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Clár Éire Ildánach
*Creative Ireland
Programme*



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

FÉILE NA STAIRÉ FHINE GALL

2024

1st – 13th
Deireadh Fómhair

FINGAL FESTIVAL OF HISTORY

2024

1st – 13th
October



fingal.ie

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Welcome to Fingal's eighth annual Festival of History which will run from Monday 1st to Sunday 13th October 2024 throughout our library branches. This year we have incorporated 10 talks, a pop-up museum and a heritage trail into our programme. Topics included are Balbriggan street names, Espionage, assassination and execution during the War of Independence in Ireland, the ban on entertainment during the Irish Civil War, Fingal deaths during WW1, Local History Research and the Last Land War, a talk by well-known historian, broadcaster and author Myles Dungan.

History at the Library Day takes place on Saturday 5th October in the newly refurbished Carnegie Free Library on North Street, Swords. Our four speakers will cover topics as diverse as the Malahide water supply controversy – *“Who should pay for the Water”* - servant life in the country houses of Fingal – *“Dismissed – to the general joy of ye family”* - living and working on Kenure Estate, Rush – *“Aspects of the history of Kenure House & Estate”* - and the improvements made to Howth Castle in the early 20th century – *“Ancient pile undergoes improvement”*.

This year we are again collaborating with **Clonsilla and Porterstown Heritage Society**. Join them on a 90-minute guided walk of the natural and built heritage of Clonsilla and the Royal Canal (Heritage Trail Sunday 6th October @11.30am). **Balbriggan and District Historical Society** are opening their pop-up museum beside The Central-Mrs. O's, Bridge Street, Balbriggan where the history of the town can be relived (Pop-up Museum Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th October from 12.00pm – 5.00pm).

We hope that there will be something of interest for everyone. All events are free to the public, but places may be limited so booking is advised.

Catherine Keane, Senior Librarian
Fingal Local Studies and Archives



Tuesday 1st October @ 6.30pm

Location: Balbriggan Library

Dr David Sorensen



The Street Names of Balbriggan 1760 – 1960



Dr David Sorensen is a long-time Balbriggan local historian. He has given presentations on topics as diverse as the history of national schools in the town, Balbriggan's famed textile heritage, Balbriggan Harbour and is currently researching the history of Balbriggan Courthouse. Most recently, along with his colleague, Petra Skyvova, he has been involved in the establishment of Balbriggan Heritage Society and Heritage Trail. His presentation will look at the history, development and changes to the street names of Balbriggan town.

To reserve a place please contact
Balbriggan Library at 01 870 4401
or email Balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie



Wednesday 2nd October @ 6.30pm

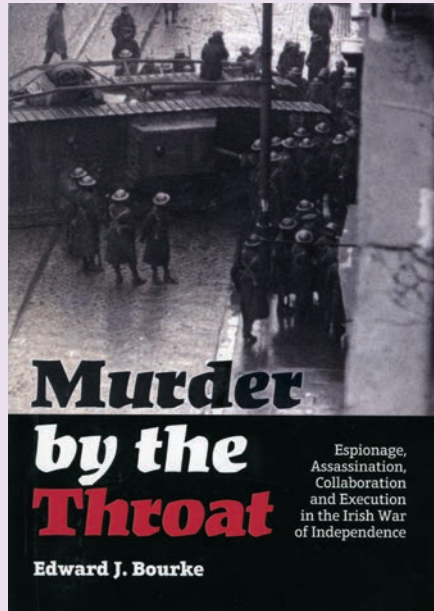
Location: Blanchardstown Library

Edward J. Bourke



Murder by the Throat: Espionage, Assassination, Collaboration and Execution in the Irish War of Independence

David Lloyd George boasted that he had 'murder by the throat' in a speech in London in 1920 having swamped Ireland with troops, Black and Tans, Auxiliaries, assassins, and informants. Eighteen months later the British left Ireland defeated by the counter-espionage of the men and women in the shadows who exposed the under-cover agents, stalled their assassinations and broke their spy network. **Edward J. Bourke**, using information newly investigated, outlines for us a web of espionage, assassination, collaboration and execution in the Irish War of Independence, which can only now be understood.



To reserve a place please contact Blanchardstown Library at 01 890 5560 or email Blanchlibrary@fingal.ie



Thursday 3rd October @ 6.30pm

Location: Rush Library

John Dorney



The IRA War on Entertainments



RACING AT BALDOYLE, CO DUBLIN.

In 1923 the anti-Treaty IRA, in response to the ongoing execution of their prisoners, declared a ban on public entertainments including sports, theatre and cinema during a period of 'national mourning'. This resulted in a concerted campaign which involved stopping sports and burning theatres and cinemas, only ended by the close of the Civil War.

