

newsletter

Monaghan County Council Museum



MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM BECOMES FIRST IN THE COUNTRY

Monaghan County Museum is the first local authority museum in the country to be awarded with full accreditation under the Heritage Council's Museums Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI).

At the awards ceremony in Kilkenny: Left to Right: Nixon Montgomery, June Brown and Maeve Hackett, members of Advisory Committee; Standing at back, Michael Starrett, Heritage Council; Museum staff, Pauline Tilson, Theresa Loftus, Liam Bradley, Andy Hogg, Patricia Barbour and Noel Breakey; Jackie Crowe, County Councillor. Missing from photograph is John Keenan, County Councillor.

This is the first programme of its type in Ireland which lays out a rigorous set of standards of professional excellence that nearly every museum in the country is currently aspiring to reach. The museum has been involved in this process since its inception over eight years ago and it is a testament to the dedication of the staff as well as the huge amount of support given by Monaghan County Council and its many stakeholders, in particular the Museum Advisory Committee that it is the first museum of its type to be given this award.

Monaghan County Museum was officially awarded with full accreditation during a recent ceremony at the Heritage Council's Headquarters, Aras na hOidhreacht in Kilkenny. The award was presented to the Curator of Monaghan County Museum, Liam Bradley by the Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, Michael Starrett. Also present at the awards ceremony were museum staff members; Pauline Tilson, Theresa Loftus, Andy Hogg and Patricia Barbour. The Museum Advisory Committee was represented by June Brown, Nixon Montgomery and Maeve Hackett. Monaghan County Council was represented by Cllr Jackie Crowe and Cllr John Keenan. The Museum was praised at the awards ceremony for its 'high level of professional standards across the board'.

Monaghan County Museum is now in contact with numerous other organisations around the country as they work towards achieving full accreditation in the coming years. The museum staff intends to build on this prestigious award and work towards not only maintaining these standards, which cover all aspects of museum work from customer service to care of the collections, but improving on them as they strive towards making the entire museum collection accessible to all.

For further information on the museum log on to www.monaghan.ie/museum
For further information on the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland log on to www.heritagecouncil.ie

Inside this Issue

1 First in the Country

2 LAMN Exhibition

2 Theresa Loftus Research Officer

2 It will be alright on the night!

3 I Heard they went to New York

3 Heritage Week Railways

3 Pauline Tilson New Staff Member

4 Magic Miles in Monaghan

4 Snippets from our Archives

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



It will be alright on the night!

Preparing for the Exhibition...



Local artist painting mural



Monaghan Station



Jim McAvinchey, model train enthusiast putting the finishing touches to an exhibit



Newly painted signs ready for exhibition



Left to right: Liam Bradley, curator of Monaghan County Museum; Judith McCarthy, curator of Donegal County Museum; Dominic Egan, curator of Cavan County Museum; Minister Brendan Smith; Susan Mannion, curator of Mayo County Museum and Dermot Mulligan, curator of Carlow County Museum.

This was the first exhibition commissioned by the Local Authority Museums' Network (LAMN) an organisation comprised of thirteen local authority museums. The participating members are Cavan, Carlow, South Tipperary, Cork, Louth, Clare, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Mayo, Monaghan and Waterford.

The exhibition, which is funded by The Heritage Council and The Department of Art, Sport and Tourism was officially opened by the Minister for Children, Mr Brendan Smyth. Mr Brian Walsh, the LAMN Chairman stated that "The topic of childhood is a topic with which everyone is familiar." The strength of the exhibition was, continued Mr Walsh, "the use of strong photographic images and reminiscences collected by the local authority museums. The interplay of memories and images capture the changing nature of childhood in a manner that is immediate and personal, and one that contributes to a moving experience."

Over the next three years the exhibition will travel to all of LAMN museums and will be in Monaghan County Museum in February 2009.

THERESA LOFTUS RESEARCH OFFICER



Theresa Loftus

Theresa had already been working in Monaghan County Council for about six years when she was transferred to the museum in 2004. Initially she worked in the documentation section and later in education and events before being appointed to the position of Research Officer in 2007.

Since starting work in the museum, Theresa has completed a Certificate in Local History accredited by NUI Maynooth, a Post Graduate Diploma in Museum Management and Practice accredited by the University of Ulster and is now progressing on to do the MA.

Of her job, Theresa says, "Museum work is very varied. The essential skills needed are enthusiasm, adaptability, a great sense of humour and a thirst for knowledge. I love working with people and groups of all ages and abilities. Research requests are a wonderful chance to play detective; you gather all the clues together and try to solve the mystery. The requests all relate in some way to Monaghan so they all help to increase our knowledge of the county. Devising new workshops and exhibitions is quite similar as it involves detailed research of the museum collection to generate ideas.

My previous experience as education/events officer has been a huge advantage in my present post. I had to research innovative and diverse ways of utilising the museum collection and also tie in with school curricula. The museum will continue to stage exhibitions and events that appeal to as many people as possible throughout County Monaghan. Utilising the museum collection in varied ways is essential for promoting the museum as a community resource."

CONSERVATION LAB

Work continues in the conservation laboratory in Clontibret. Andy Hogg, assistant to the conservation officer, views some 8mm cine reels prior to documentation.

Andy Hogg [Photograph by Donal McEnroe]



I HEARD THEY WENT TO NEW YORK EXHIBITION

The Museum hosted a very interesting exhibition from April to June this year. *I heard they went to New York* was a photographic exhibition which recorded the history of the Monaghan Society in New York.



Engrossed in the exhibition

Founded in 1891 as a cultural and social organisation, The Monaghan Society held monthly meetings and organised fund-raising events. The Society eventually supported a Fife and Drum Band and fielded a Gaelic football team.

Originally women and men had separate branches within the society. In 1918 the president of the men's group, Charlie Connolly, was chosen to lead the St Patrick's Day Parade when, for the first time, women were allowed to take part. Charlie was also the founder of *The Irish Echo* Newspaper.

The exhibition was made possible because of the hard work of Terri Cook, whose family were involved with the society since the 1930s. It was the discovery of a box of long forgotten photographs that inspired Terri to research the history of the Monaghan Society. The resulting exhibition, entitled *I heard they went to New York* is a colourful expression of that history and the museum is indebted to Terri for her input.

HERITAGE WEEK 24th - 31st AUGUST 2008

Heritage Week is an annual event which is co-ordinated by the Heritage Council with support from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Monaghan County Museum will mark Heritage Week with an illustrated presentation of the History of the Railways in Co. Monaghan by Charles Friel on Tuesday 26th August from 1-2pm and 8-9.30pm



Recent tours & workshops ...



Pupils from St Louis Girls' National School visiting Monaghan Courthouse during a walking tour of the town



Girls from the Collegiate Secondary School attending a lace making workshop

Education officer...



The latest recruit to the staff of Monaghan County Museum is Pauline Tilson, who started work here in November 2007 as Education Officer. We wish Pauline well in her new job and we hope she will be very happy with us.



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**

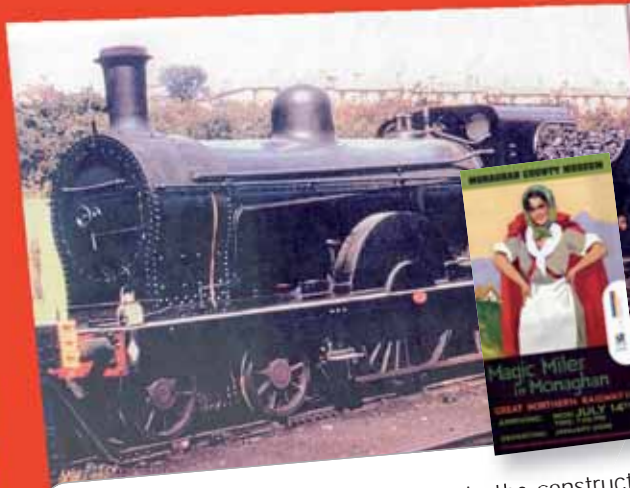
All exhibitions and events will be advertised in the local press, or if you require further information check out Monaghan County Council Website at **www.monaghan.ie/museum/**

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**



MAGIC MILES IN MONAGHAN THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND)

The coming of the railway in the middle of the nineteenth century impacted socially and economically on rural Ireland in a way that nothing had before.

In addition to bringing employment in the construction of the tracks and buildings, people were needed to man the trains and run the stations. Railway Hotels began to appear in many towns offering yet more employment. Urban landscapes throughout the country improved with the building of stations, which in most cases were architecturally pleasing. Trains ran to strict timetables and it became necessary for "time" to be standardised countrywide and between Ireland and Britain. Journeys which had previously taken days could now be completed in hours; travel for leisure became commonplace and a greater variety of goods became available.

In County Monaghan the railways were an important feature of life for over a century from 1848 to 1957 and the museum's main exhibition this year will chronicle that history. The exhibition *Magic Miles in Monaghan - The Great Northern Railway (Ireland)* will feature photographs, models, and railway memorabilia, much of it from the museum's collection. Personal memories will also form part of this interactive and audiovisual exhibition and educational workshops will be available. The exhibition will run from July 14th until January 2009.



SNIPPETS FROM OUR ARCHIVE

From the Secretary's Statement to a Meeting of Monaghan County Council on 23rd February 1942.

TURF PRODUCTION

The expenditure on turf production during 1941/42 to date is	£32,015
Sales of turf amount to	12,200
Leaving a cash debit balance of	19,815
Portion of remaining turf surveyors consider ready for disposal (valued at 30/- per ton)	10,500
An estimated quantity of turf not dry yet	7,000 tons

The Government intimated last summer that losses accrued on turf cut between 19th July and 9th August would rank for recoupment and about 4,000 tons of turf not saved yet were cut during this period. (N.B. During the second world war, the shortage of coal meant that turf was needed to heat public buildings such as the hospitals, schools etc.)

From the Ballybay Town Commissioners' Minute Book, Wednesday, 10th September 1890.

Tenders for lighting the town lamps were received from James King at £3.10 for the season. Robt McGowan the same. James Farrelly 2/- per week, Mick Campbell 3/-, Frank Duffy 3/-. It was agreed unanimously to appoint Frank Duffy (and) to keep one week's wages from him as security and to pay him every week according to the number of nights he works. 5d to be counted for each night and to get balance at end of month or season.