

## IQUA NEWSLETTER

October, 1989

Edited by Ronnie Creighton.

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### Introduction

This is the third edition of the IQUA Newsletter in this format and I would renew my appeal for contributions from the members on anything of interest. These could be on research projects; field trips at home or abroad; college or teaching problems where these would benefit from an airing etc.

Ronnie Creighton.

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### International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP).

The Irish Committee for IGBP under the chairmanship of Professor Frank Imbusch, U.C.G. has now met on several occasions, to formulate Ireland's involvement in this international programme. The discussions have been wide-ranging as to how Ireland, a small country with very limited research funds can be involved and benefit. A first step was to assess, by way of a research inventory, the number of research projects taking place in Ireland over the broad range of subjects relevant to IGBP. As a major emphasis of the Programme is on 'Global Change', research in 'Quaternary Science' generally is very relevant. A canvas was made of those IQUA members who might have projects to record. This inventory is now being completed. Also discussions are taking place with various institutions as to how Ireland might now best proceed in this matter.

Ronnie Creighton.

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### IQUA Annual Field Trip. Waterford and East Cork, October, 6-8th, 1989.

This year IQUA headed south for its annual field trip, based in Dungarvan and was led by Irene Quinn and Willie Warren. Some 20 people attended from various parts of Ireland, and in good weather, a successful and enjoyable trip was had by all. After an illustrated introduction in Dungarvan on the Friday evening, the group headed west to examine some of the bay sections illustrating the Quaternary stratigraphy of the south coast. At Whiting Bay good exposures of the shelly diamicton (much tectonized) of Irish Sea basin origin were seen. Further glacio-tectonic disturbance was seen at Ballymacoda gravel pit near Youghal. Here the basal shelly diamicton has been sheared up into a deltic sequence, which itself has been disturbed by overriding ice from the north and west depositing a till facies over the gravels. The classic sequences around Ballycotton Bay were also visited. After lunch a long traverse was made at Ballycroneen where the basal head is overlain by the shelly diamicton, with an upper stony diamicton of local origin also seen. The raised beach was seen at the eastern end of the bay. The group then moved inland to see the hummocky morainic topography at Midleton and the higher level deltaic facies at Sandy

Hill on the ridge north of Killeagh.

On the Sunday the group moved east to the Tramore-Waterford area. Sean Diamond of Teagasc described the soils of the area with an example at Ballyclough North. At Garrarus strand Maeve Boland (G.S.I.) described the Ordovician volcanics well-exposed in the cliff-face, while Irene Quinn described the overlying Quaternary sediments which consisted of the shelly diamicton at the base overlain by the inland-derived Ballyvoyle Till. The impressive portal tomb at Knockeen and the entrance tomb at Carriglony were visited before a lunch stop at Tramore. Further archaeological sites at Castletown (henge-type monument) and Lisselty (hearth site) were seen after lunch. Bob Devoy reviewed the palaeobotanical studies that had been completed at Belle Lake. Finally Irene Quinn discussed the Quaternary sequence at Newtown on Waterford Harbour.

An enjoyable and informative weekend was had by all and many thanks to all the contributors. The finalised field guide will be available in due course through M. Healy in Cork.

**Ronnie Creighton.**

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### **IQUA Symposium - "Conservation of Earth-Science Areas of Scientific Interest in Ireland".**

to be held at the Geological Survey of Ireland, Friday 1st December, 1989 at 9.30am.

IQUA, with the support of the National Committee for Geology and the Geological Survey of Ireland, is organising a symposium "Conservation of Earth-Science Areas of Scientific Interest". The aims of the symposium are, firstly to act a forum for discussion, secondly to increase the awareness and knowledge of conservation issues among earth scientists, thirdly to highlight the special needs of earth-science conservation in Ireland and fourthly to generate momentum for improvements. The symposium will not only be of interest to geologists and geographers who are concerned about conservation and environmental issues, but also to engineers, planners and biologists who are responsible for the conservation of earth-science areas of scientific interest.

The keynote address will be given by Dr. Bill Wimbleton from the Nature Conservancy Council in Britain. He will give the pros and cons of the situation there and will suggest lessons that we could learn from their experience. His paper will be followed by a series of short papers from people with a wide variety of backgrounds (see below for details).

There will be a small entry charge to cover the cost of publishing the extended summaries of the papers. Further details will be circulated before the symposium.

**Donal Daly, Geological Survey of Ireland.**

#### **List of Speakers**

Dr. W.A. Wimbleton, Nature Conservancy Council in Britain.

Topic: A review of the situation in Britain.

Mr. D. Daly, Geological Survey of Ireland.

Topic: A review of the situation in the Republic of Ireland.

Mr. J. Furphy, Countryside and Wildlife Branch, D.O.E. for Northern Ireland.

Topic: A review of the situation in Northern Ireland.

Dr. W.P. Warren, Geological Survey of Ireland.

Topic: Practical approaches to the conservation of geological sites.

Dr. A. Ceraig, Office of Public Works.

Topic: The role of national parks in earth-science conservation.

- Dr. P. Warner, Wildlife Service, O.P.W.  
Topic: The proposed geological heritage centre at Glendalough.
- Dr. G. Sevastopulo, Dept. of Geology, T.C.D.  
Topic: Geological conservation from a bedrock point of view.
- Dr. D. Jeffrey, Dept. of Botany, T.C.D.  
Topic: Heritage Zones and heritage landscapes.
- Dr. J. Feehan, Environmental Resources Analysis Ltd.  
Topic: Conservation of landscapes and educational aspects of conservation.
- Mr. T. Doherty, Dublin.  
Topic: Ballybetagh Bog.
- Mr. J. Barnett, Consultant, Dublin.  
Topic: Conservation from the point of view of the extractive industry.
- Dr. R.F. Hammond, Teagasc.  
Topic: Conservation of soils and peatlands.
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#### **IQUA AGM and Seminar 1990.**

The 1990 AGM and Seminar will take place on **Saturday 10th March, 1990** at the Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01-609511.

A day-long seminar on current research activities within Quaternary Science will be held as usual. This is the first call for contributions. Talks will be approximately 20 minutes in length. Abstracts will be required prior to the meeting for eventual circulation in the Spring 1990 IQUA Newsletter. Research students are particularly encouraged to give an informal talk on their research projects. Intending speakers should notify me of their topic and forward an abstract as soon as possible.

On Sunday 11th March a field trip in the Dublin area will be led by Willie Warren.

For further information contact **Ronnie Creighton** at the above address.

**Ronnie Creighton.**

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#### **Some Recent Papers on Quaternary Research in Ireland.**

- Carter, R.W.G., Devoy, R.J.N. and Shaw, J., 1989. Late Holocene sea levels in Ireland. Jour. Quat. Sci., 4, 7-24.
- Cwyner, L.C. and Watts, W.A., 1989. Accelerator-mass spectrometer ages for Late-glacial events at Ballybetagh. Quat. Res., 31, 377-380.
- Eyles, N. and McCabe, A.M., 1989. "Glaciomarine facies within subglacial tunnel valleys: the sedimentary record of glacio-isostatic downwarping in the Irish Sea basin. Sedimentology, 36, 431-448.
- Hanvey, P.M., 1989. Stratified flow deposits in a late Pleistocene drumlin in north-west Ireland. Sed. Geol., 62, 211-221.
- Wilson, P., 1989. Nature, origin and age of Holocene aeolian sand on Muckish Mountain, Co. Donegal, Ireland. Boreas, 18, 159-168.
- Wilson, P. and Farrington, O., 1989. Radiocarbon dating of the Holocene evolution of Magilligan Foreland, Co. Londonderry. Proc. R. Ir. Acad., 89B, 1-23.

**Compiled by Peter Wilson.**

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## **IQUA Field Guides**

1. South County Down. A.M. McCabe (ed.) (1978).
2. Gaitees Region. F.M. Synge (ed.) (1979) - not in print.
3. Co. Tyrone. K.J. Edwards (ed.) (1979).
4. The south and east coasts of Co. Wexford.  
R.W.G. Carter and J.D. Orford (eds.) (1981).
5. Clare Island. P. Coxon (ed.) (1982) - not in print.
6. South West Iveragh, Co. Kerry.  
G.F. Mitchell, P. Coxon, A. Price (eds.) (1983).
7. North East Co. Donegal and North West Co. Londonderry.  
P. Wilson and R.G.W. Carter (eds.) (1984).
8. Sligo and West Leitrim. R. Thorn (ed.) (1985).
9. Corca Dhuibhne. W.P. Warren et al. (1986).
10. Offaly and West Kildare.  
R.F. Hammond, W.P. Warren, D. Daly (1987).
11. Connemara. M. O'Connell and W. Warren (eds.) (1988).
12. Waterford and East Cork. I. Quinn and W. Warren (eds.) (1989).

Available from:- Mr. Michael Healy,  
Dept. of Geography,  
University College,  
Cork.

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## **Forthcoming Events.**

IQUA Symposium. December 1st, 1989. Conservation of Earth-Science Sites of Scientific Interest in Ireland; at the Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. (Details given in this Newsletter).

IGA Lecture. November 29th, 1989. Dr. P. Coxon. Title and venue to be announced.

IQUA AGM and Seminar. 10-11th March, 1990. Geological Survey of Ireland.

IQUA Annual Field Trip. 1990. - North Antrim. Leader - Peter Wilson.