



An Taisce

The National Trust for Ireland

An Taisce Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 7

November 2012

INDEX OF EZINES SINCE JAN 2012

Welcome to An Taisce's May 2013 ezine

Please share widely! We have improved printing from Netscape or Internet Explorer Browsers but it is over 40 pages long - so please print it double sided or 2 pages per sheet.

We have also provided a magnify facility for some images - if a + symbol appears when you roll over an image - click on it and it will magnify.

Full articles

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Open meeting discuss genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

An Taisce will hold an open meeting on the afternoon of Saturday 8th December to discuss GMOs, and specifically the Teagasc trial on blight resistant GM potatoes.

The Chair will be John Sweeney - President of An Taisce.

The speakers will be Éanna Ní Lamhna (past President of An Taisce), Ewen Mullins (scientist, Teagasc) and Suzanne Campbell (agricultural journalist). This will provide an opportunity for us to educate ourselves on GM issues for the future, as it's a complex subject and will certainly become more important.

There will be no admission charge but booking in advance is essential and must be done here.... [Register here](#)

Further details in next month's eZine

2 pm Saturday 8th December

Tailors' Hall

Please [register here](#) - it's free but places are limited

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Change of guard in Natural Environment Office

First off we must thank Camilla for the extremely professional work that she carried out for An Taisce in the Natural Environment Office and the very pleasant way she went about it. Unfortunately for us Camilla has decided to move on and work with 'Plant Life' in London <http://www.plantlife.org.uk> and we wish her well in what will be her illustrious future.

Plantlife is the charity that speaks up for the nation's wild plants. We work hard to protect them on the ground and to build understanding of the vital role they play in everyone's lives. Wild plants are essential to life – they clean our air and water, provide food and shelter for our insects, birds and animals and are critical in the fight against climate change.

Plantlife carries out practical conservation work, manages nature reserves, influences policy and legislation, runs events and activities that connect people with their local wild plants and works with others to promote their conservation for the benefit of all.

Our wild plants have been marginalised and taken for granted for too long.

"Both Anja and Camilla were very unique and we will always remain indebted for their contribution to An Taisce's impact and reputation."

We will publish a full appreciation of Camilla in the next eZine.

Andrew Jackson has been appointed An Taisce Natural Environment Officer.

Andrew Jackson has a very high reputation amongst the Environmental Community, he is currently Doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin Thesis title: The history of the Habitats Directive and the governance of biodiversity vs. energy conflicts in the EU.

"I have no doubt we will soon wonder how we ever managed without Andrew. He really is an outstanding individual. His involvement will also complement Ian in particular and provide great encouragement to him".

We will publish a full introduction to Andrew in the next eZine.

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'Grand Challenges for Global Agriculture and Food - How can we Change Food Consumption Patterns'.

Teagasc & RDS Public Lecture Series 2012-2014. A new series of science lectures on the growing challenges of sustainably meeting the food security needs of the world will be hosted by Teagasc, the Agriculture and Food Development Authority, in association with the Royal Dublin Society (RDS). The series will explore key aspects of the complex challenge of producing sufficient food and ensuring fair access to that food, while making more efficient use of scarce natural resources adopting more sustainable production methods dealing with competing demands for scarce land adapting to and helping to mitigate the encroaching influence of climate change adjusting to changing patterns of food consumption. This series of high profile lectures, presented by outstanding international scientists and policymakers, will contribute to heightening awareness of the scale of the problem and how all of us- governments, civil society, the private sector and individual consumers - have a role to play in addressing the challenges. Professor Gerry Boyle, Director of Teagasc and Mr. Tom Cannon, Chairman of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee.

Date: Fri 16th November 6.30

Location: Royal Dublin Society (RDS), Ballsbridge, Dublin.

Contact: Ms Phil Haughey, Teagasc Tel: 059 9183442 Website: <http://www.teagasc.ie/events>

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'Buildings at Risk' database for Dublin to illustrate urgent protection required.

Many thanks go to Kevin Duff and Ian Lumley for the huge amount of work they have put into this.

