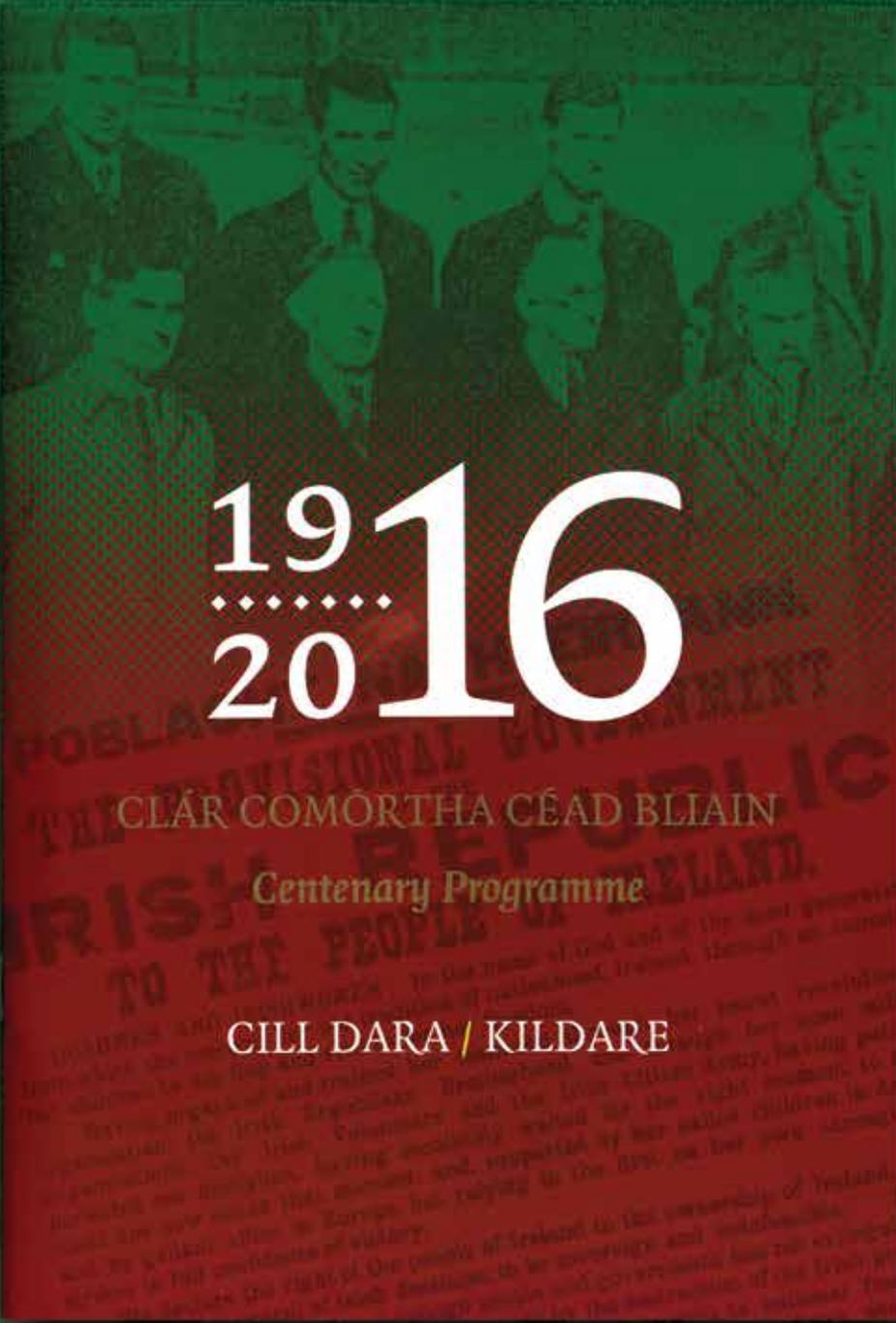




A Year in the Making



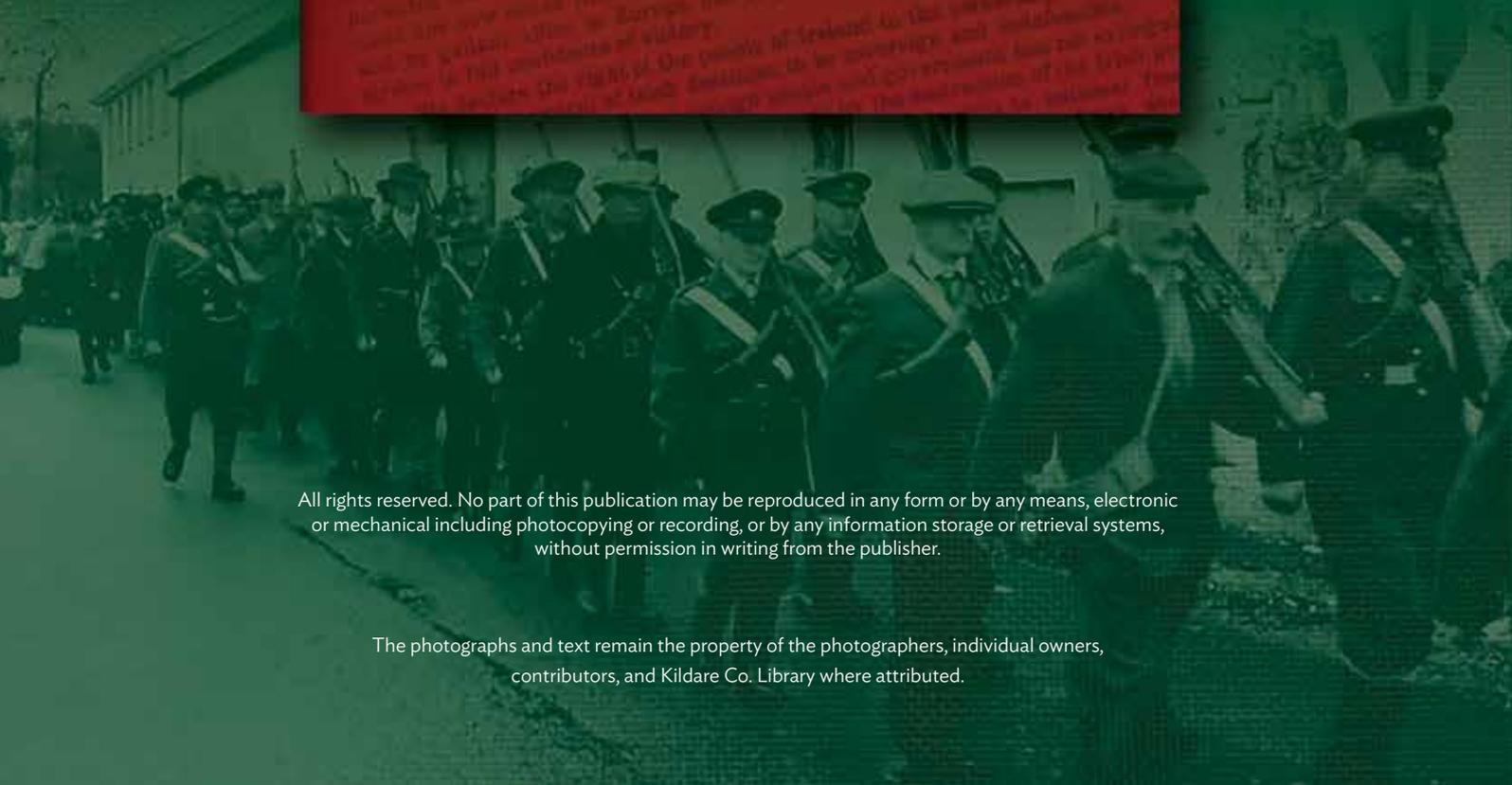


1916
.....
2016

CLÁR COMÓRTHA CÉAD BLIAIN

Centenary Programme

CILL DARA / KILDARE



All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage or retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher.

The photographs and text remain the property of the photographers, individual owners, contributors, and Kildare Co. Library where attributed.

A Year in the Making

1916-2016

County Kildare Reflects, Remembers, Reconciles and
Commemorates

1916-2016

Contae Chill Dara ag machnamh, ag tabhairt chun cuimhne,
ag déanamh athmhuintearais agus ag comóradh



*Dedicated to the men, women and children of Kildare
who gave so much that we might have a brighter future.*

Compiled and edited by Mario Corrigan, James Durney and Karel Kiely.

Published to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising.
Supported by Kildare County Council and the
Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.



County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee 2015/16

Mission Statement of the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme, 2013-2023 as adopted by Kildare County Council

The aim of the programme is to establish the most appropriate way in which to mark the centenaries within the county. The nature of the programme would be expansive, delivering a series of commemorative events, school programmes, and publications, but with the unique intention of creating a legacy of research and/or cultural and artistic material for future generations. The delivery of the programme should be inclusive, appropriate and sensitive, to take account of all aspects of life in Co. Kildare in the period 1913-1923.

County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee

Chair

February 2016-Present
Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy

2015-February 2016
Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin

Vice-Chair

Cllr. Anne Breen

Members:

Cllr. Anne Breen
Cllr. Bernard Caldwell
Cllr. Réada Cronin
Cllr. Martin Miley
Cllr. Brendan Weld
Cllr. Murty Aspell

Marian Higgins	County Librarian and Co. Kildare 2016 Coordinator
Mario Corrigan	Executive Librarian
James Durney	County Kildare Historian in Residence
Bridget Loughlin	County Heritage Officer
Lucina Russell	County Arts Officer

Message from Mayor of Kildare, Cllr Martin Miley and Chief Executive, Kildare County Council Mr. Peter Carey

The centennial year 2016 offered a unique opportunity for exploring and learning the history, heritage and culture of our country. The Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee supported, promoted and organised over 272 projects, including 96 school visits interacting with thousands of students; public lectures, exhibitions, publications, seminars, essay and poetry competitions, Proclamation Day ceremonies, plays, and musical performances – to an approximate audience of 65,000 people. It was an extremely busy and rewarding year.

We closed the year by paying special tribute to the centenarians of County Kildare and to our young people for their boundless enthusiasm and creativity, a fitting ceremony to represent us all. Our centenarian citizens were born under an Empire, but helped build a Republic alongside their parents and their children. It was appropriate that we presented our oldest members of the community with a highly prized and sought after lapel pin memento, designed by one of our youngest, Luke Hand from Ballysax.

The spirit of youth and the courage of conviction and experience – Meanma agus Misneach – the motto of Kildare County Council.

Our Council continues to focus on the delivery of improved services and enhanced local democracy.



All activities and interactions with the citizens of Kildare are grounded on the core values of local democracy, public service, sustainability, efficiency, accountability, social inclusion and community development.

Community lies at the heart of the local authority, and it was very much to the fore when the council created a programme to commemorate the 1916 Rising. The programme was designed to encourage people at home and abroad to remember our shared history and placed a strong emphasis on active community engagement.

We are proud of the partnerships we have forged and the enormous success of the school visits, flag raising ceremonies and Defence Forces participation.

It has been a marvellous achievement on so many levels and we acknowledge the tremendous contribution of those in Co. Kildare who have made this a memorable year. As a county, Kildare has come far since those dark and difficult days and we pay tribute to all the citizens who have endeavoured to make it great. Our thanks to all for playing a part in that story.

Cllr. Martin Miley
Mayor of Kildare

Mr. Peter Carey
Chief Executive of Kildare County Council





Message from Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Chair of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee

As we reflect on the two years of planning and activities since our first public meeting in May 2015, we can see how the first part of the programme of commemoration has set the scene. The general perception is one of pride and satisfaction. We did it well - they say; people seem almost surprised at the success of it all at national and local level. There have been achievements and national awards, websites and social media campaigns, and yet the barometer of success was most obvious in the simplest of things.

We were moved as flags were unfurled, children sang the nation's anthem in their schoolyards and the Proclamation was re-discovered by the next generation. It has been an eventful time, a period of great adventures and new discoveries.

We engaged with all the people of the county to deliver the best possible programme, and to ensure it was and continues to be, inclusive, appropriate and sensitive. The process continues and will allow all sections of the community to respond and put forward their ideas, hopes and plans over the coming years. There is an opportunity for everyone in County Kildare to commemorate the events of the Decade of Centenaries and to engage in developing even more ambitious programmes for the future.

Kildare County Council remains committed to developing a strategy of commemoration and coordinating events in line with the national programme 2013-2023.

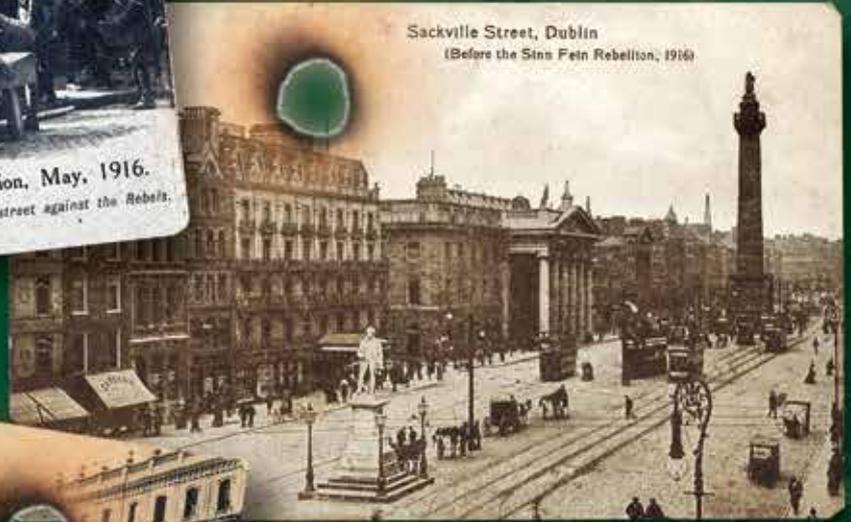
But for now, let us be humbled and thankful at the response and the engagement that we witnessed in 2016. Having heard our citizens' memories of their part in the celebrations of 1966, our greatest wish might be that our children would speak of their memories of 2016 with the same conviction and pride in fifty years' time.

Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy





Irish Rebellion, May, 1916.
Holding a Dublin street against the Rebels.



Sackville Street, Dublin
(Before the Sinn Féin Rebellion, 1916)



*Sinn Féin Rebellion,
Sackville Street, Dublin.*

Historical Overview of Kildare and 1916

On Easter Monday 1916, sixteen hundred men, women and children went out to fight for an independent Ireland. The battle raged in Dublin for six days and resulted in four hundred and eighty-five deaths and the destruction of many parts of the city. While predominately a Dublin affair, many of the Volunteers were from outside the city; at least thirty-two Kildare men and women took part in the Rising, including fifteen who walked from Maynooth to the General Post Office (GPO). No less than ten Kildare natives were killed in the Rising, while dozens more were wounded or imprisoned in the aftermath. The chief financier of the Rising was Kildare-born John Devoy, leader of Clann na nGael in America.

Captain Tom Byrne brought news to Naas from GHQ in Dublin that a nationwide rising was to take place on Sunday 23 April using the Volunteers' scheduled manoeuvres in Dublin as a cover. He was ordered to mobilise all the companies in the county to make their way to Bodenstown, near Sallins, where they would assemble, blow-up the railway bridge, and march on to Dublin. All companies promised a good turnout. However, due to Eoin MacNeill's countermanding order, confusion reigned in County Kildare. Five Volunteer companies mobilised for action, but stood down when they received the countermanding order.

The plans to blow up the railway bridge at Bodenstown failed and Capt. Byrne, Lieutenant O'Kelly and Tom Harris made their way to Maynooth. Here, Domhnall Ua Buachalla had mobilised Maynooth Company when word was received that the Rising had gone ahead in Dublin.

Fifteen men walked from Maynooth to Dublin arriving at the GPO on Tuesday morning to be welcomed by P. H. Pearse and James Connolly. In the GPO garrison, the

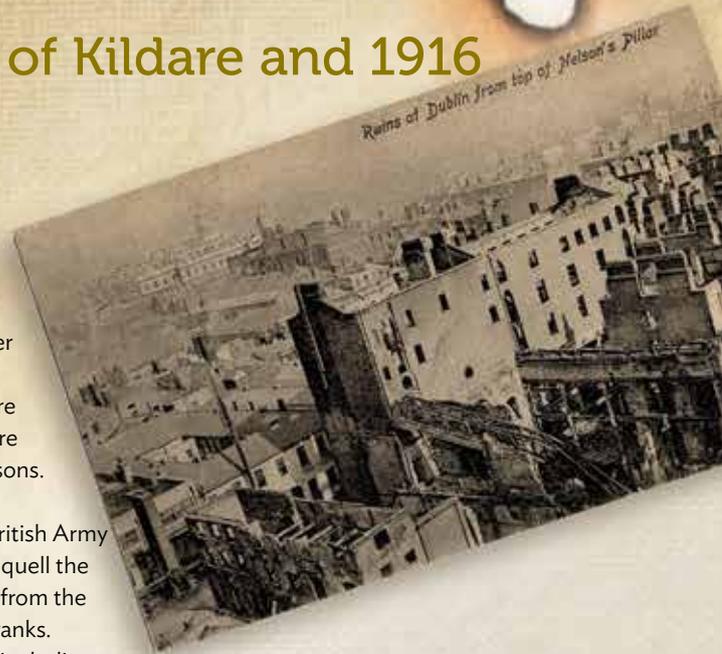
Maynooth group found other individuals who were from Kildare. Around the city more Kildare men and women were based with other rebel garrisons.

The Irish regiments of the British Army that arrived in the capital to quell the insurrection had many men from the Short Grass county in their ranks. Some of their first fatalities, including Captain Alfred Warmington and Private Bernard Mulraney, came to Dublin from Newbridge Barracks and the Curragh Camp. Pte. James Duffy, from Kiltel, was another military fatality.

Among the first civilian casualties were men and women who had been born in Kildare, but had made Dublin their home. Michael Kavanagh was shot dead by rebels at a barricade in St. Stephen's Green; both Edward Murphy and Francis Salmon were the victims of unknown snipers, while Peter Connolly was bayoneted to death by British soldiers in North King Street; Margaret McGuinness died on 3 May 1916, possibly from gunshot wounds received earlier in the week.

Two of the rebel dead were from Co. Kildare: George Geoghegan of the Irish Citizen Army was killed in the fighting at City Hall, while Vol. Edward Costello, died of gunshot wounds at Jervis Street Hospital. Outside of the capital there were only a few locations where action associated with the Rising occurred. In County Kildare, aside from the mobilisation of the Maynooth Company, a small railway section was destroyed near Athy in an attempt to disrupt communications.

