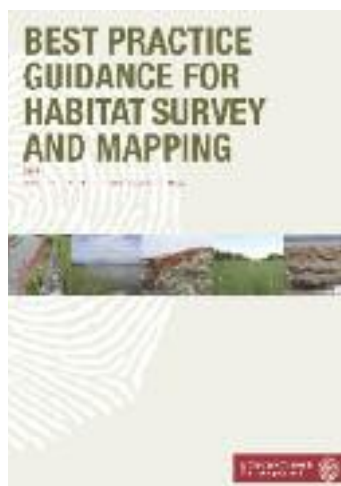
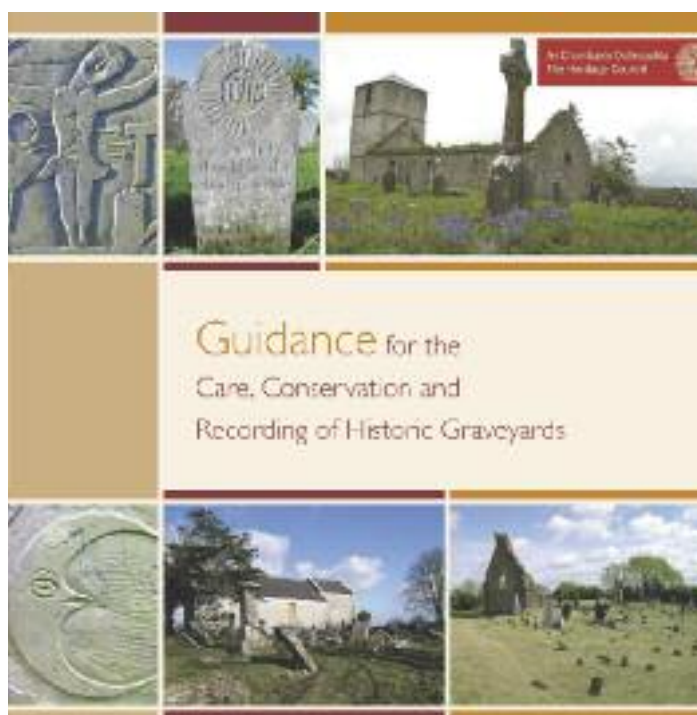
Yacht Racing in Dunlaoghaire - part of **National Heritage Week 2012**.



Gallery Heritage Council 20th Anniversary

Some of the fantastic initiatives, programmes and grant-aided projects that we've been involved in over the years.

Just a selection of the **many publications the Heritage Council produces** on Ireland's diverse heritage.





Local Heritage Awards 2006.



Fethard Walled Towns Day 2008.

**Your Place
or Mine
Conference,**
Royal Irish
Academy,
Dublin,
2012.



Cosan na Naomh, Co. Kerry - one of many '**Pilgrim's Paths**'
walking routes developed around the country.



Museum Awards 2009.

Events

Environmental Courts, Enforcement, Judicial Review & Appeals: Exploring the Options for Ireland



Friday, June 19, 2015 2-6pm

Brookfield Health Sciences Complex University College Cork.

This conference will examine the potential for a specialist environmental court in Ireland. The overall goal is to consider appropriate institutional mechanisms to provide effective oversight and to improve the quality of environmental decision-making. The event is open to all and is free of charge, although advance registration will be required. Further details at www.ucc.ie/en/lawsite

The Irish Museums Association Annual Visit Saturday, 25 July 2015

One of Dublin's most important squares, Merrion Square is in the heart of the South Georgian Quarter and is flanked by many cultural institutions such as the Goethe-Institute, NGI, NMI, Arts Council, IAF, IAA. This visit will focus on the work being carried out by the Merrion Square Innovation Network to promote the Square as a cultural destination and a visit will be organised to one of the Georgian houses flanking the Square.



The Museum Visits are free events extended to IMA members and guests courtesy of the host venues. Booking is essential and is allocated on a first come, first served basis. For more info visit: www.irishmuseums.org

Exploring Museum Collections Nationwide



The National Gallery of Ireland has organised a lecture series in June to explore a diverse range of collections open to the public in Ireland. All the collections have achieved Full Accreditation in the

Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for

Ireland. For more information visit www.nationalgallery.ie

June 7th Sunday at 3pm, Muckross House, Co Kerry, Archive, Traditional Farms, Patricia O'Hare

June 9th Tuesday at 10.30am, 2016 Now in View: Refurbishing and Rehangng the NGI, Sean Rainbird, Director

June 14th Sunday at 3pm, Monaghan County Museum, Liam Bradley

June 16th Tuesday at 10.30, Farmleigh House and Gardens OPW, Mary Heffernan, National Historic Properties

June 21st Sunday at 3pm, Knock Museum, Co. Mayo, Grace Mulqueen

June 23rd Tuesday at 10.30am, National Print Museum, Carla Marrinan

June 28th Sunday at 3pm, Donegal County Museum, Judith McCarthy

June 30th Tuesday at 10.30am, GAA Museum Croke Park, Joanne Clarke

Planning for Climate Change Conference

The 2nd London Annual Planning for Climate Change Conference will once again take place at the University of London on the **25th June 2015**.



It promises to be a great day, with up to 15 speakers and 100 delegates coming together to discuss a range of key issues relating to climate change adaptation strategies, policies to mitigate against the negative effects of climate changes and also to look at a number of innovative case studies that aim to promote sustainable communities and economies within the context of an increasingly changing climate. Cost to attend as a Delegate/Speaker is £240 plus VAT or if you are a Researcher/Student the Reduced Delegate/Speaker Fee is £120 plus VAT. See www.planforclimatechange.co.uk for further information.

Events

Sean Scully at the National Gallery of Ireland

9 May – 20 September 2015. Millennium Wing (rms 1-5). Admission free.

Sean Scully at the National Gallery of Ireland marks the artist's 70th birthday.

This exhibition charts the two decades of the artist's work, the 1980s and 1990s and juxtaposes paintings from that period with works, principally multi-part photographic sequences, made over the

past decade. The exhibition brings together a group of major paintings on loan from Tate, Arts Council England, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Kerlin Gallery, as well as works on paper from a private collection. Curator: Sean Rainbird, Director, National Gallery of Ireland.



Twenty Seven Years of the work of Irish Woodturner Emmet Kane

At National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks



Craftsman or artist? Creator of work or manipulator of nature? Form over material, or material the master of the form? To walk among Emmet Kane's creations in the first retrospective exhibition of his life and

work such questions may occur later, once you have fully gathered the sheer scale and diversity of his work in wood. The exhibition is designed to help communicate to visitors the story and skill of Kane's artistry and craft in a totally accessible and understandable way, through the objects themselves, images, graphics and short informative accompanying text. The work, produced over close to thirty years, will be displayed on the second floor of the south wing of the Museum at Collins Barracks. **Exhibition runs until December 2015.**

The 1916 Rising: Personalities and Perspectives

The National Library of Ireland's online exhibition

The 1916 Rising: Personalities and Perspectives draws almost exclusively upon the collections of the National Library, including the Library's rich



holdings of books, newspapers, photographs, drawings, proclamations and, not least, manuscript material. In all, over 500 images have been selected for study and analysis. Through the medium of contemporary documents, *The 1916 Rising: personalities and perspectives* focuses upon those who set the stage for the events of Easter Week 1916, the seven signatories of the proclamation, the others executed in the aftermath of the Rising, the casualties and the survivors. Visit www.nli.ie/1916

Conservation Without Frontiers: Historic Buildings of Armagh & Monaghan in Context

25th -27th June 2015



For the first time, the joint Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and Irish Georgian Society summer school will bring together students, enthusiasts and

practitioners to explore, discuss and debate issues relating to our shared Irish heritage in the context of Armagh and Monaghan. A key theme of the event is conservation and regeneration for community benefit which will demonstrate the critical importance of built heritage in maintaining the distinctive qualities of the region and supporting the growth of tourism, economic development and prosperity. Leaders will include well known academics, architectural historians, architects, planners, conservation and heritage officers. The support of both councils will also reinforce the positive developing relationship between them and our respective organisations.

Summer school director: Kevin V. Mulligan, author of *The Buildings of Ireland: South Ulster*.

Visit www.igs.ie for booking and further information.

Seamus Heaney: The Hedge School of Glanmore

18th April-30th August. Ashford Community Heritage Centre, Ashford, Co Wicklow.

This is the inaugural exhibition at Ashford Heritage Centre, it celebrates the poet's unique association with Glanmore as home, retreat and place of inspiration and highlights the influence of the local Wicklow area in his work.

A programme of events which will focus on the rich natural and cultural heritage of the local area which provided the backdrop to Heaney's work. Events will



Events

include workshops, talks and walks. As part of the exhibition, there will be a series of related activities taking place over the coming months, all are welcome to attend:

Upcoming Talks:

24th June: Donal Magner, Seamus Heaney's Approach to Trees and Woodlands.

26th August: Patricia Butler, Wicklow Through the Artists Eye. An illustrated talk relating to areas surrounding Ashford which influenced the poet, together with a brief history of several local historic demesnes and gardens (Killruddery, Kilmacurragh, Powerscourt, Mt. Usher).

