



**Geographical Society of Ireland**  
*An Cumann Tíreolaíochta na hÉireann*

Geographical Society of Ireland

Reports of the Officers

Annual General Meeting

May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

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## Report of the Secretary, 2017

### IGC 2024

Prior to the AGM in 2016, the GSI, with the endorsement of the RIA Geosciences and Geographical Sciences Committee, submitted a bid to the International Geographical Union to host the International Geographical Congress in 2024. The bid was supported by Keynote PCO, our CIG conference registration partners. In August 2016 Dr Frances Fahy and Dr Niamh Moore-Cherry funded by Bord Failte traveled to Beijing together with other Society colleagues including Dr. Martin Sokol and Dr. Jonathan Cherry, to present the bid on behalf of the conference hosts, GSI. The Society are delighted to have been successful in that bid, and we will now be hosting the IGC in 2024. Since confirming our successful bid, which is a major milestone for the Society, the initial preparations have taken place including: creating a webpage 'holder' on the Society website; engaging with supporting bodies such as the RIA Geosciences and Geographical Sciences Committee (President Niamh Moore-Cherry presented information on the IGC to the Committee on April 12<sup>th</sup>); working with Keynote PCO on registration; and establishing the Organising Committee which is made up of Dr. Niamh Moore-Cherry, Dr. Frances Fahy, Dr. Gerald Mills, Prof. Rob Kitchin and Prof. Anna Davies. This is a long-term project for the Society and members will be updated over the coming years on related activities.

### Logo

The Society this year commissioned a new logo design and is now being used on all GSI materials and the website. Via the website 99designs, we selected and worked with the designer Mella Ardharini, a qualified Geography High School teacher in Indonesia. The Committee collaborated on the development and design of the logo, and the designer was also engaged to design business card and letterhead templates for the Society. This is part of our efforts to update materials.

### Liaison

Earlier this year, on behalf of the Society, Dr. Frances Fahy and Dr. Kathy Reilly attended the EUGO in Croatia. This was a good opportunity to interact with other Geographical Societies in Ireland. As a result of that Congress, the GSI has been invited to bid to host the EUGEO Congress in 2019. If successful, it will be co-hosted with the CIG in NUI Galway.

Other activities that the Society were involved with included the National Planning Framework consultations and the NCCA Junior Cycle Geography Curriculum Consultation.

### Irish Geography

Following on from a range of actions taken in previous years to run Irish Geography as efficiently as possible, the Editor Ronan Foley, and the Editorial team Aaron Polito and Therese Kenna, are now publishing IG on schedule. Much of the detail relating to Irish Geography is detailed in the reports of the Editor and Business Manager, and the Society wishes to record sincere thanks to them and those who have assisted in securing the position and future of our journal.

### CIG

The relationship between GSI and the hosts of CIG is working well and in 2016, the CIG generated a healthy surplus for both SPD and GSI. The revenue stream from the conference is an increasingly important part of the Society finances given the changed financial position of Irish Geography and a slight decline in membership

subscriptions as detailed in the Treasurers report. The GSI operates as the manager of CIG from year to year and wishes to record a sincere thanks to Keynote PCO, our registration partners, and to the host institutions who have worked with us over the past five years to put the new conference systems in place. We look forward to working with MU next year and thank them for taking on the hosting of CIG2018, and following the rota below for the following years:

- 2018 Maynooth University
- 2019 NUI Galway
- 2020 Trinity College Dublin
- 2021 Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
- 2022 University College Dublin
- 2023 Queen's University Belfast
- 2024 Dublin City University (as part of IGU 2024)

### **Committee**

At the last Annual General Meeting, Eoin O'Mahony joined the committee as Ordinary Member; Mary Greene re-elected as PG Rep, Karen Keaveney re-elected as Secretary. Niamh Moore-Cherry was elected Vice-President at the AGM in 2015 and took up the role of Society President for a two-year period at this AGM.

A number of Committee meetings were held in Autumn and Spring, which are now held by Video Conference where members are unable to attend in person. UCD has to date hosted the meetings and a Committee members have been able to Video Conference from MU and NUIG, and dial-in by telephone. This has made scheduling meetings easier and allowed for greater flexibility for the Committee.

### **Awards**

This year we have continued the Geographical Society of Ireland awards, and were pleased to support two postgraduate fieldwork/travel awards to Ciara Fleming (UCD) and Carla Patricia Pedroso Mateus (NUIG), as well as presenting the Doctoral Research Award, and the GSI Lifetime Contribution award to Dr. Mary Cawley. Especial thanks to all those who were involved in the organisation and assessment of this year's awards.

### **GeoWeek**

The Society also coordinated GeoWeek (Geography Week) and especial thanks go to Irene Morris who took the major lead on this project. She organised a very successful photo competition and prizes will be awarded in May.

### **Members**

The Committee were delighted to invite two new Hon. Members into the Society – Tim Robinson and John H. Andrews.

*Karen Keaveney  
Honorary Secretary*

## Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer presents the annual report and preliminary accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016.

The Geographical Society of Ireland a/c recorded a deficit of €7,128.49 in 2016. This deficit accrued due to the transfer of €10,430.00 to the Irish Geography business account. If this transfer did not take place, there would not have been sufficient funds to publish the required issues of Irish Geography. There is no requirement to transfer funds from the Geographical Society of Ireland general a/c to the Irish Geography business a/c in the 2017 financial year, apart from the additional €10 subscriptions received for printed copies of Irish Geography.

In 2014, a new financial arrangement was implemented with respect to the Conference of Irish Geographers. The Society charged a €1000 flat fee to the host institution to cover support provided to local organisers and 50% of all profits are shared between the Society and the host institution. This has been a very successful initiative for the society - this provided income of €2,869.95 in 2015 (payment was issued on the 10 February 2016) and €2,931.00 in 2016.

In 2016, the society had 165 registered members. The breakdown of membership type includes: 4 honorary members; 89 full members; 18 retired members; and 54 student / concession members. Annual membership fees for the Society, covering a calendar year from January to December, are €30.00, with a concessionary annual rate of €15.00 for retired, student, unwaged or minimum waged members. In total, 49 members did not renew their membership in 2015 and were therefore, deemed to have resigned from the society. A further 3 members officially resigned by sending a letter / email. Access to the online version of Irish Geography is now predetermined on membership being up to date so this should ensure an increase in membership (and revenue) into the future.

In general the financial picture was mixed. The net deficit for the year was significant, and led to an end of year sum of €30,228.91 in the societies account. In addition the society has a reserve in the GAK Grahame Account. A separate bank account was also opened in 2014 for Irish Geography. All income and expenditure related to the journal from 1 Jan 2015 onwards will be processed through the dedicated account, allowing us to track more closely the financial position of the journal.

In order to generate additional revenue for the society, it is proposed to transfer €10,000 from the Geographical Society of Ireland general a/c into the GAK Grahame a/c and invest the entire sum in a deposit a/c which accrues interest in Permanent TSB. Furthermore, it was agreed at a recent committee meeting to seek approval from the AGM to increase the membership rates from €30 to €40 for full members; and €15 to €20 for postgraduate / retired / minimum waged members. An additional €10 rate would be still be required for a printed version of Irish Geography.

Shane O'Sullivan, Honorary Treasurer

## **Editor, Irish Geography Annual Report 2017**

### **Introduction**

I am currently completing the second year of my three-year term as Editor and this report covers the period May 2016 to May 2017. The main activity in the past year has been the ongoing task of getting the issues up to date in relation to year of publication and this has finally been completed in April 2017, with the production of the online and printed versions of Volume 49, Number 2. This means that the journal is now up to date with the production of the first issue for Volume 50, due in May 2017, well underway and we would be hopeful that an online and printed version would be completed by the end of this month, so we can say it is finally on time and back on track.

The other key change is that the production has become more streamlined and in effect, we have put together the bones of three full issues since the turn of the year. This very hectic publishing schedule, should now recede, with Volume 50, Number 2 not due until November 2017. We have retained our existing copy-editor who continues to do a sterling job, and we have now taken on Desingimage.ie as our typesetters and printers. There are still some teething problems with our website but these are being addressed as they arise. Particular issue have arisen around submission guidelines and the procedures for second review submission and these are currently being looked at.

### **Issues 2016-17**

The following three printed volumes and issues have been produced since the last AGM.

- Volume 48 (2) November 2015      Printed, October 2016
- Volume 49 (1) May 2016            Printed, January 2017
- Volume 49 (2) November 2016      Printed, April 2017

Thanks are due for support in the completion of Volume 48 and the printing of Volume 49, especially to the Assistant Editors, Aaron Potito and Therese Kenna, to members of the GSI Committee, particularly Niamh Moore-Cherry and Frances Fahy and to editorial assistant, Tine Ningal. Additional thanks are due to Frank Fahy for copy-editing both volumes and to Hadleigh Print (Volume 48) and Design Image (Volume 49) for typesetting and printing.

### **Future Planning 2017-18**

The major change to come is that with the preparation of Volume 50, it was felt that there is an opportunity to modernize the look and feel of the journal and a new design for the journal, following on from the new GIS logo, will take place from this issue on. Changes will be documented more fully in an editorial for the new volume, and indeed will be clearly visible in the electronic and printed versions of the articles. An Editorial Board meeting is being timetabled for June 2017 and the hope is that

this meeting will contribute to the core requirements of strategic planning, encouraging submission rates and tactical routes to both establishing and enhancing the journals ranking score in global indices.

In addition to the thanks extended to individuals involved in the production of the journal, we would also like to thank all of our reviewers, without whom the journal could not properly exist. I would also like to thank the GSI Committee for their support and advice and in particular for organising a valuable and effective Strategic Planning Event at Carton House in March 2017.

*Dr. Ronan Foley*  
*Editor, Irish Geography*

## Report of the Business Manager, Irish Geography 2017

The Business Manager role entails communication, sales, distribution, invoicing with institutional subscribers to Irish Geography. The following is an update of key events and issues relating to institutional subscribers for Irish Geography during the calendar year 2016. In 2016, *Irish Geography* had a total of 30 institutional paying subscribers. In an effort to grow our base of institutional subscribers in April 2017 a personalised letter as sent to Irish Studies and Geography Departments across North America who are not currently subscribers to IG – see Appendix 1. The following Legal Deposit Libraries also received printed copies of each of our issues:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trinity College Dublin</li><li>• UCC</li><li>• UCD</li><li>• NUIG</li><li>• Maynooth University</li><li>• University of Limerick</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DCU</li><li>• British Library</li><li>• Bodlean Library (Oxford)</li><li>• Cambridge University Library</li><li>• National Library of Scotland</li><li>• National Library of Wales</li></ul>
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### Price list 2016/17

Print Only: 100 Euro

Online Only: 100 Euro

Print and Online: 130 Euro

It is important to note that 50 GSI members requested, and pay an additional small charge to receive, a printed copy of the Irish Geography. Since the last AGM, all subscribed institutions received online access and/or a print copy (as appropriate) of Issue 2 of Vol 48 and Issue 1 of Vol. 49. In addition all issues were sent to the relevant members as well as all Copyright Libraries in the state under the Legal deposit clause (Section 198) of the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, and previously by Section 56 of the Copyright Act, 1963, Section 7 of the University of Limerick Act, 1989, and Section 6 of the Dublin City University Act, 1989.

**Summary of IG Business Account Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016:**

<b>Opening Balance Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2016</b>	€ 1541.94
<b>Income:</b>	
Institutional subscriptions Total	3101.79
Print copy members subscriptions	430
Transfer from GSI account	10,000
Bank interest	0
Total income	13531.79
<b>Expenditure:</b>	
Assistant Business Manager Expenses (Cheque No 67)	550
Hadleigh invoice* April 2016 (Vol 48.1) (Cheque No 68)	2267
Hadleigh invoice* Nov 2016 (Vol 48.2) (Cheque No 69)	2267
Bank Charges	29.07
Total outgoings:	5113.07
<b>Closing Balance Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2016</b>	9960.16

**Comments on the annual accounts:**

- Balance may appear high however it is important to note that income from institutions pertains to 2016, while outgoings pertain to 2015 issues of IG i.e. these subscribers have already paid for, are all due, two issues of IG Vol. 49 (1 and 2)
- To ensure the financial sustainability of the journal over the next 3-5 years a transfer of 5000 Euro was made on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 2016 and another 5000 euro was transferred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016 following discussions and

agreement at the respective GSI committee meetings in June and November 2016.

- Hadleigh Invoices include copyediting, printing, type setting and preparing pdfs for online publication.
- Since moving to online banking, bank charges will hopefully be reduced in future statements.

