

MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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MONAGHAN
Músaem Chontae Mhuineachain
COUNTY
MUSEUM

Museum Standards Programme for Ireland

Monaghan County Museum reaches the Standard



Representatives from Monaghan County Museum joined museum workers – professional and voluntary – from across Ireland at the MSPI awards ceremony in Kilkenny Castle. Front row (left to right): CEO of Kilkenny County Council, Colette Byrne, Theresa Loftus, Patricia Barbour, Noel Breakey, Pauline Tilson, Maeve Hackett. Back row (left to right) Mairéad McNally, Darrach Lee, Cllr David Maxwell (Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council), Curator, Liam Bradley, Director of Service, Adge King and Chair of the Heritage Council, Michael Parsons.

MONAGHAN COUNTY MUSEUM reconfirmed its status as a Fully Accredited member of the Museum Standards for Ireland Programme at an awards ceremony at Kilkenny Castle on the 10th July, 2018.

Established by the Heritage Council in 2006 to benchmark and promote professional standards in the care of collections, the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) has attracted involvement across the cultural spectrum, from national institutions to small, volunteer-led organisations. Monaghan County Museum is one of 64 museums and galleries to benefit from participation in the MSPI to date. While recognising the achievement of standards through accreditation, the MSPI is also about supporting the museum community as a whole. Its participants engage in a range of processes, which help to secure Ireland's collections for future generations and to engage its visitors with what those collections have to offer.

The MSPI assessor was impressed with the knowledge and involvement of all of the staff at Monaghan County Museum, which is obvious throughout the policies, exhibitions and education provision. There are many aspects of collection management that are also exemplary.

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Lithuanian National Day

As part of the celebrations for the European Year of Cultural Heritage, the museum hosted a special event to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Lithuanian State. The Lithuanian Community in Monaghan which was established ten years ago came out in numbers to celebrate this historic occasion. It was a century ago, on the 15th February 1918, when the Council of Lithuania signed the Act of Independence, that the modern democratic state of Lithuania was born.



Thanks to Monaghan Px for the wonderful pictures at the event.

Culture Night



Now in its thirteenth year, Culture Night at the museum never disappoints. This year the museum got into full swing with two main events. Children from all over the county watched re-enactors from War Years Remembered bring the story of Monaghan during World War II to life. It was a great opportunity for the children to immerse themselves in a living history and become part of the action. Minister Humphreys also dropped by to help launch the Tradoodle Festival which takes place this year.



Throughout the early 1940's, music played a key role in the war effort. The second event saw the fabulous Bugle Babes, a 1940's close-harmony trio, perform in front of a packed gallery. Their upbeat performance of swing, boogie-woogie, romantic ballads, jazz and some classic songs by The Andrews Sisters, never failed to keep the crowd entertained. The atmosphere was just fantastic.





'The Monaghan Spitfire' Exhibition and Launch

One of the most eventful moments of last year was the launch of the museum's new exhibition; The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War on Thursday, June 28th. This was a full day event along with the exhibition launch itself. The museum had an actual Spitfire plane parked outside the front of the building as well as a WW2 era anti-aircraft gun. The plane and gun were open to the

public throughout the day with an estimated two and half thousand people attending both the on- street display and the exhibition launch that evening.

The event also attracted national press coverage with RTE Six One News, RTE Nationwide, BBC NI, The Irish Times, The Sunday Business Post and the Associated Press, all in attendance. Indeed, such was the interest that the

museum saw a surge in visitors over the summer months from all over the country and further afield to visit the exhibition.

The success of a major event such as this, and the resulting national and international visitors it has and continues to attract demonstrates how the museum can contribute both economically as well as culturally to the wider community.



Air Vice Marshall David Niven(Royal Air Force), Brigadier General Sean Clancy (Irish Air Corp), Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation Heather Humphreys TD, Josie McCusker, Betty Kidney, Liam Bradley (Curator, Monaghan County Museum), Adge King (Dir of Services, Monaghan County Council), Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Cllr David Maxwell.

The exhibition has broken all visitor records for the museum to date and with the wide variety of events planned to run in conjunction with the display, it is expected that those numbers will continue to rise.



Some of the pictures that were taken on the day include, Minister Heather Humphreys, The Royal Air Force, Air Vice Marshall David Niven, RAF Air Cadets, The Irish Air Corp, Brigadier General Sean Clancy and Cllr David Maxwell, project co-ordinator Jonny McNee and Curator, Liam Bradley.

Bealtaine Festival @ the Museum

bealtainefestival
celebrating creativity in older age

The Bealtaine Festival established in 1996, celebrates creativity as we age and runs every year during the month of May. For this year's Bealtaine, the museum worked with award winning Milliner, Davina Lynch and a large group of older

people from around the county who designed their own embroidery hats. The aim of the festival and indeed the museum's involvement in it is to bring older people together and through the medium of creativity develop new

relationships with other people in their community. The festival recognises the important and valuable contribution made by older members of the community.



Monaghan County Museum & The LCDC Equality Sub Committee Present

Know ME

In 2018, Monaghan County Museum, in partnership with the Equality Sub Group of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) of County Monaghan, proudly presented the *Know ME* exhibition. This unique and captivating exhibition explored the challenges of discrimination and social exclusion in society today.

The success of the exhibition and the *Know ME* campaign saw it travel to Donegal as part of the Donegal Social inclusion week in October 2018. The campaign also travelled to Athlone to be part of a training day for staff working in the Department of Community and Rural Development.

For further details on the exhibition, please contact the museum.



L to r back row

Liam Bradley (Curator Monaghan County Museum),
Francis McCarron (Chair LCDC Equality Sub-committee)
Emily Logan (Chief Commissioner, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission),
Brenda Clerkin (Monaghan County Council Peace Office),
Fiona McEntee (Monaghan County Council, Youth Officer),
Fintan McPhillips (Monaghan County Council, Head of Community)

L to r Front row

Bernie Bradley (Monaghan County Council, Social Inclusion Officer),
Eileen Dunne (Chair of the Down Syndrome Ireland Advisory Council)

Eileen McKenna

Monaghan County Museum was deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the death of our friend and former colleague, Eileen McKenna on the 1st September 2018. As a mark of respect, a minute's silence, led by Cllr David Maxwell was observed in the Council

Chamber on Monday the 3rd September. We were very fortunate to have worked with Eileen, who was first employed by Monaghan County Museum in 1991 and worked there every Saturday until 2014. We warmly remember her enthusiastic and skilful support in every project she undertook at the museum. Eileen had an enormous capacity for hard work. A scholar in her own right, she was deeply proud of her association with the museum. As researcher and editor of the museum newsletter, she had a keen interest in local history, and was happy to respond to the many queries and requests that came her way. But Eileen's commitments stretched further than the museum. As a valued committee member of the Clogher Historical Society, Eileen served as its President from 2014-2015.

She was deeply involved in many projects with the society and was instrumental in the pursuit of erecting a plaque in memory of Archbishop Hughes of New York. Some of her earlier work includes co-editing *Townlands of Tydavnet* with the late Canon Gillisken, as well as being a regular attendee at conferences and various meetings in the community. As a kind person, who was always willing to give her time and knowledge to help others, it goes without saying, that Eileen's passing leaves a deep void in the lives of many.



Eileen, speaking about Archbishop John Joseph Hughes at St Macartan's Church, Augher.

© Rory Geary/ Northern Sound

"It is the old documents, chiefly letters that I dream about. The handwriting, the grammar, the formal language of even personal letters and of course the content."

Eileen McKenna

Snippet from the Archive

THE DEFENCE OF BALLYBAY SEPT/OCT 1828

Monaghan County Museum was very happy to welcome a unique piece of Monaghan's history and heritage into the museum. It is a silver snuff box which belonged to the infamous Sam Gray of Ballybay. The snuff box was presented to Sam Gray, along with the freedom of Dublin City in 1828 for what was framed as his valiant defence of Ballybay against an invasion of Catholic 'Popish Demagogues' earlier that year. The silver snuff box was purchased at auction with the help of the Friends of Monaghan County Museum.

