

Monaghan County Council

Decade of Centenaries
Programme 2022



Bordering Realities: Artefacts relating to Partition

As the Bordering Realities project develops, it is hoped that one output will be the ability to allow the entire community in the border region to interact in a very real and engaging way with a myriad of objects that both reflect their own culture and traditions but also the culture and traditions of their neighbours in the safe space of a museum. Last year we were able to photograph hundreds of objects which variously reflect the history and heritage of the border region. This year we are changing our focus to the condition of these objects. While we continue to strive to ensure that our collections are maintained and stored to a high standard, it is always necessary to carry out remedial and, in some cases, significant conservation on our collections. With this in mind, we have chosen several objects based on our photographic project and are relevant to this period in history, that will require professional conservation care before they go on display. This will mean engaging one or more conservators who specialise in textile, paper, metal and wood to carry out this work.

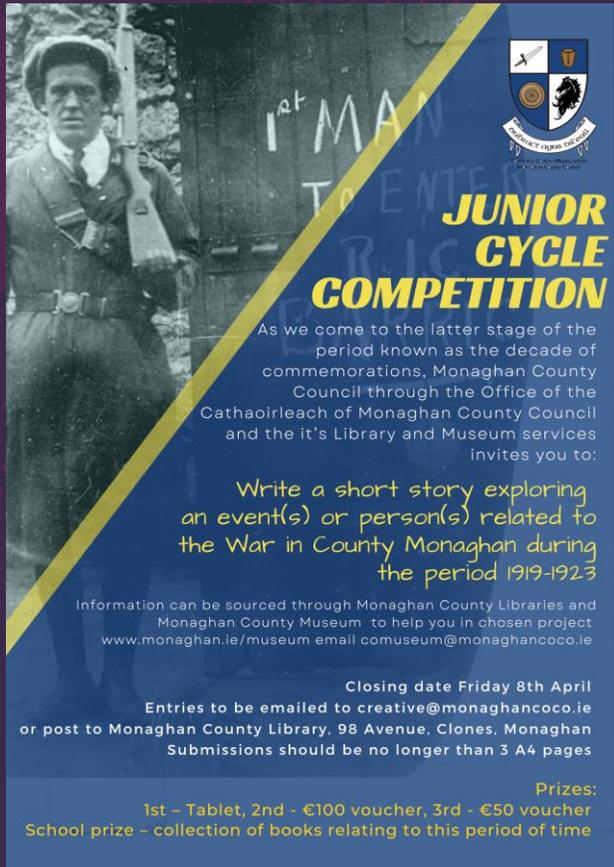


Autumn Lecture Series

- For the autumn of 2022, we will be working with academics and local historians to provide an autumn series of talks dealing with the main events of 1922.
- We are aiming to have 5-6 talks in the libraries and County Museum or if restrictions do not allow physical event, we will have online talks. We are aiming to have speakers to talk on topics relating to both sides of the community.
- This series will allow the community to hear and learn about aspects of 1922 from both a local and national context. It will allow for all sides to have equal opportunity to tell their story and for all communities to hear this story.

History Competition

Library, & Museum Services in partnership with the Office of the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council




**JUNIOR
CYCLE
COMPETITION**

As we come to the latter stage of the period known as the decade of commemorations, Monaghan County Council through the Office of the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and the it's Library and Museum services invites you to:

Write a short story exploring an event(s) or person(s) related to the War in County Monaghan during the period 1919-1923

Information can be sourced through Monaghan County Libraries and Monaghan County Museum to help you in chosen project
www.monaghan.ie/museum email comuseum@monaghancoco.ie

Closing date Friday 8th April
Entries to be emailed to creative@monaghancoco.ie or post to Monaghan County Library, 98 Avenue, Clones, Monaghan
Submissions should be no longer than 3 A4 pages

Prizes:
1st - Tablet, 2nd - €100 voucher, 3rd - €50 voucher
School prize - collection of books relating to this period of time




**6TH CLASS
PRIMARY
SCHOOLS
COMPETITION**

As we come to the latter stage of the period known as the decade of commemorations, Monaghan County Council through the Office of the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council and the it's Library and Museum services invites you to:

Write a Story or Poem about what you think life would have been like for you living through the War in County Monaghan during the period 1919-1923.

