

# Kilkenny's Decade of Centenaries 1912-1923 / 2012-2023



Kilkenny County Council



Kilkenny County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Designed by Abartha Heritage



# Timeline 1912-1923 in Kilkenny

By Eoin Swithin Walsh

**October - Unionists meet in Kilkenny to protest against Home Rule.** Following the introduction of a 'Home Rule' bill for Ireland in the House of Commons, unionists in Ulster signed a covenant against such move. Some weeks later, 'over 300' southern unionists gathered at Kilkenny Castle to demonstrate their opposition to Home Rule.

1912

**November - Kilkenny hurlers won their first 3-in-row of All Ireland Senior Hurling titles, beating Tipperary in the final.** The team was honoured in City Hall with a civic reception. Dick 'Drug' Walsh, Dick Doyle (both Mooncoin), Jack Rochford (Threecastles/Tullaroan) and Sim Walton (Tullaroan) amassed seven All-Ireland medals each. That record of All-Ireland medals was not matched until Christy Ring did it in the 1950s. Kilkenny's next three-in-a-row was not completed until 2008.

1913

**March - An 'Irish Volunteer' company is launched at the Tholsel, Kilkenny City, by Roger Casement and Thomas MacDonagh, with the overall aim of fighting for Home Rule.** In response to the establishment of the UVF in parts of Ireland, nationalists setup their own army known as the 'Irish Volunteers'. To great fanfare at the Tholsel/City Hall, a Kilkenny branch of the Irish Volunteers was established at which hundreds of young Kilkenny men signed up. Thomas MacDonagh, a future 1916 leader, had taught at St Kieran's College.

**August - First World War breaks out.** Although Ireland had been subsumed by a near civil war over the rights and wrongs of Home Rule, in August 1914, everyone's attention turned to Europe. As Ireland was fully part of the United Kingdom at this time, many Kilkenny people enlisted in the Irish regiments of the British Army.

**September - Leader of the Irish Party, John Redmond, encourages Irish men to fight in the war, following assurances and the passing of a bill which implied that Home Rule would be delivered after the war.** The British parliament passed the Home Rule Act which said Ireland would have its own parliament after the war.

1914

**October - The Irish Volunteers in Kilkenny split after mustering in the Market Yard - 95% of the approx 600 men present align themselves to the new pro-John Redmond 'National Volunteers'. 5% remain in the Irish Volunteers.** Redmond's decision caused a split in the Irish Volunteers in Ireland as some believed Irish people shouldn't be involved in any wars Britain signed up to. The vast majority of the 'National Volunteers' did not enlist in the Army however, but instead stayed at home with the aim of protecting Irish shores. The small group of 5% kept the name 'Irish Volunteers'. It was this small grouping who were involved in the Easter Rising.

**October - John Redmond receives the Freedom of Kilkenny at City Hall following his success in getting the Home Rule Bill passed.** Celebrations ensued as it appeared that Ireland would have its own parliament after the war for the first time since 1800. John Redmond was given the Freedom of Kilkenny in City Hall by the Mayor, Jack Magennis. In one of the most famous photos from this era, hundreds of Kilkenny National Volunteers marched on High Street to salute him.

**November - Seán MacDiarmada, who would be executed for his part in the Rising some months later, visits Kilkenny for the annual 'Manchester Martyrs' commemoration. He informs local IRB men about a possible rising.** After his talk at the 'Manchester Martyrs' commemoration in Kilkenny, future 1916 leader Seán MacDiarmada informs Peter DeLoughry at Rothe House about a possible rising.

1915

**January - A branch of Cumann na mBan, the sister group to the Irish Volunteers, is established in Kilkenny.** Cumann na mBan in Kilkenny is led by Maisie Stallard (later O'Kelly), Winnie DeLoughry, Hannah Dooley (later Murphy), Josie Stallard (later Clarke), Jennie Stallard and Aggie Bibby.

1916

1916

**April - Easter Rising in Dublin - the Kilkenny IRB and local Irish Volunteers, led by Peter DeLoughry and Tom Treacy respectively, meet everyday but do not take an active part in the rising due to conflicting communications from Dublin. Other volunteer companies, such as Castlecomer and Coon, also mustered on Easter Sunday.** The Easter Rising was mainly organised by a secret group called the 'Irish Republican Brotherhood' (IRB). There were people within the IRB and the Irish Volunteers who did not want a rising at all costs as they feared too many people would be killed. Because of this divide, not many turned out around the country. Some Kilkenny natives living in Dublin joined the fight there and saw action. At the time it was happening, the rebellion wasn't popular in Ireland. So this group of less than 100 people in County Kilkenny were putting themselves against their families and communities.

**May - Over 30 men in Kilkenny are arrested and interned as a result of the Rising, including GAA President James Nowlan, who was not involved. One prisoner, John Kealy, who had been ill, died on a forced march.** Hundreds of extra military personnel are drafted into Kilkenny to roundup those suspected of being involved in the movement.

**July - The Kilkenny internees are released and return home to a heroes welcome.** The mood of the public had quickly changed in the weeks after the rising.

**July- Countess Markievicz receives the Freedom of Kilkenny and makes a speech in front of a large crowd at the Market Yard. Éamon de Valera and Arthur Griffith also visit.** As part of campaign to elect WT Cosgrave in the Kilkenny City By-Election, Countess Markievicz, who had recently been released from prison, receives a huge welcome from the Kilkenny populace. The year previously she had been sentenced to death.

1917

**August - 1916 veteran, WT Cosgrave of Dublin, defeats the Irish Party candidate in the Kilkenny City By-Election. As is Sinn Féin policy, he does not take his seat in Westminster.** The 'Kilkenny City By-Election' made the county a front page news story around Ireland and beyond. In the by-election, the Irish Parliamentary Party candidate, Jack Magennis, was easily defeated by Cosgrave. The Irish Party had held the Kilkenny seat for decades. The 'Kilkenny People' newspaper was suppressed by the authorities in the lead up to the election due to its editor, ET Keane, being a vocal supporter of Sinn Féin. Cosgrave would later become the first President of the Irish Free State, and later, founder of Fine Gael.

**May- The 'Conscription Crisis' occurred after the British government tried to introduce the draft to Ireland. Huge protests followed. Many signed the 'anti-Conscription pledge' and thousands of men joined the 'Irish Volunteers' in protest.** The British Army needed more soldiers to fight on the frontline of the First World War. This meant that all men between the ages of 18 and 51 in Kilkenny could have to go and fight. Every parish in Kilkenny had at least one Volunteer unit if not more. The membership quadrupled in protest of the threat of conscription.

1918

**June - 'Lá na mBan' was held throughout Kilkenny which was led by the women of Cumann na mBan. Hundreds of Kilkenny women signed a petition against conscription.** This pledge or petition was specifically for women. By June 1918, the men could have been arrested for leading the anti-conscription protest. So the women took up the work.

**August - 'Gaelic Sunday' was held across the county in protest against new regulations that banned all gatherings, including GAA matches, unless prior approval was received from the RIC.** GAA clubs all around Kilkenny took part in the nationwide protest on 'Gaelic Sunday' (4th August). GAA clubs organised hurling and gaelic football matches at the exact same time, 3.00pm, in different venues. There wasn't enough police in the county to go to all the different GAA grounds to arrest the teams and spectators, so they had to give in.

**November- The First World War comes to an end. It has recently been calculated that over 3,000 people associated with Kilkenny joined the fight and approx 830 of these sadly lost their lives as a result.** 3,000 people associated with Kilkenny joined the war effort. It included people from every single parish in County Kilkenny. Women also enlisted to provide nursing services, while men and women at home supported the Red Cross and also helped injured soldiers recover.

1918

**Nov-Feb Influenza Epidemic - hundreds of Kilkenny folk died as result of a flu-epidemic, nearly 10 times the usual death rate. Thousands more were infected which left a weakness in its wake.** Public buildings had to be closed down and meetings cancelled to stop the spread of infection.

1918-1919

**February - Just two weeks after the commencement of the War of Independence, local Mayor, Peter DeLoughry, plays a vital role in helping Éamon de Valera escape from prison.** De Valera was then the most well-known person within the Irish independence movement having been the sole surviving Commandant of the 1916 Rising. A cake was used to smuggle a blank key and some metal files into Lincoln Prison in England. DeLoughry, who was a metalworker by trade, managed to make a master key that opened every door in the prison. Michael Collins was waiting on the other side of the jail to whisk the escapees away.

1919

**March-May - Irish Volunteer Companies - soon to be renamed the IRA - block foxhunting across Kilkenny in protest against he continued imprisonment of Irish political prisoners.** Foxhunting meetings are blocked and disrupted all over the county.

**March - The IRA in Kilkenny had their first major coup when they became the first Brigade in Leinster to capture an RIC Barracks, at Hugginstown.** It was only the third RIC barracks to be captured by the IRA anywhere in the whole country up to that point. One unfortunate policeman inside the barracks, Thomas Ryan, originally from Limerick, was killed.

**June- Sinn Féin and Labour sweep to victory in the local elections, giving a clear mandate for the independence movement.** 95% of the council seats are taken by parties who have declared themselves 'republican'. Sinn Féin are by far the largest party in the various local councils in Kilkenny.

