



# Federation

## News-Letter

No 33

March 2015

### **Public Liability Insurance - Renewal 2015-16**

The current period of insurance expires on 31 March and Member Societies and should arrange to renew their cover before that date.

A renewal form is attached to this News-Letter and further copies can be printed directly from the Federation's website at <http://www.fuls.org.uk/Insuranceform.pdf>

Despite reminders, some Societies have not renewed membership which was due on 1 October 2014. These societies have not been covered by Federation Insurance since then. Should a member or visitor be injured at any of its meetings or trips then the individual members of the society, and/or its management committee, may be individually liable for any compensation awarded by the courts in the absence of the insurance cover.

So please check with the Federation to ensure that your membership is up-to-date. The Membership Registrar is Patrick Greer, email [p.greer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:p.greer@hotmail.co.uk).

### **Annual General Meeting 2014**

The AGM held in Clotworthy House, Antrim, on 8 November was a great success. Over 60 people, more than twice the usual number, attended. The grotty weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of the event which was notable for the enthusiastic participants of the delegates. There is a full illustrated report of the meeting at <http://www.fuls.org.uk/agm2014report.html> on the Federation's web site.



*Doreen McBride  
Banbridge Society*



*Helen Meehan  
Donegal Society*

Thanks to John Hulme, Bridgeen Rutherford and Aine Ni Dhuibhne for their work in organising the event. It was a credit to their efforts.

**Society Programmes:** *The Federation's web site is a great way to publicise your Annual Programme. Just email the programme to [admin@fuls.org.uk](mailto:admin@fuls.org.uk) or post to 18 Ardmore Avenue, Downpatrick, BT30 6JU.*

**Facebook:** *The Federation's Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/ulsterlocalstudies> - provides up-to-date information about Federation, society and other local and wider events through Ulster and the island of Ireland. Why not add your activities/views for information/discussion.*

**Distributing the Newsletter:** *We would be grateful if societies would circulate the Newsletter to their members, or at least to those on email. Alternatively, we can arrange to email individual copies on request by adding individuals' names to our distribution list. Requests, with names and email addresses, should be sent to the Federation's email address - [admin@fuls.org.uk](mailto:admin@fuls.org.uk)*

### **Joint Seminar- 'Hidden Histories-the unfolding story of Ireland in WW1'**

The Seminar in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dundalk focused on the impact of the conflict on local communities and the talks, delivered by excellent speakers, were informative and interesting, and were met with much enthusiasm by the substantial number of attendees. There is a report of the Seminar on the Federation's web site at <http://www.fuls.org.uk/agm2014report.html>. A booklet, summarising the content of all of the talks, is at <http://www.fuls.org.uk/WWISeminarReport.pdf>.



*Professor Brian Walker making a point*

### **Due North**

Under the new membership arrangements five copies of the journal were sent to all member societies, (who had renewed their membership), after its launch at the AGM in November 2014. The Executive Committee would urge Societies to promote the journals among their members. Copies of the current issue are available for purchase, at a lower unit cost to Societies, for resale to members at the quoted price. Order form is on the Federation's website at <http://www.fuls.org.uk/duenorthorderform.html>.

Articles for the new edition are being sought. The editor would be pleased if you or your society would undertake to contribute an article. If you can do that, you should contact Johnny Doohar at [johndoohar@btinternet.com](mailto:johndoohar@btinternet.com) for more information.

### *Hidden Gems and Forgotten People*

Eighty panels for the Hidden Gems exhibitions planned for later in the year have been printed and plans are underway for a formal launch in Dublin in the near future. More details later.



#### **The Square, Comber, Co Down.**

See <http://www.hidden-gems.eu/down-hareandgreyhound.pdf> for the intriguing story of the famous Master McGrath and his image preserved in a footpath.

### *Joint Federation Trips to Devon & Cornwall – April 2015*

The joint trip to Devon and Cornwall 13th to 17th April has been oversubscribed. The places were all filled within 24 hours of the notice being issued. This demonstrates the popularity of this annual joint event. The Federations are considering revised arrangements for promoting future trips to ensure that, so far as possible, as many society members and individual members have an equal opportunity to register an interest.