Ten people from Kildare, combatants and civilians, were killed in the fighting, while others with Kildare connections, like baby Seán Foster, whose father was from Ballymore Eustace, were also fatalities.



Over fifty more men and women were captured or arrested. They were imprisoned in the Curragh Camp, Dublin's Richmond Barracks, jails in England and Frongoch Camp in Wales. Robertstown man, Captain Harry de Courcy Wheeler, accompanied by Nurse O'Farrell, took the surrender of many of the rebel garrisons.

The subsequent execution of the leaders of the Rising awakened a generation to the cause of Irish freedom and the Kildare men of 1916, Domhnall Ua Buachalla, Tom Harris and Pat Colgan would play their part in the development of our nation.

On the day the Rising began, Kildare-born Ernest Shackleton, a name forever linked with exploration, leadership and perseverance faced danger a world away. On his third trip to Antarctica with the 'Endurance,' he planned to cross the continent via the South Pole when his ship became trapped in the ice and subsequently sank. The crew were stranded on Elephant Island, so, on Easter Monday 1916, Shackleton and five men set sail for South Georgia island in a small lifeboat, 'James Caird,' crossing 1,300 km of ocean in sixteen days to reach land. The crew who had remained on Elephant Island were rescued on 30 August 1916.

James Durney
Historian in Residence



A Rebel's Heart
 A 1916 Commemoration
 Concert
 St Mary's Church - Maynooth
 Co Kil
 10th Ap
 8p

100 years by the
 1916-2016





Reflection

The aim of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme was to establish the most appropriate way in which to mark the centenaries within the county. A committee was formed and a strategy document designed to help direct the process, while active engagement with the public informed and gave perspective.

Discussions began in March 2014 and it was decided to formulate a policy for the Decade of Commemorations in Co. Kildare. A draft document was submitted and following a resolution at the July County Council meeting, a committee was appointed in September 2014. The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee is comprised of elected members of Kildare County Council and staff in the Heritage, Community, Libraries and Arts departments.

Work began in earnest on a commemorative programme 1913-1923 to consider the most appropriate manner to mark the centenaries throughout the county with particular focus on all aspects of life in County Kildare and notable Kildare people in 1916.

At a meeting of the Committee on 8 December in Áras Chill Dara, Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin was appointed to the Chair. Critical decisions involved finance and the appointment of a Historian in Residence for a period of two years.

A draft strategy document was circulated to the various sub groups of Kildare County Council.

The Decade of Commemorations Strategy Document 1913-1923 was approved at a County Council meeting on 23 February 2015.

The strategy document was discussed at a public consultation in the Osprey Hotel, Naas on 14 May 2015. The nature of the programme was expansive, delivering a series of commemorative events, school programmes, publications, talks and walks, concerts, drama, sculpture and song, with the intention of creating a legacy of research, cultural and artistic material for future generations. The delivery of the programme was to take account of all aspects of life in Co. Kildare in the period 1913-1923.

As the county prepared to celebrate the birth of the nation and the momentous events of the most significant decade in our history, it was fitting that the strategy would be comprehensive and respectful; that it would be broad, accurate and appeal to every citizen of this county.

The greatest challenges lay in the depth of public feeling and the breadth and scope of expectations. The county became a stage, a ball of malleable clay, and individuals, groups, schools and communities moulded their hopes and ideas into a myriad of actions, giving life to hundreds of individual events, performances and creative outpourings of every kind.

MINUTES KCC 23 February 2015 06/0215

Decade of Commemoration

Ms Higgins, Library Services, presented the Decade of Commemoration Strategy Document 1913 – 1923 to the members for consideration and approval. The Mayor acknowledged the presentation and the work that has been undertaken by the committee to date. The Chief Executive thanked Ms Higgins for her presentation and commended the work of the committee and their approach on preparing the strategy. The Mayor and the members contributed to a discussion around the positive nature of the presentation, the benefits for education, preserving our heritage and encouraging community participation and they hoped that the strategy document would support a strong case for funding. Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Miley, with all members in agreement, that the Decade of Commemoration Strategy be adopted.

Provenance

One hundred years ago, Irishmen and Irishwomen, declared an Irish Republic. Their ideals and values have inspired generations of Irish people. The Rising was initially unpopular, but slowly public opinion began to change. Playing their part in the interpretation of the events were artists, writers and musicians, and this provided a focus for us in Kildare in determining how we would celebrate our history and our heritage.

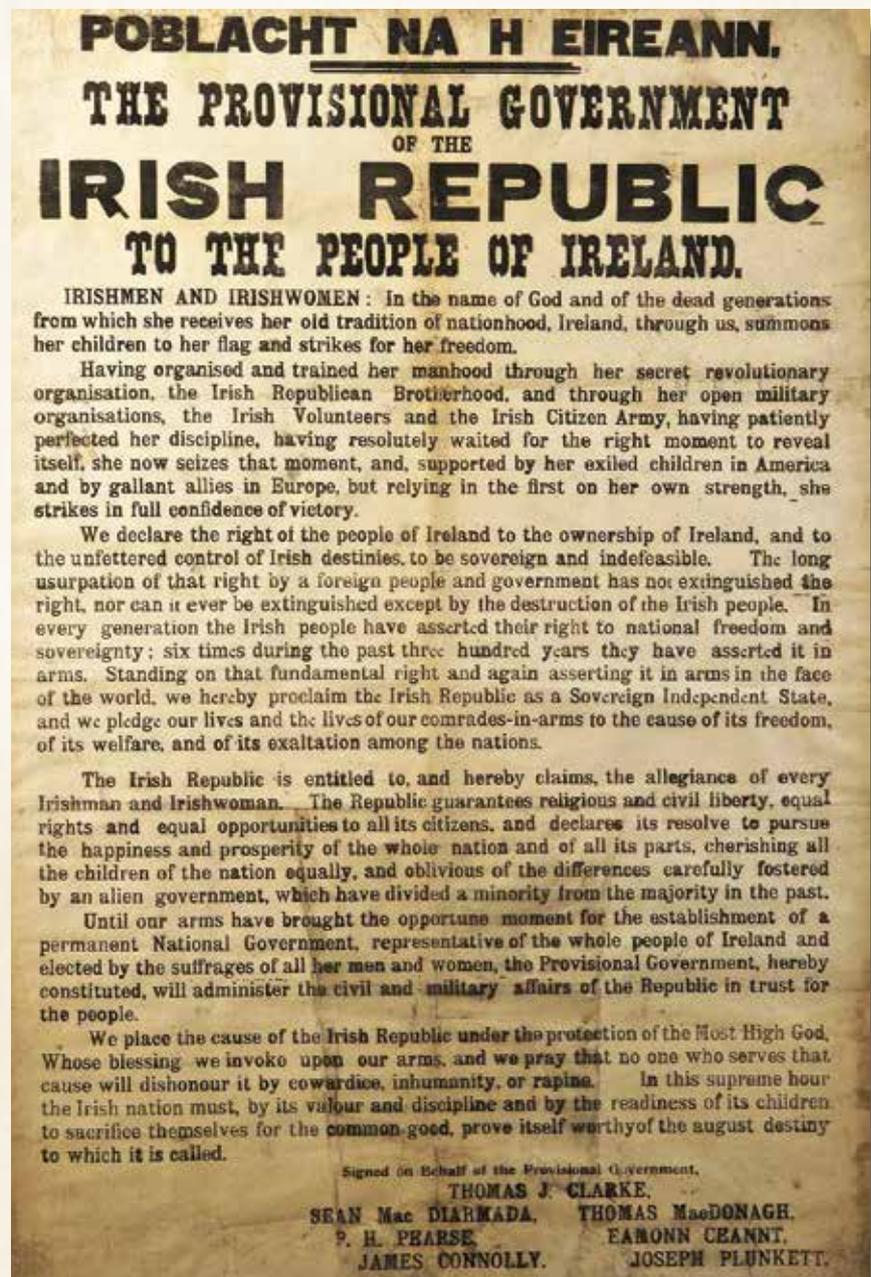
The 1916 Rising changed utterly the fabric of Irish life and launched the nation on its quest for independence. In County Kildare we paid tribute to those who sacrificed so much on our behalf; we took pride in the events and how they impacted on the nation and our culture. We owed it to that generation of Irish men, women and children that we commemorated our history with pride and enthusiasm, and that we did justice, not only to their ideals and aspirations, but to their memory and sacrifice.

The new Irish Republic claimed the allegiance of every Irish man and Irish woman, guaranteeing religious and civil liberty, equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, by cherishing all the children of the nation equally, declaring the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the control of their own destiny.

We hold these dreams and aspirations in reverence and pledge ourselves to the pursuit of these goals in our daily lives.

Our nation today is more diverse than ever and faces a new set of challenges. We must cherish and build on the founding principles of our nation.

We do not need to live in the past, but remember and respect it as we build a better future for all our citizens.



Programme Launch

County Kildare's 2016 Programme was officially launched on Sunday, 25 October 2015, in McAuley Place, Naas, following the unveiling of a memorial statue of John Devoy at Poplar Square, Naas.

The launch of the programme was the culmination of a week-long series of events organised by the Kildare County Council Decade of Commemorations Committee.

Events during that week included the launch of Tom Nelson's book *Through Peace and War. Kildare County Council in the years of revolution, 1899-1926*, in Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas on 19 October; the re-publication of Terry Golway's *Irish rebel: John Devoy and America's Fight For Ireland's Freedom*, by Merrion Press, Sallins; the launch of *Foremost and ready: Kildare and the 1916 Rising* by Kildare Historian in Residence, James Durney, in Naas Town Hall.



Kildare County Council also hosted two concerts in Naas Town Hall for local residents and American visitors who had travelled home for the unveiling of the memorial to John Devoy: 'The Percy French Story' by Mona Conroy and Owen C. Lynch, performed on 23 and 24 October.

The County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups hosted their annual seminar in the Kilcullen Heritage Centre on 24 October, with guest speaker, Adhamhnán Ó Súilleabháin, who delivered an illustrated talk on his grandfather, 1916 veteran, Domhnall Ua Buachalla, from Maynooth.



POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Making organised and trained her manhood through her own revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood and through the same country, the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army and the Irish Women's Suffrage League.

SEVEN SIGNATORIES

Tracing the Family Histories of the Men Who Signed
the Proclamation of the Irish Republic

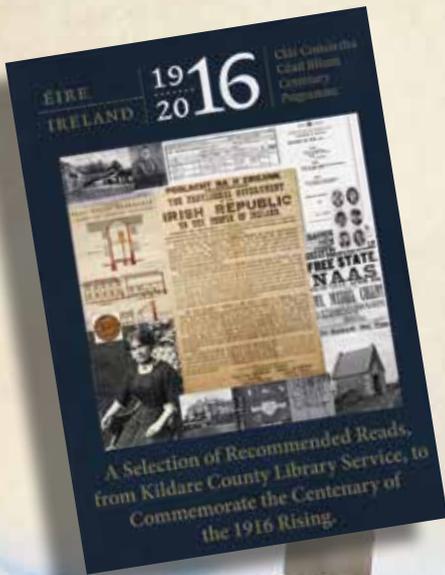
Paul Gorry

*O'Connell Street, Dublin
(Before Sinn Féin Rebellion)*

The Seven Programme Strands Seacht Snáithe an Chláir

The Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme was built on Seven Programme Strands, which, taken together, reflect the themes of Remembering, Reconciling, Presenting, Imagining and Celebrating

Tá Éire 2016 Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain tógtha ar Sheacht Snáithe an Chláir, agus nuair a thógtar iad sin i dteannta a chéile, léiríonn siad na téamaí Cuimhneamh, Réiteach, Cur i Láthair, Samhlú agus Ceiliúradh.



1. State Ceremonial *Searmanais Stáit*
2. Historical Reflection *Machnamh ar an Stair*
3. *An Teanga Bheo* The Living Language
4. Youth and Imagination *An Óige agus an tSamhlaíocht*
5. Cultural Expression *Léiriú Cultúrtha*
6. Community Participation *Rannpháirtíocht Phobail*
7. Global and Diaspora *Éireannaigh ar fud an domhain agus an Diaspóra*



1 State Ceremonial

Searmanais Stáit

An extensive programme of formal commemorative events focused on remembering and honouring those who took part in the Easter Rising, and especially those who gave their lives.

Beidh clár fairsing d'imeachtaí foirmiúla comóraidh ann a bheidh dírithe ar na daoine sin a thabhairt chun cuimhne agus urraim a léiriú dóibh siúd a ghlac páirt in Éirí Amach na Cásca, agus go háirithe iad siúd a thug a mbeo sa troid.

A statue of John Devoy was unveiled by the Mayor of Kildare, Cllr. Brendan Weld, and the U.S. Ambassador, Kevin O'Malley, in Poplar Square, Naas, on 25 October 2015. The statue was funded by the Kildare Association of New York, Kildare County Council and Naas Local History Group. **John Devoy – The Greatest of the Fenians** project was shortlisted at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government awards in the category Heritage and Built Environment. The statue was created by Jarlath Daly.

The **County Kildare Centenary Programme** was launched on 25 October 2015, in McAuley Place, Naas.

The **Maynooth 1916 Centenary Committee** was set up by local organisations and was made up of representatives from St. Mary's Band, Maynooth, 8th Kildare Maynooth Scouts, the Maynooth History Society and ex-Defence Forces organisations. Its aim was to organise a commemoration with a particular focus on the local men that marched from Maynooth to the GPO, Dublin during the Rising. The re-enactment, which took place on 23 April 2016, saw people walk from Maynooth, along the canalside to the Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square, where they were received by the Lord Mayor of Dublin.

The **County Kildare 1916 Commemorative Garden** was unveiled on 24 April 2016 at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas by the Mayor of Kildare, Councillor Brendan Weld. The Proclamation was read by schoolchildren from Gael-Choláiste Chill Dara, Nás na Ríogh, and the musical accompaniment was provided by the Kildare County Council Choir in a beautiful, solemn ceremony.

The Maynooth Committee raised the **Maynooth 15 Flag** in the Square, Maynooth, on New Year's Day 2016 and lowered it on 31 December 2016. The flag now hangs in Maynooth Community Library.

Proclamation Day on 15 March 2016 was a tremendous success throughout County Kildare.





To mark the centenary of the rescue of the Endurance crew from Elephant Island, the Mayor of Kildare, Councillor Ivan Keatley unveiled a statue of **Ernest Shackleton**, created by Mark Richards, on 30 August 2016, at Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare. The special guest was The Honourable Alexandra Shackleton, granddaughter of the explorer, with an Honour Guard and Colour Party of the Irish Naval Service in attendance. Jack L. sang *The Wearing of the Green*.

Commemorative Gardens were established in Kildare Town, Leixlip, and Devoy Park, Naas. A Proclamation stone and seven granite pillars featured in all three, while Proclamation stones were also laid in Newtown, Robertstown and Castledermot.

Offaly led the way with the unveiling of a monument to **Eamon Broy** at Coolygagan Cemetery on 17 September 2016. The guest of honour was his daughter, Áine Broy.

Members of the **Defence Forces** visited every national school in County Kildare with a copy of the Proclamation and the national flag.



In Two-Mile-House Sergt. James Pearse, a descendant of James Connolly, presented the flag to his son Shaun.

A memorial to a detachment of Laois Volunteers was unveiled on 31 December 2016 at **Maganey Cross** to commemorate an action at Maganey, County Kildare, on Easter Sunday night, 1916.

The official **Closing Ceremony** of the 1916/2016 programme was held in Áras Chill Dara, on 10 December 2016. The guests of honour were the Kildare centenarians. It was followed by a presentation of prizes to local school children.





The Nationalist, 6 October 1928

Death of John Devoy

The death is announced this week of Mr. John Devoy, of New York, the great Fenian Leader of 1867. He was the Editor of "The Gaelic American" newspaper. His ancestors belonged to Leix. Michael Devoy, a grand uncle of the late Mr. John Devoy, wrote a history of Athy, which he sent to the "Irish Magazine" in March 1809. The volume of the "Irish Magazine" in which the article appears was picked up at Mendoza's Old Book Store, at Anne Street, New York, by Mr. Frank Richardson, a native of Athy, and handed to the Editor of "The Gaelic American". The full title of the publication is "The Irish Magazine and Monthly Asylum for Neglected Biography" and the editor and publisher was the notorious Matty Cox.

The father of Michael Devoy, the writer of the history, was born in 1713 and died in 1815; so that he was alive six years after that article was written in 1809. He spoke no English until he was twenty-five years of age. His son, when writing the article had the benefit of his father's long and intimate knowledge of the town of Athy, as well as access to books and manuscripts that are not now extant. He was a Captain of the Rebels in the Kildare Insurrection of 1798, and had to leave the neighbourhood of Athy on that account. He settled in Kill in 1805, became a prosperous contractor, and superintended the construction of a large part of the Grand Canal. He died about 1841 or 1842.

Michael Devoy, the writer of the history was born at The Heath, a farm on the estate of the Duke of Leinster, and situated in the parish of Athy, but moved to Kill in the early part of the nineteenth century. Many families of the name resided in the neighbourhood of Athy for several generations after the Massacre of Mullaghmast, where the Chief of the Clan was butchered with Rory O'Moore and many others by the Earl of Essex, in 1578. The proper name for the family is O'Duibhidh. A history of the family is given in the late Canon O'Hanlon's "History of the Queen's County."



2 Historical Reflection Machnamh ar an Stair

A range of history-based activities and initiatives, designed to deepen and broaden our understanding of the events of 1916 and that pivotal period in our history.

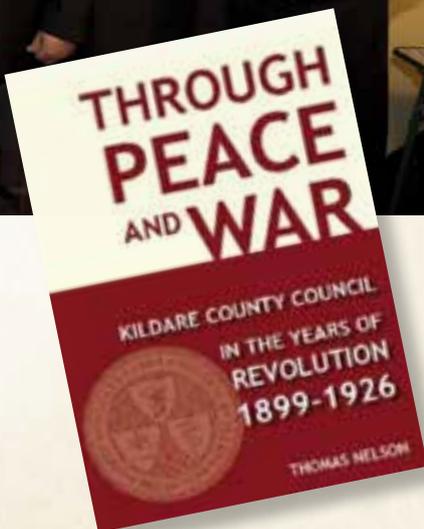
Beidh réimse gníomhaíochtaí agus tionscnaimh staire ann a cheapfar chun ár dtuiscint ar imeachtaí 1916 agus an tréimhse ríthábhachtach sin inár stair a dhoimhniú agus a leathnú.



