

Samhain 2010 - Winter 2010

The Current Economic Crisis is Really a Cultural Crisis

Much has been said and many articles written about the current economic crisis. I would like to suggest that, although the crisis has now spread throughout the whole of society, it did not originate in the economic sphere. It is true that one segment of the economic sphere, namely the building sector, went out of control but the rest of the economy was doing ok. The economic sphere, according to Rudolf Steiner, has to do with production, distribution and consumption of commodities and the rendering and receiving of services-nothing more.

Money, which is generally equated with the economic sphere, does not belong to just one domain but runs through all spheres just as blood runs through the whole human body. The current problems came about through the mishandling of capital by the banks and by various investment funds. Steiner put capital in the spiritual-cultural domain and likened it to the spirit. Capital is a potential that has the possibility to make things happen in the physical world.

To restore health to our society, we would need to bring about a balance between the three spheres of economy, spiritual-cultural and political-rights. In Ireland today, there is a great emphasis on the economy and on politics with little awareness that the spiritual-cultural is just as substantial and significant. There is a new awareness of the latter in the form of the emerging Civil Society. Let's get involved and support this new movement.

Finbarr Murphy
for the Dingle
Anthroposophical Study Group

Note: *Dingle Anthroposophical Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 7:15 pm. Current study: The Renewal of the Social Organism, Rudolf Steiner. Members and interested friends are welcome to attend.*

A Bit of History by Wilma Petters

Arriving in Ireland nearly sixty years ago...friends we met.



Before ever thinking of moving to Ireland, we had read with amazement (and respect) Rudolf Steiner's lectures "The Hibernian Mysteries" and I remembered from my childhood the story of "Fingerhuetchen"¹, the hunchback of Aherlow. During the year 1950 a Swiss friend who came to visit told us "the Muellers" (Clarissa and Will) had gone to Ireland with the idea to create surroundings where they would be able to help children traumatised by war experiences on the European continent.

A little longer than a year later we saw with our own eyes that they had found an ideal place in the Galtees, in the Glen of Aherlow, just in the vicinity of Fingerhuetchen's home. We soon became good friends.



Everything had been prepared to welcome in the year 1950 - instead of children however anthroposophists from Holland, Switzerland and Germany wished to experience the little known island at the edge of Europe with her mysteries, sagas and Padraic Colum's "King of Ireland's Son."

Tourist Ireland was nonexistent at that time. We soon saw how carefully Willy prepared, what you might call lecture tours to prehistoric and early Christian places all around Ireland. Often he would stand quietly for a long time, observing, until the 'old stones' would speak to him.

For visitors who would be able to 'tune in' a way would open up towards the spirituality of a location, and we all would stand quietly.

Remembering New Grange in the fifties: a mound, interpreted as a 'passage grave' strewn with some quartz stone 'ornaments' at the entrance of this amazing boulder with spirals. At the little iron gate Mrs Hickey gave you a lighted candle to guide you over three 'thresholds' to the recess at the end of the passage. The 'roof box' had not been discovered yet, but the sun rays at winter solstice managed all the same to reach the upright stone face at the end of the passage.

Nobody would remind you: "the next tour will want to start now". You were allowed to go around the whole mound to look at every stone and the "decorations."

Visits were made to the early churches and high crosses, the Skelligs. At that time the Tao Stone stood just across a stone wall in a field near Killinaboy, Co Clare.

continued overleaf >>

Ireland is a quite special piece of land and this is one factor among many from which should come a fruitful working out of social-political ideas. We must develop a science of human relationships on the earth. Until that is done there will be no real health in the organization of public affairs

Rudolf Steiner

Publisher: Mark Reid **Phone:** 087 979 6843 **Editor:** Sophia Christine Murphy, Cooleen, Dingle, County Kerry **editor@anthroposophy.ie** - **Phone:** 087 643 7458. The editor reserves the right to modify texts to fit the format of the newsletter. Contributions welcome. Please ring for editing help or advice.
Deadlines: the 20th of each - January, April, July, October

Cornelis Los came to travel with Willy around the country (he wrote *“Die Altirische Kirche: Urchristentum im Westen”- Ancient Irish Churches, Archetypal Christianity in the West*).