An Taisce has published an illustrated 'buildings at risk' list for Dublin so as to document the large numbers of vacant or derelict historic buildings in the city, from landmarks such as the Iveagh Markets to the former Hume Street Hospital. The City Council urgently needs to take steps to protect these sites.

The property collapse has left a legacy of dereliction and abandonment in Dublin, where buildings and sites assembled for development are now left empty.

The City Council has powers under the Derelict Sites Act 1991 and Planning and the Development Act 2000 for Protected Structures to combat this large-scale dereliction of architectural landmarks and prime city streetscapes. However, the City Council has been ineffective in using these powers and this neglect will literally add millions to future refurbishment costs.

Concerted effort is now required to prevent Dublin's return to the ravaged, derelict state which caused so much damage in the 1980. The time for taking action to secure a building is when it becomes vacant or when signs of vandalism or water damage appears, not after the roof has been allowed to collapse or the site becomes dangerous.

NAMA must address the maintenance of buildings in its loan portfolio, both Protected Structures and building stock generally. This is simply good commercial sense. Dereliction will bring about diminution of the asset value of the building itself and a blighting effect on the surrounding area which will in turn accelerate falling asset value.

New forms of innovation, entrepreneurship and property management structures are needed, particularly to find temporary uses for empty and derelict buildings. The example was set by CIE in the 1980s which created a vibrant quarter in Temple Bar. Instead of demolishing the streets and buildings, which it was assembling for the intended central bus station, CIE leased the space to artists and small business on a short-term basis.

This is a model that needs to be replicated across the empty building stock of the city at large and turns a challenge into an opportunity to create new uses and activities which will play a key role in the future regeneration of the city.

The list is available as an album on An Taisce's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10152134461055457.918548.68916935456&type=3>

Proposed Dublin Bay Oil Rig.

200 people attended a packed public meeting organised by Save Our Seafront in the Killiney Castle Hotel on 25th

October on the theme 'Keep Dublin Bay Oil Rig Free'. Speakers were Richard Boyd-Barrett TD, Fergal McLoughlin (An Taisce), Frank Connolly (SIPTU) and William Hederman (Journalist).

It was unanimously agreed that a public enquiry should have taken place before the granting of a foreshore licence to Providence Resources to drill a well 6 kilometres off the coast of Dublin Bay. The public enquiry had been requested by local people and groups, including An Taisce. Concern was expressed at the short time period of time (4 weeks) afforded to assess the initial application. 350 submissions were ignored by the Minister for the Environment in granting the licence. The recent gas leak 150 miles off the coast of Aberdeen was cited. There was an exclusion zone of 6.5 kilometers around the rig because of the danger of an explosion. This would not be possible in the case of Dublin Bay – the rig would too close to the shoreline.

The main points from the An Taisce submission were outlined:

- drilling should be a minimum of 25 km from shore
- toxicity effects of drill cuttings need to be examined
- Oil spillage – 1,000 tonnes of oil could reach Bull Wall within one hour
- 'No-Go' areas during surveying and drilling
- danger to public health – water pollution, noise, flames from burn-off
- Dalkey Island is a Special Protection Area
- Insufficient regard to impact of sound equipment on marine mammals/shellfish
- Inadequate assessment of impact on bird life

Local fishermen are concerned that drilling will destroy their traditional fishing grounds and negatively impact Dublin Bay. Acoustic surveys will affect all their fishing areas. Survey vessels will damage their fishermen's gear and marker buoys.

Comparisons were drawn to the attempt by government to build an interpretative centre at Mullaghmore in the 1990's. This was successfully opposed in the by the local Burren Action Group and defeated in the courts.

There was agreement that this is a national issue, with further Providence Resources activity in Barryroe, Dunquin and Connemara. Part of these have been farmed out to Exxon Mobil in a partnership arrangement with Providence Resources. Government reaction to date has been one of a 'light touch' regulation re. environmental risks, lack of transparency and no community involvement. EU directives on Environmental Impact Assessments have not been adequately observed. There is also misinformation about the tax take which will be minimal, and the lack of local employment from these developments.