County Kildare's Decade of Commemorations programme officially started with the launch of Tom Nelson's **'Through peace and war. Kildare Co. Council in the years of revolution 1899-1926'** in Áras Chill Dara on 19 October 2015.

Local organisations published books on aspects of the Rising in Kildare Town, Naas, The Curragh and Newbridge; The Maynooth 15, William A. Byrne of Rathangan, Teresa Brayton, and The O'Kelly Brothers in Naas.

Foremost and ready. Kildare and the 1916 Rising, by James Durney was launched on 20 November 2015 in the Town Council Chamber, Naas Town Hall, by Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin, chair of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.



An exhibition, 'Athy in 1916,' was held in the **Athy Heritage Centre-Museum** on 9 April 2016. James Durney gave a lecture on local involvement entitled, 'Volunteer Mark Wilson and Cadet William Keegan. Two Athy men in the Easter Rising.'

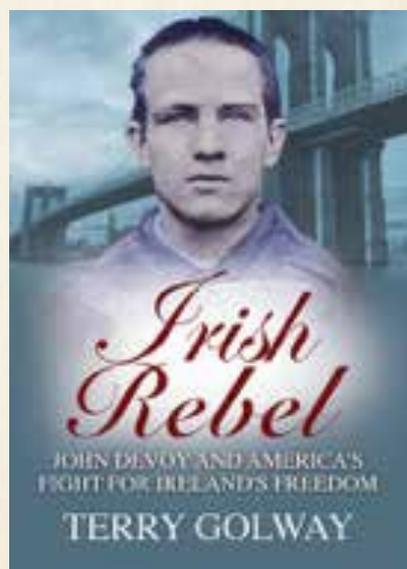
Aogán Ó Fearghail, G.A.A. President, unveiled a plaque at Kilcock G.A.A. Club on 15 September 2016 dedicated to people from the area who took part in the events surrounding 1916, including

Tom Harris, Teresa Brayton, John Kenny and Michael Cowley.

The **County Kildare Archaeological Society** held a seminar, Remembering 1916, chaired by Professor Raymond Gillespie, Department of History, Maynooth University on 12 March 2016 at Killashee House Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare.



Professor Roy Foster delivered the keynote lecture, along with talks by Darragh Gannon, Gerry Long, Marie Corrigan, Séamas Ó Maitiú and Brig. Gen. John Martin. **The Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates** organised a seminar in Maynooth in May.





Kildare County Council supported mainstream publications during the year:-

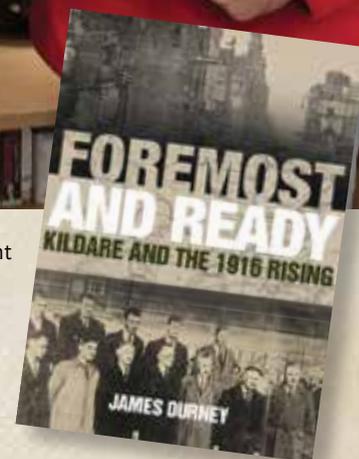
- **Irish Rebel: John Devoy and America's Fight for Ireland's Freedom** by Terry Golway (Merrion Press).
- **Shackleton: The Voyage of the James Caird** by Gavin Comiskey and David Butler, a graphic novel (Collins Press).
- **Seven Signatories** by Paul Gorry (Merrion Press).
- **The 1916 Rising Oral History Collection** (Irish Life and Lore); launched in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, on 24 March 2016.

The specially designed 1916 presentation covered topics such as the Proclamation, the 1916 Rising and Co. Kildare, the Irish Volunteers and the aftermath of the Rising.

Throughout the county enthusiastic speakers gave **presentations** on a wide range of subjects such as Tom Clarke, the father of the Republic, Domhnall Ua Buachalla, Pat Colgan, Jim O'Neill, Mná 1916, Kildare men and the Battle of the Somme, Ernest Shackleton, William Francis Roantree, the Forgotten Fenian from Leixlip, and Roger Casement.

An investment in replica Volunteer and Cumann na mBan **uniforms, weapons,**

flags and other memorabilia used by the rebels and Crown forces proved enormously worthwhile. Local groups availed of the opportunity to borrow these items and they formed part of the schools lecture series.



A commemorative plaque was unveiled on 25 July 2016 for 1916 veteran Michael Heffernan in **Tea Lane Cemetery**, Celbridge. He was buried there in an unmarked grave in 1954.

2016 Lecture Series – From January to December the Kildare Local Studies Executive Librarian, Mario Corrigan and James Durney, Historian in Residence, undertook a mammoth lecture tour of the county, visiting primary and secondary schools.

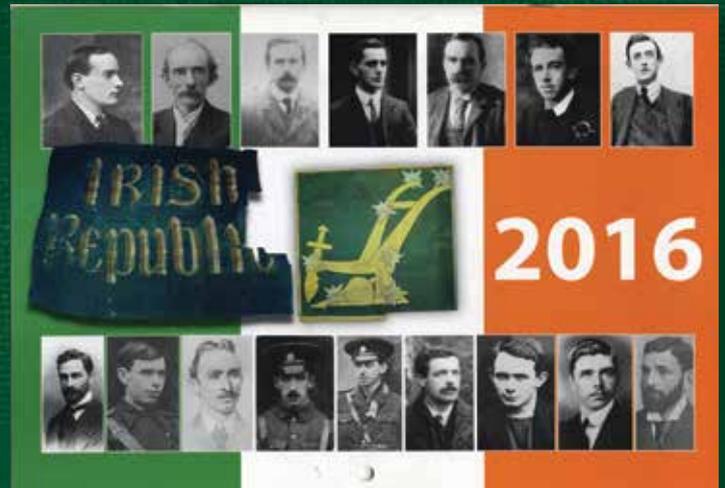


The exhibition *A Revolutionary Journey – Éamonn O’Modhráin, Kildare and the 1916 Rising – The O’Modhráin Private Collection Revealed* was launched by the Mayor of Kildare, Councillor Brendan Weld on 28 February 2016. Many members of Éamonn’s family attended the launch, which also included a lecture on Éamonn O’Modhráin by Robert Doyle and a beautiful rendition of Grace by Éamonn’s grandson, Lughaidh. The exhibition toured the library network for the remainder of 2016.

Kildare Library Services published a *Selection of Recommended Reads* to aid the interested reader.

On 13 April 2016 Éamon Ó Cuív launched a commemorative plaque in Prosperous in memory of local man **Thomas Harris** who was a member of the GPO garrison in 1916. On a separate occasion, he discussed his grandfather, Éamon de Valera’s role, in 1916 at a meeting in Kildare Town of the Cill Dara Historical Society.

The *Ardclough/Celbridge/Leixlip 1916 Rising Commemoration Committee* produced a remarkable souvenir calendar





Eva Burke 1885-1974

A Kildare woman in the GPO 1916

Henry J. Burke was born in Albany, New York, to Irish parents and travelled to Ireland where he met and married Maria Kelly, of Tipperary.

The newly married couple settled in Drenth, Carbury, where they inherited a family farm at Coonagh. Henry Burke was known as a 'gentleman' farmer and farmed extensively in the area. In the 1901 Census return his house was recorded as 'first class' and had four rooms with nine windows in front. Five children were recorded: John Joseph (14), Peter Paul (12), Henry George (11) William E. (8) and James F. (5). Evelline Mary, born on 3 October 1885, was a boarder at Our Lady of Sion, College and Boarding School, Eccles Street, Inns Quay, Dublin. In 1911 Eva Burke was recorded as a 'nurse in training' and was living at the Royal City of Dublin Hospital nurses' home at East Moreland Place.



When she was finished her training Eva went to live with her aunt at Dargle Road, Drumcondra. As a trained nurse she was taking care of an elderly British colonel when news of the outbreak of the Rising reached Drumcondra. Eva cycled into the city where it was confirmed that the insurrection had broken out and then back to Drumcondra where she informed the colonel that she could no longer nurse him. Cycling back to the city centre, Eva presented herself to Pádraig Pearse at the GPO as a nurse. Her brother, Frank Burke, was also part of the GPO garrison, stationed on the roof of the building.

Eva Burke was with Captain Thomas Weafer when he was shot and killed on Wednesday while occupying the Hibernian Bank on the corner of Lower Abbey Street and Sackville Street. The strategic importance of the building allowed Weafer and his men to control access to the street from Amiens Street Station; members of the GPO Garrison were occupying a number of buildings on both sides of Sackville Street. The Cumann na mBan members cooked meals and generally assisted the men.

In the GPO Eva nursed the wounded James Connolly who had been shot in the ankle by a British sniper. According to family lore when she found she could not sleep Eva left the GPO on Wednesday and returned to her aunt's house in Drumcondra. After a good night's sleep she returned to the GPO garrison the next morning. As the day progressed the fires that had taken hold on the upper floors of the GPO began to burn out of control, and it was soon apparent that an alternative position needed to be found. The female members of the garrison were ordered to leave under the protection of the Red Cross. Eva Burke was sent with the wounded and the Red Cross section to Jervis Street Hospital.

According to her grandson, Éanna de Búrca, Eva continued her nursing work after the Rising and was not a member of Cumann na mBan. Frank Burke was captured after the surrender and was imprisoned in Stafford Jail and Frongoch Internment Camp in Wales. He returned to Ireland on Christmas Eve 1916 and, while making his way by bus to Drumcondra, met Eva on board. They travelled home to Carbury for Christmas Day 1916. After the War of Independence Eva was employed with Dublin Corporation as a nurse. She died at the Rathfarnham home of her brother Frank, aged eighty-nine, in November 1974.

James Durney

Historian in Residence

3 The Living Language An Teanga Bheo

Reflecting on the central place of the Irish language in the ideals of the Revolutionary Generation and celebrating the language through a diverse programme of events.

Cuirfear clár ilghnéitheach imeachtaí ar siúl mar léiriú ar áit lárnach na Gaeilge in idéil na glúine réabhlóidí agus chun an teanga a cheiliúradh.

Máire Ní Raghallaigh, founder of Conradh na Gaeilge in Naas

– As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, March 2016, a lecture was held at Gaelscoil Choláiste Cill Dara on 4 March 2016 to commemorate a visit by P. H. Pearse to an Aerideacht in the Old Jail, Naas, in 1903. Author Larry Ward spoke on Máire Ní Raghallaigh, from Drumconrath, Co. Meath, who worked as a clerk for Brown and McCann Solicitors, Naas from 1886 to 1906. Máire was instrumental in setting up a branch of Conradh na Gaeilge in 1900 in Naas, and she was appointed secretary of the branch the following year. She moved to Dublin and opened a bookshop at 87 Upper Dorset Street, which became a safe haven for Irish Volunteers on the run during the War of Independence. Máire died in 1951 and was buried in the family plot at Barrettstown, Co. Kildare.

Innovative schools' and libraries' programmes took the lead in **Seachtain na Gaeilge**.

'Súil siar ar 1916,' Moat Theatre, Naas. Comórtas drámaíochta trí Ghaeilge atá ar oscailt do gach grúpaí óige/ drámaíocht/scoil lonnaithe i gCo. Chill Dara amháin.

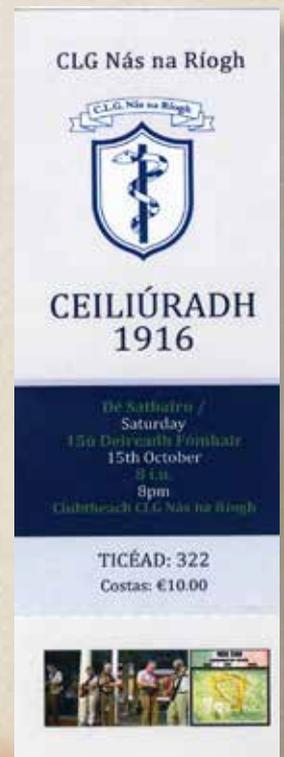
The **County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme** was rendered in Irish and English and all captions for the commemorative DVD were bi-lingual.



Craobh Bheartla Uí Fhlatharta, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann CCÉ Leixlip, produced a show called **'Memories of 1916'** on 8 April 2016 in St. Mary's GAA Club, Leixlip. Featuring music and songs associated with the Easter Rising, the show brought the memories of the Rising to the audience through the medium of Irish traditional music, song and dance. Over forty musicians, dancers and singers took part in this memorable performance. It was produced by Anna Pegley and Ciarán Fitzgerald was the musical director.

The 2016 **Schools' Lecture Series** focused on Irish cultural nationalism and language as part of their countywide visits.

One Voice – Allenwood Contemporary Choir held a celebration of Irish music and song in Allenwood GAA Hall on 24 April 2016. The event was produced and narrated by Aidan Donoghue. It included figure dancing by Alan McCormack's Dance Group and set dancing by Brendan Swords and friends.



4 Youth and Imagination

An Óige agus an tSamhlaíocht

Placing children and young people at the centre of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme and integrating historical exploration with a range of imaginative activities.

Cuirfead leanaí agus daoine óga i gcroílár Éire 2016 Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain agus déanfar iniúchadh ar cheisteanna staire a chomhtháthú le réimse gníom-haíochtaí samhlaíocha.

A Terrible Beauty- Exposed! The trial of General Sir John Maxwell and Pádraig Pearse was performed in Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge on 7–8 April. This one act play was written by Mario Corrigan and directed by Lianne O’Shea. Its aim was to introduce the audience to the issues behind the Rising; to interpret or re-interpret it, and to examine what happened, why it happened, and its impact on the nation’s history. There were performances for students on Thursday and Friday.

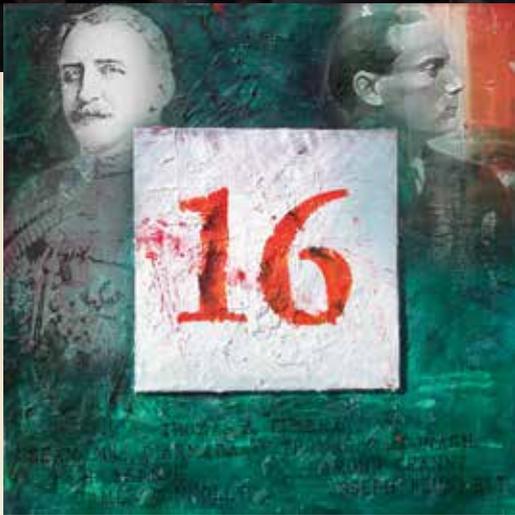
A Resource Pack for schools was developed in conjunction with the play. The pack includes the following:

- 12 Worksheets – including a questionnaire, statistics and unusual facts, timeline of events, map and illustrations.
- Script of the play: **A Terrible Beauty Exposed! – The trial of General Sir John Maxwell and Pádraig Pearse.** The audience participated in the drama as the jury in the fictional trial.
- CD of songs performed by the Kildare tenor, Philip Scott, with music of the period.

Thousands of budding poets in post-primary schools across the country worked on entries for **A Poem for Ireland.** Jane Rigby, St. Mary’s College, Naas, was the runner up in the national competition at Dublin Castle.

A revolutionary idea to celebrate the Rising and the ideals of those who orchestrated it, came in the form of **Proclamation Day**, 15 March 2016, when every school across the county hoisted the National Flag in their schoolyards.





John Devoy – The Greatest of the Fenians, a documentary film by Donal Higgins, was premiered on 20 January 2016 at the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge. Secondary school students were invited to the first screening which was followed by a Question and Answer session with Donal and James Durney, Kildare’s Historian in Residence.

Teacher Fiona Whiteley of the Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge, said: *“I had the privilege of bringing our third year students to the first screening of the new John Devoy documentary and it was absolutely fantastic to have the questions and answer sessions afterwards. The students thoroughly enjoyed it.”*

The film was also shown for a general audience later that evening and received a great response.

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee supported the Collins Press publication, **Shackleton –**

The Voyage of the James Caird: A Graphic Account by Gavin McCumiskey and David Butler. Kildare Local Studies Department visited ten schools to talk about Ernest Shackleton and his County Kildare connections.

Wasteland, an open-air drama devised by **Griese Youth Theatre**, was performed at The Meeting House, Ballitore, Co. Kildare, on 16 September 2016, from a script written by Jim Burke.

Minister Heather Humphreys attended the launch of Through Peace and War: Kildare County Council in the Years of Revolution, 1899–1926 by Thomas Nelson on 19 October 2015. Students of the Patrician Primary School, Newbridge formed a Guard of Honour at the ceremony, dressed in military uniforms. They had travelled to Flanders Fields in 2014 to commemorate Newbridge men who had died in the World War I.

At the **County Kildare Closing Ceremony** on 10 December 2016 in Áras Chill Dara, the prize winners of the county poetry and lapel pin competitions received their awards from Mayor of County Kildare, Councillor Ivan Keatley, in the presence of Kildare’s centenarians, parents, teachers, councillors and national politicians. It was a fitting end to a memorable year.

A competition for school children to design a 1916/2016 **Lapel Pin** formed part of the countywide programme. The winner was Luke Hand, aged nine years, of St. Brigid’s National School, Ballysax, whose clear and relevant design which incorporated a St. Bridget’s Cross and the year 1916, took the imagination of the county by storm. The pin was distributed to all libraries and schools in County Kildare.

17 September 2016 – **County Kildare Play Day** at Áras Chill Dara focused on children and the social history of 1916, including games, food, clothing and an immersive theatre piece for children as part of the History Live series.



5 Cultural Expression

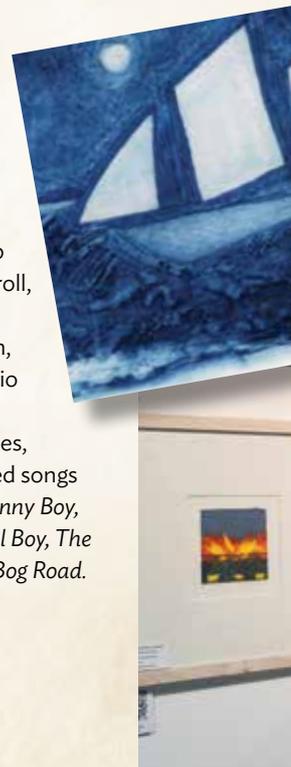
Léiriú Cultúrtha

Working with our creative community, our National Cultural Institutions and other arts organisations to reflect on our past, our present and our future, with a focus on 1916.

