



Treasurer's Report to the AGM May 2011

General Matters

These are the financial statements and audit for the year ending 31st March 2011. This years audit has again been carried out by Noel Mc Sharry & Co. Accountant and Auditor, on behalf of the listed Directors and the current Irish Landscape Institute Council. The Directors recommend and request that the report and financial statements be received and approved. The Directors recommend and seek approval not to declare a dividend in respect of the year 2010-2011.

Treasurers Report

The following are the main points and issues that the sitting Treasurer would like to bring to the attention of our members in relation to this years accounts.

- The Directors for the year 2010-2011 are Deirdre Black and John Ward. Deirdre Black wishes to step down as Director. Our thanks to Deirdre for her input as Director of the ILI for the past number of years. Anthony Williams continues as Secretary.
- As per pg 7 of the audit, the cash at bank and in hand on the 31st March 2011 was €15,929.00, up marginally by €678.00 on last year's figures. Our debtors are estimated at €5,892.00. Membership fees have continued to trickle in over the last number of weeks.
- Our overall opening members funds for the period 2010-11 was €22,352 compared to €34,933 in the previous year 2009-10. This depleting reserve of members' funds reflects the decline of our membership in the past two years. The figure also reflects the ongoing work of the ILI Council in consolidating our database to give a more accurate reflection of the actual number of paid-up members of our Institute.
- Sponsorship income for the year is €2,300, down €1,000 from last year. We would like to thank **Nature Play, Galway**, who continue as our lead sponsor.

Debtors

As per pg 7 of the audit, our debtors (outstanding subscriptions) stand at €5,892.00, down from €8,837.00 last year and €16,130 the year before. This figure is a result of the continual consolidation of our live database.

Again, this year, we would like to reiterate that the Irish Landscape Institute is very much aware of the economic implications that the current recession is having on our membership. The ILI Council are open to discussions with any individual or practice regarding alternative forms of payment to ensure that members good standing within this professional body. However, we must ask that both practices and corporate members who are in substantial arrears to maintain contact with the institute and make every effort to ensure their membership does not lapse.



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Please note: Arrears

In the interest of fairness to both practices and individual members who have paid their subscriptions within a reasonable timeframe, those whose have substantial arrears of more than one year will be removed from the live register and ILI website listing, if arrears are not settled by the **17th June 2011**.

Debtors

In terms of outstanding debts and monies owed to the ILI, there remains four categories of debtors.

- Those who had a historical bank transfer arrangement with AIB to transfer fees annually, the majority of which work in the public sector. We continue to work with individuals to resolve this complex tracking of subscriptions, and have resolved the issue with those who have made contact with us on the matter. We would urge others who have not done so to contact us as via the Treasurer or the Administrator of the ILI.
- The Graduate/Student members who had been on our database for 3 or more years, who paid their initial subscription, but did not maintain their membership thereafter. We continue to try to contact these members and give them the opportunity to pay their outstanding subscriptions. If no contact can be made they are removed from the live database, and records kept records of their past membership with us.
- Our members who are now redundant and whose subscriptions have lapsed. The 'Unwaged Rate' has received a better response in the past year once these members were made aware of its availability.

We continue to maintain records of our members who have emigrated, but in many cases their membership subscriptions have lapsed, and they are removed from our live database.

Administration

Grainne Finn continues in her role as ILI Administrator and has been of great assistance to me as Treasurer in the past year. We would ask our members to note that the ILI financial resources only allow for the part-time employment of our Administrator, which is approximately 10 hours / week, with general office hours of 12-3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which are available on the ILI website.

Website

The Irish Landscape Institute was due to undertake a redesign of the website last year. Unfortunately, we were unable to do so for financial reasons. The bulk of our membership subscriptions were paid in the Feb / March period this year. Given that a substantial percentage of subscriptions have been paid in recent months we have given the go-ahead for the website redevelopment in the coming months. We hope that the new website which will contain a substantial body of information and will reduce the number of general queries we receive through the ILI email address. The website will be developed to improve general artwork and graphics, improved navigation through the site and user interface, and structured in such a way that it can will act as a valuable resource to our membership and the general public.



Expenditure

The expenditure figure for the year is €26,745 compared to €39,078 last year, down €12,333. The low expenditure figure reflects the slow movement of income via subscriptions over a period of 8 months, which curtailed our ability to plan events for the year ahead. Given the nature of the current economic climate, the ILI is at best able to function, but with timely receipt of subscriptions, we would in future be in a better position to plan various events and lectures for our membership.

Wages and salaries are up by €2,197 reflecting the increase in general administration, database consolidation, issuing invoices, chasing subscriptions and bad debts. Bad debts are now estimated to be at €2,524 compared to €7,378.00 last year, down €4,854.

The ILI Conferring Ceremony at Christmas in Fumbally Square cost €1,079. Expenses associated with the lecture series ie. Flights/accommodation/speaking fees etc came to €3,193. Printing, postage and stationary came to €2,641.00. Annual subscriptions to EFLA, IFLA and IFPRA amount to €2,116.

In terms of general expenses, since January 2010, only members of the ILI Council Executive can make *reasonable* claims for out-of-pocket expenses. Members of the various subcommittees may also claim *reasonable* expenses that they may have occurred in carrying out duties on behalf of the Irish Landscape Institute. All expenditure requires prior approval from the Honorary Treasurer, and for larger sums, from the ILI Executive Council.

Going Forward: The Next Year : 2011-2012

Our accountants Noel Mc Sharry & Co have flagged that our reserves are depleting each year due to the reduction in subscriptions. We therefore need to recoup outstanding debts, ensure subscriptions are paid in a timely fashion and monitor our expenditure. We also need to look at other sources of income to ensure the institutes' future viability.

The following will be prioritised, by Joerg Schultz the incoming Honorary Treasurer with the assistance of Grainne Finn and other Council Members:

- Continue to resolve our outstanding debts and subscription issues
- Continue to maintain and update our database and continue to improve our administration procedures
- Continue to improve our invoicing and accountancy procedures
- Continue to set realistic budgets for our sub committees so they can continue to develop ILI events
- Co-ordinate the redesign of the ILI Website

The Irish Landscape Institute Lecture Series was again run by Joanne Coughlan & Laura Flynn. Their time and effort in organising these lectures has been reflected by substantial attendance and interest in the series in the past number of years.



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Given the serious shortfall in funds around Dec 2010 and Jan 2011, we were not in a position to commit to a budget for the lecture series but sincerely hope that an increase in funds will allow its partial resumption as soon as possible.

We are again in need of an editor as well as more dedicated volunteers to work with Rowan Darcy on the organisation and publication of ILI magazine, LANDSCAPE IRELAND. Anyone who is interested in this role should contact the ILI directly.

As outgoing Treasurer, I would like to thank everyone on the Council for their time and patience over the last number of years and in particular the last 12 months. If elected, I would like to wish Joerg Schultz well, in the role of Honorary Treasurer for the next two years.

Margaret Egan MILI
Honorary Treasurer (2008-2011)
Irish Landscape Institute