

libraries.  
**fingal.ie**



# FÉILE NA STAIRÉ FHINE GALL

25 Meán Fómhair –  
2 Deireadh Fómhair

# FINGAL FESTIVAL OF HISTORY

25 September –  
2 October

DUBLIN  
FESTIVAL OF  
HISTORY  
FÉILE NA STAIRÉ  
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH  
2021



fingal.ie

IRISH PEACE CONFERENCE, JULY, 1921. Delegates leaving Dun Laoghaire.

# Stair ag an gCaisleán: Imeachtaí 1921

## History at the Castle: The Events of 1921

Swords  
Cultural  
Quarter

AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON  
FINGAL LIBRARIES  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

All history talks this year will be recorded in the Chapel in Swords Castle and will be available on [Fingal Libraries YouTube Channel](#) and across our social media platforms.

The main theme of our Festival this year is **Partition, The Truce & The Anglo-Irish Treaty**. The Festival will run from 25th September to the 2nd of October where the series of talks outlined below will be released onto our social media channels and be available on the Fingal Libraries YouTube channel.

### – Speakers at The Castle –

#### From War to Peace: the year 1921 in Fingal – Declan Brady

This talk will recall the events and episodes in the political, economic, social, cultural and military life of Fingal, recreating what the year 1921 was like for the people at the time.

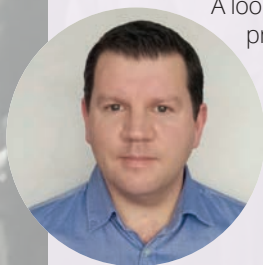
*Declan Brady is a historian and genealogist based in Swords, Co. Dublin with a history Masters from Maynooth University, where he is currently a John Hume PhD scholar.*



#### Birth of the Border: The Impact of Partition in Ireland – Cormac Moore

A look at how Ireland was partitioned 100 years ago, in 1921, and the profound effects it had from political, economic, social and cultural perspectives.

*Dr Cormac Moore is an historian-in-residence with Dublin City Council on its Decade of Commemorations Programme. He is the author of Birth of the Border: The Impact of Partition in Ireland (2019), The Irish Soccer Split (2015) and The GAA V Douglas Hyde: The Removal of Ireland's First President as GAA Patron (2012).*



## Everyday life in extraordinary times –

### Lou Boland

This talk will look at how we lived, learned and worked in Fingal in 1921.

**Lou Boland** originally from Kildare has lived in North Dublin for the past fifty years. She has developed an interest and love of the rural area North County Dublin and the involvement of its people in the 1916 Rising and War of Independence.



## Endgame? War of Independence and Truce – Brian Hanley

The last six months of the War of Independence were its bloodiest. The Truce of July 1921 was greeted with relief, but it did not bring peace - violence continued, especially in Ulster and the Republican Movement began to splinter, creating the conditions for civil war.

**Brian Hanley** is a professional historian, author and lecturer on modern Ireland. His areas of expertise include the IRA, Irish republicanism, labour and radicalism, 1916 Easter Rising, 1918 General election, Irish Revolution & Civil War, Irish America and the Northern Irish conflict. He is currently an Assistant Professor in Trinity College, Dublin.

## The Peace Process of 1920-1921 – John Dorney

How clandestine diplomacy, political compromise and military stalemate brought an end to the Irish War of Independence. This talk by John Dorney looks at the compromises and renegotiation of core aims made by both sides that culminated in the Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 1921.

**John Dorney** is an independent historian and editor of the Irish Story website. His *Master's in History* was on Florence McCarthy and the Conquest of Gaelic Munster. He is the author of two books: *Peace After the Final Battle, the Story of the Irish Revolution*, and *The Civil War in Dublin, the Fight for the Irish Capital, 1922-1924*.

## The Truce in Fingal, July 1921 – Bernard Kelly

This talk will examine the events and personalities during the Truce in Fingal from July 1921.

