

Annual General Meeting 2007

Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of The Federation for Ulster Local Studies Limited held on Saturday 30th June 2007 in the Cardinal Tomas O’Fiaich Memorial Library, Armagh, at 10:30 pm.

1. Apologies were received from John Bradley, Eoin Magennis, Larne Historical Society, Bayburn Historical Society, Killultagh Historical Society, Ballinascreen Historical Society, Roy McCullough (North West Archaeological and Historical Society), Bronte Historical Society, Finney O’Sullivan, Margaret Cartwright (North Belfast Historical Society), Doreen McBride (Banbridge Historical Society), Bridgeen Rutherford (Newbuildings Historical Society).
2. The minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of The Federation for Ulster Local Studies Limited were approved. Their adoption was proposed by Peggy Weir (North Belfast Historical Society) and seconded by Doreen Corcoran (Carrickfergus & District Historical Society).
3. **Acting Chairman’s report (John Dooher)**

This has proved a most challenging year for the Federation for Ulster Local Studies and hopefully we can now see some stability for the term ahead. Firstly we had the loss of the Development officer, Roddy Hegarty, when he moved on after eight years in post. It was recognised that continued funding would be problematic but considerable efforts were made by the Executive to lodge a strong application for renewal. There was also the CRC evaluation of the activities of the Federation and despite a generally favourable report the bombshell was dropped in December that funding would cease from March 31 2007. The Executive Committee tried at first to marshal a campaign to seek external support for the reversal of the CRC decision and a General Meeting of the Federation was called to discuss the way forward. For various reasons this meeting was drawn into a discussion of the closure of the Federation and a period of indecision followed, until a further general meeting was called at Donaghmore in late March. This decided that the earlier decision had to be reversed and an acting committee was appointed to oversee the fight back. The Extraordinary Meeting in Armagh in late April decided unanimously to attempt to keep the Federation alive and prepare for an AGM, to demonstrate the continued vitality of the organisation. The Chairman and Treasurer felt unable to continue working with the Executive Committee and new members had to be co-opted to ensure that the organisation could keep functioning. Since then every effort has been made to re-establish the Federation and for a period a working group established at the General Meeting in Donaghmore, and called the Federation for Ulster Local Societies, acted for Federation members in collecting Public Liability Insurance premiums and overseeing membership renewals. To date 70 societies have renewed membership of the Federation and it is expected that it will continue to retain the loyalty of the 80 plus members that had been affiliated. This parallel organisation, The Federation for Ulster Local Societies, will now disband and transfer the money collected to FULS Ltd.; a meeting of the members of the new organisation will meet following this AGM to give effect to the proposal to disband and to transfer funds to FULS Ltd.

Looking forward the challenges facing FULS Ltd are immense. Nominations for some positions on the Executive committee have not been forthcoming and the only chance for the future survival of the Federation as a voluntary organisation is for active involvement by the member societies. If enough people are prepared to do a little work the executive committee can ensure that FULS Ltd can continue to play an important role on behalf of member societies and of local studies in general in Ulster.

I know that most people here are already involved at local level and many feel that they will not have the time to devote to the Federation – but you can help in ensuring that enough society people are persuaded to give a little more and become involved in the planning and leadership role of the Federation.

That brings us to the issue of Where Now. What should the Federation aim to do, with its limited resources and part time officials. What do member societies see as important functions for the Federation? How important are Conferences in allowing people from different parts to come together. What should these focus on and how often should they be held? How should societies interact and how can the Federation facilitate this interaction. Clearly the Federation must embrace IT to contact members and the website will play a very important role in future promotion and publicity. How important is the local society and the Federation to the community – and how can they demonstrate their continued relevance? How far should they be champions of local heritage and preservation and how far can they be relevant to both young and not so young?

Clearly there are many challenges to face up to and the Federation will have to work with other groups in heritage and cultural provisions. There has been some discussion on the Federation working more closely with the Ulster Historical Foundation and the new committee will pursue this in the weeks ahead, as well as seeking other opportunities for partnerships or collaborative working. No doubt there will be further applications for funding to be considered and perhaps new opportunities will arise in the near future for the Federation to gain renewed recognition for its important roles in education, in heritage preservation and in community interaction.

It is disappointing that some previous officers of the Federation feel that they cannot continue their involvement at this present time but that does not detract from their previous contribution. Keith Haines did an immense amount of work both as treasurer and as editor of *Due North* while James Davidson made full use of his many contacts in efforts to promote the Federation. Ann Robinson has been secretary for the past few years and her decision to resign at this AGM will be a major loss. We thank her for her quiet effectiveness while acting on the executive committee of the Federation and trust that her steady influence and support will continue to be available.

In the period since March the Federation has been kept alive by a small number of people and I must pay tribute to the work and support of those people who were prepared to act on the interim committee of the Federation of Societies and to be co-opted on to the FULS committee. Their involvement has demonstrated that the Federation has a future and it is my hope that they will continue to be involved in the years ahead. One other person has contributed an immense amount of work and I must pay tribute to acting treasurer and assistant secretary, Pat Devlin, for the work that he has done in communicating with societies and in safeguarding the valuable Public Liability Insurance scheme.

So there are challenges ahead and a need for involvement by as many people as possible. Ideas, recommendations and support from member societies will be crucial and the partnership between Federation and members will ensure that the organisation will continue to play an important role in local studies in the years ahead. It is important to remember that we are not alone in our struggles. The recent difficulties of the Federation have evoked many messages of support from a range of organisations and individuals and we have to thank bodies like PRONI and UHF for making their premises available for meetings and other requirements. We can continue to rely on such support and it is surely inconceivable that with your help and the goodwill of so many other bodies the Federation cannot continue to play a leading role in the fields of local history and local studies. Let us go forward together.

Sean McManus (Mourne Local Studies Group) queried if visitors to meetings and visits to the Republic of Ireland were covered in the new insurance policy and were there any guarantees.

Pat Devlin replied that the insurance brokers had received written confirmation from the insurance company that visitors and visits were covered. There was also an additional payment to add an additional £1 million cover. All meetings, including those in Parish Halls, were covered.

There was a query asking what kind of help the Executive Committee required.

John Doohar replied that it would have to be fully discussed but interaction between societies should be developed, more use should be made of the web site, there could perhaps be an annual conference and exchange of ideas and a list of possible speakers for use by societies could be drawn up. It was also added that one-day courses which had been run in PRONI by Roddy Hegarty had been very useful and successful.

Pat Devlin added that volunteers would be needed and everyone needs to think how they can contribute to the Federation.

Jennifer Cunningham (Coleraine Historical Society) congratulated Pat Devlin in having the web site running again and suggested that a noticeboard would be a useful addition.

Pat Devlin replied that noticeboards would cost money to run but he would look into the matter.

Jennifer also added that it was through the Federation that she had made her contacts and made friends with people in other parts of the province.

Anne Laverty (Stewartstown & District Local History Society) expressed her appreciation of the Executive Committee and staff of FULS Ltd.

Doreen Corcoran (Carrickfergus & District Historical Society) commented that looking back events were done before grant money had been available, spring and autumn seminars were able to be done. We could go back to what we were able to do before with just volunteers. She also thought that the contact with the Ulster Historical Foundation (UHF) was very promising. She added that both the Executive Officer and the Chairman of UHF had had a meeting with Paul Sweeny (Permanent Secretary) to discuss the future of the UHF and in the minutes of the meeting FULS was coupled with UHF for future co-operation. The UHF were due to move to the restored St. Malachy's School in 2008 and it was hoped that this building could become a home for all sorts of historical things and could perhaps include FULS Ltd.

Bob McKinley (Bangor Historical Society) asked how many societies hadn't yet joined for 2007/2008. **Pat Devlin** replied that there were 20 societies who had not yet joined. Bob also stated that in the past there had been co-operation between Co. Down historical groups and he hoped it might happen again in the future.

Sean McManus (Mourne Local Studies Group) queried if the Federation for Ulster Local Societies would be wound up and the insurance changed over to the Federation for Ulster Local Studies. He was told this would be dealt with in the meeting after the AGM.

4. Hon. Secretary's Report (Ann Robinson)

To say that this has been a very difficult and sad year for the Federation for Ulster Local Studies Ltd, would be to put it mildly. As the Federation office closed at the end of August 2005 the Development Officer, Roddy Hegarty, and the Administrative Officer, Janet Lundy, were both working from home. Funding from the Community Relations Council (CRC) was only available until the end of March 2007 and a new application for funding had to be submitted in October 2006. This was to be our main funding for the next three years, i.e. until 2010, and we were still looking for alternative or extra funding.