Dr Lily Kolisko came to see the Muellers in Aherlow. The question had come to her of the possibility to begin Class lessons in the Dublin area. At that time it was considered important to have a karmic connection to one of the streams within the Anthroposophical Society. We were only very few members in the whole of Ireland, and it seemed, nobody in the wider vicinity was connected.

We heard of the characteristics of the turf fibre and its importance in the future. Research had been going on in Switzerland it seemed.

We were told a Camphill Community had started in Glenraig in the year 1950, Carlo Pietzner arrived in Northern Ireland and not long afterwards Sheila Rae-McCabe returned, from Sweden, to Ireland, to be a teacher for young children with special needs. She had asked Willy for advice. Willy and Sheila met Peter Roth and Carlo Pietzner in Dublin to discuss possibilities. A day school was started in a house in Northbrook Road, Dublin: St. Michaels² began there, to become later on, the large organisation existing today.

A good friend of Muellers was Doreen Archer Houblon, Eve Kaye’s aunt. The farm in Kilmurry, Co Kilkenny must have been the only biodynamic worked land in the south of Ireland, also the only source of Holle Baby Food.

Margarete von Gleich had been called to Aherlow to begin teaching the Mueller children before they transferred to Michael Hall in England.

July 1959 remains in my memory as the first wonderfully warm, light, dry and colourful summer month since our settling down on the island. Aherlow had many visitors from the continent, this time also children with their parents.

On a glorious morning some families from the Continent went to visit early Christian sites on the West Coast, guided by Willy. They included Dr Zerm, a Waldorf teacher from Berlin, who was there with his wife and children, Margarete von Gleich, Willy’s elder daughter and a few others. On arrival at Doolin Bay the children were allowed to go for a splash in the sea, supervised by Willy. After the children were called back to the beach, Willy went for a swim far out into the bay. One of the

party noticed that Willy seemed to be in distress. Dr Zerm immediately swam out to help him. When he had reached where he expected to see Willy, he also was sucked under by the strong underwater current in that part of Doolin Bay. Both men drowned.

To be continued . . .

¹ In Ireland the story of “Fingerhuetchen” is known as the legend of Knockgrafton. It tells of a poor hunchback who, although he was gentle and loving was feared by adults and jeered by children. He kept himself alive by gathering reeds which he wove into baskets and at Samhain he plaited parshells--Hallowe’en crosses with sticks and straw which people put over their doors to keep the evil spirits away. His name was Lusmore because of the foxglove or ‘fairy cap’ he liked to wear in his hat.

One short winter’s day he was out gathering sticks and reeds on the old fairy mound of Knockgrafton when night and the rising moon overtook him. He sat down to rest and admire the moon and presently was enchanted by a strange and silvery song: Dé Luain, Dé Mairt, Dé Luain, Dé Mairt...sung by many voices, over and over again. “Monday, Tuesday, Monday Tuesday... After a while Lusmore felt the song should be longer, and so the next time he heard Dé Luain, Dé Mairt he sang out the words agus Dé Ceadaoin: “...and Wednesday.”

The fairy folk found this addition to their song delightful. They brought Lusmore into their circle, honoured him as a great musician and took his hump away. He danced many rounds with them, light as a feather, until he fell asleep. When he woke the sun was shining and he was lying at the foot of Knockgrafton. He wondered if he had been dreaming and, anxious, reached his hand to his back, but to his wonderment the hump had disappeared and he was as tall and fine looking as any man alive.

² www.mycharity.ie/donate_charityHistory.php?charityID=49

New Members

We warmly welcome three transferred members to our society:



Brigitte de Rhoter and Michael Reinardy (Michael in photo above) who are both based at Clanabogan Camphill Community. Camphill Clanabogan is an established community on 124 acres in the Co. Tyrone. Over 80 people live there in 6 households with trainings in biodynamic farming and environmental projects. A children’s playgroup, eurythmy, arts, crafts and food processing are among many offerings there. Tel : +44 (0)28 8225 6100 Email : info@camphillclanabogan.com

Tonnie Lemmens



Born in Maastricht, Holland, Tonnie worked in Camphill in Scotland, then moved to Switzerland where she worked as a social therapist and Steiner Waldorf teacher, also becoming an expert weaver. Two years ago she joined the Camphill Dingle community and is active as a homemaker. She has four children. 066 915 0787



Cartoon by Deirdre Goodman

Biogas at Ballytobin

Ireland is considered to be among the countries of the EU with the greatest potential per capita for farm biogas. However, despite this potential, it was not until 1999 with the construction of a digestion plant at Ballytobin Camphill Community in Co. Kilkenny, that a decentralised anaerobic digestion plant was created in this country.

