



GeoPoint

Newsletter of the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland

A New Beginning



As we near the end of another school year we can begin reflect on all the changes that have occurred. This has been a year of change for the AGTI also. On Saturday 25th April, the Association approved the introduction of a new constitution. The new document formally establishes the National Executive of the AGTI.

The National Executive is the representative committee for the branches of which the Association is composed. It will meet 3 or 4 times a year, alternating between Athlone and Portlaoise

and will organise national level events for the Association.

Individual branches will, subject to a small number of Association rules, operate autonomously to meet the needs of their members in the context in which they operate. All branches have a vote on the National Executive and in this way, they have a say in how the Association runs and represents Geography teachers.

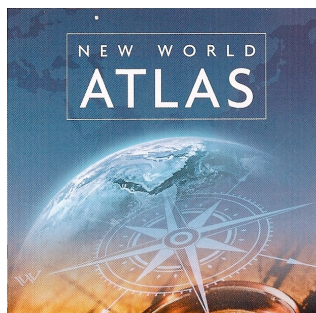
The new Constitution will be printed in Volume 37 of Geographical Viewpoint. I would like to thank the branch representatives who gave up their Saturdays to travel to meeting to discuss and sculpt the constitution. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work done by Sheila Graham and Gwen Bannister in organising meetings of the National Working Committee.

Best wishes for the State exams and have a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing you at the October Conference.

Peter Lydon, President.

The Educational Company of Ireland has produced a new edition of their schools atlas called 'New World Atlas'. We were very pleased with Edco's offer to launch their Atlas and CD at our EGM on April 25th. Regina O' Keeffe of Edco gave a presentation outlining the key aspects of the atlas. There is a greater emphasis on skills in the atlas and it has a range of thematic maps, charts, diagram and illustrations. The Atlas also has a dictionary of geographical terms and a section on key

statistics for every country. The atlas is accompanied by a CD which was distributed



free at the meeting. The CD contains sample Atlas maps and satellite photographs and will be available in September.

Central Branch Name Change

Under the new constitution, Branches apply once-off for recognition. Branch names are agreed by the National Executive to prevent duplication. The name of the Central Branch has changed and is now AGTI - East Central Branch. Existing members of the former Central Branch are automatically members of the East Central Branch.

Recognised branches so far are:-

AGTI - Cork Branch

AGTI - Navan Branch

AGTI - South East Branch

AGTI - North Munster Branch

AGTI - East Central Branch

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

The Annual Conference will be held on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd October 2009. The conference is open to all members to attend but we would like if you would reserve your place early so as to have an idea of numbers in advance. Email peterlydon@iol.ie to reserve your place.

The conference programme is currently being finalised and will include a post-marking plenary. Further details will be made available on www.agti.ie and by newsletter in September.

Nomination Form

The nomination form for election to the position of President of the Association is available on www.agti.ie.

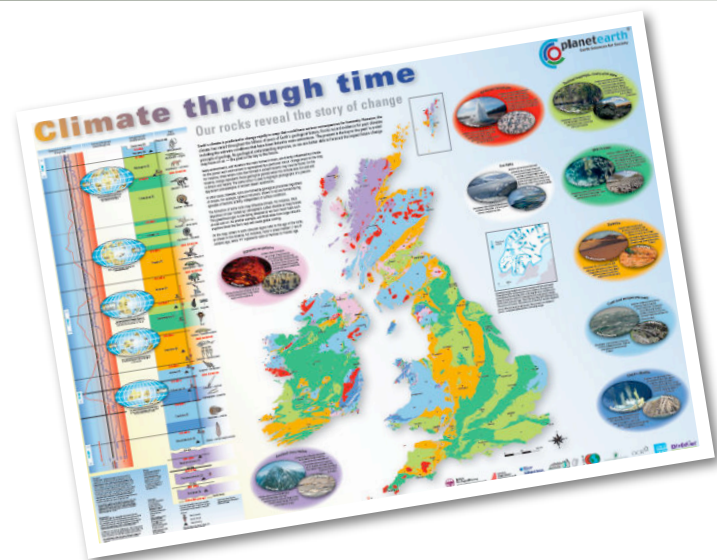
Closing date for receipt of nominations is May 25th 2009. The election will take place at the October AGM.