Oibriú lenár bpobal cruthaitheach, lenár n-institiúidí cultúrtha náisiúnta agus lenár n-eagraíochtaí ealaíon eile chun machnamh a dhéanamh ar an am atá thart in Éirinn, ar an saol atá ann faoi láthair agus ar a mbeidh i ndán dúinn amach anseo, agus béim faoi leith ar chuimhneachán 1916.



The performers were Philip Scott, tenor, Sophie O'Carroll, soprano, Donal Hennessy, pianist, and Liam Quinlivan, narrator. The script by Mario Corrigan wove together historical and literary themes, interspersed with well-loved songs of the period, including *Danny Boy*, *The Foggy Dew*, *The Minstrel Boy*, *The Soldier's Song* and *The Old Bog Road*.



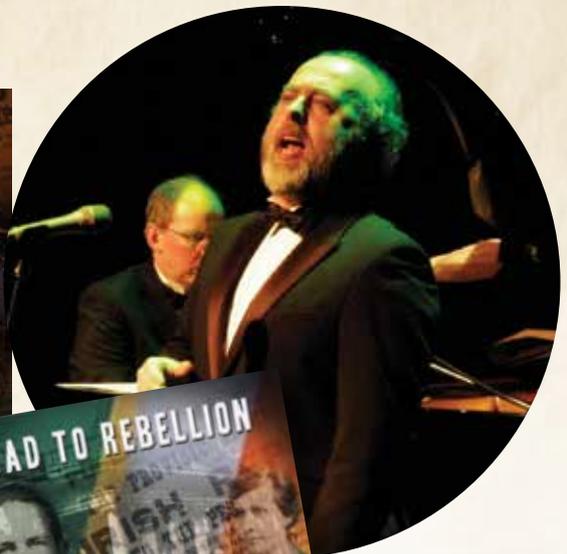
Little Stories Little Prints – A 1916 Commemorative Visual Arts Project through Printmaking, ran in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge from 4–30 April 2016. Fifty Printmakers from around Ireland participated in the project, which aimed to create awareness of little known events around the time of the Easter Rising 1916. A limited edition illustrated publication was produced and a number of workshops for children were held throughout the county library network.

and ending in Naas Town Hall on 24 April 2016, the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

Kildare Readers' Festival was held from 14–16 October and hosted 1916 related projects, most notably an evening with **Joe Duffy and Helen Litton**, *Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times: 1916 Through the Eyes of ordinary Dublin Citizens* in Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

The Road to Rebellion, a concert to commemorate the Rising through poetry, prose and song, was held in each of County Kildare's five Municipal Districts; at Castletown House, Celbridge, Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, Carton House, Maynooth, Athy Arts Centre,





New and unique compositions were supported by the County Kildare programme including *The Michael Malin Suite* composed and arranged by **Niall Ó Callanáin**, Maynooth;

A Rebels' Heart – Centenary Celebration Concert was performed on 10 April 2016 featuring original music by **Elaine Nolan**, with an orchestra and choir.

A one day event organised by the **South Kildare Photography Club** and the **Patrician Primary School, Newbridge** on 8 June 2016 entitled 'Fun and Games. A hundred years ago,' took place at the school and the nearby playing fields. Games included tug-of-war, conkers, wheelbarrow race, egg and spoon race, skittles, hopscotch and push penny.

The aim of the 1916 **Sackville Street Art Project** was to hold an exhibition of houses in 3D form, commemorating the lives of the civilians that were killed during the 1916 Rising.

Artists and members of the public created houses representing each civilian.

The Sackville Street Art Project was selected to be part of the **RTE Reflecting The Rising** events on O'Connell Street, Dublin on Easter Monday 2016. Kildare County Council won the Sustaining the Arts category for the 1916 Sackville Street Art Project at the **Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2016**. The project was also nominated in the **Best Exhibition category at the Event Industry Awards 2016**.





All the Year's a Stage! **Martina O'Reilly** turned out the men and women of Maynooth in the company of **An Nuadha Players** 100 years after the Maynooth 15 marched to fight in the GPO with her magnificent play, **Conquered Not We Were** on 26 and 28 March 2016. It was staged in Maynooth and the grounds of Carton House. A DVD of the performance was also produced.

The Run of the Mill Inclusive Theatre Company and **Choices Day Programme**, St. John of God's Services, Liffey region, presented *The Plough and the stars*, in Celbridge Manor Hotel, on 15 December 2016.

An intimate look at the life of one of the great Kildare patriots was undertaken by musician, writer and actor, **Fia Rua**, in his original play, 'From the plains – The story of John Devoy,' at the Duck and Cup Café, Moat Theatre, Naas, on 18 December 2016.

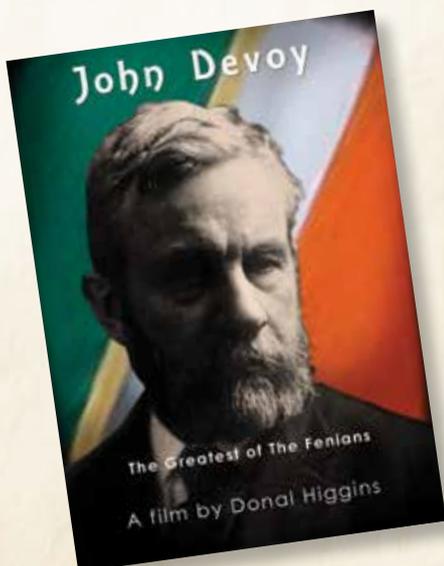
Michael Rowley's exhibition *The artist remembers 1916*, was launched by Brig. Gen. Joe Mulligan, GOC Curragh Camp, at the Curragh Military Museum on 16 June 2016 and continued until 5 September.



My feet are
But oh the
My weary
But oh to sv
If I'd the
I'd soo

My moth
The ne
There w
And Fen
Bu
As

I
If n
I'll



Teresa Brayton, Nationalist, Poet and Novelist

The nationalist poet Teresa Brayton was born Teresa Boylan in the townland of Kilbrook, near Cloncurry, on 29 June 1868, the fifth of a family of three boys and three girls. The daughter of Hugh Boylan, her great-grandfather was a United Irishman involved in the successful attack on the British garrison in Prosperous, Co. Kildare, during the 1798 Rebellion. As a teenager Teresa lived through the turbulent years of the ‘Land War,’ and as a result of her own observations and the Boylan history of vocal and physical resistance to British rule in Ireland, Teresa was, from an early age, well versed in Ireland’s struggle. Before emigrating in 1895, at the age of twenty, to the United States, she had been assistant-teacher to her sister, Elizabeth, in the local national school at Newtown, and her stirring poems, written under the pen name T. B. Kilbrook, in the Irish national and provincial press had attracted wide attention.

In Boston, Chicago, and later in New York, she continued to write, and contributed to scores of American papers and journals. In New York she met and married Richard Brayton, a French-Canadian executive in the Municipal Revenue Department. She continued her career as a freelance journalist, writing mostly for *The Irish World*, in which her articles and poems became a regular feature, and also contributing poems to many other publications. Her poetry, vividly expressing the exile’s longing for home, soon won her the affection of many Irish emigrants, and a place of honour in Irish-American circles in New York. During her visits home to Ireland, she became the close friend of the Easter Week leaders, and, back in America, threw all her energies into the cause of Ireland, raising funds, distributing pamphlets, and writing her fervent nationalism into poems that were hailed as ‘the battle cries of the last struggle of the Gael’. She travelled to Dublin early in 1914 where she met P. H. Pearse and penned a short story titled – ‘A day with Pádraig Pearse,’

“Never did a more beautiful day dawn on the city of Dublin – grey, old Dublin, sitting there by the Liffey, ever lovely, ever sad, ever hopeful – than that morning when I set out from my northside lodgings to spend a Sunday at St. Enda’s at the warm invitation of Pádraig Pearse. Some time before that I had met him in New York and he had told me about making a new record in scholastic affairs.”

The Old Bog Road

Here on Broadway this blessed harvest morn
 I ache that’s in me for the spot where I was born
 My hands are blistered from toil in cold and heat
 I swing a scythe today through a field of Irish wheat
 I have no chance to wander back or own a king’s abode
 I never see the hawthorn tree on the old bog road

My mother died last springtime when Erin’s fields were green
 My neighbours said her waking was the finest ever seen
 There were snowdrops and primroses all piled beside her bed
 My mother’s church was crowded as her funeral mass was said
 It was here that I on Broadway building brick by load
 They carried out her coffin down the old bog road

Now life’s a weary puzzle past finding out by man
 I take the day for what it’s worth and do the best I can
 No one cares a rush for me what needs to make a moan
 I go my way and earn my pay and smoke my pipe alone
 Each human heart must know it’s grief, though bitter
 Be the load

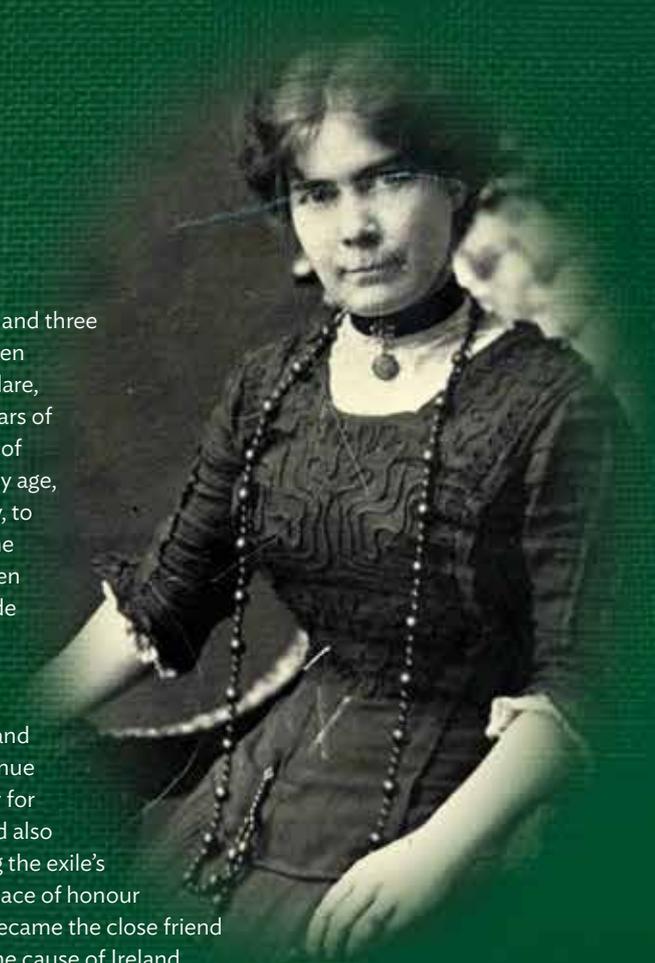
O God be with you Ireland, and the old bog road

Teresa Brayton was escorted to St. Enda’s and met Pádraig Pearse, whom she described as ‘The white flame of a soul on fire!’ and had tea beside the tree set by Robert Emmett – ‘the most memorable cup of tea in all my existence’, she wrote. Teresa accompanied Pearse to a Volunteer meeting in which he spoke first in Gaelic, which he afterwards translated to English. The two parted company at the General Post Office, on Dublin’s Sackville Street. “When I come over to Ireland again,” said Teresa, “things will be different.” “Yes, they will be different,” Pearse said. Brayton would never meet Pearse again, but he was right – things were changed when Teresa Brayton did return to Ireland.

Teresa was saddened by the executions of her friends and around her neck, on a little chain she wore a piece of the flagstaff which flew the Irish flag on the GPO on Easter Monday, 1916 – a memento which had been presented to her by the Countess Markievicz.

After her husband’s death, Teresa Brayton returned to Ireland for good in 1932, and lived for a time with her sister in Bray, and later at Waterloo Avenue, North Strand. In 1941 Teresa Brayton returned to her old home in Kilbrook, Co. Kildare, where she died two years later, on 19 August 1943, in the same room in which she was born.

James Durney
 Historian in Residence



6 Community Participation Rannpháirtíocht Phobail

Encouraging widespread citizen engagement in 1916 related events, involving the broadest possible community and voluntary sector participation in towns and villages throughout the country.

Saoránaigh a spreagadh le páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí a bhainfidh le 1916, sa chaoi is go mbeidh an rannpháirtíocht is mó is féidir ag na hearnálacha deonacha agus pobail i mbailte agus i sráidbhailte ar fud na tíre.

Athy 1916 – 2016, A Step Back in Time, took place on 9 April 2016 in Athy Heritage Centre–Museum and Emily Square, was an experience of everyday life in Athy in 1916. People mingled with Irish Volunteers, British soldiers, R.I.C. men and people in the dress of the period. An exhibition, ‘Athy in 1916,’ was held in the museum.

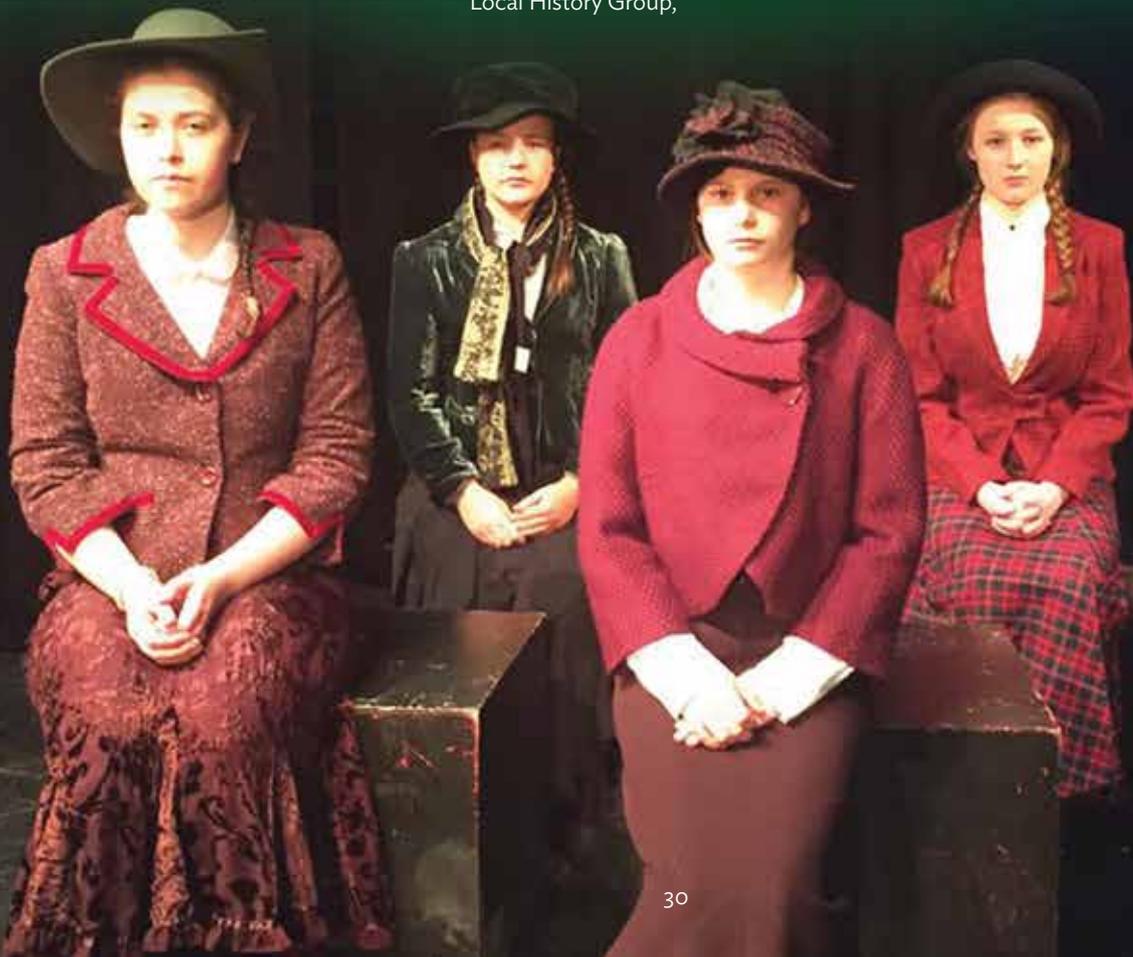
The Rebellion Run, (including the Maynooth 10K Run or Family 5K Walk), took place on 24 April 2016 from the Maynooth Education Campus with several hundred people taking part.

One of the many highlights of the county programme was the **County Kildare Play Day**, an annual community based festival of fun and participation, held in the grounds of Áras Chill Dara, on 17 September 2016.

Local History and Community Groups were to the fore in publishing material and organising events – notable inclusions were the Leixlip History Club Essay Competition in February; the Ardclough–Celbridge–Leixlip 1916 Rising Commemoration Calendar and Lecture Series; The Curragh Local History Group, Rathangan Community Group, Naas Local History Group,

the Teresa Brayton Heritage Group, Newbridge Local History Group and Cill Dara Historical Society, all published books on 1916, and the latter included a copy of the Proclamation on its annual calendar.

Narraghmore Vintage Club held a 1916 themed celebration on 28 December 2016 with participation from the Narraghmore Development Association, Griese Youth Theatre Group, Kildoon High Nelly Bicycle Club, Narraghmore Pipe Band and Kildare





A ceremony organised by **Celbridge Guided Tours** to mark the 1916 Rising took place at the Slip at Castletown House gates on 26 March 2016. The ceremony included songs, a reading of the Proclamation and a raising of the Tricolour.

Monasterevin 1916 events began on 26 March 2016 with a parade involving local Scouts, Athy Pipe Band and the Lord Edward's Own Re-enactment Group. A wreath was laid at the 1798 monument and local children read the Proclamation. There was a large scale re-enactment of the Battle of South Dublin Union.

In June great community spirit was the order of the day at the annual **Robertstown Village Fayre** which recalled the 1916 surrender and the role of British Army captain, Harry de Courcy Wheeler, a Robertstown native. The highlight of the event was a keynote address by Alex Findlater, grandson of de Courcy Wheeler who has written 1916 Surrenders – Captain H. E. de Courcy-Wheeler eye-witness account.



On 4 December the organising group in Robertstown unveiled a 1916 Proclamation stone and memorial bench at Canalside.

Kildare Library Services organised a **Vote for your favourite song of 1916 competition** in association with KFM community radio station.

Revolution! 1916, a unique community immersive project featured an outdoor exhibition by Newbridge artist, **Paul Woods**, at Áras Chill Dara – a series of large paintings focusing on the urban destruction during 1916. The exhibition was on display on the pedestrian approach from 28 June until 30 September 2016.

