



Newsletter

ISSUE NUMBER 1

JULY 2019

FEDERATION JOINT EXCHANGE VISIT TO HISTORIC ARMAGH — SEPT. 28/29, 2019

This trip will take us to Armagh City where we will meet with our friends from the FULS. Places to visit will be three iconic locations, “On the hill”, namely St Patrick’s Church of Ireland Cathedral which has its origins back to 445 and a stone church by St Patrick. The Church itself had been destroyed and rebuilt seventeen times.

The Robinson Library, founded in 1771 by Archbishop Richard Robinson, is the oldest in Northern Ireland. A registered museum, it contains books of the 17th and 18th century and holds many ancient Irish artefacts. No 5 Vicker Street is a unique building holding among other things, civil records, bronze age weapons and Neolithic stone tools. We will have a guided tour of the RC Cathedral of St. Patrick and visit the Cardinal O’Fiaich Library. We will also have an opportunity to visit the Armagh County Museum.

On Sunday we will visit Navan Fort, the famous ancient ceremonial mound near the city. Coach will leave Naas, Co. Kildare, at 8.30 am on Saturday, September 28 and leave Armagh City to return home at 5.00 pm on Sunday, September 29. During the weekend we will stay in the impressive Armagh City Hotel. All are welcome to come join us on a trip to an ancient city steeped in history. Booking details will follow.

FEDERATION UK TRIP TO NORTHUMBRIA — APRIL 8/12, 2019

This year the trip to Northumbria was a great success during which time we enjoyed some fine weather. We had representation from twenty eight societies from seventeen counties including thirteen delegates from the FULS. A most enjoyable walk around the streets of Durham was followed by a guided tour of magnificent Durham Cathedral, one of the great buildings of Europe.

After lunch the group headed for the Beamish Outdoor Museum, a most impressive facility depicting life in the North of England from bygone days up to the present. Local historian, Nick Hodgson, from the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, delivered a fascinating after-dinner talk on the origins and history of Hadrian’s Wall. Wednesday morning was spent on a guided walk around the centre of Newcastle, including Grey’s Monument, the market, the Cathedral, the Castle and the Millennium Bridge.

After lunch the visit to Hadrian’s Wall was a memorable one including a visit to Chesters Roman Fort and

Cawfields Quarry. Thursday saw the group head north with a stop at the impressive Alnwick Castle and gardens which included the magnificent State Rooms and the Water Jet Cascade in the gardens. The day concluded with a visit to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne including a guided tour of the Priory.



Chesters Roman Fort

FEDERATION AGM—ATHLONE – MAY 24/26, 2019

Delegates from across the island enjoyed a very interesting and informative AGM and a weekend of activities. The beautiful Hodson Bay Hotel on the shores of Lough Ree was the venue and proved an excellent choice. Delegates arrived on Friday evening and enjoyed dinner and a most interesting after-dinner talk by local historian, Geraoid O’Brien. The business of the AGM was held on Saturday morning. There were no major changes to the executive committee, Dick Ryan was elected Vice-Chairman and Michael Mullally was elected as a committee member.

A motion tabled by the Longford Historical Society on the position of history on the schools’ curriculum was discussed and adopted. The Federation will write to the minister expressing dissatisfaction about the present position.

After lunch in the Hodson Bay there was a boat trip on Lough Ree with “Viking Mike” at the helm. Dinner on Saturday evening was followed by another excellent after-dinner talk by Donal O’Brien on the subject of “Historic Buildings of Athlone”. On Sunday morning there was a guided walking tour of Athlone and a visit to see Athlone Castle.

Special thanks to Martina Griffin, Eamon Leonard and Jim Dockery for all their hard work in organising the event. Also thanks to the Old Athlone Society for hosting the event.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2019

FEDERATION AUTUMN SEMINAR – THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. It will be held in Galway City, further details to follow.

Federation Journal 2019 — We are requesting articles for this year’s journal and would welcome such material. Guidelines are 1000 – 4000 words in MS word format and accompanied by pictures where possible in uncompressed jpeg format. We are also looking for Society News. This should be a short article with picture(s) where appropriate. Submissions should be

sent to Larry Breen at larrybreen8@outlook.com ,
Tel. 045 897445 or Mobile 087 983 1551.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS – 2019

There are still some 2019 subscriptions outstanding and we would appreciate it if these were returned as soon as possible. Cheques made out to the federation should be sent to; Mairead Byrne, 135 Dara Court, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, e-mail mairleadccbyrne@gmail.com

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The Federation would like to wish you all a Happy Summer Holiday.

LARRY BREEN, PRO

OBITUARY

JOE KELLY – GALWAY ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of our good friend and colleague, Joe Kelly. Joe was a member of the Galway Archaeological & Historical Society and he travelled with us on many of our history trips both in Ireland and abroad. Joe was well known to Federation members and we all enjoyed his company and rapport. Joe will be sadly missed on our travels. On behalf of the Federation we send our sincere condolences to Joe's wife, Angela, and the family.

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