

OFFALY HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Web site: www.offalyhistory.com Email: info@offalyhistory.com

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MAY 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.

Summer outings

Glasnevin Cemetery Saturday 22 May 2010

We propose to depart by bus for Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin to see the new visitors centre and tour the cemetery on Saturday the 22nd of May at 9.00am from OHAS Bury Quay with a view to commencing the tour in Glasnevin at 11.00am. If there are not sufficient numbers we will travel by train and will know by midday 19 May. You should book as soon as possible as numbers are limited to about 20. The booking deposit is a minimum of €10 and you are asked to pay this amount and confirm your booking as soon as possible. Please also give your home or mobile number so that we can call you if needs be. The cost of the bus will be €15 and the Glasnevin charge is €9.

In the afternoon we will visit the photograph museum in Temple Bar. After that you will have a few hours to shop in the city. We

intend to depart for Tullamore not later than 6p.m. on Saturday the 22 May 2010.

Wednesday 26 May 2010

Fr. Laheen's third book, *THE JESUITS OF TULLABEG, The Final Curtain*, has just been published and will be available in the shops in Tullamore after it has been launched by Michael Byrne in the Parish Hall, Rahan on Wednesday 26 May at 8.00p.m. All will be welcome. This book recalls the history of Tullabeg between 1914 and 1991. In the Spring of 1991 the Jesuits left the parish of Rahan for good. The book tells the history of Tullabeg during the two world wars after which the college ceased to be a place of study for young Jesuits and became a retreat house for lay people. This third book, together with the two previous volumes, covers the century and three-quarters during which the Jesuits lived and worked in the parish of Rahan. If it was with regret that they found it necessary to leave the Diocese of Meath. Fr Laheen at age 92 is a model for those who want to stay intellectually and physically active. Why not come along to the launch to support him.

REDISCOVER THE GEMS IN THE OFFALY COUNTY LIBRARY LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The new local history reading room at the county library O'Connor Square, Tullamore

is now open. A special introduction was held on Tuesday 27 April between 6.30pm and 8pm on that evening. This is a great library with open shelf access to an important collection and is accessible 34 hours per week. Why not enroll as a member and use the facilities.

For the archive service there is a leaflet available dealing with the grand jury records, the poor law union archives, the rural district council archives, the Offaly Board of Health and Public Assistance 1925-1942, Offaly County Council Archives 1899 – 1975 and the lastly the cemetery archives 1865 – 2003. There is also a list of private archives now in the County Library. For further information www.offaly.ie Appointments to contact the archives should be made at 0579346834.

**The diary of an Offaly Schoolboy, 1858-59
By William Davis (edited by Sandra
Robinson). Hardback €25 and softback €15.**

This new book of some 200 pages is being published by the Society and will be launched on 27 May in OHAS Tullamore at 8pm and in Rath Hall on 28 May at 8pm. You are invited to attend and support this new publication of the society. The event will be followed by refreshments and an opportunity to obtain a signed copy of the book.

In this diary of rural life we glimpse the lives of the Davis family and their neighbours near Birr in the mid 1800s. The diary details family and local rivalries, chaotic schooling, the scourge of TB and ill health, local and family scandals, violence and intimidation at election time, a few narrow escapes, friendship and loyalty, tales of army life and endless money worries. All seen through the eyes of a candid seventeen year old boy. This book is an important addition to the canon of historical works on County Offaly.

Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Librarian, Royal Irish Academy writes in connection with it:

‘The diary is a chronicle of life in a rural household in English brought low by the early death of the writer’s father. This is the story of two years in the life of William Davis (1842-1921). An intelligent and rather serious boy in his late teens, trying to make sense of his world, the journal entries expand as William matures to adulthood. It is a personal journey which is the richer for the author’s growing self-awareness and for the insights which it affords the reader.

Copies of the book are available at only €15 soft and €25 hardback. Stocks are limited so order today and come to the launch to support us and our efforts for Offaly History.

County Offaly Commemoration of Irish Famine Victims

Memorial day in Kilcormac, Cadamstown, Ralehin, and Ballyboy will be held on Sunday 23 May 2010 with Mass in Kilcormac Church at 11.30 a.m. followed by ceremonies in Cadamstown at 12.30 p.m., Ralehin at 1.40 p.m. and Ballyboy at 3.15p.m. There is a famine walk from Ralehin to Ballyboy starting a 1.50 p.m. For further details enquire at 0579135328.

Slievebloom Walks 2010

An attractive leaflet is available on the walks for 2010 and if you need further details you can go on to the website www.slievebloom.ie. The walks are all timetabled from 30 April 2010 to May- April 2011.

Tour to Kildare and places of interest adjoining 19 June 2010 further details to follow

July

We propose to visit the new Clara Bog Centre in July and we will be advising of further details on it shortly.

August

Heritage week **Saturday 21 August to Sunday 29 August 2010**. The following events have been agreed for Heritage Week from the Society.

Sunday 22 August at 2.30 p.m., Tullamore; the other half, this is the second half of the tour which was so successful in October last year. This section of the tour will deal with Tullamore on the northern side from the canal as far as Church Street and will commence from the Tullamore Dew Heritage Centre at 2.30p.m. The walk is expected to take about two hours and we look forward to seeing as many as possible in attendance. Amplification facilities will be made available. The walk is free and is part of the Society's contribution to Heritage week.

