



Introduction

●This short and very occasional newsletter is intended to keep people in touch with what is happening on the development of peace trails across Ireland which focus on peace, justice, inclusion and sustainability...along with occasional nods to important cultural and technological developments. It is being sent to people who have expressed an interest or contributed suggestions as well as going out with INNATE's *Nonviolent News*.

Peace trails are underway or proposed for Belfast, Derry, Dublin, Co Kerry and Co Down; two different focused ones already exist for Belfast and a short one for Co Mayo. Information and suggestions are welcome for anywhere in Ireland - further details from innate@ntlworld.com The concept paper about peace trails in Ireland can be found at <http://www.innatenonviolence.org/trails/index.shtml>

Dublin: St Stephen's Green and Merrion Square in preparation

Afri and INNATE are working on peace trails for St Stephen's Green and Merrion Square areas of Dublin. These are two bounded areas already rich in history and memorialisation with many monuments and plaques but the peace trails will include the immediate surrounding areas as well – Merrion Square, for example, was the workplace for 16 years of refugee and anti-Nazi Erwin Schrödinger, physicist and theoretical biologist (the cat will be out of the box about peace trails soon...), as well as Daniel O'Connell who was not only the greatest figure in the development of constitutional nationalism in Ireland but also a prominent figure in Europe. The peace trails proposed, while including a significant amount of existing memorialisation, add to it significantly and provide a different 'take' on the stories involved.

Merrion Square also includes one of the most powerful anti-war statements of any in Ireland – a sculpture or sculptures by Andrew O'Connor entitled *The Victims* <https://tinyurl.com/y2sda7nu> and it has a cherry blossom tree planted in 1980 by the Irish CND "in memory of A-Bomb victims". St Stephen's Green has a bench dedicated to Louie Bennett and Helen Chenevix, a remarkable couple who were feminists, and trade union and peace activists, plus busts of important cultural figures, and a very prominent statue of Wolfe Tone who, it can be argued, was the first proponent of Irish neutrality.

Cross-Belfast Troubles peace trail up and running

The 'Untold Stories – Touring Belfast's Grassroots Peacemaking History' tour devised by Emily Stanton, in conjunction with INNATE, cleverly superimposes the chronological development of responses by civil society to the Troubles onto the topography of Belfast. Based on Emily Stanton's doctoral thesis, it breathes life into the peaceful responses and work developed by people at different stages of the Troubles and contains much that is unknown or ignored in conventional narratives of the Troubles – see <https://tinyurl.com/yxby5bh4> It travels through north, south, east and west Belfast <https://tinyurl.com/y64c6ykw>

It requires motorised transport, preferably minibus (it can be done in a larger bus though this restricts manoeuvrability somewhat) and has been run for different events including the Social Science Festival and the Four Corners Festival. It takes around two and a half hours or slightly more. Enquiries can be made to emilystanton5@gmail.com

Belfast city centre and Ormeau trail a regular feature

This walking trail of Belfast city centre and the Ormeau Road area, developed by INNATE, is run regularly for conferences, community and other groups, visitors and festivals – most recently the Imagine! Festival. Starting off in the area around St Anne's Cathedral in central Belfast it wends its way through the city centre before going out the Ormeau Road as far as Park Road/Ormeau Park. It takes around two hours to cover the 5kms/3 miles; it can also be done by motorised transport, as necessary, but walking is a preferable and more rewarding experience.

This peace trail focuses on action for peace, justice and inclusion with examples dating from the 18th and 19th centuries (Thomas McCabe and Mary Ann McCracken, take a bow for your anti-slavery activism...) through to the Troubles such as a cross-community women's group meeting for nearly four decades, the painting out of sectarian graffiti done in broad daylight as a statement of opposition to it, and trade union anti-sectarianism. It includes possibly the most important site in relation to cultural preservation in Ireland, and two sites associated with the development of the pneumatic tyre by John Boyd Dunlop which made cycling such a pleasure rather than a bumpy ride. It also includes personal anecdotes of peace activism, and, where it is important to record, aspects of Troubles violence (though this is not its main focus).

While there is no online information available, participants are given four pages of notes and links; this can be shared to indicate the possible contents of such a peace trail. Many other areas of Belfast could be covered by peace trails and other explorations have been made, e.g. by Voices Women's Group in Turf Lodge. Contact innate@ntlworld.com

Photo album on peace trails

INNATE's Flickr photo site now has an album on peace trails which will be added to with photos of sites and the development of peace trails. This includes copies of leaflets for the Mayo peace trail and Belfast 'Untold Stories' trail. See <https://tinyurl.com/yynbr5h>

Developing a peace trail for your local area.....

If there is something or a variety of stories in your area which might be developed into a peace trail (or individually a 'peace feature') please get in touch. If you would like to explore having a peace trail for your local area, INNATE can take you on a peace trail and/or provide input on possibilities before brainstorming possible local features. Different trails will be different but it is intended in due course to produce material on them all in same format.

- For Belfast community television station NVTV's take on the Belfast peace trail walk run by INNATE, see an 8 minute clip online at vimeo.com/235728640 at 9 minutes 45 seconds into the programme (it follows coverage of the Northern Ireland 'Galvanising the Peace' report).

Europe and the world.....

European peace trails which the International Network of Museums for Peace/INMP were involved with developing can be accessed at <http://www.discoverpeace.eu/choose-a-city/> - this includes Berlin, Budapest, Manchester, Paris, The Hague, Torino and Vienna. However these focus on a smaller number of higher profile buildings than is the case in Ireland which has more 'grassroots' coverage.

For a worldwide run down on various kinds of trails and peace marches see http://peace.maripo.com/p_trails.htm

Enquiries and information on peace trails around Ireland

Belfast and general: enquires can be made to: innate@ntlworld.com

Derry: St Columb's Park House (Helen Henderson) helen@stcolumbsparkhouse.org

Dublin: Afri at irishpeacetrail@gmail.com or INNATE innate@ntlworld.com

Co Down: Mary McAnulty sheehyskeffingtonss@gmail.com

There are others interested and involved – if you are elsewhere and interested please still get in touch

