

Kieran's Completed Community Projects, 2015:

Award Ceremonies, Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2015:

The Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2015 will come to its conclusion over two evenings in March. The award ceremony for County Cork schools takes place on Friday 13 March and the ceremony for the City on Friday 20 March (6.30pm start both evenings, Silversprings Convention Centre). Founded by Cllr Kieran McCarthy, the year 2015 marks the twelfth year of the award ceremonies for best local history projects submitted into the project. The Project is open to schools in Cork; at primary level to the pupils of fourth, fifth and sixth class and at post-primary from first to sixth years. A total of 25 schools in Cork City and 22 in Cork County took part in the 2015 Project. Approx 180 projects were submitted on all aspects of Cork's history with 1300 students participating between individuals, group and class entries. The project in the city is kindly funded by Cork Civic Trust, Cork City Council and the Heritage Council. In the 2015 season prizes will also be provided by Sean Kelly of Lucky Meadows Equestrian Centre Watergrasshill, and the Lifetime Lab. The project in the County is funded by students and Cllr Kieran McCarthy.

Commenting, co-ordinator of the project, Cllr Kieran McCarthy noted:

"One of the key aims of the project is to allow students to explore, investigate and debate their local heritage in a constructive, active and fun way. The Project attempts to provide the student with a hands-on and interactive activity that is all about learning not only about your local area but also about the process of learning by participating students. The Schools' Heritage Project also focuses on motivating and inspiring young people". A list of winning projects can be viewed at Kieran's heritage website www.corkheritage.ie.

City Edition 2015 results: http://corkheritage.ie/?page_id=4060

County Edition 2015 results: http://corkheritage.ie/?page_id=4062

Co-ordinator and founder of the project, Cllr Kieran McCarthy noted that *"The project is about thinking about, understanding, appreciating and making relevant in today's society the role of our heritage- our landmarks, our oral histories, our scenery in our modern world for upcoming citizens. So the project is about splicing together activity on issues of local history and heritage such as thinking, exploring, observing, thinking, discovering, researching, uncovering, revealing, interpreting and resolving. The Schools' Heritage Project also focuses on motivating and inspiring young people, giving them an opportunity to develop leadership and self development skills, which are very important in the world we live in today."*

The City Edition of the Project is funded by Cork Civic Trust, Cork City Council, The Heritage Council, Evening Echo, Lifetime Lab, Sean Kelly of Lucky Meadows Equestrian Centre, Watergrasshill and Cllr Kieran McCarthy. Application forms to enter the project can be viewed on Cllr McCarthy's heritage website, www.corkheritage.ie.

Lifelong Learning Festival Week, March 2015:

For the Lifelong Learning Festival Week, Cllr Kieran McCarthy will give a talk on Cork Harbour through old postcards at the meeting room of the Church of the Real Presence, Curaheen on Wednesday 25 March, 2.30pm. He will also give a talk on Cork in the 1920s and 1930s in the Cork City and County Archives in Blackpool at 2.30pm on Friday 27 March (all free, all welcome).

McCarthy's Community Talent Competition 2015:

Cork's young people are invited to participate in the seventh year of Cllr Kieran's McCarthy's 'Community Talent Competition'. The auditions will take place on Sunday 10 May 2015 between 10am-5pm in the Lifetime Lab, Lee Road. There are no entry fees and all talents are valid for consideration. The final will be held two weeks later on Saturday 23 May. There are two categories, one for primary school children and one for secondary school students. Winners will be awarded a perpetual trophy and prize money of €150 (two by €150). The project is being organised and funded by Cllr Kieran McCarthy in association with Red Sandstone Varied Productions (RSVP).

Cllr McCarthy noted: *"The talent competition is a community initiative. It encourages all young people to develop their talents and creative skills, to push forward with their lives and to embrace their community positively"*. Further details can be got from the talent show producer (RSVP), Yvonne Coughlan, 086 8764685 or email rsvpireland@gmail.com.

Cllr McCarthy's Make a Model Boat Project 2015:

Cllr Kieran McCarthy invites all Cork young people to participate in *McCarthy's 'Make a Model Boat Project'*. All interested must make a model boat at home from recycled materials and bring it along for judging to Cork's Atlantic Pond on Sunday 31 May 2015, 2pm. The event is being run in association with Meitheal Mara and the Cork Harbour Festival. There are three categories, two for primary and one for secondary students. The theme is 'Culture', which is open to interpretation. There are prizes for best models and the event is free to enter. Cllr McCarthy, who is heading up the event, noted "I am encouraging creation, innovation and imagination amongst our young people, which are important traits for all of us to develop". In addition, Cllr McCarthy emphasised that places like the Atlantic Pond are an important part of Cork's natural and amenity heritage. See www.kieranmccarthy.ie under community programme, <http://kieranmccarthy.ie/?p=11292> or email info@kieranmccarthy.ie,

Ongoing rehearsals, New Musical Society, founded by Kieran:

Sweet Charity, 4-7 June 2015:

Cllr Kieran McCarthy will direct, fund and produce Sweet Charity, the musical at the Firkin Crane from Thursday 4 June Sunday 7 June. Sweet Charity tells the story of dance hall hostess Charity Hope Valentine, an eternal optimist who is forever unlucky in love. Her trusting nature and naiveté makes her prey for a succession of opportunistic men. The razor-sharp script lifts the veil on the exquisite agony of living on the under-side of life. This is a comedy with an edge. With music direction by David O'Sullivan, choreography by Aileen Coffey, production management by Yvonne Coughlan the new Cork City Musical Society promises to entertain you with a highly-theatrical, fast-paced and entertaining show, featuring such well-known musical numbers as "If My Friends Could See Me Now," "Big Spender" and "Rhythm of Life". Tickets available at the www.firkincrane.ie or 021 4507487.

