

FINGAL AUDIT OF ORAL HERITAGE COLLECTIONS

FINAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024



DOCUMENT DETAILS

Commissioned By: The *Fingal Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings* is an initiative of Fingal County Council Heritage Office. This project is an action of the *Fingal Heritage Plan* and is co-funded by the Heritage Council and Fingal County Council.

Project Consultants: Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting (MHC)



Sunset Hill, Ballyvalley, Killaloe, County Clare



info.macconmaraheritage@gmail.com



087 9160373

Project Team: Dr Tomás Mac Conmara, Dara Venner, Tara Brady, Lisa Dalton

Fingal Leads: Christine Baker, Fingal Heritage Officer

Author: Dr Tomás Mac Conmara

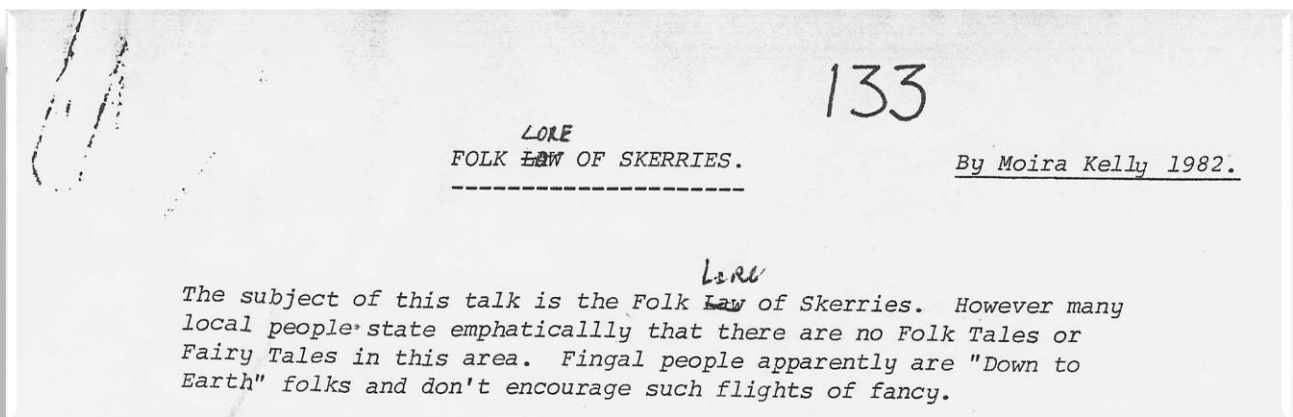
Front page: Photograph Selection – Fingal related images, including Willie McGee, recorded by Jim Hawkins, Tara Brady of Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting, an interviewee for the Voices of Swords oral history project (1991), and an image containing material related to Fingal at the National Museum of Northern Ireland.



The ‘Shoebbox of Recordings’ – Donabate, October 2024

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An extract from a 1982 article where the late Moira Kelly noted a rejection of folklore in Skerries. Her research in which she interviewed local older people proved the contention untrue!

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FOHA022	National Folklore Collection, UCD	A collection of sixty-nine audio recordings, undertaken in or relating to Fingal by the National Folklore Collection, UCD.	64
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall aim of this project was to conduct an audit of oral heritage recordings and/or collections on Fingal topics, people or places. The completion of the project provides a broad and coherent overview of the oral heritage recordings, collected over many decades, relating to the oral tradition and folklore of Fingal. Recognizing the value which these collections represent for the broader historical and cultural landscape in Fingal, MHC invested significant time in building relationships and trust with collection holders. The team worked closely with collection holders to gather background information, clarify contexts, and identify key themes and narrators. Many local community and heritage groups in Fingal provided difficult to establish contact with during the project timeframe, with a tendency for such groups to not meet during the summer months. Nevertheless, the audit proved itself tremendously positive and popular among communities and collections holders in Connemara.

From June to November 2024, significant engagement was carried out by Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting (MHC), primarily through direct correspondence and fieldwork with collection holders at local, regional, national and international levels. Aggregating oral heritage metadata across diverse institutions and collection holders presented several complex challenges. The audit found inconsistent and sometimes no metadata practices compounded by the varied states and formats of the collections themselves. This caused significant delay with many collections. Consequently, the timeframe allowed for the project proved to be quite restricted. Where possible however, MHC have broken down and restructured metadata to provide item level information, making it easier for users in the future (see Appendices III – V, pp. 85-89 for three sample item level breakdowns). **It should be noted** that eight item level spreadsheets will be integrated into the online presence later, and will be at that point, hyperlinked within an updated version of this document.

Across the Audit, a total of **676** recording items were identified, consisting of both long and short form interviews and recordings, with an estimated **750** interviewees from the Fingal area. The latter relates to **thirty-five** collections, with **thirty-two** holding institutions or collection holders. Nine of the collections (25%) were generated by national bodies including the National Folklore Collection, the GAA as well as RTE and TG4. Local heritage groups including

Balbriggan, Garristown and Swords Historical Societies, account for 20% of collection holders, who generated recordings for the purpose of local history research/ documentation. In the case of the latter, some of the most significant finds were located, including eyewitness testimony of the Sack of Balbriggan (September 1920), as well as recordings made in Donabate with several interviewees born before the turn of the 20th century. Four (11%) of collections which MHC located Fingal related material within international holding institutions in Australia, Britain, America and Canada. This included an interview recorded with Margaret Byrne (see p. 17), born in Howth in 1910, discovered within a Birmingham City Council project. Fingal County Council itself holds five collections of oral history, representing 14% of collections.

The two largest collections identified within the audit were the National Folklore Collection, within which sixty-nine recordings were identified and listed by MHC. The commercial initiative led by the late Maurice O’Keefe (*Irish Life and Lore*) made 133 recordings (19% of the overall recording items) as part of the Fingal Series 1 and 2, as well as *1922 to 2022 - A Century of Change*. Fieldwork research at the National Museum of Northern Ireland, led to the discovery of a significant and little-known collection of seven sound recordings made in Fingal, as part of the Tape-Recorded Survey of Hiberno-English Speech (TRSHES) between 1972 and 1981. In addition, a further five sound recordings made by the National Museum of Northern Ireland in the Fingal Area were discovered, including two sound recordings (originally made on Magnetic Tape reel) with John Gallen in relation to the history of the Charles Gallen Irish Linen firm.

Observations & Recommendations

As with previous audits undertaken by MHC, indications suggest that much of the local material identified, may not have been documented according to what may be technically agreed as the Best Practice standards of oral history. However, it is evident that the material generated relating to Fingal was done so in good faith and that as sound recordings of memory, they have a profound importance for historical information and cultural understanding in the area.

In some cases, interviews were never played after being originally recorded. This is underlined by the identified legacy collections which, due to the passing out of use of the media they were recorded on, have sometimes become unusable. Occasionally, this was even more sharply demonstrated by the destruction of collections by damp and decay which was witnessed during

the audit. This points forcefully to the need to support the preservation and use of recorded material to bring about the true effect of collection.

Project Database



A Microsoft excel Database was created for the purpose of recording, with fields corresponding to the data generated. Each collection surveyed has its own individual record, identified by a unique number. Importantly, the database accords with the ISAD international archival standard and enables a hyperlinking of related records across multiple sites. Locations of collection holders, including names, addresses and contact details were recorded, and a consistent approach was adopted to generate measurable and assessable findings on each collection. While information was expectedly inconsistent across holdings and in many cases was limited, where additional and substantive information was available, this has been hyperlinked within the database. In most cases, collection holders were only able to provide approximate information on their collection as no cataloguing had been undertaken. As a result, generating a unified dataset involved description and indexing to the level possible given available metadata, providing details on format, subjects, access conditions, and any related collections. The database organizes the listings by project, collection holder, interviewer, keywords and geography, where possible. In addition to the Master Database, each collection will be presented as a comprehensive individual collection report, carried in the appendices of the Final Report (pp. 34 – 84).

The database contains hyperlinks to collection specific metadata spreadsheets, where it was possible for MHC to generate same. The report digital database will be hosted by Fingal County Council on www.fingal.ie/. The Project Database has been uploaded to Google Sheets and access has been granted to Fingal County Heritage Office [HERE](#).

Fingal Word Cloud reflecting
some of the keywords
identified within the audit of
oral heritage



PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Across June to November 2024, the project has primarily focused on awareness raising and the identification and liaison with collection holders, within or relating to Fingal. A Project Statement and Project Audit Record Form were created by MHC to expediate awareness raising as well as data capture. In early June, Mac Conmara Heritage, with the Fingal Heritage Officer (Christine Baker), delivered an in-person presentation to the **Fingal Historical Society Network** at Fingal County Council Offices. This enabled the core message of the Audit to be conveyed to the key stakeholders within Fingal.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & OUTREACH

An intensive PR campaign commenced the project with Press Releases submitted to all broadcast and print media organisation within Fingal and surrounding areas. Audit Features were carried on *Radio na Life* on 11 June 2024 and *Phoenix FM* on 12 June 2024. Three interviews were also given to *Radio na Gaeltachta* in June, July and August. The consultants established a dedicated Facebook page [@Fingal Audit of Oral Heritage Collections](#) and have promoted the audit through their social media handles. In addition to the PR Campaign, Christine Baker, Heritage Officer, circulated the Project information to her large network of heritage contacts across Fingal. In October, *Radio na Life* recorded a follow up interview (03/10/24). In early October 2024, the project was featured on *NUACHT TG4*.



TG4 Filming for the Fingal Audit in Swords (October 2024)



In June, the Fingal Audit was featured on a lengthy interview with the *D15 Today* Team on Phoenix FM. You can listen back to the feature [HERE](#)



With the support of Fingal County Librarian, Betty Boardman, hardcopies of the Fingal Audit Survey Form (see below.) were circulated to all **Fingal Branch Libraries** in addition to its inclusion within branch library interactive screens. In addition, over thirty churches over various denominations were contacted and a blurb circulated for inclusion in their regular newsletters within the Fingal. All known community, cultural and heritage groups were contacted individually to appeal for information from their members. It **should be noted** that the response in the main from these groups was limited, with a number unwilling or unable to respond during the summer months.

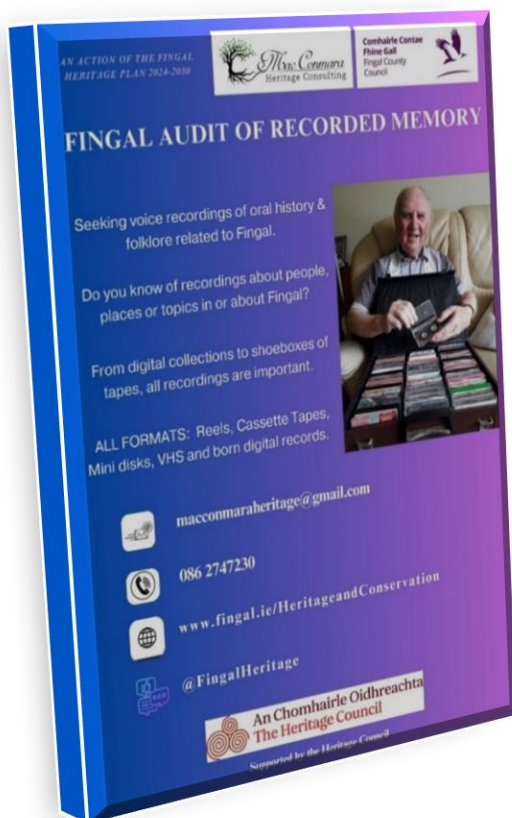
An **AUDIT RECORD FORM** was generated to facilitate submissions of information including a digital version which was distributed widely. Submissions to this form online were limited which in the experience of the consultants, is not surprising. Over 70% of correspondence was by email/telephone calls, with approx. 10% over Facebook/social media.

FINGAL AUDIT OF ORAL HERITAGE RECORDING SURVEY FORM



The image shows the front of a survey form titled "Oral Heritage Collections in Fingal – Can You Help?". At the top, there are logos for Comhairle Contae Fhine Gall (Fingal County Council), An Chomhairle Oidhreachta (The Heritage Council), and Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting. The text on the form asks if the respondent knows of oral heritage recordings made about people, places or topics in or about Fingal, and if so, whether they have made recordings themselves or know of collections of oral history recordings. It then states that the Heritage Office of Fingal County Council would like to hear from them. Below this, it mentions that Fingal County Council's Heritage Office have commenced an Audit of Oral Heritage Collections within and related to Fingal, and that the audit will identify recorded collections of oral heritage and folklore undertaken over the decades by both private and public bodies, in either audio or video format. The audit will only list collections and will not physically take them. The information gathered will be made available to the public in an accessible format. At the bottom of the form, there are three photographs: a box of cassette tapes, a man holding a CD, and a man sitting at a table with a stack of cassette tapes.

Front Image of Fingal Audit Record Form



A bespoke Project Poster (left) was generated for circulation on social media, which was shared by multiple cultural and heritage groups with an interest or connection with Fingal.



For *Heritage Week 2024*, For Heritage Week 2024, it was decided to deliver a digital presentation to circulate broadly about the aims and findings of the audit to date This presentation showcased the work of the Audit and underlined the value of the recorded material it is exploring. It will also discuss some of the key points of discussion including the potential for integrating legacy material into the broader digital resource. The digital presentation can be viewed online at the following link: [Finding Fingal's Recorded Voices - Heritage Week 2024](#)



DESKTOP & ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Identifying and listing information across multiple collections of oral history, with a range of formats and metadata levels required a thorough, multi-step process to ensure accurate discovery, arrangement, and presentation of the data. Typical of these audits, the collections identified had varying degrees of metadata completeness, depending on how they were documented, processed, and shared. In many cases, metadata was minimal or nil.

The surveying and discovery of oral history collections has been an ongoing process and will continue until close to the deadline, to facilitate as much discovery as possible. The identification of institutions that house oral history collections with potential Fingal material was first undertaken between June and July. This led to direct liaison with holding institutions in both Ireland, Britain, America, Canada and Australia. Geographically or culturally, Fingal is not a traditional county. As a result, it proved more difficult to identify material and resulted in significant time expended to search according to the thirty-five civil parishes in Fingal.

The lack of online databases and aggregators across holding institutions required direct liaison and often repeated correspondence to ascertain and clarify information with holdings that may have related to Fingal. For example, **field-specific**, deep research, metadata searching and cross referencing between the academic publications of holding institutions (including publication references and bibliographies) and available oral history metadata, was undertaken. This led to the eventual discovery of several important oral interviews which would not readily be discoverable to the typical user. Through this process, oral interviews related to the Fingal areas were found in Maynooth University (six oral recordings in Rush and Lusk as part of a dissertation for a NUI Certificate in Local History). In addition, an interview with **Sr Regina O'Neill**, born in Rush in 1934, (see p. 16) was discovered as part of the Claddagh Oral History Project, held in the **State Library of Western Australia**. Also, a recording with Margaret Byrne (see p. 17), born in Howth in 1910 was discovered within a **Birmingham City Council** (Library Services at Home) oral history initiative undertaken in 2000.

Lisa Dalton, Researcher with MHC, has undertaken a comprehensive Desktop Research survey of oral material relating to Fingal, in a variety of media formats including YouTube, Radio and TV Documentaries, historical and cultural publications, University theses, academic publications etc. The desktop survey and analysis included material within RTE Archives, community GAA collections, folklore and social history collections, Irish Life and Lore, as well as oral recordings (recorded memory) uploaded to YouTube (with reference to source recordings). In most cases, collection holders identified in desktop research were contacted by MHC in order to clarify the nature/status of collections and for further contextual information.

