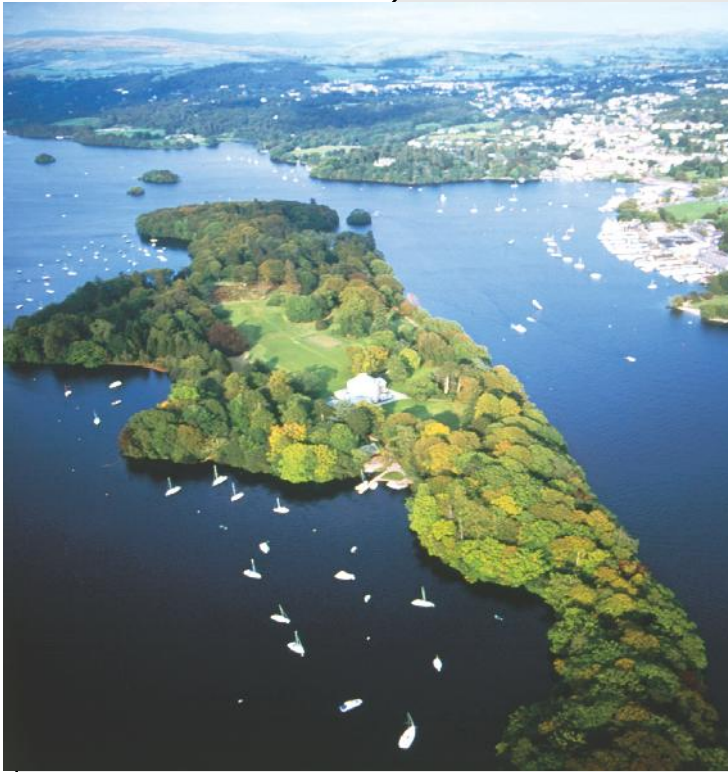




UK&Ireland
United Kingdom and Ireland Lakes Network

Newsletter

Issue 1 :- January 2013



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Chairman's Message

I expect, like me, you will be looking forward to this new year with various hopes of your own, such as better weather this summer, hitting some milestones in your working life, or doing something new outside of your work. I am looking forward to working hard to make our newly

set up UKILN charitable trust into a more useful organisation for us all, making communications more effective and helping with people's progress in making our lakes better places. I know this is what we all want, and that all the members will help in this task.

Looking back for a moment, 2012 was a big year for us, with UKILN surviving with enough continued interest to make it worth while setting up as a properly constituted body, in this case a charitable trust. This work was started by John Pinder and me, and finalised by enrolling eight volunteer trustees and signing the relevant documents at our annual conference and AGM, this year held at Lough Neagh/Belfast. What an exceptional two days this meeting was too, with our evening reception and conference held at Stormont, following an informative and fascinating day visiting Lough Neagh and its surrounds, including one of its islands. Lough Neagh is an outstanding example, for those of us striving to improve lakes in many different ways for the benefit of local people and visitors. The lough is surrounded by seven local authorities, there are two significant industries based on the lough itself, the government (like most) is restricted in what it can spend on improving the lough and its environs: tourism and the local economy are in the doldrums, and everybody has their own ideas as to what should be done to kick start the improvements and who should pay for it. There is even a question mark about future ownership of the lake bed itself. A difficult set of situations which will be all too recognisable to many members of UKILN.

Lough Neagh is an outstanding example, for those of us striving to improve lakes

My own view is that the environmental health of a sizable lake is the key to ensuring its value as an economic and social asset in its own right, and especially for its attractiveness as a tourist destination. Some lakes have survived the

Tony Dean



Into the future. With this belief in mind I was interested to see the TV item on Lake Erie over the holiday period, where a sky-blackening plague of billions of newly hatched mayflies had caused havoc for a week in early summer. Researchers into the phenomenon reached the conclusion that the mayfly nymphs had been severely reduced in numbers for many years due to pollution of the Lake, but that improvements in the water quality had created a return to a huge population of these creatures, starting this year. It's a good start, I thought. But where, I wondered, were all the predators which would normally have feasted on the glut of mayfly nymphs in the water? Have their populations still to recover? Is pollution still at fault? Fishing policy? Loss of habitat? Perhaps a UKILN member knows the answer(s) to these questions, but the point of this story is that Lake Erie, despite its huge size and the variations in governance around its shores, is beginning to get cleaned up. Progress is being made, even in an industrialised part of Northern America, and this makes me optimistic for the future of all our lakes.

Happy New Year to you all.

Tony Dean

Annual Conference 2012 Lough Neagh Belfast

(press release)

A major event focusing on Lough Neagh and providing a valuable insight into the many complex issues that exist in relation to the development, protection and management of the Lough took place recently.

The two day event commenced on Thursday 4th October 2012 at Clotworthy House & Antrim Castle Gardens, where the Mayor of Antrim Borough Council welcomed delegates of the UK & Ireland Lakes Network. This was followed by a visit to Ram's Island on the Maid of Antrim, highlighting some of the key heritage, tourism and environmental projects in the Antrim Borough.



Minister Michelle O'Neill

An evening reception event followed in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, hosted by the DCAL Minister Carál Ní Chuilín. The Lough Neagh Symposium on Friday 5th October 2012, also held in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, was hosted by the Lough Neagh Partnership and the UK & Ireland Lakes Network. The event was co-hosted by the DARD and DOE Ministers, O'Neill and Attwood respectively.

The event was supported by a cross party group of MLA's, Paul Frew, Danny Kinahan, Francie Molloy and Patsy McGlone. A number of presentations were made by members of the UK & Ireland Lakes Network sharing their expertise and experience of lake management. The presentations can be viewed at

www.ukandirelandlakes.org/downloads.

A debate took place with general agreement from the delegates that a fully Integrated Management System, which had proper buy in from Government Departments and preferably a Lead Government Department was needed.



Back row left to right: Charles Moynehan, John Pinder, The Hon. Shane O'Neill, Udo Gattenlöhner, Eimear Kearney, The Earl of Shaftesbury, and Gerry Darby

Front row:- Tony Dean and Minister Alex. Attwood.

Other issues raised were:

- the need for a proper Navigation- and Safety Authority
- the necessity to develop an Inland Waterways
- Strategy for Northern Ireland which would have Lough Neagh as its core
- the need for a dredging programme for Lough Neagh in order to improve access for certain areas
- the need for water levels to be controlled more effectively

A report on the issues and discussions raised at the event has been issued to the DARD/DCAL Lough Neagh Working Group which was established by the Assembly.

a fully Integrated Management System, which had proper buy in from Government Departments and preferably a Lead Government Department was needed.

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The Lough Neagh Awards 2012
An evening reception event in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings was hosted by the DCAL Minister Carál Ní Chuilín, who recognised the valuable work of communities, volunteers and organisations around Lough Neagh with an awards ceremony.

Awards were presented to:

- The Ballinderry River Enhancement Association for Environmental Enhancement and Protection of Lough Neagh and its river Systems.
- Craigavon Borough Council for Tourism Development
- Paddy Prunty & Billy Mullen of Lough Neagh Rescue for Contribution to the Safety & Navigation of Lough Neagh
- May Devlin of TABBDA (Traad and Ballyronan, Ballinderry Development Association) for Community Development
- Antrim Borough Council for contribution to the protection and restoration of Lough Neagh's Built Heritage
- Con Law (Maid of Antrim) for the development of the Private Sector Tourism Product on Lough Neagh
- Gerry Darby (Former Manager of Lough Neagh Partnership) for Leadership

Minister Carál Ní Chuilín commented

"Lough Neagh would not be the wonderful asset it is without the resourcefulness and determination of people and organisations around the Lough who have worked tirelessly and selflessly to look after Lough Neagh for this and future generations." Congratulations to all the winners!



Eimear Kearney
eimear@loughneaghpартnership.com



Bassenthwaite Lake



Protecting the Lake District lakes

- Interview with Environment Manager Jeremy Westgarth

In 2001, The Environment Agency of England & Wales, in recognition of the continued deterioration of lake water quality across the English Lake District, brought together all the key players who together, sought to reverse this trend, so forming the Lake District Still Waters Partnership. (LDSWP). This comprised the two major sources of scientific expertise, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and Freshwater Biological Association, the major land owners, the National Trust and United Utilities and the key regulatory agencies, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission and Lake District National Park Authority. Since then the group has established a priority list for lake restoration and held an annual conference to maintain and enhance the public profile of National Park's lakes.

John Pinder talks to Jeremy Westgarth (EA. Area Environment Protection Manager, Cumbria) who takes on the Chair of the group in January 2013, about the group's future plans and aspirations.

