

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED
REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Organiser of Conference Daniel O Connell Summer School

Name of Conference: Daniel O Connell Summer School

Location of Conference: Ring of Kerry Hotel, Caherciveen, Kerry

Date of Conference: August 29th and 30th 2025

Summary of Conference Content

Overview

The Daniel O'Connell Summer School 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Daniel O'Connell (born 6 August 1775), known as "The Liberator" for his role in championing civil and political rights.

Themes & Purpose

The Summer School offers a rich programme of short talks and lectures that delve into:

- O'Connell's national and international legacies
- His continued relevance to today's political and cultural issues
- The folklore, traditions, and heritage of South Kerry, O'Connell's native region

Programme Highlights

- Opening remarks by Dr. Linda Doyle, Provost of Trinity College Dublin
- "Building on O'Connell's Legacies: Reporting and Representing Ireland", chaired by John O'Donoghue, featuring journalists Vincent Boland, Daithí Ó Ceallaigh, former ambassador; and Professor Claire Connolly.
- Presentation of the Daniel O'Connell Award, moderated by Joe McGill
- Panel on "Daniel O'Connell: Lives and Legacies", chaired by Brigid Laffan, with speakers including Patrick Geoghegan (Trinity historian) and Mary O'Dowd (Queen's University, Belfast)
- Discussions on O'Connell's private life: "O'Connell in his Private Worlds", chaired by Áine Hyland. Presenters include Muiris Bric (on the O'Connells of Iveragh) and Dr Erin Bishop (on Mary O'Connell)
- Book launch: two-volume edition of the Disillusioned Unionist and Rejected Emancipist by Sir Adrian FitzGerald

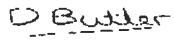
- Address by GAA National President Jarlath Burns at the Con Keating Memorial Park (weather-permitting), open-air event adjacent to the stand

Broader Commemorative Context

- This Summer School forms a part of the broader Daniel O'Connell 250 Commemorative Programme, launched by the Minister for Culture, which includes:
- A State-led ceremony at Derrynane House on 6 August 2025, broadcast live by RTÉ
- A Trinity College symposium (29–30 July 2025): “O'Connell 250 Symposium: Liberty, Democracy, and the Struggle for Human Rights”, bringing together historians and human rights experts
- Additional events: commemorative stamps, coins, documentaries, community events, exhibitions, statue relocations, and international events ranging from London to the U.S.

Summary

In essence, the Daniel O'Connell Summer School 2025 was a focused, two-day event centred on celebrating and critically engaging with Daniel O'Connell's legacy, his fight for civil rights, his historical importance, and his cultural resonance in contemporary Ireland.

Signature: 

Print Name: Daniel Butler

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Organiser of Conference Daniel O'Connell Summer School committee

Name of Conference Daniel O'Connell Summer School

Location of Conference: Cahersiveen and Caherdaniel, Co.Kerry

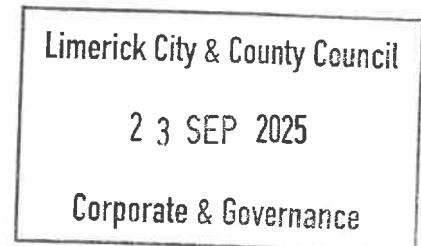
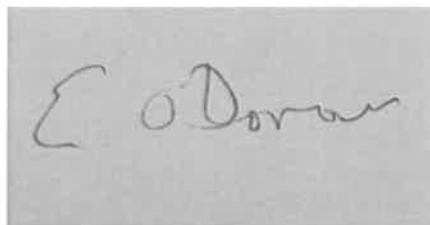
Date of Conference: Friday 29th August and Saturday 30th August

Summary of Conference Content:

This Summer School was in special recognition to mark the 250th anniversary of Daniel O'Connell's birth, one of Ireland's most significant historical figures. The first day of the conference focussed on Daniel O'Connors legacy in the modern world. We heard from journalists, academics and ambassador's on his reach worldwide and how it persists still today. We also had presentations on Daniel O'Connell's wife and his attitude, and the attitude of that time, towards women.

