



## **AVEC Mission Statement**

It is the intention of the committee to promote communication, cooperation and partnership enterprise between all those engaged in the delivery of an education service in the various visitor attractions/facilities, libraries, and museums in Armagh City.

It is our belief that by working in partnership to promote key events throughout the year we will contribute to the positive image of Armagh as a place to visit. The sharing of ideas and resources will help us maximize resources and further enhance the excellent quality of service across all facilities. By working together on key events we aim to raise the profile of the education service that is available in each facility and therefore contribute to an increase in visitor numbers.

## **AVEC: Promoting Life-Long Learning Opportunities for All**

The Armagh Visitor Education Committee (AVEC) is a group of cognate organizations in the City of Armagh that have come together to promote better cooperation, communication and partnership in the areas of work encompassed by the various visitor attractions, museums, libraries and research and education facilities in the City of Armagh.

The city's academic institutions, libraries and museums contain a wide range of fascinating historical material as well as nationally important archives, artefacts and specialist collections. Its gardens and parklands include the Mall, the Palace Demesne and "Garden of the Senses", as well as the landscaped gardens and grounds of the two cathedrals and the Armagh Observatory. The latter include the Armagh Astropark, the Phenology Garden and the innovative Human Orrery, the first of its kind to be laid out with precision in the world.

These education and visitor facilities provide information not just on the past and future developments of the city, but on its historic position as the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland and as a special place boasting a unique heritage. The city's association with government and regional administration has roots extending back thousands of years to the crowning of the great kings of Ulster at nearby Navan Fort, and to the time of Saint Patrick.

All of the AVEC organizations are open to visitors, but some are only open to guided tours by appointment. Many have specially designed outreach and lifelong learning programmes, as well as educational programmes focusing on schools and schoolchildren at Key Stages 1 to 4. In addition to the many hotels and guesthouses within Armagh City and District, affordable en-suite accommodation is provided close to the City Centre by the Armagh City Youth Hostel (see <http://www.hini.org.uk/hostels/armagh.cfm>; Tel: 028-3751-1800).

Membership of AVEC is open to all interested organizations within Armagh City and District that have an interest in developing the city's rich heritage and in working with other AVEC members to expand the city's capacity in education and lifelong learning for people of all ages and backgrounds. Those interested in visiting one or more of the AVEC organizations are advised to contact each individual organization for current information, or to visit the AVEC web-site: <http://scholars.arm.ac.uk/avec/>.

The current Chair of AVEC is Ms Mary McVeigh, former Librarian, Irish and Local Studies Library; e-mail: [mtmcveigh@hotmail.com](mailto:mtmcveigh@hotmail.com).

## The AVEC Institutions

**Armagh City Library** Located in the centre of the City of Armagh, the Southern Education and Library Board's Armagh City Library serves all sections of the community and has stock to suit all ages. It is housed in the Market House, a square building dating from around 1815, which was erected on the site of the previous sessions house and gaol.

The City Library opened in the Market House in August 1973 and today houses a collection of some 24,000 books and 3,000 cassettes, videos and compact discs. The library is spread over two floors, with disabled access. The first floor has a large reference area with study facilities and 22 computers with internet access. Use of these computers is free to members, but visitors are charged a small fee. Photocopying and fax facilities are available.

Membership of the library is free and is open to anyone living, working or studying in the area. For more information, see <http://www.librariesni.org.uk/>. Located at The Market House, 2 Market Street, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-4072. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 09:30 to 17:30; Tuesday and Thursday to 20:00; Saturday to 17:00. Admission Free.

**Armagh City Youth Hostel** Located within walking distance of all the main attractions, the Armagh City Youth Hostel is part of the international brand 'Hostelling International'. Purpose built in 1992 adjacent to the old Armagh City Hospital building and close to the Church of Ireland Cathedral, the hostel offers high standards of cleanliness, security, privacy and comfort. With 18 en-suite rooms of various sizes (one equipped for disabled guests) the hostel can sleep up to 62 people. Twin rooms have television, tea and coffee facilities, and hairdryer. Bed linen is provided free of charge.

The hostel provides excellent affordable accommodation for individuals and small groups (private hire of the entire hostel is available, as well as discounted rates and group catering), including laundry facilities, a fully equipped self-catering kitchen, dining room, television lounge and quiet room. Located at 39 Abbey Street, Armagh. Tel: 028-3751-1800; Fax: 028-3751-1801; e-mail: [armagh@hini.org.uk](mailto:armagh@hini.org.uk).

The hostel is open November to February: Friday 17:00 to Sunday 11:00; March to October 7 days a week, but closed 11.00–17.00 (check-in not available during this time). Closed Christmas/New Year (23 December to 2 January). Hostel Manager: John Crowley. Cost per night (2007): £14–16 per person. See: <http://www.hini.org.uk/hostels/armagh.cfm/>.

**Armagh County Museum** Located centrally on the East side of the Mall, the unique character of the Armagh County Museum's classical architecture makes it one of the most distinctive buildings of the City. The Museum is home to a valuable collection of material reflecting the lives of the people who have lived and worked in, or been associated with County Armagh. It contains a rich and extremely varied legacy of such objects, ranging from prehistoric artefacts to household items from a bygone age. A fine local history library includes the writings of the former curator, T.G.F. Paterson, which provide an important source of material for studies of local history.

The Museum's collection includes military uniforms, wedding dresses, ceramics, natural history specimens and railway memorabilia. With a wide range of changing exhibitions during the year, Armagh County Museum is an ideal place to see and explore the 'Fair County' of Armagh.

Following the appointment of a Learning and Outreach Officer the Museum is now engaging more fully with formal and informal learners. The Museum collections are used to inspire workshops that support the Northern Ireland Curriculum from Foundation to Key Stage 3. Talks, tours and workshops based around the collections are also available for community groups. The

Museum is currently piloting a programme of family days and events such as 'Archaeology Family Day' and 'Drawing Day', which is part of a National Gallery of Ireland initiative. The Museum is also working in partnership with other AVEC institutions to deliver new workshops, for example a St. Patrick and Armagh pilot workshop for Key Stage 3 which involved collaboration with the Armagh Public Library and St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral.

For more information, see <http://www.nmni.com/acm/>. Located at The Mall East, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-3070; e-mail: [acm.info@nmni.com](mailto:acm.info@nmni.com). Open Monday to Friday: 10:00 to 17:00, and Saturday 10:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00. Admission Free.

**Armagh Courthouse** Located at the northern end of the area of urban parkland known as the Mall, the Armagh Courthouse dominates the landscape. Erected between 1806 and 1809 and constructed from locally quarried limestone, it was designed in the neoclassical style with one of the finest front elevations ever created by its architect, Francis Johnston.

Sited exactly opposite the Gaol, which was constructed at the south end of the park around 1780 under the architects Thomas Cooley and possibly Francis Johnston, and later William Murray, the Courthouse commands a beautiful view over the lush, green parkland of the Mall and the nineteenth and twentieth century buildings and terraces on either side. Their names bear witness to Armagh's rich history: Beresford Row, after Archbishop John George Beresford; Charlemont Place, after the Earl of Charlemont; Gosford Place, after the Earl of Gosford; and Rokeby Green, a small terrace opposite the Courthouse and the last remaining area of the original parkland or 'Common' to retain a link with the name of Primate Robinson through his title Baron Rokeby of Armagh.

There is an interesting link between the Courthouse and the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum, which occupies the former Sovereign's House. It seems that as secretary of the Grand Jury in 1809, Arthur Irwin Kelly was in charge of erecting the Courthouse, and by suitable economies of scale was able to use materials 'left over' from the Courthouse project to construct a house for himself, the Sovereign's House. The suggestion that one building fathered the other led to the two buildings being known as 'the cat and the kitten'!

The Courthouse has been renovated several times in its history, most recently between 1993 and 1997 after a bomb almost destroyed the building. The original building had two courtrooms and two grand jury rooms, a clerk's office and the main hallway. The two courtrooms remain today, but one of the grand jury rooms has been converted into a third courtroom whilst the other is now a Barrister's room. Offices and consultation rooms have been added as part of a new block at the rear of the old building. The inside of the building has been carefully refurbished, retaining many original features and with plasterwork either restored or reproduced. For more information, see the web-site: <http://www.education.courtsni.gov.uk/>. Located on the Mall, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-2816; E-mail: [armaghcourthouse@courtsni.gov.uk](mailto:armaghcourthouse@courtsni.gov.uk).

**Armagh Guided Tours** At Armagh Guided Tours we specialize in planning and guiding coach or walking tours of Armagh City and the County of Armagh. An exclusive range of tours throughout Northern Ireland is also available. We also specialize in personal family genealogy site tours. All tours are individually designed to suit each group with tour examples available on request. Armagh Guided Tours is a member of the Association of Tourist Guides of Ireland.

For more information, see <http://www.armaghguidedtours.com> or contact Barbara Ferguson at [info@armaghguidedtours.com](mailto:info@armaghguidedtours.com), Tel/Fax: 028-3755-1119; Mobile 077-4051-1442.

**Armagh Observatory** The Armagh Observatory is located close to the centre of the City of Armagh together with the Armagh Planetarium in approximately 14 acres of attractive, landscaped grounds known as the Armagh Astropark. The Armagh Observatory is a modern scientific research institute with a rich heritage, founded in 1789 by Archbishop Richard Robinson. The

Observatory Grounds and Astropark include scale models of the Solar System and the Universe, two sundials and historic telescopes, as well as telescope domes and other outdoor exhibits (see <http://star.arm.ac.uk/astropark/>).

A new facility, the Armagh Human Orrery is located close to the Grade A listed main building of the modern Observatory (see <http://star.arm.ac.uk/orrery/>). The Observatory's specialist Library and Archives, and its collection of scientific instruments and artefacts associated with the development of modern astronomy, rank amongst the leading collections of its kind in the UK and Ireland.

For more information, see <http://star.arm.ac.uk/> and <http://climate.arm.ac.uk/>. Located at College Hill, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-2928. The Grounds and Astropark are open all year round; tours can be arranged by appointment.

**Armagh Planetarium** Located close to Armagh city centre and neighbouring Armagh Observatory, the Planetarium has been educating and entertaining people of all ages for over forty years. The Digital Theatre can accommodate 93 visitors. Spectacular colour images are projected across the entire dome and together with an impressive stereo sound system combine to make each of the five shows on offer an unforgettable experience. Visitors can tour the fascinating exhibition halls, view spaceship and satellite models and encounter Mars in 3D. They can learn about and even touch the largest meteorite on display in Ireland which is an amazing 4.6 billion years old. Many fun activities, such as building and launching rockets, taking part in our electricity and magnetism workshop and making mission patches, all make for an exciting day out. Visitors can also enjoy investigating and exploring the surrounding Observatory Astropark.

Pre-booking is essential. For up to date information on opening times, prices etc. please visit <http://www.armaghplanet.com/>. Located at College Hill, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-3689.

**Armagh Public Library** The Armagh Public Library is located close to the Church of Ireland Cathedral in a distinctive Georgian building originally constructed to the design of Thomas Cooley. The Greek inscription over the public entrance means 'The Healing Place of the Soul'. Founded in 1771 by Archbishop Richard Robinson, this is the oldest public library in Northern Ireland.

The nucleus of the collection is Archbishop Robinson's personal library, which contains seventeenth and eighteenth century books on theology, philosophy, classic and modern literature, voyages and travels, history, medicine and law. In addition, there is a good collection of seventeenth and eighteenth century manuscripts and a unique collection of engravings known as the Rokeby Collection.

For more information: <http://www.armaghrobinsonlibrary.org/>. Located at 43 Abbey Street, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-3142. Open Monday to Friday: 10:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 16:00. Admission Free.

**Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich Memorial Library and Archive** Located on the Moy Road, north of the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Opened in 1999, the nucleus of the collection comprises the books and papers of Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich (1923–1990) and includes the archive of the Archdiocese of Armagh (1787–1963). The objective of the Library is to develop and promote the specialist cultural and academic interests favoured by the late Cardinal. The Library and Archive now represents a unique cultural and historical resource, housing collections relating to Irish history, the Irish language, ecclesiastical history, the Irish abroad and Irish sport. For more information, see <http://www.ofiaich.ie/>. Located at 15 Moy Road, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-2981. Open Monday to Friday: 09:30 to 17:00. Admission Free.

**Irish and Local Studies Library** The Irish and Local Studies Library is located in the old Armagh City Hospital building close to the Church of Ireland Cathedral, the Armagh Public

Library and the Youth Hostel. The entrance to the library is through a side entrance accessible from the car park.

The collection, which includes many rare and valuable books, encompasses all aspects of Irish life and learning from earliest times to current issues and events, with particular emphasis on the area covered by the Southern Education and Library Board and neighbouring border counties in the Republic. One of the Library's strengths is its newspaper and journals section, which includes a wide range of local papers, national and provincial dailies, and political and literary magazines, dating from the 18th century to the present day. It has an extensive range of maps, photographs and postcards, and offers full research facilities including internet access for researchers.

For more information, see <http://www.ni-libraries.net/libraries/irish-local-studies-library/>. Located at 39c Abbey Street, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-7851. Open Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday: 09:30 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00; Wednesday: Closed a.m. Open 14:00 to 17:00; Thursday: 09:30 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 20:00. Admission Free.

**Milford House Museum Collection** In its heyday Milford House was home to the famous McCrum family, one of Northern Ireland's premier linen manufacturing families, and was the most technologically advanced house in Ireland in the nineteenth century, the first in the world to be lit by hydroelectric power. The house contained a ballroom, fourteen bedrooms, and six bathrooms each with a Jacuzzi and Turkish bath. Outside, the landscaped gardens still contain rare trees and precious plants collected by Robert Garmany McCrum during his travels. There is a lake, two huge walled gardens and a fountain which is a Grade B1 listed monument

The McCrum family was a driving force in the development of Ireland's linen industry, creating the famous McCrum, Watson and Mercer empire which manufactured the world-famous damask linen. R.G. McCrum's daughter, Harriette, was a leading member of the Women's Suffragette Movement in Ireland, and his son, William, is most famous for inventing (in 1890) the penalty kick in football; he is buried in the churchyard of St. Mark's Parish Church, Armagh. From 1936 to 1965 Milford House became the Manor House School for girls, and it subsequently became the Manor House Special Care Hospital.

Milford House and the surrounding estate became largely derelict following the hospital's closure in 1985. The Milford House Museum Collection contains a wide range of items from the main house, including fine collections of china, silver, Georgian and regency furniture, and costumes and other personal family items. In addition, it contains the McCrum family papers (which include documents concerning other prominent families in Armagh Society); the McCrum, Watson and Mercer papers; the Milford village photographic collection; and an important archive from the Manor House School, including the Manor House School papers and its extensive photographic collection.

For more information please contact Milford Buildings Preservation Trust, Tel: 028-3752-5467, and Stephen McManus, Keeper of Collections, Tel: 078-5478-4256; E-mail: [steviepmcmanus@hotmail.com](mailto:steviepmcmanus@hotmail.com); web-site: [www.milfordhouse.org.uk](http://www.milfordhouse.org.uk).

**Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum** The Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum is located on the north-east corner of the Mall, close to the Courthouse and the entrance to the Armagh Observatory. The Museum is dedicated to the history of the Regiment from 1793–1968 and contains one of the foremost collections of Irish military history outside Dublin, including an exceptional specialist library and archive.

Amongst many fascinating books are eight large volumes that comprise "Ireland's Memorial Record". More than a listing of the thousands of Irish dead from the First World War, each page has been individually and beautifully illustrated by Harry Clarke, better known for his stained glass. These volumes comprise one of the few original sets still known to exist.

Located at Sovereign's House, The Mall, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-2911. Open Monday

to Friday: 10:00 to 12:30 and 13:30 to 16:00. Admission Free. For more information, see <http://www.rirfus-museum.freeseerve.co.uk/>.

**St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral** Located above Market Square at the centre of the historic City of Armagh. History records that Patrick founded a church on the hill known as Drum Saileach (Sallow Ridge or Sally Hill) in 445, so beginning the story of Armagh Cathedral. The site of one of the most celebrated of the great Irish Monastic Schools, students came here from all over Europe.

In 1004, the High King of Ireland, Brian Boru, entered Armagh and presented at the great altar of the Church a collar of gold weighing 20 ounces. A plaque outside the Cathedral shows where he is reputed to have been buried in 1014 following his death (and that of his son, Murchard) at the Battle of Clontarf.

The plan of the Cathedral, as it now stands, is the enlarged design of Archbishop O'Scanlan in 1268. Although the Church on this hallowed site suffered destruction on at least seventeen occasions, it was always restored, maintaining an unbroken link back to Patrick himself. For more information, see <http://www.stpatricks-cathedral.org/>.

For information on guided tours and costs or any other correspondence, please contact: The Dean, Armagh Public Library, 43 Abbey Street, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-3142. Open November to March: 10:00–16:00; April to October 10:00–17:00. Sunday Services: 10:00, 11:00, 15:15; Weekday Services: 09:30.

**St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral** Located on Cathedral Road, opposite the Shambles Market, on the hill traditionally called Tealach na Licci (Sandy Hill). The Book of Armagh relates a beautiful tradition that is illustrated in the lower portion of the Cathedral's great east window: when St. Patrick took possession of Sally Hill a deer with her fawn allegedly leapt from the bushes. His companions wanted to catch and kill the fawn but the Saint would not allow them. Instead, he took the animal on his shoulders and carried it, followed by its mother, to Sandy Hill, the site of the present Roman Catholic Cathedral.

The landmark achievement of Catholic Emancipation in 1829 heralded a great revival of Catholic Ireland in the 19th century; and in 1835 Dr William Crolly became Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. He laid the Cathedral's foundation stone on St. Patrick's Day 1840, but it was another 33 years before the Cathedral was completed. It was dedicated at a ceremony on 24th August 1873, attended by more than 20,000 people. The Cathedral contains many fine works of art and architectural features, including unique stained-glass windows and walls decorated with a mosaic that was originally unique in Ireland.

For more information, see <http://www.armagharchdiocese.org/>. Located at Cathedral Road, Armagh. Tel: 028-3752-2638; e-mail: [armaghparish@btconnect.com](mailto:armaghparish@btconnect.com). Mass times: Monday to Saturday 10:00 (not Friday); Saturday Vigil at 19:00; Sunday Masses at 09:00, 11:00 and 17:30. Open throughout the day. Guided tours can be booked in advance.

**The Mall** Located close to the centre of the City of Armagh, the Mall has played a major role in the leisure activities of the people of Armagh for more than 200 years. From 1731 to 1773 it was the horse-racing course, with a monthly trading fair held in the central area. The arrival in 1765 of the Church of Ireland Primate, Archbishop Richard Robinson, saw a great change in Armagh as he began to redevelop the city as a place to rival Dublin. Around 1773 he closed the racecourse and appropriated the land for the benefit of the citizens of Armagh, and in 1797 his successor, Archbishop Newcome, leased the land (which was originally known as 'The Common') as a public park for the people of Armagh. Later, when Primate Robinson became Lord Rokeby of Armagh, the area became known as Rokeby Green, and is now known as The Mall.

Over the years, the tree-lined promenade has been an area for various sports such as cricket, football and rugby. By the mid-nineteenth century it was also a place for the public to enjoy evening recitals at the bandstand.

Care of the Mall is now in the hands of the Mall Trustees, and in 2003 a partnership was formed with the Armagh City and District Council. The Mall was recently restored with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and in 2005 won two awards. For more information, Tel: 028-3752-1801 or see <http://www.visitarmagh.com>. To make an education booking, Tel: 028-3752-1806 or e-mail: [education@armagh.gov.uk](mailto:education@armagh.gov.uk).

**Armagh Tourist Information Centre** Located at 40 English Street, Armagh BT61 7BA, the Tourist Information Centre provides a first-class service for those requesting information on Armagh City and District and also Northern Ireland. Services include information on the local area; holidays in Ireland; computerised accommodation booking service; and a shop with a wide range of maps, guide books, postage stamps and souvenirs. A photocopying and fax service is also available.

Open all year Monday to Saturday 09:00–17:00. Sunday opening 14:00–17:00 (September to May) or 12:00–17:00 (June to August). Tel: 028-3752-1800, FAX: 028-3752-8329, or E-mail: [info@visitarmagh.com](mailto:info@visitarmagh.com) for more information, or see <http://www.armagh.co.uk>.

**St. Patrick's Trian Visitor Complex** Located close to the centre of the City of Armagh, St. Patrick's Trian is an ideal place to begin a tour of discovery of the city's history, architecture, fine churches and sites of unique historic and cultural interest. The visitor centre incorporates three major exhibitions, namely: 'The Armagh Story', which traces the history of Armagh from pre-Christian times to the present day; the multilingual 'Patrick's Testament', where you learn about our patron saint through the ancient manuscript 'Book of Armagh' by using touch-screen technology to interrogate people associated with it; and finally the 'Land of Lilliput', where you can have a fun time experiencing 'Gulliver's Travels' narrated by a twenty-foot giant!

The Education Department based at the centre also facilitates a range of education programmes suitable for key stages 1–3 on the subjects of history, numeracy, language, and community relations, which can be booked by schools throughout the year. All education programmes contain Living History interpretation, a tour of the exhibitions and interactive workshops for students. Special educational events also take place throughout the year. Facilities include group visits; tour guide on request; conference facilities; restaurant; toilets and disabled toilets; birthday parties; art exhibitions; car and coach parking; and shopping.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday 10:00–17:00, Sunday 14:00–17:00. Closed over Christmas and New Year. For more information, Tel: 028-3752-1801, FAX: 028-3752-0180 or E-mail [info@saintpatrickstrian.com](mailto:info@saintpatrickstrian.com), or see <http://www.armagh.co.uk>.

**Armagh Ancestry** Located in the Tourist Information Street at 40 English Street, Armagh Ancestry offers a comprehensive genealogical service to those whose ancestors came from Armagh. It provides an efficient and accurate service for a reasonable cost and in a short time. To find out more, contact the genealogical researcher, Tel: 028-3752-1801, FAX: 028-3752-0180 or E-mail [ancestry@armagh.gov.uk](mailto:ancestry@armagh.gov.uk), or see <http://www.armagh.co.uk>.

**The Navan Centre and Fort** The Navan Centre interprets one of Ireland's most important ancient monuments, Navan Fort, the ancient capital and seat of the Kings of Ulster. From the 'Real World' of archaeology travel to the 'Other World' to hear legends of the Ulster Cycle. Visit the unique Iron Age/Early Christian period dwelling and, through Living History interpretation, learn about a past life. Finally, walk the path of history to the Navan Fort, the Ancient Seat of the Kings. Exhibitions are multilingual.

Summer opening times: April 1 to September 30, Monday to Sunday 10:00–19:00, last admission 17:30. Winter opening times October 1 to March 31, Monday to Sunday 10:00–16:00, last admission 15:00. Open at other times by arrangement for Tour Groups or Educational visits. Tel: 028-3752-9644, FAX: 028-3752-6431 or E-mail: [navan@armagh.gov.uk](mailto:navan@armagh.gov.uk) for more information or see <http://www.armagh.co.uk>.

## Armagh Heritage Days

In recent years AVEC has organized an annual Armagh Heritage Day. Brief details on these events are noted below.

### 2006 May 24: ‘The Heritage of Armagh’

Main Talk: **The Role of Heritage in a Modern Society**  
*Shirley Clerkin (County Monaghan Heritage Officer)*

### 2007 May 23: ‘Richard Robinson’s Legacy to Armagh’

Main Talks: **The ‘Edifying’ Primate: Richard Robinson, Archbishop of Armagh (1765–1794)**  
*Anthony Malcomson (Historian and Author)*  
**Armagh Buildings**  
*Marcus Patton (Director of ‘Hearth’)*

### 2008 May 7: ‘The Books of Armagh’

Main Talk: **The Book of Armagh**  
*Monsignor Raymond Murray (Historian and Editor of “Seanchas Ard Mhacha”, Journal of the Armagh Diocesan Historical Society)*

### 2009 May 20: ‘Armagh — A Centre of Learning Through the Ages’

Main Talks: **Education in Armagh: An Historical Overview**  
*Peter Finn (Principal, St. Mary’s University College, Belfast)*  
**The Universe: Yours to Discover**  
*Robert Hill (Northern Ireland Space Office at Armagh Planetarium)*

### 2010 May 19: ‘From Earth to Sky: Reflecting on Armagh’s Heritage Through Time’

Main Talk: **Navan — Emain Mhacha — and the Celts**  
*Jim Mallory (Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology, Queen’s University Belfast)*