

Seeds of Change

Féile Bríde 2011



Saturday,
February 5th 2011
Beginning 1.15pm
Derby House Hotel,
Kildare Town



Introduction

The symbolism of Brigid giving her father's sword to a poor man seeking alms is ever more relevant in a world where the annual arms budget exceeds \$1,500 billion. That spending represents food taken out of our mouths, particularly those of the poor. And food is the focus of this year's Féile.

Though food may be a hobby or a profession for some, securing enough to feed a family is a matter of life and death for many more. Remarkably, the constant reality of a billion people hungry in our world has failed to trigger a response similar to that in the banking crisis, where billions of euros were instantly found for a 'bail-out'!

Yet few subjects have such importance, generate such interest or evoke such passions as food: it is spoken about, thought about, written about, fought about, discussed, eaten, enjoyed, denied, controlled and wasted - as well as being the subject of multiple media articles and programmes. Books such as Felicity Lawrence's *Eat your Heart Out* and Raj Patel's *Stuffed and Starved* spell out the inequities of modern industrialised food-production and consumption patterns. Food is controlled by multinational corporations, manipulated, genetically modified or used as a weapon, while biodiversity continues to be lost at an alarming rate.

But there is also a hopeful 'counter-revolution', as small producers continue to play a crucial role in production in 'Developing Countries' and many people in the Northern Hemisphere are returning to the "old-fashioned" practice of growing our own food. Is this the answer? This is one of the questions we will address during the day.

And while the Féile may not feature the singing of 'Food, Glorious Food', the 'Oliver' theme will be taken up in a theatre piece called 'More', developed and presented by young people from Coláiste Éinde under the astute guidance and direction of Pete Mullineaux.

Alais Morindat from Tanzania will bring the unique perspective of the Masai pastoralist to the table, and Michael Kelly, author and founder of *Grow it Yourself*, will talk about a movement that is retrieving the 'art of growing', once taken for granted in Ireland.

Discussion will follow, on how the local and the global perspectives are linked and how each relates to food sovereignty/security. As usual, music will be interwoven throughout the day, including an end-of-day miscellany and seisiún.

There will, in other words, be something for everyone!

Joe Murray
(Afri Coordinator)

Clár

- 1:15pm Registration
- 1:50pm Music by Justine Nantale, agus Fáilte
- 1.55pm ‘More’ - a short theatre piece devised and directed by Pete Mullineaux, with students from Coláiste Éinde.
- 2:15pm Food and Famine in Tanzania: A Masai Pastoralist Perspective - Alais Morindat
- 2:45pm Music
- 2:50pm Grow It Yourself: Maintaining Sustainability, Preserving Biodiversity
- Michael Kelly
- 3:20pm Small-group discussions, followed by Questions & Answers
- 4:00pm Tea break
- 4:20pm Workshop Sessions: “Think Globally, Act Locally”
Further Exploration of the themes raised in the opening sessions
- 5:30pm Feedback and discussion
- 6:00pm Music and close
- 8:30pm Saturday Miscellany
Readings on the theme of the day interspersed with music, followed by a Seisiún.
(Admission €3.00 - Free for conference participants)
- 11.30pm Ends

Contributors

Alais Morindat has worked in development for many years. He currently runs a programme for the International Institute for Environment and Development and Resource Conflict Institute in Tanzania, providing training courses for pastoralist communities on land management and livelihood systems and on participation in policies affecting their future. Alais will use case studies of small scale farmers and pastoralists in Africa to elaborate on the theme of his presentation.

Michael Kelly is an author and founder of Grow it Yourself (GIY) Ireland. GIY aims to inspire people to grow their own food and gives them the skills they need to do so successfully. The organisation brings people together to share knowledge about growing and rearing food, knowledge that a generation ago would have been taken as a given.



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Afri  is a member organisation of the International Peace Bureau 



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Saturday, 5th February
Derby House Hotel, Kildare

Booking Form

Name:

Address:

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Tel No:

Email:

Admission to Conference

Full Price	€12
Concession	€ 7

(students, unwaged)

I enclose €___ for conference fee.

Donation of €___ towards cost of running the event.

Please return booking form and admission fee to:

Afri, 134 Phibsborough Road, Phibsborough, Dublin 7

Telephone: 01 8827563 or 01 8827581

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