It was agreed that the campaign against the oil rig will consist of a number of elements over the coming months: lobbying relevant TD's and councillors, petitioning, legal issues, protest, co-operation with other groups around Dublin Bay, TV radio and local debate, as well as utilisation of on-line/social media.

The What If, Why Not? Adventure Film Festival

is a celebration. A celebration of just how amazing this planet and the people on it are. Over two days it'll screen nearly 8 hours of adventure sport films. Films that will inspire and sometimes terrify you. Over two nights they will be showcasing some of Ireland's freshest musical talent.

Join them in Ireland's artistic capital, Galway City, on November 23rd – 24th 2012 at the Radisson Blu Hotel.

Film submissions are open to both amateur and professional film makers. Film submissions from Youtube enthusiasts are accepted as well as professional film makers. They accept short films (3 - 10 mins) as well as feature length films.

Got a film that you want to share with the world? Check out the Film Submission Guidelines and then get in contact with us. See <http://www.whatifwhynotfestival.com/about.html>

Octavia Hill (1838-1912)



Report by John Sweeney, President of An Taisce

Octavia Hill and her campaign to give poor people in London access to playgrounds and parks, and ultimately to the countryside beyond the city. .

Octavia Hill is widely known as a leading social reformer in the UK around the turn of the 19th Century. Although born originally in to a fairly comfortable, radical, family in

Cambridgeshire, her father's investments failed and the family became bankrupt. Together with her mother and her two sisters the young Octavia moved to London. There she found herself in rather harsher circumstances and began to realise how fragile and ephemeral wealth and status were. Faced with poverty, the family worked at whatever they could to make ends meet. Octavia's first job, as a 14 year-old, was to help manage a crafts workshop for young unskilled girls. This appears to have opened her eyes to a side of life she had not previously experienced. Looking around her, she became sensitised to the poor living conditions being experienced by working class families in the rapidly growing slums of the city. With the help of the prominent social thinker and philanthropist John Ruskin, she slowly built up a network of tenant housing which eventually stretched to 17 locations and 3,000 tenants by the 1870s. Her system was based on the principle of a 5% return i.e. that those wealthy individuals who invested in her schemes would see a 5% return on their capital. A fair rent was collected by volunteer collectors and exploitation of working class families by rapacious landlords was inhibited. Her tenants were not encouraged to avail of charity. Her basic principle was to help the poor to help themselves. Indeed she is credited with being the originator of the concept of social housing and social housing management.

It became apparent to Octavia that the welfare of poor families, and especially their children, in the inner city was severely reduced by their inability to access open space, especially natural open space. In the rapidly growing imperial capital, private property rights tended to dominate concepts of community good – something we have acute experience of Ireland in general and An Taisce in particular. Octavia began to campaign to give her tenants access to playgrounds and parks, and ultimately to the countryside beyond the city. In a situation remarkably similar to Ireland in Celtic Tiger times, this meant campaigning to secure green areas at risk of being built over, and seeking to preserve for posterity significant aspects of the natural and built environments. She expressed these sentiments in relation to one such campaign in a lovely turn of phrase as follows:

"There are a few fields just north of Marylebone which have been our constant resort for years. There on a summer Sunday or Saturday evening you might see hundreds of working people spread over the green open space like a stream that has just escaped from between rocks. They sit on the grass; the baby grabs at the daisies, the tiny children toddle about, the mother's arms are rested, and there she sits till it is time to return.

These fields may be bought now, or they may be built over: which is it to be? The owner has given those who would like to keep the fields open, time to see if they can raise the money to purchase them for the people forever. He offers liberal terms, but they will still cost a great deal. To my mind they will be more and more valuable every year – valuable in the deepest sense of the word; health-giving, joy inspiring, peace bringing.

What I wish to urge is the immense value to the education and reformation of our poorest people of some space near their homes. Without space we cannot reach that sense of quiet in which whispers of better things come to us gently."

This is clearly a mission statement we in An Taisce could still identify with. Following several campaigns to resist the privatisation of common land and its closure to the people, Octavia determined that a new approach was required, one which enabled land to be held in perpetuity for the public in general. Together with two other similarly visionary individuals, she founded the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty in 1895. Like its Irish offshoot which emerged after independence, its core purpose remains as *'looking after special places for ever for everyone'*.



