

libraries.
fingal.ie



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

FÉILE NA STAIRÉ FHINE GALL

2022

10th – 15th
Deireadh Fómhair

FINGAL FESTIVAL OF HISTORY

2022

10th – 15th
October



DUBLIN
FESTIVAL OF
HISTORY
FÉILE NA STAIRÉ
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
2022

fingal.ie

FÉILE NA STAIRE FHINE GALL



10th – 15th
Deireadh Fómhair

FINGAL FESTIVAL OF HISTORY



10th – 15th
October

Welcome to Fingal's sixth annual Festival of History which will run from Monday 10th to Saturday 15th October 2022. After two years of online talks and events we can finally welcome back live audiences. Our programme this year is a celebration of the abundance of historians who live within Fingal and who have researched numerous facets of Fingal life.

This year's programme features an excellent mix of local topics covering shipwrecks and rescues off Balbriggan shore, the two churches of St. Marnock's, the Skerries Monument, Cricket in Fingal, Fingal 1922 and the life and death of Frank Lawless. Prisoners of War during World War Two as well as historic hill-walking routes in the footsteps of past warriors will also be discussed.

The festival will culminate on Saturday 15th October at Swords Castle with the History at the Castle Day incorporating history, music, and the visual arts. Donal Dineen's film "Peace to the Ashes" which commemorates the funeral of Frank Lawless will also be screened. Filmed almost exclusively within the walls of the Rolestown Cemetery, this new work is a poetic meditation on the passage of a centuries' worth of time since that moment was frozen forever on photographic film. The Castle events will be recorded and broadcast for people to enjoy on Fingal Libraries YouTube channel.

**Catherine Keane, Senior Librarian,
Fingal Local Studies & Archives**



History Talks at Library Branches

10th – 13th October

Military Internees, Prisoners of War and the Irish State during World War Two by Dr. Bernard Kelly

Between 1940 and 1945 a total of 269 Axis and 45 Allied service personnel were interned in the Curragh military camp in County Kildare. Their presence caused the de Valera government a series of challenging problems, as it sought to balance its duties as a neutral country with its continual tendency to lean towards the Allies. This talk examines the background and details of the military internment system in neutral Ireland during the Second World War, as well as exploring some of the myths that have grown up around it.



Dr. Bernard Kelly completed 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.

Fingal Local Studies & Archives

Monday 10th October

6:45pm – 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

From the Bloody Oakwood to the Iron Mountain in the Footsteps of Giants by Tony Nugent

'From the Bloody Oakwood to the Iron Mountain in the Footsteps of Giants', is a walker's guide following the epic journey of Donal Cam O'Sullivan Beare as he and his followers battled against a ruthless enemy, intolerable weather conditions, hunger and betrayal. They traversed an Ireland ravaged and wasted by English armies in the hope of reaching sanctuary among the O'Rourke's of Leitrim at the beginning of the 17th century.



Tony Nugent retired from Dublin City Council to return to higher education and received a H Dip in Folklore from UCD and a M.A. from Saor-Ollscoil na hÉireann. A keen hillwalker, he is a member of the Folklore of Ireland Society, Dublin Yarnspinners, a long-term member of An Óige and an accomplished seanós singer. His latest publication in 2020 is *'From the Bloody Oakwood to the Iron Mountain in the Footsteps of Giants'* which is a walker's guide. Other books include *'Legends of the Dispossessed (1550-1830)'* and *'Were you at the Rock?'* (Penal laws era). He also writes children's books, which were originally for his grandchildren.

Blanchardstown Library

Tuesday 11th October

6:45pm – 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.



Wrecks and Rescues off Balbriggan's Shores

by Dr David Sorensen



While many might associate the rough Atlantic waves off Ireland's south and west coast as being most hazardous to seafarers over the last few centuries, it is, in fact, our eastern coast that contains the sites of the majority of identified shipwrecks. Balbriggan has witnessed both tragic ship losses and heroic rescues off its coastline. This presentation focuses on the infamous and lesser known incidents, spanning the last three centuries.

Dr David Sorensen is a long-time Balbriggan local historian. He has given presentations on topics as diverse as the history of national schools in the town, Balbriggan's famed textile heritage as well as Balbriggan as a leisure destination over the last 300 years. Most recently, along with his colleague, Petra Skyvova, he has been involved in the establishment of the Balbriggan Town Heritage Trail.

Balbriggan Library

Wednesday 12th October

6:45pm – 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.

