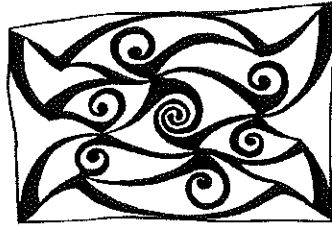


Ulster Place-Name Society

Trustees' Report

for the financial period 1 September 2016 - 31 August 2017



Address

Irish & Celtic Studies
Arts, English and Languages
8 University Square
Queen's University
Belfast, BT7 1NN

E-mail address

townlands.upns@gmail.com

Website:

www.ulsterplacename.org

TRUSTEES

Officers	Chair: Mícheál Ó Mainnín Secretary: Gordon McCoy Treasurer: Dónall Mac Dónaill
Ex Officio Members:	Editor of <i>Ainm</i>: Greg Toner Institute of Irish Studies (Director): Dominic Bryan until November 2016, thereafter Peter Gray Placenames Branch, Dublin (Director): Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill
Ordinary Committee Members	Kay Muhr until AGM 17/11/16; thereafter Dónall Ó Baoill Kevin Murray until AGM 17/11/16; thereafter Ruairí Ó Bléine Conchubhar Ó Cruaiaíoch Angelique Day
Public Relations Officer	Pat McKay

Main Activities

The objectives of the Ulster Place-Name Society are stated in the constitution:

- a) to promote the study of, appreciation of, knowledge of and awareness of place-names in the area of benefit and to publish a series of publications devoted to the field of name studies, including a journal and a bi-annual newsletter.
- b) to carry out research into place-names, promote and support the work of a survey of place-names in the area of benefit and to make the results of the survey available via a series of published volumes and via the internet where appropriate.

The society published two newsletters during the 2016-2017 financial year as well as the 13th volume of *Ainm: Journal of Name Studies*. Over 300 copies of the issue were published and most were distributed to Society members and interested parties (mostly university libraries). The UPNS did not publish anything else by itself during this period, but members were very active in contributing to important works published elsewhere:

- Kay Muhr completed her work as researcher of Irish names for the four-volume *Oxford Dictionary of the Family Names of Britain and Ireland*, which was published in November 2016. She then began working with Liam Ó hAisibéil on a publication on the family names of Ireland.
- Pat McKay began work on a jointly-authored book with Niall Comer of Ulster University on the townland names of the Barony of Coleraine. He was commissioned by Mid-Ulster District Council to supply Irish-language versions of the road names and townland names of the area.
- Gordon McCoy co-ordinated the Society's recommendations regarding the Northern dioceses to the Parish Names Project of the Church of Ireland, which aimed to provide an Irish language version of every parish in Ireland, but was hampered by a lack of input from experts on place-names. McCoy researched the secondary sources while Pat McKay and Kay Muhr provided many interpretations which were not readily available. By September 1 2017 the material on the dioceses of Connor, Armagh, and Down and Dromore was complete.

Events

The society organised two public lectures in Queen's University Belfast. Thomas Clancy of Glasgow University spoke on 'The advent of Gaelic in early Scotland: what can place-names tell us?' On 17th November 2016. 'The Townland Names of County Wexford' was presented by Conchubhar Ó Cruailaoich 25th May 2017 to coincide with his publication of two volumes on the subject with his colleague Aindí Mac Giolla Chomhghaill. Both talks offered valuable insights into the nature of population movements in Britain and Ireland; Clancy's

presentation suggested a timing of the Gaelic settlement in Scotland and Ó Crualaoich's work provided an improved model for mapping Anglo-Norman settlement in Ireland.

Public Benefit

Members of the Society also made presentations, as listed below. In particular, many of these illustrate the public benefit aspect of the Society's work, as stated in the constitution:

The organisation plays a useful role in promoting cross-community understanding by providing information on the historical influence of the various indigenous languages of Ulster in a harmonious and non-contentious manner.

