



# GeoPoint

Newsletter of the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland

## Professor Thomas Jones Hughes



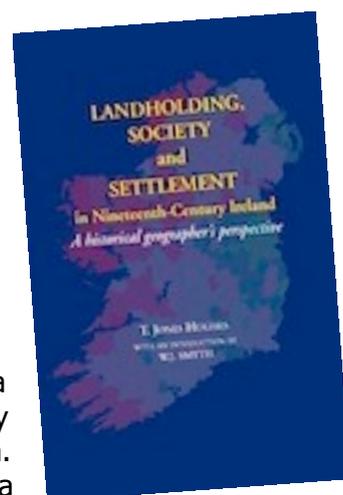
Just before Christmas we heard the sad news of the death of Professor Thomas Jones Hughes. Known as Tom to friends and colleagues, he established the Department of Geography in University College Dublin and educated a generation of Ireland's most distinguished geographers including Willie Nolan, William J. Smyth and Kevin Whelan, to name just a few. Notwithstanding his ground-breaking work in Irish Historical Geography, his influence continues to this day in the work of Geographers in NUI Maynooth, UCD and TCD.

As an undergraduate in UCD in the late 1980s, many of us only ever heard of Professor Jones-Hughes and were but familiar with his portrait in the corridor of the Department. Mention of his name was spoken with a hushed awe. I found out why during my post-graduate studies. Jones Hughes lectures on American geography and geographers were some of the most memorable I had in UCD. He was always gentle in his approach and encouraging of our work and his concern for his students was always evident. His view, expressed at the time, that every first year undergraduate should study philosophy resonated with me. As William J Smyth

writes in the introduction to Jones-Hughes 'Landholding, Society and Settlement in Nineteenth-Century Ireland: A historical geographer's perspective',

"It could be argued, therefore, that even more important than his own research work and writing, Jones Hughes's main academic vocation may well have been to seek out and inspire Irish geography students to explore and understand their own and other peoples worlds for geography is in the end a philosophy of life".

The AGTI was formally founded with the adoption of its first constitution at a meeting in Newman House on 31 March 1962. This meeting was chaired by Professor Jones Hughes and he was elected as President of the Association. His support in the early years of the Association was vital in building a successful organisation to support and encourage geography teachers. In honour of his memory the Trustees of the Gwenda Hurst Memorial Fund have decided to rename the 'Geographical Viewpoint Award' the 'Tom Jones Hughes Award'. It is fitting tribute to a man who did so much to shape the experience of countless geography teachers.



**Peter Lydon, President**

EU4Schools is a brand new online resource designed specifically for second level to introduce students to the European Union and to support advocacy using the latest ideas in Challenge Based Learning and the creative use of digital media. Learners will be shown how to make a real life submission or petition to the EU with all the information they need available within the EU4Schools website.

# EU4Schools

## Things you can do



How to make a submission



Talk to the EU



Write here



Make a Broadcast

## Resources



Maps



EU in images



What's going on?



Puzzles and Games



For Teachers

This includes links throughout the website to carefully selected external web pages and resources, in particular leading the student into the EU websites to familiarise the learners with this system.

Relevant to TY and geography, citizenship, political and social study topics, EU4Schools is built around themes designed to generate engagement and debate. For geography you will find key information about the EU mainstreamed throughout the specially written content (relevant to Core Unit 2.3) and the theme of module 1 is the environment (relevant to Core unit 1.7) focusing on the human impacts of pollution, and also about water and climate change. More themes will be added over time and content will always be up to date.

### Encourages Creativity

Utilising the principals of Challenge Based Learning, guided projects encourage students to engage with the wider world either through making real life contacts with EU or through creating materials to be shared with their peer group – typically using digital media to make a podcast or video. The learning platform includes a variety of images and inspiring, sometime quirky, resources to encourage and support creative output.

### Be heard by the EU

A key element of EU4Schools is the guided process of how to make a real life submission to the EU. For example, students are shown how to go about contacting their MEP or the European Parliament with a view to making their voices heard. As well as learning about active citizenship this also encourages communication skills and teamwork.



[www.eu4schools.ie](http://www.eu4schools.ie)

Camilla Fanning, Director of EU4Schools, is a published lecturer on EU affairs with an interest in Digitally Enhanced Learning methodologies.

## The Gwenda Hurst Memorial Award

The Gwenda Hurst Memorial Award is made in honour of Gwenda Hurst, the founder of the Association. The award is made to the student who, in the opinion of the SEC, presented the most meritorious paper in Leaving Certificate Examination.

This year's recipient is **Robert Hayes** of St. Joseph's CBS in Nenagh, Co Tipperary. Congratulations to Robert and to his teacher **Mr. Pascal Grey** on this tremendous achievement. The Gwenda Hurst Medal will be awarded to Robert at the 50th Anniversary dinner.

## The Tom Jones-Hughes Award

The 'Geographical Viewpoint Award' is awarded to the author of the article which the Editorial Committee considers to be the greatest merit in helping other geography teachers improve their performance and enjoy their subject.

The Gwenda Hurst Trustees have decided to rename this award the 'Tom Jones Hughes Award' in honour and memory of Prof. Thomas Jones Hughes.

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## Geographical Investigations?

The AGTI wishes to survey members for their views on the LC Syllabus and the LC Examination. The information will be passed on to the relevant body. It will also allow the Association to more effectively represent the views of members. You can access the survey on our website at **www.agti.ie**. The more members who complete the survey, the more relevant we can be in promoting geography.

### Branches 2011

Branches currently recognised by the National Executive are

AGTI - Navan Branch (North East)

AGTI - South East Branch

AGTI - North Munster Branch

AGTI - East Central Branch

AGTI - Ballina

A Galway branch will shortly open for membership. Please keep an eye on our website for details. We are keen to re-establish a branch in Cork. Funding and advice is available to help with this.

[secretary.agti@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.agti@gmail.com)

### Celebrating 50th Years of the AGTI

#### 50th Anniversary Dinner & Gwenda Hurst Memorial Award

Guest Speaker

**Mr. Dermot Somers**

Writer, Broadcaster, Adventurer

#### 'Adventures in Geography'

Limited tickets available

€20.00

[janebrook2@eircom.net](mailto:janebrook2@eircom.net)

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## Resource Point

The **Providence** website at providenceresources.com provides information on its oil and gas exploration off the Irish coast.

Bord Gáis' website - bordgais.ie - has useful information on formation and use of natural gas. It's not 'school friendly' but could be used as part of a research topic.

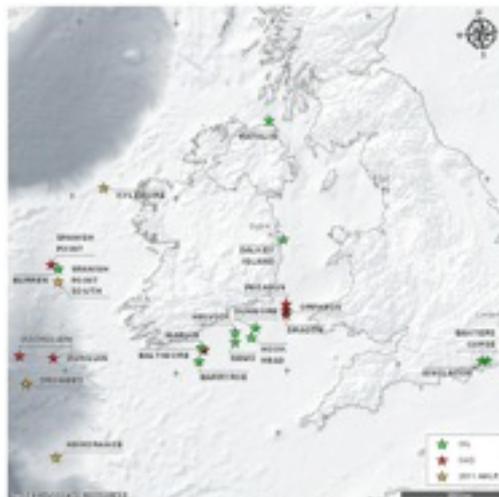
**www.shelltosea.com** offers an alternative viewpoint on Ireland's hydrocarbon resources.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland has some fantastic resources for schools. It's clear they put a lot of thought and effort into providing useful material for schools.

[www.seai.ie/schools](http://www.seai.ie/schools)

Airtricity - [airtricity.com](http://airtricity.com) - provides some nice animation and downloadable resources on energy production suitable for Year 1 Junior Cycle.

Esso have some interesting material on energy production including this booklet on the future of energy needs and production for the planet [http://www.exxonmobil.com/corporate/files/news\\_pub\\_eo2012.pdf](http://www.exxonmobil.com/corporate/files/news_pub_eo2012.pdf)



The PDST - Professional Development Service for Teachers - has circulated to schools its programme of in-services 2011/12. Your principal or Subject Coordinator should have received it by now. There is a range of in-services planned for the Spring.

### Geographical Investigation/Fieldwork

#### Date - Time - Meeting Point

Sat, 21st April - 9:30 am to 3:45 pm - At Co Wexford Education Centre

Sat, 28th April - 9:30 am to 3:45 pm - At Athlone Education Centre

Sat, 5th May - 9:30 am to 3:45 pm - At Navan Education Centre

You can download an application form to attend these in-services here

<http://www.agti.ie/profdevelopment/profdevelopment.htm>

If you would like to contribute to GeoPoint, please forward your article to [peterlydon@iol.ie](mailto:peterlydon@iol.ie)