Halting biodiversity loss a priority

Mr. John Gormley TD., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government today (11 Nov 09) opened the 3rd Annual North/South Biodiversity Conference at the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin. The theme for this year’s Conference is ‘Biodiversity and Planning: Developing Connectivity for Sustainability’ and has been organised jointly by the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group and the Biodiversity Forum of Ireland.

“Loss of biodiversity has potentially devastating impacts on our environment, health and economy” the Minister stated. “Because of the lead-in time, the effects of any actions taken to stop biodiversity loss may not be seen for many years. If we are to put things right we must start now.”

“I, and the Government, intend to make halting biodiversity loss a priority. The policy framework for protection of biodiversity in Ireland will be strengthened with the publication of a new National Biodiversity Plan, currently being prepared in my Department.”

11/11/09
ENDS

—»

Coole Park Winter Cultural Programme
Monday 16th November, 8.00 – 9.00pm
A Stranger’s Gaze: Lecture 1: 'Mr. Gregory has a Noble Nursery':
Traveller's Tales and the Tourist Gaze by Terri Shoosmith
Terri Shoosmith, a NUIG PhD student, recently completed an MA in early modern history, studying Landscape and Settlement in the Barony of Tulla, 1585-1810. Her lecture series explores the written word left by those who have looked at south Galway through a stranger's eyes. This lecture examines the written record from early times of agriculturalists, surveyors, artists, tourists and soldiers that have passed through south Galway. Their written record of thoughts and opinions tell us as much about them and the society they came from as they do about the countryside and its people.

—»

Coole Park Winter Cultural Programme
Thursday 19th November, 8.00 – 9.00pm
Gringo Stars present an evening of Mexican music
American fiddle player Frank Hall gathered a tasteful repertoire of old Mexican folk tunes and brought together Paul Gunning (accordion Maimín Cajun), Johnny Moynihan (Sweeney's men/ De Danann), Peter Brazier (guitar) and John Martin (Boucherie Cajun) to form "The Gringo Stars". The band bring to life Mexican based roots music from the sweet and lively twin harmony fiddles of traditional stringbands to the pulsating folk accordions of Tex-Mex border music. Singing en Español, and backing the music with guitarron and bajo sexto, the Gringos deliver a varied and engaging mix of upbeat, dramatic, and enchanting listening & dance music with a healthy dose of fun & sun.
Radio Animal
Friday 13 September 7.30 – 9.30 pm

For those of you anxiously waiting for the new season of Grizedale’s Farmyard Radio, this Friday we will host Radio Animal, the roving radio project of Snaebjornsottir/Wilson.

Coming round for dinner at Lawson Park farm are artists Mark Wilson, Bryndis Snaebjornsottir, Maria Benjamin, Ruth Hoflich, Karen Guthrie, Meg Falconer, writer and critic Rikke Hansen, local farmer and Cumbrian Commoners campaigner John Atkinson, Musician Jack Maynard and tech-head Dorian Moore, as well as Grizedale Arts’ own directors/farmers Adam Sutherland and Alistair Hudson.

On the menu will be Morecambe Bay cockles, Snaebjornsottir/Wilson home reared lamb, an early and meaty Christmas pudding and a lively/chaotic dinner table conversation on animals and contested public space. Discuss.

Tune in this Friday from 7.30pm on: http://www.radioanimal.org

(click on the fox, click on the radio, click on live events, click on listen live or if you can’t be bothered with all that go to:
http://www.radioanimal.org/radioanimal/livecom/animalradio.php)

www.grizedale.org
www.lawsonpark.org

DARK PLACES
Office of Experiments, Steve Rowell, Beatriz da Costa, Victoria Halford and Steve Beard

Exhibition Preview - Monday 23 November 2009, 6 - 7.30pm All welcome
John Hansard Gallery, University of Southampton, Southampton, SO17 1BJ
24 November 2009 - 23 January 2010
Open Tuesday to Friday: 11am - 5pm Saturday: 11am - 4pm
(closed 24 December 2009 to 4 January 2010)
Free Admission

Dark Places uncovers sites of secrecy and technology across Britain. Commissioned by The Arts Catalyst and co-curated with the Office of Experiments, SCAN and the John Hansard Gallery, the exhibition presents new artists' works that explore spaces and institutions below the radar of common knowledge.
The Office of Experiments' (OOE) Overt Research Project sets a background by mapping and recording advanced labs and facilities that are unwittingly - or purposefully - concealed from public view. The work features an interpretive slideshow and a field guide to local sites through an information kiosk. Elsewhere in the gallery, OOE brings together The Mike Kenner Archive, revealing years of campaigning by one man into the public biochemical warfare experiments conducted by Porton Down (Salisbury).

Victoria Halford and Steve Beard's film Voodoo Science Park traces a secret geography of the Health and Safety Laboratory in Derbyshire, where train crashes and industrial accidents are re-created to examine their destructive pathways. Mixing fact and fiction, the film imagines a delayed encounter between poet William Blake and political philosopher Thomas Hobbes, drawing affinities to this unique site.

Beatriz da Costa's A Memorial for the Still Living is a sombre reflection on endangered species of the British Isles. Presenting a selection of rare animal, insect and reptile specimens, including loans from the Natural History and Horniman Museums, da Costa identifies these collections - and the bleak future they imply - as 'dark places' of zoological science.

Steve Rowell, a collaborator with the US-based group the Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI), in his solo project Ultimate High Ground UK, uncovers shared US-UK spaces of military power. Realised as a multiscreen video installation, the work focuses upon RAF Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire, a satellite ground station and communications intercept site, known for its distinctive radome structures.

Dark Places is revealed in greater depth in a filmed artists' interview, on show throughout and a special Dark Places publication, featuring a new essay by writer and critic Sally O'Reilly.

Commissioned by The Arts Catalyst and co-curated with the Office of Experiments, SCAN and the John Hansard Gallery.

The exhibition has been made possible by funding from Arts Council England. The Office of Experiments' Overt Research Project is supported by UCL Department of Geography and the Media School, Bournemouth University.

The Arts Catalyst
Toynbee Studios
28 Commercial Street
London E1 6LS
UK

Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire, for Ultimate High Ground, 2009. Photo by Steve Rowell
Article of the month: The killing fields of inequality

In an article first published in Soundings, sociologist Göran Therborn examines the causes of social inequality and its effects. Inequality, he cautions, is to be distinguished from mere "difference" ("inequalities are avoidable, morally unjustified, hierarchical differences") and can be produced in four basic ways:

"First there is **distantiation** – some people are running ahead and/or others falling behind. Secondly there is the mechanism of **exclusion** – through which a barrier is erected making it impossible, or at least more difficult, for certain categories of people to access a good life. Thirdly, the institutions of **hierarchy** mean that societies and organizations are constituted as ladders, with some people perched on top and others below. Finally, there is **exploitation**, in which the riches of the rich derive from the toil and the subjection of the poor and the disadvantaged."

Source: www.eurozine.com

---

Fire Practice Theatre — a two film screen installation.

November 12, 2009 — November 15, 2009
Opening Thursday November 12th, 6—9pm
Exhibition Continues through Sunday Nov 15th, open 2—7pm daily
thisisnotashop 26 Benburb St, Dublin 7
Site: www.thisisnotashop.com

Written and directed by **Susan Thomson** Director of Photography **Piers McGrail**
Actors **Joseph Paul Travers, David Coakley, Elga Fox** Sound design **Sven Anderson**
The film is funded by the Arts Council of Ireland

Image: Fire Practice Theatre — by **Susan Thomson**

Residing somewhere between fiction and documentary, this two screen film shows firefighters practising their skills on a tall purpose built house in a fire station. This is depicted as
if it were a piece of theatre, a rehearsal or ritual in a theatre where only one play is performed. There are different levels of fiction. A script is performed by actors playing firefighters; lines are swapped, dramatically forgotten and a scene arrives early. The house is unlived-in, sinister, the piece reminiscent of a psyche where trauma and desire are endlessly replayed.

Susan Thomson is an artist and writer originally from Scotland. She holds an M.A. in Visual Arts Practices from IADT, Dublin a degree in Modern Languages from Cambridge University and a Masters in European Literature from Oxford University. Site: www.susanthomson.co.uk

—»

**Funding Information Afternoon**

*Bord Scannan na hÉireann / the Irish Film Board*

Galway Film Centre are hosting a funding information afternoon on Thursday November 19th, in Galway City, to take a look at *Bord Scannan na hÉireann / the Irish Film Board* development and production funding schemes. Andrew Meehan, Development Executive and Sarah Dillon, Production & Development Co-ordinator, will outline the principles and criteria for each scheme, the application process as well as answer any questions in relation to the schemes.

Dates: November 19th, 2009. Thursday afternoon, 2pm
Venue: Town Hall Theatre, Galway City
Contact: Mary at education@galwayfilmcentre.ie or 091-770748 to reserve a place. *Places are limited.*

—»

**The Island Music Club**

*Ron Kavana & Friends*

Fri Nov 20th, Minogues Bar, Tulla, 9pm, €15
Bookings: 0868599957
www.myspace.com/claregigs

"...lately I generally go out with a small group of three to four pieces, or as a vocal duo with Anne Armstrong, my singing partner – we sing mainly duets, usually in harmony – and occasionally these days I get right back to basics and play solo gigs, something I hadn’t done for thirty years”.

Ron Kavana is a singer/songwriter/composer, multi-instrumentalist, band leader, producer, author, and poet who has been at the cutting edge of the international folk scene for over three decades.
The Northside Folklore Project was founded as a non-profit community research archive in partnership with the Department of Folklore and Ethnology at University College Cork, Northside Community Enterprises and FÁS. Serving as a community employment scheme, more than eighty people have worked on the project, acquiring training in computers, oral history interviewing, research, photography, video and sound recording, desktop publishing, archival methods and more. 

Source: http://www.ucc.ie/research/nfp/index.php

Hidden Lives Revealed - A Virtual Archive focuses on the period 1881-1918, and includes unique archive material about poor and disadvantaged children cared for by The Waifs and Strays' Society. The Society cared for children across England and Wales - in both the densest urban conurbations and some of the smallest rural villages. 

http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk/

Pepamuteiat nitassinat: As we walk across our land — People from every culture all over the world give names to the lakes, rivers, mountains and other places on their lands. These names are called "place names" or "toponyms," and they record a culture's history on the land. The website gives access to over 500 Innu place names in Labrador, as well as stories, photos, and video clips associated with the names.

Source: http://www.innuplaces.ca/

Medieval Writing, History, heritage and data source. An introduction to the history of medieval writing, including the origins of our written culture, paleography and the history of scripts, and the nature of literacy and the written word in the middle ages. Manuscript books and documents, and the very process of writing itself, are part of the cultural heritage of the western world. This site is produced and maintained by Dr Dianne Tillotson

Source: http://www.medievalwriting.50megs.com/


Sir William Brereton, Bart.

Source: http://www.archive.org/details/travelsinhollan00hawkgoog
KILBEACONTY, or KILVECONTY, a parish, in the union of Gort, barony of KILTARTAN, county of Galway, and province of CONNAUGHT, 2 1/2 miles (N. N. E.) from Gort, on the road from that place to Portumna; containing 4575 inhabitants. This parish comprises 12,473 3/4 statute acres, and contains good lime and building stone: agriculture has been much improved by draining, and reclaiming the mountain. The seats are Russan, Lysbrian, Rendifin, Ballyturin, and Cloon. Kilbeaconty is in the diocese of Kilmacduagh; the rectory is partly appropriate to the archdeaconry, and partly, with the vicarage, forms a portion of the union and corps of the deanery of Kilmacduagh. The tithe rent-charge is £146. 5., of which £15 are payable to the archdeacon, and the remainder to the dean. The Roman Catholic parish is co-extensive with that of the Established Church, and has a good chapel, built in 1837. A national school was built in 1836, on the estate of J. O'Hara, Esq.

A topographical dictionary of Ireland — Lewis, Samuel, d. 1865
Source: http://www.archive.org/details/topographicaldic02inlewi

The Institute for Name-Studies is the home of research into place-names and personal names at the University of Nottingham. The English Place-Name Society (EPNS) is the established national body for the subject; its offices and library are housed in the Institute. The EPNS was founded in 1923 in order to carry out the Survey of English Place-Names.
Source: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/ins/

Concerning the Face Which Appears in the Orb of the Moon

Well, I am but the actor of the piece, but first
I shall say that its author began for our sake —
if there be no objection — with a quotation from Homer
An isle, Ogygia, lies far out at sea
a run of five days off from Britain as you sail westward;
and three other islands equally distant from it
and from one another
lie out from it in the general direction of the summer sunset.

Source: http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Plutarch/Moralia/The_Face_in_the_Moon*/D.html