

### Current Committee

**Officers:** Chairman: Joseph McCoy; Vice Chairman: Denvir Boyd; Secretary: Ian Elliott; Treasurer: Bridie Bradley, **Committee:** Johnny Dooher; Aine NíDuibhne, Elizabeth Hoy. Florence Chambers; **Administrator:** Patsy McShane

Details of the work of the committee can be found on our webpage [www.FULS.org.uk](http://www.FULS.org.uk)

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### Spring/Summer Seminar

The Spring Seminar that had traditionally been part of the Federation's annual programme was resurrected this year after an absence during the Covid period and the overall response of those who attended the event at Draperstown was enthusiastically positive. Councillor Cora Corry, chairperson of the local council, welcomed the attendance to the Community Hub and highlighted the importance of promoting community interaction in the preservation and research of local history and ensuring that it was made widely available to both young and old in the locality and to those who had left the district. She stressed the opportunities that local history provided in renewing interaction with neighbouring districts and hoped that the revival of the annual seminars and meetings would reinvigorate the study of the past and encourage a wider range of local groups to follow the example of the existing societies.

The business end of the seminar then began with Johnny Dooher welcoming the Federation chairman, Professor Brian Walker of Queen's University, to the meeting and inviting him to present his talk on 'The decade of Centenaries 1912-22: Commemoration, Controversy and Conciliation – a Look Back'. Dr Walker provided a vivid account of the historical events and characters of the years 1912 -



*FULS Spring Seminar, Draperstown, Co. Derry. (L to R): Larry Breen, Joe McCoy, Cllr Cora Corry, Prof Brian Walker and Edward Montgomery*

22 and highlighted the main themes that had engrossed the attention of historians, politicians and the general public over the past few years. It had been recognised that in the divided community that was Northern Ireland there could be no agreed approach to events like the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant, the 1916 Rising and War of Independence or the Partition issue and the Establishment of Northern Ireland and the best that could be hoped for was to seek as large a measure of mutual understanding as was possible. Professor Walker stressed that knowledge and understanding of the different views and attitudes of the people of the period was crucial to a study of the events of this decade and the relative peaceful outcome of the commemorations was something to be grateful for.

Professor Walker's talk was followed by one from Mr Edward Montgomery, a member of the Honourable Irish Society, one of the groups provided with land and power in Ulster following the Plantation of Ulster in the years of the early 1700s. Mr Montgomery provided an outline of the work of the Honourable Irish Society and that of other groups who had been granted land and governing power in Ulster in the early 1600's - a power that was retained until the 19th century and indeed some remnants of that power and control remained up until the 20th century. Some questions were raised about the successes and limitations of these Plantation settlements and the issue of a future investigation into the whole Plantation programme was mooted.

Following lunch there was a walking tour of Draperstown, led by Graham Mawhinney of the Ballinascreen Historical Society and this looked at the growth of the plantation town and the preservation of much of its original 17th century shape. There was widespread commendation of the tour by those who took part in the walk around and indeed some disquiet from a number of participants who felt it could have been prolonged and thanks were extended to Graham, Patsy and other members of the Ballinascreen Society who had made the seminar such a success.

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## Membership and Insurance

All societies registered with the Federation should have received recently an invoice for both membership and insurance. The membership subscription for 2023/2024 is £50.00 whilst the insurance costs are a flat £25.00. A large number of societies have already paid but there are still some outstanding, if you haven't received an invoice please let me know by emailing me at [patsymcshane@icloud.com](mailto:patsymcshane@icloud.com), It is extremely important that societies are covered by public liability insurance and to avail of the Federation's group policy you must be a member.

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## Due North.

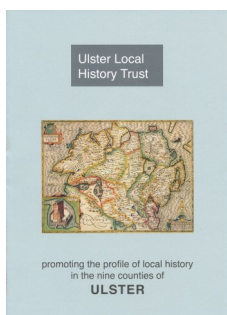
The latest Issue of Due North is still available from Johnny Dooher - editor, Due North, the journal of the Federation for Ulster Local Studies at: [johndooher@btinternet.com](mailto:johndooher@btinternet.com) . Price £4.00/€4.50

Articles include:

Charles Macklin—an early Donegal-born dramatist by Dr. Sean Beattie  
Marriage Infidelity in Ulster, the case of Lady Marianne Brooke by Keith Hanes  
Gleanings from the Conyngham Papers by Helen Meehan  
The Ulster Local History Trust by Jack Johnston and Evelyn Cardwell

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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.

For details of support available including financial see their web page—  
[www.ulht.org.uk](http://www.ulht.org.uk)

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## Register of Speakers and Tour Guides

The Federation has compiled, with the help of members, a list of speakers who are available to give talks on a wide variety of local study topics. Event organisers can sometimes struggle to find speakers on a particular topic requested by the membership or to find a speaker at the last moment in an emergency. Also Societies can spend considerable time consulting others about ideas for speakers and topics. The Directory is therefore of considerable value to member societies. The Federation plans to update this list in the Spring of 2023 and would welcome names and details of speakers to add to the Directory, also if anyone feels that they are no longer in a position to remain on the Directory please let us know by emailing [patsymcshane@icloud.com](mailto:patsymcshane@icloud.com).

