Some Notes on Tuam in Olden Days, Tuam Art Exhibitions 1943-1950
A talk by Alison Titley
18th of October 2014 at 10.30 am in the KAS Library*, Maidstone Museum, St. Faith’s
St. Maidstone, ME14 1LH.

The art exhibitions which took place in Tuam, Co. Galway, a small town in the West of
Ireland, were quite astonishing for the variety of art on display. Paintings lent to the
exhibitions included two ‘Venetian Scenes’ by Canaletto and a portrait by Sir Frederick
Leighton. The art of all of the well-known Irish artists of the day, such as Jack B. Yeats, Paul
Henry and Louis le Brocquy was exhibited in Tuam. Local artists had the opportunity to
show their work in this eminent company. One art critic described the Tuam Art Exhibitions
as ‘the most representative showings of contemporary art seen anywhere in the country’.
Tuam might seem far away from Maidstone, however, examples of the work of Evie Hone,
Clare Sheridan, Richard King and Harry Clarke, who exhibited in Tuam can be seen in
London, Kent and Sussex.

Alison Titley has lived in Kent for 40 years. Until her retirement she was Head of History at
a sixth form college in Essex. Recently, she has been researching the life of her father Jarlath
A. O’Connell 1912-1958. He was a solicitor by profession, but he had many interests and
talents. He was a founder member of the Tuam Art Club in 1943 and one of the organisers of
the Tuam Art Exhibitions. Alison’s lecture is based on her research.

A £5 donation is requested to cover costs and help the Society further its work.

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ME14 1 LH giving the details requested. Cheques are to be made out to The Kent Archaeological
Society. If you pay in advance please include a SAE or an email address so we can confirm your
booking.

Please note that due to the historic nature of the building the Library is only accessible via stairs.
Numbers limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.