

Did you know that the Monaghan County Museum was the first local authority funded museum when it opened in 1974?

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**



Monaghan County Museum
Museum Chontae Mhúineachain

UNSEEN WOMEN

Thursday 8th March at 8pm

To mark International Women's Day the museum hosted *Unseen Women*, stories from Armagh Jail. The event was extremely successful with a capacity crowd hearing former prisoners' accounts of their experiences in Armagh Jail.



UPCOMING EVENTS



THE PAST FROM THE PRESS A NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND EXHIBITION

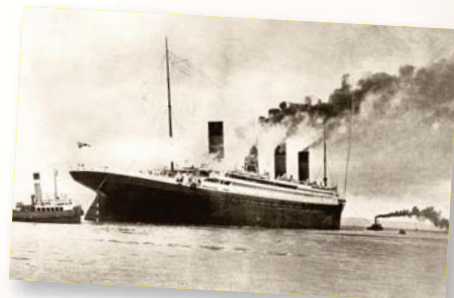
From 15th April to July

The Past from the Press looks at some of the National Library's many newspapers and explores the ways in which we can use them to find out about the past. The exhibition looks beyond the front pages and examines the historical evidence that can be found in other parts of the newspaper - in its photographs, advertisements, sports reports and social listings. It examines the processes involved in the preservation of newspaper material and encourages visitors to think about the future of the newspaper as a news medium.

TITANIC AND THE WHITE STAR LINE AND THE MYTHS SURROUNDING THE VESSEL

Tuesday 17th April at 8pm

To mark the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic Paul Loudon-Brown will present a talk about the famous ship and the myths surrounding it.



IRISH PEOPLE IRISH LINEN

Monday 25th June at 2pm

Kathleen Curtis Wilson has recently published a book entitled *Irish People Irish Linen* and will join us for a talk on Monday 25th June at 2pm.

IN HOUSE EXHIBITION

Our major exhibition this year will document the music of the 1960s and 1970s. Included will be items on the showbands, the dance halls and the carnivals. Ceili bands will also feature and the exhibition will be launched in September to coincide with the annual Harvest Time Blues Festival.

All our events and exhibitions will be advertised on our websites and in the local press

newsletter

Monaghan County Council Museum



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SIGNS OF LIFE EXHIBITION



The staff in Monaghan County Museum is always aware of the need to make the displays accessible to all. Therefore, they were delighted to collaborate with the Irish Deaf Society and Monaghan Deaf Group to host the *Signs of Life* photographic exhibition in early December. The exhibition featured images of Irish celebrities from the worlds of music, media and sport each signing a letter of the Irish Sign Language (ISL) alphabet. The personalities featured were all beautifully photographed by Johnny Corcoran, himself hearing impaired.

The exhibition which was officially launched by the Mayor of Monaghan Town Council, Councillor David Maxwell and the curator of the exhibition, Tracey Treanor, attracted over five hundred students to its week long series of workshops and events. The workshops focused on raising awareness of ISL as well as teaching the participants some of the basics of the language.

ISL is the first language of the Irish Deaf community and is used daily by more than forty thousand people. It is not officially recognised as a language in Ireland but in an effort to redress this, Monaghan County Council recently passed a motion calling on the government to give official recognition status to Irish Sign Language. The motion was proposed by Councillor Sean Conlon. We hope other county councils will take their lead from Sean and Monaghan County Council in dealing with this issue.

Further information on this unique travelling exhibition can be found at www.signsoflife.ie and the official website of the Irish Deaf Society at www.irishdeafsociety.ie

FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT DETAILS

1-2 Hill Street, Monaghan
t 047 82928 f 047 71189
e comuseum@monaghancoco.ie
www.monaghan.ie/museum/
www.bordermuseums.ie

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OUR 2012 MUSEUM CALENDAR CELEBRATES OUR LOCAL VILLAGES

As was the case in previous years, our 2012 calendar proved to be very popular

The theme this year is *Celebrating our Local Villages*. Photographs of the various villages taken from the 1900s to the 1960s are featured. Each photograph evokes memories of past times for those old enough to remember and provides a window on a bygone age for younger people. This calendar, like previous editions highlights the value of old photographs and postcards. The museum staff would be grateful to receive any such material even if it is only to take a copy.

