

Current Committee

Officers: Chairman: Joseph McCoy; Vice Chairman: Denvir Boyd; Treasurer: Bridie Bradley,

Executive Committee: Johnny Dooher; Aine NíDuibhne. **Administrator:** Patsy McShane

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Vacancies: As you can see we have a few vacancies on the committee. Volunteers for Secretary in particular or as a committee member would be very welcome. If interested please email the Administrator—Patsymcshane@icloud.com. Details of the work of the committee can be found on our webpage www.FULS.org.uk

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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation is scheduled for Saturday 19th November in the O'Fiach Library and Archive in Armagh. The official notice will be issued soon.

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Due North.

Last Call for Articles, Reports, Reviews or other relevant material

It is hoped to provide a flavour of what is happening at community level in local history and help encourage the interaction among societies that has previously been such a strong aspect of the wider Federation. There appears to have been a falling off in the publication of local journals and conferences over the last year or so but there are signs recently of efforts to re-establish the work being done at local level by a number of active societies. The Due North journal can provide societies and individuals the opportunity to promote the work that is being done or planned at local level and help enthuse other would-be authors to become involved in the research and promotion of local history. But time is getting short! Any intending contributor to Due North is asked to make contact with the editor, Johnny Dooher, before the end of October for guidance on deadlines and other relevant issues on publication. Reviews and reports on other local materials published in recent years would also be welcome.

For further information contact Johnny Dooher - editor, Due North, the journal of the Federation for Ulster Local Studies at: johndooher@btinternet.com

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Society News

Donaghmore Historical Society has worked with the Southern Health Trust to ensure that a marker was placed on the remains of the Dungannon Workhouse burial ground at the South Tyrone Hospital. The memorial was unveiled in June 2022, and is situated in a small memorial garden behind the hospital. In addition, with the generous support of Mid Ulster District Council, a comprehensive website on the workhouse has been developed and can be viewed at <https://dungannonworkhouse.com/>

Ballinascreen Historical Society launched their 48th publication on 7th May 2022. This book is a painstaking transcription of the register of the 1847 intake at the Magherafelt Workhouse, during the very darkest days of the famine, and furnishes a unique insight into the effects of that dire epoch on the population of this local area. Providing the names, sex, age, marital status, family status, employment, religious denomination, name of spouse, number of children, health condition and date of death or discharge of most of the 2606 paupers admitted that year, it will be of great interest to genealogists and to all those interested in local history, especially since it predates the Irish Civil Registration for births and deaths in 1864.



Compiled by James Alistair Bodkin with a foreword by Graham Mawhinney. The first print-run sold out in a few weeks with numerous copies going around the world. However it has gone to reprint and is available on the Society's on-line bookstore— www.ballinascreenhistoricalsociety.com

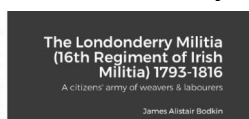
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New Publications

A History of the GAA in 100 Objects: The Gaelic Athletic Association is a huge part of the Irish consciousness and plays an influential role in Irish society that extends far beyond the sports. In popular imagination and experience, the GAA is often evoked in terms of its objects: medals passed down from generation to generation, jerseys worn in All Ireland finals, Michael Cusack's blackthorn stick, a pair of glasses damaged during the events of Bloody Sunday. This fascinating book offers a new perspective on the GAA by assembling a range of objects from every county in Ireland, as well as overseas, to present a chronological history of the GAA that also functions as a social history of the people who have been involved in it. From a fifteenth-century horsehair slotar to a tweed camogie dress, Trevor Giles's sleeveless jersey and Brian Cody's baseball cap, all corners of the GAA world, personal and official are explored and celebrated. Available from <https://irishacademicpress.ie/>

Crazy Dreams is the compelling and highly anticipated autobiography from Paul Brady, a musician whose remarkable career has spanned six decades and who is indisputably one of Ireland's greatest living songwriters. This evocative memoir chronicles Paul's many years at the forefront of the Irish folk scene, from The Johnstons and Planxty through to his seminal work with Andy Irvine and onwards to his own vaunted solo career. Along the way are the many encounters and collaborations with such musical luminaries as Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Carole King, Tina Turner, Mark Knopfler and Bonnie Raitt to name but a glittering few. From such celebrated tracks as 'The Island', 'Nobody Knows' and 'The World is What You Make It' to his interpretations of traditional folk songs like 'Arthur McBride' and 'The Lakes of Pontchartrain', Paul has carved out his own unique place in Irish musical history. In *Crazy Dreams* he tells how it was done and regales the reader with remarkable stories of life on the road and the journey from small-town Tyrone to the world's stage. Available from <https://irishacademicpress.ie/>

The Londonderry Militia: Irish Heartbeat Press is excited to announce the book launch of 'The Londonderry Militia (16th Regiment of Irish Militia) 1793-1816: A citizens' army of weavers & labourers' by J A Bodkin. The book launch event will be held at the Tower Museum (Cinema Room), Union Hall Place, Londonderry/Derry/Doire, BT48 6LU on Saturday 19th November between 2 pm and 5 pm. There will be a short presentation about the Londonderry Militia (1793-1816) starting at 2 pm followed by the book signings. For further details about the book please see <https://irish-heartbeat-press.co.uk/>



*The Londonderry Militia
1793-1816*

Note: Pre-orders of the book are now being taken with the book(s) being dispatched for its release date of 19th November 2022. The cost of the book is £22 (excluding p&p); to pre-order the book please contact AI Bodkin using the following email address:

abodkin58@yahoo.co.uk

There will be further book signings after 19th November 2022 around County Londonderry/Derry to be announced in the following months.

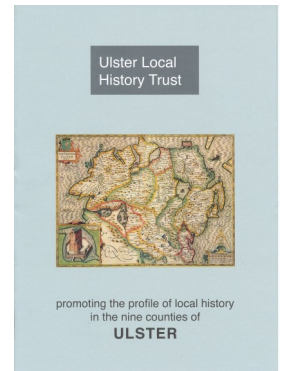
More About Inver et al - by Helen Meehan is a sequel to her 728 page "Inver Parish in History" published in 2005. This 304 page book places Inver in the Donegal Bay area in the wider context of the history of Co Donegal and the country. The forward is by Dr William Roulston of the Ulster Historical Foundation. Selling price 30euro Can be got from author Helen Meehan , Coolum House , Mountcharles, Co Donegal or in shops in the county.

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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. The Trust offers grants to support the publication of local and regional studies and research and provides advice to authors on good practice. Particular emphasis will be paid to innovation in demonstrating the value of local history to our shared communities.

See digitized leaflet attached. Also for details of support available including financial see their web page—www.ulht.org.uk



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Various Events 2022

A number of Societies are up and running again for the 2022/2023 season. Programmes we have been notified of include:

East Belfast Historical Society

13 October 2022: East Belfast: The Past in Moving Pictures, A NI Screen Presentation
10 November 2022: East Belfast Another Look, Aidan Campbell
8 December 2022: Enriching Memories from the 1950s/60s, Peter Quigley
Venue: Belmont Bowling Club, Belmont Park, Belfast BT4 3DW at 7.30pm

Ballinascreen Historical Society

Tuesday 4th October 2022: "Local Railway History" - Liam Begley
Tuesday 1st November 2022: "Education in Ireland" - Clive Scoular
Tuesday 6th December 2022: "Writing a family history" - Jack Johnston
Venue: Workspace Community Hub, 50 High Street, Draperstown BT45 7AD at 8.00pm

Carrickfergus Historical Society

Wednesday 26th October, 7.30pm: 'A Victorian Childhood' - Ron Bishop
Wednesday 30th November, 7.30pm: Takabuti - Professor Eileen Murph
Wednesday 7th December, 7.30pm: Christmas Social Event
Venue: Carrickfergus Town Hall , 2b Joymount , Carrickfergus, BT38 7DN at 7.30pm

South Belfast Historical Society

Thursday 27th October 2022 : The life of Sir Otto Jaffa, a talk by Keith Haynes
Thursday 24th November 2023 – Personalities I have met in television, a talk by Anne Hailes
Venue: Newtownbreda (St John's) Presbyterian Church, 374 – 378 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT37 3HX

Please let us know what your Society is planning so that it can be included in the next News-letter. Please email information to the Administrator—Patsymcshane@icloud.com.

