

## FEDERATIONS' JOINT EXCHANGE VISIT 2019

(Federation for Ulster Local History Studies and Federation of Local History Societies)

### ANCIENT CATHEDRAL CITY OF ARMAGH

*Saturday 28th - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

This exchange visit is a follow up on the visit planned for July 2017 that had to be abandoned. The two Federations promised to return and these arrangements honour that commitment.

Federation members who wish to participate will have the opportunity, in addition to the Saturday visits, to attend the reception and dinner in the evening, and to the extent that there may be a few rooms available in the Armagh City Hotel from those booked by the FLHS, may be able to arrange for bed and breakfast in the hotel, directly with the FLHS, details on page 2. They will also be able to join in the Sunday events, again by liaising directly with the FLHS. Anyone wishing to stay overnight but not being allocated a room from the FLHS booking, will need to make their own arrangements with other hotels or guesthouses. The local visitor information center will be able to advise on cost and availability – 40 Upper English Street, Armagh BT61 7BA: Ph. 02837521800 e-mail [vic@armaghbanbridgedungannon.gov.uk](mailto:vic@armaghbanbridgedungannon.gov.uk).

A brief description of the places to be visited is attached, together with a map of car parks adjacent to the sites (all of which, except for Navan Fort, are adjacent to each other)

#### ITINERARY

##### **Saturday:**

10.30 am – Armagh City Hotel: Meet the FLHS group for tea/ coffee/ scones

11.00 am to 1.30 pm - Form three groups to visit, in rotation, St Patrick's CoI Cathedral; 5 Vicar's Hill and the Robinson Library. Guided tours of 30 minutes each location.

1.30 pm - Lunch in Cardinal O Fiaich Library and Archive. Talk by Roddy Hegarty, Librarian, on the history and mission of the Library.

2.30 pm to 3.15 pm – visit to St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, guide Roddy Hegarty

3.30 pm - visit to Armagh County Museum – Sean Barden, Curatorial Services Officer will arrange tour of exhibitions

5.00 pm – return to Hotel

7.00 pm – District Council reception, followed by dinner, and after dinner speaker

**Sunday:**

11.00 am- Navan Fort Centre - guided tour

1.00 am- Lunch and depart

Booking Arrangements

Members wishing to participate should complete the attached Booking form and return it, with cheque, to the address on the form, by 20 September 2019.

Costs

- |       |                              |         |
|-------|------------------------------|---------|
| (i).  | Visit only (including lunch) | £ 20.00 |
| (ii). | Visit plus evening meal      | £ 45.00 |

For booking separately with FLHS

- |        |   |                                     |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|
| (iii). | Bed & Breakfast (where available)           | £ 40.00 (£65.00 with single suppl.) |
| (iv).  | As (iii) plus Navan Centre                  | £ 56.00 (£81.00 with single suppl.) |
| (v).   | Navan Fort (if arranging own accommodation) | £11.00 (includes lunch)             |

Note: (iii), (iv) and (v) must be booked separately with FLHS:

[ DO NOT INCLUDE ON THE BOOKING FORM]: Instead, contact -

Mairead Byrne, 133 Dara Court, Celbridge, Co Kildare. E-mail [maireadcbyrne@gmail.com](mailto:maireadcbyrne@gmail.com)  
Phone 00353872239410.

**BOOKING FORM ATTACHED**

## JOINT FULS/FLHS ARMAGH TRIP – 28<sup>TH</sup> AND 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019

### BOOKING FORM

I wish to book places on the above trip for the following people.

Name	Address	Phone number	Vegetarian Lunch Yes/No	Trip Choice  1. Visits only 2. Visit & Evening Meal

**The cost of the two options are**

Visits only (including lunch) - £20.00

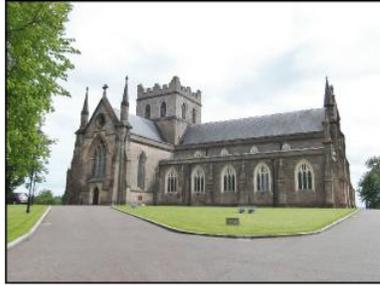
Visits plus evening meal - £45.00

**I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made payable to “Federation for Ulster Local Studies” and crossed. They should be sent, with this form, to Mr. P. Devlin, 18 Ardmore Avenue, Downpatrick, Co Down BT30 6JU *as soon as possible but no later than 20 September 2019.*

## SOME NOTES ABOUT THE SITES TO BE VISITED



**St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral** is the seat of the Archbishop of Armagh in the Church of Ireland. The origins of the cathedral are related to the construction, in 445, of a stone church on the Druim Saileach (Willow Ridge) hill by St. Patrick, around which a monastic community developed. The church was and is the centre of the Church of Ireland. Following the Henrician Reformation in Ireland the cathedral became increasingly associated with the then Established Church and has been definitively in Anglican hands since the reign of Elizabeth I. The Roman Catholic cathedral was built on a neighbouring hill in the nineteenth century. Cordial relations exist between the cathedrals. The Church itself has been destroyed and rebuilt 17 times.



**Robnson Library**, now the Armagh Public Library, is the oldest library in Northern Ireland, founded in 1771 by Archbishop Richard Robnson as part of his plans to establish a university. The nucleus of the collection is Archbishop Robnson's own library, containing 17th and 18th century books on many subjects. It is also a registered museum, holding ancient Irish artefacts, such as stone axes, flint arrowheads and bronze implements. The library also holds resources to aid family history research.



**5 Vicars Hill** Archbishop Robnson built No 5 as the Registry to hold Church of Ireland and civil records. In 2011, the Library restored No 5 to exhibit examples of the Library's collections, such as Roman and Medieval coins, Neolithic stone tools, Bronze Age weapons, Irish hand bells and eighteenth-century fine art. Rare survivals of eighteenth-century fine art include James Tassie's 'gems' from the 1770s. Tassie reproduced classical figures in a hard-setting Sulphur paste. Collectors of his 'gems' included Russia's Catherine the Great, while Louis XIV of France commissioned medals to commemorate his reign. You can see some very rare casts of these medals, made in about 1690 from originals in the Paris mint. In addition, several Hogarth's satirical engravings from the Library's internationally important print collection are on display. No 5 is a short walk from the Library, opposite St Patrick's Cathedral. From the outside No 5 looks no different from the houses on either side. However, its small hallway opens into two beautiful, octagonal rooms with vaulted ceilings.



**Cardinal O Fiaich Library & Archive** is a unique cultural and historical resource located in the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland. The Library is a free, independent public reference library, which holds important collections relating to Irish history, the Irish language, ecclesiastical history, the Irish abroad, and Irish sport. The Library was officially opened in May 1999. The books and papers of the late Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich (1923-1990) form the nucleus of the collections. These have been augmented with other collections which complement and support the principal areas of interest of the Cardinal.



**St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral** is the seat of the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland. It was built in various phases between 1840 and 1904 to serve as the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Armagh, the original Medieval Cathedral of St. Patrick having been transferred to the Protestant Church of Ireland at the time of the Irish Reformation. The Cathedral stands on a hill, as does its Anglican counterpart.



**Armagh County Museum.** In 1856 members of the Armagh Natural History and Philosophical Society moved from their premises on Abbey Street, to what was originally a schoolhouse on the Mall. They created a reading room and continued to expand their museum, displaying a collection of objects gathered both locally and from further afield. When Armagh County Museum took over the building and opened to the public in 1937, it inherited the Society's collection and became the first county museum in Ireland. The Society still retains a reading room in the front of the Museum and holds regular events.



**Navan Fort** is an ancient ceremonial monument near Armagh. According to tradition it was one of the great royal sites of pre-Christian Gaelic Ireland and the capital of the Ulaidh. It is a large circular hilltop enclosure—marked by a bank and ditch—inside which is a circular mound and the remains of a ring barrow. Archaeological investigations show that there were once buildings on the site, including a huge roundhouse-like structure which has been likened to a temple. In a ritual act, this timber structure was filled with stones, deliberately burnt down and then covered with earth to create the mound which stands today. It is believed that Navan was a pagan ceremonial site and was regarded as a sacred space. It features prominently in Irish mythology, especially in the tales of the Ulster Cycle.

