

Peace Trails Ireland *Newsletter*



No.1 Winter 2017-18

Introduction

● This short newsletter is intended to keep people in touch with what is happening on the development of peace trails across Ireland which would focus on peace, justice, inclusion and sustainability. It is being sent to people who have expressed an interest or contributed suggestions as well as going out with INNATE's *Nonviolent News*. If you don't want to receive it occasionally a simple e-mail to innate@ntlworld.com should do the trick. Alternatively if you would like something mentioned in the next issue, just send it in to the same address.

A variety of groups are working in partnership on peace trails for Belfast, Derry, Dublin, Co Down etc (a short one already exists for Co Mayo). Information and suggestions 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>

Co Down joining the list

The Co Down triangle of Downpatrick-Castlewellan-Newcastle is joining the list of places where peace trails are being prepared. This area includes where Roger Casement and E D Morel started the Congo Reform Association in 1904 relating to slavery and torture in the Belgian Congo (Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle), a very important development internationally in relation to human rights. In addition, Casement is important for his work done in the Putamayo region of South America. In this area there is also the birthplace of Francis Sheehy Skeffington (Downpatrick), and the Northern Ireland peace maze (Castlewellan)...before anything else is added. Contact Mary McAnulty sheehyskeffingtonss@gmail.com

There is always the opportunity to produce a peace trail or 'peace feature' (where it is not quite enough to call it a 'trail') or indeed a peace trail triangle, circle, oblong or whatever...get in touch with innate@ntlworld.com and talk about it. Suggestions for inclusion always welcome, anywhere in the country.

Successful Belfast peace trail runs, video clip

A number of successful Belfast city centre and Ormeau peace trail guided walks have been conducted this year, only some of which are mentioned below.

Three guided peace trail walks of Belfast city centre and the Ormeau Road were run as part of the programme for the conference of the International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP) which met in Belfast in April. This was approximately a straight line - though the finished Belfast city centre walk will be circular - and it is hoped additional local routes will join the Ormeau one. The feedback from the INMP trail walks was very positive but also highlighted the need for backing information for those from outside the Northern Ireland situation to help make sense of what people are hearing and seeing; this will form part of the final package when the peace trails are produced for individual use a couple of years down the line.

There is significant interest in working on other local trails in Belfast, to add to the Ormeau one. There is a feeling that the whole project is lifting off....

●Belfast community television station NVTV filmed the peace trail walk run by INNATE for Community Relations Week on International Day of Peace, Thursday 21st September, when the same route as took place for the International Network of Museums for Peace was run but from Donegall Street (St Anne's Cathedral) to Ballynafeigh (Ormeau Road/Park Road). The 8 minute clip can be seen online at vimeo.com/235728640 at 9 minutes 45 seconds into the programme (it follows coverage of the Northern Ireland 'Galvanising the Peace' report).

European Peace Trails

The 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.

The International Network of Museums for Peace (which includes peace trails) is at <https://www.inmp.net/>
For a worldwide run down on various kinds of trails and peace marches see http://peace.maripo.com/p_trails.htm

Church suggestions

A communication from the Inter-Church Centre in Belfast to churches about peace trails brought a number of responses and suggestions for church-related information to be included which will be followed up as part of the relevant geographical areas. The information included the Moravian community/settlement at Gracehill (Ballymena, Co Antrim) providing sanctuary to people at risk from attack by troops during the 1798 rebellion. Follow up work includes covering the substantial Quaker (Religious Society of Friends) input to peace but there are plenty of other stories that can be included.

Co Mayo peace trail

A short peace trail for Co Mayo was produced by Afri and INNATE some few years back. While it would need updated and extended, it is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ybxx9mpc>

Networking continues

A recent meeting was held at St Columb's Park House in Derry involving representatives of St Columb's Park House, Afri and INNATE about peace trails, comparing notes and bouncing around ideas. Unfortunately a wider application for international funding which involved a couple of these organisations and others to work on peace trails for Ireland and another European country was not successful but the commitment continues and the organisations concerned are exploring how best they can resource the task.

The expectation is that the gathering of information may take a couple of years to accomplish at which point the various groups, organisations and individuals involved will explore the best way to produce the material whether as a phone app, geotagging, website or a combination of these. It is expected that any printed information will be just information about the peace trails and not the peace trails themselves – as the change in location of current organisations working for peace, justice, inclusion and sustainability in particular would mean some information may get out of date quite quickly.

So peace trails are not just about work done in the past but also what is going on in the present and for the future.....

Enquiries and information

Belfast: 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

Co Down: Mary McAnulty sheehyskeffingtonss@gmail.com

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

