

Longford RTA Meeting - March 21st, 2018

A meeting of Longford RTA took place in The Courtyard Café on Wednesday, March 21st at 12 noon. There were 21 members in attendance. Apologies were received from 15 members. Chairperson, Leo, welcomed all to the meeting. Leo paid tribute to esteemed RTA member, Gertie Sheahan, who's death had taken place in January. He referred to her long association with INTO, having had the role of Secretary for many years.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of May 5th, 2017 were read to the meeting. These were passed on the proposal of Seamus McRory and seconded by Katherine Kennedy. There were no matters arising

Annual Convention RTA, Ireland, March 6th, 2018

Vice-Chairperson, Bridie McGuinness and Secretary, Noeleen, attended the Annual Convention of RTA, Ireland which was held on March 6th, 2018 and each gave comprehensive reports on the Convention.

Bridie was unable to attend the Branch Meeting so she sent in a written report - a summary of the talk made by John Boyle, President of the INTO. Referring to the Croke Park and Haddington Road agreements John spoke of the symbiotic relationship which exists between the INTO and the RTAI. The benchmarking award for Principals, which was never paid is still on the table. The INTO are also looking for retired teachers who do sub work to be treated with dignity and paid accordingly. Also, if teachers want to stay on after 65 they may do so.

Noeleen gave her report under the following headings:

- Welcome by RTAI President, Luke McGinley
- Presentation given by guest speaker, Niamh Puirseil, author of *Kindling the Flame*
- Address by Billy Sheahan, General Secretary, RTAI
- Resolutions - these are all in Comhnasc
- Address by in-coming RTAI President - Sheelagh Coyle

Noeleen drew particular attention to:

- Recruitment campaign
- Membership Plus - costs €40 000 per year - do we use it. Members will be surveyed to decide if we should continue with this card.

INTO 150

Secretary Noeleen reminded the meeting that, as part of the INTO 150 celebration, Longford Branch INTO are looking for anecdotes and photographs from teachers of the Longford Branch (both past and present) on their involvement with the INTO, memories from their teaching careers, key issues in education etc. Longford Branch INTO is organising an evening of celebration, on Wednesday, 23rd May, to which all current and former members are invited. Kitty had brought some interesting pictures and artefacts to the meeting. These were passed around and this created a lively buzz as old memories and reminiscences were dredged up.

Social Activities:

Secretary Noeleen gave details of prospective activities for Longford RTA. These included:

- Saturday, April 28th - The Plough and the Stars in Gaiety (€46)
- Wednesday, May 30th - Titanic visit staying overnight in Belfast
- Saturday, June 23rd - Riverdance in Gaiety (€45.63) - @ 3.30 pm
- Art and the Great Hunger in Dublin Castle - ongoing until June 30th - no charge for this
- It was agreed that all interested in the weekly walk should meet outside The Mall at 11am on Wednesday mornings

A.O.B.:

- Leo congratulated Doreen who played a major role in researching and compiling the book, *St Paul's Historic Graveyard, Newtownforbes, Co Longford*
- To mark the 30th Anniversary of the closure of Carysfort College two events will take place on Saturday November 10th, 2018. There will be an event in the afternoon in Carysfort and a dinner that evening in the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan.

Leo Donlon (Chairperson)

Date

