

PRESS RELEASE

Sligo History and Society Volume launched at City Hall

19th December 2024

A stunning new publication was launched by the Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr Declan Bree at City Hall, Sligo on the 17th December last. The publication of *Sligo: History and Society: Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of an Irish County* was warmly welcomed by the large attendance.

The book is the thirty-first volume in the acclaimed County History and Society Series published by Geography Publications, Dublin under the general editorship of William Nolan. The Sligo volume was edited by Professor William Nolan, retired professor from UCD and Dr. Kieran O’Conor of the University of Galway.

Launching the volume, Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council, Cllr. Declan Bree said:

‘*Sligo: History and Society* is the most comprehensive multidisciplinary study ever undertaken on the history of County Sligo. Comprising 35 carefully curated essays written by many contributors. It is a wonderful publication, showcasing the rich heritage and history of the county. It is fitting that the book is dedicated to John C. McTernan, former Sligo County Librarian and Historian as a testament to his tireless work in promoting and preserving Sligo’s rich history and heritage. My congratulations to the editors and each of the contributors to the volume, all of whom have committed their time and expertise to the wonderful essays presented in the book.’

At the launch, Martin Lydon, Chief Executive of Sligo County Council congratulated everyone involved in bringing the volume to print and added that Sligo County Council was delighted to be associated with the publication and launch of *Sligo: History and Society*.

Historian, Fiona Gallagher and Archaeologist Martin Timoney, gave wonderful overviews of the essays that they contributed to the book. The themes explored in the volume include; Sligo’s rich archaeology and the physical remains of the past; the late medieval period which was an extremely wealthy period for Sligo and a time when the arts flourished and learning was appreciated; the development of Sligo as a port and administrative centre; the Protestant experience in Sligo and, the rarely heard voice of Sligo’s poor and marginalised in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Dr. Kieran O’Conor spoke on behalf of the editorial board, and paid tribute to his co-editor Professor Willie Nolan and his wife Teresa, both of whom have been the driving force behind the County History and Society Series since the publication of the Tipperary volume in 1985. On behalf of the editors, Dr. O’Conor thanked the contributing scholars who wrote or co-wrote the thirty-five chapters that make up *Sligo: History & Society*.

Funding for the publication of the book was generously provided by, Sligo County Council through the Creative Ireland Programme, the National University of Ireland, Sligo Field Club, the National Monuments Service at the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, the School of Geography at the University of Galway and Aurivo Sligo.

Sligo: History and Society: Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of an Irish County is available from www.geographypublications.com or from Liber Bookshop, O’Connell Street, Sligo for €60. With a limited print run of 500, the volume will certainly be in high demand.

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Launch of *Sligo History and Society* by Cathaoirleach, Sligo County Council, Cllr. Declan Bree



Dr Kieran O'Connor, Archaeology, University of Galway.



Launch of *Sligo History and Society* at City Hall, Sligo.



Roderick Perceval of Temple House made a presentation to Teresa Nolan of Geography Publications