

Kieran's Completed Community Projects, 2016:

Auditions for *Crazy for You*:

Cork City Musical Society is hosting auditions for its second musical outing. This time they take on *Crazy for You* in late April. Shandon, Auditions for ensemble and principal parts will take place at Firkin Crane Theatre on Thursday 14 January, 6.30-9pm, Saturday 16 and 23 January, 2-5pm. Auditionees are asked to prepare one song from any musical. Script material will be there on the day. Participants must be over 18 to join Cork City Musical Society; to book an audition time slot please log on and message our facebook page Cork City Musical Society or email corkmusicalsociety@gmail.com. The show is being directed by Cllr Kieran McCarthy with musical direction by Michael Young.

Founder of the society Cllr Kieran McCarthy noted "Amateur musical societies are multiple in nature up and down the country. All bring their local communities together under a volunteer and charity umbrella - collaborating and bringing people together to create an outlet for people and to put drama, music and all ultimately form a key cultural vein within towns and villages. The creation of an amateur musical society brings together many 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"

Crazy for You is a romantic love musical with lyrics by Ira Gershwin, and music by George Gershwin. Billed as "The New Gershwin Musical Comedy", it is largely based on the songwriting team's 1930 musical, *Girl Crazy*, but incorporates songs from several other productions as well. *Crazy for You* won the 1992 Tony Award for Best Musical. Memorable Gershwin tunes include *I Can't Be Bothered Now*, *Bidin' My Time*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Naughty Baby*, *They Can't Take That Away from Me*, *But Not for Me*, *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, *Embraceable You* and *Someone to Watch Over Me*. It's a high energy comedy which includes mistaken identity, plot twists, fabulous dance numbers and classic Gershwin music.

Award ceremonies, Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project, March 2016:

The date for the Cork City schools' award ceremony of the Discover Cork Schools' Heritage Project is Monday 14 March and the county schools' award ceremony is Tuesday 15 March (start 7pm at Silversprings Convention Centre, both evenings). A total of 42 schools in Cork took part in the 2016 Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project. *Circa* 900 students participated in the process with approx 250 projects submitted on all aspects of Cork's local history heritage. The Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project, in its thirteenth year is a youth forum for students to do research and offer their opinions on important decisions being made on their heritage in their locality and how they affect the lives of people locally. The aim of the project is to allow students to explore, investigate and debate their local heritage in a constructive, active and fun way.

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 landscapes in our modern world for

upcoming citizens. The 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, Cllr Kieran McCarthy, Lifetime Lab and Sean Kelly of Lucky Meadows Equestrian Centre. Full results for the City edition and the County edition of the project are online on Cllr McCarthy’s heritage website, www.corkheritage.ie.

Kieran’s Talk, Lifelong Learning Festival Week 2016:

For the forthcoming Lifelong Learning Festival Week, Douglas Road Cllr Kieran McCarthy will give a talk on some of the histories of West Cork through old postcards at the meeting room of the Church of the Real Presence, Curaheen on Wednesday 13 April, 10.30am. Based on his book, *West Cork Through Time*, Cllr McCarthy noted: “The talk focuses on in selective detail postcards from Cork City museum of the region of West Cork from one hundred years ago. It takes the reader from Bandon to Castletownbere through the changing landscapes and seascapes. This region is a striking section of Ireland’s coastline, over 320 kilometres in length, encompassing a raw coastal wilderness with expansive inlets eroded away by the Atlantic Ocean. The old postcards represent many memories of the landscape, sold to visitors and locals a century ago. There are places that charm, catch and challenge the eye. West Cork in itself is a way of life where individuals and communities have etched out their lives. It is a place of discovery, of inspiration, a place of peace and contemplation, and a place to find oneself in the world”.

Male Ensemble Sought for Cork City Musical Society:

Cork City Musical Society is putting together its male ensemble for its second musical outing, *Crazy for You* in the Firkin Crane in late April. The show is being directed by Cllr Kieran McCarthy, with musical direction by Michael Young and choreography by Aisling Byrne Gaughan. Participants must be over 18 to join and the society is seeking males from 18 to 75 years of age. If you are interested in taking part in the male ensemble and can ‘hold a note and move’, please contact Kieran at 087 655 3389 or mccarthy_kieran@yahoo.com.

