



Federation for Ulster Local Studies

NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER NO 15

DECEMBER 2009

www.fuls.org.uk

Annual General Meeting

The AGM in Strabane was attended by about 20 Societies. The following were elected to office for the 2009-2010 year.

Chairman: Bridgeen Rutherford
Vice Chairman: Roddy Hegarty
Treasurer: Pat Devlin
Secretary: Vacant

Executive Committee

Dr Maurna Crozier
William Devlin
John Hulme
Doreen McBride
Ruth Olphert
Dr. Neil McGleenon

At its first meeting the Executive Committee co-opted Finny O'Sullivan to the Committee.

Strategic Plan 2009-2011

The meeting agreed the Strategic and Implementation Plan for the next two years. The main features of the plan will be taken forward by three Committees and the Executive Committee. Committee at its first meeting set these up. The committees are -

Education Committee

Convener: Roddy Hegarty
Members: Maurna Crozier
Doreen McBride

Programme Committee

Convener: Bridgeen Rutherford
Members: Ruth Olphert
Liam Devlin
Finny O'Sullivan

Publications Committee

Convener: Johnny Dooher
Members: Roddy Hegarty
Doreen McBride
John Hulme

A feature of the new committees is that they are not confined to members of the Executive Committee. The Committee is keen to engage with Societies to augment the membership with people with relevant skills and experience. More on this shortly.

Secretary Post

For the third year running there has been no nominations for the position of Secretary. The Executive Committee is asking Societies to nominate someone for the position. The role involves dealing with correspondence, preparing the periodical Newsheets, arranging the AGM etc. The Committee will provide training and support.

Members Presentations

This part of the AGM was devoted to short presentations on projects/activities undertaken by Societies during the year. There were three presentations.

- *Ulster History Circle* on the development and launch of an on-line Dictionary of Ulster Biography, which provides brief biographies of some 1,800 distinguished people associated with the province. The Dictionary website can be found at <http://www.ulsterbiography.co.uk>. The dictionary is fully searchable and there is guidance for anyone who would like to suggest additional people for inclusion. Over 500 additional names have been identified for research.
- *Newbuildings & District Archaeological & Historical Society* on its recent archaeological dig of a local souterrain. Details and photographs are available on the Society's website at <http://www.newbuildingshistorical.org.uk/>; and
- *Carrickfergus Historical Society* on the facsimile reproduction, with comprehensive index, of Samuel McSkimin's *History and Antiquities of Carrickfergus*.

Hidden Gems & Forgotten People

The website for this project, jointly supported by the Federation and the southern Federation of Local History Societies, was launched on 17 November. The web address is <http://www.hidden-gems.eu/>. Eleven Counties north and south plus Belfast are represented.

The articles make interesting reading and demonstrate the scope for a project such as this to expand indefinitely. Since the launch more stories have been added. Societies are encouraged to visit the site and let us have articles from their area. There is no cut-off date, articles will be added as they are received. Each Society's contribution will be acknowledged in the 'New Gems & People' Page .

Local History Fair - Omagh

The Local History Fair on 24 October was well attended with contributions from the Federation providing some of the highlights of the event. The contributors included Johnny Dooher on the Federation, Bridgeen Rutherford on the archaeological Dig in Newbuildings and the Glenelly Society on heritage matters.

New Federation Member

Welcome to the Federation's newest Member, Carryduff Historical Society, who joined in early November. We hope they enjoy membership and find it useful. They are an active Society with their own website at
<http://carryduffhistoricalsociety.org.uk/>

2010 EVENTS

Spring Seminar

The Education Committee is in the early stages of planning this Seminar/Workshop. It will be in Draperstown in early March. The focus will be research on the Plantation, and the local and regional sources available to researchers, with examples of published studies and on-going projects. Further information, including costs, will be issued nearer the time.

Joint FULS/FLHS Visit

Following on from previously successful joint events, the Federations have agreed for the next two years to arrange reciprocal visits to historic towns in each jurisdiction. For this purpose Naas in County Kildare and Downpatrick in County Down have been chosen.

The first of the visits will be to Naas in early July, probably Saturday 4th. The Naas Local History Group will arrange a programme of visits and talks about the town and county which will include visits to sites of historic interest.

More information later.

Meeting the Societies

The Executive Committee, having put a lot of thought and effort into the Strategic Plan, would welcome opportunities

to consult with members about it, to explain our approach to development, discuss its relevance to individual societies and explore ways in which the Federation might be able to help Societies in their work and how Societies might be able to help the Federation become more effective.

If you would like a speaker from the Executive Committee to address your members or to meet with your Executive Committee or officers, do give any one of us a call, or telephone or email us at the phone number and email address below.

Speakers for Society Programmes

On many occasions Societies have asked for advice on where to find speakers on the range of topics that interest their members. While many Societies aim to have speakers on local topics, there are many occasions when matters of wider impact can usefully be discussed e.g. the Flight of the Earls, the Plantation, farming in the 1930s etc.

The Executive Committee agrees that a list of suitable speakers should be drawn up and made available to Societies for their information. The best place to start on such a list is obviously the Societies themselves and we would be grateful if members would arrange to let us have the following information -

- i Speaker's name and contact details (if available).
- ii Topic or topics covered.
- iii Area covered by speaker (if known).

Details to the address below.

Society Programmes

The Federation's website is available for Societies to publicise details of their annual programmes or to draw attention to any forthcoming event or book or journal launch that they feel might be of interest to the wider membership.

Send the details by email or post to the Federation at the address below.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WISH
YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

