

newsletter

Monaghan County Council Museum



Monaghan County Museum ACHIEVE PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Inside this Issue

- 1 Professional Excellence Award
- 2 The Grand Slam
- 2 Senator presents Family Heirloom
- 2 Atlas and Cyclopeda
- 3 Students on Site
- 3 Sound Tracks Exhibition
- 3 Decade of Centenaries
- 4 Information & Upcoming Events



Pauline Tilson; Theresa Loftus; David Fallon, Acting County Manager; Mayor of County Monaghan; Cllr Hughie McElvaney; Curator, Liam Bradley; Minister Jimmy Deenihan; Andy Hogg; Maeve Hackett, Friends of Monaghan County Museum; Danielle Wilson Higgins; Patricia Barbour and Noel Breakey

Monaghan County Museum reaffirmed its status as a national leader in the field of Irish museums recently when its staff attended a gala event in Dublin's Irish Architectural Archive headquarters to become the first Local Authority Museum in the country to achieve the level of Maintenance of Full Accreditation under the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland. The programme, which currently has over fifty museums throughout the country vying for the award of full accreditation, consists of thirty two exacting professional standards that must be attained before the award is given.

The award was made to Monaghan County Museum Curator, Liam Bradley by the Minister of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Mr Jimmy Deenihan. The Curator accepted the award on behalf of the entire museum staff, together with the Chairperson of the Museum Advisory Committee, Maeve Hackett, the Acting County Manager, David Fallon and the Mayor of County Monaghan, Councillor Hugh McElvaney. Minister Deenihan in congratulating the staff of Monaghan County Museum on this enormous achievement noted how significant it was that the Museum Advisory Committee Chairperson, the County Manager and the County Mayor all took time out of their busy schedules to attend the event. He said that it demonstrated the amount of support the museum enjoys from its parent organisation, Monaghan County Council.

In 2008, Monaghan County Museum made history by becoming the first local authority museum in the Republic of Ireland to reach the milestone of full accreditation under the programme. The standards, which cover all aspects of museum work from management, to conservation, collections' care, exhibitions, education and visitor access required over five years hard work. This would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of Monaghan County Council and indeed the visiting public. In achieving maintenance of full accreditation, the Minister noted that the museum staff have not only displayed a continued commitment to professional excellence in their field, they have also built on those achievements. In attempting to make the collection as accessible as possible, visitors with mobility issues can now take a virtual tour of the first floor without having to negotiate the stairs.

For more information on the museum and its activities you can check out the website at www.monaghan.ie/museum/ or follow them on Facebook.



The Grand Slam comes to MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM

Ireland Rugby International and Monaghan man, Tommy Bowe recently donated the five jerseys that he wore during Ireland's historic Six Nations Grand Slam campaign of 2009 to Monaghan County Museum.

The incredible collection includes the jersey he wore while running over for the winning try against Wales to clinch the Grand Slam for Ireland in the Millennium Stadium.

On a sunny late Spring afternoon, Tommy Bowe strolled into Monaghan County Museum with a piece of sporting history under in his arm and made one of the most significant sport related donations in the museum's nearly forty year history. The five jerseys represent not only a hugely significant part of Irish sporting history but more importantly they are a potent symbol of Monaghan's sporting heritage.

Tommy Bowe officially handed over the framed jerseys to Monaghan County Museum Curator, Liam Bradley. The Curator noted that 'this is a hugely significant donation for the museum. I want to thank Tommy Bowe, his mother Ann and the rest of the Bowe family for agreeing to hand over this unique part of their family history to the people of Monaghan.' The jerseys are on permanent display in the museum.



Tommy Bowe presenting his jerseys to Liam Bradley

DID YOU KNOW THAT
THE MUSEUM HAS
A COMPREHENSIVE
RESEARCH LIBRARY.

VISITORS ARE REQUIRED
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Cyclopedia images..

Images from the Atlas and
Cyclopedia of Ireland.



The Duffy Coat of Arms



The Old Chapel at
Park Street, Monaghan

Canadian Senator presents FAMILY HEIRLOOM TO COUNTY MUSEUM



Acting County Manager, David Fallon; Former Mayor of
Monaghan County Council, Seamus Coyle; Senator Duffy;
Liam Bradley, Curator and Paul McKeown.

Monaghan County Museum recently received a visit from the Honourable Michael Duffy, Senator for Cavendish, Prince Edward Island during his trip to the county to trace his roots.

Following a tour of the museum, Mr Duffy donated a book, *Atlas and Cyclopedia of Ireland*, which had been the property of his grandfather, Judge Charles Gavan Duffy. During his address the Senator related how his grandfather, Judge Charles Gavin Duffy, would refer to the encyclopedia to answer any queries he received about Ireland. The Curator thanked the Senator for the donation stating that the book would become an important part of the museum's educational resources.

Senator Duffy finished his remarks by stating he felt that Monaghan was on the right track in promoting its cultural heritage saying, 'You are on the verge of a massive increase in the number of people from Canada and all over America coming to Ireland to explore their genealogy and you have done the right thing in looking to your museum and your heritage for people to learn about their past.'

decade of centenaries..