1920

**December - Ernie O'Malley, IRA leader, is captured in Inistioge while planning an attack on the Auxiliaries in Woodstock. The documents captured with him means many in the Kilkenny IRA are arrested or forced to go 'on the run'.** O'Malley was sent to Kilkenny to attack the Auxiliaries who had made the mansion of Woodstock House in Inistioge their headquarters for the southeast of Ireland.

**December - 36-year-old Margaret Ryan is shot through the front door of her premises by Auxiliaries. She dies on Christmas Eve. She was expecting a baby at the time of her death.** Just before Christmas, one of the saddest tragedies of the War of Independence took place. Margaret Ryan, who ran a pub and shop in Callan with her husband, was shot through the door of her business by a passing Auxiliary officer.

**Jan-July - 'Martial Law' was enforced in County Kilkenny. Curfews were put in place, many events were cancelled.** The names of the inhabitants of each household were required to be placed on the front doors of each house in Kilkenny.

1921

**February- The Friary Street Ambush in Kilkenny City ends in disaster after IRA men Tom Hennessey and Michael Dermody of Threecastles, and passer-by Thomas Dullard, are shot dead by Crown Forces.** The only ambush to occur in Kilkenny City during the War of Independence happened on Friary Street on 21 February 1921.

1921

**May - In Knocknagress, Tullaroan, the death of two members of 7th Battalion (Callan) Flying Column occurred when they are surprised by Crown Forces. Pat Walsh and Seán Quinn lose their lives. Two informers are shot by the IRA in reprisal.** The Crown Forces were tipped off about where the IRA were staying in Tullaroan and they surprised the Flying Column (a moving band of IRA men). The IRA ran into the fields and in the chase, two men, Pat Walsh from Dunnamaggin and Seán Quinn of Mullinahone, lost their lives.

**June - Coolbawn Ambush, Castlecomer, witnesses the death of two Flying Column members, Nicholas Mullins of Thomastown and Seán Hartley of Glenmore.** 18 June 1921. A local woman tipped off the British soldiers in Castlecomer about the planned ambush and the ambushers became the ambushed.

**June - Sinnott's Cross Ambush, Mooncoin. The successful ambush of a Black and Tan patrol by the local IRA. One Black and Tan, Albert Bradford, loses his life.** 18 June 1921. A cycle patrol is ambushed; the key difference in success here is the element of surprise by the IRA.

**July - Truce. Bonfires were lit all over the county after the fighting stops and the curfews are lifted.** To the delight of everyone, on Monday 11 July 1921 at 12.00pm, a truce was declared between the Irish and British sides.

**November - Escape of 44 political prisoners from Kilkenny Jail after they dig a tunnel. It was the largest jailbreak in Irish history up to that point. Fr Delahunty, 'the rebel priest', is one of the escapees.** Kilkenny made the front pages of newspapers all around the world. In what was like a Hollywood movie, 44 IRA prisoners managed to escape by digging a tunnel under the prison and beyond the prison wall to the street outside. None were recaptured.

**December - Treaty signed in London. Massive celebrations as prisoners are released, including the Kilkenny natives held in Spike Island and Ballykinlar.** Most Kilkenny IRA prisoners were set free. They had all been arrested during the War of Independence prior to the Truce. This included Tom Treacy, the original leader of the Irish Volunteers/IRA in Kilkenny, who had been arrested and sent to a prison camp in Ballykinlar, Co Down. Street parties, bonfires and homecoming celebrations were held all over Kilkenny as loved ones got home just in time for Christmas.

**February - A momentous day as Kilkenny Military Barracks is handed over by the British Army to the IRA, led by local man George O'Dwyer of Coon.** Parents of the IRA soldiers stood outside the gates cheering them on.

**May - Two-day 'Battle of Kilkenny' as anti-Treaty and pro-Treaty Free State soldiers faced each other on the streets of Kilkenny City. Buildings, such as Kilkenny Castle and St Canice's Cathedral, had been occupied by the anti-Treaty forces.** The Irish Civil War nearly started in Kilkenny. After the anti-Treaty took over various buildings around the city, the Free State launched an offensive to get them out. Civil War had broken out for two days in Kilkenny, but was then contained.

**June - 'Pact General Election' in which the Carlow-Kilkenny constituency returned all pro-Treaty candidates.** Although this was a general election, it was seen by some to be a defacto referendum on the Treaty. Éamon de Valera, Cathal Brugha and WT Cosgrave all visited the county during the campaign. The two anti-Treaty candidates were not returned while the Labour candidate topped the poll.

**July - Woodstock House in Inistioge was burnt down by the anti-Treaty to stop the Free State forces reoccupying it.** The Palladian designed house had been built in the 1740s.

1922

**July-August - Commandant Prout of the Free State Army in Kilkenny launches attacks against the anti-Treaty in Waterford City from Kilmacow and Ferrybank, and also in Carrick-on-Suir from Piltown.** From the hills overlooking Waterford City, the Free State soldiers launched an attack to get the anti-Treaty out of Waterford. They then moved to Piltown from where they attack the anti-Treaty in Carrick-on-Suir. Many Kilkenny men and women were involved in these battles on both sides.

**August - Free State soldier, Joseph Bergin of Skehana, Castlecomer, was killed on his 21st birthday, 16 August 1922, in an ambush in Tipperary.** The return of guerrilla tactics meant ambushes would be a feature of the remainder of the Civil War.

**August - Seán Edwards, a leading anti-Treaty IRA man for Waterford City, was controversially killed in Kilkenny Jail having been shot by a sentry.** Kilkenny Jail witnessed a number of controversial killings during the Civil War.

**August - Masses were held in St Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenny, in memory of Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith who died within a week for each other.** Free State soldiers from Kilkenny Barracks marched to Mass and later fired shots on The Parade in memory of their dead leaders.

**October - Ambushes increased during the winter of 1922. Thomas O'Dea (anti-Treaty, originally from Cork) and Patrick Quigley (Free State, from Tullaroan) were killed in an ambush at Kilmanagh. Free State soldiers Thomas Brownrigg (Dunnamaggin) and Patrick Hayes (City) were killed in an ambush in Tipperary.** A fierce battle raged in Kilmanagh. Quigley (aged 22) was from Liss, Tullaroan and O'Dea (aged 24) was originally from Mitchelstown, Cork. The Tipperary ambush occurred at Woodroffe.

**November - Callan based Garda, Henry Phelan, became the first member of the force to die in Ireland in the line of duty. He was shot dead in Mullinahone.** Phelan was a native of Laois and was 22-years-old.

**December - Anti-Treaty IRA soldier Patrick McCormack is shot dead in Johnstown.** A party of Free State opened fire on him during nightfall as he tried to make an escape. He was aged 24 years.

**December - Led by Ned Somers, the anti-Treaty IRA led an audacious plan that resulted in the capture of three Free State barracks; in Callan, Thomastown and Mullinavat. In the north of the county, Coon barracks was also captured.** The anti-Treaty disguised themselves as Free State soldiers so they could literally walk in and takeover.

**December - Two anti-Treaty IRA men, John Murphy of Bennettsbridge and John Phelan of Thomastown, are executed in Kilkenny Military Barracks having been arrested in possession of firearms.** Executions took place on 29 December 1922. John Phelan was married with three young children.

1922

**February - On the same night, Desart Hall in Cuffesgrange and Bessborough House in Piltown, are burnt down.** There were a spate of 'big house burnings' in Ireland at this time.

**March - A number of local men are killed in different incidents. Gerard Comerford (Free State, from Ballyfoyle) is killed in Inistioge; Thomas Mealey (anti-Treaty from Castlecomer) is killed during a raid for guns in Ballyouskill; Free State soldiers Edward Gorman and Patrick Horan (from the City and Callan) are executed by anti-Treaty forces in Wexford.** March 1923 turned out to be deadliest month of the entire revolutionary period for Kilkenny men.

**April - The meeting that more or less ends the Civil War takes place just over the Kilkenny border at Poulacapple, Co Tipperary. One of the most dedicated fighters in the Kilkenny IRA Brigade, Jim Egan, is killed close by.** The meeting took place at the home of the Egan's, where the anti-Treaty leaders in Ireland converged.

1923



# Content

Timeline 1912-1923 in Kilkenny	3
Réamhrá	9
Foreword	10
Introduction	11
The Decade of Centenaries - Kilkenny 1912-23/2012/23	13
Decade of Centenary Events	18
2013	19
2014	20
2015	21
2016	23
2017	33
2018	34
2019	35
2020	37
2021	39
2022	42
2023	45

## Réamhrá

Cuireann an foilseachán seo an réimse leathan imeachtaí, tionscadal agus tionscnamh i dtoll a chéile chun scéal faoi Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán a insint i gCill Chainnigh. Déanann sé rannpháirtíocht agus gealltanas na bpobal ar fud an Chontae a cheiliúradh ar fud an Chontae chun a ról a nochtadh agus a chomórath i roinnt de na himeachtaí is suntasaí i stair Éire nua-aimseartha.

Cuireadh tús le Clár Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán in 2012 agus cuireadh i gcrích é in 2023. Bhí sé mar aidhm tríd is tríd ‘cur chuige sainchomhairleachta, ionchuimsitheach, measúil, údarach, tomhaiste a chur chun cinn, a spreag tuiscint níos doimhne den chomhthéacs staire, a thug aitheantas do dhearcthaí difriúla ar ár stair roinnte agus a lorg suíochán agus athmhuintearas a láidriú ar oileán na hÉireann.’ Bunaíodh an cur chuige seo ar na prionsabail threoruithe atá leagtha síos ag an Sainghrúpa Comhairleach Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán.