In July 2006 Roddy Hegarty, the FULS Development Officer, handed in his letter of notice as he had been appointed as Education and Interpretive Officer on the Heritage Outreach Programme of the Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich Memorial Library and Archive in Armagh.

As funding was only certain until the end of March 2007 it was decided to advertise and appoint a new Development Officer for a fixed term of six months to the end of March 2007.

Interviews took place at the beginning of October and Pamela Emerson was the successful applicant. Unfortunately she could not start work until 1st December 2006. Shortly after she started work came the news that CRC would not continue our funding, funding which we had had from 1990. The main focus for their funding had shifted from Cultural Traditions to Community Relations and we did not fully meet the criteria of the programme.

Meetings - During the year there have been nine meetings of the Executive Committee with venues ranging from the Royal School, Dungannon, Sperrin Heritage Centre, Lisburn City Library and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. At only four of those meetings did we have our quorum of five. We started the year with seven Executive Committee members, but during the year Josephine Quinn resigned and although Harry Allen was co-opted it still left us short of our full number. Also during the year James Davidson, the Chairman, and Keith Haines, the Treasurer, resigned and to complete the year John Dooher took over as Chairman. In order to ensure we had a quorum at meetings we co-opted several more people. These were Pat Devlin, Roddy Hegarty, William Devlin, John Hulme and Doreen McBride. Pat Devlin took over as Acting Treasurer. Thanks are due to all those who attended Executive Committee meetings during the year.

We also held a General Meeting at the Royal School, Dungannon, on Saturday 10th February 2007 and an Extraordinary General Meeting in the Cardinal Tomas O’Fiaich Memorial Library, Armagh, on Saturday 28th April 2007.

Development and Events – Due to a lack of finances, and because of the time consuming efforts to try to obtain funding, activities were very restricted this year. Roddy Hegarty was Development Officer for only a few weeks of the year. During this time he completed his course work with the Milltown, Dungannon, local history group and they completed their 2007 calendar. He was also at the Newry and Mourne web site launch.

Pamela Emerson was Development Officer from 1st December 2006 until 31st March 2007. During this time she visited various local history groups promoting the Federation and organised the seminar entitled “Ulster and the East” which was held on Sunday 25th March 2007 in Hillmount Nursery Centre, Gilnahirk, Belfast. A lot of hard work and thought was put into this seminar, but unfortunately it was very poorly supported.

The Executive Committee also worked on a Community Relations Policy and a Strategic Plan for 2006-2008 for FULS Ltd.

Funding - Several members of the Executive Committee of FULS Ltd. put in a lot of hard work in completing the application form for the funding submission to CRC and attempts were made to find alternative sources for funding for running costs or events. All of this taking up a very considerable time and effort. Keith Haines also appealed, by letter, to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure for help, or suggestions for obtaining funding.

As you know, unfortunately, none of these measures were successful.

New Members June 2006 – June 2007

During the year the following societies joined the Federation:-

- Belfast Young Archaeologists Club
- Glenelly Historical Society
- Northern Ireland Ornithologists Club

Acknowledgements - Firstly acknowledgement should be made to Roddy Hegarty and Janet Lundy for their work and dedication to FULS Ltd. over their years of employment, and, even though only Development Officer for a brief time, our thanks go to Pamela Emerson for her work.

James Davidson (Chairman) and Keith Haines (Treasurer) also deserve thanks for their valiant attempts to find alternative funding for FULS Ltd. Thanks are also due to Keith for his years as FULS Ltd. Treasurer and Editor of "Due North", both very time consuming, voluntary jobs.

Since the General Meeting Pat Devlin and John Dooher have worked hard to keep the Federation going and arrange insurance, Executive Committee meetings, maintain communications with all the FULS Ltd. local groups/societies and attempt to arrange future accommodation for FULS Ltd..

The Future – After this very difficult year it is now time to look forward to the future.

- For the time being FULS Ltd. will continue, with volunteers doing the work of running FULS Ltd.
- Most importantly, insurance cover will continue for member societies.
- Federation events will be limited, but Strabane History Society is working on a 2 day event on the Flight of the Earls and the Plantation on 19/20 October 2007.
- It is hoped there will be a FULS newsletter to keep members up to date with news, events and publications of the various member societies of the Federation.
- The FULS web site has been resurrected and will continue to be developed, but will need your help for content, programmes, publications and activities.
- Attempts will be made to find new funding.
- Contact with FULS Ltd. will hopefully be available by e-mail, phone and post, but details of these have still to be finalised.

All of this will need volunteers and your co-operation. Please support the new Executive Committee of FULS Ltd. and help promote local history.

The adoption of the secretary's report was proposed by Jennifer Cunningham (Coleraine Historical Society) and seconded by Bob Fitzpatrick.

5. **Hon. Treasurer's Report (Pat Devlin)**

Introduction - Since I have had no involvement in or responsibility for, the Federation's financial affairs in the year covered by the accounts, I can only comment on the information that is in the Draft Accounts themselves.

These were received, via email, only yesterday. Due to the limitations of time and resources, I have not been able to provide any hard copies of the draft Accounts for this meeting. However, I have emailed them to the contacts in the 30 or so member Societies that have that facility and I have also published them on the Federation's web site with the other AGM papers.

For today I have produced copies of the 4 most relevant and informative pages from the 19-page report and these are available here.

The accounts are in draft form at this stage because there remain a small number of issues, none of them of major concern, that need to be clarified before they can be finalised. However, you will be pleased to know that these will make no difference to the figures. The financial outcome for the year is known.

The year – It clearly has been a traumatic year for the Federation, as explained by John Dooher, and it must have been especially stressful for Keith Haines whose valiant but ultimately

unsuccessful efforts to secure continuing funding were conducted against the background of people's livelihoods being at stake. The abrupt cutting off of resources at year-end threw the whole future of the Federation into doubt and I am not at all surprised that Keith felt unable to carry on as Treasurer. I do know what an enormous contribution he made to the Federation, both in managing the money and editing *Due North* and tributes to his work are well and truly earned.

The outcome – Although the report is 19 pages long 10 of these are text. Of the remaining pages, four I think, (the four you have) present a fair summary of the financial activity and outcome of the year.

Pages 15 and 16 categorise and summarise the in-year income and expenditure - £51,556 in - £63,731 out – a deficit of £12,175.

Pages 9 and 10 take account of the funds carried from the previous year - £15,469, which, set against the in-year deficit, leaves a small balance of £3,294. This was only possible because of an additional £1,000 grant from the Community Relations Council.

The final picture is less rosy, if we can call it that, than it seems. Of the surplus, £2,190 is in Restricted Funds that potentially may need to be repaid if not identified against specific costs. From the remaining £1,104, the Auditor's bill needs to be paid. Lets hope it is less than this.

The Future – So the Federation starts the year with little in the bank, just enough to pay the auditor – what next?

Well, the Federation for Ulster Local Societies that was set up as an interim measure to enable the Societies to continue to function should the Company fold, and initially to preserve the Public Liability Insurance scheme, has made a difference. Although members had paid their subscription to the Federation last autumn, expecting this to cover the full 12 months, the 'new' Federation needed them to pay for membership up front so that they could be covered by the Insurance Policy which the Broker had arranged to have changed to its name. 73 have done so.

Later this morning there will be a meeting of that Federation. Its sole business is to wind itself up and transfer its assets to this one.

We intend to return to the usual practice of annual subscriptions in the autumn. That means that the 73 societies that took up membership of the Federation for Ulster Local Societies will not be asked to contribute again this autumn. So, their next membership renewal will be autumn 2008. Only the remaining 20 or so societies will be contacted in August for their membership subscriptions for 2007-2008.

And Finally - The accounts reflect the last year of the Federation in the operational mode it had acquired over the years. From now on, at least in the medium term, our sights must of necessity be lowered. However, I am certain that we will continue to deliver useful services to our members and contribute to the wider community while we consider the way ahead. That way will be constrained, at least initially, by the limited resources we will have available to us. Ann Robinson in her report has outlined some of what the Executive Council has identified might be done. The resolutions to be debated later give delegates an opportunity to elaborate on that.

Neil McGleenon (Armagh Diocesan Historical Society) queried what the financial report was based on.

Pat Devlin answered that the financial report is from the draft account from the auditors.

The proposal to adopt the financial report was made by Wendy Osborne (Lecale Historical Society) and seconded by Roddy Hegarty.

6. The Federation's Future Role and Activities

Resolution 1

Concerned that the Federation's Articles of Association are no longer best suited for their purpose, this meeting instructs the Executive Committee to review those aspects concerned with membership and governance and to prepare a report, with such suggested changes as may be considered appropriate, to an Extraordinary Meeting to be held before the end of this calendar year.

This motion was proposed by Anne Lavery (Stewartstown & District Local History Society) and seconded by John Campbell (Poyntzpass & District Local History Society)

Resolution 2

Pat Devlin

The Federation's Strategic Plan 2006 – 2008 set out its **vision** as follows

The vision of the Federation of Ulster Local Studies is of a community in Ulster that is able to lay common claim to and have pride in its heritage and history.

Its **Mission** was as follows -

The Federation of Ulster Local Studies shall provide guidance, support and direction to those societies and individuals who are interested in the rich and varied history and heritage of Ulster. This shall be done in an inclusive and accessible manner that encourages widespread participation and that promotes an ethos of mutual understanding.

There were four aims

- 1. To engage with a wider cross section of the community in an exploration and understanding of their local past*
- 2. To engage more of its own membership in the Community Relations work of the Federation*
- 3. To increase the Financial viability of the Federation*
- 4. To develop and deliver a strong programme of activities in support of local studies*

For each aim there were three or four objectives, each with a measurable outcome.

All this was predicated on the continuing support of government or its agencies and that, as we know, was the flaw in the planning.

The questions the Federation faces in its 'cut-down' role is whether the vision and mission remain the same and whether, and in what way, the aims and objectives need to be adapted or abandoned to our new circumstances, or indeed if wholly new activities should be developed.

These things need to be revisited. A clean sheet approach is needed. There is no point in trying to do what the Federation was aiming at. We haven't the money, we haven't the staff, we haven't the time. What we do have is our determination to keep the Federation going and making it relevant to the members, providing them with the help they need to make their own societies better. For us to succeed in this depends on the willingness of member societies to get more directly involved than they felt was needed in the past.

Some of what we will be able to do were mentioned in Ann Robinson's Report

1. Continue with the Public Liability scheme
2. Produce a periodical newsletter

3. Develop the web site
4. Increase the use of the internet and electronic communication in maintaining links with members and in the management of the Federation

Other ideas include providing a platform for societies to market their publications, publicise their events and increase their reach, particularly those without their own websites.

We have had a couple of approaches that we will be considering for this year

1. The Opening Learning Programme of the School of Education at Queens are looking to extend to the rest of the Province, including into Monaghan, Cavan and Donegal, the reach of some short 5 to 10 week courses they have been running in Belfast. They design the courses according to local requirements and are keen to link into the Federation's network. Fees range from £20 - £40 per person. Courses gain credits towards a Certificate in Irish Studies
2. PRONI is helping to organise the 60th Anniversary Conference of the Society of Archivists that is being held in Belfast between the 28th and 31st August. The SoA represents archivists, records managers and conservators across the UK and the RoI and the conference theme is "Differing Directions: Challenging Communities". On the afternoon of 29th there will be an Information Marketplace bringing together commercial and non-commercial interests. Each participant will have one or more stalls (at a charge of £750 each!). However, PRONI is offering one of these stalls to FULS free of charge. It would involve manning the stall for 3 and a half hours and it would provide an opportunity to set out a display of its own publications and a range of those produced by individual local Societies. The conference attendees, mainly from the UK and the RoI but including a number from abroad, could benefit from seeing something of the strong sense of locality and community in Northern Ireland.

The resolution proposes a consultation with the membership. This will be undertaken by the Executive Committee but not necessarily confined in its membership to them alone. We will be looking for people to come and help us, and to canvas views widely. We want to encourage debate about the Federation's purpose and its services.

We will test proposals against the vision and mission I already mentioned and should be in a position to put specific proposals to the Extraordinary meeting by the end of the year.

I move the following resolution.

Resolution 2

In light of the Federation's changed circumstances and restricted resources, this meeting instructs the Executive Committee to consult with members and prepare a report, to be presented to an Extraordinary Meeting, held before the end of this calendar year, on the ways in how it can help in strengthening and developing Local Studies in Ulster in the years ahead.

This motion was proposed by Pat Devlin (Ulster History Circle) and seconded by William Devlin (Trinity College Dublin Association).

7. Election of Officers and Committee 2007 – 2008

John Dooher vacated the chair and invited Ann Robinson to conduct the election of officers and Executive Committee.

Resignations Received: Mr. James Davidson, Mr. Keith Haines and Miss Ann Robinson.

Nominations were received as follows:

Officers

Chairman	Mr. John Dooher	Strabane History Society
Vice-Chairman	Ms Bridgeen Rutherford	New Buildings & District Architectural and Historical Society
Secretary	no nominations	
Treasurer	Mr. Patrick Devlin	Lecale Historical Society

The above were duly elected as Officers.

Mr. John Dooher took the chair

Ordinary Executive Committee Members

Deemed nominated for re-election:

Dr. Neil McGleenon	Markethill and District Historical Society
Ms. Belinda Mahaffy	Co. Donegal Historical Society

Nominations received:

Mr. William Devlin	Trinity College Dublin Association NI
Mr. Arthur Speers	Co. Donegal Historical Society
Mrs. Doreen McBride	Banbridge Historical Society
Mr. John Hulme	Carrickfergus & District Historical Society

The above nominations for the Executive Committee were proposed by Doreen Corcoran (Carrickfergus & District Historical Society) and seconded by Anne Laverty (Stewartstown & District Local History Society) and they were duly elected.

To fill another vacancy on the executive Committee Mr. Malcolm Duffy (Aughnacloy & Truagh Historical Society) was proposed by Catherine Hudson (Mourne Local Studies Group) and seconded by June Cochrane (Gortin Historical Society). Mr. Malcolm Duffy was duly elected.

It was noted that there was still the opportunity to co-opt another 4 members onto the Executive Committee.

8. Election of Auditors

More discussion would be needed about electing auditors. Pat Devlin would prefer a professional audit and it was agreed to leave it to the Executive Committee to decide who the auditors should be.

9. Any Other Business

1. Open Learning Programme in QUB. Cathal McManus. See above. Leaflets given out.
2. Invitation from Gerry Slater PRONI for FULS Ltd. to take a free stall at the 60th Anniversary Conference of Archivists Information Marketplace on Wednesday 29th August 2007 1-5. It

was thought that publications of FULS and member Societies could be sold. Volunteers were needed to man stall. The following people volunteered:-

Doreen Corcoran, John Hulme, June Cochrane, Anne Lavery and Ann Robinson

Roddy Hegarty said that he could also be used as a contact for this event.

3. Doreen Corcoran mentioned that in 1975 there had been a joint sub-committee set up with the ROI Federation. This had lapsed but Larry Breen of Co. Kildare and chairman of the Southern Federation was keen to start up co-operation again.
4. Bob McKinley of Bangor Historical Society mentioned that the Somme Heritage Centre had a project to collect oral history of people's memories of World War Two. Flyers were given out.
5. Jennifer Cunningham (Coleraine Historical Society) pointed out that the FULS Ltd. AGM being held in May or June was not always suitable for societies.
Roddy Hegarty suggested that it might be more suitable to have the AGM in the autumn.

The FULS Ltd. AGM Meeting concluded.

FULS Ltd. MEMBERS PRESENT

Saturday June 30th 2007

Armagh Diocesan Historical Society: Neil McGleenon

Aughnacloy & Truagh Historical Society: Malcolm Duffy, L. McKee

Bangor Historical Society: Bob McKinley, R. McKay

Carrickfergus and District Historical Society: John Hulme, Doreen Corcoran

Coleraine Historical Society: Jennifer Cunningham

Cookstown Local History Group: Ruth McKenzie, Geraldine McKeown

Gortin Historical Society: June Cochrane, P. McSwiggan

Lecale Historical Society: Wendy Osborne

Lisburn Historical Society: John Moore, Hilary Moore

Loughbrickland Historical Group: David Griffin

Mourne Local Studies Group: Sean McManus, Catherine Hudson

Newcastle Field Club: Tom Walsh, Ian Watts

North Belfast Historical Society: Peggy Weir, Patsy Rainey

North of Ireland Family History Society: Ann Robinson

Poyntzpass and District Local History Society: John Campbell, Jim Sterritt

South Belfast Historical Society: George Templeton

Stewartstown & District Local History Society: Ann Lavery

Strabane History Society: John Doohar

The Trinity College Dublin Association of NI: William Devlin

Ulster History Circle: Pat Devlin

Roddy Hegarty