The War of Independence in the Midlands

A conference organised by The Old Athlone Society to mark the 90th Anniversary of the end of the War.

Custume Barracks, Athlone.

26 November 2011.

Registration Form *

| Conference fee | €35.00 |
| Conference dinner | €30.00 |

Please sign me up for ...
Conference fee x ____ persons €__
Dinner x ____ persons €____
I enclose payment for ...Total €__

* Limited to first 100 PAID applications received.
Conference fee includes conference pack, tea / coffee and light lunch.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ______________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________
Car reg. number: _____________________ **
Tel: _________________________________
Email: _______________________________

Cheques made out for the required sum and made payable to The Old Athlone Society MUST be returned with this form to:
Ms. FIONA BROWNE,
Hon. Treasurer,
The Old Athlone Society,
Custume Place,
Athlone,
Co. Westmeath.

** Car Reg. Number is essential if you wish to bring it into Custume Barracks.

Accommodation

Prince of Wales Hotel.
Tel: 090 6476666 ** Conference rate available
Web: www.theprinceofwales.ie

Raddison Blu Hotel.
Tel: 090 6442600
Web: www.radissonblu.ie

Sheraton Hotel.
Tel: 090 6451000
Web: www.sheratonathlonehotel.com

Hodson Bay Hotel.
Tel: 090 6442020
Web: www.hodsonbayhotel.com

Shamrock Lodge Hotel.
Tel: 090 6492601
Web: www.shamrocklodgehotel.ie

See also www.athlone.ie for B&Bs etc.

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** The Prince of Wales Hotel offers a special conference rate of €70 for a single person b&b and €125 for 2 people sharing (b&b). Please refer to the conference when booking:

Irish Volunteers at Coosan 1915.

The Old Athlone Society

To be followed by a Conference Dinner in The Prince of Wales Hotel.

Design: www.roscommonhistory.ie
## Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.30</td>
<td><strong>Welcoming address &amp; opening of conference</strong> Dr John Keane, President, The Old Athlone Society.</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.40</td>
<td><strong>Keynote address</strong> Dr Margaret O'Callaghan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td><strong>Coffee break.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td><strong>Forsaking Nationalists for Republicans: watershed elections in the midlands, 1917-20.</strong> Dr John Burke.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.20</td>
<td><strong>The geography of revolution - the case of County Longford, 1917-21.</strong> Dr Marie Coleman.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch break.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td><strong>The War of Independence in Westmeath and South Roscommon.</strong> Ian Kenneally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00</td>
<td><strong>Afternoon tea.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15.20</td>
<td>‘.. he goeth before them; and the sheep follow him’ the role of GHQ organisers and the Offaly IRA’s War for Independence 1918-21. Philip McConway.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.20</td>
<td><strong>Understanding British military operations in Connaught and the midlands during the War of Independence, 1919-21.</strong> Dr William Sheehan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00</td>
<td><strong>General discussion &amp; close of conference.</strong> Dr Harman Murtagh, President, Military History Society of Ireland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.00</td>
<td><strong>Conference dinner.</strong> Prince of Wales Hotel.</td>
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## Speakers

**Dr Margaret O'Callaghan** teaches politics and history at Queen's University, Belfast and has previously taught at the Universities of Cambridge and Notre Dame. She is the author of numerous essays on aspects of British high politics and the state apparatus in relation to nationalist and unionist political formations in Ireland from the late nineteenth century to the revolution. She co-edited with Mary E. Daly “1916 in 1966: Commemorating the Easter Rising” (Royal Irish Academy, 2007). Her current research focuses on propaganda wars in the Irish public sphere and print media, and the politics of Irish literature.

**Dr John Burke**, a native of Athlone, is author of “Athlone in the Victorian Era” (Athlone: Old Athlone Society, 2007). His second book, an assessment Athlone’s political development during the period 1900-23, is scheduled for release in 2012.

**Dr Marie Coleman** lectures in Irish history at Queen's University Belfast. She is the author of “County Longford and the Irish revolution, 1910-1923” (2003) and “The Irish Sweep: a history of the Irish hospitals sweepstake, 1930-1987” (2009). Her current research focuses on the position of revolutionary veterans in independent Ireland and she is also writing a textbook on the Irish revolution, due for publication in 2013.

**Ian Kenneally** is currently completing a PhD in history at NUI Galway. He previously studied history at UCC and has contributed to a number of studies on newspaper history. He is also the author of “The paper wall: newspapers and propaganda in Ireland 1919-1921”, “Courage and conflict: forgotten stories of the Irish at war” and the forthcoming “From the earth, a cry: the story of John Boyle O'Reilly”.

**Philip McConway** is currently completing a PhD thesis in TCD on the Civil War in Leix, Offaly and North Tipperary. A committee member of Offaly Historical & Archaeological Society (OHAS) he is a contributor to its journal “Offaly Heritage”. He has previously lectured to the OHAS and Birr Historical Society on loyalism, the National Army, and the IRA in Offaly during the Irish revolution.