

NEWSLETTER

**Spring
2016**



Est. 1949

**Laois Association
Dublin**

**Cumann na Laoiseach
Baile Átha Cliath**

www.laoisindublin.com

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, through cultural, educational, sporting and social contact, developing the traditions of the past while embracing and contributing to the Ireland of the New Millennium'

WELCOME to the Spring-2016 Newsletter of the Laois Association, Dublin. We hope you enjoy the photographic memories of 2015. The Chairman and the President commend to you the events planned for 2016, and ask for your continued support.

A Memorable Year ...



2015 was certainly a memorable year for our Association member, Senator David Norris, with the YES vote achieved in the same sex marriage referendum in May, the culmination of 40 + years campaign by him for gay rights in Ireland. Despite the many demands on him, Senator David (pictured here with our Chairman, Gerry Thompson) found time to be our guest speaker at our Autumn Lunch in October. In his inimitable style, David delivered a most enjoyable address covering a range of anecdotes from his life, career, and not least, his origins in - and love of - Laois.



More pictures inside

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday 6th March 2016

The 3 'Ls' - LUNCH, LAUNCH & LEARN

Our Spring Lunch - Jackson Court Hotel

Launch - Calendar of Events

Learn - 'Easter Rising & the Laois Connection'

Friday 27th May 2016

ANNUAL TRIP AWAY

By Coach and by Boat!

The River Shannon and Environs

Sunday 2nd October 2016

AUTUMN LUNCH

(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)

With Guest Speaker

Monday 19th November 2016

ECUMENICAL SERVICE & AGM

(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)

Thursday 8th. December 2016

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

SPRING LUNCH & LAUNCH OF 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Sunday 8th March, 2015

Our Guest Speaker was Mr. Ger Lynch, Chairman, Mountmellick World War I, Research & Commemoration Group. In a very comprehensive address, Ger outlined why and how the Members of the Mountmellick World War I Committee and the Mountmellick Development Association (MDA) came together - to research the town's connection to WW1, and with the primary aims of establishing the number of soldiers from the townland who served in WWI; the number of those who died in the war; to compile information on each individual and establish records in as far as is possible; to acknowledge those who fought in this horrendous war; and to commemorate and honour the memory of these men.



Among the results of the work by the WW1 Group, a museum housing records and memorabilia has been established in the MDA complex; a monument with a list of those who fought and died was erected at the Library; a very moving ecumenical service (attended by representatives of the Irish Defence Forces and the British Legion) to commemorate all those who served in World War I was hosted in St Joseph's Church by Fr. Michael Murphy, PP, and a very impressive remembrance concert was also held. In January 2015, the WWI Group won a Laois County Council Community Service Award. The Group has also produced a very impressive 3 x DVD Box Set - a considerable number of which were purchased by Association members on the day. Following the address, one of the DVDs was shown - a very moving documentary film illustrating the work, the events and the emotions engendered, particularly for the local families who lost loved ones in WW1.

Chairman, Gerry Thompson presented a cheque on behalf of the Association to support the ongoing research work by WW1 Group.



OUR AWAY TRIP - Friday 15th May 2015



Travelling by train (and coach in Belfast), Friday 15th May saw the Association members pay a visit to the Titanic Experience in Belfast. We enjoyed our self-guided experience through 9 state of the art / interactive galleries detailing the entire Titanic story in chronological order. Members were particularly interested in 'the Laois Link' - the carpet for the Rose Room being made in Abbeyleix!



Very special thanks as always to our Chairman for his energy and leadership in organising another hugely enjoyable calendar of events throughout 2015. Well done, Gerry (& Toni!), THANK YOU.

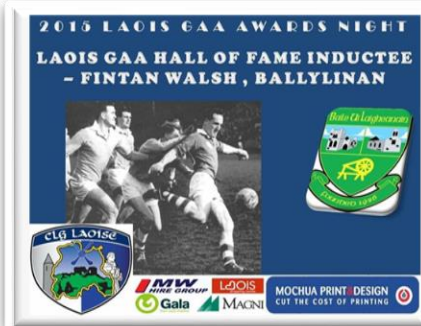
AUTUMN LUNCH (Senator David Norris) – 11th October 2015

– MORE PHOTOS



FINTAN WALSH

- 27th October 2015



We are delighted to record the induction of our longstanding member, Fintan Walsh into the Laois GAA Hall of Fame at the Awards Dinner on Friday 27th November. Man congratulations, Fintan, an honour truly deserved.



THINGS ECUMENICAL

Ecumenism at work! As part of her 'day job' as Administrator, Church of Ireland Theological Institute (Seminary), our Asst. Secretary, Daphne Metcalfe was part of a small group of invitees from the Institute to the General Audience with Pope Francis in Rome on Wed. 26th August 2015.

The gentleman on the left of the first photo is Rev'd Nigel Pierpoint, a very able replacement for Canon David Moynan joining with Rev. Fr. PJ Cunningham for the Association's Ecumenical Service on 16th November last. Canon David Moynan (a native of Ballinakill) has emigrated to New Zealand to be near his family, and has been appointed as Hospice Chaplain. A presentation was made to Canon David and his wife, Isabel on behalf of the Association as a token of appreciation for their support for our service over many years.



RIP

It is with deep sadness and regret that we record the loss of loved ones by several members during 2015, and we extend our heartfelt thoughts and sympathies to them all.



- Margaret King, sister of Lucy O'Meara
- Anne Hourihane Casey, daughter of Teresa Hourihane
- Grace O Malley, mother of Ellen O Malley Dunlop
- Pat Kelly, brother of Bill Kelly
- Una Kelly, mother of Mary Healy

- Maurice Healy, father of Des Healy
- Joan O' Riordan, sister of Michael Campion & Patricia Seery
- Tom Cushion, brother of Michael Cushion
- Shea O'Meara, nephew of Michael O'Meara

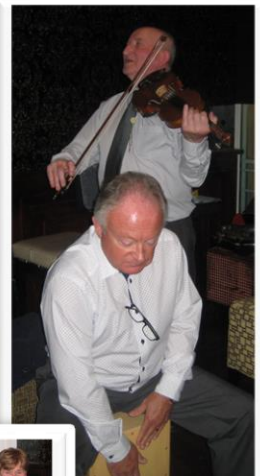
Ar Dheis De go raibh a nAnam

CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME

- Thursday 3rd December 2015



**Featuring
'The L.A.D.S'**
'The Laois Association Dublin Showband'
'There's No Show like a LADS Show!'



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*

OFFICERS 2014

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

Very best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy 2016 with special thoughts to those who are ill or indisposed at this time.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| - Editor | <i>Sandy Metcalfe</i> |
| - Photography | <i>Daphne Metcalfe</i> |
| | <i>Toni Thompson</i> |
| | <i>Bill Kelly</i> |
| - Contributor | <i>Gerry Thompson</i> |