Founder of the Cork City Musical society Cllr Kieran McCarthy noted “Amateur musical societies are multiple in nature up and down the country. All bring their local communities together under a volunteer and charity umbrella - collaborating and bringing people together to create an outlet for people and to put drama, music and all ultimately form a key cultural vein within towns and villages. The creation of an amateur musical society brings together many 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”.

Cork City Musical Society to present award winning musical Crazy for You in Firkin Crane:

Cork City Musical Society is preparing for its second musical outing. This time they take on Crazy for You from 29 April to 1 May in Firkin Crane, four performances (three evening shows and a matinee). The show for all the family is being directed by Cllr Kieran McCarthy, has a cast of 30 and a 7-piece band, with musical direction by Michael Young and choreography by Aisling Byrne Gaughan.

Founder of the society Cllr McCarthy noted “We are delighted to present our musical to the public. Our cast of 30 have worked very hard on this production to bring a toe-tapping, sing-along and funny musical, which will leave a smile on the faces of the audience. Amateur musical societies are multiple in nature up and down the country. All bring their local communities together under a volunteer and charity umbrella - collaborating and bringing people together to create an outlet for people and to put drama, music and all ultimately form a key cultural vein within towns and villages. It’s important that a city such as Cork has a musical society to promote the inherent love for musical theatre”.

Crazy for You is a romantic love musical with lyrics by Ira Gershwin, and music by George Gershwin. Billed as "The New Gershwin Musical Comedy", it is largely based on the song writing team’s 1930 musical, Girl Crazy, but incorporates songs from several other productions as well. Crazy for You won the 1992 Tony Award for Best Musical. Memorable Gershwin tunes include I Can’t Be Bothered Now, Bidin’ My Time, I Got Rhythm, Naughty Baby, They Can’t Take That Away from Me, But Not for Me, Nice Work if You Can Get It, Embraceable You and Someone to Watch Over Me. It’s a high energy comedy which includes mistaken identity, plot twists, fabulous dance numbers and classic Gershwin music. Tickets are e.20 online at www.firkincrane.ie or from the box office at 021 4507487. There is a special deal of four tickets for e.70.

Cllr McCarthy’s Community Talent Competition 2016:

Cllr McCarthy’s Community Talent Competition 2016 Cork’s young people are invited to participate in the eighth year of Cllr Kieran’s McCarthy’s ‘Community Talent Competition’. The auditions will take place on Sunday 8 May 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. 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: “In its eight year, the talent competition is a community initiative. We generally get to audition people who have very little experience of performing. Within the audition process there is friendly feedback from our judges and if the auditionee gets through there are workshops to offer advice and support. The talent competition is all about encouraging young people to develop their talents and creative skills, to push forward with their lives and to embrace their community positively. I am delighted with the nuggets of talent that we have found in Cork communities over the years

and very proud of those who post audition and competition, have taken up music, drama, and other elements of the performing arts within Cork – they engage with their talent and develop and enjoy it more”. Further details can be got from the talent show producer (RSVP), Yvonne Coughlan, 086 8764685 or email rsvpireland@gmail.com.

Publication, Cork 1916, A Year Examined (2016, co-edited):

Cllr Kieran McCarthy’s new book, the eighteenth in his series of publications, is entitled *Cork 1916, A Year Examined*. It is co-written with solicitor Suzanne Kirwan. This book takes the year 1916 from the point of view that there were multiple conversations to be heard during the year – a kaleidoscope of ideas, which provided the context and framework for revolution – everyday life being one – some led Cork citizens to connect with the Republican mantra at the time and others to just maintain existence, survive and struggle with the bleakness of a national and local economy. Entering the *Cork Examiner* on 1 January and progressing page by page one discovers key nuggets about the nature of Cork society, the soul of Ireland’s southern capital, the ongoing conversations about maintaining a contemporary status of being one of Ireland’s distinguished port cities, and all the advantages and problems that run with that.

Publication, Cork City History Tour (2016):

The new book promotes that the best way to get to know a city like Cork is to walk it – in Cork you can get lost in narrow streets, marvel at old cobbled laneways, photograph old street corners, look up beyond the modern shopfronts, gaze at clues from the past, be enthused and at the same time disgusted by a view, smile at interested locals, engage in the forgotten and the remembered, search and connect for something of oneself, thirst in the sense of story-telling – in essence feel the DNA of the place.

The book’s trail takes in the story of the early origins of the city – the monastic site of St Finbarr to Viking age histories to the Anglo-Norman walled town followed by historic areas such as Shandon, St Patrick’s Street, City Hall, Sunday’s Well and the Wellington Road Victorian Quarter. *Cork City History Tour* is published by *Cork City History Tour* and is published by Amberley Publishing

McCarthy’s Make a Model Boat Project with Ocean to City Maritime Festival, 12 June 2016

- Open to primary and secondary students 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 12 June, 2pm. The event is being run in association with Meitheal Mara and the Cork Harbour Festival. More information on this to be posted here shortly.

Cllr Kieran McCarthy invites all Cork young people to participate in the seventh year of 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 12 June 2016, 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 'Cork Harbour Boats', 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 emphasises that places like the Atlantic Pond are an important part of Cork's natural and amenity heritage. For further information and to take part, please sign up at www.corkharbourfestival.com.

The Cork Harbour Festival will bring together the City, County and Harbour agencies and authorities. It connects our city and coastal communities. Combining the Ocean to City Race and Cork Harbour Open Day, there are over 50 different events in the festival for people to enjoy - both on land and on water. The festival begins the June Bank Holiday Saturday, 4th June, with the 28km flagship race Ocean to City – An Rás Mór. Join thousands of other visitors and watch the hundreds of participants race from Crosshaven to Douglas to Cork City in a spectacular flotilla. Cllr McCarthy noted: "During the festival week embark on a journey to discover the beautiful Cork Harbour and enjoy free harbour tours, sailing tasters, open days at Spike Island and Fort Camden, and lots more; we need to link the city and the harbour more through branding and tourism. The geography and history of the second largest natural harbour in the world creates an enormous treasure trove, which we need to harness, celebrate and mind".

Historical Walking Tour of St Finbarr's Hospital:

On Saturday, 25 June 2016, 12noon, Cllr Kieran McCarthy, in association with the Friends of St Finbarr's Hospital, will give a public historical walking tour of the hospital grounds (meet at gate). The walk is free and takes place to support the summer bazaar of the Friends. Cllr McCarthy noted: "St Finbarr's Hospital, the city's former nineteenth century workhouse, serves as a vast repository of narratives, memories, symbolism, iconography and cultural debate, this year the site is 175 years old". When the Irish Poor Relief Act was passed on 31 July 1838, the assistant Poor Law commissioner, William J Voules came to Cork in September 1838 to implement the new laws. Meetings were held in towns throughout the country. By 1845, 123 workhouses had been built, formed into a series of districts or Poor Law Unions, each Poor Law Union containing at least one workhouse. The cost of poor relief was met by the payment of rates by owners of land and property in that district.

In 1841 over eight acres, were leased to the Poor Law Guardians from Daniel B. Foley, Evergreen House, Cork. Mr. Foley retained an acre, on which was Evergreen House with its surrounding gardens, which fronted South Douglas Road (now a vacant concrete space). The subsequent workhouse that was built on the leased lands was opened in December 1841. It was an isolated place, built beyond the City's toll house and toll gates. The Douglas Road workhouse was also one of the first of over 130 workhouses to be designed by the Poor Law Commissioners' architect George Wilkinson.

July 2016 Historical Walking Tours with Cllr Kieran McCarthy:

Monday 25 July 2016 - *Blackrock Historical Walking Tour* with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, From Blackrock Castle, learn about nineteenth century life and a fishing village, castles, convents and industries, meet in courtyard of Blackrock Castle, 7pm (free, duration: two hours, finishes St Michael's Church of Ireland).

Wednesday 27 July 2016 - *Sunday's Well Walking Tour* with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, From Wise's Hill to the heart of Sunday's Well learn about the development of an eighteenth century suburb, historic churches, gaol, and the early origins of the Mardyke, meet at Old Wise's Distillery House, North Mall, 7pm (free, duration: two hours, finishes at Shaky Bridge).