Jeremy explained that nationally, there are a number of initiatives underway such as the Defra supported catchment restoration fund and the WFD Pilots Catchments, all contributing to the "Big Society"



Jeremy Westgarth ethos and importantly promoting the idea of catchment /watershed management as delivering multiple public benefits. One of the challenges however is that with multi benefits (ecosystem services) can come multiple initiatives but with finite resources to deliver them. Jeremy emphasised that one of the LDSWP main priorities was to try to deliver their objectives of improved lakes through existing programmes being run by individual partners and others organisations involved in landscape protection, rather than devise new ones.

Foremost in this, is the existence of the Lake District National Park Authority's "National Park Partnership" and its 'plan for the Park'. Its vision of vibrant communities, a prosperous economy and world class visitor experience all sustaining a spectacular landscape is seen by the LDSWP as the optimal avenue to influencing organisations to improve lakes through their policies without creating another stand-alone initiative, owned and driven by the LDSWP. A new development for the LDSWP is that the group is now recognised and been adopted as an important advisory sub group.

One future priority is to improve the inclusion of

" With human pressure on the environment increas-

community based groups already delivering lake protection on several lake catchments such as Loweswater and 'Coniston and Crake'. There is much to be gained from local group inclusion into the LDSWP as much of the future resource for action on the ground could come from them rather than just regulators and agencies.

LDSWP members presently have a strong feeling of initiative overload and therefore the preferred strategy will be to brigade existing ideas and energies in a more efficient way. To facilitate this, strengthening the relationship with the LD Partnership is a sensible first step. To facilitate this, strengthening the relationship with the LD Partnerships is a sensible first step.

The two "Reflections" programmes; the one completed for Bassenthwaite Lake catchment and the present one for Windermere and sponsored through the Heritage lottery Fund are proving to be excellent examples of not only how communities can be involved in different ways but also how those who have previously not had an interest in lakes can be introduced to the idea of local-lake stewardship.

Although the LDSWP is resolute in taking that multiple lake value perspective, as a government Agency, the Environment Agency and other LDSWP members have a responsibility to address compliance with legislative requirements, such as the Water Framework Directive. Of the 20 larger lakes in the Lake District, only 3 are in 'good ecological condition', (using the WFD Assessment methodology), so there is considerable work to be done. Again the strategy is to avoid working in isolation of other organisations' needs.

Making sure all decisions are made from a sound understanding of lake conditions.

A joint technical group has been created, bringing together the EA's monitoring for Water Framework Directive, Natural England's survey work for protection of SSSI/ SACs and a collaborative quinquennial monitoring programme headed up by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

The group is now bringing together all the latest science and understanding and delivering this to both the LDSWP and the National Park Partnership to ensure all decisions are made from a sound understanding of lake conditions.

Another existing programme which is being used to deliver against lake-needs is the "Whole Valley Planning" initiative. This was spawned from concerns of flooding of prime farm land which also makes space for flood water in a particularly wet area of the country. Local farmers and community groups are looking at the whole question of water management. The latest of these valley initiatives, Ullswater, will start in 2013 and embrace the needs for Ullswater as part of a much bigger river catchment. The programme will also be embracing, amongst others, employment, afforestation and housing issues; again seeking to take a holistic view.

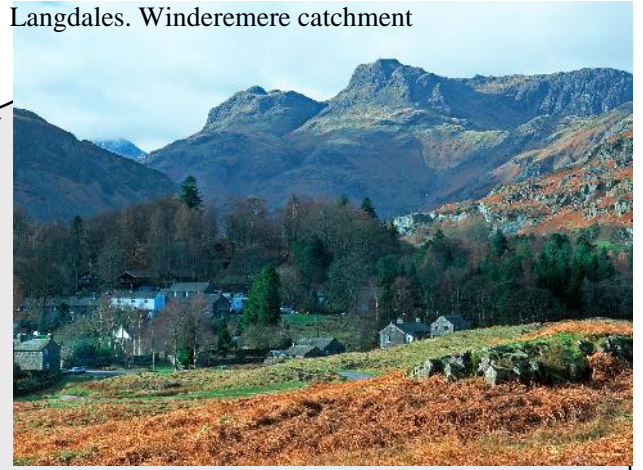
*Programmes embracing:-
employment, afforestation and
housing—
Taking a holistic view.*

Jeremy identified some key issues as he takes on the chair of the LDSWP in 2013.