As President I was delighted to be invited to represent An Taisce at a Centennial Memorial Service and the unveiling of a plaque to Octavia Hill (who died in 1912) on the floor of Westminster Abbey on October 22nd. In a lavish ceremony with readings and hymns in harmony with her ideals, almost 1,000 people entered the historic church through a guard of honour provided by National Trust volunteers. The service was conducted by the Dean of Westminster with full splendour involving the Westminster Abbey Special Service Choir and organ music from Bach, Mendelssohn and Elgar. The Lord Mayor of Westminster was received by the Director General of the National Trust, Dame Fiona Reynolds, in one of her final functions in this capacity. The Chairman of the National Trust, Simon Jenkins, read some of Octavia's writings while other testimonies were provided by National Trust officials, together with some highly evocative poetry from works by Wordsworth, Sir John Betjeman and others. The unveiling of the Memorial Stone on the floor of the main aisle revealed a simple yet appropriate design to mark what one woman with a sense of mission had achieved. The illustrious company in which the memorial is set: among queens, princesses, writers, actors, musicians, scientists and educationalists is a further testament to her vision and achievement.

One could not help but notice the contrast between the status and goodwill shown towards the National Trust by both the establishment and general community, and the relative absence of the same for our own organisation. The National Trust today looks after 350 houses and gardens, 630,000 acres of countryside, 709 miles of coast and has an annual visitor total of 19 million. They have 4 million members and 67,000 volunteers. Needless to say I left Westminster Abbey with a mixture of admiration and jealousy!

Proposals for an inspection plan for septic tanks.

Over three years after a judgment of the European Court of Justice required the introduction of a thorough inspection regime, the proposals for a national inspection plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment systems sets



out a few general principles but few firm details. It is hard to say whether this 'plan' could attain its avowed objective "to make sure that adequate treatment of domestic waste water is in place".

The EPA discussion document fails to mention that the European Commission returned this case to the ECJ on the 4th of October 2012 and is currently in the final stages of imposing fines on Ireland for a failure to maintain water quality. The Commission has sought a lump sum fine of €2.7 million and €26,173 for every day of non-

compliance.

An Taisce is concerned that extremely tardy pace of implementing an inspection regime is likely to result in multi-million euro fines and greater urgency is required.

See the full submission [here...](#)

Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy.



GEG
Green Economy Group

Over the past 3 months the Green Economy Group consisting of 25 national environmental NGOs has been meeting with senior officials across seven Government Departments, as well as consulting with others, in response to the Action Plan for Jobs 2012 and in preparation for the Action Plan for Jobs 2013. The outcome of this process is the attached paper [Creating Sustainable Employment by Greening the Economy](#).

The paper outlines policies which will contribute towards sustainable job creation, as well as policies and actions in those sectors where there is great potential for the creation of green jobs. Specific green job proposals are described under these sectors.

What is needed now, if Ireland is to prosper over the years ahead, is not just a green economy policy, but a coherent plan for greening the entire economy. The Green Economy Group hope that this paper is a useful contribution to start the process of creating that plan.

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Guidelines in Carrying out an EIA - Consultation Document.

Almost thirty years after the introduction of the EIA directive and only in response to persistent ECJ judgements against Ireland the guidelines explicitly advise planning authorities and the Board that it is their obligation to carry out 'the assessment' (EIA) and not to specifically rely on 'the statement' (EIS) submitted by an applicant.

An Taisce's submission suggests that it is imperative that in the cases where no EIS has been submitted (including sub-threshold) that the local authority screen the proposed development for the need for EIA and a commentary included as to the decision of the planning authority.. This must be carried out in all planning applications regardless of the scale or nature of the proposal.

