

REPORT ON THE IRELAND 1916 CENTENARY PROGRAMME IN COUNTY WEXFORD

Cover Photo: Leaders of the Rising in Enniscorthy – a group photograph taken on 1 May, 1916

Front Row - left to right: Seamus Rafter, Robert Brennan, Seamus Doyle, Sean R. Etchingham

Back Row - left to right: Úna Brennan, Michael de Lacy, Eileen Hegarty

Alfred E. Crane collection (copyright of Ibar Carty)

---oOo---

While this report covers Wexford County Council's centenary programme and a selection of other commemorative events from the County, it is not an exhaustive record of all commemorative events and Wexford County Council would like to acknowledge the contribution of the many other events which are not included in this report.

Acknowledgements

Wexford County Council would like to extend thanks to:

- The various Committees who assisted in the formulation of the preparation and the delivery of the County Wexford 1916 Centenary Programme
- The relatives of the County Wexford 1916 Participants
- The many community groups and volunteers who organised commemorative events across the county, and also for submitting photographs and information about these events
- Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society and other re-enactment groups
- All those who participated in the Easter Monday ceremonial programme
- Those photographers who recorded ceremonial events:
 Wexford Local Authorities Photographic Society and all other
 photographic contributors
- The Printers and Graphic Designers
- Videographers
- Local and national media.

**Wexford County Council led the coordination of the
County Wexford 1916 Centenary Commemoration
Programme, and aimed to be respectful of the past
and inspiring of the future.**

At the outset, the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme was built on Seven
Programme Strands

The Seven Programme Strands

State and Local Ceremonial
Historical Reflection
The Living Language
Youth and Imagination
Cultural Expression
Community Participation
Global and Diaspora

which taken together, reflect the themes of

Remembering, Reconciling, Presenting, Imagining and Celebrating

Contents:-	Page
Preparation	5 - 6
Role of Ireland 2016 Project Office/County Wexford Centenary Programme	7
State & Local Ceremonial – Easter Monday, 28 th March, 2016 Centenary Parade	8 - 19
Oration in Market Square, Enniscorthy – Saturday 26 th March 2016	20
Presentation of Commemorative Certificates to Relatives of Participants involved in the 1916 Rising in County Wexford.	21 - 24
Commemorative Pins	25
The Patriots Flag	26 - 27
The 1916 Exhibition ‘Wexford Rising’ in The Athenaeum, Enniscorthy	28 - 29
Enniscorthy 1 st Battalion Flag	30
Restoration of The Athenaeum, Enniscorthy, County Wexford	31 - 33
Re-opening of The Athenaeum,	34 - 37
Cumann na mBan – The Athenaeum	38 - 39
Commemorative Plaques	40 - 41
Enniscorthy 1916 Walking Tours	42
Historical Reflection – The 1916 Annual Conference	43 - 44
Ireland Rising - RTE	
Flags for Schools	45
Proclamation Day	46 - 48
Wexford County Council Public Library Service ; 1916 Commemorative Programme	49 - 90
Summary of 1916 Commemorative events in which Wexford County Archive participated/organised	91 - 93
‘The 1916 Rising in County Wexford’ – a travelling exhibition	94
Community Participation – 1916 Grants Scheme	95
Summary of Events in the Gorey Municipal District	96 - 144
Enniscorthy Municipal District	
(Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society)	
New Ross Municipal District	
Wexford Borough District	
County Wexford and 1916 : A selection of recent Publications	145-147
Book Launches	147-150
Poblacht na hÉireann – The Proclamation	151

Preparation

Enniscorthy Town Council formed a 1916 Centenary Committee in 2006 to start a 10 year process of planning and fundraising in preparation for the 1916 celebrations. Their inaugural Meeting was held on Holy Thursday, 13th April, 2006. The members of this Committee were Henry Goff, Bernard Browne, Nicky Furlong, Donal Minnock, Keith Doyle, Peter Byrne, Seán Doyle, Padraig O'Gorman, Eddie Breen. Officers; Chairman Peter Byrne, Secretary Padraig O Gorman, Treasurer Seán Doyle, PRO Henry Goff.

The following goals were set.

- The organising of Seminars
- Seeking the support of the Arts Council
- Acquiring The Athenaeum as a Centenary Project

This Committee was later expanded to form the County Wexford 1916 Centenary Committee.

Local 1916 Sub-Committee

Down through the years the Local 1916 Sub-Committee has held an Easter Monday Commemoration in the Market Square, Enniscorthy, following the celebration of Mass in St. Aidan's Cathedral. This Committee is made up of the following Members; Ms Breda O'Neill, Ms Breda Donnelly, Ms. Bridget O'Brien, Martin Whelan, Rory Nolan, May O' Connor, Paddy Murphy and Councillor Keith Doyle.

Preparation

In early 2015 public consultation workshops were held with the general public, seeking their input into the range and type of projects and events that should form part of our centenary commemorations. It was strongly outlined at these workshops that the programme should be solemn, inclusive, reflective and inspiring to our youth and this then became the main theme and aspiration of the programme.

The highlights of the County Wexford Centenary Programme included a range of ceremonial events, historical lectures, conferences and literary publications on various aspects of 1916, including the County Wexford Schools pack, County Wexford 1916 exhibition, a range of concerts, film recordings, a 1916 themed song and poetry compilation, the dedication of a memorial garden, restoration of The Athenaeum and the annual Easter Monday celebration in Enniscorthy, which in 2016 formed part of a select national wreath laying ceremony, followed by Ireland's largest 1916 based battle re-enactment.



The County Wexford 1916 Centenary Commemorative Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Mr. Eddie Breen and was made up of the following members; Seán Doyle (President), Eddie Breen, John Carley, Pádraig O'Gorman, Cllr Keith Doyle, Cllr Kathleen Codd-Nolan, Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy, Cllr Johnny Mythen, Cllr Larry O'Brien, Cllr Anthony Kelly, Cllr Pip Breen, Rory O'Connor, Jacqui Hynes, Peter Byrne, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Gráinne Doran, Sinéad O Gorman, Jarlath Glynn, Dr. Henry Goff, Bernard Browne, Séamus Rafter and Helen Ashdown.



It was envisaged that the Centenary Programme would be a year-long programme commencing in 2015 and continuing throughout 2016. The core programme of events was outlined in the Centenary Programme, which was supplemented by a range of local community-based events. A record of the County Wexford 1916 centenary commemorative events can be accessed on the dedicated 1916 website www.enniscorthy1916.ie with links to the National 2016 website.

Role of Ireland 2016 Project Office

Wexford County Council would like to acknowledge the role played by the Ireland 2016 Project Office through their guidance in the planning and preparation of the County Wexford Easter Monday Commemoration (nationwide synchronised wreath-laying ceremony) associated parade and celebration and also with the official re-opening of The Athenaeum, Enniscorthy, County Wexford.



The County Wexford Centenary Programme was launched by Mr. Seán Doyle, President of the County Wexford 1916 Centenary Commemorative Committee together with the Chairman of Wexford County Council, Cllr Tony Dempsey on 9th November, 2015.



State and Local Ceremonial

EASTER MONDAY – 28TH March, 2016

The highlight of the County Wexford 1916 Centenary Programme was the State Ceremonial event in Enniscorthy on Easter Monday, 28th March 2016. This ceremony formed part of wreath-laying commemorative events that took place simultaneously at seven locations in Dublin, as well as in Ashbourne, Co. Meath; Athenry, Co. Galway; Cork, and Enniscorthy Co. Wexford to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising. These locations mark where significant action took place during the Rising.

Over 15,000 people attended the Enniscorthy event, which was project managed by Wexford County Council with a commemoration parade of over 1,000 participants led by the Defence Forces and local dignitaries and included over 600 relatives of 1916 participants from County Wexford. The State wreath-laying ceremony was conducted by the Defence Forces in the Abbey Square, Enniscorthy.



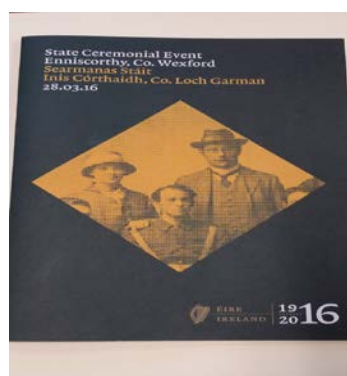
© Wexford Local Authorities Photographic Society | 2016



1916 Centenary Commemoration Mass at St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy

Centenary Parade – The 1916 Centenary Parade took place from St. Aidan's Cathedral to the Seamus Rafter Statue in Abbey Square. The parade was led by a Defence Forces National Colour Party and the Army Band, and was followed by:

- National and local elected representatives and officials
- Representatives from the Irish United Nations Veterans Association and the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen
- Relatives of Participants of the 1916 Rising
- London Wexford Association
- St. Colman's Pipe Band, Ballindaggin
- Enniscorthy and other re-enactment societies (1916)
- County Wexford Pikemen, and
- Military Vehicles







Arm band commissioned by Wexford County Council and worn by the relatives of participants involved in the 1916 Rising



Relatives of participants involved in the 1916 Rising in County Wexford



Military Vehicles taking part in the Parade



Crowds gather on Castle Hill and Abbey Square, Enniscorthy



Seamus Rafter Monument, Abbey Square, Enniscorthy and young Band Member



Welcoming songs performed by Enniscorthy Choral Group



Military Band



Elected members of Wexford County Council, relatives of 1916 participants and members of the public at the Easter Monday commemorations at Abbey Square, Enniscorthy



Lt. Killian Doyle reading the Proclamation



Minute's Silence

Lone Piper's Lament

The Last Post played by a Bugler from the Defence Forces

Reveille played by a Bugler from the Defence Forces

The National Anthem played by the Military Band with an Air Corps Fly Past



Wreath Laying Ceremony

A wreath laid on behalf of the Irish people

A wreath laid on behalf of the people of County Wexford



The National Anthem played by the Military Band with an Air Corps Fly Past



Post Ceremony:

Musical Performance from the County Wexford 1916 Songs Project –

Commissioned by Wexford County Council and devised and produced by Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert. The Boolavogue Singers, Paul O'Reilly, Aileen Lambert and Paddy Berry performed a selection of songs from the project, including Paul O'Reilly's anthem-like *The Rise of Wexford Volunteers*, and Aileen Lambert's lament in honour of May Moran of Church Street, Enniscorthy. The group concluded with a rousing rendition of *Boolavogue*.



Aileen Lambert

Recital of the specially commissioned County Wexford 1916 Poem –

Wexford County Council commissioned renowned poet, Anthony Cronin to write a poem '*What's the news*' commemorating County Wexford's involvement in the 1916 Rising which was performed in public for the first time by Judy Heffernan.

Battle re-enactment, SuperValu Car Park, Enniscorthy

Ireland's largest 1916 era battle re-enactment recreated the pivotal events which led to Enniscorthy's involvement in the 1916 Rising. These included the formation of the Irish Volunteers in 1913 and Cumann na mBan in 1914, the impact of the outbreak of World War 1 on the Volunteer movement and the historic visits of Proclamation signatories Pádraig Pearse and Seán Mac Diarmada to the town of Enniscorthy.

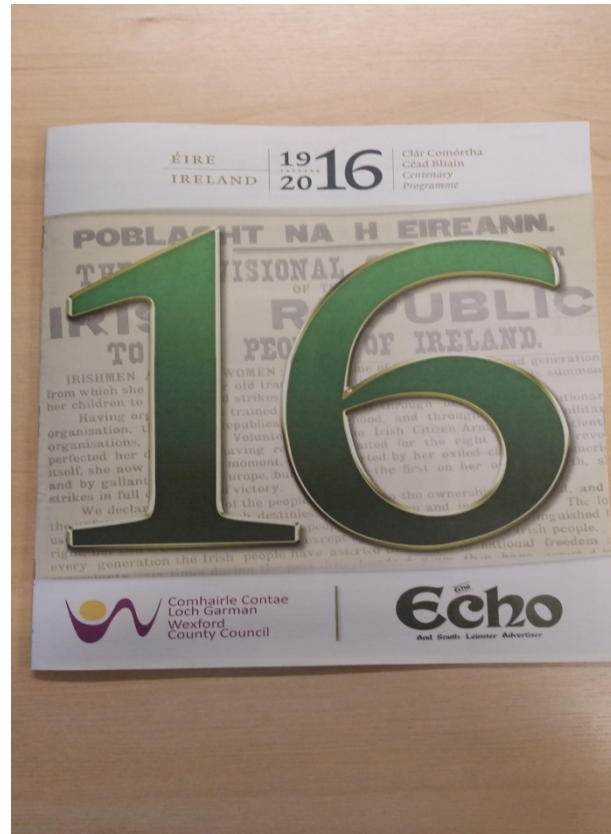


Spectators experienced what life was like during the 1916 era, together with the sights and sounds of battle during the pinnacle of the re-enactment when Irish Volunteers and Cumman na mBan members led an assault on an RIC Barracks defended by members of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

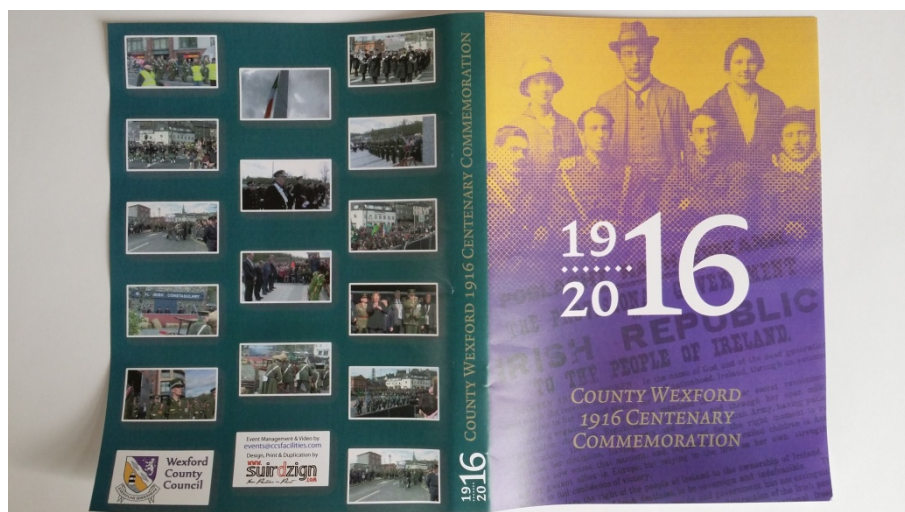


Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society

This special **1916 Centenary Supplement** was edited by Tom Mooney, and produced by *The Echo* Newspaper Group in conjunction with Wexford County Council.



A DVD of the State Ceremonial Event held on Easter Monday, 28th March, 2016 was produced and made available for purchase in the offices of Enniscorthy Municipal District, Market Square, Enniscorthy



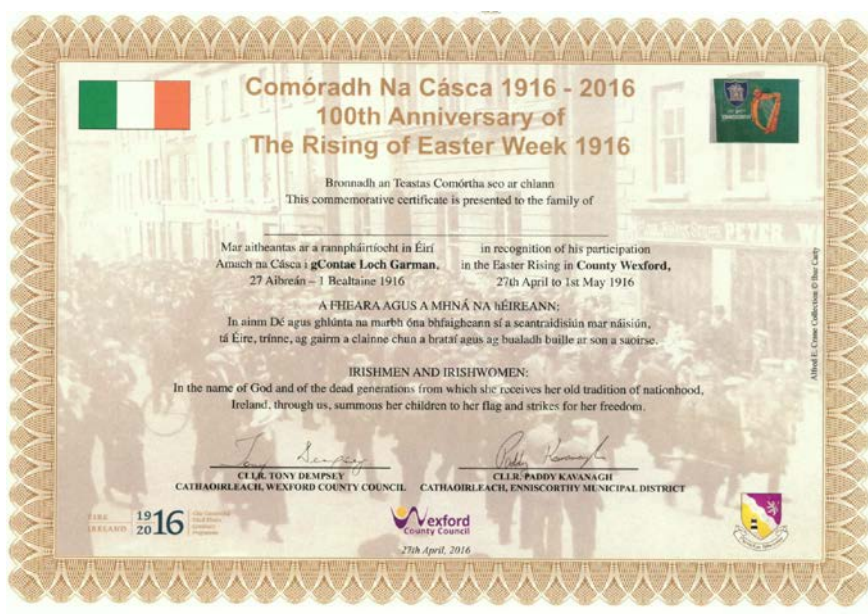
Oration in Market Square on Saturday, 26th March 2016

"Ireland unfree shall never be at peace" were the climatic closing words of the graveside oration of Patrick Pearse at the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa on 1 August 1915. The oration roused Irish republican feeling and was a significant element in the lead-up to the Easter Rising of 1916. To mark the commemoration in Enniscorthy, Wexford-born Jim Roche delivered the oration **in Market Square, Enniscorthy at 4pm on Saturday, March 26th 2016**



Presentation of Commemorative Certificates to Relatives of Participants involved in the 1916 Rising in County Wexford

Following feedback and ideas raised at a public meeting held in the Riverside Park Hotel on 19th March 2015, it was agreed to invite direct descendants of participants involved in the 1916 Rising in County Wexford to register for the presentation of a Commemorative Certificate. This was advertised by public notice and in excess of 1,200 certificates were given out at a presentation ceremony on 27th April 2016 in the Riverside Park Hotel.



Padraig O'Gorman, Wexford Ireland 2016 Coordinator







Commemorative Pins

Also, in recognition of their first generation relationship to a participant involved in the 1916 Rising in County Wexford, a specially commissioned 1916 centenary commemorative pin was issued to first-generation relatives by Wexford County Council, as a memento of this special year.



Commemorative pin (depicting the crest of The Athenaeum) commissioned by Wexford County Council and presented to first generation relatives of participants involved in the 1916 Rising in County Wexford



Commemorative pin commissioned by the Ireland 2016 Project Office and presented to various dignitaries, committees and groups involved in the commemorative events during 2016



Specially commissioned Enniscorthy 1916 Centenary Silver Pin by local Jewellers Walter Burke & Son

The Patriots' Flag (Bratach na dTírghráthóirí)

On 27th April 2016, the Patriots' Flag was unveiled at Abbey Square, Enniscorthy.



Enniscorthy has a unique association with the Irish National Flag. A green flag with harp was an early symbol used by Irish nationalists and especially by the United Irishmen in the 1798 Rebellion, which was centred in County Wexford.

On 7th March, 1848, the first recorded report of the Irish Tricolour referred to a Tricolour carried in a parade from the town to Vinegar Hill. From 27th April to 1st May 1916 the Tricolour proudly flew from above the Athenaeum building, Enniscorthy, which was the headquarters of the Irish Volunteers during the Easter Rising.

The Irish Tricolour is intended to symbolise the inclusion and hoped-for union of the people of different traditions on this island, which is now expressed in the Constitution as the entitlement of every person born on the island of Ireland to be part of the Irish nation (regardless of ethnic origin, religion, or political conviction). It was adopted as the flag of the Irish Free State in 1922 and was formally confirmed as the National Flag in the 1937 Constitution.

Wexford County Council has commissioned a dedicated 1916 monument 'The Patriots' Flag' – a 16 metre high stainless steel monument, constructed by Kent Stainless Ltd., Ardavan, Wexford. The form of the structure represents both the symbolism of the Irish Tricolour and the path Ireland has travelled since 1916. The three faces represent the Gaelic traditions, the followers of William of Orange and the aspiration for peace between them. The taper from base to top represents the path Ireland has travelled from 1916 to 2016, with each face eventually merging at a single point where the dreams and ideals of the 1916 proclamation would be fully achieved.



Bratach na dTírghráthóirí

Tá gaol ar leith idir stair Bhatach Náisiúnta na hÉireann agus Inis Córthaidh.

Bhí bratach uaine le cláireach órga in úsáid go luath mar shiombail ag náisiúntaí Éireannacha, agus go háirithe ag na hÉireannaigh Aontaithe in Éir Amach 1798, a léimíodh i gContae Loch Garman.

Ar 7 Márta 1848 a tuairiscíodh don chéad uair Trídthach uaine, bán agus flannbhú na hÉireann, nuair a ompraíodh Trídthach i bparáid ó bhaile Inis Córthaidh go Cnoc Fhíoch na gCaois.
Ó 27 Aibreán - 1 Bealtaine 1916 bhí an Trídthach náisiúnta crochta go bródúil os cionn An Athenaeum in Inis Córthaidh, ceanncheathrú Ogláigh na hÉireann in Éir Amach na Cásca.

Tá Trídthach na hÉireann in ainm is a bheith mar shiombail de chuimsiú agus d'aontas ríuinnir an olláin seo, ó thráidisiún éagsúla, aithní atá buailte go soraigh anois sa Bhunreacht, atá a n-ambaitoir go bhfuil sé de cheart ag gach duine a n-áir ar an olláin seo a bheith mar bhall de náisiún na hÉireann (beag beann ar chúla eiteach, creideamh nó tuairimí polaitiúla).

Glacadh leis mar bratach Shaonstát na hÉireann sa bhliain 1922 agus deimhníodh go foirmiúil é mar Bhatach Náisiúnta i mbunreacht 1937.

Chomisiúnaigh Comhairle Contae Loch Garman leacht ar leith 'Bratach na dTírghráthóirí' leis an ngeol leithreach idir Inis Córthaidh agus an Bhatach Náisiúnta a cheiliúradh, agus rinneadh é a nochtadh go hoifigiúil ar 27 Aibreán 2016.



The Patriots' Flag

Enniscorthy has a unique relationship in the history of the Irish National Flag.

A green flag with a golden harp was an early symbol used by Irish nationalists and especially by the United Irishmen in the 1798 Rebellion which was centred in County Wexford.

On 7th March, 1848 the first report of the Irish Tricolour of green, white and orange is recorded as a Tricolour was carried in a parade from the town to Vinegar Hill.

From 27th April to 1st May 1916 the national Tricolour proudly flew from above The Athenaeum, Enniscorthy, headquarters of the Irish Volunteers in the Easter Rising.

The Irish Tricolour is intended to symbolise the inclusion and hoped for union of the people of different traditions on this island, which is now expressed in the Constitution as the entitlement of every person born on the island of Ireland to be part of the Irish nation regardless of ethnic origin, religion, or political conviction.

It was adopted as the flag of the Irish Free State in 1922 and was formally confirmed as the National Flag in the 1937 Constitution.

Wexford County Council commissioned a dedicated monument 'The Patriots' Flag' to mark this unique relationship between Enniscorthy and the National Flag, which was officially unveiled on 27th April, 2016.



Patriots' Flag Commemoration

Each Saturday morning from 4th June to 27th August, 2016, local 1916 era re-enactors gathered for a special flag raising ceremony to remember all Wexford men and women who gave their lives for the course of Irish freedom. The ceremony included a parade from Market Square to Abbey Square, a salute at the Athenaeum, a reading of the Proclamation, the hoisting of the National Flag and playing of the National Anthem.



The 1916 Exhibition ‘Wexford’s Rising’ in The Athenaeum, Enniscorthy, was officially opened on 27th April, 2016 by Colm Galligan, son of Peter Paul Galligan, Commandant of the Enniscorthy Battalion during 1916.

The exhibition tells the story of Easter Week from the perspective of the rebels in County Wexford. Spaces such as the secretary’s office, War Council room and hospital that were housed in the Athenaeum in 1916 have been recreated in the exhibition area. Original artefacts on display are interspersed with reproduction newspapers and posters to create a sense of time and place, and these are complemented by voice-over recordings from key figures in the Volunteers and Cumann na mBan at the time. Scaled models of some of the key buildings in Enniscorthy in 1916 were crafted for the exhibition, while a programme of documentaries and a searchable database of men and women from County Wexford who participated in the Rising provide a visual and historical record for visitors.



Colm Galligan



Gráinne Doran – Archivist, Wexford County Council



The exhibition also includes an impressive mural that was painted in 1966 by Colum Breen, a local artist from Enniscorthy, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising. The piece depicts the Proclamation of the Irish Republic in the centre which is flanked by two flags – the Tricolour and the Starry Plough while an array of weaponry provides the backdrop. The coat of arms of Enniscorthy is depicted at the top while there is a banner at the base – ‘Cuimíneocar orta go deo’ which translates as ‘They shall be remembered forever’.



Enniscorthy 1st Battalion flag

As a fitting tribute to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising in County Wexford this year, the original Enniscorthy 1st Battalion Flag was conserved and is now a prominent feature in Wexford County Council's new 1916 exhibition 'Wexford's Rising' in the Athenaeum.



This historic and unique flag formed part of the Wexford County Museum collection in Enniscorthy Castle for a number of decades, and was in need of restoration work, having been on long-term open display. It was authenticated in 2010 by textile conservator Rachel Phelan from Dublin who carried out painstaking conservation work and stitch-mounted the flag to padded board for display purposes. The Enniscorthy Battalion was the strongest unit in County Wexford in the lead-up to and during the 1916 Rising. It comprised three companies of Irish Volunteers which were identified as A, B and C.



The battalion had its own flag which was made from wool dyed green. It depicts a seven-stringed harp in gold with the Enniscorthy coat of arms set in a blue shield in the top left-hand corner. The legend '1st Batt. Enniscorthy' was painted in white lettering below the shield. Traditionally, the green flag with a gold harp was the main symbol of nationalism.

Representing one of the very few flags associated with the 1916 Rising to have survived outside of Dublin, the Enniscorthy 1st Battalion flag is a unique heritage item from this significant period in County Wexford's history.

Restoration of The Athenaeum, Enniscorthy, County Wexford



The Athenaeum is one of the nine capital projects developed as *Permanent Reminders* under the 1916 Centenary Programme and has been refurbished to its former glory with support from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and supervised locally by Wexford County Council.



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

A brief history of the Athenaeum

The Athenaeum is a nineteenth century architectural gem tucked away on a traditional terraced street in Enniscorthy. The Grand Old Lady of Castle Street is a theatre and town hall which was built in 1892 at the behest of the Roman Catholic Administrator of St. Aidan's Parish, Reverend William Fortune.

Michael Lynch of Court Street won the contract to build the Athenaeum according to the plans of architect J.K. Freeman. The total cost of construction was £2,207-5s-2d which is the equivalent of €1,628,157 in 2016. All of the money to cover these costs was raised by the men and women of Enniscorthy town and district.

As a theatre it was hugely successful with travelling dramatic companies or 'outfits' featuring theatrical greats like Anew MacMaster, Micheál Mac Liammóir and Hilton Edwards. Local drama and musical groups performed in the Athenaeum, some winning All-Ireland awards.

The Gaelic League met regularly in the Athenaeum and played host to Douglas Hyde, Erskine Childers and, after the inception of the Irish Volunteers, members of the supreme executive, including Séan Mac Diarmada and P.H. Pearse. They both addressed audiences from the stage.

During the Easter Rising in 1916, County Wexford Irish Volunteers and Cumann na mBan members occupied the Athenaeum and made it their Headquarters. The Irish Tricolour was hoisted on top of the building by Mrs Úna Brennan, Miss Marion Stokes and Miss Gretta Comerford, and was saluted by a firing party under the command of Peter Paul Galligan.

Every aspect of Rising activity in the county was co-ordinated from there. The Volunteers ate and slept in the building when not out on duty. Cumann na mBan established a hospital in the auditorium and dormitories in the dressing rooms on the first floor. There was a kitchen in the skating rink and the handball alley was used as a drilling and manoeuvre practising space.



The Athenaeum was the last garrison in Ireland to surrender.

The Volunteers' selection of the Athenaeum for their command post in 1916 has assured its place in Irish history.



Frank Hughes, James Browne, T.D., Jimmy Gahan, Cllr Keith Doyle, Paddy Byrne, Tony McClean



Tony McClean, Athenaeum Committee, welcomes Bishop Denis Brennan and Fr. Odhran Furlong, Adm. St. Aidan's Cathedral, to The Athenaeum, Enniscorthy

Re-opening of The Athenaeum on 23rd September 2016

As part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, the official re-opening of The Athenaeum by Mr. Paul Kehoe, T.D., Minister with responsibility for Defence, was held on Friday, 23rd September, 2016 at The Athenaeum, Enniscorthy, County Wexford.



Official re-opening
of
THE ATHENÆUM
by
MR PAUL KEHOE TD
MINISTER OF STATE
WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENCE
on **23RD SEPTEMBER 2016**

To dream that was dreamed in heart,
and that only the heart could hold.
Oh wise men, riddle me this: What if the dream come true?
Pádraig Mac Piaras

ENNISCORTHY ATHENÆUM
MUSEUM AND HISTORIC THEATRE



enniscorthyathenaeum1892@gmail.com
www.enniscorthyathenaeum.com
Tel: 05392 39585 and 087 2637178



Secretary of the Athenaeum Committee, Ms Helen Ashdown acted as MC and welcomed everyone to the Athenaeum. Chairman of Enniscorthy Municipal District, Cllr Oliver Walsh thanked all who had been involved in the restoration of the Athenaeum to its current state and said how it had been the “dreams of a small group of dedicated people” that had driven the project forward.

Mr. John Concannon of the Ireland 2016 Project Office spoke of the success of the centenary year in terms of bringing people together and the success of events in Enniscorthy on Easter Monday.



Mr. Tony McClean also spoke of his delight in seeing so many present in what was “a reminder of the halcyon days when hundreds of people would have packed into the Athenaeum”. He thanked his Committee of Directors who stuck with the task against all the odds, and also the tremendous assistance received from Minister Paul Kehoe, former Minister Brendan Howlin, James Browne, T.D., Tom Moorhouse, Paddy Kavanagh, Padraig O Gorman, John Carley, Eddie Breen, Seán Óg Doyle, Tom Enright and others.

Tony also thanked Wexford County Council and particularly Chief Executive, Tom Enright, who he said saved the day by providing County Council funding at a critical point. Thanks were extended to Padraig O Gorman, District Manager for all administrative help and Byrne & Byrne Builders for their work, as well as the neighbours of the building for their patience during construction.



Ms Helen Ashdown
Athenaeum Committee

Mr. John Concannon
Ireland 2016 Project Office



Tony McClean gave special thanks to Secretary, Helen Ashdown, and her band of Volunteers saying “Helen has done more than anyone to get us here, on a completely voluntary basis. It would never have happened without her.”

Minister Paul Kehoe encouraged all to support and promote the wonderful town venue – a permanent and fitting tribute to the men and women of 1916 and the men and women of 2016. Minister Kehoe unveiled a commemorative plaque and declared the Athenaeum officially open.



To conclude, Maura Flannery and Tony McClean invited all to join in the singing of the Wexford Anthem, ‘Boolavogue’, before everyone adjourned to the Church Institute for refreshments.

Cumann na mBan – The Athenaeum



Paddy Murphy-Local 1916 Sub Committee with daughters Liz Mitchell and Patricia Hyland

(Extract from State Ceremonial Event Brochure)

The Cumann na mBan organisation in County Wexford played a pivotal role in the Rising in 1916. When the Volunteers established their HQ in the Athenaeum on Thursday, 27th April 1916, Cumann na mBan members Úna Brennan, Marion Stokes, Gretta Comerford and Mary White were present.

Active members of the organisation in Easter Week included the Moran sisters – Marie, Sighle, Biddy and Kathleen – from Church Street, Enniscorthy; Ellen and Teresa Keegan from 10 Irish Street, Enniscorthy; Maire Deegan from Brideswell, Gorey; and Min, Kate, Nell and Phyllis Ryan from Tomcolle, Taghmon.

In the aftermath of the surrender of the Volunteers and their subsequent arrest in early May 1916, the majority of Cumann na mBan members avoided imprisonment. Two prominent members however were arrested and detained – Kathleen Browne from Rathronan Castle and Nell Ryan from Tomcoole, Taghmon, were imprisoned in Waterford.

Eat, Sing, Celebrate! Enlist with the women of Cumann na mBan to enjoy an afternoon of poetry and song that inspired a generation

A commemorative event was held on 17th April 2016 in the Athenaeum to reflect on and mark the important role played by members of Cumann na mBan during the 1916 Rising in County Wexford. Attendees were treated to a culturally diverse range of performances from local and national artistes which included a 'Living Memory' session performed by the Cobh Animation Team; a rendition on tin whistle of 'Mná na hÉireann' by Ann O'Kelly-Guerin (grand niece of nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell who stood alongside Padraig Pearse on the day of surrender) and a sean nós dance performed by Ann's daughter Niamh Page in Elizabeth's memory. The afternoon also included performances by Aileen Lambert and Paul O'Reilly from the 1916 Song Project; poetry readings by Margaret Galvin; and a number of traditional songs sung by Maura Flannery who was accompanied by flautist Ann Marie Kearney. Food typical of the fare provided in the Athenaeum during Easter Week 1916 was served.



Mná na hÉireann 1916 piece performed by the Cobh Animation Society



Performance by Maura Flannery and Ann Marie Kearney



Niamh Page performing a sean nós dance

Commemorative Plaques: Wexford County Council unveiled a series of plaques throughout the county. These plaques commemorate significant locations and buildings of the 1916 Rising in Wexford, and contribute to the historic atmosphere of an area rich in revolutionary heritage.

In Enniscorthy the plaques allow one to retrace the steps of the rebels as they occupied the town. You can visit their headquarters at the Athenaeum theatre, and nearby Enniscorthy Castle where they exchanged fire with the police. From there you can go to Antwerp House, where the secretive Irish Republican Brotherhood ran a club and dance hall as a front for their revolutionary activities. Just across the road is Captain Seamus Rafter's old pub – still a licensed premises, its former clandestine use as a rebel munitions factory ended in disaster for its proprietor. These and the other plaque sites will be marked on a map available at several locations in the town.

At Ferns National School a plaque marks the only other town taken by the Wexford rebels. The school was the Ferns headquarters of the rebels after they occupied the town, the limit of what was intended to be an advance towards Dublin.

In the Gorey area plaques mark the houses of several significant figures in the Wexford Rising such as Seamus Doyle and Seán Etchingham, as well as the spot where Padraig Pearse addressed the local Irish Volunteers in 1914. Also commemorated are the grave of Liam Mellows, the leader of the 1916 Rising in Galway, and the home of James Corcoran, one of the first of the Irish Citizen Army men to be killed in action at St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

The following is a full listing of the commemorative plaques commissioned and erected in various locations in Enniscorthy town:

1. The Athenaeum – A theatre and public hall used as headquarters by the Enniscorthy rebels. The tricolour was raised above it on Thursday of Easter Week 1916 and flew until the following Monday.
2. Enniscorthy Castle – The home of the Roche family at the time, it was commandeered by the rebels who sniped at the Royal Irish Constabulary barracks from its battlements.
3. Abbey Square – A statue of Enniscorthy leader Captain Seamus Rafter looks out over the bridge that bears his name. The RIC barracks that the rebels besieged stood in what is now the car park.
4. Old Echo offices – *The Echo*, still in print, advocated radical republicanism and in 1916 supported the rebels from this building. The newspaper was suppressed for a year after the Rising.

5. Courthouse – Occupied by the rebels. The Irish Volunteers also raided it prior to the rebellion to steal the arms stored there by a breakaway moderate nationalist organisation, the National Volunteers.
6. Keegans' house – 10 Irish Street, Enniscorthy, the home of Captain Patrick Keegan and his sisters Teresa and Ellen was used as an arms depot, and was where the Volunteers mobilised before taking over the Athenaeum.
7. Antwerp House – The Irish Republican Brotherhood set up a club and dance hall here as a front for their revolutionary activities, including the manufacture of explosives.
8. Holohan's pub – Formerly the pub of Captain Rafter, it was also used secretly as a munitions factory. It was here Rafter was fatally injured by an accidental explosion in 1918.
9. Railway Station – The Dublin-Rosslare railway line was what made Enniscorthy a key strategic point. The rebels took Enniscorthy Station, destroyed parts of the line, and cut the telecommunications wires under fire from the RIC barracks.
10. The Wafers' house – The Wafer family were involved in the Rising in both Dublin and Enniscorthy. Tom Wafer was killed in action near the GPO in Dublin on 26th April 1916.



Enniscorthy 1916 Walking Tours

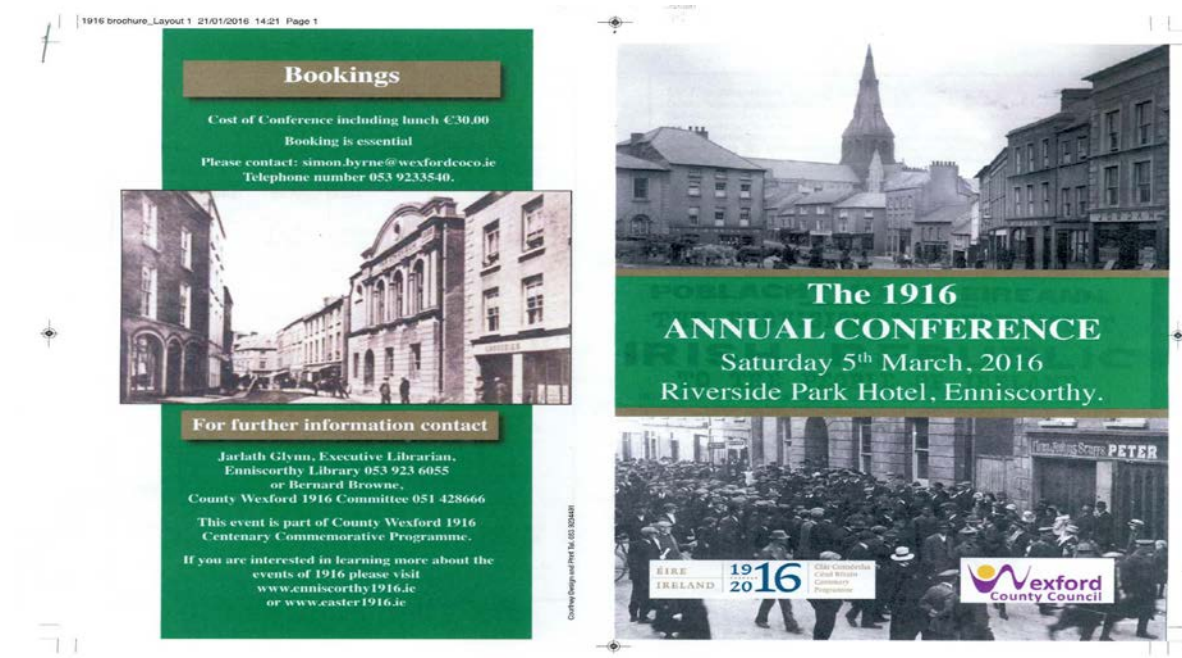
As part of the town's 1916 centenary commemorations, Wexford County Council hosted a series of free guided walking tours around Enniscorthy. These tours centred around the historic locations in the Enniscorthy Rising one hundred years ago, allowing people to retrace the steps of the rebels as they took over the town.

"You'll visit their headquarters at the Athenaeum theatre, and nearby Enniscorthy Castle from where they exchanged fire with the police. You'll be taken to Antwerp House, where the secretive Irish Republican Brotherhood ran a social club and dance hall as a front for their revolutionary activities, and Captain Seamus Rafter's old pub – still a licensed premises, whose former clandestine use as a rebel munitions factory ended in disaster for its proprietor. Simply to stand at these historic sites offers a much more immediate sense of the history of the Rising than can be had from a book".

Held to coincide with the town's main commemorative events, these tours promised to provide an entertaining and informative take on the 1916 Rising in Enniscorthy. They ran in two blocks, March 24th-29th (excluding Easter Monday 28th) and April 26th-28th. They began each day at 12:00pm in the grounds of Enniscorthy Castle.

Historical Reflection

The 1916 Annual Conference



Organised by Bernard Browne and Jarlath Glynn, the 1916 Annual Conference was held on Saturday, 5th March 2016 in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. A large crowd attended and the speakers included:-

Dr Eve Morrison – “Where were you in 1916?” Compiling the Easter Rising Roll of Honour

Dr. Henry Goff - The 1916 Rising in County Wexford

Dr. John Borgonova - Holding the Shannon Line? The planned insurrection in Munster, 1916

Mr. Kevin Galligan - Peter Paul Galligan described by the British Authorities as one of the most dangerous men in the Rebel Movement

Historical Reflection

Ireland's Rising RTÉ

Ireland's Rising, was a four part series by RTÉ One, where four household names returned to their home/ancestral county to explore its connections with 1916. Anne Doyle, Ryan Tubridy, Jim McGuinness and Fiona Shaw travelled to Wexford, Galway, Donegal and Cork to learn about their county's circumstances in 1916 and to discover how each county is planning to commemorate the centenary.

In episode one, aired on 29th November 2015, Anne Doyle visited her home county of Wexford, where one of the most significant Risings outside of Dublin took place in Enniscorthy.

Hailing from Ferns, near Boolavogue and the Harrow, Anne was very aware of her county's rebel credentials but was interested to find out more about what transpired there on Easter week and why. Anne travelled to Enniscorthy where she learnt how 300 rebels rose in Enniscorthy after receiving a direct order from the GPO which was delivered to them by their leader Peter Paul Galligan who travelled to Enniscorthy by bicycle under the cover of night. Anne met with Colm Galligan, son of Commandant Peter Paul Galligan to find out more about his father's epic cycle.

Anne's own family were farm labourers in 1916. Her grandfather John was 35 when the Rising took place and would have been working long hours on the land when the Rising was being planned. Anne visited the farm where her grandfather worked and found out more about the daily life of a farm labourer.



She also visited Ballinahallen Woods near Ferns to gain some insight into what it might have felt like for the Ferns Volunteers who waited there as confusion reigned as to whether the Rising was going ahead or not.

She met with local school children who were researching their ancestry as part of a short film that was being produced to commemorate 1916. She also met with their elderly relatives in Enniscorthy Castle and found out about the research they were doing into their great grandparents or great-great grandparents who rose during the Enniscorthy Rising. And Anne met Felicity Hayes McCoy, a relative of one of the Cumann na mBan members who rose the tricolour over the Volunteer Headquarters in the Athenaeum.



Youth and Imagination

Flags for Schools Initiative

To commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising and to celebrate 100 years since the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, the Government tasked Óglaigh na hÉireann with delivering a National Flag to every Primary School in the country.



This was a key part of the Ireland 2016 commemorative programme and saw members of Óglaigh na hÉireann, in uniform, visiting schoolchildren, teachers and parents in over 3,200 schools across the Republic.

Each school was visited by a team, led by an Officer or senior NCO, who formally presented the National Flag to the School in a special ceremony. Personnel taught the schoolchildren about how the National Flag should be cared for and the protocol that surrounds this vibrant symbol of our nation.

St. Aidan's Primary School, Enniscorthy – 15th November, 2015

Representatives of Óglaigh na hÉireann, together with Minister Paul Kehoe visited St. Aidan's Primary School, Enniscorthy on 15th November, 2015 to present the National Flag and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation to four pupils whose forefathers participated in the 1916 Rising in Enniscorthy.



Ms. Maher's Class read 'The Mother' by Padraig Pearse and Mr. Ryan's class played the National Anthem. Minister Paul Kehoe, Fr. Odhran Furlong and Enniscorthy Municipal District Manager Padraig O'Gorman were also in attendance.

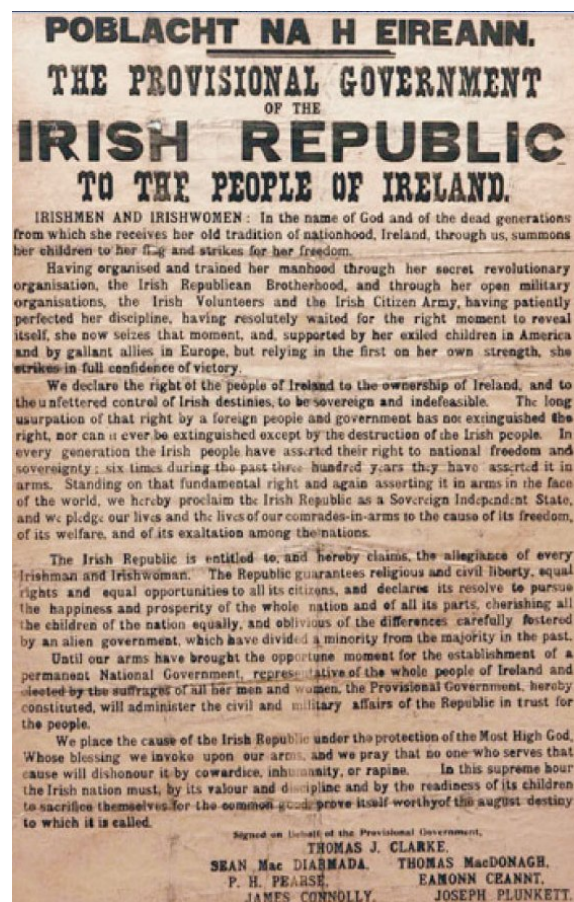


Proclamation Day – 15th March 2016

Tuesday, 15th March 2016 was Proclamation Day. This was the day when every school in the country was invited to share the results of their Proclamation for a New Generation (by using the 1916 Proclamation as a foundation, primary and post-primary were invited to write a new Proclamation for 2016 to reflect the values, ideals and aspirations of the generation of 2016) and all other creative projects relating to 1916 that the student body had developed.

All educational institutions were encouraged to put significant time aside on Proclamation Day for activities to commemorate 1916, to celebrate the present and imagine the future.

Some of the events on Proclamation Day included performances of historical or contemporary music, poetry, song, art displays or short drama productions by students.



Proclamation Day in Galbally National School





The National Flag was raised by Ned Fenlon (Galbally's oldest resident) and Pixie Lou Roche (youngest student at Galbally N.S.).



Historical Reflection

Wexford County Council Public Library Service: 1916 commemorative programme



Educational Resource Pack

The 1916 Rising and County Wexford: an educational resource

The 1916 Rising and County Wexford: an educational resource is an introduction to County Wexford's contribution to the Uprising of that year. The resource pack has been researched and prepared by Wexford County Council Public Library Service.

The 1916 Rising in County Wexford pack is an initiative of the Council's Public Library Service. Project management was begun by former County Librarian, Fionnuala Hanrahan and was completed by Senior Executive Librarian, Sinéad O'Gorman. Contributors include Gráinne Doran, Celestine Murphy, Kieran Costello, Karen O'Connor, and Sinéad O'Gorman.



This information pack is intended for use in primary & secondary schools as both an introduction to local history sources on the Rising and as a tool for teachers and students who wish to pursue in-depth research on the period. Copies were provided to all primary and secondary schools in County Wexford and are available for researchers. A PDF of ***The 1916 Rising and County Wexford: an educational resource*** can be downloaded from www.wexford.ie/library. The resource pack was launched in the Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy on 2nd December 2015, by Chairman of Wexford County Council, Councillor Tony Dempsey.

Historical Reflection/Community Participation



During the month of February Jarlath Glynn, Executive Librarian, Enniscorthy Library hosted a series of five programmes about 1916 in Co. Wexford on South East Radio. Each programme had an average listenership of 2000 people.

Historical Reflection/ Community Participation

Stories of 1916: Wexford County Council Public Library Oral History Programme

Wexford County Council Public Library Oral History Programme continued with the theme “Stories of 1916” and the interviewees were the children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren of some of those who participated in the 1916 rising in County Wexford. Sixteen interviews were recorded by Jacqui Hynes and Alan Maguire. The Interviewees were Joe O’Brien, Breda Donnelly and Michael O’Brien, Michael Doyle, Martin McClean, Noel Armstrong and Michael Byrne, Stephen Keegan, Brian Cleary, Henry Goff, Des Fitzpatrick, Seamus Rafter, James Franklin, Dermot Fitzpatrick, Arthur French and Colm Galligan. These interviews are a valuable contribution to our knowledge of what happened in County Wexford during that time and to Wexford’s memory of that time. They tell many previously unknown and unheard stories and

honour the contribution made by those ancestors to Ireland's quest for self determination and freedom.



The interviewees were presented with CD recordings of their interviews in Enniscorthy Library on 28th April 2016 by Vice Chairman of Wexford County Council, Councillor Kathleen Codd Nolan.

All the interviews are available on CD for loan from the mobile and branch libraries county-wide. The interviews are also available as podcasts on the library website www.wexford.ie/library ensuring that relatives and researchers, far and wide will have the opportunity to learn from and enjoy these wonderful recordings.

Historical Reflection

Irish Lives in War and Revolution



Sinead O'Gorman (Wexford Library) and Brian Mathews (facilitator) with the TCD team who developed the Irish Lives in War and Revolution: Exploring Ireland's History 1912 – 1923 MOOC

From the first week of September to mid October 2014, in 5 public libraries study groups participated in the Irish Lives in War and Revolution: Exploring Ireland's History 1912 - 1923 – the six week online course by Trinity College Dublin [MOOCs], met in library ICT suites every week at a scheduled time, to view & discuss material in community. These study sessions were facilitated by qualified historians. [Bunclody [5], Enniscorthy [12], Gorey [22], New Ross [10], Wexford [24].

19th March 2015: Public Consultation Meeting on 2016 Commemoration Programme in Riverside Hotel, Enniscorthy was coordinated & recorded by the Library Service.

16 April 2015: "Letters 1916 - a year in a life" : collection & recording of local memorabilia in Enniscorthy library, organised with the Archives Service, An Foras Feasa and National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Materials were added to the national Letters 1916 website.

Wexford Libraries: Lecture and workshop series



Wexford Libraries hosted 45 events in branches throughout the county relating to the 1916 commemorations. These events included historical lectures, research workshops, literature programmes and book launches. Almost 1700 people attended those events, which commenced in Autumn 2015 and continued through the Summer of 2016

Library branch	Date	Event	Number attended
Enniscorthy Library	27/08/2015	Heritage Week Lecture "Revolutionary Wexford": With Gráinne Doran, Archivist, Wexford County Council. A glimpse into the 1916 period in County Wexford through extant documents and artefacts in Wexford County Archive.	40
Enniscorthy Library	10/09/2015	Indomitable Revolutionaries: The Women of Easter Week, 1916. With Dr Conor McNamara, writer and historian.	50
Enniscorthy Library	08/10/2015	The Rise of the Irish Volunteers: The Enniscorthy Experience. With Dr William Murphy, Mater Dei Institute, Dublin	70
Wexford Library	13/10/2015	Historical Lecture: British Intelligence and 1916 by Eunan O'Halpin, Professor of Contemporary Irish History and International Integration Studies, Trinity College Dublin.	90
Wexford Library	27/10/2015	Historical Lecture: William Butler Yeats: where myth, history and lived experience battle it out with dramatic intensity by Dr.Derek Coyle, Carlow College.	60
Enniscorthy Library	05/11/2015	The 1916 Rising in County Wexford - A Literary Legacy by Bernard Browne. The book was officially launched by the Chairman of the County Wexford 1916 Committee and former County Manager, Eddie Breen	90

07/11/2015		With Archivist Grainne Doran: Call for 1916-related memorabilia (letters, photographs, medals, brooches, flags and other associated artefacts) from New Ross and surrounding environs, in particular families who had a family member (or neighbour) that was an active participant in 1916 (Irish Volunteer, National Volunteer, Cumann na mBan, Na Fianna Éireann, RIC &c.). Members of the public are asked to bring along relevant memorabilia with a view to permitting such items to be photographed and recorded for possible inclusion in the 1916 exhibition which will open in the newly refurbished Athenaeum in Enniscorthy in April 2016.	4
New Ross Library			
Enniscorthy Library		The Other Rising: County Wexford in 1916. With Helen Ashdown, author.	40
Enniscorthy Library	12/11/2015		
Enniscorthy Library	24/11/2015	Monksgrange House 1916 Diary by Goddard Orpen	60
Enniscorthy Library	07/01/2016	A woven Silence by Felicity Hayes McCoy	41
		North Wexford Historical Society: 1916 From A Nationalist Point of View presented by Dr. Brian Hughes. 68 attended	68
Gorey Library	07/01/2016		
Enniscorthy Library	02/02/2016	Thomas Wafer: A Son Of Enniscorthy by Mark O'Brien book launch	39

Speakers at the 16 Lives Panel Discussion in Gorey Library



Irish Lives, 16 Lives. The history of 1916: A Panel Discussion. On Wednesday morning 3rd February 2016, from 11.00am to 12.30pm. A panel discussion chaired by John Gibney, historian discussed Irish Lives, 16 Lives. The history of 1916. He was joined by a panel of fellow historians Lorcan Collins, Mary Gallagher, Conor Kostick and Helen Litton, authors from the successful series of biographies on 1916, published by O' Brien Press to commemorate the sixteen men executed in 1916. The discussion included the planning of the Rising, the organisations involved, the role of women and the role of literature in the rebellion

Gorey
Library

03/02/2016

85



The audience listening to Conor Kostick in New Ross Library

09/02/2016 Michael O'Hanrahan & 1916 with Conor Kostick

25

New Ross
Library

Wexford
Library

Historical Lecture: The history of the Irish
tricolour with Dr Pat Callan, historian and

25/02/2016 lecturer at NUI Maynooth

20



Launch of 1916 Exhibition in Gorey Library and Civic Offices

The Exhibition North Wexford and the 1916 Rising compiled by local historians with Dr. Steven O' Connor, commissioned by Gorey Municipal District opened on Wednesday 2 nd March at Gorey Civic Offices and Library. It ran for two months to the 30 th April. This is a comprehensive and informative exhibition, on 26 panels, compiled by a panel of local based historians. This is the first composite history of the Gorey area for this period. It's a good research tool. 100 people attended the launch.			
Gorey Library	02/03/2016	Schools and community groups were invited to visit.	100
Bunclody Library	03/03/2016	Hugh McShane illustrated talk on 1916: a seminal moment in Irish and world history.	20
Enniscorthy Library	10/03/2016	Renowned local historian Brian Cleary presented a lecture on the role of the de Lacy family in 1916 in County Wexford.	26
Gorey Library	12/03/2016	1916 Concert in Gorey Library. Gorey Choral Group performed a 1916 tribute concert in Gorey Library on Saturday 12th March at 3.00pm. Through song, poetry and story the events and stories of the time were brought to life and the audience had the opportunity to enjoy the music and words of that time and now and reflect on how their influence has shaped us to what we are today. 120 people attended	120
New Ross Library	22/03/2016	Seán Keating – his art and the Irish rising & the creation of the Irish Free state	14



Derek Coyle in New Ross Library

	29/03/2016	"We know their dream" : a critical investigation of the literature of 1916 & how it might be relevant to contemporary debate with Dr. Derek Coyle	15
New Ross Library			
Gorey Library		North Wexford Historical Society 'The Easter Rising 1916 in County Wexford' by Rita Edwards.66 people attended.	66
New Ross Library	31/03/2016		
	05/04/2016	Scrapbook 1916 – New Ross Standard 5 th May 1916 with Jimmy Fitzgibbon	12
Enniscorthy Library	14/04/2016	Last To Surrender - The 1916 Rising in County Wexford by Richard Roche	26
		The Gaelic League in North Wexford in 1916. To commemorate the weekend of the Easter Rising in 1916, a lecture was given by Cllr. Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin, as gaeilge, on 'The Gaelic League in North Wexford in 1916' in Gorey library on Thursday evening 21 st April at	
Gorey Library	21/04/2016	7.30pm. 20 people attended	20

		1916 - The Road to the Rising in song. This memorable event with Jackie Symes, John Nangle, Peadar Kehoe, Seamus ODonohoe, Michael and Paul Doran took place on Tuesday 3 rd May. The group encouraged the audience, some 35 people to follow the road to the rising by singing the songs from the bards, 1798, the time of the Young Irelanders and the Celtic revival balladeers. The concert ended with a rousing performance of Boolavogue.	35
Gorey Library	03/05/2016	The Role of the Gaelic Revival in Ireland: An Exhibition. An exhibition from Conradh na Gaeilge, 'The Role of the Gaelic Revival in Ireland and the lives of the 1916 leaders' was available for viewing in Gorey Library for two weeks from Wednesday 4 th May to Friday 13 th May. Some 6000 people visited Gorey Library in that time.	
Gorey Library	04/05/2016	North Wexford Historical Society : 'The role of women in 1916' by Dr. Eve Morrison. 68 people attended.	68
Enniscorthy Library	12/05/2016	<i>Blood on the Rose</i> – A recitation of 1916-inspired poems and songs in English and Irish from Everlasting Voices.12 May	
New Ross Library	26/05/2016	Reflections on Micheál O' Hanrahan – the New Ross Story with Pearse & Harry O' Hanrahan	26
Wexford Library	16/06/2016	Declan Kiberd talk: "Invisible Republic: Joyce and Pearse in 1916"	90

Gorey Library	<p>The Byrne Perry Summer School and Festival. The official opening for the 22nd festival and summer school on the theme '1916 What happened Next' was held in Gorey Library on Friday 24th June from 7.00pm. Mary Lou McDonald T. D. performed the opening and the inaugural Fr. Forde memorial lecture was given by Patsy McGarry, The Irish Times. 95 people attended the opening and 45 stayed for the lecture. In the afternoon, in a new initiative for Byrne Perry prizes were presented to 30 children from schools in the area who entered the art and poetry competitions on the theme</p> <p>24/06/2016 1916.</p>	125
------------------	--	-----



Neal Rooney in Bunclody Library

Bunclody Library	<p>25/08/2016 Heritage Week talk on Letters of 1916: World War 1 Battle of the Somme – Neale Rooney</p> <p>Free 1916 Walking Tours in March, with a tour guide presenting the history of the 1916 Rising in Enniscorthy at the locations these events unfolded</p>	30 15
---------------------	--	--------------

Enniscorthy
and
Wexford
Libraries

Reading the Rising : An examination of the Literature of 1916. A series of 4 reading workshops for adults in Enniscorthy Library. 26th September, 17th October, 7th & 28th November 2015. Course Leader : Ciara L Murphy, MA

50

1916 Researching the Rising : A workshop. Celestine Murphy gave workshops in all branches entitled Researching the Rising for teachers, local history enthusiasts and second level students to enable you search the information sources on the 1916 Rising, locally and nationally. Celestine is a member of the staff of Wexford County Council for more than thirty years, She works in the Library Service. She is a well known lecturer, researcher, author and editor and has written and contributed to several books for Wexford County Council and local historical journals. Celestine researched, wrote and edited “ The 1916 Rising and County Wexford: an educational resource” .

All libraries

32

Historical Reflection/ Youth and Imagination

Wexford library branches hosted 19 author events for children related to the 1916 Rising. Almost 600 children attended these events in February, March and April of this year.



Patricia Murphy, author of Molly's Diary in Gorey Library



Sheen Wilkinson, author of Name upon Name in New Ross Library



Brian Gallagher, author of *Friend or Foe* in Bunclody Library

Brian Gallagher, author of *Friend or Foe* visited all libraries in February. Writer Sheena Wilkinson visited libraries in March, to talk about her book on 1916 titled, *Name upon Name*, and read from her work. Gerry Hunt, writer of the *Blood on the Rose*, a graphic novel for children, visited libraries in April as did Patricia Murphy, writer of the 1916 story, *Molly's Diary*, for children

A Poem for Ireland Poetry Competition



The Department of Education and Skills, the public library service and Libraries Development, Local Government Management Agency held 'A Poem for Ireland' Poetry Competition for post-primary schools, as part of the commemoration events for Ireland 2016. Alexandra Holden of Ramsgrange Community School was the winner of the Wexford heat and was presented with her prize by Councillor Kathleen Codd Nolan in Enniscorthy on 28th April.

Cultural Expression

Wexford County Council Arts Department: 1916 commemorative Programme

Wexford County Council Arts Department and Enniscorthy Municipal District commissioned two artistic works, a poem and a Choral work to commemorate 1916.

Commissioned Poem – “What’s the news”

An antiphonal poem by Anthony Cronin



Wexford County Council commissioned renowned poet, Anthony Cronin to write a poem commemorating County Wexford's involvement in the 1916 Rising. The commemorative poem was performed in public for the first time by Judy Heffernan as part of the Easter Monday ceremonies. The poem was included in the *Echo* newspapers commemorative supplement for Easter weekend.

What's The News?

What's the news? What's the news?

O my bold Shelmaliar

With your long-barrelled gun from the sea?

But there is no news.

And no long-barrelled gun,

Only the British short service, bolt action Lee Enfields.

The river flows

Between steep hills,

On one of them Pugin's pinched arches,

Remind us of the eternal paradise

Won by obedience to supernatural commands,

On the other a ruined windmill tower

Of what happened long ago
When many looked for earthly salvation
In death and killing
And where just above the river
A wall proclaims
Buttles Barley-Fed Bacon.

And even from Dublin
With which all communication is now cut off
And only rumours come
There is no news.
The river flows
Over the trout-brown stones
Which it sculpts into more amenable round shapes
Under the bridge where the philosophers sit
Past the sand cots that Spenser saw
From his newly-acquired castle
Coming out between sunlit meadows
Where the water has surface glow and inner density.

Many prefer that there should be no news.
But some does come from faraway places
Where the Irish die
Beneath an Asian sky
At Suvla Bay and Sud El Bar
Where when you open a jam-jar
You are besieged by countless thousands
Of heaving flies.

No news is normality.
It is shutters up and shutters down,
Shutters up
Hasped and locked, in the evening,
Shutters down
Tongued and grooved, in the morning.
It is over the railway bridge
Past the still blossoming but never fruiting cherry tree
With many barefooted companions,
Summer and winter
Feet red from cold
Calves splashed with mud.
Trotting over the bridge, some
Are conscious only of their own delinquencies,
Others of the heavy sarcasms

With which the message of Christian brotherhood
Will be imparted.

There are many who are unimpressed
By the social yearnings of the Proclamation,
By the re-birth of freedom in every generation.
Many wish for normality
In which lives are replaced
As the river replaces itself
And days replaced
As the water replaces itself.
For them, all that is lacking is our own politics.
Politics, the great opiate of our time,
Gregarious plant which grows in every clime,
Doing its turnabouts,
Its party tricks.
If it was partial, not a bouleversement,
But only a transfer, a drastic shake-up
With fundamental structures
Left intact
To most it would be none the worse for that.

But suddenly there is news.
Sinn Fein Volunteers have taken over the town.
They have closed the bars
And closed the banks, put them under armed guards.
There is marching and counter-marching,
Cheering and counter-cheering
Up Slaney Street to Market Square.
Down Castle Hill to Slaney Place.
They have raised a tricolour over the Atheneum,
The town's least utilitarian building.
The RIC withdraws to barracks
Carefully locking the door behind them.
Not a shot is fired.

Because he had the wondrous
New Gregg and Pitman shorthand
And could report court cases and other procedures verbatim
My father had got a job on the Enniscorthy Echo.
Assigned to Gorey as a junior reporter.
He rode there on his cumbersome
One-gear Pierce's iron bicycle.

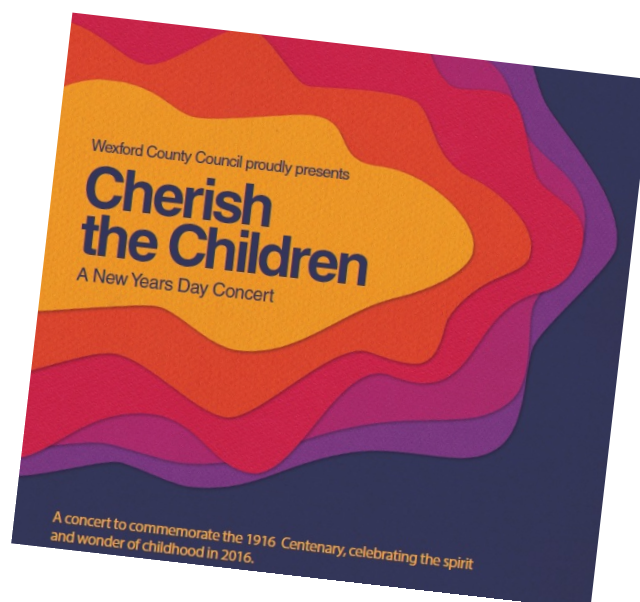
His landlady was concerned about the money
For his digs so he mounted his pushbike again
And started for Enniscorthy. Somewhere beyond Camolin
Amid the April meadows of Shelmalier
He met a detachment of British Lancers
Riding across the fields, apparently ready for battle.
After they had forced him into the ditch he discovered
That many did not know what country they were in.
Some thought they were in France.

But when the real news comes
The town's news fades.
It is not tragic. Nor can we set the names
To rhyme against each other as could Yeats .
There is no Pearse and nothing here
To half rhyme with verse.
I cannot rhyme Etchingham with Toibin,
Only, alas, Rafter with after.

No one can claim that in Enniscorthy
When the cars drive drove in from Dublin
With white flags flying
In token of of the gallant surrender
Whatever colour was worn
A terrible beauty was born.
But we should remember
That they could not know
They would not be fighting
Against systems of empires,
Empires of empires.
Though without killing it seems
No terrible beauty can be born.

The river flows
Beyond Oilgate and Edermine,
Past marshland and bird sanctuary,
Into the spreading harbour where
Wexford, weary of killing,
Once vainly waited for a friend
Flying a tricolour
Which would somehow bring victory
But also perhaps an end.

Cultural Expression / Youth and Imagination



Commissioned Choral Work

“Child of Creation”

Composition and lyrics by Liam Bates

As part of Wexford County Council’s contribution to the national centenary programme, composer Liam Bates was commissioned to write a piece of music to commemorate 1916. After much research, Liam took his inspiration from the passage of the 1916 Proclamation “cherishing all children of the nation equally.” The result is a newly composed choral piece called “Child of creation” which celebrates the spirit and wonder of childhood in 2016. This new work celebrated the idea that we each are born with the potential to be creative, not necessarily in the visual or musical arts sense, but in every aspect of our existence. Even in our sleep is Creation at work. And creativity is to be seen no more alive than on the blank canvas of our children’s minds. This new work had its debut performance at a concert in St Aidan’s Cathedral on New Year’s Day. The piece was professionally recorded on the day and the recording was shared on the www.enniscorthy1916.ie website.

Lyrics: “Child of Creation”

I am a glorious child of Creation,

born with a voice for singing.

I am a wonderful child of Creation,

fuelled by the light within.

A bright light that’s so beautiful, so brilliant, gorgeous and fantastic!

With this radiant light, this radiant light,

I make, I act, I serve.... I shine!

Filling up when I listen to your praises.

Growing up can be messy: will you help me make my way?

Lead on hunger and desire – nourish and inspire,

have no fear, for I am meant to be here,

I’m meant to have fun, be loud, be strong!

I am a glorious child of Creation.

Let’s play.

Let’s play together:

I like riding my bicycle, movies, Minecraft and FIFA!

Socks that need cleaning and books I like reading,

fit nicely underneath the bed.

Pointless to tidy from Monday to Friday,
but maybe at the weekend.
Saturday there's dancing
and Sunday it's homework, homework. Aw!

I must close my eyes,
I am ready for sleep, ready for sleep and dreams.
I cannot keep my eyes open.
With arms out wide,
I gently glide through fields of light and hue
and as I make my way,
Creation, with her magic glue,
all my dreams will fix anew.
And I will wake with the sun!

Cultural Expression/ Youth and Imagination/ The Living Language

“Cherish the Children” New Year’s Day Concert

Composer Liam Bates was also commissioned to direct a concert to be performed on New Year’s Day, commencing Wexford County Council’s 2016 commemorative programme. The concert, entitled, *“Cherish the Children,”* was performed by children’s choirs from County Wexford and the renowned Musici Ireland orchestra, conducted by Liam Bates. Children from schools in County Wexford: Gaelscoil Charman (Wexford); Scoil Naomh Maodhóg (Ferns); Bunscoil Loreto (Gorey);

Presentation (Wexford); Gorey Community School; and County Wexford School of Music, participated in the concert.



Liam Bates assembled the full concert programme to honour the optimism, curiosity, playfulness, idealism, joy and creativity of our young people. It was appropriate, in this year's focus on the 1916 Rising and foundation of the Irish State, that the first official Wexford event belonged especially to our children. The concert was a huge success, playing to a packed St Aidan's Cathedral. Without doubt the highlights of the concert were the performance of the new piece "Child of Creation" composed by Liam Bates and commissioned by Wexford County Council and the very moving arrangement of Amhrán Na bhFiann.



The concert was the first event in 2016 from the County Wexford 2016 Centenary Programme and was professionally recorded. The CD recording of the Cherish the Children concert was launched by Chairman of Wexford County Council, Councillor

Tony Dempsey in Wexford Library on 21 April 2016. Copies of the CD are available from the Municipal District Offices and local libraries.

Cultural Expression

Radio Drama “Sons of Thunder”

The 1916 Committee sponsored the production of a radio drama on South East Radio. The drama, entitled “Sons of Thunder” was written by Eoghan Rua Finn and centred on a fictional version of events in Enniscorthy during the 1916 Rising. The drama was produced by and aired on South East Radio. It comprised of five episodes which aired during Easter week 2016.

Drama - Blackstairs Trilogy: Three one-act plays telling the story of Wexford people during the revolutionary period, from 1916 to post-Civil War Wexford. Written by award-winning Wexford playwright Eoghan Rua Finn, the trilogy was performed in Wexford Arts Centre from 21-24th April and in the Athenaeum in Enniscorthy on 16th April.

Raven Theatre presented three plays entitled ‘Volunteer,’ ‘The Wringing’ and ‘Come Along The Road Until You Stop Dead’. ‘Volunteer’ tells the story of a WWI veteran, ostracised by his community on returning home from fighting in Europe. On the eve of the Easter Rising in Enniscorthy, he is offered a final chance of redemption. The play was directed by Heather Hadrill. ‘The Wringing’ tells the story of a young Wexford man who has run away to Dublin during the War of Independence. He is faced with the reality of warfare during a late-night encounter with an enigmatic clock maker. It was directed by Dominic Palmer and Colum Kavanagh. ‘Come Along The Road Until You Stop Dead’ rounded off the trilogy as two men from opposing sides of the Civil War meet in the middle of the night to settle old scores. The play was directed by Anna Hayes.

Drama - “A Night on the Hill”

As part of the County Wexford Easter Rising Centenary Commemorations programme, Paul O'Reilly was commissioned to write this full-length stage play which was performed by Enniscorthy Drama Group and premiered in the newly restored Athenaeum from 5th to 8th May 2016.



Though influenced by witness statements and archives of participants in the Wexford Rising, and by newspaper articles of the time, this was a play of fictitious characters and households that explored culture and comedy, war and consequence, religion, class and love, as well as the sacrifices both sought and offered by the people of 1916.

Community Participation

BACKROADS TO THE RISING – A Community Walking and Cycling Event

This project was supported by the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and Enniscorthy Municipal District Council.

Devised by artists Aileen Lambert and Michael Fortune, the project was inspired by the journeys undertaken by men and women from throughout County Wexford during the 1916 Easter Rising. Walkers and cyclists, young and old and with a range of abilities travelled five different routes into Enniscorthy on Easter Monday, 28th March, 2016 converging in the Abbey Square for the Easter Rising Commemorations. Approximately 800 participants joined the routes and the project provided a unique opportunity for members of the community to be involved in the Easter Monday ceremonies.

The five routes were:

1. The Seamus Rafter Route: Ballindaggin to Enniscorthy
2. The Séan Etchingham Route: Ferns to Enniscorthy
3. The Lar Redmond Route: Oulart to Enniscorthy

4. The Úna Brennan Route: Oilgate to Enniscorthy
5. The Philip Lennon Route: Clonroche to Enniscorthy



Oulart Hill





Walkers on the Backroad to the Rising, leaving Oulart Hill on the Lar Redmond Route



Walkers on the Backroads to the Rising on the Séan Etchingham Route







Walkers and cyclists on the Backroads to the Rising on the Philip Lennon Route



Walkers on the Backroads to the Rising on the Séamus Rafter Route



Walkers and cyclists on the Backroads to the Rising on the Una Brennan Route







Arrival of walkers / cyclists completing the “Backroads to the Rising”



Cultural Expression/ Community Participation

1916 SONG PROJECT

This was Ireland's premier traditional song event for the 2016 Commemorations, launching a new body of songs into the traditional song repertoire for decades and centuries to come. The 1916 Song Project was a national research and performance project devised and produced by Michael Fortune and Aileen Lambert for the 1916 Commemoration Programme and featured some of the country's most respected traditional singers and songwriters.



