

**HISTORY FEDERATIONS OF IRELAND**  
(Federation of Local History Societies and Federation for Ulster Local Studies)

**JOINT VISIT – BATTLEFIELDS OF EUROPE**

**Dates: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

On this trip we plan to visit some of the major battlefields in Belgium and France together with some other activities of wider historical interest.

We will visit West Flanders, the Somme and Waterloo. This will include the town of Ypres, scene of some of the bloodiest engagements in WW1 and also visit highlights of the town including the gigantic Cloth Hall, St. Martin's Cathedral and hear the last post at the Menin Gate. The itinerary will include Sanctuary Wood, Hill 62 with the only surviving WW1 trenches, the emotive Tyne Cot Cemetery with its Cross of Sacrifice and a visit to the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Messines dominated by its Irish Round Tower. A full day trip to the Somme will include the Somme 1916 Museum, Thiepval Memorial, the Ulster Tower, Lochnager crater and the Irish cemeteries. At Waterloo we will visit the Battlefield Visitor Centre and the Butte du Lien monument.

There will be a morning visit to the European Parliament where we will have a tour of the building, see the interactive exhibition on European democracy and history and meet with the Irish / NI MEPs. The afternoon will take us to the beautiful city of Bruges with its winding streets, picturesque canals, magnificent churches and its many fine buildings. An interesting Irish connection is the "Mantle of St. Bridget" which is kept in the Cathedral of St. Sauveur.

The visit is in conjunction with the "Leuven Institute of Ireland in Europe" and their headquarters will be our home for the duration of our stay. Situated in the heart of the beautiful university city of Leuven with its most impressive architecture it has a fascinating history all of its own. Established in 1607 by founder Florence Conry as the Irish Franciscan College of St. Francis of Padua it provided a temporary home for Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell on their way to exile in Rome. It was here that the "Annals of the Four Masters" was written. There will be an opportunity to explore Leuven with its many examples of architectural beauty.

**Cost (based on current information)**

The overall cost of the trip package will be (approx): PPS €400/ £332 - Single €500/ £415

This includes return flight Dublin/Brussels, 4 nights B&B, 2 Evening Meals, Guides, Coach x 5days and Admission Fees.

**Flights (based on current availability)**

Outward Journey – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. Depart Dublin 0640 Arrive Brussels 0925  
Inward Journey - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. Depart Brussels 1640 Arrive Dublin 1720

**Booking Form attached**

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**Please Note:** In order to secure suitable flights, we need to book the flight seats as soon as possible and pre-pay the cost of these flights.

We therefore require a £140/ €150 per person deposit to cover the flight costs.

**BOOKING FORM**

I wish to book places for the following people.

**Name of Society:** .....(where applicable)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone No</b>	<b>Email address</b>	<b>Double, Twin or Single room?</b>	<b>Share? Yes/No</b>

**Note:** One form per person or per person with partner

Please return the Booking Slip, with cheques; as follows

1. Sterling cheques should be made payable to the **Federation for Ulster Local Studies** and sent to Patrick Devlin, 18 Ardmore Avenue, Downpatrick, Co. Down BT30 6JU
2. For those paying in Euro, cheques should be made payable to the **Federation of Local History Societies** and sent to Patrick Devlin, 18 Ardmore Avenue, Downpatrick, Co. Down BT30 6JU

*Those securing a place on the trip will be informed of the balance outstanding by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016*

**Balance must be paid by 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

This visit is a MEP sponsored event through the European Parliament and is restricted to a total of 50 people, 25 from the FLHS and 25 from FULS. Early booking is essential as places will be on a first come, first served, basis.
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**A detailed itinerary will follow two weeks before the date of the visit.**