Closing date Friday 8th April
Entries to be emailed to creative@monaghancoco.ie or post to Monaghan County Library, 98 Avenue, Clones, Monaghan
All submissions should be no longer than 2 A4 pages

Prizes:
1st - Tablet, 2nd - €100 voucher, 3rd - €50 voucher
School prize - collection of books relating to this period of time

One Book One County Initiative



- Since 2013, as part of the Decade of Centenaries Monaghan County Library Services has coordinated a community reading initiative called One Book One County where everyone in the county is invited to read the same book and join the community conversations. We have been reading a series of books which deals with Irish history in the early 1900's up to 1923.
- For 2022, we will be reading 'Katie's War' by Irish author Aubrey Flegg.
- A series of workshops including online book discussions and multi-media workshops will take place exploring the themes of the book. We hope to have a series of Q&A's sessions with the Author, which in previous years has proved very positive as everyone learnt how the author researched this period of history, the facts they found out and how they transformed this into a piece of literature.
- All primary and secondary schools, book clubs and individuals are invited to participate in the programme each year. Again, this year we will be inviting schools from Northern Ireland, notably in Fermanagh and Armagh to participate in the project during the academic year.

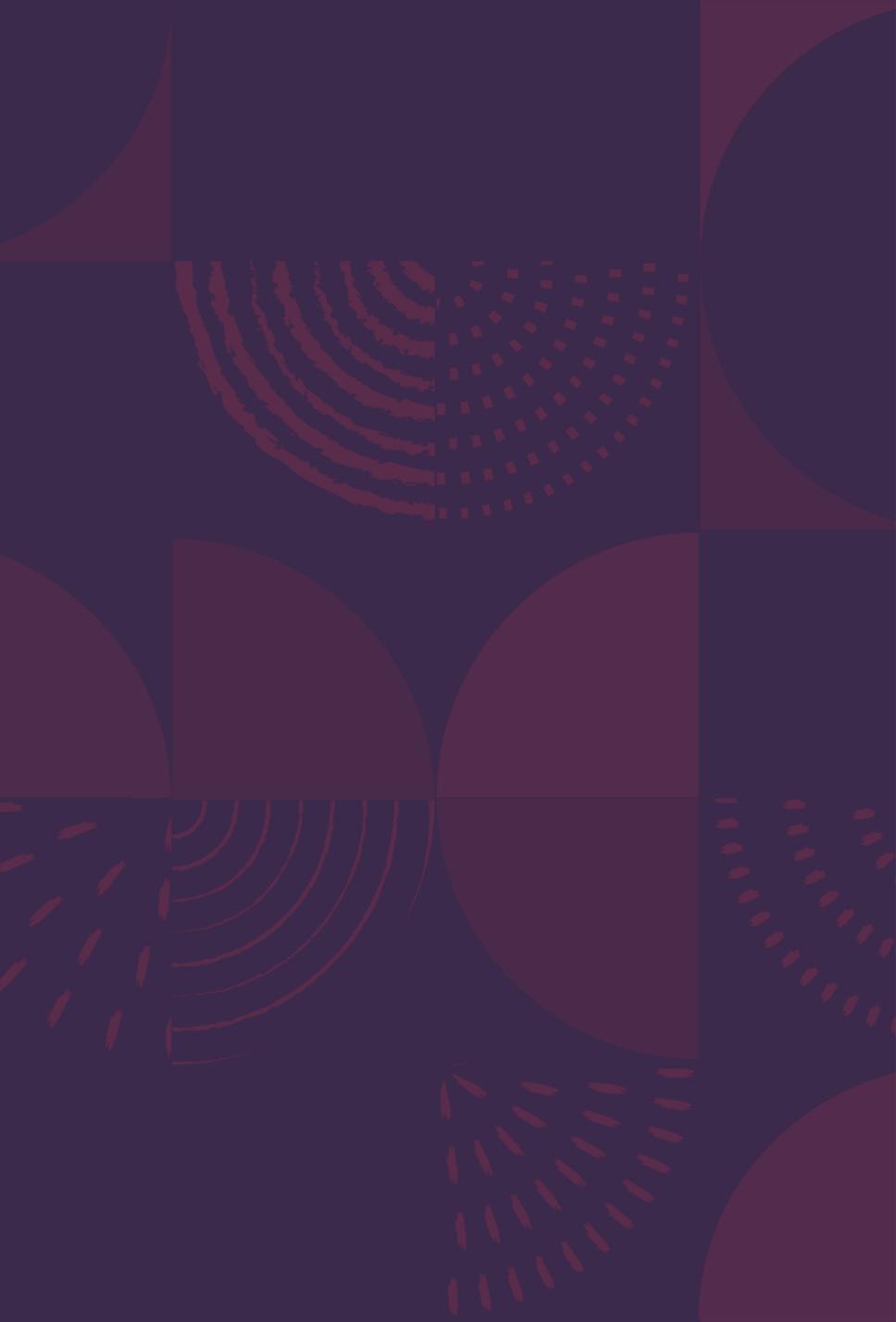
The American Room

- Local award-winning Poet Ted McCarthy will write, direct and produce, using the recording resources of the Library and Museum, an audio play with the working title above. The play will encapsulate a specific story set during a significant period of Irish history and aims to bring to life our history with a dramatic script, a cast of local voice actors, music, special audio effects and perhaps even archival material individual to the county.
- The main character will be a veteran of the war of Independence and Civil War, domiciled in the USA, who returns for the first time, in 1966, to receive a medal from President De Valera recognising his role in these events. He left Ireland under a cloud, in the early 1920s, with a number of issues unresolved. These will be dealt with during the course of the play.