On the Friday evening we received a fascinating talk from Jarlath Burns, GAA president. It was incredibly inspiring to hear him talk about the challenge and opportunities in an organisation like the GAA.

On the Saturday we were hosted in Derrynane House, where the keynote address was given by Michael Martin, An Taoiseach. The day we had presentations and discussions on the impact O'Connell and his time has had on literature, theatre and food!



Signature:

Print Name: Cllr Elisa O'Donovan

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Organiser of Conference La Tocata Legacy

Name of Conference The Emerging New Ireland

Location of Conference Grey Stones Co. Wicklow

Date of Conference 19 / 20th Sept 2025

Summary of Conference Content

PRESNTATION BY PROFESSOR MARY PARRY
ON INVESTIGATOR IN EDUCATION & HOW ACCESS
TO SECONDARY & UNIVERSITY EDUCATION WAS
TRANSFORMED IN 1960'S IRELAND. DISCUSSION
ON 'DISCOVERING YOUR TRIBE' DUBLIN STREET
CULTURES FROM 1950-1960. PRESENTATION
& DISCUSSION BY DR. SORCHA O'BRIEN
ON KITCHEN PENDA ORAL HISTORY
THE OBJECT & WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES
OF RURAL ELECTRIFICATION. DISCUSSION
ON DUBLIN/MONAGHAN BORDER 1974
NEAR-RAPE LECTURE BY DR. CAROL LAMONT
ON ROBERT BANTON A REMARKABLE
REVOLUTIONARY

Signature: Kieran Sisson

Print Name: Kieran Sisson

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TRAVEL AND
Limerick City & County Council

23 SEP 2025

Corporate & Governance

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Organiser of Conference Wicklow County Council

Name of Conference La Touche Legacy Seminar

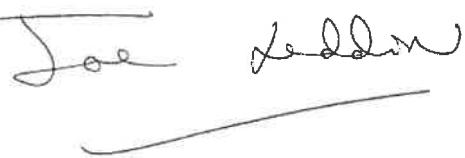
Location of Conference Greystones County Wicklow

Date of Conference 19th & 20th September

Summary of Conference Content

This year's festival theme, "The Emerging New Ireland," will examine the social, cultural, and political transformations that continue to shape modern Ireland. The festival will gather leading historians, academics, and cultural commentators for a weekend of thought-provoking lectures, discussions, and community engagement.

Signature:



Print Name: Cllr Joe Leddin

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26 SEP 2025

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Organiser of Conference Graystones Archaeological and Historical Society

Name of Conference 35th La Touche legacy

Location of Conference Greystones

Date of Conference 19/20 September 2025

Summary of Conference Content

Enclosed

Signature: Fergus Kilcoyne

Print Name: FERGUS kilcoyne

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2025 Seminar - Biographies

Professor Mary E Daly

Mary Daly MRIA is professor emeritus of Irish history at University College Dublin. She has held teaching positions at Harvard and Boston College and in 2014 became the first woman president of the Royal Irish Academy. Her many publications include *Dublin, the Deposed Capital* (1984); *Women and Work in Ireland* (1997) and *The Slow Failure: Population Decline and Independent Ireland, 1920-1973* (2006). Her current project is a study of an Irish provincial town in the 1930s.

Eamon Delaney

Eamon Delaney is an author and commentator. A former editor of *Magill* magazine, he is currently a columnist on *The Times* Irish edition. His publications include *An Accidental Diplomat: my Years in the Irish Foreign Service* (2001) and *Breaking the Mould: a Story of Art and Ireland* (2009). He is director of The Lion and the Shamrock project which is focused on history in the community and adult education and offers talks, tours and research.

