

C3 Newsletter No. 3

FOREST FRIENDS IRELAND - CÁIRDE NA COILLE - WE PLANT NATIVE TREES

NEWSLETTER NO.3 April 1st.-May 31st. 2002

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

Since the formal launch of Forest Friends Ireland on the 2nd of Oct. 2001, we have delivered on a very detailed programme of events. Some of the highlights were as follows: 'Trees of the National Botanic Gardens', a conducted tour with Director, Donal Synnott, 'Gardens of Ireland,' a talk by John Anderson of Mt. Usher Gardens, 'The Sacred Tree', a series of three talks by [Marcus](#) Losack, Séan o Duinn and Dara Molloy, a presentation on Ogham Oils by Rosín Carroll, storytelling by Carol Jordan. To celebrate the winter solstice and commemorate the great Brazilian environmentalist, Chico Mendes, FFI held a tree planting ceremony at the National Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in Glenree, Co. Wicklow, on the 22nd of December 2001. It was a celebration of biodiversity and cultural diversity. Holly, Oak, Ash, Arbutus and Birch were planted. FFI poetry readings took place in the Chester Beatty library on Oct. 28th and Nov. 18th 2001 and Feb. 24. 2002. We had two seed collections. FFI inaugurated the very first Irish Diaspora tree planting day on the 1st. of Jan. 2002 when we presented an oak tree to President Mary McAleese at Arus an Uachtarán.

MEETING WITH MARGOT WALLSTROM, EU COMMISSIONER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Commissioner Wallstrom met representatives of all ENGOS at the EU offices on Friday 25th. of January 2002. John Haughton made the case for planting our native trees as an alternative to the present unsustainable EU funded monocultural approach. This was followed up by a written submission which followed. Ms. Wallstrom has promised a response to the points raised and a further meeting is to follow.

CELEBRATING THE CELTIC FESTIVAL OF IMBOLG

On Friday the 1st of February 2002, FFI celebrated the Celtic festival with 'Passion for the Earth'. a musical extravaganza, which included musicians from Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Éireann, an African Igbo and Yoruba band, Néili Mulligan uileann piper, storytelling with Carol Jordan, set dancing and poetry readings by Dawn O'Sullivan and Kate Davis. Eric Byrne, deputy Lord Mayor launched this celebration of biodiversity and cultural diversity. The oak Room was filled almost to capacity. The following day, Saturday, FFI planted a sacred grove of oak trees on lands in Redhills Co. Kildare where Brigit once lived and built her first church, close to the site of Brigit's holy well and shrine. We are very grateful to Ann Beehan for help in identifying a suitable site for the planting. In the afternoon we went to the Sacred Hill of Allen to protest at its destruction by Cement Roadstone Holdings. Almhuin, Hill of Allen is one of the most important mythological sites in Ireland. It was the site of the sidh of Nuada, the greatest of the Celtic Gods, twice king of the Tuatha de Danaan and son of the mother of the god Danu. Nuada gave his name to Maynooth, Maigh Nuada, the plain of Nuada. He is immortalised in the epic Irish myth, the battle of Moytura. Sidh mounds were sacred places of the "everliving ones" and gateways to the other world. The Dagda gave sidh mounds to his children, including Aongus, another son of Danu who received the sidh at the mound of Newgrange. It is very important that the destruction of this great hill of Allen, which is such an important part of our heritage is halted immediately. FFI call on everyone concerned to join our campaign begun on the 2nd of Feb. 2002.

EARTH AWARENESS WEEK AT DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Earth Awareness Week at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) Forest Friends Ireland were invited to plant a native tree at the tree planting ceremony on Thursday 21st February as part of the Earth Awareness Week Programme of events at Dundalk Institute of Technology. Well known broadcaster, botanist and entomologist Éanna Ni Lamhna led the ceremony. William Maher planted a native cherry tree on behalf of FFI. DKIT Director Dr. Tom Collins also planted a tree as did other organisers and participants in the week long series of events. The week included many matters related to ecology, human rights, conservation, renewable energy and sustainable living including presentations, lectures, debates, entertainment and exhibitions. By all accounts it was an amazingly successful week. Forest Friends would like to pay a tribute to all of the organisers, in particular Gráinne Conlon and Dolores Whelan for this initiative. We hope that this example may be followed in other third level colleges and FFI would be happy to assist any such events.

FFI TREE NURSERY

FFI now has its own tree nursery in Kells, Co. Meath, which is organised by the Meath branch. We are purchasing 2,000 trees and will be in a position to answer the requests of community, environmental organisations and individuals with similar aspirations as ourselves to plant native broadleaf trees in their areas. Enquiries : Ciaran Dunne pH. 046 40826 Mobile 087 2091007.

THE MEATH BRANCH:

FFI has now two branches, the Dublin branch and the Meath branch, and will be setting up branches in all the regions of the country in the near future. Interested individuals should contact us. The Meath branch will be participating in the Kells Heritage Festival week which takes place in the 1st. week of July

BRÚ na BÓINNE:

FFI have made a submission to Dúcas with regard to the draft management plan. Our submission states : " We note that Brú na Bóinne, including buffer zone and site of the Battle of the Boyne, covers an area of some 3,300ha, much of which is riparian and valuable wildlife habitat, with some residual alluvial forest cover.

This is a valuable natural resource in a county which is sadly bereft of natural woodland cover. Given this fact we would propose that a large portion of the buffer zone, which does not interfere with the main area of archaeological interest, should be set aside for the re-establishment of native/semi-natural woodland, particularly around the banks of the Boyne itself.

The North-Eastern area of the country needs a large area of woodland to help maintain and improve biological diversity and sustainable populations of native mammals in particular.

Therefore we would propose a continuous area of 1,000ha should be set aside and developed as natural woodland which would also serve as an

invaluable amenity for a part of the country which is becoming increasingly urbanised and subject to large infrastructural pressures, e.g. the new motorway crossing the Boyne"

IRISH TIMES FORESTRY ARTICLE BY FINTAN O'TOOLE 26/3/2002

We recommend this article to all our members and all those interested in planting our native trees. It is an excellent expose of current practices and a justification for changing from the present monocultural approach. The changeover is called for on environmental and economic grounds.

FORTH- COMING FFI EVENTS APRIL - JULY 2002.

This programme may be subject to change and would -be participants should check details close to the event(s). Enquiries: John Haughton pH/fax 01 8398093
Email jjhaughton@hotmail.com

APRIL 2002

16th. 1945 hrs: 'Trees and the environment ' a slide presentation by john Haughton at the An Oige Youth hostel, 61 Mountjoy Street, Dublin 7

21st. 1400hrs. 'The Poetry of trees and the environment ' Chester Beatty Library Dublin Castle. Readers - Eithne Cavanagh, Maura O'Grady and Annett Soher of the Rathmines Writers Group.

May 2002

Wed. 1st 1800hrs. Launch of the **Finglas Maypole Festival** at Finglas Village, Dublin in association with Finglas residents. This will be a celebration of Earth Day (which took place on April 22nd) and the Celtic Festival of Bealtaine, with a light and ceremonial tree planting,

Sun. 19th. 1400 hrs. Conducted tour of the Arboretum at St. Anne's Park Raheny. Dublin Meet at the tennis courts car park at 1345.

Fri 31st. May- Sun 3rd June Environmental week-end to Coole Park, Gort, Toor Ballylea (Yeats' Home) Brian Boru Oak, Tuamgreeney, Co. Clare, Seed Savers, Scariff and the Burren.

Enquiries, William Maher, 046 44021: Email wjmaher@iol.ie

JUNE 2002

Sun 16th. 1400 hrs.

- (1) Hedgerow walk , Ballyboughal with Ann Lynch. Meet at O'Connors Ballyboughal
- (2) Celebration of Summer Solstice, All-tribes and cultural diversity.

JULY 2002

1st week of July: The Kells Heritage Festival FFI event

Enquiries: William Maher

Sun 14th. FFI will celebrate Lughnasa, Biodiversity and World nature Conservation Day **in association with the ESB Lough Ree Summer School** (July 12th. - 14th.) Hill walk at Sliamh Bán and guided forest walk.

Enquiries; Lough Ree Development CO-operative, Main St. Lanesboro, Co. Longford, pH. 043 27070, or William Maher, 046 44021 : Email wjmaher@iol.ie

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

A GOLD MEMBERSHIP – (a once off payment valid for ten years - receive a quarterly newsletter,

an annual events calendar, a free FFI tee shirt – a half standard tree will be planted also)

Individual.....E200

Student/Unemployed/Senior Citizen...E120

Family/HouseholdE380 Schools/Groups/NGOS
.....E380

OR

B LIFE MEMBERSHIP...E600 (**Individual- once off payment**)

A standard broadleaf native tree will be

planted on behalf of life members, who will also

receive a free FFI tee-shirt, quarterly newsletter, annual events calendar, plus a 50% reduction to most FFI events.**OR**

C ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP (**payable annually**) receive quarterly newsletter and events calendar.

Individual.....E30

Student/Unemployed/Senior Citizen....E15

Family/household....E60

Schools/Groups.....E60

D ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP(**payable annually**)

- receive events calendar

Individual... E10

Family/Household....., E20,

School/Group/NGOE20

Student/Senior Citizens/ Unemployed...E5

E CONTRIBUTIONS – In addition to above please tick to make a once off contribution:

E5 E10 E20 E50 E100 **Other amount please specify**

E.....

N.B. Membership fees will be used to administer, promote and develop FFI and to organise events. Contributions will be used mainly for project development. The first flagship project is the acquisition for conservation of a native woodland area and the development of FFI's native tree nurseries.

F. CORPORATE DONATIONS E 10,000 - E 20,000 may be administered as agreed between donor and FFI and will include the conservation of a native woodland area.

F. BUSINESS ENTERPRISE/SMALL (excluding public limited companies)..E I,000

TOTAL AMOUNT, i.e. membership and/or contribution/ in words

E.....

Name (block letters)

Signature.....

Address.....

HomeTel.....

WorkTel.....

E-mail

Website.....

METHOD OF PAYMENT

A I ENCLOSE **POSTAL ORDER/CHEQUE** FOR THE ABOVE AMOUNT MADE PAYABLE TO "FOREST FRIENDS IRELAND Ltd." **OR**

B. BANKERS ORDER

I authorise you to pay a once off payment of E.....

OR

..... annual payments of E.....commencing on the(day) of.....(month).....(year)

And terminating on the(day) of.....(month).....(year).

To the account of FOREST FRIENDS IRELAND,

Bank of Ireland, 2 College Green, Dublin 2. A/C 33721955

Sorting code 900017

In respect of my Forest Friends Ireland membership /contribution/donation.

To the manager ofBank (NB your bank)

Bank's full postal address.....

.....

Signature.....

Name of account.....

Date.....

Bank Account Number.....

Bank Sort Code.....

Please return completed application forms to: **FOREST FRIENDS IRELAND LTD.**

P.O. BOX 7814, Dublin 1, Ireland. (not to Bank)

FFI is a Charity (No. CHY 13972), a Company Limited by Guarantee with no share capital.

Co, No. 341054, (incorporation date 30/3/2001). Reg. Office 183 Howth Rd., Dublin 3.

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