

### Booking Information.

The Conference fee is €45 (Forty-five Euro). Fee includes conference pack, tea / coffee & light lunch.

Conference Dinner is €35 (Thirty-five Euro) extra.

Payment in advance by electronic fund transfer (see overleaf) or by Euro cheque / money order made out to **The Old Athlone Society** and sent with this booking form to: **Dr. Maurice Collins, Hon Treasurer, The Old Athlone Society, Barrymore, Athlone N37 YY53**

Conference places strictly limited to 100 (one hundred) patrons maximum. Strictly first come first served basis.

First one hundred payments received secures place. A waiting list may be maintained for late applicants. The organizers are not responsible for payments delayed or lost in the post.

### Booking Form.

I wish to book \_\_\_\_ places for the **Athlone; its past & place in history Conference** on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Athlone.

Conference Dinner: YES \_\_\_\_ Number of tickets \_\_\_\_

I enclose cheque / money order made payable to **The Old Athlone Society** for € \_\_\_\_ or I have made an electronic payment of € \_\_\_\_ (see overleaf).

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to the following email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Car Reg \*: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\* car registration is essential if you wish to bring it into **Custume Barracks**.

### Electronic Payment

You can also pay by electronic bank transfer:

Swift/BIC: **BOFIE2D**

IBAN: **IE09BOFI90163411371317**

(Sort Code 90-16-34. A/C 11371317)

If paying by direct transfer please send an email advising that you have done so giving reference AC2015 and your name and details to [midlandconference@gmail.com](mailto:midlandconference@gmail.com)

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<https://www.facebook.com/athlonehistory>

### Accommodation

#### **Prince of Wales Hotel.**

Tel: 090 6476666

Web: [www.theprinceofwales.ie](http://www.theprinceofwales.ie)

#### **Radisson Blu Hotel.**

Tel: 090 6442600

Web: [www.radissonblu.ie](http://www.radissonblu.ie)

#### **Sheraton Hotel.**

Tel: 090 6451000

Web: [www.sheratonathlonehotel.com](http://www.sheratonathlonehotel.com)

#### **Hodson Bay Hotel.**

Tel: 090 6442020

Web: [www.hodsonbayhotel.com](http://www.hodsonbayhotel.com)

#### **Shamrock Lodge Hotel.**

Tel: 090 6492601

Web: [www.shamrocklodgehotel.ie](http://www.shamrocklodgehotel.ie)

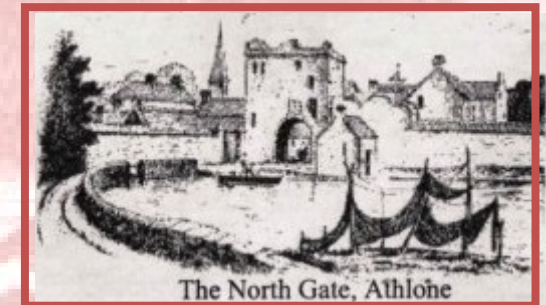
See also [www.athlone.ie](http://www.athlone.ie) for B&Bs etc.

Athlone is easily reached by car, bus or train from Dublin. For Athlone train timetables see: <http://www.irishrail.ie/> and for bus times see: <http://www.buseireann.ie/>

## A Conference to Celebrate 50 Years of The Old Athlone Society.

# 'Athlone; its Past & Place in History'

[www.athlonehistory.ie](http://www.athlonehistory.ie)



**Custume Barracks, Athlone.**

**Saturday 28 November 2015.**

**The Old Athlone Society**  
Founded 1965

## Schedule.

<b>0900 - 0930</b>	Registration.	<b>1400 - 1440</b>	Some Pioneers of Athlone's Local History: from Sir Henry Piers to Billy English. Gearóid O'Brien.
<b>0930 - 0940</b>	Welcome by O/C Barracks & Dr. John Keane.		
<b>0949 - 1020</b>	Athlone Castle – new insights on an ancient monument. Dr Rory Sherlock.	<b>1440 - 1520</b>	Custume Barracks a History. Ian Kenneally.
<b>1020 - 1100</b>	Anglo-Norman Settlement in South Roscommon: its rise and fall. Dr Harman Murtagh.	<b>1520 - 1540</b>	Tea / Coffee.
<b>1100 - 1120</b>	Tea / Coffee.	<b>1540 - 1620</b>	The Development of Horse Drawn Public Transport in Athlone 1740 - 1840. Dr Pat Wallace.
<b>1120 - 1200</b>	The other sieges: Athlone 1641- 50. Dr Pádraig Lenihan.	<b>1620 - 1700</b>	TP O'Connor from Westmeath to Westminster. Ruth Illingworth.
<b>1200 - 1300</b>	Keynote address. Mr Justice Adrian Hardiman.	<b>1700 - 1730</b>	Close & Questions.
<b>1300 - 1400</b>	Lunch.	<b>1900</b>	Reception & 50th Anniversary Dinner, Officers' Mess, Custume Bks.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am.** Historic walking tour of the town: Donal O'Brien: Open to the public and conference attendees.

