

AGM 2014

This year's AGM will be held in Clotworthy House, Randalstown Road, Antrim on Saturday 8 November. Delegate registration will be from 10.00 am. Dr Eamon Phoenix will deliver a talk on a Great War-related topic.

This year the Executive Committee had decided that, in addition to providing an opportunity for Societies to give a short (5 minute) presentation of their activities during the year, there would be value and interest in asking Societies to bring along an item or items of interest for display and discussion. These would be on display during the AGM and their significance explained and discussed.



Clotworthy House is situated in the grounds of Antrim Castle. The 400 year old Castle Gardens, and Clotworthy House, were recently refurbished by a £6m restoration project. They won the Ulster in Bloom Special Award 2012.

In Clotworthy House is the Garden Heritage Exhibition where you can read about the history of the Gardens and the story of the Massereene family. It provides a fantastic opportunity to come and learn about garden history how the lives of the key family members intertwine with the development of Antrim town and the surrounding areas.

For those who wish to stay for lunch there will be a programme arranged for the afternoon. Details will be provided later as will the cost of the lunch. Those who do not require lunch will be able to participate in the afternoon activities.

Speakers' Register

The appeal in the last Newsletter for Societies to recommend speakers has been very successful.

Societies have responded well and 20 new speakers have been added, covering 74 topics. Two new Tour Guides have also been added. You can check out the latest additions on the website at <http://www.fuls.org.uk/update15.html>

I'm sure there are plenty more good speakers out there, known to Societies. If Societies or individuals have other names please pass on the details; name and phone number etc to John Hulme at leslie.hulme@mypostoffice.co.uk

This is a very useful resource to Societies and well worth consulting when preparing their annual programmes.

Due North

Preparations are well under way for the next edition of *Due North*, planned for launch at the AGM on Saturday 8th November. A number of articles have been confirmed but there is still space for any society or individual member to submit either a book review or a longer piece connected with history or local studies in Ulster. Notices and short reviews on local history journals or other local publications would be especially welcome and material can be submitted up to the end of August. For further details or clarifications contact editor Johnny Dooher at 07713636362 or by email at johndooher@btinternet.com. Please try to make *Due North* as representative of Ulster Local Studies as possible by submitting something from your society or area.

Hidden Gems and Forgotten People

The number of entries on the Hidden Gems website, www.hidden-gems.eu stands at 300, a small increase on the last Newsletter.

We now have a set of *Hidden Gems and Forgotten People* display panels comprising twenty each from the FLHS and the FULS. These will be available to societies for use as exhibits in promoting this project or in promoting their own activities.

It is planned to launch the exhibits nationally before the end of the year both North and South.

U.K. Visit to Scotland, June 2nd – June 6th, 2014 (Larry Breen -FLHS)

The U.K. visit proved to be a highly successful and enjoyable trip. There were representatives from twelve counties including societies from Knocklyon, Rathmichael, Strabane, Carrickfergus, New Buildings, Antrim, Ormonde, West Tyrone, Navan, Foxrock, Fassadinin, Durrow, Naas, Clane and Lecale.

On the first evening Marie Davidson from the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch of the Historical Association presented a fascinating after dinner talk on the history of Glasgow based on the statues adorning George Square in the city.

During the course of the week the group visited three iconic castles, Culzean Castle on the Ayrshire coast, Stirling Castle and Edinburgh Castle. It sampled the produce of Glengoyne Distillery, cruised on Loch Lomond, toured Glasgow and Edinburgh, explored the unique Rosslyn

Chapel and experienced the atmosphere of the New Lanark Woollen Village. The trip finished with a visit to the Robbie Burns Birthplace Cottage and Museum near Alloway on the homeward journey. It was a trip to remember. For a fuller report of the trip see -

<http://www.fuls.org.uk/scotlandtrip0614.html>



At the Burns Museum



At the Glengoyne Distillery (before the dram)



Loch Lomond

Divided Loyalties - Ulster and the Great War Seminar Armagh 24 May 2014

A full programme of excellent speakers examined a wide range of topics. The two main speakers were Dr Peter Collins who reviewed the labour scene in Belfast before, during and after the war, and Dr Fergal McCluskey who covered the Irish Volunteers in County Tyrone from a local perspective. Four other speakers, Robert Corbett, Mary McVeigh, Quincey Dougan and Grace Maloney dealt, among other topics, with the use of the Newspaper Library for war studies, Belgium refugees in Monaghan, and Unionists who did not support the war.



Peter Collins

Grace Maloney

Planned Joint Seminar on the Great War

The Federations plan to organise a Joint Seminar on the Great War on 11 October in the Fairways Hotel in Dundalk. The topics will include the general and the local. The Federation is asking Societies to consider if they could provide presentations on the impact of the war or its aftermath on their own localities - townlands, villages, towns, parishes or Counties. These topics could include songs about the war, how morale was affected, or family stories that illustrate the impact on localities. Presentations of a more general character would also be welcome.

If you can participate, and we urge that you do, please contact Johnny Dooher at johnndooher@btinternet.com or Tel: 07713636362.

Marking Anniversaries - "Remembering the Future"

As part of the Decade of Centenaries, the Community Relations Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund have been working together since 2010 to 'stimulate a conversation about *Remembering in Public Space*'. The aim is to reinforce the development of political and civic culture, engaging with culture and identity, rights, what we mean by democracy and the nature of political change. The CRC has developed a set of principles to guide those who are involved in projects and can provide links to useful organisations and resources, in publications and DVDs and guidance papers. The Federation has met with CRC/HLF to explore opportunities to develop projects related to the Decade of Anniversaries, and the help that the CRC etc could provide.

We have agreed to meet again and we will keep members informed of developments.

Distributing these Newsletters

The Executive Committee understands the issues and costs associated with the distribution of these Newsletters to the members of individual societies. We believe that there is merit in as many members as possible having insight to the Federation's work and plans, and provided with an opportunity to participate in events as they arise.

We would be grateful if societies would circulate the Newsletter to those of your members on email. Alternatively, we would request that Societies ask their members if they would like an individual copy and if so, perhaps their names and email addresses could be sent to the Federation's email address - info@fuls.org.uk