

Cumann Genealaís na hÉireann

# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**Heritage Matters**  
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## Archives Crisis or Opportunity?

Dr. Peter Crooks of Trinity College Dublin has to be warmly congratulated on the enormous turnout at the public meeting held in TCD on Saturday April 10th. The meeting was called to highlight the very serious implications of the Government's proposed amalgamation of the National Archives, National Library and the Irish Manuscript Commission. Although announced in 2008 as a 'budgetary measure' this proposed merger, as currently envisaged, could be enormously costly and hugely disruptive. Moderated by Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter of University College Dublin, the meeting was addressed in turn by Irish Society of Archivists representative, Caitríona Crowe, Irish Times journalist, Fintan O'Toole, and TCD Professor Eunan O'Halpin. These presentations were followed by numerous contributions from the floor dealing with all aspects of Irish archival heritage. GSI Board member, Séamus O'Reilly, raised the serious and anomalous position of the records of the Irish Land Commission which have been moved from the National Archives building in Dublin to a storage facility in Co. Laois. Speaker after speaker condemned the apparent lack of any detailed analysis of the implications of the proposed merger before it was announced as Government policy in October 2008.



Mr. Pádraic Ingoldsby, MGS I (above) was elected Cathaoirleach of the GSI at the AGM last month.

No cost-benefit analysis, no comparative study, no comprehensive plan and yet, 'Heads of a Bill' have been prepared according to various speakers. Whilst many organisations used the opportunity to publicly air their grievances and concerns regarding the state of Irish archives, this Society's contribution focussed on a strategic response to the proposed merger. Firstly, the Society cautioned against an open confrontation with the new Minister Mary Hanafin, TD, on this so called 'budgetary measure' as a cooperative approach may prove more effective. Secondly, the Society urged the meeting to welcome the possibilities

afforded by the required new legislation to deal with the many issues raised. Thirdly, the GSI proffered the idea of 'legislative amalgamation' that ensures the 'maintenance of the separate functions and identities' of the National Archives and the National Library. Finally, the GSI insisted that the first objective of the proposed 'Action Committee' should be to demand a meaningful public consultation process in advance of the production of any draft legislation. As the latter point was the last contribution from the floor, after the meeting many attendees expressed their support for the constructive approach advocated by the GSI. As a totally independent genealogical organisation, arguably the most experienced in legislative matters, the GSI has sought membership of the 'Action Committee'. The GSI views this issue as an immensely important opportunity for legislative reform offering a bright future for both the National Library and the National Archives.

The Society extends its sincere condolences to the Polish Ambassador, H.E. Dr. Tadeusz Szumowski, his wife Agata Szumowska and the members of the Polish community in Ireland on the tragic accident that claimed the lives of the President of Poland, Mr. Lech Kaczyński, his wife, Maria Kaczyńska, and the others in the air crash on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010. RIP

## Cathaoirleach Nua

Pádraic Ingoldsby MGS I was elected as the sixth Cathaoirleach (Chairperson) of the Genealogical Society of Ireland at the AGM held on March 9th 2010. Pádraic has been a member of the Board of the Society for the past two years holding the National Projects portfolio. He has been primarily concerned with the important task of securing a permanent home for the Society's growing Archive and making such a valuable resource more accessible to

our members and other researchers. Pádraic is a Dubliner, who joined the Society initially to seek out more information on his family – a job that is still concentrating his mind. He worked in the *Bank of Ireland Group* for thirty-five years before retiring as a Senior Manager and Deputy Head of Compliance in Group Treasury in 2000. Currently he sits on the Solicitor's Disciplinary Tribunal as a lay member, is a Director of *Gheel Autism Services Limited*

and numerous management companies. He is the current 'Ireland Representative' for the London based *Guild of One Name Studies* and would like to see more emphasis on such studies in Ireland. Pádraic brings to his new post a wealth of business and administrative experience that will be, without doubt, a considerable asset to the Society. Pádraic Ingoldsby is married to Kathleen, they have two grown up daughters and live in Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

