Newsletter
October - December 2008
Issue No. 20

IGI Ten Year Celebrations

The IGI 10th Anniversary celebrations are being planned for 15 - 19 May 2009 in Dublin Castle. The celebrations will coincide with the hosting by the IGI of the EFG Summer Council Meeting. The proposed programme starts with a jointly supported IGI/EFG/CRIRSCO/IAEG and Geol Soc Resources and Reserves Reporting Workshop to be held at Dublin Castle. The workshop, which will be opened by Mr. Eamonn Ryan, T.D, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, will consider the consistency among the different resource reporting standards that are used in the mineral sector throughout the world. The workshop will also hear how the petroleum industry addresses the issue of reserve reporting and how resource reporting might be applied in the aggregate industry. The flyer including registration details has been issued to all IGI members. Following the workshop, a reception will be held in Dublin Castle for IGI members, EFG delegates and workshop attendees. Full details will be posted to our website www.igi.ie.

Medal of Merit

The IGI will award its inaugural Medal of Honour at the ten year celebrations. The award will be made to a geoscientist who has contributed significantly to the promotion of the principles outlined in the Institute's Mission Statement:

To promote and advance the science of geology and its professional application in all disciplines, especially the geosciences, and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas in relation thereto.

To require its members to uphold, develop and maintain the highest professional standards in the practice of their profession, as described in the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

The award is intended for an individual who has excelled in the advancement/promotion of the profession of geology/geosciences. The award of the Medal of Honour is open to members and non-members of the IGI.

Nominations are now closed. An Awards Committee has been set up, composed of former IGI Presidents. The committee which will make a recommendation to the IGI Board by February 20th, 2009 and the Recipient will be informed of his/her nomination before the end of February, 2009.

The IGI Medal of Honour will be presented to the Recipient on Friday, May 15th in Dublin Castle.

Spring Newsletter

A special issue of the IGI Newsletter is planned for Spring 2009 to celebrate ten years of the Institute of Geologists.

Irish Mining & Quarrying Society Celebrating 50 Years

1958 to 2008- Fifty Years of Success

In 1958, 50 years ago, a group of coal mine operators came together with quarry managers to form the Irish Mining and Quarrying Society (IMQS) as a forum for the identification of areas of common interest and as a representative body on behalf of the industry.

The coal mining industry has sadly not survived but we have seen the expansion in metal mining to a level that could not have been imagined 50 years ago. The success of the Irish Economy has also seen the demand for the products from the quarry industry grow from less than 1million tonnes in the 1950's to over 13 million per annum in recent years.

The IMQS provides a focal point for all those working in the extractive industry in Ireland. The membership is drawn from all sectors of the industry, ranging from the exploration geologist to the quarry owners, to the equipment suppliers. As such, it has a unique role in

the country as a forum for contact between the different branches of the industry, enabling it to reflect the industry views in a co-ordinated manner and is recognised as a significant representational body with over 300 full Society members at present.

The IMQS held its 50th anniversary Gala Ball in The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Northwood Park, Santry, Co. Dublin on the 29th November 08. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Tom Parlon Director General of the Construction Industry Federation (CIF).

Mr Stephen Bradley (IGI), Mr Les Sanderson (IMQS), Mr Tom Parlon Construction Industry Federation (CIF) and Mr Sean Finlay Irish Mining & Quarrying Society (IMQS).

Contact IMQS:
Sean Finlay 087 2575017 (TOBIN Consulting Engineers) or Fergus Gallagher 086 2566061 (Kilsaran Concrete). www.imqs.ie

IGI EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the IGI was held on 26th November 2008. The EGM was attended by 12 people. The purpose of the EGM was to set the membership subscription rates for 2009 and to propose changes the Articles of Association.

It was unanimously agreed to raise the annual subscription fee by €25 to €145 as a step towards meeting office running costs. Similarly the proposed changes to the Articles were accepted. The changes will allow for the fees to be altered at the recommendation of a financial sub-committee of the Board and to be approved at a Board meeting. The second change reduced the required timeframe for the formation of a ballot sub-committee from six weeks to five weeks prior to the AGM to remove any unnecessary requirement to form such a committee.

IAH News

The Annual IAH Groundwater Conference will be held as usual at the Tullamore Court Hotel on the 21st and 22nd of April 2009. The Water Framework Directive has already had a fundamental effect on the way water is managed in Ireland and it has spawned a small industry in its wake. Its interpretation and implementation has raised many issues and these are the principal subjects of this year's conference, spiced with a revisit to the particular problems of groundwater in karst. Keynote speakers will provide an international perspective, particularly on the future role of groundwater as a resource.

The peculiarities of our hydrogeological environment have affected the monitoring strategies for both groundwater resources as well as for the assessment of quality. Some 20 percent of our land area could be classified as wetland which has also raised issues of appropriate conservation and in defining the necessary supporting environmental conditions. Water supply development has raised problems in delimiting source protection areas and in consequent landuse planning, including the management of discharges to groundwater. Reporting on and discussing these issues in the light of much work undertaken in the last eight years, since the Directive was passed, will form the topical basis for the conference. A particular sub-theme reflecting recent improved understanding of karst hydrology in Ireland will be an additional strand of the conference.

The IAH invite you to come and participate and help raise the awareness of 'hydro' as a fundamental and integral part of the geological spectrum.

RDS Irish Times Boyle Medal Award for Scientific Excellence

The Royal Dublin Society and The Irish Times have opened nominations for the 2009 Boyle Medal. The award has been presented 36 times over the past 100

years as an acknowledgement of excellence in scientific research.

In 2009 the Medal will be awarded to any scientist, or pure mathematician, ordinarily resident in Ireland whose research has made an internationally recognized contribution to their field of study.

The 2009 Medal will carry with it a cash prize of €20,000.

Nominations of candidates for the 2009 Medal are now being invited from academic, scientific and industrial bodies. The closing date for receipt of nominations is Monday, February 2, 2009.

Further details can be found at www.rds.ie. All enquiries should be directed to:

Dr Claire Mulhall
Science & Technology
RDS Foundation Department
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Tel: +353 (0) 1 240 7217
Fax: +353 (0) 1 660 4014
Email: **science@rds.ie**

Forthcoming Conferences and Workshops

Climate Change – dealing with the reality Organised by the Royal Irish Academy and Northern Ireland Environment Link.

This promises to be a highly significant event in preparing both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to address the challenges of climate change. The event will address the scientific issues regarding climate change, focusing on the causes, adaptation and mitigation mechanisms, and will look forward to determine how methods to address this global problem can bring regional benefits.

Speakers represent a cross section of the scientific community addressing this issue and include Professor Iain Stewart, who has recently presented two major series on the BBC (Climate Wars and Earth - The Power of the Planet), Professor Chris Turney of the University of Exeter and Professor John Mitchell, Director of Climate Science at the Met Office.

Further details: www.planetearth.ie

Date: 20th January 2009

Booking: David@nienvironmentlink.org.

Venue: W5 Science and Discovery Centre, Odyssey Arena, Belfast

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GEOTHERMAL REGULATION – HEAT CONFERENCE

Promotion and Regulations for Geothermal energy for a real sustainable future:
Experiences and perspectives in Europe

Date: Wednesday 11th February 2009

Venue: Brussels, Belgium

Organisers: European Geothermal Energy Council – EGEC. www.egec.org

52nd Annual Irish Geological Research Meeting

The 52nd Irish Geological Research Meeting (IGRM) will be organised by Trinity College Geology Department, and take place at Trinity College Dublin on 20th to 22nd February.

The annual event is the opportunity for geology students to present their research work to the geoscience community.

Details on registration information and abstracts submission (deadline Friday 30th January) can be obtained from chewd@tcd.ie.

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Annual IAH Conference, Tullamore, 21st and 22nd April 2009. The Water Framework Directive *with Special Theme on Karst.*

The conference theme is introduced in the IAH News section above.

Registration details will be announced at a later date and posted to the IAH website: www.iah-ireland.org.

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IGI Natural Resources Reporting Workshop

The workshop programme is introduced under the IGI 10 Year Celebrations above.

Date: Friday May 15th 2009

Venue: Dublin Castle

Registration: Further details including registration forms are found on our website www.igi.ie.

Cost: €195 per person (€145 for IGI members)

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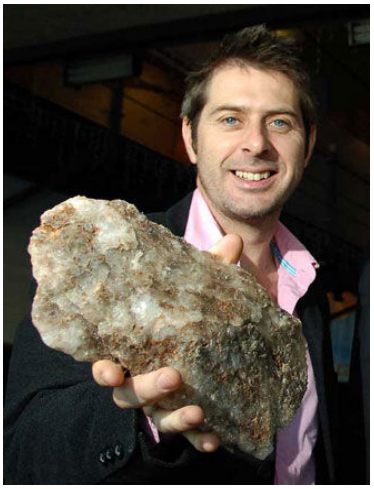
Forthcoming Public Lectures

IRISH GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEW YEAR LECTURE

Costing The Earth? By Prof. Iain Stewart (University of Plymouth).



Human history is deeply rooted in the planet we live on. Civilization is founded in the rocks underfoot, as shiny metals were forged into swords and ploughshares, precious stones became the prizes of glittering imperial conquests, and ancient carbon fuelled modern global furnaces. And yet, many of the gravest threats that humanity faces in the 21st century loom from an ever more uncertain and predictable natural world. This talk will explore how, as geologists seek to be viewed as stewards rather than exploiters of Planet Earth, a key question arises: will it be the well being of our human economy or the integral functioning of the Earth economy that will become the normative value guiding the global community into the future?

Professor Stewart has recently presented two major TV series on the BBC ***Climate Wars*** and ***Earth-The Power of the Planet***

Date: Thursday 22nd January, 2008, 8pm.

VENUE: Walton Theatre, Arts Block, Trinity College, Dublin

THE WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

An Overview of Planning and Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry

Liam Smyth, Irish Concrete Federation Ltd.

Date: Monday, 26th January 2009, 18.30.

Venue: Lecture Theatre, Engineers Ireland, 22 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

This lecture will be webcast by Engineers Ireland at 18.30 p.m. on Monday, 26th January 2009.

For those new to using our webcast facility, please see www.engineersireland.ie/webcast for information on how to set-up and access IEI webcasts.

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IAH TECHNICAL DISCUSSION MEETINGS

Annual David Burdon Memorial Lecture

Water Scarcity and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa: Defining the Role of Groundwater
Richard Taylor (UCL)

Date: Tuesday 3rd February 2009

Venue: Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Tea/Coffee 17.30; lecture 18.00 hrs.

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Open Forum: The Conceptual Model of the Lowland Karst of Roscommon. *Caoimhe Hickey (GSI)*

Karst of Lough Lene. *Conor Quinlan (TCD)*

National Vulnerability Mapping.
Monika Kabza, Orla Murphy, Melissa Spillane (Tobin Consulting)

Date: Tuesday March 3rd

Venue: Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Tea/Coffee 17.30; lecture 18.00 hrs.

For further information contact either Donal Daly (01-2680186), Gerry Baker (087 7731071) or Taly Hunter-Williams (01-6782780)

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NOTE ON JOINT IAH/GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND LECTURE

Determining the coefficient of permeability for a gravel aquifer.

For those of you who missed this lecture by Eric Farrell, Department of Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering, TCD held at Engineers Ireland, Ballsbridge on January 13th, a web recording can be viewed at www.engineersireland.ie/webcast under 'Event Recording'.

The lecture was well attended and with a roughly equal number of on-line attendees (71) as was present in the lecture hall. The reliability of ground investigation methods in predicting the dewatering requirements for a major excavation by using the Kildare Town Bypass as a case history was discussed. The paper on this topic will be posted to the IEI web once is it finalised.

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MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

LECTURE SERIES

UCD Earth Systems Institute in collaboration with Comhar Sustainable Development Council, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Geological Survey of Ireland, Met Éireann, the national competitiveness Council, Sustainable Energy Ireland and Teagasc presents the following lectures. For further details on lectures, exhibitions and meetings refer www.planetearth.ie.

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"Pushing the envelope: extreme weather and extreme climate" by Dr. Rodrigo Caballero, School of Mathematical Sciences, UCD

Meeting the challenge of climate change - UCD Earth Systems Institute in collaboration with Comhar Sustainable Development Council, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Geological Survey of Ireland, Met Éireann, the national competitiveness Council, Sustainable Energy Ireland and Teagasc presents this lecture.