Thursday 28 July 2016 - *Ballinlough Historical Walking Tour* with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, From the heart of Ballinlough, learn about nineteenth century market gardens, schools, industries, and Cork's suburban standing stone, meet outside Beaumont BNS, Beaumont 7pm (free, duration: two hours, finishes at Ballinlough Community Centre).

Friday 29 July 2016 - *Blackpool Historical Walking Tour* with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, 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, 7pm (free, duration: two hours, finishes on St Mary's Road).

Heritage Open Day:

Saturday 20 August 2016 – *Historical Walking Tour of City Hall* with Kieran, learn about the early history of Cork City Hall and Cork City Council, learn about the development of the building and visit the Lord Mayor's Room, 11am, ticketed (free, duration: 75 minutes); contact The Everyman Palace, 0214501673.

The current structure, replaced the old City Hall, which was destroyed in the 'burning of Cork' in 1920. It was designed by Architects Jones and Kelly and built by the Cork Company Sisks. The foundation stone was laid by Eamonn de Valera, President of the Executive Council of the State on 9 July 1932 (www.corkheritageopenday.ie).

Kieran's Heritage Week, 20-27 August 2016:

Sunday, 21 August 2016, *Eighteenth Century Cork, Branding a City: Making a Venice of the North*; historical walking tour with Kieran on how streets like Oliver Plunkett Street and French Church Street came into being; meet at the City Library, Grand Parade, 7pm (free, duration: two hours, www.corkheritage.ie)

Monday 22 August 2016, *The Victorian Quarter*; historical walking tour (new) with Kieran of the area around St Patrick's Hill – Wellington Road and McCurtain Street; meet at Audley Place, top of St Patrick's Hill, 7pm (free, duration: two hours, www.corkheritage.ie)

This is a new tour that hopes to bring the participant from the top of St Patrick's Hill to the eastern end of McCurtain Street through Wellington Road. The tour will speak about the development of the Victorian Quarter and its hidden and beautiful architectural heritage. All are welcome and any old pictures and documents that people have of these areas, please bring along.

Tuesday 23 August 2016, *Cork Docklands*, historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; Discover the history of the city's docks, from quayside stories to the City Park Race Course and Albert Road; meet at Kennedy Park, Victoria Road, 7pm (free, duration: two hours)

Thursday 25 August 2016, *The City Workhouse*, historical walking tour with Kieran; learn about the workhouse created for 2,000 impoverished people in 1841 (the year 2016 marks the 175th anniversary of the site's creation), meet at the gates of St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, 7pm (free, duration: two hours).

Friday 26 August 2016, *The Walk of the Friars*; historical walking tour (new) with Kieran, explore the local history from Red Abbey through Barrack Street to Friars Walk; meet at Red Abbey tower, Mary Street, 7pm (free, duration: two hours)

Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project, 2016/ 2017 Launched:

Cllr Kieran McCarthy is encouraging students from Ballinlough through to Douglas area to enter the Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project, which has been launched for the 2016/ 17 school season. The Project, which is entering its fourteenth 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. This year, the project in particular is looking for projects that might explore the story of the Ford Tractor and Motor Car Company, which established in Cork in 1917 (to 1984). One hundred years on the company has left a huge legacy on the story of transport in the city and country and a myriad of personal memories by people who worked there.

Co-ordinator and founder of the Schools' Heritage 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, Lifetime Lab, Sean Kelly of Lucky Meadows Equestrian Centre, Watergrasshill and Cllr Kieran McCarthy. Application forms have been sent to all principals and history teachers in Cork. A County Cork edition of the project is also in operation and organized by Kieran.

Winter Historical Walking Tours:

Sunday 16 October, *The Victorian Quarter*, 2pm, free, leaving from Audley Place, the top of St Patrick's Hill, duration: two hours; ends at St Patrick's Church, Lower Road.

Sunday 27 November 2016, Historical walking tour of Blackrock with Kieran, 2.30pm, free, leaving from Blackrock Castle, two hours.

Cork Independent:

Kieran's Cork Heritage website with an index of *Our City*, *Our Town* articles in the *Cork Independent*: www.corkheritage.ie.