Ón tús, d’aithin an rialtas go raibh áit mhaith ag gach údarás áitiúil lena mheas céard a bhí feiliúnach dá gceantar áitiúil, maidir le stair agus saineolas áitiúil, agus chun cinntí a dhéanamh a bhain le tionscnaimh le tacaíocht óna leithdháileadh maoinithe. Cuireadh de chúram orainn tionscnaimh chomórtha faoi stiúir an phobail a fhorbairt, i gcuimhne ar an tréimhse chasta agus dhúshlánach inár stair. Cuireadh fáilte romhainn béim leathan a ghlacadh chun freagairt d’imeachtaí suntasacha agus téamaí ón tréimhse seo, a d’aithin gach gné atá fite fuaite sa chomhlint - gníomhaíocht mhíleata, comhthéacs polaitiúil, sóisialta, eacnamaíochta agus gnéithe cultúrtha, agus oidhreachtaí. Bhain Cill Chainnigh an dúshlán seo amach ina raibh réimse leathan tionscnamh a chuir lenár dtuiscint ar Chill Chainnigh sa tréimhse seo; scéalta bunaithe a bhí dúshlánach agus casta; réimse foinsí cartlainne a rochtain a bhain leis an tréimhse do na glúnta amach romhainn; agus cuimhneamh go measúil ar réimse an tathí saoil de mhuintir Chill Chainnigh a mhair 100 bliain ó shin.

Táim muiníneach go mbainfidh léitheoirí taitneamh as an bhfoilseachán seo mar thaifead ar an gcaoi ar chuimhníomar agus a rinneamar machnamh ar na himeachtaí 100 bliain ó shin. Molaim na daoine aonair, na pobail agus na heagraíochtaí ar fud an Chontae a chuir chomh mór sin le Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán i gCill Chainnigh agus freisin don fhoireann i gComhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh, go háirithe san Oifig Oidhreachta, sa tSeirbhís Leabharlainne, san Oifig Ealaíne agus sa Roinn Chorpáraídeach; agus Coiste Dheich mBliana na gCuimhneachán Chomhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh atá ann faoi láthair agus a bhí ann san am a chuaigh thart.

An Comhairleoir Michael Doyle  
Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh

## Foreword

This publication collates the wide variety of events, projects and initiatives that combine to tell the story of how the Decade of Centenaries was marked in Kilkenny. It celebrates the engagement and commitment of communities across the County to uncover and commemorate their role in some of the most significant events in the history of modern Ireland.

The Decade of Centenaries Programme was initiated in 2012 and concluded in 2023. The objective throughout was to ‘promote an inclusive, respectful, authentic, measured, and consultative approach to commemorations, which encouraged a deeper understanding of the context of the time, recognising the differing perspectives on our shared history and seeking to strengthen peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.’ This approach was grounded in the guiding principles laid down by the National Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations.

From the outset, the government recognised that each local authority was best placed to determine what was appropriate for their local area, in light of local history and expertise, and to make decisions concerning initiatives to be supported from their funding allocation. We were tasked with supporting the development of community-led commemorative initiatives, in remembrance of this complex and challenging period in our history. We were invited to adopt a broad focus in responding to the significant events and themes of this period, which recognised all of the dimensions interwoven with the conflict – the military activity, the political context, social, economic and cultural aspects, and legacies. Kilkenny rose to this challenge producing a diverse range of initiatives that enhanced our understanding of Kilkenny in this period; challenged and complicated established narratives; made accessible a range of archival sources relating to the period for future generations; and respectfully remembered the range of life experiences of Kilkenny people who lived 100 years ago.

I am confident that readers will enjoy this publication as a record of how we remembered and reflected on the events of 100 years ago. I commend the many individuals, communities and organisations across the County who have contributed so richly to Kilkenny’s Decade of Centenaries and also the staff of Kilkenny County Council, particularly in the Heritage Office, Library Service, Arts Office and Corporate Section; and Kilkenny County Council’s Decade of Centenaries Committee past and present.

Cllr Michael Doyle  
Cathaoirleach, Kilkenny County Council

# Introduction

During the Revolutionary Period of 1912-23, Ireland's identity, society and politics were completely re-shaped. A decade-long programme of national and local initiatives explored various aspects of these political and social events. Kilkenny's Decade of Centenaries, 1912-23/2012-23 documents the range of respectful, creative and reflective commemorative initiatives that took place in Kilkenny to remember the people and events of this period in our history. These initiatives were supported by Kilkenny County Council, funded under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme.

The work of historians, archivists, librarians, curators, artists, heritage professionals and others across communities has enhanced greatly our understanding of this period. It has made accessible an extensive repository of archival information and historical interpretation for future generations. Central to this has been the considerable research and exploration carried out by local men and women in communities across the county, many of whom are directly descendant of the very people engaged in local occurrences of the era. This work has de-bunked the myth that little happened in Kilkenny during this period and brought to light the crucial role played by the people in Kilkenny in this turbulent and nation-building decade.

Over the past 11 years, communities across Kilkenny have deeply engaged and re-connected with the story of their place during 1912-1923. Personal, family and community experiences were brought to life through research, publications, films, theatre, exhibitions, re-enactments and the myriad other endeavors that are documented in this publication. Throughout the Decade of Centenaries community groups, schools, cultural institutions, civic leaders and a range of organisations across the county marked significant events. The interpretation of historical events by our artists and creative practitioners encouraged reflection and provided a platform for considering issues that may have been challenging, difficult and sometimes deeply personal. Kilkenny Libraries, Heritage Office and Arts Office also played a special role in connecting and engaging with local communities.

A debt of gratitude is owed to everyone across the county who played their part in remembering the events of 1912-23 in Kilkenny. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the staff of Kilkenny County Council past and present who supported this work and developed council-led initiatives, in particular the members of the Decade of Centenaries Committee. My thanks also to Eoin Swithin Walsh for contributing the essay and timeline to this booklet; to Bernadette Roberts and Diane Seale for collating the content; and to Abartá Heritage and Modern Printers for their work in producing the booklet.

# The Decade of Centenaries - Kilkenny

## 1912-23/2012-23

By Eoin Swithin Walsh

How is the 'Decade of Centenaries' over already? Notwithstanding it was a decade 'plus one year' - which in retrospect was very useful due to the interlude caused by the small matter of a global epidemic - time still seems to have flown by. Unquestionably, our knowledge and understanding of people and events from a century ago have been greatly deepened and enhanced by this recent decade of commemorations. The decision by the Government and Expert Advisory Group to 'outsource' much of the centenary activities to the local communities and county councils was an inspired move in hindsight. It allowed the local people - most notably, schools, libraries and historical societies - to take ownership of their specific commemoration. This fantastic publication has recorded many of these memorials and events for posterity.

Furthermore, the idea to 'commemorate', rather than 'celebrate', allowed for disparate and often forgotten voices and stories to be heard. Indeed, previous commemorations often focused solely on the military aspect of the revolution. This past eleven years have allowed us to expand our scope and examine different facets of the revolutionary era. So instead of a 'black and white' version of history and a 'one size fits all' approach to commemoration, we saw a more nuanced exploration of past events. This can only be a healthy outcome in our attempts to comprehend the past.

### Local Events to the Fore

During this past decade, instead of national personalities, the names of local protagonists of the revolutionary era in Kilkenny came to the fore. Names such as Peter DeLoughry, Tom Treacy, Jim Lalor, Hannah Dooley, Ned Aylward and the Stallard sisters of Danville. Indeed, a major spotlight has been shone on the important role women played during this period, something that was often kept in the shadows in the past. Along with local commemorations around the 'big events', such as Easter 1916, other lesser-known events were also remembered. This included the Home Rule crisis, the 1917 Kilkenny City by-election, the conscription crisis, female suffrage, and the 1918-19 flu epidemic. One of the most successful aspects of this past decade in County Kilkenny was the recognition of the 3,000+ local men and women who played their parts in the First World War. This included the 830 people who lost their lives as a result of that conflict.

## A Recap of the Revolutionary Decade in Kilkenny - 1912–23

I don't think any of our ancestors who were alive in 1912 could have envisioned the dramatic changes in society that the following decade would bring. The 'Home Rule Crisis' was the catalyst that started the ball rolling. Due to happenstance, the Irish Party in the House of Commons in London found themselves holding the balance of power. Their primary demand was 'Home Rule'. The leader of the Irish Party, John Redmond, was a native of Wexford and his constituency was Waterford City. Thus, there was a strong affinity with his cause in neighbouring Kilkenny. Having a parliament in Dublin was not to everyone's liking however. Over 300 southern unionists gathered in Kilkenny Castle in 1912 in protest at such a move. The outbreak of the First World War though, diverted all attention. The British government's promise of Home Rule after the war meant Redmond supported the war effort. He received the Freedom of Kilkenny City in October 1914 as a result of his efforts.

A secret group called the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) decided they would not let the 'opportunity' of the First World War pass without a strike for Irish freedom. They wanted complete separation, much more than Home Rule. The leaders of the Kilkenny IRB were Peter DeLoughry, along with Pat Corcoran and Tom Stallard. The IRB had actually been founded by a Kilkenny man, James Stephens, in 1858, so they had a strong legacy to follow. Due to conflicting orders received from Dublin during Easter week 1916, the Kilkenny contingent of the IRB and their corresponding militia, the Irish Volunteers, did not actively participate in the Easter rebellion, although they were willing and able. However, some Kilkenny natives based in Dublin did play an active part. Over 30 people from Kilkenny were arrested after the rebellion and interned, including the President of the GAA, local man, James Nowlan.

There was a sea-change in support for Irish independence in the aftermath of 1916. This was confirmed with the result of the 1917 Kilkenny City By-Election. The Irish Party, which had held the seat for decades, were usurped by the Sinn Féin candidate WT Cosgrave, who also happened to be a survivor of the Easter rebellion.

## Conscription Crisis

Nationalistic fervour reached its pinnacle when the British government attempted to introduce conscription to Ireland in April 1918. Parishes all over Kilkenny witnessed a near quadrupling of men enlisting in local Irish Volunteer groups, in protest against the draft. The women of Cumann na mBan organised pledges - basically petitions - against conscription on 'Lá na mBan', in June 1918. The British authorities responded by banning all public gatherings unless licenced by the RIC. The result was 'Gaelic Sunday' in August 1918. In tandem with GAA clubs around the country, hurling and football games were organised for the exact same time all over County Kilkenny. The RIC couldn't possibly attend everything and just gave up. It was another moral victory, in what could be termed; 'passive resistance'.

## War of Independence (1919-21)

During the War of Independence, the local Irish Volunteers were rebranded the 'Irish Republican Army (IRA)'. The conflict started in Kilkenny in a more benign way, before escalating. During the spring of 1919, the local IRA began obstructing foxhunting groups, in a demonstration against Irish political prisoners in English jails. Later in 1919, RIC men and their families were boycotted, to varying degrees, in towns and villages all around the county.

It should be noted that there were many different ways people contributed to the independence movement. Non-combative activities included raiding for arms, electioneering duties, censoring mails, collecting subscriptions for the Dáil Loan (to raise funds), delivering dispatches, scouting, trenching roads, providing medical assistance, cutting communication lines, and parading/drilling. These activities were often in tandem with trying to run a home or hold down a job. In March 1920, the Kilkenny IRA had a major coup when they successfully captured the first RIC Barracks in Leinster, at Hugginstown.

During the summer of 1920, the arrival of the elite Auxiliaries to Woodstock in Inistioge and the Black and Tans to RIC barracks all around the county, seriously upped the ante. Violence, house burnings, arrests and beatings became much more common place. The capture of IRA leader Ernie O'Malley in Inistioge - partly due to his own carelessness - was a moral blow. The final months of the War of Independence were the bloodiest however, with most of the twenty fatalities occurring during that period. Ambushes or clashes took place in Friary Street in the City, Garryricken, Moonarch Woods, Ninemilehouse, Tullaroan, Mullinavat, Coolbawn near Castlecomer, and at Sinnott's Cross near Mooncoin - to name but a few. Civilians were also unfortunately caught in the crossfire.

None more poignant than Margaret Ryan from Callan, who was expecting a baby at the time she was shot through the door of her premises by Auxiliaries. She passed away on Christmas Eve 1920. Eight civilians died altogether, including those 'executed as informers'.

## Truce and Civil War (1921-1923)

The truce of July 1921 was a relief to the local populace. The jailbreak of 44 political prisoners from Kilkenny Gaol in November 1921, via their own custom-made tunnel and which included a jailbreaking priest Fr Delahunty, added a touch of humour and excitement to the county. That positivity didn't last long, once the divisions caused by the Treaty became clear. Those who felt the Treaty was too much of a compromise took the anti-Treaty side. It could be argued Kilkenny City witnessed the first shots of the Civil War. A raging gun battle broke out for two days in May 1922 after the anti-Treaty IRA took over major buildings, including Kilkenny Castle and St Canice's Cathedral. The Free State forces, led by Commandant Prout, cleared them, which meant civil war had been contained, for the time being.

It did not last however, as by the summer, nationwide civil strife had broken out. Most of the Civil War fighting in Kilkenny took place in the rural parts of the county, with guerrilla tactics once again being deployed. Kilkenny Military Barracks witnessed two Free State executions in December 1922, with two local IRA men, John Murphy and John Phelan, being in the firing line. Sadly, the Civil War witnessed more Kilkenny related fatalities than had been the case during the War of Independence. Over forty people were killed, including Kilkenny natives who died outside the county.

The general public was upended by the Civil War in many ways, none more so than disruption to the rail lines, which were targeted by anti-Treaty forces. The anti-Treaty IRA gathering that effectively ended the Civil War took place just over the Kilkenny border in Poulacapple. A melancholic ending to what was certainly a 'decade of change'.



## Legacy

The recent 'Decade of Centenaries' in Kilkenny has witnessed many lectures, re-enactments, tours and workshops around the parishes and libraries of the county. In the more permanent sphere of remembrance, a number of monuments and plaques that have been unveiled around the county, commemorating different aspects of the revolutionary decade. There have also been numerous publications, Zoom talks and podcasts which will have long term benefits (much information is available on the Kilkenny library website; [kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our\\_services](http://kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our_services)). Aside from a renewed interest in the past, perhaps the greatest legacy of recent years is the increase in the richness of historical sources. Many of these are available for the very first time, which will be a boon to scholars and historians for decades to come. The Military Archives of Ireland have digitised huge amounts of their collection. Their 'Bureau of Military History' section has over twenty witness statements from Kilkenny participants of the revolutionary period. Even more detailed are the 'Military Service Pensions Collection'. At the time of writing, the applications of over 300 Kilkenny participants of the War of Independence and Civil War - both men and women - have been digitised and are freely available, with more to come. In these documents, the veterans of the conflict outline what they did during the troubled period (both collections can be accessed at [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)). Also, now freely available is the 'Dictionary of Irish Biography', which has many Kilkenny personalities in its collection ([www.dib.ie](http://www.dib.ie)). It is also now possible to view the birth, death and marriage records of people who lived one hundred years ago, again free online, through the 'civil records' section of; [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie).

Even at local level, gems have been unearthed. The Kilkenny Archaeological Society have digitised the names and addresses of the over one thousand local women who signed the anti-conscription pledge in 1918 ([kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie/library/la-na-mban-project](http://kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie/library/la-na-mban-project)).

Without a doubt, our understanding of what happened in this country a century ago has been greatly enhanced by the recent 'Decade of Centenaries'. The legacy is the myriad of resources that are now at our disposal which will endure and continue to help us to decipher the complexities of that era for many years to come. This is an outcome everyone can be proud of, as it rightly does justice to the memory of those who came before.



# Decade of Centenary Events





# 2013

## **Kilkenny Military Heritage Project Website**

**Event location:** Online

**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office/  
James Stephens Military Barracks/Larry Scallan

Development of a new Kilkenny Military Heritage Project website which presents information about various aspects of Kilkenny's military heritage including military events that took place throughout Co. Kilkenny; the establishment of military groups in the county; soldiers who were natives of Kilkenny; and a record of who served in action in Ireland and overseas. It also provides information and links to the Kilkenny Military Heritage and Historic Graves project, which published grave memorials with a military heritage association in the county.

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Kilkenny-Military-Graves.pdf>

A number of other military barracks existing in the city of Cork before the present barracks. In the year 1793, General Sir James Barrington, the 1st Viscount Barrington, was appointed to the command of the Cork Garrison. He was the first to see the necessity of a new barracks for the Garrison. The new barracks was built on the site of the old barracks in 1793. The barracks was built on the site of the old barracks in 1793. The barracks was built on the site of the old barracks in 1793.



Military Barracks Lawrence 1900

Private Patrick Hayes - a Kilkenny Story

The story of Private Patrick Hayes was a true and stirring tale. He was a member of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment. He was a member of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment. He was a member of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment. He was a member of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment. He was a member of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment.



Royal Irish Regiment



Private Patrick Hayes

2014

Kilkenny on the Eve of War

Event location: Countywide
Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service

Kilkenny Library Service Local Studies produced a brochure titled Kilkenny on the Eve of War. It covered events involving Kilkenny residents, Home Rule, James Stephens Barracks and and the story of Private Patrick Hayes of Kilkenny's Greens Hill.

https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/whats\_on/kilkenny-on-the-eve-of-war.pdf

Ulster Covenant

We, whose names are underwritten, women of Ulster, and loyal subjects of our Gracious King, being firmly persuaded that Home Rule would be disastrous to our country, desire to associate ourselves with the men of Ulster in their uncompromising opposition to the Home Rule Bill now before Parliament, whereby it is proposed to drive Ulster out of her cherished place in the Constitution of the United Kingdom and to place her under the domination and control of a Parliament in Ireland.

Praying that from this calamity God will save Ireland, we hereto subscribe our names.

