

Irish Community Archive Network Meeting

16.09.2019

Derrylahan, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo

Attendees: Liam Doherty (Notetaker); Lorna Elms, Hassan Dabbagh, Mary O'Malley, Brige Woodward, Richard Woodward, Tomás Ó Cadhain, Pauline Connolly, Christy Leyden, Bernie Forde, Tom Seale, John & Frances Holohan, Averil Staunton, Gerry Costello, Eric Shaw, Brendan Noonan, Mary Lyons, Mary Mullin & John Lyons

Apologies: Hazel Morrison (Moycullen), Antoinette Lydon (Oughterard), Rita McCarthy (Scattery Island), Olive Carey (Dúchas na Sionna), John Williams (Kilkee) & John O'Brien (Shannon).

1. Welcome and introductions

- LE opened meeting, welcoming everyone to Louisburgh and gave an outline of the meeting.
MO'M welcomed everyone on behalf of the Louisburgh/Killeen group.

2. Network updates

Review and updates on 'Our Irish Women' exhibition by LE.

- Exhibition has been on display in Kiltimagh and Moycullen. Going to Moylough and Oughterard,, then on to Portumna in October with possible display in N.M.I. Collins Barracks and the Camden Irish Centre.
- Briefing by AS on 'The Women of Ballinrobe & Its Hinterland' project and exhibition.

CAHG conference.

- Update on attendance at conference and award to Moycullen in category of 'Most impactful involvement in a Heritage Project by young people'. LE made suggestion to organisers that there should be acknowledgement of other submissions by shortlisting.
- Tomás gave background to Moycullen submission and group members involved.
- iCAN groups encouraged to make submissions and attend future CAHG conferences.
- LE noted that it was agreed to hold 2021 conference in Galway, possibly in and with N.U.I.G. as partners. Initial meeting with N.U.I.G. still to take place.
- LE recommended that groups, if they have not registered with CAHG already, to do so.

Global reach.

- LE gave an update on Google analytics to June 2019. 1 million users collectively, 4 million page views and global reach. Figures are impressive given that it is only since 2015 that most of the iCAN sites went live.

EC Global Platform.

- NMI invited to EU conference 'Harnessing the Social & Economic value of cultural heritage in the digital age' in Prague, 7-8 October. LE attending on behalf of iCAN/NMI.

Growth and expansion.

- Co. Clare. Eric noted that CMS training was very good. Writing for the web training will take place on 25th September. Clare websites due to be launched between mid-December and mid-January.
- Co. Wicklow. Public Participation meeting held. 7 new groups coming on board. Current website will migrate to new Wicklow Portal. Meeting to be held on 2nd October re; web design etc. Training scheduled for November with launch envisioned in February.
- LE noted that all going well, 2019 should see 13 new archives as opposed to target for the year of 6.

iCAN promotional videos.

- LE gave update outlining Creative Ireland funding. C.I. keen to get work of iCAN out there. Objective of films threefold; highlight work the groups are doing, highlight iCAN work and enable film training. Film training has been identified in training needs survey as a high priority. Focus this year will be on pre-existing groups and all going well further funding next year will allow similar training to be rolled out to other groups. A meeting will be held in N.M.I.-Country Life this Friday will film/training provider, Ocean Media.

3. Technical

- Welcome by LE to Hassan Dabbagh as Network Administrator.
- Presentation by Hassan outlining role of Network Administrator with discussion on the Training Needs survey and options around Support ticketing. Discussion of the pros & cons of such a system and noted that the aim was to get to a stage where there is a self-help component. Tomás stated that there would be a need to have ongoing training. MO'M asked if there was a possibility of evening training as more people are interested in contributing but have 9 to 5 work commitments. Christy asked if it would be possible to have remote training.

4. Community Updates

- **Bernie** (Killarney)
 - mapping updates
 - prep for film work
 - genealogy queries – since the website went up a lot more of these queries
- **Tom** (Woodlawn)
 - brochure done – hoping to get a digital version done
 - funding for feasibility study for river walk
- **Frances** (Abbey & District)
 - emigrant queries
 - river walk
 - [Community Hen-house](#)

- Cathaoirleach Award Galway Council
- **Pauline** (Milltown)
 - Heritage week – Event on the River Clare
 - Group Water scheme, Anglers, walk & talk, Drone footage
- **Averil** (Ballinrobe)
 - Heritage week – [Women of Ballinrobe & its Hinterland](#)
 - letter to the community seeking submissions on any woman they would like to pay tribute to
 - 34 women in phase I, 21 in phase II and an overall target of 100.
 - launch targeted for Easter next
 - noted Courthouse project and working towards a publication
- **Gerry** (Skehana)
 - townland features
 - Christy Cunniffe, Community Archaeologist
 - Big houses
 - Roadshows
 - House histories
 - Memorial cards project
 - Milestones – Galway-Dublin road
 - Mention by Tomás that Galway Heritage Office also involved in Galway Milestone project
- **Eric** (Clarecastle & Ballyea)
 - Mortuary card – online with Clare County Library
 - Heritage plaques – Leader funding
 - River Fergus walk – Leader funding for feasibility study – just completed
 - Bio-diversity training
 - Heritage week – G.A.A. medals
 - Field/townlands project – aim to get this online
 - Donation of emigrant photographs from 1923
- **Mary** (Louisburgh/Killeen)
 - Genealogy – big interest, especially through Facebook
 - Heritage week
 - book readings
 - home baking
 - walking tours
 - Jack stones
 - 1950s film digitised and will go on website. History evening in October when film will be played
 - gift of National School Roll Book
 - Field Name project with Louisburgh N.S. under discussion
- **Brendan** (Claregalway)
 - outline of history of the Society since its formation
 - 1911 census – summarising family details for uploading to web.
 - Considering de-commissioning old website and transferring content to iCAN website.
 - Skills deficit at present. Have someone in mind with technical skills. LE asked to be kept updated so training would be provided to new person.

- **Tomás** (Moycullen)
 - Replica made of log boat from Lee's Island, Lough Corrib
 - 'Our Irish Women' exhibition – suggestion for Somerville & Ross Summer school
 - 'A Moycullen Miscellany'
 - Entered for 'Pride of Place' competition
 - Funding of €7500 for biodiversity plan from Community Foundation for Ireland
 - Launch 29th September of book 'True to Ireland' by Peter Burke. In attendance will be New Zealand ambassador to Ireland, Irish ambassador to New Zealand and Minister for Diaspora.
 - Fair Green/Pound. Up for re-development. Submission that heritage of this by recognised in this process has been accepted by Galway Council. Research being undertaken on 'Pounds'.
 - 1970s collection of photographs of Field Gates.
- **Mary** (Moylough)
 - Z-Map of Moylough almost completed
 - Apostolic Work Ireland featured 'Our Irish Women' exhibition on their website
 - Heritage walks since last January to Rinn Duin, Clontuskert and Clonfert

Talk: John Lyons, Historian, Tour Guide & Editor of Louisburgh Parish magazine "An Coinneal" gave members a fascinating talk on the history of Louisburgh Town.

After lunch, some members stayed on and enjoyed an interesting bus tour of local heritage sites with our very knowledgeable guides Mary & Brige.

[The Clapper Bridge & The Colony](#) (click to find out more on L-K website)



[Gowlan Church & the River Dee](#) (click to find out more on L-K website)



[Srahwee Wedge Tomb & Submerged Forest](#) (click to visit on L-K website)



Thanks you to Louisburgh-Killeen Heritage Group for a fantastic day!