The main aim of the project was to test the development and operation of a centralised anaerobic digestion plant in Ireland in order to study the feasibility of using farm and industrial (from the agro-food industry) wastes as the basis of a renewable energy enterprise.



The installation was inspired and implemented by Mark Dwan and Christoph Eusterbrock. While in our cities and towns we still grapple with ways and means of disposing of our manifold wastes and debate the controversial issue of a unitary construction of a municipal incinerator, two pioneers set a wonderful example of appropriate bioenergy technology.

Workshops with Dot Male Parent & Child

at Raheen Wood Steiner National, Raheen, Tuamgraney, Co. Clare

A workshop looking at Parent & Child groups

- what is their relevance to family life ?
- what treasures do they offer?
- The benefits to parents and children

With plenty of opportunities for questions on Steiner Early Years Care and Education. Includes craft/ artistic activities. Of interest to more than Parent & Child group members - parents, grandparents, carers, kindergarten teachers, childcare workers

Saturday November 6th 2010 - 9.30am - 3.30pm

Cost €80 - (Concession €65 - ISKA members €50) - it is possible to become a member on booking - €15 Associate Membership or €30 Full Membership

Bring some food for a bring and share lunch

Bookings- tel: 085 1121524

The Respectful Care of the Young Child

at Saoirse Waldorf School, 92 Meath Street, Dublin 8.

Focusing on times of bodily care & the importance of self-initiated movement, the workshop will introduce the Pikler approach to Childcare and its relevance to the Steiner-Waldorf Method. It's success

lies in deep reverential care for children, respecting the child's freedom to initiate movement, play and exploration. Emmi Pikler, a paediatrician observed how parents and carers hindered the natural development of children and applied her findings successfully in what is now the Pikler Institute in Hungary. There will be time for questions on Steiner Early Years Care and Education.

All are welcome. Of interest to parents, carers, kindergarten teachers, childminders, students and all professional carers of young children.

Sunday November 7th 2010 - 10am - 4pm

Cost €80 - (Concession €65 - ISKA members €50) - it is possible to become a member on booking - €15 Associate Membership or €30 Full Membership

Bring some food for a bring and share lunch

Bookings- info@saoirsewaldorf.com

Dot Male trained as a Steiner Kindergarten teacher and has worked with parents and young children for 19 years. Dot is based in the UK and she runs courses for teachers, parents, carers and group leaders. She has written a book called *The Parent and Child Group Handbook*, (Hawthorn Press). Dot has also trained at the Pikler Institute, Hungary, Sophias Hearth, USA & the RIE (Resources for Infant Educators) training, USA.

Jonathan Stedall in Ireland

The acclaimed documentary film-maker visited Ireland recently with talks in Castalia Hall, Ballytobin Camphill Community on October 28th and in

the Unitarian Church at St. Stephen's Green in Dublin on October 30th. Drawing on his forty years of experience - largely at the BBC but more recently freelancing,



Jonathan illustrated his talk with a clips of the many documentaries that he has made. He has worked with people like the late poet John Betjeman, Laurens van der Post, E.F. Schumacher,

Alan Bennett, Bernard Lovell, Malcolm Muggeridge, Fritjof Capra, Ron Eyre and Cecil Collins. He has made films about Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Gandhi and Carl Gustav Jung and about the educational and curative work inspired by Rudolf Steiner. Unfortunately the copyright to many of these great films is with the BBC and they are not available for purchase although there are plans to make them available in a digital archive some time in the future. However, the splendid 1989 trilogy *Candle on the Hill* about the Camphill movement is available from Camphill Literature Services through vivangriffiths@talktalk.net, telephone 0044 15395 31003.