HOLDING INSTITUTIONS EXAMINED (IN-PERSON/REMOTLEY) (NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

IRELAND

- Cork Folklore Project
- Cuimhneamh an Chláir, Clare Oral History Group
- Digital Repository of Ireland
- Diverse Waterford Oral History Project
- Dublin Port Memory and Story Project
- ESB ARCHIVES - St. Margarets Rd, Finglas, Dublin 11
- Garda Síochána Retired Members Association
- ICAN (Irish Community Archives Network)
- Mary Immaculate College Oral History Collection, Limerick
- Military Archives of Ireland Oral History Collection
- National Folklore Collection, UCD
- National Museum of Ireland
- National Museum of Northern Ireland
- National University of Ireland, Maynooth
- UCC Department of Folklore, Cork
- Unseann Mac Eoin Collection (MAOI)
- Ulster Folk and Transport Museum (Oral History Collection)
- University of Limerick Special Collections

BRITAIN

- Special Collections, London Met Zone (London Metropolitan University)
- Irish in Britain Organization (National network for Irish community in Britain).
- The Irish Experience - Oral History Project - Birmingham City Council

USA

- Ireland House Collection, New York University including:
 - Miriam Nyhan Oral History Collection AIA.036
 - Joe Long Oral History Collection AIA.070
 - Aisling Irish Community Center Oral History Collection AIA.035
 - Jane Conlon Muller Oral History Collection AIA.012

- Ellis Island Oral History Program (Ellis Island Foundation, New York)
- Molloy University, Rockville Centre, New York
- University of Notre Dame, USA
- Queens Irish Oral History Project

AUSTRALIA

- National Library of Australia – Irish National Association of Australasia
- Ireland Australia Migration Oral History 2002-2003 - State Library of Queensland
- The Claddagh Oral History project - *From Home to Home: Oral Histories of Irish Seniors in Western Australia* - State Library of Western Australia (SLWA)
- Benevolent Irish Society Audio Collection – Canada

SAMPLE COLLECTIONS

Significant research and exploration resulted in the identification of several oral interviews with native Fingalians in overseas archives. This was time consuming and required persistence with variant metadata approaches and levels, meaning it was challenging to establish (a) if collections contained relevant recordings and (b) whether it was possible to establish the full details of recordings. MHC established direct contact through its international network of oral history practitioners and were able to clarify the existence of relevant recordings which would otherwise be far more challenging for scholars to access.

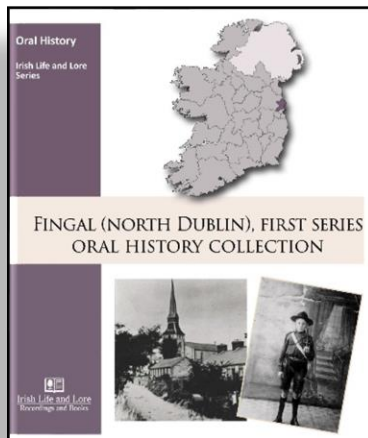


An interview with **Sr Regina O'Neill** (born in Rush in 1934) was discovered as part of the Claddagh Oral History Project, held in the **State Library of Western Australia**. **The Claddagh Oral History Project** was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic 2020. We have collated edited extracts from all the project interviews in our book *From Home to Home: Oral Histories of Irish Seniors in Western Australia*.



'I was born in Howth, County Dublin, in 1910. I was an only child. My father was a van driver, and my mother didn't work. We lived in a thatched cottage. We had to get water from the well across the field.'

A short interview with **Margaret Byrne** (left) was discovered at **Birmingham City Council** after direct liaison with the Local Authority Library Services there.



Over 130 recordings were made by the late Maurice O'Keefe of *Irish Life and Lore* related to Fingal. These included material from within the 1916 Collection, 1922-2022 A Century of Change (Fingal), Fingal (north Dublin), first and second series, and the Landed Gentry in Ireland Oral History Collection. MHC drew on existing metadata and deeper searching to compile a full item level listing for the above project.

COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS



VOICES OF SWORDS: A 1991 oral history project undertaken by **Swords Heritage** and delivered by Bernadette Marks (See FOHA028 – p. 74). Thirty-three interviews are listed by Swords Heritage, with a note indicating material will be limited to production in associated journal *Swords Voices*. [See Video Here](#)

Through liaison with **Skerries Historical Society**, MHC were able to identify folklore and social memory-based lectures and publications which while not audio, have a unique relevance including a 1992 article by the late Moira Kelly, based on documented memories of local Skerries people.

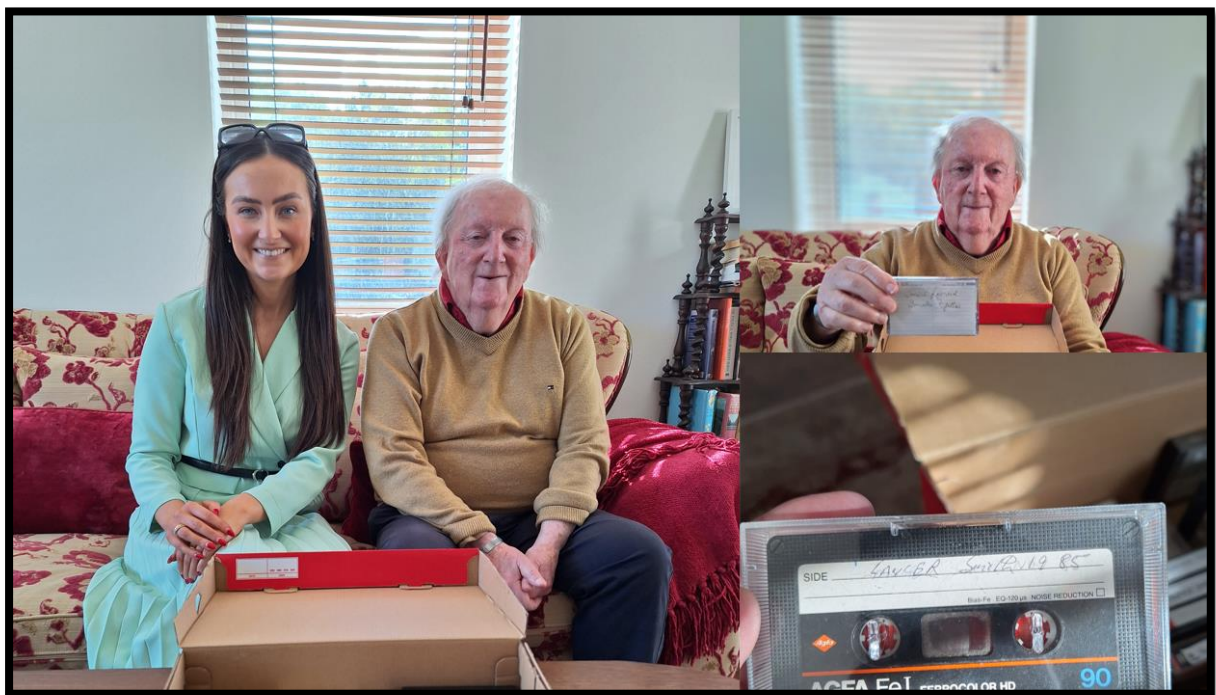
DONABATE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT - PEADAR BATES

One of the first collection holders to contact Mac Conmara Heritage was Peadar Bates, a local historian from Donabate. Peadar holds a collection of fourteen recordings with twelve people made on cassette tape from the 1970s through the early 1990s (See FOHA023, p. 66). In his submission to the 2024 Fingal Audit of Oral Heritage Collections, Peadar Bates wrote:

“Sometime in the seventies, I interviewed quite a number of the parish elders, mainly to find out more about my own family. However, there is probably much more information regarding other aspects of parish activity which would be of interest to your project [2024 audit] and to future generations. This would include references to the Civil War period. I remember one of those interviewed made reference to the shooting of [Harry] Boland in a Skerries hotel during the Civil War. I know there are further references. Some years ago [approx. 2014] I handed these over to Colm McQuinn, Fingal archivist at the time, to copy and requested he keep a copy of his recordings for me. I still have my originals.” - Peadar Bates, June 2024

The collection was deposited with Fingal Archives in approx. 2014 but little metadata or contextual information was provided. In September 2024, Mac Conmara Heritage visited Peadar Bates in Donabate and after a comprehensive reviewing of material and interviewing Peadar about his collection, a fuller listing of the collection was developed. In addition, a **further video recording of Willie O'Brien**, undertaken by Peadar Bates in 1980 about social history in Donabate, was discovered. The full listing of the Peadar Bates Collection can be viewed **(TO FOLLOW)**.

The Peadar Bates example is a sound illustration of how even when material is deposited, the associated metadata and contextual information may not have been captured. A full listing of the Bates collection is now associated with this audit and has been supplied to Fingal Archives to associate this with the file.



Mac Conmara Heritage (Tara Brady) with Peadar Bates during Fieldwork

EYEWITNESS TO THE SACK OF BALBRIGGAN

In 1992 Jim Walsh and Tom Coughlan from **Balbriggan & District Historical Society** produced a video Eyewitness Accounts of the Sack of Balbriggan (FOHA001, p. 34). This video features personal eyewitness accounts from Michael Hammond, Mrs Kathleen McGillivary and Mrs Bridget Daly who lived through September 20, 1920. The remarkable footage is available at [HERE](#)



Bridget Daly, Jim Walsh and Kathleen McGillivary, witnesses to the Sack of Balbriggan in September 1920, during their interviews in 1992.



The aftermath of the Sack of Balbriggan (Courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland).

RECORDING WITH JOHN COLLINS – HOWTH FISHERMAN



Howth Fishing Boats – 1963 – National Folklore (Photographic) Collection B006.06.00005

A recording made by nurse and poet Paul Wickham in 1998 with **John Collins**, a fisherman from Howth reflecting his life. John Collins passed away in 2000 (See FOHA016, p. 55). John was known locally as a ‘great character’ with a strong sense of humour. When on the recording with Paul Wickham, John was asked what he remembered about growing up in Howth, he answered as follows:

“I remember sitting in the pram with my twin sister, Mary, sucking a bottle when she grabbed the bottle off me and hit me over the head with it! ... I was a little rebel-a holy terror. I made my confirmation in the Pro-cathedral under Fr Liam Thackaberry’s instruction in Scoil Cholmcille in Marlboro St. One day I was being punished for being disruptive and the teacher told me to stretch out my hand for the stick. I looked up into his eyes and quoted his favourite prayer back to him: “Little flower, at this hour, show your power!” He was stunned and couldn’t hit me. The next time I tried it, it didn’t work!” - John Collins, 1998

Close correspondence and engagement with the collection holder (**Paul Wickham**) led to a more rounded overview of the recording. This included the provision of a partial transcript, which MHC have restructured for the associated file. In addition, after collecting a copy of the original recording, MHC reviewed the interview and created an additional document which helps to optimise searching and interview content metadata. Finally, the Collection Holder agreed to submit a poem he composed about the interviewee which adds beautifully to the social and cultural context of the resource.

Treasure Ireland – Jim Hawkins

As part of the audit, significant and often repeated engagement is required with collection holders to ensure that the correct and comprehensive information is documented. In the case of **Jim Hawkins**, who operated the Treasure Ireland Podcast, a significant correspondence and engagement documented not only a hugely



important resource which is available online, but also the background and context of its generation since the late 1980s. These include interviews with local fishermen like Francie Rogan who spoke on record about the day he caught a giant Halibut and Willie McGee (left), formally an able seaman and Batman for lord Baring of Lambay who recounted his life with ‘colourful language’ (See FOHA015, p. 53).



Mac Conmara Heritage undertook to contact multiple oral history and folklore collections across the country on the pretext that although focused on interviewing people within their locality, interviewees may have come from Fingal and settled in those areas. Through this process, a long form **recording with Jane Ward who grew up in Balbriggan** was discovered within the holdings of the Cork Folklore Project (UCC). In the recording, which was undertaken on 04th June 2019, Jane speaks at length about her background in Balbriggan and later living in Skerries before later in life moving to Cork city, where she was interviewed by the CFP (See FOHA004, p. 39). In some cases, collection projects like Cuimhneamh an Chláir (Memories of Clare) and the Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Network were contacted, but despite having interviewees from Dublin, without processed metadata, it was not possible to confirm whether those recorded were from Fingal.

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

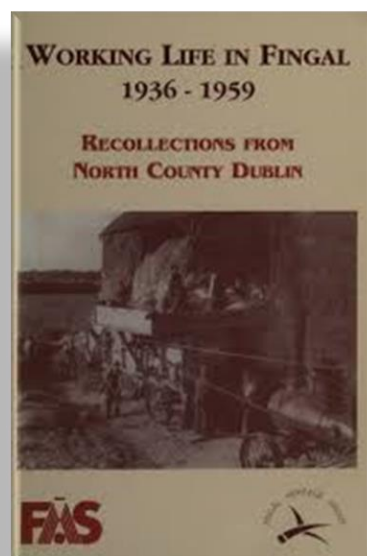
The consultants have made four field trips to Fingal to meet with collection holders where it was required to establish more clearly, collection information. Two trips (with two researchers) were made the National Folklore Collection in UCD (see below), one day with the Military Archives of Ireland, while one fieldtrip was undertaken by two researchers to NMNI, Cultra, (see below).



Two members of MHC spent two days at the **National Folklore Collection** (NFC) in UCD in July and August compiling information relating to entries from Fingal. Thus far approx. seventy-nine items within the NFC have been identified and are being separated from the broader Fingal related material to better illustrate and facilitate access to metadata.

A collection of **sixty-nine** audio recording items, undertaken in or relating to Fingal by collectors on behalf of the National Folklore Collection, UCD (See FOHA022, p.64). Six were recorded by the BBC from 1947 to 1950, consisting mainly of singing and spoken word, four were recorded by the folklore Caomhín Ó Danachair (Kevin Danaher), while one was made by the American ethnomusicologist, Alan Lomax in 1951.

Forty-seven of the recording were made between 1993 and 1994 as part of the Fingal Heritage Project - "Working Life in Fingal 1936-1959". Interviewers for this FÁS sponsored project were Claire Campbell, Pat Hawes and Rory Keane. This collection resulted in the publication of *Working life in Fingal 1936-1959: Recollections from North County Dublin*, by the Fingal Heritage Group in 1994.

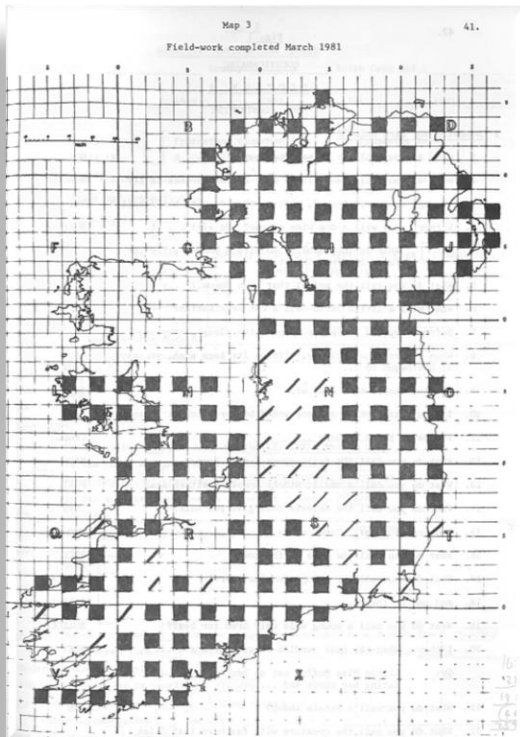


National Museum of Northern Ireland



A field trip by MHC to the **National Museum of Northern Ireland** in Cultra, County Down in early August yielded a significant collection of recordings (See FOHA022 & FOHA029, p. 61 & 77. These recordings have remained on reel-to-reel format. However, after a request from MHC, the Fingal items **are now being digitised**.

A collection of seven sound recordings made in Fingal were discovered, within the **Tape-Recorded Survey of Hiberno-English Speech (TRSHES)** in all thirty-two counties of Ireland, from 1972 and 1981. TRSHES was a dialect survey conducted by academics in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Interviewees in Fingal **The TRSHES COLLECTION (NMNI)** included Siobhán Moore and Mary Jane Russell from Howth, Peter Kavanagh and May Ryan from Skerries as well as Tommy Rooney from Garristown.



A distribution map showing the locations of TRSHES Sound Recordings including Fingal

Charles Gallen Linen Sound Recordings



Charles Ferdinand Gallen 1848-1915
(www.charles-gallen.ie)

Within the NMNI, there were also two sound recordings (originally made on Magnetic Tape reel and later digitised) with John Gallen (left) in relation to the history of the Charles Gallen Irish Linen firm which was founded in Balbriggan in 1870 when Charles Linnen arrived there from Belfast.

