

County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee

2022 Programme

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee will focus on delivering a diverse programme of activities throughout 2022. With the lifting of public health restrictions, there will be a strong emphasis on community engagement and public gathering events in 2022.

The programme is supported by the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee and the five municipal districts of Kildare County Council and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-23 initiative. It is administered by the Local Studies, Genealogy & Archives Department of Kildare Library & Arts Service

A number of key centenary events with relevance to County Kildare took place in 1922. These include:

- The transfer of newly uniformed and trained National Army troops from Celbridge Workhouse to take over Beggars Bush Barracks in early February 1922.
- Arrival of new Civic Guard troops into Kildare town for training and the subsequent mutiny against senior officers in Spring/Summer 1922.
- Take-over of the Curragh Camp, former headquarters of the British Army, by Irish National Army troops under the command of Lt 'Ginger' O'Connell on 16 May 1922.
- Withdrawal of the British Army from the military barracks in Kildare, Naas and Newbridge, and their handing over to the new National Army of Ireland.
- Military conflict during the Civil War including engagements at Graney near Castledermot, Pike's Bridge near Maynooth, the destruction of the main bridge in Celbridge and the burning of the old fever hospital in late 1922.
- Execution of seven anti-Treaty republicans in the Curragh Camp in December 1922, the largest single execution of the Civil War.

- **Community Engagement, Grants Scheme & Partnership**

A Community Grants Scheme will be opened in the first quarter of 2022 offering opportunities for community groups and individuals to submit applications for funding for Decade of Centenaries activities (with an emphasis on the 1922-23 period) to be organized throughout the five municipal districts administered by Kildare County Council. The deadline for receipt of applications is Monday, 21 March at 5PM. Email localhistory@kildarecoco.ie for further information.

The Decade of Commemorations programme will continue to organize activities in partnership with community groups, including the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups and the County Kildare Archaeological Society.

The Committee will also work with An Garda Síochána, An Garda Síochána Retired Members Association, Kildare Town Heritage Centre and others to organize a programme of events in Kildare Town on Saturday, 16th April 2022 to mark the arrival of the Civic Guards for training

in 1922. Further community events will take place throughout the year to mark the centenary of the Civic Guards/An Garda Síochána, including the Civic Guard Mutiny in Kildare Town.

Activities will also take place to mark the centenary of the withdrawal of the British Army from the garrisons in the Curragh, Kildare Town, Naas, and Newbridge on 16 May 1922.

- **6th Irish Military Seminar, John Devoy Seminar & other 2022 Events**

The 6th Irish Military Seminar is scheduled to take place in Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge on 10th and 11th June 2022. Topics will include the events of 1922 including the outbreak of the Civil War.

Other events which will be organized or supported include Heritage Week 2022 in August, the John Devoy Seminar in September, Kildare Readers Festival in October and the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups Seminar in the Autumn.

- **Publications**

Several publications are planned including:

- *Wilful Murder Lt. John Hubert Wogan-Browne Kildare, 10 February 1922* by Mark D. McLoughlin on the killing of a British Army Officer in Kildare Town in 1922
- *A Timeline of the Civil War in County Kildare, 1922-1923* compiled by staff of the Local Studies, Genealogy & Archives Section of Kildare Library & Arts Service. Copies will be distributed to schools, local history groups and to the public through the Kildare branch library network
- A collection of essays on Kildare during the revolutionary decade published by Irish Academic Press
- A publication on the Civil War Battle of Pike's Bridge, near Maynooth-Leixlip by Seamus Cummins

Other publications relevant to County Kildare during the 1912-23 period will be supported through the Decade of Commemorations Community Grants Scheme. A poster detailing key dates and events of the Civil War in County Kildare, suitable for distribution to schools and to the wider community will also be produced.

- **Supporting Artists & Creative Communities**

With the support of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; applications will be sought in the first quarter of 2022 through the Kildare Arts Service for grants for artistic and creative endeavours that relate to the 1912-23 period. Further opportunities for supporting artists in delivering the Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme will be available through the community grants scheme also.

- **Digitisation & Conservation**

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme will aim to facilitate enhanced access to authentic local archival sources during 2022. This will be made possible through conservation and some digitization of material relating to the 1912-23 period. It is also planned to make further digitised content available online through the Kildare Library Service website.

- **Library-Led Collaborations**

The Decade of Commemorations Programme will continue to work with Kildare Library & Arts Service & Kildare County Council Heritage Officer. The Programme will continue to support making resources relating to the 1912-23 period available to the general public through the branch library network, including access to digital records such as *FindMyPast*, and acquisition of material and publications relating to the 1912-23 period.

- **Social Media & Local Media**

Local Studies, Genealogy and Archives staff will continue to provide Decade of Centenaries content to the three local newspapers in County Kildare. Activities will also be promoted on KFM radio station.

Library staff will also continue to supply content to the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts.



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



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council