The 1916 Song Project

The 1916 Song Project was based around the principles of shared knowledge, support and co-operation. Since first meeting as a group in August 2015 the singers researched and composed a new body of songs in the traditional style relating to themes, events and figures connected to The Easter Rising. These songs invited us to reflect, challenged us and introduced us to previously unsung heroes. The project included singers from places where there was significant activity in Easter 1916 and the singers/composers performed their songs at various venues around the country.



The Wexford singers/composers were Aileen Lambert, Paul O'Reilly and Paddy Berry.



The Wexford concert was performed in the Athenaeum, Enniscorthy on 14th May 2016 and was opened by two performances by Gael Scoil Inis Corthaidh. Therese McIntyre gave a lecture prior to the concert entitled 'Who Fears to Sing of 1916? - A Search for the Songs of the Rising'. The talk examined the dichotomy between the 1798 Rebellion and the 1916 Rising, and why one is more 'singable' than the other, and explored common themes and focused on local composers from the time of the Easter Rising. The concert was attended by an audience of 150.



The 1916 Song Project was supported by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Meath and Wexford County Councils, Galway City Council, the Arts Council, the Irish Traditional Music Archive and the National Library of Ireland.

Historical Reflection/ Youth and Imagination

Bandages and Bullets

Bandages and Bullets is a short documentary commissioned by Wexford County Council that explores the role of Cumann na mBan in the Easter Rising in Enniscorthy. The film was made by Terence White and involved members of County Wexford Youth Film Project in crew roles. Filming took place over four days throughout September and November, 2015.



A number of people were interviewed for the documentary including the County Archivist, Gráinne Doran, Helen Ashdown and Jacqui Hynes from the Memories of 1916 Oral History Project.



A lengthy editing process took place over the winter months and the film was screened in the Abbey Square, Enniscorthy prior to the official Easter Monday ceremonies. The film is on permanent display in the Athenaeum 1916 Exhibition.

Historical Reflection/ Community Participation

1916 Stories: film project

1916 Stories is a body of short films based on personal and un-documented histories and stories of the 1916 Rising in Wexford, commissioned by Wexford County Council and researched and made by Michael Fortune. The films bring to life stories that have been lost in the midst of time or only known by immediate relatives.



Through late 2015 and early 2016 Michael researched film material and conducted interviews with close family and friends of those involved in the Rising in 1916 in Wexford. Interviews were conducted in people's homes and at sites related to the stories. The films ranged from 12 – 16 minutes in length. They were screened in the Abbey Square, Enniscorthy prior to the official Easter Monday ceremonies. The film is on permanent display in the Athenaeum 1916 Exhibition.

Historical Reflection

Summary of 1916 commemorative events in which Wexford County Archive participated/organised

Wexford County Council Archive played a pivotal role in the 2016 commemorations by fully exploiting its extensive collection of handwritten documents, photographs and artefacts relating to the period. Talks were given around the county to engender a sense of awareness of County Wexford's role in 1916 and additional memorabilia was gathered through considerable liaisons with relatives and members of the public. Special events were organised to appropriately commemorate the memorable contribution to Ireland's struggle for national independence that the ordinary men and women of County Wexford made, many of whom otherwise would have gone undocumented.

Wexford County Archive also collaborated with, and advised a number of individuals and local community groups in their hosting of commemorative events around the county – including:

Below are a series of collaborative events held throughout 2015 and 2016 in which the archive service was involved.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 6 February 2015 | Organised the hosting of a travelling exhibition produced by the Military Archives, <i>'The Irish Volunteers in focus, 1913-18'</i> in Enniscorthy Castle |
| 19 March 2015 | Involved in the organisation of a public meeting held in the Riverside Park Hotel to discuss a programme of commemorative events for 2016 |
| 16 April 2015 | Organised a <i>'Letters 1916 – a year in a life'</i> event in Enniscorthy Library in conjunction with An Foras Feasa and National University of Ireland, Maynooth (members of the public were encouraged to bring along 1916-related memorabilia which were digitised by the 'Letters' team and added to the national Letters 1916 website) |
| 27 August 2015 | Talk and slide show on <i>'Revolutionary Wexford'</i> given in Enniscorthy Library to coincide with Heritage Week events |
| 15 October 2015 | Talk given <i>'1916 in County Wexford'</i> to New Ross Historical Society |
| 23 October 2015 | Contributed to a Cumann na mBan documentary, <i>Bandages and Bullets</i> |
| 7 November 2015 | Organised an open afternoon which was hosted by New Ross library to collect 1916-related memorabilia from relatives of Irish |

- Volunteers, National Volunteers and Cumann na mBan participants from the New Ross area
- 30 November and 3 December 2015 Facilitated two visits to the county archive by Transition Year students from CBS, Enniscorthy and delivered talk to them on the 1916 period in the county
- 28 January 2016 Participated in the first of six weekly interviews which were held to commemorate 1916 in County Wexford. Recorded by Wexford Christian Media Trust and aired on South East Radio, the interviews were hosted by Jarlath Glynn
- 2 February 2016 Participated in a 1916 seminar entitled 'Hidden pages from the 1916 Rising' which was held in St. Thomas's Church, Dublin (hosted by An Post and The Society for Irish Archives). The lecture entitled '*Keeping it in the family – the collective effort of some families in County Wexford in 1916*' featured some of the key families in the county during the period and their selfless involvement in the nationalist struggle. This was an invaluable opportunity to highlight the role that County Wexford, and Enniscorthy in particular, played in the Rising to a mainly Dublin audience
Submitted an article based on the above talk which was published in the Irish Society for Archives Journal *Irish Archives* in November 2016
- 9 February 2016 Jointly presented (with Sinéad O'Gorman) an overview of the 1916 period in County Wexford to primary school teachers in the Education Centre, Enniscorthy to assist them in 1916-related resources and activities in the classroom
- 17 February 2016 Delivered a talk '*Revolutionary Wexford – a glimpse into the 1916 period in County Wexford through extant documents and artefacts in Wexford County Archive*' to Wexford Historical Society
- 25 February 2016 Delivered a talk '*Keeping it in the family – the collective effort of some families in County Wexford in 1916*' in Enniscorthy Library (which focussed on three specific families – the Moran family of Church Street, Enniscorthy, the Keegan family of Irish Street, Enniscorthy and the Ryan family of Tomcoole, Taghmon)
- 8 March 2016 Delivered a talk and slide show on '*1916 in County Wexford*' in Hammels, Kilmuckridge
- 14 March 2016 Delivered a talk and slide show '*Revolutionary Wexford – a glimpse into the 1916 period in County Wexford through extant documents and artefacts in Wexford County Archive*' to Rosslare Historical Society in Danby Lodge following the official

- presentation to Wexford County Archive by Scoil Mhuire Rosslare of an original half Proclamation
- 17 April 2016 Organised an event to remember all the women from County Wexford who participated in the 1916 Rising. Entitled '*Eat, Sing, Celebrate! Enlist with the women of Cumann na mBan to enjoy an afternoon of poetry and song that inspired a generation*', the afternoon included performances from the Cobh Animation Society who presented their 'Mna na hÉireann' session, while the great-grand-niece of Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell performed a sean nós dance in honour of her great-grandaunt. Other acts included songs from the 1916 Songs Project, poetry readings and traditional music
- 27 April 2016 Curated the new 1916 exhibition '*Wexford's Rising*' in the Athenaeum which was officially opened by Colm Galligan, son of Peter Paul Galligan, Commandant of the Enniscorthy Battalion during 1916
- 21 June 2016 Delivered a talk '*1916 in County Wexford*' in Piercestown National School to senior infants and third class pupils. Engaging with the children was an invaluable way of reinforcing the significance of the period in the county through the use of photographs and banners
- 22 September 2016 Delivered a talk '*Keeping it in the family – the collective effort of some families in County Wexford in 1916*' in Bunclody Library
- 10 October 2016 Launch of a new 1916 travelling exhibition, '*The 1916 Rising in County Wexford*'. This exhibition takes the form of pull-up banners featuring text and images; three sets were produced which it is intended will travel to local schools, community centres &c. as a useful historical resource on the period and will be used in conjunction with the 1916 schools pack and the interactive 1916 exhibition in the Athenaeum
- December 2016 To mark the end of the 2016 commemorations, it is intended to launch an A-Z of all known Irish Volunteers and Cumann na mBan who were active in County Wexford during 1916 (including those from the county that were active elsewhere). This resource will be made available as part of the 1916 exhibition, '*Wexford's Rising*' in the Athenaeum but will also be available on the county archive website as one of the few comprehensive records of participants from the period

Historical Reflection / Community Participation

‘The 1916 Rising in County Wexford’ – a travelling exhibition

In building on the role of engagement with communities and to raise greater awareness of the 1916 Rising in County Wexford, a new 1916 travelling exhibition was launched in County Hall on 10 October 2016. Performing the launch, Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh noted that while the main activity in the county in 1916 centred around the town and district of Enniscorthy, people should not forget the significant volume of Irish Volunteers and members of Cumann na mBan and Na Fianna Éireann that were active in branches throughout the county, engaging in regular drills and manoeuvres in the lead-up to the Rising, and who due to a number of mitigating factors, did not get the opportunity to rise with their comrades in Enniscorthy and Ferns – villages such as Ballycullane, Ballymurn, Bunclody, Clohamon, Craanford, Crossabeg, Cushenstown, Davidstown, Gusserane, Marshalstown, Oulart, Oylegate, Rathgarogue, Rathnure, Rosslare, Sheilbaggan, Templeudigan in addition to parts of Gorey, New Ross and Wexford towns.

One of the panels contains an extensive list of names of men and women from the county who were active in 1916. It is intended that the panels will travel to schools (primary and post-primary), libraries, historical societies, community centres and heritage groups around the county over the next year or so. A more detailed insight into the period is provided in Wexford County Council’s publication ‘*The 1916 Rising and County Wexford, an educational resource*’, and copies of the pack will be distributed to those wishing to host the travelling exhibition.



Jarlath Glynn (Exec. Librarian) Donald McDonald (Third Eye Graphics), Gráinne Doran (Archivist), Cllr. Paddy Kavanagh (Chairman, WCC), Sinéad O’Gorman (Sen. Exec. Librarian), John Carley (Director of Service), Eileen Morrissey (County Librarian)

Community Participation

1916 Grants Scheme

Wexford County Council invited applications from communities for grant assistance to assist with appropriate 1916 Centenary Commemorations in local communities throughout County Wexford.

The closing date for receipt of applications was 31st December 2015. In total, 69 applications were received as follows:-

Enniscorthy District -	21 applications
Gorey District -	22 applications
New Ross District -	12 applications
Wexford District -	14 applications

€40,000 was allocated for the provision of this scheme and various groups from the county received a contribution.

The types of projects that were provided with assistance included:-

- The erection of commemorative plaques and sculptures
- The production of recordings of historical events, booklets, CDs, plays and concerts
- The erection of flagpoles
- Wreath laying ceremonies
- Memorial gardens and tree planting
- Parades
- Provision of intercultural workshops

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE 4 DISTRICTS

- Gorey
- Wexford
- New Ross
- Enniscorthy

1916 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS - Gorey Municipal District:

Grant funding was made available to the following groups within the Gorey Municipal District Area;

Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns	In memory of Lar Redmond of Morriscastle, Kilmuckridge, who set off on his bike to cycle to Enniscorthy the day before the Rising took place - Unveiling of plaque and planting of native tree on the grounds where he grew up, also art competition with the theme of Freedom and a photo gallery
The Gap Arts Festival	Screenings of the film <i>Mise Éire</i> , a participatory photographic exhibition and accounts of events at Ballythomas, Ballyfad, Annagh and Kilanerin at Easter 1916, and performances such as award winning play on the life and execution in 1916 of Francis Sheehy Skeffington
Hollyfort Development Committee	Development of commemorative Riverside Garden to two Hollyfort women of the 1916 Rising and subsequent years of the struggle for both Ireland and Irish women; Maura Comerford and Aileen Keogh
Open Gorey	Project Title "RE: Public" to remember, present and celebrate what is widely accepted as one of the world's first ever radio broadcasts that took place from the wireless telegraphy school at the corner of Abbey and O'Connell Streets during the rising of 1916
Craanford	Unveiling of commemorative Plaque to remember people from Craanford Parish and surrounds who were active in 1916.
Askamore Community Council	'Seven Men, Seven Days'. Dramatisation in pageant format of the 1916 story in verse and song
Realt na Mara G.A.A.	Due to their close association with Seán Etchingham, one of the leaders of 1916, Realt na Mara dedicated a section of their clubhouse/grounds to the memory of Etchingham and those from the locality who took part, with the erection of a memorial
Colaiste an Atha, Kilmuckridge	Drama Production
Conradh na Gaeilge Croabh Ghuaire	Bhí sé ar intinn ag Conradh na Gaeilge Craobh Ghuaire deireadh seachtaine de h-imeachtaí a chur ar shiúl chun Éirí na Cásca 1916 agus an páirt a ghlac CNG i athbheochan na Gaeilge sna blianta roimhe sin, a chomóradh
Ferns 1916 Committee	Commemoration day on 6 th March 2015 –

	display of exhibits – production of Ferns Company Volunteer
Monaseed 1916 Committee	A commemorative day for Seamus Doyle and the Buckstown Doyles to include the erection of a celtic cross and plaque in Monaseed, Buckstown
Old Kilenor Historical Society	To commemorate local 1916 patriots Paddy Boland and Mick Kilty, both born in the Pallas Area
Coolgreany TT/St. Patrick's Day Parade	Creation of a bust of Liam Mellows with his mother carved on a stone for display in the St. Patrick's Day Parade
Mount St. Benedict's Graves Committee	To commemorate Fr. Don Sweetman, Marie Comerford and Ellen Keogh
NWHS	9 Plaques and detail for District

Ferns:

The Gorey Municipal District 1916 Commemoration took place in Ferns on 6th March 2016. The event began with a reception for invited guests in Ferns National School, followed by a commemorative parade, and the official ceremony with the raising of the flag, unveiling of the plaque and a reading of the Proclamation. The plaque was unveiled and commemorative wreaths laid by six first generation descendants of 1916 participants from the Ferns area.



Chairman of the Gorey Municipal District 1916 Committee, Cllr. Pip Breen, thanked everyone involved and complimented the local organising committee on the very appropriate piece, which was designed locally and crafted by local stone mason, Mr. Tommy Martin.



The unveiling of the Plaque by Mr. Martin Dunbar and Mrs. Bernadette Moules



Kilmuckridge:

The Memorial Stone and Proclamation were unveiled on Good Friday, 25th March 2016. Kilmuckridge Tidy Towns Group unveiled a stone in memory of the people from the area who fought in the 1916 Rising. The stone which is located in the green area at the entrance to Greenwood Avenue was unveiled by Cllr. Mary Farrell. Beside the stone are a flag pole and a marble reproduction of the Proclamation.



Hollyfort:

Hollyfort held its 1916 celebrations on 10th April and unveiled a 1916 Commemorative Garden to Máire Comerford and Aileen Keogh. Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin addressed the crowd. Relatives of both women attended the ceremony.



Craanford/Askamore:

The Craanford/Askamore 1916 Commemoration was held on 24th April. The celebrations started with Mass in Craanford with unveiling of the plaque and further celebrations following.



Gorey:

The Flag Raising Ceremony which took place on 29th April, 2016, proved very successful with the support of Creagh College, Gorey Community School and Cloogue National School. Plaques representing the local volunteers were presented to community groups and local representatives. Cllr. Malcolm Byrne spoke throughout.



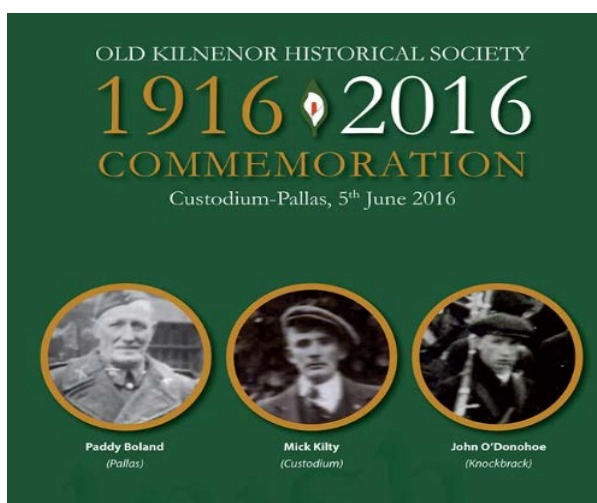
Ardamine:

Ballygarrett GAA Club unveiled a plaque at Ardamine Cemetery on 2nd May 2016 in memory of the late Seán Etchingham, a leader in the 1916 Rising and twice Chairman of Wexford GAA. A second plaque was unveiled at the clubhouse later the same day. Children from Riverchapel and Ballygarrett National Schools put on a re-enactment of the 1916 Rising and Ballygarrett Score Group played traditional music.



Pallas:

The Old Kilnenor Historical Society held a 1916 Commemoration to remember the local involvement in the Rising, including; Paddy Boland (Pallas), Mick Kilty (Custodium) and John O' Donohoe (Knockbrack). The Ceremony took place in Pallas on Sunday, 5th June, 2016 after a special Commemoration Mass at 11am in Saints Peter & Paul Church, Kilanerin.





Mount Saint Benedict

The Fr. Sweetman Memorial Committee held their 1916 celebrations on 10th August 2016 in Mount Saint Benedict. They began with an outdoor Mass in The Mount celebrated by Fr. Richard Lawless. The remainder of the celebration included relatives of Máire Comerford and Aileen Keogh speaking, the reading of the Proclamation, the laying of a wreath and the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann while the Tricolour flag was raised. The plaque is in place to remember Cumann na mBan members Máire Comerford and Aileen Kehoe, and fellow Irish Republican Fr. Sweetman.



1916 celebrations in Mount Saint Benedict



Plaque in The Mount



Raising of the Flag in The Mount

Monaseed

The Monaseed 1916 Commemoration Committee held their 1916 celebrations on 21st August 2016. The celebrations started in Buckstown where the 1916 Commemorative Stone in memory of Séamus Ó Dubhghaill, and Republican Volunteers Patrick, Tom, Michael, Denis and William Doyle and Annie and Ciss Doyle, Cumann na mBan was unveiled. The celebrations continued with a march from the 1798 stone at the Crossroads to the car park at the Myles Byrne Memorial Hall, Monaseed. The 1916 Commemorative Celtic Cross in memory of Séamus Ó Dubhghaill was unveiled. The events included the reading of the Proclamation, the laying of wreaths and the singing of Amhrán na bhFiann while the Tricolour flags were raised.



1916 commemorations in Monaseed

Buckstown



Stone unveiling ceremony, Camolin – Sunday, 6th November 2016

Unveiling performed by Margaret Carton, daughter of Patrick Carton, Ballinclare



In Memory of Seven Locals, **Matthew Brennan**, Castlewhite, **Patrick Carton**, Ballinclare, **John Carley**, Station House, Camolin, **Richard Hume**, Camolin, **Aiden Kenny**, Newbridge, **Andrew McCann**, Balinamona, and **James Quinn**, Camolin Park, who served the cause of Irish Freedom

Plaques also erected/to be erected in the following locations.

Sean Etchingham	Red Row, Riverchapel	On wall at former home of Sean Etchingham
Liam Mellows	Castletown	Burial place of Liam Mellows, Irish Volunteer Commander Galway 1916. Also finger post sign at hill top after Toss Byrnes
Seamus Doyle	Monaseed Hall	Home of Seamus Doyle, Irish Volunteer Officer during the 1916 Rising
Seamus ÓDubhghaill	Brideswell, Askamore	Home of Máire Deegan, Cumann na mBan courier, GPO Dublin 1916
Máire Deegan		
Seán Ó Byrne	The Avenue Gorey	Home of Seán Ó Byrne, Irish Volunteer Enniscorthy 1916
Gorey Town Hall	Arklow Road Gorey	Site of former Town Hall where P. H. Pearse addressed Irish Volunteers 1914
James Corcoran	Brideswell Askamore	Home of James Corcoran, Irish Citizens Army killed in action St. Stephens Green Dublin 1916
James Gleeson	8 Esmonde Street	Home of James Gleeson, Irish Volunteer Kilcoole and Enniscorthy 1916

1916 Commemorations

The first 1916 themed event in the Gorey District was held in 2015 – ‘What is a Republic?’ was an open discussion on how history, ideology, civic protest and governance in France and Ireland inform contemporary politics. Guest speakers included HE Jean Pierre Thebault (Ambassador of France), Kevin Whelan (Notre Dame), John Grey (Linen Hall Library Belfast), Aileen Lambert (Artist) and Michael Dwyer (student of Politics at UCD).

The opening of the Gorey Municipal District 1916 Exhibition “1916 Gorey and Beyond” was held on 15th March 2016, and ran until the end of April.

The exhibition showed North Wexford’s place in the events, and how men and women from North Wexford travelled to contribute to the Rising in other areas. Attended by the 25,000 people who visited Gorey Library in March and April, this exhibition was very successful.

North Wexford Historical Society organised a lecture, entitled ‘The Role of Women in 1916’, at Gorey Civic Buildings and Library on Thursday, 28th April.

The Gaelic League in North Wexford in 1916 – To commemorate the weekend of the Easter Rising in 1916, a lecture was given by Cllr. Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin, as Gaelge, on ‘The Gaelic League in North Wexford in 1916’ in Gorey Library on Thursday evening, 21st April at 7:30pm.

An exhibition from Conradh na Gaeilge, ‘The Role of the Gaelic Revival in Ireland and the lives of the 1916 leaders’ was available for viewing in Gorey Library for two weeks from Wednesday, 4th May to Friday, 13th May. Some 6,000 people visited Gorey Library during that time.

1916 – The Road to the Rising in Song: This memorable event with Jackie Symes, John Nangle, Peadar Kehoe, Seamus O’Donohoe, Michael and Paul Doran took place on Tuesday, 3rd May. The Group encouraged the audience, some 35 people, to follow the road to the rising by singing the songs from the bards, 1798, the time of the Young Irelanders and the Celtic revival balladeers. The concert ended with a rousing performance of ‘Booleavogue’.

RE:Public utilised the sound system on Gorey Main Street to acknowledge what is accepted as one of the world’s first radio broadcasts which took place from the wireless telegraphy school at the corner of Abbey and O’Connell Streets during the 1916 Rising. The broadcast was complemented by an exhibition in Gorey Market House which ran during May 2016.

The Irish History Discussion Group met for discussions in Gorey Library.

Byrne Perry History & Heritage Festival, incorporating the Summer School

The official opening for the 22nd Festival and Summer School on the theme ‘1916 What Happened Next’ was held in Gorey Library on Friday, 24th June. Mary Lou McDonald T.D. performed the opening and the inaugural Fr. Forde memorial lecture was given by Patsy McGarry. In a new initiative for Byrne Perry, prizes were presented to 30 children from schools in the area which entered the art and poetry competitions.

Liam Mellows

"The people of Wexford and Wicklow fittingly commemorated the memory and contribution of Liam Mellows to the 1916 Rising at a Memorial mass, unveiling of stone and wreath laying ceremony at St Patricks Church and Graveyard at Castletown, Gorey, Co Wexford on Sunday morning, the 11th December 2016.

The event began with mass in the parish church celebrated by Canon Martin Cosgrove, parish priest of the parishes of Arklow, Castletown and Johnstown. Following that, the stone which had recently been erected in the adjoining graveyard was unveiled by Michael Martin, TD, Uachtairan of Fianna Fail, who then delivered the graveside oration, following in the footsteps of former President Eamon De Valera, a colleague of Liam Mellows in the 1916 Rebellion. A wreath was then laid by Councillor Michael Connolly, Chairman of Galway County Council, on the grave, in recognition of Liam Mellows contribution to the 1916 Rising in Galway.

This event was organised by a committee chaired by Mr Lorcan Allen, secretary Anthony Clyne, and treasurer Councillor Joe Sullivan who along with the committee are indebted to Wexford County Council for their support towards this project."

Residents of a house 2 in Saint Joseph's Terrace (Ballyhooley Road) (North East Ward, Cork)

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses
Mellows	William	42	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	India	Staff Quarter Master Sergeant Army Pay Corps	Read and write	-	Married	-
Mellows	Sarah	35	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Wexford	-	Read and write	-	Married	-
Mellows	Jane H	14	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	England	Scholar	Read and write	-	Not Married	-
Mellows	William Joe	8	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	England	Scholar	Read and write	-	Not Married	-
Mellows	Fredk J	6	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	England	Scholar	Read and write	-	Not Married	-
Mellows	Herbert C	5	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	Scholar	Cannot read	-	Not Married	-

View census images
Household Return (Form A)
Other original census images available

Residents of a house 21 in Mount Shannon Road (Usher's Quay, Dublin)

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
Mellows	William	52	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	India	Invoice Clerk Army Post Office	Read and write	-	Married	-	-	-	-
Mellows	Sarah	45	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Wexford	-	Read and write	-	Married	-	25	6	3
Mellows	William	18	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	England	Book Keeper	Read and write	Irish and English	Single	-	-	-	-
Mellows	Frederick Jordan	16	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	England	Clerical Work	Read and write	Irish and English	Single	-	-	-	-
Mellows	Herbert Charles	15	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Dublin City	Scholar	Read and write	Irish and English	Single	-	-	-	-

View census images
Household Return (Form A)
Additional Pages: 2
Other original census images available
Enumerators' Abstracts (Form N)
Additional Pages: 2, 3, 4
House and Building Return (Form B1)
Additional Pages: 2, 3, 4
Out-Office and Farm Stockings Return (Form B2)
Additional Pages: 2
Search



Chairman, Wicklow County Council Pat Fitzgerald, Mr. Michael Martin, T.D. and Mr. Lorcan Allen.



Canon Martin Cosgrove, Lorcan Allen and Michael Martin, T.D.

1916 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS - ENNISCORTHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Grant funding was made available to the following groups within the Enniscorthy Municipal District Area:

Bunclody Historical Society	Granite 1916 Proclamation, Flagpole for Tricolour in Town Centre and Commemorative Parade in Bunclody – Also a Granite 1916 Proclamation and unveiling ceremony in Kilmyshall
Ballymurn Heritage Committee	Historical recording of local involvement in 1916, day of celebration and remembrance, and erection and unveiling of memorial
Monageer 1916 Commemoration Group	The 1916 Centenary Monument was unveiled in Monageer on Saturday, 11 th June 2016
Captain Wafer Hall Benevolent Fund	Sign on gable end wall of Capt. Wafer Hall, Springvalley and plaques
Holohans Pub	Display area in tribute to Seamus Rafter
Glenbrien Village Renewal Group	Ceremonial unveiling of Cuchullainn Wood Sculpture
Seamus Rafter	Book – <i>Seamus Rafter Life & Times</i>
Ballindaggin Development Group	Memorial/plaque close to where Volunteers gathered on the morning of the Rising
Enniscorthy 1916 Easter Commemoration Committee	An Independent Republican Group who wished to ensure that April 24 th 2016 was commemorated as Republic Day (most events having taken place at Easter)
Oulart Hill Development Group	Installation of a 1916 monument on a prime site, which has been donated by the de Lacy family on the edge of Oulart village
Ross Road Residents Association	
Enniscorthy Historical Re-Enactment Society	Attending all 1916 commemorative events throughout County Wexford

Bunclody Historical Society



1st September 2016 - Canon Seamus S. de Vail and Seamus Rafter lay a wreath at Commemorative Proclamation/Flagpole in Bunclody / Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy views commemorative flagpole



Sean Kelly unveiling commemorative Proclamation in Bunclody

Unveiling of Granite 1916 Proclamation in Kilmyshall



Denis Hanlon unveils commemorative proclamation and Chris Atkinson reads the Proclamation in Kilmyshall



Oliver Weafer and Paddy O'Connor lay wreath in Kilmyshall

Ballymurn Heritage Committee

Historical recording of local involvement in 1916, day of celebration and remembrance and erection/unveiling of Memorial.

Monageer 1916 Commemoration Group

The 1916 Centenary Monument was unveiled in Monageer on Saturday, 11th June 2016 in commemoration of the people of Monageer and surrounding districts who took part in the 1916 Rising. The dignitaries present were greeted by Andy Fenlon and Tommy Murphy. The following groups were present; The Monageer 1916 Commemoration Group; Enniscorthy Re-enactment Group; Monageer Bicycle Group; Boolavogue Group; Oulart Group; Monageer/Boolavogue GAA; Vintage Car and Motorbikes; and St. Coleman's Pipe Band, Ballindaggin.



The Sliabh na mBan armoured car and all participating groups assembled outside the Grotto and marched up through the village to the Village Hall field. The Monageer 1916 Group came to a halt at the Peter Daly Monument to present arms and render honours. The National Colours were carried by Art Sinnott escorted by Seanie Doyle and Shane Kehoe, the Monageer Banner was carried by John Flynn.

Lt. Charlene Kehoe was M.C. for the evening. Charlene is a native of Clondaw and a serving Officer of the Irish Defence Forces.

Two Senators of the 1998 Wexford Senate, Jim Donohue and Seamus Rafter unveiled the commemoration stone and laid wreaths at the 1916 and 1798 Commemoration stones.

A short ecumenical service was conducted by Fr. Bill Cosgrave, P.P. Monageer and Rev Nicola Halford, Church of Ireland Rector, Clone Parish.

The unveiling of the Proclamation Stone and the reading of the Proclamation was performed by James Pierce, the great grandson of the 1916 leader James Connolly.



Two 1998 Senators Jim Donohue and Seamus Rafter and the Enniscorthy Re-enactment Group in Monageer

The Piper's Lament was played by Padraig Sinnott. Paul O'Reilly sang his 1916 song "The Rise of the Wexford Volunteers". The Foggy Due was sung by two young Kehoe Brothers from Ballymotey. 'The Soldiers of Cumann na mBan' was sung by Sharon Howley, a visitor from Galway.

Jim Somers spoke on behalf of the Monageer Commemoration Group and thanked the Committee of Liam Dunbar and Conaill Cooper for all their work and commitment with the Group. The Last Post and The Reveille were played by bugler Tony Nolan.



Three locals who are in the Irish Army Group
L-R James Sweeney, Dean Fenlon and Ray Fenlon

Monageer 1916 Commemoration

The National Flag was raised to full mast on a drum roll by Conaill Cooper. The Monageer Group rendered honours, saluted and fired three volleys over the commemorative stones. The national Anthem was played by the Ballindaggin Pipe

Band and sung by Paul O Reilly and all present. The ceremony concluded and the Monageer group put on a drill display under the command of Sgt. Major Neil Matthews on the main road in front of the Parish Hall.

Enniscorthy Golf Club 1916 Commemoration

A very special commemoration took place at Enniscorthy Golf Club at 5pm on Sunday, 24th April to mark Republic Day and to mark to the day the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

In attendance was a large group of Golf Club Members, people from the surrounding Districts and Town, dignitaries and members from the Monageer 1916 Commemoration Group and Enniscorthy Re-enactment Group.



Alice Medcalf, Eugene Doyle , Marie Duggan, Michael Pierce, Fr Sinnott, Ruaire De Valera, Liam Dunbar Captain, Fr Nolan, Jim Hogan, Jack Murphy

The commemoration started with the reading of the Proclamation by one of the younger Members of the Golf Club – Alice Medcalf – followed by a respectful minute's silence.

Michael Pierce, a Club Member (son of Patrick Pierce, who acted as a bodyguard to Padraig Pearse when he addressed a meeting in the Athenaeum on 1st March 1916) and Fr. Michael Sinnott (eldest son of T.D. Sinnott, born in Ballyelland, Davidstown, appointed Brigade Commandant of the Irish Volunteers when Seamus Rafter was killed and was also appointed the first County Manager in Wexford in 1942) unveiled the Proclamation Stone in front of the Clubhouse which was donated by Enniscorthy Municipal District Council.



Ruairí De Valera and Captain Liam Dunbar

The National Flag was raised to full mast by Ruairí De Valera, a Grandson of Eamonn De Valera. The Last Post and National Anthem were played by bugler Anthony Nolan.



Captain of Enniscorthy Golf Club, Liam Dunbar, paid special tribute to the Monageer 1916 Commemoration Group and Enniscorthy Re-enactment Group and invited everyone to join him in the Clubhouse for refreshments and traditional entertainment.

Unveiling of nameplate and two plaques at Springvalley, Enniscorthy in honour of Captain Thomas Wafer, who was killed in action while taking part in the Easter Rising as part of the G.P.O Garrison in the Hibernian Bank Building, Sackville Street (O'Connell Street) and Lower Abbey Street, Dublin on Wednesday, 26th April 1916. He was 26 years of age and a native of Enniscorthy. He left behind an indelible legacy.

The book *Thomas Wafer – A son of Enniscorthy* by Mark O'Brien can be purchased at the offices of Enniscorthy Municipal District in Market Square, Enniscorthy and in local Bookshops.



Holohan's Pub, Slaney Place, Enniscorthy

Display area in tribute to Seamus Rafter, 1916 Commandant of the Irish Volunteers who also resided and ran his business at this address and who hosted meetings with other leaders such as Padraig Pearse, Seán T. O'Kelly, Eamonn de Valera, Seán Mac Diarmada and many others at the premises.



Glenbrien Village Renewal Group

Ceremonial unveiling of Cuchullainn Wood Sculpture by Paul Kehoe, T.D., Minister with responsibility for Defence, together with David Doyle Secretary, Glenbrien Village Renewal Group and Mrs Bernie Doyle, Chairperson.



Cuchullainn: The iconic and ancient mythological figure of Cuchullainn is forever associated with the GPO in Dublin where a monument to Cuchullainn stands since 1937. It was erected by survivors of the 1916 Easter Rising. Cuchullainn also features on the commemorative 1916 medal which was awarded to participants of the Rising and to the immediate relatives of those deceased, who had been participants in the Rising. Accordingly it was felt that a fitting commemorative 1916-2016 event should have a focus of Cuchullainn and the valour and dignity that he stands for in Irish history. (Extract from Parish Journal, 2016)



John Hayes of Fenor, Co. Waterford was the sculptor commissioned to create this unique wood sculpture for Glenbrien's commemorative event. The wood used was a tree trunk of Monterrey Pine. It came from Inchigeela in West Cork, donated and transported by Markie Spillane (husband of Clare Doyle of Glenbrien) up to John Hayes in Fenor.

On Sunday, 20th March 2016, following a parade led by Colour/Flag Party, Guard of Honour of Local Reserve Defence Forces, UN Veterans and also Glenbrien School Choir/Band, Glenbrien Boy Scouts, Mr. Paul Kehoe, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Defence performed the unveiling ceremony.

Oylgate Commemoration Stone



Ballindaggin Development Group

On Easter Sunday, March 27th 2016 the community of Ballindaggin came together at 11.30am to officially remember the men and women of Ballindaggin and surrounding area on their efforts in the 1916 Rising.

Three local men – Jim Byrne, Dan Doyle and Pat Breslin – officially opened the memorial by raising the flag as St Colman's Pipe Band, Ballindaggin played the National Anthem.



This memorial is set in the heart of Ballindaggin village where all involved from Ballindaggin in the Rising will be remembered and never forgotten.



Enniscorthy 1916 Easter Commemoration Committee

An independent republican group who wish to ensure that April 24th will be commemorated as Republic Day (most events taking place at Easter).

Republic Day Commemorations took place in Enniscorthy Cathedral and St. Mary's graveyard on Sunday, 24th April 2016. The speakers were Brian Ó Cléirigh and Seamus Rafter and a large attendance commemorated all who died for the Republic and in particular, local man Tom Stokes. Plans are underway to restore Stokes' grave for next year, the 100th anniversary of his death.

Oulart Hill Development Group

Installation of a 1916 monument on a prime site, which has been donated by the de Lacy family on the edge of Oulart village. Michael de Lacy, sentenced to death for his role in Enniscorthy in 1916, was an uncle of the two de Lacy brothers who donated this site.

Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society

(Article submitted by Maria Nolan PRO)

Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society is a non profit, voluntary organisation founded by Ray Murphy to promote and educate members of the public in all aspects of County Wexford's military history and culture through a fun and interactive living histories approach.

Under the leadership of our Chairman Ray Murphy many of our members have been involved with, and participated in large scale living history events locally, nationally and even internationally over the past two decades. Our members currently re-enact the following time periods – 1798 Rebellion Pikemen, 18th Century Crown Forces (Redcoats), 1916-1921 Irish Volunteers and Cumann na mBan, 1916-1921 Flying Column, WW1 British Army and WW1 German Army.

We believe that our group can add a unique, educational and entertaining aspect to any festival or event.

2016 has been an amazing year for us here in Enniscorthy and we were honoured and proud to participate in all events commemorating the one hundred anniversary of the birth of the Nation.

We were overwhelmed with the invitations received throughout the year from various organisations, societies and groups within the county and beyond, and we are grateful and appreciative of the response we enjoyed everywhere.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who joined us on our Revolutionary Journey particularly Enniscorthy Municipal District Council and District Manager Padraig O'Gorman.

It is our fervent wish and aspiration that we, in some small way, do justice to the memory of all those who have made us who we are today.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha go léir.





Proclamation Stone erected at The Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy





Unveiling of Wafer Street nameplate on Tuesday, November 15th 2016

at Market Square, Enniscorthy

by Ms. Moira Riddick, grand-daughter of Capt. Thomas Wafer



And So It Ends:

Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Society brought the momentous year to it's final conclusion on Saturday 17th December at Market Square with a dignified and fitting tribute to the men and women who shaped our history as they commemorated the Homecoming of Christmas 1916.

Twenty-eight Volunteers returned to Enniscorthy on Christmas Eve 1916, having spent eight months interned in British prisons far away from their families, friends and their town.

On Saturday members of EHRS gathered at Enniscorthy Train Station to mark that return complete with Welcome Home banners and brown paper parcels tucked under their arms, and walked across the new bridge and up Castle Hill waving and shouting to amused onlookers 'We're home! We're home!'.

Stopping at the Athenaeum, a wreath was laid by Paul Murphy to all who had spent those five fateful days there one hundred years before.

At Market Square EHRS member Graham Cadogan began proceedings with a poem about the Homecoming penned by local bard Paudge Kehoe and invited Seán Og Doyle, President of the 1916 Commemoration Committee to lay a wreath at the '98 Monument and address the crowd of re-enactors and relatives of the Enniscorthy Volunteers some of whom were holding photographs of their heroic family members.

Sean gave a brief history of the event and commended EHRS for the tremendous effort they put into all of the events of 1916. Attending eighty-five events in all in various parts of the county and country Sean said that they have borne themselves with dignity and pride and their meticulous attention to detail in their attire and historical fact was exemplary deserving of both recognition and acclaim.

Chairman of EHRS Ray Murphy then made a presentation to Seán Og Doyle thanking him for all the support and encouragement throughout the year before calling on Piper Liam Doyle to conclude the ceremony with the National Anthem.





1916 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS – New Ross Municipal District

Grant funding was made available to the following groups within the New Ross Municipal District Area

Horeswood Commemoration Committee	Memorial and flag poles
Make a Change	Workshop for local teenagers about the values of the 1916 Rising in today's world and an art workshop programme developed around it
St. Kearns Explosion Committee	Erection of two plaques with the Proclamation inscribed – one at St. Kearns and one in Ballycullane
Flowers for Magdalenes' Group	Forgotten Women of 1916 – A "Flowers for Magdalenes" commemoration was held at the Good Shepherd graveside in St. Stephen's cemetery, New Ross in early March, 2016 to pay homage to and to celebrate the lives of the forgotten women of 1916. This commemoration was attended by the Southend F.R.C. Women's Group, Wexford town who were engaged in a Women's Oral History project, which explores their understanding of personal resilience as a means of overcoming challenging and difficult times in their lives. The commemoration at New Ross was a celebration of women and highlighted how the role of women has evolved in Irish society since the 1916 Rising
Cn Ó Hannracháin 10 th Inf. Batt. FCA	Easter Sunday Parade and Wreath Laying
Ramsgrange Tidy Towns	1916 Memorial Garden – a specially engineered external display unit encompassing the Proclamation in original typeface, flag pole for the tri-colour and facts about the Proclamation, which would be accessible and educational to all visiting or passing through the Village
Three Bullet Gate Centenary Committee	Easter Saturday event and wreath laying
Danescastle N.S.	Gather, instruct and perform music commemorating 1916 and visit places mentioned in songs
Danescastle Music Group	Stage Concert in National Opera House
Carrigbyrne Pike & 1916 Group	Commemoration at the Celtic Cross erected by the Carrigbyrne Pike Group in 2006 at Carrigbyrne Pike on the anniversary of the Rising on 24 th April 2016 and the

	staging of a 1916 Concert depicting the leaders and Volunteers of 1916 in the Horse and Hound Hotel, Ballinaboola on the evening of the 24 th . Performance by the Carrigbyrne Pike Choir
St. Michael's Theatre	Show Irish Films Co-production with the Abbey Theatre for a schools production of 'Me Mollser', a new play based on the character of Mollser from "The Plough and the Stars"
O'Hanrahan Commemoration	Special meeting and re-dedication of O'Hanrahan Bridge

FLOWERS FOR MAGDALENES - MARKING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A 'Flowers for Magdalenes' Commemoration

Ireland's Magdalene Women form a very important part of our cultural heritage and have previously been hidden in the shadows of Irish cultural memory. The memorial marked the run up to International Women's Day and commemorated the lives of women who were incarcerated in the Good Shepherd Magdalene Laundry, New Ross.



The ceremony, 'Flowers for Magdalenes', which took place on the 6th March in St Stephens Cemetery, offered the people of New Ross and the surrounding areas an opportunity to gather together peacefully and respectfully to remember these once forgotten women through poetry, song, reflection and the laying of flowers.

The ceremony ended with a musical composition entitled 'The Emasculated Magdalenes' Innocence', penned and performed by local musician Michael Fottrell.

Forgotten Women of 1916

During the annual ceremony, a special mention was afforded to the forgotten women of the 1916 Rising and their use of personal resilience as a means of overcoming challenging and difficult time in their lives.

It also highlighted how the role of women has evolved in Irish Society since the rising to the present day.

EASTER SATURDAY-THREE BULLET GATE REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

On Easter Saturday, at the Three Bullet Gate in New Ross, site of one of the most famous battles of the 1798 rising, a commemoration and wreath laying ceremony was held to honour the memory of all those who have lost their lives for Irish freedom.



Scores of people participated in a parade, with men carrying flags and rifles, which concluded at the Three Bullet Gate area.

Hundreds looked on as tributes were paid to the Volunteers of 1916 and to the women of Cuman na mBan, and there was music from the Confraternity Brass and Pipe bands and from St. Michael's Theatre Musical Society.



The unveiling of the Proclamation set in granite followed and wreaths were laid. A military re-enactment, which was hugely popular with the spectators both young and old, closed the event.

1798

At dawn on the 5th of June 1798 Irish rebels, who had advanced from their camp on Carrigbyrne hill, engaged the Crown forces just outside of New Ross town. The bloodiest battle of the rebellion had begun. The British, knowing the rebels were advancing south following the capture of Wexford town, had dug in and the 2,000 strong garrison had fortified the town.



John Kelly from Killanne led a group of 500 rebels who attacked Three Bullet Gate, driving a herd of cattle in front of them in an effort to scatter the Crown defenders. The strategy worked and the gate fell to Kelly's men, who pushed on into the town. Two other columns attacked Priory Gate and Market Gate.

The rebels swept into the town and drove the Crown forces back seizing two thirds of New Ross before an extreme shortage of gunpowder and ammunition slowed their advance. This gave the British the chance to re-group and lead a counterattack. Before noon the exhausted rebels were forced to withdraw from the town. The battle was over and lost. Up to 3,000 rebels and 200 of the garrison had been killed during the fighting.

EASTER SUNDAY PARADE & WREATH LAYING CEREMONY – ST STEPHENS CEMETERY

On Easter Sunday, March 27, 12 o'clock Mass at St Mary & St Michael's Parish Church, New Ross, was followed by a parade to St Stephen's Cemetery for commemoration proceedings.

The Mass was dedicated to all deceased members of the old IRA and Cumann na mBan. The New Ross Confraternity Band played the royal salute and the FCA Pipe Band played at the end of the ceremony.



Afterwards everyone assembled at Irishtown for the parade to St Stephen's Cemetery, where MC Larry Shannon presided over the running order of events. A decade of the Rosary was read by Monsignor Joe McGrath, while Pipe Major Paschal Bolger read the 1916 Proclamation.



Wreaths were laid and a lament called 'Wrap the Green Flag around me' was performed, which was followed by a minute's silence and the lone beat of a bass drum. The Confraternity Brass Band performed the Last Post and Reveille and the New Ross F.C.A. Pipe Band performed the national anthem.



One of the organisers John Bennett said: 'It was probably the biggest commemoration we've had in New Ross since 1966. This was the first time we had the flagpole. This was the first time we had the memorial cleaned up and repainted, thanks to New Ross Municipal District Council. It was a brilliant day.'

DANECASTLE MUSIC GROUP – CONCERT IN NATIONAL OPERA HOUSE

Danecastle Music Group is based in the rural village of Carrig-on-Bannow, Co. Wexford. All members of the group are also members of ***Bannow Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann***.

The group comprises in excess of 200 traditional musicians, playing a variety of instruments such as fiddle, accordion, flute, concertina, banjo, piano and drums.



Last year, the group won the Comhaltas All Ireland Scoraíocht with their show ***Comóradh 1916***, commemorating the events of Easter Week 1916.

In March the Danecastle Music Group performed their award-winning ***Comóradh 1916*** together with a selection of music, song and dance in the National Opera House in Wexford town.



CARRIGBYRNE COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

At the site of the Celtic Cross in Carrigbyrne, which was originally erected by the Carrigbyrne Pike Group in 2006, a commemoration event was held on 24th April 2016, the anniversary of the Rising.



In a symbol of unity and hope, that was deeply poignant, the Pikemen remembered and paid tribute to all those involved in the 1916 Rising with a reading of the Proclamation.



1798

During the 1798 Rebellion, the area around Carrigbyrne Hill was used as a camp by the United Irishmen, who were in the process of marching on New Ross. The insurgents, who had recently captured the town of Wexford, stopped and camped at an area called “Camp Field”, a day before the Battle of New Ross took place. The next day, in New Ross, over 2,000 Irish rebels were killed as the town’s garrison held out long enough for British reinforcements to arrive.

THE SOUND OF MUSICALS 1916 TO 2016 – ST MICHAEL'S THEATRE MUSICAL SOCIETY

As part of their Centenary Events Programme, the New Ross Musical Society hosted a production on Saturday 7th May, sponsored by Wexford County Council, inspired by some of the musicals from 1916 – 2016.



St. Michael's Theatre Musical Society

PROUDLY PRESENTS

**THE SOUND OF
MUSICALS
1916-2016**

Featuring the greatest hits
from the best musicals

SAT 7TH MAY 2016
ST MICHAEL'S THEATRE
8PM
TICKETS €12

Producer / Musical Director:
KEVIN KENNEDY
Répétiteur:
PHILIP KENNEDY
Choreographer:
CLAIRE KICKHAM

BOOKING
TEL: 051 421255
OR ONLINE
www.stmichaelsnewross.com



REMEMBERING NEW ROSS PATRIOT MICHAEL O'HANRAHAN

On Thursday, 26th May, New Ross Municipal District hosted a number of events in commemoration of New Ross patriot Michael O'Hanrahan, one of the executed leaders of the 1916 Rising, who was born in the town on 16th January 1877.

O'Hanrahan Chronicles

During the day Michael O'Hanrahan's grand nephews, Pearse and Harry O'Hanrahan, introduced the ***Michael O'Hanrahan Chronicles***, meeting with 200 plus young people from local primary schools, post primary schools and youth groups.



NRMD Special Meeting

In the afternoon, An Cathaoirleach of New Ross Municipal District, Cllr Michael Sheehan, formally welcomed the O'Hanrahans to New Ross at a Special Meeting of New Ross Municipal District and presented each of them with a beautiful photograph of the town.



At the meeting, Wexford County Council staff unveiled their plans to refurbish Brennan's Lane, the centre piece of which would be a specially commissioned statue of Michael O'Hanrahan.

Bridge Rededication

Following the Special Meeting, the Bridge over the River Barrow in New Ross was rededicated to Michael O'Hanrahan.



At a special ceremony on the Quayside, Michael O'Hanrahan's grand-nephews, Pearse and Harry spoke of their connections with the town. The ceremony included the unveiling of new name plates on the bridge.



Following the blessing of the bridge by Fr. Thomas Kehoe, the O'Hanrahans and Cllr. Michael Sheehan unveiled the new name plates, whilst World Champion Uileann Piper, Mark Redmond, performed a moving musical accompaniment.

Reflective Talk at New Ross Library

Later that evening a reception was held and this was followed by a free public event "A Reflective talk on the life of Michael O'Hanrahan - by Pearse and Harry O'Hanrahan", at New Ross Library.



The event was extremely well attended and ended with a Q&A session.

ST KEARNS COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

The annual commemoration ceremony at the monument in St. Kearns took place on Sunday, October 16.

Each year the commemoration ceremony at the shore in St. Kearns remembers tragic events that occurred on the night of October 12, 1920, when an old disused farmhouse, which was being secretly used as a bomb factory, was the scene of a massive explosion when an accidental detonation occurred. The house was completely destroyed and five local men lost their lives with many others seriously injured.

The event regularly attracts a large crowd, however, this year's ceremony was even more successful in view of the fact it took place in the centenary year of the 1916 Rising.



The unveiling of a specially commissioned marble stone engraved with the Easter Proclamation marked that fact.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Whelan, who is the Chairperson of the St. Kearns Explosion Commemoration Committee, said "The committee felt that it was appropriate to use this year's commemoration ceremony to pay tribute to those that participated in the Easter Rising."

"With that in mind we applied for a National 1916 Community Commemoration Grant to secure the marble Proclamation," he added.

At the Ceremony, the specially commissioned marble stone, with the Easter Proclamation engraved on it, was unveiled by Senator Michael McDowell.



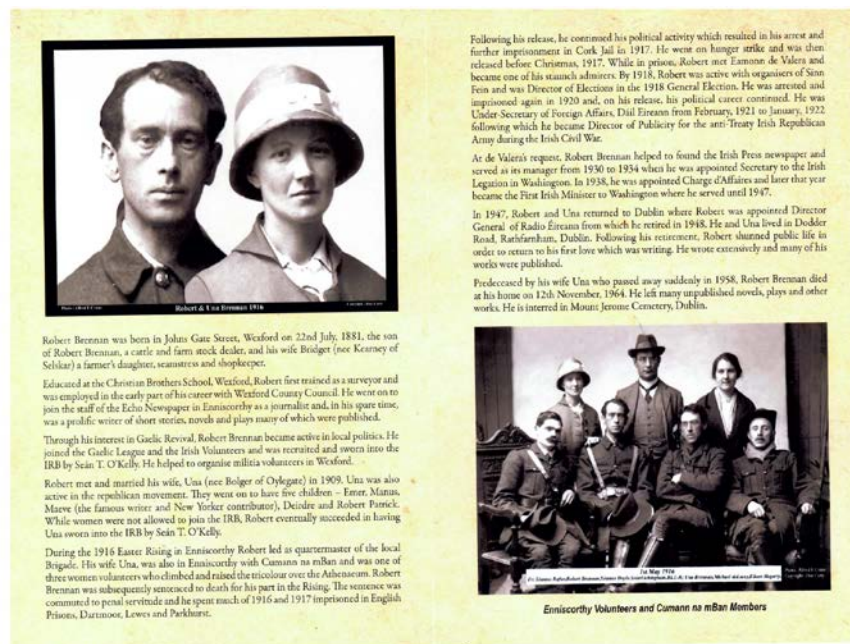
The Senator stated, “I was honoured to be invited by Cllr Michael Whelan to give the oration at the annual commemoration of the Old IRA members who died and were injured in the St. Kearns explosion”.

1916 CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS – Wexford Borough District

Grant funding was made available to the following groups within the Wexford Borough District

Wexford Town St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee	
Access 2000 (Wexford) Ltd.	'The Forgotten Women' A series of intercultural workshops, concluding in an event held on International Women's Day, 8 th March. The purpose of the event was to disseminate information about the women who participated in the 1916 Rising
The County Wexford Friends of 1916	Publication of book 'Last to Surrender'
Scoil Mhuire – Rosslare	The 1916 Proclamation was printed in two halves. The second half was found on the printing press by British soldiers after they took over Liberty Hall during the rebellion. They printed off a number of souvenir copies – one of which is now in the joint ownership of Scoil Mhuire NS, Rosslare and the Dr. Ffrench Trust, Rosslare. They believe their copy is the only original half-Proclamation owned in Co. Wexford. – 15/03/2016 Unveiling of permanent monument in the school grounds containing the words of our half-Proclamation
Comhaltas Ceoiltoiri Eireann Craobh Loch Garman	Organising of the Macalla 1916 Concert - an orchestral suite of music composed and conducted by Michael Rooney for the Comhaltas National Folk Orchestra of Ireland
Raven Theatre - Eoghan Rua Finn	The Blackstairs Trilogy – 3 one-act plays telling the story of Wexford people during the revolutionary period 1916 – 1922
Bridgetown Community Development	Erection of flag pole and commemorative plaque to honour the men and women of 1916 from the parish
Irish Wheelchair Assoc – Wexford Branch	Visit to Kilmainham Gaol and to Dail Éireann for the 1916 Centenary Commemorations. Talk to be given by a member of Wexford Historical Society

Unveiling of Memorial to Robert Brennan



The above extract from the Ceremony Programme outlines the life of Robert Brennan who was born in John's Gate Street, Wexford and led as quartermaster of the local Brigade during the 1916 Rising in Enniscorthy.



Unveiling of Memorial to Robert Brennan on Saturday, 25th June 2016
by His Worship The Mayor, Cllr. Ger Carthy and Chairman of Wexford County Council,
Cllr. Tony Dempsey

ACCESS 2000 is a Wexford Town community Education & Training Project, which is continuously striving to improve and provide training, support, leisure activities and facilities for women from the local communities.

An invitation went out to celebrate International Women's Day and to remember the 'Forgotten Women of 1916.'

To celebrate International Women's Day and to reflect on the events of 1916, the Women's Social Group from ACCESS 2000 presented and performed a short drama piece – '**CAKES & CONFLICT**' on 8th March 2016 at 2 Green Street, Wexford. This drama production was written and produced by the group and facilitated by Kathleen Tierney and funded by Wexford County Council.

An invitation went out to enjoy a cup of tea/coffee, eat some delicious home-baked cakes and revive the fashion of 1916 by dressing in the period style and winning a prize for the best costume on the day.



Women in the 1916 Rising. *One simple story....*

"A woman shot three times and injured while in command of five men during Easter Week 1916 was refused a pension because the law was "applicable to soldiers as generally understood in the masculine sense", records from the Military Pensions Archive show.... The story of Margaret Skinnider"



WEXFORD'S NEW PUBLIC PARK TO BE NAMED IN HONOUR OF LOCAL FAMILY

Min Ryan Park to acknowledge significant role of Ryan Family, Tomcoole, during Ireland's Revolutionary Years

Wexford Borough District has announced plans to name the proposed 18 acre neighbourhood park at Killeens, Wexford Town, the *Min Ryan Park*, in honour of local woman Mary Josephine (Min) Ryan (1885-1977) of Tomcoole, near Taghmon, Co. Wexford who, together with her husband General Richard Mulcahy, her siblings and extended family played a significant national role during the 1916 Rising and its aftermath.



Min Ryan and Richard Mulcahy in September, 1922

Mary Josephine (Min) Ryan was from a prosperous family who farmed at Tomcoole and was educated by the Loreto nuns in Wexford and qualified as a teacher from the Royal University and University College Dublin. Min established the London branch of Cumann na mBan, while she and several of her 11 brothers and sisters were active in the Rising and the conflicts that followed.

During the Rising Min and her sister Phyllis acted as couriers to the GPO garrison. Min was romantically involved with one of the signatories of the Proclamation, Seán McDermott, who was executed for his part in the 1916 Rising. Min visited McDermott in his cell in Kilmainham Jail at midnight on 12th May 1916 shortly before his execution.

McDermott was close to all the Ryan family including Min's eldest sister Kate and her youngest sister Phyllis, both of whom subsequently married Seán T. O'Kelly who served as Tánaiste and the second President of Ireland. In his last letter written to his own family McDermott said:

If I think of any other things to say I will tell them to Miss (Min) Ryan, who in all probability, had I lived, would have been my wife.

In 1919 Min married Richard Mulcahy, who was second-in-command to Thomas Ashe (who would later die on hunger strike) in the defeat of the armed Royal Irish Constabulary at Ashbourne, County Meath during the Easter Rising in 1916. Arrested after the Rising, he was interned at Knutsford and at the Frongoch internment camp in Wales until his release on 24 December 1916. Mulcahy took command of the pro-Treaty forces in the Civil War after the killing of Michael Collins. He was leader of Fine Gael 1944-48.

Min Ryan died, aged 92, in 1977 six years after her husband.

At a meeting of the Wexford Borough District, Chief Executive Tom Enright briefed the Wexford Borough Members on a philanthropic proposal by the Mulcahy family, represented by Min Ryan's son, eminent cardiologist Professor Risteárd Mulcahy and her grandsons, businessman Mr Richard Mulcahy and cardiologist Doctor David Mulcahy to provide a very generous donation of €200,000 towards the development of the new large neighbourhood park in honour of Min Ryan.

Mr. Richard Mulcahy, Doctor David Mulcahy, their father Risteárd and his wife Louise attended today's meeting of the Borough District where they presented a detailed account of Min Ryan's life and the major role played by the Ryan and the Mulcahy families in the 1916 Rising, the foundation of the State and its early governance.

"Our family is delighted to have the opportunity to support Wexford's newest neighbourhood park and in doing so, pay tribute to a dynamic and progressive-thinking woman who played such a prominent role in Irish politics" said Richard. Risteárd added "My mother Min always maintained a keen sense of pride in her county of birth throughout through her life and I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to her than to have her name associated with this wonderful public amenity located only a short distance from where she was born and grew up."

The Members welcomed and unanimously approved the proposal and agreed to name the proposed park the *Min Ryan Park*, as a visible and public acknowledgement of the significant national role played by Min, her siblings and extended family during Ireland's search for independence.

At the meeting, Mayor of Wexford Councillor Ger Carty spoke of the Ryan family's remarkable legacy and on behalf of Wexford County Council, thanked the Mulcahy family for their philanthropic gesture. *"It is appropriate that we honour this remarkable local family who, individually and collectively played such an influential role during Ireland's revolutionary years. The Ryan family played an important role in the 1916 Rising which we are proudly commemorating in Wexford this year. The Min Ryan Park will be a lasting testimony to Min, her husband Richard, her siblings and wider family and will be a fantastic public amenity to be enjoyed by all for decades to come"*.

Wexford County Council Chief Executive Tom Enright described the naming of the Park as a timely acknowledgement of Min Ryan and her siblings as one of Wexford's most illustrious families. *"The contribution of Min Ryan and her family is perhaps better understood and acknowledged at national rather than at local level" said Mr. Enright, adding "The decision today by Wexford Borough District to name our newest public amenity in Min Ryan's honour will help to correct this by providing an enduring reminder right here in her native county of Min's lifelong dedication to Ireland's search for independence"*.

Wexford Credit Union Limited will support the development of the Park. Mr. Ken Roche, Vice-Chair of the Credit Union, stated that the development of amenities for the people of Wexford is a vital part of the credit union strategy.

The high-quality park will play an integral role in the social and economic well-being of the large urban population and surrounding rural hinterland, providing passive and active recreation opportunities. It has been designed to be versatile, multi-purpose and capable of adapting to meet generational needs and promises to contain an array of attractive features including picnic sites, out-door gym equipment, walking track, water features, playground, skate bowl, level play area, wildflower meadows and art / sculpture displays. The new park and the Loretto school will together provide a strong community and recreational focal point for the area.

Planning approval was granted for the new park by Wexford County Council last week and it is expected that construction of the €1.2m park, which will be located adjacent to the new Loreto School, will commence later this year and be completed by Summer/Autumn 2017.

Re-dedication of O'Hanrahan Station, Wexford

The re-dedication of O'Hanrahan Station, Wexford took place on 7th July 2016.



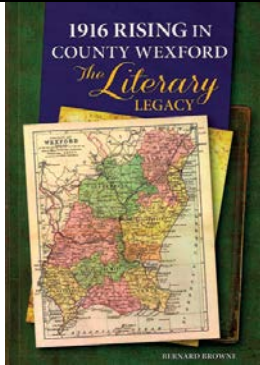
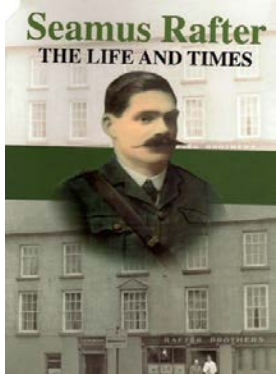
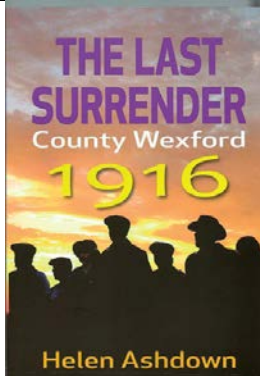
Pearse O'Hanrahan, Deirdre Lawlor, Wexford Mayor Frank Staples and Harry O'Hanrahan

Historical Reflection

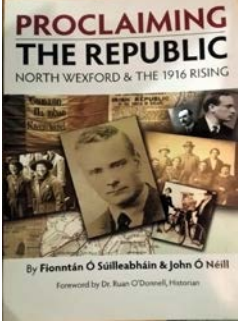
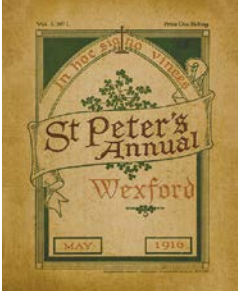
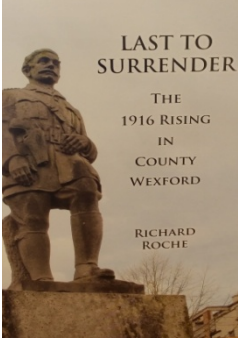
COUNTY WEXFORD AND 1916: A SELECTION OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Many writers and historians were inspired by the events of Easter 1916 to research and explore the stories, the people, the places and the literature of that time. This is a selection of books published on the theme of 1916.

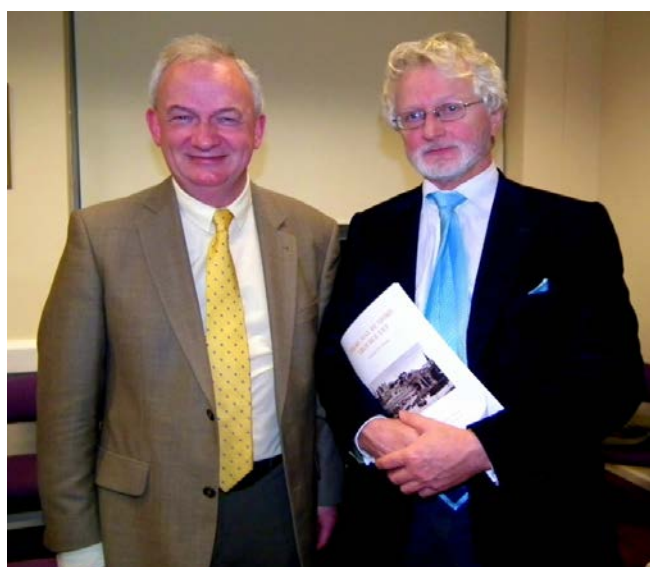
(Part Extract from Newsletter No. 10 May, 2016 - Uí Cinsealaigh Historical Society)

	<p>The Literary Legacy of 1916 <i>Bernard Browne</i></p> <p>The 1916 Rising in County Wexford may have been somewhat overshadowed by the events of the 1798 Rebellion. It remains however, a pivotal event in its history and when politics and literature join forces it helped to forge a shared identity for the emerging Nation. This volume brings to the forefront the many men and women who used the power of their writing to further the cause during this crucial transition period.</p>
	<p>Seamus Rafter: The Life and Times <i>Seamus Rafter</i></p> <p>Seamus Rafter was Commandant of A Company leading up to and during the 1916 Rising when the Tricolour flew for a week over Enniscorthy. The Companies of Volunteers were close to him and as leader he had their full confidence. The 1916 Easter rising in Enniscorthy was regarded by the British authorities as the most dangerous threat outside of Dublin. With the death of Comdt Seamus Rafter in 1918 the spirit and enthusiasm that drove the Volunteer movement in County Wexford was missing and was never quite the same. His nephew Seamus has written this account of his life and events in Enniscorthy during this turbulent time.</p>
	<p>The Last Surrender - County Wexford 1916 <i>Helen Ashdown</i></p> <p>Brennan, Etchingham, Rafter, King, DeLacy, and Doyle were the leaders of the 1916 Rising in County Wexford. They were condemned by military courts martial to face the firing squad. Death sentences were passed also on other County Wexford Volunteers: Peter Paul Galligan, Dick Donoghue, Thomas Doyle, and Jack Thompkins. The role of these leaders and the stories of the men and women of County Wexford is told through their own voices in this unique and remarkable book.</p>

	<p>Wexford Men and Women interned in 1916 <i>MJ Mackey</i></p> <p>The Rising in Enniscorthy was well organised and there were no fatalities. Following the surrender of the leaders, Enniscorthy was placed under martial law. In his evidence to the Royal Commission of Enquiry, R.I.C. County Inspector John Robert Sharpe stated that “ there were about 600 Sinn Feiners but they were not all armed. 200 had rifles and shotguns. 375 were arrested and of these 319 were sent to Dublin. 52 were discharged and 2 were sent to hospital” The majority of those arrested were sent to Richmond Barracks, Dublin and were then transferred to prisons in Britain</p>
	<p>The Rising <i>Bairbre Tóibín</i></p> <p>Told in prose of extraordinary clarity, <i>The Rising</i> is a profoundly moving love story that delves deep into the mindset of Irish Republicanism, along with the complex social relationships of town and country during that era. An engrossing account of family, memory, history and belonging.</p> <p>Says Colm Tóibín, brother of the author: ‘The Rising is both a story of revolutionary fervour and a love story. It is a drama about political idealism and then the toll that such idealism takes. An account of a single family in a time of change, it has broader implications, and stands as a metaphor for how modern Ireland came into being.’</p>
	<p>Thomas Wafer - a son of Enniscorthy <i>Mark O'Brien</i></p> <p>Thomas Wafer was from the Shannon area of Enniscorthy. He was Captain in command of E company , 2nd Battalion Irish Volunteers In Dublin and was officer in charge of the detachment that escorted the lorry of arms from Fairview Park to the GPO on Easter Monday. He was killed in action in the Hibernian Bank in Sackville Street on Wednesday, 26th April 1916. He was 26 years of age. In this recent publication there is much new information about his life.</p>
	<p>There may be more trouble yet <i>by Goddard H. Orpen</i></p> <p>A personal diary account of a rural community's fears and anxieties during the days following the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin and Enniscorthy written by Goddard Orpen of Monksgrange, County Wexford. The diary, only recently discovered among the letters and family papers held at Monksgrange Archives, is an account of the days following the Easter Rising in Dublin and Enniscorthy as written by Goddard Orpen, the eminent historian of medieval Ireland.</p>
	<p>A Woven Silence: Memory, History & Remembrance <i>Felicity Hayes McCoy</i></p> <p>is part memoir, part family history, part Irish history and part Enniscorthy geography, this introspective history takes an interesting but at times painful journey through the “hidden Ireland”, from 1916 until the present day. Felicity Hayes-McCoy weaves into it the story of her family, particularly that of her grandmother's cousin, Cumann na mBan member Marion Stokes, who raised the Tricolour at the rebel headquarters in Enniscorthy at Easter in 1916.</p>

	<p>Proclaiming the Republic: North Wexford & the 1916 Rising <i>Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin,</i> First-hand accounts of those from across North Wexford who witnessed the Easter Rising in 1916 in Co Wexford and elsewhere in Ireland are contained in this book. It aims to answer questions such as: what connects north Wexford to the 1916 Easter Rising?; how and why did people get involved?; and what was the reaction to events?</p>
	<p>A St. Peter's College annual dating from May 1916 offers a fascinating glimpse into life in the college and its surrounds during the year of the Easter Rising. The annual features articles, photographs and advertisements from the era. The annual contains a wealth of information about the clergy. Another section focuses on sport and includes photographs of the hurling, soccer and GAA teams from the time. It is also filled with photographs of past pupils, including graduation photos which, coincidentally were taken in the same place that St Peter's take these photos today. Advertisements from several local businesses are also included and many of these businesses have survived to this day.</p>
	<p>Last to Surrender <i>Richard Roche</i> Book commemorating Wexford's unnamed 1916 heroes 'Last to Surrender' by the late Richard Roche, the former deputy editor of the Irish Independent, launched at Enniscorthy Library.</p>

Book Launches



Jarlath Glynn, Executive Librarian and Bernard Browne, Historian, at the launch of *There may be More Trouble Yet* by Goddard H. Orpen



Karen O Connor, Cllr Barbara-Anne Murphy and Wexford County Council Archivist, Gráinne Doran (Photo: *Enniscorthy Guardian*)



Seamus Rafter signing his book *Seamus Rafter: The Life and Times*



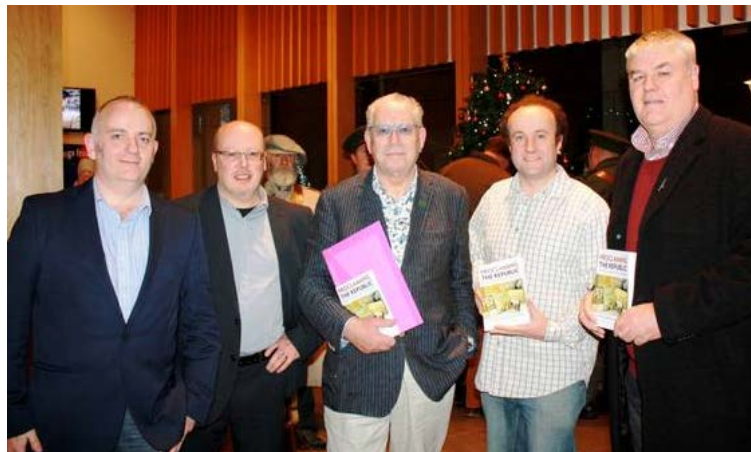
Helen Ashdown, Nicholas Furlong and James Browne, T.D. at the signing of Helen's book
The Last Surrender – County Wexford 1916



A book commemorating Wexford's unnamed 1916 heroes entitled *Last to Surrender* by the late Richard Roche, the former deputy editor of the *Irish Independent*, was launched at Enniscorthy Library. Picture shows Terry Kelly of County Wexford Friends of 1916, Darina Roche, daughter of the late Richard Roche and President of the 1916 Centenary Commemorative Committee, Eddie Breen



Felicity Hayes McCoy together with members of the Enniscorthy Historical Re-enactment Group at the launch of Felicity's book, *A woven silence*



The book launch for *Proclaiming the Republic, North Wexford & the 1916 Rising* by Fionntán O' Súilleabháin and John O'Neill was held at Gorey Library on Tuesday, 8th December.