[See here for more.](#)

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Reminder

Can we ask Local Associations to forward submissions and dates & notes of events for future eZines to ezine@antaisce.org

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Invasive Species in Kerry

We have all heard of the dreaded Japanese Knotweed, Zebra mussels, grey squirrels etc. which were introduced, or found their way, to Ireland and are now taking over habitats from our native species by outcompeting them. Some can be very difficult to eradicate and, if treated the wrong way, will spread even further. There are other,



less well known, species also and a booklet Field Guide to Invasive Species in Ireland, published by the organisation Invasive Species Ireland, lists 18 plants and 7 animals which are causing serious problems, both on land and in the water.

The recommended method of preventing them spreading is :

1. Inspect any equipment etc. being moved into an area
2. Remove any adhering plant, soil or animal material,
3. Dispose of all plant and animal material appropriately. It should be contained in sealed bags or containers prior to removal.
4. Report any sightings of invasive species on the <http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com> website.

In 2010 in Kerry, the County Council funded an 'Urban Habitats and Biodiversity Study' by the Consultants Atkins in a number of towns and the results have been startling. Unfinished building sites and rubble heaps are being taken over by Japanese Knotweed, threatening native plants and animals by forming dense thickets, blocking off routes used by wildlife. It can cause serious damage to houses, buildings, hard surfaces, and is able to grow through concrete and tarmac.

'Tidy Towns' groups are now being advised to take action against Japanese Knotweed in particular and are being shown how to remove and dispose of it safely. It took over the riverbank in Killorglin a couple of years ago, so that it was no longer possible to enjoy a fine amenity walk but has since been cleared and the path is again available to the public.

It is important that the removal, and disposal of, any invasive species is done correctly and information on how to deal with them is available from An Taisce's Education Unit and also the Invasive Species Ireland website mentioned above.

Clare Association of An Taisce - Report.

Visiting a meeting of a neighbouring An Taisce Association and noting the membership's age profile, made me aware that our Clare membership is much younger – ranging from 30 through to 80 but not all grey retired

members. What effect this has had is that most of our members are computer-literate and our voluntary work is mostly done on line, which saves us having to meet so often.

This has also changed what methods we use on planning. To start with, over the past few months, the planning referrals are few, so that we have plenty of time to deal with them. Including checking the listings, the workload takes less than a morning per week. Also, our local eyes and ears can give their information by email and, with the excellent web pages available for researching, it is easily done just sitting at a desk.

So you may ask what we are doing now that we are not being bogged down with planning work – well, as far as I am concerned, planning was a necessity, but what I really wanted to do was to deal with the natural environment. So, I am attending policy committees on behalf of the Environmental Arm of the Social Partnership and conferences. In fact, I am going to different meetings where I am learning more.

In Clare we plan to become more pro-active but I will leave that to the next e-zine.

Anny Wise

Coillte risk losing prestigious ‘eco label’.



Coillte “restructuring” seen as smokescreen for sell-off of crucial State asset.

Just Forests and Irish Natural Forestry Foundation (INFF) have been reliably informed that Coillte have identified the loss of FSC certification as a tangible live threat to the company. This will threaten jobs throughout the sector. The response to this threat has been twofold and is preposterous.

1. Go for a weaker certification standard to replace FSC
2. Accept loss of FSC in some areas and try to keep it for other areas.

Coillte – Irish State Forestry Company – have restructured and are dividing the country’s forest estate into 8 individual units. These are to be called Business Administration Units (BAU). Each BAU will operate

independently when it comes to FSC certification. Coillte have acknowledged they risk losing their FSC certification and have taken steps to address that risk.

However, instead of deciding to increase the compliance level with FSC certification, the company have decided to apply for certification with the weaker industry-led PEFC standard. PEFC Ireland does not have the support of environmental and community groups to the same extent that FSC has in Ireland. Coillte have also decided that carving up the states forests and applying for certification in each individual unit is the most appropriate way of dealing with the risk.

“This means that timber grown and harvested in Kerry may be internationally recognised as unsustainable and lack the FSC eco label, while the same company can sell its timber from Cork as FSC certified. It makes a mockery of the whole process of trying to get timber that is sustainably produced into consumer’s homes.”, says Cillian Lohan of INFF, Cork based NGO.

The company employs approx 1,100 people and was established in 1988. It owns over 445,000 hectares of land, about 7% of the land cover of Ireland.

