

collection of photographs accumulated locally and shown in the local history library attracted considerable interest from both far and wide. Due to the generosity of Dominic, a native of Manorhamilton, this collection is now on permanent display for the benefit of posterity. The second notable event was the memorable launch of Dominic Rooney's book on Sir Frederick Hamilton in the historical setting of Manorhamilton Castle. A publication which merited the *Book of the Year* by Four Courts Press.

At the moment, research on World War One is Margaret's priority in this centenary year. As the cold piercing winds of World War One blew treacherously into our local area, many of our local men went and fought in the trenches; some returning after their time was completed and some leaving sorrow and desolation for their loved ones at home. This area of research for Margaret is both sensitive and profound, coming to terms with the social difficulties the soldiers and their families encountered here. Margaret at this stage paid great tribute to the other members of this newly formed society for the valuable work they are doing of collecting and recording of memories of Manorhamilton in former years and at present are giving their due attention to the residents of McDermott Terrace.

Margaret is also compiling a collection of local poems as well as recording the memories and stories of the elderly residents of the area. Both of these projects are ongoing and entail much research and detail.

Margaret is justifiably proud of this new society. This is a labour of love for Margaret which is reflected in the painstaking detail and dedication that she has brought to every event to date and we in Manorhamilton relish Margaret's presence in our midst. Her endeavours have most certainly not gone unnoticed.

Postscript:

Margaret Connolly, *Amorset, Manorhamilton* is the wife of Bernie Joe Connolly of Manorhamilton. She has three children, Ursula, Alison and Bernard. A primary teacher by profession, she secured her early education in Dromahair of which she is a native. She was a pupil of the Mercy Convent, Sligo and attained her academic qualification in Mary Immaculate College in Limerick. She taught in Dublin, Tarmon, Killarney and finally Manorhamilton where she currently lives.

International Awards for Leitrim's Benbo Productions & Ocean FM

IN 2013 and again in 2014 Leitrim's Benbo Productions combined forces with Ocean FM to record two BAI — funded three-part radio fiction serials, *Francisco* and *The Cambria*. *Francisco* is the story of a Spanish Armada survivor in Ireland with music by four members of Kila, and *The Cambria* tells the story of escaped slave and asylum-seeker Frederick Douglass's 1845 journey to Ireland, as seen from the perspective of Ireland's treatment of asylum-seekers nowadays.

Francisco was nominated for the 2013 Prix Europa, and went on to shock the European radio industry by winning the *Prix Europa Taurus in Berlin for Best Radio Fiction Serial*.

In July 2014, *Francisco* went on to win the Gold Medal for *Best Drama Special* in the New York Festival of International Radio. It's the first time one production has won the two most prestigious radio fiction serial awards in the world.

In October 2014, the Ocean FM/Benbo team was again nominated for the *Prix Europa* for *The Cambria*. This time, *The Cambria* came fifth in the Radio Fiction Serial category, the only Irish nomination in the entire 2014 Prix Europa to make the commended shortlist. The placing has cemented Ocean FM/Benbo's position as leaders in European radio fiction, and the most successful radio drama producers in Ireland over the past two years.



■ *Top: Francisco* writer/ director Donal O'Kelly with Jaimie Carswell, who played Francisco, and the Prix Europa Taurus, at a celebration in the Glens Centre Manorhamilton, where both serials were recorded under the sound supervision of Ray Duffy.

PHOTO: BRIAN FARRELL

Bottom: From the stage version of The Cambria, with Sorcha Fox and Donal O'Kelly.

PHOTO: BRIAN FARRELL