### *Regional Seminars*

The Executive Committee is planning a series of regional seminars based on the major towns. Although planning is at an early stage these are likely to include Armagh, Coleraine, Omagh, Belfast and Letterkenny. The seminars will focus initially on 'How to' topics designed to provide hands-on experience for Societies to help them to improve communication skills and project activities. Two initial topics are social media (including Facebook and Twitter) and heritage trails. More information later.

Another idea, raised at the AGM in November last, was to bring societies together to share their experience in researching and publicising local history, involving their members and their communities more effectively, as well as describing their successes and failures and the challenges and opportunities encountered etc. The aim would be to help identify good practice and generate ideas and perhaps find ways of practical co-operation between societies through reciprocal visits and perhaps shared projects. This approach got a good welcome and the Executive Committee will develop it further in the course of the year. We will probably be seeking some initial input from societies to help with the planning. More information later

### *Autumn Seminar*

The Ulster History Trust is planning a seminar in Monaghan on 3 October 2015 on a number of WW1-related topics including its impact on the border counties and the role of women in the conflict. More information later.

### *European Battlefields Visit 2016*

The Joint FULS/FHLS committee is planning to organise a four/five day joint event to be based in the Irish College in Leuven, which can arrange the trips to the chosen battlefields. Alternative providers are being considered. More information later.

### *A History of Women in Northern Ireland in People and Places*

Professor Mary O'Dowd of the School of History and Anthropology, Queen's University Belfast is compiling an app and linked website, on sites and people related to the history of women in Northern Ireland. She is looking for assistance from local history societies to identify sites and people to include in the project.

The Federation's Secretary, Bridgeen Rutherford, has agreed to act as the project co-ordinator if funding is secured. If your society would like to be involved please contact Bridgeen at 028 71861696, email [bridgeenr@aol.com](mailto:bridgeenr@aol.com) or Professor O'Dowd directly at [m.odowd@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.odowd@qub.ac.uk)

The full note of the project can be found on the web site at <http://www.fuls.org.uk/ahistoryofwomeninplaces2015>

### *Lives Remembered*

A new section has been created on the web site to remember those who made a significant contribution to the development of local studies. Without their commitment, enthusiasm and hard work, especially those in the early years of the Federation, as it struggled to gain acceptance of local studies as a major historical force in its own right, the Federation would not have gained the widespread recognition and acceptance that it has today. An Obituaries page can be found at <http://www.fuls.org.uk/obituaries.html>

Obituaries, or reminiscences, are not confined to people who served on the Federation's Executive Committee Societies and members are encouraged to submit names of those men and women who made a notable contribution to the development of local societies and studies. Contributions, with a photograph if available, should be sent to [admin@fuls.org.uk](mailto:admin@fuls.org.uk) or by post to Patrick Devlin, 18 Ardmore Avenue, Downpatrick BT30 6JU.

### *Executive Committee*

Two new members have been co-opted to the Executive committee. They are -

*John Bradley* - West Tyrone Historical Society, and  
*Florence Chambers* - Banbridge Historical Society

We wish them both well in their new roles.



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**PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE**  
**2015-2016**  
**Application/Renewal Form**

**Yearly** cover from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016\_\_\_\_\_

**Half yearly** cover from 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015\_\_

**Half yearly** cover from 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016\_\_

- Please note that yearly cover can only be provided for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2015. No retrospective cover can be given at any time.

Name of Society\_\_\_\_\_

Name of contact person\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

No of persons requiring cover\_\_\_\_\_ @ £1.40 each

£\_\_\_\_\_

(full year cover)

or

No of persons requiring cover\_\_\_\_\_ @ 80p each

£\_\_\_\_\_

(half year cover)

**Please make cheques payable to:** *The Federation for Ulster Local Studies*,  
and return the completed form, with cheque to:

The Treasurer, The Federation for Ulster Local Studies, 14 Corby Way, Belfast  
BT11 8HY