"This has to be an awful blow to the State Forestry Company who have consistently fought off challenges to their FSC certification status", according to Tom Roche of Irish forest campaigning organisation Just Forests, based in Rhode, Co Offaly.

Coillte first received the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) 'eco-label' back in May 2001. In 2011 they marked 10 years of FSC certification at a reception in the Croke Park Conference Centre. However, the often controversial forest owner has struggled to comply with the rigorous demands of the world's most credible and coveted forest certification label. Their current forest management and chain-of-custody certificate (FM/COC-000706) issued by Soil Association Woodmark, is not due to expire until May 2016. Over the years, controversy has surrounded and dogged the issuing of FSC certification to Coillte since day one.

"Termination of the FSC certificate would have very serious implications for Coillte Panel Products Division which consists of SmartPly Europe Ltd, based in Waterford, which produces Oriented Strand Board (OSB) and for Medite Europe Ltd, based in Clonmel, which produces Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF). Both products have enjoyed considerable success on the export market scene in recent times because of their FSC certification status", according to Tom Roche, of Just Forests.

The process of restructuring their forest management units from 13 down to 8 is cited as a mechanism to attempt to fend off possible cessation of the FSC label.

However, this can also be seen as yet another step in the preparation for the sale of our state forests. Each of the 8 units (BAU's) can now be sold separately and minimise the protestations from the citizens of Ireland, as the whole of the state forests would not be sold in one chunk.

“We must remain very vigilant with this process and our government must keep its citizens informed. This a hard won democracy that we live under and the state assets that belong to the people of Ireland should not be sold off behind our backs,” said Cillian Lohan.

Contact: Cillian Lohan, Irish Natural Forestry Foundation Mobile 087 942 8246

Tom Roche, Just Forests Mobile 086 804 9389

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Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines.



The siting of Telecommunication masts is frequently the source of trouble in a community due to concerns about health impacts and visual amenity issues.

The industry has been thwarted in some instances and in response the government commissioned a report. The National Broadband Plan identified a number of potential barriers to efficient Next Generation Broadband (NGB) rollout and the necessary actions required to address these barriers. A number of potential barriers in the planning area have been identified. These are now to be addressed by way of an update of elements of Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines published in 1996.

A circular is issued by the Minister under section 28 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2012 to update certain sections of the Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines (1996).

[Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines.pdf](#)

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Cycling.



Cycle lockers will now be available at 15 rail stations in Dublin / North Kildare / South Meath. Each locker is self contained and even has a hook for your wet weather gear and helmet. Simply position your bike in the locker and close the door using the lock provided

See www.bikelocker.ie for prices and further details.

Meanwhile at the launch of Fianna Fáil's policy document entitled 'Improving the Urban Cycling Experience' and researched by the Party's 'Future's Group' Deputy Martin. Said:

"Policymakers need to take a much more active interest in improving the urban cycling experience in cities and urban areas throughout the country,"

see the article at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/105813247/Improving-the-Urban-Cycling-Experience>

Myplan.ie

The Department of Environment's new [Myplan.ie](http://myplan.ie) planning and spatial data portal went live in April this year.

The system allows the public to view the 400 development and local area plans, developed by the 88 planning authorities, across the country in one easy to use mapping tool, along with other relevant planning information such as census, heritage sites, patterns of housing development, and so on.

The system allows the user to overlay a range of different information and to query individual parcels of land. It should help facilitate local authorities and other agencies in better coordinating plans through the sharing of information and to work collaboratively on major infrastructural projects.

It's not been a straightforward job to create as every planning authority has been using its own systems to date in terms of technologies and classification systems. It is a huge step forward to have all the plans in one location and fully accessible to the public.

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New report – ‘Future Directions in Rural Development’ in the UK

It is now five years, since the Carnegie Trust published ‘A Charter for Rural Communities’, a comprehensive review of the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities in the UK and Ireland. Much has changed in this time - rural demographics have shifted and we are facing severe financial and environmental challenges. At the same time technological advances have continued apace and there are new opportunities for communities to manage local assets and shape the way public services are delivered.