The curator and staff of Monaghan County Museum are currently considering appropriate ways to mark some of the significant centenaries of the next decade.

The first event, a talk on the Ulster Covenant by Dr David Hume, was extremely well attended. We are interested in hearing from anyone who has any articles or memorabilia associated with WW1, The Easter Rising, Formation of the Labour Party or the War of Independence.



Students ON SITE

The museum staff contacted each of the 12 secondary schools in Monaghan and invited them to take part in our *Students on Site* project. As part of the project, each of the participating schools was offered two class based archaeology training workshops with local archaeologists. The third workshop was a mock archaeological dig, where all of the students taking part in the project got an opportunity to put what they had learned in the classroom based workshops into practice.

While more students attended the initial workshops ran than took place in the schools, the maximum that could be on site at one time was fourteen. This was to ensure that all participants got equal space to dig and equal time with the instructors. In total there were three hundred and thirty six students that were able to take part in the mock digs. The class based workshops covered some of the basic excavation techniques as well as featuring a series of replica archaeological objects that the students could see and touch.

During the excavation section of the project, students were picked up by bus and taken to the mock dig site. The material required such as trowels, levels, kneeling mats, buckets was available at the site. As well as teachers, there were two archaeologists working with the group at all times. The feedback from all participants was extremely positive with all schools stating that they would get involved again if the project was sustained at the museum. It is hoped that funding will be sourced to keep this project active in the coming years. What this project showed was that there is great interest at secondary level in archaeology and all that is required is a conduit through which to explore that interest.



Monaghan County Museum's Andy Hogg with visitor Roseanna Myles who lent items to the exhibition

Our Latest Exhibition SOUND TRACKS

Our latest exhibition, *Sound Tracks*, was officially opened by the Mayor of Monaghan County Council, Councillor Hughie McElvaney on Friday 7th September.

The exhibition takes a nostalgic look at the music and entertainment scene of the 1960s and 1970s, a fact which the Mayor highlighted in his speech. He recalled some of the dance venues of the era, Swan Park, The Embassy, The Starlight and the Maple and described the atmosphere as being laden with the scent of hairspray, Brylcreem and Old Spice! The items on display include a gramophone, single and LP vinyl records and photographs and grateful thanks is extended to everyone who loaned items for the exhibition. Wall panels examine the social and cultural changes of the two decades. The exhibition will remain in place until 2013.

Contact us

1-2 Hill Street, Monaghan
t 047 82928 f 047 71189
e comuseum@monaghancoco.ie

www.monaghan.ie/museum/
www.bordermuseums.ie



Monaghan County Museum
Museum Chontae Mhúineacháin

info..

- **Historical Walking Tours of Monaghan Town**
These popular tours are available with prior booking and weather permitting
- **Guided Tours by prior arrangement.**
- **It is advisable for schools or large groups to pre-book.**

If you wish to book a tour or enquire about an exhibition, event or workshop please contact us at **047 82928** or by email: **comuseum@monaghancoco.ie**

All exhibitions and events will be advertised in the local press, or if you require further information visit Monaghan County Council Website at **www.monaghan.ie/museum/** or **www.bordermuseums.ie**

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday 11am - 5pm
Saturday - 12pm - 5pm

ADMISSION FREE

We would value **your comments** about this newsletter and would appreciate **any suggestions** for future editions. Email Eileen at **emckenna2@monaghancoco.ie** or telephone the **museum**

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCIENCE WEEK

Marble Arch Caves Rocky Road Show

Tuesday 20th November or Wednesday 21st November
(Schools only)

To celebrate Science Week, staff members from Marble Arch Caves will host a series of workshops. Pupils will have the opportunity to make a cave, make a volcano, study meteorite impact, earthquake simulation and fossilising footprints. All workshops will be interactive.



CEILI DANCING

Monday 19th November 2-4pm

Monaghan County Museum will be hosting a ceili on Monday 19th November 2-4pm venue to be decided. This will give people the opportunity to polish up on their dancing skills.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

by the Monaghan Gospel Choir

Tuesday December 4th 12.30pm

This event will be open to everyone. So come along, share some mulled wine and enjoy the Christmas atmosphere. Our 2013 calendar will be launched at this event.



Educational Workshops for Schools SOUND TRACKS EXHIBITION



To complement the *Sound Tracks* Exhibition Monaghan County Museum will be hosting the following workshops.

MUSICAL MOVIE DAY 14th, 15th & 16th November

Join us to watch some old classical children's musicals which some of us might remember - Mary Poppins, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Annie, and The Wizard of Oz to name but a few.

TOUR OF EXHIBITION

Pupils will be given an in-depth tour of the exhibition with an interactive activity to complete it.

MAKE YOUR OWN INSTRUMENTS

Pupils will get the opportunity to make their own music with their very own hand made instruments.

For details of any of the above, please contact the Museum

APOLOGY In our last newsletter, Mr Theo McMahon was listed as a donor for an ICA Chain of Office. The donor was in fact Mrs Peggy McMahon, Theo's wife. We thank Mrs McMahon for the donation and apologise for the error.