Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society

BOARD OF CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlocha

2nd ANNUAL REPORT 2008

December 2008

Carlow County Museum

Members of the Board of Carlow County Museum

Carlow Town Council Members:

Cllr. Declan Alcock, Cllr. Rody Kelly (Chairman)
& Cllr. Walter Lacey

Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society Members:

Mr. Dan Carbery*, Mr. Seamus Murphy, Mr. Martin Nevin &
Mrs Noreen Whelan

County Manager's Nominee:

Mr. Joe Watters, Town Clerk

Secretary to the Board:

Mr. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator

* During 2008 Mr. Dan Carbery was replaced by Mrs Noreen Whelan

Front Cover: Photographs of two 19th century Carlow grave rubbings from the collection of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland exhibited during 2008. Reproduced with the kind permission RSAI.

LOCAL AUTHORITY MUSEUMS' NETWORK

Member of the Local Authority Museums' Network (L.A.M.N)

Museum Board:
This is the second Annual Report of the Board of Carlow County Museum. The Board consists of seven members, three Members of Carlow Town Council, three representatives of the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (CHAS) and a County Manager's nominee. The Curator of Carlow County Museum acts as Secretary to the Board.

The Board met on three occasions during 2008. The Chairperson is chosen from the three Members of the Town Council and the three CHAS representatives. As agreed the position of Chairperson alternates on an annual basis between the Members of the Town Council and the CHAS representatives. At the 2007 AGM Cllr. Rody Kelly was elected Chairperson.

New Museum Premises:
In February 2008 Carlow Town Council approved the plans for the new Museum premises. Tender documents are at an advanced stage. Pre tender investigation works are ongoing including the assessment of the structural integrity of the existing building and the method of construction for the extension. The investigation works identified that the first floor joists are in good condition but the timber beams located under the joists and the floor to ceiling columns located on the ground floor are giving little or no support to the joists due to poor foundations under the timber columns and sagging of the timber beams. As a result a number of gaps have appeared between the joists and beams & columns. A system of steel supports is currently being installed under the joists. Electrical, Plumbing & Heating Specialists have been engaged to draw up the lighting & heating specifications.

Museum Board Visit to Clare:
During February the Board undertook a site visit to Clare County Museum in Ennis. There were a number of similarities between this Museum and Carlow's new premises. The Museum is located in a former convent building, the Tourist Office acts as the Museum's reception area and their main display area is roughly the same size. They also have a temporary exhibition gallery.

Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland (RSAI) Exhibition Launch
The Royal Society of Antiquaries (RSAI) launched their exhibition "Rubbing Shoulders with the Dead" in Dublin during September 2008. This exhibition received support from Carlow Local Authorities through Carlow County Museum and the Community & Enterprise Department.

To aid their fundraising and promote their profile the RSAI has decided to organise a series of exhibitions. The first of these exhibitions was based on the 19th century grave rubbings taken by members of Society including some by Carlow's Philip Doyne Vigors. These rubbings show the detail of either headstones or burial tombs. One of the most interesting of these rubbings is that taken at St Mullins. Included in this particular rubbing are rare images of five Irish saints, St Mullins, St Patrick, St Brigid, St Columcille and St James.

Due to the rarity and quality of the five Irish Saints the RSAI decided to reproduce them as a series of greeting cards with the support of Carlow Local Authorities. The opening of the exhibition was attended by members of the Board along with Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow Town Council.

Standing in front of the 19th century St Mullins grave rubbing at the launch of the Rubbing Shoulders with the Dead exhibition were (L to R) Mr. Seamus Murphy, Cllr. Rody Kelly, Mrs Noreen Whelan Board Members of Carlow County Museum, Cllr. Tom O'Neill Cathaoirleach of Carlow Town Council, Mr. Brendan Twomey, Treasurer of the RSAI, Ms Aideen Ireland, President of the RSAI, Mr. Martin Nevin, Board Member of Carlow County Museum Dr. Linda Doran, Secretary of the RSAI and Dermot Mulligan, Curator of Carlow County Museum. Photo: Martin Nevin.

Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society

BORD IARSMALANN CONTAE CHEATHARLACH

Iarsmalann Contae Cheatharlach

AN 2ú TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2008

Nollaig 2008

Comhaltaí Bhord Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach

Comhaltaí Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach:
An Clr. Declan Alcock, An Clr. Rody Kelly (Cathaoirleach) agus
an Clr. Walter Lacey

Comhaltaí Chumann Staire agus Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach:
Dan Carbery, Uas.*, Seamus Murphy, Uas., Martin Nevin, Uas.
agus Nóirín Uí Fhaoláin

Ainmnithe ag an mBainisteoir Contae:
Joe Watters, Uas., Cléireach an Bhaile

Rúnaí an Bhoird:
Diarmuid Ó Maologáin, Uas., Coimeádaí Músaeim

* Tháinig Nóirín Uí Fhaoláin in ionad Dan Carbery, Uas. sa bhliain 2008

Clúdach Tosaigh: Grianghraif de dhá chuimilteán d'íomhánna ón 19ú céad atá ar leaca uaighe i gCeatharlach. Tá siad seo i mbailiúchán Chumann Ríoga Ársaíochta na hÉireann a bhí ar taispeáint i rith 2008. Arna n-atáirgeadh le caoinchead CRÁÉ.

LOCAL AUTHORITY MUSEUMS' NETWORK

Comhalta de Líonra Mhúsaeim na nÚdarás Áitiúil (L.M.Ú.Á.)

