



Dear Geography Teacher,

Welcome to '*Geography*' a newsletter of the Second Level Support Service. I look forward to supporting you in your work and will endeavour to keep you informed of important developments in our subject area. I aim to provide continuing professional development in the areas of teaching and learning in Geography. Suggestions are always welcome. In particular, I welcome suggestions for in-career training sessions, resources, and other relevant activities. I assure you that I will give all suggestions serious consideration and act on them as much as I can.

*Conor Harrison*

### AGTI

The Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland (AGTI) has a very useful website at the following address: <http://www.agti.ie>. This site is full of useful information. It outlines the work of the association, its constitution and how to become a member. It also contains many resources and links to other useful web sites for the Geography teacher. Important Department circulars are also highlighted and news of upcoming events organised by the association are also given. If you would like to join the AGTI, you can do so by contacting your local branch details of which are on the website.

### Spring In-Service Programme 2010

The spring in-service programme will consist of:

#### 1. *Introduction to Scoilnet Maps*

(See flyer for Education Centre details)

Wed	24 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Sligo
Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Co. Donegal
Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	Mayo
Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	West Cork
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar	Galway
Thurs	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Monaghan
Thurs	11 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Drumcondra
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Limerick
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Navan
Thurs	18 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Dublin West
Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Laois
Thurs	15 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Kildare
Thurs	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Apr	Blackrock

#### 2. *Physical & Urban Fieldwork Skills*

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Dublin  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Cork  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Galway

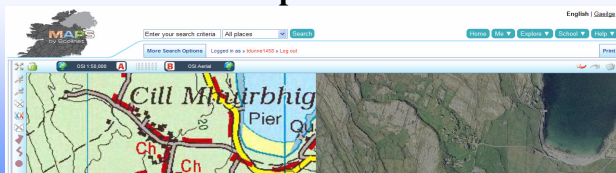
### State Examinations Commission Circular

*Circular S85/09* which was issued in November 2010 contains essential new information for all Geography teachers who are working towards the Leaving Certificate Examination with their students. The circular provides additional information on the meaning of a 'Significant Relevant Point (SRP)' and on the 'Gathering of Data' in the Geographical Investigation. This clarification has been warmly welcomed by geography teachers countrywide. The circular is available online at <http://www.examinations.ie>.

### New to Scoilnet Maps

Thematic information from the **2006 Census** can now be viewed for the whole country. This could be really useful in the Human Elective.

### Scoilnet Map Mirrored View



### Relevance of Rocks Activity

If you are having difficulty convincing students of the importance of rocks in our lives, try the following activity.

Pose this question to your class:

- Is there anything in this classroom which does not come from rocks?

Answers will come quickly at the beginning. Then trace the origin of each named item back to rocks. For example, curtains are made from textiles which are derived from oil or plants or animals. Oil is found in rocks. Plants grow in soil which is derived from rocks. Animals live on plants or other animals which live on plants which grow on rocks etc. etc. Students will love trying to catch out the teacher and so engage enthusiastically with the activity. Also the repetition in the explanations reinforces the links between rocks and the material things in our lives.

This newsletter has been produced by **Tony Dunne**, SLSS Associate for Geography, and **Conor Harrison**, National Co-ordinator – Cultural and Environmental Education, Second Level Support Service, Co. Wexford Education Centre, Milehouse Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

E-Mail: [conorharrison@slss.ie](mailto:conorharrison@slss.ie)

Mobile: 087 – 240 5710

Administrator: **Angela Thompson**

Tel: 053 – 923 9121

E-mail: [angelathompson@eircom.net](mailto:angelathompson@eircom.net)

### Scoilnet Maps

The Scoilnet Maps website is one of the most important resources for the Geography teacher. It has two components:

1. Online maps which include a variety of Ordnance Survey maps and photographs of the whole country, satellite photographs, atlas maps, etc.
2. A bank of resources including worksheets, photographs, animations, PowerPoint presentations, etc.

For the first time OS maps and photographs of Ireland are readily to hand and can be projected and manipulated in ways which will revolutionise the teaching and learning of maps and photographs. For example, a vertical aerial photograph of an area can be converted onscreen into an Ordnance Survey map of the same area. This facility allows us to demonstrate the fundamental nature of both maps and photographs in a way which was not possible before.

The site can be accessed on-line in your classroom using your school's broadband connection: the address is

<http://maps.scoilnet.ie>.

Teachers can become registered users of Scoilnet Maps. Registered users can interact fully with the site. For example, they can upload their own resources for private or public viewing on the site and they can add students as users under their supervision.

To register for Scoilnet maps visit the Scoilnet home page at <http://www.scoilnet.ie>. In the 'Your Questions' pane click on the question 'What is Scoilnet Maps and who has access to it?' and follow the onscreen instructions. Register now for one of our Scoilnet Maps support sessions which we are organising in association with NCTE: Details of Support Group sessions are shown overleaf.

