



GeoPoint

Newsletter of the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland

37th Annual Conference

The annual conference was held in the Clayton Hotel in Ballybrit Galway on the 21st and 22nd of October. The conference was a great success if numbers attending are anything to go by. We had the largest attendance in 4 years! This was undoubtedly helped by the change of date from the traditional end of September/start of October date. On this basis, our next conference will be on the 19th and 20th October 2012.

The conference heard talks from Prof. Anna Davies of TCD, Sue Honan, Liam Ashe, Charles Hayes, Tom de Brit of IGA and Gearoid Quinn of Merit Medical. The feedback from the presentations was superlative. Attendees spoke of the quality of the presentations and the usefulness to them in their teaching.

Some feedback requested inviting other textbook authors to present. The Association contacted every textbook publisher during July and August, through into September and invited several authors from each to present. I am grateful to all our speakers for giving up their time in accepting the invitation to present at the conference.

The Association is always open to suggestions for presentations at conference and workshops. If there is something in particular you would like to see, please email secretary.agti@gmail.com

I am grateful to everyone who helped with the organisation, especially the members of the National Executive. The hotel did a great job of accommodating us and I am grateful for all their efforts in ensuring the conference ran smoothly.

Peter Lydon, President

Junior Cycle Developments

Tuesday 13th December
Dublin West Education Centre, Tallaght
7.30pm

Junior Cycle Framework and the implications for Geography

The NCCA has published it's 'Framework for Junior Cycle'. As expected, only Irish, English and Mathematics will be core subjects. History and Geography will no longer be core in most secondary schools. This presentation will outline the Framework and what it means for the teaching of Geography and geography teachers. (Historians are welcome to attend also!)

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Jane Brook

Jane Brook has served for 40 years as the Treasurer of the Association. She was elected to this role and maintained it throughout the ups and downs of the Association. Her commitment to the AGTI is staggering not just in the length of her service but in her dedication to ensuring the continued survival of the Association.

I am grateful also to Jane for her guidance and support throughout my involvement with the Association. Her breadth of experience has made her a great guide in helping me manage various issues that affect the AGTI.

At the conference, the Association made a presentation of a bouquet of flowers to mark her 40th year as Treasurer. It is a small gesture but none could be big enough to say Thank You!

Peter Lydon

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

At the end of conference several teachers from Galway met to discuss the possibility of re-establishing a **Galway Branch**. I am pleased that there has been some progress in this regard and we hope to liaise further in the new year to get a Galway branch up and running.

We are keen to re-establish a branch in Cork. Funding and advice is available to help with this.

If you would like to be involved in this, please contact Peter Lydon (peterlydon@iol.ie).

National Geography Quiz

This year is the 50th anniversary of the AGTI. The Association would like to mark the event by holding a National Geography Quiz for students. The quiz would be initially organised at branch level with each branch forwarding a team(s) to the National Quiz. The National Quiz would be held most likely on a Saturday in Dublin.

We want to gauge interest and views for this idea. If you think you could help a team participate in this event, please email the Honourary Secretary, Ute Duane at

secretary.agti@gmail.com

Gwenda Hurst Memorial Award

Each year the Association makes an award called the Gwenda Hurst Memorial Award. The award is 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. The Association accepts the SECs recommendation without reference to the marks obtained.

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.

Details of the award ceremony will be posted when confirmed.

Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape

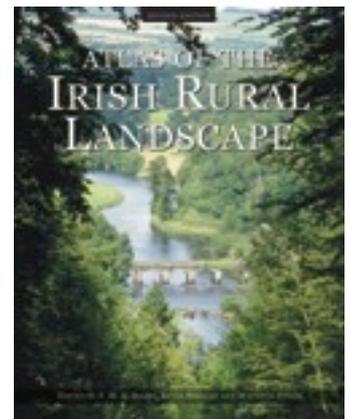
You may have heard of the Atlas of the Irish Rural landscape published in 1997. Such was its magnitude that it ought to be required reading for geographers and geography teachers. Its authors alone - F.H.A. Aalen, Kevin Whelan and Matthew Stout - speaks volumes about the quality of the publication.

A new edition, which has been updated to take account of the changes wrought during the rise and fall of the Celtic Tiger and containing 500 maps, has been produced.

The Atlas of Irish Rural Landscape is a highly illustrated large format book and is a pioneering introduction to the hidden riches of the Irish landscape.

