



**INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:**

Property 2  
gifts

Planning unit 2  
Gifts

Biodiversity 3  
Gifts

Core Gifts 3

Gifts to hold 4

Green 4  
Christmas  
tips

## An Taisce - a Treasury of Gifts

We are introducing a new initiative this year: our “Treasury” Christmas gifts. This is also a great opportunity to showcase some of our current projects. But don’t worry, this is a once-off and next month’s e-zine will be back to normal.

### Choose a gift

To make it easy for you to choose your gift we have split them into categories based on your interests. The choice is wide, from biodiversity to planning and you can even choose to help slate a roof if you like. The gifts start at just €5. Many of your gifts will also allow us to access additional funding and grants and so will be worth much, much more.

### What you get

When you have chosen your gift you can place your order on line clicking on [shop](#) or phone on 014541786 or even in writing if you want. We will send a printed gift card featuring your chosen project. This can be sent to you or directly to the gift’s recipient.

### Our guarantee

Your gift will always be used in your chosen category eg biodiversity. If your specific project is oversubscribed we will pass the donation onto a similar project. All gifts will be dispatched within three working days. The last day for receipt of your gift application to ensure a delivery for Christmas in Ireland is 17th December, but these gifts will continue to be available on the website for birthdays etc.

## Gifts to protect our built heritage

An Taisce has successfully restored historic buildings and habitats throughout Ireland.

### Gift code **Native tree** €15

Rough Island in Co Donegal is held in trust for the people of Ireland and it is essential that we manage the land the wildlife. We have found a contractor willing to remove the mature sitka spruce so we can start to reinstate native woodland. Your €10 will assist us with the planting and care of a native tree of local seed provenance.



*This little jewel in the urban landscape provides positive examples of how to manage for conservation in the city*



### Gift code Reserve **Shelter** €65

On the very special nature reserve at the Grove, Morehampton Road, Dublin, we would like to provide shelter for volunteer workers, storage for tools and a refuge from the rain for artists painting the wonderful birdlife. The ESB have very kindly donated an old electricity substation building worth over €5000 to us for the purpose, so we are asking you to help find the funding to pay the gift tax on this and convert it for use.

All gifts chosen from our heritage properties selection include the cost of employing skilled conservation builders, scaffolding etc

*Each €50 gift that you give will allow us to access €150 more in grants from Dublin City Council.*



Gift code **“Bangor” €50** per Bangor Blue Slate  
The largest built heritage project started in 2010 is the reroofing and insulation of The Tailors’ Hall. By the end of this project we will have replaced 3000 tiles and the energy rating of the building will have improved considerably.

Gift code **“low energy bulb” € 5** per dimmable cfl bulb

The stunning Great Hall in Tailors’ Hall is currently lit with incandescent bulbs in beautiful chandelier settings. We need your help to change these for low energy bulbs as they wear out. With modern technology cfl bulbs can also be dimmed to show the features of this room and bring out its atmosphere.



*The energy savings of installing these bulbs would save An Taisce €30 per bulb over its lifetime, as well as improving our carbon footprint.*

## Gifts to support our planning unit

Since 1962 we have had a prescribed status under the Planning Acts, which means that when a development has an impact on an amenity area, we must be consulted. All gifts from this section will help us fulfil this role.

*Many of our appeals are precedent-setting and so your gift will have impact for decades to come through better planning decisions*



Gift code **“appeal” €110** one planning appeal to An Bord Pleanála

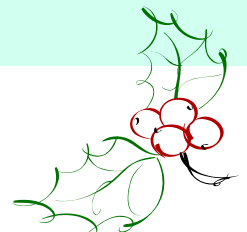
An Taisce receives no state funding for executing our regulatory burden as a prescribed body. We take hundreds of appeals each year and around 85% are upheld—highlighting the importance of our appeals.

*We have provided placements for planning students to help in our research. When they move on, they take An Taisce’s views with them...*



Gift Code **“research” €25** for research into planning issues

We need to make sure that our submissions are well informed and accurate in terms of the most recent law and current best practice. You can support us by sponsoring research into the issues.



## Gifts to promote our biodiversity

Gift code **“bio research”** €25 for biodiversity research.

Over the years out Natural environment team has carried out some incredibly valuable research and advocacy leading to direct improvements in nature conservation policy. We often have to fund pilot projects and prove they work before we can access any major project funding .



We are currently working on two pilot projects: one on improving biodiversity protection in new forestry and a second, a watchdog project to ensure our SAC's are holistically managed and protected from damaging developments.

The NPWS has just paid for a reprint of this lovely guide, but we desperately need your help to get them out, this information is no good stored in cardboard boxes!



Gift code **“Bio- book”** €10 to circulate 20 booklets to a community group or school

We recently produced a beautiful booklet on biodiversity illustrated by the Oscar winning animators of the film The Book of Kells. This booklet has been immensely popular with many readers and we have been flooded with requests from community groups and our new biodiversity theme green schools, which are costly to meet.

## Gifts to provide core support and let An Taisce's voice be heard

Gift code **“training”** €100 for a half day training to enable staff and volunteers to work at the top of their field.

Training to keep abreast of new research techniques and legislation is essential to support our staff and regular volunteers in their educational, advocacy, conservation and planning activities. Your gift of training multiplies many times as the information spreads through the organisation.



Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you

Attending a single show means that we can speak in person to 2000+ people face to face



Gift code **“Exhibition”** €250 towards display equipment

We are currently attending many shows with the equivalent of a home made stand, our professional image would be greatly improved by investing in some properly designed exhibition stands. (Remember this gift will be worth more to us as it exceeds the tax threshold and we can reclaim your PAYE)



And if you prefer a gift you can touch...

### Gift blanket €50

Hand woven in 100% pure wool, this beautiful blanket is a limited edition made specially for us by Avoca Weavers and features a lovely quote from our founder Robert Lloyd Praeger.



*"the flower-filled sand-dunes which fringe the Irish Sea; the fertile undulations of Southern Ulster; the fretted limestone shores of the great western lakes; the swift brown of the Barrow; the towering cones of the Galtees; all have left memories that can never be effaced"*

## Hints and Tips for a Greener Christmas

### And finally...the most important gift of all...An Taisce membership €45

A gift of membership is one that keeps on giving without our members we simply wouldn't exist. Please consider giving membership of An Taisce this Christmas.

**A is for artificial trees...** These are not necessarily greener - although they last for longer, they are made from plastic, not recyclable or from a renewable source and have probably been shipped great distances. Real trees also help to remove carbon from the atmosphere while they are growing.

**B is for... batteries** New gifts at Christmas often mean that households go through a lot of batteries. Batteries contain toxic chemicals, do not biodegrade and are difficult to recycle. Use rechargeable ones instead.

**C is for...Cards.** With an average of 17 cards for every person in Ireland, that's a lot of trees used. Can you send an e-card instead? Purchase recycled or charity cards or cut up last year's and re-use them?

**D is for...Defrost your freezer before Christmas** It will work more efficiently and create more space to store leftover food, so that it doesn't go to waste.

**E is for... eco-bags** Make sure you use a reusable bag for all your shopping not just the food.

**F is for... food shopping.** By the time the ingredients that make up the average Christmas dinner arrive on our plates, they have travelled a combined distance of 49,000 miles. Turkeys from Europe, vegetables from Africa, wine from the southern hemisphere, cranberries from America - the turkey and trimmings add up to the equivalent of 6,000 car trips around the

world. Try this [food footprint calculator](#) to check up.

**K is for... keeping your curtains closed.** This keeps heat in and saves energy and money. And with all those guests to entertain, more heat is going to be generated anyway.

**L is for... lights** Christmas tree lights left on for 10 hours a day over the 12 days of Christmas produce enough CO2 to inflate 12 balloons, so turn them off when they are not needed and even better invest in a set of LED lights, they last longer and use less energy.

**P is for ...Presents** Buy local or buy less. Each Christmas, we import tonnes of products from China. Presents bought locally means you will be supporting small suppliers and the local community, while minimising your carbon footprint. Buy durable gifts and avoid giving or getting ones that rely on disposable parts like batteries. Try to look for alternatives, for example, goods that are solar or wind-up powered.

Do you have to buy gifts? Could you buy an "experience" instead? Try cinema tickets or club memberships. Sponsor an animal, buy a gift from

the An Taisce Treasury range - but don't give them another unwanted gift which they will simply throw away.

**R is for... recycle** According to Repak we throw out an extra 5 sacks of rubbish per family over the festive period. Much of this could have been recycled.

**T is for...Turning off your appliances** Turning your appliances off at the mains, rather than leaving them on standby. This saves huge amounts of carbon also **Turning down the thermostat by 1C.** Saves carbon and money, and it's a good excuse for wearing the themed Christmas jumper.

**U is for using the right-sized pan** Use the right-sized pan for the vegetables you cook, and only boil the kettle with the amount of water you need.

**W is for wrapping.** This constitutes one of the biggest Christmas wastes. Try wrapping your presents in brown or recycled paper, re-used foil or newspaper, and using string or raffia (made from bark which regenerates) to tie it up. And if someone wraps a pressie for you, make sure you save the paper for next year

**Xylophones, yaks and zebras** any green Christmas ideas for X,Y and Z?



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**Preserving our built and natural heritage for future generations**

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.

Sincerely,

Jeff Young, Hon Secretary, An Taisce  
and Abby McSherry, Local Associations Officer

[membership@antaisce.org](mailto:membership@antaisce.org)

*Please remember to pass this newsletter on to others who may enjoy it*