Date & Time: 23rd January 2009, 12:00-14:00

Venue: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, No.6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

"Birds are sensitive indicators of climate change: they have been for 140 million years" by Dr. Gareth Dyke, School of Biological and Environmental Science, UCD

Date/Time: 13th February 2009. 12:00-14:00,

Venue: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, No.6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

"Climate change and mass extinction. What can we learn from 200 million year old plants?" by Dr Jenny McElwain, School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, UCD

Date & Time: 20th February 2009, 12:00-14:00

Venue: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, No.6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Down to Earth - soils and climate change" Prof. Christoph Mueller and Dr. Thomas Cummins, UCD School of Biology and Environmental Science.

Date/Time: 27th February 2009. 12:00-14:00

Venue: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, No.6 Kildare Street, Dublin

"Hubble, bubble...Can we safely store carbon dioxide geologically in Ireland?" by Dr. Deirdre Lewis, SLR Consulting Ireland.
The author recently led a study to assess the potential for geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO_2) on the island of Ireland. The study concluded, using an internationally recognised methodology, that there is very significant theoretical storage potential available, while a more limited effective storage potential also exists.

This lecture is organised by the Irish Geological Association.

Date: 11th March 2009

Time: 8pm. Tea/coffee from 7.30pm. **Venue**: Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4

and

Date: 12th March 2009

Time: 8pm, University College Cork, Department of Geology. Tea/coffee from 7.30pm

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Forthcoming Training Courses

A GSI/IGI workshop in Best Practice Groundwater Source Protection is planned for March 2009. Details will be emailed to IGI member and posted to the website once the dates are finalised.

Congratulations

New Professional Members

Congratulations are extended to the following candidates who were awarded IGI affiliation as Professional Geologists and to those who took up the European Geologist title during 2008:

Kieran Ryan
David Hall
Ruth Staunton
Paul O Sullivan
Coran Kelly
Peter Conroy
Brecan Mooney
Bruce Misstear

In addition, the IGI welcome the following new Members in Training:

Sandra Julia
Eamon O Loughlin
Deirdre Larkin
Aishling Soden
Leo Brogan
Matthew Knox
Mateusz Pohoryles
John Bligh

Mines and Money Award

Congratulations to the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland who were the recipient of a Mines and Money Annual Award. The award, won in the Country category was accepted by Garth Earls, Director of the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, at the annual Mines and Money conference dinner held in London in December 2008.

Wedding Bells

The IGI wish to extend congratulations to Dr. Piers Gardiner, former IGI Vice President and current EFG Treasurer, and Geraldine McNamara on their recent marriage.

The Gardiners pictured in Brussels in December 2008 at an EFG dinner.

First Grandchild

Congratulations to Kevin Cullen, IGI President, who became a grandfather in December following the birth of his grand-daughter.

European News

European Federation of Geologists

The winter meeting of the European Federation of Geologists was held in Brussels on the 30th November and 1st December 2008. The meeting was attended by delegates from the National Associations of member countries throughout Europe. IGI Board member and Vice President, Fionnuala Collins attended on behalf of the IGI as well as Dr. Piers Gardiner in his dual capacity as IGI delegate and EFG Treasurer. Gareth Jones also attended in his capacity as former EFG President.).

European Geologist Magazine

'Energy' will be the special theme of the forthcoming summer issue of the *European Geologist* magazine. The magazine will be issues to co-incide with the Summer Council Meeting in Dublin Castle and the IGI Tenth Anniversary celebrations.

Suitable good quality photographs are required for use on the cover of the magazine. So, for those budding photographers among you, if you have any high quality photographs representative of the energy theme please forward to our admin@igi.ie for the attention of Fionnuala Collins. Portrait orientation is requested.

Should organisations wish to advertise in the *European Geologist* please see www.eurogeologist.eu for details.

IGI Website

The new IGI website is looking well. We encourage members to visit it for up-to-date information on news, events and training courses. If members have activities or positions they wish to advertise they are encouraged to send them in to admin@igi.ie. We also invite all members to forward items of news or general interest. Geological photos are also welcome.

CPD Returns

2008 has drawn to a close and its time to get your CPD record up to date. IGI are accepting CPD record until the deadline of 1st April. Please note that a recent update of the CPD forms has been made, downloadable from our web. Completed forms should be emailed to admin@igi.ie.