

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

65th Anniversary

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



Est. 1949

**Laois Association
Dublin**

**Cumann na Laoiseach
Baile Átha Cliath**

www.laoisindublin.com

**WELCOME to the Spring 2014 Newsletter of the Laois Association – Dublin.
On behalf of the Association, we commend to you the events planned in 2014,
the 65TH ANNIVERSARY of the foundation of the Association.**

AND EVELYN SAYS THE FORECAST IS BRIGHT FOR US!



Evelyn Cusack, Met. Éireann being welcomed by Chairman, Gerry Thompson and President, Sandy Metcalfe when she addressed the members of the Association in September '13. A native of Clonaslee, the daughter of a school teacher, Evelyn completed a BSc from UCD in Physics & Maths and an MSc in Physics. She joined Met Éireann in 1981. Evelyn gave an enthralling explanation of meteorology - 'the Physics of the atmosphere', how satellite technology has increased forecasting capability, and what is involved in delivering radio and television weather broadcasts. *Thank you for giving so generously of your time, Evelyn.*



2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Wednesday 19th March 2014

GALA LAUNCH

- 65th Year - Calendar Of Events
Guest Speaker: Ms. Anne Marie McHugh
National Ploughing Association

Friday 16th May 2014

**65th Year - CELEBRATION LUNCH
Croke Park**

Guest Of Honour - Mr. Liam O'Neill
President, Gaelic Athletic Association

Saturday 21st. June 2014

**NATIONAL GALLERY / NATIONAL MUSEUM
(with Lunch)**

Wednesday 24th September 2014

**NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS
(Ratheniska, Co. Laois)**

Sunday 12th. October 2014

**AFTERNOON TABLE QUIZ
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)**

Monday 10th. November 2014

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE & AGM
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)**

Thursday 4th. December 2014

**CHRISTMAS PARTY
(Jackson Court Hotel,
Harcourt Street)**

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

**Please pay your membership NOW, thank you.
Call Colm Healion - 01 8332570**



Claire gives us some 'PRIME TIME' at Launch of 2013 Calendar of Events.

With Mirian O'Callaghan and David McCullagh, Claire Byrne currently holds one of the key positions in current affairs broadcasting in Ireland as anchor on RTEi television's 'Prime Time'. She also hosts 'Saturday with Claire Byrne' on RTE Radio1, as well as being a regular presenter on 'Morning Ireland'.

Claire was a very welcome guest speaker at our March open meeting and calendar launch. Claire spoke of her career, her formative years in Mountrath and her new slot on PrimeTime. Our members fully 'tuned in' to her very engaging address which was followed by a lively questions and answers session. Following a presentation by our Chairman, Gerry Thompson, Claire joined us for refreshments and took time out to chat with individual members, posing for photographs with many of them.

We are very grateful to Claire for giving so generously of her time, and we offer our congratulations on her recently becoming a mum to son, Patrick.



AFTERNOON TABLE QUIZ

- Sunday 21st April 2013



It began as an experiment - to hold our now annual table quiz on a Sunday afternoon (rather than a weekday evening) - turned out to be an inspired decision with what was a really successful occasion for members in the Jackson Court Hotel, and with the winners the Hayes family (Dermot is a member, originally from Mountmellick).

What made it particularly memorable and enjoyable was the outstanding job done by Senator David Norris as Quizmaster. We are truly grateful to him, we will hold him to his offer to do the job again for us this year, and we wish him every good health.

VISIT TO MALAHIDE CASTLE

- Saturday 22nd June 2013



Some days start perfectly and when a group of adults are presented with the opportunity to go on a novelty train at 10.00am there is no looking back.

An enjoyable and informative tour of Malahide Castle and visitor centre was followed by an excellent lunch at McGovern's restaurant .

On one of the few bad days weather wise last Summer our only regret was not being able to take in the beautiful gardens at the Castle.

'CAPTURED' IN KILMAINHAM



Saturday, October 12th saw the Association members pay a visit to Kilmainham Gaol. Many of our members had visited Kilmainham in the past but as a group this was our first visit. We were met by a very enthusiastic tour guide who was appropriately, for the venue, named Emmet.

He led us on the tour and demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the premises, this aligned to the passion he showed for the Gaol throughout not only added to our visit but made conjuring images of bygone events easier. We walked in almost reverence following the footprints of our history, the silence broken by Emmet's narration and the occasional question or comment.

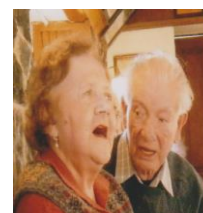
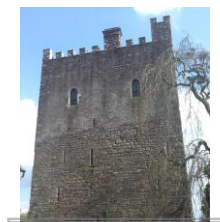
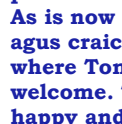
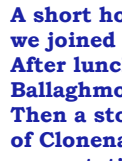
The tour was followed by a very traditional Irish lunch in The Patriot Inn. All in all a very enjoyable Autumn Saturday morning.



AR AIS ARIS TO LAOIS - Friday 17th May 2013



Enjoying the visit home to Laois together. Claire King (Sully)(L) and Marie Dunne (Burrows)(R) had re-met at our Table Quiz after 70 years (they were in school together in Mountmellick.



Gerry, thanks for a great trip home and for a brilliant year of hugely successful and very enjoyable events

1949 - 2014



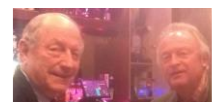
Laois Association
Dublin
Cumann na Laoiscach
Balle Ána Cléire

CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME

Thursday 5th December 2013



'The L.A.D.S'
'The Laois Association Dublin Showband!'



ECUMENICAL SERVICE - 11th November 2013



Our sincere thanks, as always, to Canon David Moynan (from Ballinakill) & Fr. PJ Cunningham (Mountmellick) for another memorable occasion of remembrance & reflection.

OFFICERS 2014

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| President | - Sandy Metcalfe |
| Vice-President | - Mary Doyle |
| Chairman | - Gerry Thompson |
| Vice Chairman | - Vincent Rafter |
| Secretary | - Michael Butler |
| Asst. Sec. | - Daphne Metcalfe |
| Treasurer | - Margaret Kennedy |
| Asst. Treas. | - Carmel Campion |
| Membership Officer | - Colm Healion |
| PRO | - Rory Campion |

The Association expresses its deep appreciation to Tony Brophy for his dedicated service as Treasurer.

RIP. It is with great regret that we record the recent passing of Tom Moore, an enthusiastic and loyal supporter of our Association. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, Anne, brother Paddy, and the Moore Family.
Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO....

- Cathal Jackson, Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt St. who generously provides a 'home from home' for the Laois Association in Dublin.
- Laois County Council for their continuing support
- The media for their interest in the activities of the Association

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM

- Editor **Sandy Metcalfe**
- Photography **Daphne Metcalfe**
- Toni Thompson**
- Bill Kelly**
- Colm Healion**
- Contributor **Gerry Thompson**

Thanks also to our President's company, Business Champions who sponsored the printing of this Newsletter.
www.businesschampions.ie

Best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy 2014 with special thoughts to those who are ill or indisposed at this time.