Children in the field of flax planted for Heritage Week in Monaghan.
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Monaghan Heritage Awareness Programme

List of activities 2015

3. Heritage Week August 2015
4. World War 1 conference October 2015

1. WISE USE OF WETLANDS CONFERENCE 21-22 May 2015

Wetlands are the key biodiversity and ecosystem resource in County Monaghan and their mapping, survey and promotion have been important activities for the County Heritage Plan since 2006. The conference was delivered as a partnership between Monaghan County Council, Heritage Council and the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee(IRWC).

The conference had an international and national dimension, and attracted an audience of one hundred. It aimed to build collaboration between scientists, policy makers and practitioners and community groups and these connections were made during the two days. The Secretary General of the International Ramsar Convention for Wetlands, Mr. Christopher Briggs delivered a keynote address at the conference and attended the IRWC meeting the following day in Monaghan. The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht opened the conference.

Attendance – 100 people at main conference on 21 May and 20 people on the fieldtrip to Sliabh Beagh SPA on the 20 May 2015. Mix of scientists, local authority officials (planners, engineers, technicians), community and heritage groups, wetland site managers in attendance.

Public relations –

Presentations from the conference are available on a dedicated youtube channel - 
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG4XXBVXsDUCywsIWpesVA

Northern Standard newspaper – full and front page coverage of the conference.

Northern Sound Radio – Heritage Officer interviewed on the Agriview by Noel Murphy. Podcast available –

http://media.northernsound.ie/mediamanager/embed/player/podcasts/21/item/40856

Event publicised and covered on social media via Monaghan Heritage Forum and IRWC facebook pages and websites.
Wise Use of Wetlands conference

This will be an informative and stimulating day in the life of Monaghan’s wonderful wetlands, at the Ballybay Wetland Centre on the Shannon River System, Ballybay.

The WISE of Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The Minister for the Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys will open the day proceedings.

Mr. Chris Briggs, Secretary General of the International Ramsar Convention Secretariat will present the key-note address.

Ramsar Wetland Committees

IEWC was established in 2010 and comprises members from a wide range of agencies. Its principal aim is to promote the wise use and protection of all wetlands in Ireland.

www.wetlands.ie

The Heritage Council

The Heritage Council’s mission is to engage, educate and advocate to develop a wider understanding of the vital contribution that our heritage makes to our social, environmental and economic well-being.

www.heritage.ie

Monaghan County Council

Monaghan County Council MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE HERITAGE OFFICE IN 1989 AND WELCOMES THE COUNTY MONAGHAN HERITAGE FORUM TO ITS WETLAND CENTRE TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE THROUGH ITS STRATEGIC HERITAGE AND LEADERSHIP PLANS, LINKED JOINTLY WITH THE HERITAGE COUNCIL AND OTHER AGENCIES.

www.monaghan.ie

Admission is free but you must register: kelsey@brownjohnmurphy.com or at the registration desk.

This event is part of the implementation of the County Monaghan Heritage Plan 2011-2015and is Co-Hosted by the Heritage Council and Monaghan County Council.

Wednesday 21 May 2015

9.15-6.30PM

BALLYBAY WETLAND CENTRE, COUNTY MONAGHAN, IRELAND

WIEE OF WETLANDS CONFERENCE

IREISH RANAMAR

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CONFERENCE

Heritage Office
Monaghan County Council
148 Market St
Monaghan
Monaghan
Heritage Centre
Monaghan
IRL
+353 49 472979
IPMA. Heritage@monaghan.ie

The event is sponsored by the

excellent organisations.

The event is also supported by

many of the local authorities in managing the

Serviced Wetlands.

Patricia Coyle, Heritage Officer.

The importance of identifying and managing our wetland resources, using examples from Ireland and elsewhere.

Conference round-up

20 May 2015: Fáilte! Design

In association with the Moonkabtna and Mansfield Association

Meeting at the United Begg Hotel, Moonkabtna from 10am and leaving at 1:30 to explore the wetlands and heritage of Slane Begg. Arr. welcome.

Phone: 00353 47 30300
E-mail: info@brownjohnmurphy.com

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Phone: 00353 47 30300
E-mail: info@brownjohnmurphy.com

The Ramsar Convention

The Ramsar Convention’s mission is “the conservation and wise use of wetlands through local and national action and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”.

www.ramsar.org

During the conference, we will discuss and demonstrate how to adopt a wise use approach in practice, through good planning, education and community action, to ensure the conservation of our important wetland resources.

21 May 2015 Programme

9.15-11.00

SESSION 1: WISE USE OF WETLANDS

Section Chair – St. Michael’s College, DFCC
- Peadar Flynn, Ballybay Development Association
- Mr. Michael Monaghan, Heritage Council
- Dr. Eamon Squillace, Ramsar Wetland Committees
- Dr. Collette McInerney, Heritage Council
- Dr. Peter Dowlings, Wetland Survey Ireland

The importance of identifying and managing our wetland resources, using examples from Ireland and elsewhere.

11.30-13.00

SESSION 2: WETLANDS AND CONSERVATION

Section Chair – St. Michael’s College, DFCC
- Neils Madigan, Heritages Council
- Role of NGOs in the promotion and conservation of our wetland resources, information, challenges, successes and the GCC Strategy Plan
- Dr. Morcombe (UNESCO) & Dr. Andrew Cooney, Heritage Officer and Team from Slieve Gullion National Park
- Slieve Gullion Restoration Project – the collaborative approach taken to the project, challenges and successes
- Dr. Colleen Walshe, University of Dublin, Wetland ecosystems protection, good governance and the conservation status

1.15-3.00

SESSION 3: WISE USE AND COLLABORATION

Section Chair – Chris Crean, Ballybay, DFCC
- Tom Flynn, Director of U.S.
- The new planning regulations and wetlands
- Dr. James Rammus Wilson, University College
Mr. Christopher Briggs, Secretary General, International Convention for Wetlands (The Ramsar Convention) speaking at the Wise Use of Wetlands conference in County Monaghan.

Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, Monaghan County Council at the Wise Use of Wetlands Conference in County Monaghan.

A selection of the crowd at the conference, held in the Ballybay Wetlands Centre.

Pictured on Sliabh Beagh SPA, a cross-border blanket bog site in County Monaghan on the conference fieldtrip.

Held in conjunction with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and the Irish Georgian Society, this three day Summer School, an inaugural cross-border joint venture, was a boost to community and privately driven built heritage conservation projects in County Monaghan. The event was a timely follow on from the built heritage series in the county in 2014, and a real showcase for local conservation projects. It also brought visitors to sites that they would not have been previously aware and local projects were able to avail of the expertise of many of the Summer School participants. The knowledge transfer aspect of the event was particularly effective. Two full days of the programme were set in the county, and learning and discussion sessions took place at Castle Leslie, Glaslough; Tin Church, Laragh; Lady Anne Dawson Temple, Dartrey; Market House, Monaghan; St. Macartan’s Cathedral, Monaghan & Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annamakerrig.

Students from universities across Ireland and abroad attended as a result of bursaries from the conference, and they submitted projects to a competition with regard to two sites that had conservation issues. These were discussed and judged as part of the Summer School.
In its first year the joint Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and Irish Georgian Society Conservation without Frontiers summer school will bring together students, enthusiasts and practitioners to explore, discuss and debate issues relating to our shared Irish heritage in the context of Armagh and Monaghan. A key theme of the event is conservation and regeneration for community benefit which will demonstrate the critical importance of built heritage in maintaining the distinctive qualities of the region and supporting the growth of tourism, economic development and prosperity. The school will provide a platform to showcase the best that both counties have to offer in terms of their history and heritage. Leaders will include well known academics, architectural historians, architects, planners, conservation and heritage officers. The support of both councils will also reinforce the positive developing relationship between them and our respective organisations.

Summer school director: Kevin V. Mulligan, author of The Buildings of Ireland - South Ulster (2013)

**Programme**

**25th June 2015 - Armagh**
- Conservation Areas - the legislation and implementation
- New work and reordering: current practice in England
- Tour of cathedrals with Prof. Alistair Rowan
- Tour of Mall and Market Square with Alistair Coey
- Presentation on the work of Thomas Cooley and Francis Johnston by Judy Hill at Armagh Public Library
- Tour of Palace Demesne with Dr. Edward McParland.
Speakers: Prof. Patrick Duffy, Dr. Michael O’Neill, Dr. Frederick O’Dwyer, Andrew Derrick, Marcus Patton