#### **Future Issues:**

- Towards the end of 2016 we engaged the services of Design Image and while they are slightly more expensive than the previous designer and printer (approx. 3000 Euro per issue), Hadleigh Print, the turnaround time for publication has increased significantly. In addition this move facilitates the publication of individual articles 'online first'.
- As noted above, in addition to our institutional libraries and their requests for print copies a relatively substantial number of members requested print copies indicating the important need to continue to produce hard copies of the Journal.
- As we are still trying to grow our institutional membership, I wish to propose that our prices for 2017/18 remain unchanged from 2016/2017.
- Please encourage your institutions to obtain a subscription to Irish Geography if they have not already done so. The relevant email address to contact us on is [subscriptions@irishgeography.ie](mailto:subscriptions@irishgeography.ie)

On a final note, due to other commitments I must step down as Business Manager for Irish Geography. I have enjoyed working in the role for the past three years and would like to thank Elaine Williams in NUI Galway for all of her hard work as Assistant Business Manager. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Tine Ningal, for his technical support over the past few years and for providing our institutional subscribers with rapid online access to IG. Thanks also to our Editor, Ronan Foley and IG production team as well as the GSI Committee for all their hard work, enthusiasm and assistance during the past few years.

*Dr Frances Fahy*

*Business Manager, Irish Geography May 2017*

## Appendix 1

NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY	Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	Glucksman Ireland House
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY	Center for Irish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS HOUSTON	Center for Irish Studies
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY	Center for Canadian Irish Studies
QUEENS COLLEGE	Irish Studies
MANHATTANVILLE COLLEGE	Irish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON	Celtic Studies Program
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY	Irish Studies
WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY	English Department
COLUMBIA - THE UNIVERSITY SEMINARS	<a href="http://universityseminars.columbia.edu/seminars/irish-studies/">http://universityseminars.columbia.edu/seminars/irish-studies/</a>
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY	Department of English
LEHMAN COLLEGE	CUNY Institute for Irish American Studies
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY	Irish Studies Program
EMORY UNIVERSITY	Irish Collection Library
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY	Irish Studies
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY	Irish Studies
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	Center for Irish Research and Teaching
HARVARD UNIVERSITY	Department of Celtic Languages and Literature
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY	Irish Studies Program
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY	Department of History and Political Science
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY	Ireland's Great Hunger Institute
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY	Department of Celtic Studies
ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY	The D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies
STONEHILL COLLEGE	Irish Studies Program
TAYLOR UNIVERSITY	Irish Studies Program
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY	Irish Studies Program
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO	Center for British and Irish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT	Irish studies Alliance
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS	Irish Literature, Theatre and Culture
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ST. LOUIS	Irish Studies Program
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA	Celtic Studies Program
UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS ST. PAUL	The Center for Irish Studies

## PRO/Communications Officer Report 2017

### **Website:**

The website is getting on average about 400 views a week however web traffic is down on 2015-16. Events like GeoWeek and CIG are still generating more traffic to the site. Payment integration appears to be working well and the website is updated now on at least a monthly basis. Increasing traffic to the website will require more activity on the site; however news and events items are slow to come in despite lots of activity within the geography community. I will do a push in September to try and encourage members to send in their news and also would encourage Geography Dept staff to keep us update on what is going on in their departments.

We may also need to think about how to introduce content and events that would encourage more non-academics to join the society.

The website has also been updated to incorporate the new logos. During the summer a full check and update of the site is planned.

### **GeoNews:**

Again I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to Paul Alexander for his work in getting GeoNews together. The articles are particularly slow to come in and we are behind the quarterly publishing schedule. A return to a bi-annual schedule may be necessary if the articles are not coming in frequently enough. We will continue for now but review before the end of the year. We would ask members to consider submitting articles and again urge the geography departments to keep us updated.

The publication plan for immediate future is:

Issue 63 – (Delayed Feb edition) End of May – to feature the CIG

Issue 64 – September 2017

Issue 65 – February 2018

I'm delighted to say that Paul is also happy to continue in the role.

### **GeoWeek:**

The number of activities and events submitted to the website etc for Geoweeek this year were down on 2015. I would propose that the committee explore ideas on how to increase awareness and engagement for this year's event. The dates for GeoWeek are 13-19 of November 2017 and the international theme has not yet been announced.

### **GeoWeek Mapping Competition:**

Again this year the mapping competition had reasonable support with entries predominantly from secondary schools. The prizes were sponsored by the OSI, Terraform and the GSI. This year the presentation of the awards has been delayed for a number of reasons but should be completed by the end of May. The competition does not require a significant amount of admin and I am happy to continue but feel we need to increase awareness to encourage more entries and we will need to look at new avenues. I would again ask all members of the society to help raise awareness of GeoWeek in their locality.

*Irene Morris, PRO*

*Dr. Paul Alexander, Editor GeoNews*

## Postgraduate Officer Report 2017

### GSI research report

As post-graduate representative, over the past year I have been engaged in the following activities

#### Key activities

- Communicating with PG mailing list with information on events, workshops and awards relevant to postgraduates
- Organised a panel discussion entitled 'Transitioning to life Post-PhD' which is taking place at the CIG.
- Representing the postgraduate community at GSI committee meetings
- Founded the GSI Postgraduate Network 2017

#### Information on the Postgraduate Network 2017

- A key part of my vision for the GSI has been to set up a postgraduate forum that would act as a network and support community for Geography postgraduates in Ireland. It is hoped that I can utilise my experience of working with the Royal Geographical Society Postgraduate Forum to help advance this group and ensure that it is well established by the time I stand down from my role as postgraduate representative next year.
- The GSI Postgraduate Network (GSI PGN) has been founded by myself and a group of sitting postgraduate students to represent the interests of postgraduates within the Geographical Society of Ireland. In setting up this Network I engaged in the following activities:
  - Sent out email to GSI postgraduate membership base outlining the idea of setting up the Network and garnering initial support. This resulted in 3 PhD students – Louise Sarsfield Collins, MU Aine Rickard (UCD), Alex O'Conneide (TCD) - getting in touch to express interest.
  - Organised an initial meeting in the NUI offices in Dublin on March 20<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting we discussed our vision for the network, assigned interim committee roles and planned a launch at the CIG.
  - Held second meeting over skype on April 25th during which we further discussed the vision for the Network and planned CIG launch
- Following these meetings a blurb was created for GSI website and a new Twitter account (@GSI\_PGN) was launched.

#### The Postgraduate Network aims to:

- foster communications, both formal and informal, among postgraduates in Ireland studying geography or an aligned discipline;
- represent postgraduate students at GSI board and related meetings, as well as more widely within academia;
- circulate information about events, grants and funding opportunities, job vacancies, career training, or any other information that may be relevant to postgraduate students;

- provide career-development opportunities to postgraduates who want to organise academic events and workshops, or through participating in the committee of the group.

### **Postgraduate Network Committee 2016-2017**

An interim committee has been established in order to officially launch the Postgraduate Network at the Conference of Irish Geographers 2017, and to host the inaugural AGM during the CIG conference. At the AGM, the first official committee of the network will be voted in. A new committee will be elected on an annual basis at the annual meeting of the conference of Irish Geographers. Committee roles can include Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Organizer, PRO and Communications, Webmaster, and Ordinary Members.

The 2017 interim committee is made up of:

Mary Greene, NUI Galway – Chairperson

Alex O’Cinneide, TCD – Secretary

Áine Rickard, UCD – Joint PRO

Louise Sarsfield Collins, MU – Joint PRO

*Mary Greene,  
Postgraduate Officer*

## **GSI Liaison Officer Report 2017**

During my 2-year term as GSI Liaison Officer, the following main activities have been undertaken and progress has been made on a number of fronts:

- Helping to consolidate the Geography Awareness Week (GeoWeek) as a firmly established feature of GSI's annual activities calendar and actively promoting it within and beyond GSI – jointly with GSI PRO (Irene Morris);
- Helping to renew active links with the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland (AGTI) – by establishing a good working relationship with AGTI President (Peter Lydon) and raising awareness of GSI and its activities (including GeoWeek) among their members, which also included the attendance at the 42nd AGTI Annual Conference – jointly with GSI President (Niamh Moore-Cherry);
- Active promotion of the GSI's (successful) bid to host the International Geographical Congress (IGC 2024) in Dublin at the IGU congress in Beijing (jointly with the GSI bidding team) and securing support for the bid from the Global Network on Financial Geography (FinGeo);
- Establishing links with the SWIG Ireland - Supporting Women in Geography;
- Establishing links with the emerging GSI Postgraduate Network.

*Dr Martin Sokol*

*GSI Liaison Officer*