



ISSUE NUMBER 1

APRIL 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE FEDERATION.

Hi Folks, if we reflect back to our last Newsletter in November 2019 who would have envisaged the situation we now find ourselves in. These are difficult and worrying times for everyone but it is important we stay positive, the clouds will lift, and we will all get back to sharing and enjoying our common love of local history. Keep safe and take care.

## FEDERATION EVENTS.

We were very disappointed to have had to postpone the UK Trip and the Federation AGM but under the circumstances we had no alternative. The UK Trip is organised and ready to go when the situation permits. We have provisionally set Sept/Oct to revisit it, all being well. Similarly the AGM, which was scheduled to take place in Tralee, is organised and ready to go and we envisage revisiting it in the autumn. We continue to keep in touch with the Federation for Ulster Local Studies and hope to have an exchange visit later in the year. In the face of the bad news with respect to the postponements, the good news is that we have some great events to look forward to, please God.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY.

**WEST BELFAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY.** Talk *Release of documents from 1990* — Dr Eamon Phoenix. Some southern members travelled to West Belfast to attend this talk given by the eminent Ulster Historian, Dr. Eamon Phoenix. A packed audience in St. Michael's Parish Hall, Finaghy North, Belfast, were given a most interesting, absorbing and entertaining talk by Dr Phoenix, in his own inimitable style, about hitherto unreleased accounts of social and political news stories of the time.



*West Belfast group with speaker Eamonn Phoenix*

**BOURNEA REACHING OUT — HISTORICAL SOCIETY.** It was a pleasure for me to accept an invitation from this new society to talk to them about the Federation and our activities. A relatively small group in rural Tipperary, they are doing great work in preserving and promoting

local history in their area. Their Local History Journal, which they have been publishing for many years now is well produced and very impressive. Thanks to Tim Lee and all his colleagues for their very warm welcome and hospitality.



*Larry and Committee of Bournea Reaching Out Historical Society*

**FEDERATION VISIT — TRALEE.** In preparation for the AGM Mairead Byrne and I met with the Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society in Tralee to discuss preparations for the event. We met with Marie O'Sullivan, Chairperson, Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society; Victoria McCarthy, Architectural Conservation Officer, Kerry Co. Library; Claudia Kohler, Education Officer, Kerry Co. Museum and Pdraig Ó Concubhair, Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society. We had a very productive meeting and agreed on the programme for the AGM and organised a package with the Rose Hotel for the weekend of the AGM. Claudia Kohler took us on a guided tour of the Kerry Co. Museum. We also met the incoming chairperson of Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society, Jimmy Deenihan. We spent the night in the Rose Hotel, venue for the AGM, and found it a most suitable venue indeed.



*Tralee visit: Larry Breen, Mairead Byrne, Anne Breen – FLHS; Pdraigh Ó Concubhair, Marie O'Sullivan, Kerry Arch. & Hist. Soc.; Victoria McCarthy, Kerry Co. Library; Claudia Kohler, Kerry Co. Museum.*

## FEDERATION JOURNAL — 2020.

We are requesting articles for this year's Journal and would welcome 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 short articles with pictures where appropriate. Submissions should be sent to Larry Breen at larrybreen8@outlook.com, Tel. 045 897 445 or mobile 087 984 1551

NOTE: Our current Journal is available. Anyone wishing a copy can have one by post, cost, €10 incl. p&p. The Journal is great value for money and it is very attractive in our new larger design size. Copies can be ordered by contacting Larry Breen at, larrybreen8@outlook.com

## SUBSCRIPTIONS 2020

These are now due and we would appreciate it, if you have not already done so, to send your subscription to Mairead Byrne, 235 Dara Court, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, e-mail maireadccbyrne@gmail.com

## INSURANCE

Societies are reminded to renew their insurance cover directly with Arachas Corporate Brokers Ltd, The Courtyard, Carmanhall Road, Sandyford Business Estate, Dublin 18, Tel. 01 213 5000 E-mail insure@arachas.ie.

As all events involving public meetings or group activities are now cancelled due to the Corvid-19 virus some societies have asked if they should cancel or suspend their insurance cover at this time. This is a decision for each society to make in conjunction with the insurers. It is not something that the Federation can advise on.

## NEW MEMBERS — 2020

There are a number of new societies from Co Tipperary we wish to welcome on board: Cloughjordan Heritage Group; Ardmoyle Heritage Society; Roscrea Heritage Society; Lorrha & Dorrha Historical Society.

## HERE IS A GLIMPSE OF OUR POSTPONED UK PROGRAMME:



TREDEGAR HOUSE



Tredegar House

Tredegar House is a 17th-century Charles II-era country house at the western edge of the city of Newport, Wales. For over five hundred years it was home to the Morgan family, later Lords Tredegar; one of the most powerful and influential families in the area. Described as the grandest country house in Monmouthshire, it is one of the outstanding houses of the Restoration period in the whole of Britain.

The earliest surviving part of the building dates back to the late 15th century. The house was originally built of stone and had sufficient status to host Charles I. Between 1664 and 1672 it was decided to rebuild the house on a larger scale from red brick.

For over five hundred years it was home to one of the greatest of Welsh families, the Morgans (the same family as Captain Morgan) – later the Lords Tredegar – until they left in 1951.

After 1951 the house was bought by the Catholic Church as a convent school with boarders, later St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School. It was bought by the Newport Corporation Council in 1974, giving rise to its then status as the grandest council house in Britain.

In December 2011 the National Trust signed an agreement with Newport City Council to take on the management of the building, as well as the 90 acres of gardens and parkland, on a 50-year lease from 2012.

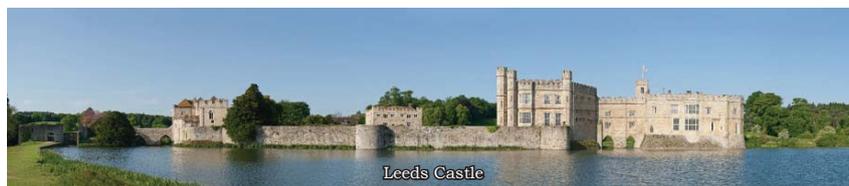


Tredegar House & Gardens



## LEEDS CASTLE

Leeds Castle in Kent, England, is built on islands in a lake formed by the River Len near the village of Leeds. A castle has existed on the site since 1119, the first being a simple stone stronghold which served as a military post at the time of the Norman invasion of England. In the 13th century it came into the hands of King Edward I, for whom it became a favourite residence. In the 16th century Henry VIII used it as a dwelling for his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. The present castle dates mostly from the 19th century.



Leeds Castle