## The Viking Age—Ireland and the West

### *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Viking Congress*

Edited by **John Sheehan**, Senior Lecturer at the Dept. of Archaeology, University College Cork and **Donnchadh Ó Corráin**, Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at University College Dublin, *'The Viking Age—Ireland and the West—Proceedings of the Fifteenth Viking Congress'* is a monumental work by any standard. Published last month by Four Courts Press (ISBN 978-84682-101-1, 610pp; colour ill. Price €50.00 h/bk) it consists of papers read at the Fifteenth Viking Congress held in Cork between August 18th and 27th 2005. Before briefly outlining some of the wealth of information and the depth of the research presented in this volume, it is worth noting that for most Irish people, especially genealogists, few ever think of the Vikings in terms of ancestry irrespective of the archaeological evidence. Though, as the Editorial Assistant on this volume, **Shannon Lewis-Simpson** of Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland reminds us 'In a hybrid society, intermarriage is bound to occur between cultural communities, especially among the elite. By marrying into powerful local families, medieval settlers (quoting Bartlett) 'could establish their position, since they would immediately acquire kin, property and patrons'. Viking Dublin, like the other Viking settlements around Ireland, was certainly a 'hybrid' society and increasingly so following the Viking acceptance of Christianity. So where is the evidence for the genealogist or local historian of any ancestral links to this Viking or more correctly, Hiberno-Viking, past? Dr. Lewis-Simpson in her paper on 'Viking-Age queens and the formation of identity' mentions the death circa 1030 of Gormlaith 'daughter of Muchadh mac Finn, mother of the king of the foreigners,

Sitruic, and of the king of Munster, Donnchadh, son of Brian'. Gormlaith was, it seems, a 'king's consort thrice over' - but this is just one case of intermarriage. Indeed, in his paper, **Colmán Etchingham** of NUI, Maynooth, explores what the Irish annals referred to as the 'Fair Foreigners' and the 'Dark Foreigners' as he considers 'the identity and provenance of Vikings in ninth-century Ireland'. The genetic mix of these Vikings is concisely presented by **Kevin J. Edwards** and **Douglas B. Borthwick** in their examination of settlement of the Faroe Islands where 87% of the male settlers were of Scandinavian descent with up to 13% of British or Irish ancestry. Females, on the other hand, were 83% of British or Irish ancestry with only 17% of Scandinavian origin. Would not the percentages for Viking Ireland prove interesting, especially, in the era leading up to and after the conversion of the Vikings to Christianity—a topic very interestingly explored by **Lesley Abrams** of Oxford. Once again, the interaction between the Irish and the Scandinavians is highlighted by the Irish annals and, as Abrams points out 'while Vikings killed Irish secular and ecclesiastical leaders, as the annals repeatedly attest, they also allied with them and married their sisters and daughters'. Quoting Clarke, Abrams points to a society around Dublin with a population of 'cohabiting Irish and Scandinavians' easing the path to Christianisation. Economic factors too must be considered when looking at Irish-Scandinavian interaction and, in this regard, the paper by **Kristin Bornholdt Collins** of Cambridge on the role of cons in the tenth-century offers intriguing insights into the more than 130 silver hoards discovered in Ireland. She observes that 'Both the need and preference for

foreign coins, which can arise between neophytes as well as established coin users, testifies to a fundamental commercial motivation behind coinage' - an example of the penetration of Viking commerce into Gaelic Ireland well beyond their coastal settlements? Unfortunately space precludes any hope of adequately portraying the immensity of the research underpinning the fifty papers presented in this volume. However, as our knowledge of the Hiberno-Scandinavian world is increasingly benefiting from new and exciting insights into the archaeology and, of course, from advances in technology, questions of ancestry, genetics, linguistics and culture emerge. **Maevé Sikora** of the National Museum of Ireland in her paper on 'The Finglas burial: archaeology and ethnicity in Viking-Age Dublin' explores some of these issues by reference to burial goods—deliberate deposition possibly signifying ethnicity and/or culture. While Senior Consultant Archaeologist, **Liz Simpson**, looks at the evolution of Viking Dublin in relation to 'recent emerging archaeological evidence' and explains that the site chosen by the Vikings for what was to become Dublin was not a virgin site, as the annalistic sources record the presence of an Irish monastic settlement at *Duib-linn* (Old Irish, 'Black Pool'). She states that the evidence has forced a re-think of the evolution of Viking Dublin and offers examples from recent excavations in the capital. This volume is lavishly illustrated with both black and white and colour plates, line drawing and maps. With works of such quality and accessibility, a greater public awareness, understanding and knowledge of this important period in our history will most certainly fuel the questions of ancestry. **MM**

## Family History with Style

At a recent Morning Open Meeting, Tom Conlon presented *"The Conlons of Monkstown"* a draft family history as an advanced work-in-progress. Tom outlined his long-held interest in history, with a particular interest in the history of printed material, and he has a significant collection of original early 17<sup>th</sup> century maps. Also, that as a long-standing user of desk-top publishing, it was not surprising that when creating a family history, there was almost as much emphasis on the quality and style of print as on the content. He set out to make a beautiful book using the most modern facilities. Names in the Conlon family history include Conlons, Nortons, Gleasons, Cormicks and Donegans from the Westmeath side of Athlone, Gleasons of Upperchurch, Tipperary, Tooles & O'Tooles

as well as Mullins from Carrick-on-Suir. The book is hard-covered with image-wrap. This gives a gloss finish with high-quality images on the covers and the title on the spine. Inside, there are over 70 photographic quality pages with text, photos, documents, family trees, etc. The quality of printing, binding, presentation is much better than can be achieved with your home printer - and it will be stable and fade-free. One person at the meeting described it as "genealogy meets *Hello Magazine*". Tom replied 'it is unashamedly intended to be a treasured book which the family will be proud to own, to leave on the coffee table, to show around, and to pass on to the future generations'. Understanding that others may like such for their own family, Tom, with a friend and

fellow GSI member, Pat O'Shea, intend to offer a family history book preparation/printing service to genealogists and to the general public. Tom Conlon and Pat O'Shea are currently creating a website [www.questheritage.ie](http://www.questheritage.ie) which will set out the various production options and other services connected with the publication of family histories 'with style'. Tom explained to the Open Meeting that this is intended to be a private commercial venture and, as such, a contractual arrangement between client and producer would cover matters of production and copyright etc. Such new commercial ventures aimed at filling a niche in the 'roots market' are to be welcomed and we wish them every success. Tom Conlon can be contacted on e-mail: [tom.conlon@iol.ie](mailto:tom.conlon@iol.ie) for further details.

## New Director for National Library

The Board of the National Library of Ireland appointed **Ms. Fiona Ross** to succeed Mr. Aonghus Ó hAonghusa as Director. Mr. Ó hAonghusa who held the position from 2005, left to return to the Civil Service on January 15th 2010. Ms. Ross took up her position on March 8th 2010 and brings to her new post considerable managerial and administrative experience and knowledge as a graduate of UCD, TCD and QUB in a number of disciplines including History & English, Business Studies and a Law Masters in Governance & Public Policy. Other changes at the NLI include the retirement of Mr. Brendan O'Donoghue from

the Board in January 2010. As a former Director of the National Library and its Chief Herald, it was Mr. O'Donoghue who presented a Grant of Arms to this Society in 2001. The position of Chief Herald remains vacant following the retirement of Mr. Fergus Gillespie in November 2009. Mr. Gillespie had been Chief Herald from 2005 and, indeed, was Deputy Chief Herald until that position was put into 'cold storage' in September 2003 with the retirement of his predecessor. The future of Irish heraldic services are, once again, in serious doubt as the appointment of a new Chief Herald may be very low on the list of priorities for the NLI Board.

## MICHAEL CUNNIFFE, RIP

Michael Cuniffe of Kilterman, Co. Dublin and formerly of Roscommon, Tipperary and Bantry, Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and late of Dept. of Finance, died on April 1st 2010 after a short illness borne with great fortitude at the Beacon Hospital; Son of the late John and Evelyn, dearly loved husband of GSI Member, Deirdre (Carroll), and father of Diarmuid and Ronan, father-in-law of Anna and brother of Rosaleen (Holy Faith Sisters). Mourned by his many relatives, neighbours and a wide circle of friends and colleagues. Requiem Mass held on April 6<sup>th</sup> in St. Mary's Church, Sandyford followed by interment at Glencullen Cemetery. We extend our sincere condolences to Deirdre and her family. **RIP**

# James Scannell Reports...

## HYDE'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

Douglas Hyde, the first President of Ireland was born on January 17th 1860 near Castlereagh, County Roscommon. In 1867 his family moved to Frenchpark in that county where his father served as a Church of Ireland (Anglican) clergyman. While growing up he took a great interest in the Irish language and he maintained this interest when he moved to Dublin to study at Trinity College. Fluent in French, Latin, German, Greek and Hebrew, he embarked on a career as a distinguished scholar. In 1893 he was a founder member and first president of Conradh na Gaeilge (Gaelic League) which was established to preserve and promote the Irish language. When the Irish Free State was established in 1922 he was appointed as a Senator but lost his seat in 1925. He resumed his career as an academic and worked as Professor of Irish at University College Dublin and had retired by 1938 when he was appointed again to the Seanad (Senate). He was appointed as the first President of Ireland that year following the enactment by the people of the 1937 *Constitution of Ireland*. In this new role he proved himself to be immensely popular and completed his term of office in 1945 even though he had suffered a massive stroke in 1940. Following

his leaving office, he moved into a new home in the grounds of Áras an Uachtaráin (Presidential palace) where he resided until his death on July 12th 1949.

## ABBEY THEATRE ACTRESS

Ciara O'Dowd, English Dept, NUI Galway, is seeking information on Aideen (Una) O'Connor who joined the Abbey Theatre Company in 1933 and traveled to the U.S.A. on a number of occasions. She married an Abbey actor and producer Arthur Shields and settled in Hollywood where she died in 1950. Ciara seeks to contact the family of Frollie Mulhern, a close friend of Aideen when she worked in the theatre in Dublin and whose scrapbooks are in the National Library. Contact Ciara at e-mail: acoonnorresearch@gmail.com.

## RED FACES AT BRITANNICA

It has emerged that the concise edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica has wrongly described the Irish Civil war (1922–23) over the Anglo-Irish Treaty as one between Catholics and Protestants. It is believed that this error may have lain unnoticed in the printed version for a number of years but the editors are confident that

the error is not repeated on the on-line databases in Irish history. It has been suggested that an inexperienced editor may have attempted to explain the Civil War in a small article and confused history with a mistaken perception about sectarianism and the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland during the latter part of the twentieth century.

## THE EMERGENCY (1939–1946)

Joe Millar, Archivist and Council Member of the **Irish Red Cross Society** is currently trying to put together a showcase in the National Museum of Ireland to coincide with the Society's 70th Anniversary and currently requires the following Red Cross items such as nurses' uniforms: aprons, dress/frock, veil also blue cape and hat. And men's blue denim informs with side caps and leggings. Information is also sought from anyone who was an Irish Red Cross worker, or knew an Irish Red Cross worker in Saint-Lô, France, in 1945. Any photos, books, records of interest up to 1950 would be much appreciated. Joe can be contacted by leaving a message for him at the reception of the Irish Red Cross Society, 16, Merrion Square North, Dublin 2 or phone 01-642 4600 / e-mail: info@redcross.ie.

# GSI Lecture Programme

## PRÉCIS OF THE AGM LECTURE

On Tuesday March 9th 2010, the Society was honoured to hear a fine lecture by the eminent cardiologist **Professor Risteárd Mulcahy** on the life, career and times of his father General Richard Mulcahy, TD. Prof. Mulcahy explained that although General Michael Collins, TD, is often regarded as the key military figure in the War of Independence (1919-21) and the Civil War (1922-23), his own father, Richard Mulcahy, was arguably a more central figure in the military and political evolution of the State in the 1920s. Drawing on his father's extensive archive, Prof. Mulcahy recently published a book *'My Father, The General—Richard Mulcahy and the Military History of Revolution'* (Liberties Press, 2009, ISBN 978-1-905483-63-1). Though many of his listeners had heard of General Mulcahy and may have known of his career in formation and stabilisation of the Irish Free State,

Prof. Mulcahy brought home the human and family side of one of our nation's founding fathers. A parliamentarian from 1919 until 1961, General Mulcahy served in government and on the opposition benches, as Teachta Dála (MP), Minister and a Senator. Earlier he served as 'military head of the army from March 1918 until the ratification of the Treaty in January 1922, and again from June 1922, at the beginning of the Civil War, to its end, in May 1923 (except for the period from 13 July to 22 August 1922 when Collins was commander-in-chief)'. It was on the latter point that Prof. Mulcahy explained his recent contacts with the Irish Army to clarify its stated position of the position of General Michael Collins. Prof. Mulcahy also gave his listeners an unique insight in to the personality of his father—a man who was very conscious of his place in the history of his country and yet, very reluctant to talk about the past. According to Prof. Mulcahy, his father 'expressed strong and trenchant

views about historians in general' and nevertheless he has left us with a wealth of information which was donated to the UCD Archives in 1970-71. Unfortunately his War of Independence records 'were captured by the British in November 1920' and were destroyed in WWII by a 'doodle bomb' in London. A fine lecture which was very much appreciated by all.

## GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

**Tues. April 13**— Tim Carey, Heritage Officer, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – *'In Honour and Memory - Memorials of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown'*. **Tues. May 11** – Mary Beglan – *'On-Line Sources of Irish Genealogy'*. **Tues. June 8**—James McGuire - *'The Dictionary of Irish Biography'*. Any suggestions on the Society lecture programme please contact **Séamus Moriarty, MGSi** by e-mail on Gazette@familyhistory.ie

# Membership of the Genealogical Society

In the annual review of the Membership Packages the Board agreed, under **Res: 09/11/718** to maintain the Annual Subscription for 2010 for Irish and Overseas Members at the level agreed in 2007 of €40.00 to include the following: Member voting rights; optional second household member with voting rights; Membership Card (s); right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter; use of the Society's Archive; monthly meetings/lectures; special prices of up to 50% off selected Society publications; right to register your own assumed Arms or emblems with the Society free of charge; right to have your Club,

School or Institutions assumed Arms or emblems registered with the Society free of charge to a maximum of ten registrations; occasional group projects; Members' internet forum; genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your research in the GSI Journal. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honoured until their annual renewal date. Also under **Res: 08/11/636** persons under twenty-five years can still avail of 50% reduction on the membership fee. Membership can be renewed on-line or, if you

prefer, simply download the form and forward it with your remittance to the Society's Director of Finance, **Mr. Tom Conlon, MGSi**, 24, Carrickbrennan Lawn, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

## **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors**

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*The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann***Board of Directors 2010-2011**

**Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary); **Tom Conlon** (Finance); **Sharon Bofin** (Membership & Publications); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme), **Fiona Tipple** (Education & Social Inclusion) **Bartosz Kozłowski** (Poland) (Internet Services); **John Hamrock** (National Projects) and **Pat Feenan** (Sales & Marketing).

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**www.familyhistory.ie/shop****DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Apr. 13th &amp; May 11th 2010

**Evening Open Meeting**

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday Apr. 28th &amp; May 26th 2010

**Morning Open Meeting**

Weir's, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire

10.30hrs—12.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

**GLASNEVIN CEMETERY**

Like the great city cemeteries of Paris, London and other European capitals, Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery will take its place among the great resting places of the world according to An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, TD, who official opened the revamped cemetery and new museum on Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2010. Costing an estimated €11 million, this cemetery where circa 1.5 million persons are interred is set to become one of the country's most popular tourist attractions. The newly restored memorial stones, including the impressive O'Connell mausoleum, and the widespread landscaping of this huge cemetery has created a wonderful public amenity for the citizens of Dublin and indeed, for the entire nation. Many famous figures from the pages of modern Irish history are buried in this cemetery including its founder, the "Liberator" Daniel O'Connell, General Michael Collins, President Eamon de Valera, Charles Stewart Parnell, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, Arthur Griffith and Countess Markiewicz. Many of our literary and cultural greats were also laid to rest in Glasnevin including, Brendan Behan, Luke Kelly, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and the famous actor, Michael Cusack. It is an educational resource in itself wherein so many of those who moulded modern Ireland are laid to rest alongside countless others, for whom, no marker save a line entry in the register records their presence. Founded in 1832 as a resting place for persons of all denominations and none, a point stipulated by O'Connell, he soon became Ireland's answer to Paris's Cimetière du Père-Lachaise and with the interment of Ireland's revolutionary dead it became our very own version of Arlington National Cemetery. The new museum, operated by the Glasnevin Trust, features exhibits charting the history of the cemetery, on its famous 'inhabitants' and even on the activities of body snatchers who provided cadavers for the medical schools in Dublin. The Glasnevin Trust has also provided genealogical research facilities which can be accessed on-line at [www.glasnevintrust.ie](http://www.glasnevintrust.ie) and a restaurant with a breathtaking panorama of the cemetery, along with information on its marvellous array of funerary monuments and historic graves. The Genealogical Society of Ireland was represented at the official ceremony by President Rory Stanley and Mrs. Roz Stanley, Vice-President, The O Morchoe and Cathaoirleach Pádraic Ingoldsby. The Office of Public Works and the Glasnevin Trust have to be warmly congratulated on this restoration project as it is an outstanding achievement that will, without a doubt, become one of Dublin's most popular visitor attractions over the coming years.

**FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more***www.fourcourtspress.ie***Checkout the Sale Items - 10% Reduction On-Line***NEW GSI BOARD**

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday March 9th 2010 in the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education members elected a new Board of Directors of the Society. After the election, the President of the Society, **Rory Stanley**, FGSI, presented the new Cathaoirleach, **Pádraic Ingoldsby**, MGSI, with his *Chain of Office* as he takes over from **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI who held the office since 2008. The new and expanded Board held its first meeting on April 1st 2010, at which, those elected without portfolios were allocated functions and duties in accordance with the Society's three new Policy Documents. The new Board is as follows [please note:- *besides the title of the position, other areas of responsibility are shown in italics*]: **Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair, *Protocol Officer & Buildings Manager, Presidential Liaison, Twentieth Anniversary Celebrations*); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary, *Gazette Editor, Policy & Media, Irish Language Officer, Local Authority Liaison, Genealogy/Heritage Community Liaison*); **Tom Conlon** (Finance, *Budgets, Liaison with Auditors, External Financial Risks Assessor*); **Sharon Bofin** (Membership & Publications—*Membership Records, Editor of the GSI Annual Journal*); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive, *Development & Maintenance of GSI Archival Collections, On-line Catalogue*); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects, *Stock Control & Sales Dispatch*); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme, *Liaison with College of Fellows, Military History & Genealogy*), **Fiona Tipple**

(Education & Social Inclusion, *Volunteerism & Gender Equality, Outreach Programme, Society Records, Development of Digital Archive, Social History & Genealogy*) **Bartosz Kozłowski** (Internet Services, *Society's Website, Digital Photographic Archive, Assisting with Digital Archive*); **John Hamrock** (National Projects, *Legislative Campaigns, Overseas Societies Liaison, Diaspora Liaison, Honorary Herald Liaison, Heraldic Register, Heraldry & Genealogy*) and **Pat Feenan** (Sales & Marketing, *Website Development for Sales & Marketing, Web Links, Moderator of the MOA, Vexillology & Genealogy*). As reported last month, the GSI Board operate a 'cabinet style' governance of the affairs of the Society for and on behalf of the members. Each Director is responsible for his/her specific area reporting to the Board. With the adoption by the outgoing Board of three substantial policy documents aimed at providing a framework for the development of the Society over the next five years, the Board members are each expected to bring forward proposals to implement these policies. These proposals will be considered by the Board as a whole and, if adopted by way of resolution, implemented by the Society. It is envisaged that 'working groups' consisting of Directors and ordinary members may be established to assist in the planning and implementation of policies, strategies or functions. Hopefully, such 'working groups' will familiarize ordinary members with the running of the Society and encourage many to seek election to the Board of Directors at a future AGM. Whilst, wishing all the members of the Society's new Board every success in their portfolios our appreciation for services rendered goes to **Denis Ryan**, MGSI, who stepped down as Director of Finance at the AGM.

**MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

GSI Members researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish, British, Commonwealth, American or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine will find the publications and meetings of the Medal Society of Ireland of interest. Find out more about those medals so cherished by the family and handed down through generations. For further information on the Society visit its website at: [www.msoi.eu](http://www.msoi.eu)

**DEMOLITION OF CHAPEL  
OPPOSED**

An Bord Pleanála (Planning Appeals Board) has received a number of objections to the Planning Permission granted by Dublin City Council to a property development company for the construction of an eight storey private hospital in the grounds of St. James's Hospital in Dublin City. Apart from the height of the proposed building, objectors are opposed to the scheme as it would involve the demolition of the hospital's late nineteenth century chapel which has been proposed for listing as a 'protected structure'. A number of Dublin City Councilors and local Teachtaí Dála (MPs) are concerned that building as yet has not been listed as a protected structure by Dublin City Council. As far back as 2008 a committee of the Council agreed to initiate the process for listing the chapel as a listed structure. It now appears that although the process was initiated, the report on the submissions was not placed before a full meeting of the City Council as required and the process was then halted as the Council was made aware of a proposed development on the hospital site. **James Scannell**