



43rd AGM REPORT 31st Oct. 2007

Chairman Pat retires New President elected

SEAN FOLLOWS IN FAMILY TRADITION

The big news at this year's AGM was the announcement of the retirement of Chairman Pat Hanratty. Committee Member Sean Corcoran was proposed and elected in his place. Sean is the son of the late Terry and Moira Corcoran, founder Members and guiding lights of the Society for over 40 years. Terry was lifetime President up to his death last year and Moira, who died in 2005, was 40 years Hon-Secretary; both played huge rolls in the development and success of the ODS.

Congratulations to Sean and all Members wish him every success in his new position. With his own undoubted talents and his pedigree we have no doubt that he will lead the Society to even greater achievements.

Pat Fulham, who has been a tremendous benefactor to the Society over many years, was elected our new President and we also congratulate him and wish him success in his new role.

5 YEARS CHAIRMAN

Pat Hanratty took over as Chairman in 2002. Many glowing tributes were deservedly paid to him on his retirement. He flagged a couple of years ago that committees should be energized every few years and true to his word he announced his retirement at the AGM.

Eddie Quinn called Pat "a class act" and praised his loyal and diligent service over 5 years. John McGovern said the Society owed Pat a great debt for his insightful and dignified leadership.

Una O'Connell wished Pat well for the future, and, "ODS & Ends" is sure that all Members join her in this respect. Pat has also retired off the Committee, but will continue to work closely with Millmount to complete some projects. (See interview with Pat overleaf).

New Chairman, Sean Corcoran, also congratulated Pat. He said he was hugely honoured to be elected Chairman and he highly praised the work of the Staff in Millmount.

2007/2008 COMMITTEE

President: Pat Fulham Chairperson: Sean Corcoran Vice-Chairperson: Deirdre Russell
Hon Secretary: Mary Malone Joint Treasurers: Seamus Dolan & Carmel Doherty
Registrar: Betty Quinn Journal Editor: Tom Winters
Committee: Noel Bailey, Don Byrne, Margaret Clinton, John Devitt, Marie McGovern, Gerard Murray, Una O'Connell, Seán Ó Greagóir & Eamonn Thornton.

BRONTE EXHIBITION

A new Exhibition entitled 'The Reverend Patrick Brontë – A Life in Ireland' is to run in the Museum from 25th January to mid-March. The opening hours are 9:30am to 5:30pm Mon. to Sat., & 2:00pm to 5:00pm on Sundays.

Patrick, who was born near Rathfriland, Co. Down, was the father of 3 famous daughters, Charlotte, Emily & Anne Brontë. His great-grandfather, Hugh mac Aedh Ó Proinntigh, was born near Newgrange, Co. Meath. The Gaelic name mac Aedh Ó Proinntigh was anglicised as "Prunty" or sometimes "Brunty" and finally "Brontë." The Exhibition, is loaned to us by Altnaveigh House, Newry & is funded by Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, Dublin.

A descendent, Mrs. Carol Brontë, will be available to give talks on the Brontë family at the Exhibition. For more information Ring 041 98 33097.

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AGM Random Bullet Points

- ❖ Tribute paid to two deceased Members - Terry Corcoran, former Life President & Victor Clarke, Museum benefactor.
- ❖ 6 lectures, including Corcoran/Garry lecture.
- ❖ 6 Day & Evening outings.
- ❖ Weekend Away to Sligo-Leitrim-Roscommon.
- ❖ JBO'R Summer School on the theme "The Flight of the Earls."
- ❖ Journal No. 16 in preparation to be launched late Nov. '07.
- ❖ 2 events in Martello Tower.
- ❖ 2006 President's Christmas Lunch - guest speaker Olympian Ronnie Delany.
- ❖ Town walk on Heritage Week - Deirdre Russell.
- ❖ "Irish Arms" commissioned to mount a military exhibition & military artifacts to be transferred to Millmount Tower.
- ❖ New Exhibition Cases constructed - Coordinator Noel Bailey.
- ❖ Very successful Book Sale in the new Laurence Centre - Coordinator John McGovern.
- ❖ Two new brochures published: (1) on the Museum & (2) on the Conference Centre.
- ❖ New Website now up & running - Coordinator Don Byrne.
- ❖ Conference Centre bookings increasing.
- ❖ Involvement in Chord Road, Cemetery restoration - Coordinator Seamus Dolan.
- ❖ Involvement in a number of Cross Border initiatives - e.g. Emmet/Devlin Comm. & United Irishmen Socy., Belfast & Social Economy Bridging Programme.
- ❖ The Chairman, Pat Hanratty, thanked:
- ❖ Monuments Comm: Chair - Mary Malone.
- ❖ Publications Comm: Chair - Tom Winters.
- ❖ "ODS & Ends" Newsletter: Peter O'Leary.
- ❖ Millmount Museum Ltd: Directors.
- ❖ Drogheda Media: Local Newspapers & Radio.
- ❖ Principal Sponsors: Drogheda Borough Co. & Drogheda Concentrates.
- ❖ Millmount Permanent Staff: Betty Quinn, Liam Reilly & Yvonne Clarke.
- ❖ FAS staff.
- ❖ Committee & "stalwart supporters."
- ❖ Monuments Comm. supporting work of Brendan McSherry (Heritage Officer).
- ❖ Discussions re future of The Tholsel & the Mayoralty House.
- ❖ Membership of Drogheda Cultural Enterprise.
- ❖ The Museum had 4770 Visitors from 54 countries.