Name Address

Anna Cecilia McElland - 18 High Street, Kilkenny

Miss M. McElland, 18 High Street, Kilkenny

# 2015

## Kilkenny County Council Naming & Commemorative Memorials Policy

Event location: Countywide  
Organisers: Kilkenny County Council Naming and Commemorative Memorial Committee

Development of a new Kilkenny County Council Naming and Commemorative Memorials Policy which sets out the criteria and processes by which Kilkenny County Council will consider the commemoration of people, events and landmarks by the installation of memorials in the public realm.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/publications/council\\_publications/naming-and-commemorative-memorial-policy-adopted-.html#:~:text=%2D%20For%20an%20event%20to%20be,history%20and%20development%20of%20Kilkenny.](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/publications/council_publications/naming-and-commemorative-memorial-policy-adopted-.html#:~:text=%2D%20For%20an%20event%20to%20be,history%20and%20development%20of%20Kilkenny.)

## Audit of Civic Memorials in Co. Kilkenny

Event location: Countywide  
Organisers: Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office/Carrig Conservation International Ltd

The Heritage Office with co-funding from the Heritage Council, commissioned an audit of plaques, memorials and significant signs in Co. Kilkenny. Over 300 plaques, memorials and signs from across 61 towns and villages were recorded and will be of interest to local historians, community groups, historical societies and local authority planners.

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Kilkenny-Audit-of-Memorials-Final-Report-15-11-10.pdf>



## In the Shades of Slievenamon - The Flying Column Kilkenny 1916-1921

Event location: MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre, Kilkenny City  
Organisers: Jim Maher

Launch of *In the Shades of Slievenamon - The Flying Column Kilkenny 1916-1921* by Jim Maher.

<http://www.geographypublications.com/product/the-flying-column-west-kilkenny-1916-1921/>

## Launch of the Kilkenny 2016 Plan

Event location: Rothe House, Kilkenny City

Organisers: Kilkenny County Council

Event to officially launch the Kilkenny 2016 Plan of Commemoration.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

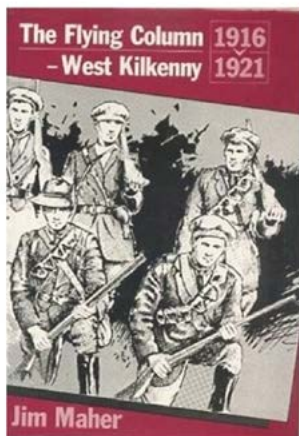
### Decade of Centenaries Kilkenny Library Autumn Lecture Series

#### 'The Flying Column West Kilkenny 1916-1921'

*A Lecture by Jim Maher*

City Library,  
John's Quay  
Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November  
@ 6.30pm

FREE LECTURE  
ALL WELCOME



An Roinn Cultúir,  
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Culture,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

# 1916 2016

## Remembrance Service

**Event location:** County Hall, Kilkenny  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council Corporate Services

Remembrance Service in County Hall, Kilkenny attended by civic leaders, to launch the year of commemorations.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Your shop / business as it was in 1916

**Event location:** Kilkenny City  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council

Map and streetscape period photographs were displayed in shop fronts to provide a sense of the times and styles prevailing in Kilkenny at the turn of the 19th to 20th Century.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Kilkenny: Subjects to Citizens 1912-1923

**Event location:** Online  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Education Committee

Launch of Kilkenny: *Subjects to Citizens 1912-1923* website which provided resources on the Revolutionary period for teachers and students.

<https://kec1916project.wordpress.com/>

## Kilkenny Library 1916 Centenary Programme

**Event location:** Countywide  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Library Service

A series of workshops, theatre show and provision of Irish classes around 1916 plus purchase of books relating to this period.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Callan 1916 Centenary events

**Event location:** Callan  
**Organisers:** Callan 1916 Commemoration Committee

Callan 1916 Centenary Commemoration events consisted of a variety of local monthly events under the auspices of Callan 1916 Commemoration Committee, which commenced in September 2015 running up to Easter 2016, including a series of lectures, and culminating with a series of events in March 2016 remembering the people from Callan and surrounding districts who participated in the Easter rising and subsequent seminal events in Irish history.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082205462150>



## Play/Gala Concert

**Event location:** Duiske College & Abbey, Graiguenamanagh  
**Organisers:** Barrow Valley CDG

Barrow Valley Community Development Group hosted a two act play and gala concert in March 2016.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Seven Trees for Seven Signatories

**Event location:** County Hall, Kilkenny  
**Organisers:** Corporate Services, Kilkenny County Council

Planting of seven oak trees in the grounds of County Hall to mark Kilkenny's success in Tidy Towns and signify the seven signatories of the proclamation.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Women in 1916

**Event location:** Kilkenny Castle,  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council

The role of women in 1916 was remembered through a lecture by Lucy McDiarmid, author and Ann Murtagh, Kilkenny, reflecting the desire from the public consultation process to commemorate the undervalued role that women played in preparation for and direct involvement in the 1916 Rising.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Proclamation Day

**Event Location:** Countywide  
**Organisers:** Schools Countywide

Schools across Kilkenny celebrated our first ever Proclamation Day to celebrate and mark the significance of the Proclamation of the Republic.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)



## Memorial Unveiling and Dedication of Memorial Garden in County Hall

**Event location:** County Hall, Kilkenny  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council

Unveiling of 1916 Memorial feature and dedication of Memorial Garden at County Hall.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Walking Kilkenny 1916

**Event location:** Kilkenny City  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council

A local walking tour of various Volunteer and Military heritage related sites, to assist in understanding the events attended by many of those national figures who visited Kilkenny during the build-up to the Rising and the aftermath—personalities such as Casement, MacNeill, MacDonagh, Redmond, Cathal Brugha, W. T. Cosgrave, DeValera—all held meetings in Kilkenny, and the landmark buildings still survive— City Hall, Market Yard, Kyteler’s Inn etc.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## St. Patricks Day Parade

**Event location:** Kilkenny City  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny St. Patricks Day Parade Committee

Parade themed around 1916/2016 with participants encouraged to interpret the centenary as widely as possible to be both reflective and forward looking.

<https://www.ireland2016.gov.ie/events/kilkenny-st-patricks-day-parade>



## Exhibitions with 1916 related themes

**Event location:** County Venues, Kilkenny  
**Organisers:** Design and Craft Council of Ireland

Design and Craft Council of Ireland exhibitions with 1916 related themes.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Diaspora visit to Kilkenny

Event location: Kilkenny

Organisers: Kilkenny County Council

Planned visit of Kilkenny Minnesota, U.S.A. to residents of Kilkenny Ireland to further explore the role played by Kilkenny natives in the founding of one of Minnesota's Irish settlements.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)



## Easter Sunday Commemoration in memory of Pat Walsh

Event location: Dunnamaggin/Kells

Organisers: Pat Walsh Memorial Committee

Commemoration on Easter Sunday in memory of Pat Walsh.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Freshford 1916 Commemoration Parade

Event location: Freshford

Organisers: Freshford Community 1916 Commemoration Committee

Freshford Community 1916 Commemoration Parade and Ceremony.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Commemoration Stone

Event location: The Rower

Organisers: The Rower Street Development Committee

Installation of a Commemoration Stone in The Rower.

## Unveiling of Plaque in Gáirdín An Ghorta

Event location: Newmarket

Organisers: Gáirdín An Ghorta Historical Society

Unveiling of Easter 1916 Commemorative Plaque in Gáirdín An Ghorta, Newmarket.

<https://www.facebook.com/thefaminegarden>

## Renovation of old IRA Monument

Event location: Knocknagress, Tullaroan

Organisers: Tullaroan Community

Cleaning & repairing of Old IRA Monument at Knocknagress, Tullaroan.

## Re-enactment of signing of Irish Proclamation

Event location: Kilkenny City

Organisers: The Flying Column/High Nelly Club

Re-enactment of events surrounding the signing of the Irish Proclamation.

## South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture Series

Event location: Mullinavat Parish Hall

Organisers: South Kilkenny Historical Society

A series of lectures held in 2015 and 2016 on topics relating to 1916.

## They Stood by Pearse's Side

Event location: Kilkenny City

Organisers: Kilkenny Flying Column Memorial Society

Flying Column Musical Drama - *They Stood by Pearse's Side* staged in Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny.

[https://issuu.com/watergatetheatre/docs/watergate\\_april\\_to\\_june\\_2016\\_prog](https://issuu.com/watergatetheatre/docs/watergate_april_to_june_2016_prog)

## Traditional Irish Music Night in Castlecomer

Event location: Castlecomer Community School

Organisers: Castlecomer Community School

Castlecomer Community School staged a Traditional Irish Music Night.

## Unveiling of Paddy Bealin Memorial Plaque

Event location: Castlecomer

Organisers: Kilkenny County Council

Unveiling of plaque commemorating Paddy Bealin, executed during the 1916 Rising. Followed by social event at Castlecomer Discovery Park.

## Midwives of the Nation

Event location: Kilkenny City

Organisers: Carnation Theatre

Staging of *Midwives of the Nation*, a play by Carnation Theatre at the Watergate Theatre.

[https://issuu.com/watergatetheatre/docs/watergate\\_april\\_to\\_june\\_2016\\_prog](https://issuu.com/watergatetheatre/docs/watergate_april_to_june_2016_prog)

## Thomas MacDonagh Week in Kilkenny

Event location: Kilkenny City

Organisers: Kilkenny County Council

Performances staged each day from 30th April - 3rd May in Watergate Theatre and on the streets of Kilkenny centred around the life of Thomas MacDonagh and focusing on his execution on 3rd May 1916.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/mcdonagh-week-flyer.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/mcdonagh-week-flyer.pdf)



## Portrait and Biography of Thomas MacDonagh

Event location: Kilkenny City

Organisers: Royal Irish Academy

Portrait and biography of Thomas Macdonagh as produced by the Royal Irish Academy to be displayed and made available by eReader and at MacDonagh Railway station.

<https://www.ria.ie/ga/node/93448>

## Paths to Freedom

Event location: Watergate

Theatre, Kilkenny City

Organisers: Watergate Theatre/

Pegasus Consulting

Musical event produced by Pegasus Consulting with the music of the era and highlighting the life of Thomas MacDonagh.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/mcdonagh-week-flyer.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/mcdonagh-week-flyer.pdf)

## Na Casaidigh, Seán Ó Sé and Friends in Concert at Duiske Abbey

Event location: Duiske Abbey,

Graigenamanagh

Organisers: Kilkenny County

Council Arts Office

Featuring music from 1916 and excerpts from Odhrán Ó Casaide's Requiem Marbhna 1916.

[https://www.facebook.com/KilkennyArtsOffice/photos/sean-%C3%B3-s%C3%A9-and-na-casaidigh-come-together-to-celebrate-in-duiske-the-legendary-tr/1046847828685371/?paipv=0&eav=AfZ3LT4oz9uEbsH4KxYhk-ikk1DsCAF1qOAXetmIkAokT5ZtkByD9S0byplivwneY&\\_rdr](https://www.facebook.com/KilkennyArtsOffice/photos/sean-%C3%B3-s%C3%A9-and-na-casaidigh-come-together-to-celebrate-in-duiske-the-legendary-tr/1046847828685371/?paipv=0&eav=AfZ3LT4oz9uEbsH4KxYhk-ikk1DsCAF1qOAXetmIkAokT5ZtkByD9S0byplivwneY&_rdr)

## Sinnotts Cross Monument Unveiling

Event location: Sinnotts

Cross, Mooncoin

Organisers: Sinnotts Cross

Memorial Committee

Unveiling of the Sinnotts Cross Monument which commemorated the men and women volunteers of the 19th Kilkenny Battalion who played their part in the fight for Irish Independence.

## Floral Display

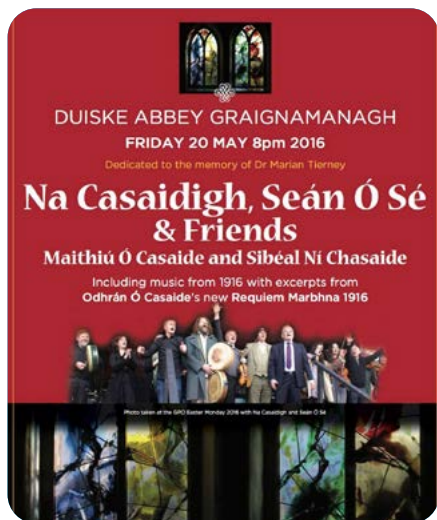
Event location: Graigenamanagh

Organisers: Graigenamanagh

Tidy Towns Committee

Floral display green, white and gold in Graigenmanagh.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile/100064619115145/search/?q=1916>



## Conference on Irish Language

**Event location:** Rothe House, Kilkenny  
**Organisers:** Conradh na Gaeilge

Conference on the role of Conradh na Gaeilge and the Irish Revival.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Exploring the Theme of Citizenship

**Event location:** County wide  
**Organisers:** Callan Workhouse Union

Callan Workhouse Union hosted workshops exploring the theme of citizenship.

[www.workhouseunion.com](http://www.workhouseunion.com)

## Leinster Fleadh Cheoil

**Event location:** Loughboy, Kilkenny  
**Organisers:** Leinster Fleadh Cheoil Committee

Irish song and dance played an influential role in the Irish Revival and this event commemorated the importance of our musical heritage.

<https://www.ireland2016.gov.ie/events/leinster-fleadh-cheoil>

## National Day of Commemoration Regional Ceremony

**Event location:** Kilkenny Castle  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council

National Day of Commemoration Regional Ceremony followed by display of 1916 themed memorabilia at Kilkenny Castle.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## The Hell Fire Squad Ceremony

**Event location:** Watergate Theatre  
**Organisers:** Devious Theatre Group

This play was developed for 1916 by Kilkenny theatre group, Devious Theatre. An action packed comedy written by Peter McGann and John Morton about the assembly, training and deployment of Michael Collins infamous hit squad.

<https://devioustheatre.com/past-shows/hellfire-squad-2016/>

## Poetry Workshop

**Event location:** Kilkenny Castle  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Arts Festival

Exploration of work of poets and the poetry of 1916 facilitated by Paul Muldoon in collaboration with Kilkenny Arts Festival.

[https://issuu.com/kilkennyartsfestival/docs/kilkenny\\_arts\\_festival\\_2016/26](https://issuu.com/kilkennyartsfestival/docs/kilkenny_arts_festival_2016/26)



## Kilkenny City Street Festivals

**Event location:** Kilkenny City  
**Organisers:** Street Fest

Street Festivals in Kilkenny City provided an opportunity to revisit both the role of housing schemes in Kilkenny and reconnect residents with the stories behind the estate names.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## Lt. Richard Healy Commemoration

**Event location:** Conahy  
**Organisers:** Conahy Heritage Society

The Conahy Heritage Society hosted a 1916-2016 commemoration event on Sunday 21st August to remember Lt. Richard (Dick) Healy formally of Kilcollan, Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny and Irish Volunteers, D Company, 2nd Battalion, GPO Garrison.

## Kilkenny and the Somme

**Event location:** Kilkenny City  
**Organisers:** Great War Memorial Committee

Remembrance ceremony organised by the Kilkenny Great War Memorial Committee in memory of those who lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## The Birth of a Nation- Heritage Week 2016

Event location: Barrowvale, Goresbridge  
 Organisers: Barrowvale  
 Local History Group  
 National School project competition -  
*The Birth of a Nation.*

## Official opening of Medieval Mile Museum at St. Mary's Church and Graveyard Complex with Kilkenny and 1916 Exhibition

Event location: Medieval Mile Museum  
 Organisers: Medieval Mile Museum

A major new cultural centre in the heart of Ireland's Medieval Mile. A modern museum and exhibition centre. Museum opened with an exhibition on the theme of Kilkenny and 1916.

[www.medievalmilemuseum.ie](http://www.medievalmilemuseum.ie)



## Kilkenny's 1916 Commemoration in 1966

Event location: City Library  
 Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service  
 Kilkenny Library Service hosted an exhibition on the topic of the Commemoration of 1916 which took place in Kilkenny in 1966.

## Relief Scheme to families of Jailed Irish Volunteers 1916

Event location: Loughboy  
 Library, Kilkenny  
 Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service  
 Kilkenny Library Service hosted an exhibition titled Relief Scheme to families of Jailed Irish Volunteers 1916.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our-services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/>

## Kilkenny 1916: Contexts and Controversies

Event location: St. Kieran's  
 College Kilkenny City  
 Organisers: NUI Maynooth  
 - Kilkenny Campus

Public lecture series on the cultural and political context of the 1916 Rising with a focus on Kilkenny.

<https://tipperarystudies.ie/kilkenny-1916-contexts-controversies-sept-1st-2nd-5th-6th/>

## Voices of 1916 Drama

**Event location:** Ionad Dara, Goresbridge

**Organisers:** Kilkumney Players

Kilkumney Players developed the play *Voices of 1916* based on eye witness accounts of the Easter Rising in Dublin, 1916. The Bureau of Military History (BMH) was set up to record the memories of eye witnesses of the pivotal period in Irish history from 1913 to 1921. The accounts on which the play is based were given by survivors during the 1940's and 1950's but were not released until 2003 after the last witness had died.

## The Messenger

**Event location:** Watergate Theatre

**Organisers:** Barnstorm Theatre Company

A partnership between Barnstorm Theatre Company and Kilkenny County Council's Centenary Programme. World-premiere of a new play for children set during the 1916 Rising, and seen from the perspective of a young boy living in the Dublin of that time.

<https://barnstorm.ie/the-messenger/>

## Éigse Sliabh Rua

**Event location:** Slieverue

**Organisers:** Éigse Sliabh Rua Committee

Éigse took place took place in November 2016 included a feature on the 1916 Rising and a lecture on Kilkenny GAA.

<https://www.ireland2016.gov.ie/events/eigse-sliabh-rua>

## Garden of Remembrance

**Event location:** Tullahought

**Organisers:** Tullahought Community Development Committee

Opening of Garden of Remembrance.

<http://www.windgap.ie/blog---notes-and-parish-bulletin/windgap-tullahought-notes-in-the-kilkenny-people-on-june-22nd-2016>

## Closing Ceremony for 1916 commemoration year

**Event location:** County Hall, Kilkenny

**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council Corporate Services

Musical recital and reflection on the commemoration of 1916 in County Hall, Kilkenny attended by civic leaders.

