



Newsletter

Issue Number 3

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FEDERATIONS JOINT VISIT — NORTH DOWN/SOUTH ANTRIM, JULY 4TH - 5TH, 2015

Sixtythree local historians from across the island representing twenty five societies and fourteen counties met in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, for the annual joint exchange visit. The first port of call was the Somme Heritage Centre near Carrickfergus. Dealing with the World Wars, and other international conflicts, it proved both interesting and informative.

Then it was a journey along the Portaferry Road to the impressive Mount Stewart with its magnificent house and beautiful world renowned gardens. Inside the house every room was a “gem” and with the gardens in full bloom it presented a stunning spectacle in the afternoon summer sunshine. There was a spectacular walk to the lake and back. During our visit we were treated to a lovely meal in the restaurant.

The day concluded with an excellent dinner at the Loughshore Hotel in Carrickfergus which was followed by a captivating talk on some aspects of Carrickfergus history by Shirin Murphy from the Carrickfergus Museum.

On Saturday morning we had a guided tour of Carrickfergus Castle, one of the best examples of an Anglo-Norman Castle in Ireland, and built by Hugh deCourcy. There was an added treat in store as we witnessed an air display by the famous “Red Arrows” over the skies above the castle. This was part of the celebrations for the “Tall Ships” visit to Belfast.

Next was a visit to the unique “Flame” coal gasworks, the only one of its kind remaining in Ireland with its huge horizontal retorts being the largest in all of Europe. The group finished the day with a visit and guided tour of the medieval Church of St. Nicholas. So ended another memorable federation trip to a place steeped in its own unique history.

ORAL HISTORY SEMINAR SATURDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 2015 — TEACHERS’ CLUB, DUBLIN

Oral History presents that unique opportunity to tap into the huge resource of information residing in the minds and memories of so many of our senior citizens. It is so important that we do not lose the opportunity to record and preserve this for posterity and future generations. This seminar is a must for anyone interested in our oral tradition and what can be done to capture and preserve it. There are still places available and anyone interested should contact Larry Breen at, larrybreen8@eircom.net.

HIDDEN GEMS & FORGOTTEN PEOPLE DISPLAY PANELS- LAUNCH THUR. 8TH OCT. 2015, DUBLIN

There will be an official launch of our recently acquired set of Display Panels in the National Library of Ireland on Thursday, 8th October, 2015. The official launch will be performed by the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins. This we feel is a significant promotional achievement and should significantly help the future development of the Hidden Gems & Forgotten People project. Due to the limited capacity of the National Library seminar room this event will be by invitation.

On the same subject we are still looking for submissions from member societies to add to our website. This is an open-ended project and can be added to continuously. To date we have no submissions from counties, Kerry, Sligo, Kilkenny and Leitrim so why not get involved in putting your home county on the website map.

FUTURE TRIPS

UK TRIP – HEART OF ENGLAND 10TH - 14TH APRIL, 2016

The group will be based in Royal Leamington Spa from where we will organise our tours.

The programme will most likely include Coventry Cathedral, the beautiful Chatsworth House, Warwick Castle, Stratford upon Avon, the spectacular Blenheim Palace and the University City of Oxford.

