

FEDERATION OF LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING GALWAY CITY MUSEUM

SATURDAY, 9th MAY 2009

Following a Cead Mile Failte from Diarmaid O' Cearbhall, Uachtaran, Galway A & H. the Keynote Address was given by Gearoid O'Tuathaigh, Ollamh le Stair. He gave a wide ranging lecture on the varying interpretation of historical events which sometimes confused between the real past and fantasy, and resulted in sometimes contentious commemorations which needed careful historical study

The Federation president, Rev. Sean Doherty, then formally opened the business of the AGM and the Chairman, Larry Breen, spoke of the highlights of the year which included increased North South contacts which resulted in the Boyne visit and the Hidden Gems project, and thanked the officers and committee for their work during the year, especially the secretary, Dermot Ryan, and editor, Frank Taaffe. He also spoke of the need for better communications with the member societies and of the need to develop the web site which will be undertaken by Kieran Hoare, whom he thanked for hosting the AGM. Mr Breen then outlined the structures adopted for the County Kildare Federation where societies grouped together to issue joint publications events and raised awareness

The Secretary Treasurers report showed that the Federation finances were in a healthy position with 6,390 euro on deposit and a current balance of 4,200 euro with the bulk of annual expenditure on the printing and postage of the Annual Review while annual subscriptions accounted for their balancing income. The April visit to Rome to replicate the end of the Flight of the Earls in 1608 had been very successful while the Famine project, whereby societies provided speakers to visit their local schools had been well supported and it was hoped to expand such visits in the future and hoped that the increased number of e-mail contacts would help make societies aware of historical events during the year.

The election of officers and committee resulted as follows,

President, Fr. Sean Doherty; Chairman, Larry Breen; Vice Chair, Padraig Laffan; Sec./Treas, Dermot Ryan; Editor, Frank Taaffe; P.R.O., Ms. Mary O'Connor.

Committee: Celbridge, Maura Gallagher; Charleville, Phillip O'Connell; Clare, Myra English; Clondakin, Joe Williams; Clontarf, Kay Lonergan; Galway, Kieran Hoare; Mayo North, P.J. Lynn; Moate, Martina Griffin; Old Drogheda, Betty Quinn; Rathmichael, Richard Ryan; Slane, Mrs. Sheila Crehan; Tipperary, John Bradshaw.

Under Society Spake delegates gave examples of good practice which could be adapted by other societies. These included the production of a CD relating to the Kildare area for use in schools, walks with Scouts and Brownies to help with their badge programmes, highlighting Heritage Week in Naas, preserving oral history through recordings in Navan, participating in a certificate course in Local Studies in Meath, town walks for tourists in Kinsale, Angelas Ashes walk in Limerick as well as involvement in planning matters and social evenings, highlighting the Winter Solstice and providing details of local place names for schools in Westport, maintaining centres, museums and displays by the Irish Palatines, Kiltartan and Athy.

Recalling a specific year in history, 1945, in Fermoy, as well as highlighting stoneage monuments in the locality, and preparing for commemorating 1014 in Clontarf were given to the meeting.

Under AOB Frank Taaffe outlined the workings of the group insurance scheme with O'Connors and clarified the cover offer which was being circulated to all societies involved by the company itself. The meeting was followed by a Walking Tour of Galway with local historian, Peadar O'Dowd.