



Newsletter

Issue Number 2

July 2015

Federation AGM Kinsale, May 8 – 10, 2015

The event was a great success and was well supported by member societies. Sixty delegates were in attendance with representatives from fourteen counties and twenty four societies.

It was a privilege to share in the Lusitania commemorations and support the local effort. We attended the Lusitania Memorial Concert in St. Multose Church and it proved to be a very moving experience.

Mayor of County Cork, Cllr. Alan Coleman opened the AGM and spoke highly of the work being done by local societies throughout the country. There was a good representation from the FULS and Doreen McBride spoke on behalf of the Ulster Federation.

As always there was a lively “Society Spake” at the meeting and we managed a number of field trips over the weekend. There was a trip to the restored Signal Tower at the Old Head of Kinsale; a visit to the site of the Battle of Kinsale and a historical walk through the town led by local historian, Dermot Ryan.

We had the unique opportunity to meet owner of the Lusitania, Greg Bemis, the Lusitania diver, Eoin McGarry and Helen Joseph whose mother had survived the sinking of the ship.

There were two new societies elected on to the executive committee. Cork Arch. & Hist. Society (Clare O'Halloran) and Old Athlone Society (Eamon Leonard), both were warmly welcomed on board.

UK Visit to Devon & Cornwall, April 13 – 17, 2015

This proved to be an inspired choice as fifty three travellers enjoyed a memorable weekend in the West Country. There were representatives from thirteen counties including societies from Knocklyon, Clontarf, Naas, Clane, Durrow, Tipperary, Rathcoffey, Banbridge, West Belfast, Carrickfergus, Donegal, West Galway, Navan, Drogheda, Waterford, Athy, Roscommon, Clondalkin, Foxrock, Rathmichael and New Buildings.

The group stayed in Plymouth, one of Britain's great seafaring ports.

Day one saw the group visit Buckland Abbey, once the home of Sir. Francis Drake, then Tavistock, followed by a trip across Dartmoor plains and finally to Exeter where we had a guided tour of its magnificent cathedral.

Next day there was a visit to Lanhydrock House, a splendid Victorian Mansion with stunning gardens and some impressive architecture including the unique Long Gallery. This was followed by a scenic drive through Bodmin. A visit to Prideaux Place House and the Cornish fishing village of Padstow.

The final day took us to South Cornwall through Truro with its fine cathedral and on to St. Michael's Mount, arguably the highlight of the trip. The views from the castle on the mount were stunning, its cliff face gardens unbelievable and a unique interior something special.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members. From County Cork, Cork Harbour Islands Project; Kilbrittain Historical Society and Friends of Cloyne Cathedral; from Mayo, Cong Moytura Heritage Society and from Wexford Kilnener.

Local History Review 2015

We are now requesting articles for the upcoming 2015 Local History Review. Articles dealing with any aspect of local history in your area or of a national interest are welcome.

Guidelines are 1000-4000 in MS Word format and accompanied by pictures where possible in uncompressed jpeg format. We are also seeking items of society news — any significant events or activities that you would like to highlight. This should, preferably, be a short article with picture(s) where appropriate. This offers people to have some of their own work published on a national forum.

Submissions should be sent to Larry Breen at e-mail larrybreen8@eircom.net, Tel 045 897445 or mobile 087 984 1551.

Please note that a limited number of past copies of reviews are available and may be ordered from the Federation Website www.localhistory.ie.

Hidden Gems & Forgotten People

We will launch our new collection of Hidden Gems & Forgotten People Exhibition Display Panels on Thursday, October 8, 2015. This will be performed by President Michael D Higgins and all are welcome. Venue is still to be confirmed but it will be in Dublin and further details will follow.

Membership Renewal Subscriptions 2015

We would like to thank all those societies who have paid their annual subscription. There are however some societies still outstanding. We would ask those concerned to please return their remittance to Mairead Byrne, 135 Dara Court, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.

Dates for your Diary

JOINT NORTH/SOUTH VISIT: North Down/South Antrim. Saturday/Sunday, July 4 – 5, 2015

Fully booked.

ORAL HISTORY SEMINAR Saturday, October 3, 2015, Teacher's Club, Parnell Square, Dublin. Details to follow.

UK TRIP: April 11th – 15th, 2016 Visit “The Heart Of England” Warwick, Stratford, Coventry, Chatsworth House, Blenheim Palace, Oxford. Details to follow.

BATTLEFIELDS OF EUROPE — Flanders, Somme, Waterloo, Bruges, Leuven. Summer/Autumn 2016. In progress and details to follow.