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## Various Events 2023

Whilst most societies programme of events don't start until the Autumn, I have been notified of some as detailed below:

### **Cullybackey & District Historical Society**

- Thursday 21st September - In Sketch, Verse and Song, an evening with Ballymena Artist Mr. Adrian Steel  
Thursday 19th October - Folklore, Superstitions and Stories of Strange Goings On, A talk by Dr David Hume  
Thursday 16th November - Ballyclare, A light hearted look at this market town through its characters, anecdotes and curious incidents by Mr Jack McKinney  
Thursday 14th December - Christmas Dinner

Meetings are held in the Royal British Legion Hall, Main Street at 8pm

### **Ballinascreen Historical Society**

- Tuesday 3rd October - Dr William Roulston - "Land & People in early 18th century Ulster"  
Tuesday 7th November - Michael Meharg - "Cattle of Ireland - shaping our culture, landscapes & wildlife"  
Tuesday 5th December - Edward Montgomery - "The Honourable The Irish Society"

Meetings are held in the Workspace Community Hub, 50 High Street, Draperstown at 8pm

### **South Belfast Historical Society**

- Thursday 28 September - Lord Pirrie by Mark Doherty  
Thursday 26 October - Moravian Church and Community by Derek Bell  
Thursday 30 November - Old Belfast Cinemas by Gary Spence

Meetings are held in Knockbreda Presbyterian Church, Belfast at 7.45pm

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## Articles & Notices for the Newsletter

Articles and notices for publication from member societies are very welcome, also publications and book reviews. The next issue of this newsletter will be available in June 2023. Articles and notices for the newsletter will need to be forwarded to [patsymcshane@icloud.com](mailto:patsymcshane@icloud.com) by Monday 3rd June 2023

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# The North of Ireland Family History Society

## Telling the Story of the People of Ulster through DNA

DNA testing and analysis is helping to expand our knowledge of where the people of Ulster came from and who they connect to in the world today.

The North of Ireland Family History Society manages unique and innovative DNA Projects that are knocking down brickwalls often found with traditional genealogical research.

With over 8,300 members, all of whom have ancestors within the nine counties of Ulster, The North of Ireland DNA Project is the largest of its kind and is the umbrella project for other specialised projects. Participants have access to information that helps them to match their DNA with others, making connections they would otherwise be unaware of.

The Islandmagee and Ballycarry DNA Projects are for people with ancestors who were born or died in either of those two areas. The project team has been able to verify ancestral lines back to the early 1700s discovering how families were related to each other and helping to create an accurate picture of the areas' inhabitants. Based on a surviving 1813 Church census, the Society's Newtownabbey branch has recently set up the

Ballyeaston DNA Project. DNA testing is targeted at potential descendants of those recorded members of the church, allowing testers to find relationships not only amongst themselves but also with others who may be unaware of their Ballyeaston connection.

Many people arrived into Belfast in the 1800s to find work but it is an ongoing challenge for those with Belfast ancestors to identify where they came from. The Society's Belfast branch is analysing DNA from the descendants of people buried in the Belfast City Cemetery with the aim of gaining vital information about the origins of these families.

The North of Ireland Family History Society promotes and encourages the private and public study of family history, genealogy, heraldry and local history with particular reference to the nine counties of Ulster. You can find more information here: <https://www.nifhs.org/>

To encourage DNA testing and people's understanding of it, the Society offers support and assistance as well as online courses. The DNA Summer School has become increasingly popular and this year runs from 21st August, with 2 presentations per day for 5 days. Covering beginners to advanced topics, the classes are recorded so that anyone who cannot attend in person doesn't miss out. All details and bookings will be available towards the end of July on the Society website at <https://www.nifhs.org/courses/>

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# North of Ireland Family History Society



## Family History Library & Research Centre

Tell your  
cousins!



- Church records
- Local history
- Family trees
- Journals
- Maps
- Street directories
- More...

Newtownabbey

Open to the public 2pm - 8pm most Tuesdays, except holidays  
Open other times by prior arrangement: email [bookings@nifhs.org](mailto:bookings@nifhs.org)  
Please check website for more information

[www.nifhs.org/research-centre](http://www.nifhs.org/research-centre)



Registered charity: NIC106071

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## Publications

### **The world administered by Irishmen: The Life and Times of Robert Hart and Contemporary Irish in East Asia, by Robin Masefield**

This widely-researched book is published by Special Collections & Archives, Queen's University Belfast. While, the initial focus is on the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, and the Ulsterman Sir Robert Hart who led it for 45 years, it brings together a treasure trove of other Irish people in East Asia - men from Ulster working in the Customs Service; a nurse from Roscommon; a doctor from Cork; a diplomat from Meath; Hong Kong governors from Dublin; and many more. Using first-hand accounts where possible, the book vividly brings to life the special contribution that Irish men and women made to developing relations with China, Japan and Korea in the 19th century.

'I cannot commend this book highly enough', from the Foreword by a former British Consul General in Hong Kong. Richly-illustrated with many historic images, the book will appeal widely to academics and all those with an interest in East Asia.

The author lived in Hong Kong for three years and has published a number of historical books.

The book can be obtained from local booksellers, or online at [www.blackstaffpress.com](http://www.blackstaffpress.com), or email [specialcollections@qub.ac.uk](mailto:specialcollections@qub.ac.uk) to purchase.

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