



Newsletter

ISSUE NUMBER 2

NOVEMBER 2019

NORTH/SOUTH EXCHANGE VISIT — ARMAGH CITY,
SEPTEMBER 28 – 29, 2019

Both Federations met in the Ancient City of Armagh for what turned out to be a great weekend. Blessed by the fine weather, Armagh presented its own unique history dating back to the time of St. Patrick.

On Saturday morning we spent the time absorbing the history “on the hill” as it is referred to locally. We had guided tours of the Church of Ireland Cathedral, the Archbishop Robinson Library, wherein can be seen a first copy of Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* and finally a tour of the remarkable No 5 Vicker Street.

Lunch was served in the Cardinal O’Fiaich Library and we had a most interesting and absorbing talk by Roddy Hegarty, on the history of St. Patrick’s Catholic Cathedral. We visited the Armagh County Museum on the Mall and were given a tour by the Curator, Sean Barden.

We were afforded a civic welcome and reception in the beautiful Bishop’s Palace by the Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, Mealla Campbell. Dinner followed in the Armagh City Hotel with a very interesting and thought provoking after dinner talk by the President of the Ulster History Federation, Dr. Brian Turner.

On Sunday morning we visited “Navan Fort” which was something special. Lunch was provided at the centre after which we were treated to a coach tour tracing the footsteps of the battles of Yellow Ford and Benburb by local historians Art O’ Dalaigh and Seamus Casey.

Our day and our memorable trip concluded with a visit to the Servite Priory in Benburb.

FEDERATION SEMINAR – GALWAY, NOVEMBER 16,
2019

The Federation’s annual Autumn Seminar took place in Galway on Saturday 16 Nov 2019.

The topic was the War of Independence marking the centenary of the start of that conflict. Committee member and representative for the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, Eugene Jordan, was the organiser. In the run up it was necessary to make some changes to the speaker line-up. However the final choice of speakers was excellent and gave a very well-spaced spectrum of topics on the events of the war.

The Speakers on the day were; Dr. Conor McNamara, William Henry, Dr. John Cunningham from NUI, Galway, Liam Heffron and Dr. Eamonn Gardiner. The

attendance was somewhat down on what we might have expected for such a high profile range of expert academics and historians.

All of the presenters delivered very interesting talks with often quite new approaches on their subjects.

The contributions from the floor were very good with a number of previously unknown family links being revealed.

As we approached the end of the event a quite vigorous debate developed among the top table experts which, although never straying beyond the bounds of propriety, certainly ensured that we were all wide awake and stimulated to the very end.

Betty Quinn did excellent and unsung work on the registrations and meal arrangements all of which worked smoothly.

FEDERATION UK VISIT – SOUTH EAST ENGLAND/
LONDON – APRIL 27 – MAY 1, 2020.

The trip will take us to a beautiful and historic region of the UK encompassing the counties of Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Hampshire.

We will stay in the Coppid Beech Hotel, in Bracknell near Guildford. We will visit Leeds Castle, an impressive building set on islands in a lake formed by the river Len, near Maidstone and Canterbury, one of England’s most venerable cities.

We will travel to the secluded old city of Winchester, visit its magnificent Cathedral and spend some time with our guide, Ian, exploring the city.

Portsmouth, Britain’s foremost naval port, will be our next stop. The Docklands area is home to Nelson’s Flagship, *Victory* and the salvaged remains of the *Mary Rose*.

A day in London includes an organised visit to Hampton Court, some free time in Central London and a panoramic coach tour of London with guide Ian Jelf.

2019 FEDERATION JOURNAL - This has gone to print and we are excited about it as it is now in a new larger size of B5. It will be available before Christmas and copies will be posted to societies in time for Christmas. We hope you enjoy the read.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2019 - There are still some 2019 subscriptions outstanding and we would appreciate it if these could be returned as soon as possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Federation AGM 2020 -Tralee, Co. Kerry – May 22 – 24, 2020.

Federation UK Visit – South East England/
London — April 27 – May 1, 2020.

Season’s Greeting. On behalf of the Federation we would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. The Federation looks forward to working with you all again in 2020.



Visiting the Bishop's Palace, Armagh



Group in front of Alnwick Castle, Northumbria, 2019