

The Roscrea Autumn Conference

at Mount St Joseph Cistercian Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

The 59th consecutive conference:

Friday 4th November – Sunday 6th November 2016

Theme: *Living off the Land in Medieval Ireland*



FRIDAY 4th NOVEMBER

- 6.00 Snack supper and registration
- 6.30 Reception hosted by Roscrea Heritage Society
- 7.20 *Fáilte go Mt St Joseph Abbey*
Dom Richard Purcell, oco, Abbot of Mt St Joseph
- 7.35 Overview:
Historical Food Products in Medieval Ireland
Professor Liam Downey, Former Director of Teagasc
Professor Muiris O'Sullivan,
Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, UCD
- 8.25 *Cattle in Medieval Ireland*
Dr John Feehan, author and environmentalist
- 9.00 *Discussion*
- 9.15 Hospitium

SATURDAY 5th NOVEMBER

- 3.45 Optional rise for vigils
- 9.30 *The Early Medieval Farm*
Dr Matthew Stout, Historian,
St Patrick's College, Drumcondra
- 10.10 *Mills and Milling in early medieval Ireland*
Dr Máire Geaney, Independent Scholar
- 10.50 Discussion
- 11.00 *Coffee/Tea*
- 11.30 *The Honey Bee in Ireland: origins and history*
Professor John Breen, Zoologist,
University of Limerick

- 12.10 *The Cistercian Grange: a model farm*
Dr Geraldine Stout, archaeologist,
National Monuments Service, Dept of AHRRGA
- 12.50 *Introduction to the field trip: The Enigma of Fancroft*
George Cunningham
- 1.05 Snack Lunch
- 2.30 Field Trip to Fancroft Mill and Gardens,
courtesy of Irene and Marcus Sweeney
- 5.30 Vespers at Mount St Joseph
- 5.55 Sherry Reception to honour the publication of
John Feehan's *The Dipper's Acclaim and other Essays*, some of which were delivered at the
Roscrea conference.
- 6.35 Dinner
- 8.00 *Wish I had been present*
Lecturers share a wish or a comment
- 8.40 *The Saturday Colophon*
George Cunningham
- 9.10 Hospitium



SUNDAY 6th NOVEMBER

- 9.30 *A Community of Farmers: Kings, kingdoms and early medieval agriculture* – Matthew Stout
- 9.55 *Milldams, millponds and millraces in early medieval Ireland* – Máire Geaney
- 10.30 Community High Mass
- 11.30 Tea/Coffee
- 12.00 *Excavating the monastic barn and kitchen garden at Bective abbey, Co Meath* – Geraldine Stout
- 12.25 *Modern beekeeping – issues and problems*
John Breen
- 12.45 *Reflection: Living on and off the land in Medieval Ireland* – John Feehan
- 1.15 *Summing up and close of conference*
George Cunningham
- 1.40 Lunch

In Memoriam
Prof Valerie Hall RIP
5th February 1946 - 28th July 2016



Valerie and her husband George taking core samples at Monaincha in the mid 1990s

THE ROSCREA CONFERENCE

Living off the Land in Medieval Ireland - the 59th Roscrea Conference.

Previous themes:

- The Cistercians in Ireland
- Altar Vessels of the early Irish Church
- The Mendicant Orders in Medieval Ireland
- Books and their Shrines
- Education and learning in Medieval Ireland
- The Irish Church in the Eighth Century
- Bernard and Malachy and Irish/European Society in the late 11th and early 12th centuries
- High Crosses
- Monaincha: Saints, Hermits, Canons, Pilgrims
- Monastic settlements at home and across the water
- Aspects of the town in Medieval Ireland
- Relics, Reliquaries and Associated Places
- Aspects of early Irish castles
- Trees in History
- Aspects of Landscape and Settlement in medieval times
- Christianity and the environment in the early middle ages
- Fashion and furnishings in the late middle ages
- Aspects of Symbolism and Imagery in early Christian Times
- Enduring sermons - the medieval church on the Irish Landscape
- The Monastic Midlands
- The Cistercians of the Isles
- Recent research on the Early Christian Period
- Mss and the printed word in Medieval Ireland
- Regions of Contrast: The Burren and the Irish Midlands in early Christian times
- The Cathedrals of Ireland
- Researching 7th Century Ireland
- Aspects of Music and Liturgy in the Medieval Irish Church
- Researching 9th Century Ireland
- Irish Influences abroad in Medieval Times
- Treasures from Lorrha
- Preaching in Medieval Ireland
- Monastic, Cathedral and Ecclesiastic Libraries – old and new

- Farming in Ireland: History, Heritage & Environment
- Genealogy and Irish Family History
- Shannon Heritage from Derg to Ree
- In Deserto - Influences from the near east on the early Irish and Scottish Church
- Vernacular medieval lives of the Irish saints
- Building and Buildings in Medieval Ireland
- Aspects of Pilgrimage
- The Cistercian World at home and abroad; and Celebrating 40 conferences - 1987-2007
- Aspects of Irish books and Irish book people down the ages
- The Round Towers of Ireland
- Wandering Medieval Irish Scholars
- The early centuries of Irish Christianity: transition from paganism
- Irish Saints and the Liturgy
- The Gaelic world and Irish Christianity before the Vikings And Reflections on Creation, Evolution and Faith
- The Dominicans in Medieval Ireland
- From the Synod of Rathbreasail (1111) to Kells (1152): All Change?
- Art and Devotion in Medieval Ireland
- From Citeaux to Roscrea and Celebrating fifty conferences at Roscrea
- The Annals of Ireland
- Roscrea and the Irish midlands in the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries; celebrating the first formal record of Parliament in Ireland and the building of the castle: Roscrea 1213.
- Gothic Ireland: from the middle ages to the nineteenth century
- Women in early Christian Ireland
- Women in Medieval Ireland
- The Céili Dé
- The World of Columbanus
- From Rahan to Lismore

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Conference Fee: €65 (includes receptions, all lectures, coffee/tea). Full time students and unemployed €35. A concession by MSJ of a reduction of a third off the price of meals also available to full time students and some student bursaries are available. Apply to the Abbot MSJ.

Full board at Mount St. Joseph main guesthouse and Clairvaux: €190 per person sharing (includes conference fee as above with accommodation on Friday and Saturday nights; supper on Friday evening; breakfast, snack lunch and dinner with wine on Saturday; breakfast and full lunch with wine on Sunday); single supplement €10 extra per night.

Further details on accommodation and attendance (part attendance is possible) available from Fr Kevin Daly oco, guestmaster Mt St Joseph, 0505 25600; guesthouse@msjroscrea.ie; www.msjroscrea.ie.

Conference organiser and director George Cunningham, FSA, M.Litt., MA., (hc NUI Galway), Parkmore, Roscrea, Ireland. georgecunningham@eircom.net.

The Roscrea conferences are run by *Roscrea People* in association with Roscrea Heritage Society.

The 60th Roscrea Conference 21st April – 23rd April 2017 Celebrating (DV) the 60 joyous occasions of The Carnival of Learning

It is the conference director's intention to publish an illustrative commemorative volume celebrating the sixty conferences at Mt St Joseph Abbey, 1987-2017. It will not be an academic work, although it is hoped that many of the contributions will have much scholarly content.

Contributions, short and not so short (it is envisaged that no contribution will generally exceed 1000 words, although exceptions are possible), both textually and visually are invited: personal anecdotes, memories, answers to scholarly questions arising from papers given, an encouragement to extend one's knowledge or world, books honoured or bought, that remembered moment, frustration or sheer joy, the glow of learning, the monastic milieu, help given, friendships made, sadness at the losses of dear friends, hopes for the future, wish I had been there or here.

Deadline for contributions is 31st December 2016

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AT

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH ABBEY

ROSCREA CO. TIPPERARY

IRELAND

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