

Armagh and district history group

Annual report, 2017

Attendance, although not large, was consistent at the monthly talks which covered a wide range of interesting topics. These were:

January. *The infant murder mystery in Markethill*. Dr Elaine Farrell

February. *The Corvans of Armagh*. Gerry Oates

March. *Armagh Observatory in four centuries*. Dr John Butler

April. *The Macans of Armagh, at home and in India*. Keith Haines

June. *Gender, crime and mental disorder in 19th century Ireland*. Dr Pauline Prior

September. *Guilty but insane: the cases of Mary Reilly, 1887, and Dr Terence Brodie*. Dr Pauline Prior. We are indebted to Dr Prior for delivering this talk at very short notice when the designated speaker was unable to attend

October. *Troubled legacy: the difficult history of Armagh prison and its impact on re-use*. Chris Hamill

November. *Thomas Russell, the man from God knows where*. Tom Duncan.

All of these talks were highly enjoyable, informative and well delivered. We thank the speakers for their valuable contributions.

In April, instead of a talk we had an entertaining light-hearted quiz on people, places and events pertaining to Armagh and district compiled by some committee members. No prizes were offered, and no winners were declared but a good time was had by all.

A very successful outing to Castle Coole and Enniskillen Castle Museum was held in September. A special word of thanks is due to our treasurer, Kevin Quinn, who organised the entire event including the hire of the bus and a lovely meal in the Killyhevlin hotel. Those of us who attended are already looking forward to the 2018 trip.

History Armagh, our journal, was launched in December by the Lord Mayor, Ald. Gareth Wilson who kindly hosted a most welcome reception in the Palace headquarters of the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. The guests included members of the Halligan family as the journal was dedicated to Marjorie, a founder member, our Vice-chair for many years and a frequent contributor, who sadly passed away in February. Another member of long standing and a contributor to *History Armagh* who died this year was Des Fitzgerald. Our sympathies are extended to both families.

Thanks are due to all who contributed articles to the journal, Helen Grimes, our Hon. Secretary who was responsible for design work and layout and Kevin Quinn who always has the unenviable but essential tasks of delivering it to all the retail outlets and dealing with the relevant finances. A special mention must also be made of the important contribution made by our Webmaster, Richard Burns, for not just updating the website but in gaining

worldwide interest in the group through the Facebook page which he established for it.

We are continually grateful to Libraries NI for facilitating our talks and meetings in the Irish and Local Studies Library and particularly to staff members, Catherine Gartland and Bronagh Feehan, for all their help over the year which is certainly much appreciated.

Mary T. McVeigh

Chair

Armagh and District History Group, January 2018