

Sligo Field Club in conjunction with the Lissadell House

presents

# IRELAND'S WOMEN

REVOLUTION & REMEMBRANCE

Friday 13th May -  
Sunday 15th May 2016  
Lissadell House,  
County Sligo

Conference Chair:  
Olivia O'Leary

(Conference Booking: [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie))

 Sligo  
Field Club

 irelandsWomen  
[www.sligofieldclub.com](http://www.sligofieldclub.com) or  
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EIRE  
IRELAND

19  
2016

Clár Comhaltas  
Uachtaráin  
Programme



 Fáilte Ireland  
National Tourism Development Authority

## SFC 2016 Conference

### Ireland's Women Revolution & Remembrance

Held at Lissadell House May 13-15th 2016

#### Olivia O'Leary Chairs Talk on Women in Sligo

From the Sligo Weekender

Well known journalist Olivia O'Leary chaired a three-day conference examining the role that Ireland's women played in the revolutionary period of Irish history 100 years ago which was held at Lissadell House Last weekend.

Sligo Field Club presented the event, entitled 'Ireland's women: revolution and remembrance', which ran from Friday to Sunday. The conference brought together some of the most significant and erudite historians of the work of women in achieving revolutionary change in Ireland and abroad.

The event featured talks ranging from revolution to romance, sisterly support and politics, links to the art world, theatre and literature and death, as well as featuring plays and music. Speakers included Mary McAuliffe, Eve Morrison, Sonja Tiernan and Margaret Ward.

Following the official opening on Friday, there was a spectacular staging of the WB Yeats play "Cathleen Ni Houlihan", performed by the Dr Dappertutto Theatre Company under the direction of Declan Drohan from IT Sligo and featuring local actors. That was followed by entertainment by Saile, a very talented group of young local traditional musicians.

Saturday featured six talks by some leading women historians with Countess Markievicz and her sister Eva Gore-Booth featuring prominently.

On Sunday there was a living flavour of the atmosphere of 1916 and the War of Independence through re-enactors. There was also a reading by local actors of "Broken Glory", a play based on the writings of Eva and Constance Gore-Booth, history talks a presentations by local children on projects they had done about the period.

# Lecturer Photos & Brief Synopsis' Of Their Talks

## 2016 Conference Programme

Friday May 13th

After the official launch John Kavanagh continued proceedings with an extremely interesting lecture on 'Women in the Writings of W B Yeats'

The play 'Cathleen Ni Houlihan' the one-act drama written by William Butler Yeats and Lady Gregory in 1902 followed John's talk, this was performed by the 'Dr Dappertutto Theatre Company' under the direction of Declan Drohan.

### Saturday May 14th Speakers & Lectures

Anne Haverty explained in her talk why Constance Markievicz is loved by many and mis-understood by others, in the aptly entitled lecture, 'Mythical and Misunderstood'. Maud Gonne said of Constance, 'a great woman and I always think she does not get the credit that she (below left)

'The friendship of Constance Markievicz and Hanna Sheehy Skeffington' was the title of Dr. Margaret Ward's lecture that began the conference's afternoon session. Using unpublished and little known sources Margaret pieced together an important friendship between Hanna and Constance.

After Anne's talk, there followed a Q&A session taken by herself and Dr. Mary McAuliffe, Dr Sonja Tiernan, Dr. Margaret Ward and Dr. Lauren Arrington, with enthusiastic participation from the audience.



*On Friday evening (May 13th) Sligo Field Club President Wendy Lyons welcomed Rosaleen O'Grady Cathaoir-leach of Sligo County Council, Ciarán Hayes. Chief Executive, Michael O'Reilly, Commemoration Ireland 2016 and all those who attended the official launch of the Sligo Field Club's 2016 Conference ; Ireland's Women, Revolution & Remembrance.*

*She thanked Edward Walsh and Constance Cassidy, Lis-sadell House owners, for kindly holding the conference at the Gore-Booth home, where leading women activists and feminists Eva and Constance Gore-Booths were born.*

*Wendy then introduced Olivia O'Leary, journalist, writer and RTE's current affairs presenter, to officially launch*





Autumn Conference  
2014  
**SLIGO IN TRANSITION:**  
Cultural, Economic, Political  
& Social Change  
in Sligo, Post-Famine to the  
War of Independence

## SLIGO IN TRANSITION:

This year with so much controversy over whether violence was necessary in gaining independence we have decided to investigate the state of the country leading up to independ-

the title we have given this year's conference. To this end we have lined up ten lectures to cover the salient aspects of the period.

The decline of the Irish language, the rise of the G.A.A, traditional music, through poetry and the Abbey Theatre. The changing face of business in the town as described by John Mullaney.

Last but not least the rise of Sinn Féin at the expense of the Irish Parliamentary Party. The Sligo Field Club is a voluntary organization and we would like to thank Co. Sligo Races Ltd, for the use of their magnificent new facilities for our conference

## 2013 A Celebration of Sligo Families

### Sligo Field Club conference takes a look at Sligo families down through the centuries

Who were the historic families of Sligo?

What did they call themselves? Why would a man be named Fearganeagla? What were their occupations? Who lived in your locality?

More than anything, how did they lose their lands and who were the new owners?

What became of them in Famine times? More than anything, where did their ancestors, the Irish, come from and what are our genetic links to them?

These were range of questions the SFC were attempting to answer with its contribution to The Gathering 2013, during its 5th summer conference A Celebration of Sligo Families at Sligo's Radisson Blu Hotel on May 10-12 2013. A Celebration of Sligo Families gave a historical background to many families and communities.