Dr. Chris Lawlor

Dr. Chris Lawlor is former head of the history department at Méanscoil Iognóid Rís, Naas. He is a member of the committee of West Wicklow Historical Society and co- editor of the Society's biennial journal, and is a member of the Dunlavin Writers' Group. He is the author of eleven books and numerous articles on Irish and local history, and his most recent publication, *Robert Barton: a Remarkable Revolutionary*, was published by The History Press in 2024.

Dr. Cormac Moore

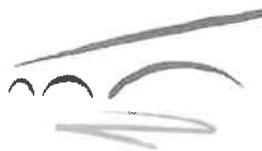
Dr. Cormac Moore is an historian-in-residence with Dublin City Council and a columnist with the Irish News. His publications include The GAA v. Douglas Hyde (2012); The Irish Soccer Split (2015); Birth of the Border (2019); and most recently The Irish Boundary Commission (2025) and The Irish Revolution: Laois (2025). He is currently chairperson of Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society.

Dr. Sorcha O'Brien (Institute of Art, Design and Technology)

Dr. O'Brien's research focusses on the critical analysis of design and technology history in Ireland. She curated the 2019-2020 'Kitchen Power' exhibition in the National Museum of Ireland, which examined the impact on women of rural electrification. Her publications include Powering the Nation: Images of the Shannon Scheme and the Electrification of Ireland (2017) and Kitchen Power: Women's Experiences of Rural Electrification (forthcoming).

Julie Parsons

Julie Parsons was a radio and television producer with RTE before becoming a best-selling author. Her first novel, *Mary, Mary*, appeared in 1998. A critical and commercial success, it was translated into seventeen languages and was followed by a number of other successful novels, among them *The Guilty Heart*, *The Hourglass* and *The Therapy House*, which won the Crime Fiction Book of the Year at the 2017 Irish Book Awards. Julie has ancestral links to Greystones - the Parsons family lived at 'Dromore' on Portland Road, and her father, Dr. Andy Parsons (1914-1955), grew up in the town. She has recently been delving into his story and the history of her Parsons family.



30th October 2025

TO: THE MAYOR AND EACH MEMBER OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report on attendance at the 12th European Greenways Awards 2025, in the Basque Country, Spain
9th and 10th May 2025**

A Chomhairleoir, a Chara,

As members will be aware, I travelled to Bilbao, Spain to attend the 12th European Greenways Awards 2025, travelling from Dublin on 8th October 2025 and returning on 10th October 2025. The events were held in the Basque Country. The objective of the bi annual Awards is to promote examples of best practices and to support their replication for other greenways all over Europe.

I participated in a full day conference on 9th October 2025, which gave examples of best practices in Greenway development and operation, looking at the economic benefits of projects delivered, and challenges encountered. Many of the examples looked at exemplary greenways that show the best integration of the various characteristics which define greenways. Examples also demonstrated green transition in the greenways ecosystem and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following on from the conference, awards were presented to nine greenways from Ireland, France, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and United Kingdom, awarded as reference of best practices in Europe.

Limerick Greenway secured 3rd Prize in the Excellence Category, for creating a greenway that engages and supports local communities through economic and social development, while supporting biodiversity conservation. The 40km Limerick scenic greenway, converted from a disused railway line, stands out as an exemplary application for its holistic, inclusive and forward-looking approach to rural regeneration, sustainable tourism and community wellbeing. It has achieved a great success, in terms of users and economic and social impact.

Day 2, 10th October 2025, a bike tour took place on the fantastic Montes de Hierro / Iron Mountains greenway, which is sprinkled with mining and industrial remnants in its surroundings that make up a very unique landscape, and that is now connected by a bike lane with the city of Bilbao.

Overall, a very successful and interesting trip, securing an award for the Limerick Greenway, a fantastic amenity traversing West Limerick, which is a driver of economic activity and wellbeing. This award is well earned and recognises the commitment and investment in the Limerick Greenway, by everyone involved in the delivery of this amenity to date.

Is mise, le meas,



Councillor Michael Collins
Cathaoirleach
Newcastle West Municipal District