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Federation of Local History Societies

Below is some information from our sister organisation in the Republic of Ireland that may be of interest:

2023 Trip—Early Notice

The FLHS UK trip for 2023 will be 7th May—11th May and will be based in Oban and tour that area.

FLHS are also exploring the possibility of a trip to Rome in 2023 as well. Details of the above trips will be circulated as soon as they are available.

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Obituary -A tribute to Kenneth (Ken) Powles, 30th March 1936 – 2nd April 2022

Ken Powles, Vice-Chairman of South Belfast Historical Society (SBHS) died on 2nd April 2022, a few days after his 86th birthday. He made a great contribution to the work and development of SBHS.

Ken was a well-known and likeable individual. He lived his entire life, apart from a short period of evacuation during World War 2, in the Stranmillis area of Belfast. He had a great understanding of the local history of the area. During his life he witnessed its transformation from a quiet residential area to a dynamic area accommodating students, young professionals and small businesses. Throughout his life he was a parishioner of St Bartholomew's Church. He was a choir boy and later in life became a member of the select vestry. Ken was an award-winning amateur drama producer for the Bart Players. His well-attended productions entertained the community, especially during the "The Troubles" when entertainment venues were limited.

Between 1963 and 2009 Ken produced 30 plays as festival or summer theatre productions. A number of his productions reached the Association of Ulster Drama Festivals (AUDF) finals. These ranged from "The Cherry Orchard" (1971) to "Heil Belfast" (1988). Between 1979 and 1989 he produced the annual pantomime for the Ulster Operatic Company in Belfast. He had the distinction of being the first amateur producer to present a play as part of the annual QUB Festival. "Vivat: Vivat Regina" played to full houses in 1976. In 2000 he was invited to direct "Titanic" as part of the QUB Festival. Sir Tyrone Guthrie, the eminent adjudicator and Chancellor of Queen's University, was impressed by his production of "This Happy Breed" (1969). Guthrie invited Ken to join the production staff at the Sheffield Playhouse. Although he was honoured by this life changing opportunity, he decided to pursue his love of the theatre as an amateur producer.

Ken worked for Belfast Steamship Company from 1954 to 1971. In 1971 he joined the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and worked there until his retirement in 1998. In 1980 he was appointed Events Manager. As part of his job he was the coordinator of Ulster in Bloom, sponsored by NITB. He continued in this role after his retirement when NILGA (Northern Ireland Government Association) became the sponsor. Ken enjoyed working with local councils and community groups to enhance the environment throughout Northern Ireland.

Throughout his life Ken loved travelling and visited over 60 countries. Anyone who met him quickly discovered that he not only possessed a large repertoire of stories but was also a wonderful story-teller. He collected antiques, paintings and post-cards and had a keen interest in Irish railways and shipping.

Writing about Ken in 1982 Doreen Muskett MBE, a friend and SBHS committee member stated that he was "producer, actor, adjudicator, prompter, administrator, organiser supreme, kind hearted, thoughtful, generous, punctual, fastidious in his dress, perfectionist." Ken leaves behind many memories and is greatly missed by those who knew him.

Clive Cochrane – Honorary Secretary - South Belfast Historical Society

Articles & Notices for the Newsletter

Articles and notices for publication from member societies are very welcome. The next issue of this newsletter will be available at the end of December 2022. Articles and notices for the newsletter will need to be forwarded to patsymcshane@icloud.com by Monday 12th December 2022

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