

when twenty people attended.

Approx eight people attended our January meeting and there was an entertaining discussion about Cappagh Burn, schoolday adventures, bicycle antics etc. Eight people attended our February meeting when there was great excitement as Andrew Baxter invited us to go outside where he had brought along the propellor of the Catalina Flying Boat which farm workmen found buried in Reaghan. Andrew will keep the propellor in safe keeping.

At our March 2023 Meeting, Liam Morris very kindly brought an overhead projector along and played the DVD of the Service held at the aircrash site in Reaghan in December 1994. The footage of the audio contained quite a few local people who have since passed away. They gave a very detailed account of what happened on that fateful evening of 30<sup>th</sup> December 1942.

Jean Baxter stated that Baxter's Barn which is now her house (as it had undergone a barn conversion in the 1970's) is where some of the soldiers stayed whilst guarding the crash site. Jean brought some pictures of the former barn to the meeting which was interesting. Harold Doherty gave a talk explaining his involvement in procuring the stone which was used to make the memorial. It is thought that the stone originated from the Moyle Hills area near the late Stewart Robinson.

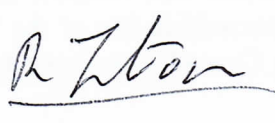
Henry Keys, local Historian in Irvinestown informed Elizabeth that four of the pilots including Sgt Orr were buried in Irvinestown Church of Ireland Graveyard at the front near the Cenotaph.

After the film was played, discussions continued. It was agreed that Liam Morris and Andrew Baxter would get some copies of the film made (DVD's) so they could be shared with interested friends and neighbours.

In summary it was agreed that we establish contacts for the Clergy who conducted the Service in 1994, and we could trail through the DVD when it becomes available for ideas for a possible service to mark the occasion again. Discussions are still ongoing for the Memorial re-vamp as well as exhibiting the propellor at the crash site.

It is encouraging to see people continuing to attend the Society meetings and we are getting gradually built up again following Covid 19.

Robin Johnston  
Chairman

 20/01/2025