The calendar was officially launched in early December and very quickly 'flew off the shelves'. All of the feedback has been very positive and we know that many Monaghan people living abroad were delighted to receive a copy of the calendar. The staff are already thinking about next year's calendar and suggestions would be welcome.



collections..

Monaghan County Museum continues to collect objects and artifacts with an association to the history and heritage of the county.

Of particular interest at present are any items, documents or photographs relating to The Ulster Covenant, World War 1 and the 1916 Rising. Anyone who has any pieces which they feel would be of interest should contact the museum.

energy efficiency..

In common with many other organisations the museum is always looking for ways to reduce its energy consumption.

Recently LED lighting has been installed in the gallery which will greatly reduce the cost of staging exhibitions. A filter film for windows which keeps out sun's heat and UV rays, reduces glare and prevents fade is being tested at present. Other ways of making the building more energy efficient are currently being investigated.

STUDENTS ON SITE

The idea for this project began during a Peace III funded project entitled 'Hidden Heritage – Uncovering your own local history'. The Museum ran this two year project jointly with the County Library.

The focus was to organise four community groups from around the county and facilitate them in researching the history and heritage of their respective areas. Part of the project included basic training on how to record and excavate an archaeological site. The excavation process took place on a mock dig site on the land of a local archaeologist, Felim MacGabhann. Most of project participants reported this as being the most enjoyable and educational experience of the whole two year programme.

With this in mind, and following consultation with Felim, a successful application for funding was made to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The programme is aimed at secondary schools and chiefly transition year students. Each group will avail of a preparatory workshop before going out on the actual 'dig' site. Here they receive instruction on basic excavation techniques. Using the correct implements they will uncover some replica archaeological objects and will learn how to identify them. The project, which began in December 2011, will finish in May 2012 and it will, hopefully pave the way for the setting up of an Archaeology Club in the museum. Look out for further information on the progress of the project in the next issue.



DANIELLE WILSON HIGGINS

The curator and staff of the museum are delighted to welcome Danielle Wilson Higgins to the team.

Danielle, who is on a nine month placement, is working with the museum conservator, Noel Breakey and the registrar, Andy Hogg. She is involved with the registration and identification of all new donations, assigning each one with a number and imputing it onto Adlib, the museum's digital database. Danielle is also looking forward to practising first aid conservation and learning how to keep the climate in both the museum and offsite store controlled. She has almost completed digitising the museum's print collection and making that accessible for researchers. In addition she will carry out front of house and reception duties and assist with the planning and mounting of museum exhibitions. In the short time she has been with us Danielle has become a popular staff member and we hope she enjoys the rest of her stay.

HERITAGE DAY ON SITE



Images from our second successful Heritage Day held in Gavan Duffy Park in August 2011



Did you know that the museum staff will identify objects and give advice on how to care for them - for free?

SNIPPET FROM THE ARCHIVE

Saorstát Éireann, 22nd May 1925

Circular to collectors and surveyors of Custom and Excise

TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Collectors and officers concerned are informed that the privilege of temporarily importing motor-vehicles into the Irish Free State without payment of duty is not to be granted to persons who reside in the Irish Free State or retain a residence there for their own use or for the use of their families or household.

Officers are to exercise all possible care to ensure that all motor vehicles brought temporarily into the Irish Free State whether under triptyque*, bond or deposit are imported only by persons entitled to do so.

On the re-importation of any motor vehicles at present in the Irish Free State which were temporarily imported without payment of duty, officers are to satisfy themselves that each vehicle was entitled to be so imported under the temporary regulations. In cases of doubt the facts are to be reported to the commissioners for their directions, and discharge of the triptyque* or other form of pass or repayment of the deposit is to be withheld pending the receipt of such directions.

By Order
M. V. Nolan

*A customs permit for the temporary importation of a motor vehicle

recent acquisitions..



Full Court Dress including sword and hat donated anonymously



ICA Chain of Office donated by Theo McMahon

STORAGE

Due to lack of space a large portion of the museum's collection is boxed and kept in storage.

We are, therefore, delighted to have received a grant from the Heritage Council which will enable us to invest in sturdier storage boxes made from acid free materials, thus ensuring that each item is stored in a safe and appropriate environment.

OUTREACH EXHIBITIONS

Monaghan County Museum continues its Outreach Programme with exhibitions in Broomfield, Inniskeen and in the workhouse in Carrickmacross.

All of these exhibitions have been very popular with both tourists and locals and the curator and staff have been delighted with the response to them.