

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Saturday 13 November 2021 by Zoom. The virtual attendance was small, including the Executive Committee, the Hon Officers, and the speakers. Federation chairperson Josie Herbison led the meeting.

The Secretary Pat Devlin presented his account of the general functioning of the Federation over the past year and stressed the difficulties presented by the ongoing Covid lockdown while Treasurer Bridie Bradley presented an outline of the income and outgoings of the Federation during the year and thanked the auditor for the satisfactory report that had been delivered to the membership. Both reports recognized the difficulties faced by the wider Federation membership in a year of limited opportunities for meetings at local and wider level and thanked members for their support and approval. The reports had been circulated to all members and approved.

The Chairperson, Josie Herbison, gave a short upbeat address, encouraging member societies to start again with an emphasis on local issues and making use of Zoom to retain contact with Federation activities at the wider level.

The Chairperson then announced the results of the elections for Officers and Committee members – these had been sent to members and returned votes certified by the chairperson and secretary. The results of the elections were as follows -

Officers

Chairman: Robert Guthrie – Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers

Vice-Chairman: Joseph McCoy – individual member

Secretary: no nomination returned

Assistant Secretary: no nomination returned

Treasurer: Bridie Bradley, West Belfast Historical Society

Executive Committee

Johnny Dooher – Strabane History Society

Josephine Herbison: Immediate Past Chairman (Antrim H.S.)

Helen Meehan: Donegal Historical Society

Aine NíDuibhne: Donegal Historical Society

Appointment of President and Vice Presidents

Outgoing President, Dr Brian Turner, had served the stipulated term of 5 years and outgoing chairperson, Josie Herbison, paid tribute to his supportive leadership over the term of his office and announced that his successor would be Professor Brian Walker, previously vice president.

The outgoing executive committee had proposed that two new vice presidents, Dr William Roulston and Mr Roddy Hegarty should be appointed to act in conjunction with Dr Kay Muhr, outgoing vice chair and this was approved

Prof Brian Walker gave a short presentation on Commemorations and the extent to which there had been a more conciliatory and participatory approach over the last 10 years. This was followed by a short Open Forum with contributions from Roddy Hegarty and Dr William Roulston on the role of the Federation in helping societies to recover their self-confidence and engage more openly in local studies. Dr Roulston then launched the latest edition of *Due North* – Vol 3 Issue 5 and emphasized the importance of supporting local history publications at local and national level.

Membership Review 2021-22

The membership registration and fees were required in the period from October onwards and a large number have been sent on in the period before the AGM. Some still remain to be paid and those members outstanding will be contacted in the coming weeks so that the Federation can proceed with seeking Insurance cover and planning future activities. If you are unsure whether your society had paid up the membership you can check with Treasurer Bridie Bradley – phone 028 90201959 or email at bbradley@muiraddy.co.uk and arrangements will be made to collect the outstanding money. Any changes in officer and/or addresses since last year should also be notified to the Federation officers. We trust this can be done as soon as possible.

Administration Review

Following on from the AGM and the failure to fill all administrative positions on the Federation executive committee it was decided that an Administrative Officer should be appointed to ensure that all key duties of the Federation would be carried out in line with its responsibilities as a registered charity. Mr. Patsy McShane, a longtime member of the Ballinascreen History Society and a member of the early Federation committee was appointed by the executive committee at the February meeting. Fuller details of contact details will be provided to the Federation members in the weeks ahead. For the moment contact can be made through the officers listed above or using the Federation email address. info@fuls.org.uk

Insurance

The Federation Insurance details will be sent shortly and societies will be notified as soon as possible on the payments and time scale.

Ulster Local History Trust

The Ulster Local History Trust was established by the Federation for Ulster Local Studies in 1981 to help raise the standard of local historical work, particularly among voluntary groups. For details of support available including financial see their web page—www.ulht.org.uk

Federation of Local History Societies – Visit to South East England – London

This visit, to historical sites in London and South East England is organised by the Federation of Local History Societies but is to members of both Federations including the Federation of Ulster Local Studies. The visit will take place from Monday 2nd May 2022 to Friday 6th May 2022. The package includes coach hire, return ferry and four nights hotel accommodation with bed and breakfast and evening meals. The cost is €560 per person sharing, single €630 and includes all admission charges. Details are attached separately.