

Monaghan County Council 2020 Decade of Centenaries Programme

War of Independence Digital Media Project

If the project is a success, it is envisaged that it will run for the next three years using different aspects of local history as the subject matter.

This will be a collaborative project between Monaghan County Museum and AmmA Centre — an Education Authority Creative Learning centre in Armagh. The project will involve up to 4 post-primary schools, two from Monaghan and two from Fermanagh. The theme for the project will be the 'War of Independence' which will have its centenary marked through a special exhibition in the Monaghan County Museum during 2020. The targeted participants will be KS3 & Junior Cycle students from the identified schools. Students will work collaboratively to research particular perspectives of the 'War of Independence' using a range of sources including those made available by Monaghan County Museum and the Fermanagh County Museum.

They will then work with the AmmA Creative Learning team to capture and recreate these stories using a mix of digital techniques and traditional approaches including film, photography, green screen and virtual reality tools. A particular emphasis of this project will be the use of the Minecraft platform to recreate some of the 'big houses' in the border areas which came under attack during the War of Independence. The outcome of this project will be a series of high quality, mixed media digital stories that have been authored, performed and produced by the students under the expert guidance of AmmA Centre staff.

The outcomes will be made available online for public consumption and will be actively exhibited both online and as a merged reality component of ongoing museum exhibitions. In addition to this, the work will be showcased in each of the partner schools in a manner that fosters and promotes cross-border collaboration and engages the community beyond the classroom.

One Book One County Initiative

This is a reading initiative, coordinated by Monaghan County Library Services where everyone in the county is invited to read the same book and join the community conversations. As part of the Decade of Commemorations, we will be reading a series of books which deals with Irish history in the early 1900's up to 1923.

For 2020, we will be reading '***The Sound of Freedom***' by **Ann Murtagh**, launched 1st March 2020. Summary of the book - It's spring 1919. Ireland's War of Independence has just begun. In a cottage in County Westmeath, thirteen-year-old Colm Conneely longs to join the local Volunteers, the 'Rainbow Chasers' who dream of an independent Ireland. Caught up in republican fever, he smuggles guns, stands up to the RIC during a house raid and raises the tricolour on a lake island. But Colm is also chasing another rainbow — he dreams of a life in America working as a fiddle player and involved in the republican movement there. The arrival in the area of spirited Belfast girl Alice McCluskey is a new development in Colm's life. She speaks Irish, shares his love of Irish music and is also committed to the 'cause'. Will Colm stay in Ireland and join the Volunteers, or will he fulfil his dream of working as a musician in America? A long-held family secret comes to light, rocks Colm's world and shows him the way to go.

All primary and secondary schools, book clubs and individuals are invited to participate in the programme each year.

A series of workshops including online book discussions and multi-media workshops will take place exploring the themes of the book.

Ireland's Poetic Strive to Independence – Poets of the Rising and the Revolutionary Period Project

For 2020, we will continue with the programme 'Ireland's Poetic Strive to Independence' which will include the monthly gathering for interested people to read and discuss a series of Irish poets and their poetry relating to Ireland during the period 1913-2022, with the associated other activities being delivered as the programme develops. This will be initially aimed at adults, but young adults are invited to attend too.

Supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative.