

DECADE OF CENTENARIES

Kilkenny

1919-1923

Autumn Lecture Series

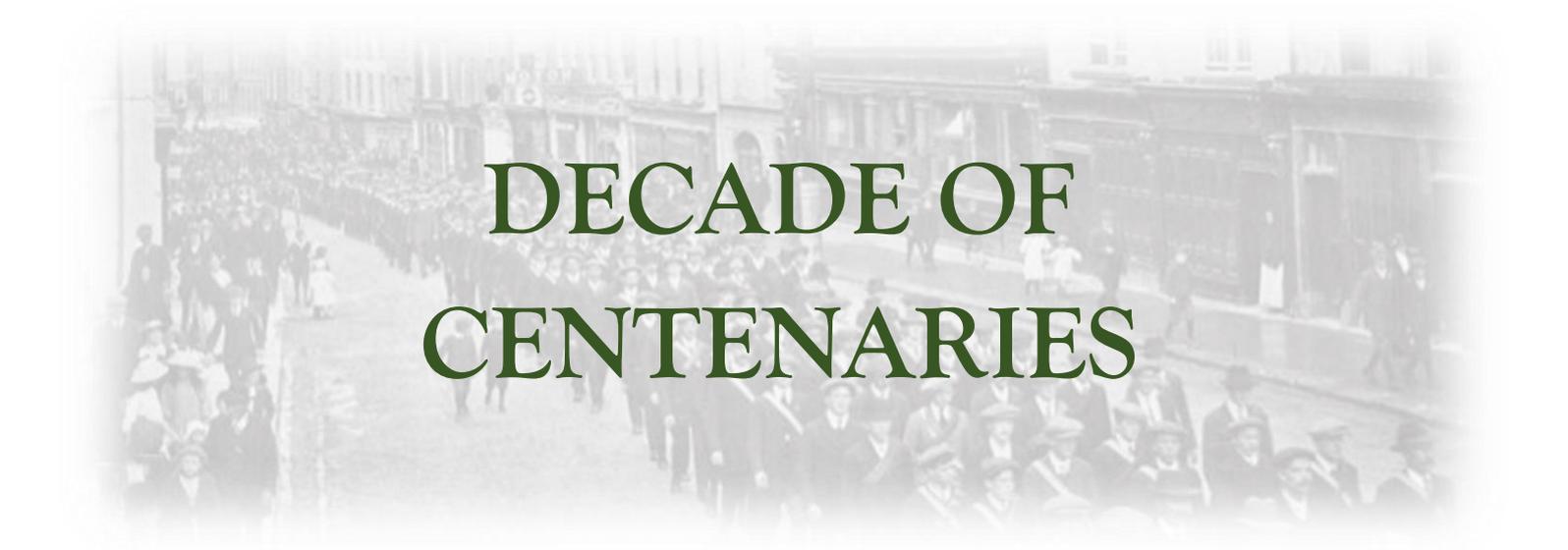


Image courtesy of The Lawrence Collection, NLI



An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht





DECADE OF CENTENARIES

The Decade of Centenaries programme commenced in 2012 and focused initially on the many significant centenaries occurring over the period 2012–2016. It complements the on-going programme of annual State commemorations, with special centenary commemorative events on the anniversaries of key historical events.

This programme is broad and inclusive, highlighting the economic and social conditions of the period, the shifts in cultural norms and the experience of the Irish abroad. It also provides opportunities to focus on the daily experience of ordinary people living in extraordinary times, as well as on the leaders and key figures in these events.

The Decade of Centenaries Commemoration in Kilkenny is led by Kilkenny's Creative Ireland Team and the involvement of the community is an important aspect of our work.

As part of the commemorations for 2019, Kilkenny Library Service is delighted to host its 2019 Decade of Commemoration public autumn lecture series. While building on and complementing the National Commemoration Programme these lectures will also focus on what was happening in our county at this time.



The programme also includes information on lecture series facilitated by the Home Rule Club in Kilkenny and the South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture Events.

