



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

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April : Abril : Aibreán 2020

Anniversaries during the “Lockdown”

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many events marking anniversaries to be cancelled or curtailed during the lockdown restrictions. The annual commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rising was a very lowkey but dignified event involving just An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, TD, a few members of the Irish Defence Forces, the Lord Mayor of Dublin and, of course, His Excellency, Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland.

The event was televised showing an eerily quiet O'Connell Street with no members of the public in attendance at the event at the General Post Office.

Other planned events marking anniversaries of certain aspects of the War of Independence (1919-21) will also be radically altered, postponed or indeed, cancelled during the year.

The Society's own thirtieth anniversary will probably be marked in a similarly lowkey fashion later this year, possibly at the October 2020 Open Meeting. Although, it has yet to be decided by the Board how to mark the anniversaries of the foundation of the Society in October 1990 and its incorporation under the Companies Acts in March 2000.

Genealogists, local historians and social historians are avid readers of non-fiction, especially historical research, published by some of the foremost publishing houses including those attached to universities.

One such publishing house, Four Courts Press, is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this month and, given its enormous contribution to academic publishing, including works of exceptional interest to genealogists and local historians, it is fitting to mark this anniversary here.

Four Courts Press was founded by Michael Adams on 24th April 1970. A County Fermanagh man by birth, attended St Michael's College and went on to study economics at Queen's University Belfast where he later gained a doctorate. He began working in publishing in the 1960s with Scepter Press in Dublin and later with Irish University Press.

CORONAVIRUS—COVID-19

The President of the Society, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC**, FGSI, and the Cathaoirleach, **Gerry Hayden**, MGSI and members of the Board of Directors, extend their deepest sympathies to the families, friends and colleagues of those who have been very sadly taken by COVID-19.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved and with the many thousands of people fighting this terrible disease in hospitals, care facilities and in their own homes around the world.

The commitment, expertise and care provided by all the first responders, emergency services and hospital staff gives us all the much needed courage to get through these very difficult times—*Go Raibh Mile Maith Agaibh.*

Mr. Adams established Four Courts Press in April 1970 to publish books on religion but from 1992, Four Courts Press expanded rapidly from its theology base, first into Celtic and Medieval Studies and Ecclesiastical History, and then into Modern History, Art, Literature and Law and by 1995 its range of titles had grown to such an extent that he decided to devote all his energies to the publishing house.

In 2005 Mr. Adams was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Letters by Trinity College Dublin for his contribution to academic learning. The citation read: "It is impossible to imagine the intellectual life of Ireland without Four Courts Press, our most prestigious academic publisher". Mr. Adams sadly passed away in 2009.

Four Courts Press is now under the stewardship of Martin Healy (an astute and knowledgeable publisher) and Senior Editor Martin Fanning. In line with Mr. Adam's ethos it strives continuously to change the face of scholarship in Ireland through its publications.

Whilst, under the current COVID-19 circumstances quietly marking its fiftieth anniversary, Four Courts Press is looking forward with confidence to hopefully another successful fifty years of academic publishing in Ireland.

Academic publishing is always a very challenging endeavour given the sometimes “niche” readerships for some titles, nevertheless Four Courts Press publishes circa 40 titles a year and at present there are over 800 titles in print. Now that's something to be seriously proud of and well worth celebrating.

This Society through the ‘Gazette’ has always promoted Irish publishing houses and encouraged its readers to support Irish bookstores. Please checkout the hundreds of works published by Four Courts Press on www.fourcourtspress.ie

So if you would like to mark a significant anniversary in Irish publishing during this “lockdown” - why not checkout the many titles of a genealogical interest published by Four Courts Press?

OPEN MEETINGS

Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Tuesday 14 April (Cancelled) —20.00hrs

Tuesday 12 May (Provisional)—20.00hrs

Royal Marine Hotel

Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Wednesday 22 April (Cancelled) —10.30hrs

Wednesday 27 May (Provisional) —10.30hrs

Contribution €5.00 p.p.

(including Tea/Coffee at the Morning Meeting)

GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

Book Reviews

Open Meetings

News & Events

DATA PROTECTION

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on **May 25th 2018**. The Board, under *Res: 18/05/1380*, advises Members that the Society holds the following records on its Members (1) Name; (2) Address; (3) Telephone Number; (4) Email Address and (5) the name of the Associate Member, if applicable, and that such records are **only used** for the purpose of contacting Members on Society matters and for the dispatch of the Monthly Newsletter and the Annual Journal and furthermore, that these records are **only held** by the Director of Membership Services and are **inaccessible to all other persons** and that, the **Society does not share this information** with any other individual or organisation. Records are also held for **contractual necessity** to deliver paid services.

GSi BOARD MEETINGS

With the COVID-19 restrictions the Board of the Society has been unable to meet since the Annual General Meeting and therefore, the current Board (see panel on page 4) stays in office on a pro tem basis.

In this issue.....

- Dublin Parish Accounts
- #LockdownGenealogy
- James Scannell Reports..
- Coronavirus—COVID-19
- New GSI Board Elected
- Précis of March Lecture
- Seanad General Election—extension of franchise
- News from the Board



@GenSocIreland

PROGRAMME SUSPENDED

The Society's Outreach Programme team headed **Eddie Gahan**, MGSi is currently awaiting the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions before reassessing its plans to travel the country again this year promoting genealogy.

Eddie was in discussions with various groups and event organisers, including the Irish Active Retirement Association, on the inclusion of GSI Stands at events in the Republic and Northern Ireland, but these are on hold at the moment. Update next month.

If you wish to join Eddie's team, please email him at eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com

Have you visited An Daonchartlann at the DLR Loughlinstown Leisure Centre?

Parishes of St. Bride, St. Michael Le Pole and St. Stephen

'The churchwardens' accounts of the parishes of St. Bride, St. Michael Le Pole and St. Stephen, Dublin, 1663-1742' edited by **W.J.R. Wallace**. (ISBN: 978-1-84682-835-5 : H/bk : 208pp : Price €50.00 Web-Price €45.00) is the ninth volume in the texts and calendars series published by Four Courts Press in association with the Representative Church Body Library of the Church of Ireland (Anglican/Episcopalian communion) and is of immense value to genealogists, local historians and, indeed, historians of the development of the city of Dublin.



This volume has the accounts of its churchwardens which complement the records of its vestry (committee administering the parish—see also the 2011 volume mentioned below), and reveal how the parish recovered following the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660 under Charles II and how it developed in the eighteenth century. Information on the parish church, the clergy and patterns of worship, the role of the parish officers and their interactions with the city in areas such as poor relief, firefighting and policing provide valuable insights into the local and ecclesiastical history of inner-city Dublin.

For genealogists, in particular, the volume contains a great number of lists, mostly in accounts of receipts and expenditure, which together provide possibly hundreds of names of the inhabitants of the area. Some donating to the parish, others seeking or receiving aid from the parish and then those availing of the services of the parish, particularly burials.

The lists contain surnames of various origins, the majority of which are apparently English, however, a surprising number are clearly of Gaelic origin and not necessarily those of the counties immediately surrounding Dublin. All of the names in the lists are contained in the index which makes these volumes especially useful for one-name studies or surname origin and distribution studies.

For social historians these volumes provide a wealth of information on the communities served by these parishes whether in the provision of religious services or caring for the sick and the poor. The type of assistance provided and the frequency or persistence of the various issues requiring financial help from parish funds provides a pen-picture of the society served by the parishes.

W.J.R. Wallace is editor of *Clergy of Dublin and Glendalough* (Belfast, 2001), *Clergy of Meath and Kildare* (Dublin, 2004) and *The vestry records of the parishes of St. Bride, St. Michael Le Pole and St. Stephen, Dublin, 1662-1742* (Dublin, 2011).

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the 2019 catalogue and the wonderful special offers at www.fourcourtspress.ie

MOBILE PHONE DEALS FOR MEMBERS

The Board agreed a new mobile phone deal for GSI members similar to the one that brought considerable savings on phones and calls in the past.

This offer is Sim only for First Time Customers: €20 per month inc vat. ☺ 300 off net local ,national and domestic calls. ☺ 300 off net texts. ☺ Unlimited Data. ☺ Unlimited Three to Three Talk & Text.

Are you more of a talker and texter then this is the plan for you: €28.91 per month inc vat. ☺ Unlimited calls to any network in ROI ☺ Unlimited calls to all landlines in ROI ☺ Unlimited Texts to any network in ROI ☺ 100 international minutes & 100 international texts ☺ 13GB of mobile data of which up to 11Gb can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☺ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☺ 24 month Contract

Are you more of a data/internet user, then this is the plan for you: €27 per month inc vat. ☺ Unlimited Three/Three calls in ROI ☺ Unlimited Three/Three texts in ROI ☺ 300 Minutes for off net mobile calls including domestic/national landlines in ROI ☺ 300 Texts to off net Irish mobiles. ☺ Unlimited mobile data of which up to 8GB's can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☺ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☺ 24 month Contract.

Do you need unlimited national usage for talk text

and data then this is the plan for you: €40.50 per month inc vat. ☺ Unlimited calls to any network in ROI ☺ Unlimited calls to all landlines in ROI ☺ Unlimited Texts to any network in ROI ☺ Unlimited mobile data of which up to 15GB's can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☺ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☺ 24 month Contract. Call today to discuss the best plan for you. Ph: 01 6876021 or email Conor.Spencer@threegovstaff.com

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

This Society is funded largely by its Membership Fees and the kind donations received from Members and friends at home and overseas.



The Society is a Registered Charity in Ireland and always considers options for fund raising and grant applications.

The possibility of crowdfunding for specific projects is being considered. However, in the meantime it was decided to appeal to our Members and friends. Donations can be made on-line via the Society's website or by cheque payable to the *Genealogical Society of Ireland* and forwarded to the General Secretary at: **11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland, A96 AD76.**

The Board would like to sincerely thank the Members and friends of the Society who have already donated.

#LockdownGenealogy

In the current circumstances many of us have redoubled our efforts to find those elusive ancestors—now that we can find the time to do so. #LockdownGenealogy as it has been called on social media is now attracting thousands of new family history researchers to both the free and 'pay-for-view' online resources. Many of the service providers have offered discounted or even free access for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Facebook genealogical research groups dedicated to specific regions and/or historical events are particularly popular given the need, for many, to seek advice and to share research problems and tips.

Family members wishing to involve other branches of their family in their research and to share information have set up specific **Facebook Family Group** pages or **Instagram Accounts** to facilitate and encourage a collective research environment.

The sharing of copy certificates, photographs, family lore, memorabilia and other aspects of their research is an extremely important contribution to genealogy and, hopefully, some family members will collate and peruse this research in a comprehensible narrative for future generations.

Another feature of #LockdownGenealogy is catching up on reading, especially, on the gems of **historical fiction** now available.

Last month due to the requirement to publish the Annual Report and other matters appertaining to the AGM, the review by **June Brady** of *'The Killing Snows'* by **Charles Egan** was held over until this month.

When June Brady met the author Charles Egan he stressed that although his book is a work of fiction, the events that inspired it were horrifically real. They are based on his extensive research undertaken on a box of very old documents found on a farm in the west of Ireland in 1990. The documents had been stored for over hundred years and told an incredible story of suffering, love and courage.

This story is set in 1846 during the Great Famine in Ireland and during the terrible snows of 1847. June Brady while hugely admiring the painstaking research that went into the production of this historical novel, she described it as "harrowing in the detail" and the images conveyed of "starving people, including children, known as "fox" children".

June Brady was particularly moved by the fact that "woven through it all was a love story of two people me during the worst days" providing a "very potent mix of fact and fiction" which both broadens its appeal, but also deepens the narrative.

Asked whether she "enjoyed the read", June Brady said "I can't really say I "enjoyed" it—a very sad, difficult and compelling read" - "it is like looking back through one's own family transfixed with deep feelings of grief, anger and occasional moments of tearful joy".

