

# Monaghan County Council 2020 Decade of Centenaries Programme

## Update October 2020

### One Book One County:

This year as part of the Decade of Centenaries, Monaghan County Library runs each year the One Book One County reading programme in Primary schools throughout the county. This year, we will be reading *The Sound of Freedom* by Ann Murtagh and are delighted to say that Ann is heavily involved in the delivery of the programme via podcasts and virtual Q & A sessions with each school upon completion of the book. We look forward to a fantastic programme and are embracing the online aspect this year as opposed to our usual classroom workshops. We hope that this approach will offer the children and schools taking part a new innovative way of engaging with the story.

### Monaghan's War of Independence 1919 – 1921 Exhibition

Working in collaboration with Professor Terence Dooley of Maynooth University, Monaghan County Museum presents its thrilling new exhibition *Monaghan's War of Independence 1919 – 1921*. Using stunning imagery, objects, film and first-hand accounts as well as new research into the history of the conflict in Monaghan. This new and important investigation into what happened in the county during those fateful years reveals a tale, which is more than just a struggle between the IRA and the British forces for control of the county. Stories such as the impact of the conflict on the local population - men and women, sectarianism due to Monaghan's proximity with the Unionist majority counties in Ulster as well as land issues all played a part in the history of the War of Independence in Monaghan.

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

The Decade of Commemorations programme for 2020 will see Clones Library host a series of interactive virtual workshops throughout October and November delivered by local poet Ted McCarthy. This series will focus on the poetry of the War of Independence and the often-complicated relationship between the poets and the emerging State. Special emphasis will be placed on the works of Yeats, Kavanagh and Behan as well as focusing on the works of Unionist poets. These workshops will provide opportunities for discussion on the role poetry played in the education system and the relationship of Church and State during the early 20th Century.

### 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.