Plans for a permanent memorial to Eamon **'Ned' Broy** in September were unveiled in Rathangan Credit Union on

Making of Her-story featured the feisty, indomitable women of 1916 as six actors presented their fascinating stories against the backdrop of the Easter Rising. It was devised and directed by Anne Mekitarian and Bredha Sexton and performed in the Moat Theatre, Naas on 5–9 April and 15–16 April.

The close of the County Kildare 1916/2016 Programme took place on Saturday, 10 December 2016 at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy, Park, Naas, Co. Kildare. The Mayor of Kildare, Councillor Ivan Keatley presented a 1916 Lapel Pin and a commemorative scroll to **nine Co. Kildare centenarians** at a ceremony held in the Council Chamber.



17 August 2016 with his daughter Áine Broy as the guest of honour.

Newbridge Parish marked the 1916 Rising with a Prayer for Peace Service in St. Conleth's Church on 24 April 2016.





7 Global and Diaspora Éireannaigh ar fud an domhain agus an Diaspóra

Inviting the global Irish family and friends of Ireland from all over the world to join us in remembering, reflecting and re-imagining.

Cuireadh a thabhairt do chlanna Gael ó gach cearn den domhan agus do chairde na hÉireann a bheith linn agus muid ag tabhairt chun cuimhne, ag léiriú agus ag athshamhlú

Throughout 2016 many of the events in Co. Kildare were recorded for posterity on film and in photographs. A short film **'A Year in the Making,'** was produced to showcase many of the diverse events, projects and people that made the 1916/2016 Commemoration year so special. The film received a huge response from around the world.

Ireland's Call. The Kildare Diaspora and the 1916 Rising, a one day seminar took place on 17 September at Maynooth University. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Ciarán Reilly and featured James Durney, Olive Morrin, Michael Kenny, Donal Higgins and Frances Christ.





Frances had travelled from New York to unveil a plaque at Kilcock GAA grounds to her great-grandfather John Kenny, from Branganstown, Kilcock, a close ally of John Devoy.

Subjects of the seminar were:
– **John Devoy**, the greatest of the Fenians, born at Greenhills, Kill;
John Kenny, a Clann na Gael courier who brought money from America to Ireland to fund the Rising; **Teresa Brayton**, nationalist poet and writer who was a friend of many of the Rising leaders; the Fenian exile **William Francis Roantree**, then eighty-eight years old, who famously shouted encouragement to the GPO garrison; and Newbridge native **Jack Fitzgerald**, famous County player and Chairman of Kildare GAA arrested and imprisoned after the Rising.

The Songs of Percy French was presented by Showstoppers on 23–24 October 2015 at Naas Town Hall, featuring the music of the period. It coincided with the unveiling of the John Devoy statue and the visit by the Kildare Association of New York.





Kildare Decade of Commemorations YouTube Channel



Kildare Decade of Commemorations YouTube Channel

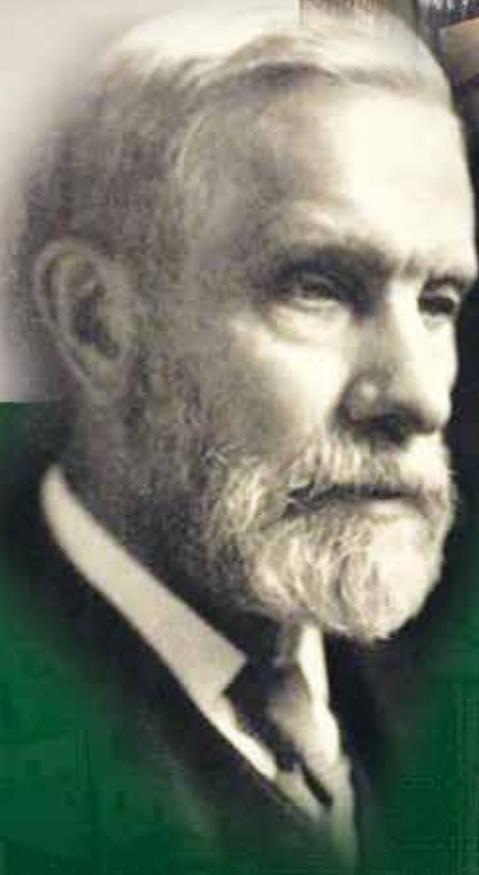
Kildare Decade of Commemorations' YouTube channel has a selection of short videos capturing various events that took place throughout the county to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising. Featured videos include events that took place in Athy, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Naas, Newbridge, and Two Mile House.



Kildare Decade of Commemorations Facebook page



Twitter



Events 1916/2016

A list of all the events which took place in Co. Kildare, including those organised, supported or facilitated by County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.

2015

14 May. A public consultation was held in the Osprey Hotel, Naas to discuss how Co. Kildare could commemorate the 1916 Rising

20 May. Members of the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee visited Árdcoil na Tríonoide, Athy to ask the pupils what they wanted to see and do in the centenary year.

10 June. Patrician Primary School pupils presented their play 'Off to the Front' in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, as part of June Fest.

11 June. Minister Heather Humphreys visited Áras Chill Dara, Naas where an honour guard was provided by Patrician Primary pupils in British Army uniform in remembrance of the Newbridge men who died in World War I.

10 July. Sixty-six Decade of Commemorations grants were confirmed to local groups.

6 August. Ardclough-Celbridge-Leixlip 1916 Rising Commemoration Committee began its programme with a talk 'Tom Clarke, Father of the Irish Republic,' by Jim Doyle, in Celbridge Community Library.

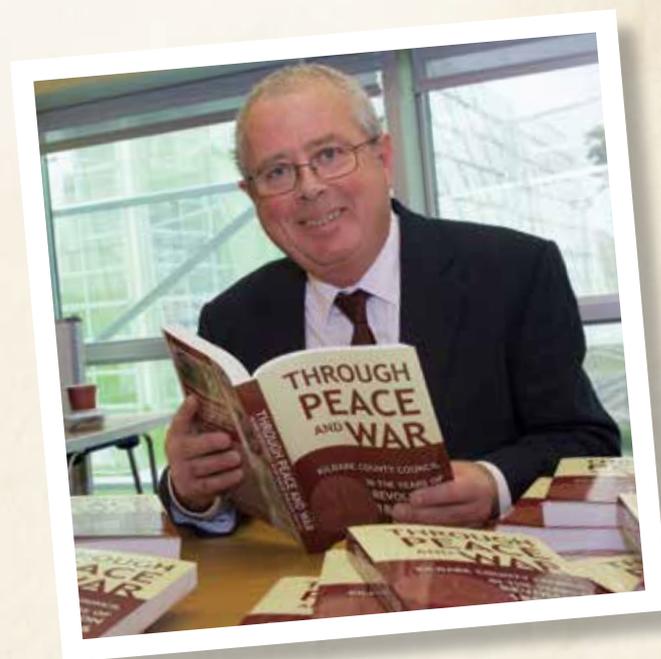
5 September. James Durney, Co. Kildare Historian in Residence began his series of lectures 'Foremost and ready. Kildare and 1916,' to Kildare Printmakers in Clane Parish Hall.

7 September. Celbridge Local History Group Lecture Series 'Art O'Connor,' by James Durney, Celbridge Community Library.

29 September. Castledermot Local History Group Lecture Series, 'Foremost and ready. Kildare and 1916,' by James Durney, Teach Diarmada Community Centre.

1 October. Mary Hannon, a pupil of St. Raphael's Special School, Celbridge, was presented with the national flag by members of the Defence Forces to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising. Mary's great-grandfather Michael Lynch, from Milford, Kilmaine, Co. Mayo, was a commandant in the South Mayo Brigade, IRA.

8 October. Second class pupil, Sam Wynne, had the honour of receiving the national flag and Proclamation at St. Patrick's National School, Newbridge. His great-grandfather and great-granduncle Patrick and John Moore fought in the GPO.



15 October. Ardclough-Celbridge-Leixlip 1916 Rising Commemoration Committee lecture, 'Women of the Revolution,' by Liz Gillis, Celbridge Community Library.

19 October. Thomas Nelson launched his book *Through Peace and War: Kildare County Council in the Years of Revolution, 1899-1926* in Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas.

21 October. 1916 Sackville Art Project created 262 individual crafted model houses for each civilian killed in the Rising. The art project was launched in Athy Heritage Centre and travelled to other venues across the country, including outside the GPO. It was devised by Athy artist Ciara O'Keeffe and developed with Aisling Moran, Maggie Owens and Sharon Harris Byrne.

23-24 October. Two concerts performed by Mona Conroy, Owen C. Lynch and Showstoppers at Naas Town Hall to commemorate the centenary of Percy French's performances there.

24 October. Kildare Federation of Local History Groups Annual Seminar, Kilcullen Town Hall. Guest speaker was Adhamhnán Ó Súilleabháin who gave a presentation on his grandfather, Domhnall Ua Buachalla, 1916 veteran.

25 October. The unveiling of a statue to John Devoy at Poplar Square, Naas, marked the official start of Co. Kildare's centenary commemorations. Mayor of Kildare Cllr. Brendan Weld and US Ambassador Kevin O'Malley unveiled the statue whom P. H. Pearse called the 'greatest of the Fenians'.



The erection of the statue was a joint collaboration between the John Devoy Committee of the Kildare Association, New York, the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee and Naas Local History Group.

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme was launched in McAuley Place, Naas, by Chair of the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee, Fiona O'Loughlin and Marian Higgins, County Co-ordinator.

12 November. Laochra Gael, Riverbank Theatre, Newbridge. Music by The Druids with uilleann piper Tommy Keane, Áine Holland and Shay Roche. Written by Alan O'Neill. Narration by Noel Shannon.

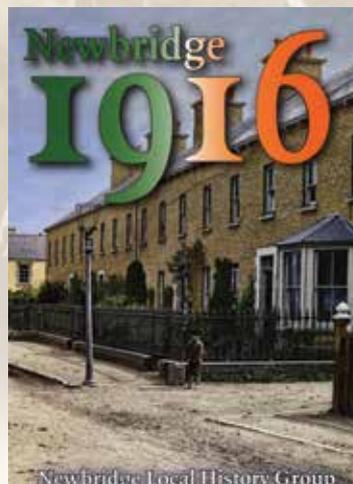
20 November. *Launch of Foremost and ready. Kildare and the 1916 Rising* by James Durney, Naas Town Hall.

28 November. Ardclough-Celbridge-Leixlip 1916 Rising Commemoration Committee day of readings, memorabilia display in the Celbridge House Hotel, Celbridge.

Prosperous singer-song-writer Seán Brennan performed his two new ballads, *We Remember the People of Easter 16* and *Seán MacDiarmada* at the event.

3 December. Official launch of the Maynooth 1916 Centenary Commemorations in the Scouts' Den, Maynooth.





25 January. 'Little Stories, Little Prints: A 1916 Commemorative Visual Arts Project through Printmaking,' launched a year-long programme of exhibitions and workshops at the Little Museum of Dublin, St. Stephen's Green. Devised and coordinated by Pamela

de Brí, assisted by Margaret Becker, director and studio manager of the Leinster Printmaking Studio, with support from Kildare County Council Arts and Library Services, the show involved fifteen artists from the Kildare area.

2016

1 January. Children from the Scoil Mhuire Choir, Newbridge, sang at the launch of the 1916 State Commemorative Programme at the National Convention Centre, Dublin, which was recorded for national broadcast. "The boys and girls are so excited to be part of this landmark event," said teacher Louise Moore "and it will be a wonderful way to kick-start our own school's 40th anniversary celebrations."

A ceremonial Flag Raising began the 1916 celebrations in Maynooth at 12 noon. The flag was designed by former Ceremonial Sergeant of the Defence Forces, Paul Clark. The flag flew in Courthouse Square, Maynooth for the year.

Michael Quinn, Maynooth was co-ordinator of the International Poetry Competition organised by Reclaim the Vision of 1916, a self-funded citizens' initiative. The event was run under the theme 'The Vision of 1916: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' with first prize the Thomas McDonagh Medal.

12 January-1 June: 'Kildare and the 1916 Rising' presentation with Mario Corrigan and James Durney, Kildare Library Service, was delivered to 96 schools.

19 January. Pat Nally, Coonough, launched a booklet, 'Carbury 1916 Rising and the War of Independence.'

20 January. The first screening of the documentary *John Devoy. The Greatest of the Fenians* by film maker Donal Higgins, Naas, took place in Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

26 January. Castledermot Local History Group Lecture Series, 'Archaeology of the Easter Rising' by Franc Myles, Teach Diarmada Community Centre.

30 January. Naas Art Group hosted the presentation 'Foremost and ready, Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' by James Durney at Naas Care of the Aged Centre.

4 February. On Grandparents' Day, Hannah O'Connor, a senior infant pupil in Presentation Girls School, Maynooth, paid tribute to her ancestor, Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell, by re-enacting the delivery of the rebels' surrender document.

9 February. 'Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' presentation by Mario Corrigan, Athy Heritage Centre.



11 February. The Maynooth 1916 Centenary Committee held a table quiz at Brady's Clockhouse, Maynooth, as a fundraiser for its 1916 centenary celebrations. A portrait of James Connolly, painted and donated by Billy McAndrew, was on display at the event and was auctioned after the ceremony on Easter Sunday.

An eight-week course 'Women of 1916' was run by Network Kildare in conjunction with Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board in the Further Education and Training Centre, Naas.

Rathcoffey History Group hosted the presentation 'Foremost and ready, Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' by James Durney, in Rathcoffey GAA Centre.

15 February. Official launch by Professor Terence Dooley, Maynooth University, of *Through Peace and War: Kildare County Council in the years of Revolution, 1899-1926* by Thomas Nelson, at Carton House, Maynooth.

17 February. Clane Local History Group and ballad group, Rossa, presented a night of 'Music, Song and Poetry relating to the 1916 Rising,' in Clane GAA Club, Prosperous Road, Clane.

Newbridge Resource Centre hosted the presentation 'Foremost and ready, Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' by James Durney.



19 February. Edenderry History Group hosted the presentation 'Foremost and ready, Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' by James Durney, as part of its 1916 Seminar, Oaklands Community College, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.

20 February. A plaque commemorating Edward Bridgeman, a member of C Company, 1st Battalion, Dublin Brigade, Irish Volunteers, was unveiled outside Lynch's shop, Celbridge.

Alice's Restaurant, Naas, hosted 'The Unmanageable Revolutionaries,' an evening of poetry and song.

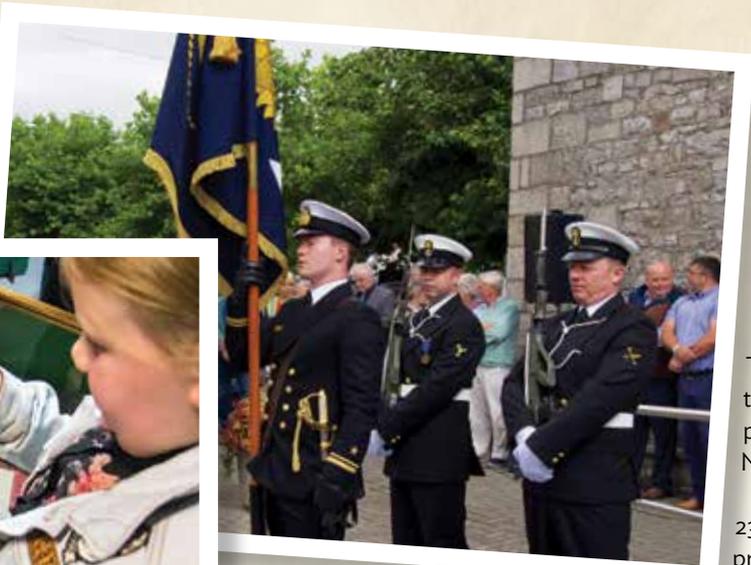
21 February. Unveiling of a plaque at Lawlor's Hotel, Naas, by Cllr. Frank O'Rourke, and Historian in Residence, James Durney to commemorate a dinner held for Kildare 1916 veterans in April 1949.

23 February. 'Remembrance and Rebellion 2016 Project,' an exhibition and celebration, took place at Solas Bhríde as part of Aontas Adult Learners' Festival, organised by the Community Education Service in Kildare town.

The Nationalist and Leinster Times newspaper began a series of ten articles on Co. Kildare personalities involved in the 1916 Rising.

Castledermot Local History Group Lecture Series, 'Ireland and India - Shared Histories,' by Kate O'Malley, Teach Diarmada Community Centre.

Maynooth Historical Society lecture, 'Patrick Colgan of the Maynooth 15,' by John Colgan.



28 February. Éamonn Ó Modhráin exhibition tracing the ideological journey of a prominent nationalist and republican, from Ballysax, the Curragh, was launched by Mayor of Kildare, Cllr. Brendan Weld, at the McKenna Gallery, Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

The artefacts on display were discovered by family member Robert Doyle, Athgarvan, while clearing out an attic in 2010. The exhibition ran until 18 March and then travelled to all libraries in Co. Kildare.

1-15 March. Scoil Mhuire Junior School, Ballymany, held a series of events including live music, sharing stories of 1916, dancing, pageant, flag raising ceremony and a reading of the Proclamation.

2 March. *Kildare Town. A year in the Life*, a book to commemorate the 1916 Rising and life in Kildare town, was launched by Cill Dara Historical Society and compiled under the guidance of Joe Connelly and Mario Corrigan. Followed by 'Foremost and ready, Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' presentation by James Durney.

Maynooth University launched an online archive, the 'Letters of 1916' Project, undertaken by the Digital Humanities Department and containing letters written between 1 November 1915 and 31 October 1916.

4 March. Larry Ward gave a presentation on Máire Ní Raghallaigh, a founder member of Conradh na Gaeilge in Naas at Gael-Choláiste Chill Dara.

5 March. Little Stories Little Prints Children's printmaking workshop, held at Maynooth Community Library.

8 March. Big Mountain Productions, Two Tube and RTE 2FM invited Kildare 11-17 year olds to create a one minute film or audio piece which documented or interpreted their personal response to Proclamation Day for a half-hour documentary - 'Project Proclamation.'

To celebrate National Tree Week and 1916 an oak tree, presented by the National Tree Council was planted at St. Conleth's and Mary's Primary School, Newbridge.

23rd Kildare Sallins Scout Troop hosted the presentation 'Foremost and ready, Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' by James Durney, at Sallins National School.

10 March. A workshop for adults and children to learn the lyrics and meaning of Amhrán na bhFiann, organised as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, in Naas Community Library.

