

Over the next few years, several cities and towns in Ireland will be marking the anniversary of the establishment of their municipal government system. In 2010, three member councils of the AMAI, Templemore, Tullamore and Balbriggan will be 150 years old while two more, Kilrush and Granard, will be 125 years old. Next year, both Skibbereen and Thurles Town Councils will be 150 years old, while in 2013, Castlebar Town Council will reach that milestone and a further seven towns will be able to mark the 400th anniversary of the granting of their first charter in 1613.

As many of you already know, Dr. Matthew Potter is currently employed in Department of History, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick as AMAI Fellow in the History of Urban Government where his research into the history of the AMAI being funded by the Association at present. His book on the history of local government in Irish cities and towns, which we also helped to fund, is due to appear this year, while his History of the AMAI will be published in 2012, to mark the Association's centenary.

If any member councils of the AMAI want to research the history of their establishment or indeed any other material relating to these anniversaries, they may contact Matthew, who has an unrivalled knowledge of the history of local government in our cities and towns and will be glad to assist you any queries you may have.

**Dr. Matthew Potter, B.A. (London), Ph.D. (NUI Galway,
AMAI (Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland) Fellow in the History of Urban Government,
Department of History,
Mary Immaculate College,
University of Limerick,
South Circular Road,
Limerick.**

Email: Matthew.Potter@mic.ul.ie

Telephone: + (0353) (61) 204520