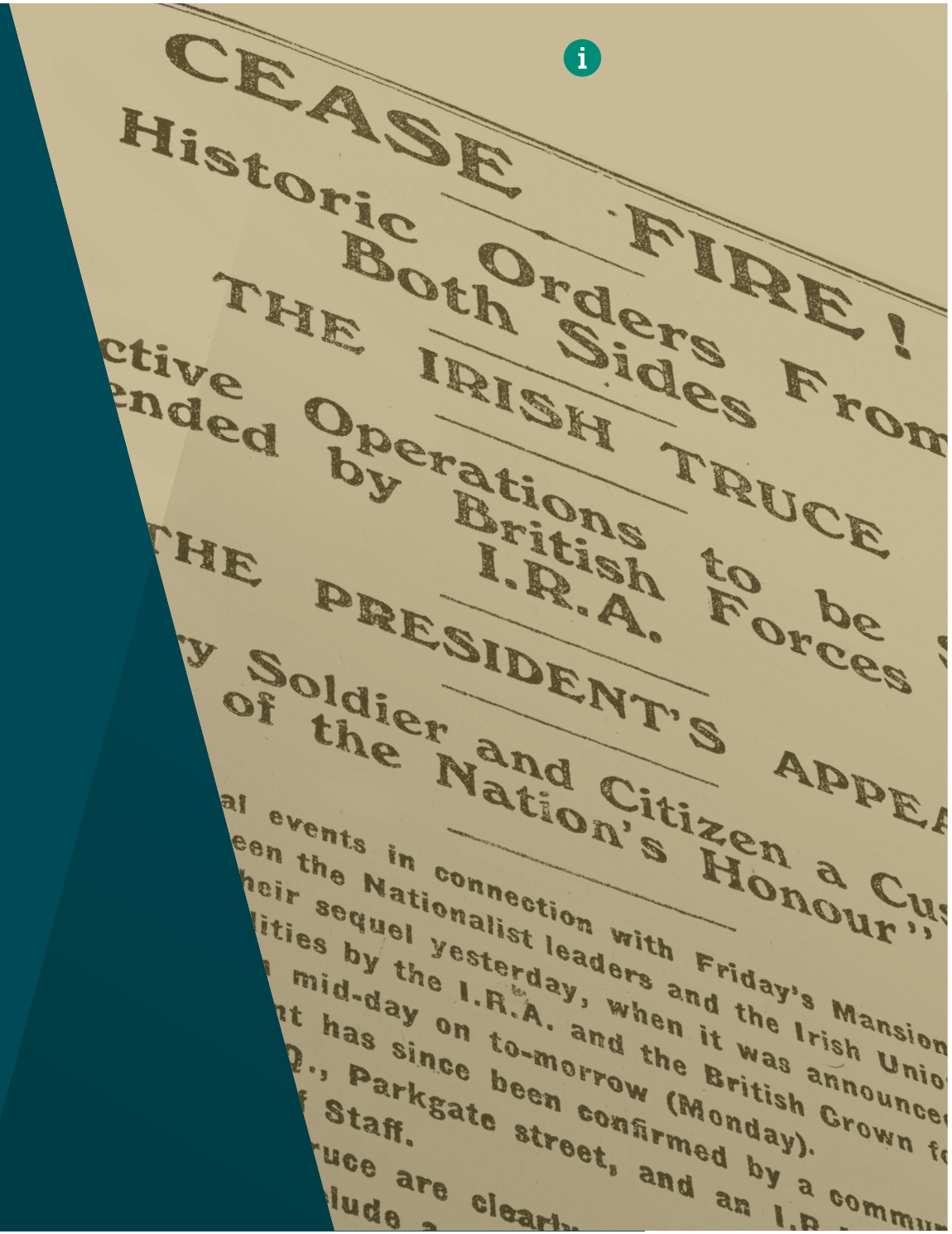
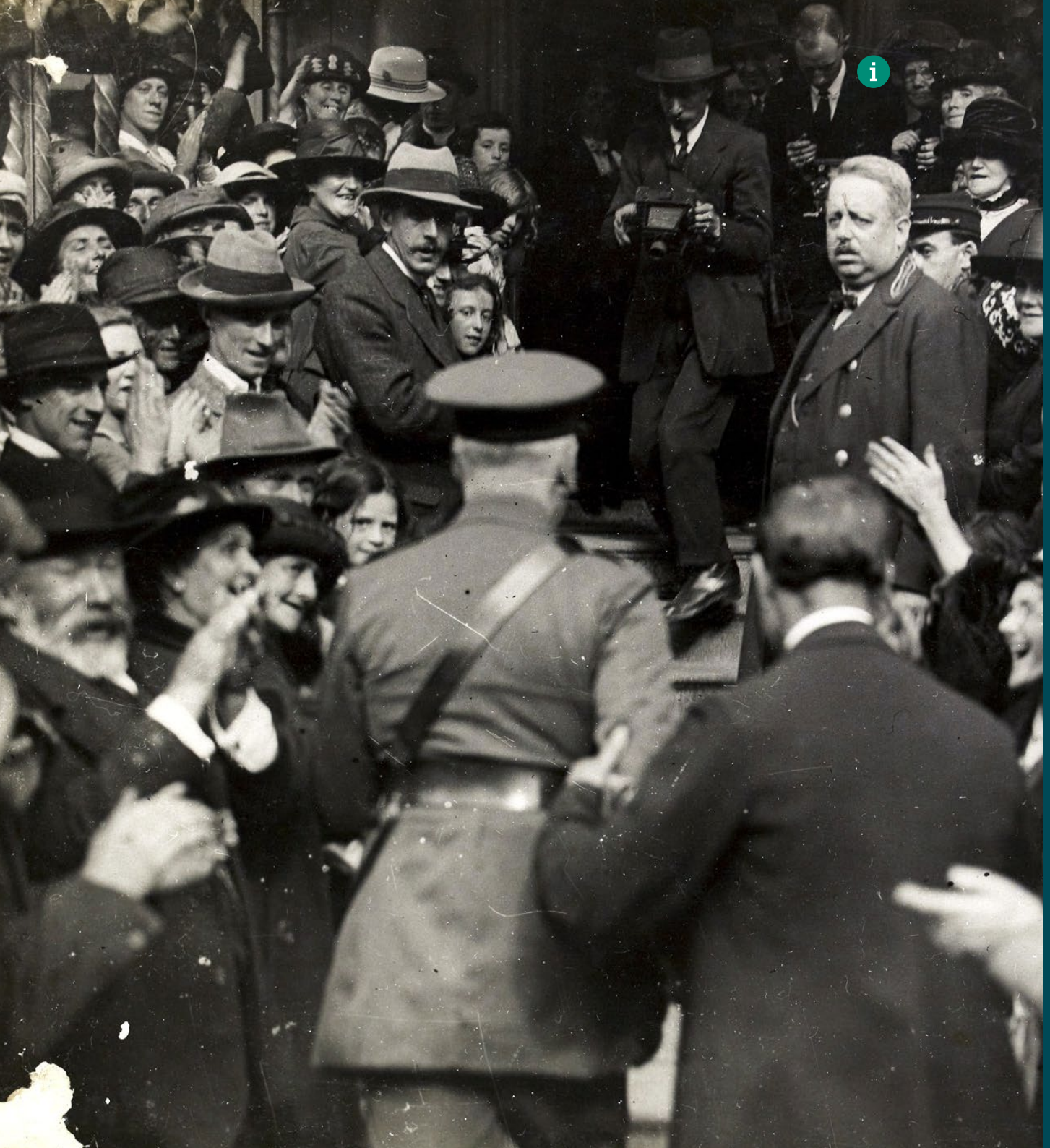
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023

2021 Programme





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Foreword

I am very pleased to present the Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2021.

We have, as all readers will be acutely aware, now entered the most challenging and sensitive period of commemoration, which includes the Struggle for Independence, Partition, the Foundation of the State and the Civil War. My responsibility, as Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, is to ensure that this complex period in our history is remembered with an appropriate, meaningful, proportionate and sensitive programme, which recognises the legitimacy of all traditions, and values mutual respect and historical authenticity.

The guidance of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations is clear - the focus of the State should remain on commemoration, remembrance and reconciliation. It is important to acknowledge that this does not mean that we ignore differences or divisions. The journey towards self-determination and nationhood was a complex and difficult one, interspersed with acts of unprecedented violence and tragedy.

The State's role is to set a measured, inclusive and sensitive tone; to faithfully present our history, even when the historical record is distressing. We must also reflect on the great tragedy of all of those who died or whose lives were transformed because of the events that took place during those years.

Historical accuracy, academic integrity, and archival discovery are key tenets of the commemorative programme, which follows closely the centenary timeline of the events that occurred in this period.

Our revolutionary past poses challenging questions. The Government's approach, in considering how best to mark the sensitive forthcoming anniversaries in an appropriate, measured and respectful way, has at all times been informed and guided by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations, under the excellent stewardship of Dr Maurice Manning and Dr Martin Mansergh. I would like to express my appreciation to the Group for this very important work. I am reconvening the All-Party Consultation Group on Commemorations and I look forward to engaging with the Group on the Programme.

There are many ways of learning about our past and this programme seeks to make our history accessible, engaging and relevant for everyone. In this programme you will find a rich diversity of initiatives to remember and commemorate the significant events that occurred in 1921 and important broader themes.

The commemorative programme for 2021 is supported with a budget of €5 million – a significant increase of €3 million on last year's funding allocation.

The programme acknowledges both the military aspects as well as the constitutional parliamentary traditions and the democratic processes underpinning all traditions on this island. It explores the social, cultural, and economic changes that were taking place during this period. It highlights the contribution of women during this time and their experiences. The programme will be a living document, updated as plans continue to evolve and new partnerships and projects are confirmed.

The history of this period belongs to all of us and I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to the programme – our local authorities, local community groups and commemorative committees, National Cultural Institutions, institutions of learning, custodians of records, artists and creative communities, media and broadcasting organisations, among others. The commitment, enthusiasm, and ambition of our partners has created engaging and imaginative activities to encourage as many people as possible to explore our shared history, in all of its complexity, in a respectful and supportive environment.

Catherine Martin, TD

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Context from the Chair of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Centenary Commemorations

When the then Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, established the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations in 2012, he gave us two over-riding instructions.

The first was to safeguard the integrity of the entire commemorative process - ensuring that the Decade belonged to the people and that there would be no manipulation for political or other purposes - whether it came from Government or other vested interests.

The second was to lay down guiding principles and values to ensure that the historical events to be remembered were authentic, and that the commemorative programme was respectful, sensitive, citizen-focused and proportionate.

In going about our work, we were very conscious that on this island we have a common history but not a common memory of these shaping events.

We were very clear, in all of our statements, that commemorations should not ignore differences and divisions. The goal of inclusiveness, we said, is best achieved;

'... not by trying for an enforced common interest or universal participation, but by encouraging multiple and plural commemorations, which remember the past while ensuring, as far as possible, that the commemoration does not re-ignite old tensions'...

It is fair to say, I think, that the past eight years of commemoration have been both rewarding and enjoyable. There is, as yet, no sense of commemoration fatigue, notwithstanding the challenges presented by the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the Decade, there has been strong buy-in from all stakeholders across the political, community, education and enterprise sectors and in the global Irish community. The opening of archives and the busy burrowing of historians - professional and amateur - is giving new insights, new knowledge and a new appreciation of the complexities of this period.

We have also seen unprecedented public engagement and pride in the exploration of history, particularly local and family history. We have seen the extraordinary capacity of local communities to mobilise and achieve successful outcomes when the right structures and supports are put in place to combine our individual efforts, expertise and creativity.

Our local authorities have been magnificent partners in this regard – driving and supporting respectful and meaningful community-led commemorations, with sensitivity to the local context.

As a people, we were rightly proud of how we commemorated the events of 1916 - with style, generosity, pride and kindness. We became a people at ease with our own history – moving beyond our own particular perspective to view events objectively.

Most importantly of all, we appreciated the space and respect given to voices who perhaps could not speak freely before, who now had the freedom to commemorate their own traditions as part of the various strands that make our common history.

It is my fervent hope that this genuinely inclusive spirit, with the principles and values that have shaped the commemorative process up to now, will continue to prevail, especially as we continue to face into remembrance of the Struggle for Independence, Partition, the Foundation of the State and the Civil War.

Terrible atrocities took place during these years, which must be considered very carefully, grounded in the evidence of factual, authentic archival sources. Commemoration does not signify celebration and inclusivity does not imply approval of the events that took place.

We all have a responsibility to continue our exploration of our past with sensitivity, curiosity and empathy; embracing all of its nuances and complexities in an inclusive and respectful manner. These are fragile times, where extreme language and posturing can cause so much hurt, bitterness and harm, undoing the generous, collaborative spirit of the past few years. It will be a shame - and shameful - if the spirit of openness and tolerance which has made all of this possible is fractured and damaged. We all have a responsibility to ensure that this is not allowed to happen.

In all that we do, we must continue to strive for respectful, measured, non-partisan remembrance, which promotes peace and reconciliation across the island of Ireland.

Dr Maurice Manning
Chair of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations

Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021

In 2021, the State will commemorate a number of significant centenaries, culminating in the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 6th December, leading into the Civil War period.

