

Bealtaine 2010 - Summer 2010

Celebrating 21 years of the Anthroposophical Society in Ireland

Twenty one years ago, on Whitsunday 1989, the Anthroposophical Society in Ireland was founded. The council has been looking at ways to mark our 21st anniversary this year.

In marking this occasion, it is worth noting that significant events occur in the heavens in May. The journal of the Astronomical Section of the Goetheanum has called 2010 "The year of the great opposition".

Jupiter and Saturn meet in a triple opposition between Easter 2010 and 2011. This means that the planets stand diametrically opposite each other in the sky - one is rising in the east as the other sets in the west.

Such oppositions occur approximately every twenty or twenty one years, but what is especially significant at this time is where the planets are placed in this celestial event. Jupiter stands at the spring equinox point, in the constellation of Pisces, while Saturn stands opposite on the autumnal equinox in Virgo. These points are the gateways to spring and autumn, where the Sun crosses respectively north and south of the equator. Jupiter-Saturn oppositions happen in this location only every several hundred years.

The first of these three oppositions happens on Whitsun, the 21st anniversary of the Irish Society's founding. It is interesting to read what Rudolf Steiner, in relation to new forms of technology, says about the Pisces and Virgo forces:

"It will be the task of the good, healing science to find certain cosmic forces that, through the working together of two cosmic streams, are able to arise on the earth. These two cosmic streams will be those of Pisces and Virgo. It will be most important to discover the mystery of how what works out of the cosmos in the direction of Pisces as a force of the sun combines with what works in the direction of Virgo. The good will be that one will discover how, from the two directions of the cosmos, morning

Membership Contributions

You should have received a reminder for your membership contribution recently. Could those members who have not contributed for 2010 please send it to David Fairclough.

and evening forces can be placed at the service of humanity: on the one side from the direction of Pisces and on the other side from the direction of Virgo.

...From the cooperation of what comes from Pisces and Virgo one will not be able to bring about anything harmful. Through this one will achieve what in a certain sense loosens the mechanism of life from the human being but will in no way found any form of rulership and power of one group over another..."
Dornach 25 November 1917, GA0178

May these healing forces carry us forward to the next period of the Society's biography. Rather than organising one single event to which not everyone may be able to travel, the council instead suggests that people arrange to meet locally on Sunday 24th May, to read Steiner's Whitsun verse. Thus, wherever we are, members will have an opportunity to mark the event of our society's "coming of age", knowing that the occasion is celebrated in many other places all over Ireland.

*With warmest Greetings
The Council*

Whitsuntide

Where outer senses knowledge ends,
There and there only is the gateway
That leads to the realities of life.
The soul of Man himself forges the key
When he grows strong in the battle
Which cosmic powers wage with human powers
Upon the soul's deep ground,
And by his own free will dispels the sleep
Which at the senses' frontiers
Plunges in spiritual night.



Mark Reid

Profile of a Member

Mark Reid was born in Drogheda in the Boyne Valley and met Anthroposophy as a teenager who was disillusioned with the Church and Irish society. He remembers reading different verses by Rudolf Steiner and finding in them the same spirit as in the great Romantic poets he loved.

Whilst studying Philosophy in UCD he met resistance from his professors when he introduced Steiner's ideas. This eventually led him to not finishing his MA in Philosophy. Years later he returned to study as a librarian and has worked in the public library system ever since and is now a regional manager based in Naas.

Mark was once a member of Guenther and Wilma Petters' study group in Dublin which met in the kindergarten of the Dublin Rudolf Steiner school.

Now living with his wife Cliona, two daughters and too many cats in Kilcullen he is a board member of the Kildare Steiner School and member of the council of the Anthroposophical Society in Ireland.

When he has some spare time he likes nothing better than walking and painting in the beautiful countryside.