[https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council\\_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf](https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/council_news/1916-centenary/kilkenny-1916-2016-centenary-programme.pdf)

## James Stephens Barracks Military History Exhibition

**Event location:** James Stephens Barracks

**Organisers:** James Stephens Barracks

The barracks itself was a significant building which was central to Kilkenny's military heritage. The military heritage on display had a 1916 focus for visitors with material relevant to the period.





2017

## **Moments with Monuments**

**Event location:** Radio series/Countywide

**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office

Moments with Monuments was a radio series highlighting the stories behind some of the monuments and plaques in Kilkenny. It was initiated in 2015 and the series was broadcast on KCLR every Wednesday from 1st February 2017 (50 x 5 minutes segments).

<https://soundcloud.com/user-835352453/sets/moments-with-monuments>



2018

## Lá na mBan Project

Event location: Online

Organisers: Kilkenny Archaeological Society/Ann Murtagh

A Kilkenny Archaeological Society project which centred around the 1015 women who marched through Kilkenny on 9th June 1918 opposing conscription to the British Army. Project included a lecture and workshops with Ann Murtagh historian/writer.

<https://kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie/library/la-na-mban-project/>

## Gallipoli, The GPO and Flanders

Event location: Medieval Mile Museum, Kilkenny

Organisers: Michael Holohan/  
Medieval Mile Museum

Event at the Medieval Mile Museum centred around war letters of Michael Holohans uncles; excerpts from the diaries of his other grand-uncle Seosamh de Brún who fought with

Thomas MacDonagh in 1916; and a British soldier who organised the firing squad for MacDonagh's execution. RTÉ Contempo String Quartet performed music composed by Michael Holohan with actors Barry McGovern and Donal O'Kellys reading from the letters etc.

<https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/15-november-2018-gallipoli-the-gpo-and-flanders-medieval-mile-museum-kilkenny/>

## Mná na hÉireann Roadshow

Organisers: Kilkenny Libraries  
Service/Pegasus Media  
Location: City Library

Celebrating the historic winning of the right to vote, this acclaimed roadshow visited Kilkenny City Quay Library on Culture Night for an evening of lectures and music.

<https://kilkennycoco.ie/eng/news/press-releases/culture-night-programme.pdf>

2019

## 1st Dáil Commemoration

**Event location:** Rose

Garden, County Hall

**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council  
Heritage Office/Corporate Affairs

Kilkenny County Council Commemoration of 1st sitting of Dáil Éireann 1919. Monday 21st January 2019, tree planting, playing of General Salute and National Anthem.

## Home Rule Club Decade of Centenaries Programme

**Event location:** Home

Rule Club, Kilkenny

**Organisers:** Home Rule Club

The Home Rule Club held 6 events as part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme which included archival exhibitions and lectures.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/news/latest-news/decade-of-centenaries-programme.pdf>

## Pat Walsh Memorial Festival Weekend

**Event location:** Dunnamaggin  
and surrounding area

**Organisers:** Pat Walsh  
Memorial Committee

The Pat Walsh Memorial Committee hosted a commemorative weekend for local patriot Pat Walsh who fought and died during the War of Independence in Kilkenny this included a historical lecture, Parade, Oration, Irish song and dance, Children's easter egg hunt and a cabaret.

<https://www.facebook.com/PatWalshMemorial/>

## South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture Series

**Event location:** Mullinavat Parish Hall

**Organisers:** South Kilkenny  
Historical Society

Series of seven lectures to promote and encourage interest and participation in local history which included:

The 1918/1919 Housing Crisis; The beginning of the War of Independence in Kilkenny; The Phoenix Park Assassinations; The Fethard-on-Sea Boycott.

## City Library Lecture Series

Event location: City Library, Kilkenny

Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service

Kilkenny's City Library held an Autumn Lecture series of four lectures all about the events of 1919 in Kilkenny.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/news/latest-news/decade-of-centenaries-programme.pdf>

## Local Studies 1919-1923 Post-Primary Schools Outreach Programme

Event location: Countywide

Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service

Based on the Aeraíochtaí of 1919, Ann Murtagh guided 5th class school children as they took on the roles of historians and writers while Finbar Dwyer created and presented a series of workshops on using primary sources for History projects with a focus on Kilkenny events from 1919 -1923 etc.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our-services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/>



2020

## The Friary Street Ambush and War of Independence

Event location: Online

Organisers: Larry Scallan/Infinity Media

Research & production of film on Kilkenny's War of Independence telling the story of the Friary St Ambush that took place in Kilkenny City on 21st Feb 1921.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvMdv\\_1ir2o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvMdv_1ir2o)

## Trasna na Tíre Online History Talks

Event location: Online

Organisers: Trasna na Tíre

Website development, digital technology and professional photographs for the Trasna na Tíre website to support their online history talks.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TrasnanaTíre>

## Kilkenny 1920 Podcast Series

Event location: Online

Organisers: Eoin Swithin Walsh/  
Kilkenny Library Service

Research, edit and delivery of historical podcasts about Kilkenny in 1920 by Eoin Swithin Walsh.

[https://kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our\\_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/happenings-in-kilkenny-in-1920/](https://kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/happenings-in-kilkenny-in-1920/)





## Historical Postcards

Event location: Countywide

Organiser: Kilkenny Library Service

Design and print of a series of 12 postcards showcasing key sites associated with historical events in Kilkenny in the 1920's.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our-services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/>

## Online History Workshop for Primary Schools

Event location: Online

Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service /Ann Murtagh

Development of an online history workshop, supporting activities and curriculum links for primary schools about the history of the period 1912-1923.

<https://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/services/heritage/kilkenny%20county%20council%20decade%20of%20centenaries%20programme%202020.html>

## Pat Walsh - The Life and Legacy of an Irish Revolutionary

Event location: On-line

Organisers: Pat Walsh Memorial Committee

Development of film documentary about Capt. Patrick Walsh, Dunnamaggin who died in May 1921 including strategy development workshop, script-writing, video shooting, editing and post and audio production.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jg81C1DWts>



# 2021

## Friary St Ambush

**Event location:** Friary St, Kilkenny  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council Corporate Affairs

Small ceremony, led by the Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council to commemorate the centenary of the Friary St. Ambush which involved the death of Tom Hennessy, Michael Dermody and innocent by-stander Thomas Dullard. Commemorative plaque erected.

## Podcasts, Film and Brochure

**Event location:** Countywide  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Library Service

A programme of projects to inform and raise awareness about events which took place in Co. Kilkenny in 1921. This included 14 podcasts, a film and brochure about the Kilkenny Gaol break produced by Kilkenny County Council Library Service Local Studies.

[https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our\\_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/](https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/)

## The History Fix - Series 1

**Event location:** Countywide  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office/KCLR

A series of 12 episodes covering all aspects of local history, heritage and culture particular to 100 yrs ago aired weekly on KCLR.

<https://kclr96fm.com/tahe-history-fix/>

## The History Fix- Series 2

**Event location:** Countywide  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office/KCLR

A series of 12 episodes covering all aspects of local history, heritage and culture particular to 100 yrs ago aired weekly on KCLR.

<https://kclr96fm.com/the-history-fix/>

## Sinnott's Cross Ambush Memorial

**Event location:** Mooncoin  
**Organisers:** Sinnott's Cross Memorial Committee

A time capsule was placed at base of the Sinnott's Cross Ambush Memorial to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the ambush.

[https://kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our\\_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/the-sinnotts-cross-ambush/](https://kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/the-sinnotts-cross-ambush/)



## History Ireland Hedge School Podcast

**Event location:** Countywide  
**Organisers:** History Ireland (Wordwell)

History Ireland Hedge School podcast explored events and activities in Kilkenny during the revolutionary decade.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/kilkenny-in-the-revolutionary-decade/id1503109266?i=1000529774675>



## Coolbawn Women

**Event location:** Coolbawn  
**Organisers:** TADA! Theatre Group

Drama by TADA! Theatre Group about 3 women and their relationship to the Coolbawn Ambush which took place on 18th June 1921 - 3 actors read to a live audience.

<https://soundcloud.com/kclr96fm/coolbawn-women-a-radio-drama>

## The Reburial of Jackie Brett

**Event location:** Butler Gallery/Online  
**Organisers:** Kevin Hughes/Wallslough Studios

Short film about the consequences of events that took place in April 1921 in South Kilkenny when a member of the South Kilkenny Flying Column was accidentally shot by a teenage boy. Screening took place in the Butler Gallery.

<https://www.butlergallery.ie/assets/documents/The-Reburial-of-Jackie-Brett-Points-of-Interest.pdf>



## South Kilkenny Historical Society Online Lecture Series

**Event location:** Online

**Organisers:** South Kilkenny Historical Society

A series of 8 lectures, via zoom, on topics related to the Decade of Centenaries in Kilkenny, including: Joseph MacDonagh, T.D, Ernie O'Malley, the Coolbawn Ambush, the last months of British rule in Kilkenny, Cumann na mBan, and the Kilkenny Gaol break.

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/2021/05/kilkenny-county-council-decade-of-centenaries-programme-2021/>

## Kilkenny Archaeological Society Digitisation Project

**Event location:** Online

**Organisers:** Kilkenny Archaeological Society

Digitising and indexing of an archival collection of letters written in 1921 by people in Ireland to the American Committee for Relief in Ireland (ACRI) requesting funding to rebuild businesses from losses as a result of the activities of the Crown Forces.