**26th June 2015 - Monaghan**
- Tour of Castle Leslie
- Introduction to heritage and housing
- Discussion on cross border heritage initiatives
- The Buildings of Ireland Series
- Tour of Glashaugh
- Visit Lady Anne Dawson Mausoleum, Dartrey St Peter’s Church, Laragh and St Macartan’s Cathedral, Monaghan
- Walking tour of Monaghan with Kevin Mulligan
- Discussion and debate at Market House, Monaghan
Speakers: Dawson Stelfox, Dr. Andrew McClelland, Prof. Alistair Rowan, Bishop Joseph Duffy

**27th June 2015 - Annaghmakerrig**
- Tour of Annaghmakerrig House
- Debate - Contemplating the Contemporary - Modernist vs. traditional approach to building in the historic environment in the 21st century
- Results and viewing of student competition
- Presentation of Summer School Student Awards
- Conclusion with celebratory lunch

Debate Chair: Frank Nelly
Speakers will include: Aidan McGrath, Liam Mulligan, Nicholas Groves-Raines
Conclusion: Shane O’Toole

For more information and programme updates visit the UAHs or IGS websites.
*Programme is subject to change.

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Members of the IGS, UAHs, Sammy Leslie, Alistair Rowan (Buildings of Ireland guides), Shirley Clerkin at Castle Leslie on Day 2 with the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
3. HERITAGE WEEK 2015

Monaghan Heritage Week Launch – 6 August 2015

Monaghan Heritage Week was launched by Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht at an event held by the Monaghan Heritage Office with Laragh Heritage in July to Pull the Flax for Laragh Linen. Flax was planted by the Lisdoonan Vintage Club in the Spring for this purpose, and it was an event that drew hundreds of people to the field on the N2 between Castleblayney and Carrickmacross for the pulling. The field and local children featured in the national heritage week publicity when the blue flowers came into bloom at the end of June.

Laragh Harvest Celebration, 30 August 2015 –

Tying in with the Industrial Heritage theme for 2015, this joint event with Laragh Heritage group included talks from Fred Hamond on the Mills of County Monaghan and an interview and guided nature walk along the mill race with Eanna Ni Lamhna. The numerous stages from field to linen were illustrated with live demonstrations during the day from the Mills and Millers Association, Lisdoonan Vintage, four mills, breweries, and a reconstructed scutch mill was in operation. Hundreds of people attended the full day event.
Retting the flax, in a bath, not in the bog. This softens the outside fibre.

The first six steps of a staggering 14 steps to make linen.

Dorinda McCormick, weaver, demonstrating spinning to make flax thread.
Tyrone Guthrie Centre Open Day

This is the first time that the artistic retreat opened for members of the public in over ten years, and it marks the start of a new approach to the heritage of the site by its’ director. Held jointly with the Monaghan Heritage Office, a number of tours on the built, social and artistic heritage of the site were led by Christopher Fitzsimmons, former director of the Abbey and former resident of the house when it was a private family residence. Tyrone Guthrie was a renowned theatre director, and many famous actors stayed here whilst rehearsing plays.

The tours were booked out and the reserve list overflowing. Feedback from the event was that further tours for 2016 would be appreciated. Interviews with the Heritage Officer and the centre Director were transmitted on Irish TV for Heritage Week. http://www.irishtv.ie/monaghan-matters-64

A demonstration of how the flax was scutched to beat the hard fibre from the outside of each stem in the reconstructed Scutch Mill, made by a local mill enthusiast Patsy Connolly.
Tea and scones were served to end of the tour of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre
Talk on Traditional Buildings

Held as part of the Heritage Plan action to undertake a survey of Vernacular Buildings in the county in 2015, Mr. Des Byrne of Lotts Architects presented a stimulating talk on the types, styles and evolution of traditional buildings in Monaghan.

4. WORLD WAR 1 CONFERENCE – October 2015

Held in partnership with the Ulster Local History Trust, this conference and book fair highlighted relevant local sources of information and stories about WW1 and the border counties, particularly Monaghan. Over 100 people attended the conference.

SUMMARY 2015

Monaghan Heritage Office took a partnership approach to all its events in 2015, in order to maximise attendance, increase collaboration and spread the heritage net as wide as possible whilst promoting key messages and philosophies.
The Black Pigs Dyke Regional Project

Figure 1 Black Pigs Dyke at Agheragh West, County Monaghan

In order to raise the visibility of this unique project and the important earthworks known as the Black Pigs Dyke, emphasis was placed on disseminating the findings of the research undertaken by this joint regional project in 2015.