Historian **John Dorney** is editor of the Irish Story website. He studied history and politics at UCD, completing his Masters' thesis on Irish chieftain Florence McCarthy. He has written numerous articles and books including *Peace After the Final Battle* and *The Civil War in Dublin*.

To reserve a place please contact
Rush Library at 01 870 8414
or email rushlibrary@fingal.ie





HISTORY AT THE LIBRARY

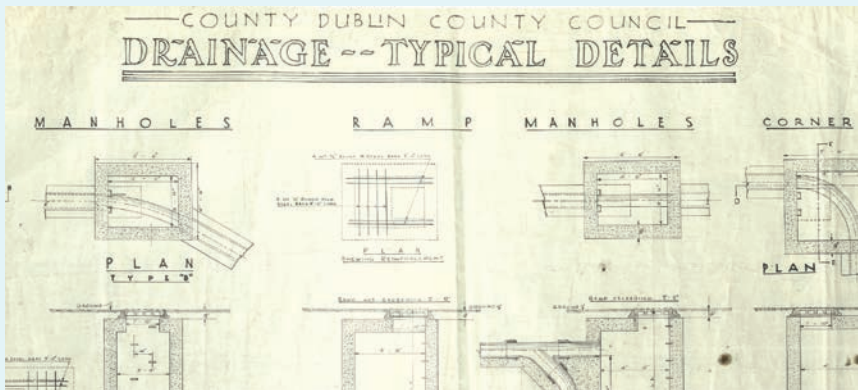
Saturday 5th October • 10.00am – 4.30pm

Location: Carnegie Free Library Swords

10.00am – 11.00am • Declan Brady



Who should pay for the Water: the story of the Malahide Water Supply Controversy



Research on local government records in Fingal for the period 1870-1910 repeatedly highlighted issues with the water supply in Malahide. This ongoing issue is a case study of how nationalists gained and utilised local political control through the local government institutions that were available to them. The nature of the issues and how they were resolved illustrates how local government and politics operated at the time.

Dr Declan Brady is a research historian, educator, and professional genealogist. He completed his PhD, *"The Evolution of Local Politics in North County Dublin, 1870-1948"*, at Maynooth University, where he now teaches.

Booking via Eventbrite

<https://malahidewater.eventbrite.ie>





HISTORY AT THE LIBRARY

Saturday 5th October • 10.00am – 4.30pm

Location: Carnegie Free Library Swords

11.30am – 12.30pm • Cathal Dowd-Smith



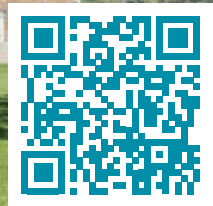
'Dismissed - to the general joy of ye family' - assembling a narrative of servant life in the country house in Fingal

The historical narrative around the Irish country house has long recognised its place as the epicentre of a community; economically, socially, and culturally. Particularly in Ireland where industry was less frequent, the country house was one of the largest employers and engaged a local workforce. This relationship was often more nuanced in Ireland with difficulties around finding adequately trained staff, and for the servants themselves finding regular constant employment in the face of absenteeism. This talk will explore the experience of servants in the 'big houses' of Fingal drawing on locally held archival material.

Cathal Dowd-Smith is the Curator & Collections Manager of Newbridge House and Farm and Malahide Castle and Gardens. He holds a degree in the History of Art and Architecture and History from Trinity College Dublin. Cathal's current research interests are in the Irish country house, and the architectural and landscape histories of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Booking via Eventbrite

<https://servantlife.eventbrite.ie>





HISTORY AT THE LIBRARY

Saturday 5th October • 10.00am – 4.30pm

Location: Carnegie Free Library Swords

2.00pm – 3.00pm • Frank Whearity



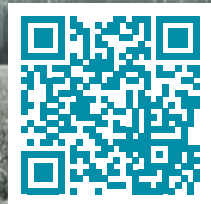
Aspects of the history of Kenure house & estate (Kenure Park), Rush, Co. Dublin: & the people who lived there (c.1652-1978)

This talk is about the rise and fall of Kenure house and its' estate and the trials and tribulations of the families who lived there. In the mid-17th century the lands of Kenure came into the possession of James (Butler) Duke of Ormond, and hence in a deed dated 13 May 1817 it passed to Sir Henry Echlin. From him Kenure passed to the Palmers and upon the death of Sir Roger Palmer in 1910, it passed to Col. Roderick G. Fenwick Palmer who sold the house and estate in 1964. All that remains of the former palatial mansion, which was demolished in 1978, is the free-standing Portico which now serves as a durable memory of what was once there.

Frank Whearity holds a BA (hons) in Local Studies and an MA in Local History from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. In this talk he will draw upon material from two papers he submitted to Maynooth University as part of his studies. Frank has presented his research findings on Kenure to historical society members at Rush, Balbriggan, and to the Old Dublin Society who published this research in 2008.