**Bernard Kelly** did his PhD in NUI Galway and postdoctoral work at the University of Edinburgh. He was previously a Historian in Residence for Dublin City Council and is currently Fingal County Council's Research Historian.



## Dark Days, Homeward Bound to Better Times – Cllr Cathal Boland

The Fingal IRA were very active in the concluding months of the War of Independence establishing a base in Mooretown/ Oldtown. This talk will cover these events and the subsequent demobilisation.

**Cathal Boland** a current Councillor and former Mayor and has an interest in Fingal history. He is a former Cathaoirleach of Fingal Old IRA (1916-1921) Commemorative Society. In the past year Cathal has scripted, narrated and directed the film "Who Shot Sergeant Kirwan?" which explores the incredible real life story of the killing of an RIC man at a pub in Ballyboughal in the turbulent year of 1921.



## Music & Singing – David O'Connor

Selection of music and songs relating to the period 1919 – 1921 in Ireland performed by David O'Connor and Aidan Lawlor with Helen Lawlor on the harp. Songs will include "Shanagolden".

**David O'Connor** a native of Garristown but living in Ballyboughal, has strong roots in rural Fingal having represented the area as a member of Fingal County Council for almost 20 years. He has a strong interest in local history and song.

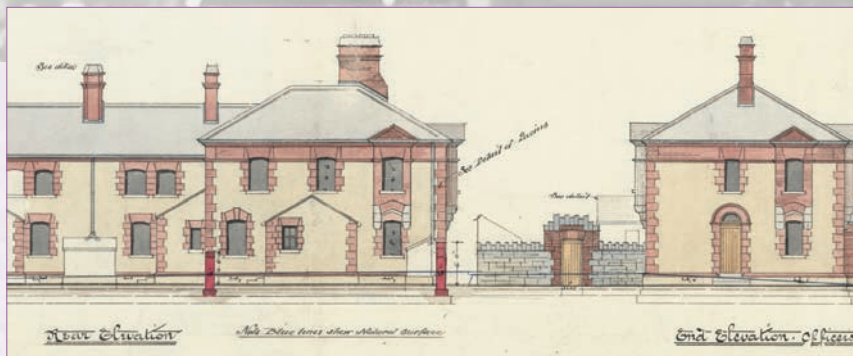


## Taking Sides – Brian Gallagher

The Civil War in Dublin is the backdrop against which Brian Gallagher's characters live their lives, in his popular children's novel, **Taking Sides**. In the aftermath of the Easter Rising and the War of Independence, Irish families found themselves caught up in the strife of war again. Only this time the enemy wasn't a foreign occupying power - but fellow Irishmen and women. Using this as his raw material for the book, Brian Gallagher will tell how the novel came to be written, and how even after 100 years, there are sensitivities to be aware of when writing about the nation-defining, but bitter conflict that was Ireland's civil war.

**Brian Gallagher** is a full-time writer whose plays and short stories have been produced in Ireland, Britain & Canada. His novels for adults "Invincible", "Flight", "Payback" and "Pursuit" have won widespread acclaim and in more recent times he has produced an array of historical fiction books for older children including "Across the Divide", "Taking Sides", "Storm Clouds", "Friend or Foe", "Arrivals" and "Resistance". He is currently working on a new novel "Making a Stand" due for publication in spring 2021.





Plan of Coastguard Station at Robswall (picture courtesy of The National Archives of Ireland)

## The Coastguard at Malahide and Portmarnock 1822-1921 – Garry Ahern

When the Coastguard Station at Robswall was attacked and destroyed during the War of Independence, it brought to a close the Coastguard presence in this area and elsewhere, which had reached back to 1822. This presentation traces events from the initial establishment of a local station, through to the destruction of Robswall Coastguard Station in 1921. It includes aspects of that presence, such as the several locations used, details of some Coastguard families, notable incidents, and the eventual withdrawal.