CLIMATE THROUGH TIME

Many rock-forming environments are directly influenced by climate. This is the rationale for a new poster map of Britain and Ireland, jointly produced by the Geological Survey of Ireland, the British Geological Survey and the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. The map, at a scale of 1:1.5 million, shows the rocks classified in a new way — according to the environment in which they formed.

Were your local rocks formed in a desert, or a tropical swamp, or a cold seabed? And what is the evidence that geologists use to tell this? The poster includes photographs of distinctive rocks showing the evidence that ties them to modern environments around the globe. A geological timeline displays how global temperatures and sea levels changed through time, the positions of Britain and Ireland as they drifted northwards across the Earth, and typical plants and animals from the fossil record for each geological period.

The poster was published in April and is free. A range of teaching organisations in Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland has endorsed the poster. We hope to publish classroom exercises in Volume 37 of Geographical View-



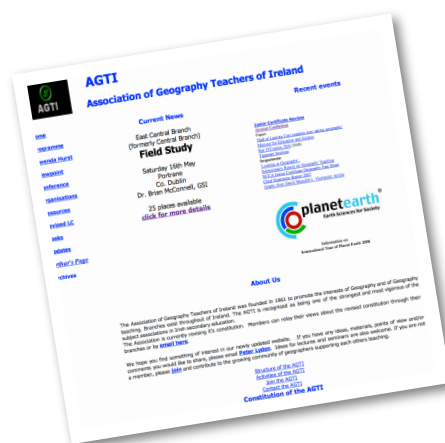
point. The publishers hope that the poster will foster an understanding of the Earth's climate and geology as a dynamic system – a system which has changed in response to extreme events in the past, and which will continue to respond to future changes.

A copy of the map has been included with GeoPoint. The map can also be downloaded at <http://www.gsi.ie/Programmes/Bedrock/Projects/Climate+through+Time+Poster.htm>

AGTI Website

The Association's website is at <http://www.agti.ie>. The website has evolved over the last 5 years and is due for a make over during the summer.

It is hoped that the site can become a resource for geography teachers. If you would like to contribute a resource or idea, please email peterlydon@iol.ie.



Upcoming Events

Cork Branch

5th June 2009 7.30pm

Examination Post Mortem

Cork Education Centre

6th October 2009

AGM

East Central Branch

16th May 2009

Field Study - Portrane

led By Dr. Brian McConnell

June 5th 2009

Examination Post Mortem

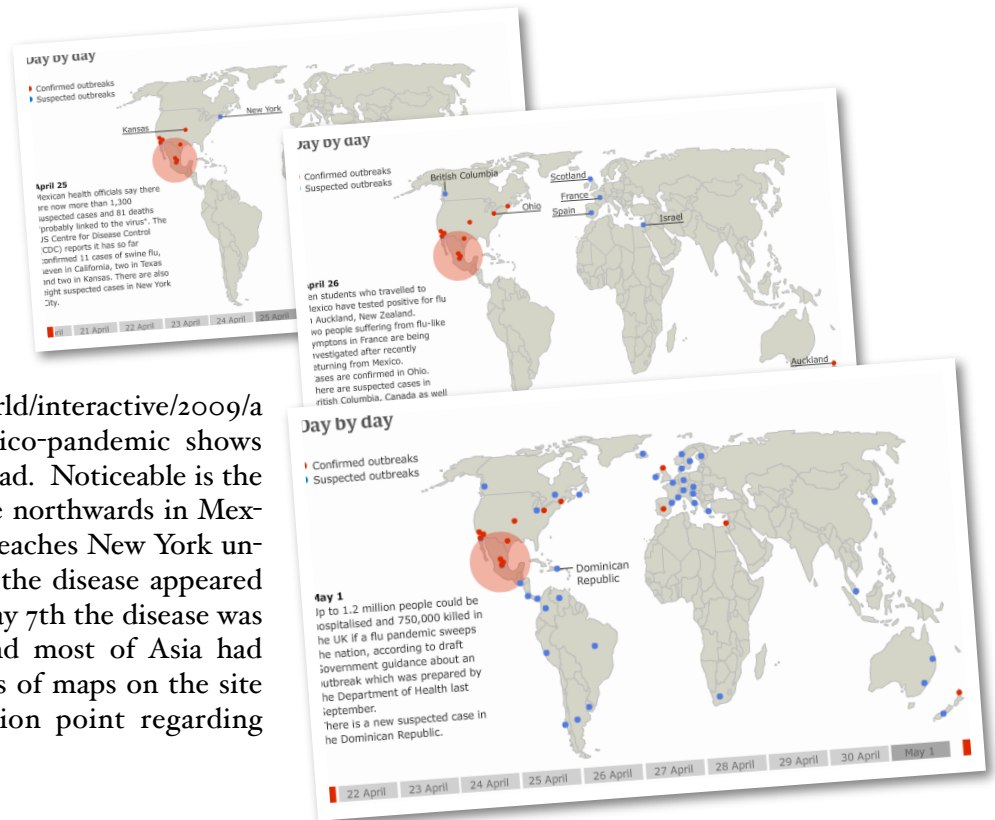
Wesley College, Dublin

Geographical Viewpoint

Dr. Ruth McManus, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, has edited Geographical Viewpoint for the past seven years and has decided to step down from the position. Ruth worked tirelessly to produce the Association's Journal and always to an exceptional standard. We are very grateful for all her hard work over the last seven years in producing a publication of which we are proud. Dr. Susan Hegarty, also of St. Patrick's College has kindly accepted the Association's invitation to become the new editor of the Journal. We wish her all the best as Editor.

SWINE FLU

The Guardian Newspaper is an excellent source for interactive news items and their coverage of an event usually includes links to external sources also. A good sample of their interactive content is their coverage of the swine flu pandemic. The map at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2009/apr/26/swine-flu-outbreak-mexico-pandemic> shows very well how the disease spread. Noticeable is the slow movement of the disease northwards in Mexico from March 18th until it reaches New York until April 25th. On April 26th, the disease appeared in another 6 countries. By May 7th the disease was pandemic although Africa and most of Asia had only one case each. The series of maps on the site make an interesting discussion point regarding globalisation and air travel.



Images courtesy of Guardian Newspapers Limited

ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE

The United States Geological Survey website (<http://www.usgs.gov>) contains a huge amount of information and links on a variety of geography, geology and science related topics including the recent earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy (6th April 2009).



far as to warn residents and put a notice on a website which he was ordered to remove the day before the earthquake struck. Despite this, there appears to be no evidence linking radon gas to earthquakes.

This earthquake makes for an interesting case study for several reasons. Firstly, and perhaps most notably, one scientist Giampaolo Giuliani, a researcher at the National Physical Laboratory of Gran Sasso, recorded increased radon gas emissions. He went so

Another interesting aspect to this earthquake is that it adds a layer of complexity to the otherwise simple distinction in the level of earthquake damage between developed and developing countries.

http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/last_event/world_italy.html

Country:	Italy
Location:	42.36N 13.35E
Nearest Town:	L'Aquila
Time:	2.32am GMT
Magnitude:	6.3
Aftershocks:	2.7
Depth:	10 kilometers
Deaths:	294
Homeless:	55,000
Reconstruction:	€12 billion

Significant damage to medieval and renaissance buildings including 500 historic churches.

CONTRIBUTE!



We are always looking for ideas to share around the community of Geography teachers. It could be a good idea that worked well in class or a useful website. Whatever it is, please send your contribution by email to peterlydon@iol.ie