

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011



Est. 1949

**Laois Association
Dublin**

**Cumann na Laoiseach
Baile Átha Cliath**

www.laoisindublin.com

**A YEAR IS A VERY
SHORT (LONG?) TIME IN
POLITICS ... LITTLE DID
WE KNOW WHAT WAS
COMING.....!**

OUR VISIT TO THE (30th) DÁIL



Welcomed by our host, Deputy Charles Flanagan, TD

EVENTS CALENDAR 2011

1. Wednesday 23rd March 2011
- LAUNCH - CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- OPEN MEETING with Guest Speaker.
2. Friday 27th May 2011 - AR AIS ARIS GO LAOIS - the now annual trip home!
3. June / July 2011 - BURLINGTON HOTEL CABARET & DINNER
4. Tuesday 20th September 2011 - OPEN MEETING with Guest Speaker
5. Thursday 20th October 2011 - TABLE QUIZ - our annual fund raiser.
6. Monday 14th November 2011 - ECUMENICAL SERVICE and A.G.M.
7. Thursday 8th December 2011 - CHRISTMAS PARTY

*Please pay
your
membership
NOW*

*Members
will be
notified of
final details
in advance of
each event*

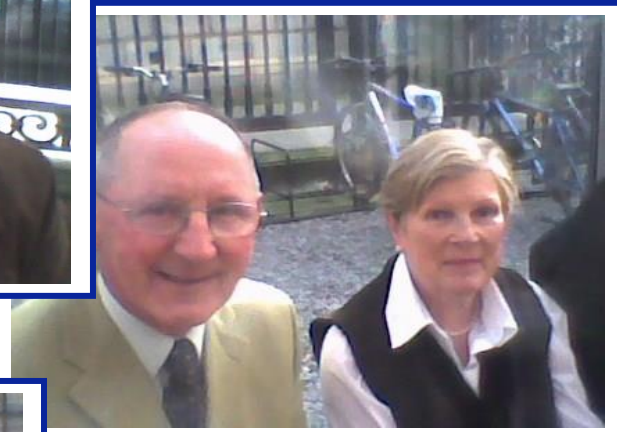
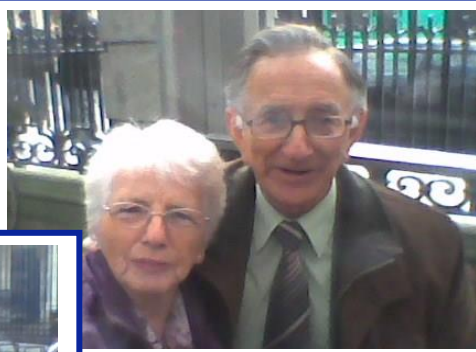
'DÁIL TO PLAY FOR !!'

What was the inaugural event of 2010, the 'Cabinet', 'Frontbenchers' and 'Backbenchers', of the Laois Association were well represented on our visit to the Dáil on the 20th April last, through the kind invitation of Deputy Charles Flanagan, TD.

The Association visitors enjoyed a meal in the Members' Restaurant, following by a full guided tour of both houses of the Oireachtais, culminating in Deputy Flanagan's generous hospitality in the Visitors Bar.

During the visit, Association members got to meet with the then Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, TD, as well as the now new Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, TD, as well as many other well known public representatives of both Houses.

A most enjoyable, informative and memorable occasion, our Chairman, Mary Doyle extended our appreciation to Deputy Flanagan for his interest in the Association, for organising the visit, and for the welcome & kind hospitality extended.



'THINGS QUIZICAL ... Our Annual Table Quiz Fundraiser in October 2010 was another great success, thanks to Colm Healion and his committee'. Our own John Daly set some challenging questions and continued his longstanding successful career as the Association's Quizmaster. Well done one and all!



THE QUIZZERS



THE WINNERS ENCLOSURE



HARD AT WORK!



TRIP - 'AR AIS GO LAOIS' – 21st May 2010.
Our annual educational, cultural, and social visit home.

What has become the highlight of the year is our day-long trip home, organised and always led so enthusiastically by our Chairman, Mary Doyle.



Mary's Bus to Laois

'WE'RE ON THE ROAD AGAIN ... !'

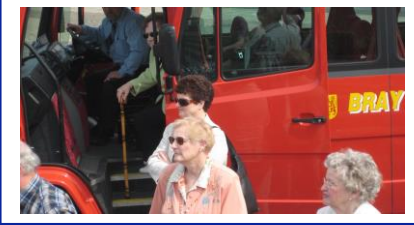
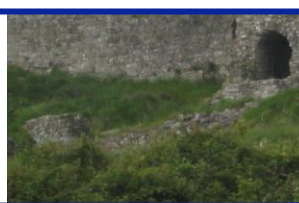
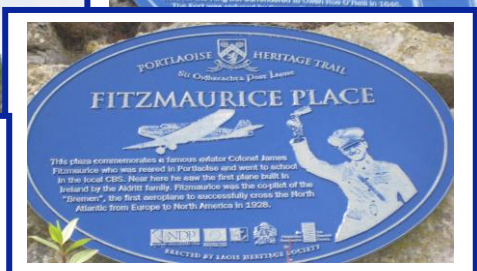
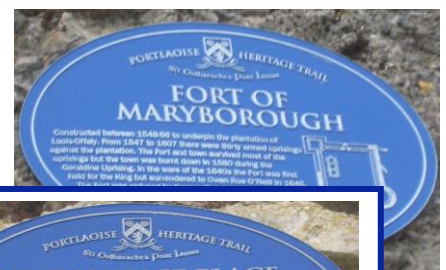


FIRST STOP ... JIM'S KITCHEN, PORTLAOISE



TRIP - 'AR AIS GO LAOIS' – 21st May 2010.
Our annual educational, cultural, and social visit home.

Thanks to Laois Heritage Society in the persons of Teddy Fennelly and Michael Parsons as our very interesting tour guides, a most enjoyable and informative couple of hours was spent visiting historic sites in Portlaoise, followed by a visit to the Rock of Dunamaise, iconic landmark of Laois.



LUNCH AT RATHDOWNEY GOLF CLUB



ROCKIN' RATHDOWNEY!

And what better way to finish the day than in the time-honoured Laois way ...
... in a pub, with a sing-song!



Mary's Bus to Laois



AND WE WERE DELIGHTED TO MARK GERRY O'MEARA'S 90th!



SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME!



Our Driver



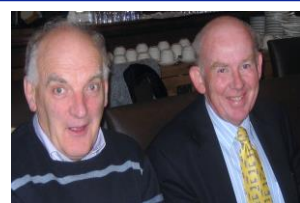
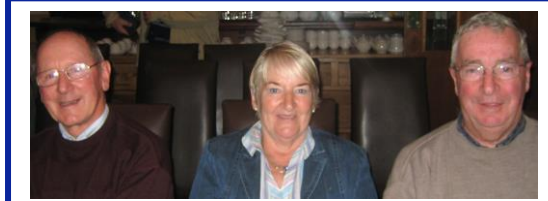
Another brilliant trip home, Mary.

Thank You

GUEST SPEAKER – SEPTEMBER 2010

We were delighted to welcome Ms. Alice Leahy, Founder of TRUST, the befriending, social and health service for people who are homeless which she co-founded in 1975. Nobody present could fail to be inspired and in awe of the achievements of this humble and courageous lady against enormous and continuing challenges to establish and maintain the services her organisation provides in meeting the needs of the outsider in society.

An important connection for our Association with Ms. Leahy is the fact that we have 'loaned' our longstanding member and former Chairman, Joe Dowling to serve on the Board of TRUST.



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

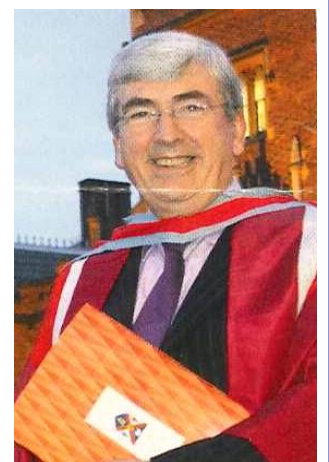
CONGRATULATIONS ... At our AGM in November, our husband & wife team - President, Sandy Metcalfe, and Asst. Secretary, Daphne - were conferred with Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their contribution to the Association. Chairman, Mary Doyle invited Louis Brennan (former Director of Services, Laois Co. Council who travelled especially from Portlaoise) to make the presentation.



DOUBLE CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES, DR. EUGENE!

Double congratulations are indeed in order for our Vice-President, Eugene Donoghue for whom 2010 was certainly a year of achievement.

In the early part of the year, Eugene was conferred with a Doctorate in Governance at Queen's University, Belfast. His thesis was entitled '*Self Regulation and the Public Interest; A question Of Confidence*'. In December, Eugene retired as Chief Executive Officer of An Bord Altranais. Our Chairman, Mary Doyle, and President, Sandy Metcalfe were pleased represent the Association at an invited gathering of representatives of public and professional life in Ireland at which well deserved tributes were paid by members of the Board and others with whom Eugene would have worked throughout his distinguished career in the public service. Well done, Dr. Donoghue!



ECUMENICAL SERVICE

A very popular and important event in the life of the Association is our annual Ecumenical Service which in recent years has been so ably celebrated for us by two proud Laois men, Fr. P.J. Cunningham (originally from Mountmellick) and Canon David Moynan (from Ballinakill).

The mixture of prayers, readings, and music serve to always make this a fitting occasion for reflection, and for remembrance of deceased members. The Association is indeed indebted to Fr. P.J. and Canon David for the time they give to us each year.



MISSION STATEMENT

'The purpose of the Laois Association is to foster the origins of Laois people of all traditions and of all ages in Dublin, though cultural, educational, sporting and social contact, developing the traditions of the past while embracing and contributing to the Ireland of the New Millennium'

OFFICERS 2011

President	- Sandy Metcalfe
Vice-President	- Eugene Donoghue
Chairman	- Mary Doyle
Vice Chairman	- Vincent Rafter
Secretary	- Michael Butler
Asst. Sec.	- Daphne Metcalfe
Treasurer	- Tony Brophy
Asst. Treas.	- Michael O'Meara
Membership	- Colm Healion
PRO	- Rory Campion

MEMBERSHIP

Have you paid your membership – it is the life blood of your Association.
Call Colm Healion
– 01 8332570

Need any extra copies of the Commemorative History of the Association as gift for Laois people abroad?

**SPECIAL 2011
DISCOUNT PRICE**

Only €10.00

Call Mary Doyle – 01 - 4977068

OR

Colm Healion – 01 - 8332570

A special word of thanks to

- Cathal Jackson, Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt St. who generously provides a 'home from home' for the Laois Association - Dublin.

- The Garda Club for the use of facilities for our fund raising events.

- Laois County Council for their continuing encouragement to the Association.

- The media for their interest in the activities of the Association

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM

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