This book is the first of a trilogy and June Brady explains that although the urge to move directly into the second of the three is strong, a time to reflect on this hugely tragic period of Irish history is required. Charles Egan's book brings home to the modern reader that these were people, not merely statistics, not nameless victims, but our own flesh and blood.

This trilogy is highly recommended reading for all with an interest in An Gorta Mór—checkout: www.charlesegan.ie

In Brief....

GSI MEMBERSHIP

Join on-line at www.familyhistory.ie
Please note that GSI Membership is open to all interested in genealogy and related subjects. Discounted membership rates available for under 25s and students at recognised genealogy courses.

IDEAL GIFT IDEAS

Genealogists and local historians love books! So if you have a gift to buy—think books by our Members. Much of the research for these books was undertaken at the Society's Archive & Research Centre—*An Daonchartlann*.

'*Victorian Dún Laoghaire*' by Tom Conlon—excellent local history of the town and the first to deal extensively with the poor and "the courts" where they lived. Price: €20.00

MONTHLY LECTURE PROGRAMME

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Irish government during the COVID-19 pandemic the Society's Open Meeting schedule has been suspended until further notice.

The schedule of lectures is currently under review to rearrange the slots in line with the availability of the guest speakers.

The Board very much appreciates the wonderful cooperation and encouragement received from the guest speakers as we endeavour to reschedule talks over the coming months.

The next issue of this newsletter will have more information on the rescheduled lecture programme.

We welcome comments and suggestions on the lecture programme. Please contact **Tony O'Hara, MGSi**, Coordinator of the Society's Monthly Lecture Programme by email at toharads1@gmail.com

CHECKOUT our YouTube Channel for past lectures. www.youtube.com

PARKING AT DFEI

Car-parking facilities at the **Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**. The best option is to use public transport. Dublin Bus nos. 7, 7A, 46A and 75 all serve the college or streets adjacent to the college—Lower George's Street, York Road, Clarence Street. The DART (suburban rail) services to Salthill & Monkstown. On street car-parking is usually available in the area also. Members are asked to consider 'car pooling' for each month's open meeting. For details on the Institute and its courses please checkout www.dfei.ie



www.eneclann.ie



Some of the Archival Collections in An Daonchartlann, Loughlinstown. (Photo: Tom Conlon)

James Scannell Reports...

APRIL LECTURE PROGRAMME

Due to the restrictions announced by the Government on Thursday March 12th to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by restricting public meetings and gatherings, the introduction of social distancing, and the closing of schools, colleges, museums and galleries, all lectures and meetings of local history societies have been cancelled and will not resume until permitted to do so.

Publications:

'*Dublin Historical Record – Autumn/Winter 2019*', Editor **Dr. Séamas Ó Maitiú**, published by the Old Dublin Society.

A self portrait of Sarah Cecilia Harrison, reproduced by kind permission of the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin's first female city councillor, is the front cover illustration for this issue as it relates to one of the articles in it.

Articles featured in this issue of the *Dublin Historical Record*, which has the wider world of Dublin's Industrial, business, economic, and social life as a common theme, include the following -

'In Around the Town' Dr. Séamas Ó Maitiú reflects on various events that have taken place in the city including the presentation of the Lord Mayor's Certificate in Local studies to students who completed this course over 2018/2019, and the discovery of the walls of one of Dublin's most important eighteenth and the nineteenth century Catholic chapels in Townsend Street.

Margaret Smith in 'Samuel Clayton, Forger Freemason Freeman' provides a biography of this former Dublin engraver who died in New South Wales, Australia, in 1853.

Brenda Ryan in 'The Monument Creamery Ltd (1918-1966): 100 Year's Anniversary' provides a brief history of this unique Irish business which at his peak had 24 shops, 2 cafés, and 2 bakeries but ceased operation in the 1960s due to changes in retail patterns, a fate suffered by several well known Irish brand names.