Booking via Eventbrite

<https://kenurehouse.eventbrite.ie>





HISTORY AT THE LIBRARY

Saturday 5th October • 10.00am – 4.30pm

Location: Carnegie Free Library Swords

3.15pm – 4.15pm • Daniel Eglington-Carey



Ancient Pile Undergoes Improvement: a period of change for Howth Castle at the opening of the 20th century’.

Howth Castle in North County Dublin was the home of the St. Lawrence family as Lords and Earls of Howth from the 1230s until 1909. William St. Lawrence, 4th Earl of Howth, died without issue in 1909 extinguishing the family lines and titles and his castle had not been afforded attention for many decades. His successor, Julian Gaisford-St. Lawrence, set about restoring and expanding the castle through the guidance of Edwin Lutyens, dragging the antiquated castle from dilapidation into the modern age. The transfer of ownership occurred during formative years in Irish history as the years of land agitation ended and the country was on the brink of war and revolution. Daniels’ talk will examine the position of Howth Castle during this time.

Daniel Eglington-Carey is a postgraduate from Maynooth University and is currently the Historian in Residence at Howth Castle. He has presented a number of talks on the history of Howth Castle and the part it played in the life of those living on the Howth Peninsula.

Booking via Eventbrite

<https://howthcastle.eventbrite.ie>



HERITAGE TRAIL

Sunday 6th October @ 11.30am

Location: Clonsilla – St. Mary’s Church

1.30am



Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society Heritage Walk



Join Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society (CPHS) on a 90-minute guided walk of the natural and built heritage of this beautiful historic area. Hear stories about the missing crown jewels, horse poisoning, industrial heritage and a famine walk as we journey between Clonsilla and Porterstown, via the “Deep Sinking”, a very special and unique part of the Royal Canal.

To reserve a place please contact

cpheritagesoc@outlook.com



Tuesday 8th October @ 7.00pm

Location: Fingal Local Studies and Archives

Dr Bernard Kelly



Getting Started in Local History Research

This talk is aimed at those who are considering or have researched some topic of local history and would now like to make their findings available to the public. It will provide pointers on how to research, where best to look for information and how to produce an end product suitable for your intended audience.

Dr Bernard Kelly is a renowned historian and author with years of experience in historic research. He has worked as a historian in residence with Dublin City Council and for the last three years has been the Research Historian for Fingal.

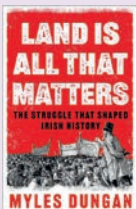


To reserve a place please contact Fingal Local Studies and Archives at 01 870 4486 or email local.studies@fingal.ie

Wednesday 9th October @ 6.30pm

Location: Malahide Library

Myles Dungan



The Last Land War

Land seizures were a major feature of both the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War. This talk explores 200 years of agrarian conflict from the famine of 1741 to the Land War of 1878-1909, which ended with the transfer of landlord holdings to their tenants.

Myles Dungan is one of Ireland's best-known and most respected broadcasters on both radio and television for more than two decades. He is the author of a number of popular works including *The Stealing of the Irish Crown Jewels*, *The Great Irish History Book* and his latest *Land is all that Matters*.



To reserve a place please contact Malahide Library at 01 8704430 or email malahidelibrary@fingal.ie



Thursday 10th October @ 6.30pm

Location: Blanchardstown Library

Dr Bernard Kelly

Fingal Deaths during the First World War

Approximately 210,000 Irishmen volunteered for the British Forces between 1914 and 1918; of these, around 35,000 died, with over 6,000 from Dublin. This talk tells the story of Fingal natives who died during the Great War and illustrates the complex relationship between Ireland and the British military.

Dr Bernard Kelly is a renowned historian and author with years of experience in historic research. He has worked as a historian in residence with Dublin City Council and for the last three years has been the Research Historian for Fingal.



To reserve a place please contact Blanchardstown Library at 01 890 5560 or email blanchlibrary@fingal.ie



Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th October @ 12.00pm - 5.00pm

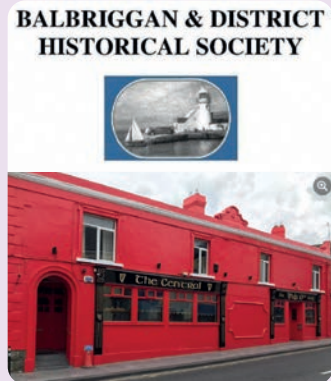
Location: Balbriggan - beside The Central - Mrs. O's

Balbriggan & District Historical Society

Balbriggan Pop-up Museum

Balbriggan & District Historical Society will open their Pop-up Museum from 12.00pm - 5.00pm on 12 October and 13 October 2024 as part of the Fingal Festival of History. The museum will include exhibitions of the people, places, and events providing an insight into life in Balbriggan in times gone by. There will also be displays of the many textile industries which thrived in Balbriggan and placed the town on the map. All are welcome.

No reservation necessary



Fingal Local Studies

and Archives

Fingal Local Studies & Archives are based at 46 North Street, Swords. The service collects, preserves and makes available historic records relating to Fingal and Dublin generally. Outreach includes exhibitions, publications, talks, the Fingal Festival of History and participation in Heritage Week and Culture Night. The service is available to anyone interested in local, social or family history. All researchers are welcome and queries can be made by phone, post or e-mail. As many of our collections are stored offsite, we usually ask researchers to make an appointment in advance by e-mailing archives@fingal.ie or local.studies@fingal.ie.

The Local Studies collections are an important resource for the study of local history in Fingal and Dublin generally. We hold collections of photographs, postcards, maps and artwork. Additionally, there is an extensive printed collection of local history books, periodicals, directories, reference works and general genealogical and historical books. New publications are regularly added. There is also an ephemera collection comprising military medals, tram tickets, posters etc. The Archives contains records of local government in County Dublin from 1775 to the present day including archives from the Turnpike Trusts, County of Dublin Grand Jury, Poor Law Unions, Rural District Councils, Howth Urban District Council, Balbriggan Town Commissioners, Dublin County Council and a variety of private collections including the Hely-Hutchinson Papers, Holmpatrick Papers and Hone Papers.

Opening Hours:	Monday – Friday 10:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00pm – 5:00pm
Location:	46 North Street, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 F6Y3
Telephone:	+353 1 870 4486





Swords

Carnegie Free Library

Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish philanthropist, provided funding between 1897 and 1913 to pay for the building of about 80 libraries in Ireland. Swords Carnegie Library on North Street is one of the remaining 62 which have survived. Built in 1908 for Balrothery Rural District Council, it was designed by architect Andrew Scott. It featured one large room on the upper floor with timber trusses and timber-boarded ceilings to produce well-proportioned interiors. Accommodation on the ground floor consisted of 2 rooms with a librarian's counter at the end of the hall, through which the building was accessed. These rooms comprised a reading room and a ladies room/smoking room. The large room upstairs was frequently used for meetings, dances, concerts and other community activities. Andrew Carnegie intended the library buildings he paid for to be well stocked with books and freely available to all.

Balrothery Rural District appointed a Library Committee on 9 November 1904 who had responsibility for the promotion and control of the libraries at Swords, Malahide, Skerries, Rush, Lusk and Garristown. They were also responsible for appointing a librarian. The first librarian appointed to Swords Library in 1908 was dismissed not long after when he failed to account for a donation of £10 given to him by a member of the public.

The Carnegie Library continued to provide a library service on a part-time basis to the people of Swords until a new, larger library was opened at Rathbeale Shopping Centre in early 1983. The building was also home to the District Court Office, Swords Boxing Club and to Swords Historical Society and Museum down through the years.

In 2023 the library underwent extensive renovation. It now features a new two-story extension which will enhance accessibility and services. This new space, managed by Fingal Arts Office, will serve as a hub for community engagement, public participation, supporting artists' growth, promoting arts awareness and encouraging innovation as Fingal County Council prepares for the delivery of the Swords Cultural Quarter.



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DUBLIN FESTIVAL OF HISTORY

2024

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Screenings*

27 September –
13 October 2024

Big Weekend

at the Printworks, Dublin Castle
27 to 29 September

Tickets and info
dublinfestivalofhistory.ie

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Cá bhfuil mo leabharlann is cóngaraí? Where is my nearest library?

Balbriggan	01 870 4401	balbrigganlibrary@fingal.ie
Baldoyle	01 890 6793	baldoylelibrary@fingal.ie
Blanchardstown	01 890 5560	blanchlibrary@fingal.ie
Donabate	01 890 5609	donabate.library@fingal.ie
Garristown	01 835 5020	garristownlibrary@fingal.ie
Howth	01 890 5026	Howth.library@fingal.ie
Malahide	01 870 4430	malahidelibrary@fingal.ie
Rush	01 870 8414	rushlibrary@fingal.ie
Skerries	01 890 5671	skerrieslibrary.library@fingal.ie
Swords	01 890 5582	swordslibrary@fingal.ie
Mobile Library Service	01 890 6719	mobile.libraries@fingal.ie
Housebound Library Service	01 860 4290	housebound.library@fingal.ie
Local Studies and Archives	01 870 4486	Local.Studies@fingal.ie

Tá Leabharlanna Fhine Gall ar na Meáin Shóisialta
Fingal Libraries are on Social Media