This is likely to be the most challenging period of the Decade of Centenaries Programme to date. The Government's approach to this period will be to set a measured, respectful and inclusive tone which encourages the public to engage with the history of this period through interesting and imaginative initiatives. This will help to encourage a deeper understanding of the context of the time, which is accepting of the differing perspectives on our shared history and seeks to strengthen peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is responsible for co-ordinating the development of an appropriate cross-governmental programme to remember the significant historical events and themes of the Decade of Centenaries. This approach is grounded in the principles laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations in its Original Statement (published in 2012), Second Statement (published in 2017) and its subsequent guidance (published in January 2019).

The Minister also chairs the All-Party Consultation Group on Commemorations in relation to the Government's plans for the Programme. The Group is a useful forum to explore a broad spectrum of views.

2021 is the beginning of a final three-year programme of the Decade of Centenaries. It is envisaged that this will allow a more holistic approach to the remainder of the Decade and will help partners and stakeholders to develop new programmes and initiatives over the next three years.

The Programme elements will share a common set of broad themes and ideas but can be nuanced each year to allow for specific centenaries to be remembered in different ways. These themes are outlined on page 7.

This Programme for 2021 is the culmination of collaboration right across Government, the National Cultural Institutions, institutes of learning, local authorities, arts and cultural partners and other key stakeholders. It represents a snapshot in time and will be developed further as the year unfolds with new ideas and new partnerships developed as appropriate and in line with the objectives of the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021-2023. Many of the new partnerships and initiatives will be carried through into the programme for the Civil War and the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries. It also includes indicative plans for the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries.

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Impact of the COVID-19 national emergency

The on-going COVID-19 national emergency has significantly impacted upon the usual Decade of Centenaries programme delivery mechanisms with the cancellation or postponement of public commemorative events and associated outreach activities. This was particularly challenging in 2020 with significant plans for Cork City and County Programmes having to be cancelled and/or postponed, including a State commemoration.

The conditions for safely holding public commemorative events in 2021 are likely to remain challenging. As the public health advice and measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 evolve, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will continue to work with partners and stakeholders to determine to what degree and in what format, planned events can proceed. Plans for all commemorative activities in 2021 will continue to be informed and underpinned by the public health advice and protective health measures.

Stakeholders will be invited to develop initiatives that support alternative approaches to citizen engagement, such as the development of curated digital content, online exhibitions, podcasts, webinars, virtual tours, artistic and creative endeavours, and other online outreach activities for people of all ages.

Objectives of the Programme

The objectives of the Decade of Centenaries Programme have remained constant from the outset for all of those involved in the commemorative process. It is proposed that these objectives will remain in place for the remainder of the Decade, as follows:

- To focus on themes of reconciliation and on remembrance of all of those who lost their lives during this period;
- To promote a deeper understanding of the significant historical events of this period, recognising that the shared historical experiences of those years gave rise to very different narratives and memories;
- To encourage reflection about the multiple identities, traditions and perspectives that are part of the overall Irish historical experience;
- To respond with sensitivity to the local historical context, acknowledging that there was no uniform experience within counties or across the island of Ireland; and
- To continue to promote a consultative and open approach to commemorations, which seeks to strengthen peace and reconciliation across the island of Ireland. A core element of reconciliation is acknowledgement of the legitimacy of all of the traditions on the island that draw their identity and collective memory from our shared history.

Themes under the Programme

The following broad themes are based on the Guidance from the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations as published in January 2019. They are intended to support partners and stakeholders in developing their initiatives and projects and encourage a level of consistency in approach to programme development while still allowing flexibility, community-led, and creative interpretations. 2021 will be the beginning of a final three-year programme of the Decade of Centenaries. The Programme will share a common set of broad themes and ideas, but these can be nuanced each year to allow for specific centenaries to be remembered in different ways. These themes are:

1

Reflection – Community-led commemoration and reflection; remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events and themes that have particular significance within counties, parishes and communities.

2

Remembrance – Respectful, sensitive and non-partisan remembrance of all of those who suffered and died during the period from 1921-1923.

3

The Partitioning of Ireland – Exploration of the impact and legacy of the events that occurred during this period on communities living along the newly established border and further afield.

4

Ireland and the Wider World – Exploration of the international dimension, including local connections, emigration, and the role of the Irish Diaspora in the events that occurred during the revolutionary period. Also, exploring the evolution of all-island institutions following partition.

5

Experiences of women - Exploration of the experiences of women during this period and their contribution to the events that occurred, including their changing role in society.

6

Establishing a New Order –

- Exploring the significance of local government reform and the evolution of new political and administrative structures at national and local level;
- Establishment of the various institutions of the Irish Free State (including Civil Service, the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, judiciary, and courts services);
- Development of new infrastructure (transportation, communications, postal services); and
- Continuing the parliamentary tradition - Elections during this period – the prominent personalities and issues associated with the local and national elections 1920 to 1923.

7

A Changing Society during this period, including:

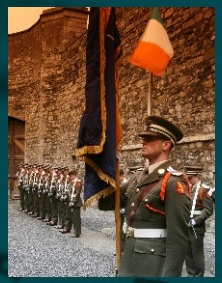
- The labour movement and civil disobedience
- Popular social, cultural and civic movements
- Social class and gender
- The Irish language
- The Land Question
- The significance of sport in communities
- The humanitarian response during the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War
- Innovation in the fields of agriculture, industry, science, commerce and medicine

8

Creative thinking and the arts – poetry, literature, music, theatre, and other art forms, 1921 – 1923.

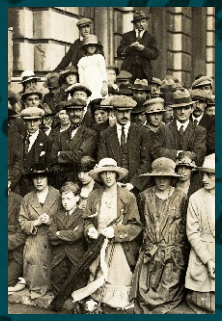
Strands of the Programme

In order to achieve the Programme objectives, and to provide a framework for the thematic approach, the approach to the development and delivery of the Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2021–2023 comprises four thematic strands:



STATE CEREMONIAL STRAND

A State Ceremonial Strand comprises a limited number of symbolic acts of national commemoration focusing on themes of remembrance and reconciliation and on the commemoration of all those who lost their lives during this period.



HISTORICAL STRAND

A Historical Strand comprises a diverse range of activities designed to encourage authentic historical enquiry about this period and promote the use of primary archival sources. Initiatives will be developed in collaboration with State partners, National Cultural Institutions, institutions of learning, and other stakeholders.

COMMUNITY STRAND

A Community Strand will involve a collaborative approach – similar to that adopted for the 1916 centenary commemorations - between the State, local authority network and community organisations, including in Northern Ireland where appropriate.

CREATIVE IMAGINATION STRAND

A Creative Imagination Strand will continue to encourage artistic and creative expression in remembrance of the significant historical events of the period from 1921 to 1923 and all of those who lost their lives.

1 State Ceremonial Strand

The Expert Advisory Group recommends that a formal commemoration for all of those who lost their lives during the Struggle for Independence be held on the 11th July 2021, or on a suitable date close to the centenary of the coming into effect of the Truce. It is envisaged that this symbolic act of national commemoration will focus on themes of remembrance and reconciliation. This event will be led by the Department of the Taoiseach with support where appropriate from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The marking of other significant events will be led by local authorities also with support from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

2 Historical Strand

The State's approach to the remembrance of the period covered by the Decade of Centenaries has to date been based on the ethos of authenticity, inclusivity and partnership. The Department will help to develop and co-ordinate imaginative and informative programmes, engaging the public in new ways and encouraging and guiding citizens in interpreting the impact of this pivotal part of our history.

We will continue to support initiatives that encourage ongoing research and free public access to authentic historical sources, including local archival sources, local research and scholarship.

Mná 100

A new dedicated resource to highlight the role of women in the period 1921 to 1923 is being launched by the Department in May 2021. This project involves collaborative initiatives highlighting women's participation in political, military, professional and domestic roles during this period. The content will highlight stories and material previously not accessible to the public or widely known, in the form of curated podcasts, webinars and on-line exhibitions.

It will be structured around a number of themes including:

- Role of women advocating for Ireland Internationally
- Role of women's organisations in the Campaign for Independence and the Civil War
- Role of women in the Oireachtas
- Violence against women
- Extension of the franchise – universal suffrage
- Pioneering professional women
- Experiences of women on both sides of the border following Partition

This content will be generated and managed by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and we will work collaboratively with the National Cultural Institutions, local authorities and other partners.

Mná100

www.mna100.ie

This dedicated online platform will be launched in May to highlight the role of women in key centenary moments over the remainder of the Decade.

One of the great legacies of the Decade of Centenaries is a richer understanding and appreciation of the important role of women in shaping Ireland's history during those revolutionary years.

New research and scholarship by established and early-career historians has revealed new aspects of the seminal events that took place in Ireland between 1912 and 1923, and has led to a re-interpretation and greater public understanding of the role of known and some less well-known women. A wealth of new source material from the Military Archives Pension Record has added layers of meaning, revealing a more complex story of the revolutionary years. A change is happening to the historic canon.

The digitisation of a range of sources by our National Cultural Institutions has facilitated a more reflective selection of material, with a natural gender balance. The community focus of centenary events has been facilitated and amplified by the work of the local authority Decade of Centenaries co-ordinators. It is no longer a story that emanates from the capital and the main cities with a select cast of key protagonists; now, it is rich and diverse, a more rounded picture of Ireland during the years 1912-1923.

For the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries, a new, online women's history resource is under development – www.mna100.ie. This dedicated online platform will be launched in May to highlight the role of women in key centenary moments over the remainder of the Decade.

It will feature new stories of women who were active in Ireland, as well as women abroad who assisted Ireland in the campaign for independence during these unprecedented years of change. The website will look at how the events of those years shaped the lives of women who lived during this time and those who came afterwards.

The centenary moments featured will range from the attainment of the full franchise for women to the first Irish women lawyers who were called to the Irish Bar in November 1921.

One significant centenary moment this year are the events leading to the formation of the Irish White Cross in Spring 1921. Thousands of homes, shops, farms, creameries, and factories had been destroyed, devastating local economies, and leaving hundreds of families destitute. Many people were killed. There were mass arrests and imprisonments in jails and internment camps. Many of those affected were non-combatants.

In the United States, the American Commission on Conditions in Ireland was established, to investigate events in Ireland in 1920, which had become known as the year of terror, as new recruits were drafted into the police force and a volunteer army engaged in a guerrilla war.

Following hearings and reports, The American Committee for Relief in Ireland oversaw the collection of $5 million in aid, which was distributed in Ireland by the Irish White Cross.

Mná100, in partnership with Limerick City and County Council, will also highlight the importance of Mary Clancy and Kate O'Callaghan becoming public figures in their grief. Their husbands, Mayor George Clancy and former Mayor Michael O'Callaghan, were killed in the city by Crown Forces in March 1921, in what became known as the Curfew Murders. At that time, elected officials were being targeted, as Dáil Éireann had set up an alternative administration with a national and local government infrastructure. Their widows conveyed their stories and garnered sympathy for the Irish campaign for independence with the general public and the international media. Widow Kate O'Callaghan was elected to serve in the second Dáil Éireann.

A Truce in hostilities came in the summer of 1921. Prisoners were released, although Linda Kearns, Eithne Coyle, and May Burke had already escaped from Mountjoy Jail before their comrades were released.

In Autumn 1921, treaty negotiations began in London. Mná100 will explore the stories of the women involved, including Kathleen McKenna, whose story is recorded in her memoir, *A Dáil Girl's Revolutionary Recollections*.

When the articles of agreement for a Treaty with Great Britain and Ireland were signed in London in December 1921, the five female members of Dáil Éireann were among the most vocal of the opponents as the country headed towards Civil War.

Dr Sinéad McCoole
Historical Adviser for Mná100

Links to information about the virtual tour of the pop-up museum exploring ***100 years of women in politics and public life***;

- Take the Tour
- Mainly Museums article
- **Recording of the lunchtime lecture, hosted by Dr Sinéad McCoole, on 22nd September 2020, entitled 'The Year 1920 – Irish Trailblazers, National and International**
- **Recording of the lunchtime lecture, hosted by Dr Sinéad McCoole, on 15th December 2020, to mark the centenary of events in the United States in 1920 during Ireland's campaign for independence**

Beyond 2022:
Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury

Shortly before the terrible fire of 1922, the Public Record Office of Ireland was described as the "great untilled field of Irish history". It matched the greatest archives of the world in its scale, scope and significance. For generations after its destruction in 1922, that field could not be tilled. Now, through the Beyond 2022 Project, we are drawing strength from over 50 partner institutions across Ireland and internationally. Together, we are reconstructing the past and looking to the future. Our collaborative framework restores access to Irish history for a new generation, and offers a meaningful, living legacy beyond the current Decade of Centenaries.

Beyond 2022 is an all-island and international collaborative research project working to create a virtual reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland, which was destroyed in the opening engagement of the Civil War on June 30th, 1922.

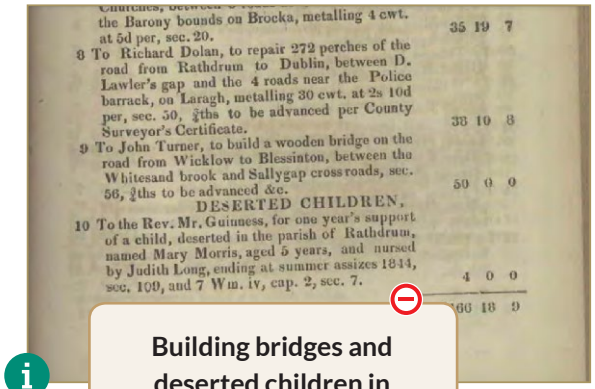
On 5th December 2019, the Taoiseach announced a capital grant allocation of €2.5 million from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, under Project Ireland 2040, to support this research project to the end of 2022.

The 'Record Treasury' at the Public Record Office of Ireland stored seven centuries of Irish records dating back to the time of the Normans. Together with our five Core Archival Partners and over 40 other Participating Institutions in Ireland, Britain and the USA, we are working to recover what was lost in that terrible fire one hundred years ago.

On the centenary of the Four Courts blaze, we will launch the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland online. Many millions of words from destroyed documents will be linked and reassembled from copies, transcripts and other records scattered among the collections of our archival partners. We will bring together this rich array of replacement items within an immersive 3-D reconstruction of the destroyed building.

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland will be an open-access resource, freely available online to all those interested in Irish history at home and abroad. Many of the most important memory institutions worldwide are joining us in this shared mission to reconstruct Ireland's lost history. The Virtual Record Treasury will serve as a living and growing legacy from the Decade of Centenaries.

During 2021, we will celebrate our collaborations and share our research with audiences across the island of Ireland and abroad.


the Barony bounds on Brocka, metalling 4 cwt. at 5d per, sec. 20. 35 19 7

8 To Richard Dolan, to repair 272 perches of the road from Rathdrum to Dublin, between D. Lawler's gap and the 4 roads near the Police barrack, on Laragh, metalling 30 cwt. at 2s 10d per, sec. 50, ⅔ths to be advanced per County Surveyor's Certificate. 38 10 8

9 To John Turner, to build a wooden bridge on the road from Wicklow to Blessinton, between the Whitesand brook and Sallygap cross roads, sec. 56, ⅔ths to be advanced &c. 50 0 0

DESERTED CHILDREN.

10 To the Rev. Mr. Guinness, for one year's support of a child, deserted in the parish of Rathdrum, named Mary Morris, aged 5 years, and nursed by Judith Long, ending at summer assizes 1844, sec. 109, and 7 Wm. iv, cap. 2, sec. 7. 4 0 0

166 18 9

Building bridges and deserted children in pre-Famine Wicklow.

In May 2021, we are delighted to partner with the Local Government Archives and Records Managers (LGARM) group to mark the centenary of an earlier event, the attack on the Custom House on 25th May 1921, when the archives of the Local Government Board for Ireland were destroyed. Before county councils were established, Grand Juries ran local government. Their records, which are held in local county archives across Ireland and in PRONI (Belfast), contain a wealth of details about people and places.

Then, to mark the 99th anniversary of the Four Courts blaze on 30th June, we will host '**Deep History, Deepening Connections**'. Presented from London in collaboration with The National Archives UK, this event will explore the centuries' deep interconnection between our two islands, presenting a story not only of conquest and colonisation but also of ties of trade, culture, family and evolving identities. The showcase demonstrates how Beyond 2022 has forged deepening archival connections in Britain, enabling us to link scattered fragments of the Irish past and to dig deeper than ever into our rich treasury of historical records.

Dr Peter Crooks
Project Director

National Cultural Institutions

The Department will continue to work in partnership with the National Cultural Institutions, in recognition of their significant role as custodians of our history and culture; creating opportunities for people of all traditions to reflect upon the complexities of the events of this period and related themes.

The initiatives under development for 2021/2022 under the Historical Strand of the Programme include the following:

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Digitisation Projects

Digitisation is the process of converting information from a physical format into a digital one, in the case of the National Archives this involves creating high resolution digital images of and from original hard-copy records. The public can access these files here

Cabinet Minute Books April 1919-April 1922

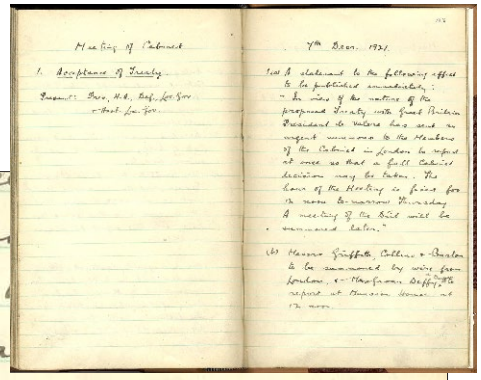
Following the General Election of December 1918, the first two sessions of Dáil Éireann or the 'First Dáil' were held in the Mansion House, Dublin on 21st - 22nd January 1919. The third session was not held until 1st April 1919 when Eamon de Valera was elected President of Dáil Éireann (Príomh-Aire).

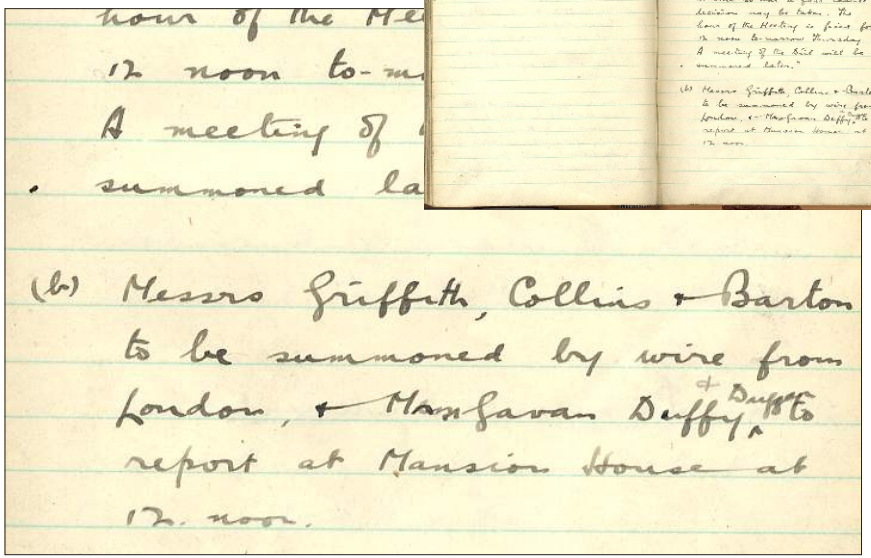
The following day he appointed his cabinet of the new Sinn Féin government: Arthur Griffith, Secretary of Home Affairs and Deputy President; Michael Collins, Secretary of Finance; Cathal Brugha, Secretary of Defence; William T Cosgrave, Secretary of Local Government; Count George Nobel Plunkett, Secretary of Foreign Affairs; Countess Constance de Markievicz, Secretary of Labour; and Eoin MacNéill, Secretary of Industries. Robert Barton became head of the Department of Agriculture and Laurence Ginnel, head of the Department of Propaganda.

The cabinet's meetings are recorded in minute books from 26th April 1919 to 28th April 1922

Constitution Committee 1922

The Constitution Committee was appointed by the Provisional Government in January 1922 to draft the first Constitution of the Irish Free State. It was chaired initially by Michael Collins. The records held in the National Archives comprise minutes, drafts, research and administrative material produced by the workings of the Committee over a period of six weeks.




hour of the Me
12 noon to-m
A meeting of
summoned la
(b) Messrs Griffith, Collins + Barton
to be summoned by wire from
London, + Messrs Duffy + Duffy to
report at Mansion House at
12. noon.

The National Archives continues to work in partnership with the Beyond 2022 project team and other archival institutions in Ireland and the United Kingdom, to digitally reconstruct the record treasury of the Public Record Office of Ireland, including digital copies of archives, destroyed during the Civil War in 1922.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

2021 and the National Archives

This year presents a unique opportunity to commemorate the events leading up to and following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December 1921 from an historical context with records from the National Archives Collections charting the Truce in July 1921 to the signing of the Treaty on 6th December that year.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty is perhaps the most significant historical document held by the National Archives. It is the intention therefore to curate a significant exhibition to mark the centenary of the signing of the Treaty. This exhibition will open at the Coach House, Dublin Castle, on 6th December 2021. There will be a preview exhibition in London in the weeks prior to the Dublin opening in conjunction with the Irish Embassy, to coincide with the centenary of the time spent by the Treaty delegation in London in 1921, prior to the final agreement on the Treaty.

The National Archives Treaty collection is the repository for many records and documents that represent the events around the Treaty negotiations, the Treaty itself and the time spent by the delegation in London in the weeks running up to agreement of the Treaty. It is proposed to highlight these records as well as other materials from partner institutions including objects and images which also contribute to the telling of the full story of the events from that period.

Using the Treaty as the centre piece, the exhibition will include:

- **Peace negotiations correspondence June 1921 – September 1921**
- **Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921**
- **Dáil Éireann Treaty debates leading up to and following the signing of the Treaty**
- **Original 'hand written' Cabinet minutes**
- **Accounts specifically relating to the Treaty Delegations time in London during the negotiations when the delegation lived at 15 Cadogan Gardens and 22 Hans Place.**

The Exhibition will be designed to reach a broad and diverse audience from historians and academics, those involved in Irish political life to citizens, including schools and universities. Workshops, curated talks, a digital programme as well as guided tours will support the exhibition so that we can engage with as wide a public as possible, both in person and using a range of digital platforms.

Orlaith McBride
Director

Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921 Exhibition

The National Archives will curate a significant exhibition to mark the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 6th December 1921. Using the Treaty as the centre piece, the exhibition will include many of the records held by the National Archives relating to the Treaty.

> "The Anglo-Irish Treaty is perhaps the most significant historical document held by the National Archives"

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND (NLI)

Towards a Republic (TAR)

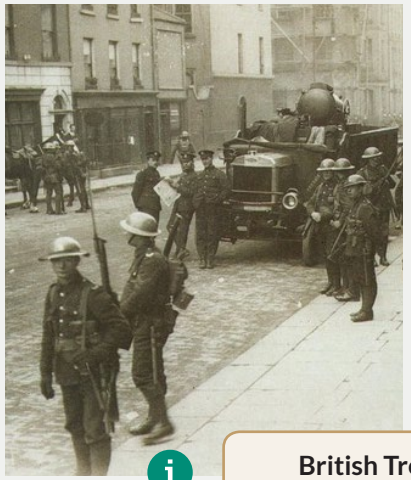
For the second phase of the Decade of Centenaries from 1918–1923, the National Library has opened up the personal papers of key figures from this period with its major cataloguing and digitisation project entitled 'Towards a Republic'. The catalogued and digitised papers are being made openly available online on a phased basis from 2019 to 2023 in its digital repository. Materials include letters from Constance de Markievicz, Annie O'Farrelly papers, Kathleen Clarke Memoirs, Arthur Griffith papers, Cumann na mBan papers, Dr. Dorothy Price papers, Austin Stack papers, the Irish Republican Army Financial papers and Accounts, 1922-1925, and many more.

In 2021, the NLI plans to celebrate the completion of the first phase of Towards a Republic (TAR) with a significant public event. This public event will also mark the launch of a new e-learning resource based on the TAR project, providing new digital learning opportunities for primary and secondary schools. The NLI are developing further online educational resources and offerings associated with the *Towards a Republic* project, and the rollout of a programme of engagement with schools to include online tours, workshops, and other learning activities for all school-age learners of all ages.

The Programme will be national in scope, sharing and promoting the national collections and engaging locally with commemorative events and learning initiatives.

From Turmoil to Truce: Photographs of the War of Independence' exhibition

In 2021, the National Library will develop and release a virtual 3D version of its exhibition *"From Turmoil to Truce: Photographs of the War of Independence"*. Work will also begin on a new exhibition on the Civil War, to open in the National Photographic Archive during 2022. Drawing on the NLI's photographic collections and featuring interpretive graphics, maps and text, the exhibition will examine key themes and events of the conflict including conventional and guerrilla warfare, the influence of press and propaganda, state funerals, reprisals and executions, ceasefire and negotiated peace, and the War's aftermath.



British Troops in Kildare Street 1921

South Dublin Libraries Collection

'World War Ireland' exhibition

The NLI will also launch a major new regional outreach initiative in partnership with Cavan County Museum which will see its popular '*World War Ireland*' exhibition transfer from Kildare Street to Cavan on long-term loan. A 3-D virtual version of World War Ireland is also in development and is scheduled to be released in 2021.

A new educational programme aimed at adult learners based on a series of online lectures followed by classroom discussion, will provide an overview of the period and reflect on the ongoing impact of events of the Decade of Centenaries. These elements of the programme will be compliant with all public health requirements.

The National Library is also curating a busy events programme featuring a series of free, onsite and online public lectures/panel discussions. Its partnership with History Ireland will also continue in digital form, with Hedge School panel discussions focusing on key themes and events of this period. These events will cover topics such as the calling of a truce between forces in Britain and Ireland, the onset of Treaty negotiations and the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December.

New collaboration with Century Ireland

The NLI will also embark on a new collaboration with Century Ireland, related specifically to its Global Archives initiative. The initiative seeks to identify and promote the international elements of Irish archives.

Dr Sandra Collins
Director

STUDIO AND STATE

The Laverys and the Anglo-Irish Treaty exhibition

OPENS NOVEMBER 2021

Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane and the National Museum of Ireland are co-curating an exhibition to mark the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. The exhibition is due to be located in the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks. The exhibition will include works by Sir John Lavery, Leo Whelan and other notable artists from The Hugh Lane, and historical artefacts from the collections of the National Museum of Ireland.