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.**

On Whitsunday, 1989 Manfred Schmidt Brabant, former Council member in Dornach spoke at the inauguration of the Anthroposophical Society in Ireland. He described as its ideal the development of every member's spiritual potential and capacity out of a sense of inner freedom. As an image of this ideal he referred to the Representative of Humanity, carved by Rudolf Steiner. "We see the Christ striding forward, holding in balance the forces of Lucifer and Ahriman. The forces which want to lift the human being away from the earth are held back by the raised hand of Christ. Likewise, the forces drawing down into the depth of matter are held in check. When the human being can hold these forces in balance, then the Luciferic is transformed into qualities of beauty and art, and the Ahrimanic is transformed into the power of logic."



The forces of opposition are strong right now as are the forces of upheaval. Settled institutions are falling. Our own Emerson College and Park Attwood Clinic have to close. Anthroposophical medicine is under threat and people are having trouble working with each other. None of that happens overnight. Rudolf Steiner gave us fair warning but he also gave a remedy. It is the Threefold Social Order, where opposition is resolved through the third element. We have learned that we choose our destiny, and choose those we work with to learn from them. We know that what rays toward us from someone else is what we have sent out. In the year of the great opposition the forces of Jupiter (expansion) and Saturn (contraction) are coming to us from opposite parts of the heavens. We should not overlook that we are in the middle, as the active third element. Now is a good time for us to counter the forces of polarisation and to help build a wholesome future together.

A call from yonder sounds to me:
Of love and light the enemy
His eye now gaze upon—
No more the angel asks of thee.

Just that thou as a mirror be
In which the demon sees himself
reflected,
And, burning in your clarity
His evil shatters inwardly.

The Lord of Destiny does not
demand
That you as judge must raise your
hand,
Just that you live within the truth.
Spirit itself will judgement stand.
- Albert Steffen

*Linda McKeown and Sophia Christine
Murphy in conversation.*

Summer on the Shannon

Ever since its inaugural season in 1994, Summer Music on the Shannon has been committed to a programme designed to provide accessibility to international standards of music instruction and performance excellence. This program combines the enthusiasm and excitement generated by young performers with the high performance standards of professional musicians from Ireland and elsewhere.

The children and young people come from many parts of the world. Some live in the estates of Limerick and have never been on a stage before. Most of these children come on a bursary.



For the last five years it has been my privilege to work with professional musicians, singers, producers, conductors, children and young adults. For four and half weeks each summer we all come together every day to prepare an opera as well as a couple of concerts

Last year we performed the story of Hans Anderson's "The Little Mermaid" with music by the Canadian composer Carl Davis. My part is to prepare the costumes and dress the opera. I normally have around three weeks to do this and it means some very long days and sometimes nights. I have a tight budget and make good use of the local charity shops as well as loans of costumes from friends.



I remember taking the opera chorus onto the stage to rehearse the last movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the instrumental students. As the orchestra started to play, the look of wonder and delight on their faces was a joy to behold. When one of their teachers began to sing, they stood in awe, as they had never heard a famous soprano before, standing among them. A moment to treasure!

While it is an amazing amount of hard work, I look forward each summer to the opera and meeting children from last year and a few from the years before with the new faces among them. I enjoy the comradeship of the whole group, singers and teachers alike. While we have the odd difficulty to overcome the focus is on the opera and the children.



Monica Hannaford
Monica lives in East Clare with her husband Fred. If you are interested in contributing or participating in this endeavour, contact her at 061 375 391.

Tree planting at Kildare Steiner School

In March, Kildare Steiner School had its landscape transformed with the addition of a natural woodland. Thanks to an anonymous donation, our school received 1,500 native trees - ash, oak, willow, hazel. Over two days - 26th and 27th March - the whole school community came together with volunteers from the Native Woodland Trust and some corporate volunteers - from Microsoft and an insurance company - to make paths and plant the saplings. In order to protect the saplings from damage by the hare population they were all staked and enclosed in tubes. What seemed like a mammoth task was achieved in record time!