The new report was written by Professor Shucksmith. It sets out this changed rural landscape and reviews the varying success of different approaches to rural development. We identify the risks of leaving unequal rural communities to their own devices and the importance of an ‘enabling state’ supporting communities to reach their full potential.

The report draws out some of the key issues facing rural communities in the 21st Century. These issues: access to broadband, digital participation, the importance of local enterprise, community ownership and a more ‘enabling state’. These are recurring themes in the Trust’s work and are key policy areas that the Trust is focused on.

The conclusions of the review are that a supportive and responsive government is required at a UK, devolved and local level. Action on all of these levels is needed to: address regional level inequalities; build capacity in local communities, and mitigate against any unintended consequences of macro level policies at a local level.

The full report can be downloaded from our website at: <http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/> where details of our full programme of work can also be found.

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From a Distance: Observing Earth from Space

In November, the Environmental Protection Agency is hosting another Climate Change lecture in its popular series. These lectures are aimed at providing updates on the science of climate change, as well as the policy and political responses to this global challenge. The speakers are top international experts and practitioners in aspects of climate change. The lecture will be chaired by Dr John Bowman.

This talk looks at how the earth has and is changing from global to local scales and highlights the role of Earth-imaging satellites in providing insights, analysis and information that can help us towards more complete understanding of the Earth System. The context for this is that we are having a dramatic effect on our planet through resource use with consequences for Earth Systems and its Climate. Tools are required to assess if policies are working to address issues such as how the global land resource is functioning and being used. The key issues is how can we optimise land use to produce food, fibre and fuel while maintaining and enhancing its role as a carbon sink, a hydrologic reservoir and as a support for biological diversity? Accurate and timely evidence is a critical step to enabling effective policies aimed at the protection of our climate and sustainable resource use and remote sensing from space is emerging as a key ally in this process.

Dr Alan Belward is Head of the Land Resource Management Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy. His research is focused on monitoring land dynamics based on satellite remote sensing data. He has worked for the G8 Committee on Earth Observations, the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme and the Global Climate Observing System. He is a member of the NASA and USGS Landsat Data Continuity Mission Science Team and the European Space Agency's Sentinel-2 Mission Advisory Group.

Tuesday, 20th November 2012, 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

The Round Room, The Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin 2

Bookings and enquiries to Clara Clark

Email: clara@claraclark.ie; Tel: 01- 2898533.

Reminder

Can we ask Local Associations to forward submissions and dates & notes of events for future eZines to ezine@antaisce.org

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Christmas Buffets in Tailors' Hall

We just wanted to email to say thank you both so much for such sterling work over the last few months - we had a fantastic day and we've had nothing but compliments about the venue and the food, both of which were superb and really made the day.

We're currently in the airport, waiting to board, hoping the honeymoon is as fabulous as the wedding!

I hope you are well. I can't thank you enough for all of your help. The feedback we've had has been amazing, our guests really enjoyed all aspects of the day, the food, the staff and of course the building itself. I cannot express enough gratitude, i can honestly say it was the best day of my life...and remember, i was a very reluctant bride! Your professionalism and obvious passion for what you do really shone through. thanks again.

Many thanks John for all your help in putting together the party and managing the venue on the evening. From our point of view it was a great success and the uniqueness of Tailor's Hall really added to what was a very special evening for all of us.

Thanks for everything last fri. We thoroughly enjoyed every moment and our guests loved the venue.

I just wanted to say thanks very much for all your help with our ceremony. We had a great day and we were very happy with the venue and your facilitation - especially your stepping into the breach to find the candles!

I just wanted to drop you a line to say how thoroughly impressed we were with the service and food at our wedding on the 18th of August last. Brambles' staff was professional, efficient and thoughtful the entire afternoon. We first started receiving compliments about the quality of the food while the finger-food was being served, and haven't stopped receiving them a week later!

