

Fingal Heritage Network 2024



Fingal Heritage Network



The Fingal Heritage Network was an initiative of the Fingal Heritage Plan 2005-2010 and has been running for almost two decades. The Network provides a coherent and inclusive voice for heritage groups in Fingal. It seeks to influence all organisations that operate in Fingal, to ensure they develop coherent plans and policies that promote the best interest of heritage in the county.

The Network's aims are to develop an active network of heritage groups in the county in order to advance their common interest by working together, and to ensure that each group can sustain itself into the future with an active membership and programme. The network promotes its work and that of the participating heritage groups by facilitating the pooling and dissemination of information on events, projects and availability of resources.

The Network also aims to encourage participation from Network members to allow them to learn from each other's experience, and to build a sense of unity among members and groups. The Network aims to represent the collective view of its members and to influence and inform policy and planning countywide, with member's local knowledge informing the naming of new housing estates. Members from the Network meet with the Heritage Officer on a monthly basis and are represented on the Fingal Heritage Forum.

Since the publication of the last brochure in 2010, our member societies have been very active in their respective areas, coming together on an annual basis to celebrate National Heritage Week with the Network's Heritage Night. The Network responded to Covid 19 with the publication of Snapshots of Fingal's Past, a virtual exhibition and series of videos and subsequent publication featuring the stories and memories of the people, places, events and traditions of Fingal. The Snapshots project won the County Award in the National Heritage Week 2020 Awards. Members of the Network have made significant contribution to county-wide projects such as the Legacies of Conflict project (2021), Fingal Thatch project (2022) and the People & Place: Then & Now photo exhibition (2023). The Heritage Network is supported by Fingal County Council.

Contact:

heritage.officer@fingal.ie

or visit <https://www.fingal.ie/heritage-and-communities>

Balbriggan & District Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Balbriggan & District Historical Society was established in 1981 with the goal to promote an interest in the local history of Balbriggan & District through lectures, publications and exhibitions, and to establish a Museum in the Balbriggan District.

ACTIVITIES

We hold six talks each year in March, April, May, August, September and October. These are held at 8pm on the last Wednesday of the month in the Town Hall or the Bracken Court Hotel Balbriggan. We also have a Summer Outing each year which are always great social occasions as well as an opportunity to see more of Ireland's rich heritage. We lead Historical Walks in Balbriggan as part of the Annual Summerfest and Beach Festival and when requested by local groups or schools and also engage with local schools giving talks and judging local history projects. The Society has a

role in the restoration of Bremore Castle and have led tours of the Castle, with the assistance of Fingal County Council. We have held a number of commemorations including of The Sack of Balbriggan, Sinéad De Valera and 1916, and the Siege of Jadoville. The Society holds a large number of important artefacts and photographs and have exhibited them at various times in Balbriggan, most recently in a POP up Museum in 2024.

Members are entitled to free admission to all talks and to vote at the AGM and Annual Membership (January- December) costs:

- ❖ Adults: €15
- ❖ Students & senior citizens: €10
- ❖ Family €20 per annum.
- ❖ Non-Society members can, of course, attend individual talks for an entrance fee of €5

PUBLICATIONS

Below is a list of our very worthwhile and important publications, which will enhance your appreciation of your town:

- ❖ *'The Farm Diary of Lowther Lodge'* – €10
- ❖ *'Balbriggan – the street where you live.....'* – €10
- ❖ *'The Hamilton Family and the making of Balbriggan'* – €10
- ❖ *'Balbriggan: A History for the Millennium'* – €15
- ❖ *'Sale of Hamilton Estate Balbriggan 1875'* – €65
- ❖ *'Balbriggan a History in Maps, 1655-1900'* – €25

You can also view a number of talks on our YouTube Channel

CONTACT

The Society can be contacted at Balbrigganhistsoc@gmail.com
For further information see our website www.balbrigganghistry.com

Blanchardstown and Castleknock Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Over the years since our first public meeting on 18th April 2009 we have had several names from the original Blanchardstown Heritage Society- Cumann Oidhreacht Bhaile Bhlainseir to Fingal South, Fingal South West, and finally to Blanchardstown and Castleknock History Society. We promote the culture, heritage, folklore, flora and fauna of the greater Dublin 15 area and encourage members to share their local knowledge too.

ACTIVITIES

Over the years we have undertaken historical outings such as Baldonnell Aer Drome, Dunsink Observatory, and to the site of the Ashtown Ambush. We have also participated in Heritage Week including the exhibition of historical pictures which were on permanent display from 2011 in the Blanchardstown Library and commemorated the 1916 Rising with our own Blanchardstown Brass Band playing Irish airs and music to celebrate the Rising.

