**MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM**

**Issue 15 Spring 2015**

Thousands flock to Monaghan County Museum’s 40th Birthday Party

On Saturday, September 27th the museum and the streets around it came to life as the museum staff threw a street party to celebrate 40 years of serving the community. An array of events took place throughout the day including living history tours, art and design workshops, craft demonstrations, storytelling sessions, walking tours, street art, graffiti, street sculptures, World War I cannon displays, urban art demonstrations, pottery classes, gypsy caravan display, face painting and live music.

The main event of the day was the official launch of Monaghan County Museum’s 40th anniversary exhibition; The Treasures of Monaghan, which showcases the very best of the museum’s four decades of collecting. The exhibition was officially opened by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys T.D. Minister Humphreys also launched a commemorative booklet Monaghan County Museum – A Museum of Memories 1974 – 2014 which tells the story of the museum through the words of past and present staff and those who have had a close association with the museum over the years. The booklet is available from the museum free of charge.

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**CALENDAR OF OUR EVENTS FOR MARCH – SEPTEMBER 2015**

**MARCH**

“Make It Happen” by Theresa Lofts.

**APRIL**

Easter Arts & Crafts

*Wednesday 1st 10am – 11:30am & 1:00pm – 2:30pm*

These fun family workshops will give everyone the chance to make their own Easter artwork! **Booking Essential**

Easter Treasure Hunt

*Thursday 2nd 11am – 2:30pm & 3:30pm – 6:30pm*

Bring the family along to enjoy this fun treasure hunt around the museum displays in search of these elusive Easter Eggs! **Booking Essential**

**JUNE**

Social Inclusion Week

*Monday 8th 9 Grounds, 60 Years – A history of equality in county Monaghan. Monaghan County Council are launching an exciting booklet ‘60 Grounds, 60 Years’, this booklet traces the history of equality in county Monaghan from 1953 to 2015. The booklet shows the life of various people in Monaghan in 1953 compared to the life those people would have in 2015.*

Clayotic Workshops

*Saturday 6th 12:15pm & 1:15pm & 2:45pm & 3:45pm*

Family event. Clayotic is unique, non-toxic, air-drying clay for ages 5+. This fun workshop helps children with their coordination, concentration, self-esteem and design skills. **Booking Essential**

**JULY**

**HERITAGE WEEK EVENTS**

“Behind the Scenes at the Museum”

*Thursday 2nd 8pm*

To celebrate Heritage Week participants will get the opportunity to work with museum staff to learn about the work involved in the setting up of exhibitions. They will also be given a tour of our conservation lab in Clontibret. Transport will be provided, lunch is not included. **Strictly over 16’s only Booking Essential**

“Castle Leslie and the Duke of Wellington, a special relationship” by Sammy Leslie

*Friday 3rd 8pm*

200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo 1815. Sammy Leslie will speak of the intriguing story of how Sir Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington owed his military career to the Leslie’s of Glaslough.

“The Duke of Wellington and the Irish involvement in the Battle of Waterloo” by Mark Leslie

*Thursday 27th 8pm*

Mark Leslie will lead us through the story of The Duke of Wellington’s role in Napoleon’s final defeat at the Battle of Waterloo and the Irish who fought on both sides during that historic day.

**AUGUST**

**HERITAGE WEEK EVENTS**

“Behind the Scenes at the Museum”

*Thursday 2nd 8pm*

To celebrate Heritage week participants will get the opportunity to work with museum staff to learn about the work involved in the setting up of exhibitions. They will also be given a tour of our conservation lab in Clontibret. Transport will be provided, lunch is not included. **Strictly over 16’s only Booking Essential**

Glass Painting

*Saturday 13th 2:30pm – 2:00pm & 2:30pm – 4:00pm*

Family event. Why not try your hand at painting on glass? Participants will learn about light, colour and transparency in this fun workshop. **Booking Essential**

Printing Workshops

*Saturday 20th 10:00am – 2:30pm & 3:00pm – 4:00pm*

Family event. Brenda O’Reilly Hughes (Artist) will facilitate our workshops in various types of printmaking techniques. **Booking Essential**

Mosaic Workshops

*Saturday 27th 2:00pm – 4:00pm*

Family event. Learn the craft of mosaic. Under the watchful eye of Samantha H ave (Artist) participants will learn a new skill and create a piece of art they can take for their home or garden in the process. **Booking Essential**

**SEPTEMBER**

“The Museum gets the Blues”

*Friday 4th 2pm – 4pm & Saturdays 5th & 12th 2pm – 3pm*

As part of the Monaghan Harvest Time Blues Festival the museum will host some workshops and talks which will include personal perspective from the artists both on the musical and cultural significance of “The Blues”. The performances will be given by artists who will be appearing at this years festival.

“Culture Night at the Museum”

*Friday 18th 7:30pm*

The Armagh Rhymers will present the age old ‘Mummers Play’. Full of zany characters, ancient rhymes, music, dance and poetry. This last paced spectacle will provide plenty of opportunities for audience participation for all the family.
The Museum’s story

Monaghan County Council led the way in 1974 when it became the first local authority in the Republic of Ireland to set up a full time professionally run museum. During the years in which the museum has been in existence there have been significant changes in the county. When it opened the conflict in Northern Ireland was raging on, the Monaghan bombing had occurred that same year killing seven people. The people of County Monaghan were suffering personally as well as economically from the Troubles. It was against this backdrop that the museum opened its doors to the public.

Over the decades the staff have worked to reach out to the community through various activities. This work has been the keystone in the museum’s ability to work across cultural, economic and religious boundaries and develop a truly diverse user base. This has also enabled these dedicated professionals to build up what is recognised nationally as one of the finest museum collections in the country. From this work many awards have been achieved including, most notably the Council of Europe Museum Prize as well as Museum of the Year Awards for best collections care. Most recently it became the first local authority museum in the country to achieve full accreditation under the Heritage Council’s Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI).

The Treasures of Monaghan

For the first time the very best of the museum’s nationally acclaimed collection is being displayed together. This grand array of objects which has been brought together over the last four decades tells the story of County Monaghan and the surrounding area. What makes museums so important is their ability to tell a story through their objects, these fascinating artefacts which existed at the time when history was being made. The viewer can in a way transport back in time when they interact with these pieces from the past.

The collection spans the history of the region long before the county boundaries were decided. On display are objects from Monaghan’s very first settlers in the Stone Age over 5,000 years ago. The coming of Christianity is reflected in the stunning Cross of Clogher, which is exhibited in a custom made case allowing visitors to truly enjoy the beauty of this very important artefact. The famine had a devastating effect on the county as it did all over the country, many people got by on meagre rations cooked up in massive vessels, which became known as famine pots like the one which is on display.

Weaponry from both World Wars, marching banners, pieces from the museum’s extensive art collection including the famous McManus painting depicting a market day in Monaghan Town, the jerseys worn by Tommy Bowe when Ireland won the Grand Slam in 2009 and many others all come together as the Treasures of Monaghan in the historic exhibit.

All of this is complimented with a dedicated series of workshops, events and interactive displays. For full details contact the museum on (047) 829298, check out the website www.monaghan.ie/museum or find us on Facebook. The museum is open to the public Monday to Friday 11am – 5pm and Saturday 12pm – 5pm.