From the Truce of July 1921 to the signing of the Treaty on 6th December of the same year, negotiations between Irish and British representatives revealed two ominous trends: a near-impasse between the Irish and British on the subjects of the status of the new state and the nature of the relationship with Britain, and long-existing divisions within the Irish nationalist movement itself. The negotiations for, and signing of the Treaty were crystallising moments for Ireland during the 'decade of disturbance' from 1913 to 1923. The exhibition's learning and engagement programme is a collaboration between both institutions, exploring wide-ranging themes including the intersections between art and politics, expression of national or personal identities through art, and art and propaganda. It is envisaged that the programme will be delivered through the medium of music, performance or dance as well as through talks, walking or online tours and a major symposium planned for early 2022.

The Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) Programme

Through the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN), the National Museum of Ireland works in partnership with Local Authority Heritage Officers in counties Clare, Galway and Wicklow, to support community groups to collect, record and preserve their local history and heritage. iCAN volunteers curate these local collections on their community archive websites, making them accessible to local and global audiences.

iCAN communities have forged strong links with their local residents, schools, special interest groups and a global diaspora, building a broad audience of interest who are keen to participate in the building of these local archives and related project-based initiatives. Between 2020 and 2023 the iCAN Programme plans to organise a series of commemorative seminars and conferences.

Schools' Project: Giving Young People A Voice

This project proposes to invite young people, through their schools or through other partners, to participate in cross-curricular and inter-disciplinary workshops focusing on the pivotal events of 1920 to 1923 including the Struggle for Independence, Partition, the founding of the Free State and the Civil War. Participants will be encouraged to focus on these events through the lens of contemporary society; exploring how unresolved histories can have a detrimental impact on people's lives today.

Workshop participants will be invited to engage with the NMI's team of educators and facilitators to create content and/or events that focus on NMI objects, as they relate to the period 1920 to 1923, in the context of the question: how can we learn from history in order to stop repeating our mistakes? The project will conclude with a broadcasted schools' conference in autumn 2023 to enable wide participation with schools across Ireland.

Pathways to Participation publication

As we reflect back over the Decade of Centenaries, the National Museum of Ireland will document the diversity of learning programmes organised by the NMI to commemorate the Decade of Centenaries. This publication will reflect in particular on people's responses to their engagement in the programmes as participants and partners.

National Museum of Ireland

Funding for a major new capital project – The 20th Century History of Ireland Galleries - has been approved by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin, TD for the National Museum of Ireland. These permanent exhibition galleries are due to open in 2023 in the Museum of Decorative Arts and History at Collins Barracks, coinciding with the centenary commemorations to mark the foundation of the Irish Free State. The galleries will offer visitors an opportunity to explore significant events in Irish history, leading up to and including the momentous events of the period being remembered throughout the Decade of Centenaries, 1912-1923. The development process around the exhibition will offer opportunities for the NMI team to link in with partners in academic institutions, special interest groups, local museums, local archive groups and local libraries. NMI foresees that History of Ireland will connect directly with local communities; through the public consultation during the exhibition development; and the development of exhibition content that will be designed to travel concurrently to local museums and venues across Ireland.

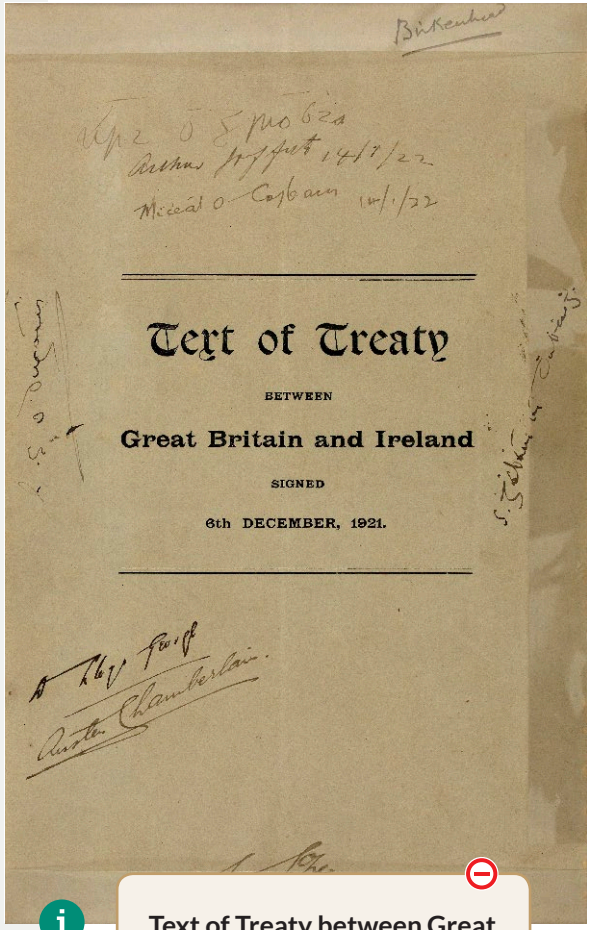
Archive material and exhibition panels that emphasise local objects and narratives will be developed, including reproductions – these could potentially be intelligence files, musical instruments or a wide range of other objects.

Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane and the National Museum of Ireland will co-curate an exhibition to mark the centenary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. The exhibition will be located in the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, and will open on 23rd November 2021. It is planned to examine the political and military background to the Treaty, particularly the role of Dáil Éireann and the Cabinet, nascent Free State / Republican military forces, and their representation or otherwise of the Irish people. The exhibition will also investigate negotiations for, and signing of the Treaty as crystallising moments for Ireland during the 'decade of disturbance' from 1913 to 1923, and to consider whether the series of events from signing to angry Dáil debates, to narrow ratification and their aftermath mutated the Treaty from a vehicle of peace into a written accelerator for civil war.

- **Contemporaneous artefacts from the National Museum's collection, comprising, for example, a copy of the Treaty document autographed by the signatories, the fountain pen reputedly used by Michael Collins to sign the original Treaty document, and pro- and anti-Treaty propaganda works.**
- **Photographs from the National Museum's Joseph Cashman Collection that depict the principal events and personalities of the Truce-to-Treaty era.**
- **Works by Sir John Lavery, RA RSA RHA, from the Treaty period in the collection of The Hugh Lane. These include portraits of both the signatories and of other relevant figures from the time.**
- **Relevant artworks by Leo Whelan, RHA and Lily Williams, ARHA, also in the Hugh Lane collection.**
- **A number of loans have been requested from such bodies at the Irish Military Archives, National Gallery of Ireland and National Museums Northern Ireland.**

A major publication will accompany the exhibition.

Lynn Scarff
Director



Text of Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland

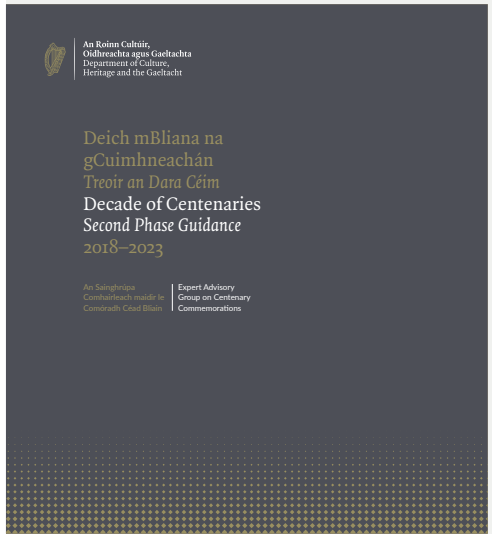
National Museum of Ireland

Opening of the Ulster Parliament, Belfast

National Library of Ireland

CENTENARY OF PARTITION

As the Expert Advisory Group note, *'the approaching centenary of Northern Ireland coming into existence poses difficult and sensitive challenges. It is recognised that partition represented a gulf that affected, for a long time, the totality of relationships within this island, particularly up until the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. The identification of the unionist community with Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom, and their pride in its existence and achievements cannot be overlooked. Equally, the nationalist community in Northern Ireland experienced serious alienation over 50 years under the Parliament established in 1921. The story of a third group, the Southern Unionist tradition, whose way of life, culture and political aspirations were forever impacted by partition, should also be acknowledged during the commemorations.'*



The programme for the forthcoming period of commemorations will continue to encourage reflection about the multiple identities, traditions and perspectives that are part of the overall Irish historical experience. The inclusive and respectful approach, which has underpinned our successful commemoration of events to date, will again guide our approach to marking the anniversaries still to come.

The programme will take account of sensitivities across communities in Northern Ireland and will continue to recognise that very different perspectives persist on many of these events - in particular on Partition and the foundation of Northern Ireland - in line with the guidance provided by the Expert Advisory Group.

Officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs will continue to maintain close contact with a broad range of stakeholders in Northern Ireland, including political representatives and the Northern Ireland Office's Centenary Forum, to ensure open channels of communication in relation to planning for the forthcoming centenaries.

Reflections on the Centenary of the Government of Ireland Act

Queen's University Belfast hosted an online event entitled '*Reflections on the Centenary of the Government of Ireland Act*' on Thursday, 10th December 2020. This event brought together political leaders and academics to reflect on the themes of partition and the foundation of Northern Ireland. The programme included pre-recorded speeches by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis MP and a pre-recorded moderated panel discussion, chaired by Professor Fearghal McGarry, with contributions from Lord Paul Bew and Professor Mary Daly. The First Minister and Deputy First Minister also contributed pre-recorded speeches for this event.

The Partition of Ireland: Causes and Consequences

Queen's University Belfast originally intended to host a full academic conference on this date, aligning with the recommendation by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations that an academic conference would be an appropriate way of marking the centenary of partition and the foundation of Northern Ireland.

Due to COVID-19, the conference proposal has been re-imagined. A series of on-line public talks, hosted by Queen's University Belfast, entitled *'The Partition of Ireland: Causes and Consequences'* will take place during 2021 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Partition of Ireland. The series is supported by the UK and Irish Governments, and by the Royal Irish Academy and the British Academy. The BBC has agreed to record the talks and it's envisaged that the series will be available to the public on BBC Sounds as well as on the websites of QUB, the RIA and the British Academy. The first talk will air in April 2021.

Irish Embassy Network

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will continue to support the Irish embassy network to ensure that appropriate recognition is given to the international dimension and the role of the Diaspora in the events of this period. Initiatives planned for 2021 include:

- The Irish Embassy in London, with support from D/TCAGSM, are developing a programme to mark the centenary of the Treaty negotiations in London. The planned programme may include an exhibition of John Lavery's paintings in London; an exhibition in conjunction with the National Archives; a number of site specific performances of 'The Treaty', a new play, from Fishamble Theatre and possibly an event in the Embassy bringing relatives of the negotiators of the Treaty together, both British and Irish. With input from historians, this event will reflect on the Treaty, the role of their ancestors, the wider social and cultural context and the direction of lives and careers after the Treaty was signed.
- The Irish Embassy in Washington D.C., in conjunction with leading Irish studies programmes at American Universities and Colleges, and the American Conference for Irish Studies are organising a series of lectures and panel discussions, entitled A Farther Shore - American Reflections on the Advent of Irish Independence (1921-22). The programme will begin in early 2021, with contributions from scholars based at, or connected to, US institutions, and run monthly - at least initially online - through to June 2021, including a keynote panel at the ACIS annual conference in Derry.

New Publications

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is supporting the publication of two Royal Irish Academy publications - *'Ireland 1922: Independence, Partition, Civil War'* and *'The Handover: Dublin Castle and the British withdrawal from Ireland'*.

The Department is also supporting the publication of the following:

- ***Shadows and Reflections – A Photographic Portrait of the Irish National War Memorial Gardens*** **with observations in poetry and prose by a local women's community collective in Dublin 8;**
- **An edited volume, *Female enfranchisement and its limitations, 1918-2018: Gender, politics, class, and caste in Ireland, Europe and India*. 20 specially commissioned chapters on *Irish Gender History 1852-1922* from scholars in the field and a foreword by Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, TCD; and**
- **Production and publication of a *Bibliography of Irish Women's History* by the Women's History Association of Ireland (WHAI) as a public resource.**

New Bursary Scheme to support local historians

In consultation with the Expert Advisory Group, initiatives will be developed to encourage local historians and new research focusing on themes associated with the local experience of the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War period. A new dedicated fund will be established to assist in the publication and promotion of this new research.

Origins of our Criminal Justice System

The Department of Justice will have a leading role, in consultation with the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations on the development of plans to explore the origins of the criminal justice system, the courts, and policing in Ireland.

BURNING OF THE CUSTOM HOUSE

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is developing a broad commemorative programme to mark the centenary of the Burning of the Custom House, including the development of a new visitor centre on site. It had been intended to open the new centre on the 25th May to mark the centenary, but delivery of the project has been delayed due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, and it is now expected that the centre will open in June/July 2021 (provisional - subject to any further restrictions and works schedule).

The Military Archives

The Military Archives is located at Cathal Brugha Barracks in Rathmines, Dublin. It is the official place of deposit, under the terms of the National Archives Act 1986, for the archival records of the Irish Defence Forces, Department of Defence, and Army Pensions Board. The Military Archives is located in a purpose-built facility opened in 2016 as one of Ireland's 'permanent reminders' - legacy capital projects marking the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. While the Archives has only been at its new site for a few years, its history can be traced back as far as 1924.

The Military Archives holds many collections central to the events of the revolutionary decade 1913-1923. These include the *Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection*, the *Bureau of Military History 1913-1923*, and the *Collins Papers 1918-1922*. One of the Archives' collections most directly relevant to the year 1921 are the *Truce, Liaison and Evacuation Papers*, which originated from the Office of the Chief Liaison Officer, established following the successful negotiation of the Truce between the IRA and British Government.

The Military Service Pensions Collection project is Department of Defence led and run by its own dedicated team. More pension files will be released in 2021, adding to the substantial corpus of digitised primary sources already available online. The team will continue to draw attention to known and lesser known events for the year 1921 with a particular focus on the role and experiences of women who were active during the period and on their later lives.

Good primary sources are essential to understanding the shared and complex past of the communities on the island of Ireland. The Decade of Centenaries has fostered a great increase in both the quantity and accessibility of Irish archives. The history of Óglaigh na hÉireann, from the foundation of the Volunteers to the current Defence Forces, is inextricably linked with the story of modern Ireland. The Defence Organisation (Defence Forces and Department of Defence), through its Military Archives, has proudly played a leading role in the preservation and accessibility of this history.

Many resources are available on or website www.militaryarchives.ie, and many more are accessible by appointment at the Commandant Peter Young Reading Room. Appointments can be made through militaryarchives@defenceforces.ie or (01) 804 6457.

The Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection (MSPC)

Since its first release of material on-line, over 100,000 files have been processed, with approximately 30,000 scanned files currently fully downloadable. Over 2 million individual pages have been digitised. The MSPC project is planning two releases of additional material for 2021. These collections are available through the military archive website here.

This material can be drawn on for academic historical enquiry and broader public engagement in the context of local community activities. A complementary public engagement programme is also under development, comprising public talks, symposia, and publications.

The Military Archives is also planning for further releases of material in 2021, including

- **Court Martial Administration Files 1922-1924 (available in the Military Archives Reading Room)**
- **The "Contemporary Documents series" of the Bureau of Military History (1913-1921) is currently being digitised. It is planned that this series will be available on the Military Archives website.**

Conference on the Military Aspect of the Struggle for Independence

This online conference is scheduled for July 2021, hosted by the Military History Society of Ireland and the Military Archives, focusing on the military aspect of the Struggle for Independence, postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19.

2021 Decade of Centenaries Hedge School Programme

The 2021 Decade of Centenaries Hedge School Programme is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in partnership with History Ireland. These lively debates on a wide range of international, national and local topics related to the Decade of Centenaries provide a novel and interesting way to bring historical topics to life. They appeal to special-interest groups such as local history societies, but also have a broad appeal to a wide range of audiences.

Due to the on-going public health requirements in 2021, Hedge Schools are produced as podcasts with no 'in person' audience and are available to access on www.decadeofcentenaries.com. The proposed programme for 2021 includes podcasts as follows:

JAN

JANUARY

'Spies and informers beware!' - Eunan O'Halpin (Trinity College, Dublin), Andy Bielenberg University College Cork), Cécile Gordon (Director, Military Service Pensions Project and Gerry White (Author and former member of the Defence Forces)

FEB

FEBRUARY

Katherine O'Shea centenary—what if she and Parnell never met? - Mary Kenny (Journalist and broadcaster), Daniel Mulhall (Ambassador of Ireland to the United States) Patrick Maume (Royal Irish Academy, Dictionary of Irish Biography) and Margaret O'Callaghan (Queen's University, Belfast).

MAR

MARCH

Limerick curfew killings. The murders of two Lord Mayors of Limerick, George Clancy and Michael O'Callaghan. An opportunity to discuss the role of local government in the struggle for Irish independence.

The Crossbarry engagement (the largest of the War of Independence) (on 19th)

MAY

MAY

The burning of the Custom House (25th)

JUN

JUNE

George V opening of the Northern Ireland parliament. Centenary of the establishment of Northern Ireland (22nd).

JUL

JULY

The Truce and subsequent negotiations up to the Treaty.

AUG

AUGUST

The propaganda war—including internationally. The role of public opinion.

SEP

SEPTEMBER

A Podcast tailored for post-primary school students, in collaboration with the History Teachers' Association of Ireland.

OCT

OCTOBER

Crowd-funding the revolution. The First Dáil loan and the underground administration.

NOV

NOVEMBER

'The Greater War' in Europe. Consideration of the War of Independence in relation to the other 'small wars' in Europe 1918-1923—Finnish civil war, Russian civil war, various border wars, etc.

DEC

DECEMBER

The Treaty—good deal or bad deal?

Engagement with schools

The Department of Education, and its support services, have developed and continue to develop a variety of initiatives and resources to support young people and their teachers in navigating the complexities of the period being marked by the Decade of Centenaries.

https://www.scoilnet.ie/ is the national repository for online resources for schools, both primary and post primary. Scoilnet will continue to publish content relating to the Decade of Centenaries, linking every resource to an area of the curriculum and specific learning outcomes.

The 'Decade of Centenaries' Irish history competition for primary and post-primary schools 2021 (focusing on the 1912–1922 period, or a part of it) is supported by the Department of Education, University College Cork School of History, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and History Ireland. Projects are invited under the following general headings but can incorporate a local/regional studies theme:

- **Revolution in Ireland**
- **Ireland and the First World War**
- **Women during the revolutionary period in Ireland**
- **War of Independence**
- **The Civil War**

The closing date is Friday, 30th April 2021, and prizes will be awarded in September 2021. Full details, are available to download at www.education.ie/historycompetition.

Machnamh 100

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is supporting Machnamh 100. This is an initiative of President Higgins, comprising a series of seminars inviting reflections on the War of Independence, Partition, the Treaty Negotiations and the Civil War. Leading scholars from different backgrounds and with an array of perspectives share their insights and thoughts on the context and events of that formative period of a century ago and on the nature of commemoration itself.

An Post Commemorative Stamp Programme

The 2021 commemorative stamp programme includes two stamps to commemorate the signing of the Truce and two stamps to commemorate the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations. This continued focus on the Decade of Centenaries and the significant events in our shared history is very significant.

The stamp designs were approved by Government on 8th December 2020 as part of the overall 2021 stamp programme designs. The stamps to commemorate the centenary of the Truce will issue on Thursday 8th July 2021 and will be formally launched on 11th July 2021 to tie in with the centenary events.

Also, the An Post Saorstát Éireann Stamp Commission in partnership with Business to Arts is a new open call to artists and an associated stamp commission. Artists are invited to submit details of an original artwork, which commemorates the centenary of Saorstát Éireann in 2022.

Citizen Engagement

Century Ireland

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will continue to support projects developed by RTÉ and others as appropriate, to mark the forthcoming period of commemorations.

The Department supports Century Ireland (www.rte.ie/centuryireland) – an online historical newspaper initiative that tells the story of life in Ireland 100 years ago, published fortnightly by researchers at Boston College and hosted by RTÉ. The researchers have mapped out storylines and identified supporting archives for 2021 and are writing and commissioning analysis and feature articles to support the historical reportage. The digital newspaper is part of the suite of digital offering under the programme that have gained in terms of awareness, wider value and popularity in the context of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

RTÉ online initiative

RTÉ and UCC are currently collaborating on the development of *The Irish Civil War*, a three-part television documentary, based on UCC's *Atlas of the Irish Revolution* to be broadcast in October 2022 to mark the centenary of the Civil War. As part of the Decade of Centenaries and with support from the Department, *The Irish Civil War* series will examine the critical years of the Irish State's foundation from the Truce period to the highly charged Treaty Debates and split, to the outbreak of the Civil War, the conduct of that war and its legacy.

Alongside the three-part documentary, the partners will create an on-line accompaniment to both complement and provide additionality and added value to the documentary and the commemorative period.

The project will be a companion piece to the War of Independence, 1916, World War I and The Great Irish Famine online section at www.rte.ie/history.

The Department will support RTÉ and other broadcasters to develop further multi-platform programmes and initiatives which have the potential to reach a wide audience.

Irish Times Century Series

Continued support for the distribution to schools of the **Irish Times Century Series** of supplements. Furthermore, new partnerships with national print/on-line media will be developed in 2021 to highlight key aspects of the Decade of Centenaries Programme.

3 Community Strand

The local authorities are key partners in the Decade of Centenaries Programme and have had a leading role in driving inclusive, respectful and meaningful community-led commemoration, augmented with appropriate State recognition, support and participation. The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media has approved a funding allocation of €50,000 for each local authority in 2021, to support the development of appropriate community led commemorative initiatives and allow for advance planning of commemorative initiatives for 2022.

Individual local authorities have particularly close connections with the historical events that occurred between 1921 and 1923 and related themes.

Local authorities will continue to adopt a broad focus in responding to the significant events and themes of this period, which recognises all of the dimensions interwoven with the conflict – the military activity, the political context, and social, economic and cultural aspects, and legacies.

A supplementary fund of €200,000 has been allocated to support those local authorities who have any additional requirements in relation to specific centenary events and other larger projects as required. Cross-border initiatives are also encouraged as part of this package.

Local authorities have been asked to consider the following when developing their plans for 2021:

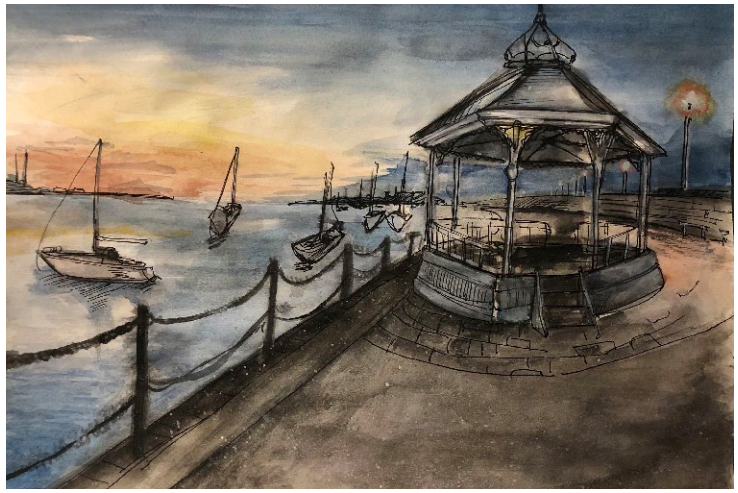
Artistic and creative community-led responses

This year, each local authority is required to allocate at least **€15,000** from their 2021 funding allocation under the Programme to support artists and creative communities in developing community-led commemorative initiatives.

The interpretation of historical events by our artists and creative practitioners will provide a platform to encourage reflection and the consideration of issues, both past and present, which may be challenging, difficult and sometimes deeply personal. Local authorities are encouraged to consult with their Creative Ireland/Culture Teams while developing their artistic and creative programmes.

Potential initiatives in the area of creative expression could include but are not limited to:

- **Online initiatives, such as films, podcasts, exhibitions, performances, etc.**
- **New artistic commissions by artists from all backgrounds and genres;**
- **Artist/Writer/Poet-in-Residence programmes, that can bring the rich store of archival material held in our county museums, archives and libraries, to life for new audiences and highlight the importance of these collections;**
- **Creative writing programmes;**
- **Art competitions; and**
- **Creative initiatives designed to support engagement with older people, new communities and young people.**



Initiatives that support broad public engagement

- **Initiatives that support alternative approaches to citizen engagement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g. development of curated digital content, online exhibitions, pod-casts, webinars, virtual tours, artistic and creative endeavours, and other online outreach activities for people of all ages.**
- **Initiatives that encourage and support local research, scholarship and free public access to authentic local archival sources, including online access to digitised local archives.**
- **Support for a 'Historian in Residence' who will drive public engagement with the Decade of Centenaries Programme.**
- **Support for public libraries to enable them to enhance their collections of Decade of Centenaries related reading materials, including materials for young people.**
- **Digital Heritage Projects (e.g. geo-mapping initiatives).**
- **Collaborative initiatives with the National Cultural Institutions, including public outreach activities.**

Support for library-led initiatives or collaborations

Libraries are recognised as being accessible, trusted spaces at the heart of their communities that protect and preserve the collective memory for their respective cities or counties, in the form of unique collections of books, maps, photographs, prints, newspaper archives, and manuscripts.

Throughout the Decade of Centenaries, libraries have played a special role in connecting and engaging with local communities. The Department welcomes and encourage library-led initiatives or collaborative projects involving the library services.

Cross-border initiatives

We welcome and encourage the development of cross-border Decade of Centenaries initiatives to the greatest extent possible; particularly those that explore the impact and legacy of the events of this period on communities living along the newly established border and farther afield.

The programme budget for 2021 provides for additional funding to support cross-border collaboration and appropriate commemorative initiatives.

Proposals for the planting of commemorative trees and related projects

Local authorities may use some of their Decade of Centenaries programme funding to assist TidyTowns Committees or other interested community organisations in planting trees or creating commemorative groves, gardens, or other similar projects, to mark the significant events being remembered during this final phase of the centenaries programme.

In this regard, the Department also welcomes the *Community Gardens of Remembrance and Reflection* initiative, developed under the auspices of Glór na Cásca.

Local authorities are requested to ensure that all projects funded are developed appropriately, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations, and with a focus on reconciliation and shared remembrance. It is recommended that information panels, rather than plaques, are used to inform the public about the meaning and significance of the projects funded.

TidyTowns Committees will be eligible to submit their Decade of Centenaries initiatives for consideration in the annual TidyTowns Competition in the relevant category.