Each year we organise regular outings to places of interest and have talks on various subjects on the last Saturday of the month in Blanchardstown Library at 2.00pm or other local venues as advised. We are open to new members and the membership fee is only €20.

PUBLICATIONS

Tales from the Great Scaldwood is the journal of the society where members share their knowledge on local history, culture and heritage. It has been published annually since 2020 and contributions are welcome.

CONTACT

For further information see our website

<https://www.blanchardstowncastleknockhistory.com/>

Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society (CPHS)



ORIGINS & AIMS

Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society is a vibrant new society, established in 2023. Located at the south-western tip of Fingal, our aim is to celebrate and promote the natural and the built heritage in Clonsilla and Porterstown. We are situated beside the Royal Canal, which is both a national waterway and part of the National Famine Way trail, from Co Roscommon to Dublin's docklands, thus we have a great amenity on our doorstep. Bordering a large rural greenbelt, which stretches to the Strawberry Beds, Co Kildare and Co Meath, this is a reminder of Clonsilla and Porterstown's former origins as rural villages and is reflected in the vernacular architecture in our community.

ACTIVITIES

In 2023, CPHS participated in both Heritage Week and Fingal's Festival of History. We developed an historic walking tour of Clonsilla and the Royal Canal, which we have rolled out to more than 80 people so far. The Clonsilla Heritage Festival, supported by Fingal County Council is held over two days in September and includes heritage talks, guided walks of Luttrellstown demesne and the Royal Canal, a farm tour, multiple barge trips, an exhibition and music in Shackleton's Gardens.

In addition to working to preserve our historic buildings and provide heritage signage in our community, CPHS is working with our local national school, to roll out an adapted heritage walk to 4th and 5th class and have started a project to record the memories of older people, who remember rural life in our area. Their stories will be freely available to view on our website. Clonsilla has a strong association with the horse (canal horses, war horses and bloodstock) and we are looking for a way to commemorate this. We also intend to create a video of all the heritage in our locality, promoting it further afield.

The Old Clonsilla Schoolhouse is an integral building in our landscape. In fact, the distinctive schoolhouse is the logo for CPHS. Nicknamed 'The School of Spite' it is sadly neglected and we are gathering stories of the schoolhouse, together with developing a "virtual 3D model of the building". We are active on social media and also work collaboratively with other community groups, such as Clonsilla Tidy Towns and the Royal Canal Cleanup group.

CPHS hold regular outings, mainly in our locality, to highlight the great heritage that we have at our finger tips! So far, we have visited Luttrellstown Castle, Shackleton's Mill, beautiful St Mary's Church, Dunsink Observatory, Shackleton's Gardens and enjoyed a barge tour along the Royal Canal. We would love to host any group who wish to explore Clonsilla & Porterstown.

CONTACT

For further information please see clonsillaheritage.ie

Donabate

Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Donabate Historical Society was first established in 1948 but became inactive in 1955 and was re-activated in 1972. The aims of the Society are the collection of information in the parish as to customs, stories and incidents of ancient, medieval and modern times and to complete the written and unwritten history of the area.

ACTIVITIES

A programme of talks on local history are organised from autumn to spring each year. The Society's Local History Museum, which is located in the courtyard of Newbridge House Demesne, opened in 2019. Containing items and images of rural life on the peninsula, it is a wonderful window into the past of Donabate and Portrane. Volunteers from the Society open the museum on weekend afternoons.

PUBLICATIONS

We have a number of publications all written by Peadar Bates: 'Donabate and Portrane-A History; The 1798 Rebellion in Fingal; The History of St Patrick's Church, Donabate and the Life of Charles Cobbe. We also publish information on our Facebook page – search for Donabate Historical Society.

CONTACT

Chairman, Peadar Bates. Email: peadarb1@yahoo.ie

Vice Chair, Eamon Grogan. Email: grogan36@sky.com

Fingal Great War Association



ORIGINS & AIMS

This association came to be after a small local group travelled to France & Belgium in 2019 to visit the War Graves of the Somme. Having witnessed the great respect shown to the deceased through war, the group wanted to emulate a similar respect here at home for local men who had lost their lives in World War 1.

ACTIVITIES

A small monument naming the men of several rural villages such as Rolestown, Oldtown, Ballyboughal, Garristown & Naul in West Fingal was erected and subsequently replaced by a larger monument which would commemorate all the names discovered in rural Fingal, i.e. the townlands between the N2 and M1. A Remembrance Ceremony has been held at the monument annually since 2019 on 11th November in St Mary's Churchyard, Clonmethan in Oldtown, where the monument stands, to mark Armistice Day. The ceremony has been attended by Minister Darragh O'Brien, Archbishop Michael Jackson as well as the Mayor and many local councillors over the years.

PUBLICATIONS

Research of the names of many forgotten Fingallians who had perished in the Great War is ongoing and will form a publication.

CONTACT

Peter Rooney Ph: 085 7290326

Thomas Murphy Ph: 087 6153131

Email: fingalgreatwar@gmail.com

Fingal Old IRA

Commemorative Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

This organisation was formed in 1944 and was known as the Fingal Old IRA Welfare Society. As the then name of the society would suggest, it was founded mainly to help Old IRA men and their families who had fallen on hard times as a result of unemployment and illness - in some cases due to hardship endured during the struggle for National Independence which was not won without a stern fight for our freedom. In 1991 it was proposed to change from a Welfare society to a Commemorative Society and we are now into our 80th year. The objective of the society is to remember, respect and protect the reputations of the men and woman who fought for the freedom we have today back in the 1916 – 1921 period under the banner of the Fingal Volunteers 5th Battalion Dublin Brigade. We are non – political and a voluntary organisation.

ACTIVITIES

The society holds about 12 events every year with the help of Fingal County council and our standout events are Easter Sunday in a different parish in Fingal and our Battle of Ashbourne remembrance event on the last Sunday in September at the Rathcross monument in Ashbourne.

PUBLICATIONS

Facebook page and our website

<https://www.fingaloldira1916-1921.com/>

CONTACT

Paul O'Brien Chairman of Fingal Old IRA Commemorative Society 1916 – 1921.

Mobile: 086 3518927

Email: Flashman550@gmail.com

Friends

of Clonmethan



ORIGINS & AIMS

The group known as the Friends of Clonmethan was formed on January 3rd, 2020, with an initial meeting at St. David's Church of Ireland in Kilsallaghan. The group comprises approximately 30 members from the general area of Clonmethan and Oldtown, some who live locally, some from further afield. The group's primary aim is to maintain and preserve the church and grounds of St Mary's, Clonmethan. Its secondary aims include the development of the church and grounds as a place of historic interest and to enhance the community living experience of the surrounding area.

ACTIVITIES

The Friends of Clonmethan is a registered non-profit organisation which does not raise funds from the general public. In addition to regular maintenance and cleanup events, the Friends of Clonmethan actively assist in the organisation of tours of the church and adjoining burial grounds for local school children and any other interested parties. In keeping with the site's status as a place of worship and commemoration, some seating has also been installed to maintain it as a place of quiet contemplation.

The Friends of Clonmethan also cooperate with other local groups to promote local history generally. To give an example, an Armistice Day event is held each November and in November 2023, a memorial to locals who died in the First and Second World Wars was unveiled in the grounds. The Friends of Clonmethan also engages in and assists in applications for appropriate grants from heritage bodies. In 2023, working in conjunction with the Church of Ireland, a grant of over €100,000 was obtained from the Community Monuments Fund. The funds were spent on works in maintaining the bell tower of the church, making it sound and safe for the future.

PUBLICATIONS

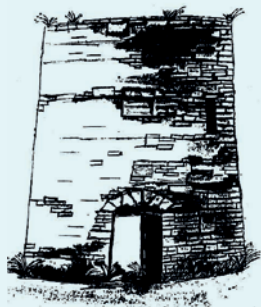
The Friends of Clonmethan maintains a website www.clonmethan.org, where news and events are noted.

CONTACT

Tom Murphy, PRO, email: thomasfpmurphy@gmail.com

Garristown

Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

The founding of Garristown Historical Society coincided with the official opening of the Community Centre in 1988. A number of like-minded people in the community got together and published a book on Garristown to mark this event, called "Round and About Garristown". Following on from this the group decided to start up an historical society to record the history of our village and its environs.

ACTIVITIES

The Society, with assistance from Fingal County Council financed two memorials within the grounds of the Carnegie Library - a seat to commemorate our founding chairman, Tommy Moore, and an Ogham Stone to commemorate Oscar, son of Oisín, grandson of Fionn (Mac Cumhall). Oscar died at the battle of Gabhra. The site of Battle of Gabhra, the last battle of the Fianna, has been attributed to the vicinity of the hill of Garristown. The Society also financed the building up of the openings to the Windmill to secure it from the grazing animals on the surrounding land, to preserve the building.

The Society has staged two re-enactments, one to commemorate the 1798 rebellion and the other the 1916 rising. In 2016 we had a much larger event to commemorate the taking of the RIC barracks and Post Office by the volunteers under Thomas Ashe en route to the Battle of Ashbourne in 1916. The community got into the spirit of the event and dressed in period clothing to join the re-enactment group, led by the Fingal Old IRA Commemorative Society. Plaques were erected on both premises. An information board was also erected on the Main St. This was funded by the Society, with assistance from Fingal County Council. The Society organises a day trip each year to historical places in Ireland and we have an ongoing Field Names Project, trying to name all the fields as part of the Fingal Fieldnames Project.

PUBLICATIONS

Local history "Olden Times in Garristown" was published to mark the new millennium. A book was also published to mark the centenary of the local Church of the Assumption in 2006 "The Church in Garristown". A limited-edition photobook "Garristown Remembers 1916" was published to mark that centenary in 2016.

CONTACT

Garristown Historical Society welcomes new members.
Contact Eileen Neylon, Tobergregan, Garristown. Tel 087 419 2441

Howth Peninsula Heritage Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Howth Peninsula Heritage Society was founded in 1995 by a small group of interested locals. The major issue spurring the founding of the Society was the dilapidated state of the Martello Tower on Tower Hill. Its restoration through funds raised by the young Society, Howth/Sutton Lions Club and Fingal County Council was a first major achievement. The function of the Society is set out in its Charter as to promote knowledge of all aspects of the history and heritage of the Howth Peninsula and Ireland generally. In pursuit of this, it acts to preserve and protect local historical and environmental sites and to develop community awareness of them.

ACTIVITIES

Our key activity is hosting a monthly public lecture. These take place on the fourth Tuesday of every month (apart from July/August and December). The first talk took place on 30th January 1996, and has been followed ever since in unbroken succession, including, over Zoom during the Covid lockdown. In addition to the monthly lectures, each of which attract between 50 and 130 attendees, the Society is also active in the following ways:

Mounting exhibitions of local heritage interest (the most recent being an exhibition on *"Music in Howth"* during 2023 Heritage Week and at the Howth Maritime Festival).

Monitoring and intervening in local planning and environmental matters impacting on sites of heritage importance to try to ensure these enhance rather than damage local heritage. This has involved the Society in campaigning, sometimes with success and sometimes, unfortunately without. The Society was instrumental in helping ensure the preservation and transfer to national guardianship of items of major historical value during the sale of Howth Castle a few years ago.

Undertaking restoration and public information work to preserve and enhance local historic and heritage sites (most recently as part of the Howth EIRE 6 Restoration Group which restored the World War Two "EIRE" neutrality sign on East Mountain, researching its history and providing the site information panels for it).

Involvement in networks to advance the aims of our society, notably Fingal Heritage Network, Howth-Sutton Community Council and Howth Special Amenity Area Management Committee.

PUBLICATIONS

A list of all lectures since 1996 can be found at <http://www.howthheritage.com/archives> and posters advertising forthcoming as well as recent lectures are published on our homepage.

CONTACT

Email: info@howthheritage.com

Email: hphs2022@gmail.com

Website: <http://howthheritage.com/>

Kettles

Heritage Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Kettles Heritage Society first originated as a group in 2015 and on December 15th 2017, appropriately in Sullivans café, Kilmore where Andrew Kettle had a farm, we founded the Kettles Heritage Society. By forming a society, we were able to affiliate to Fingal County Council's Heritage Network, have a bank account, attain charitable status and a Revenue number. The aims of the Kettles Heritage Society are best summarised in our "Mission Statement" which reads:- "To ensure that the memory and legacy of Andrew and Tom Kettle finds its rightful place in Local, National and International History"

Tom Kettle was one of the founding members of the Irish Volunteers and also a member of parliament, economist, barrister, writer, soldier and poet. Andrew Kettle was born in Kettles Lane, Drynam, Swords was one of the founders of the Land League movement along with Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt.

ACTIVITIES

Our original group which got together after 2015, succeeded in persuading Fingal County Council to name the local park “Kettles Park” and in acknowledging both Andrew and Thomas Kettle by the installation of two plaques. The Park with the two plaques was officially opened by the then Fingal County Mayor, Darragh Butler in June 2017. We also have carried out an Annual Commemoration in the Park every year since our first in 2016, with the exception of 2020, due to covid. Guest speakers, music, song and Irish dancing have featured in all of the commemorations.

Besides our Annual Commemoration each year, we have had some initial involvement in the publication of the upgraded “Material for Victory” (see below). We have organised the installation of a plaque on the original birthplace and homestead of Andrew Kettle, with the permission of the owners and endeavour to contribute each year to Heritage Week in August.