The Two Churches of St. Marnock

by Garry Ahern

This presentation will initially look at the Medieval, pre-Reformation, Church of St. Marnock and its associated Holy Well as well as the later church, also named after St. Marnock, which was built by the Church of Ireland in 1790 and continued to be used



until 1960. This church once housed an early 1800s Parish School (the first school in Portmarnock) in the adjoining Sexton's House.

Garry Ahern is a local historian and is a member of Malahide Historical Society. He is author of 'Portmarnock-Its People and Townlands-A History', (Fingal Libraries, 2013, reprinted 2017,) and has contributed to several journals.

Malahide Library

Thursday 13th October

6:45pm – 7:45pm

To reserve a place, please contact the library hosting the event.



History at the Castle: a series of talks at Swords Castle

Saturday, 15 October 2022, 10:00am – 4:45pm

Please note that the Swords Castle events will be available online post-festival.

A Dangerous Man: Frank Lawless and the War of Independence in Fingal by Dr. Bernard Kelly



Frank Lawless was one of the most dynamic regional leaders of the revolutionary period. Born into a farming family in Swords, County Dublin, in 1870, he followed his grandfather and father into nationalist politics before becoming central to the republican movement in North County Dublin. Although most of his political



life was spent in prison, as a result of his prominence in the 1916 Rising, it was cut short with his untimely death on 16th April 1922 after a road accident. 'A Dangerous Man: Frank Lawless and the War of Independence in Fingal' gives us an insight into his life, politics and the legacy he left. Dr Bernard Kelly emphasises the role he played in the cultural, political and sporting life of Fingal from his early years to his death.

Dr. Bernard Kelly completed 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.

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/391036108527>



History at the Castle: a series of talks at Swords Castle

Saturday, 15 October 2022, 10:00am – 4:45pm

Please note that the Swords Castle events
will be available online post-festival.

Peace to the Ashes: a commemorative film about the life and legacy of Frank Lawless

with introduction by broadcaster & filmmaker Donal Dineen

As part of Fingal County Council's Commemorative Programme 2022, the broadcaster and filmmaker Donal Dineen was commissioned by Fingal County Council's Arts Office to make a film commemorating the life and legacy of Frank Lawless. Donal was struck by a powerful photograph of Frank Lawless' funeral on 18th April 1922 where we see among the mourners, Arthur Griffith beneath the large Celtic cross marking the Lawless family plot. He used this as a starting point to his collaborative commemorative film titled 'Peace to the Ashes' and featuring Eithne Ní Catháin (Inni K).



Filmed almost exclusively within the walls of the Rolestown Cemetery, this new work is a poetic meditation on the passage of a century's worth of time since that moment was frozen forever on photographic film and imprinted into both the history books and the consciousness of a nation.

***Donal Dineen** is an Irish radio presenter, photographer, film maker and television presenter. He has presented a late-night radio show on Today FM as well as the TV series for RTE Network 2. He also produces the podcast Make me an Island, a country by country illustrated guide to the music of the universe.*

Time: 11:00am - 11:40am

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/391039859747>



History at the Castle: a series of talks at Swords Castle

Saturday, 15 October 2022, 10:00am – 4:45pm

Please note that the Swords Castle events will be available online post-festival.

The year 1922 in Fingal: From Treaty to Civil War and a return to normal political life

by Dr Declan F. Brady



A month by month chronological account of political and everyday life in Fingal in 1922: from the Treaty debates at the start of the year; the untimely death of Frank Lawless, the brief Civil War experience in Fingal; and the slow return to normal political life. This talk will recall the events and episodes in the political, economic, social, cultural and military life of Fingal, recreating what the year 1922 was like for the people at the time: the highs and lows, the important and the ordinary, the winners and the losers of everyday Fingal.

Dr Declan F. Brady is a professional genealogist and historian based in Swords, Co. Dublin. He is a science graduate of University College Dublin and recently completed his PhD on the evolution of local politics in Fingal from 1870 to 1948, at Maynooth University, where he has been a John Hume scholar.

Time: 11:45am - 1:00pm

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/391043259917>



History at the Castle: a series of talks at Swords Castle

Saturday, 15 October 2022, 10:00am – 4:45pm

Please note that the Swords Castle events
will be available online post-festival.

