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Clár Éire Ildánach
*Creative Ireland
Programme*



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

FÉILE NA STAIRÉ FHINE GALL



2nd – 12th
Deireadh Fómhair

FINGAL FESTIVAL OF HISTORY



2nd – 12th
October



Sackville Street July 1922

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Welcome to Fingal's seventh annual Festival of History which will run from Monday 2nd to Thursday 12th October 2023 throughout our library branches.

As we reach the final year of the Decade of Centenaries Commemorations, life in Ireland and Fingal in the early 1920s is the main theme of the Festival. We have talks covering de Valera and Ireland in 1923 as well as life in Fingal during the 1920s. The effect of the revolutionary period on the lives of children and the Anglo-Irish way of life are also covered.

Other topics for discussion are the role of newspapers and the printed word in the fight for Irish freedom, British military deserters in the Irish Free State, The Markievicz Family, visitors to the Aras as well as the Spanish Flu and the fight against infection.

This year's programme features some household names such as Dr David McCullagh and Flór McCarthy. Both form part of the programme for the History at the Castle Day on Saturday 7th October at Swords Castle. Other speakers that day include Dr Declan Brady who will discuss Fingal in the 1920s and retired Garda Detective Chief Superintendent John O'Brien who will give us an insight into the life of An Garda Síochána.

We are also collaborating with the Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society. Join them on a 90 minute guided walk of the natural and built heritage of Clonsilla and the Royal Canal.

We hope that there will be something of interest for everyone. All events are free to the public, but places may be limited so booking is advised.

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



History Talks at Library Branches

2nd – 12th October 2023

Children and the War of Independence by Liz Gillis

The story of the War of Independence has been told mainly from the perspective of adults, but children were as much a part of the story. How did the conflict affect them? They were witnesses, participants and victims.



Historian Liz Gillis is the author of numerous books on Ireland's early 20th century revolutionary period, and Historian in Residence at South Dublin County Council.

Blanchardstown Library

Monday 2nd October

6:30pm

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

Winning the War on Infection by Dr Ida Milne

In the 1910s, 70,000 Irish people a year died from infectious disease. Many of these were caused by diseases that are now preventable by vaccine and better living conditions, or have their power reduced by antibiotics.



Dr Ida Milne is European History Lecturer at Carlow College and author of *Stacking the Coffins*, influenza war and peace in Ireland 1918-19 – a handbook for understanding different societal impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Baldoyle Library

Tuesday 3rd October

6:30pm

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

Fake News & Irish Freedom by Ian Kenneally

The years 1919-1923 were a dangerous time for Irish journalists. In this talk Ian Kenneally discusses propaganda, censorship, fake news and violence against newspapers.



Ian Kenneally is the Historian in Residence with Westmeath County Council. His books include *The Paper Mill: Newspapers and Propaganda in Ireland 1919 -1921* and *From the Earth, a Cry: The story of John Boyle O'Reilly*.

Malahide Library

Wednesday 4th October

6:30pm

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

Fingal 1900 - 1923: society, war and revolution

by Dr Bernard Kelly

An overview of the effect that war and revolution had on the lives of Fingallians during the tumultuous period from the turn of the century to the end of the civil war.

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 the Research Historian with Fingal County Council.



Balbriggan Library

Thursday 5th October

6:30pm

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

British military deserters in the Irish Free State, 1922 to 1932

by Dr Bernard Kelly

This talk details the unique situation caused by deserters from the British military who either fled or found themselves in Ireland between 1922 and 1932, and how the Free State effectively became a safe haven for them.

Rush Library

Tuesday 10th October

6:30pm

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

The Big House and the Irish Civil War

by John Dorney

The 'Big House' – the country mansion of the Anglo-Irish landed class - was a target of republicans throughout the Irish revolution of 1919-23. A total of 275 were burned out, blown up or destroyed. John looks at how radical nationalists, in the anti-Treaty IRA, took the opportunity to sweep away the symbols of the old order.

John Dorney is a historian and editor of the Irish Story website. He studied history and politics at UCD and completed a Masters thesis on Irish chieftain Florence McCarthy. He has written numerous articles and books including *Peace After the Final Battle* and *The Civil War in Dublin*.



Fingal Local Studies & Archives

Wednesday 11th October

7:00pm

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



Countess Markievicz and Ukraine - the creation of an Irish Rebel

by Patrick Quigley

This talk will focus on how Countess Markievicz became radicalised as a result of visits with her Polish relatives in Ukraine. Before her marriage to Casimir Markievicz in 1900 she shared many of the beliefs of the Anglo-Irish class. In Ukraine she became aware of Poland's struggle for freedom and the oppression suffered by Ukrainians. The experiences aroused a concern for social justice that led her to become a revolutionary in Ireland.



Patrick Quigley is the author of the novel, *Borderland*, (1994), as well as the "Markievicz Trilogy" - *The Polish Irishman: Life and Times of Count Casimir Markievicz* (2012), *Sisters Against the Empire: Countess Markievicz & Eva Gore-Booth* (2016), and *Stasko Markiewicz: Ireland, Poland & the Legacy of Countess Markievicz* (2022). He writes reviews and essays for the *Irish Polish Society Yearbook* and the *Powys Journal*.