PUBLICATIONS

The original edition of “Material For Victory” was published by C.J.Fallon in 1958. At one of our committee meetings, it was noted that the original book had almost disappeared, and the seed for the new book was planted. We did some initial exploratory work, including researching the whole aspect of digitalisation, before the whole project was ably driven by Declan Kettle, one of our committee and finally passed to Professor Niamh Reilly of NUIG, University of Galway and her wonderful team of historians. It is expected that the new edition with explanations and notes will be more accessible to both students and historians alike. We have also contributed to Fingal County Council’s local heritage publications.

CONTACT

Kettles Heritage Society (KHS) – Committee (Alphabetical order)

Carmel Caulfield Mob: 087-696-2760 Email: carmelcfield@gmail.com

Michael Kelly Mob: 086-840-1456 Email: kellyskinsealy@gmail.com

Declan Kettle Mob: 086-794-8366 Email: declan47@gmail.com

Eamon Madden Mob: 087-233-5879 Email: eamonmadd@gmail.com

Paul O'Brien Mob: 086-351-8927 Email: flashmman550@gmail.com

Myles Reilly Mob: 087-242-7785 Email: mylesreillymotors@hotmail.com

Loughshinny and Rush Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Loughshinny and Rush Historical Society was inaugurated in January 1989. This year we celebrate 35 years in existence. The aims and objectives of our Society are to compile, research, record and correlate the history, folklore and traditions of the Loughshinny & Rush area of North Fingal. Committee meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month.

ACTIVITIES

Talks, mainly on topics of local interest, are given on the fourth Thursday of the month. The public are very welcome at these meetings. The Society recesses during the months of July, August and September. Two outings are organised during the year, one at Christmas time and the other in June. The annual subscription is €12 per year, which facilitates family membership. New members are always welcome.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society has issued various journals over the years. Members have completed Local History Diploma Courses and produced papers of local historical interest. The Millbank Theatre are hosting our very successful video presentation of "A Short History of Rush" in the Millbank Theatre by public demand in June 2024.

CONTACT

Honorary Secretary, Margaret McCann Moore,
"Don Bosco", Harbour Road (Quay Road), Rush,
Telephone 01 843 7486 or Mobile: 087 0682 949.

Lusk

Heritage Group



ORIGINS & AIMS

Lusk Heritage Group recently celebrated 35 years in existence. Formed in 1989, our Group believe that heritage is not just about history, dates and events. It's about the lives of ordinary men and women, passing on traditions from one generation to the next, remembering names, faces, places, how things were and how things change.

ACTIVITIES

One of the things the Lusk Heritage Group has been doing for over 30 years is recording stories from people in and around Lusk and Fingal, through audio and video presentations. These are available for anyone to access on our Lusk Heritage Group website at www.luskheritage.com. Titles include such as *Tony Carton Vintage Motorbike*; *Diving on the Tayleur*, *Laddie de Jong*; *Lusk Changes*, *Captured and Recalled in 1995 From the Lusk Archives*; *1946 Ireland Travelogue with footage of Lusk* and *Remembering Katies Shop in Lusk*.

We also had more than 80 audio recordings on our website at www.luskheritage.com, also available at www.soundcloud.com/jim-hawkins-3. Anyone can tune in and listen to stories and recollections as diverse as *The illustrated London News Account of the Sinking of the Tayleur*; *Lusk Through the Ages*; *Famine in Fingal 170 Years Ago*; *Thomas Ashe, the Fingal Years*; *Pitch and Toss by John Kelly*; *Remount Prison Farm* by Pat Kelly and *Fourknocks*, narrated by Jim Monks.

Our interaction with other groups and organisations in Lusk and Fingal. We are currently working alongside our four Lusk National Schools, using our recently published book *Lusk School, the Schools' Collection*, to raise awareness of Lusk, its heritage and its surroundings. We have forged close connections with Round Towers GAA Club since cooperating with them on their *Thomas Ashe Centenary Celebration* book. In cooperation with the Lusk Church Centenary 2025 Committee, we are also about to mark another important heritage milestone in Lusk by producing a new book on the 100th anniversary of Lusk Church, which was demolished in 1922, rebuilt and reopened in 1925, 100 years ago next year.

PUBLICATIONS

Writing and recording through books has also been an important part of our work over the years. Books currently available from Lusk Heritage Group include

- ❖ *The Story of Lusk*
- ❖ *Lusk Through the Ages*
- ❖ *Lusk School, The Schools Collection, part of the National Folklore Collection*
- ❖ *Tales of Gaels and Bales*
- ❖ *The Life and Times of John Rover McCann*
- ❖ *Barnewall de Berneval, 800 Years of a Norman-Irish Family*
- ❖ *Forgotten Evidence on the Sack of Balbriggan*
- ❖ *Thomas Ashe Community Group, 100 Year Commemoration 1917-2017*, written in conjunction with Lusk Round Towers GAA Club.

We can also be accessed on Facebook, on our Lusk Heritage Group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/936909870248214/> Illustrated stories on our Facebook page include *The Horticultural Industry in Fingal*; *Erosion Along The Skerries Shoreline*; *The Awesome Power Of Wind, Rain And Sea*; *The Shipwreck of The Tayleur on its Maiden Voyage to Australia 170 Years Ago*; *Sea Tragedy in Loughshinny 1917*; *Two Brothers, Two Wars, Two Deaths the story of the McCann family from Lusk*; *Dr Richard Hayes, Freedom Fighter, Politician, Doctor, Film Censor*, and many more fascinating stories of our past

CONTACT

Website www.luskheritage.com
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/936909870248214/>
Email contactaidanarnold@gmail.com

Malahide

Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Malahide Historical Society was founded in 1978 with the following aims:

- ❖ To find out the history of the wider Malahide area including Portmarnock.
- ❖ To gather details of events both major and minor, record them and narrate them through lectures and walks.
- ❖ To instil a love of Malahide village and surroundings among the people who live here.
- ❖ To preserve the unique qualities of Malahide, which may be in danger of being lost.
- ❖ To produce publications on the history of the Malahide area.
- ❖ To establish a Museum.

Membership of the Society is open to all who have an interest in local history and in furthering the aims of the Society. The subscription is €15. There is an online Membership Application Form on our website www.malahideheritage.ie

ACTIVITIES

The Society is engaged in a broad range of heritage-related activities including regular lectures, usually on the second Tuesday of the month in St Sylvester's Parish centre, between October and May on a wide variety of topics. We publish the programme of talks on our website www.malahideheritage.ie and on our Facebook page.

With the generous assistance of Fingal County Council we run a small two-roomed museum in the building known as the Steward's House, the two storey three bay house in the coach park adjacent to the castle courtyard and visitor centre. We have an eclectic collection on display together with audio visual programmes. Entry is free and the museum is manned by Society volunteers. Usual opening hours are 2 – 4.30pm daily during summer season and weekends in spring and autumn.

In the community, the Society occasionally works with history class teachers in local schools with regard to the local history module of the school's curriculum and classroom local history projects. We also work with long-time residents to record and collect their reminiscences for posterity.

We run occasional heritage walking tours of Malahide and Portmarnock during the summer months, details are posted on our Facebook page. We also arrange occasional field trips for members, with past trips including Lambay Island, the National Maritime Museum, Lissenhall House, Castletown House and others.

PUBLICATIONS

Our NEWSLETTER is distributed to members three or four times annually. 125 issues have been published to date. These contain articles of local historical and regional interest. A complete bound set of the back numbers is available in the Local Studies section of Malahide Library. Copies of back numbers and a comprehensive index of sources for local historical research are available on request to malahidehistoricalsociety2@gmail.com.

The Society has built a substantial archive of images of Old Malahide, Portmarnock and surrounding areas comprising, postcards, old photographs and digital copies. We are always keen to receive additions either as gifts or to make digital copies and return originals. We also publish regular historical snippets and information on our Facebook page – search for Malahide Historical Society.

CONTACT

Email us at malahidehistoricalsociety2@gmail.com

or write us at:

The Secretary, Malahide Historical Society,
The Steward's House, Malahide Castle, Malahide, Co. Dublin K36 YP65.

The Raven History Group



ORIGINS & AIMS

The group was formed in 2014 in anticipation of the Decade of Centenaries in general and the Commemoration of the centenary anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising in particular. It meets roughly between late January and Easter and late September and Christmas in Skerries GAA Club on Saturdays between 11 am and 1 pm with a 20 minute break for coffee and

cake. The group members come from all areas in Fingal, most of whom are members of the various historical societies. The aims of the group are to further interests in all historical topics and each series of lectures is chosen by the group itself.

ACTIVITIES

In addition there are lectures from specialist historians and these are open to the public at large. These lectures are sponsored by the group and attendance is always gratis to the public. Trips locally, nationally and internationally are a feature of events. The group normally visits locations associated with the courses covered. We have visited Spain, Flanders, Northumberland, Poland, and Southern Italy. A trip to Sicily is scheduled of Spring 2025. Nationally we have been to every corner of Ireland for 3-day trips and 1 day trips of Dublin and the Fingal region are frequent. All our trips are taken with our sister group from Tallaght and a great esprit de corps has built up over the years. A highlight of the year is the Christmas dinner and talk/debate in Wynns Hotel, Lower Abbey Street.

PUBLICATIONS

Some of our members have published historical works and the course Director has written and produced radio and stage dramas reflecting historical events. Others have familial links with the heroes of our freedom struggle. They bring a great and personal perspective to our classes which are very participative and multi-dimensional. During the summer months we have a historical treasure hunt in either Skerries or Tallaght. We keep in touch via WhatsApp and the atmosphere is friendly and informal. Our members tend to have differing talents be it computer literacy or of a particular historical bent. Some have used their culinary skills to bring cakes and other home-made confectionaries to classes and picnics while on tour!

CONTACT

Email at sog1@campusie.onmicrosoft.com
or by texting Sean at 087 954 9700. All are welcome.

Rolestown & Oldtown Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Rolestown & Oldtown Historical society was founded in 2012 to record and promote the invaluable history of the area.

ACTIVITIES

The society meets at St David's church in Kilsallaghan where we hold talks on everything Historical and we also organize trips to various local historical sites and an annual trip to historical sites further afield. The society is also involved with Fingal Fieldnames Project which is ongoing.

PUBLICATIONS

- ❖ A History of the Parish of Rowlestown by Una Eager O'Brien
- ❖ The History and Archaeology of the Parish of Kilsallaghan by Dr Mark Clinton

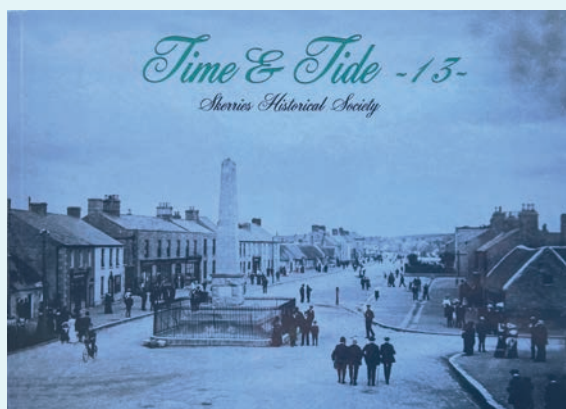
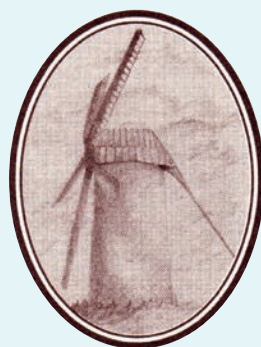
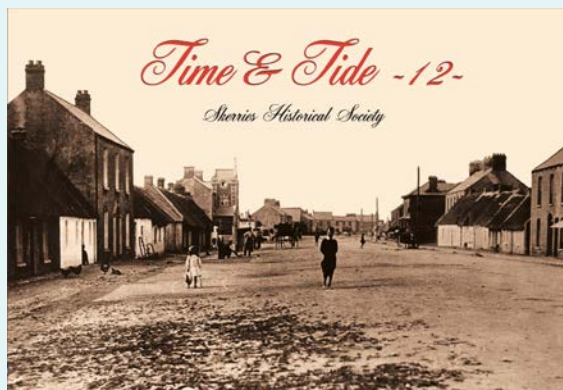
CONTACT

Chairperson: Thomas Murphy

Email: thomasfpmurphy@gmail.com

Skerries

Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

The 'Old Skerries Society', founded in 1948, is now Skerries Historical Society. The Society promotes awareness and conservation of local history, heritage and artifacts and fosters interest and research into local folklore and traditional arts and crafts.

ACTIVITIES

The activities of the Society are initiated and overseen by a committee of volunteers who meet monthly and who are elected at an annual general meeting, held in October. The committee actively promotes historical research among the wider membership of the Society. Monthly public meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the month from September to June, provide a forum for the presentation of research papers or talks. The current venue for the Society's public meetings is Skerries Bowling Club in the centre of the town. The schedule of meetings is circulated to members, is posted on our website, and is advertised in local outlets. All are welcome to attend.

Our Membership annual fee is decided at our AGM each year. It is currently €10. Non-members attending public meetings are asked to make a contribution of €5. Since 1948, papers presented by both members and non-members have been handed in for the Society's archive. There are now over 350 papers in the Society's archive which is also a major repository for local history records, folklore and artefacts. We welcome donations of material relating to Skerries and are very grateful to our past donors.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society has issued thirteen publications to date in the ISSN series 'Time & Tide', each containing a selection of nine or ten papers from the archive. Every two years a dedicated sub-committee works on this project. Time & Tide, volume 14, will appear in 2024. Our publications are available for sale at monthly meetings, in local outlets and via the Society's website. Volumes 1 and 2 are sold out. The website also carries small articles on local traditions and folkways (<https://oldskerries.ie/folklorefolkways/>)

CONTACT

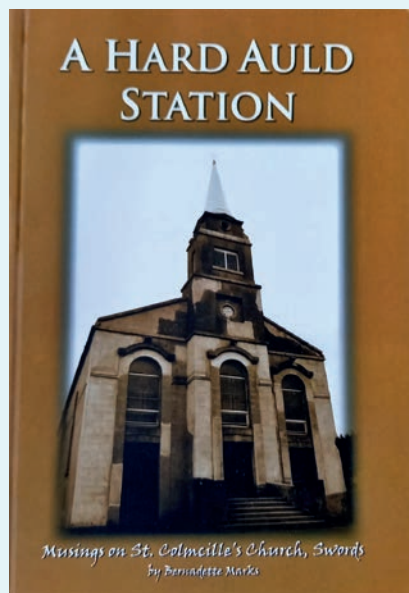
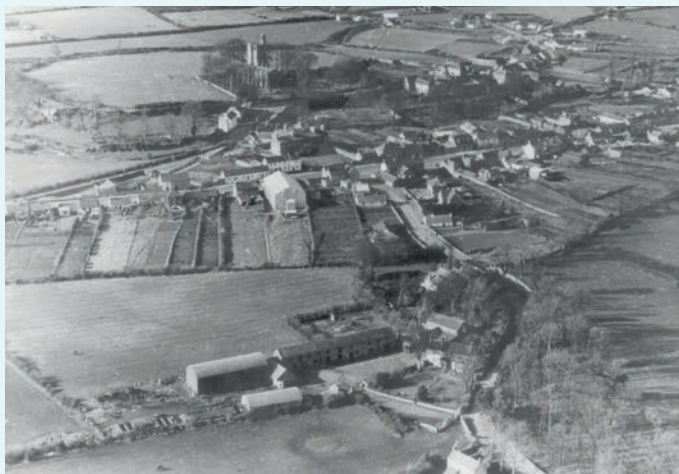
Information about Skerries Historical Society, including programme of talks, membership forms and contact details for honorary secretary and honorary librarian can be found on our website www.oldskerries.ie.

Honorary secretary: honsec@oldskerries.ie

Honorary librarian: librarian@oldskerries.ie

Swords

Historical Society



ORIGINS & AIMS

Since the Society was founded in March 1982 it has fulfilled its brief to record, preserve and promote all aspects of the greater Swords area, . Our group worked from the Carnegie Library, Swords, for over thirty years where we had leased a room on the top floor. As the Carnegie is now an Art Centre, we have, with the help of Fingal County Council moved to our new premises at 58 North Street, Swords.

ACTIVITIES

Much research has been done since then including an oral history project. This has been published in our "SWORDS VOICES" series consisting of 27 publications. It is a comprehensive record of the lives of Swords people, told in their own words Many of the interviewees were aged in their nineties when the project began in 1984.

PUBLICATIONS

Our Fingal Genealogy project is available to those who wish to trace their family history. As part of the Irish Family History Foundation, we are a centre part of a network of over thirty Genealogy centres throughout the island of Ireland. Society members are always available to host walks around places of interest in Swords and surrounding areas. Many 'Walks' undertaken over the years have been recorded and may be seen on YouTube.

CONTACT

Swords Historical Society Ltd, 58 North Street, Swords. Co. Dublin

We are open Mondays to Thursdays in the afternoons.

To make an appointment to call to search for your ancestors please phone 01 840 0080 or email swordsheritage@gmail.com

Fingal has a rich heritage dating back thousands of years, from the passage tombs of Bremore to medieval church settlements such as Swords and Lusk and castles like Malahide and Ardgillan. Fingal also has a unique natural heritage of coastline, waterways, landscape and wildlife, and a cultural heritage of local history, music and folklore. The historical societies and heritage groups featured in this booklet play a vital role in the recording, sharing and protection of Fingal's past. Why not become involved by getting in touch with a group in your area where you will be most welcome.

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



Supporting the Fingal Heritage Network is an action
of the Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2030