

Dropping compulsory history is 'a devastatingly bad' idea

Fiona Ellis – 13 August 2013

Patrick Wallace was speaking at the Parnell Summer School, which takes place this week in the ancestral home of Charles Stewart Parnell, Avondale House in Rathdrum, Co Wicklow.

The summer school is drawing parallels between John F [Kennedy](#) and Charles Stewart Parnell, both great leaders and Mr Wallace cited the influence of Kennedy as he urged Education Minister Ruairi Quinn to rethink the proposal.

It is 50 years this year since Kennedy visited Ireland.

Mr Wallace was just 14 when he saw Kennedy speak on June 29, 1963, at Greenpark Racecourse Limerick.

And he said Kennedy's "sense of the value of history" inspired him to become director of the National Museum.

"He had a tremendous sense of history," he said.

Best-selling non-fiction author Anthony Summers also spoke at the summer school on Kennedy's assassination.

"This is the point at which it topples over the border of current affairs into history," he said.

Mr Summers will this year re-release his book 'Conspiracy' now re-titled 'Not in Your Lifetime', which offers an in-depth look at the assassination of Kennedy and the events that followed.

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