

OFFALY HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

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MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

WHY NOT SEND US YOUR MOBILE NUMBER AND EMAIL FOR CHEAP AND EFFICIENT NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS. EMAIL IT TO AS ABOVE HEADED 'EMAIL LISTING OHAS' CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR NEWS AND HISTORY – NEW ARTICLES ARE UPLOADED REGULARLY. USE EMAIL AND YOU WILL RECEIVE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS.

This month we can send you the full obituary of William Magan.

March Lecture

22 March 2010 Monday at 8.00 pm at
Bury Quay, Tullamore

The Fox family of Annaghmore, County Offaly and their friends in other 'big houses' in the neighbourhood of Ballyboy and Kilcormac

This lecture to be given by Michael Byrne is based on research he has been doing for an article in the forthcoming journal. The house was acquired by the Fox family in the 1830s and by Patrick Egan in 1919. It was later owned by American academics who were members of this Society. Not so well known it is a fine house with much of interest about the Fox family and their local friends. The Fox estate was centred around Roscore near Screggan. As with all lectures it is open to

the public and the cost is nil. The tea is also free – a good deal in these recessionary times and in line with our aim to enhance local knowledge and appreciation using all modern resources available.

April Lecture

19 April 2010 Monday 8 pm at OHAS Bury Quay, Glenn Thompson on army uniforms of soldiers of the midlands

The Offaly War Dead was successfully launched on Sunday 28 February at 3pm at OHAS Research Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore. The book of some 300 pp by Tom Burnell, Holycross, Tipperary is published by the History Press and is available at OHAS. It has some 600 biographies of those who died from this county in the First World War and is available from OHAS at €20. Our thanks to Tom and his friends at the launch. The book has some 600 biographies and is a good read and reference work.

For your diary forthcoming

Peadar Bracken 1887-1961 New Biography

This biography of Peadar Bracken who fought in the War of Independence and was

later District Court Clerk in Tullamore from 1922 to 1961 is now available from the Historical Society and can be ordered on the internet. It is written by Fergus O'Bracken and details his father life and times.

The cost is €9.99c plus €2 for packaging within Ireland for those who would like to order a book over the internet or by forwarding the money to OHAS or deal with Mr Bracken directly.

William Magan

Brigadier William Magan died aged 101 on 21 January 2010. His several books and his work in saving the Biddulph photographs will long stand as a monument to him here in County Offaly. He was always generous with information and help and we regret his passing and salute his long life.

Obituaries were published in the *Sunday Independent* 7 February 2010 and in the London Telegraph and The Times.

***Policing in West Offaly, 1814-1922* by Brendan Ryan,**

In this 480 page work Brendan Ryan delves into the everyday workings of the force. It includes potted biographies of up to a 1,000 men and officers who served in West Offaly.

His research was broadened to include men who joined the RIC from all of King's County and includes members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police with connections in this county. This book is now available from OHAS at €20 and an extra €10 to include postage. A few hardback copies are still available at €30 free of post in Ireland.

Family History Course Spring 2010

18 March at 8 p.m. Newspapers in Offaly Family History, Stephen McNeill.

LIBRARY NIGHTS CONTINUE IN 2010
EVERY THURSDAY FROM 7.30 PM TO
10.30 PM. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, WHY NOT
COME AND DELVE FOR YOUR LOCAL
HISTORY

OFFALY COUNTY LIBRARY LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The new reading room is now open on the ground floor opposite the lending area and visitors are welcome during all lending library hours. This is a tremendously enhanced resource and you have to see to believe it. Enjoy your researches there. It is intended to have a formal visit from the Society in April. Congratulations to the library staff and to the county library, Mary Stuart. Our thanks also to retired county librarian, Anne Coughlan, who did so much with meagre resources to build up the collection. A mark of civility in a town must surely be the availability of a great library. The opportunity was missed in the Tiger years to greatly enhance the County Library but with new technologies and some money much can be achieved. The new rooms now available are a promising start.

County Offaly in 1910

This series of articles is now in its fourth week and our thanks to the Tullamore Tribune and a welcome back to the editor, Gerry Scully, after his serious accident. The work would not have been possible without our staff at the Society who pulled together the material from the 1910 local papers and prepared it for editing. With help from Alan Guerin the full series should be on our website at the end of March.