The Snuff Box



The inscription on the box reads as follows:

This box, accompanied by the Freedom of Dublin was presented to Mr. Samuel Gray of Ballybay in the County of Monaghan. For his manly and determined conduct in leading the Protestants of that town when it was threatened to be entered by one of the POPISH DEMAGOGUES. And thereby averting the calamitous occurrences that were likely to ensue from such a rash and daring proceeding. Oct 1828.

Museum Events • February – July 2019

Tuesday 5th February at 8pm

The Friends of Monaghan County Museum Present:

When a Red Flag Flew in Monaghan - The 1919 Monaghan Asylum 'Soviet'

The Friends of Monaghan County Museum invite you to a unique occasion as we mark the centenary of the Monaghan Soviet. Workers in Monaghan Lunatic Asylum went on strike, locked themselves in, raised the Red Flag and declared themselves a Soviet.

An illustrated presentation by Aidan McQuillan based on research conducted by Brian Kenny from his book *'When Ireland Went Red - The Soviet Experiment 1918 - 1923'*.



from the Cottontail Cafe. During this class you will learn how to create Easter themed cake toppers using modelling fondant and then use these to decorate your own box of cupcakes to take home and enjoy!

Thursday 25th April at 8pm

The Monaghan War of Independence Files



Join us at the museum as we mark the historic launch of an incredible online resource, which charts the story of Monaghan during the War of Independence from the people who experienced it. These incredible first-hand accounts, which were collected between 1965 - 1966 and donated to the museum in the 1980s are available as an online database for the first time on Monaghan County Museum's website. This event will be marked with an illustrated talk by Theresa Loftus, Museum Researcher and Developer of this unique online resource.

Tuesday 7th, Thursday 9th, Tuesday 14th & Thursday 16th May (11am – 1pm)

Bealtaine Festival 2019 celebrating creativity as we age

bealtainefestival
celebrating creativity in older age

Introduction to Jewellery Making

We are once again marking this important festival as we host a series of workshops with local jewellery maker Lorraine Colleran. These four workshops will be delivered over a period of two weeks.

Booking Essential.

Saturday 18th May

1pm – 3pm (5-12 year olds)

National Drawing Day

Zendoodling

Join us for a Zendoodling workshop, using pattern to develop design and fine motor skills. Minecraft selfies - using squared paper to create pixelated self portraits.



Booking Essential.

Saturday June 15th

Cruinniú na nÓg

This nationwide event is a national day celebrating youthful creativity



supported by the Creative Ireland Programme. It's a day for doing, making and creating. Watch this space!

Monday 22nd – Thursday 25th

July 9.30am – 3.30pm
(12 – 15 year olds)



Minecraft Summer Camps

We are very excited to be working with AmmA Multimedia Learning Centre in Armagh to host this digital history summer camp. Create, explore and reconstruct Rossmore Castle in the virtual reality world of Minecraft. Also find out some of the fascinating history behind the estate, which once included Monaghan Town! **Booking Essential.**

Thursday 7th March at 8pm

Monaghan County Museum marks International Women's Day



'Hidden Women in Plain Sight': – Dr Jennifer Redmond – NUI Maynooth

With a greater interest in social history, oral history and gender history, the stories of these hidden women have emerged. Many now ask, how could we forget women who should have been unforgettable? This talk will bring these women into public knowledge. Whether they were domestic servants or emigrant women, rebels, political figures or activists, Irish history has been told in a particular way that often ignored the experiences of such women.

Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th April 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm
(5-12 year olds)

Easter Cupcake Decorating

Learn the wonderful edible art of cupcake decorating with craft tutor Samantha Hawe

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday 11am – 5pm

Saturday - 12pm – 5pm

Historical Walking

Tours of Monaghan Town

These popular tours are available with prior booking and weather permitting.

Guided Tours by prior arrangement

It is advisable for schools or large groups to pre-book.

If you wish to book a tour or enquire about an exhibition, event or workshop please contact us at **047 82928** or by email: **comuseum@monaghancoco.ie**

All exhibitions and events will be advertised in the local press, or if you require further information check out Monaghan County Council Website at

www.monaghan.ie/museum/