Kilkenny County Council is committed to a meaningful and appropriate contribution to the commemorations by supporting and assisting in the development of relevant community based initiatives and activities in remembrance of events of local historical significance.

We hope this programme will engage our citizens and facilitate participation of local communities and people of all ages. www.decadeofcentenaries.com has details of significant events in Irish history that took place between 1912-1922 and lists commemorative events taking place nationwide.



Image courtesy of National Library of Ireland

City Library, John's Quay

In 1903/1904 Kilkenny Corporation adopted the *Public Library (Ireland) Act 1855*, which allowed for the establishment of public libraries in towns with populations greater than 5,000.

Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish-born industrialist provided money towards building and equipping Kilkenny's first public library. The John's Quay site was purchased by philanthropist Lady Desart. Our library opened in November 1910 and celebrated its centenary in 2010.

The City Library is part of Kilkenny County Council's library service which operates through a branch network of eight libraries and a mobile library service. The Local Studies Service provides a vital reference and research service and continues to play a key role in collecting and preserving the collective memory of Kilkenny City and County . The Local Studies Department is located in Kilkenny Library Headquarters, John's Green House, John's Green,



Image Courtesy of An Post commemorating Carnegie Library

Library Lecture Series



Saturday, 28th September, 11am

Lecture

‘Kilkenny during 1919; The first year of the War of Independence’

Speaker

Eoin Swithin Walsh, Author & Historian

Venue

City Library



Saturday, 5th October, 11am

Lecture

‘County Kilkenny in the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection’

Speaker

Robert McEvoy, Archivist

Venue

City Library

Tuesday, 15th October at 6.30pm

Lecture

‘From Revolution to Free State: The Visual Arts Response’

Speaker

Catherine Marshall, Art Historian/ Curator

Venue

City Library



Tuesday, 5th November at 6.30pm

Lecture

‘The Flying Column West Kilkenny, 1916-1921’

Speaker

Jim Maher, Author/ Historian

Venue

City Library

Monday, 11th November

School Workshop

‘Exploring 1919 - What is an Aeraíocht?’

Writer/ Facilitator

Ann Murtagh

Venue

City Library

(Please note: This is a closed event for the local primary schools)

Admission is free on a first-come first-served basis

Home Rule Club

The Home Rule Club is located at No. 3 John's Quay, Kilkenny. It hosts social and cultural activities in the city such as exhibitions, classes, concerts and other events. It was formed in 1894 to support the Irish Home Rule movement and has weathered over a century of social and political change, having been continuously in existence since 1894.

Today, the Club has no affiliations to any political party and is used as a social club enjoying a period of growth, and is being rediscovered by the people of Kilkenny and visitors alike who appreciate its unique heritage and historical significance.



HOME RULE CLUB AND BOAT SLIP, KILKENNY.

Image courtesy of Kilkenny County Library



Home Rule Club

Lecture Series

Earlier in 2019, the Club held lectures as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme. These included:

- Soloheadbeg and The First Dáil
- History of Irish Penal System
- John Redmond and Home Rule
- The Battle of Carrickshock - a prelude to 1916

There is a Home Rule Club Archival Exhibition currently open to the public in the Home Rule Club.



Wednesday, 18th September, 8.30pm

Lecture

'The Rescue of Seán Hogan at The Station of Knocklong - a sequel to Soloheadbeg'

Speaker

Jim Maher, Historian & Author

Venue

Home Rule Club, 3 John's Quay, Kilkenny

Admission €5. Tickets at the door.