- Greater need to include communities and steadily transfer custody of lake protection to groups and individuals who are demonstrating commitment and passion for their environment. - Greater bottom up, less top down drive.
- Use new science based understanding in an integrated way to support both the Lake District Partnership and community groups.
- Recognise the government priority of WFD compliance for lakes and the importance of Protected Areas' requirements.
- Avoid over stretching through too many initiatives which could detract from the partnership approach and overall achievement.

Contact:- Jeremy.westgarth@environment-agency.gov.uk

Langdales. Windermere catchment



Sediment Studies for Future Decision Making

Dublin, September 2nd, 2010 – New research led by Dr Ian Donohue of the School of Natural Sciences in Trinity College Dublin, together with other researchers from TCD, University College Dublin, Spain and the United States, has revealed that water quality improved rapidly and dramatically as a direct consequence of the Great Famine in Ireland.

The research found that, because of reduced human disturbance of the landscape and a consequent reduction in nutrient loads, water quality improved significantly during and immediately after the famine. The research, published recently in the journal *Ecological Applications*, involved the examination of sediment cores taken from Lough Carra in the west of Ireland together with the analysis of detailed historical census data.

Water quality improved significantly during and immediately after the famine

The population of Ireland in the early 1840s was eight million people. By the end of the Great Famine of 1845-1850, one million of those people had died and two million had emigrated. The famine was one of the most significant human disasters of the nineteenth century which altered permanently the demographic, political and cultural landscape not only of Ireland, but had global ramifications particularly in the USA and Great Britain.

ing globally, the large scale reduction in populations over such a brief period during the famine provides a unique opportunity to study how ecosystems recover from human disturbance at landscape scales. This is something we actually know remarkably little about," says Dr Ian Donohue. "This research gives us an important insight into the rates and nature of recovery processes at these large scales and will help us to make better management decisions." The research also found that water quality in Lough Carra took between only two and ten years to improve after the famine, which is far quicker than thought possible for this type of

Websites:

<http://www.tcd.ie/Zoology/research/research/donohue/index.php>

<http://tcd.academia.edu/IanDonohue>

Reference for the journal article:

donohue, I., Leira, M., Hobbs, W., León Vintró, L., O'Reilly, J. & Irvine, K. (2010) Rapid ecosystem recovery from diffuse pollution after the Great Irish Famine. *Ecological Applications* 20: 1733-1743.

You can download the article from either of the above websites.

SEPA call for Community Engagement in "Loch protection"

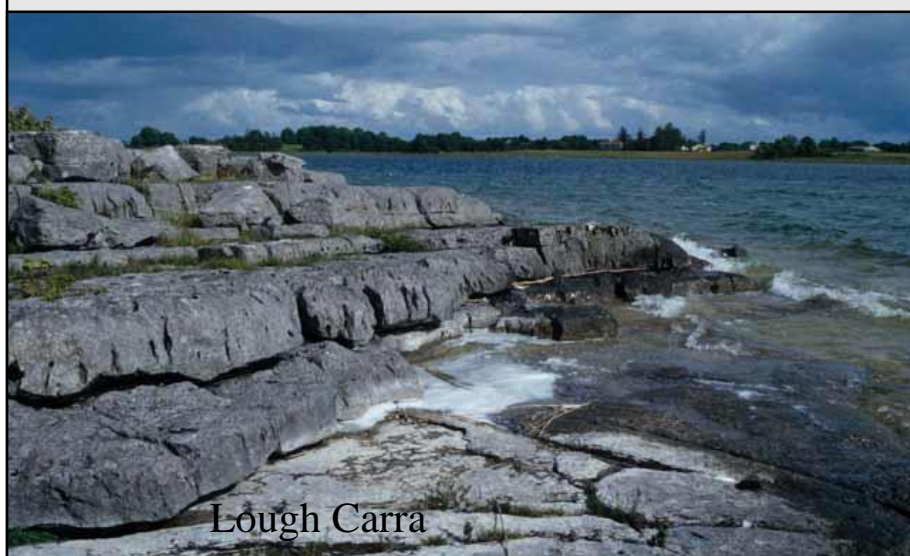
Have your say on loch management in Scotland

Across Scotland various partnership projects have been established to protect and improve the condition of lochs e.g. from large lochs like Lintrathen (Angus), to small lochs like Loch Spiggie (Shetland) and Glenastle lochs (Isle Islay) which are of high conservation value for their priority plant species. The range of pressures facing these lochs varies from site to site, as does the range of partners involved and the types of action required.

Are you involved in loch management in Scotland or the Solway Tweed river basin districts, or do you have ideas on how loch protection and improvement could be more effective? Have your say on how SEPA are looking to engage with stakeholders during the second cycle of river basin management planning. A consultation: Working together to protect and improve the water environment: Getting involved in developing the second river basin management plans looks at how the second cycle plans should be developed and is the first step in the process of writing the plans. It is an opportunity for you to shape the plans themselves, for instance SEPA are looking for comments on developing the catchment approach for river basin management planning. You can also comment on the way that river basin planning is delivered, and how you can be involved in how improvements to the water environment are prioritised. The consultation is looking for input from public bodies, those involved in water environment management, together with other land and water managers and commercial users.

SEPA is also consulting on Improving the physical condition of Scotland's water environment- a consultation on a supplementary plan for the River Basin Management Plans

This draft plan aims to identify the work needed to deliver an improve



Lough Carra

pollution. Such diffuse nutrient pollution is also by far the most important form of water pollution in Ireland and across the globe. However, levels of pollution in Lough Carra were much lower before the famine than they are now.

As a result of more intensive land use these days, recovery from present day human pollution would likely take considerably longer than it took after the famine," explains Dr Donohue. "However, these results suggest that we can control this problem, provided there is proper management and investment."

"For media queries, contact TCD Press Officer, Caoimhe Ní Lochlainn, tel: 8962310 | 087 9958014 Contact details for Dr. Ian Donohue:nt

phone: +353 1 8961356 (office), +353 87 9333011 (mobile) Email: ian.donohue@tcd.ie

Results suggest we can control this problem, provided there is proper management and investment.



Sediment core

ment in the physical condition of Scotland's water environment. Repairing the damage to the physical condition of the water environment will improve ecological status and enhance the value of the resource for a range of users.

Trossachs Scotland



Such improvements will also have significant benefits for the wider environment, especially climate change adaptation and flood risk management.

Both consultation documents are available on SEPA website at http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx or http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/consultations.aspx

For more information contact: RBMP@sepa.org.uk

Preparing for the Commonwealth Games 2014 and its legacy

Strathclyde Loch is Scotland's freshwater national water sports venue managed by North Lanarkshire Council. It is mainly used for rowing, but at times has also been used for immersion sports events such as open water swim and triathlon competitions. It is to be the venue of the Commonwealth Games triathlon event in July 2014 and is a candidate location for the Youth Olympics 2018 Glasgow bid. It is an artificial waterbody which was created in the early 1970s and formed by intercepting the flow from the river South Calder.

The loch suffers from recognised (health risk related) water quality challenges which have previously led to event closure issues which must be improved and controlled in order to meet the needs of Glasgow 2014

Commonwealth Games triathlon event and possibly additional swim events during the 2014 Games. The loch currently fails to meet good ecological potential as an artificial water body but is planned to be improved to moderate by 2021 and good potential by 2027.

SEPA have commissioned a project through the Water Environment Fund to identify potential restoration options which will improve the ecological condition, and recreational use of the loch. These will be based upon an understanding of the catchment-scale causes of the problems. The options considered will include treatment, sediment removal, diversion of storm flows, wetland treatment. Options to address the barriers to fish migration up the South Calder Water will also be included. The report is due at the end of March, and will be used



Katie Harper
SEPA

by relevant stakeholders to consider the next steps.

For more information contact: Calum.McPhail@sepa.org.uk

UK and Ireland Lakes Network and Global Nature Fund's Programme --Living Lakes.

The Living Lakes Network was strongly represented at the "Lakes for Living, Lakes for Life" conference at Windermere back in 2009, the starting point of UKILN. Since then we have maintained a strong relation



Udo Gattenlöhner

ship which has developed. However the formation of the UKILN Trust back in October 2012 in Belfast was for me, a significant move forward.

I was very struck at the Belfast conference how many individuals and organisations in the UK, both government and society based (NGO) are actively involved in lake protection and restoration. Bringing them together into the UKILN will surely provide a very valuable resource for all lake -communities to draw on, rather than them working in isolation.

The role that society based groups play should not be underestimated. Around the world, GNF actively deals with community groups who are at the very centre of the catchments of lakes and wetlands. What is common everywhere, is that local initiatives tend to have continuity of commitment over time whereas Governments, for political and administrative reasons, need to demonstrate flexibility with their priorities and sometimes cannot put lakes first. A case which exemplifies the value of NGOs is our present involvement in a project on the River Jordan with its high cultural, polit-

ical and economic importance. Here the water quality and quantity is so poor that that there is a health hazard, severely detracting from its important cultural and spiritual values. Following the creation of a "NGO Master Plan: A vision for the Lower Jordan Valley", work has now started in developing dialogue between Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian decision makers.

Creating the UKILN also has high potential for future funding. With both the UK and Ireland being member states of the EU there is opportunity to be seen as 'partners' at Brussels, should you decide to apply for European support funding. I also see the UKILN working in a similar way to our Living Lakes 'family members'. We already have 'Living Lakes' national networks in Canada, Latin America, Italy, China, East Africa and Germany. A UK and Ireland cohort would always be welcomed.

This is where association with Living lakes is so powerful. Not only can you collate and share best practice and even co-fund projects in lake and watershed management with your immediate neighbours, but the two way sharing at international level is there too. Living lakes now has over 100 lakes associated.

I see the UKILN working in a similar way to our Living Lakes 'family members'.

Whilst those of us from a European background may be able to draw on technical, academic and practical experience quite readily, those members with lake issues in developing countries can, and have given much to demonstrate local stewardship and much deeper values than just say compliance with the Water Framework Directive, important as it is. Probably all lakes have spiritual values to their lakeside communities but sometimes these seem to be more obvious and celebrated in developing countries.

The three UKILN conferences so far have all contributed very well to the overall goal of 'best practice communications'. I very much look forward to probably will take place in Octo-

ber 2013 at Lake Constance, Germany.

I very much look forward to probably will take place in October 2013 at Lake Constance, Germany.

The links between UKILN and Living Lakes International are already strong. Three of our eight Advisory Board members are from the UK. (Mike Ounsted, Roger de Freitas and John Pinder) for instance.

Against the background of the UK's very important role internationally, I'm sure UKILN will be of tremendous value to lake protection worldwide in the future. I equally hope that through our developing rapport, some of the international expertise and wisdom which exists in Living Lakes International will be of value to you to.

Very best wishes
Udo Gattenlöhner
Executive Director -Global Nature Fund Living Lakes

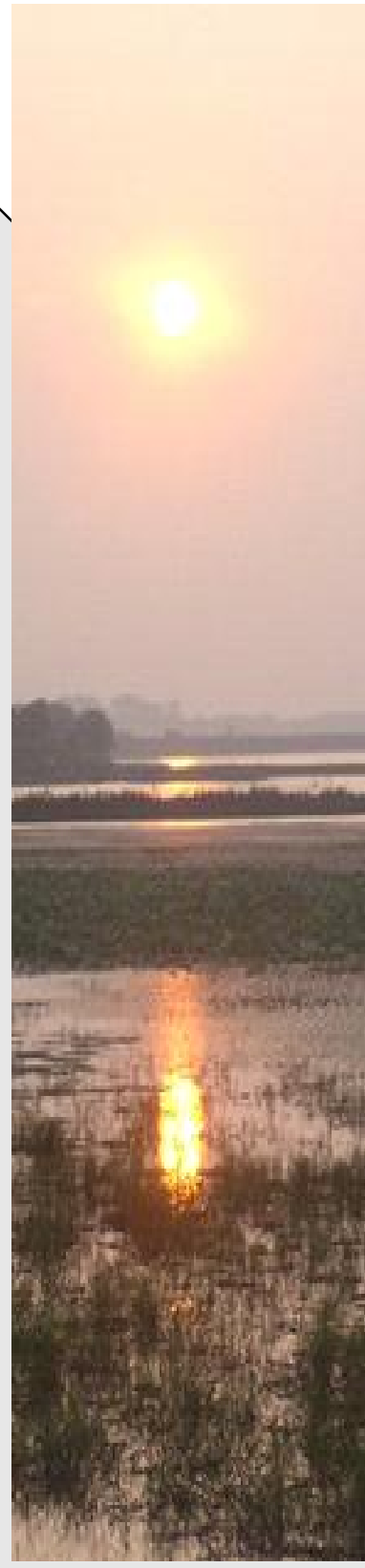
UKILN
Annual Conference

Dublin 2013:- "Lakes - Protecting a multi-user resource"

This year's focus of the symposium will be on lakes, their multiple uses, identifying potential pressures and managing for the benefit of all. Lakes are a valuable natural resource of high amenity, conservation, social and economic importance. It is in our interest to protect and where required improve the quality of this valuable resource.

The Environment Protection Agency is hosting the two day event at the University College Dublin and it will be very much an integrated but varied affair. Day 1 will comprise a variety of presentations with a session focussing on the lakes and their issues that comprise Day 2's field trip to lakes located near the Dublin area; Glendalough – in the Wicklow National Park a conservation area, which is of cultural, historic and scenic significance; and Poulaphuca Reservoir, one of the main drinking water supplies for Dublin and will

Lake Poyang, China's largest lake and a member of the Living Lakes Network.



inform discussion and observations on the day.

Ireland has more lakes than the whole of the UK, and its people have a close relationship with these bodies of water both small and large. There



Glendalough

are in excess of 12,000 lakes in Ireland, of these, approximately 830 have been designated as Water Framework Directive (WFD) lakes according to the criteria specified: lakes with an area of 50 ha or more, protected areas such as drinking water sources and lakes of conservation interest. Lakes are a valuable natural resource of high amenity, conservation, social and economic importance. Many lakes are protected under the EU habitats directive 92/43/EEC and others are designated because of nationally important species such as the plant, the slender naiad, *Najas flexilis* or for the protection of mammals such as the otter (*Lutra lutra*) or fish such as sea lamprey. There are 24 recognised branded fisheries, over 200 recognised trout fisheries and numerous coarse fisheries. Fishing was the 5th most popular activity among tourists attracting 142,000 visitors in 2008 (Tourism Ireland, 2008). There are nine bathing waters located on lakes. In addition, lakes are important for other recreational activities such as boating and adventure sports. There are over 200 drinking water abstraction lakes, serving local communities, large towns and cities such as Dublin and Galway. This indicates their economic importance both at a local and national scale and their intrinsic value from a conservation, historic and cultural aspect.

This is one of the first conferences in Ireland which actively raises the public profile of lakes. For members of UKILN, it will be an important occasion following on from last October's excellent event in Belfast, providing an opportunity to interact with other often isolated lake managers by building networks, sharing experience, expertise and technical know-how.

Further detail will be briefed on to you through the web site during the year as it develops.

What's On

15th Feb. Lakes Research Forum. Dundalk Inst. of Technology (a netlake event)
18th-22nd Feb.

Leonardo da Vinci project Meeting, "Learning for lakes" -

Cumbria

12th April (10am -1pm)
Trustees meeting.(EA)
Warrington

3rd-4th October
UKILN Annual Conference
Dublin.

14th -18th October
"Living Lakes" Conference,
Lake Constance, Germany

"UK and Ireland Lakes Network (Charitable Trust)"

During the Official Reception of our conference in October last year, in

the Parliamentary Buildings, Stormont, our group became a Charitable Trust. This was witnessed by our host for the evening, Northern Ireland Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Carál Ni Chuilín, whose address echoed our own thoughts about lakes- that their value goes well beyond the obvious attributes such as water supply and biodiversity, but are in many locations such as Lough Neagh at the very heart of the local economy.

To date we have eight trustees drawn from a wide range of 'lake backgrounds' and crossing our 5 countries.

There is much to do but the creation of the trust couldn't be more timely. Lakes have been the 'Cinderella' in terms of regulatory protection and yet many lakes across the globe are deteriorating. ILEC (International lakes Environment Committee Foundation) based in Japan, have suggested that perhaps 90% of the world's readily exploitable water is in lakes. With climate change predictions of droughts also becoming more prevalent, (not just floods) the potential threat of over exploitation in the future is real.

The Trust is there to create the network needed for lake managers and stewards to share best practice across their watersheds; from local groups and communities up to the seats of government and their Agencies. All the trustees are committed to expand that network.

The first appointed Trustees are:-

Tony Dean, -Chair
John Pinder -Secretary
Gerry Darby,
David Baxter,
Linda May,
John Malley,
Lewis Jones
Katie Harper

UKILN Communications

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