CAVAN COUNTY MUSEUM

World War Ireland

In 2021 the National Library of Ireland (NLI) will launch a new regional outreach initiative in partnership with Cavan County Museum. The initiative will see its popular "World War Ireland" exhibition transfer from Kildare Street to Cavan on long-term loan. The exhibition will be housed in Cavan County Museum's 'Shared Space' and will complement existing exhibits including its popular World War One Trench Experience.

As part of the initiative, the NLI and Cavan County Museum will jointly offer a shared public engagement programme that takes advantage of the expertise and facilities of both institutions. This programme will commence with a special seminar at which a panel of speakers will debate the impact of the conflict on life in Ireland during the period.

Cavan County Museum welcomes this opportunity to work in partnership with NLI. This is an exciting opportunity that has the potential to enhance visitor engagement given our existing commemorative indoor and outdoor exhibitions, in particular the World War One Trench Experience. A high proportion of our visitors come from Northern Ireland and would normally not have access to the National Library's exhibitions - this partnership will showcase this work.

Savina O'Donoghue,
Director of the Cavan County Museum

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Why is it that we commemorate? Is it something we feel compelled to do, or is it something deeper, something ingrained in us as an Irish People? In County Cork, our past is paramount and every parish has its own stories, its own heroes and its very own trials and tribulations.

2021 is a significant centenary year in the County of Cork with regard to Commemorations. It is the year that saw the Truce (July 11th 1921) but also some of the key ambushes and events of the Struggle for Independence such as Dripsey, Cúl na Cathrach, The Battle of Crossbarry (which is one of the most famous of engagements in the War of Independence), and the greatest loss of Republican life at any Struggle for Independence Engagement – the Clonmult Ambush.

County Cork in 1921 saw over 20 ambushes and over 30 assassinations and executions including the first officially sanctioned execution in Ireland under Martial Law. There were house raids, barracks attacks, disappearances, rescues and close to 100 Shootings - some of which were accidental but nonetheless resulted in tragic loss of life. Perhaps one of the most tragic was the death of an innocent 4-year-old boy in Rosscarbery who died during a nearby explosion.

The Struggle for Independence in County Cork, 1921, saw the death of over 250 people – men, women and children, on both sides of the conflict and on none. This year, groups throughout County Cork are proud to be the generation that commemorates the centenary and a range of different projects and initiatives are being undertaken with the support of Cork County Council's Commemorations Committee, all in keeping with COVID-19 measures.

To remember where we have come from is a reflection of ourselves today – a projection in the present of our future identity. In the County of Cork, these commemorations are an opportunity to show that one hundred years later - we still remember.

Conor Nelligan
Heritage Officer

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Donegal County Council has commemorated the Decade of Centenaries with exhibitions, publications, activities and events since 2012.

The events of the Decade have a particular resonance in Donegal. From the First World War when hundreds of young men from every part of the County lost their lives, to the impact of Partition which is still felt in many aspects of life in Donegal up to the present day. Our commemorations have focussed on ensuring that the stories of this period will never again be forgotten. The current commemorations will focus on an exploration of the years from 1920 to 1923. Through our programme we hope to promote a deeper understanding of the period, in particular the various narratives and memories reflected in the community. This is of particular importance when we are exploring the impact of Partition on the County which was nearly completely cut off from the new Irish state as well as its nearest city of Derry/Londonderry.

The creation of the border effectively shaped much of the narrative of Donegal in the Twentieth century.

Donegal County Council through its Culture Division plans to deliver a number of engaging and informative projects in 2021 to explore the history of the Decade of Centenaries in County Donegal. The Museum will deliver a virtual tour of its exhibition "From Conflict to Division Donegal 1919-1925" so that visitors from all over Ireland and abroad can explore the exhibition and learn more about the events of the revolutionary period in Donegal. The Museum also plans to create a database of the County Donegal Book of Honour which lists all those from Donegal who died in World War I. The database will be accessible on-line and will contain additional information not currently available in the published book. Further projects to be delivered by the Culture Division include an Artist in Residence programme which will seek an artist working in any of the creative forms to respond to the Council's historic collections; an Open Call to artists to create work reflecting the history of the period; and a specific childrens programme which will take place during Wainfest children's festival in October.

Judith McCarthy
Curator

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Local Legacies 1921/2021

South Dublin County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021 will explore and reflect on the impact of the pivotal events of 100 years ago at both a national and local level. The effect of the War of Independence, the Truce and signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty have been felt in South Dublin County, as elsewhere in the country, for the decades which followed, through the Civil War, and the past 100 years to today.

This year's programme will focus on local connections to the War of Independence. These connections will be commemorated through cultural events, historical reflections, lectures, exhibitions and educational programmes. We will also reflect on life in Ireland at the time in a broader context, including the social and economic conditions experienced by local people during the revolutionary period, the Irish language and cultural life, the role of women during this time, South Dublin County's military heritage, and the experiences of Irishmen who fought in the Great War on their return to their communities in South Dublin.

Despite the ongoing challenge of COVID-19, we look forward to engaging with local historians, artists, community groups, and the community in general, throughout South Dublin County in the commemoration of this formative period of Irish history.

Síle Coleman
Senior Executive Librarian

Kerry Decade of Centenaries 2021-2023 – an overview

The final phase of the Kerry Decade of Centenaries commemorations with be primarily delivered via a major exhibition - *Revolutionary Kerry in 100 Objects* – initially delivered online but morphing into a major physical exhibition once access reverts back to normal in 2022.

These commemorations will be supplemented by a range of local initiatives, mainly driven by the Kerry Library Service and including public information and education through

(i) **ongoing social media postings** of events as they were reported in the local newspapers

(ii) **a monthly local radio insert** focusing on events relating to the commemorative period and

(iii) ongoing **digitisation of unique Kerry holdings** held in public archives.

Exhibition

Revolutionary Kerry in 100 Objects will explore the lived experience of people in Kerry during the period of the War of Independence and the Civil War, and how they coped with the aftermath. The exhibition will bring together a collection of artefacts that will create a mosaic of what life was like in Kerry during this period.

At the heart of this project is the active participation of the community in Kerry in creating with us a rounded picture of life in the county during this turbulent time. We will do this through a considered and targeted call-out for artefacts that are still in private collections and have never been seen in public before. This is an opportunity for the general public to play an active role in aligning their own family stories with the events of this period.

Taking consideration of the uncertainty created by the global pandemic, it will be produced in 2021 as an online exhibition, with an accompanying printed catalogue. In 2022 it will occupy a physical space within the Museum, with the objects rotating and changing over the course of six years, taking it up to the centenary of the opening of the Ashe Memorial Hall in 2028.

Digitisation

The **ongoing digitisation programme** aims to electronically secure and also make publicly available the range of unique Kerry holdings in the Kerry Library archives collection, in this case the papers of Tom Sheehy, O.C. of the Oakpark I.R.A. unit in Tralee, during the War of Independence and Civil War. It also covers his involvement with the LDF and later FCA, his work at Ballybeggan Racecourse, and his later involvement with Fianna Fáil.

For digitisation purposes, the collection comprises approximately 1,100 images, many of which deal with pension requests for War of Independence and Civil War Veterans. As an Officer, Tom Sheehy would have been expected to sign off on claims made by men under his command. It is intended to carry out this work during 2021.

Public information and education

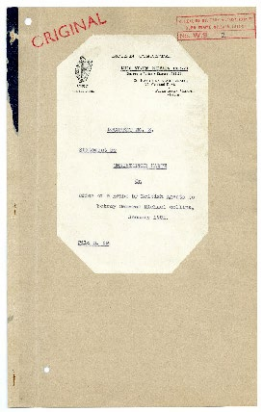
The aim will be to extract and bring information to the attention of the public. Drawn from contemporary sources, mainly from the local newspapers, in order to remember and educate current day citizens of the events of the period in a respectful, sensitive and non-partisan remembrance of all of those who suffered and died during the period from 1921-1923.

Tommy O'Connor
County Librarian

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

Offaly 2021

Offaly County Council plans a year of collaboration with local historical societies and communities to commemorate the centenary. Many articles, lectures and blogs have been developed over the past number of years and these will now be accessible through a dedicated section on www.offalyhistory.com. Due to the uncertain circumstances for in-person public engagement in 2021 there will be a strong focus on commissioning and sharing short video clips and online lectures. There will be online photographic exhibitions which will also be featured in the windows of the Offaly Library Branches. School tours are planned for Edenderry, Birr and Tullamore in the autumn if possible.



A key project for 2021 will be the publication of a book of 300 photographs of Irish life, centred at the Biddulph estate at Rathrobin, Mountbolus. This will include an essay on Offaly during the 1900-24 period. Rathrobin House was destroyed during the Civil War, though fortuitously the photographic collection was safe. A second publication proposed, features the Goodbody Business Family and the people of Clara in the wider social and commercial world. The history by the late Harold Goodbody sees analysis of Clara in the years before, during and after the period being marked by the Decade of Centenaries and provides a wider context of the era.

The Story of the Geashill Cauldron

Researching the War of Independence at Offaly Archives

Amanda Pedlow
Heritage Officer

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

County Meath Library Service

In 2013, Meath County Council library service was delighted to return to print Oliver Coogan's *Politics and War in Meath 1913-1923*. This was to herald the first of many publications, as in the following years Tom French, local studies librarian, published, among others, volumes to commemorate the centenaries of Francis Ledwidge (2017), the closure of Oldcastle camp (2018), Navan's Great War Dead (2018) and the sack of Trim (2020).

Almost all of the volumes were produced in association with local historical societies. *A Bittern Cry, Oldcastle Camp 1914-18 –An Illustrated History, They Shall Grow Not Old* and *Trim, September 1920* fill gaps in our knowledge and contribute greatly to our understanding of our history. The richness of the material uncovered in the final volumes is testament to the faith and trust that local communities place in the local studies department. The hunting and gathering of material is a shared pleasure with historians and librarians working as one towards a common goal.

The generous financial support afforded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Art, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media has enabled the library service to produce these publications to the highest standard of print and design. Local communities celebrate these publications and recognise the permanent legacy that these volumes afford.

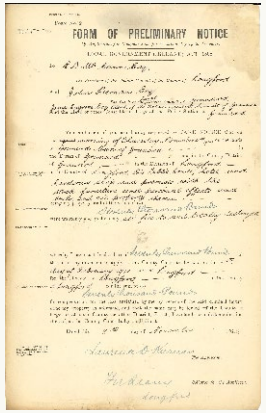
As 2021 unfolds, the printed volume is once again at the heart of our programme. The Meath History Workshop and Meath County Council will mark the centenary of the Anglo-Irish Treaty with a publication in honour of one of the signatories - Meath's Eamon Duggan. It will record his role in the turbulent years up to 1922 and assess his contribution to the new State in the years that followed. Later in the year Meath County Council library service will publish Curraghtown, July 1922 bringing together letters, minutes and other material from Meath County Archive, the National Archives and the Military Archives of Ireland, combining them with contemporary newspaper accounts to provide an overview of a lesser-known incident of the Civil War in Meath which caused much controversy and bitterness.

Ciarán Mangan
County Librarian

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Reconciliation and Legacies

Reconciliation, community participation and legacy projects are key elements in County Longford's programme.


FORM OF PRELIMINARY NOTICE

The most significant event to be remembered this year is the Clonfin ambush, which was on 2nd February 1921. The North Longford Flying Column, led by Seán MacEoin, defeated a party of Auxiliaries. Four Auxiliaries died as a result of the engagement. The column displayed remarkable humanity in tending the dying and wounded. Months later, three of the Auxiliaries testified in MacEoin's favour at his court-martial for murder.

Clonfin exemplified careful planning and good tactics. It and its aftermath also showed that alongside violence and death, there can be mercy, decency and reconciliation. True commemoration of the period must reflect on this.

The commemoration of Clonfin will feature a project with primary schools; a documentary by a local filmmaker; and the story of an extraordinary personal journey by Sr Maeve Brady RSM, daughter of a member of the flying column. There will also be a weekend of events, organised in partnership with the Clonfin Commemoration Committee. Such community involvement is crucial to the success of the county programme.

Other work being completed includes the production of an education pack for senior classes in primary schools. The pack, ***Ireland and Longford in times of war and revolution, 1914-23***, it will be a valuable resource for teaching the period.

Archives of relevance are being digitised. They are vital in facilitating new research, which is an essential basis for commemoration and reflection. The collections involved include compensation claims made by some people whose properties were destroyed in reprisals and one by an Auxiliary who was wounded. There are also papers from an officer who was killed in the Civil War. These personal experiences give us a better, more nuanced understanding of events.