Refreshments served



South Kilkenny Historical Society

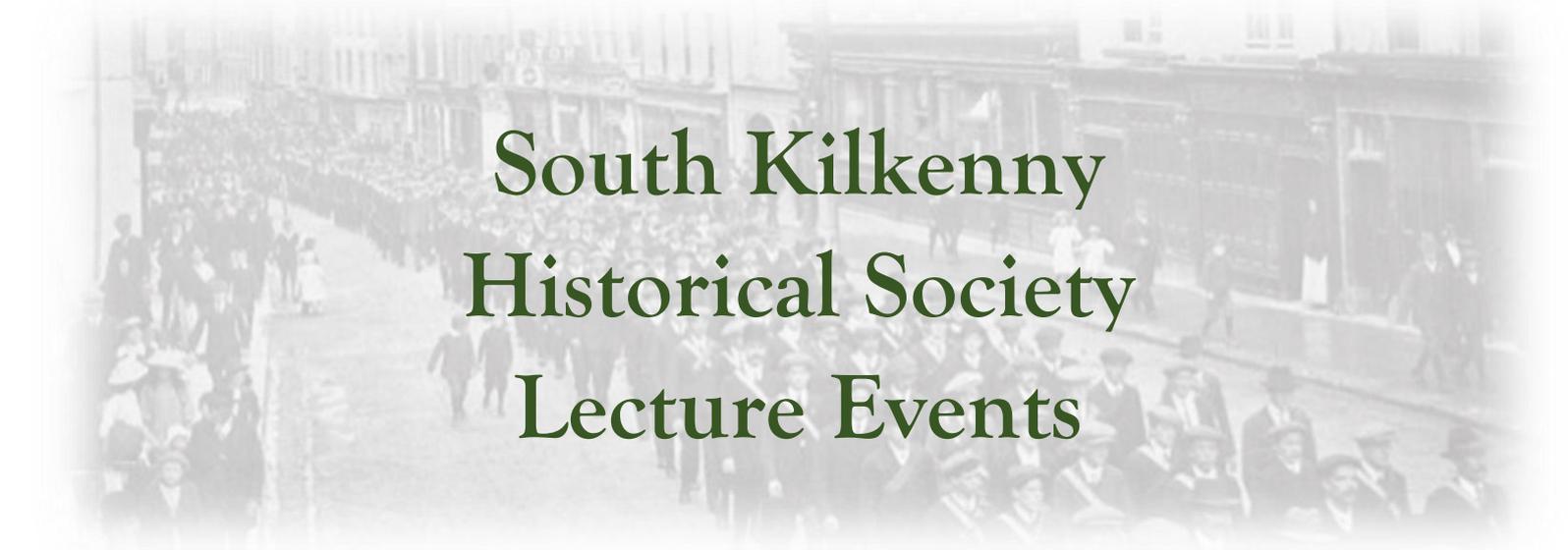
The aim of the South Kilkenny Historical Society is to promote and renew interest in the history, heritage and folklore of South Kilkenny. The society holds a number of events throughout the year in the Mullinavat Parish Hall. They have hosted lectures as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme earlier this year. These lectures include:

- The 1918/19 housing crisis
- The Beginning of the War of Independence in Kilkenny
- The Phoenix Park Assassinations and the Conspiracy that Shook the Empire.

The lecture series for South Kilkenny Historical Society will be held in the Mullinavat Parish Hall, opposite the church.



Image Courtesy of National Library of Ireland



South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture Events



Thursday, 26th September, 8pm

Lecture

‘An Immigrant Family’s Memories of South Kilkenny who helped shape a modern Ireland’

Speaker

Senator Ivana Bacik

Venue

Mullinavat Parish Hall

Free Admission



Thursday, 24th October at 8pm

Lecture

‘The War of Independence archive of Tom Ryan’

Speaker

William Murphy

Venue

Mullinavat Parish Hall

Free Admission



Thursday, 28th November at 8pm

Lecture

‘Law, Language & Injustice’: Myles Joyce & the Maamtrasna Trials, 1882.

