



Blarney and District Historical Society

Cumann Staire Cheantar Bhlarna 1985

Programme of Public Lectures and Field Trips for 2024-2025 Season

Thursday 5th September 2024 **Annual General Meeting**

Takes place at 8.00 p.m. in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal (Blarney Secondary School)

Current members invited to attend. New and intending members welcome.



Thursday 19th September 2024. **'Roots in Exile'**

Guest Speaker: Fr. Dick 'Mkhwemnte' O'Riordan. *Priest and Author.* Beginning with a memoir of his childhood in County Cork and his seminary years at All Hallows College in Dublin, tonight's fascinating lecture covers 50 years of Dick O'Riordan's life in South Africa and the African continent. He has written a book on how living there affected him personally and the many thousands of internally exiled South Africans.



Thursday 3rd Oct. 2024. **'The Book of Kells' – A Masterwork Revealed**

Guest Speaker: Donncha MacGabhann MA., PhD. has been engaged in the study of Insular manuscripts and the Book of Kells for the past fifteen years. As an independent scholar he is dedicated to communicating this research both to the academic and the wider community. His papers have been included in the proceedings of several conferences and in other publications. Prior to his academic career, he taught art and art history for many years, while exhibiting his own work widely in Ireland and abroad, receiving several major awards.



Thursday 7th Nov. 2024. **The Hydro Re-visited**

Guest Speaker: Joe O'Leary Historian and Author has presented his original version of the History of the Hydro to many audiences and historical societies over the years but now due to the discovery of new information and photographs, Joe is going to showcase his revamped and updated version of an already excellent presentation titled 'The Hydro Re-visited'.



Thursday 5th Dec. 2024. **'From Gunner to Guerilla' - Tom Barry's Road to Rebellion**

Guest Speaker: Gerry White - Historian and Author speaks of Tom Barry who was one of the most well-known commanders of the IRA during Ireland's War of Independence. Gerry's presentation examines the factors that led Barry, who was the son of an RIC constable and a former member of the Royal Field Artillery, to join the IRA.



Thursday 9th Jan. 2025. **The Murder of Bessie Mullane – Blarney 1854**

Guest Speaker. Richard Forrest - Historian, Author and Chairperson of Blarney and District Historical Society 2023/25 asks 'Who killed Bessie Mullane?' Dawstown woman Bessie was attacked, murdered and robbed at Killard whilst on her way to Cork city. Richard has trawled through the newspapers of the time and has assembled a fascinating timetable of events covering her murder plus the arrest and trial of her killer.



Thursday 6th Feb. 2025. *The Rahanisky Roundup – 8th February 1921*

Guest Speaker: John Mulcahy Historian and Author relates how soldiers of the Hampshire Regiment based in Victoria Barracks raided Rahanisky House and captured an Active Service Unit of the 1st Battalion of the Cork No. 1 Brigade including Sean MacSwiney, brother of Terence, along with some pistols and ammunition. It appears that information on the volunteers' location had been passed to the Hampshires by a female informant. John's detailed presentation investigates such an involvement and its impact.



Thursday 6th March 2025. *And They Never Looked Back – From Cork to America*

Guest Speaker: Anne Donaldson Author and Historian has put together an extraordinary well researched and intriguing presentation of emigration between 1850 and 1900 which tells about those who left the shores of Ireland from the disaster of the famine as they crossed the Atlantic to New York and other places before travelling all across the great expanse of America. They settled in the small pioneering towns of the United States and beyond with a great many never to return. This is their story.



Thursday 3rd April 2025. *Trams on the Streets of Cork – Transport of a Bygone Age*

Guest Speaker: Michael Lenihan Author and Historian tells us about The Cork Electric Tramways and Lighting Company who operated a passenger tramway service in Cork between 1898 and 1931. Services began on 22 December 1898, after the company ordered the first 18 tramcars and ordering a further 17 took the fleet to a maximum of 35. The livery was bright green and cream. Tram operations were discontinued in September 1931. An excellent story with beautiful illustrations.



Thursday 1st May 2025. *The Life of Margaret Buckley – Rebel with a Cause*

Guest Speaker: Anne Twomey Author and Historian tells us Margaret Goulding Buckley was born in Cork on July 28th, 1879, and was a woman of many parts: a teacher, trade unionist, civil war internee, journalist, political commentator and author, and the first female leader of an Irish political party, President of Sinn Féin 1937-5. She was also a founding member of the Cork branch of Inghinidhe na hÉireann (Daughters of Ireland). She also protested against the Royal visit to Cork by King Edward VII & Queen Alexandra in 1903.

Thursday 5th June 2025

Field Trip *Details to be advised*

July 2025

Summer Vacation

August 2025

National Heritage Week Details to be advised

Thursday 4th September 2025

Annual General Meeting

All lectures are in Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál (Blarney Secondary School) at 8.00 p.m. unless otherwise stated. All events are correct at time of publication but some items may have to be cancelled or changed due to unavoidable circumstances from time to time. Some Field Trips may carry certain restrictions. Everybody Welcome. Please keep checking our web-site www.blarneyhistory.ie for up-to-date information.

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