

County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme 2021

The County Kildare Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2021 again focuses on delivering a wide-ranging diverse programme of activities throughout the year. There will understandably be a strong emphasis on digital content.

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

Among the highlights of the 2021 programme are:

- Appointment of Digital History Programme Co-Ordinator

The appointment of a digital history programme co-ordinator on a six-month contract in Spring 2021. This individual will co-ordinate Decade of Commemorations digital activities, drive public engagement with the online Decade of Centenaries programme including a programme of talks and workshops, along with facilitating training for Kildare local history groups in use of Zoom and other technologies.

- 5th Irish Military Seminar & Other Events

The 5th Irish Military Seminar will take place online in June again this year. Lorcan Collins on Guerilla Warfare during the War of Independence, Garrison Towns, Irish Servicewomen in the Great War and presentations by the Military Archives on the Military Services Pensions Collections.

A number of other Decade of Commemorations events will take place throughout the year, including the John Devoy Seminar, pre-recorded talks on topics such as the Truce of July 1921. Digital content, including audio and video material, will also be progressed.

- Publications

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee will publish *A Timeline of the War of Independence in County Kildare* that will be distributed to schools, local history and heritage groups and also made available in branch libraries and in pdf format online through www.kildare.ie/ehistory

Remembrance: The World War I Dead of Co. Kildare, compiled and edited by Library Service staff, will also be published during the year. This important legacy publication details the over 750 men and three women with County Kildare connections who died during World War I and is an important legacy publication by the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme.

The County Kildare Programme will also support other publications relating to the 1912-23 period, including publications on the Stacumney Ambush & World War I and the Castledermot area.

- Supporting Artists & Creative Communities

With the support of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; applications will be sought early in 2021 through Kildare Arts Service for grants for artistic and creative endeavours that relate to the 1912-23 period. Further opportunities for supporting artists in delivering the Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme may arise also.

- Library-Led Collaborations & Working With Community Groups

The Decade of Commemorations Programme will continue to work with Kildare Library & Arts Service & Kildare County Council Heritage Officer in delivering activities. Workshops aimed at families and continued collaboration with the Kildare Readers Festival are all planned to take place during 2021.

The Programme will also continue to work with local history groups throughout County Kildare, including the County Kildare Federation of Local History Groups & the County Kildare Archaeological Society.

- Digitisation

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme will aim to facilitate enhanced access to authentic local archival sources during 2021. This will be made possible through conservation and digitization projects, with a planned new website making the latter possible. The minutes of Kildare County Council for the Decade of Centenaries period will be uploaded during the year.

- Centenary of The Truce & Other Key Events

A commemorative garden or seating area is planned to commemorate the centenary of the Truce that took place in 1921. Other milestone events will also feature in the programme, including attempted ambushes in County Kildare during the Spring of 1921, the mass escape from the Curragh Internment Camp in September 1921 and the debate around the Treaty in December 1921.

- Social Media & Local Media

The County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme will continue to frequently provide Decade of Centenaries content to the three local newspapers in County Kildare. Our activities will also be promoted on KFM radio station. Library staff will continue to

administer the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Facebook & Twitter accounts, along with ensuring digital content is added to the Kildare Decade of Commemorations YouTube Channel.

- Working Towards 2022

Plans for commemorating significant 2022 centenary anniversaries including the Civic Guard Mutiny in Kildare Town, the withdrawal of the British Army from the Curragh and the three garrison towns of Naas, Newbridge & Kildare; along with incidents from the Civil War will be progressed in the second half of 2021.

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



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council