

OFFALY HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly Telephone: 057-9321421

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

Join us at Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society

On FACEBOOK

June 2011 NEWSLETTER

WHY NOT SEND US YOUR EMAIL FOR CHEAP AND EFFICIENT NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS. EMAIL IT TO AS ABOVE HEADED 'MEMBERS EMAIL LISTING OHAS' USE EMAIL AND YOU WILL RECEIVE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS. WE ARE NOW ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK AT OFFALY HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND IRISH MIDLANDS ANCESTRY.

On the Facebook page are pictures of the 2009 County Final, the O'Molloys and lots more.

Lecture on Thursday 9 June at 8 00 pm at OHAS

'A continental colonist in west Offaly in the 1610s' by Brian Mac Cuarta SJ.

This is a very special opportunity to hear an expert on the history on early 17th century Ireland – such a pivotal period in our history and we hope to see a full attendance. Members free. Non-members €2. Tea and coffee after the meeting together with a free architectural guide to all present, value €12.

The ruined castle of Clonony, not far from Banagher, was the home of Matthew De Renzy (1577-1634) for several years in the 1610s. The talk explores who De Renzy was, and how a man

of Italian background but whose early life was in Belgium came to live close to the river Shannon. De Renzy was buried in St Peter's church, Athlone, where his funeral monument is located.

The speaker, Brian Mac Cuarta SJ, is a historian of early modern Ireland. While a novice, Brian did the month-long Spiritual Exercises at the former Jesuit retreat house at Rahan, Tullabeg, in 1981.

While living in the Jesuit community on the Garvaghy Road, Portadown (Co. Armagh), in the early 1990s, he was involved in a Catholic-Protestant reconciliation group. The group organized a conference on a painful episode in the town's history. As a result, Brian edited a book entitled *Ulster 1641: Aspects of the Rising* (Belfast, 1993).

His latest book, an essay collection which he has edited, is entitled *Reshaping Ireland 1550-1700: Colonization and its consequences: essays presented to Nicholas Canny* (Four Courts Press, 2011). It is a collection in honour of Nicholas Canny, the NUIG historian who has just finished serving as president, Royal Irish Academy (2008-11). At present, Brian is director, Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu, which is the archives of the central governance of the Jesuit order, in Rome. It houses documents from the 1530s onwards, from all corners of the globe.

Forthcoming lectures in 2011-12

June Sat. 25th 2011 Walking tour of Dublin – Parnell Street, O'Connell Street. Depart Tullamore Railway Station at 9.10 am

Heritage Week Summary

Monday August 22nd @ 8 pm Illustrated talk on Edenderry to Shannon Harbour on the Grand Canal by James Scully at OHAS Bury Quay

Thursday 25th Aug 8 pm Herbal Medicine in County Offaly by *Emmet Walsh* at OHAS Bury Quay Tullamore

Sat 27th Aug 9 pm History of Boher Catholic Church from 1861 to 2011 by Stephen McNeill at Boher Church near Ballycumber

Sunday 28th August 2.30 to 4 Tour of Tullamore by bike led by Michael Byrne Commences at Town Park and finishes at OHAS Bury Quay with refreshments.

Visit the OHAS centre all week for tours, book discounts, to see old photographs or listen to Offaly people telling their story

22 Sept 2011 Brian Trainor on Offaly Wills
17 October 2011 Declan O'Connor on Skin the Goat Fitz Harris

21 November 2011 Philip McConway on 'The Turks would not do what they did – taking out prisoners and shooting them.' Offaly and the Civil War Executions, 1922-23.

9 December 2011 Christmas Party and Patrick Geoghegan Lecture on 'Liberator: the Rise and Fall of Daniel O'Connell'.

23 January 2012 Mary Delaney on 'William Steuart Trench and Improvements on the Digby Estate, 1856-1871'.

20 February 2012 Dr Terry Dooly of Maynooth on The Country House in the 21st century

April 2012 Michael Goodbody on Robert Goodbody.

Depositions of 1641 and Oliver Cromwell.

Bookshop at Centre at Bury Quay

Our Offaly and Irish history bookshop at Bury Quay is now open as part of our member's reading room. There are some 100 Offaly items to choose from and over 200 other history publications.

Library Evenings

Library evenings continue each Thursday night from 7.30 to 10.30pm. We now have the front office open for readers and have moved the microfilm readers to this location.

Summer School in July with John Feehan

As part of the Offaly Naturalists' Field Club programme, John Feehan and Offaly County Council heritage office have arranged a 5 day summer school designed for adults. This year it will be based in Ferbane and will be on from Monday 4th July to Friday 8th July, 9.30pm to 3.30pm daily. There will be field trips to various sites in Offaly each day.

The theme for this year is '**The Ins and Outs of Eskers, their Geology, Flora and Fauna**'. We will explore the multifaceted natural heritage of our eskers: those winding ridges and the undulating hills of sand and gravel associated with them which are, alongside the bogs, the most distinctive feature of the Offaly landscape. We will be looking at their geology – how they were formed and what they are made of – their diverse plant and animal life, and the challenges of conservation. As usual the days will be a mixture of lecture and discussion, field visits to esker sites of special interest, and the opportunity to examine esker fauna and flora through the microscope."

The cost for the whole week's programme is €100.00 per adult. Each participant to bring their own lunch (morning tea / coffee provided).

To reserve a place email heritage@offalycoco.ie or call 057 9346839

Recent publications

A map of Ferbane and Clara in 1910. This was produced by Alan Godfrey in the same series as *Birr, Banagher and Tullamore* and sells at €3. Copies will shortly be in stock. The number printed is small so buy early. **The Tommy Harris photographs of Clara and its people.** This is an attractive publication of some 176 pp in A4 format with over 400 pictures. €20. **Tullamore Golf Club** – a large hardback of

some 300pp and hundreds of great pictures. We have limited stock at €25. The print run is small so hurry if you want it.

The O'Molloy Association are holding a Rally on 12th, 13th and 14th August 2011. We would really appreciate if you could address our gathering and share your extensive knowledge of the O'Molloy history at the rally.

The proposed format for the weekend is as follows:-

Friday evening: Meet and Greet - Registration and Lectures in Offaly Historical Society

Saturday: Tour with commentary from Durrow to Clonmacnoise taking in the O'Molloy sites.

Saturday evening: Election of Chieftain, Dinner/BBQ and Entertainment etc in Charleville Castle.

Sunday: Tullamore Show or Round of Golf at Molloy's Esker Hills Golf Club.

'Past and Future Perspectives'

**National University of Ireland
Maynooth, 8-9 June 2011**

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 8 June 2011 (*Free to all*) *Venue: Callan Hall*

18.45-19.00 Welcome: Professor Tom Collins, President of NUIM

Official opening of conference: Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs

19.00-19.45 Keynote address: Terence Dooley & Christopher Ridgway: *The Irish country house: past and future perspectives"*

19.45 Book Launch and Reception

The Irish country house: its past, present and future

(eds Terence Dooley and Christopher Ridgway)

This is part of the programme only for more detail log into the website. The new book will include two articles of Offaly interest – one by Ciaran Reilly and the other on music at Birr castle. Copies will be available at OHAS for viewing or purchase.