

GeoPoint

Newsletter of the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland

News Flash! The Mantle is Solid!

Our 35th Annual Conference opened on Friday 2nd October with demonstrations of several technologies available to teachers from Folens, Edco and Google. This session was well received and followed by a reception sponsored by NST.

On Saturday, Ian Sanders opened proceedings with an enlightening presentation on the internal structure of the Earth. Among the interesting ideas presented was that the mantle was solid - some textbooks still refer to the mantle as liquid. The first rocks were basalts, which weathered and released calcium and mud, which when metamorphosed produced granites. Further details of Dr. Sanders talk can be found in Geographical Viewpoint Volume 33 (2005).

David Meredith's presentation on functional urban and rural areas demonstrated, among other things, the significance of Agriculture to the entire economy, not just of rural areas, despite years of foreign investment. Aidan Punch's talk included analysis of the 2006 census and referenced age/sex structures and included statistics on birth rates by nationals and migrants and on labour rates.

Rev. Nigel Mackey gave an engaging account of the work of Habitat for Humanity in providing housing for people worldwide. Richard Webb's demonstration of new technologies in the classroom was well received and will be followed up in later workshops this year.

Dr. Proinnsias Breathnach presented the final keynote presentation on the impact of the Celtic Tiger on regional difference in Ireland. His detailed talk included up-to-date statistics to illustrate key difference between the South and Eastern Region and the Border, Midlands and Western Region.

The conference closed after a short plenary session where several issues were addressed including this years examination results.

Unfortunately, attendance at the conference was disappointing. It is understandable that there were other conferences being held that weekend. However, despite the presence of TPN funding, the Association cannot continue to justify holding such events unless members are prepared to attend them. If the conference lapses, it may not be possible to resurrect it when the Teaching Council's provisions on CPD come into effect.

South East Branch AGM 2009 will be held towards the end of November contact Andrew Cox for further details

Scoilnet Maps Support

Scoilnet Maps Support Sessions are now available to teachers. These are being run in your local Education Centrs and the website of the Education Centre should contain info on scheduled dates/times.

A support session can also be organised on request by a group of teachers within a school or cluster of schools. Interested teachers should contact their local Education Centre for more information. A minimum of 10 participants is required for any support session to proceed. NCTE tutors are trained to deliver either "basic" or "advanced" sessions with users and there is no cost to teachers to participate.

Other NCTE supported courses are available at http://www.ncte.ie/courseschedule/http://www.ncte.ie/ICTTraining/Courses

SCOILNET MAPS SUPPORT SESSION – LEVEL 1

(BASIC) 2.5 hours

Based on using the website, the basics covers:

Mogging on

Website Layout and the Toolbar

Selecting Maps

Search

Minting

Measuring Distance

SCOILNET MAPS
SUPPORT SESSION – LEVEL 2
(ADVANCED) 2.5 hours

Building on the skills covered in the basics course, the advanced course will cover:

Resources Explorer and Searching

₩ploading Resources

Morking with Uploaded Resources to Create Playlists

@eating Pupil Accounts

Minding and Viewing Thematic Data

Participants attending these courses must be familiar with using the Internet & Email, uploading and downloading files, as well as the basic ICT tasks (opening, editing, saving, closing files, etc).