11 March. The Curragh Post Primary School, joined by the Defence Forces, hosted 'Ireland from 1916 to 2016,' at the Curragh Gym. Military personnel were on hand to display the guns and equipment that would have been used in 1916.

Árdscoil na Tríonoide, Athy, held a day of commemorative events.

Holy Family Post Primary, Newbridge, held a day of commemorative events including presentations and a pageant.

12 March. The County Kildare Archaeological Society hosted a one-day seminar 'Remembering 1916,' at the Killashee House Hotel, Naas. The speakers included Professor Roy Foster; Professor Raymond Gillespie, Maynooth University; Hugh Crawford, President of CKAS; Dr. Darragh Gannon, National Museum of Ireland; Mario Corrigan, Executive Librarian, Local History Dept., Kildare County Council; Dr. Séamus Ó Maitiú; Gerard Long and Brigadier General (Retd.) John Martin.

14 March. Network Kildare and Community Education Service (KWETB) hosted an event in The Church on Main St., Naas to celebrate International Women's Day 2016. The keynote speaker was Marja Almqvist, founder of Yarn School, a community based textile studio in Goldenbridge, manager of the project '77 Women Commemoration Quilt' which was developed in co-operation with Richmond Barracks Restoration Project.

Probus Naas hosted the presentation 'Foremost and Ready, Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' by James Durney, Town House Hotel, Naas.

Midlands Prison, Portlaoise, hosted the presentation 'Foremost and Ready, Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' by James Durney.

15 March. Proclamation Day. Schools across the county hosted a special national flag raising ceremony and reading of the Proclamation. Many schools held other events such as ceilidhs, plays, musical recitals, and readings.

In Two-Mile-House National School, Shaun Pearse, 5th class, a great great grandson of James Connolly, had the honour of raising the flag. Another guest was Aileen Sheridan, a grandniece of Thomas McDonagh.

In Scoil Bhríde, Kilcullen, the national flag was raised by pupil Jack Carroll, whose great, great grandfather Peter Celestine McPartlin, fought as a member of the Hibernian Rifles in 1916.

Rathcoffey resident, Bernie Campbell, was less than five months old when the 1916 Rising took place in Dublin. He raised the flag on the day in St. Mochua's National School.

In Scoil Ide Naofa, Kilmeade, Aaron Buckley wore his grandfather's medals at the flag raising and reading of the Proclamation ceremonies.

The Nurney school celebration was attended by two great, great, great, grandchildren of James Connolly, Megan Broughall Pearse and Gavin Brennan Pearse.

In St. Conleth's Infant School, Newbridge, Louis Brugha, great grandson of Cathal Brugha and his father, Ruairi Brugha, raised the National Flag.

16 March. Newbridge Local History Group launched *Newbridge in 1916* at Bord na Móna in the former Reading and Recreation Room of Newbridge Barracks.

17 March. Many of the St. Patrick's Day parades in Co. Kildare had a 1916 theme. The Athy Parade theme was 'Life in Athy in 1916.'

The theme of the Newbridge parade was '1916 to 2016 – Commemorating 100 Years,' and was led by the Order of Ex-Servicemen and Women's Pipe and Drum Band. Leixlip's St. Patrick's Day Parade was led by Parade Marshal, Tom Malone, lifetime president of St. Mary's GAA Club, who has family links with the 1916 rebellion.

Comórtas Drámaíochta 'Súil siar ar 1916,' Moat Theatre, Naas. Comórtas drámaíochta trí Ghaeilge atá ar oscailt do gach grúpaí óige/drámaíocht/scoil lonnaithe i gCo Chill Dara amháin.



19 March. 'A Salute to 1916' exhibition at Craddockstown Golf Club by Pat Cullen.

20 March. Celbridge pianist and composer, Barbara Dunne, launched a CD in the Victorian Tearooms, Straffan Antiques, Barberstown, featuring sixteen classic Irish melodies of the 1916 era recorded as piano music.

22 March. Athy 1916 Commemoration Committee Lecture Series began in the Community Arts Centre, Woodstock Street, Athy, with 'Foremost and ready. Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' by James Durney.

A history talk on Ardclough and the 1916 Rising was hosted by Eoghan Corry in Ardclough GAA with stories from descendants of those who were involved.

23 March. *Madame de Markievicz on Trial*, a play written by Ann Matthews and directed by Anthony Fox was presented in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

24 March. The 1916 Rising Oral History Collection launched by Irish Life and Lore on Easter Thursday, Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge. It featured nine recordings compiled by Maurice O'Keefe, given by family members of Tom Byrne, organiser for County Kildare; Domhnall Ua Buachalla, Maynooth Company, Irish Volunteers; Pat and Jim Dunne, Kill Company, Irish Volunteers; Thomas Harris, Prosperous Company, Irish Volunteers; Seán McGlynn, Monasterevin, South Dublin Union garrison; Frank Burke, Carbury, GPO garrison; Eamon Broy, Rathangan, Dublin Metropolitan Police; Capt. Harry de Courcy Wheeler, British Army staff officer.





Captain Deirdre Carbery, (Naas) Defence Forces, was Master of Ceremonies at the State 1916 commemoration at the GPO. She paid tribute to her great-grandfather, Charles Carbery, who served with rebel leader Éamonn Ceannt during the Rising.



26 March. A ceremony organised by Celbridge Guided Tours to mark the 1916 Rising took place at the Slip at Castletown House gates. It included songs, a reading of the Proclamation and a raising of the Tricolour.

‘Conquered Not We Were’ written and directed by Martina Reilly, was staged by An Nuadha Players at St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth.

Monasterevin 1916 events started with a parade including local Scouts, Athy Pipe Band and the Lord Edward’s Own Re-enactment Group. A wreath was laid at the 1798 monument and children read the proclamation. There was a large scale re-enactment of the Battle of South Dublin Union.

A state event in the RDS, Dublin, on Easter Saturday, 26 March for over 4,500 relatives of those who participated in the Rising was attended by many Co. Kildare participants’ families, including Colette Collins, Booleigh, who wore the 1916 medals of her late father, James Prendergast. Roger and Viv O’Neill, grandchildren of Commandant James O’Neill, Leixlip, came from Pietermaritzburg, Natal Province, South Africa, for the 1916 Commemorations. O’Neill, a veteran of 1916, replaced James Connolly as leader of the Irish Citizen Army.

An Easter Rising event was run by Leixlip St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee. It began at the Fire Station, Mill Lane, and proceeded to the family home of Irish Citizen Army leader, James O’Neill, located at the top of Black Avenue.

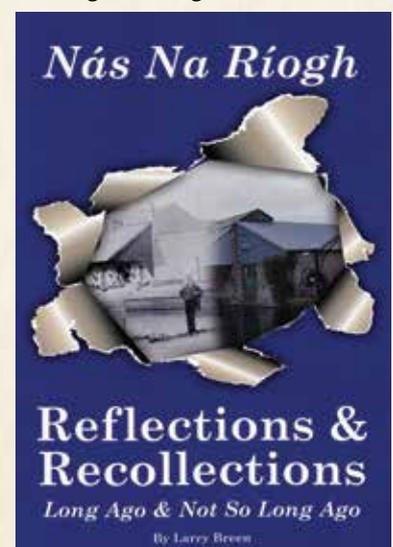
‘Road to Rebellion: Songs that roused a nation,’ the first of five countywide concerts, written by Mario Corrigan, held in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge. Philip Scott, Sophie O’Carroll, Donal Hennessey and Liam Quinlivan performed music and readings contemporary to 1916.

27 March. A 1916 Plaque of Remembrance was unveiled at the Kildare Town Commemorative Garden on Easter Sunday morning in the presence of Mary O’Connor, chairperson of Kildare Town Heritage Group and Pat Allen, President of Kildare Town Historical Society, local councillors and members of the public.

Joe Harris, nephew of Tom Harris, 1916 veteran, unveiled a plaque of the Proclamation in Newtown village on Easter Sunday.

The Naas Easter Parade took place to coincide with the celebrations around the county. The theme of parade was the 1916 Rising.

Paddy Murphy’s pub, Ballymore Eustace, got into the 1916 mood over the Easter weekend when proprietor Pat Murphy and staff donned period clothing. Many customers came dressed in vintage clothing and were treated to their first drink at 1916 prices.





28 March. On Easter Monday, the Maynooth 1916 Centenary Committee along with hundreds of people from Maynooth and further afield, reflected on the heroics of the fifteen men, who walked to the GPO to take part in the Easter Rising. Relatives of ten of the men who were in attendance were presented with plaques by Mayor of Kildare, Cllr. Brendan Weld, and Ted Robinson, General Manager, Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth, who sponsored the mementos. The Irish Military Vehicle Group re-enacted a battle scene from the Rising and colour parties were on hand from the Defence Forces Veterans Groups, Maynooth Scouts, St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band.

An Nuadha Players, staged 'Conquered Not We Were,' starting at St. Patrick's College and ending at Carton House, Maynooth.



'Road to Rebellion: Songs that roused a nation,' the second of five countywide concerts was held at Carton House. Philip Scott, Sophie O'Carroll, Donal Hennessey and Liam Quinlivan performed music and readings contemporary to 1916.

Griese Youth Theatre took part in RTE's Reflecting the Rising.

28 March. Athy 1916 Commemoration Committee Lecture Series in the Community Arts Centre, Woodstock Street, Athy, 'Saving the Honour of Tipp - Tipperary in 1916,' by Dr. Des Marnane.

29 March. Sgt. James Pearse, Mullacash, great grandson of James Connolly, read the Proclamation at the state commemoration of James Connolly at Liberty Hall. On 23 March, he attended Áras an Uachtaráin to represent his family. James Connolly's daughter, Aideen, married Hugh Ward, Monaghan, and they lived on the Dublin Road, Naas. She was Sgt. Pearse's grandmother.

Castledermot Local History Group Lecture Series, 'Remembering War and Revolution,' by Brian Hanley, Teach Diarmada Community Centre.

Kildare Derby Festival presented a week long 1916 exhibition in Áras Bhríde.

Ten-year-old Tommy Lee, Stage Door and More Drama Group, Johnstown, appeared in the RTE One show 'The 1916 challenge.' He recorded his scenes at No. 12 Henrietta Street, Dublin, where he played a young 1916 schoolboy.

Commissioned Centenary Works



31 March. Little Stories Little Prints Children's printmaking workshop, in Athy Community Library.

1 April. Teresa Brayton Heritage Group celebrated her contribution to the 1916 Rising with the launch of a book of her poetry selected by

Bernadette Gilligan *Hail to the flag*. Through the turbulent years in Newtown Community Hall. Teresa Brayton, Kilbrook, Kilcock, was instrumental in gathering funds for the Rising while living in America.

2 April. 'Road to Rebellion. Songs that roused a nation,' the third of five countywide concerts was held in Athy Arts Theatre. Philip Scott, Sophie O'Carroll, Donal Hennessy and Liam Quinlivan performed music and readings contemporary to 1916.

4 April. '1916 and the Irish Country House: A Kildare perspective,' lecture by Dr. Ciarán Reilly at Carton House, Maynooth.

Irish History Live – an interactive children's workshop, took place from 4-8 April in Athy, Naas, Leixlip, Kildare, Newbridge Community Libraries.

'Naas and 1916,' an evening of remembrance by Naas Local History Group, Town House Hotel, Naas.

5-9 April. 'Herstory – Defiant Women of 1916,' drama at The Moat Club, Naas. The drama, conceived by Anne Mekitarian and Bredha Sexton, was based on witness reports, speeches, diaries and letters concerning six women inextricably linked to the 1916 period.

'Kilcullen in 1916,' organised by John Martin and Mary Orford took place in the Town Hall. Mary presented a view of the life in 1916 with the help of census records, school attendance registers and contemporary photographs. She spoke about the participation of two Kilcullen residents in the Rising, Daisy Patterson, originally from Naas, and

Paddy Rankin, who cycled from Newry to Dublin to take part. John Martin presented, 'Military Aspects of Easter Week 1916.' 'Angels of Sixteen,' a song commemorating the forty children who died during the 1916 Rising was written and composed by Mick Dunne and Mary McDowell. Staplestown National School collaborated with Mick to produce the song and a video. On 5 April the fifth and sixth class pupils visited Glasnevin Cemetery to lay flowers and sing in remembrance of the young victims.

Commandant Stephen MacEoin returned to his former school, Maynooth Post Primary, to celebrate the Easter Rising. The event took place at the Maynooth Education Campus organised by Maynooth Post Primary and Maynooth Community College. Stephen, who is an archivist at Irish Military Archives, played a major role in the Ireland 1916/2016 Project Office.

An exhibition of lead sculptures by Pierce Maher of the signatories of the Proclamation was held in Crookstown Tearoom, Ballitore.

Athy 1916 Commemoration Committee Lecture Series in the Community Arts Centre, Woodstock Street, Athy, 'Looters, Deserters and Crime in Dublin in 1916,' by Padraig Yeates.

6 April. Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív, grandson of Éamon de Valera, gave the Cill Dara Historical Society 2016 Giraldu Cambrensis lecture on 'Éamon de Valera and Captain Eto Hitzen – the extraordinary story of Éamon de Valera and the British officer who arrested him in 1916,' at Solas Bhríde, Kildare.

7-8 April. *A Terrible Beauty Exposed!* a new play written by Mario Corrigan and directed by Lianne O'Shea, premiered at the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge. The play was written to help young minds interpret the events of the Rebellion. The audience were the jury and voted on whether P. H. Pearse or General John Maxwell were the guilty parties in the events presented.

7 April. Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge presented 'Dublin Burning,' an anthology of music, songs and poetry commemorating the 1916 Rising by Mike Hanrahan and Brendan Begley. Support act was Cathú.

8 April. Athy Film Club hosted 'Nine Short Films' inspired by 1916 in Athy Community College. 'The people, sights and sounds of Athy in 1916,' an accompanying exhibition ran until 17 April.

8 April. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann, Craobh Bheartla Uí Fhlatharta, presented 'Memories of 1916,' in St. Mary's GAA Clubhouse, Leixlip, produced by Anna Pegley and Ciarán Fitzgerald, musical director.

8-9 April. Orla Gildea School of Speech and Drama presented 'An Act of Bravery,' in Prosperous Theatre.

9 April. This all-day event '1916-2016. A Step Back in Time', in Athy Heritage Centre-Museum and Emily Square, was an experience of everyday life in Athy in 1916. People mingled with Irish Volunteers, British soldiers, R.I.C. men and people in the dress of the period. An exhibition, 'Athy in 1916,' was held in the museum. James Durney's lecture 'Volunteer Mark Wilson and Cadet William Keegan. Two Athy men in the Easter Rising,' was held in the Museum's audio-visual room. Music at Emily Square was by local band, Rockabilly Rebels. Mrs. Anna Duthie opened her shop, W. T. Duthie's, which is one of two remaining shops in Athy unchanged since 1916.

10 April. Elaine Nolan gave a performance of originally composed music, 'A Rebel's Heart,' with singers and musicians from Co. Kildare, in St. Mary's Church, Maynooth.

10-23 April. Insight Theatre Group staged a production of 'The Risen People,' by James Plunkett in the Kildrough Lounge, Celbridge, directed by Joe Bergin.

11-15 April. 'Where's Pádraig?' Genealogy presentation in Athy Library, Mercy Convent, Naas, St. Brigid's Primary School, Kildare, San Carlo National School, Leixlip, Newbridge Library, with Karel Kiely.

'Seán Mac Diarmada,' presentation by Mary Healy at Gael-Choláiste Chill Dara, Naas.

12 April. Athy 1916 Commemoration Committee Lecture Series, Community Arts Centre, Woodstock Street, Athy 'From Lockout to Rising: the ITGWU, ICA, and Liberty Hall in 1916,' by Francis Devine.



Newbridge Youthreach Centre hosted a talk by James Durney, 'Foremost and ready. Kildare and the 1916 Rising'

13 April. The Irish Wheelchair Association, Clane hosted a talk by Dr. Tom Clonan 'Fighting for Ireland - A personal Reflection of the Easter Rising,' Parish Centre, Clane.

Kildare Town Library's Think Tank group welcomed historian Robert Doyle to introduce the Éamonn Ó Modhráin exhibition.

Éamon Ó Cuív unveiled a commemorative plaque in Prosperous in memory of local man Tom Harris who was a member of the GPO garrison in 1916.

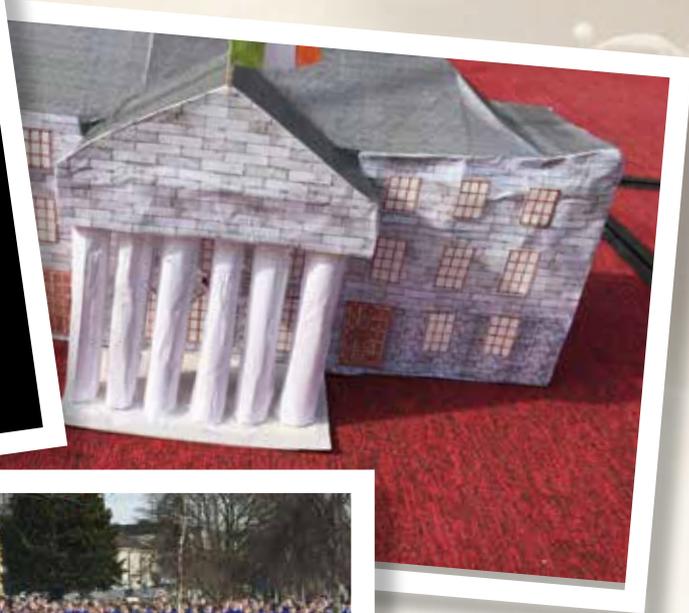
14 April. Three descendants of 1916 leader James Connolly raised the flag at Suncroft National School. They were Emma Wilson (4th class), Shaun Wilson (1st class), and Daryl Dagger (1st class). Their great-great-grandmother was Aideen Connolly Ward, daughter of James Connolly.

14-22 April. Kill Musical and Dramatic Society presented an evening of one act plays including 'The Guns of 1916,' written and directed by Brian McCabe in the Dew Drop Inn.

14-30 April. 'What 1916 means to Me,' exhibition, Athy Community Arts Centre, featuring works of art by local school children including wall hangings, portraits and colourful recreations of Dublin's GPO.

17 April. The conclusion of 'Athy Remembers 1916-2016' took place with a solemn commemoration of the 1916 Proclamation.





Special guest was eighty-four year old Mark Wilson, Dublin, whose father, Mark Wilson, a native of Athy, was a Volunteer in the Four Courts garrison during Easter Week. Mr. Wilson laid a wreath at a recently unveiled plaque to the men and women of 1916.