Thursday 26 August at 8 p.m. at OHAS Bury Quay Bernie Moran will give a lecture on: An exploration of the landscape of the pre historic and early midlands

Saturday 29 August at 2.30 p.m. The Society will host a visit to the important archaeological sites at Durrow, Tihilly and Lahinch Clara to depart from OHAS Bury Quay at 2.30 p.m. and to meet at Durrow at the entrance gate at 3 p.m. Following the trip to Durrow we will then move on to Tihilly and finish at Lahinch in Clara, if time permits.

Publications fund 2010

The Society will spend upwards of €10,000 on publications in 2010. These include the following:-

1. 1859 Diary of William Davis
2. The Journal of the Society Offaly Heritage number 6

3. We propose to make a contribution to the publication of material on the Joly Diaries relating to County Offaly.

We need your assistance in this work and we are asking you and friends of Offaly Heritage to consider a gift of anywhere between €50 and €250 or more in order to help us. The Society has charitable status and it is tax efficient to make a contribution. Ireland PAYE tax residents may wish to note that for qualifying gifts of €250 and over Offaly Heritage Centre Limited may be allowed a tax rebate from Revenue making your gift worth more to this campaign. For example a qualifying gift of €300 will result in €17 if a rebate is successfully reclaimed in tax at no extra cost to the donor. For self assessed individuals a contribution of say €250 would result in an actual cost to the donor of about €145 at the higher rate.

This represents an opportunity for you to make a solid contribution to the work of the Society and we enclose an application form to assist you in this regard.

We appreciate that times are difficult but it is your effort that we appreciate and what you can donate will be gladly received.

Cheques should be made out to Offaly Heritage Centre Limited and you should provide your name and address and mark your contribution for publications fund. The money will not be used for administration or for any other purpose save for publications on Offaly's History and Heritage.

Offaly Heritage Publication Fund

Promote the Heritage of County Offaly

I would like to make a Donation of €
to the Offaly Heritage Fund to support the
publication of books of historical interest on
County Offaly.

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone:

Email:

TAX EFFICIENT GIVING

Ireland PAYE Tax residents may wish to note that for qualifying gifts of €250 and over OHAS may claim a rebate from Revenue making your gift worth more e.g. a qualifying gift of €300 will result in €17 if a rebate is successfully reclaimed in tax at no extra cost to the donor. Self assessed individuals and companies simply deduct their donation as an allowable expense.

I am self assessed individual for tax purposes/

I am a PAYE taxpayer

DONATION METHOD

You can make your donation in three ways, cheque, credit card or standing order (Republic of Ireland Bank accounts only)

1. Cheque please make payable to Offaly Heritage Centre Limited
2. Credit Card please complete the following:
Please charge my Visa/Mastercard
Card number
Expiry Date
Signature
Billing name and address (if different from above)
3. Standing Order (Republic of Ireland accounts only)
To (Name of your bank)
Bank Address

Account name
Account number
Please pay Offaly Heritage Centre Limited
the annual sum of € for the next _____ years
First payment to be made on
Signature Date

Bank use only:

Offaly Heritage Centre Limited Bank account is at Bank of Ireland, Bridge Street, Tullamore Co. Offaly sort code 90 1909 account no. 38028690

Please return completed form to Offaly Heritage Centre Limited Bury Quay Tullamore Co. Offaly.

Do not send form directly to your bank. If you have any queries or if you would like to discuss same please contact Michael Byrne or Stephen McNeill (or any member of the committee) at 0579321421 or info@offalyhistory.com or writing to them directly at the Society at Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Edenderry Historical Society

21st May 2010

Lecture – ‘Mary Duffy & the Catholic Daughters of America’.

The next lecture will take place at 8.00pm sharp on 21st May, in the Parish Centre. Dr Carol C. Clement will talk to the society on the life of Mary Duffy, a Superior Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America. Duffy was born in Edenderry in May 1875 and was to the forefront of the Catholic Daughters of America in the early 20th century. In 1932 Mary Duffy was awarded a pontifical medal from the Pope. Dr Clement who has written a history of the Catholic Daughters and the role of Mary Duffy is visiting Ireland for the month of May and has kindly offered to speak to the society.

Please note there will be no meeting before this lecture.

Members of the public are invited to attend. New members are always welcome.

**19th May 2010 – Photographic Exhibition launch in Edenderry Library -
“Through a Swedish Lens”**

This is an exhibition presented by the National Folklore Collection, UCD. It illustrates the work of four Swedish ethnologists who visited Ireland 1920-1950. Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Archivist, UCD will launch the exhibition, Wednesday 19th May at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

The exhibition will be on view from Tuesday 18th May to Saturday 5th June 2010 at Edenderry Library.

Annual Collection

Just a reminder that the annual collection will be held on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd July, between 9.00am and 6.30pm, outside Tesco, Dunnes Stores and Brady’s Spar Supermarket. If you have an hour to spare to help with collecting, on either day, please contact Therese Abbott on 086 3400739.

Subscriptions for 2010 are now due. Just a reminder to anyone who has not yet paid their subscription, they are kindly asked to do so, as soon as possible. €12.00 single or €15.00 family. New members are always welcome.

Newsletters by email - Some members have elected to receive these newsletters by email, if you would like to receive future newsletters by email, please send your email address to catwat@eircom.net

OFFALY HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

has pleasure in inviting you to a reception
at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday, 27th May

in

The Society's premises

At

The Offaly Exhibition & Research Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co.
Offaly.

To mark the publication of

THE DIARY OF AN OFFALY SCHOOLBOY, 1858 -59
BY WILLIAM DAVIS

Edited by Sandra Robinson

The book will be officially launched in Tullamore by
Mr Tommy McKeigue
Chairman, Tullamore Town Council

R.S.V.P. (Regrets only)

Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society, Bury Quay,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

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