

Aughty Famine Working Group
Spring Lecture Series

We all think we know what happened during the Great Famine. This free lecture series will examine some of our most common preconceptions, so come and take a new look at this most pivotal period of Irish history.

John Cunningham, NUIG

“Better to die by the sword than to die of starvation”: protest and resistance during the Great Famine

LADY GREGORY HOTEL, GORT

TUESDAY 24 MARCH

8PM

Contact: Terri Shoosmith, 086 1927069

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The second lecture in the Aughty Famine Working Group series which explores the Great Famine from different perspectives will take place on Tuesday 24th March at 8pm at the Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort.

Dr. John Cunningham, NUI Galway, says that a common image of the Famine is of a meek and passive people pleading for the means to survive. This does not tell the full story, however, for especially in the early stages of the Famine, crowds of poor people took assertive action to preserve themselves from calamity. They assembled at ports, canals and along the River Shannon, to prevent the export of grain; they protested against deteriorating conditions on relief works; they mobilised to demand refunds of the conacre rents they had paid for their useless potato patches.

Drawing on examples from counties Galway and Clare, this lecture will examine the nature, extent, and impact of collective popular resistance in the Ireland of the 1840s.

The lecture is entitled, *“Better to die by the sword than to die of starvation”: protest and resistance during the Great Famine*.

The Aughty Famine Working Group, an association of heritage groups, artists and historians from around the Sliabh Aughty region, have been meeting regularly for over a year to explore the different ways in which we might think about and interpret the subject of famine. Their initiatives have included a local schools project based upon the boxes in which emigrants took their worldly goods and chattels to Ireland, and the diary of an emigrant girl from the Gort workhouse.

Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort

Tuesday 24 March

8pm

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