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH

President Pat Fulham hosted his first Christmas Lunch at the Boyne Valley Hotel on Sunday, 9th Dec. 2007. The lunch was excellent, as usual, and the large dining room was filled to capacity. Dan O'Neill, member of the Louth Team which won the All-Ireland Football Championship in 1957 was Guest Speaker. A native of Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Dan partnered Kevin Behan of Ardee in mid-field on that faithful Sunday. Most Louth people of a certain vintage can tell you where they were and what they did on that Sunday. He enthralled his audience with his reminiscences of his early days as a Garda in Drogheda and of football in the wee county in the fifties.

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Tel: 041-98 33097. FAX: 041-98 41599. WEBSITE: www.millmount.net E-MAIL: info@millmount.net

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??? The Moira & Terry Corcoran Local History Quiz ???

The 2007 Quiz was held in **Our Lady's, Greenhills**, last December. **St. Olivers**, who were competing for the very first time, edged out **St. Joseph's CBS, St. Mary's Diocesan School** and **Our Lady's, Greenhills**. The standard of answering all round was excellent. Many thanks to the Quiz sponsor **Drogheda Concentrates**.

Interview

"JUST A MINUTE" WITH PAT HANRATTY (Past Chairman)

Congratulations, Pat, on the completion of your highly successful Chairmanship. Are you happy with the Society's progress and achievements in that time?

P.H. - I have to say yes. When examining the last 5 years "ODS & Ends" one can see progress on all fronts; lectures, tours, day trips, publications, etc. And, happily our finances are in a sound state.

Who is your favourite Irish historical figure?

P.H. - Daniel O'Connell.

Who is your favourite World historical figure?

P.H. - J.F.K. - John F. Kennedy.

Name your top 3 destinations that you would like to see the ODS visit (or revisit) in Ireland?

P.H. - Derry, Youghal, Galway.

Name your top 3 destinations that you would like to see the ODS visit outside Ireland?

P.H. - World War 1 sites (Battle of the Somme, etc.), Boston & Philadelphia, Israel.

Which 3 ODS activities during your Chairmanship gave you most satisfaction?

P.H. - (1) The "Week-ends Away" - York, Oxford, Sligo; which I organized, & by all accounts were very enjoyable, but unfortunately, I could not take part in. (2) Three excellent Journals. (3) After many years of discussion, the commencement of the relocation of the Military Artifacts from the Museum to the Tower in Millmount. Also, I have to say that I had a marvellous Committee and enjoyed working with them, - they are a good group of dedicated people.

Did anything disappoint you during your period of office?

P.H. - The disappointing attendances at some of the excellent Lectures in Millmount. The very small number of members who assisted at the Book Sale in the Laurence Centre.

In which period of history would you have liked to have lived?

P.H. - The time when Cromwell invaded Drogheda. I could set the record right! If he killed "every man woman & child" - then, how come the market was held on the Saturday (and who was there)? Then the Corporation met the following week! I could prove which historian was correct!!!

What's your view on the astonishing developments in Drogheda in the last 10 years?

P.H. - If a Drogheda person was away from the town for, say, five years and returned to it, they'd think they were in the wrong place!!! The new Shopping Centres are marvellous - and it's great that they are in the town. However, sadly many of the new developments are insensitive to the area. Congratulations to Drogheda Borough Council on the marvellous restoration of the Buttergate. We could do with more of this type of sensitive development, and here I'm thinking of St Mary's Abbey, Millmount, Town Walls, Mayoralty House, Tholsel, etc.

Thank you and well done again, Pat.

- WANTED - WANTED - WANTED -

Articles are now required for the next Journal.

Established writers & budding writers are requested to contact Editor **Tom Winters** through the **Museum at 041 98 33097**.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY SUMMER SCHOOL

Drogheda & "The Flight of the Earls."

Once again there was an excellent turn-out for this year's Summer School on 9th Sept. 2007. (However, it would be good to see better support from **ODS Membership**). **Dr. John McGurk** (Retired - Liverpool Hope University), **Dr. John McCavitt** (Royal Historical Socy.), and **Dr. Patrick Fitzgerald** (Centre for Migration Studies) were the Speakers on the theme "**The Flight of the Earls.**" **Romena Carolan** (J.B.O'R expert) spoke on the life of **John Boyle O'Reilly**.