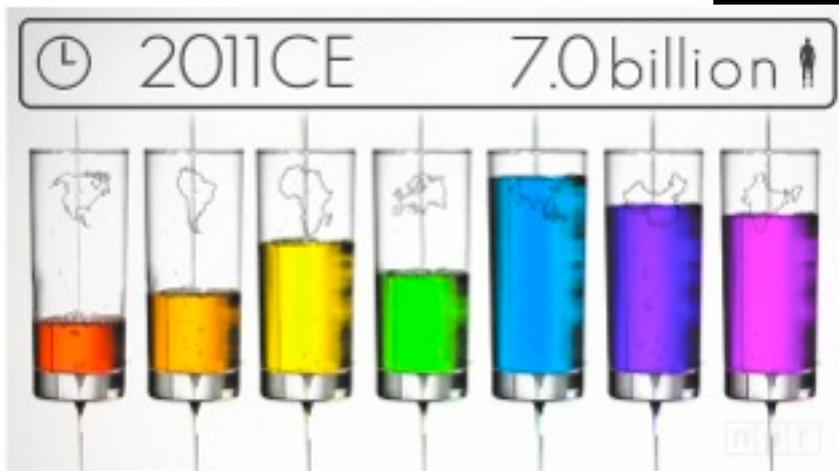
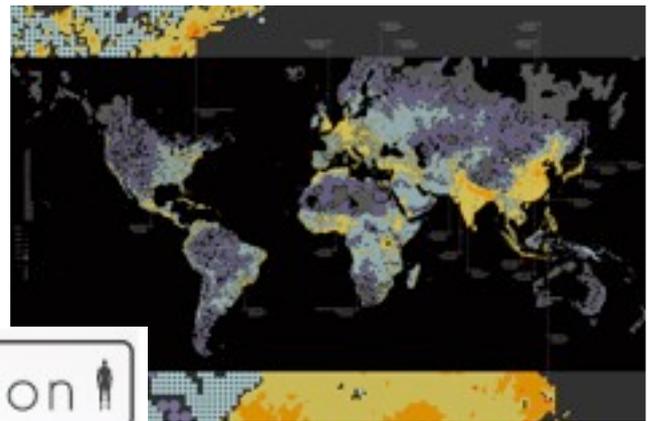
Topics include archaeology, field and settlement patterns, houses, demesnes, villages and small towns, monuments, woodland, bogs, roads, canals, railways, mills, mines, farmsteads, handball alleys, and a host of other features. The Atlas combines superbly chosen illustrations and cartography with a text amenable to a general reader.

More details are available here <http://bit.ly/sTa249>



SEVEN BILLION AND COUNTING

fathom.info/density asks 'What does seven billion look like?'. It uses a slightly different approach to your average choropleth map in that it uses larger, darker circles to show low densities and smaller, light circles to show high densities. (That's the correct spelling!).



Credit: Adam Cole, Maggie Stenberg / NPR

NPR.org has a very nice video illustration of how the world's population grew to seven billion using the analogy of water filling up and glass (for births) or emptying (for deaths).

<http://www.npr.org/2011/10/31/141816460/visualizing-how-a-population-grows-to-7-billion>

- 1 billion - 1804
- 2 billion - 1927
- 3 billion - 1959
- 4 billion - 1974
- 5 billion - 1987
- 6 billion - 1999*
- 7 billion - 2011

*Year when the milestone was observed by the United Nations.

Source: United Nations Population Fund

National Geographic are running a year long special series on their website at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/7-billion>. The site includes a population clock. This is the figure at 19.26 on December 5th 2011.

7,007,571,239

7billionactions.org/data has some excellent interactives showing population growth over time. The site aims to build global awareness about the opportunities and challenges associated with a world of seven billion people.





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

Classroom Activities for exploring Resources and Economic Activities

Tues, 28th February - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Cork Education Support Centre
 Tues, 28th February - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Sligo Education Centre
 Thurs, 1st March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Blackrock Education Centre
 Thurs, 1st March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Laois Education Centre
 Tues, 6th March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Limerick Education Centre
 Tues, 6th March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Waterford Teachers' Centre
 Thurs, 8th March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Drumcondra Education Centre
 Thurs, 8th March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Mayo Education Centre
 Tues, 13th March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Athlone Education Centre
 Tues, 13th March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Dublin West Education Centre
 Thurs, 15th March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Co Wexford Education Centre
 Thurs, 15th March - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - Monaghan Education Centre

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

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

Notes:

If you would like to contribute to GeoPoint, please forward your article to peterlydon@iol.ie
