

NEWSLETTER

Spring
2017



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-2017 Newsletter of the Laois Association, Dublin. We hope you enjoy the photographic memories of 2016. As always, the Chairman and the President commend to you the events planned for 2017, and ask for your continued support.

"Let Us Off In ... BALLYBROPHY"



Our October 2016 visit on a historic day in Rathdowney - More inside ...



More pictures inside

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 11th April 2017 - 8.00pm
Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street

Launch- Calendar of Events

SPECIAL GUEST:
**Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Charles Flanagan, TD.**

Friday 12th May 2017
AVIVA STADIUM (Guided Tour & Lunch)

Friday 23rd June 2017
TRIP TO LAOIS

Sunday 15th October 2017 - 2.30pm
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)

TABLE QUIZ
Quizmaster: Senator David Norris

Monday 20th November 2017
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)
ECUMENICAL SERVICE & AGM

Thursday 7th. December 2017
(Jackson Court Hotel, Harcourt Street)

CHRISTMAS PARTY

**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 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Sunday 6th March, 2016

At our Spring lunch to launch our 2016 Calendar of Events, we were delighted to have the services of two very accomplished speakers, Bartle Faulkner & our former Chairman & Vice President, Eugene Donoghue. Bartle guided us through the happenings of the 1916 Rebellion, and Eugene Donoghue gave an enlightening presentation on an incident that occurred on Easter Sunday, involving members of the Laois Volunteer Brigade, provoking the question – ‘Did the Rising really start in Laois?’

**EASTER
RISING AND
THE LAOIS
CONNECTION**



OUR SUMMER TRIP (River Shannon & Clonmacnoise) - 27th May 2016



Setting off by coach from Custom House Quay, we travelled to Scanlon's Restaurant, Kinnegad for our morning coffee stop. We sailed from Athlone for our cruise up the Shannon – which included drinks and a sing-song! Following lunch in Athlone, we then travelled by coach to the historic monastic settlement of Clonmacnoise for a most interesting & educational afternoon. Back to Scanlon's Restaurant in Kinnegad for dinner on our journey home – a perfect end to another very different and most enjoyable outing for Association members.



OUR AUTUMN TRIP (Rathdowney)

- Sunday 2nd October 2016



In 2003, a good friend to our Association, Farmer Michael Creagh published his first book of poetry about his memories of people and places in the Rathdowney / Errill parish entitled 'The Rhymes of a Rustic Boy'. In 2006, he published his second book entitled 'The Return of the Rustic Boy'.

On Sunday 2nd October, 2016, in conjunction with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque of the 1916 proclamation by the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Mr Charlie Flanagan TD, Michael led a host of young local actors in costume, supported the large attendance on a walking tour of Rathdowney, reciting his poems with music and sound effects at many of the sites and locations about which his poems were written.

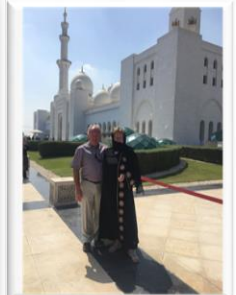
We travelled by train and were delighted to 'Get off In Ballybrophy' to support the writer of the song we love, and see him perform a lot more of his poetic and musical repertoire in his home setting. As is our tradition, we ended the day with a sing-song in Tuohys 's pub, before we 'Got Back On In Ballybrophy'! *Well done on a great day, Michael.*

THINGS ECUMENICAL

We are indebted to Rev'd Nigel Pierpoint and Rev. Fr. PJ Cunningham for leading - yet again - a very moving and reflective Ecumenical Service for our Association's members on 14th November last.

Our Asst. Sec. Daphne Metcalfe continues her ecumenical efforts!

First, meeting the Pope in 2015, and now visiting the Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, UAE. - accompanied by fellow Association Member, Dorothy Murphy - and himself ('Mr. President').



RIP

It is with deep sadness & regret that we record the loss of loved ones by several members during 2016 (& 2017). We extend our heartfelt thoughts and sympathies to them all.

- Margaret Cushion, mother of Michael Cushion
- Sister Deanna Donoghue, sister of Eugene & Denis
- Bill Duggan - Member
- Rita Menton - Former Member

- Attracta O'Brien, sister of Joe Dowling
- Carmel Stenson, sister of Vincent Rafter
- Breda Walsh, former member



Ar Dheis De go raibh a nAnam

CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME - Thursday 8th December 2016

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



CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU ...
We extend very best wishes to our Chairman, Gerry Thompson on his appointment to his new job in the National Gallery of Ireland

As always, we are deeply indebted to Gerry for his energy and leadership in organising yet another hugely enjoyable calendar of events throughout 2016. Gerry (& Toni!), well done (again!) and THANK YOU.

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 2017

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

Very best wishes to all our members for a happy and healthy 2017 with special thoughts to those who are ill or indisposed, at this time.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM

- Editor	Sandy Metcalfe
- Photographer	Daphne Metcalfe Toni Thompson Bill Kelly
- Contributor	Gerry Thompson