

*An Cumann  
Staire Lucht  
Saothar  
na hÉireann*



**Irish  
Labour  
History  
Society**

**Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4, Ireland.**

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

In ILHS Premises, Beggars Bush

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 2pm**

### **AGENDA**

1. President's Address
2. Minutes of AGM of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017
3. Annual Report
4. Financial Report
5. Elections
6. Motions [See over for list of motions]
7. Any Other Business

**3:40pm:**

#### **Launch of Saothar 43**

(co-edited by Sarah-Anne Buckley & Martin Maguire)

Available for members to collect on the day.

**3:50pm:**

#### **The 2016 Lord Mayor's Award to Dublin Workers**

will be donated to the ILHS Collections

**4pm: Talk:**

#### **William Walker Revisited: A Tribute to John W. Boyle**

*By Dr Michael Meham*

**Dr. Kieran Jack McGinley, *President***

**Kevin Murphy, *Secretary***

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## **Motions before the Annual General Meeting**

### ***Proposed Motion Number 1:***

“That the Society introduce a Volunteers programme with training model and supervised target projects to be undertaken by Volunteers” [Proposed by Francis Devine]

### ***Proposed Motion Number 2:***

“That the Society considers the setting up of an ILHS Fellowship scheme which would be given over a period of 10 years. The Fellows never more than (5) in total should be awarded to members of the ILHS who have published and spoken widely on the subject of Labour History, who have contributed to the scholarship of the society, and who merit the award having been assessed by a panel put together by the society for vetting possible candidates” [Proposed by Jack McGinley]

### ***Proposed Motion Number 3:***

“That a sub-committee be set up to look at the constitution of the Society and to report back to the Officers and committee by the end of 2018” [Proposed by Ed Penrose]

### ***Proposed Motion Number 4:***

“That the ILHS organise an international Conference in 2020 in Dublin to discuss matters of interest to international scholars, voices of experience, and young and mature students/researchers. That the ILHS should seek contributors to the conference via a call for papers and that the motion if ratified should allow the ILHS to set up an (i) organising & (ii) conference contents committees with an advisory group commissioned to review submitted papers for conference selection. The ILHS and Editors of *Saothar* should give consideration that some of the papers should appear in *Saothar* in 2021” [Proposed by the ILHS Committee]

**Talk at 4pm by invited speaker Dr Michael Mecham.**

**Title: ‘William Walker Revisited: A Tribute to John W. Boyle’**

### **Abstract**

Inspired by the work of John W. Boyle the presentation will complement an article in *Saothar 2018*. It will briefly trace the author’s path to Belfast labour leader William Walker, via the labour stronghold of West Ham in London’s working class East End, through British Labour pioneer James Keir Hardie. It will describe who William Walker was and the political debates surrounding him. But the main focus will be on Walker’s social and community activism, notably through his near decade as a Belfast Poor Law Guardian. It will suggest that William Walker was a complex figure open to alternative perspectives.

### **Biography**

Dr Michael Mecham is a visiting lecturer at St. Mary’s University, London, where he was recently awarded a PhD on William Walker and the Belfast labour movement. He was born in West Ham where he was later elected as Councillor for Keir Hardie’s Canning Town; and he became chair of the Borough’s large social services programme. Before turning to Irish studies Dr Mecham was Head of the Latin America programme at the international relations think-tank Chatham House. There he focused on human rights, refugee law, reconciliation and developing relationships with Cuban research institutions.

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