**Garry Ahern** is a local historian and a member of Malahide Historical Society and of Lough Gur and District Historical Society. He is author of 'Portmarnock-Its People and Townlands-A History', (Fingal Libraries, 2013, reprinted 2017,) and is a contributor to a number of journals.

## Building History: The Great Northern Railway of Ireland – Siobhan Osgood

This presentation will explore the architecture of the former Great Northern Railway and the historic events which took place at its stations at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. The built identity of the company will be juxtaposed with its practical remains including photographs of demolished and existing stations, beautiful architectural drawings by the GNR draughtsmen and historical events. This talk will demonstrate Ireland's lost - but not forgotten - legacy of the railways.

**Siobhan Osgood** is a PhD candidate at Trinity College Dublin researching the architecture of the former Great Northern Railway of Ireland. Funded by the Irish Research Council.

## 'How can a week in jail for the father prevent the child getting smallpox?' – Bernard Kelly

The Irish anti-vaccination movement in the revolutionary period.

**Bernard Kelly** did his PhD in NUI Galway and postdoctoral work at the University of Edinburgh. He was previously a Historian in Residence for Dublin City Council and is currently Fingal County Council's Research Historian.

## Swords Castle <https://swordscastle.events/>

Swords Castle was built by Archbishop of Dublin, John Comyn as his manorial residence around 1200. Excavation of the chapel in the 1970s unearthed a 14th century tile pavement, part of which is on display in the National Museum of Ireland. The recent excavations uncovered burials that appear to predate the building of the gatehouse. The chapel, Archbishop's private chambers and Constable's Tower are open to the public for viewing and a member of Fingal Tourist Board will assist with any questions you may have.

### Summer • April – September

Monday – Saturday 9.30am – 5.00pm  
Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm

### Winter • October – March

Monday – Saturday 9.30am – 4.30pm  
Sunday 10.00am – 4.30pm

**For Tours Contact** T: +353 1 840 0891

**Fingal Tourism:** E: [info@fingaltourism.ie](mailto:info@fingaltourism.ie)

**Getting to:** **By Bus:** Nos. 33, 41, 41C Swords Express  
[www.dublinbus.ie/www.swordsexpress.com](http://www.dublinbus.ie/www.swordsexpress.com)

**By Car:** M1, R132, R122

## Where is my nearest library?

<b>Balbriggan</b>	01 870 4401	<a href="mailto:balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie">balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Baldoyle</b>	01 890 6793	<a href="mailto:baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie">baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Blanchardstown</b>	01 890 5560	<a href="mailto:blanchlibrary@fingal.ie">blanchlibrary@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Donabate</b>	01 890 5609	<a href="mailto:donabate.library@fingal.ie">donabate.library@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Garristown</b>	01 835 5020	<a href="mailto:garristownlibrary@fingal.ie">garristownlibrary@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Howth</b>	01 890 5026	<a href="mailto:Howth.library@fingal.ie">Howth.library@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Malahide</b>	01 870 4430	<a href="mailto:malahidelibrary@fingal.ie">malahidelibrary@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Rush</b>	01 870 8414	<a href="mailto:rushlibrary@fingal.ie">rushlibrary@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Skerries</b>	01 890 5671	<a href="mailto:skerrieslibrary.library@fingal.ie">skerrieslibrary.library@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Swords</b>	01 890 5582	<a href="mailto:swordslibrary@fingal.ie">swordslibrary@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Mobile Library Service</b>	01 890 6719	<a href="mailto:mobile.libraries@fingal.ie">mobile.libraries@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Housebound Library Service</b>	01 860 4290	<a href="mailto:housebound.library@fingal.ie">housebound.library@fingal.ie</a>
<b>Local Studies and Archives</b>	01 890 4486	<a href="mailto:Local.Studies@fingal.ie">Local.Studies@fingal.ie</a>

Fingal Libraries are on Social Media