Martin Morris
Archivist

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

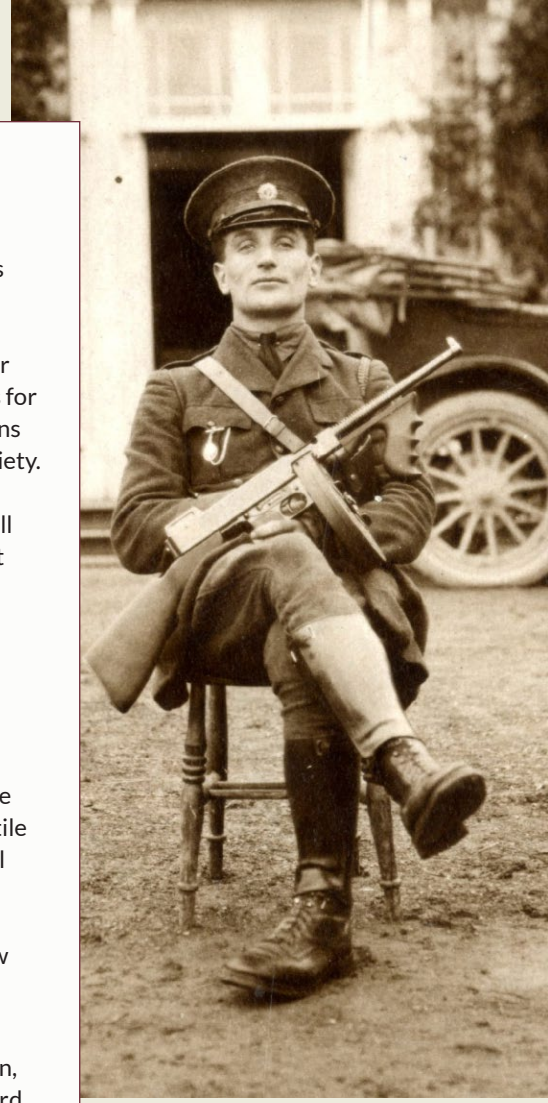
Bordering Realities

Community has been at the heart of the imaginative and engaging programme of events that Monaghan County Council's Cultural Team has produced throughout the decade of centenaries. Monaghan's position on the border has provided exciting and unique opportunities for partnership and collaboration with organisations and groups representing various sectors of society. This successful approach to reflecting on our island's history and heritage has ensured that all generations can interact and respond to what it means to be of this place and of this time.

Looking forward to the next phase of commemoration, we intend to reflect and consider the bordering realities of life in this region by examining our shared history, our shared experience, our shared place. Working together with several cross border partners, the Monaghan Cultural Team will facilitate a versatile and absorbing programme with the central goal of enabling our community to interact, explore and challenge themselves and each other so as build better relations at the local level and grow collectively as a cohesive society into the 21st century.

This will be achieved through artistic expression, digital development, animation, the written word, interactive displays and public events. The various outputs of this exiting project investigating an important and contested period in our recent shared history will be displayed in the Monaghan County Council Peace Campus. A new multiuse community space which, when completed in 2022, will have a transformative effect on the county and the border region for decades to come.

Deirdriu McQuaid
Senior Executive Librarian



WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Community participation in the Decade of Centenaries programme in County Wexford has remained high since many thousands of people lined the streets of Enniscorthy in 2016 to commemorate the local rising. In recent years, large numbers have attended digitisation open days, exhibitions and public lectures on topics of local and national interest.

An open public meeting attended by over 200 people in late 2019 provided the basis for the development of an inclusive programme from 2020-2023. The suggestions at the meeting were broad and varied but there was one common theme: the desire for an inclusive and respectful programme that added to the awareness of what happened in the County during this turbulent time.

One strong theme that emerged from consultation was the development of a strand in the programme to engage children and young people with the events of 100 years ago. Following from the success of a schools pack developed by the library service on 1916 in County Wexford, an information booklet is being prepared with a timeline of local events and themes of the War of Independence for distribution to every school in the County in 2021.

Wexford County Archive Service, with support from the Creative Ireland Programme, has also commissioned 'Discovery Boxes' of replica documents and artefacts which will be loaned to primary and post-primary pupils. Items will include replica items, prison correspondence and a profile of two men and two women from the War of Independence collections held by Wexford County Archive.

The move solely to digital engagement in the COVID environment proved to be a difficult but not insurmountable challenge in County Wexford.

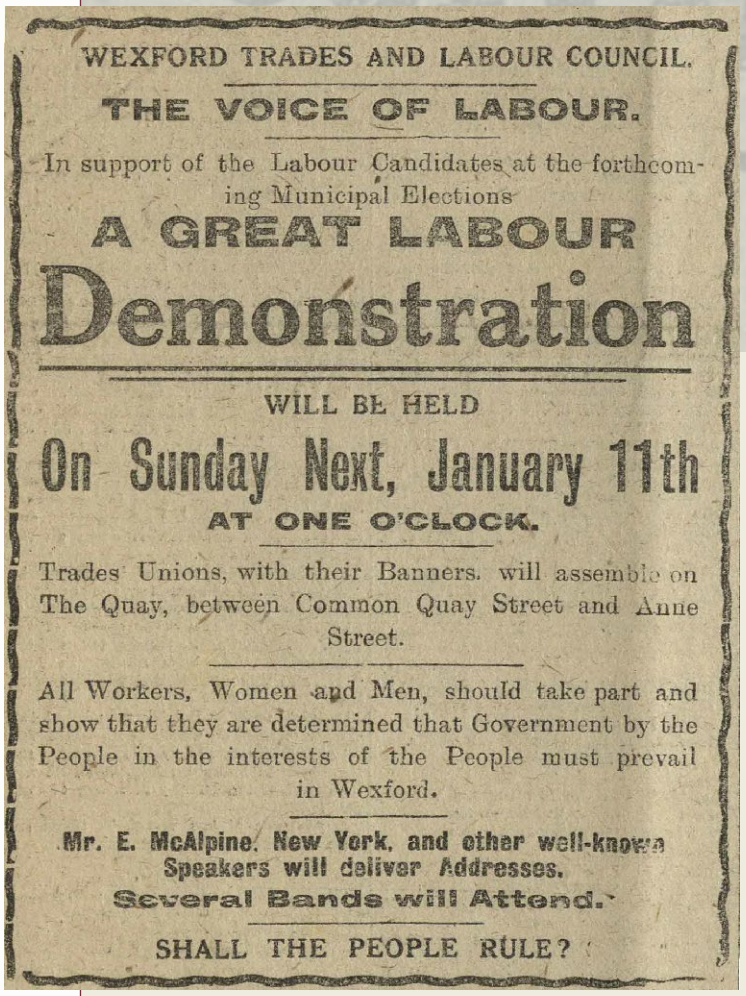
Many of the digitised resources that have been provided for the first time including a suite of local newspapers from the era, a geo-mapping and digital exhibition series will be valuable resources for researchers and secondary students.

An online exhibition 'Archives from the Past' series – the War of Independence in County Wexford as reflected in the holdings of Wexford County Archive (to include the local government response) will be developed in 2021 as well as the digitisation of primary source materials:

- **Diary of Seán Sinnott during his time on Spike Island, 1921**
- **Ballykinlar No. 2 GAA Camp minute book, 1921**
- **Edward Roe archive (catalogue and archives/ artefacts)**
- **Cataloguing of the TD Sinnott archive**

With as strong programme of activity in each Municipal District, online talks and exhibitions, podcasts and a local radio programme on South East Radio, Wexford County Council is confident that the public will continue to engage with, and actively participate in, the next phase of commemoration in a respectful and inclusive manner.

Eileen Morrissey
County Librarian


WEXFORD TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL.

THE VOICE OF LABOUR.

In support of the Labour Candidates at the forthcoming Municipal Elections

A GREAT LABOUR

Demonstration

WILL BE HELD

On Sunday Next, January 11th

AT ONE O'CLOCK.

Trades Unions, with their Banners, will assemble on The Quay, between Common Quay Street and Anne Street.

All Workers, Women and Men, should take part and show that they are determined that Government by the People in the interests of the People must prevail in Wexford.

Mr. E. McAlpine, New York, and other well-known Speakers will deliver Addresses.

Several Bands will Attend.

SHALL THE PEOPLE RULE?

4 Creative Imagination Strand

In 2021, the Decade of Centenaries programme will continue to encourage artistic and creative expression. Artistic and creative endeavours will have an important role in encouraging reflection, exploration and debate, allowing people of all traditions to question and consider issues which may be challenging and difficult.

Cultural engagement also offers a safe space to explore complex narratives which arise from the partition of the island.

The Arts Council, local authorities, National Cultural Institutions, National Arts Organisations and local cultural institutions will have an important contribution to make under this Strand. The guidance of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations acknowledges their significant role as cultural brokers – managing conversations and engaging communities in a meaningful way through creative expression.

Potential initiatives and collaborations for 2021/2022 under the Creative Imagination Strand of the programme include but are not limited to, the following:

New Partnership with the Arts Council to support new commissions by artists from all genres and backgrounds

This project is currently in development and has the potential to provide artists across a wide range of disciplines, the opportunity to engage with complex and challenging themes in a really interesting way. The interpretation of the events and themes associated with the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries including the Civil War by our artists and creative practitioners will provide a platform for us to re-examine this part of our history and look at it from multiple perspectives. We hope that this will also provide an opportunity to examine social, cultural, class and gender history of the period.

Enhanced Markievicz Award bursaries

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media previously announced that the Decade of Centenaries ***Markievicz Award*** bursary scheme for artists will be significantly enhanced for the period 2021-2023.

Awards under the scheme will be made each year in the period 2021-2023 to up to 10 artists (either individual artists working alone or in collaboration with others) – double the number made in previous years and to a value of €25,000 per award an increase on €20,000 offered in previous years. The Department is partnering with the Arts Council on the administration of the scheme and the Minister announced the award recipients for 2021 in April.

The Markievicz Award is intended to support artists to develop their craft and ultimately produce great art that recognises and commemorates the role of women in the historical period covered by the Decade of Centenaries and beyond.

New Pilot Scheme with National Arts and Civic Bodies

A pilot scheme of engagement with national arts and civic bodies to support creative practitioners in responding to the key themes of the Decade of Centenaries through various art forms is currently being developed. It is hoped that this Scheme of engagement will engage artists and creative practitioners from a wide range of genres to reflect on the themes of the Decade of Centenaries and produce original work which will engage the public to explore this part of our history.

New Partnership with the Irish Poetry Reading Archive, UCD

A new partnership with the Irish Poetry Reading Archive is in development. This initiative will use poetry as a medium to deepen our collective understanding of this challenging period in our shared history, in a spirit of openness and inclusivity.

Public commemorations throughout the Decade of Centenaries have often incorporated poetry readings – encouraging nuanced interpretation of complex issues. The Irish Poetry Reading Archive will work with support from Poetry Ireland. A core component of this initiative is to commission a selection of poems in English and in Irish, on topics, themes and events, documented by primary source materials held in archives around the country relating to the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War. The poems will be published, recorded and preserved in the Irish Poetry Reading Archive and the published collection and any other printed material generated will be held by the National Library of Ireland and made accessible to a global audience. A substantial public and community engagement programme will also be developed for adults and children across the island of Ireland.

New Artist-in Residence Scheme

A new artist in residency scheme in partnership with the National Archives, the National Library of Ireland, the National Museum of Ireland, the Beyond 2022 Project and the Military Archives was launched on 22 February 2021 to bring the primary source material in these bodies to new audiences.

Each body has now engaged an artist selected from a specific or a range of artistic disciplines (depending on the bespoke requirements/emphasis of that body) to reflect on a theme or themes falling under the scope of the Decade of Centenaries. Minister Martin announced the five selected artists on 23 April, 2021.

It is envisaged that as a result of this initiative, each organisation will gain new knowledge, ideas, identify new ways to engage with their collections and audiences, with the artist getting special access to the host body's collections, spaces, and expertise to inform their own work. The collaboration can enhance the visitor experience with audiences enjoying the new displays, experiences, new ways of seeing a collection and new approaches to presenting collections

The Crawford Art Gallery

The Crawford Art Gallery is hosting two curated exhibitions, which explore the local and global context for the events that occurred during this period - *Citizen Nowhere/Citizen Somewhere*, curated by Dawn Williams installed in 2020 until April 2021; and *For Those, That Tell No Tales*, curated by Dara McGrath, due in Summer 2021.

The Gallery is also proposing an interactive online programme which concentrates on the theme of 'the Building as a Witness' which echoes the time span of the Civil War.

Commencing 6th December 2021 – the hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty – the project will span the duration of the Civil War culminating on 15th December 1923, when the Gibson Bequest Committee contemplated the purchase of Séan Keating's iconic painting *Men of the South*.

The lens of the project will focus on the overlooked histories of the objects, events and the individual people and social groups that are entwined and enmeshed with the building. The project aims to reveal new insights into the everyday comings and goings along with photographic, newspaper articles, Board of Management minutes, Teaching and Student roll-calls and other documentation.

A dedicated web presence within the Crawford Art Gallery's website alongside regular social media postings will highlight dates, objects, events and people of macro and micro significance. Highlighting stories of figures like Diarmuid Ó Ceallacháin – the third Cork Lord Mayor appointed in 1920 (following the murder of Tomás MacCurtain and the death of Terence MacSwiney) who was on the Gibson Bequest Committee (an acquisition and student travel fund set up in 1919 upon the death of Joseph Stafford Gibson) alongside photographs of the building surrounded by barbed wire, to the correspondence of Barry Egan the silversmith who created the hallmark of the two-masted sailing ship with a single castle tower either side to create Irish Republican Silver during the Civil War, as it was too dangerous to send the silver objects to Dublin to be assayed.

New Partnership with 'Fighting Words'

A new partnership with ***Fighting Words*** and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media has been developed to engage young people in particular with the themes of the Decade of Centenaries. *Fighting Words* is engaging people across different age-groups in a story-writing experience, enabling writers to use their imaginations, their history and their ideas to capture elements of life on this island in 1921, how this connects to life now and into the future.

This will be an all-island project, with *Fighting Words* and *Fighting Words Northern Ireland* working together to engage stakeholders North and South, with a particular ambition around cross-border and cross-community dimensions. Children will be encouraged to write in English or in Irish, and stories in other languages will also be welcome. Children and young people of immigrant origin will be encouraged to bring their own cultural histories and stories into the mix.

IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (IMMA)

IMMA three-year public programme, 2021-2023

As part of the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries, IMMA is currently developing an interdisciplinary programme for the period 2021-2023. This will comprise an international conference and artists' commissions culminating in a large-scale exhibition and engagement and learning programme entitled 100 years of Self-Determination: An International Survey.

This ambitious programme will reassess the role of art and artists in exploring the international movement towards Self-determination as outlined by Woodrow Wilson at the League of Nations (1919).

An extensive engagement and learning programme will be central to the project. The exhibition will be complemented by an inclusive public programme of talks, workshops, schools and college projects and community engagement both on site and digitally.

The Museum will engage a wide public and key communities through virtual and gallery-based tours and workshops; studio-based programmes in the IMMA artists' residency studio block; talks and artist-led events. Focused programmes will mobilize discursive contexts such as the Talks and Lectures programme, the IMMA Reading Group and the IMMA Summer School 2023.

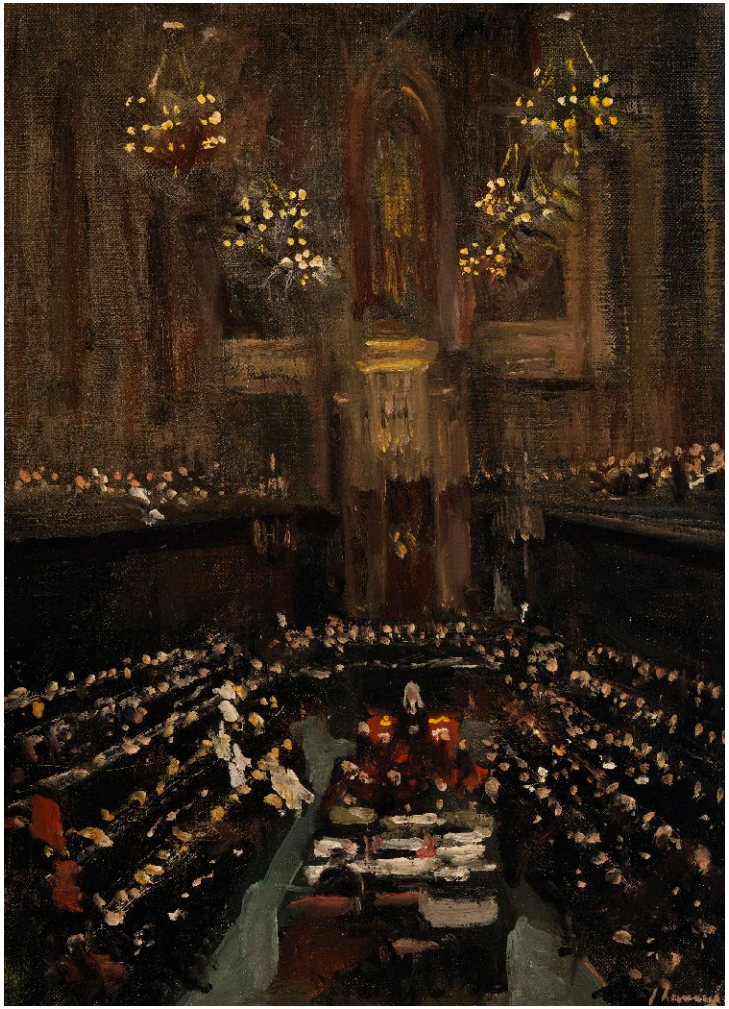
The programme will include a research dimension that will focus specifically on the Royal Hospital Kilmainham (RHK) site in order to develop a greater understanding of its role during the period 1919-23 and the nature of the site as a contested space. This research will surface insights that can assist us in examining ideas of historical and contemporary modes of self-determination and the roles art and culture have played in articulating emancipatory politics in the modern era.

THE NATIONAL CONCERT HALL (NCH)

The Signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty is of particular significance to the National Concert Hall as the Treaty debates took place in its Earlsfort Terrace home. The NCH is developing a new music initiative based around the Treaty negotiations and focusing on the diverse individual contributors to the debates. The NCH proposal supporting this initiative is currently under discussion between D/TCAGSM officials and the NCH and is expected to be finalised shortly.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND (NGI)

The National Gallery of Ireland has a range of initiatives in development to mark centenary events. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media is liaising with the NGI in relation to these plans.



Louise Lowe

Markievicz Award recipient

I was awarded the Markievicz Award in August 2019 to explore how, during the period 1913-1923, women's bodies became battlefields.

An 'outrage' against property or cattle was commonplace during the War of Independence and Civil War. Traumatic events against women that occurred in this divisive period of Irish history have subsequently been submerged in the collective amnesia of our State. The problem is not a loss of memory at an individual level but the disappearance from public discourse of the impact of these events on families, communities and indeed the whole country.

This award provided me the remarkable opportunity to research and develop an artwork that asks difficult questions of ourselves, our behaviour and fundamentally our attitudes to women and the female body during this time. I feel that it is important to make work that places the audience at the very centre of these questions, not so that we offer answers but that we set provocations to viewers in order that they can consider their own position within it. Through my work across the past decade I have tried to challenge the history of national self-representation in a very direct way, first by choice of subject and then by the complexity of form.

OUTRAGE will begin development this summer. Part dance, part theatre, it will be a blistering new physical work. Squaring up against the foundation stones of the newly formed Irish State, womens' testimony will be punctured with high octane dance and moments of mythical transcendence, recovery and redemption. The politics of the work will primarily reside in the dramaturgical agency of the spectator to cultivate their own view. Tumbling through environments that are both dream-like and hyper-real, to ask real questions of identity, politics and citizenship. This exploration is based on findings with Brenda Malone at the National Museum and through the examination of Bureau of Military History records, police reports and court reports with Dr. Kelly Fitzgerald UCD. Together, we uncovered evidence to suggest that women were labelled, humiliated, disciplined, stigmatised, controlled and hurt in different ways throughout this period. Often this was perpetrated by those known to the injured woman.

OUTRAGE is a serious exploration of attitudes to women, sex and sexuality combined with a desire to forget the worst atrocities of the Civil War. The absence of a subsequent truth or reconciliation process, has ensured that a vast amount of violence perpetrated against women during the revolution has not been yet fully explored or addressed. This development will give at least some of these women back their voices. The phrase "Lest we forget" is commonly used in war commemorations. It warns, of history repeating mistakes, of the human cost to those who experienced it and of what they endured. 'Lest we forget' is a profound statement and an important one, but how do we not forget that which we didn't even remember?

> "Outrage is a serious exploration of attitudes to women, sex and sexuality combined with a desire to forget the worst atrocities of the Civil War."

Decade of Centenaries indicative plans for 2022/2023

a. Plans to mark the centenary of the Civil War

A rich diversity of initiatives will be developed under each of the four thematic strands to ensure that the impact and legacy of the Civil War period is fully recognised and explored.

The Expert Advisory Group has recommended one significant State commemoration in remembrance of all of those who lost their lives during the Civil War, focusing on themes of remembrance and reconciliation. It is proposed that the State commemoration will take place on a neutral date in the early autumn of 2022, before the anniversaries of the Civil War executions commence on 17th November.

In accordance with the guidance of the Expert Advisory Group, the focus of the State will remain on commemoration and reconciliation and an academic conference will provide an appropriate forum for examining and debating the events that took place during this period.

In this context, University College Cork will organise and host a national academic conference to mark the centenary of the Civil War (provisionally scheduled for June 2022). The integrity and independence of the conference programme will be paramount. The State will provide appropriate funding, recognition and support but will have no involvement in decisions concerning themes, speakers and programme content.

Many of the partnerships initiated in 2021 (in particular the cultural partnerships) will be further developed as part of the Civil War Programme and a detailed Programme will be produced in early 2022. In addition, it is hoped to maintain this year's significant increase in funding for local authorities into 2022.

b. The Handover of Dublin Castle (16th January 1922)

A State Commemoration and reception will be held at Dublin Castle on 16th January 2022, led by the Department of the Taoiseach. The commemorative programme will also include a major academic symposium in Dublin Castle, which would precede the State ceremonial event to mark the centenary of its handover, and various collaboratively organised cultural, artistic and educational events. Academic independence will be paramount, in keeping with the format for the other forthcoming conferences and the guidance of the Expert Advisory Group.

c. The Foundation of the State (6th December 1922)

A State Commemoration will be held on or close to 6th December 2022, in recognition of the struggle to settle the democratic character and institutions of the newly emerging Irish State. A complementary programme of cultural, creative and educational events will also be explored.

d. The Establishment of the Institutions of the Irish Free State in 1922

Appropriate initiatives will be developed to mark the establishment of the various institutions of the Irish Free State, including:

- **The establishment of the Civil Service;**
- **The foundation by the Free State Government of An Garda Síochána;**
- **The inception of the Defence Forces, Óglaigh na hÉireann; and**
- **The evolution of the pre-1922 judicial system under the Irish Free State administration.**

League of Nations

Ireland joined the League of Nations in September 1923 and this is proposed by the Expert Advisory Group as a fitting endpoint of the Decade of Centenaries Programme. The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media will co-ordinate with colleagues across Government, led by the Department of Foreign Affairs, in the development of a suitable programme to mark this centenary.

Key contacts and resources

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

www.gov.ie

@DeptCultureIRL

@DepartmentofCultureIRL

tourism.culture.gaeltacht

departmentofcultureirl

The Department coordinates the development and delivery of the Government's Decade of Centenaries Programme nationally and can be contacted via commemorations@tcagsm.gov.ie with regard to this document or any other matter arising under the programme.

Decade of Centenaries

www.decadeofcentenaries.com

@Centenaries

@decadeofcentenaries

This dedicated resource is managed by History Ireland in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and it provides on-line information about the government's Decade of Centenaries Programme.

Military Service Pensions Collection

www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection-1916-1923

@mspcblog

The Collection, of almost 300,000 applications files and supporting documentation, provides a detailed picture of Irish Volunteer, Irish Republican Army, National Army and anti-treaty forces' activities throughout the period from the 1916 Rising to the end of the Civil War in 1923

Military Archives

www.militaryarchives.ie/home

@dfarchives

dfarchives

The Military Archives is the official place of deposit for records of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and the Army Pensions Board.

Century Ireland

www.rte.ie/centuryireland/

@CenturyIRL

The Century Ireland project is an online historical newspaper supported the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media that tells the story of the events of Irish life a century ago and is produced by a team of researchers at Boston College Ireland and hosted by RTÉ.

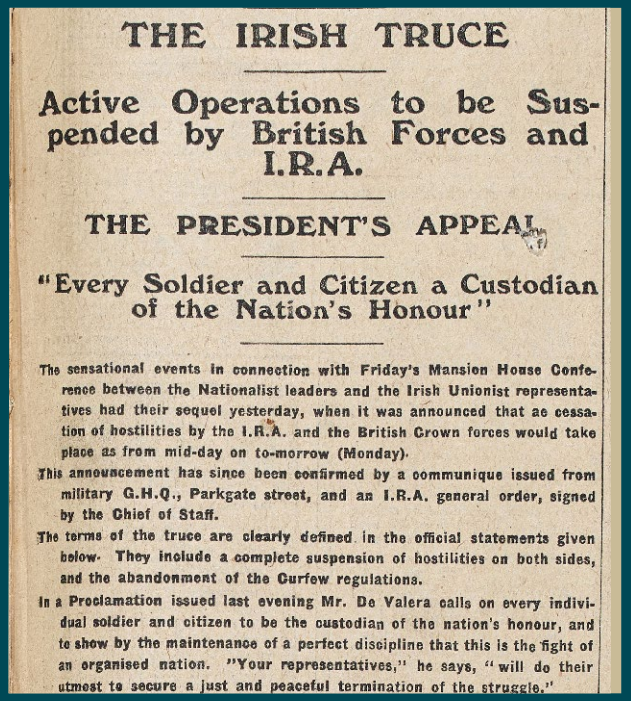
The researchers have mapped out storylines and identified supporting archives for 2021 and are writing and commissioning analysis and feature articles to support the historical reportage.

National Cultural Institutions

Click Here

Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 local authority co-ordinators.

Click Here



THE IRISH TRUCE

Active Operations to be Suspended by British Forces and I.R.A.

THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

"Every Soldier and Citizen a Custodian of the Nation's Honour"

The sensational events in connection with Friday's Mansion House Conference between the Nationalist leaders and the Irish Unionist representatives had their sequel yesterday, when it was announced that ae cessation of hostilities by the I.R.A. and the British Crown forces would take place as from mid-day on to-morrow (Monday).

This announcement has since been confirmed by a communique issued from military G.H.Q., Parkgate street, and an I.R.A. general order, signed by the Chief of Staff.

The terms of the truce are clearly defined in the official statements given below. They include a complete suspension of hostilities on both sides, and the abandonment of the Curfew regulations.

In a Proclamation issued last evening Mr. De Valera calls on every individual soldier and citizen to be the custodian of the nation's honour, and to show by the maintenance of a perfect discipline that this is the fight of an organised nation. "Your representatives," he says, "will do their utmost to secure a just and peaceful termination of the struggle."

click here on each image in the Programme for caption/credit information

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland