

newsletter

Monaghan County Council Museum



EXHIBITION LIFE AND DEATH IN MONAGHAN

Results from the N2
Carrickmacross Bypass
Excavation 2003

Monaghan County Museum
joined forces with the National
Roads Authority to produce its
seminal exhibition for 2007 -
'Life and Death in Monaghan'.

Opening of 'Life and Death Exhibition': L to r are Cllr. Heather Humphries, Deputy Mayor of County Monaghan; Liam Bradley, Curator Monaghan County Museum; Dara O'Rourke, Senior Archaeologist with the National Roads Authority and Declan Nelson, Monaghan County Manager.

The NRA has built 26 kilometres of new roads in County Monaghan in recent years. Any major project, such as this, which disturbs huge amounts of earth, provides an opportunity for archaeologists to recover evidence of past societies and learn how their lives were organised.

In this instance, some interesting finds were discovered in the Carrickmacross area and it is these finds which form the core of the exhibition. Evidence of three wooden houses dating from the Stone Age was uncovered at Monanny. A scale model of one of these houses is a feature of this exhibition. At this site archaeologists also discovered burnt mounds where the inhabitants cooked their food.

At Lisanisk, a large ring fort, which probably gave the townland its name, was excavated. Among the finds was a badly crushed skeleton which had lain in the enclosing ditch for centuries.

A burial site discovered at Cloghvalley Upper yielded the remains of around 20 individuals and one of these skeletons, believed to be 1,500 years old is on display. Staff in the museum reconstructed an early medieval grave, which helps to explain how the skeleton would have originally been buried. In addition to learning how people lived and died in County Monaghan down through the ages, visitors will also find out a little about archaeology and the work of archaeologists.

The staff were delighted to be afforded an opportunity to display some objects in this exhibition, which are normally kept in storage. The inclusion of these items greatly enhances the exhibition as does the free information booklet which accompanies it. As always admission is free. The exhibition runs until October.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT DETAILS
1-2 Hill Street, Monaghan
Telephone 047 82928
Fax 047 71189
comuseum@monaghancoco.ie

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



Support your local museum by joining....



friends
of Monaghan County Museum

In common with many other similar establishments, Monaghan County Museum has its Friends organisation. The Friends of Monaghan County Museum, which was first launched in 1979, is made up of people who care deeply about the preservation of the county's heritage.

Over the years they have supported the work of the museum by purchasing several expensive pieces of equipment, which greatly assists the work of the conservator. They also bought some very important artefacts which would have otherwise been lost to the county. The organisation also has a social side, and in the past several trips to places of historical interest were arranged each year. The Friends of Monaghan County Museum is seeking new members and anyone who wishes to join should contact museum staff.

The Annual Subscription rates are:-

Corporate €50.00

Family €15.00

Individual €10.00

Student/Senior Citizen/Unwaged €5.00



Liam Bradley with Jenny Coughlan, an archaeologist working with the NRA

He discovered that there was much more to do than simply displaying interesting artefacts and organising the occasional exhibition. Conservation, documentation and environmental controls were all new concepts to him!

Although he was always interested in history, it was the investigative nature of archaeology, which led Liam to take a degree in that field. He graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with a BSc in Archaeology, in 1999. As a student, Liam took part in digs at Haughey's Fort in Armagh, and it was here that he made his first find. It gave him, he said, a tangible connection with the past and with the people who had lived and worked in Haughey's Fort all those years ago. He also took part in one of the last digs at Navan Fort in 1998.

Liam came to the museum in 2001 as Exhibitions Officer. Working on his first exhibition, he discovered that there was also an investigative nature, and a more practical side, to modern history. That exhibition, 'Sessions' which showcased pipes, specifically uilleann pipes, remains his favourite. Through it he developed a real interest in the uilleann pipes.

Liam was appointed Acting Curator in November 2003 and took over the Curator's post in May 2005. At present the staff is working through a five-year strategic plan for the museum. However, Liam feels that the way forward for Monaghan County Museum lies in the development of a new building. At present, much of the museum's collection remains in storage due to lack of space. There are also problems with parking and access. A new purpose built building would address these issues and pave the way to make the museum accessible to all.

MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM DESIGNATION STATUS



Together with around a dozen other museums in the country, Monaghan County Museum is classified as a 'Designated Museum.' All archaeological objects found in Ireland automatically become the property of the state and the finder must immediately notify the National Museum of Ireland or a designated museum.

Designation Status is conferred on a museum only if the National Museum is satisfied that any object placed in its care will be properly cared for. Although such artefacts belong to the state they can be registered, stored and displayed in Monaghan County Museum. The museum has a secure, environmentally controlled, off-site premises, in which to store the many objects in its care currently not on display. The curator, Liam Bradley, has the authority to collect or accept archaeological artefacts pertaining to County Monaghan on behalf of the National Museum and our conservator, Noel Breakey is licensed to work on such objects. This means that objects found in County Monaghan can be accepted, conserved and hopefully displayed in the museum. The museum staff is always available to advise members of the public on any aspect of our archaeological heritage, particularly in relation to archaeological finds.

MONAGHAN IN YOUR EYES

An exhibition entitled 'Monaghan in Your Eyes' is currently on show in Monaghan Credit Union.

This project was devised by Monaghan County Museum's Public Achievement Group with the aim of encouraging young people to engage with their heritage. Both national and secondary school pupils were invited to take part by producing work which describes what living in Monaghan means to them. The result is a lively and interesting exhibition and it is well worth a viewing.

The exhibition, which was officially open by Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer, continues in the Credit Union until June and it will then travel throughout the county. A DVD, which showcases this exhibition and also includes some artefacts from the museum's collection, is now available; it is free to the participants and to other interested parties subject to availability. Contact the museum for your copy.



Launching of the DVD of the "Monaghan in Your Eyes" Exhibition. L to R Theresa Loftus, Events Officer; Cllr. Heather Humphries, Deputy Mayor of Monaghan County Council; Liam Bradley, Curator of Monaghan County Museum and the student organisers of the exhibition

Prizes were awarded to the following schools;

- Gaelscoil Ultain, Monaghan, for Information
- Killeevan National School for Artistic Content
- Scoil Mhuire National School, Rockcorry for Presentation.

Monaghan County Museum and the Public Achievement Group would like to thank all the participating schools and the Credit Union for its interest and enthusiasm. They would also like to thank the Heritage Council for the funding which made the project possible.



Prize winners of the Monaghan in Your Eyes Exhibition which was officially opened by Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer

YOUNG FRIENDS OF MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM

A new organisation "Young Friends of Monaghan County Museum" was officially launched on Tuesday, 22nd May.

Its goals are to:

- enable young people to engage with their heritage through the medium of museums
- attract the wider community to the museum through interest in their work
- facilitate young people to have their voices heard in a civic space as they explore their heritage on their own terms



A programme of events include:

Tours

- of Monaghan County Museum
- behind the scenes at the museum
- day trips to other museums or places of historical importance
- walking tours to sites of historical importance in County Monaghan and beyond

Training

- exhibition display skills
- digital media skills
- basic conservation
- music workshops

If you are aged between 10 and 18 and would like to join the "Young Friends", contact the museum.

DVD...

A DVD, produced in conjunction with the exhibition, "MONAGHAN A BORDER COUNTY, 40 YEARS GROWING", is now on sale in the County Library, Clones and in all branch libraries throughout the county. It costs €20.00 and would make an ideal gift for anyone with a connection to Monaghan

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 or event 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 check out Monaghan County Council Website at www.monaghan.ie/museum/

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**

A SNIPPET FROM OUR ARCHIVE

This bitter-sweet little episode was recorded in the Minute Book of the Castleblayney Union in November 1893.

The master reported that John Murphy – referred to in Dr Wilson's report* read on the 15th Inst., had crossed the boundary wall on the 24th Inst., and made his way to the woman Bodle, in the Nursery, on the Female side. On being discovered there, Murphy again crossed the wall, and returned to his quarters in the Male Infirmary. Murphy has been turned out of the Infirmary, and both he and the woman Bodle have left the house.

Ordered – that Murphy be brought up before the Magistrates – charged with a breach of the Workhouse Rules; and that Bodle be placed in a "Separation Ward", should she return.

*I beg to report that when I visited the Hospital on Monday morning, ... I found one of the female inmates, named Bodle, sitting on the bed of a patient (in the male side) named John Murphy. (15th November 1893). In reference to the foregoing report, the Master and matron were before the Board and were cautioned as to this breach of discipline. John Wilson, Medical Officer.

SOME RECENT ACQUISITIONS



Baveystock High Chair
dating to 1950s



Earthenware whiskey jar and jam jar, trinket box, decommissioned small firearms, packet of Rinso washing powder and tongs used to make impressions on communion bread



Skull and antlers of a Red Deer, dated by the National Museum to be between 8,000 and 11,000 years old.

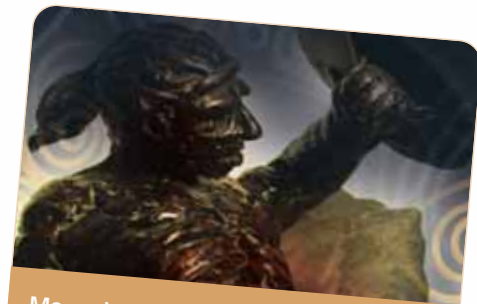
The museum would like to thank the donors of these and other items received recently. Some new acquisitions will soon be on display in the Motor Tax Office in Monaghan town.

WHAT'S ON...



Springhill Costume Collection
Ages of Elegance
1750 - 1950

An exhibition, featuring 12 recently conserved and restored pieces from the Springhill Costume Collection, opens in the museum in November 2007. It offers a unique opportunity to view some stunning costumes from past ages. This is a National Trust exhibition and further details will be available later in the year.



Monaghan County Museum Exhibition
Life & Death in Monaghan

A series of workshops, have been devised by museum staff to accompany this exhibition. They are designed to suit primary and post-primary school children and adults groups. To book any of the following, telephone Teresa on 047 82928.

- Pots and Pottery
- Making Monuments
- Megalithic Maps
- Archaeological Art
- Amazing Archaeology