



BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES

NEWS

2006

Dear Member

Following consultation with members, the BAIS Council have decided to make *BAIS News* an annual newsletter to be distributed in hard copy or via email and to post BAIS news throughout the year on the BAIS email news list < bais@jjscmail.ac.uk >. If you have access to email but are not on this list please email Linda Christiansen < l.m.christiansen@liverpool.ac.uk > and she will add you to it. Please also feel free to post information of interest to BAIS members on this list. We will continue to contact members about BAIS administration by letter when necessary.

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BAIS ACTIVITIES

Chair's Report to the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the British Association for Irish Studies 28 January 2006

The past twelve months have seen steady progress in the work of BAIS and some reallocation of tasks within the Council. The Bursaries scheme again attracted a wide range of applicants. Richard Kirkland has stepped down as convenor of the awarding committee and I would like to thank him for all the work he has put into this strategic area of our activity over the years. I would also like to thank the panel of distinguished people who assist with the awards process. Scott Brewster has agreed to replace Richard for one year. This was the first year for the Postgraduate essay Competition under the supervision of Matthew Campbell. I would like to thank Matthew and look forward to this becoming a regular part of our annual programme. I would also like to thank Cambridge University Press and the Editors of *Irish Studies Review* for their support. Both the Bursaries and the Essay award were presented at a ceremony at the Irish Embassy in May, and our thanks are due to the Ambassador, the Embassy and the Irish government for their ongoing financial support and encouragement for Irish studies in Britain.

Irish Studies Review thrives under the editorship of Paul Hyland and Prof. Neil Sammells, providing a showcase for the latest research and a notably lively review section. With Catherine Nash as Editor, *BAIS News* has carried information on the activities of the Association, recent and forthcoming conferences and events. Siobhán Holland continued to manage the website and serve as Vice Chair. She has informed us that she would like to stand down from the latter post, and I would like to thank her for the tremendous effort she has put in over the last few years. Treasurer Aidan Arrowsmith has continued his skilful care of our funds. Christy Evans has carried on his energetic work for the Irish language in a series of enjoyable events across the country. Council members Eleanor Burgess, Sean Hutton, Ian McBride, Maria Luddy and Shaun Richards continued to give us wise guidance.

We held several highly successful collaborative events. We have supported the series of Irish Studies seminars organised by the Institute of English Studies at London University. On March 10 we sponsored

a notably well attended public lecture by Prof. Roy Foster and Prof. Fintan Cullen in the National Portrait Gallery on the theme of their exhibition *Conquering England: Ireland in Victorian London*. On 25 June we joined with the Institute of English Studies for a lively conference on *Ireland Abroad* attended by 25 delegates. I would like to thank Siobhan and Catherine for the enormous amount of work they put in. Over 16-18 September we joined with the European Studies Research Institute of Salford University for a highly successful conference on *Irish Protestant Identities*. Seventy delegates from five countries and a wide variety of disciplinary backgrounds attended. Thanks are due to Debbie Hughes and Profs. Frank Neal and Jon Tonge of ESRI for their energetic assistance.

On the administrative front, Linda Christiansen of the Institute of Irish Studies at Liverpool University has taken over the administration of membership and is doing a splendid job. Our Secretary Claire Connolly has been on maternity leave, and her job was shared by several members, most notably Siobhan and Scott. Finally, a big 'thank you' to all our members for their continuing interest in, and support for, Irish Studies in Britain.

Mervyn Busteed. Chair

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Science Ireland

**Lock Keeper's Graduate Centre
Queen Mary, University of London**

Saturday 24th June 2006

This year the annual conference of the British Association for Irish Studies focuses on the histories, cultures and geographies of science in Ireland and is being organised in association with the School of English and Drama and Department of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London. This interdisciplinary conference brings together those working on the practices, knowledges, sites, institutions and cultures of science in Ireland, in order to consider and the situated and specific history and culture of science in Ireland and the place of science in Irish studies.

Speakers include:

**Tadgh O'Sullivan, Jim Livesey, Enda Leaney, Elizabeth Neswald,
Sorcha O'Brien, Greta Jones, Julie Anderson and Michael Reinsborough.**

This one-day conference will take place on Saturday 24th June 2006 at the Lock Keeper's Graduate Centre, Queen Mary, University of London.

To register for this event please download a registration form from the BAIS website <http://www.bais.org.uk/pages/Conference/conf.htm> or email Catherine Nash, c.nash@qmul.ac.uk. Full details of the programme and travel directions are also be available on the BAIS website. Registration fee payable in advance: £20 (£15 conc.)

Conference convenors: Dr. Catherine Nash, Department of Geography, Queen Mary, University of London and Prof. Clair Wills, School of English and Drama, Queen Mary, University of London.

BAIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

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