Bord an Mhúsaeim:
Is í seo an dara Tuarascáil Bhliantúil de chuid Bhord Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach. Seachtar comhaltaí atá ar an mBord, triúr atá ina gComhaltaí ar Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach, triúr ionadaithe thar ceann Chumann Staire agus Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach (CSSC) agus duine amháin atá ainmnithe ag an mBainisteoir Contae. Is é Coimeádaí Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach atá ag gníomhú mar Rúnaí ar an mBord.

Tháinig an Board le chéile trí huaire sa bhliain 2008. Roghnaítear an Cathaoirleach as triúr Comhaltaí na Comhairle Baile agus triúr ionadaithe an CSSC. Mar atá socraithe, déantar uainíocht go bliantúil ar phost an Chathaoirligh is é sin idir Chomhaltaí na Comhairle Baile agus ionadaithe CSSC. Toghadh an Clr. Rody Kelly ina Chathaoirleach ag CCB 2007.

Foirgneamh an Mhúsaeim Nua:
Cheadaigh Comhairle Baile Cheatharlach na pleananna don fhoirgneamh don Mhúsaem nua i mí Feabhra 2008. Tá dul chun cinn mór déanta maidir leis na doiciméid tairisceana. Tá oibreacha cigireachta réamhthairisceana ar siúl lena n-áirítear measúnú ar a shláine is atá déanmhas an fhoirgnimh atá ann agus an modh foirgníochta don mhéadú. Fuarthas amach de bharr na n-oibreacha cigireachta go bhfuil giarsaí an chéad urláir i gcaoi mhaith ach nach bhfuil mórán tacaíochta nó aon tacaíocht ag na giarsaí ó na bíomaí adhmaid atá faoi na giarsaí ná ó na colúin, ón urlár go dtí an tsíleáil, atá ar an mbunurlár mar go bhfuil na bunsraitheanna atá faoi na colúin adhmaid i ndroch-chaoi agus mar go bhfuil na bíomaí adhmaid ag lúbadh. Dá bharr sin tá poill idir na giarsaí agus na bíomaí agus na colúin. Tá tacaí cruach á bhfeistiú faoi na giarsaí faoi láthair. Táthar tar éis Speisialtóirí Leictreachais, Pluiméireachta agus Téimh a fhostú chun na sonraíochtaí don soilsiú agus don téamh a leagan amach.

Bord an Mhúsaeim ar Cuairt ar Cho. an Chláir:
Thug an Bord cuairt ar Mhúsaem Contae an Chláir in Inis i mí Feabhra. Tarlaíonn sé go bhfuil roinnt cosúlachtaí idir an Músaem seo agus foirgneamh nua Cheatharlach. Tá an Músaem suite i bhfoirgneamh a bhí ina chlochar tráth, is í an Oifig Turasóireachta an áit fáiltithe don Mhúsaem agus is beagnach gurb é an spás céanna atá sa phríomháit taispeántais. Tá gailearaí acu le haghaidh taispeántais shealadacha freisin.

Taispeántas Chumann Ríoga Ársaíochta na hÉireann (CRÁÉ) á Sheoladh
Sheol Cumann Ríoga Ársaíochta na hÉireann (CRÁÉ) an taispeántas dá chuid, *"Rubbing Shoulders with the Dead",* i mBaile Átha Cliath i mí Mheán Fómhair, 2008. Fuair an taispeántas seo tacaíocht ó Údaráis Áitiúla Cheatharlach trí Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach agus tríd an Rannóg Pobail agus Fiontar.

Tá sé beartaithe ag CRÁÉ sraith taispeántas a eagrú ar mhaithe lena bhfeachtas bailithe airgid agus le tuilleadh eolais a scaipeadh faoin gcumann. Bunaíodh an chéad cheann de na taispeántais seo ar na cuimilteáin d'íomhánna ón 19ú céad atá ar leaca uaighe i gCeatharlach a rinne baill den Chumann lena n-áirítear roinnt a rinne Philip Doyne Vigors de bhunadh Cheatharlach. Taispeántar íomhánna atá ar leaca uaighe nó ar leaca tuama ar na cuimilteáin seo. Tá an ceann a rinneadh i dTigh Moling ar cheann de na cuimilteáin is spéisiúla díobh sin. Tá íomhánna nach bhfeictear ach go hannamh de chúigear naomh Éireannach ar an gcuimilteán áirithe seo - Moling, Pádraig, Bríd, Colm Cille agus Séamas.

De bhrí nach minic a fheictear íomhánna den chúigear naomh Éireannach úd agus de bhrí go bhfuil caighdeán na gcuimilteán chomh maith sin bheartaigh CRÁÉ iad a atáirgeadh ina sraith de chártaí beannachta le tacaíocht ó Údaráis Áitiúla Cheatharlach. Bhí comhaltaí Boird chomh maith leis an gClr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach i láthair nuair a seoladh an taispeántas.

Bhí siad seo a leanas atá ina seasamh os comhair an chuimilteáin de na híomhánna ón 19ú a rinneadh i dTigh Moling i láthair nuair a seoladh an taispeántas *Rubbing Shoulders with the Dead* (C go D): Seamus Murphy, Uas., an Clr. Rody Kelly, Nóirín Uí Fhaoláin, Comhaltaí Boird Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach, an Clr. Tom O'Neill Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach, Brendan Twomey, Uas., Cisteoir CRÁÉ, Aideen Ireland, Uas., Uachtarán CRÁÉ, Martin Nevin, Uas., Comhalta Boird Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach, An Dr. Linda Doran, Rúnaí CRÁÉ agus Diarmuid Ó Maologáin, Coimeádaí Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach. Grianghraf: Martin Nevin.