Blanchardstown Library

Thursday 12th October

6:30pm

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

Heritage Trail – Clonsilla and the Royal Canal

Join Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society (CPHS) on a guided walk of the natural and built heritage of Clonsilla and the Royal Canal. Hear the stories of missing jewels, horse poisoning, industrial heritage and a famine walk as you journey through Clonsilla and Porterstown. The walk is approximately 90 minutes so wear good footwear and dress for the weather.

St. Mary's Church, Clonsilla

Sunday 8th October

11:30am

Booking Essential. Email: Cpheritagesoc@outlook.com

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

Saturday, 7 October 2023,
10:00am – 4:45pm

Building a Free State: Fingal in the 1920s

by Dr Declan Brady

This talk will examine political life in Fingal in the aftermath of the Civil War and the challenges of the 1920s as the government sought to consolidate the Irish Free State while local politicians in Fingal dealt with the continuing divisions and the problems of poverty, unemployment, agrarian unrest and challenges to the existence of the local government bodies on which they served.



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 completed his PhD on the evolution of local politics in Fingal from 1870 to 1948, at Maynooth University in 2022, where he had been a John Hume scholar.

Time: 10:00am

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://buildingafreestate.eventbrite.ie>



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

Saturday, 7 October 2023,
10:00am – 4:45pm

“Nothing but a bullet will stop me”: de Valera’s 1923 by Dr David McCullagh

Éamon de Valera began 1922 as President of the Republic, the undisputed leader of Irish nationalism. By 1923, de Valera seemed to be finished - a hunted man, in danger of execution; politically sidelined, powerless to bring the Civil War to an end. The 1923 General Election saw his dramatic arrest, but it also ensured his return to political prominence.



Broadcaster **Dr David McCullagh** has a PhD in politics from University College Dublin and the author of four books on Irish history. He is best known for his formidable two-volume reassessment of Eamon de Valera, the single most consequential Irish figure of the twentieth century – as a leader of the Easter Rising, figurehead of the anti-treaty rebels during the Civil War and later, founder of Fianna Fail and President of Ireland.

Time: 11:30am

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://devalera1923.eventbrite.ie>



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

Saturday, 7 October 2023,
10:00am – 4:45pm

The Presidents' letters: Visitors' Books at Áras an Uachtaráin by Flor MacCarthy



85 years of signatures are contained in the huge leather-bound Visitors' Books, revealing how Ireland has changed since the 1930s. Flor reviews correspondence from, among others, Archbishop John Charles McQuaid, JFK, Princess Grace, Walt Disney, Mother Teresa, Seamus Heaney, Paul Newman, Ronald Reagan, QEII, President Obama

Flor MacCarthy is a journalist and author. Her bestselling book, *The Presidents' Letters*, was shortlisted for Best Irish-Published Book 2021. She presents political debates on Oireachtas TV from Leinster House and the European Parliament and is a former news reporter and television presenter with RTÉ. Flor contributes to a variety of arts and history programmes and has presented at several events for the Decade of Centenaries.

Time: 2:00pm

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://thepresidentsletters.eventbrite.ie>



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

Saturday, 7 October 2023,
10:00am – 4:45pm

A day in the life of a Garda

by John O'Brien

John O'Brien is a retired Detective Chief Superintendent with An Garda Síochána. He is the author of *Securing the Irish State: A century of policing 1922 – 2022*. John outlines the evolution of An Garda Síochána and how this new and unarmed police force was established in the midst of a bloody civil war. From the dangers of those early years to the paramilitary threats of the Seventies, John gives his audience a unique insight into the lives of the men and women.



Time: 3:30pm

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://gardadayinthelife.eventbrite.ie>



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

FÉILE NA STAIRE
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

DUBLIN FESTIVAL
OF HISTORY

2023

25 September –
15 October

Tickets and info: www.dublinfestivalofhistory.ie



Fingal Local Studies

and Archives

Fingal Local Studies & Archives are based at 46 North Street, Swords. The service collects, preserves and makes available historic records relating to Fingal and Dublin generally. Outreach includes exhibitions, publications, talks, the Fingal Festival of History and participation in Heritage Week and Culture Night. The service is available to anyone interested in local, social or family history. All researchers are welcome and queries can be made by phone, post or e-mail. As many of our collections are stored offsite, we usually ask researchers to make an appointment in advance by e-mailing archives@fingal.ie or local.studies@fingal.ie.

The Local Studies collections are an important resource for the study of local history in Fingal and Dublin generally. We hold collections of photographs, postcards, maps and artwork. Additionally, there is an extensive printed collection of local history books, periodicals, directories, reference works and general genealogical and historical books. New publications are regularly added. There is also an ephemera collection comprising military medals, tram tickets, posters etc. The Archives contains records of local government in County Dublin from 1775 to the present day including archives from the Turnpike Trusts, County of Dublin Grand Jury, Poor Law Unions, Rural District Councils, Howth Urban District Council, Balbriggan Town Commissioners, Dublin County Council and a variety of private collections including the Hely-Hutchinson Papers, Holmpatrick Papers and Hone Papers.

Opening Hours:	Monday – Friday 10:00am - 1:00pm & 2:00pm – 5:00pm
Location:	46 North Street, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 F6Y3
Telephone:	+353 1 8704486



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	01 870 4486	Local.Studies@fingal.ie

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