GAA Oral History Project

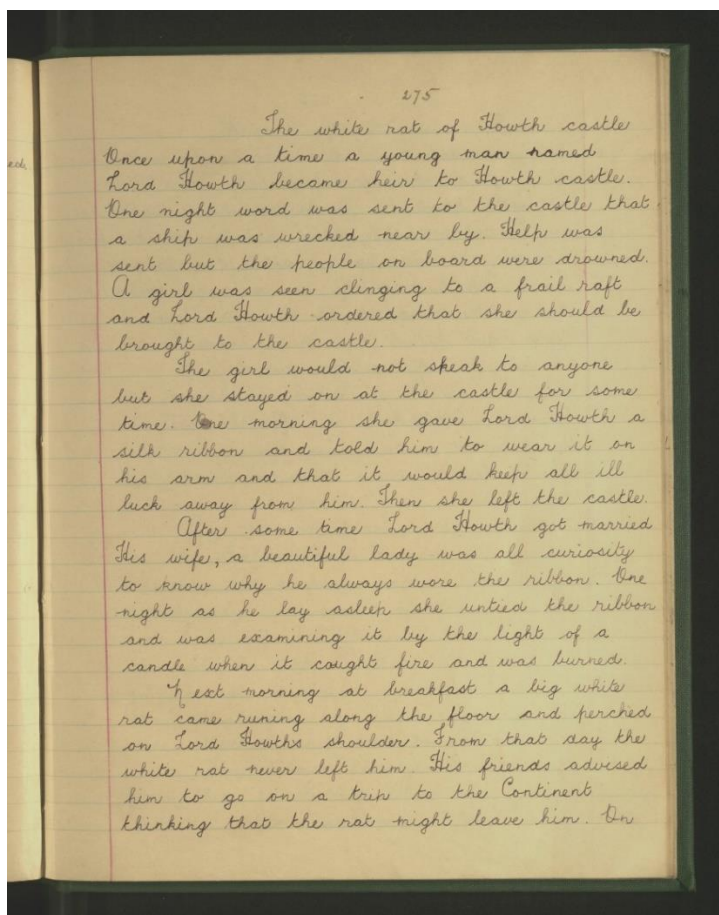
As part of the GAA Oral History Project in 2009, **five** interviews were undertaken with approximately nine Fingal Gaels (FOHA011, p. 47). Both the audio recording and associated abstract for each interview is available on <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/>. Those interviewed were Orla Brennan, Laurence Malone, Andy Kettle, Paddy Joe Moran and David McKittrick. Mac Conmara Heritage have generated an item level spreadsheet with additional data on the Fingal contributors, which can be viewed **TO FOLLOW**. The following is an outline of those Fingal Gaels who contributed to the GAA Oral History Project:

Non-Audio Material



186 contributions to the **School's Folklore Scheme Collection** (1937-38) came from Howth while the National Folklore Collection holds forty-four photographic entries for the area. Eighty-three entries relate to Malahide with twenty photos. Balbriggan is carried

across 155 school entries from two schools, Ss. Peter & Paul's boys' and girls' schools, while ninety-seven transcripts were submitted from Lusk while in Rush



The White Rat of Howth Castle

Once upon a time a young man named Lord Howth became heir to Howth castle. One night word was sent to the castle that a ship was wrecked nearby. Help was sent but the people on board were drowned. A girl was clinging to a frail raft and Lord Howth ordered that she should be brought to the castle ...

- The Schools' Collection, Volume 0231, Page 275

Fingal Fieldnames and Placenames

A 2011 project by Wexford artist Aileen Lambert was commissioned by Fingal County Council, generating a series of video works in response to selected landscapes and their placename significance in Fingal. Aileen worked with local community groups and individuals to find out about Fingal placenames and their origins, such as Clonsilla, from 'Cluain Saileach' (Meadow of the Sallys), or The Naul, from the Irish 'An Aill' (cliff). In 2018 Abarta Heritage were engaged to provide training to groups across the County including Skerries Historical Society, Balbriggan & District Historical Society, Garristown Historical Society, Ballyboughal Historical Society and groups from Dublin 15 as well as individuals from Rush, Lusk, Feltrim, Cloghran and Rowlestown. A total of 900 fieldnames have been recorded by volunteers during Phase 1 and Phase II of the project capturing a part of our heritage that is at risk of disappearing. For more information, visit; <https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/fingal-fieldnames-project>

'There are no Folk Tales or Fair Tales in this area [Skerries]. Fingal people apparently area "down to earth" folks and don't encourage such flights of fancy'

- Moira Kelly – 1982

In 1982, Moira Kelly gave a lecture entitled '*Folklore of Skerries*' to the Skerries Historical Society described as 'Based on conversations with old residents. Covers a range of traditional stories and legends.' After offering the above quote to showcase how she was told repeatedly that hers was an exercise in futility, she went on to provide a rich and varied account of a vibrant folk memory within the area. The contents of the lecture were initially recorded but the audio has not survived.



However, a transcription of the lecture is extant and was used in the production of an article published in *Time and Tide*, Volume 13 (2022). The subject matter and reference made by Moira Kelly in 1982 are of importance in the context of folklore in Skerries. The transcript demonstrates clearly that Moira Kelly took significant attention to the memories of local people and connected these to very real living instances, linked to local landscapes and places.

Skerries Memories to Vancouver

Early in the audit research, Mac Conmara Heritage received a submission on our digital form from Vancouver in Canada. Lynne Cregg-Guinan, a native of Skerries wrote about two recordings made in her native place some decades earlier, soon after Lynne had emigrated to north America. Lynne's connection to the recordings demonstrates the value of local memory, voice, history in addition to the recording as a pathway to another time and place. To provide a little home comfort, Lynne's parents recorded the RTE feature onto cassette tapes and posted these to their daughter in Canada, as she explained in 2024:

I remember Leo Flanagan being interviewed amongst others. I live in Vancouver so would have to send them to you. There were 2 or 3 audio cassettes ... they were sent to me in Vancouver by my parent ... There were many people from Skerries interviewed. The interviews were held in the Skerries rugby club over a few sessions, and I think were recorded in the 90s. Leo Flanagan was a well-known publican in Skerries who owned the Fingal's Cave pub and also at one time the Pavilion Ballroom and cinema. He was also on the Olympic '64 sailing team in Tokyo. He was also the President of both the rugby, sailing and golf clubs back in the day. He was a real character and everyone in Skerries knew him. He had wonderful stories and was a good friend of my parents and spent a lot of time in our home as I was growing up. His father was the man who brought electricity to Skerries.

- Lynne Cregg-Guinan – August 2024



Dr Tomás Mac Conmara and Tara Brady were the primary fieldworkers on the Fingal Audit of Oral Heritage Collections 2024

Fingal's Oral Heritage Collections - A source for learning



The findings of the Audit of Oral Heritage Collections in Fingal, provide opportunities for all Fingal people, young and old, as well as history and cultural enthusiasts from outside the county. From older people searching for a reflection on a past that is only in their memory, to young schoolchildren embarking on a journey into their own past, collected oral heritage offers a pathway to enlightenment. The engagement of students at all educational levels has multiple, enduring benefits. However, at a Primary School level, Fingal's oral heritage collections have the capacity to convince young people of the merits of not only the material, but the latent potential in everyday intergenerational relationships. A greater relationship between primary schools and collected oral heritage relating to Fingal, will require students to become active participants in their own learning process. It will invite inquiry, stimulate discussion, and transform abstract concepts into concrete reality, focused on sites and locations they see on a regular basis. Material would enable teachers and pupils to explore key aspects of their local history and demonstrate how this can be connected to national history.

For teachers, a greater use of collected oral heritage in Fingal fully addresses the aims of the Primary School Curriculum and particularly its emphasis on social, environmental and scientific education (SESE). Crucially, the programme develops the key skills of investigation as well as addressing the curricular aim of exposing pupils to 'the work of a historian'. The overall programme enables development of the following relevant key skills and concepts; Time and chronology, Change and continuity, Cause and effect, Using evidence, Synthesis and communication, Empathy. The programme will assist also in addressing a number of the key strand units which are included in the history programme including 'myself and my family', 'story', 'life, society, 'culture in the past' and 'continuity and change over time'. Beyond the curricular and educational benefit, the material contained within identified collections of memory is of intrinsic cultural benefit to the general population, containing learning on an almost innumerable level.

COLLECTIONS AT RISK



The audit identified concerns over certain collections which remain on their original analogue format. As technology has evolved, so have the media on which recordings have been made. It is an increasing challenge to preserve and maintain access to recordings on redundant technologies such as reel to reel, DAT and compact discs. While approximately 75% of the collections identified in the audit are in digital form, there are a number of oral heritage collections facing an immediate threat from the degradation of physical media and declining support for older audio formats from today's technology industries. Where funding allows, a programme of analogue-to-digital reformatting of collections with audio and audiovisual time-based media (audio/film/video), remaining on analogue formats, should begin. Two collections/items are highlighted in particular:

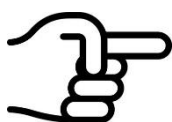
REF.	COLLECTION	DESCRIPTION/FORMAT	STATEMENT
FOHA023	Donabate Oral History Collection (Peadar Bates)	Fourteen recordings made on cassette tape from the 1970s - 1990s (deposited in Fingal Archives in 2014)	Interview Abstract Reports (with transcriptions where necessary) should be created for each recording in order to fully optimise the value of the collection.
FOHA023	Donabate Oral History Collection (Peadar Bates)	Analogue video (VHS) recording of retired teacher Willie O'Brien, in 1980 about social history in Donabate.	This item was not deposited in Fingal Archives with the broader FOHA023 collection. This should be acquisitioned and digitised as soon as possible. Thereafter, an Abstract Report should be generated.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS AT RISK

While the focus of mitigation should be centred on analogue material, there is a need to underline the potential for existing digital (or reformatted) material, to be lost, misplaced and damaged, if not part of a sound archive. For individuals and groups operating on a voluntarily basis, significant resources are required to enable the type of processing and post interview work required to ensure a sound catalogue and metadata infrastructure is in place. Crucially, in liaison with collection holders across the audit, the need and appetite for in-depth training for oral history collectors and groups was noted.

The following is recommended:

- Training in post-interview processing be provided for collection holders and groups.
- Where the collection holder is agreeable, the relocation of material to a safe archival home (Fingal Heritage Office), should be undertaken.
- Deposit copies with local heritage partner/collection holder.
- It is recommended that Full Metadata Report/Abstract be generated over time, to supplement existing transcription/collection information and allow for clarity on outstanding points around consent, acquisition etc.
- A standard of Metadata Report/Interview Abstract be generated and delivered, or by a professional(s) on behalf of collection holders in the county. This will move forward the generation of a useable and searchable cultural resource, countywide.



Detailed Interview Abstracts provide a time and theme coded breakdown of each recording, corresponding to the project database. This will generate a descriptive search and browse framework that will optimize user engagement, both for FCC and the public. The Abstracts will generate segment-level descriptive metadata corresponding to a timecode, presenting a navigational framework that will guide users through subject transitions. **Project Notes** can be provided throughout, as can links to elaborate or clarify references within the interview that are not clarified within the recording. Importantly, the Abstracts enable the description of administrative data and can carry a statement on the ‘Consent’ or Accession or Deposition of the recording.

Appendix I- A GUIDE TO THE COLLECTIONS

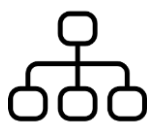


The *Audit of Oral Heritage Recordings in Fingal* represents a significant milestone in preserving and celebrating the region's rich cultural and oral heritage. By uncovering and listing 675 oral history recordings items within thirty-five collections, this audit provides an invaluable illumination of personal stories, local traditions, and community memories, each offering an important insight into Fingal's past. These collections of oral heritage hold the voices and narratives that would otherwise have been lost, permitting present and future generations to connect with the lived experiences of their ancestors. For teachers, researchers and historians, these collections function as primary sources that bring historical events to life, boosting the educational experience for students of all ages. Furthermore, they afford the people of Fingal a chance to strengthen their sense of identity and belonging through an engagement with their collective heritage. For those who are new to Fingal, the voices recorded are a pathway towards an easier understanding of the cultural pulse within the area. It is the hope of Mac Conmara Heritage Consulting that this project and its findings, will serve as a foundation for future cultural, educational, and historical engagements within Fingal.

COLLECTION HOLDERS

The overall outreach element was divided into known collection holders and private/community holders. The audit aimed to appeal to stakeholders with large or multiple collections as well as those with small collections, or even one recording relating to Fingal. Collections were explored according to the following three-part process. (1) The consultants undertook exhaustive online research to establish a base level of information regarding collections. (2) Available metadata was inputted to an audit database. (3) Direct contact was then made with relevant institutions to confirm the extent of collections and expand on information where possible, with follow up site visits where necessary. Given the varied nature of information on collections, it was necessary to deal with each collector or collection holder individually. This was very time consuming but important to ensure the best chance of eliciting and capturing information pertinent to the audit.

GUIDE TO COLLECTIONS – STRUCTURE



Appendix II (Fingal Collections) provides summarised information on the collections identified in the audit. The summaries are structured according to four main dimensions as follows: **(1) Collection name:** (if no name was given, the author attributed the collection to the person most closely associated with its care), **(2) Collection level description:** which outlines the broad characteristics of the collection including background, context and subject focus, **(3) Access and Usage:** which explains the way in which the material has been used since its creation and the level of access to the holding (if any), as well as contact details as provided. **(4) Notes:** - Allows a brief description on the value both culturally and educationally of the relevant collection, or otherwise relevant context. The sequence of the collections is arranged in alphabetical order.



DECLARATIONS





The purpose of the audit was to identify collections in situ and to where possible, establish collection characteristics, including, scope, content, format, access and copyright. Fingal County Council does not take any responsibility for collections made outside of their care. For public archives such as the National Folklore Collection, UCD or GAA Oral History Project, access to the material is possible, but only through the decided mechanism of the relevant institution. Use policies will be dictated by the relevant institution and must be adhered to when accessing or using material. In relation to private collections, contact details have been made available for certain collection holders, where possible. However, the audit author or Fingal County Council cannot guarantee access will be granted to these collections. Because many of the collections are of a legacy nature, a large proportion was generated without a recognised consent process and so caution must be exercised with any potential use. However, a high proportion of collectors indicated that verbal consent was achieved in their collection programmes, which lessens any negative consequence to their use.

APPENDIX II – FINGAL COLLECTION REPORTS

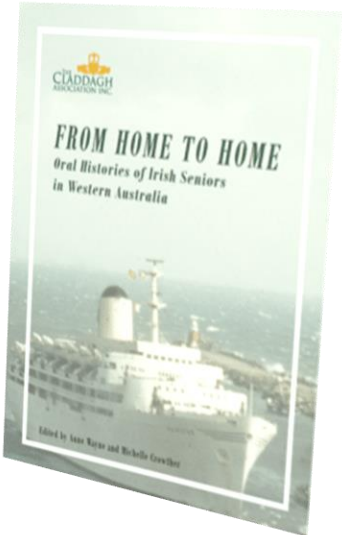
COLLECTION NAME	BALBRIGGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Sack Of Balbriggan Recordings)
Collection Number	FOHA001
Collection Holder	Balbriggan & District Historical Society
Collection Description	<p>Eyewitness Accounts of The Sack of Balbriggan</p> <p>In 1992 Jim Walsh and Tom Coughlan from Balbriggan & District Historical Society produced a video Eyewitness Accounts of the Sack of Balbriggan. This video features personal eyewitness accounts from Michael Hammond, Mrs Kathleen McGillivray and Mrs Bridget Daly who lived through this awful night of September 20, 1920. The remarkable footage is available at HERE</p> <div> <p>The image is a composite of three separate photographs. On the left is a larger photo of an elderly woman with short, curly white hair, wearing glasses and a dark jacket over a light-colored top. To the right are two smaller photos stacked vertically. The top right photo shows an elderly man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie, sitting in a chair. The bottom right photo shows an elderly woman with short, curly brown hair, wearing glasses and a patterned top.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Bridget Daly, Jim Walsh and Kathleen McGillivray, witnesses to the Sack of Balbriggan in September 1920, during their interviews in 1992.</p> <p>The Balbriggan Historical Society YouTube Channel also has fifteen videos, many focused on specific historical events and themes related to Balbriggan. In particular, a series of lectures/seminars are focused on the Sack of Balbriggan, by British forces in September 1920 is available (See FOHA002).</p>

Access & Use	<p>The Balbriggan Seminar Series is available at https://www.youtube.com/@balbriggandistricthistoric700</p> <p>To find out more about Balbriggan Historical Society, visit balbrigganhistory.com</p> <p> Facebook facebook.com/Balbrigganhistoricalsociety</p> <p> Twitter twitter.com/Balbrigganhist</p>
NOTES	<p>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. The Society is proud to have published the following books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balbriggan a History for the Millennium. • Sale of Hampton Estate Balbriggan 1875. • Balbriggan – the street where you live. • The Farm Diary of Lowther Lodge Balbriggan 1803-1822 • The Hamilton Family & the Making of Balbriggan. • Balbriggan a History in Maps 1655-1900 <p>Jim Walsh</p> <p>Born in 1948, Jim Walsh attended Balrothery N.S. and Skerries De La Salle College. He served as librarian with Dublin City and County Library Services from 1966 to 2010. He completed a thesis on printed sources relating to North County Dublin and was awarded a fellowship of the Library Association of Ireland in 1979. He was a co-founder of our Society in July 1981. His passion for, and in-depth knowledge of, local history is legendary.</p> <p>The Sack of Balbriggan took place on the night of 20 September 1920, during the War of Independence. The Black and Tans, with members of the RIC, went on a rampage in Balbriggan, burning more than fifty homes and businesses, looting, and killing two local men, apparently in retaliation for the earlier killing by the IRA of RIC Head Constable Peter Burke. Two local men, dairyman Seán Gibbons and barber Seamus Lawless, were taken to the town's police barracks for questioning. They were</p>

	<p>beaten and bayoneted to death and their bodies dumped on Quay Street, near the barracks. A plaque on Quay Street in Balbriggan commemorates the men, and a remembrance ceremony is held there every year. It was the first major 'reprisal' attack against an Irish town during the conflict. The sack of Balbriggan drew international attention, leading to heated debate in the British parliament and criticism of British government policy in Ireland.</p>
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COLLECTION NAME	BALBRIGGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Historical Lectures and Presentations)
Collection Number	FOHA002
Collection Holder	Balbriggan & District Historical Society
Collection Description	The Balbriggan Historical Society YouTube Channel has fifteen videos, many focused on specific historical events and themes related to Balbriggan. In particular, a series of lectures/seminars are focused on the Sack of Balbriggan, by British forces in September 1920 is available.
Access & Use	<p>The Balbriggan Seminar Series is available at https://www.youtube.com/@balbriggandistricthistoric700</p> <p>To find out more about Balbriggan Historical Society, visit balbrigganhistory.com</p> <p>  Facebook facebook.com/Balbrigganhistoricalsociety  Twitter twitter.com/Balbrigganhist </p>
NOTES	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.

COLLECTION NAME	CLADDAGH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (AUSTRALIA) (Sr Regina O'Neill Recording)
Collection Number	FOHA003
Collection Holder	State Library of Western Australia
Collection Description	<p>An interview with Sr Regina O'Neill, born in 1934 from Rush in County Dublin, undertaken in Southwestern Australia by Claddagh Coordinator, Anne Wayne. Anne is from Fremantle but lived near New Ross, Co. Wexford for many years. The recording was made in 2020.</p> <p>The Claddagh Oral History Project was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic 2020. We have collated edited extracts from all the project interviews in our book <i>From Home to Home: Oral Histories of Irish Seniors in Western Australia</i>. The following is drawn from a transcript of the interview with Sr Regina O'Neill:</p> <p>‘My name that I was given when I was born was Anna. But in religion, I’m known as Sister Regina. That was the name I was given when I was professed. It was supposed to be that ‘They inspired you were giving yourself to God and you forgot your other name. I was happy with Regina. Some of them got names that us to come to were dreadful. One sister got Benvenuta, I’d never heard of Benvenuta. I liked the name [Regina] because it was Our Lady’s Australia, because name. When I was a child at home, I was never called Anna, I was always called Nancy. So when I go to Ireland, they don’t it was considered a call me Anna, or Regina. It’s always Nancy. missionary country [My] place of birth was a very tiny place, no one’s ever heard of it - Newcastle, County Tipperary. I was only there until I at the time’ was about four or five. My father was a Guard and he was transferred to Rush, in County Dublin. That was my home really. It was a small seaside place. Market gardens of vegetables and potatoes. We had a great time in Rush. There was a big park, Kenure Park, and we had a great time playing there. I don’t think we were supposed to be in there but we climbed trees and there was a river and there was a huge house in the middle of it. It was owned by the Palmers</p>

	and we filled our days with that and then down on the strand, we'd go on the rocks and see what we could find on the rocks.'
Access & Use	<p>You will find a direct Link to Interview Metadata HERE</p> <p>Interview Reference Codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Call number: OH4570/9 Audio • OH4570/9 Audio (Online) • OH4570/9 Transcript (Online) • OH4570/9 2 photos (Online) <p>The transcript of the interview can be viewed HERE</p> <p>The Claddagh Oral History project was initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic 2020. It brought people together safely, at a time when they were at risk of more isolation and loneliness than ever before, to build connection between members of the Irish community in W A and celebrate and preserve our shared heritage. The project has collated edited extracts from all the project interviews in our book From Home to Home: Oral Histories of Irish Seniors in Western Australia. Read the book online or download a copy of the book. They have also serialised the chapters of the book in the Irish Scene, a magazine for the Irish community in Western Australia.</p> 
NOTES	The full collection of interview audio and transcripts was lodged with the State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) and is housed in the SLWA Migration Voices Archive which is part of the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Programme. You can browse the collection here

COLLECTION NAME	CORK FOLKLORE PROJECT RECORDING (Interview with Jane Ward)
Collection Number	FOHA004
Collection Holder	The Cork Folklore Project (UCC Department of Folklore and Ethnology)
Collection Description	<p>A long form recording with Jane Ward who grew up in Balbriggan and Skerries County Dublin, held with the collection of the Cork Folklore Project (UCC). In the recording, which was undertaken on 04th June 2019, Jane describes her love of the Georgian house her family lived in and her love of old buildings and antiques before they moved to a smaller home.</p> <p>The following are tabs associated with the Jane Ward interview at the Cork Folklore Project: Abbey Court House, Antiques, Balbriggan, Ballyfermot, Childhood Games, Children's Health, Edel House, Georgian, ghost, Ghosts, Graffiti, Grattan Street, Grattan Street Health Centre, Gurranabraher, Haddington Road Agreement, Haunted house, Hunger Strikes, Public Health, Public Health Nurse, Public Health Nursing, Quaker Meeting House, Quakers, Queens University Belfast, Reading, Regret, Regrets, Religion, Religion in Hospitals, Rotunda, Sea, Seaside, Shops, Siblings, Skerries, Social Work, St. Finbarr's Hospital, St. Vincent de Paul, Storm, Swine Flu.</p>
Access & Use	<p>Reference Numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFP Interview Sound Recording Reference: CFP_SR717 • CFP Interview Abstract Reference: CFP_IA717 <p>The recording with Jane Ward is over two hours long and offers a rich insight into the subject matter explored. Find out more about the Jane Ward interview on the Cork Folklore Project Online Catalogue: HERE</p>

NOTES	<p>The Cork Folklore Project (CFP) sound archive is a collection of recorded interviews about life in Cork both past and present. Our goal is to preserve your memories and stories, expressed in your words, and spoken in your voice, in our archive. We record and preserve this material so that community members and researchers can access the rich culture and history of Cork, now and for years to come. This leaflet describes what happens to the interviews carried out by the Project. To find out more about the Cork Folklore Project, visit www.corkfolklore.org</p>
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COLLECTION NAME	CULTURAL HERITAGE STUDY - REDROCK HOWTH
Collection Number	FOHA005
Collection Holder	Fingal County Council
Collection Description	<p>Two audio recordings with John Bellingham; Stella Dunphy and Nessa O'Brien in Red Rock, Dublin. The location of the original recordings is unclear as of November 2024.</p> <p>From the <i>Cultural Heritage Study: Redrock/Sutton Castle, Howth</i> (on behalf of Fingal County Council:</p> <p>‘The Redrock lands have long been treasured by the people of Howth and Dublin as an area of outstanding natural beauty and exceptional recreational value. In the past, walkers, horse riders, writers and artists mingled happily with the cattle and horses in the fields. Rabbits were hunted and mushrooms and wild berries were picked. To capture some of the local historical knowledge of the Redrock lands and surrounding area, interviews were held with three local residents on the 17th of October 2019. The interviews were undertaken in two parts. The first interview took place with John Bellingham of Cliffs Farm, also known as Bellinghams Farm, and the second interview with two long standing residents of the Red Rock area; Stella Dunphy and Nessa O'Brien.’</p>
Access & Use	Contextual information based on the oral history recordings of John Bellingham; Stella Dunphy and Nessa O'Brien is available in the associated Research Report


	(pp. 25-33): https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2020-06/cultural-heritage-study-redrock-howth.pdf
NOTES	

COLLECTION NAME	DIGITAL REPOSITORY OF IRELAND (NOEL KELLY INTERVIEW)
Collection Number	FOHA006
Collection Holder	Digital Repository of Ireland
Collection Description	<p>A thirty-four-minute-long oral history interview with Noel Kelly, conducted by the Digital Repository of Ireland as part of The Atlantic Philanthropies archive project (2017-2020) titled <i>Amplifying change: A history of the Atlantic Philanthropies on the island of Ireland in 2018</i>. The interviewer for the recording was Kelly Fitzgerald, an oral historian and academic, lecturing in UCD.</p> <p>In this interview, Noel talks about his work life before The Northside Partnership, an organisation that seeks to improve opportunities for people and communities in northeast Dublin, as a teacher in Darndale. He explains how was made familiar with the issues faced by children and young people. He talks about The Atlantic Philanthropies' support of Northside Partnership and tells about the Preparing for Life Initiative, which aimed at improving the outcomes for children in one of Ireland's most disadvantaged communities Ireland. Noel details the many partnerships and collaborations involved in Preparing for Life, including researchers at University College Dublin, public health nurses, Gardaí, community representatives, youth workers, and partnerships with sports organisations.</p>
Access & Use	The recording is available on the DRI Website at https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/jq08k7153

NOTES	Noel Kelly worked as Education Manager with Northside Partnership, where he developed and managed the Preparing for Life programme before taking up his current role of Director of Educational Welfare Services with Tulsa-Child and Family Services in 2016.
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COLLECTION NAME	DRAÍOCHT INCUBATE RESIDENCY ORAL HISTORY (BLANCHARDSTOWN)
Collection Number	FOHA007
Collection Holder	Draíocht Arts Centre
Collection Description	A series of oral recordings undertaken between October and December 2017, during the Incubate Residency of Swedish-Estonian artist duo, Ella Bertilsson and Ulla Juske with the Draíocht Arts Centre in Dublin 15. The audio-recording stories and memories are of people who live and work in Blanchardstown. The project evolved around cultural identity where collective memory and oral history stands in focus. Ella and Ulla are interested in gathering narratives that explore the boundary of fact and fiction in relation to specific communities or places. Interviews and conversations with people working in various professions become a catalyst for developing installations that are exploring the relationship between time and memory, place and identity.
Access & Use	Find out more about the project HERE
NOTES	

COLLECTION NAME	DUBLIN PORT STORY AND MEMORY PROJECT (George Elliot Interview)
Collection Number	FOHA008
Collection Holder	Dublin Port Company
Collection Description	<p>A long form recording with retired Dublin Port Tug Master George Elliot from Sutton, undertaken on 02 December 2021 as part of the Dublin Port Memory and Story Project. Within the recording, George spoke about Ringsend, George Elliot Senior, Tugboats, skipper, football, merchant navy, going to sea, bringing lunch to his father at Dublin Port, working at Dublin Port, challenges, dangers and reflections on life as a skipper. He also reflected as follows:</p> <p><i>Irish shipping was thriving in my younger life ... In early 1962, I came in here for a day. The man I met was Captain Lawless over in the old harbour office. I said, 'there's a job after coming up in the one of the Irish ships and I said, do you mind if I take it. He said, "away you go". I didn't come to shore then for three years and came back to the Port in 1965 ... I thoroughly enjoyed it. When I came in first, I was in the graving dock and there was a great bunch of lads in there. There was always bit of craic going on. I see the two docks are gone now! It's not the same place!</i></p> <p>- George Elliot – Former seaman and Tug Master, 02 December 2021</p>

	 <p>George Elliot from Sutton with a photo of his father, George snr who was a skipper at Dublin Port before him.</p>
Access & Use	To find out more about the Dublin Port Memory and Story Project, visit: https://www.dublinportarchive.com/news_event/dublin-port-memory-story-project/
NOTES	The Dublin Port Memory and Story Project was established by Port Heritage Director, Lar Joye, with the aim of recording oral history interviews with current and former staff at Dublin Port, in order to capture a sense of the changing environment over the last decades, as well as inherited stories from previous generations of workers.

COLLECTION NAME	EMMA LAFFEY MIDWIVES COLLECTION
Collection Number	FOHA009
Collection Holder	Emma Laffey/Skehana & District Heritage
Collection Description	A recording (video) of the Fanning family filmed telling their stories of their Grandmother Mary Anne Fanning, a midwife who lived in Garristown. The recording was made by Emma Laffey as part of her extensive research project on rural midwives. The research has been developed into a new exhibition celebrating the enduring legacy of community midwives in shaping maternity care

	<p>in Ireland in the early 20th century, at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life in Turlough Park, Co. Mayo.</p> <p>For the exhibition, in addition to the filming of the the Fanning family, her memorabilia to include certificates, letters, photographs & her 125yr old gladstone bag and equipment that was involved in rendering medical aid to the volunteers at the Thomas Ashe led Ashbourne raid which has all been photographed by the DRI and museum. For more, see HERE</p>
Access & Use	This temporary exhibition, <i>Mary Anne Fanning: Remembering Our Community Midwives</i> , will run at the National Museum of Ireland – Country Life in Co. Mayo until March 2025. Admission is free.
NOTES	Mary Anne Fanning: Celebrating Our Community Midwives is a project by the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN). It is researched and curated by Emma Laffey, Skehana & District Heritage Group, County Galway, with support from co-curators Dr Éimear O’Connor, Director of Collections & Access, National Museum of Ireland, and Lorna Elms, iCAN Development Officer.

COLLECTION NAME	FINGAL LOCAL STUDIES AND ARCHIVES SPORTS ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
Collection Number	FOHA010
Collection Holder	Fingal Local Studies and Archives
Collection Description	<p>A collection of seven interviews (totalling four hours and thirty-six minutes) with sports people from Fingal undertaken in c.2012 by Paul Harris, former Fingal County Librarian. All seven interviews are on the Fingal Local Studies YouTube channel - https://www.youtube.com/@fingallocalstudies Locations of the original files’ unknown as of 2024. Mac Conmara Heritage have created an item level spreadsheet with collection metadata which can be viewed TO FOLLOW. The seven interviewees within the Fingal Sports Oral History Collection are as follows:</p>

Mary McKenna - An interview with Mary McKenna. Mary talks about her brilliant golfing career and about being an honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for her recognition to sports.

Clíodhna O'Connor - Dublin Ladies football goalkeeper, Clíodhna O'Connor recalls her early love for sport at school and in her local club Naomh Mearnóg in Portmarnock. She talks about her ten years on the Dublin team, the highs and lows culminating in the 2010 All-Ireland final victory and her work encouraging and coaching the young players of the future.

Glenn Crowe - One of the League of Ireland's most prolific goal scorers, Glenn Crowe talks about growing up in Blanchardstown and playing for the local St. Mochtas Club. He recalls his time in England with Wolves, Exeter and Plymouth and his memories of the famous Carlisle Jimmy Glass game, as it became known. On his return to Ireland he recounts his career with Bohemians, Shelbourne and Sporting Fingal, his five league titles and numerous other successes culminating in his international call up, the first league of Ireland player in sixteen years to play for his country.

Kieran Duff - Balheary native and Fingallians stalwart, Kieran Duff talks about his sporting career, which began playing soccer with Swords Celtic and led him to senior All-Ireland success with Dublin in 1983. He recalls the highs and lows of his inter-county career, his soccer trial with Manchester United and his four year involvement with the Dublin management team. His club career and his affiliation to Fingallians, where he made his senior debut aged 16, are also remembered.

Sinead Aherne - One of Dublin's finest ladies footballers, Sinead Aherne talks about her early love for the game at school in Malahide and with the local St. Sylvester's club. She recounts her call-up to the Dublin panel and her three All-Ireland final appearances before finally winning in 2010, a game in which she scored 2-7 and won the player of the final award. She talks about the rise in

	<p>popularity of the Ladies game, the commitment levels required to play at the top level and the many highlights she has achieved in her career to date.</p> <p>Barney Rock - One of Dublin's iconic stars, Barney Rock talks about growing up in Finglas and his love for the game, both in school and with his club Ballymun Kickhams. He recalls the Rock family connection with Croke Park and his Dublin inter-county career from his minor All-Ireland win in 1979 till his retirement in 1991. His involvement and success with Garristown and his managerial career, both at inter-county and club levels also feature in his reminiscences.</p> <p>Jimmy Kinsella - Speaking in his home in Skerries, Jimmy Kinsella talks about the Kinsella family's remarkable 82 year connection with Skerries Golf Club, as club professional. He recalls his early days caddying for Sean Lemass, turning professional at the age of 15 and serving his apprenticeship under Christy O'Connor and Harry Bradshaw. He recounts his life as a touring professional, the highlights of his career and his return to Skerries in 1976 after his fathers, Bill's retirement.</p>
Access & Use	<p>The material is freely available at https://www.youtube.com/@fingallocalstudies</p> <p>To find out more, visit Karen de Lacey, Fingal County Council Archivist</p> <p>Email: archives@fingal.ie</p> <p>Visit Fingal Archives Website at https://www.fingal.ie/LocalStudiesArchives</p>
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COLLECTION NAME	GAA ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION (Fingal)
Collection Number	FOHA011
Collection Holder	GAA/CROKE PARK MUSEUM


Collection Description	<p>Five recordings made related to Fingal GAA, undertaken as part of the GAA Oral History Project. The GAA Oral History Project was commissioned by the GAA as part of its 125th anniversary celebrations in 2009. The aim of the project was to record, collect and preserve the memories, stories and opinions of the people involved in the GAA. Under the direction of Boston College, 790 interviews were conducted with approximately 1,300 GAA fans, players and administrators between 2009 and 2012. The information collected in these interviews presented on the GAA website for current and future generations to listen to. Through these interviews, listeners can get an understanding of what the GAA means to people and its place in Irish society. For more information on the interviews, you can explore associated Interview Metadata Forms at https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/geography/leinster/dublin</p> <p>Mac Conmara Heritage have generated an item level spreadsheet with additional data on the Fingal contributors (See p. 87). The following is an outline of those Fingal Gaels who contributed to the GAA Oral History Project:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">Fingal GAA Interviews</th></tr><tr><th>Website</th><th>Interviewee</th><th>Notes</th></tr><tr><td>https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/orla-brennan</td><td>Orla Brennan</td><td>Her local club is St Brigid’s in Blanchardstown, and she has represented her county in ladies’ football.</td></tr><tr><td>https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/padraig-toole</td><td>Laurence Malone</td><td>Laurence Malone talks about growing up in Dublin and his early involvement with the GAA in the area around Malahide.</td></tr><tr><td>https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/andy-kettle</td><td>Andy Kettle</td><td>Andy Kettle describes his involvement with Dublin side Fingal Ravens, a club with its origins in rural Dublin. Describes the Swords area - a rural town at the time - where he spent the first 13 years of his life. 01:45 Recalls his earliest GAA memories and the Fingallians club in Swords which achieved much in the 1950s, progressing from a junior to a senior team.</td></tr></table>	Fingal GAA Interviews			Website	Interviewee	Notes	https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/orla-brennan	Orla Brennan	Her local club is St Brigid’s in Blanchardstown, and she has represented her county in ladies’ football.	https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/padraig-toole	Laurence Malone	Laurence Malone talks about growing up in Dublin and his early involvement with the GAA in the area around Malahide.	https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/andy-kettle	Andy Kettle	Andy Kettle describes his involvement with Dublin side Fingal Ravens, a club with its origins in rural Dublin. Describes the Swords area - a rural town at the time - where he spent the first 13 years of his life. 01:45 Recalls his earliest GAA memories and the Fingallians club in Swords which achieved much in the 1950s, progressing from a junior to a senior team.
Fingal GAA Interviews																
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https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/orla-brennan	Orla Brennan	Her local club is St Brigid’s in Blanchardstown, and she has represented her county in ladies’ football.														
https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/padraig-toole	Laurence Malone	Laurence Malone talks about growing up in Dublin and his early involvement with the GAA in the area around Malahide.														
https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/andy-kettle	Andy Kettle	Andy Kettle describes his involvement with Dublin side Fingal Ravens, a club with its origins in rural Dublin. Describes the Swords area - a rural town at the time - where he spent the first 13 years of his life. 01:45 Recalls his earliest GAA memories and the Fingallians club in Swords which achieved much in the 1950s, progressing from a junior to a senior team.														

	https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/david-mckittrick	David McKittrick	David McKittrick talks about the long and varied history of his local club in Swords, Fingallians. His family's involvement with the club goes back generations and as a former player, manager and administrator he is proud to continue that association.
	https://www.gaa.ie/api/images/image/upload/t_q-best/t5wsxjaqfc4gidr8c6vw.pdf	Paddy Joe Moran [PJ Moran]	Mentions an Uncle Kit in Fingal who took part in the 1916 Rising with Thomas Ashe. Mentions the Fingallians club in Swords and family involvement. 07:53 Recalls his father's efforts to get Ashbourne into the Under 21 Fingal League. 10:14 Discusses County identity in Ashbourne in relation to Meath and Dublin. Talks about the identity of Fingal people. Recalls his father's funeral.
Access & Use	GAA Library and Archive P : +353 (0)1 819 2323 E : gaamuseum@crokepark.ie		
NOTES	Under the direction of Boston College, 790 interviews were conducted with approximately 1,300 GAA fans, players and administrators between 2009 and 2012. The information collected in these interviews is presented here for current and future generations to listen to. Through these interviews, listeners can get an understanding of what the GAA means to people and its place in Irish society.		


COLLECTION NAME	IRISH IN BRITAIN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Collection Number	FOHA012
Collection Holder	The Irish in Britain Organisation
Collection Description	<p>An interview with Caoilfhionn Gallagher from Portmarnock in, as part of an oral history documentation by the Irish in Britain network. The Irish in Britain is the national membership body for Irish community organisations in Britain – providing support and representation for our diverse network and championing our community's interests.</p> <p>'Look Back to Look Forward: 50 Years of the Irish in Britain' is a curated showcase of the Irish community in Britain's activism, organisation, and civic pride since the</p>


	1970's. Over 50 dedicated volunteers helped create this exhibition, capturing stories of the Irish community in Britain through oral history. This 'history from below' involves recording personal narratives in individuals' own words, providing a vital perspective often overlooked in traditional histories. Many Irish immigrants who settled in Britain since 1973 were elderly at the time of this documentation, risking the loss of their migration memories. For more, visit https://www.irishinbritain.org/
Access & Use	<p>Reference Code: IIB50_0114 – NOTE: There are restrictions on this recording.</p> <p>To contact the Irish in Britain Organisation, visit: https://www.irishinbritain.org/ or email: info@irishinbritain.org</p> <p>To see the online exhibition, visit https://exhibitions.irishinbritain.org/lookback</p>
NOTES	<p>'History project documenting Irish in Britain launched', <i>RTE</i>, 01 November 2023 – Read HERE</p> <p>'Exhibition tells stories of Irish immigration to Great Britain since 1970s', <i>The Guardian</i>, 31 October 2023 – Read HERE</p>

COLLECTION NAME	IRISH LIFE AND LORE - 1922-2022: A CENTURY OF CHANGE (FINGAL)
Collection Number	FOHA013
Collection Holder	Irish Life and Lore

Collection Description	<p>Eight recordings made by the late Maurice O’Keefe of Irish Life and Lore, a commercial initiative, commissioned by Fingal County Council and under a project entitled 1922-2022: A Century of Change (Fingal). The interviewed were carried out on locations across Fingal from 2019 to 2022 in Balbriggan, Skerries, Knocksedan House, Swords, Mulhuddart and Howth.</p> <p>Milverton Hall, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin; Fingal Harriers, Skerries, Co. Dublin; Balbriggan. Co. Dublin; Skerries Motorbike Race, Skerries Motorbike Race, business. Knocksedan House, Swords, Ardgillen Castle, Hampton Hall, Technology Park, Mulhuddart and Grace O’Malley and the Howth Castle connection.</p> <p> MHC have generated a spreadsheet to delineate item level information related to the Life and Lore material connected with Fingal. This can be accessed TO FOLLOW (See Appendix V, see p. 88)</p>
Access & Use	<p>Access and Contact:</p> <p>Jane O’Keeffe Knockaclogher, Ballyroe, Tralee, Co. Kerry Tel: +353 66 712 1991 / 087 2998167</p>
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COLLECTION NAME	<p>IRISH LIFE AND LORE</p> <p>Fingal First and Second Series</p>
Collection Number	FOHA014
Collection Holder	Irish Life and Lore

Collection Description	<p>A large collection of 125 recordings made by the late Maurice O’Keeffe of Irish Life and Lore, a commercial initiative, commissioned by Fingal County Council. The interviews were undertaken across 2008 and 2010 under the Fingal County Collections (First and Second Series). The recordings provide an insight into both local and social history, whilst focusing on the culture, customs, beliefs and traditions</p> <p>A catalogue detailing seventy-eight recordings within the First Series is available on PDF HERE</p> <p> MHC have generated a spreadsheet to delineate item level information related to the Life and Lore material connected with Fingal. This can be accessed TO FOLLOW.</p>
Access & Use	<p>Access and Contact:</p> <p>These recordings are available for reference at the County Library, Tallaght. Recordings taken from the Fingal County Collection as part of the Irish Folk and Lore series.</p> <p>The material is for sale at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/fingal-north-dublin-first-series/ • https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/fingal-north-dublin-second-series/ <p>For more information, contact:</p> <p>Jane O’Keeffe Knockaclogher, Ballyroe, Tralee, Co. Kerry Tel: +353 66 712 1991 / 087 2998167</p>
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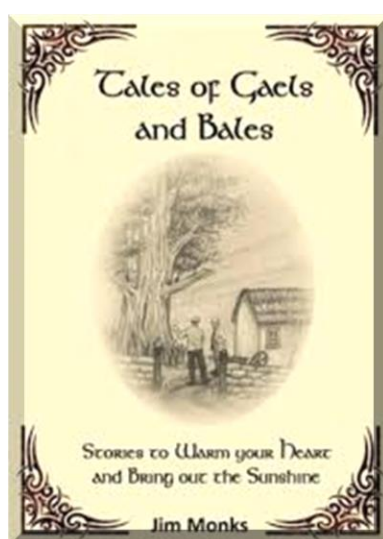
COLLECTION NAME	JIM HAWKINS COLLECTION Treasure Ireland: An eclectic mix of Irish Heritage and Subjects of General Interest
Collection Number	FOHA015
Collection Holder	Jim Hawkins
Collection Description	<p>A large digital collection of approximately 288* videos made by local historian Jim Hawkins and shared on www.youtube.com/@jim2003sound. Jim Hawkins has amassed this impressive collection since approx. 1994.</p> <p>The collection (some of which is made available through the Treasure Ireland Podcast), offers a wealth of specialized content across several fields, within the broad geographical area of Rush and broader Fingal. His videos delve into topics such as cattle dealing, Swords then and now, Holy Faith Convent Skerries, Melifont Abbey, LS Lowry in Skerries, John Kelly and his fond memories of his early days in the old Balbriggan Technical School as well as Francie Rogan speaking about the day he caught a giant Halibut.</p> <p>Amongst his recordings is an analogue recording with Willie McGee, formally able seaman and Batman for lord Baring of Lambay. This was digitised by the Collection Holder in 2024, and segments uploaded as a podcast to his YouTube channel as Willie McGee at Sea (Part 1 – 6). See Part 1 HERE</p>  <p>1Willie McGee</p> <p>It is worth noting that while digitising Willie McGee tapes, twisted and damaged tape resulted in the loss of 15 to 20% of the original content.</p> <p>Jim began to record in the 1960s on reel to reel and in 1987 began to focus on capturing a living link to the past using a professional Superscope cassette recorder and operating initially according to an impromptu Vox Pops approach. His target interviewees were seniors who were well placed to give an account of the social conditions of their early years. Jim has produced heritage videos for the Lusk</p>

* The figure here is based on those obtained on 19 October 2024.

Heritage Group and became a defacto member. He also produced audio heritage and folklore material and published them on the Sound-cloud platform under his own name. Many interviews he has recorded have transcribed and used in various historical publications.

TALES AND BALES

Stories to Warm Your Heart and Bring Out the Sunshine



Much of Jim's collection of folklore stories written and narrated by the author Jim Monks was published in book form under the title of *Tales and Bales* with a thousand print run. For the publication, a young Bulgarian girl called Yoana Topalska, living in Rush, working in Skerries and studying art, who produced 14 stunning illustrations for the book. The following description accompanied its launch in 2022:

'You'll meet the Dunne family from the Nevitt. In 1848, at the height of the Famine, Paddy and Sarah and John, Pat and Sally, went over the road, down the hill of the Nevitt, on their way to the North Wall of Dublin and a voyage to a foreign country. Jump forward 100 years to Paddy Farrell, a man totally at peace with himself, warm outside from the good log fire in the pub, warm inside from three bottles of ale, but World War 11 was about to change all that. Paddy's only son Boot Farrell who deserves a book all to himself. Join Boot on his hilarious first visit to Skerries where everything that can possibly go wrong does go wrong. You never know where you'll find yourself or who you'll meet between the pages of Jim's Tales of Gaels and Bales. You could be in Lusk, Rush, Skerries, Ballyboghil, Balbriggan, London, Santiago or New York, but everywhere you'll find yourself in the company of real people, genuine laughter and simple human kindness.'

See footage of the launch of *Tales and Bales* [HERE](#)

When asked in 2024 to reflect on his collecting work and in particular his own motivation, Jim Hawkins commented:

	<hr/> <p><i>'There is great attraction in recording and capturing voices because voices encapsulate a degree of one's personality, it's how we present ourselves to each other. Your tone, phrasing and inflections can tell us so much about you. Even one's location in North County Dublin can be identified by local colloquialisms considering towns are only separated by a few miles. I have always felt that my recording activity would yield fruits beyond my own time, creating a legacy for the future is in itself a worthy and satisfying occupation.'</i></p> <p>- Jim Hawkins, August 2024</p> <hr/>
Access & Use	Access and Contact: Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/@jim2003sound Spotify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://open.spotify.com/show/6eoJFwmrzFq1VeWjX7NJFt?si=cbac827a918441c6&nd=1&dlsi=e8453a5b1ab74ad3 • https://open.spotify.com/show/6eoJFwmrzFq1VeWjX7NJFt?si=cbac827a918441c6
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COLLECTION NAME	JOHN COLLINS – HOWTH FISHERMAN RECORDING
Collection Number	FOHA016
Collection Holder	Paul Wickham
Collection Description	A recording made in 1998 with John Collins, a fisherman from Howth reflecting his life and experience as a fisherman. The recording was made by nurse and poet, Paul Wickham. John Collins passed away in 2000. John was known locally as a 'great character' with a strong sense of humour. When on the recording with Paul

Wickham, John was asked what he remembered about growing up in Howth, he answered as follows:

“I remember sitting in the pram with my twin sister, Mary, sucking a bottle when she grabbed the bottle off me and hit me over the head with it! ... I was a little rebel-a holy terror. I made my confirmation in the Pro-cathedral under Fr Liam Thackaberry’s instruction in Scoil Cholmcille in Marlboro St. One day I was being punished for being disruptive and the teacher told me to stretch out my hand for the stick. I looked up into his eyes and quoted his favourite prayer back to him: “Little flower, at this hour, show your power!” He was stunned and couldn’t hit me. The next time I tried it, it didn’t work!

- John Collins, 1998

The following tribute was submitted by Paul Wickham who in 1998 recorded John’s voice:

JOHN COLLINS – HOWTH FISHERMAN

John liked to use the royal ‘We’.

His was a noble line, without doubt.

He spoke often of his beloved mother, Imelda, and father, Paddy.

He was a twin. His sister Mary and he were always very close.

The whole family were very close. Deeply affectionate.

His dog Jesse slept at the foot of the bed.

The priest in confession in Medugorje once asked John to write out five good points about himself. He could not do this penance because he could not think of any good points in himself.

Kindness, generosity, self-acceptance, good humour and good Faith.

He was close to Jesus, the Sacred Heart.

He loved the Rosary and Our Lady. This grew on him towards the end.

Once when he was chairing an AA meeting in St. Ita’s hospital, (his second home), he caused uproar by pointing to the Sacred Heart on his Pioneer pin and proclaiming strongly:

“That is your Higher Power. Your only Man”.

(It is not a ‘religious’ program, you see)

Jesus was his life from a young age.

In school, he was only good at art and religious knowledge.

I am biased, of course, but I think he was specially gifted in both things.

He was also a bit of a seanachai. Entertaining his visitors in No.6, St. Mary’s place constantly with stories of his life rehashed endlessly with hilarious and ingenious slants. Tragedy and comedy are close.

John chose to live in joy. He chose to smile.

How he tried to give up smoking.

	<p>Don Devaney found him trying to smoke a tin of deodorant once in the early morning in his room in Medugorje having packed the smokes in yet again. He was never far from oblivion.</p> <p>He was a deeply wounded healer. Suffering intensely with his nerves. Able to listen. Willing to listen. Absorbing grief and laughing it off with a little help from the music of Burl Ives and Tina Turner</p> <p>“A little bitty tear let me down” but</p> <p>“Big wheels keep on turning, proud Mary keeps on burning....”</p> <p>Ar dheis De go raibh a hanam.</p>
Access & Use	<p>Access and Contact:</p> <p>For more information about the recording of John Collins, email Paul Wickham at paultwickham@gmail.com or visit https://paultwickham.wordpress.com/. A partial transcription is available on request.</p>
NOTES	<p>Canon Liam Thackaberry was born in Dublin in 1903 and is buried in the grounds of Church of the Assumption Howth.</p>

COLLECTION NAME	JOHN ROVER MCCANN IRISH VOLUNTEER COLLECTION
Collection Number	FOHA017
Collection Holder	National University of Ireland, Maynooth/Francis Whearity
Collection Description	<p>Six oral recordings made as part of a Project submitted by Francis Whearity in 2004 to the Department of Modern History, NUI Maynooth in fulfilment of the requirements of the NUI Certificate in Local History. The interviews were focused on the story of John Rover McCann, who on the 22nd of November 1920, during the Irish War of Independence, was removed from his home by uniformed men (discovered later to be British Forces), and later found dead after receiving several gun-shot wounds. The following oral testimonies were captured as part of the research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral testimony of Pearle Finnegan, Lusk, 2 June 2004 • Oral testimony of Peggy Rigney, Rush, 2 June 2004 • Oral testimony of Jim Brown, Lusk, 24 July 2003

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral testimony of Teresa McCann, Skerries, 20 June 2003 • Oral testimony of Patrick Weldon, Rush, 13 Aug. 2003 • Oral testimony of Margaret McCann Moore, Rush, 9 July 2003
Access & Use	The material was submitted to the Department of Modern History, NUI Maynooth in 2004. To find out more and to read the relevant thesis, visit HERE
NOTES	The Lusk Heritage Group and Loughshinny & Rush Historical Society in partnership with Historical writer Aidan Arnold have produced a booklet that describes the life and time of John 'Rover' McCann, the Irish Republican Army, the influences that shaped his life and the events that lead to his untimely and brutal death. For more information about the booklet and how to obtain a copy please contact the Loughshinny & Rush Historical Society on 087 0682949. To find out more, visit https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/event/john-rover-mccann/

COLLECTION NAME	LIVING ARCHIVES, AN ORAL REFLECTION OF NORTH DULIN IN THE 1960'S AND 70'S - RADIO SHOW SERIES
Collection Number	FOHA018
Collection Holder	NEAR FM
Collection Description	A series of oral recordings undertaken by Alan Weldon in 2014, with residents of Coolock, Santry, Raheny, Artane, Donnycarney, Sutton and more, which led to the production of <i>Living Archives</i> for Near FM radio station. <i>Living Archives</i> is a selection of oral recollections on the growth and development of the north side of Dublin, told through the words of the people who experienced, firsthand, the gradual change from country to city life in the former countryside now known as the suburbs of North Dublin.

	
Access & Use	The Radio programme is available in eight parts via: HERE or on Near FM Archives: https://nearfm.ie/living-archives/
NOTES	Near FM 90.3 FM is a BAI-licensed community media project operated by the not-for-profit media co-operative, Near Media Co-operative Society Limited. Membership in the co-operative is open to all organisations and individuals in Dublin North-East,

COLLECTION NAME	LOUGHSHINNY AND RUSH HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION
Collection Number	FOHA019
Collection Holder	Loughshinny and Rush Historical Society
Collection Description	A video produced for Heritage Week 2010 by Loughshinny and Rush Historical Society by committee member Colm Fynes. The video recorded various history talks pertaining to the Rush area. For more see contact details.

	In addition, the LRSH have an eighteen-minute feature was filmed by Jim Hawking in which Kevin Thorpe presents a short history of rush. See the feature HERE
Access & Use	<p>Access and Contact:</p> <p>More information about the Loughshinny & Rush Historical Society</p> <p>Can be found at: http://www.loughshinnyvillage.com/HistoricalSociety.html</p> <p>For more information, email info@loughshinnyvillage.com</p>
NOTES	The Loughshinny & Rush Historical Society was founded in 1989 to 'compile, research, record and correlate the history folklore and traditions of the Loughshinny and Rush area of North Fingal'. The society is very active and as well as monthly committee meetings arranges lectures by eminent speakers throughout the year and outings and field trips, which are open to everyone who wants to come along.

COLLECTION NAME	MILITARY ARCHIVES OF IRELAND (Interview with Col. Paddy McNally)
Collection Number	FOHA020
Collection Holder	Military Archives of Ireland
Collection Description	<p>A longform oral interview with the late Col Paddy McNally undertaken on 08 March 2017 by Airman Mick Whelan (retired), as part of the Military Archives Oral History Project. The recording was made just two months prior to Col McNally's death on 17th May 2017.</p> <p>Col McNally had a long-distinguished career in the Irish Army, having enlisted as a Cadet on 03 November 1951 and retired as a Colonel in 1993. His father had been in the Third Northern Division of the IRA and joined the Free State Army. His uncle Tommy McNally had a long career in the Irish Defence Forces, serving for 25 years during which he was O/C of the Curragh Command with responsibility for internment camps that held republican prisoners and captured allied and axis personnel during the 'Emergency' (World War II).</p>

	Interview Keywords: Background, father in the army, uncle Tommy McNally, Foras Cosanta Áitúil (FCA), joining the army, Cadet School, Signal Corps, First Field Signal Company in Cork, Radio Engineering, Gormanstown Camp, Air Corps, Signal Officer in Gormanstown, Short Service Commission Scheme, development of communications technology, LÉ Eithne, promotion, intelligence, Aide de Camp to President Mary Robinson, the Congo, death of Col Justin McCarthy, returning body of Justin McCarthy to Ireland, Niemba Ambush, reflections on the Congo, reflections on career.
Access & Use	Military Archives Reference: The Military Archives have a comprehensive website at http://www.militaryarchives.ie/contact-us or you contact them by email on militaryarchives@defenceforces.ie .
NOTES	The Military Archives Oral History Project has been active since 2015 and is likely going to document more Kilkenny related material in the coming years. The programme aims to document memory and testimony associated with the Irish Defence Forces both from serving and former members and from interested individuals with an insight into the same history. In addition, several legacy collections have been donated to the archive, which have not yet been digitised and may contain material relevant to Westmeath.

COLLECTION NAME	NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NORTHERN IRELAND SOUND RECORDINGS
Collection Number	FOHA021
Collection Holder	National Museum of Northern Ireland
Collection Description	<p>Five sound recordings made by the National Museum of Northern Ireland in the Fingal Area. Three of the sound recordings have limited information. See 'Fieldwork Finds' below.</p> <p>Charles Gallen Linen Sound Recording</p> <p>Two sound recordings (originally made on Magnetic Tape reel and later digitised) with John Gallen in relation to the history of the Charles Gallen Irish Linen firm</p>

which was founded in Balbriggan in 1870 when Charles Linnen arrived there from Belfast.

NMNI Reference Code: HOYFM.R2001.65 & HOYFM.R2001.66 (Living Linen Interview LL2_R01/29 1 of 2 & Living Linen Interview LL2_R01/29 2 of 2)

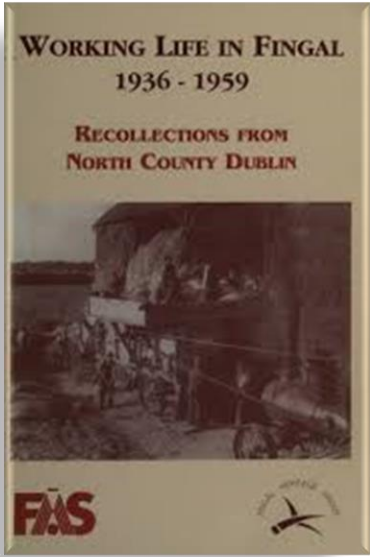
The following description was sourced by Mac Conmara Heritage from the Interview file at the NMNI:

Sound Recording on Reel: Charles Gallen. Library Transcript: Transcript. Summary: Mr Gallen's Grandfather, John, bought the bankrupt Drogheda Linen Co in 1887. Despite the firm's location 'South of the border' they continued to trade with Ulster and commonwealth countries. During WWI, Gallen's manufactured large quantities of aeroplane linen. The firm was badly affected during WWII when yarn was virtually unavailable. As all yarn supplies came through Belfast the firm was effectively tied to the rationing and allocation system practised in Ulster. The recession of the 20s and 30s saw the firm running at cost. WWII was followed by a linen boom that stretched into the 1950s. The firm found that they could literally sell anything that they made and they established lucrative markets in Scandinavia. John Gallen trained in Ewarts, attending Belfast Tech at the same time. The firm did a lot of business with Ewarts. Gallen's was very much a family company. When Mr Gallen returned to Balbriggan they were producing linen interlinings, Church linens, tea-towels, table linens and tickings. The firm never went into rayon production in a major way. Gallen's employed approx 120 people and had 80-90 plain shuttle looms. Although they never wove any damask they did have a number of Dobbies which were used for Types. The firm purchased yarn from John Prestons.

They also bought some dry spun yarn for mail bags from Ross'. Gallen's bought damask cloth from Ewarts. The firm received favourable treatment from the Irish govt and were awarded contracts for uniforms and mail bags. Gallen's did no commission weaving. When faced with a large order they farmed out production to Ferguson's, Liddell's and Blacker's mill. Although Gallen's initially had yarn-bleaching facilities on site, this was discontinued and the yarn processed at Cowdy's of Banbridge. They also used Ballievey and Old Bleach for dyeing and finishing. All of their printing was carried out at Cowdy's of Loughgall and later at Belfast Silk & Rayon and Lamonts. Gallen's had their own finishing equipment: beetles, calenders and croppers. Packaging and presentation were extremely important. Gallen's regularly used the Fingal tradename and marked their goods 'Pure Irish Linen' or 'Made in Ireland'. As they dealt with the growing tourist and gift trades, Irish imagery featured prominently in the firm's designs. In the 1960s the firm abandoned their water turbines as it proved cheaper to purchase electricity from the Grid. By the late 1960s the factory was becoming outdated, and a decision was taken to stop weaving rather than press ahead with a refit at an estimated cost in excess of €1 million.

Although the firm worked closely with Northern firms, they shut for a fortnight in August which greatly cut down on the business opportunities over the summer

	<p>months! The firm drew labour from the town and advertised through word of mouth. In the absence of anything paralleling the FEC they still do! Gallen's were members of the Linen Guild, LIRA and the PLMA. Over the years the firm moved increasingly away from linen and into alternative fabrics as the market dictated. Today Charles Gallen buys cloth from Liddells, Fergusons and Lamonts and converts the cloth at Balbriggan. They only buy Irish linen cloth and proudly describe themselves as Irish linen manufacturers. The current site will be sold and converted into a town amenity complete with textile museum. This sale will free up capital allowing the firm to relocate to an industrial estate on the edge of Balbriggan. John Gallen retired from the firm in 1997 as MD.</p> <p>FIELDWORK FINDS</p> <p>The following sound recordings related to Fingal were also located at the NMNI Archive as part of the research by Mac Conmara Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound Recording made on Magnetic Tape, Reel with a H. Shields in Swords on 12 December 1965. Sound recording file refers to 'MUMMER'S PLAY' – Reference Code: HOYFM.R1965.8 • Sound recordings made on Magnetic Tape with unnamed interviewees on 1946, 1962 and 1965 in Taniogkey, Raloo, Ballyboley, Donabate, Co Dublin. File on sound recording refers to 'CHRISTMAS RHYMERS', (from 12" discs 1128 & 1129) - Reference Code: HOYFM.R1965.8 • Sound recordings made on Magnetic Tape with unnamed interviewee on in Donabate, County Dublin - Reference Code: HOYFM.R1965.9
Access & Use	<p>Access and Contact:</p> <p>The Ulster Folk Museum and the Ulster Transport Museum are situated in Cultra, Northern Ireland, about 11 kilometres east of the city of Belfast. <u>153 Bangor Rd, Cultra, Holywood BT18 0EU</u></p> <p>Email: info@nmni.com</p>
NOTES	<p>Charles Gallen Irish Linen is a 4th generation family-owned firm dating from 1870, when the founder, Charles Gallen arrived from Belfast into the North Dublin town of Balbriggan. In any company that has had such longevity, their fortunes echoed the ebb and flow of the politics of the Nation. Having settled and married Kathleen, niece of the famous politician, Daniel O'Connell, Charles was to recover the fortunes of weaving in the town and established a firm footing for the family. For more see: https://charles-gallen.ie/home/</p>

COLLECTION NAME	NATIONAL FOLKLORE COLLECTION – FINGAL
Collection Number	FOHA022
Collection Holder	National Folklore Collection, UCD
Collection Description	<p>A collection of sixty-nine audio recording items, undertaken in or relating to Fingal by collectors on behalf of the National Folklore Collection, UCD.</p> <p>Six were recorded by the BBC from 1947 to 1950, consisting mainly of singing and spoken word, four were recorded by the folklore Caomhín Ó Danachair (Kevin Danaher), while one was made by the American ethnomusicologist, Alan Lomax in 1951. The latter included Songs & Music, Ceol, The Limerick Rake, Oh Mrs. Mac Grath, An raibh tú ag an gCarraig?, The Banks of the Roses, The Rocks of Bawn Molly Bawn, (Tin whistle and dancing - The Copperplate Reel - S Ó Cualáin), Whiskey in the Jar (piping selection).</p> <p>Forty-seven of the recording were made between 1993 and 1994 as part of the Fingal Heritage Project - "Working Life in Fingal 1936-1959". Interviewers for this FÁS sponsored project were Claire Campbell, Pat Hawes and Rory Keane. This collection resulted in the publication of <i>Working life in Fingal 1936-1959: Recollections from North County Dublin</i>, by the Fingal Heritage Group in 1994.</p>  <p>The work of the Irish Folklore Commission collectors in Fingal was crucial in safeguarding the oral traditions of a region that, due to modernization and emigration, was at risk of losing much of its unique cultural heritage.</p>

	An item level Spreadsheet is available TO FOLLOW to examine the findings at the NFC for Fingal.
Access & Use	<p>Access Details</p> <p>The National Folklore Collection, UCD, is home to one of the largest collections of oral and ethnological material in the world. The sound collection of the National Folklore Collection includes wax cylinder recordings, the earliest of which date from 1897.[†] The Irish Folklore Commission continued its collection programmes amidst a gradually evolving technological environment. Tape recorders introduces in the late 1950s, enabled collectors to record at greater length and sound quality. Before tape recorders, the commission's field collectors used gramophone recorders to make high-quality sound recordings in the field. Note: Under the supervision of Anna Bale, some 1,300 of these cylinders have been carefully digitised by Henri Chamoux of the French company L'Archéophone, and their contents are now being transcribed by staff at the NFC.</p> <p>The collection at the Department of Folklore, UCD is available to see on appointment. There are a team of highly skilled and experienced archivists who are intimately familiar with the collection. Researchers wishing to listen to audio are advised to e-mail bealoideas@ucd.ie for an appointment or phone the number below.</p> <p>National Folklore Collection, Newman Building, University College Dublin, Tel: 00353 (0)1 716 8216 www.ucd.ie/irishfolklore/en/</p>
NOTES	

[†] The Ediphone wax cylinder recording machine was an essential tool for early twentieth-century folklore collectors who were anxious to preserve authentic examples of folk narrative, song and music which could be later played back and transcribed.

COLLECTION NAME	DONABATE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT - PEADAR BATES
Collection Number	FOHA023
Collection Holder	<p>Fingal Archives (Fingal County Council)</p> <p>Originals held by Peadar Bates</p>
Collection Description	<div> </div> <p>Peadar Bates in 2024 with his collection of Cassette Tapes</p> <p>A collection of fourteen recordings with twelve people made on cassette tape from the 1970s through the early 1990s. The recordings were made by Donabate historian, Peadar Bates in that community. In his submission to the 2024 Fingal Audit of Oral Heritage Collections, Peadar Bates wrote:</p>

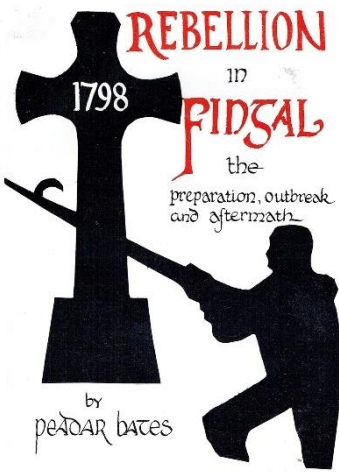
“Sometime in the seventies, I interviewed quite a number of the parish elders, mainly to find out more about my own family. However, there is probably much more information regarding other aspects of parish activity which would be of interest to your project [2024 audit] and to future generations. This would include references to the Civil War period. I remember one of those interviewed made reference to the shooting of [Harry] Boland in a Skerries hotel during the Civil War. I know there are further references. Some years ago [approx. 2014] I handed these over to Colm McQuinn, Fingal archivist at the time, to copy and requested he keep a copy of his recordings for me. I still have my originals.”


Peadar Bates is a historian from Donabate who in 1972, led the reforming of the Donabate Historical Society. Peadar was secretary of the Society at the time he commenced the recordings - ‘I thought it fitting to do some recordings of some of the older members of our community’. When asked if there was any 1798 Rebellion tradition within the recordings, Peadar (who wrote a book on 1798) noted that; “As regards 1798, there was no tradition except that Hampden Evans, a local landlord, was a colonel in the Rotunda branch of the United Irishmen, sentenced to death and reprieved.”

Collection Description 2024

The collection was deposited with Fingal Archives in approx. 2014 but little metadata or contextual information was provided. In September 2024, Mac Conmara Heritage visited Peadar Bates in Donabate and after a comprehensive reviewing of material and interviewing Peadar about his collection, a fuller listing of the collection was developed. In addition, a **further video recording of Willie O’Brien**, undertaken by Peadar Bates in 1980 about social history in Donabate, was discovered. The full listing of the Peadar Bates Collection can be viewed **TO FOLLOW**.

The following are a list of the interviewees within the Donabate Oral History Collection: Jack Doyle, Terry Dockrell, John Howard, Tommie Leonard, Mrs Kelly (Nee Smyth), Mrs Lee, Lindsay O'Brien, Anne 'Nan' Taffe, Lancelot 'Lancer' Smith, Edward Smith, Eva Dodd.

<p>Access & Use</p>	<p>Access and Contact:</p> <p>This oral history collection is stored at Fingal Local Studies & Archives. As of 2024, there is little documentation with the material. The file folder says 'Peadar Bates – Donabate Oral History Project'. It appears to be digitised versions of 14 audio tapes. 11 people were interviewed, and some interviews appear to date to the 1970s/80s. There are 13 files in total.</p> <p>For more information, contact:</p> <p>Fingal Local Studies & Archives, 46 North Street, Swords, Co. Dublin</p> <p>Karen de Lacey, Fingal County Council Archivist karen.delacey@fingal.ie</p> <p>To contact the original collector, Peadar Bates, email peadarb1@yahoo.ie</p>
<p>NOTES</p>	<p>In 1988, Peadar Bates published: <i>Donabate and Portrane, A History</i></p> <p>In 1988, Bates also published <i>The 1798 Rebellion in Fingal</i></p> 

COLLECTION NAME	RAVEN'S ROCK COLLECTION
Collection Number	FOHA024
Collection Holder	Cormac McDonagh
Collection Description	<p>A collection of seven podcast episodes interviewing people from Rush and surrounds on their unique hobbies or professions or family legacy and their experiences living and growing up in the area. The material generated as part of this project was recorded on location across Rush and surrounds and is hosted and produced independently by local resident Cormac McDonagh. The collection was generated on digital/video files. Interviewees include Paddy Doyle, Rory Carrick, Liz Seaver, Paul D'Arcy, Ross O'Connor, Paul Farrelly and Philip Martin. Subjects explored include the History of International Footballer Con Martin and his legacy and family as told by his son Philip. Story of Drumanagh Promontory fort as told by author Paddy Boyle (RIP), Musicians Liz Seaver and Ross O'Connor discuss their experiences. Blogger Rory Carrick on his hobbies. Artist Paul D'Arcy on his career and Daffodil Art Gallery in Skerries Cormac McDonagh and Paul Farrelly on growing up in Rush and computer games of the 1980s and 1990s.</p> <p>This project is ongoing as of late 2024.</p> 
Access & Use	<p>The Raven's Rock podcasts can be accessed HERE</p> <p>For more information email cormacmcdonagh@gmail.com</p>
NOTES	

COLLECTION NAME	RAYMOND O'DRISCOLL RECORDING (SKERRIES)
Collection Number	FOHA025
Collection Holder	FINGAL LOCAL STUDIES AND ARCHIVES
Collection Description	<p>Two short digital video recordings and five short digital voice recordings made by Brian Simpson with Skerries tailor and poet Raymond O'Driscoll, at St. Mobhi's Graveyard, Grange, Milverton, and at Red Island, Skerries. O'Driscoll was ninety-seven years old at the time of recording. The material on the recordings is related to Skerries people, places, the legend of St. Mobhi; meeting Percy French; singing the Mountains of Mourne; farm at Red Island; Tailor on Quay Street; IRA Volunteers Thomas Hand and Terry Sherlock and the Chapel of Relief, Togher Hill. On the recordings, Raymond O'Driscoll is addressing Hilda Simpson the mother of the Collection Holder, Brian Simpson and cousin to Raymond O'Driscoll. Brian Simpson holds a Degree in Irish Folklore.</p> <p>Raymond O'Driscoll lived in Skerries and was the local tailor and wrote many poems about Skerries people and places. He died at the age of 104 in March 2020.</p>
Access & Use	To find out about this private collection, email briansimpsonthatcher@gmail.com
NOTES	In <i>Time & Tide Vol 7</i> by Skerries Historical Society, Raymond O'Driscoll contributed an article entitled ' <i>Bygone Days</i> '.

COLLECTION NAME	RECALL INITIATIVE: FROM MEMORY AND LIFE HISTORY
Collection Number	FOHA026
Collection Holder	Irish Qualitative Data Archive & Digital Repository of Ireland
Collection Description	<p>An Interview about ‘the Jacko’ (Ward) River Valley Park, Swords recorded in 2017 as part of the Recall Initiative, led by Dr Andrew Allen of Maynooth University, in which Reminiscence Therapy (RT) was being trialled.</p> <p>RT for older adults has been shown to provide significant psychological and cognitive benefits for those who participate, but typically the content of these reminiscences is not recorded and therefore lost. For this project, semi-structured reminiscence interviews will directly probe memories from early life, childhood and adolescence in a group already engaged in RT, with these interviews recorded and archived. The content of archived reminiscences will be analysed by our interdisciplinary team of neuroscientists, historians, geographers, ethnographers and memory studies experts in order to explore the nature and construction of “cultural memory”, and to trace the transition from autobiographical to semantic memory.</p> <p>The Recall Initiative Project is investigating the effect of reminiscence on memory and wellbeing. They held 6-week groups for people aged 60 years or over, exploring positive memories from history and people’s pasts, as well as conducting research on memory and well-being. With the permission of the interviewees these accounts are being preserved for the long term in the Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA) for use by both other reminiscence groups and researchers. They include memories of the Pope’s visit to Ireland, trips to the cinema, childhood illness and the 1966 commemorations.</p>



	Initial audio clips from the interviews have been archived in the Digital Repository of Ireland and can be found here https://repository.dri.ie/catalog/wp98p078n .
Access & Use	To find out more, visit HERE
NOTES	

COLLECTION NAME	RTÉ ARCHIVES (FINGAL)
Collection Number	FOHA027
Collection Holder	RTÉ ARCHIVES
Collection Description	<div> </div> <p>A collection of fifteen features and newsreels from RTE related to the Fingal area. Subjects explored include a 1961 interview with Ned Power, Chairman of Little Willie Hospital [Mary's Hospital] in Baldoyle and an interview with Bernie Murray, Travellers' Liaison Teacher, who says there are about forty children in Blanchardstown who are unable to get to school. The collection also includes an interview with Pat McGillan, Honorary Secretary of Donabate Golf Club in 1961 as well as a feature in 1989 on the Life Of A Howth Fisherman, Nick Quigley who had been fishing in Howth for nearly forty years. A 1965 interview with Joseph Doolan Irish Volunteers, who was a Sergeant, First Aid section, 'A' Company, 4th Battalion, Dublin Brigade at the time of the Easter Rising. Newsreels about the Hill of Howth tram closing, an interview with Kevin Murphy, Keeper of the Baily Lighthouse in Howth in 1961 and a year previous, a feature on the Howth, Sutton, and Raheny Horticultural Society.</p>

	Interviews and reporters include John Bowman, Ted O'Reilly, Alasdair Jackson, Vincent Wall, Larry Masterson, David Kearns, Pádraic Ó Catháin, Michael Barry and Des Keogh.
Access & Use	Mac Conmara Heritage have generated an item level spreadsheet with data on the contributors, subjects, lengths, locations covered and direct URL to the relevant feature TO FOLLOW
NOTES	

COLLECTION NAME	SWORDS ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION
Collection Number	FOHA028
Collection Holder	Swords Historical Society
Collection Description	<p>A community collection of thirty-two oral recordings made in the early 1990s by the Swords Historical Society, many made by Bernadette Marks.</p> <p>The Swords Oral History Project began in 1992, when the Historical Society began interviewing numerous local people, recording their memories of the greater Swords area. The tapes were recorded solely for their historical content with a view to publishing them 'Swords Voices' journal series. Many topics are included and those interviewed in the earlier editions had memories of early 20th century events in the greater Swords area, like Shopkeeping, Inn Keeping, Undertaking; Farming; Life in Great Houses; Building; Thatched Houses, Black & Tans; Early Transport and the Priesthood.</p>



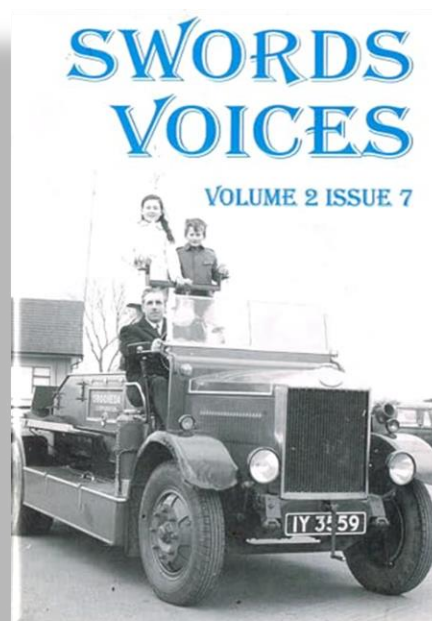
Interviewer Bernadette Marks with a John O'Connor in 1991

Those who were interviewed in 1991 are as follows:

Mr. George Pyper, Mr Sean Rock, Mrs Anastatia Heron, Mr Paddy Tyrrell, Mr Paddy Weston, Mr Frankie Monaghan, Jane & Paddy McCabe, Fr. Frank Cavanagh, Mrs Mary Graham, Mrs Ella McLoughlin, Mrs Kathleen Harford, Mr Paddy McKittrick, Eddie & Maureen Hughes, Mr John Joyce, Mrs Anne Flynn, Mr Gerard O'Brien, Mr Larry Geraghty, Mrs Catherine (Cosy) O'Reilly, Mrs Frances Donnelly, Mr Joe Savage, Mrs Eithne Geary, Mrs Edith Barrett, Miss Ruby Dow, Mrs Alice Dow, Mr Dan Golden, Mrs Elsie Cullen, Mr Tommy Reid, Mr Tom Moore, Mr James Garrigan, Mrs Margaet Thorpe, Mr Desmond Keane, Liam Heron, Frank Daly.

Access & Use

The audio recordings appear to have been documented for the purpose of their use in producing *Swords Voices*. However, the society indicated that they are attempting to put some on CD for preservation.



put

A **twenty-nine-minute video** which contains some of the interviews in Swords (Bridget (Cissie) Connor Smithers; Helen Stafford McGrane Bernie Gallagher O'Connor; John O'Connor, Mary Graham; Philomena Slye O'Reilly), is available on the Swords Historical Society website: [HERE](#)

There is also an **eleven-minute video** tribute focused on the memory of **Richard Coleman**, a republican from Swords who fought in the Easter Rising and died in an English prison in 1918. The video can be viewed [HERE](#)

History Tour of St Colmcille's Graveyard Swords.

Bernadette Marks Tour of St Colmcille's Graveyard Swords Some very interesting History of Swords people. Video by Bernard Lenehan for Swords Historical Society. Produced by Juanita Dizon, (C) 2016. See [HERE](#)

Swords 1985 with Bernadette Marks.

A tour of Swords in 1985 (Ramble through Swords) with Bernadette Marks, Swords Historical Society, See how much Swords have changed over the years, The Video was made by Bill Barry for Swords Historical Society , in summer of 1985. (C) Swords Historical Society 2016. See [HERE](#)

Swords - The 1916 Connection.

A tribute to those veterans of the 1916 Rising who are buried in St. Colmcille's Graveyard, Swords. Presented by Swords Historical Society. (more of a conversation than an interview). See [HERE](#)

The Two Bernies, From Swords to Gortahork Co Donegal, 1952

The Two Bernies, Bernie Marks and Bernie (Troy) Mac Giollaphadraig. Reminiscences of their visits from Swords to Gortahork in the Donegal Gaeltacht in 1950s by two young girls who wished to improve their Irish language skills. They were encouraged by local teacher 'Miss Doogan' who was a native of Gweedore. As elderly ladies now they recall their excitement in going such a long way from home for three whole weeks. See [HERE](#)


Swords into Europe 1991

A thirty-minute video, narrated by Bernadette Marks, reflects on 'Swords into Europe in 1991', made in 1991 when Swords twinned with Ozoir La Ferriere France. See [HERE](#)

For more information contact:

Swords Historical Society Ltd, Carnegie Library, North Street, Swords, Co. Dublin
Phone (01) 8400080
email: swordsmuseum@gmail.com

NOTES	<p>Swords Historical Society was founded in 1982, dedicated volunteers have worked to record, promote and preserve all aspects of the heritage of the greater swords area.</p> <p>Bernadette Marks was interviewed as part of the Fingal (North Dublin) First Series, by Irish Life and Lore in which she describes her first employment in the Government Employment Agency in Middle Abbey Street, in the 1960s. In the 1980s, she was involved in a FAS project in Swords, which provided her with a rare opportunity to study the dialect and the various accents of the locality. For more, visit: https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/bernadette-marks-age-70-swords/</p>
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COLLECTION NAME	TAPE-RECORDED SURVEY OF HIBERNO-ENGLISH SPEECH (TRSHES)
Collection Number	FOHA029
Collection Holder	National Museum of Northern Ireland (NMNI) (Ulster Folk Museum)
Collection Description	<p>A collection of seven sound recordings made in Fingal, as part of the Tape-Recorded Survey of Hiberno-English Speech (TRSHES) in all thirty-two counties of Ireland, between 1972 and 1981. TRSHES was a major dialect survey conducted by academics in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>The recordings in Fingal were made between 1975 and 1977 with Mrs Kinsella (Garristown), Tommy Rooney (Garristown), Peter Kavanagh, Loughshinny, Skerries, May Ryan, Loughshinny, Skerries, Siobhán Moore, Howth, Mary Jane Russell, Howth.</p> <p> MHC have generated individualised spreadsheets for the Connemara TRSHES Material with unique reference codes and content metadata, which can be located TO FOLLOW</p>

Access & Use	Access and Contact: The Ulster Folk Museum and the Ulster Transport Museum are situated in Cultra, Northern Ireland, about 11 kilometres east of the city of Belfast. <u>153 Bangor Rd, Cultra, Holywood BT18 0EU</u> Email: info@nmni.com
NOTES	In October 2021, a Northern Bridge Funded project commenced as a collaborative PhD at Queen's University Belfast in partnership with National Museums NI. The research will an open access resource for discovering and digitally mapping the linguistic structures of NIE from National Museum NI's newly digitised Tape-Recorded Survey of Hiberno-English Speech (TRSHES). National Museums NI along with Professor Joan Rahilly of Queen's University Belfast and Professor Karen Corrigan of Newcastle University will guide a programme of corpus creation, data encoding and analysis.

COLLECTION NAME	TG4 CÓMHRA INTERVIEW WITH DEAGLÁN Ó HAINLE
Collection Number	FOHA030
Collection Holder	TG4
Collection Description	A twenty-five-minute interview on the Irish language talk show, Cómhra (Conversation) with Finglas Deaglán Ó hAinle, a native of Finglas in Dublin and Principal of Scoil an tSeachtar Laoch, the Irish medium school in Ballymun in north Dublin. The interview conducted by Máirtín Tom Sheáinín Mac Donnacha, was broadcast on 10 th December 2015 (Series 13 Episode 14).

	 <p>Deaglán Ó hAinle</p>
Access & Use	All eighteen seasons and 324 episodes of Cómhra including the interview with Deaglán Ó hAinle, can be freely viewed on the TG4 Player HERE
NOTES	

COLLECTION NAME	THE IRISH EXPERIENCE - ORAL HISTORY PROJECT - BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
Collection Number	FOHA031
Collection Holder	State Library of Western Australia
Collection Description	<p>An interview with Margaret Byrne, who was born in Howth, County Dublin, in 1910. The recording took place in the year 2000 as part of the Library Services at Home (Birmingham City Council), oral history initiative.</p> <p>In the autumn of 2000, Library Services at Home (LSAH) began work on this project as part of our ongoing oral history work. We decided to interview some of the service's Irish readers about their experiences of growing up in Ireland and coming over to England, and particularly to Birmingham.</p>

	<p>After consulting their records, they found that there were a number of Irish people who would be willing to take part. Eleven people were selected, and they were interviewed by staff from LSAH. Everyone was asked a standard set of questions about childhood, school, family life, and coming over to England and life in Birmingham. However, this only formed a basis of the recordings as everyone had far more to say about their varied memories and experiences.</p> <hr/> <p><i>'I was born in Howth, County Dublin, in 1910. I was an only child. My father was a van driver, and my mother didn't work. We lived in a thatched cottage. We had to get water from the well across the field. I went to school in Scotland. We left Ireland when I was a baby. I went to school in Dumbarton, but we returned to Ireland when my aunt died. I was still only young. My father worked in Scotland in a shipyard on the Clyde. I went to school in Ireland at a convent school with nuns. It was terrible, you know what nuns are. They used to beat us with a leather strap if you didn't know something. I used to go home with my hands and legs red. We used to learn Gaelic, but nobody bothers about it over there. We used to walk 3 miles to school. We used to start out at 8am to get there for 9am. There were no uniforms. When I left school I didn't work, my mother was ill and I looked after her. I got married when I was 20 to a man that lived in our street. He came from Liverpool but was training with the army. He came to England and I came over later. I left the children with my mother. We had 2 girls and a boy. My husband worked on the railway, and we got digs in Balsall Heath. We then got a maisonette in West Heath and I brought the children over. I've been to Ireland, but Dublin has changed. There was no money when I was there, and no work, that's why we came here. There's loads of work over there now. I used to work at Lucas, and my husband worked shifts on the railway. We didn't see much of each other.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>– Margaret Byrne</i></p> <hr/>
Access & Use	To find out more visit, Margaret Byrne (Howth, County Dublin)
NOTES	

COLLECTION NAME	ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
Collection Number	FOHA032
Collection Holder	Irish American Crossroads Organisation, San Francisco, USA
Collection Description	<p>A short form oral recording with Michael Mooney from County Dublin describes his experiences as a dance promotor in Dublin and in the broader Bay Area. He remembers meeting his wife on the dance floor and he recalls how he competed for her attention.</p> <p>Irish-American Crossroads is producing a comprehensive archive of the life stories of the Irish in the San Francisco Bay Area, representative of all generations of heritage. We are dedicated to capturing the experience and contributions of men and women who emigrated from Ireland and settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, and their Irish-American contemporaries, in their own words.</p>
Access & Use	<p>The recording with Michael Mooney can be heard HERE</p> <p>You can find out more about the <i>Irish Oral History Archive of the San Francisco Bay Area</i> at https://www.irishamericancrossroads.org/oral-history-archive/ where audio samples are provided.</p> <p>For more information on the collection contact:</p> <p>Margaret McPeake: margaret@irishamericancrossroads.org</p> <p>Catherine Barry: irishculturebayarea@gmail.com</p> <p>Mailing address: Irish-American Crossroads Festival, PO Box 170672, San Francisco, CA 94117-0672</p>
NOTES	

COLLECTION NAME	GARRISTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION
Collection Number	FOHA033
Collection Holder	Garristown Historical Society
Collection Description	<p>A collection of five oral recordings undertaken in 2023 by the Garristown Historical Society after a discussion around the importance of documenting local memory before it was lost. The recordings were made on a Smartphone by Fiona Irwin a local poet and member of Garristown Historical Society, with the following participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary Donnelly, who spoke about the history of Iona Fruit Farm, one of the major horticultural farms in the neighbourhood, and a big employer locally. 2. Sheila Elliot, an ex-post mistress 3. Michael Andrews, who used to work on Iona Fruit Farm 4. Bridget Gormley, who ran a very popular shop on our main street in Garristown for many years 5. Ursula Murray, who has an amazing memory of local families and events, and who worked with a clothes designer in the 1960s.
Access & Use	For more information, contact Fiona Irwin at fionamary.irwin@gmail.com
NOTES	Iona Fruit Farm is a family-owned farm based in. Lusk, County Dublin.

COLLECTION NAME	FINGAL THATCH PROJECT 2022
Collection Number	FOHA034
Collection Holder	Fingal County Council
Collection Description	Four interviews undertaken in August 2015 as part of historical research into Swords Castle. The interviews were part of research undertaken across three seasons of excavation to try and fill in the series of 'knowledge gaps' identified in the Swords Castle Conservation Plan 2014. The interviewees were Bernadette Marks, Tommo Whelan, Sylvia Maxwell and Doris Bowbrick.
Access & Use	For more information, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rnyz5ioOWmU
NOTES	Although it is the best surviving example of a Dublin Archbishop's palace and was an important administrative centre there are limited historical records. The excavations have confirmed the presence of burials and settlement in the 10th and 11th centuries-before the construction of Swords castle; previously unknown walls, and kilns have been uncovered; storage pits and fish gutting areas have been discovered while one of the largest environmental assemblages outside medieval Dublin has been retrieved.

COLLECTION NAME	'SWORDS CASTLE, MY CASTLE'.
Collection Number	FOHA035
Collection Holder	Fingal County Council
Collection Description	<p>A short video (00:21:15) about the Fingal Thatch Project 2022 is surveying and recording the surviving buildings and sharing the stories of thatch. The video features Brian Simpson, a local heritage enthusiast and thatcher. Fingal was renowned in the past for its thatched buildings. Unfortunately, there has been a reduction in the numbers of thatched cottages and houses that survive. There is also an important social history aspect to the heritage of thatch from language and folklore to traditional skills. The Fingal Thatch Project 2022 is surveying and recording the surviving buildings and sharing the stories of thatch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fingal Thatch Project 2022 Report Fingal Thatch Project 2022 Report • Fingal Thatch Project Storymap Fingal Thatch Project Storymap • See the Fingal Thatch Video HERE <p>The Fingal Thatch Project 2022 was supported by the Heritage Council</p>
Access & Use	For more information, visit: https://www.fingal.ie/fingal-thatch-project-and-report
NOTES	As is the case across Ireland, Fingal's thatched buildings have been in decline since at least the 1950s. Despite this, there is a strong appreciation of the heritage of thatch amongst local Fingal communities and heritage groups. In recognition of this, the Fingal Thatch Project 2022 was designed to capture and preserve the story of thatch in Fingal for future generations, from the thatched dwellings past and present to those who lived in them and all the traditions associated with thatch in Fingal. Through videos and a Storymap, the Fingal Thatch Project also aims to share the thatcher's and communities' memories, photos and documentation relating to this particular vernacular heritage.

APPENDIX III - BERNADETTE MARKS HISTORICAL TOURS COLLECTION (SWORDS HERITAGE)

Area(s)	Website URL	Project	Year	Interviewee(s)	Interviewer	Media Format	Length	Project Notes
Swords	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zT2tZJKRhJM	YouTube - Bernadette Marks - Swords Memories 1991	1991	Bridget (Cissie) Connor Smithers; Helen Stafford McGrane Bernie Gallagher O'Connor; John O'Connor, Mary Graham; Philomena Slye O'Reilly.	Bernadette Marks	video	00:29:15	https://www.swordsheritage.com/what-on.php This recording was made in 1991, sadly some of the participants are no longer with us, but their memories of 'old Swords' linger on
Swords	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiaJur iF8Po	YouTube - Bernadette Marks - History Tour of St Colmcille's Graveyard Swords	N	NA	NA	video	01:02:28	Bernadette Marks Tour of St Colmcille's Graveyard Swords Some very interesting History of Swords people, Video, Bernard Lenehan Swords, for Swords Historical Society, Produced by Juanita Dizon, (C) 2016
Swords	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrdsi_kM-BI	YouTube - Bernadette Marks - Swords 1985, With Bernadette Marks	1985	NA	NA	video	01:14:07	A tour of Swords in 1985 (Ramble through Swords) with Bernadette Marks, Swords Historical Society, See how much Swords have changed over the years, The Video was made by Bill Barry for Swords Historical Society , in summer of 1985. (C) Swords Historical Society 2016.

Swords	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM5-5ZAulqU	YouTube - Bernadette Marks - Swords The 1916 Connection	U/N	Bernadette Marks and James Bennett	NA	video	00:32:18	A tribute to those veterans of the 1916 Rising who are buried in St. Colmcille's Graveyard, Swords. Presented by Swords Historical Society. (more of a conversation than an interview)
Swords	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6k1o7_6dr6k	YouTube - Bernadette Marks - The Two Bernies, From Swords to Gortahork Co Donegal, 1952	U/N	Bernie Marks and Bernie (Troy) Mac Giollaphadraig	Bernadette Marks	audio	00:10:09	The Two Bernies, Bernie Marks and Bernie (Troy) Mac Giollaphadraig. Reminiscences of their visits from Swords to Gortahork in the Donegal Gaeltacht in 1950s by two young girls who wished to improve their Irish language skills. They were encouraged by local teacher 'Miss Doogan' who was a native of Gweedore. As elderly ladies now they recall their excitement in going such a long way from home for three whole weeks.

APPENDIX IV - GAA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (FINGAL)

Area(s)	Website	Project	Year	Interviewee(s)	Interviewer	Media Format	Length	Notes
Blanchardstown	https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/orla-brennan	GAA Oral History Project	2009	Orla Brennan	Colin Hegarty	embedded audio (PMp3)	00:23:10	Her local club is St Brigid's in Blanchardstown, and she has represented her county in ladies' football.
Malahide	https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/padraig-toole	GAA Oral History Project	2009	Laurence Malone	Carmel Gilbride	embedded audio (PMp3)	00:24:15	Laurence Malone talks about growing up in Dublin and his early involvement with the GAA in the area around Malahide.
Fingal	https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/andy-kettle	GAA Oral History Project	2010	Andy Kettle	Regina Fitzpatrick	embedded audio (PMp3)	01:04:22	Andy Kettle describes his involvement with Fingal Ravens, a club with its origins in rural Dublin. 01:45 Recalls his earliest GAA memories and the Fingallians club in Swords which achieved much in 1950s, progressing from junior to senior team.
Swords	https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/oral-history/david-mckittrick	GAA Oral History Project	2010	David McKittrick	Regina Fitzpatrick	embedded audio (PMp3)	01:36:41	David McKittrick talks about the history of his club, Fingallians. His family's involvement goes back generations and as a former player, manager and administrator he continues that association.
Fingal	https://www.gaa.ie/api/images/image/upload/t_q-best/t5wsxjaqfc4gidr8c6vw.pdf	GAA Oral History Project	2009	Paddy Joe Moran [PJ Moran]	Arlene Crampsie	embedded audio (PMp3)	01:39:08	Mentions an Uncle Kit in Fingal who took part in the 1916 Rising with Thomas Ashe. Mentions the Fingallians club in Swords and family involvement. 07:53 Recalls his father's efforts to get Ashbourne into the Under 21 Fingal League. 10:14 Discusses County identity in Ashbourne in relation to Meath and Dublin.

APPENDIX V - IRISH LIFE AND LORE - 1922-2022: A CENTURY OF CHANGE (FINGAL)

Area(s)	Website	Project	Year	Interviewee(s)	Interviewer	Media Format	Length	Notes
Balbriggan	https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/michael-wentges/	Irish Life and Lore - 1922-2022: A Century of Change	2019	Michael Wentges	Maurice O'Keeffe	audio MP3	U/N	Keywords: Milverton Hall, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin; Fingal Harriers
Balbriggan, Skerries	https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/terence-taylour/	Irish Life and Lore - 1922-2022: A Century of Change	2019	Terence Taylour	Maurice O'Keeffe	audio MP3	U/N	Keywords: Skerries, Co. Dublin; Balbriggan. Co. Dublin; Milverton Hall, Skerries, Co. Dublin; Skerries Motorbike Race
Knocksedan House, Swords	https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/patrick-bewley/	Irish Life and Lore - 1922-2022: A Century of Change	2019	Patrick Bewley	Maurice O'Keeffe	audio MP3	00:48:00	Theme: business. Keywords: Knocksedan House, Swords.
Skerries	https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/josephine-maguire/	Irish Life and Lore - 1922-2022: A Century of Change	2019	Josephine Maguire	Maurice O'Keeffe	audio MP3	U/N	Keywords: Ardgillen Castle, Skerries, Co. Dublin

Skerries, Balbriggan	https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/terence-taylor/	Irish Life and Lore - 1922-2022: A Century of Change	2019	Terence Taylour	Maurice O'Keeffe	audio MP3	U/N	Keywords: Ardgillan Castle, Skerries, Co. Dublin; Family History; Hampton Hall, Balbriggan. Co. Dublin; Milverton Hall, Skerries, Co. Dublin; Skerries Motorbike Race
Mulhuddart	https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/brian-kearney/	Irish Life and Lore - 1922-2022 A Century of Change	2019	Brian Kearney	Maurice O'Keeffe	audio MP3	00:43:00	Technology Park, Mulhuddart, Dublin
Howth	https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/john-bellingham/	Irish Life and Lore - 1922-2022: A Century of Change (Part 03)	2021	John Bellingham	Maurice O'Keeffe	audio MP3	00:36:27 and 00:50:47	Keywords: The Bellingham family, Howth
Howth	https://www.irishlifeandlore.com/product/malise-reid-scott/	Irish Life and Lore - 1922-2022: A Century of Change (part 2)	2020	Malise Reid Scott	Maurice O'Keeffe	audio MP3	01:14:05	Grace O'Malley and the Howth Castle connection