When the hog was served, everyone was delighted. It went down an absolute treat, and not only for the novelty value - it was cooked to perfection, and the crackling was almost like toffee! More than that, our vegetarian guests commented on the consideration given to them - they had previously been to weddings where by the time they

came to the head of the queue, there was no more of the vegetarian meal available, as it had already been served to other guests. In this instance, however, an entire dish was kept separate for vegetarian diners. This small detail made a large difference to these guests, greatly enhancing their enjoyment of the day. Thanks for all your help, and we are and have been happily recommending you to anyone who has asked us for events in future.

Can you recommend this package to some organisation you know.

If so please contact John Ducie, Manager, Tailors Hall Events Ltd on properties.antaisce.org Tel 01 7077076



Christmas Lunch and Dinner Packages

From €35 * Per Person
Mulled Wine Reception, Christmas Carols,
Two Course Meal, Dancing.
* Minimum Numbers Apply



Christmas Buffet

ENTRÉE

BUTTER BASTED ROAST TURKEY AND OAK BAKED HAM
APPLE AND SAGE STUFFING SEASONAL VEGETABLES

OR

ROAST LOIN OF PORK SERVED WITH APPLE SAUCE

OR

OVEN BAKED SUPREME OF CHICKEN WITH GREEN PEPPERCORN SAUCE

VEGETARIAN OPTIONS

NUT ROAST WITH A TOMATO SALSA

OR

VEGETARIAN LASAGNA

DESSERT

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING WITH A COGNAC CREAM

SHERRY TRIFLE WITH FRESHLY WHIPPED CREAM

*The Tailors Hall - Celebrating Christmas Since
1706*

*To arrange a viewing please contact John Ducie at properties.antaisce.org.
Or telephone him on 01 7077076. Wednesday's, Thursday's, Friday's.*

Events

[See An Taisce's Events Page here](#)

Book Tailors Hall for your event



Please spread the word to your friends, family and colleagues that Tailors' Hall is the ideal place for their special event or meeting.

The Tailors Hall is rapidly becoming re-established as one of Dublin's premier places for public events and celebrations following the granting of licences, the installation of a full service bar and the fit out of the kitchens. In addition marquees for the courtyards have been purchased and the redecoration of the public rooms has commenced with the redecoration of the lobby and entrance area in tasteful Farrow and Ball colours. We are now seeking some mirrors and an appropriate settee to

complete the furnishing of this area.

We recently hosted the prestigious Gold Medal award ceremony of The London City and Guilds and our first Civil Partnership Ceremony when two women got married in the Great Hall under the new legislation to permit same sex partnerships to be legally registered. This is in addition to the increasing number of civil marriages and other events already taking place there.

These events are followed by lavish receptions thanks to our exclusive in house caterers and bar operators. Feedback from customers has been very good with no negative reactions and many sending letters of thanks and recommendation.

Providing food is ordered when booking the hall all kinds of alcohol can be served attracting a VAT rate on food

including hire of only 9% as opposed to hire without food which is now 23%, a significant saving for most events.

We can provide tailored packages inclusive of food, hire and other services for different budgets and have a dedicated events team to ensure that all the effort can be taken away from organising any kind of event.

We also have had numerous other events including; wedding receptions, a fancy dress Halloween party, the Irish Association of Health Food Stores Awards and numerous Christmas parties.

To get your copy of our new professionally shot events brochure or to make enquires about having your special event with us please contact John Ducie, Manager, Tailors Hall Events Ltd on properties.antaisce.org Tel 01 7077076

Remember every cent made from events in The Tailors Hall goes to lifting the burden of running the hall from An Taisce and repaying the significant loan to refurbish the hall and get it open for business, as well providing a platform for the management of all An Taisce's other properties. Its one of the best ways of financially supporting all of our work as a charity!

[The Tailors' Hall Website Here](#)

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Recent An Taisce Press Releases

Recent An Taisce Press Releases can be found [here...](#)

Contact Us

Your views are important to An Taisce. Please don't hesitate to send us any feedback on content, format, etc. of this newsletter, and if there are any topics in particular that you'd like to see covered, we'll do our best to get them in.

You are being sent these eZines because you are a member of An Taisce - should you no longer wish to be sent these, please email

membership@antaisce.org

Sincerely,

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newletters: [An Taisce Newsletters](#)

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Preserving our built and natural heritage for future generations