The Enfield 1916 Commemorative Garden was unveiled opposite the Johnstown Estate Hotel,

Co. Kildare and was a joint Kildare-Meath project.

‘Little Stories Little Prints,’ a visual arts project was displayed in the Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, featuring 1916 stories told through the medium of print-making. It was devised and co-ordinated by Pamela de Brí and Margaret Becker, director and manager of the Leinster Print-making Studio, Clane.

19 April. Rathangan History Group lecture, ‘Tom Clarke. Father of the Irish Republic,’ by Jim Doyle was held in Rathangan Community Library.

20 April. *Coiseanna. The Journal of Clane Local History Group* was launched in Clane GAA Club by Des Marron, and included local stories relating to the Easter Rising

21 April. Leixlip History Club lecture, ‘Kildare County Council and the Rising, War of Independence and the Civil War,’ by Thomas Nelson, was held in Leixlip Community Library.

Launch of ‘Naas – Then and Now 1916–2016,’ a photographic exhibition of old Naas streetscapes, shop fronts and buildings, in Naas Community Library, organised by Larry Breen, of the National Federation of Local History Groups which ran until 30 April.

22 April. Suncroft Art Group painted portraits of the seven signatories which were displayed in the museum at Arbour Hill Military Cemetery.

23 April. ‘Walk in their Footsteps,’ organised by the Maynooth 1916 Centenary Committee, was a re-enactment of the ‘Maynooth 15’ walk to the GPO on Easter Monday 1916. Over 100 participants re-created this historic event from Maynooth along the Royal Canal to the Garden of Remembrance, Dublin, where they were welcomed by the Mayor of Dublin, Críona Ní Dhálaigh.

‘Remembering Teresa Brayton in Poetry and Song,’ event was held in Kilcock GAA Club and incorporated songs and tunes from 1916 by Comhaltas members.

‘Road to Rebellion. Songs that roused a nation,’ the fourth of five countywide concerts, was held in Castletown House, Celbridge. Philip Scott, Sophie O’Carroll, Donal Hennessey and Liam Quinlivan performed music and readings contemporary to 1916.

24 April. The County Kildare Garden of Remembrance was opened by Mayor of Kildare, Cllr. Brendan Weld at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, featuring a Proclamation stone and seven limestone columns, representing each of the men who signed the 1916 Proclamation.

‘The Rebellion Run,’ including the Maynooth 10K Run and Family 5K Walk, took place from the Maynooth Education Campus with several hundred people taking part.

Johnny Peters, Newbridge, launched Tears of The Rebellion, a tribute to the men and women of 1798 and 1916 in the Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge.

One Voice – Allenwood Contemporary Choir held a celebration of Irish music and song in Allenwood GAA Hall. The event was produced and narrated by Aidan Donoghue. It included figure dancing by Alan McCormack’s Dance Group and set dancing by Brendan Swords and friends.

Paul Linehan, Kildare town teacher sang on 16 Letters which was recorded in the GPO hosted by Ryan Tubridy.

A wreath laying ceremony in honour of Kildare poet, Teresa Brayton, was held at Cloncurry Graveyard.



Celbridge Art Group ShareRing Skills presented a film and photography exhibition in Tea Lane Graveyard, Celbridge, created around the theme of rebellion and remembrance. Funded by Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board.

Sgt. James Pearse, great grandson of James Connolly, read the Proclamation at a flag-raising ceremony in the Square, Ballymore-Eustace. An old republican flag was raised by a descendant of Richard Mulcahy, former Army General and Commander in Chief. Eleven-year-old Ciara Cooke read a piece on the death of her relative, baby Sean Foster, whose father hailed from Ballymore-Eustace.

Newbridge Parish marked the 1916 Rising with a Prayer for Peace Service in St. Conleth's Church.

A screening of the John Devoy documentary 'The greatest of the Fenians,' took place in the Moat Theatre, Naas, followed by a question and answer session with film maker Donal Higgins and Historian in Residence, James Durney.

'Road to Rebellion: Songs that roused a nation,' the last of five countywide concerts was held at Naas Town Hall. Philip Scott, Sophie O'Carroll, Donal Hennessey and Liam Quinlavin performed music and readings contemporary to 1916.

25 April. Kill Local History Group hosted a talk by James Durney 'Foremost and ready. Kildare and the 1916 Rising,' at Kill Parish Hall.

26 April. St. Farnan's Post Primary School, Prosperous, held an evening of poetry, songs and drama.

Dr. Fionnuala Walsh gave a lecture in the Stable Wing, Castletown House, Celbridge, entitled 'These are queer days that we are living through. Irishwomen and everyday life in 1916.'

Transition Year students at Árd scoil na Tríonóide, Athy presented a play '1916, Junior Cert History Homework,' with the help of their history teacher, Ms. Róisín O'Byrne.



Sgt. James Pearse, Mullacash, great grandson of James Connolly was received by President Michael D. Higgins and read the Proclamation at Liberty Hall in Dublin on Easter Tuesday. James Connolly's daughter, Aideen Connolly, married Hugh Ward; their daughter Nora and her husband, Peter Pearse, Naas, are parents of Sgt. Pearse.

'Herstory – Defiant Women of 1916' was invited to the Pearse Museum following its successful run at the Moat Theatre, Naas.

28 April. 'Tom Ashe. Another martyr for old Ireland,' presentation by Historian in Residence James Durney, Celbridge Community Library. Tom Ashe led the most successful event of the Rising – the Battle of Ashbourne. His family moved to Co. Kildare in the 1920s and many relatives attended the event.

30 April. Children's Art 1916 exhibition including a giant proclamation to read and sign, held at Athy Community Arts Centre.

30 April-1 May. Ardclough Drama Group, St. Anne's Choir and Ardclough Youth Theatre presented 'Eyes with Hope Gleaming,' in Ardclough GAA Club.

4 May. Kilkea Church hosted a reading with Tom Clowry that commemorated 1916.

8 May. 'Domhnall Ua Buachalla – 1916 Veteran,' lecture by his grandson Adhamhnán Ó Súilleabháin was hosted by Kildare Archaeological Society, in the John Hume Building, North Campus, Maynooth University.



27 May. Leixlip History Group 1916 Essay Competition presentation of prizes to the pupils of Scoil Eoin Phól, Leixlip.

31 May. Castledermot Local History Group Lecture Series ‘Castledermot in 1918: land and labour,’ by Terry Dunne, chairperson, at Teach Diarmada Community Centre.



9 May. ‘Protestant Rebels and the 1916 Rising,’ lecture by Conor Morrissey, hosted by Celbridge Historical Society, Celbridge Community Library.

9-10 May. The theme of 14th Annual Historic Houses of Ireland Conference in Maynooth University was ‘The Country House and

Landed Estate in Time of Revolution.’ It also featured the launch of the the exhibition ‘1916 and the Irish Country House,’ which was curated by Dr. Ciarán Reilly.

13 May. ‘Kildare and the 1916 Rising,’ presentation by Mario Corrigan and James Durney, Kildare Local Studies Department at the Cadet School, Pearse Barracks, Curragh Camp.

13-28 May. Launch of 1916 Sackville Art Project, which created 262 individual model houses for each civilian killed during Easter Week 1916, Town Hall, Newbridge. The exhibition continued for two weeks.

18-21 May. Naas Art Group exhibition entitled ‘The Artist Remembers 1916,’ based on poetry and stories of the time. It comprised forty works by members and seven entries from the Naas Schools’ Competition.

26 May. *The Frank Burke Story* written by Éanna de Búrca (Frank’s son) and Gerry Cummins (Carbury) was launched in St. Enda’s (now the Pearse Museum), St. Enda’s Park, Grange Road, Rathfarnham. Frank Burke, Coonough, Carbury, was a pupil and close friend of P. H. Pearse and later headmaster of St. Enda’s. He fought in the GPO along with his sister Eva, who was a nurse there.

31 May-1 June. ‘*Inis Free 1916*’, a production by fifth and sixth class students, Patrician Primary School, Newbridge at Riverbank Arts Centre, was written and directed by teacher Frances T. Kirke. James Tooher was the musical director

May. At Ballinacorney Cemetery three 1916 Rising participants from North Kildare were remembered. They were Michael Cosgrove a member of the Four Courts garrison; William Mulreany, a British soldier, and Michael Kavanagh, a civilian, both of whom died in the Rising.

May. Moonfish Theatre, Riverbank Arts Centre and Kildare Library Services transformed the Kildare Mobile Library into an adventure through history with an immersive show which invited audiences to step into a world where the sights, sounds, smells and textures of Kildare in 1916 were hidden around every corner.

8 June. ‘Fun and Games. A hundred years ago,’ a one day event organised by South Kildare Photography Club and the Patrician Primary School, Newbridge, took place at the school and the nearby playing fields. Games included tug-of-war, conkers, wheelbarrow race, egg and spoon race, skittles, hopscotch and push penny.

11 June. Little Stories Little Prints Children’s printmaking workshop, in Celbridge Community Library.

16 June. Michael Rowley’s exhibition ‘The artist remembers 1916,’ was launched by Brig. Gen. Joe Mulligan, GOC Curragh Camp, at the Curragh Military Museum. The exhibition continued until 5 September.



19 June. Carbury Parish Field Day included a parade with 1916 veteran Frank Burke's son, Eanna de Burca as Grand Marshal. Frank Burke was remembered at the event with an exhibition commemorating the period from 1916 to 1921.

The annual Robertstown Village Fayre recalled the 1916 surrenders and the role of British Army captain, Harry de Courcy-Wheeler, a Robertstown native. The highlight of the event was a keynote address by Alex Findlater, grandson of de Courcy-Wheeler who has written 1916 Surrenders – Captain H. E. de Courcy-Wheeler's, eye-witness account.

25 June. 'Revolution! 1916,' an outdoor exhibition by Newbridge artist, Paul Woods, featured a series of large paintings focusing on the urban destruction during the 1916 Rising. The exhibition was on display until 30 September.

30 June. Celbridge-Leixlip-Ardclough 1916 Commemoration Committee Lecture Series, 'James Connolly,' by his grandson, James Connolly-Heron, took place in Celbridge Community Library.

2 July. 'Wasteland,' open air drama inspired by the Rising with Griese Youth Theatre Group, at the Meeting House, Ballitore.

7 July. 'Kildaremen and the Battle of the Somme 1916,' series of talks by James Durney, Kildare Town Community Library.

The Nationalist and Leinster Times newspaper published a series of articles on Kildare and the Somme.

'1916 and the Irish Country House: A Kildare perspective,' lecture by Dr. Ciarán Reilly at Castletown House, Celbridge.

13 July. Little Stories Little Prints Children's printmaking workshop, at Newbridge Community Library.

25 July. A commemorative plaque was unveiled for 1916 veteran Michael Heffernan in Tea Lane Cemetery, Celbridge. He was buried there in 1954 in an unmarked grave.

4 August. Celbridge-Leixlip-Ardclough 1916 Commemoration Committee Lecture series, 'Roger Casement,' by Jim Doyle, in Celbridge Community Library.

11 August. A 1916 Garden of Remembrance was unveiled on the banks of the Rye River by Leixlip Tidy Town Association and Kildare County Council.

20 August. Little Stories Little Prints Children's printmaking workshop, at Kildare Town Community Library.

22 August. 'Kildaremen and the Battle of the Somme 1916,' series of talks by James Durney, in Kill Parish Hall

23 August. An exhibition by the Irish Military Vehicle Group featured a talk on the Battle of the Somme, by Barry Walsh and Tony Vaughan, Lord Edward's Own Re-enactment Group, at Monasterevin Community Library.

'Kildaremen and the Battle of the Somme 1916' series of talks by James Durney, in Athy Community Library.



24 August. Maynooth University Lecture Series at the John Paul II Library, featured ‘Foremost and ready. Kildare and the 1916 Rising,’ by James Durney and ‘Kildare County Council and the Rising, War of Independence and the Civil War’ by Thomas Nelson.

27 August. Ballymore Eustace History Society held a 1913-1923 exhibition, including a talk by James Durney ‘Foremost and ready. Kildare and the 1916 Rising,’ at Ballymore Resource Centre.

30 August. Unveiling of the Ernest Shackleton statue by the Mayor of Kildare, Cllr. Ivan Keatley and Alexandra Shackleton, his grand-daughter, at Emily Square, Athy. It marked the 100th anniversary of the rescue by Shackleton of the crew of the *Endurance* from Elephant Island, 30 August 1916. *Endurance* exhibition by Pauline Garavan was also on view in Athy Community Library.

30-31 August. ‘Mise Eire – 1916 Remembered,’ a musical drama at Naas Town Hall, produced by Mona Conroy and Owen C. Lynch.

2 September. Clane Local History Group lecture, ‘1916 and the Big House – a Kildare perspective,’ by Dr. Ciarán Reilly, at Clane GAA Club.

8-9 September. ‘Commemoration of the Rising and the Somme,’ a series of lectures held at Maynooth University.

9 September. Aontas Ógra presented the music and songs of the Easter Rising era, Athy Youth Centre.

15 September. Aogán Ó Fearghail, GAA President, unveiled a plaque at Kilcock GAA Club dedicated to people from the area who took part in the events surrounding 1916, including Tom Harris, Teresa Brayton, John Kenny and Michael Cowley.

16 September. Culture Night. Newbridge Local History Group talk by Mary Ryan at the graveside of Máire Ní Raghallaigh, founder member of Conradh na Gaeilge, in Barretstown Cemetery, Newbridge.

Artist Paul Woods gave a guided tour of ‘Revolution! 1916,’ his outdoor exhibition at Áras Chill Dara.

‘A Portrait of Memories, Kilcullen 1916-2016,’ presentation by Mary Orford using recordings of interviews with ten local residents, and local links to WWI and the Easter Rising.

17 September. Kildare County Council’s Annual Play Day at Áras Chill Dara focused on children and the social history of 1916, including games, food, clothing and an immersive theatre piece for children.

Unveiling of a monument to Colonel Eamon ‘Ned’ Broy by Charlie Flanagan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Áine Broy, his daughter, at Coolygagen Cemetery, Rathangan.

‘Ireland’s Call. The Kildare diaspora and the 1916 Rising,’ seminar chaired by Dr. Ciarán Reilly, John Hume Building, Maynooth University. Included a tour of the Domhnall Ua Buachalla exhibition in the Russell Library and a screening of the documentary ‘*John Devoy – the greatest of the Fenians.*’ Speakers included James Durney, Michael Kenny, Olive Morrin and Frances Christ, New York City, granddaughter of Clan na Gael organiser, John Kenny.

Little Stories Little Prints Children’s printmaking workshop, in Naas Community Library.

1 October. Castledermot Vintage Club unveiled a plaque to Thomas P. Dunne at O’Neill’s Pub, Doyle’s Bridge, Castledermot. Thomas Dunne was shot dead on election day, 16 June 1922.

5 October. Cill Dara Historical Society Lecture Series ‘Cumann na mBan in Co. Kildare,’ by Josie Devis at Áras Bhríde, Kildare.



8 October. Annual seminar of the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups, at Kilcullen Heritage Centre. Historian Sinead McCoolle launched the exhibition 'Mná 1916 – Women 1916,' and spoke about women's role in the Rising. The exhibition was open to the public from 8-12 October.



The Friends of John Devoy held a ceremony at the Devoy statue, Poplar Square, Naas to commemorate the first anniversary of its unveiling.

12 October. 1916 Resource Pack for schools distributed to all primary and secondary schools in Co. Kildare.

14 October. An historical symposium on Michael Collins was held in the Osprey Hotel, Naas, with talks by local and national figures, including a niece of Kitty Kiernan, his girlfriend.

14-16 October. Kildare Readers' Festival hosted 1916 related projects, notably an evening with Joe Duffy and Helen Litton, '*Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times: 1916 Through the Eyes of ordinary Dublin Citizens,*' in Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

15 October. Naas GAA celebrated its 129th anniversary and 1916 with a display of memorabilia by the Irish Volunteers Commemorative Organisation. There was a flag raising ceremony and performance of 'Mise Éire,' followed by a musical evening with ballad group, Rossa.

'Kildare Artist's Notebook Project' included an exhibition of the work of artists from around the county who were inspired by 1916 to create a notebook of drawings, writings and sketches.

22 October. Little Stories Little Prints Children's printmaking workshop, in Leixlip Community Library.

25 October. Castledermot Local History Group Lecture Series, 'The Gifford Sisters and 1916' by Tom Clowry, in Teach Diarmada Community Centre.

11 November. *Athy and District World War 1 Roll of Honour* by Clem Roche was launched by Frank Taaffe at the Athy Heritage Centre-Museum.

13 November. The William Pearse/Abbeylands Residents' Association unveiled a plaque featuring the Proclamation while also honouring William Pearse. The Castledermot estate was opened in 1973 bearing his name.





18 November. ‘Children of the Revolution,’ a concert featuring traditional musicians and singers from throughout Ireland descended from men and women who were involved in the 1916 Easter Rising, took place at Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge. Devised by Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert. Special Guests: 6th class pupils from Scoil Mhuire Senior School, Ballymany, Newbridge.

24 November. Launch by Liam Kenny of *Nás Na Ríogh: Reflections and Recollections. Long ago and not so long ago* by Larry Breen, in Council Chamber, Naas Town Hall

26 November. Kildare County Council won the Sustaining the Arts Award at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards for the 1916 Sackville Street Art Project.

1 December. President Michael D. Higgins visited the Curragh to unveil seven commemorative stones to the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation.

4 December. Robertstown Vintage Village Fayre unveiled a 1916 Proclamation stone and memorial bench at Canalside, Robertstown.

5 December: Naas Local History Group launched two books in the Town House Hotel, Naas: *A rebel’s desk. Séumas and Michael O’Kelly, Leinster Leader editors in a revolutionary time* compiled and edited by James Durney with Liam Kenny, and *Looking Back at revolutionary Kildare 1912-1916*, a collection of articles from Liam Kenny’s weekly Leinster Leader column.

10 December. Official Closing Ceremony of Kildare’s 1916 Commemorations, Arás Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas. Presentations to nine Co. Kildare centenarians, followed by prize giving to eight winners of the 1916 Schools’ Poetry contest and 14 winners of the 1916 Lapel Pin design competition. Launch of *Seven Signatories: Tracing the Family Histories of the Men Who Signed the Proclamation*, by Paul Gorry.