## Speaker Biographies.

**Dr Rory Sherlock** an archaeologist and architectural historian who specialises in the study of the buildings and landscapes of medieval and post-medieval Ireland. He is the director of the Galway Archaeological Field School and has recently prepared a new, fully illustrated guidebook to Athlone Castle for publication.

**Dr. Pádraig Lenihan** served as an officer in the artillery corps, retiring as a captain to pursue a second career as a historian. He lectures in the National University of Ireland Galway. He researches and writes mainly on the subject of seventeenth century warfare.

**Dr Harman Murtagh** is a visiting fellow at Athlone Institute of Technology, where he was formerly a senior lecturer. He is president of the Military History Society of Ireland and a former president of The Old Athlone Society and of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement. He is the author of more than sixty publications, including books, book chapters and journal articles. They include the Athlone fascicle of the *Irish Historic Towns Atlas* (1994), *Athlone: history and settlement to 1800* (2000) and *A short historical tour of Lough Ree* (2015).

**The Hon Mr Justice Adrian Hardiman** has been a judge of the Supreme Court since 2000. He graduated in history at University College Dublin and Kings Inns. He was called to the Bar in 1974 to the inner bar in 1987. At the time of his appointment to the Supreme Court he was one of the leading barristers of his day. Elected president of the Student Union and auditor of the Literary and Historical Society at UCD. He won the Irish Times national debating championship in 1973. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy, is a distinguished historian and Joycean scholar.

**Gearóid O'Brien** librarian is a native of Athlone. He has published extensively on local history and genealogy. He has contributed a regular column to The Westmeath Independent for over 25 years. His books include: *St. Mary's Parish, Athlone: a history*, 1989; *John McCormack and Athlone*, 1992; *Athlone through old picture postcards*, 1996; *Athlone in old photographs* (Gill and Macmillan, 2002); *Lough Ree & its islands* [joint author] (Three Counties Press, 2006) *Athlone on the Shannon*, (Cottage Publications, 2008) and *Athlone Miscellany* (The History Press, 2011). He is a past president of the Old Athlone Society.

**Ian Kenneally** is an author, historian, and broadcaster. He is a doctoral student at NUI Galway, having previously completed a master's degree at UCC. His publications include *'The Paper Wall, 'From the Earth, a Cry'*, and *'Courage and Conflict'* (Collins Press). He has contributed to a variety of publications including *'Irish Journalism before Independence'* (Manchester University Press) and the forthcoming *'Atlas of the Irish Revolution'* (Cork University Press). Among his radio documentaries are *'You are to be Shot at Daybreak'* and a forthcoming series on Custume Barracks for Midlands 103 FM.

**Dr Patrick Wallace** Director Emeritus of the National Museum, and was an outstanding Director of the National Museum of Ireland whose scholarship and distinction as leader of the National Museum and as an archaeologist are recognised and admired both nationally and internationally. He is an expert on the Viking period. In particular he led the National Museum of Ireland team on the Wood Quay project between 1974 and 1981.

**Ruth Illingworth** is an Historian and Tour Guide who lives in Mullingar. She has lectured in Irish History at NUI Maynooth and is the author of two books on the history of Mullingar. She has also written book chapters and numerous journal and newspaper articles on aspects of local and national history and has broadcast on RTE, BBC and Irish TV. A member of Mullingar Town Council 2004-2014. She was Mayor of Mullingar 2009-2010.

**Donal O'Brien** a former president of The Old Athlone Society has contributed articles to its journals over the years. He recently published to great acclaim *The Houses and Landed Gentry of County Westmeath*. It has gone to a second printing.