Cork City Musical Society

Presents

Sweet Charity

Book by Neil Simon

Music by Cy Coleman

Lyrics by Dorothy Fields

Based on an original screenplay by Fererico Fellini, Tullio Pinelli and Ennio Flaiano.

Produced for the Broadway Stage by: Fryer, Carr and Harris

Conceived, Staged and Choreographed by Bob Fosse

Producer: Cork City Musical Society, Kieran McCarthy & Firkin Crane (A new community & amateur project)

Director: Cllr Kieran McCarthy

Musical Director: David O'Sullivan

Choreography: Aileen Coffey

Production Manager: Yvonne Coughlan

By arrangement with Musicscope and Stage Musicals Ltd of New York

Summer Historical Walking Tours:

Saturday afternoon, 27 June 2015, 12noon, *Historical Walking Tour of St Finbarr's Hospital*, Meet at gate, Douglas Road, in association with the Friends of St Finbarr's, (free, duration: 1 ½ hours).

Wednesday evening, 1 July 2015, 6.45pm, *Historical Walking Tour of Blackrock*, Meet at Blackrock Castle (free, duration: 2 hours).

Thursday evening, 2 July 2015, 6.45pm, *Historical Walking Tour of Ballintemple*, Meet in Ballintemple graveyard, Templehill (free, duration: 2 hours).

Friday evening, 3 July 2015, 6.45pm, *Historical Walking Tour of Docklands*, Meet at Kennedy Park, Victoria Road (free, duration: 2 hours).

National Heritage Week 2015:

Monday 24 August 2015 – *Tales of the City's Workhouse*, historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, meet at entrance to St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, 7pm (free, duration: two hours).

Wednesday 26 August 2015 – *From Market Gardens to Architectural Eminence*, historical walking tour of Turners Cross and Ballyphehane with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, meet at entrance to Christ the King Church, Turners Cross, 7pm (free, duration: two hours).

Friday 28 August 2015 – *Cork's Elegant Suburb*, Historical walking tour of Sunday's Well with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, meet at St Vincent's Bridge on the North Mall side, 7pm (free, duration: two hours).

Saturday 29 August 2015– *Park Stories*, Historical walking tour of Fitzgerald's Park with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, meet at band stand in park, 2pm (free, duration: two hours).

Shandon & Blackpool Historical Walking Tours:

I have two more summer walking tours coming up – this time the focus is on the Shandon and Blackpool area – Friday evening, 24 July is the Shandon historical walking tour; discover the city's historical quarter; learn about St Anne's Church and the development of the butter market and the Shandon Street area; meet at North Gate Bridge, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours). The second walking tour weaves through Blackpool, Thursday evening 30 July 2015; from Fair Hill to the heart of Blackpool, learn about nineteenth century shambles, schools, convents and industries, meet at the North Mon gates, Gerald Griffin Avenue, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours).

Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2015/16:

Cllr Kieran McCarthy is encouraging Cork students to enter the Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project, which has been launched for the 2015/ 16 school season. The Project, which is celebrating its thirteenth year, allows students to explore, investigate and debate their local heritage in a constructive, active and fun way. Interested students can pick any topic on Cork's heritage to research and can participate as individuals, groups or as a class. Students produce a project using primary material such as fieldwork, interviews, making models, DVDs of their area.

Auditions, Concert, Cork City Musical Society, October 2015:

Douglas Road Cllr Kieran McCarthy will direct a concert of musical theatre, at the Firkin Crane, Shandon in early November. Open auditions for solo and chorus parts in the concert, and all part of Cork City Musical Society, will take place at the Firkin Crane, on Saturday 26 September, between 1.30pm and 4.30pm, and Monday 5 October 2015, 7-9pm. Those interested should prepare a musical theatre song of your choice. Bring sheet music if possible. All auditionees must be over 18 years of age. Further details are on the facebook page, Cork City Musical Society or from kieran_mccarthy@cork.ie.

Kieran's talk on Cork Harbour, 21 October 2015:

Public talk with Kieran, *Cork Harbour Through Time* - explore the old postcards of one hundred years ago, histories and memories of Cork Harbour, with Passage Historical Group, Wednesday 21 October 2015, 8pm; all welcome.