## Sligo Field Club hosts The Scottish Connection

For several years Sligo Field Club has organised a weekend Celebrating Sligo conference as a contribution to its promotion and protection of the archaeological, historical and cultural heritage of Sligo. This year, for the first time, the conference topic will have an international connection and several international speakers.

At its launch Dr. Mícheál Ó Mainnín, of the Department of Irish & Celtic Studies at Queen's University, Belfast and a native of Collooney, announced that this year's conference theme will be The Scottish Connection, an exploration of the variety of connections which link the Sligo region, and the north-west of Ireland with Scotland.

Since Scottish devolution, there has been a re-awakening of interest in Scotland's relations with Ireland; and, more broadly, the Irish Peace Process has refocused attention on relations within and between Ireland, and the constituent nations of Britain. The 1990s also witnessed a marked increase in research into the historical relationship between Ireland and Scotland.

The need for a pan-Gaelic (Irish-Scottish) perspective in charting the history of Gaelic Ireland in late medieval period has been severally stressed. Seán Duffy, in the 1999 volume of History Ireland (devoted primarily to aspects of the theme of Scotland and Ireland through the ages), referred to this renewed interest in Irish and Scottish historiography as 'overcoming the amnesia' which owed much to the rift which had developed between 'Catholic Ireland' and 'Presbyterian Scotland' since the Plantation of Ulster and, also, to tensions which emerged later in Glasgow and south-west Scotland between Scots and Irish immigrants.



## 2012 Historical Look at Ballymote

The 2010 conference took its theme 'Ballymote - A Gaelic Centre', and will examine aspects of the rich heritage of the small mid-Sligo town, featuring lectures on the history and archaeology of Ballymote and the surrounding area.

The historical talks dealt with the formation of the MacDonagh lordships of the baronies of Tirerrill and Corran AD 1250 to 1600, the Corran lordship being centred on Ballymote, and also with the Taaffes, a later family, of Norman origin, which went on to play a leading role in the politics of the Austrian Empire. One of the archaeological lectures will discuss the famed caves of Keash or Céis Chorainn, whose mythology and folklore will be the subject of a separate talk.

A second archaeological lecture, on a later period, gave an account of the historic and significance of Ballymote Castle.

There were two lectures on aspects of the literary heritage of Ballymote and its hinterlands. One of them dealt with the history and contents of the famous late-medieval Irish manuscript known as The Book of Ballymote - the book itself is held in the Royal Irish Academy - while another examine the celebrated north Connacht family of scribes and scholars, the Uí Dhuibhgeannáin, or O Duignans - one of whom directed the compilation of the Book of Ballymote about the year 1390

## Sligo Field Club are Certainly led the field when the Borough Council celebrated its 400th birthday

For the Yeats County's effective Historical Society planned a packed weekend of lectures, talks and a walk to remember a very special calendar in the borough from May 11- 13 in the Glasshouse Hotel.

For many decades, the organisation has been recording the story of this beautiful county for future generations. And it is entirely appropriate that the organisation which was founded in 1945 will be kicked started a nostalgic but highly informed look at the story of the borough of Sligo.



The Conference continues after lunch with two more lectures: "The extraordinary life, works and career of the other poet of Lissadell: Muireadhach Albanach O Dalaigh" by Prof. Alan Titley of UCC and a lecture "In search of Tadhg Dall O hUiginn" by Prof. Pdraig O Machain, School of Celtic Studies.

At 4.30pm there is a break when the participants will be taken on a guided walk of "Crainn ns Gaeilge" in Sligo IT Campus by Dr. Breandan Mac Conamhna, former Director of the IT.

The final lecture on Saturday night will take place at 8.30pm. It will be given by Dr. Conchubhair O Crualaoich from the Placenames Commission entitled : "Some English and Hidden Irish Townland names of Sligo". A seisiun ceoil agus filiochta will bring the proceedings to a close.

## 2009

A major weekend Conference entitled "Scriobh, Scoil agus Leann" Scholars, Scribes and Poets of Gaelic Sligo has been launched by Sligo Field Club and will take place in The Clarion Hotel, Sligo on the weekend 8th - 10th May.

The purpose of this weekend is to remind people both in Sligo and elsewhere, that this area possesses a very rich and varied heritage of literature and learning which comes to us through the medium of the Irish language.

It is worth noting that no other Irish county of comparable size possesses such a wealth of Late medieval manuscripts - most of them penned between the 14th and 17th centuries, together with a number of important later examples from the 18th and 19th centuries.

These great works were the product of notable centres of learning and of hereditary learned families in Co. Sligo, the most distinguished of whom were Clann Fir Bhisigh, based at Lackan, near Enniscrone. Then there was the notable Bardic family of O hUiginn, the most celebrated being Tadhg Dall.

The other important Bardic poet was Lissadell resident, Muireadhach Albanach O Dalaigh whose work will be discussed.

The Field Club is fortunate that the Academic Director of the Conference, Dr. Nollaig O Muraile, a Mayoman who lectures at NUIG, has assembled a number of Ireland's foremost scholars to speak on a range of topics relating to Scholars, Poets and Scribes of Gaelic Sligo. Each of the Lecturers is involved in cutting edge research on the topic on which he or she is to speak.

The opening lecture on Friday evening, 8th May, entitled "The Northwest Passage: Sligo and the connection with Gaelic Scotland" will be given by Sligo native, Dr. Micheal O Mainin, Lecturer in the Dept Of Celtic Studies, Queen's University Belfast. The first lecture on Sat. morning at 10am will be given by the Director of the Conference -Dr. Nollaig O Muraileon "Clann Fhir-bisigh:the Premier Scholarly Family of Gaelic Sligo. This will be followed by Dr. Catherine Simms of Trinity College speaking on "The O hUiginn poets and their patrons.