

FEDERATIONS' JOINT EXCHANGE VISIT TO ARMAGH

NAVAN FORT/ BOTH CATHEDRALS/ ROBINSON LIBRARY AND 5 VICARS HILL

SATURDAY 8 JULY 2017

As in past years, this trip is an opportunity to meet with our friends and colleagues from the Federation of Local History Societies.

The trip will take in six interesting and attractive locations in Armagh



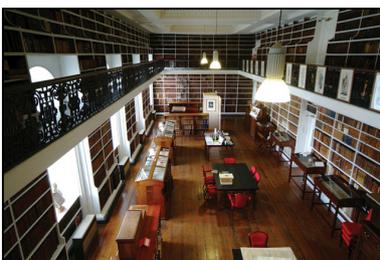
Navan Fort is an ancient ceremonial monument near Armagh. According to tradition it was one of the great royal sites of pre-Christian Gaelic Ireland and the capital of the Ulaidh. It is a large circular hilltop enclosure—marked by a bank and ditch—inside which is a circular mound and the remains of a 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.



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.



Robinson Library, now the Armagh Public Library, is the oldest library in Northern Ireland, founded in 1771 by Archbishop Richard Robinson as part of his plans to establish a university. The nucleus of the collection is Archbishop Robinson'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.

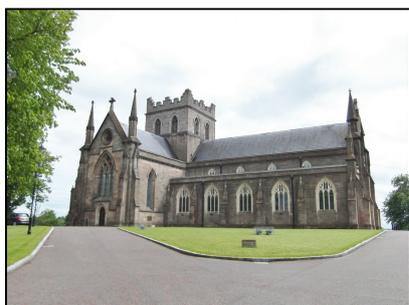


5 Vicars Hill Archbishop Robinson built No 5 as the Registry to hold Church of Ireland and civil records. In 2011, the Library restored No 5 to exhibit examples of the Library's collections, such as Roman and Medieval coins, Neolithic stone tools, Bronze Age weapons, Irish hand bells and eighteenth century 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, a number of 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.



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.

Itinerary

The day starts at with tea/coffee 10.30 a.m. in the Charlemont Arms Hotel, Upper English Street, meeting friends from FLHS.

For those arriving by car it is recommended that you use one of the car parks identified on the attached map. The following timings are subject to change.

11.30 to 12.30 pm - Navan Fort. Roddy Hegarty, Librarian, Cardinal O'Fiaich Library and Archive, will conduct the tour and give talk on the hill. It is advisable to bring walking shoes/boots and weather-proof clothing in case of inclement weather. There is a fairly steep climb involved, so a walking stick may be advisable.

12.30 to 2.30 pm – Lunch in the Cardinal O Fiaich Library & Archive. Vegetarian choice will be available. During lunch Roddy will tell us about the history of St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral. After lunch, we will visit the Cathedral, which is only a short walk from the Library.

2.30 to 5.00 pm – Assemble at St. Patrick's CoI Cathedral. Here we will split into two groups, half going on a guided tour to the Robinson Library and the other going to 5 Vicar's Hill. After that the whole group will visit the Cathedral. All three are within a short distance of each other.

That ends the formal tour.

This year the Federations have agreed to extend the arrangements to issue an invitation to FULS participants to share an evening meal with our FLHS friends who will be staying overnight in the Charlemont Arms Hotel, or, for those who would like to take up the offer, the evening meal plus B&B. There will be an after-dinner speaker on a local historical theme.

For those who wish to participate in the FLHS programme on Sunday, there will, starting at 11.00 a.m. be a visit to Dan Winter's Ancestral home/ cottage, followed by lunch and a visit to Long Meadow Cider Orchard before they depart for home. Information about the costs involved, additional to those on the Booking Form, can be obtained from Larry Breen at larrybreen8@outlook.com

A Booking Form is attached

JOINT FULS/FLHS ARMAGH TRIP - 8 JULY 2017

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 3. Visit and Evening Meal plus B&B (indicate if single room required) |
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The cost of the three options are

Visits only (including lunch) - £15.00

Visits plus evening meal - £35.00

Visits plus B&B plus evening meal - £72.00 (£82 single)

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 30 June 2017.*



St Patrick's RC Cathedral

* Edward Street car park

* Loudan's Mews car park

Charlemont Arms Hotel

Robinson's Library

< 5 Vickers Hill

St Patrick's Col Cathedral