

Aughty Famine Working Group

Spring 2015 Lecture Series

170 years of Hunger

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.

Niall Ó Cíosáin, NUIG

*Hunger in the Midst of abundance? - food supply during the Great Famine*

Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort  
Tuesday 24th February. 8PM

Every Irish schoolchild is taught about the Great Famine, and we all ‘think’ we know what happened. But, 170 years later, there is much research taking place which questions some of our assumptions.

Was all the food grown in Ireland really exported while people starved?

Was the Great Famine something that happened to a passive, helpless population?

Was it the only, or even the worst, famine in Irish history?

This spring, the Aughty Famine Working Group is holding a series of three lectures which will look at aspects of the famine.

In February Dr. Niall Ó Cíosáin of NUI Galway will look at the question of food exports – just how much food was exported while Ireland starved?

In March, Dr. John Cunningham, NUI Galway, will discuss protest and resistance by the working people of south Galway and Clare.

In April, Dr. Terri Shoosmith, NUI Galway, will explore the Great Freeze of 1740 and food crises in the decades before 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.

The first lecture in the series will take place on February 24th at 8pm in the Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort.

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