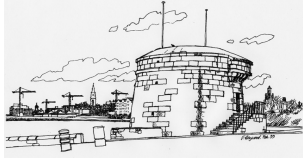


- Official Opening of Headquarters
- Presentation to Society's Archive
- New Website – A Work in Progress

Editor: E-mail: GenSocIreland@iol.ie TEL: +353.1. 284 2711



The Gene Gene

The Newsletter of
the **Genealogical
Society of Ireland**
Volume 9 • Issue 8
August 2004



OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW HEADQUARTERS

Countdown to the Official Opening of An Daonchartlann at the Martello Tower

Nearly seven years of planning, fund raising and following the complete restoration of the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin – the Society's new headquarters is to be opened officially next month. This is a milestone in the fourteen year history of this Society and it represents another first for Irish genealogy as this is the only family history society in the Republic to have its own premises.

"A Dream Come True"

According to one of the founders of this Society, **Frieda Carroll, FGSi** "we had this objective since the very first day we decided to establish the Genealogical Society in late summer 1990 and now its here –it's a dream come true." The members of the Board and the members of successive Executive Committees since October 1990 worked very hard to achieve this particular aim of the organisation to have a permanent home for the Society's Archive.

"Anguish & Disappointment"

On the road to achieve this success many long hours of anguish and disappointment were to be endured before the allocation by the County Council of the Martello Tower to the Society in 1997 and then when planning permission was sought for the restoration. Objections and challenges to the granting of planning permission threatened to derail the whole process. A successful defence of our plans was very skilfully and decisively executed at **An Bord Pleanála** (The Planning Board). The case against the Society's plans was completely destroyed and as not one

modicum of comfort was achieved by the objectors – work could commence with earnest in February 2003.

"Restored & Refurbished"

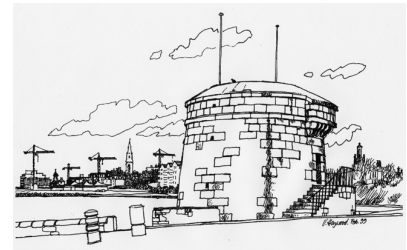
The Martello Tower at Seapoint was left unoccupied since 1988 when it was seasonally used as a shop and in this period the wooden floors and staircase deteriorated badly. Though, certainly not the original flooring of this two hundred year old building, a question was raised about a large centre wooden beam. After much debate on how to incorporate this beam into the restoration works, our Archaeologist, **Christian Corlett** and the County Council's Conservation Officer, **Majella Walsh** agreed that this beam was not the original beam. Excavations on the ground floor discovered evidence of three separate rooms and the walls of which, and not this later wooden beam, supported the floor above. The beam was removed and work proceeded at a pace taking care to execute each task in accordance with best practice in conservation and restoration. The Society's Project Director, **Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSi** meticulously planned the restoration of the Martello Tower with the assistance of **Barry O'Connor, FGSi** who designed and constructed the workbenches, shelving and service areas. The works now complete this building is a real treasure to behold and it's certainly the gem of the world of Irish genealogy.

"Official Opening"

Last month the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland held its first meeting at our new headquarters and the main item on the agenda was the countdown to the official opening of An

Daonchartlann on Wednesday September 15th 2004. The ceremony will be performed by the first citizen of the County of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, **Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach** – Cathaoirleach of the County Council. The official opening will take place at 14.30hrs with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. This will be an important occasion not only for the Society and the owners of the Martello Tower the County Council, but for Irish genealogy in general. Unlike many national societies in Great Britain, the USA and Australia, where having a society premises is almost the norm, here in the Republic until now no voluntary genealogical organisation had its own premises.

"An Daonchartlann"



The above drawing of the Martello Tower at Seapoint by the renowned local artist and arts educator **Ms Veronica Heywood** (E-mail heywood59@hotmail.com) was completed in February 1999. It captures a period of much development in the Dún Laoghaire area with four large cranes engaged in the construction of apartments and offices in and around the Town. This drawing also shows the Tower before restoration works had commenced as the building looks somewhat forlorn and neglected. But now visitors to the building remark on the quality of the restoration

works and marvel at its architectural beauty and the functionality and simplicity of its design. “**An Daonchartlann**” as the Society’s Archive is called comes from the Irish “*peoples’ archive*” indicating its central function and objective – the collection, preservation and making available for research of genealogical, heraldic and social history resources.