Dreams of the Soul – Best of Broadway, November 2015:

Douglas Road Cllr Kieran McCarthy will direct Cork City Musical Society's evening of musical theatre at the Firkin Crane, Shandon on Sunday 8 November at 8pm. Musical direction is by Michael Young. Tickets are e.12 and are available from the venue, www.firkincrane.ie. Founded by Kieran, this is the second production of the society, which staged *Sweet Charity* earlier this year.

Cllr McCarthy noted that Cork City is vibrant in drama education, various musical genres, musical theatre and all forms of opera, all of which are brought to the Cork masses through stage schools and theatres. "The city proudly can boast being an ongoing European Capital of Culture. Many personalities and more have done so much for music and drama education over many years in the city. All inspire and forge a sense of community, charity of heart, togetherness and education, skill building and lifelong learning approaches". The creation of Cork City Musical Society brings together many of these strands but in particular focuses on the aspect of community building and the promotion of musical theatre amongst adults and the idea of inclusivity and self- development for all who wish to engage with it.

Kieran's New Book, Ring of Kerry, The Postcard Collection (2015):

The third of three books Kieran McCarthy has been compiling and penning this year is entitled *Ring of Kerry, The Postcard Collection*. Vibrancy, a wild vibrancy, is perhaps the best way to describe the Ring of Kerry. Exposed by raw elements, the landscape is windswept and awe inspiring. This book follows on from Kieran's previous work of exploring the nature of postcards in the south west region and how they helped to place-make and construct local, regional and national identity. The book explores the fascination of landscapes around the Ring of Kerry or the Grand Atlantic Tour as it was known a century ago and comprises what could be genuinely described as stunning images. Many could be printed in large sizes and hung on walls and I have no doubt many have over the decades. They are beautiful images made to entice the viewer to remember, to visit and not forget.

These postcards were the preferred souvenirs for connoisseurs of the landscape. They framed a world for people to view, consume, keep a part of, send to other people and mass produce. The mass production of such images helped advance the narrative in promoting the south west Iveragh peninsula. The communication of the message behind these postcards in the early twentieth century was important and the messages were and still are numerous and strong. They showcase extraordinary and geologically ancient but desperate spaces in an artistic narrative – our countryside, a sense of adventure, ideas of self-discovery, true, honest and valuable experiences, the 40-shades-of-green package, concepts of Irish culture and identity, and ultimately the collective memory of a country and what it stands for.

Ring of Kerry, The Postcard Collection by Kieran McCarthy is published by Amberley Press and is available in any good book shop.

Kieran's New Book, North Cork Through Time (2015):

The second of three books Kieran McCarthy has been involved in penning this year focuses on postcards of historic landscapes of North Cork. Entitled *North Cork Through Time*, it is compiled by Dan Breen of Cork Museum and Kieran and published by Amberley Press.

The region is defined by the meandering River Blackwater and its multiple tributaries and mountainous terrain to the north. It borders four counties that of Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford. The postcards, taken for the most part between c.1900 and c.1920 show the work of various photographers, who sought to capture the region and sell their work to a mass audience. Not every town and village were captured in a postcard. This book brings together many of the key sites of interest and serves as an introduction to the rich history of the region. In the postcards, one can see the beauty that the photographers wished to share and express. The multitude of landmarks shown in this book have been passed from one generation to another, have evolved in response to their environments, and contribute to giving the County of Cork and its citizens a sense of identity and continuity.

Kieran's New Book, *Little Book of Cork* (2015):

The *Little Book of Cork* is a new book penned by Cllr Kieran McCarthy and published by History Press Ireland. It aims to be a compendium of fascinating, obscure, strange and entertaining facts about Cork City. Here you will find out about Cork's buildings and businesses, its proud sporting heritage, its hidden corners and its famous (and occasionally infamous) men and women. Through its bustling thoroughfares and down winding laneways, this book takes the reader on a journey through Cork and its vibrant past, recalling the people and events that shaped this great city. A reliable reference book and a quirky guide, this can be dipped into time and time again to reveal something new about the people, the heritage and the secrets of Cork.

The book has nine chapters. This book begins by delving into the multiple phases of Cork's development, its tie in to wider Irish history and to a degree how Cork branded itself through the centuries. From the creation of the first port, the city's coat of arms, to building international confidence as one of the self-proclaimed Venices of Northern Europe, Cork's historical development and ambition knew no bounds! However, certainly colonists such as the Vikings and Anglo-Normans and immigrant groups (and eventually citizens in their own right) such as Huguenots and Quakers led the settlement to have a role in the wider North Atlantic trade and beyond. All were involved in physically altering the townscape, constructing new buildings and quays and improving the interface with the river and the sea. Some key events such as Cork's role in the Irish War of Independence in the early twentieth century also led to changes to the city's fabric. The Burning of Cork incident led to many of its main street buildings, City Hall and Library being destroyed. The city rose from the ashes with a rebuild plan plus also strategies for the growing population and their requests for new housing areas.

The Little Book of Cork is on sale in any good bookshop.

Singing at Ballinlough Christmas Concert, 13 December 2015

Kieran's *Our City, Our Town*, newspaper column, *Cork Independent* (1999-2014)

celebrating 16 years of articles, index of my columns at this link,
http://corkheritage.ie/?page_id=20