- The narrative will be driven by several characters - family, local, national - who will give their version of events, past and present, from their own perspective. These will be individual to themselves, and so memories and interpretations will vary and conflict in places, showing the diversity and occasional unreliability of memory and interpretation of historical events.
- By using characters from Ireland and the USA, and from two generations (and possibly three, if the narrative is brought up to date in the epilogue), Ted hopes to engage with questions of the Irish diaspora, the role of women in the 1920s and 1960s, cross-border conflict, societal attitudes between Nationalist and second-generation Unionists south of the border. These topics are not exhaustive - Ted will be using the narrative and the development of character to lead the narrative in the direction of exploring other related themes as they arise.
- Sound effects, archive broadcast material, music from the time etc. will be provided to soundtrack and enhance the narrative. The parameter of the story is sufficiently broad to allow for engagement with these and other matters. The use of multiple-person narratives should allow for these matters to be dealt with sensitively and from differing and equally valid points of view.



The Word on the Street is.... Newspaper Podcast Series

- For 2022, we will continue to work with Michael Fisher, who has 45 years' experience working mainly in the public service broadcasting (BBC and RTE). He covered politics and other events in Northern Ireland for RTE News in Belfast for 26 years before retiring in 2010. He is currently a reporter for the local newspaper The Northern Standard.
- Michael along with our library staff will continue to research the local newspaper Northern Standard archives for 1922 along with national newspapers such as the Irish Times to analyse and present the news from a national and local context. A series of podcasts will be produced based on this research which will include discussions with historians on topics in the newspapers highlighted, as to how much of the national events had an impact at local level or vice versa.
- This will create an archive which can be listened to at any time after it is finished. It will engage people locally to learn about what was happening locally while being made aware of what was happening on the national stage.



