

Fire & Food

Féile Bríde 2012

Spotlight on Bolivia



Afri
ACTION FROM IRELAND

Saturday 4th February
Kildare Town
Beginning at 1pm



Introduction

This year's Féile Bríde is a celebration of fire and food.

Fire and light have been potent forces and powerful symbols since planet earth emerged from the fiery heart of the sun some five billion years ago. When the earth - itself a burning furnace of molten lava - cooled, soil formed and seeds came forth to clothe her with the stunningly colourful and diverse apparel of nature, which has sustained us in body, spirit and imagination for two hundred thousand years or more!

But human activity now threatens the very survival of Mother Earth - so rich in abundance, bounty and beauty. And the need for humanity to awaken to the consequences of our lifestyles and actions - most importantly those of governments and corporations - grows ever more urgent, as the poor of the world especially bear the brunt of environmental degradation caused by these actions.

Our first speaker, Mayra Gomez from Bolivia, has carried a flame for justice and peace for many years. The flame represents respect for the planet, opposition to war (in particular nuclear weapons) and justice for the poor of the world, especially in the Global South. Mayra recently collected torches from indigenous elders, lit them from the Hiroshima Flame in Japan, and carried the flames around the world at key peace events before presenting them to the UN High Representative for Disarmament in New York. In Kildare - where an ancient fire burned for over a thousand years - she will plant a seed and carry the Brigid flame, as a way of uniting all who are fired by a passion for justice, peace and the preservation of our planet.

Our second speaker, Roisín O'Brien, will urge us to 'be the change', telling us how she has changed her own way of living and point us towards a new way of living and being in the world. In our workshops, in the early days of Spring, the issue of food will be emphasized: the need to plant our own seeds, grow our own food, ensure access to food for all, support those saving seeds and oppose those attempting to colonise life itself through genetically modifying and patenting seeds.


We'd love you to join us as we light fires, sow seeds, engage in workshops and enjoy music and theatre. And, remembering the words of Emma Goldman, we will even have a little dancing! (Admission fee reflects these straitened financial times).

Joe Murray
(Afri Coordinator)

Clár

- 1.00pm Planting a tree... sowing a seed...
lighting a flame with Mayra Gomez
*(at the new Solus Bhríde Centre site - opposite
the well)*
- 1.30pm Registration at the Derby House Hotel
- 2.00pm Music, Fáilte & placing of flame.
- 2.05pm 'What if...' theatre with Pete Mullineaux
& students from Coláiste Éinde.
- 2.25pm Flame of Hope - Mayra Gomez
- 2.55pm Music
- 3.00pm Be the Change - Róisín O Brien
- 3.30pm Round Table discussions followed
by Questions and Answers
- 4.05pm Tea Break
- 4.20pm Workshop sessions:
- *Theresa Carter*: Transition Movement
 - *Liam Deasy*: A New Earth
 - *Ámal Abordán Bernal*: Warmer Planet - Hungrier Planet
 - *Mayra Gomez*: Southern Perspective
- 5.40pm Feedback
- 6.00pm Music and close
- 8.30pm Céilí and seisiún...with a Latin American
flavour.
- 11.30pm Ends





Mayra Gomez is from Bolivia and has worked around the world on peace and justice issues. She is a Board member of the International Peace Bureau and has been active in the adoption and promotion of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She is currently Co-President of Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace, Programme Director for Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, and Senior Programme Officer for Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament. She also serves on the Global Council of Abolition 2000. Mayra recently collected torches from indigenous elders, lit them from the Hiroshima Flame in Japan and carried the flame around the world at key peace events before presenting them to the UN High Representative for Disarmament in New York.

Róisín O'Brien says that 'she has come to know that we are a strand in the web of life and that human actions have huge consequences on climate'. Róisín is a daughter, retired teacher, wife, mother and grandmother who loves giving 'Be The Change' seminars to interested groups and in schools. As a result of her work with 'Be the Change' she says: 'I have started to change the way I live myself in small ways, and by bringing Be The Change to other people trust that a new way of thinking and behaving will emerge.'

Theresa Carter has been involved with Transition Ireland and Northern Ireland since 2006. She was a member of Fada Newbridge and helped in setting up Kildare Transition Town. Now based in Laois, her focus has been on raising awareness of our need to transition to a lower carbon lifestyle at local and national level. Further information on transition in Ireland and beyond can be found at www.network4tini.org.


Pete Mullineaux is a graduate of drama from Middlesex University, where he received the Fuller Award for outstanding achievement. He is a poet and playwright who has worked with a broad range of groups across Ireland and Britain. He has produced a number of stage plays and two radio plays with RTÉ. He has worked with students from Dublin, Kildare and Galway to produce memorable theatre pieces for Féile Bríde including 'Jackie and the Beanstalk', 'Calling the Shots' and 'More'. His latest book of poetry 'Sessions' was published in 2011.

Ámal Abordán Bernal's background is in journalism, but she focused on development in her Masters on Gender and Development and her Postgraduate in International Information. She has worked in Mozambique and Bolivia and has worked as Education Officer in the Latin America Solidarity Centre since 2006. LASC has been working on the issue of Food Sovereignty for the last three years, linking and learning from both Irish and Latin American experiences.

Liam Deasy from Brú na Cruinne will facilitate a workshop entitled "A New Earth". Liam says: 'This will be a participative workshop which will include brainstorming and sharing together. The focus will be on our experiences of evolving consciousness and our emerging concerns for our society and our planet.'"



Afri gratefully acknowledges the support of Irish Aid, Trócaire and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

 Afri is a member organisation of the International Peace Bureau



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Féile Bríde 2012

Saturday 4th February
Derby House Hotel, Kildare

Booking Form

Name:

Address:

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Tel No:

Email:

Admission to Conference

Full Price	€10
Concession (students, unwaged)	€ 6

I enclose €___ for conference fee.

Donation of €___ towards cost of running the event.

Please return booking form and admission fee to: