

Diary Date - The Mellon Centre for Migration Studies

Objects on the move: everyday life in Gaelic Ulster

Annual Lecture – 11am – 2pm on Saturday 26 January 2019

Mellon Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park
2 Mellon Road, Castletown, Omagh BT78 5QU, Co Tyrone

The Mellon Centre for Migration Studies is delighted to invite you to attend our annual lecture, given by Peter McElhinney, on Saturday 26 January 2019. Peter is an object conservator with research interests in the scientific analysis of cultural material and worked at the Smithsonian Institute. He was inspired to investigate the impact of historical cultural disruption in Gaelic Irish communities and this is the basis of his PhD research.

This subject will be of interest to anyone who wondered about how objects can tell the fascinating story everyday life in late Medieval Ulster.

Objects on the move: everyday life in Gaelic Ulster

The labouring classes in Late Medieval Ulster (1200-1600 AD) are considered to have been exceptionally mobile in the landscape. In addition to seasonal movements of grazing animals and their attendants in a process known in Ireland as 'booleying', migration in search of better conditions, or to escape persecution was a feature of this politically turbulent period. While relatively few rural Gaelic settlements have been excavated in Ulster, a body of objects recovered during turf cutting activities in this region, and now part of national and regional museum collections in Ireland north and south, may tell us more about the day to day lives of the mobile labouring classes.

This doctoral research project, based at the School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences at the University of Bradford, employs heritage science based techniques to learn more about how the objects were made and used. The isolated find locations for the objects are reconsidered in relation to new perspectives on Late Medieval settlement patterns in Ulster. The research reveals some surprising material connections between the objects included in the study, and folk objects made and used in Ulster in the 19th and 20th centuries.

This research is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) UK through the Heritage Consortium, a group of seven universities in northeast England working in strategic partnership with regional, national and international heritage organisations and networks, to deliver doctoral training and to promote research in all aspects of heritage. If you are interested in learning more about Peter's project, please go to: www.gaelicrecovery.com.

The fee for the event is £12 with £10 concession for students, unwaged and senior citizens including registration, morning coffee, lecture and finger buffet lunch.

Booking is advisable

For further information:

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