Many people from the two main religio-political traditions were present at the following events;

Presenter	Date	Venue	Presentation
Gordon McCoy	06.09.16	Portstewart Golf Club	The Place-Names of Portrush and Portstewart
Pat McKay	16.09.16	Coalisland Library	The Place-Names of Coalisland, Clonoe and District
Kay Muhr	21.10.16	Mellon Centre for Migration Studies	The Place-Names and Family Names of Tyrone
Gordon McCoy	22.10.16	Downpatrick Library	The Place-Names of Downpatrick
Gordon McCoy	24.10.16	Kilkeel Library	The Place-Names of Kilkeel and Beyond
Gordon McCoy (co-presenter with Caoimhín Mac an Fhailí)	05.03.17	Killyleagh Masonic Hall	An Introduction to Irish Place-Names
Gordon McCoy	10.03.17	Castlereagh Council Offices	Irish Place-Names
Gordon McCoy	16.03.17	East Belfast	Gaelic bus tour of East Belfast (which includes much info. on place-names)

Kay Muhr	15.06.17	Oxford Island Visitor Centre	Lough Neagh Place-Names
Mícheál Ó Mainnín	23.06.17	Navan Centre, Armagh	Emhain Macha in legend and literature
Gordon McCoy	09.08.17	East Belfast	Gaelic bus tour
Gordon McCoy	10.08.17	East Belfast	Gaelic bus tour
Gordon McCoy	18.09.17	Short Strand Community Centre	Gaelic East Belfast

In addition Gordon McCoy published a map of East Belfast townlands (and rivers) which can be viewed at

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/986yy18f89jx8r8/EAST%20BELFAST%20MAP%20FINAL.jpg?dl=0>. One thousand copies were produced and distributed for free in the local area. Pat McKay was interviewed for the BBC2 series *Ulaidh faoi Thalamh* ('Underground Ulster) which looked at aspects of our hidden heritage.

Members of the public were made aware of the Society's activities through the UPNS website, www.placenames.org (now www.placename.org).

Membership

The Society has 53 members at the time of its AGM in 17th November 2016. The majority of members were individuals living in Northern Ireland, although there were members in Finland, Denmark and Australia. Three organisations had corporate membership of the Society.

Members received a copy of the bi-annual newsletter and *Ainm: A Journal of Name Studies* as soon as they were published. Members contactable by email also received news of events which were of interest to them.

Relationship with other Organisations

The society is a member of the Federation for Ulster Local Studies (FULS). This is a valuable relationship, as FULS promotes UPNS events and provides UPNS with details of events which may be of interest to our members. FULS also makes the UPNS aware of legislation and events related to charities and voluntary organisations in Northern Ireland.

The UPNS has a close relationship with the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project (NIPNP), the professional body established in Queen's University, Belfast. The director of the NIPNP, Mícheál Ó Mainnín, who is heavily involved in expanding the organisation's townland research, is also the chair of the UPNS. The website of the UPNS www.ulsterplacename.org carries the results of the NIPNP Street and Road Name Project, which provided local

authorities with Irish language versions of street and road names. The chair of the UPNS is also a member of An Coiste Logainmneacha ('The Place-names Committee'), the body established by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to advise the minister on place-names policy.

This report was presented to and approved by the membership at the AGM.

This report was presented to and approved by the membership at the Special Committee meeting of 8 March 2019.

Signed	Mícheál Ó Mainnín (Chair)	Date:
	<i>Mícheál Ó Mainnín</i>	<i>8/3/19</i>
	Gordon McCoy (Secretary)	Date:
	<i>Gordon McCoy</i>	<i>8/3/19</i>
	Dónall Mac Dónaill (Treasurer)	Date:
	<i>Dónall A. Mac Dónaill</i>	<i>8/3/19</i>
	<i>Ruairí Ó Bleáin</i>	<i>8/3/19</i>
	<i>Garrán Ó Dubháin</i>	<i>8/3/19</i>
	<i>Greg Lee</i>	<i>8/3/19</i>
	<i>PM-Kang</i>	<i>8/3/19</i>