The planting also provided the community the opportunity to work together to create and enjoy something beautiful. It was great to see parents, friends, families and children alike all pitching in and sharing their energies. The weather was very kind to us and after the planting the cob oven was fired up for home made pizzas, when the relaxing part of the day really started.



We should say once again we are indebted to the Native Woodland Trust who plant trees in schools right across Ireland and worked so hard with us to realise our own vision. We are also very grateful to our anonymous Canadian donor, this amazing gift came out of nowhere to us and was truly magical.
www.kildaresteinerschool.org



Cork Steiner Kindergarten

Cork Steiner Kindergarten, 1 Glentrasna Ave, Glentrasna Drive, The Glen, Cork. The Cork Steiner Kindergarten is now housed in a beautiful purpose built childcare facility and is awaiting a government grant to equip and landscape it. We have at present 15 children and are open Monday to Friday from 9.30 till 1.30. We hope to expand our services in the future into a mother and toddlers group, afternoon care and facilitating weekend workshops and conferences. We strive to be an active community based centre for Early Childhood Education and Parent Support and have dreams of a full Steiner School in Cork. We welcome enquiries at corksteiner@gmail.com or contact the teacher **Marijke McCartney** on **021 239 4692**.



Steiner Waldorf Teacher Training in Ireland

Our current Foundation Year has 25 participants. This is our eighth group, and the third since shifting to an annual start cycle. We also have a group of 15 students who are in the first year of a two year pedagogical cycle for teacher training. Last June, 10 participants completed their coursework in the first 3 year cycle of the Healing Education and Resource Teaching (H.E.A.R.T.) programme. Before starting a new cycle, we will seek recognition as a national school resource teacher training.

The Government is beginning to implement new requirements for childcare workers to undergo

recognised training programmes, and we are seeking recognition for our Early Childhood Education Programme, which might qualify as a HETAC level 6 award. We hope to be able to report a favourable outcome in the coming months.

The partnership between ISKA (Irish Steiner Kindergarten Association) and Sligo Institute of Technology to develop a Masters (HETAC level 6) degree programme is on track to begin in the Autumn of next year, delivered in Clare and Sligo venues.
Jonathan Angus, (061) 926889
jonathanangus@gmail.com

May 8th: Workshop with Dot Male (UK):

Steiner Parent and Child Groups: What is their relevance to family life? What treasures do they offer? Also the practicalities of running a group & the role of the group leader. Craft/artistic activities included.



May 29 & 30th: Doll Making workshop with Grace Burton, Kindergarten Teacher at Raheen Wood School. What could be more satisfying than giving a child, (or your inner child!) a doll you have made yourself? All materials provided. Both presentations are at Raheen Wood National School and are sponsored by ISKA. Office hours Mon-Wed 9-3, Friday 9-1
www.steinerireland.org tel **00353 (061) 927944**.

CLASS1/2 TEACHER REQUIRED

Applications are sought for an experienced, energetic and enthusiastic teacher to be involved in a pioneering new Waldorf school initiative in rural Kilkenny. Send a letter of application with your CV to:
Martin Henry, Camphill Community Ballytobin, Callan, Co.Kilkenny, Ireland or email martin33@eircom.net

ELIANT campaign

We now need only 75,000 EU signatures more to reach one million.

Please help to collect these last, vital signatures. By mid-June the ELIANT alliance wants to submit the signatures to the EU Commission in Brussels.

The ELIANT petition campaign has *almost* successfully achieved its goal. You will find a signature list enclosed with this newsletter so please gather more signatures and return to Michiel Brave at Dunshane.

Think of other ways to gather signatures such as online networking sites like facebook. Or you may have a distribution list. To download more signature lists go to www.eliant.eu

Rushlight

Martin Donnelly from Holywood near Belfast has created a lovely and lyrical CD of his own compositions. To listen to his songs on the internet: on www.cdbaby.com type in his name, then 'search' then 'Rushlight'. If you would like to order his CD or arrange for a concert, email Martin at: martindonnellymusic.co.uk

**Humans and Nature Spirits
Jun 5 - 6 2010, Dunshane**

Working and playing with Nature Spirits workshop Led by Tanis Helliwell, based on her book "Summer with the Leprechauns". "This course will share with you the secrets of manifestation according to natural laws and the natural world so that you can be more effective in your work and world." Further info phone 051 - 647947

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

Meditation Conference

May 28 - 30 : Dunshane

Elizabeth Wirsching leader of the Youth Section at the Goetheanum and Troels Ussing, General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in Denmark will lead and guide us in a weekend Meditation Conference in Dunshane on Friday 28th to Sunday 30th May 2010. Eurythmy will be an important part of the weekend and Maria Luisa Zahonero will guide us there. For more details please contact Michiel Brave : 087 9968059 or michiel@camphill.ie

International Early Childhood Care Conference

2-5th June 2010, Goetheanum, Dornach, Switzerland.

Rudolf Steiner's salutogenesis approach to infant pedagogy. The conference will focus on healthy and healing child development, care of children in their home environment, in playgroups, institutions and day-care centres, and in medical, nursing and therapeutic practices. The organisers of this conference aim to set a benchmark for the young child's dignity.

Contact: Goetheanum. Tel: **+41 (0) 61-7064444**. Email: tickets@goetheanum.org
Application form can be found on <http://www.goetheanum.org/>

Goethean Science and Art Therapy

A series of three week end workshops exploring basic principles of Goethe's new science. We will engage Art Therapy to help us in following Goethe's trail artistically, using watercolours, clay and our splendid human imagination. Contents include Metamorphosis of the Plant, Comparative Studies on Bones, Theory of Colour (selection), Newton's Experiments

11.30-17.00 Sat/Sun June 5/6, July 3/4, August 7/8 in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Facilitator: Klaus Klier, Art Therapist, Psychotherapist, Dublin
Price: € 100 (Materials and light refreshments included)

Group size maximum eight persons. Please inquire online for program and application form

a.space.forsoul@gmail.com or ring

Klaus on (00353) 86 373 4662

June 25-27: Anthroposophic Health and Social Care Movement (AHASC) - Sharing and Shaping Anthroposophic Health, Education and Care - an Integrative Model

An important event for all with an interest in, or experience of, the anthroposophic approach to health, education and care. Professionals, students and those who are 'service users' will be welcome. Keynote speakers: Prof Gene Feder, Professor of Primary Health Care, University of Bristol Simon Fielding: Trustee, The Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health. Dr Michaela Gloeckler: Leader of the Medical Section, Dornach, Terri Harrison, Co-founder and leader of Nature Nurture Project, Camphill Aberdeen Prof David Peters: Professor of Integrated Healthcare, University of Westminster. Some workshop topics: Integrative Approach to Neuro-rehabilitation Integrative Approach to long term conditions. Hygeia project: an Integrative Approach to Education, Crafts and Health. Peredur Centre for the Arts, East Grinstead UK.

Limited places available. Contact Lotte Huizing **+44 1224 869621** or book directly www.ahasc.org.uk

August 27-29 2010 Goethe's Theory of Colour 200 years anniversary Conference

This is a call for those who have worked with the Theory of Colour can meet together and share research. Contributions can be in the form of a talk, an artistic exercise or experimental presentation. The venue is a new village hall in the little seaside town of Portballintrae on the north Antrim coast, a few miles from the Giants' Causeway in an area where nature forces are in dynamic interplay. Many landscape artists live in this area to see the elements at work.

Cost: depends on numbers but no more than £30. Meals and lodgings not included. **Transport:** Buses to Portballintrae from Belfast. Nearest train station is Portrush.

Accommodation: Camping, youth hostel, self-catering cottages, B&B and hotels all within walking distance of venue. **Booking:** Malin Starrett, 520 Antrim Road, Glengormley, Co. Antrim BT36, N.Ireland Tel: UK **0044 (0)28 909 25211**