



Rural Society in Transition: Planning for 21st Century Rural Potentials and Challenges

Thursday 26th April 2018
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk

PROGRAMME

09.00-10.00	Registration & Refreshments
	Session 1: Rural Society in Transition
10.00 – 10.20	Welcome & Opening Remarks Chair: Ms. Kate Clifford, Director, Rural Community Network Mr. Peter Sheridan, Chief Executive, Co-operation Ireland Ms. Caroline Creamer, Director, ICLRD
10.20 – 10.50	Keynote Address: Rural Potential and Challenges in the 21st Century: An Island of Ireland Perspective Dr. Ruth McAreavey, Senior Lecturer, School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University
10.50 – 11.10	Rural Society in Transition: A Practitioner's Perspective Mr. John Higgins, JH Public Affairs Ltd.
11.10 – 11.30	Rural Policy: A Coherent Approach or Mis-mash? Mr. Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive, Roscommon County Council
11.30 – 11.45	Q&A
11.45 – 12.15	Refreshments
12.15 – 12.35	Through a Rural Lens: Programmes, Policy & Practice - Developing or Supporting the Rural? Dr. Karen Keaveney, Assistant Professor of Rural Development, School of Agriculture and Food Science, University College Dublin & Research Associate, ICLRD
12.35 – 12.55	Brexit and the Rural Economy: Challenge or Opportunity for Rural Society? Speaker TBC

12.55 – 13.15	Q&A
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch
Session 2: Reimagining Rural Society - We all have a Role!	
14.15 - 14.25	Welcome from the Chair Chair: Dr. Patricia O'Hara, Adjunct Professor, Maynooth University & Chair, National Statistics Board
14.25 – 14.45	The Rural Town: Where the Solution Lies? Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council
14.45 – 15.05	Finding a Place for Community Planning in Ireland Prof. Deborah Peel, Professor Emeritas, University of Dundee
15.05 – 15.20	Q&A
Session 3: Building Vibrant Rural Communities – Tools to Inform	
15.20 - 15.25	Introduction by Chair: Dr. Patricia O'Hara
15.25 – 15.45	Rural Vibrancy Tool: Enabling Rural Society to Best Meet its Potential Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe, Director, Institute for Action Research & Research Associate, ICLRD
15.45 – 16.05	The Role of Digital Technologies in Sustaining Rural Society: Making the Rural Click Speaker TBC
16.05 – 16.30	A Standard for 'The Place' Mr. Diarmaid Lawlor, Director of Place, Architecture and Design Scotland
16.30 - 16.45	Q&A
Plenary Session & Close	
16.45 – 17.00	Closing Remarks Mr. Anthony Tohill, Chief Executive, Mid-Ulster District Council
17.00	End Conference

**The Dundalk Widows Group
with the support of Cllr. Emma Coffey**

The Parliament Qualification of Women Act 1918-2018 - Have Women Qualified?'

**to explore the roles of women in the context of History, Politics and Industry in
modern Ireland. Speakers at the conference include;**

- **Marian Harkin M.E.P**
- **Emma Pengally M.P**
- **Sinead McCoole, Historian,**

as well as women from many fields on the island of Ireland

**The conference will take place on Saturday 5th May 2018, at An Grianan, the
I.C.A. headquarters in Termonfeckin, Co. Louth.**

the fee per delegate including lunch is €110.00.

Since obtaining the vote what steps or progress have women in Ireland made in terms of achieving equality of representation in areas such as politics, boards of management and public/ voluntary committees?

Through a series of lectures and Q+A sessions, those present will evaluate the lessons learned about political parties and the influence of gender on candidate recruitment at the 2014 local elections. It will examine the impact of 'Gender Quota' system on the 2016 General Election. Speakers and delegates will consider the Gender Quota system and whether it is effective, necessary and/or useful behind women's increased participation in elections?

The conference will highlight the administrative structures of local authorities, where men dominate senior management positions. Recent years have shown an increasing number of women accessing senior management roles, however, gender

barriers remain in play.

Analysis of candidate data and electoral results from the 2014 local elections show that women's political representation currently stands at just under 21 %. This is a record high for women's participation in the elected structures of county and city councils since 1918. Against this backdrop of increased yet still great under representation of the gender, the necessity of considering "Have Women Qualified?" must be highlighted and addressed.

For more Information please contact

Conference Coordinator Number: 089 4214394

Cllr.Emma Coffey, 0871940837 emma.coffey@louthcoco.ie

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UK and Ireland Lakes Network Conference 2018
21st and 22nd May, Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy
“CONNECTING PEOPLE AND LAKES: PAST AND PRESENT”
UK and Ireland Lakes Network (UKILN)

The UK and Ireland Lakes Network is an association of people and organisations who have an interest in managing lakes through a whole catchment approach. The body achieves this through the sharing of the experience and expertise.

UKILN brings together all those different organisations, ranging from national regulators to local interest groups and specialist professionals. It covers the whole variety of lake issues from the environment to local community needs, leisure uses and legal requirements through to the more intangible values such as their cultural and spiritual qualities.

2018 Conference

In 2018 the UK and Ireland Lakes Network will be holding its conference in Northern Ireland in the new Seamus Heaney Homeplace Centre. Over the last number of years, the themes of the UK and Ireland conference have been fairly scientific based including, water quality management and environmental protection. However, this year 2018 the conference will look at other aspects of Lakes that are equally important. These include themes such as the connections between lakes and health and well-being, the sublime and poetic features of our wet landscapes, the past and present cultural traditions associated with our lake resources and how and why we just want to connect with water itself. **(See below for booking details)**

Venue

The new Seamus Heaney Homeplace centre has just been opened in 2017 in Northern Ireland. Seamus Heaney was a Nobel laureate and internationally renowned poet whose work often celebrated the Lough Beg landscape in which he was born and brought up. It would therefore be of relevance and opportune to maybe examine themes he often wrote about such as the connections of water to the cultural, historic and spiritual aspects of our lives.

Themes

The theme of the conference will be “Connecting People and Lakes: Past and Present”
Speakers and potential speaker topics will therefore include:

- The sublime inspiration of lakes and water.
- The healing power of water and Lakes.
- The importance of water and lakes to ancient people. (The archaeology of lakes as food sources, sanctuaries and places of worship and habitation.)
- The cultural legacy and traditions stemming from lakes. eg traditional fishing boats, religious traditions, songs and ballads of lakes, heritage buildings left on shores.
- How and why do people connect to lakes
- What do we mean by a sustainable lake and what are the health, social and economic benefits ?

Outcomes

- Increase awareness of importance between human well-being and lakes.
- Discussion of sustainable future of lakes and their health, economic and social well-being benefits.

- Improved understanding of rich ancient built and archaeological heritage associated with lakes and lessons to learn about future protection
- The poetic inspiration and sublime nature of lakes and water.
- Identification of the present value of cultural traditions and customs from living and working on or by lakes.
- Increased understanding of the rich legacy of Irish and UK Lakes, Loughs, Lochs and Llynns.
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Dates and Timeline

Monday 21st May 2018: Tour Day

2pm – 5pm Tour of Heaney Country – the starting point of the tour is [Seamus Heaney Homeplace](#) 45 Main Street, Bellaghy. BT45 8HT

You will be taken on a guided tour around Heaney Country by Gerry Darby, you will visit some of the sites referred to in his writing, hear poetry recitals and gain an understanding of his interpretation of the landscape. Please bring appropriate outdoor wear in case of inclement weather. Following the tour, the bus will drop you off at your hotel (Ardara Country House) to check in

8pm Conference Dinner at Ardtara Country House

Tuesday 22nd May 2018: Main Conference Day

9am Bus will depart Ardtara Country House Hotel sharp

9.30am Registration, tea & coffee

10am Conference opened by Gerry Darby, Chairperson, UKILN

10.30am Dr Liam Campbell, Built and Cultural Heritage Officer Lough Neagh: The Cultural Legacy of Ireland's Loughs.