A look at a Skerries Monument Erected in 1950 in Memory of Three Fingal Patriots – John ‘Terry’ Sherlock, Thomas Hand and John Reginald ‘Jack’ McGowan

by Frank Whearity



Local historian Frank Whearity presents a talk on a Skerries monument dedicated to the three townsmen who gave their lives for Ireland, and which stands in the Holmpatrick Cemetery, Skerries. It was unveiled on Sunday 29 October 1950, to commemorate John ‘Terry’ Sherlock, a single man aged 22 years who was killed by Black and Tans on 27 October 1920 near his home at Cabra Terrace, Skerries; Thomas Hand, a married man aged 42 years who was killed by Black and Tans on 5 December 1920 at Baltrasna Lane, Barnageeragh, Skerries; and John Reginald ‘Jack’ McGowan, a single man aged 21 years whose death occurred on 1 July 1922 in a Dublin City Hospital. The work had been commissioned by a small group of Skerries men in 1942 and who, over eight years, raised the funds to pay for the project. Among them was James Murray whose personal papers have provided much of the primary source material that Frank Whearity will use in his presentation.



***Frank Whearity** is a local historian who lives in Skerries. He holds an MA in Local History from NUI Maynooth and has several publications to his name. He has also written numerous articles for local historical publications.*

Time: 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/391044744357>



History at the Castle: a series of talks at Swords Castle

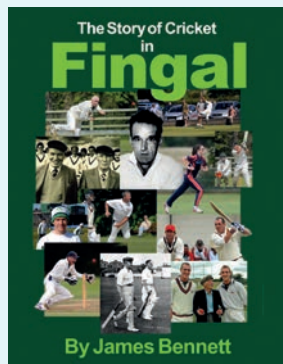
Saturday, 15 October 2022, 10:00am – 4:45pm

Please note that the Swords Castle events will be available online post-festival.

The Story of Cricket in Fingal

by James Bennett

Fingal in North Dublin has been described as the heartland of Irish Cricket. In this talk by James Bennett, the story of cricket in Fingal will be told from its origins in the 1820s to the present day. The factors which enabled cricket to survive and then thrive are analysed in detail and the inextricable links between cricket and the social, political, and cultural history of Fingal are examined. Although cricket provides the underpinning for the talk, there is an emphasis on the people who played cricket rather than giving detailed accounts of games. Using archival material, anecdotal accounts, and photographs, the passion for cricket among the people in this part of North Dublin will be presented.



James Bennett is a native of Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Having trained as a teacher in St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra he taught in Balbriggan and St. Colmcille's BNS Swords. In 1980 he became Principal of St. Colmcille's and remained there until his retirement in 2015. For many years he has been involved in cricket administration at The Hills CC, Cricket Leinster and Cricket Ireland and was elected President of Cricket Leinster in 2022. As a result of Covid lockdown he researched and wrote "The Story of Cricket in Fingal" which documents the role of cricket as part of the sporting, social and cultural heritage of North County Dublin.

Time: 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/391058926777>



History at the Castle: a series of talks at Swords Castle

Saturday, 15 October 2022, 10:00am – 4:45pm

Please note that the Swords Castle events
will be available online post-festival.



Ceol an tSraidbhaile Ros Eo with Rinceoil Fingal & Friends

Rinceoil Fingal will perform traditional music and songs specific to Rush County Dublin. The session will provide an excellent finale to a day of history at Swords Castle.

Rinceoil Fingal is a traditional Irish group which promotes Irish music and dance. They were founded in 1994 by Lenny Martin and Jimmy Archer. The group expanded into a teaching Irish traditional music, and now has classes for all ages. In March 2022 they published 'Ceol an tSraidbhaile Ros Eo' which gathers together Irish traditional tunes and songs specific to Rush, Co. Dublin, composed and played by Rush musicians. It includes a download link from the Irish Traditional Music Archive, where you can listen to 'live' recordings by the composers themselves accompanied by their families and friends.

Time: 4:00pm - 4:45pm

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/391060651937>



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.

March – September (Admission is Free)

Tuesday – Sunday 9.30am – 5.00pm
(Closed Monday)

October – February (Admission is Free)

Tuesday – Sunday 9.30am – 4.00pm
(Closed Monday)

For Tours Contact T: +353 1 840 0891

Fingal Tourism: E: info@fingaltourism.ie

Getting to:

By Bus: Nos. 33, 41, 41C Swords Express
www.dublinbus.ie/www.swordsexpress.com

By Car: M1, R132, R122

FamilySearch, a new genealogical website
available at your Fingal Library



FamilySearch has over 6 billion searchable
names, and 2 billion images of historical
genealogical records.

**Call into your local Fingal Library
to find out more**

Cá bhfuil mo leabharlann is cóngaraí? Where is my nearest library?

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

Tá Leabharlanna Fhine Gall ar na Meáin Shóisialta
Fingal Libraries are on Social Media

