

Report to the 2019 AGM of the MHSI Council on the Actions Taken on foot of the Members' Survey.

In 2017, Council undertook a survey of its members to obtain their opinions on how well the Society met its aims and the needs of its members. About 570 forms were issued – 100 of these went to our overseas members.

Responses were received from 95 members who represent about 17% of our ordinary, life and honorary members: Of the responses, 82 (86%) came from Ireland and 13 (14%) came from overseas.

The Report produced on foot of the Survey set out a list of actions Council propose to take arising from it. It included a commitment to report on such progress at its AGM.

Irish Sword

The suggestions and comments will be considered by the Editorial Team. Otherwise, no significant changes are proposed

Winter Lecture Programme

The survey confirms Council's view that the lectures are popular, very well attended and form a vital part of the business of the Society. The Editorial Team will give consideration to the various comments made.

A 3-year pilot scheme was introduced to hold at least one lecture each year at a rural venue. The first such lecture was held in Wexford Town in October 2018, was very well attended and a great success.

Consideration will be given in 2019 to a further lecture outside of Dublin

Conferences

Plans are also afoot to hold a Conference in the Cork area in 2020.

Library

Council decided to approach Military Archives with a proposal. An index or catalogue would need to be prepared. No action taken yet on this.

Annual General Meeting

AGM has been moved to the February/March period. This coincided with moving the Society's accounting period to the calendar year. Previously, it ran from October to September.

Annual Dinner

This was moved to McKee Barracks in Dublin and appears to have been broadly welcomed by those who attend the dinner.

Summer Tour in Ireland

A 2-day Summer Tour, commencing on a Sunday, was held in 2018. Future tours will generally be two days long but some, depending on distance and the number of sites involved, will be three days.

Field-Days

Council will consider the feasibility of commencing field-days at an earlier start time to facilitate visits to locations further afield from Dublin to increase the catchment area of potential participants.

Switch Summer (Weekend) Tour/Autumn Field-Day

No general change proposed. However, in 2019, because the Foreign Tour will take place in May, it is proposed to hold the 2019 field-day in summer and the week-end tour in the autumn.

Overseas Tour

Council proposes to restrict the majority of overseas tours in the future to one week except where the destination and/or campaign warrant a longer period. It also considered your suggestions in relation to topics, locations etc., one of which included Scotland. In 2019, a 6-day tour will take place in Scotland.

Communications and Social Media

Having regard to the overwhelming number who stated that they were satisfied with how the Society communicates with its members, Council has no immediate plans to change its current practice.

However, it is mindful of the benefits of modern technology and how it may be used to reduce costs, provide efficiencies and provide alternative options to those who prefer to use information technology exclusively or as their primary means of communications. Council will have regard to these. In that regard, Capt Pádraic Keane, member of Council, has agreed to take responsibility for PR, Communications, Social Media, Email system, and IT Technology. This will include the possibility of recording / podcasting the Autumn/Winter Lecture Series. This will, of course, be subject to resolving technical issues with Griffith College, obtaining the consent of the lecturers involved and any data protection issues.

That ends my Report