A Heritage Guide was developed and distributed in conjunction with Archaeology Ireland magazine and additional copies of this were distributed throughout the region by the steering group.

A new website www.blackpigsdyke.ie was designed and populated with content, maps and images.

Public talks were held in the region by the project archaeologist and notably in County Monaghan the heritage network and community members led a number of tours to the BPD site at Scotshouse, based on what they have learnt so far about the monument.

Research continued to establish chronology, using modern methods on samples held in Monaghan County Museum since 1986 including archaeobotanical analysis. Excavation sites for OSL dating were identified, procedures for licensing and export of samples to the University of Oxford undertaken. Additional fieldwalking in County Monaghan identified previously unrecorded stretches of the earthwork and new information was collected on the morphology of the monument and sections were chosen for possible excavations at a later date that might help illuminate construction methods. All in all it has been a very exciting year for the Black Pigs Dyke project.

The Heritage Office led an application to Ireland's Ancient East for the development of a boardwalk, signage and interpretation at the section owned by Monaghan County Council, which was
unsuccessful, but we remain undeterred. There is a new level of interest in the monument and how it might contribute to sustainable tourism in Monaghan and in the region. Contacts were made by the Heritage Officer with the managers of a World Heritage Site in Scotland, and with the Adopt-a-Monument scheme in Scotland with regard to Monaghan getting involved.

The new research that has been undertaken has been of tremendous interest to the archaeological community and also to historians, and the department officials are keenly interested in the project.
County Monaghan Traditional Buildings Survey

This survey records a representative sample of the rural vernacular architecture of Co. Monaghan. Some 400 sites were recorded on site in July to September 2015 by Mr. Des Byrne of Lotts Architects who was awarded the contract.

The 400 sites are intended as a sample, and not as a comprehensive survey. There are 160 full records with an additional 250 records with photographs and location. A summary of both types of records is included in the report.

The outlook for the stock of buildings surveyed was found to be difficult. Most of the more intact or interesting examples surveyed were abandoned or derelict. The vernacular heritage of the county is seriously threatened by changes in the rural economy, modern expectations in housing and lack of understanding of the value of traditional houses.

This study will contribute to the knowledge of what remains of the vernacular architecture of Monaghan and will hopefully be part of a larger national study shedding light on regional characteristics. The following features were found to characterise the traditional houses of rural Monaghan:
Gable-ended houses of stone construction were the most prevalent type, originally having had thatched roofs that are now mostly with corrugated-iron or slate finish.

Examples of lobby-hearth entry houses predominate with a small number of direct-entry types.

Absence of surviving thatched roofs, though these were formerly widespread for both dwellings and outbuildings.

Variety of approaches to enlargement of houses, often an added upper storey.

Large number of two-storey houses and single-storey houses with habitable roof spaces.

Small number of attached houses as may have taken place as a consequence of subdivision of farms.

Houses with a stairs volume accessed from an extended entrance lobby or having a stairs in the corner of the kitchen space.

A small number of more formal houses with developed vernacular character.

Prevalence of undulating terrain in this part of the county with houses on sloping ground integrated into their settings, either built parallel or perpendicular to the slope, and in cases, provision for upper level access to a loft space from the surrounding terrain.

Location of a number of houses beside historic raths, indicating the use of topographical advantages and continuous settlement at these sites storey extending over all or part of the house.

The survey is taking place at a crucial time when radical change in the rural way of life continues at a rapid pace and many of the houses are disappearing. In this uncertain climate the survey aims to demonstrate the value of simple rural buildings, which have often been mistakenly associated with backwardness, their commonplace appearance belying the fact that they are often unique to the particular conditions of Co. Monaghan and distinct from the vernacular of other counties. The study hopes to raise awareness of the quality of this cultural heritage and to inform owners, planners etc of the particular value of different types, in order to act as a guide towards more effective protection of the vernacular architecture of the county.

Des Byrne from Lotts Architects who undertook the survey presented an illustrated talk on findings in the Market House, Monaghan during Heritage Week. The Gallery of Photography ran a photo-scanning workshop in the Market House on the same day, for people to bring in their old photos of traditional houses and families.