Thomas A. Burke in his biography of 'Sarah Cecilia Harrison: Dublin's first female city councillor', elected in 1912 reveals the attempts to unseat her on various technicalities and her outstanding work on the Housing Committee and Paving Committee. Failing to be re-elected in 1915 and in 1920, she devoted her remaining years until her death in 1941 to portrait painting and exhibiting.

Fergal McCabe in 'Down with Dublin! - Frank Gibney and the role of Dublin in the vision of the nation' recalls the work of this architect who drew up many visionary plans for Dublin which were never implemented by Dublin Corporation, in which he argued for proper and orderly development of the city.

Public disorder in eighteenth century Dublin is recalled by Hugh O'Reilly in 'The Theatre Royal bottle riot of 1822 and the Orange Order in Dublin', an event which brought the end of over a century of popular expressions of Orangeism in Dublin.

John Healy writing about his paternal grandfather Liam Devlin in 'Liam Devlin, BB Toffee and Gloucester Street Lower' tells the story of his grandfather's remarkable life and businesses, and the various candy products he produced.

Seán Donnelly in 'An "odd" incident at the Yellow Lion Inn, Thomas Street, 1739' provides an addendum to Audrey Mac Cready's article 'The Yellow Lion Inn - one building, 260 years of Irish history' published in a 2015 issue of the *Dublin Historical Record*, by recalling a strange incident in the building.

Paul Huddle in 'The Seaton Needlework Association: Dublin's British military charity, 1854-2014' reveals the long lasting and valuable work of this association and fund, one of many little know charities in Dublin.

'Christmas 1918 in Kingstown & Dalkey' is recalled by James Scannell who provides a picture of those in south Dublin celebrated the first Christmas following the signing of the 11 November 1918 Armistice.

Other items in this publication are Society News, Book Notices and Reviews, and Obituaries to Rev. Dudley Levistone Cooney, and Kurt Kullman. Copies of this journal can be obtained directly from the Old Dublin Society via www.olddublintown.ie or by email to olddublintown@gmail.com. **James Scannell**

CORONAVIRUS—COVID-19

The national containment measures introduced by the government, health authorities or the local authority currently prevent the Board from meeting as scheduled in order to conduct the normal day-to-day running of the Society, however, the Board agreed to the following under **Res: 20/03/1497** at its meeting on March 5th 2020.

The Company Secretary shall be **authorised to process payments** that would normally be submitted to the Board Meetings for approval and processing.

The Company Secretary, in consultation with An Cathaoirleach, shall liaise with the managements of the following venues in respect of the **Open Meetings – Royal Marine Hotel and the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute** – in order to be in a position to advise our Members in the event of either venue being rendered unavailable due to the current situation with COVID-19.

The Company Secretary, in conjunction with An Cathaoirleach, shall liaise with the managements of **Park House and the DLR Leisure Centre at Loughlinstown** in respect of the availability of these premises.

The Company Secretary, in conjunction with An Cathaoirleach, shall be **authorised to cancel any scheduled meeting, event or service provision** in line with the professional advice received in respect of COVID-19.

These measures shall remain at the disposal of the Company Secretary for the duration of the current containment period in respect of COVID-19, however, the Board shall be required to give effect to their continuance by a simple resolution at each subsequent Board Meeting following the adoption of this resolution. Also see: www.hse.ie

NEW BOARD FOR 2020-2021

The **Annual General Meeting** was held on Tuesday March 10th 2020 which elected the new Board of Directors of the Society for 2020-2021.

An Cathaoirleach (Chair), **Gerard Hayden**; Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-Chair), **James Walsh**; General Secretary, **Michael Merrigan** and Director of Finance, **Lua Ó Scoláir** and the following without portfolio: **Barry O'Connor**, **Séamus Moriarty**, **Eddie Gahan** and **Shane Wilson**. The portfolios will be allocated at the first Board Meeting after the Annual General Meeting. (see page 4)

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by **John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI**

The Society strongly recommends to anyone embarking on their family history quest that one essential piece of kit must be, without doubt, a copy of the **FIFTH** edition of '*Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*'. Please checkout the website www.gillmacmillan.com Price €24.99 [RRP].

Précis of the March Lecture

'The Irish DNA Atlas – Revealing Irish History through Genetics' by Dr. Edmund Gilbert. (RCSI)

Ed, who recently achieved his doctorate in the RCSI, was back to give us an update on the progress of the ongoing DNA Atlas project. The project commenced in 2011 and the guidelines were that a DNA sample was required in addition to a detailed birth pedigree sheet of the subject, whose lineage followed the rule that all predecessors as far back as four generations (great grandparents) lived within 50 km of one another. This was his third time to talk with our group and the results so far have made the project a great success. Ed outlined the four key areas which he wanted to talk about having first giving an overview of the project, followed by a progress report, he then went on to talk about the Ireland / Scotland research and he finally concluded with comments and acknowledgements.

The *Irish DNA Atlas* has contributed to multiple published studies and continues to contribute to other research. On the project progress front, Ed is currently investigating rare genetic variation within the Irish DNA Atlas and generating new genotype data. Also the DNA Atlas is being used as a high quality Irish reference genomes to other analyses such as the Irish kidney diseases genetics and the Irish Traveller genetic analyses. Ed displayed a 3 dimensional "fine Structure Clustering" graphical illustration, which shows the close relationship that exists between people from different regions. This 3D illustration is then converted into a geographic illustration of the map of Ireland and the genetic separation is clear for all to see.

Focusing on the Irish/ Scotland research we saw a similar 3D "fine Structure Clustering" graph which was colour coded in order to show English, Welsh, Scottish, Irish and Scottish Islands. This measured the degree of haplotype sharing between all British / Irish individuals and its measured genetic distances. Likewise this graphic then converted to a geographically correct map to give relevance to the study. Using a new analysis tool called SOURCEFIND which performed haplotype based analysis showing the results of his investigation, comparing Ireland, Scotland, Orkney and Shetland against source DNA from England, Ireland Scotland, Norway and Denmark.

Ed then spoke about a recent study of Icelandic ancient DNA which reported Norse and Gaelic first settlers, where the remains of ancient bodies were analysed and compared to what we now know about the DNA structures. The objective was to measure the affinity between two test populations and possibly establish more precisely the origin of the ancient bodies. Using the knowledge acquired with the Irish DNA Atlas project and the Scottish study this provided a greater Gaelic resolution with the samples of Ireland and Scotland.



Ed finished off this talk commenting that the DNA Atlas has revealed fine-scale structure across Ireland and neighbouring Scotland, revealing genetic variations across the landscape which is very useful for research in diseases and historical research. It is producing high impact research outcomes like papers, reference material and in Ed's case PhD's. Acknowledgements were made to Professor Gianpiero Cavalleri of the RCSI and this Society (Photo. Prof. Cavalleri, left, with Séamus O'Reilly, GSI) for their participation in the project and to Prof Jim Wilson of *Generation Scotland* and Prof Agnar Helgason from Iceland.

The lecture was very well received and the audience went away with plenty of information to analyse and absorb. Many thanks Ed for a wonderful evening.

The full talk can be accessed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKXIyQJTJY&feature=youtu.be>

Tony O'Hara, MGSI

Checkout the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

SEANAD ÉIREANN GENERAL ELECTION

The Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Tuesday March 10th 2020 unanimously endorsed the following proposal (**Res: 20/03/1503**) which was agreed by the Board on March 5th 2020.

Proposal: That, in order to promote a greater awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the Society's obligations and role as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann amongst our Members and the general public, that the Board, in accordance with *Standing Order 13.v.*, establish a mechanism for extending the voting rights in the selection process for a candidate to contest the next Seanad Éireann General Election to all Members of the Society and, that this proposal be placed before the Members for approval or otherwise at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 10th March 2020.

The question put at the Annual General Meeting was "Do you agree that voting rights for the Society's nominee to contest the next Seanad Éireann General Election should be extended to all Members of the Society?" YES / NO" and the Members unanimously voted "YES".