Present in the Past

Accessible interaction with our heritage

- A story is only as good as the storyteller. Museums are keenly aware that while they may have excellent objects and fascinating tales to tell, unless those narratives are explored in a way that is in the first instance engaging and then accessible, they have failed.
- A key element for the new exhibition on Monaghan during Civil War and establishment of the state, is to make the stories engaging and accessible. The museum, working with its stakeholders and community partners plan to create a series of exhibits investigating the stories linked to the decade of centenaries, which ensure that everyone in the community can experience and enjoy them.
- We intend to achieve this through several formats, which will include digital interactive experiences, tactile displays, sensory areas, multilingual displays and replica objects. We want this to be a display where all the senses are activated, and the visitor comes away not just with a story but a feeling that leads to greater understanding and appreciation of their local history and heritage.
- The positives outcomes of this project include engaging with several creative practitioners to work with us to achieve the goal of a fully accessible display that will be a legacy of the decade of centenaries period in Ireland.

Bordering Realities: Youth's Creative Response to Borders

- This is a **multi-disciplinary collaborative project** engaging young people through music, drama, dance, creative writing and arts to respond creatively to partition and the reality of life along a border or indeed what does the word 'border' mean to young people today.
- The aim is to **produce a powerful and unique new production 'Boarding Realities'** exploring the enigmatic events of the turn of the century, presenting the artist, activist, and revolutionary words so that we can have a deeper understanding of the significant events that took place during this period.
- **Music Generation** will develop their Irish Traditional Ensemble to form a Youth Folk Orchestra to collaborate with other genres of music in Cavan & Monaghan and bordering counties and they will engage with an acclaimed composer like Michael Rooney
- **Local Arts in Education Partnership** will work with several creative practitioners and in collaboration with Music Generation, to produce a theatrical/dance piece for showcasing in the autumn 2023.
- **Partners:** Cavan County Council and Monaghan County Council Decade of Centenaries and Creative Ireland Teams; Cavan Monaghan ETB through Music Generation Cavan Monaghan and Local Arts in Education Partnership.



Bordering Realities: Cross border project

- The *Bordering Realities* project seeks to reflect on the various narratives associated with the creation of the border while also using the different aspects of the project to address the legacy of that border the resulting conflicts in the region. The project outputs will all be displayed in the Peace Campus in various forms from exhibits to interactive audio visual displays as well as online. The project will act as a catalyst for discussion and debate around a shared history and heritage. Through that interaction, members of the community who have lived near each other but never met will build relationships while gaining a wider understanding of their neighbour's story.

Project Activities for 2022

- Working with our cross-border partners, we intend to develop the community engagement and debate through photography and film of our border region. One concept that is perhaps more difficult to grasp more now than it was during the period before the Good Friday Agreement and the removal of the physical border is what is the border region? Where does it begin, and end? How do we define it in a way that is both engaging and accessible to people? The people of the border region are shaped by its drumlins, its lakes, its historical heritage, its back roads and hidden histories, so let us show that to them.
- We intend to engage with one or more professional drone cinematographers to conduct a visual survey of the border region around Monaghan. From the ancient land border of the Black Pigs Dyke through to the Pale, the Plantation and the modern-day border, these lines have left physical marks and scars on the land. We intend to conduct several surveys in areas around the county and the bordering regions to create a visual story of the border, which will be produced into a short film, which will become part of the new displays at participating Museums. For the first time, we will take the community on a bird's eye tour of the landscape that bends, moves and decays but is always in motion. This land reflects our past but also our future, this will be an important catalyst in telling our story, our shared experience.



Clones Film Festival & Clones Drama Group
The New Theatre presents a Chambermade Production

SIX DAYS

An evocation of 1916 North King Street



**OLD POST OFFICE
CLONES**

This event has been funded under Monaghan County Council's Decade of Centenaries Programme 2022 through The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Written & directed by **Frank Shouldice** Original music by **Frieda Freytag**

Friday
22 APRIL - 8PM
Booking Essential - Tickets €10



Using spoken word and original music "Six days" is a highly evocative re-imagining of Easter Week at North King Street during the 1916 Rising. Based largely on the personal accounts of those who lived through those tumultuous events "Six days" will be performed by playwright and director Frank Shouldice, whose grandfather and namesake was a sniper at the Jameson Malthouse in Smithfield until his arrest at the Four Courts. The spoken word will be accompanied by cellist Frieda Freytag who will compose signature pieces specially for the performance.

Funded by

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