For more info visit: www.heritagecouncil.ie/events

Burren Wild Child Summer Camp 2015

10am-2pm from the 28th-30th July. Carron, Co. Clare.

6-12 years olds (1st-6th class only)

Burren Wild Child Summer Camp is back! What better place to learn but out in the outdoors! This will be a fun and interactive 3



days for young children where they will learn to explore the natural, cultural and built heritage of the Burren's hedgerows and pavements through games, scavenger hunts, treasure hunts, fossil finding, & much more!! The aim of this event is to get children enthused by the Burren, the magic it holds and to foster a sense of pride and responsibility in this incredible landscape.

The price is €30 per child, €50 for 2 children from the same family, €65 for 3 children from the same family. If you are a Burrenbeo Trust family members it is €20 per child, €40 for 2 children, €55 for 3 children. This includes all the necessary materials. Each child has to come with a snack, a packed lunch, a drink and waterproofs. Children will be supervised on a maximum 10:1 ratio by Burrenbeo Trust staff. Space are limited so you have to book, please phone 091 638096 or email trust@burrenbeo.com

BirdWatch Save Our Nature Campaign

BirdWatch Ireland has launched a campaign called **Save Our Nature to defend the Birds and Habitats Directives**. We are asking anyone who loves nature in Ireland to sign up on our website and to share the link with family and friends. www.birdwatchireland.ie/Supportus/SaveourNature/tabid/1461/Default.aspx

**MONASTIC EUROPE:
LANDSCAPE & SETTLEMENT**
International Conference

Temple Gate Hotel,
Ennis, Co. Clare
22nd - 26th August 2015

For details, log on to:
www.wordpress.monasticeurope.com

**SUMMER SCHOOL
ANCESTRAL CONNECTIONS: NAMES, PLACES AND SPACES
UCC IRISH GENEALOGY SUMMER SCHOOL
28 JUNE - 5 JULY 2015**

UCC
University College Cork

www.ucc.ie/en/ancestral-connections

Contact Details:
Lorna Moloney, ACE,
The Laurels, Western Road,
University College Cork, Ireland
T: +353 (0)1 490 4702
Mobile: +353 (0)85 872 1184
E: lmoloney@ucc.ie

Play your part in Making History!

POBLACHT NA h EIREANN. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

(HUSBANDS AND WIVES) In the name of God and of the dead generations from which we receive our old traditions of nationhood, Ireland, through its numerous her children, to her flag and strive for her freedom:

Having organised and trained her manhood through the secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her own military organisation, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently endured her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her valiant children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes a full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State.



Ireland 2016 is the State Centenary Programme to remember 1916, to reflect on the Republic 100 years on, and to re-imagine our future. It is a once in a century invitation to people of all ages, at home and overseas, to participate in a diverse range of historical, cultural and artistic activities, all designed to facilitate reflection, commemoration, celebration, debate and analysis, and an active re-imagining of our future.

The Programme is built on seven strands: **State Ceremonial, Historical Reflection, An Teanga Bheo, Youth and Imagination, Cultural Expression, Community Participation and Global and Diaspora.**

The Heritage Council is planning an extensive community based programme which includes a special themed Heritage Week in 2016, a grants programme for projects commemorating 2016 and a range of programmes and events co-ordinated by county Heritage Officers.

Every local authority has appointed a special co-ordinator and team for the Centenary Programme to support the widest possible community engagement. More than 100 meetings are currently taking place in towns across the country at which the general public as well as representatives from all sectors of the local community including arts organisations, history and heritage groups, youth organisations and education bodies are sharing ideas and inspiration for imaginative and memorable local events.

Details of local authority meetings as well as contact information for the local authority co-ordinators is available at www.ireland.ie/community

Keep up to date on programme developments by signing up to the Ireland 2016 newsletter on www.ireland.ie and follow us on Facebook and Twitter [#ireland2016](https://twitter.com/ireland2016) [#eire2016](https://twitter.com/eire2016)

ÉIRE
IRELAND

19
.....
2016

Clár Comórtha
Céad Bliain
Centenary
Programme

National Heritage Week



Coordinated by

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Discover the past. Build the future.

22nd–30th August 2015

Full Steam Ahead!

Event registration for National Heritage Week 2015 is now open and this year we want to shine a light on **Ireland's Industrial and Design Heritage**. So if you would like to include your local heritage project in this year's programme, please register it now for National Heritage Week, 22–30 August 2015.

Last year over 400,000 people participated in 1,800 events around the country including historical walks and talks, workshops, archaeological digs, re-enactments, storytelling and more.

It is possible to continue to upload events for the National Heritage Week's online listings right up until 22 August when the celebrations begin. All events are subject to approval.

Participants are encouraged to incorporate the industrial heritage theme into their project where possible.

Once approved your event will be uploaded to the events section of www.heritageweek.ie. If you cannot register online, we can send you a registration form by post.

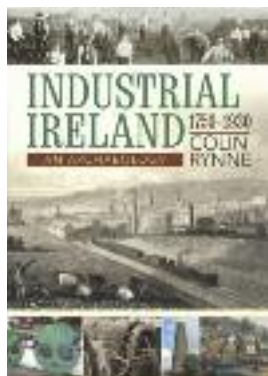


Callsave
1850 200 878

www.heritageweek.ie

#heritageweek

Publications



Industrial Ireland 1750-1930

An Archaeology

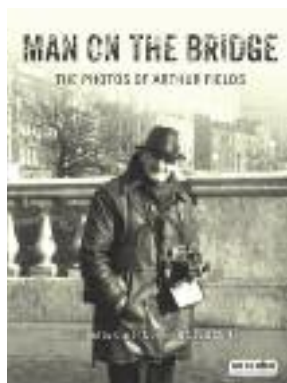
By Colin Rynne

Throughout Ireland we can see the often-derelict remains of our industrial past: distilleries, mills, factories, railways and canals. Ireland was the location of over 180 thriving

breweries, 93 railway companies and numerous other industries. By a leading authority on the subject, this is the first comprehensive survey of Ireland's industrial archaeology, examining major industrial activities, their technology and important surviving sites, the book is fully referenced and illustrated throughout. So from the windmill at Blennerville, County Kerry, to the shipyards in Belfast, this is a thorough survey of the physical expressions of Irish society in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

ISBN: 9781848892453

Price: €14.39. www.collinspress.ie



Man On The Bridge

The Photos of Arthur Fields

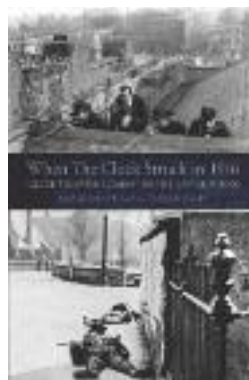
By Arthur Fields, Ciarán Deeney & David Clarke

Arthur Fields, the Dublin-born son of Ukrainian emigrants fleeing anti-Semitism, was a street photographer who stood on O'Connell Bridge for fifty

years taking photos. He unknowingly became the unofficial family photographer of a city. Arthur provided a vital service taking photos of couples on first dates, people up in Dublin for a day, happy parents with newborn children, match-goers, and many more. These cherished photos form the basis of this collection. The photos bear witness to a changing cityscape, fashion, lifestyle, social habits and even camera technology. In terms of subjects, Arthur also took photos of famous celebrities, African princes, street characters and even future stars, such as a seven-year-old George Harrison.

ISBN: 9781848892453

Price: €14.39. www.collinspress.ie



When the Clock Struck in 1916

Close-Quarter Combat in the Easter Rising

By Derek Molyneux & Darren Kelly

The Easter Rising of 1916 was a seminal moment in Ireland's turbulent history. For the combatants it was a no-holds-barred clash: the professional

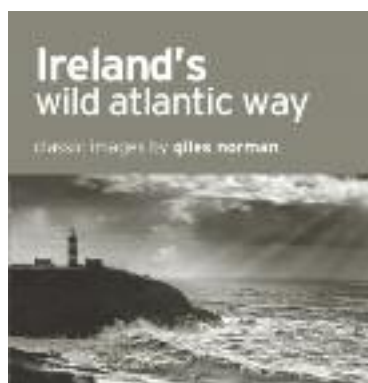
army of an empire against a highly motivated, well-drilled force of volunteers. What did the men and women who fought on the streets of Dublin endure during those brutal days after the clock struck on 24 April 1916? For them, the conflict was a mix of bloody fighting and energy-sapping waiting, with meagre supplies of food and water, little chance to rest and the terror of imminent attacks.

The experiences recounted here include those of: 20-year-old Sean McLoughlin who went from Volunteer to Captain to Commandant-General in five days: his cool head under fire saved many of his comrades; Volunteer Thomas Young's mother, who acted as a scout, leading a section through enemy-infested streets; the 2/7th Sherwood Foresters NCO who died when the grenade he threw at Clanwilliam House bounced off the wall and exploded next to his head; 2nd Lieutenant Guy Vickery Pinfield of the 8th Royal Hussars, who led the charge on the main gate of Dublin Castle and became the first British officer to die in the Rising.

This account of the major engagements of Easter Week 1916 takes us onto the shelled and bullet-ridden streets of Dublin with the foot soldiers on both sides of the conflict, into the collapsing buildings and through the gunsmoke.

SBN: 9781848892132

Price: €14.39. www.collinspress.ie



Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way

Classic Images

By Giles Norman

The Wild Atlantic Way is a breathtaking coastal route spanning seven of Ireland's counties on its west

Publications

coast. Acclaimed photographer Giles Norman explores this beautiful Irish coastline, from the inviting beaches of West Cork to the rugged sea cliffs of Donegal. In photographs and concise narrative, he depicts this magnificent 2,500km-long coastline and captures the essence of this unique place. Throughout the book, laid out in sections that coincide with the stages of the Wild Atlantic Way, a window is opened for all to observe the beauty of Ireland's west coast, with dramatic images of beaches and rugged headlands intermingled with traditional cottages, fragile flora and shadowed skies, and the wild remoteness of the windswept Aran Islands. These images capture the timeless splendour of Ireland.

Giles' photographs of the Irish landscape evoke a purity of vision, largely stripped of manmade intrusion. Preferring to keep his pictures 'real', he shuns the special effects of modern photography. A shaft of light between clouds, a breaking wave, the elegance of a single flower, all his images showcase the best Ireland has to offer. The Wild Atlantic Way inspires awe and admiration and Giles' photos have captured its majesty in remarkable black and white. What you see is what he saw.

ISBN: 9781848892415

Price: €19.99. www.collinspress.ie



The Irish Hand

Scribes and their Manuscripts from the Earliest Times

By Timothy O'Neill

This is a revised and expanded edition of what has long been regarded as the standard work on Irish Manuscripts. The new book incorporates high

quality digital images of the works of Irish scribes through the centuries. The extraordinary stories of the survival of these volumes provide a commentary on the cultural history of Ireland, its language, scholars and scribes.

The Irish Hand is arranged in two parts. Part One presents survey of the manuscript tradition, followed by essays on thirty-one of the great books of Ireland. The context, contents, and history of each manuscript are given, accompanied by a full-page illustration.

Part Two surveys the work of the scribes from a practical perspective, examining script and lettering in detail. Extracts are given from fifty-two manuscripts, transliterated and translated, with a commentary on

the penwork. The Irish Hand covers 1,500 years of Irish script and letter design from the sixth to the twenty-first century.

ISBN: 9781782050926

Price: €39.00. www.corkuniversitypress.com



A City In Civil War

Dublin 1921-1924

By Pádraig Yeates

In the concluding volume of Pádraig Yeates' critically acclaimed 'Dublin at War' trilogy, the author turns his attention to the Civil War. The Truce that heralded the end of the War of Independence in July 1921 proved no more than

a prelude to renewed conflict on the capital's streets as many of the men who worked for Michael Collins in the fight against the British now turned their skills with deadly effect on former comrades.

For some Dubliners, including many southern Unionists, British ex-servicemen and anti-Treaty republicans, the city became a hostile environment with the City Council and Dublin Metropolitan Police abolished by the new Free State. Yet, life remained a cycle of grinding poverty for the city's slum dwellers. The main beneficiary of the chaos was the Catholic Church, which tightened its grip on vital social services with tragic consequences for thousands of the marginalised, while an embattled government was too preoccupied with securing its grip on power to provide for its own citizens.

As in his previous work, the author uncovers unknown and neglected aspects of the Irish revolution in the capital and their impact on the rest of the country.

ISBN: 9780717167265

Price: €27.99. www.gillmacmillanbooks.ie



My First Book of Irish Animals

By Juanita Browne

My First Book of Irish Animals is a beautiful picture book written by Juanita Browne which introduces young children to Ireland's wonderful wildlife. There are lots of picture books about exotic

Publications

wildlife from around the world - sharks and bears, big cats and snakes - but this is the first children's picture book to focus specifically on the Irish fauna. Filled with fascinating facts and illustrated by Aoife Quinn, a very talented Irish artist, this book will really capture the imagination of young children.

ISBN 978-0955059414

Price: €13.99. **email: jbrownebooks@gmail.com**



Barn Owls Ireland

To share information on BirdWatch Ireland's research on the much loved but not often seen Barn Owl - BirdWatch Ireland have produced a new 32-page booklet.

The publication also

contains facts and information such as their importance in mythology, the adaptations which allow them to hunt effectively at night, where they nest and what they eat. The main purpose of the booklet is to provide practical conservation advice, which anyone can carry out to help their local population and other wildlife.

This booklet is available for download from **www.birdwatchireland.ie** free of charge. Or send a self-addressed envelope with a stamp for €1.60 to BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford Business Campus, Kilcoole, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.



Pocket Irish Legends

28 classics to delight and entertain

Compiled by Tony Potter

High kings, forbidden romance and ancient magic all feature in these rich and colourful myths. Packed with 28 classic tales drawn from Ireland's

ancient tradition of storytelling, these legends will delight children of all ages - as they have for generations.

In this book you will find tales of beautiful princesses and handsome princes, brave kings, beautiful queens,

wicked stepmothers, greedy landlords, wily druids, practical saints, magic spears, singing harps, slithering snakes, fierce dragons, cruel enchantments, courageous deeds, mischievous fairies and clever leprechauns.

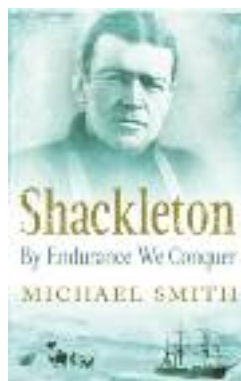
Ireland's rich and colourful history is reflected in these myths and legends which have been handed down from generation to generation.

This popular pocket format will appeal to visitors to Ireland. And for children in Ireland with names such as Deirdre, Aoife, Conor, Gráinne, Diarmuid, Brian, Maeve, Fionn and Oisín, the question 'Where does my name come from?' is easily answered with a story.

Here are stories to be enjoyed by children and adults alike - just like they have been for hundreds of years.

ISBN 9780717158997.

Price: €4.99. **www.gillmacmillanbooks.ie**



Shackleton

By Endurance We Conquer

By Michael Smith

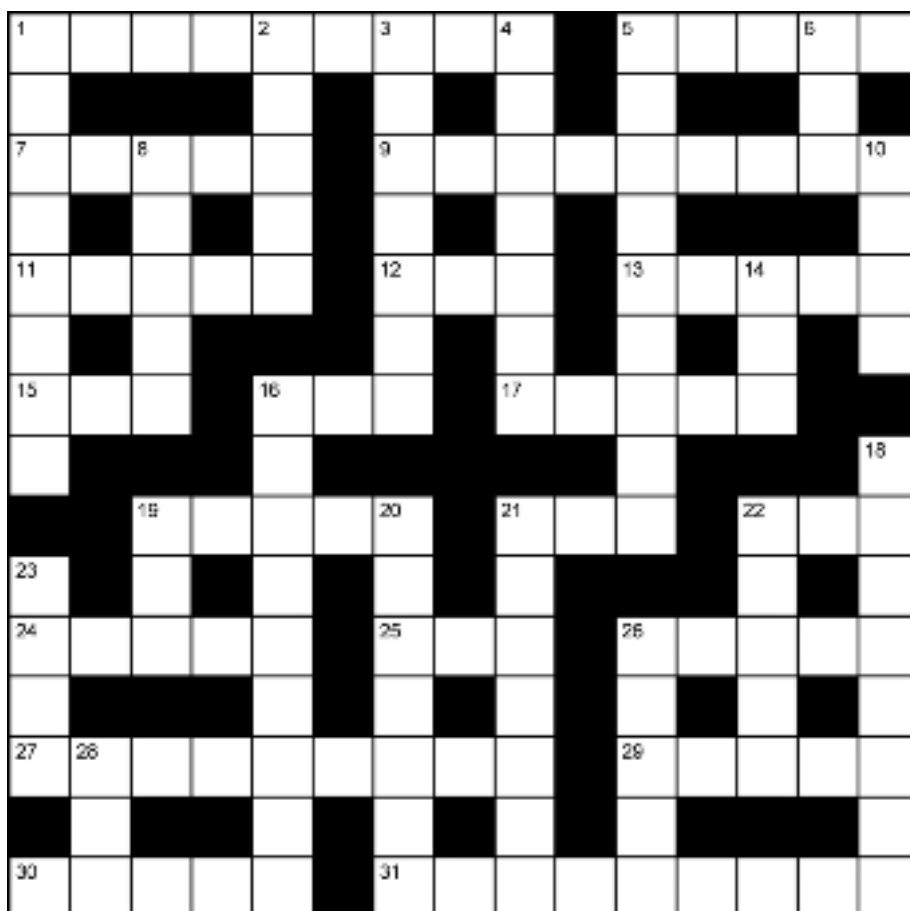
Ernest Shackleton is one of history's great explorers, a tenacious and charismatic personality who became a dominant figure in Antarctic discovery. His incredible adventures on four expeditions

to the Antarctic have captivated generations. He was a restless adventurer from an Irish background with acclaimed leadership skills. But he was also a flawed character whose chaotic private life, marked by romantic affairs, unfulfilled ambitions and failed business ventures, contrasted with celebrity status as the leading explorer. Persistent money problems left his men unpaid and his family with debts. This first comprehensive biography in a generation draws on extensive research of original diaries, letters and many other publications. It brings a fresh perspective to the heroic age of Polar exploration which was dominated by Shackleton's complex, compelling and enduringly fascinating story.

ISBN 9781848892446

Price: €10.39. **www.collinspress.ie**

Crossword No.17 by Zoë Devlin



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

HERITAGE OUTLOOK
Crossword Competition,
Attention: Gerard Croke,
The Heritage Council,
Church Lane, Kilkenny,
Co. Kilkenny.

Closing Date:
September 1st 2015

ACROSS

- 1 Ride an unused nag to this ancient fort on Inishmore (3,6)
- 5 River and site of 1690 battle in Co Louth (5)
- 7 Long ridge of post-glacial gravel (5)
- 9 Homesteads or abodes (9)
- 11 You can rosin the bow with these metal shackles! (5)
- 12 Viking measurement from elbow to tip of middle finger (3)
- 13 Poet, born 1865, co-founder of the Abbey Theatre (5)
- 15 Short-necked diving bird of northern seas (3)
- 16 Sign of assent (3)
- 17 AKA Furze or Whin, spiny native shrub (5)
- 19 Feature of monastic cities such as Glendalough (5)
- 21 Flows from Ox Mountains to Killala Bay (3)
- 22 Historic period such as Bronze, Victorian or Enlightenment (3)
- 24 Native freshwater carnivorous mammal (5)
- 25 ___ transit gloria mundi - thus passes the glory of the world (3)
- 26 English writer, Quentin ___, or frosty and snappy? (5)
- 27 Geographical region constituting a town or city (5,4)
- 29 Traditional gathering with folk music and dancing (5)
- 30 Extensive Stone Age monument in Mayo, ___ Fields (5)
- 31 Did the monks often mill in this Co Louth Abbey? (9)

DOWN

- 1 First Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (8)
- 2 Their flight to the Continent took place in 1607 (5)
- 3 Manna from heaven .. windfall (7)
- 4 And 21 Down. World Heritage site off Kerry coast (7,7)
- 5 Our sixth National Park, 11,000 hectares in Co Mayo (9)
- 6 Wooden pin or block built into wall (3)
- 8 Tap this shrine and airport in the North-west (5)
- 10 Framework holding window panes (4)
- 14 With a cutting edge, could be battle, ice, pick or fireman's (3)
- 16 Passage grave from 3100 BC in the valley of 5 Across (9)
- 18 12th c. Cistercian abbey near Thomastown (8)
- 19 Small bird - could be Blue, Coal or Great? (3)
- 20 Play or strum a lute on this dais (7)
- 21 See 4 Down
- 22 Defence showing accused was elsewhere (5)
- 23 Brian ___ whose final battle was at Clontarf in 1014 (4)
- 26 Plants which store water and live in dry places (5)
- 28 Cereal grain used in black bread, whiskey and vodka (3)

Scribble box

Heritage Council Staff

Michael Starrett
Chief Executive

Ian Doyle
Head of Conservation

Beatrice Kelly
Head of Policy and Research

Liam Scott
Head of Business Services

Isabell Smyth
Head of Communications and Education

Paula Drohan
Financial Controller

Alison Harvey
Planning and Development Officer

Colm Murray
Architecture Officer

Anne Barcoe
PA to Chief Executive and Chairperson

Amanda Ryan
Grants Administrator

Gerard Croke
Administrator

Martina Malone
Administrator

Christena Ryan
Administrator

Project Co-Ordinators

Liam Mannix
Irish Walled Towns Network

Niamh Donnellan
Heritage Week
heritageweek@heritagecouncil.ie

Anna Meenan
REPS 4 Traditional Farm Buildings Grants Scheme

Leslie-Ann Hayden
Museum Standards Programme for Ireland

Wildlife Officer: Vacant

Museums and Archives: Vacant

What is Heritage?

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

Monuments

Archeological Objects

Heritage Objects

Architectural Heritage

Flora and Fauna

Wildlife Habitats

Landscapes

Seascapes and Wrecks

Geology

Heritage Gardens and Parks

Inland Waterways

Heritage Council staff can be contacted at:

The Heritage Council, Church Lane, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny.
Tel. 056-7770777 Fax. 056-7770788
Email: mail@heritagecouncil.ie
www.heritagecouncil.ie



Local Authority Heritage Officers

Cavan: Anne Marie Ward
Cavan County Council,
The Farnham Centre, Farnham Street, Cavan.
Tel: 049 4378614
Email: amcurley@cavancoco.ie

Cork City: Niamh Twomey
Cork City Council, City Hall, Cork.
Tel: 021 4924018
Email: niamh_twomey@corkcity.ie

Cork County: Conor Nelligan
Cork County Council, Floor 3, County Hall, Cork.
Tel: 021 4285905
Email: conor.nelligan@corkcoco.ie

Clare: Congella McGuire
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
Tel: 065 6846408
Email: cmcguire@clarecoco.ie

Donegal: Joe Gallagher
Donegal County Council, Station Island, Lifford, Co. Donegal.
Tel: 074 9172576
Email: j.gallagher@donegalcoco.ie

Dublin City: Chares Duggin
Dublin City Council, Block 3 Floor 3, Civic Offices, Woodquay, Dublin 8.
Tel: 01 2222856
Email: Charles.duggan@dublincity.ie

Dublin South: Rosaleen Dwyer
South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
Tel: 01 4149222
Email: rdwyer@sdublincoco.ie

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown: Tim Carey
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, County Hall, Marine road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.
Tel: 01 2054868
Email: tcarey@dlrcoco.ie

Fingal: Gerry Clabby
Fingal County Council, P.O box 174, County Hall, Swords, Co. Dublin.
Tel: 01 8905697
Email: Gerry.clabby@fingalcoco.ie

Galway City: Jim Higgins
Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway.
Tel: 091 526574
Email: jim.higgins@galwaycity.ie

Galway County: Marie Mannion
Galway County Council, Forward Planning Section, County Hall, Prospect Hill, Galway.
Tel: 091 509000
Email: mmannion@galwaycoco.ie

Kerry: TJ O'Mahony
Kerry County Council, Aras An Chontae, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Tel: 066 7183815
Email: tjmahony@kerrycoco.ie

Kildare: Bridget Loughlin
Kildare County Council, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.
Tel: 045980791
Email: BLoughlin@kildarecoco.ie

Kilkenny: Derbhala Ledwidge
Kilkenny County Council, John's Green House, John's Green, Kilkenny.
Tel: 056 7794925
Email: derbhala.ledwidge@kilkennycoco.ie

Laois: Catherine Casey
Laois County Council, Aras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 8664129
Email: ccasey@laoiscoco.ie

Leitrim: Aoife Mulcahy
Leitrim County Council, Aras an Chontae, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim.
Tel (071) 9620005 Ext. 511
Email: amulcahy@leitrimcoco.ie

Limerick: Tom O'Neill
Forward Planning Section, Limerick County Council, County Hall, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
Tel: 061 496350
Email: toneill@limerickcoco.ie

Longford: Mairead Ni Chonghaile
Longford County Council, Library HQ, Town Centre, Longford.
Tel: 043 40731
Email: mnichonghaile@longfordcoco.ie

Louth: Brendan McSherry
Louth County Council, County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
Tel: 042 9324109
Email: brendan.mcsherry@louthcoco.ie

Mayo: Deirdre Cunningham
Mayo County Council, Aras an Chontae, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
Tel: 094 9047684
Email: dcunningham@mayococo.ie

Meath: Loreta Guinan
Meath County Council, County hall, Navan, Co. Meath.
Tel: 046 9097507
Email: lguinan@meathcoco.ie

Monaghan: Shirley Clerkin
Monaghan County Council, Council offices, The Glen, Co. Monaghan.
Tel: 047 73722
Email: shclerkin@monaghancoco.ie

Offaly: Amanda Pedlow
Offaly County Council, Aras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Tel: 057 9346839
Email: apedlow@offalycoco.ie

Roscommon: Nollaig Feeney
Roscommon County Council, Courthouse, Roscommon.
Tel: 090 6637100
Email: nfeeney@roscommoncoco.ie

Sligo: Siobhán Ryan
Sligo County Council, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo.
Tel: 071 9111226
Email: heritage@sligococo.ie

Tipperary: Roisin O'Grady
South Tipperary County Council, County Hall, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 052 6134650
Email: roisin.ogrady@southtippercoco.ie

Waterford: Bernadette Guest
Waterford County Council, Civic Offices, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.
Tel: 058 20839
Email: bguest@waterfordcoco.ie

Wicklow: Deirdre Burns
Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow.
Tel: 0404 20100
Email: dburns@wicklowcoco.ie



HERITAGE IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

IT'S ALL AROUND US, IT'S ALL ABOUT US.

**IRELAND'S LEADING OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME
FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.**

The Heritage in Schools Scheme is unique in Ireland and provides a panel of 176 diverse Heritage Specialists who work directly with children in primary schools throughout the country. It is leading the way in promoting outdoor education and encouraging children to engage directly with the natural and cultural heritage that surrounds them.

If you have never used the scheme and would like to find out more,
go to our website at **www.heritageinschools.ie**

