

Anam Cara:
"Soul Friend"
in Irish Gaelic

ANAM CARA for TARA

We call on the Irish Government to review their decision to build the M3 freeway through the Hill of Tara.

"Tara is, because of its associations, probably the most consecrated spot in Ireland, and its destruction will leave many bitter memories behind it."

W. B. Yeats, et al., in a letter of protest to The Times, 27th June 1902, when Tara was last threatened.

The Anam Cara for Tara campaign will lend voice to a united global chorus to save the Hill of Tara.

TARA

The Hill of Tara was one of the most important political and spiritual seats of power in Ireland, from prehistoric through historic times. It contains many monuments from different historical periods, and was of great importance long before it became the seat of the Ard Ri Eireann, the High Kings of Ireland. The Tuatha Dé Danann (children of Danu), mythical supernatural beings who inhabited Ireland long, long ago, believed Tara to be the sacred place of dwelling for the gods and the entrance to the Other World. In the 5th century BC, legendary poet Amergin mac Miled, druid, bard and judge, and one of eight sons of Míl Espáine, king of the Milesians of Iberia (Hispania or Spain), led the first Gaelic settlers to Ireland. They defeated the Tuatha Dé Danann and took Tara, the capital city, fulfilling their prophecy that one day they would live on their "Isle of Destiny".



RIVER BOYNE

The Irish saw wells and springs as doorways between the earth and the realm of the spirit. Flowing through the Tara valley, is the Boyne river, named after Boann, an Irish water goddess and wife of Nechtan, an Irish god of water. Only he and his three cup-bearers were permitted to visit the Well of Segais, into which nine sacred hazel trees dropped their wisdom-bearing nuts. According to myth, when Boann visited the well, it overflowed and crashed her to the coast, forming the river Boyne. Boann had a love affair with the Dagda, the High King and god of the Tuatha Dé Danann, by whom she had a son, Aengus. To keep their affair secret, the Dagda made the sun stand still for nine months, and Aengus was conceived, gestated and born in one day. Aengus Óg, god of love, youth and poetic inspiration, lived a magical life, shapeshifting with mystical maidens and swans on the river Boyne.

NEWGRANGE (Brug na Bóinne)

The Tuatha Dé Danann were master astronomers who preserved their knowledge in mythological form. They erected Newgrange around 3200BC. According to archaeological carbon dating, it is more than 600 years older than the Giza Pyramids in Egypt and 1,000 years older than Stonehenge. Legend has it, Newgrange was the place where the great mythical hero Cúchulainn, the Hound of Ulster, was conceived, when the Irish god Lugh visited his mother, Dechtine, in a dream while she stayed at the Brugh na Bóinne. In Old Irish, Brú means "womb". Lugh, the Sun god, the god of light, gifted in leadership, poetry, learning, and magic, was patron to musicians, craftspeople, magicians, healers and warriors.



STOP THE BULLDOZERS

This is a modern day story of the heart and soul ~
bringing people together to protect cultural heritage.

It's looked like this for 7,000 years... unless we do something NOW...

It'll look like this for ... EVER



Sign the Petition!
Send an email!
Write a letter!
Become informed!
Tell others!

Plan an awareness or fundraising event. Make copies of this handbill, to pass around at parties and public events!

Visit: www.AnamCaraFestival.org for the petition link, Irish government and media addresses, a sample letter, plus templates for a poster, flyer, and this handbill.

Can anyone doubt the profound cultural importance of Tara and its unique landscape? A landscape honoured and revered by millions throughout the world today and countless generations of Irish people gone before us. Nowhere else in Ireland is there a landscape that can claim the Tuatha de Danann, Celtic Gods and Goddesses, St. Patrick, Daniel O'Connell, Thomas Moore, heroes and High Kings from Fionn MacCumhail to Brian Boru, an archaeological complex of temples, tombs, enclosures and henges spanning five millennia, and a continuous place at the centre of Irish spiritual, cultural, political and literary history, as part of it's fabric. Yet it is through the very heart of this landscape that the Irish Government plans to build a motorway, which will impact at least 141 known archaeological sites. For those who don't know the significance of this plan to desecrate and destroy the Hill of Tara environs, it would be like putting a speedway through Stonehenge, Machu Pichu, the Pyramids, Lourdes, or the Vatican.

For more information, visit: www.GlobalArtsCollective.org