Speaker

Professor Margaret Kelleher

Venue

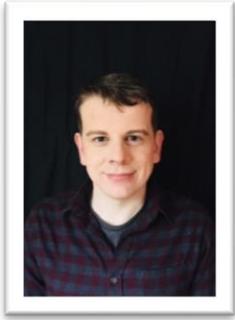
Mullinavat Parish Hall

Free Admission



BIOGRAPHIES

City Library, John's Quay:



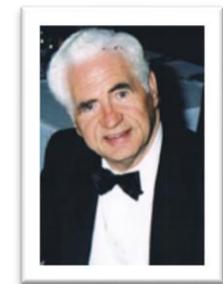
EOIN SWITHIN WALSH has a Masters Degree in Modern Irish History from University College Dublin. He specialises in the Irish revolutionary era and is author of *Kilkenny, In Times of Revolution, 1900-1923* focusing on the War of Independence and Civil War in County Kilkenny. He is a tour guide on 'Historical Walking Tours of Dublin' and '1916 Rebellion Walking Tours', and also gives tours in Leinster House. He has published history articles for various newspapers and magazines.



ROBERT MCEVOY has been working as civilian archivist on the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection since 2012. He qualified with a Masters in Archives & Records Management and has over ten years' experience as a professional archivist. With a Masters in History, he has a specific interest in twentieth-century Irish history and Northern Ireland. His duties include processing material for release to the public and undertaking promotional activities.



CATHERINE MARSHALL is a native of Kilkenny, formerly a lecturer in the history of art at Trinity College, Dublin and founding Head of Collections at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. She is the Co-Editor of *Art and Architecture of Ireland; Twentieth Century* (Yale, London, Dublin, 2014) and *Janet Mullarney* (Irish Academic Press, 2019).



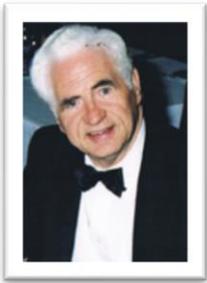
JIM MAHER, a native of Kilkenny, qualified as a primary teacher and later became a school principal. His first book on the period of the War of Independence was *The Flying Column: West Kilkenny 1916-1921* (1987/republished 2015). His other books include *Harry Boland: A Biography* (1998/to be republished in 2020) and *The Oath is Dead and Gone* (2011).



ANN MURTAGH qualified as a primary teacher and later received an MA in Local History from NUI Maynooth. A member of Meath Archaeological & Historical Society and Kilkenny Archaeological Society, she has given lectures to both. Ann has designed and facilitated history courses for teachers locally and nationally. Her first novel for children, *Irish Republican Boy*, will be published by O'Brien Press in February 2020. The story is set in the midlands during the War of Independence.

BIOGRAPHIES

Home Rule Club:



JIM MAHER, a native of Kilkenny, qualified as a primary teacher and later became a school principal. His first book on the period of the War of Independence was *The Flying Column: West Kilkenny 1916-1921* (1987/republished 2015). His other books include *Harry Boland: A Biography* (1998/to be republished in 2020) and *The Oath is Dead and Gone* (2011).

South Kilkenny Historical Society, Mullinavat:



PROFESSOR MARGARET KELLEHER is Chair of Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at UCD. Her book *The Maamtrasna Murders: Language, Life and Death in Nineteenth-Century Ireland* (2018) was awarded the 2019 Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language and Culture. Other publications include *The Feminization of Famine* (1997), *The Cambridge History of Irish Literature, 2 vols*, (2006) and *Éire-Ireland - "Ireland and the Contemporary"* (2017). She is Chair of the Irish Film Institute and UCD academic lead for the Museum of Literature Ireland.



SENATOR IVANA BACIK is a Senator for Dublin University (first elected 2007), Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at Trinity College Dublin, and a barrister. She has published extensively on criminal law, criminology, human rights, constitutional law and related matters, and has a long track record of campaigning on feminist and human rights issues.



WILLIAM MURPHY William Murphy is a native of Thomastown and is co-editor of *In the Shadow of the Steeple*. He is also a member of the Ossory Laois and Leinster historical group and has edited a number of their subsidiary volumes for publication.



Image Courtesy of James Stephens Barracks Museum

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South Kilkenny Historical Society

Eddie Synnott, Chairman

Phone: 086/8124349 Email: edsynnott@yahoo.co.uk

Home Rule Club, 3 John's Quay, Kilkenny

Darina O'Byrne, Secretary

Phone: 056/7721399 Email: darinaobyrne@gmail.com

www.decadeofcentenaries.com

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