“*This Month’s Task*”

The Society’s archival collections have been in secure storage since their removal from the home of our Archivist in June. The task now is to receive these collections at the Martello Tower. Volunteers will be required to sort, catalogue and shelve the collections in the new archival storage area constructed by **Barry O’Connor, FGSI**. Members wishing to assist with this task should contact the Hon. Secretary at the above telephone number or by e-mail. A detailed plan for this task is being finalised drawing on the valuable experience gained during last year’s computerisation of the archive under the direction of **Aidan Synnott, MGSI** in the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education. This project was concluded within the timeframe allocated and all but the manuscript collection was successfully computerised. This more delicate task was left until the Tower was ready to receive the Society’s Archive.

“*Last Chance for Entries*”

The *Commemorative Booklet* to be published to mark the official opening of the Society’s new headquarters will be going to print at the end of August. So this is the last chance for those wishing to become a sponsor and be named in the *Commemorative Booklet*. Sponsors may have either their own name or that of a loved-one entered in this *Commemorative Booklet* and on a scroll that will be permanent memorial in the Tower. For just €100.00 (US\$125.00) per name, this is a special and worthy manner in which to remember an ancestor, to honour a friend or loved-one or to memorialise your family ties with Ireland. Another way of helping is to send what you can as donations no matter how modest are all very welcome. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at the address below with details of the name or names to be entered on the scroll and published in the commemorative book to mark the official opening of “*An Daonchartlann*” on September 15th 2004.

“*Members’ Preview Days*”

In order that our members will have an opportunity to view the new headquarters prior to the Official Opening on Wednesday 15th September, the Board of the Society has arranged two special preview days for Members. Two afternoons from 14.30hrs to 17.00hrs on **Saturday August 28th** and **Saturday September 4th** have been allocated for the previews. Members are reminded that entry to the Martello Tower will be on production of your valid Membership Card only. Under no circumstances will any children

be permitted on the premises. Members will be able to see for themselves the magnificent restoration and refurbishment of this historic 200 year old Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday August 10th 2004

Evening Open Meeting. 20.00hrs
Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education,
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, and 75.
DART Monkstown/Salthill Station.

Speaker: **Mr. James Scannell**
Topic: “*Capt. Harman Goertz*”

Tuesday September 14th 2004

Venue as above
Topic: “*Irish Architectural Archive as a genealogical resource*”

Wednesday 15th September 2004

Martello Tower, Seapoint, Co. Dublin
Official Opening of
An Daonchartlann at 14.30hrs
by **Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach**, Cathaoirleach
of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Weds. Aug. 25th & Sept. 22nd 2004

Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs
The Port View Hotel
Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire
Discussion Group on Family History

Contribution of €3.00 at each meeting
Coffee/Tea served at Morning Meetings

BOOK REVIEWS

“**World War 1 Army Ancestry**” (Fourth Edition) by **Norman Holding** revised and updated by **Iain Swinnerton** and published by the Federation of Family History Societies. ISBN 1 86006 179 6 – Price UK£6.95. This is the latest in a valuable series of publications by the Federation aimed at assisting persons researching ancestors who served in the British armed forces. As many thousands of Irishmen served in the imperial forces over the centuries these publications offer much by way of advice, information and research tips for Irish genealogists. Indeed the Great War of 1914-1918 claimed an estimated 49,000 Irishmen and besides having the basic details of name, rank, regiment and serial number, many of us know little of the culture and life in the British forces at the time. This book brings together the various types of records and their locations. Each section is devoted to a separate aspect of army records from soldiers’ personal service records to listings of units, regiments and battalions. A very useful listing is provided of the various battles fought during the war and arranged chronologically. This is a great help in identifying the series of battles in which your ancestor may have participated or indeed, been wounded or killed. The section on War Diaries is fascinating in that it provides information on a source not too widely known.

Army life in France is explained with details of the recruiting and enlisting of men and their transportation to the front line. The entitlements to leave while on front line duty is explained with some horrifying facts like in December 1917 over 115,000 had no leave for 12 months and 5,000 had no leave for 18 months. Leave was 14 days inclusive of travelling time so, as the authors claim, the time from the front line to front door for most in England and Wales was 48 hours, it must have been at least another 12 to 24 hours for those living in Ireland. The book provides a very good explanation of the best research methods employed in army research. Indeed, with a extensive bibliography and useful appendices, this publication is a must for all researching British Army records for the First World War.

“**Words from Wills and other probate records**” by **Stuart A Raymond** and published by the Federation of Family History Societies. ISBN 1 86006 181 8 – Price UK£8.50. This is yet another very useful resource published by the Federation and indeed, the author is to be congratulated on a work that not only serves genealogist and local historians. This publication also provides a resource for the student of the development of language. It is a fascinating font of words used by various sections of society over the 300 year period from Tudor times down to George III in England. More like a dictionary than a genealogical resource, this publication brings to the reader a flavour of the social fabric that harboured and understood these somewhat quaint and possibly, now obscure words. The source of the words collected here is indicated by use of the Chapman Codes for the English counties. For most readers, possibly outside rural England, many of the terms are strange emanating from Old English, Norman French or indeed, Norse in areas like Cumberland and Northumbria. However, it is unfortunate that the language root source of each term was not included, but to be fare to the author, this work was not meant to be a lexicon for students of Old English or linguists. Terms such as “**agistment**” (feeding animals in a park, forest etc for a fee), “**barkham**” (leather pad protecting a horse’s collar against the harness), “**clatts**” (cow dung fuel) and “**philltugs**” (two pieces of wood on a horses collar) all give a flavour of the agricultural world of these three centuries. Other terms refer to household goods and parts of the house and its adjoining lands. An interesting and useful resource is the inclusion of terms for colours for example “**philemort**” (a tawny colour), “**gingerline**” (a reddish-violet colour) and “**dow**” (faded or reddish brown). Some of these words we use in Ireland today but are long gone in England. Words like “**delph**” (earthenware dishes originally made in Delft, Holland) – this term is still in use to describe household tableware in Irish homes and, of course, “**press**” meaning cupboard. Both words are almost synonymous with Hiberno-English. Both of these

publications are available directly from the **Federation of Family History Societies**, Units 15-16, Chesham Industrial Centre, Oram Street, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 6EN, England or Website www.familyhistorybooks.co.uk The Genealogical Society of Ireland has been a member of the Federation for circa thirteen years and our members greatly value these publications by the Federation.

AUGUST GENIE UPDATES.....

INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL FESTIVAL The staff at the Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Centre will be hosting a major genealogical festival from **September 30th to October 3rd 2004**. The festival is divided into two strands aimed at the genealogist and those with a wider interest in Irish culture and heritage. Further information: contact Gerard Creamer, Festival Coordinator, Aras Reddan, Temple Street, Sligo, Ireland. E-mail: heritagesligo@eircom.net

POSTAGE RATES The Society's Membership Officer has noted that many letters originating in Great Britain are taking a long time to arrive due to insufficient postage being paid by the senders. Please check the postage rates for Ireland when mailing items from Great Britain.

US & UK CURRENCIES The exchange rate for check or cash in US dollars **€1.00 = US\$1.25** and for British pounds **€1.00 = 0.70p**. These rates apply to all purchases and membership subscriptions transacted in the currencies concerned. Alternatively why not pay by Credit Card – MasterCard or VISA via the Website?

NEWFOUNDLAND The island of Newfoundland – part of the easternmost province of Canada is home to population that could be up to 75% of Irish origin mainly from the counties of Munster and south Leinster. Indeed, the Irish language flourished here until, in some places, the late 19th century. In the previous century advertisements looking for Catholic priests to serve in Newfoundland stipulated that they must have the Irish language to serve the spiritual needs of their flock. The accent of many in Newfoundland is sometimes indistinguishable from many an Irish accent of their ancestral counties in Ireland. This special relationship has been carefully nurtured in recent years with the development of many cultural and business links between the Canadian province and Ireland, especially between Waterford and St. John's the provincial capital. A new publication is likely to be eagerly sought by all with an interest in the Irish of Newfoundland has just been launched by the Maritime History Archive. It is a CD of more than 40,000 entries for births, marriages and deaths transcribed from 43 Newfoundland newspapers published between 1810 and 1890. The database includes 35 searchable fields such as first and last names, age, place of abode, date of event,

parents' names, presiding cleric and cause of death. This is a monumental piece of work and it was the life work of the compiler **Gertrude Crosbie (Née Murray) (1925-2004)** – this was a twenty five year volunteer research project undertaken with outstanding commitment. This sort of dedication though not unknown in the field of genealogy is always a source of great encouragement and inspiration to us all. Copies of this CD may be obtained for CAN\$54.95 (International Orders) from the **Maritime History Archive**, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada, A1C 5S7. E-mail: mha@mun.ca or via the Website: www.mun.ca/mha/

PARNELL SUMMER SCHOOL The theme for this year's Parnell Summer School which takes place at Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow from **Sunday August 15th to Friday August 20th** is Ireland Real and Ideal encompassing concerns about Irish lived experience both historical and contemporary. This strand will feed into the School's concern with the memory and legacy of Charles Stewart Parnell and the Parnell Family. It will also follow reflections on wider themes and problems, both historical and contemporary. Themes will include:- The Parnell Legacy; The Abbey Theatre - One Hundred Years; Filming Irish History; James Joyce and Parnell; Women and the Irish Revival; Celebrating Irish Forestry; The Undoing of Irish Catholicism; Reflection on the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Participants will include:- **Colm Tobin** (novelist); **Bernard Adams** (biographer); **Louise Fuller** (NUI Maynooth); **Lionel Pilkington** (NUI Galway); **Catherine Morris** (QUB); **Katherine O'Callaghan** (UCD); **Ben Levitas** (Goldsmiths College, London); **Derek Hand** (St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra). Further information & bookings from **Ms Deirdre Larkin** at Tel: +353-1- 285 2113 or by E-mail: secretary@parnellsociety.com Website: www.parnellsociety.com

QUERIES PUBLISHED

Queries from Members and friends will be published in *"The Genie Gazette"* provided that a full postal address is provided with each query. Queries with just an E-mail address will **NOT** be published as it has been noted that E-mail addresses are changed frequently and thus, a person reading such a query in a few months time cannot make contact with the person placing the query in this newsletter. **REMEMBER**, this Society does not undertake commercial research assignments whether in the Society's own Archive or in other repositories. **HOWEVER**, by placing a query with an offer of reciprocal research in your part of the world, publication can assist in the location of a Member or other reader willing to undertake research for you. The terms governing such reciprocal research are

entirely a matter for the parties concerned and, therefore, the Society is not responsible in anyway for such arrangements. *EDITOR*

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

Vol. 5 No. 2 – Summer 2004

The Summer 2004 issue of the Society's quarterly journal is now available price €5.00 (Member €4.50) and once again, the Editor, **Margaret Conroy, MGSi** has provided us with an array of interesting and informative articles. Indeed, many of the articles in this issue are resources in themselves. The cover features a photograph of the elaborately beautiful memorial over the grave of the famous Irish playwright and wit Oscar Wilde who was buried in Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, France. James Robinson gives us a rare insight into an otherwise unknown friend and benefactor of Mr. Wilde's – Helen Carew. This wonderful piece was researched and written to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the birth of Oscar Wilde this year. Other articles in this issue include: **"A Letter from Arthur Vicars"** by Fr. Ignatius Fennessey; **"Post Office Staff on the RMS Leinster"** by Philip Lecane, **"An Litir, An Comhairle agus An Leabhair"** by Seán Mac Brádaigh, **"Cakes Went to Charity"** by Margaret Conroy, **"A Doctor on the Leinster"** by Fr. Ignatius Fennessey, **"Byrne Memorials in the Cemetery of the Holy Cross, Arklow"** by Seán Mac Brádaigh, **"Enniskillen Advertisements 1897"** by Gaye Asford, **"The Sligo Petioners 1826"** by Gaye Ashford, **"Parents of Chamber Music"** by David Hope, Diana Hope & David Morris, **"News from the Past"** by James Scannell, **"Shirley Estate Loan Book 1827 to 1845"** by Róisín Lafferty & Catherine McVeigh, **"Oscar Wilde's Friend & Benefactor Helen Carew (c1854-1928)"** by James Robinson and **"Ordinations 1940"** by James Scannell. This issue of the journal has a different binding as the opportunity to continue with the "perfect binding" was no longer available to the Society, however, amongst the advantages of this new binding is durability. The Editor of the Quarterly Journal is always looking for new articles to publish. Why not drop Margaret a line on e-mail: mmeconroy@eircom.net or write to **The Journal Editor**, Genealogical Society of Ireland, 3, Kill Abbey, Kill O' The Grange, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. Articles for the Autumn issue should reach Margaret before August 20th 2004.

THE LAST OF THE PIMBURYS

One of our Members drew our attention to an article that appeared in *"The Irish Daily Mirror"* on July 27th 2004 by **Geoffrey Lakeman**. The piece concerned the search by **Mike Pimbury** and genealogist **Karen Bali** for the roots and branches of this unusual surname. Their research has revealed that Mike could be the last of the Pimburys in Great Britain or Ireland and that the family dwindled from eight men in Great Britain recorded in the

1901 census and just four others in Canada. According to Lakeman, many died childless or had daughters. Mike believes he is the last and that there is little chance of meeting another **Pimbury**. Anyone with good news for Mike should contact Karen Bali on Tel: 00-44-23806-2243 or by e-mail: info@people-search.co.uk We wish Mike well in his possible forlorn search for another Pimbury – but you never know, there maybe be one somewhere in the world – maybe in Ireland!!

JOINING THE SOCIETY

The Society always welcomes new Members from Ireland and overseas. If you wish to join, it's easy - just log on to the Society's Website or write to the Membership Officer, **Mrs. Annette McDonnell**, MGS, 4, Kippure Ave., Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland. You may also contact Annette by E-mail via the Hon. Secretary GenSocIreland@iol.ie Membership of the Society is open to all with an interest in genealogy or heraldry. A laminated Membership Card featuring the Society's heraldic badge "*the Mungovan Badge*" will be forwarded to you by mail. Overseas Members and those Irish Members living outside Co. Dublin receive the monthly newsletter "*The Genie Gazette*" by mail each month. The Annual Membership Fee for Irish based Members living in either the Republic or Northern Ireland is just €20.00 and it falls due on January 1st each year. The Annual Membership Fee for Overseas Members is €25.00 and falls due on the anniversary date of joining. Membership renewals may be made via the Website by Credit Card (VISA or MasterCard) or by Cheque / Check.

PRESENTATION TO THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVE

Society Vice-President, **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC** presented the Society's Archive with a beautifully bound collection – "**Irish Jewish Memorial Inscriptions and Early Synagogues – Ballybough, Dublin 1748-1908**". Compiled by Stuart himself this collection of articles, photographs and memorial inscriptions is, in fact, his second volume on the Irish Jewish community. This volume contains information on the following synagogues – **Crane Lane** (c 1700-1762), **Marlborough Green** (1762-1790), **Stafford Street** (1882-1836), **Mary's Abbey** (1836-1892), **Adelaide Road** (1892-1999) and Minutes from **Granville Hall** (United Hebrew Congregation) (1907) and **Lennox Street** Minutes (182-1900). The 159 pages of this valuable collection will be a major source for researching Jewish ancestry in the city of Dublin. Stuart has certainly become the nation's expert on Jewish genealogy as he has undertaken research in many parts of the island of Ireland tracking down records and literally unearthing the history and lifetimes of Ireland's Jewish communities in places as far apart as

Belfast, Limerick and Cork. Undoubtedly, without Stuart's dedication and tenacity, much of the fascinating story of this community would either be lost or remain untold. Though, small in numbers, it is abundantly clear that the Irish Jewish communities played a very significant role in the history and development of their country. Their involvement in the political, educational, cultural and industrial life of modern Ireland is a story of commercial success, public service, artistic endeavour and achievement in many fields. This volume compiled by Stuart Rosenblatt is a wonderful gift to the Society's Archive for which we are very sincerely grateful.

GRAPHIC FAMILY TREE SERVICE

VISUAL ARTIST & GRAPHIC DESIGNER OFFERS THIS SERVICE AT REASONABLE AND AFFORDABLE COST

Artist based in Dún Laoghaire will work with you to produce a beautiful graphic presentation of your Family Tree in full colour, with all your photographs of family members included. All you have to do is complete a standard family tree chart or Birth Brief and send all relevant photographs, clearly identifying the individuals as per the chart. Each person will be framed, and the complete document printed on a textured background, with Crests and any text you may require - you decide the level of information to be included. We will work in close consultation with you at all stages of the project. Costs are based on the number and quality of the images involved. Confidentiality and security guaranteed. We also specialise in Photographic Restoration. CONTACT **Frankie Lee** at 087.782 0932 or E-mail: frankielee@eircom.net for more information.

QUERIES RECEIVED

WAYNE WRIGHT, 1320, Beuna Vista Blvd., Lot # 80, Panama City, Florida, 324401, USA. Wrote:- Looking for information on Maurice **Carroll** who was born circa 1800 in Co. Kerry. He married Bridget **Connor** (b. 1801/2) and they had my great great great grandmother Ellen Carroll who was born on June 22nd 1827 in possibly Listowel, Co. Kerry. Any details on this marriage or family or connections most appreciated.

FRED L. McGUIRE, 12250, Greenwood Ave. N. Apt. # 305, Seattle, Washington, 98133, USA. E-mail: amfm3637@comcast.net Wrote: My great great grandfather Henry j. McGuire was born in County Tyrone according to his son around 1775. According to Joseph **McGuire**, his son, Henry's father was a large man at six feet, three inches tall and his grandfather was a giant at six feet, eight inches tall. Henry emigrated to America in 1810, married an English born Maryland lady and settled in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. I have a complete history of the descendants from Joseph down to my grandchildren. Any information that might be of help would be greatly appreciated.

www.familyhistory.ie

Following the appointment of **Iris O'Connor**, MGS, to the Board of the Society as Web Design, Developer & Editor it was agreed to proceed to develop our own Website. The Society acquired and registered the above domain name for its new Website. Though, the Society has appeared on the web for a number of years now this facility was provided by www.dun-laoghaire.com as web pages devoted to the Society. This web service adequately provided access to the Society's Monthly Newsletter and offered our publications for sale on a secure server. However, because the website could not be regularly maintained by the Society and that such an onerous task could not have been provided by the Webmaster, it was necessary to build our own dedicated website. Iris has been working on the website and it is hoped to upload the full story of the development of An Daonchartlann at the Martello Tower accompanied by copies photographs of restoration and refurbishment of this historic building. The launch date of the Society's new website is due to coincide with the Official Opening of the Society's new headquarters in September 2004.

SOCIETY'S LIVERY FLAG

Why not order a Genealogical Society of Ireland Livery Flag to grace your next family gathering. Measuring (3ft x 5ft) at just €90.00 each including delivery. Made by the Dublin flag makers **Timothy O'Regan**, as a GSI Member, this GSI Livery Flag contains the "Mungovan Badge" featured on your Membership Card. Contact the Hon. Secretary.

OFFICIAL OPENING Late News Received

On Tuesday 10th August 2004 the Cathaoirleach of the Society, **Rory Stanley**, **FGSI**, the Martello Tower Project Director, **Liam Mac Alasdair**, **FGSI** and the Hon. Secretary met with the Cathaoirleach of the County Council, **Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach**, **MCC** in the County Hall. The arrangements for the Official Opening ceremonies were finalised to include the following: the ceremony marking the Official Opening will take place at the Martello Tower at 14.30hrs on Wednesday 15th September 2004 with An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Bhreathnach unveiling a brass plaque inside this historic building and launching the Commemorative Booklet on behalf of the Society and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The Society's Heraldic Banner will then be raised over the Tower to symbolise the official occupancy by the Society. Guests will be invited to view the building after the ceremonies. Later in the afternoon, the Cathaoirleach of the County Council will host a special reception at the County Hall for invited guests, county councillors and officials as part of the County Council's celebrations marking the occasion as an achievement for the County as a whole.