

Irish organisations pushing forward in 2014

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Woodcock enthusiasts understand the need for conservation of woodcock and their habitat.

Longnetter pays tribute to the organisations that are protecting and enhancing Irish fieldsports

IRELAND is known the world over for its fieldsports heritage. From coursing Greyhounds to fine salmon angling, hard working dogs and fine woodcock shooting, not to mention the many sporting legends that came from this small island.

To hold on to this heritage and ensure its future and success Ireland has a wealth of fantastic fieldsports organisations working hard all year round. Our larger organisations, like the Countryside Alliance Ireland (CAI) and the National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC), have been carrying out sterling work on behalf of Irish hunters, shooters and anglers for many years. It is safe to say our sport would be much less without them.

As well as these large organisations we have many smaller organisations and, in some cases, individuals working endlessly to defend, preserve and encourage shooting, angling and hunting. Organisations like the Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers (FISSTA) who



have been working endlessly on angling projects such as Galway Bay Against Salmon Cages and most recently Anglers Rights on the Gweebarra River.

The Irish Working Terrier Federation (IWTF) was established in order to protect and defend terrierwork in Ireland. It has been a fantastic success and they were not only instrumental in preventing a ban on terrierwork in Ireland but they also continue to grow from strength to strength and to defend and protect the sport.

Fantastic work

The Irish Red Grouse Association was established in 2010 following a directive from the Executive Board of the CAI by sportsmen and conservationists alike in order to increase and preserve the Irish red grouse population. They have been carrying out fantastic work on preserving the Irish red grouse, a most

valuable species on our shores.

The National Woodcock Association of Ireland was established in 2003 and was founded on the basis of providing an understanding among woodcock enthusiasts of the need for conservation of woodcock and their habitat.

So you can see that right here in Ireland there are many people hard at work for our sport, preserving, defending and pushing forward for the future. The organisations and people behind them do so much for the future of fieldsports. People like Lyall Plant and Ashley Graham from the CAI.

Des Crofton from the NARGC, Noel Carr and his team from FISSTA, the guys from the IWTF and the many others I have not mentioned right across the island are all the stalwarts of Irish fieldsports. The Irish sporting community owe you a lot.