



Blarney and District Historical Society

Cumann Staire Cheantar Bhlarna 1985

Programme of Public Lectures and Field Trips for 2023-2024 Season

Thursday 7th September 2023 Annual General Meeting

Takes place at 8.00 p.m. in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal (Blarney Secondary School)

Current members invited to attend. New and intending members welcome.



Thursday 21st September 2023 'Childhood Memories of Monard Mills'

Guest Speaker: Christine O'Flynn, *Author*, grew up close to Cork City in her beloved Monard Mills, home to her family for many generations. The Mills and their surroundings are both the background and a main character in this lecture where those who lived there are brought to life through her memories. It is a rich family history which gives the listener a feeling of the importance of family roots.



Thursday 5th October 2023 'The Blueshirts and the IRA in 1930s Cork'

Guest Speaker: David Ryan, *Genealogist*, based in Glanmire is also a local historian with responsibility for gathering and maintaining oral history archive of Cork city and county for the Cork Folklore Project. He has written an excellent article on tonight's subject which is published in 'The Archive', the Project's magazine. He has written articles and lectured on the life and development of Cork city. This illustrated talk explores aspects of life in the Blueshirt era of 1930s Cork.



Thursday 2nd November 2023 'Blarney under the Tudors'

Guest Speaker: John Mulcahy, *Blarney and District Historical Society*, tells of the Tudor Conquest of Ireland between 1485 and 1603 when Irish culture, law and language were replaced and many Irish lords lost their lands, authority and independence. Munster was laid waste before being 'planted' and huge estates arose on the old lands, with a new population. Monasteries and churches were seized by the English and huge fortunes were made. John tells what life was like in Blarney under the Tudors.



Thursday 7th December 2023, 'Skellig Michael and Archaeology'

Guest Speaker: John Sheehan, *Senior Lecturer & Current Head of Archaeology Dept UCC*.

Skellig Michael, a Monastic Settlement dates back to the 6th century; however, one can find legendary accounts which date to pagan times, back in 1400 BC. The most westerly sacred site in Europe. The magazine 'History Ireland' has questioned whether its World Heritage status is under threat. The fragile hermitage on the South Peak is being constantly monitored but because of the difficult climb, it appears very few people ever bother to go there.



Thursday 4th January 2024 'Construction of Church of Immaculate Conception, Blarney'

Guest Speaker: Jacqueline Manley, *Chartered Engineer*, Begun in March 1893 and sanctified on the 21st of October 1894, funding for the building of The Church of The Immaculate Conception came mainly from the Mahony family of the local woollen mills who made bequests to the equivalent value of €3million. This and much more incredibly detailed research, by Jaqueline, went into tonight's presentation about the history of its construction.



Thursday 1st February 2024 ‘The Inn at Blarney - History of the Castle Hotel’

Guest Speaker: Richard Forrest, *Blarney and District Historical Society* presents an illustrated talk on perhaps what is the oldest Inn, Tavern, Guest House, Public House or Hotel in Blarney village. Trawling through old deeds, wills, and newspapers, he has come up with an extremely interesting collection of facts and figures which explore its chequered history and maybe he proves indeed that the ‘Blarney Castle Hotel’ is the oldest hostelry in Blarney mentioned in Arthur Young’s Account of Blarney.



Thursday 7th March 2024 ‘More Than Honey - The Craft and Folklore of Beekeeping’ Guest Speaker: Shane Lehane, *Folklorist and Author*, has appeared on many television and radio programmes exploring many different aspects of Irish folk tradition. This evening he speaks about the history of beekeeping and its importance to the ecosystem, beekeeping in folklore and in times of conflict. The bee is an important part of ancient Irish culture. St. Gobnait is Ireland's patron saint of bees and honey is 'nectar of the gods'.



Thursday 4th April 2024 ‘The Aer Lingus Viscount Crash at Tusker Rock, Co. Wexford’ Guest Speaker: Frank Donaldson, *Historian and Author*, has done huge research into the tragic loss of Aer Lingus Vickers Viscount 803, Flight EI-712, St Phelim, on its way from Cork to London on 24 March 1968, killing all 57 passengers and 4 crew. Causes suggested were impact with birds, a missile/target drone or mechanical/structural failures. Aer Lingus still uses this flight number from Cork to Heathrow, contrary to airline convention of discontinuing a flight number following a crash. Frank’s research is thought-provoking.



Thursday 2nd May 2024 *If Those Walls Could Talk – Internments and Executions – Cork 1920/23* Guest Speaker: Gerard O’Rourke, *Historian and Author*, has written best-selling books on the history of the Donoughmore area. This evening he speaks about the prisoners and the conditions they had to endure during their incarcerations, while sometimes awaiting execution, in the gaols of Cork and other parts during the troubled times of 1920 to 1923.

Thursday 6th June 2024

Field Trip Details to be advised

July 2024

Summer Vacation

August 2024

National Heritage Week Details to be advised

Thursday 5th September 2024

Annual General Meeting

All lectures are in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál (Blarney Secondary School) at 8.00 p.m. unless otherwise stated. All events are correct at time of publication but some items may have to be cancelled or changed due to unavoidable circumstances from time to time. Some Field Trips may carry certain restrictions. Everybody Welcome. Please keep checking our web-site www.blarneyhistory.ie for up-to-date information.

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