11.00am Dr Paul Logue, Senior Archaeologist with Department for Communities, Historic Environment Division: Lakes Crannogs and Irish Landscapes of Power.

11.30am tea & coffee break

12noon Alish Hanna and Niall Hanna. The Musical and Singing Traditions of Lough Neagh, Past and Present.

12.30pm Greta Mc Carron, Local Authority Waters and Communities Officer, Republic of Ireland: How Lakes and Water can improve our Health and Well-being.

1.00pm Lunch

2.00pm Dr Trish Murphy, Celebrate Water, Inishowen Donegal: A view from Lough Foyle. Joining Rivers, People and The Sea.

2.30pm Scott Ferguson, Seven Lochs Wetland Park, Scotland: Connecting Lakes and People In an Urban Environment.

3.00pm tea & coffee break

3.30pm Conference summary & close by Gerry Darby UKILN Chairperson

4pm Transport to Belfast International Airport & Belfast City Airport

Click The Links Below To Book Now:

[Conference Only – £25.00](#)

[Conference & Tour – £50.00](#)

[Conference, Tour & Dinner – £75.00](#)

Getting there

By Car

The conference venue is [Seamus Heaney Homeplace](#)

45 Main Street, Bellaghy. BT45 8HT

[Click here for Google Map](#)

The Conference dinner venue / Hotel is

8 Gortead Road, Upperlands. BT46 5SA

[Click here for Google Map](#)

By Air

The nearest airport is Belfast International Airport, Belfast City Airport is slightly further away. Transfers will be provided for delegates arriving in to Belfast City & Belfast International Airport at specified times, return transport will also be provided after the conference. You will need to email info@discoverloughneagh.com to book this transport. Please provide details of which airport you are arriving in to, your flight number and arrival / departure time. Please also specify where you are staying.

Accommodation

You are advised to book your accommodation as early as possible, there are only a limited number of rooms available. The recommended accommodation is [Ardara Country House Hotel](#) 8 Gortead Road, Upperlands. BT46 5SA

The following delegate rate has been agreed:

B&B single occupancy £99

B&B twin occupancy £139

Please telephone to book 028 7964 4490 – this delegate rate cannot be booked online, you will need to quote UK & Ireland Lakes Network

If Ardtara is fully booked, the nearest hotel is Walsh's Hotel, Maghera

<https://www.walshshotel.com/> There are no special delegate rates

Dietary Requirements

Please let us know if you have any specific dietary requirements

For further information, please contact:

Aaron or Eimear

Lough Neagh Partnership

Unit 3 The Marina Centre

135a Shore Road

Ballyronan

BT45 6JA

Tel: 028 7941 7941

Save the Date

JOIN US AT

The Silverbirch Hotel , Omagh

Friday 25 May | 10 am – 3.00 pm

NILGA in association with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council invites you to the **Driving Government Locally Summit** to address:

- How can local government deliver on the Programme for Government?
- How can economic growth be sustained?
- How can community cohesion and environmental goals be achieved?
- How can cross-border cooperation be secured?

Why attend?

Elected members, council officers and partner agencies are invited to attend the event and share their ideas on how local government can drive policy reform, the economy and community wealth.

As well as high level speakers from government, industry, academia and policy experts the event will feature round tables on protecting our environment; community cohesion; and growing local economies. It will also inform on the opportunity to deliver real devolution, reshape the funding landscape and nurture cross-border cooperation.

To reserve your place please contact

Amy McGrath on a.mcgrath@nilga.org or call 028 9079 8972



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

For further information please contact

Lisa O'Kane at NILGA on l.okane@nilga.org or call 9079 8972