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NEWS FLASH

NEW FEDERATION WEBSITE

20 February 2020

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce the go-live of the Federation's new website today. It replaces the website developed and maintained since 2007 by Pat Devlin.

The site is accompanied by a new logo that emphasises the Federation's nine-county Ulster historical reach. It is a composite logo incorporating the symbol, the Federation's name and the strapline. Although the site is not yet live, the logo and heading of this letter reflect the new livery for the website, publications and correspondence.

The site produces much of the same information as the existing one but is packaged in a modern format that adds considerable value for Federation members and others who are interested in local historical studies. As well as retaining most of the existing functionality, the new site provides a range of e-commerce functions, including the ability to renew subscriptions and PL Insurance, recruit new members, and purchase Federation publications.

There are several new features including *Our Federation in Photographs* recording many of the Federation's events over the years, including many of those events, both at home and abroad, undertaken in partnership with our sister Federation in the Republic of Ireland, the Federation of Local History Societies.

The new *Federation Videos*, linking to YouTube, provides a wide range of talks and lectures, delivered over the years by local historians, launch events and other interesting and useful material. As well as the videos and photographs, illustrated reports of the events, including those of the Annual General Meetings, are available.

The Federation has been in existence for over forty years and the most of the sixty journals produced in that time are out of print. However, they have been digitised and are available as CDs for purchase on the site. Some of the individual articles, and there are over 600 of them, have been selected for display on the home page (From the Archives), as have a few of the interviews of Federation stalwarts and other interesting individuals published from time to time. These will change periodically to retain interest.

The website has the potential to develop in ways that can be of additional value to societies. For example, a Forum where members can comment on issues of interest to you, and / or seek advice or help on matters of concern; publicise events in your own or other areas, or suggestions for new services or events.

We hope members will find the new site a helpful source of information about the Federation and that you will enjoy the new features.