

Public Liability Insurance

The Insurance Polichas been renewed from 1 April 2012.

To date, 30 Societies (more than one third of the eligible membership) have not renewed their cover. If you are having meetings or events you need to get this corrected quickly.

Joint Trip to York

The trip is going ahead from 23 rd to 27th April. Take-up from the Federation is low, with 13 people participating from the total of 25 places available.

Joint Trip To Titanic Exhibition & Museum - 7 July

Planning for the Joint Trip is well advanced. More details later

The Great British Story

Presented by Michael Wood, this eight-part BBC 2 series will be broadcast in late spring/early summer. It will focus on unravelling the truth about everyday life for people over the last 1600 years.

The series will focus on the following themes

- *Local History*
- *Place Names*
- *Family History - led by surnames*
- *Hidden Landscapes*
- *Interpretation and Preservation*
- *Oral History*

The BBC is working with partner organisations to support a series of live events and resources to inspire people to find out more about their own area. They will learn how to set up their own local historical society or encouraged to join an existing one. The project is being run in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund and a specially tailored 'All Our Stories' HLF grant scheme will be in place. The scheme invites applications during the month of July. Decisions on grant offers will be announced in September. £1 million is available nationwide, with grants of up to £10,000 being awarded to enable History Groups to showcase their discoveries. More information is available from the Fund's web site - see:

www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Allourstories.aspx

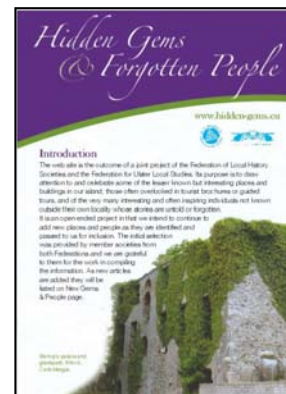
This is an opportunity for societies to get financial help to develop a project in their areas that fit within one of the themes.

There will be an opportunity for some of these projects to be published on the BBC's 'Things to Do' web site - www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo

A working group including the Federation is working in partnership with the BBC to plan and deliver an event at Mount Stewart on the Ards peninsula on Saturday 26 May. Several of the local historical societies in the area will also be participating in the planned events.

Hidden Gems & Forgotten People

The joint north/south group is pressing ahead with detailed plans to expand the scheme into the wider community and encourage members of the public to participate in identifying their local "gems" and "heroes". We are arranging to print a substantial number of special leaflets for distribution to libraries and other public outlets throughout the whole island. We will arrange press conferences in Dublin and Belfast and take a number of opportunities to publicise the project, including local displays and exhibitions.



Copies of the leaflet will be sent to Societies for distribution to their members.

Our colleagues in the Federation of Local History Societies has made a successful bid for media publicity and has recorded a piece on the radio programme News Talk 106-108 that will be broadcast in May. They are also investigating the possibility of TV exposure. We wish them well in their endeavours and will seek to match their zeal.

The 2012 History Festival of Ireland on 9 and 10 June organised by Turtle Bunbury will be held at Lisnagagh House in Co. Carlow. The Federations will jointly open the event with a talk on Hidden Gems. The full programme is available at http://www.thehistoryfestivalofireland.com/?page_id=2

Joint Project with the National Library of Ireland

The Joint Project to catalogue 'Our Own Place' and 'Lawrence Collection re-photographing Project' of the early 1990's is nearing completion and the indexes will be available on-line. The Federations are grateful to the volunteers who carried out the task and are planning a 'Launch' event in Dublin in May. Details will be circulated.

Armagh-Leuven Links

Contacts between the volunteers in Leuven and here have continued to develop with a live audio link allowing for an interesting and useful exchange of views and perspectives. Arrangements for the FULS volunteers' programme during their visit starting 15 April, have been finalised. Progress is being recorded on the web site www.armagh-leuven.eu.

Due North

The next edition of the Journal is being prepared and the Editor is calling for articles. The preferred length is 1,500 word with photographs, maps, graphics etc as appropriate although shorter articles are also welcome. Contributions to Johnny Dooher Email: johndooher@btinternet.com, or by post to him at 3 Greenlaw Park, Ballymagorry, Strabane, Co. Tyrone BT82 0BH