<https://kilkennyarchaeologicalsociety.ie/library/archival-collections/>

## Captain Pat Walsh Centenary Commemoration

**Event location:** Online

**Organisers:** Pat Walsh Memorial Committee

An online commemoration of the death of Capt. Pat Walsh streamed live via Facebook and YouTube.

<https://www.facebook.com/PatWalshMemorial>

## Callan Garden of Remembrance and Reflection

**Event location:** Callan

**Organisers:** Callan Tidy Towns

Garden of Remembrance opening and reflection at the Fair Green, Callan.

## A Woman's Culm

**Event location:** Coolcullen

**Organisers:** Pauline O'Connell

An artistic project about women in Kilkenny in the early 20th Century, the local flying column and culm making (short film).

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/2022/01/kilkenny-county-council-decade-of-centenaries-programme-2021-3/>



2022

## Tales from the Barrack Walls

**Event location:** Loughboy Library  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Library Service/Larry Scallan

A talk about the lives of those at James Stephen's Barrack during the Revolutionary Period delivered by Larry Scallan.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/news/latest-news/decade-of-centenaries-programme.pdf>

## Keep Kilkenny Beautiful Flagpole Project

**Event location:** The Closh, Kilkenny City  
**Organisers:** Keep Kilkenny Beautiful

Temporary flagpole, flag and foundation for flagpole installed by Keep Kilkenny Beautiful to commemorate the outbreak of Civil War in September 1922.

<https://new.keepkilkennybeautiful.com/?p=523>

## History 100 Lectures

**Event location:** City Library and Loughboy Library  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Library Service

Pegasus Media & Consulting Ltd., an Irish company specialising in history productions and events, were commissioned to supply distinguished speakers for three events for Kilkenny Libraries.

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/2022/03/decade-of-centenaries-programme-2022/>

## The Untold Tales of Freedom

**Event location:** Rothe House, Kilkenny  
**Organisers:** Ita Morrissey

A community event organised by artist Ita Morrissey to remember the lives of people in Kilkenny during 1922 with a particular focus on an intimate portrayal of women during this time.

<https://www.kilkennypeople.ie/news/home/835165/community-project-to-tell-the-untold-stories-of-1922-in-kilkenny.html>

## The Burning of Woodstock

Event location KCLR / Online

Organisers: Gillian Grattan

Online audio drama inspired by the Burning of Woodstock House, Inistioge.

<https://kclr96fm.com/documentary/the-burning-of-woodstock-a-radio-drama/>

## South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture Series

Event location: Mullinavat Parish Hall and Online

Organisers: South Kilkenny Historical Society

A series of 8 lectures delivered by a range of speakers online and in Mullinavat Parish Hall.

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/2022/03/decade-of-centenaries-programme-2022/>



## Common Thread

Event location: City Library and Arts Office Culture Night  
Pop up tent on the Parade

Organisers: Carrie Lynam/Kilkenny County Council Arts Office/  
Heritage Office/Library Service

A collaborative project initiated by

visual artist Carrie Lynam along with Kilkenny County Council Arts Office and Library Service working with a group of twelve women from Open circle Community Arts. These women researched, designed and embroidered an artwork based on the experiences of women 100 years ago in Kilkenny and culminated in the making of an embroidered artwork that tells a story and connects the viewer to this time in our collective history.

<http://opencirclearts.ie/archive/2022/#::~:~:text=Common%20Thread%20Project&text=The%20objective%20was%20to%20research,in%20Kilkenny%20100%20years%20ago.>

## Dear Mother

Event location: Army Barracks in Kilkenny City and an old cottage in Newmarket, Co. Kilkenny.  
Screened in the Butler Gallery  
Organisers: Kevin Hughes/  
Wallslough Studios

*Dear Mother* is a 24-minute drama film, that examines the execution of John Murphy and John Phelan on 29th December 1921 during the Irish Civil War as the background to a story centred around a moving letter written by one of the condemned men to his mother hours before his execution.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT4xjgkPHi4>

## Windgap Grotto Centenary Event

**Event location:** Windgap Grotto  
**Organisers:** Windgap Tidy Towns

This event celebrated the centenary of the completion of Windgap Grotto in 1922.

[www.windgap.ie](http://www.windgap.ie)



## Local Studies Podcast Series

**Event location:** Online  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Library Service

A 12 episode podcast series produced by Kilkenny County Council Library Service covering topics related to the Civil War and life in Kilkenny in 1922.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our-services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/>

## Local Studies Lecture Series

**Event location:** Kilkenny Libraries  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Library Service

Four lectures on topics relating to events in 1921/1922 in Kilkenny.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our-services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/>

## Decade of Centenaries School Booklet

**Event location:** Primary School Network  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny Library Service

An information booklet on the period 1912-1923 for primary school students containing primary source material.

<https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our-services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/>

## The History Show

**Event location:** KCLR radio  
**Organisers:** Kilkenny County Council Heritage Office

A series of 10 episodes covering all aspects of local history, heritage and culture particular to 100 years ago aired weekly on KCLR.

<https://kclr96fm.com/category/catch-up/the-history-show-catchup/>

2023

## Decade of Centenaries Commemorative Booklet

Event location: Online

Organisers: Kilkenny County Council  
Heritage Office/Abarta Heritage

The purpose of this booklet is to document all of the projects funded by Kilkenny County Council under the Decade of Centenaries Programme over the past 11 years.

[www.kilkennyheritage.ie](http://www.kilkennyheritage.ie)



## Decade of Centenaries Oral History Project

Event location: Online

Organisers: Kilkenny County  
Council Heritage Office

This project comprises of a series of

oral history interviews with relatives of those active in Kilkenny during the Revolutionary period. The project aims to gather new perspectives and previously unheard stories relating to the Revolutionary Period in Kilkenny and to create awareness of Kilkenny's shared and diverse history. Conducted by MacConmara Heritage.

[www.kilkennyheritage.ie](http://www.kilkennyheritage.ie)

## Decade of Centenaries Podcast Series

Event location: Online

Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service

This podcast series, produced and presented by Eoin Swithin Walsh addresses events in Kilkenny in 1923 including Big House Burnings; Battles and Ambushes; the 1923 General Election and The Railway.

[https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our\\_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/](https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/)

## Decade of Centenaries Lecture Series

Event location: Countywide

Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service

Two lectures delivered at Kilkenny Libraries by Eoin Swithin Walsh - 'The Burling of Woodstock House' and 'The Decade of Centenaries: A Recap'.

[https://kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our\\_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/the-burling-of-woodstock-house/](https://kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/the-burling-of-woodstock-house/)



## Creative Children's Workshops

Event location: Countywide

Organisers: Kilkenny Library Service

Children's outreach programme bringing creative workshops on the Revolutionary Period into classrooms and school groups into the library to explore the period.

[https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our\\_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/](https://www.kilkennylibrary.ie/eng/our_services/decade-of-centenaries-resources/)

## Walking in their Footsteps, 1923

Event location: Kilkenny City

Organisers: Larry Scallan

A walking tour of the sites associated with the events of 1923 in Kilkenny City guided by Larry Scallan each evening of Heritage Week.

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/2023/08/heritage-week-2023-a/>

## The 1923 Project - From the Heart

Event location: Kilkenny City

Organisers: Ita Morrissey

A captivating and memorable community-engaged collaboration aimed at exploring the personal stories of Kilkenny's residents during the year 1923. This project consisted of a series of engaging workshops, performances, filming, and a screening designed to celebrate the rich history of the people of Kilkenny during the year 1923.

<https://kilkennyheritage.ie/2023/11/heritage-news-events-17-11-23/>



## South Kilkenny Historical Society Lecture Series

**Event location:** Mullinavat Parish Hall/Online  
**Organisers:** South Kilkenny Historical Society

Eight lectures delivered by a range of speakers in Mullinavat Parish Hall across 2023 on the theme of the Revolutionary Period.

## The Countess

**Event location:** Location: Countywide/Online  
**Organisers:** Gillian Grattan

This play looks at Lady Ellen Cuffe, who accepted membership of the Senate despite warnings by the anti-Treaty IRA that anybody agreeing to become a member of the Senate would be executed. This resulted in the burning of Desart Court. This piece looks at the life and achievements of Ellen Cuffe and the fire at Desart Court 1923.

<https://www.kilkennypeople.ie/news/arts/1297927/play-about-lady-desart-to-be-performed-in-kilkenny.html>

## Come Back

**Event location:** Online/Butler Gallery  
**Organisers:** Kevin Hughes/Wallslough Studios

A short film by Kevin Hughes that combines a number of local Kilkenny stories into one film that encapsulates the tragic loss of lives in the closing months of the Irish Civil War.

## Commemorative Ceremony

**Event location:** Mons, Belgium.  
**Organisers:** 8th Regiment of Foot Royal Irish Regiment (& South Irish Horse Association) Historical Association

To mark the centenary of the unveiling of the memorial the 18th Regiment of Foot Royal Irish Regiment (& South Irish Horse Association), the 8th Regiment of Foot Royal Irish Regiment (& South Irish Horse Association) Historical Association planned a commemorative ceremony in Mons on the 28th October 2023 at 11am to remember the sacrifice of these men and the losses incurred by their families as well as remembering the scores of men, Kilkenny men in their ranks who returned home to Ireland or UK.



Kilkenny County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

