

Kieran's Completed Community Projects 2017:

***Secret Cork* by Kieran McCarthy:**

Cllr Kieran McCarthy's 20th book has hit Cork bookshelves and it entitled *Secret Cork*. Published by Amberley Press, the new publication is a companion volume to Kieran's *Cork City History Tour* (2016) and contains sites that Kieran has not had a chance to research and write about in any great detail over the years. *Secret Cork* takes the viewer on a walking trail of over fifty sites. It starts in the flood plains of the Lee Fields looking at green fields, which once hosted an industrial and agricultural fair, a series of Grand Prix's, and open-air baths. It then rambles to hidden holy wells, the city's sculpture park through the lens of Cork's revolutionary period, onwards to hidden graveyards, dusty library corridors, gazing under old canal culverts, across historic bridges to railway tunnels. *Secret Cork* is all about showcasing these sites and revealing the city's lesser-known past and atmospheric urban character.

Award Ceremonies for Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2017 to take place:

The Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2016-17 will come to its conclusion over two evenings in March. The award ceremony for County Cork schools takes place on Wednesday 15 March whilst the ceremony for City schools is on Monday 20 March (7pm start both evenings, Silversprings Convention Centre). Founded by Cllr Kieran McCarthy, the year 2017 marks the fourteenth 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 20 schools in Cork City and 18 in Cork County took part in the 2017 Project. Approx 150 projects were submitted on all aspects of Cork's history with 900 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 2017 season prizes will also be provided by Learnit Lego Education, 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 that 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. "Every year we get really creative projects, which take on the many complex stories of Cork and its region. The Project is all about building awareness on the many sides of development of an ancient port city region such as Cork. 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".

Continuing Cllr McCarthy highlighted that the Schools' Heritage Project also focuses on motivating and inspiring young people. "Every year as well many teachers, parents and extended family are involved in assisting students in their work – by offering their own story or helping with fieldwork and creative methods such as model and short film making. It is estimated that apart from the 800 students involved directly with projects, a further 4,000-5,000 people every year are also involved indirectly with the projects that are taken on". A list of winning projects can be viewed at Kieran's heritage website www.corkheritage.ie.

Spring Historical Walking Tour:

Sunday 9 April 2017, Historical Walking Tour with Kieran of the Victorian Quarter, From Fever Hospital to Street Grandeur, meet at the green (Bell's Field) at the top of St Patrick's Hill, 2.30pm (free, 2 hours)

McCarthy's 'Make a Model Boat Project' 2017:

Cllr Kieran McCarthy invites all Cork young people to participate in the eighth 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 and floating at Cork's Lough on Wednesday 24 May 2017, 6.30pm. 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 from 100 years ago inspired by the 1917 Naval commemorations', which is open to interpretation. There are prizes for best models and the event is free to enter. There are primary and secondary school categories. 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; places like the Lough are an important part of Cork's natural and amenity heritage and in the past have seen model boat making and sailing. For further information and to take part, please sign up at www.corkharbourfestival.com. Registration is to open very shortly.

McCarthy's Community Talent Competition 2017:

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 27 April 2017 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 on Sunday 7 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 at rsvpireland@gmail.com.

May 2017, Historical Walking Tours:

Tuesday 2 May 2017, Historical Walking Tour with Kieran of Eighteenth Century Cork, from the walled town to an eighteenth-century Venice of the North; meet outside Cork City Library, 6.45pm, (free, 2 hours, finishes on St Patrick's Street)

Wednesday 3 May 2017, Historical Walking Tour with Kieran on the Walk of the Friars, from Red Abbey through to Greenmount; meet at Red Abbey Square, 6.45pm, (free, 2 hours, finishes near Deerpark)

Thursday, 4 May 2017, Historical Walking Tour with Kieran of Blackrock Village, from Blackrock Castle to Nineteenth Century Houses and Fishing; meet outside Blackrock Castle, 6.45pm, (free, 2 hours, finishes at railway line walk)

June 2017, Historical Walking Tours with Kieran, all free, 2 hours:

- Tuesday 13 June, 6.45pm, Ballinlough Historical Walking Tour, meet at Beaumont BNS at Beaumont Park (finishes Ballinlough Road)
 - Wednesday 14 June, 6.45pm, Douglas Historical Walking Tour, meet at St Columba's Church Carpark, (finishes at the Church again)
 - Saturday 17 June, 12noon, Turners Cross & Ballyphehane Historical Walking Tour, meet at Christ the King Church, Turners Cross, (finishes at Ballyphehane Park)
- Saturday 24 June 2017, Cork workhouse tour, 12noon (free, 90 minutes), meet at entrance green just inside the gates of St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, in association with the garden fete of the Friends of St Finbarr's Hospital

July 2017, Historical Walking Tours with Kieran, all free, 2 hours:

Wednesday 19 July 2017, Shandon historical walking tour, with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; discover the history of one of Cork's oldest streets woven with tales of castles, butter and historical churches; meet at North Gate Bridge, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Thursday 20 July 2017, Sunday's Well historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; discover the original well and the eighteenth century origins of the suburb, meet at St Vincent's Bridge, North Mall end, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Thursday, 27 July 2017, The Friar's Walk, with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; discover Red Abbey, Elizabeth Fort, Callanan's Tower and Greenmount area; meet at Red Abbey tower, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Friday 28 July 2017, The Lough and its history, historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; discover the legends and stories of the Cork Lough, meet at the green on northern end of the Lough, Lough Church end, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Auditions for Cork City Musical Society:

Cllr Kieran McCarthy will direct Cork City Musical Society's "An Evening at the Musicals" at the Firkin Crane, Shandon on Sunday 24 September. Auditions to sing solo, duet or in a group will take place at the Firkin Crane on Tuesday 29th August, 6.30-9pm and Thursday 31st August, 6.30-9pm. Interested singers should prepare one song from any musical and preferably bring along sheet music for our MD or backing track on a phone. Participants must be over 18 to participate in Cork City Musical Society. To book an audition slot please personal message

the Cork City Musical Society facebook page or email mccarthy_kieran@yahoo.com with your optimum time. The Musical Director is Michael Young and the producer is Yvonne Coughlan of Red Sandstone Varied Productions.

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”. Continuing Cllr McCarthy highlighted that Cork City Musical Society brings together many of these strands; in particular it 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 Heritage Week, 19-26 August 2017 as part of National Heritage Week, all free, 2 hours:

<http://kieranmccarthy.ie/?p=13377>

Sunday, 20 August 2017, Cork Through the Ages, An introduction to the historical development of Cork City with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; meet at the National Monument, Grand Parade, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Monday 21 August 2016, Blackpool and its history, historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; Discover the history of education, industry and social housing, meet at the gates of North Mon School, Gerald Griffin Avenue, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Tuesday 22 August 2017, The Victorian Quarter; historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy of the area around St Patrick’s Hill – Wellington Road and McCurtain Street; meet on the Green at Audley Place, top of St Patrick’s Hill, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Thursday 24 August 2017, The City Workhouse, historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; learn about the workhouse created for 2,000 impoverished people in 1841; meet at the gates of St Finbarr’s Hospital, Douglas Road, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Friday 25 August 2017, Legends and Histories of The Lough (new); historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, explore the local history from the Legend of the Lough to suburban development; meet at green area at northern end of The Lough, entrance of Lough Road to The Lough; 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Saturday 26 August 2017, Fitzgerald’s Park; historical walking tour with Cllr Kieran McCarthy; learn about the story of the Mardyke to the great early twentieth century Cork International Exhibition, meet at band stand 1pm, note the afternoon time (free, duration: two hours)

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Discover Cork: Schools’ Heritage Project 2017-18:

http://corkheritage.ie/?page_id=23

A Stroll in the South Parish, Wednesday 20 September 2017:

As part of the UNESCO International City of Learning Conference in Cork and the showcase day of lifelong learning in the city, a walk through the South Parish will take place on Wednesday morning, 20 September. It is hosted by Cllr Kieran McCarthy, Cork Healthy Cities and Cork Food Policy Council. The tour encompasses the historic origins of Cork as well as a showcase of emerging projects in the South Parish area. Starting at Elizabeth Fort at 11am, it proceeds to St Stephen's Sustainable Food Laboratory, the site of the c1700 St Stephen's Hospital for lepers & lazars and the nineteenth century Anabaptist Burial Ground. The site, which was formerly a basketball court up to recently is now a collective, member-led, self-funded, urban agriculture project focused on growing food organically for its members. The walk continues to the Summerhill South Seventeenth Century Quaker Burial site. This is an opportunity to see behind the walls of the Burial Ground of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) & discover the richness of the plant & animal life in this urban green area.

The final site visited is St Finbarr's Hospital, originally the Workhouse for Cork, constructed by the Poor Law Guardians in late 1841, and now a Healthy Campus Health Service site with a therapeutic garden for patients. Whilst hearing about the historic richness of the area, see the first signs of autumn, as nature prepares for hibernation. You will learn about the importance of preserving biodiversity & how we can all contribute to this. You might get a feeling for the peaceful stillness of these green oases in the middle of Cork City.

Meet at the entrance of Elizabeth Fort, Barrack Street at 11am. Tour is free; please wear suitable clothes & shoes. All welcome. Cork Food Policy Council advocates for innovative community food initiatives that seek improvements to the food system to increase equitable access to quality food. Cork is a WHO Healthy City. The aim of Healthy Cities is to improve and promote population health through health policy, inter-sectoral collaboration & community participation.

Cllr McCarthy to stage *Songs from the Heart, An Evening of Musical Theatre*:

Cllr Kieran McCarthy directs Cork City Musical Society's "Songs From the Heart, An Evening of Musical Theatre" at the Firkin Crane on Sunday 24 September at 8pm. The Musical Director is Michael Young and the producer is Yvonne Coughlan of Red Sandstone Varied Productions. Tickets are e15 and are online at www.firkincrane.ie

This is Cork City Musical Society's fourth outing having staged the musical *Crazy For You* in 2016 and *Dreams of the Soul* and *Sweet Charity* in 2015. Founded by Cllr Kieran McCarthy in 2015, it was years of performing in shows and being involved in community work that led Kieran to create the musical society.

Cllr McCarthy advocates 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.

"It goes without saying that a rich vein of musicality runs underneath our city, Cork's DNA embraces the promotion and development of music as an artistic discipline to be developed and one that brings a community together to engage with and appreciate it. The city in musical theatre terms is particularly blessed by several stage schools, small and large, who promote

amongst our young people creativity, skill development, education, performance, community building and audience development, and the charity of sharing their craft, amongst other important traits”.

“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 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”.

Continuing Cllr McCarthy highlighted that Cork City Musical Society 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”.

Discover Cork: Schools’ Heritage Project, 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 Walking Tour:

From Our Lady's Hospital to Atkin's Hall, the story of the Cork Lunatic Asylum (new tour with Kieran), Saturday 21 October 2017, meet at gates of former Our Lady's Hospital, Lee Road, 12noon, free.