It may surprise many to hear that the Drogheda area had quite an association with the "Flight." The agreed (not signed) **Treaty of Mellifont** marked the end of the "nine years war." **Sir Garrett Moore** of Mellifont was a great friend of **Sir Hugh O'Neill, the Earl of Tyrone**, and was foster-father to his son, **Sean**. O'Neill, was staying in Mellifont when he was advised that the ship to convey the Earls to Spain was ready in **Lough Swilly**.

Capt. John Rath of Drogheda, an experienced voyager, was the ship's captain. They eventually sailed from **Rathmullen, Co. Donegal**. (Sadly, after many adventures Rath was later to betray O'Neill and turn traitor selling information to the English.

The "Flight" took place on **14th Sept. 1607** and our School took place on **9th Sept. 400 years later**. Dr. Fitzgerald described it as the **first Irish Diaspora**. The speakers were excellent and were most illuminating on the enthralling subject - stuff of a Hollywood movie.

Dr. McCavitt's book "**The Flight of the Earls - an illustrated history**" is available from our **Millmount Book Store** (041 983 3097).

The **Boyne Valley Hotel** played host and was excellent as usual.

NEW JOURNAL OUT

ODS Journal No.16 was kindly launched by **Mayor Anthony Donohoe** on 28th Nov. last. In his address he pointed out the great work the Society does in recording the history of big and small events affecting the town - which would otherwise be lost to present and future generations. The Editor of the Journal is **Tom Winters**. The book is printed by **Anglo Printers**, Drogheda.

Over 20 articles are in the book including: "**Terry Corcoran - An Appreciation**" by **John McCullen**, "**John Forbes, MP, Drogheda**" by **Don Byrne**, "**Malocca Story**" by **Giovanni Magliocco**, "**Folklore Miscellany**" by **Frank Gallagher**, "**Keep the Home Fires Burning - WW1**" by **Tom Winters**, "**1956 - Tony 'Socks' Byrne**" by **Liam Reilly**, "**B Coy 8 Inf Bn, FCA**" by **Peter Durnin**, "**Ships that never Returned**," "**1950 - Drogheda Pilgrimage to Rome**" by **Finian McQuillan**, "**Drogheda Dance Bands**" by **Willie Healy**, "**Re-crossing the Rubicon**" by **Shane Fagan**, "**Drogheda's Master Painters**" by **Ronan Eustace**, "**Killed in Action**" by **Peter Durnin**, "**Rebel Motor Bike**" by **John McCullen**, "**Irish Times Editor - 27 Years**" by **Tom Winters**, "**McPhail Story**" by **Owen Rafferty**, "**West St. Working Life**" by **John Hurley**, "**Drogheda Newspapers**" by **Frank Gallagher**, "**Death of Henry Boylan**" by **Tom Winters**.

The publication is available from **Millmount Book Store** (041 983 3097) and local book shops.

Winter lecture: 5th Dec. 2007

DISCOVERING OUR PAST

This joint lecture with Co. Louth Archaeological & Historical Society was delivered in the Droichead Arts Centre by **Mary Deevy**, Project Archaeologist, NRA. She gave her audience an overview on the dig work on the M3 motorway in Co. Meath. For further up-to-date information check out the dedicated website: www.m3motorway.ie

Corcoran/Garry Lecture: 17th Oct. 2007

VERNACULAR MUSIC TRADITIONS OF DROGHEDA & SOUTH LOUTH

Sean Corcoran delivered an illustrated talk on 19th C. sheet music & street ballads - illustrated by original field recordings & live performance. He highlighted the role played by Drogheda musicians in the genre. The Governor's Hall was full for the occasion.

Sean has an international reputation in his field & his talk was fully enjoyed by his audience. He was recently appointed Traditional Musician in Residence with Drogheda Borough Co. & we congratulate him on that & wish him every success.

Winter Lecture: 16th Jan. 2008

"O'NEILL ROME

Franciscan Fr. **Michael MacCraith**, Prof. of Modern Irish, NUI Galway, gave the photo slides illustrated lecture on the Earls in Rome after the "Flight." Chairman **Sean Corcoran** described the lecture as a "tour de force." The lecture room in the Governor's House was full to overflowing & his audience enjoyed his fascinating talk.

The tombstones of the Earls, **Rory O'Donnell & Hugh O'Neill**, are side by side in front of the high-altar of the Franciscan Church of St. Peter in Montorio in Rome. Medieval tradition has it that the church is built on the site of the martyrdom of St. Peter. It should be a must for every Irish visitor to Rome.

COMING EVENTS

"MILLMOUNT'S COSMIC ALIGNMENTS - NEW DATA"

8:00pm, Wed., 20th Feb. in Governor's House, by Anthony Murphy & Richard Moore, authors of "Island of the Setting Sun - In Search of Ireland's Ancient Astronomers."

WATCH OUT FOR notification on upcoming SUNDAY DAY-TRIP.

Check out Updates in our Website: www.millmount.net