Jonathan also recently authored the book, *Where on Earth is Heaven?* which tells his own journey over his career. In it he considers the question of the title itself put to him by his own young

son. His latest project is to make a film about the life and legacy of Rudolf Steiner - a film that he has wanted to make for years. He is currently fund raising to make this a reality and the hope is that it will be released in 2011 to mark 150 years since Steiner's birth. For more details see web site below: www.rudolfsteinerfilm.co.uk



After Jonathan Stedall's talk in Dublin From left to right: Mark Reid, John Nixon, Martin Henry, Jonathan Stedall, Sophia Murphy, Finbarr Murphy, Adrienne Murphy and Catherine Fitzgerald.

SPIRIT IN MATTER

A series of lectures exploring aspects of Anthroposophy. *"Anthroposophy is a path of knowledge leading from the spiritual in the human being to the spiritual in the Universe"* - Rudolf Steiner

All talks are at Castalia Hall, Ballytobin Camphill Community, Callan, Co. Kilkenny. For more details, directions etc. contact Martin Henry 087 7713224

8pm. Friday 26 November 2010

"The 7 Aspects of Self Development"

Denys Kaye

Self development as a support for daily life.

8pm. Friday 10 December 2010

"Consciousness as a Threshold Phenomenon"

Dr. Nick Blitz

There are many different types and levels of awareness, but what is consciousness? Can we answer this through an exploration of the threshold between natural and spiritual science?

8pm. Friday 21 January and Friday 28 January 2011

"Cosmic Music"

John S. Clarke

Hidden aspects of Bach's Goldberg Variations. (To be followed by a public performance of the Variations on harpsichord by Malcolm Proud (date to be confirmed))

Council meeting of the Anthroposophical Society in Ireland

Saturday, Nov 13 at 11am Barbican Centre, Drogheda.

Biodynamic Association AGM

Saturday, Nov 13, 2010 For members of the BDAAI 11 am-4pm, Camphill Jerpoint Barn, Co. Kilkenny

LILIPOH



For a wealth of topics look to the American Lilipoh Magazine, an invaluable anthroposophical publication with articles on health, education, biodynamics and much more. You

can subscribe to it on the internet or by post. www.lilipoh.com/index.aspx

Christmas gifts . . .



Michiel Brave has imported DVDs of this selected European cinema release *"Between Heaven and Earth - Anthroposophy Today"*. (with English subtitles)

The film, by the Swiss director Christian Labhart portrays individual anthroposophists in Egypt, Germany, and Switzerland and what anthroposophy means in their daily lives. Some copies still available at €23, contact Mark Reid 087 9796843.



The soon to be published book *"The School of Spiritual Science - an orientation and introduction"* is a valuable title to add to your collection. It examines the role of

the 'First Class' in relation to Rudolf Steiner's original intentions, and the responsibilities of its representatives. To ensure that this comes to print a small limited run of 500 copies needs to be sold to make its wider publication viable. There are copies available for purchase at €14.50 each. Contact Mark Reid at 087 9796843

Our new address

For many years the Anthroposophical Society in Ireland used a P.O. Box in Belfast to receive post. We have now ceased using this and have a new postal address thanks to David Fairclough and his friends in the Theosophical Society:

The Anthroposophical Society in Ireland, A E House, Main Street, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, Ireland



If you are thinking of Christmas gifts already maybe you would consider a few new or recent movies that have been inspired by Anthroposophy and more practically Biodynamic farming. *"Queen of the Sun"* examines the global bee

crisis through the eyes of biodynamic beekeepers, scientists, farmers, and philosophers. What could become a worldwide catastrophe, the consensus from all the experts is that we must radically change our practices and heed the warnings of Rudolf Steiner in 1923. www.queenofthesun.com/

The same producers also made *"The real dirt on farmer John"* about an American Mid West agriculturalist who after years of threats and vicious rumours due to his unorthodox self expression, turns his family farm into a Community Supported Agriculture biodynamic farm.



www.angelicorganics.com/realdirt



Another award winning movie is *"One Man, One Cow, One Planet"* which documents the pioneering methods of New Zealander Peter Proctor, to bring biodynamic farming to impoverished farmers in India

<http://onemanonecow.com/>

For more information on the Anthroposophical Society in Ireland, please ring (0505 42830), email info@anthroposophy.ie or see the website: www.anthroposophy.ie

Notice

Dr Gaby Foerster, anthroposophical medical doctor from Germany, will be seeing patients again in Clare and Kerry during the last two weeks of November. For an appointment ring Tonnie at 066 915 0787.