The Maynooth 1916 Centenary Committee and Maynooth Tidy Towns planted fifteen oak trees to honour the fifteen men from Maynooth Company, Irish Volunteers who took part in the Rising.

13 December. *Curragh Life in 1916* by the Curragh Local History Group was launched by Monsignor John MacDonald in Ceannt NCO’s Mess, Curragh Camp. Brig. General Joe Mulligan, GOC DFTC appointed Reggie Darling as Historian in Residence of the Curragh Camp.

15 December. Run of the Mill Inclusive Theatre Company and Choices Day Programme, St. John of God’s Services Liffey region presented ‘The Plough and the Stars,’ at Celbridge Manor Hotel, Celbridge.

18 December. ‘From the plains – The story of John Devoy,’ a play and music by Fia Rua, held in Duck and Cup Café, Moat Theatre, Naas.

22 December. Unveiling of a statue in Newry dedicated to the late Patrick Rankin, formerly of Nicholastown, Kilcullen, organised by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. His daughter, Patsy O’Halloran (90) of Kilcullen and her sister Kate Bishop (82) performed the unveiling ceremony on the Dublin Bridge, Newry. Plinth inscription was done by Kilcullen artisan, Joe O’Connor.

28 December. Narraghmore Vintage Club held a 1916 themed celebration with participation from the Narraghmore Development Association, Griese Youth Theatre Group, Kildoon High Nelly Bicycle Club, Narraghmore Pipe Band and Kildare Hunt.

29 December. *William A. Byrne. Teacher, scholar, poet* launched by Des Egan in Dillon’s, Rathangan. This book was a collaboration between the Bluebells and Buskers Committee and the Rathangan Historical Group.

31 December. Closing ceremony of the Maynooth 1916 Centenary Committee took place with the lowering of the ‘Maynooth 15’ flag at the Town Square.

Unveiling of a monument at the Three Counties Pub, Maganey Cross to the Laois Volunteers who cut the wires on the railway line at Maganey on Easter Sunday night, 1916 on direct orders from P. H. Pearse. This monument was a joint collaboration between the County Laois 1916 Commemoration Committee and the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee.



O'Connell



Remains of Abbey Street





LEGACY

We considered it important that County Kildare would be remembered for how it commemorated the centenary of the 1916 Rising and pledged to leave an archive of research, cultural and artistic material for posterity – not merely to commemorate these historic events, but to understand, debate and embrace them; to create a lasting legacy for future generations as only we could.

Part of creating this legacy was to encourage the production of new material. County Kildare's role in the period was documented and captured throughout the year in a variety of ways and media formats – books, booklets, music and drama; art, film and social media; historical re-enactment and re-interpretation.

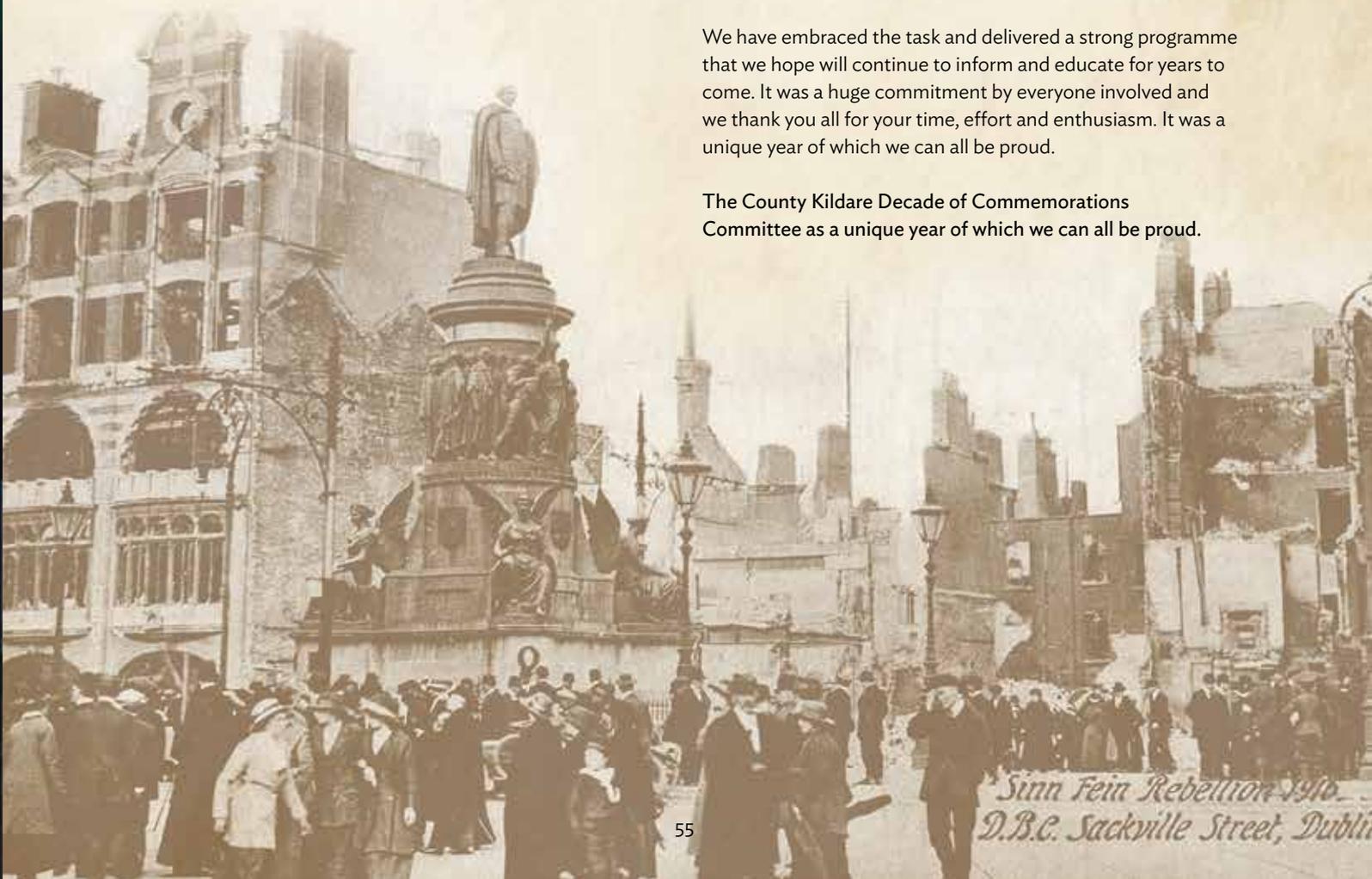
Some key projects come to mind. We remembered some of the key participants in the Rising; an exhibition on the life of Éamonn O'Modhráin, a statue of John Devoy, while a plaque and book were dedicated to Teresa Brayton. The civilian casualties were commemorated by the 1916 Sackville Street Art Project which created a unique house inspired by each of their lives.

The journey of the fifteen Maynooth Volunteers to the GPO was the inspiration for a special re-enactment walk. County Kildare's school children were at the centre of the programme as they participated in art, poetry and historical essay competitions, pageants, flag raising ceremonies and the schools' lecture series.

In the future County Kildare will be judged on how it commemorated the centenaries of 1916, World War I, the War of Independence and the Civil War. It was not just a time of conflict, political change and upheaval, but of radical social change and progress, as women took their rightful place at the polling stations, the dreaded workhouses were abolished, and Irish people seized control of their own destiny, economy and everyday lives.

We have embraced the task and delivered a strong programme that we hope will continue to inform and educate for years to come. It was a huge commitment by everyone involved and we thank you all for your time, effort and enthusiasm. It was a unique year of which we can all be proud.

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee as a unique year of which we can all be proud.



Books/Booklets: Leabhair / Leabhráin

Through Peace and War: Kildare County Council 1899-1926. Thomas Nelson.

Foremost and ready: Kildare and the 1916 Rising. James Durney.

Kildare Town. A Year in the Life. Mario Corrigan and Joseph Connelly, Cill Dara Historical Society.

A Selection of Recommended Reads, from Kildare County Library Service, to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

Newbridge in 1916. Newbridge Local History Group.

Irish Rebel: John Devoy and America's fight for Ireland's freedom. Terry Golway.

A Forgotten Hero – John Devoy. Compiled and edited by James Durney, Mario Corrigan and Seamus Curran.

Hail to the Flag. Through the turbulent years. Teresa Brayton Heritage Group.

The Maynooth 15 Remembered. James Durney and Henry Flynn.

William A. Byrne: Teacher, Scholar, Poet. Rathangan Community Group.

Seven Signatories: Tracing the Family Histories of the Men Who Signed the Proclamation. Paul Gorry.

Nás Na Ríogh: Reflections and Recollections. Long ago and not so long ago. Larry Breen.

A rebel's desk. Séumas and Michael O'Kelly, Leinster Leader editors in a revolutionary time. Naas Local History Group.

Looking back at Revolutionary Kildare 1916. Naas Local History Group.

Curragh Life in 1916. Curragh Local History Group.

Witness: Kildare Accounts of the 1916 Rising. Mario Corrigan.

Shackleton: The Voyage of the James Caird. Gavin Cumiskey and David Butler.

A Terrible Beauty Exposed. Mario Corrigan.

A Terrible Beauty Exposed: 1916 Resource Pack. Mario Corrigan, James Durney, Karel Kiely .

The Sackville Street Project. Ciara O'Keeffe et. al.

Little Stories, Little Prints. Leinster Printmaking Studio.

CD/DVD: Dlúthdhiosca / Físdiosca

CD - *The Road to Rebellion: Songs of the Rising.* Philip Scott

DVD - *Devoy: The Greatest of the Fenians.* Donal Higgins

Resource Material for Schools:**Ábhair acmhainní do Scoileanna**

A Terrible Beauty Exposed: 1916 Resource Pack. Mario Corrigan, James Durney, Karel Kiely (Primary and Secondary)

CD - *The Road to Rebellion.* Philip Scott (Primary and Secondary)

Seven Signatories: Tracing the Family Histories of the Men Who Signed the Proclamation. Paul Gorry (Primary and Secondary)

Witness: Kildare Accounts of the 1916 Rising. Mario Corrigan (Secondary)

Exhibitions: Taispeántais

Éamon Ó Modhráin, Riverbank Arts Centre; Main branch libraries in Co. Kildare.

The Sackville Street Art Project, O'Connell St. and the Botanic Gardens, Dublin; Town Hall, Newbridge; Galway. Artist Ciara O'Keeffe and Sackville Street Art Project.

Battle of the Somme, Áras Chill Dara.

Revolution 1916! Art Exhibition, Áras Chill Dara, Naas. Paul Woods

Little Stories, Little Prints

The Kildare Notebook Project, Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

Film Clips (Framelt Productions):**Gearrtháin Scannáin (Framelt Productions)**

1916 Montage of the year's events.

Proclamation Day

Éamon Ó Modhráin Exhibition

Unveiling of Ernest Shackleton statue

Foremost and Ready: Kildare in 1916 book launch.

Commemorative County Garden launch, Áras Chill Dara, Naas

Irish TV - Kildare Matters:

Telefís Éireannach – Cúrsaí Chill Dara

Thomas McCormack, Robertstown, *SS Lusitania* survivor
John Devoy statue
Proclamation Day
Éamon Ó Modhráin exhibition
Unveiling of Ernest Shackleton statue, Athy
Foremost and Ready: Kildare in 1916 book launch

Independent Film Clips:

Gearrtháin Scannáin Neamhspleách

Proclamation Day in Kildare Town (10.1K hits)
Unveiling of gardens in Kildare Town, Leixlip and at Áras Chill Dara, Naas.
Maynooth 1916 Committee
Conquered Not We Were play, Maynooth
Celbridge 1916

Art: Ealaín

A Terrible Beauty Exposed. Graham Coffey, artist.
Domhnall Ua Buachalla. Billy McAndrew, artist.
John Devoy. Billy McAndrew, artist.

Gardens: Gairdíní

Commemorative Gardens - Áras Chill Dara, Naas, Leixlip, Kildare Town and Newtown, Kilcock.
Proclamation Stones – Athy, Castledermot, Robertstown.

Web: Gréasán

Website <http://www.kildare2016.ie/>

Website kildare.ie/countycouncil

National Library of Ireland - nli.ie - 1916 Kildare site has been archived

Facebook Kildare Decade of Commemorations

Facebook Kildare County Library Service

Facebook Kildare County Council

Twitter Kildare Libraries

Twitter Kildare County Council

Twitter Kildare Decade of Commemorations

Press: Preas

Newspapers: *Leinster Leader*; *Kildare Nationalist*; *Liffey Champion*; *Kildare Post*.
KFM Radio

Awards: Gradaim

Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2016.

1916 Sackville Street Art Project, winner of the Sustaining the Arts Award.

John Devoy Statue Project shortlisted in the 'Heritage and Built Environment' category.

County Kildare was awarded best 1916 Local Authority Award in the Public Sector Magazine.





Acknowledgements & Credits

Thank you to everyone who made this year a success
Ár mbuíochas do gach éinne a chuir le rath na bliana seo

County Kildare Decade of Commemorations

**Committee: Coiste Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán
Chontae Chill Dara**

Kildare County Council/
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare Library and Arts Services/
Seirbhísí Leabharlainne agus Ealaíon Chill Dara
Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural
and Gaeltacht Affairs/ *An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus*
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government/
An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Ireland 2016 National Office/ *Oifig Náisiúnta Éire 2016*
Defence Forces/ *Fórsaí Cosanta na hÉireann*
An Garda Síochána/ *An Garda Síochána*

Primary and Secondary Schools in Co. Kildare/
Bunscoileanna agus Méanscoileanna i gContae Chill Dara

KFM
Irish TV
Frame It Productions
Leinster Leader
Kildare Nationalist
Liffey Champion
Kildare Post

Adhamhnán Ó Súilleabháin
Aileen Lambert and Michael Fortune
Alice's Restaurant
Ardclough Art Group
Athy 1916 Commemoration Committee
Athy Community Arts Centre
Athy Film Club
Athy Heritage Centre and Museum
Athy Tidy Towns

Brian Cregan
Celbridge-Leixlip-Ardclough Local History Groups
Ciara O'Keeffe and the 1916 Sackville Street Project Team
Ciarán Reilly
Cill Dara Historical Society
Clane Youth Club
Cormac Mac Aodhagáin
County Kildare Archaeological Society
Curragh Local History Group

David Butler
Donal Higgins
Elaine Nolan
Eoin Conway
Fia Rua Music
Fluxusdance
Griese Youth Theatre
Grey Abbey Conservation Group
Irish Family History Foundation
Irish History Live: 1916
Irish Military Vehicles Group History
Jim Fleming
John Lawlor
JuneFest 2016

Ken Folan
Kevin Kenny
Kilcock GAA Centre
Kilcullen Heritage Centre
Kildare Association of New York
Kildare Civil Defence/ *Cosaint Shibhialta Contae Chill Dara*
Kildare County Council Choir/ *Cór Chomhairle Contae*
Chill Dara
Kildare Derby Festival
Kildare Education Centre
Kildare Federation of Local History Groups
Kildare Heritage Centre
Kildare Heritage Forum
Kill Local History Group

Laois 1916 Commemoration Committee
Larry Breen and National Federation of Local History
Groups
Larry Ward
Leinster Printmakers
Leixlip Historical Society
Leixlip Tidy Towns
Leixlip Youth Project
Lianne O'Shea
Liam Quinlivan
Lord Edward's Own Re-enactment Group

Martina Reilly
Maurice and Jane O'Keeffe, Irish Life and Lore
Maynooth 1916 Centenary Committee
Maynooth Local History Group
Maynooth Rebel Run
Maynooth University/ *Ollscoil Maigh Nuad*

Meitheal Theatre Company
Michael Rowley
Moat Theatre
Mona Conroy - Showstoppers
Moonfish Theatre

Naas Art Group
Naas GAA Club
Naas Local History Group
Naas Tidy Towns
Naas Town Hall
Newbridge Local History Group
Newbridge Town Hall
Newtown Community Group
Niall Ó Callanáin
North Kildare Chamber of Commerce
Orla Gildea School of Speech and Drama

Pat Tinsley
Paul Gorry
Pat Lonergan
Paul Woods
Philip Scott, Sophie O'Carroll, Donal Hennessy
and Liam Quinlivan

Rathangan Community Association Ltd.
Rathcoffey Local History Group
Revisiting Old Habits Rathangan Club
Riverbank Theatre
Robbie Doyle and the Ó Modhráin Family
Robertstown Village Fair
Run of the Mill Inclusive Theatre Co.
(*St. John of God's Community Services*)

Sean Sourke
Shackleton Commemoration Committee/
James Caird Project
Sinéad McCoolle
Smashing Times Theatre Company
South Kildare Photographic Club
St. Brigid's Pipe Band and Philip Coy
St. Michael's O.N.E.
Sult na Sollan
Teresa Brayton Heritage Group
Terry Golway
Tom Nelson
23rd Kildare Sallins Scout Group

Also, thanks to / Agus Buíochas le

Billy McAndrew
Carton House
Castletown House
Collins Press
Donovan Printing
Doodlemoose
Eamon Sinnott
Frame It Productions
Fran McCormack
Graham Coffey
Hartes, Kildare
Jarlath Daly
John Joe Houlihan
Kildare Web Services
Merrion Press/Irish Academic Press
Mongey Communications
Naas Printing Ltd.
Tony Keane





KILDARE COMMEMORATIVE 1916/2016 LAPEL PIN COMPETITION

Kildare County Council's Decade of Commemorations Committee has organised a series of events and programmes to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. In collaboration with Kildare Education Centre, we are calling on children and young people in the county to participate in a design competition for a lapel pin to create a special memento for 2016. The winning design will be made into a metal pin and presented on a card with the winner's name on it. The pin will be given to thousands of people – how cool is that! The winner will receive a prize of €100. Runners-up will also receive prizes. The winning entries will be displayed in an exhibition in Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge.

Please send a completed entry form and an attached page with your design to:
Riverbank Arts Centre, Main St., Newbridge, Co. Kildare, clearly marked for attention of
Marian Higgins, Kildare 2016 County Coordinator,
'COMMEMORATIVE LAPEL PIN COMPETITION'

Enquiries to: t. 045-448318 e. clildare2016@gmail.com

Closing date 12 noon Monday 10th February 2016



Department of Culture, Heritage and Arts
Kildare County Council



1916
RISING





LÁR COMÓRTHA CÉAD BLIAIN

Cill Dara / Kildare
Centenary Programme

 Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

 1916
2016