The Board will now establish a mechanism to give effect to the above for the next Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) General Election where all Members of the Society, irrespective of country of residence, will have a vote to select the Society's nominee for candidature on the Culture and Educational Panel. It would be interesting to know how many Seanad Éireann Nominating Bodies allow their ordinary members to make this decision.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

The AGM elected a new Board of Directors on Tuesday March 10th 2020, however, due to the current restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the new Board has been unable to meet to complete the registration of the new Directors and the signing of the 'Director's Declaration' and forms for the Companies Registration Office. Therefore, the current Board (see panel above right) remains in place in a caretaker capacity until the first meeting of the new Board.

The new Director of Finance, **Lua Ó Scolai**, has taken over from the Acting Director of Finance as and from April 1st 2020 and will take custody of the financial records and files when restrictions permit.

Although some of our Directors are currently observing the public health advice to "cocoon" in their homes, all are strictly adhering to the "lockdown" and attending to our portfolios during these restrictions.

To provide for this capability the Board, at its meeting on March 5th 2020, adopted **Res; 20/03/1497** (see page 3) which allows for the administration of the Society to continue during the "lockdown". This also provides for the "signing off" of the Annual Audited Accounts and their submission to the Companies Registration Office. The accounts are currently with the auditor.

The current Non-Executive Officers of the Society, normally reconfirmed at the first meeting of the Board after the Annual General Meeting, also remain in office until that meeting can be held.

The "lockdown" has resulted in the suspension of the Open Meetings and the Outreach Programme until further notice. It has also delayed the publication of the 'Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland' in an electronic format as confirmation on the new ISSN is awaited from the National Library of Ireland. The Society's Archive & Research Centre remains closed until the national restrictions are lifted by the government.

The General Election for Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) was held and although coming very close, the Society's nominee Councillor Joe Conway of Waterford City & County Council was not elected. The Society's 2016 nominee, Senator Fintan Warfield, was re-elected on the Culture & Educational Panel and long-time Member of the Society, Senator Victor Boyhan, was re-elected on the Agricultural Panel. We wish Fintan and Victor every success and commend Joe on his very strong campaign.

The "lockdown" is set to continue until May 5th 2020, however, it is not yet clear whether the Board will be in a position to meet as scheduled on Thursday May 7th and whether the open Meeting scheduled for Tuesday May 12th 2020 can go ahead. Updates will be posted on social media.

General Secretary

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The Society is a Nominating Body for
Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate)

Board of Directors (caretaker**)

Gerry Hayden (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson);
Tony O'Hara (pro tem Leas-Chathaoirleach :
Vice-Chairperson & Open Meetings Convener);
Michael Merrigan (General Secretary, Compa-
ny Secretary, 'Gazette' Editor, RF:- Oifigeach
na Gaeilge, Vexillological & Heraldic Services,
& Irish DNA Atlas); **Lua Ó Scolai** (Finance &
pro-tem ADF, Philanthropy) and pro tem
(Archive & Research Centre); **Eddie Gahan**
(Outreach & Education); **Barry O'Connor**
(Membership Services & Cemetery Projects);
Séamus Moriarty (Building & Utilities, Health
& Safety Officer); **Vacant** (Public Relations &
Diaspora Outreach) (seven members)

** SEE: 'News from the Board' below. **

(Journal Editor & Video Production—Tom Conlon as
a non-executive officer as and from 06.02.2020 under
Res; 20/02/1490)

Board limited to ten Members with a quorum of six.

"HALL'S INDEX"

The "Gazette" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world. All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor back to 1996 have been fully indexed by the late **Brendan Hall, MGSI** and they are available in pdf format to read or to download free of charge on www.familyhistory.ie

Although we're not members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), the team at the "Gazette" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the **NUJ Code of Conduct** www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/ and in line with the 'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland' which was endorsed by the Genealogical Society of Ireland back in June 2014 soon after its launch at the Royal Irish Academy. (see the June 2014 issue at www.familyhistory.ie)

GENEALOGY HELP CENTRE

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archive and Research Centre is located at the DLR Leisure Centre, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.

CLOSED due to the COVID-19 situation.

The use of our extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members, however, day research membership is always

