

Kieran's Completed Community Projects 2019

Kieran's Our City, Town Column, Cork Independent

The column for 2019 highlighted everyday events and local history nuggets from this period of centenary commemorations. The year 1918 brought continuing challenges and opportunities to Cork and Ireland – elements such as rebuilding the economy and society after the war ending – all offer lenses in telling the story of life in Cork one hundred years ago. The full index for the 51 columns is here: http://corkheritage.ie/?page_id=4991

Cllr McCarthy's *The Little Book of Cork Harbour* Launched

Local historian and Independent Cllr Kieran McCarthy has launched his newest book entitled *The Little Book of Cork Harbour*. Published by The History Press, UK, the book presents a myriad of stories within the second largest natural harbour in the world. This is book number 22 for Kieran and it follows on from a series of Kieran's publications on the River Lee Valley, Cork City and complements his *Little Book of Cork* (History Press, Ireland, 2015). It is not meant to be a full history of the harbour region but does attempt to bring some of the multitudes of historical threads under one publication. However, each thread is connected to other narratives and each thread here is recorded to perhaps bring about future research on a site, person or the heritage of the wider harbour.

Cllr McCarthy noted: "The book is based on many hours of fieldwork and also draws on the emerging digitised archive of newspapers from the Irish Newspaper Archive and from the digitalised Archaeological Survey of Ireland's National Monument's Service".

"For centuries, people have lived, worked, travelled and buried their dead around Cork's coastal landscapes. The sea has been used a source of food, raw materials, as a means of travel and communications and as a place to build communities. Despite this, the harbour has very distinct localities and communities. Some are connected to each through recreational amenities such as rowing or boating and some exist in their own footprint with a strong sense of pride. Some areas such as Cobh and the military fortifications have been written about frequently by scholars and local historians whilst some prominent sites have no words of history or just a few sentences accorded to their development".

In the book there are sections on, Archaeology, Antiquities and Ancient Towers, Forts and Fortifications, Journeys Through Coastal Villages, Houses, Gentry and Estates and People, Place and Curiosities, Connecting a Harbour, Tales of Shipping, Industrial Harbour and Recreation and Tourism. Cllr McCarthy notes:

"Despite the industrialisation, Cork Harbour is a playground of ideas about how we approach our cultural heritage, how we remember and forget it, but most of all how much heritage there is to recover and celebrate".

The Little Book of Cork Harbour (2019, The History Press, UK) by Kieran McCarthy is available in Cork bookshops.

**THE
LITTLE
BOOK
OF
CORK
HARBOUR**



KIERAN MCCARTHY

Kieran's Historical Walking Tours, April 2019

Sunday 7 April, *The City Workhouse*, historical walking tour with Kieran; learn about Cork City's workhouse created for 2,000 impoverished people in 1841; meet just inside the gates of St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, 2.30pm (free, duration: two hours, on site tour, part of the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival).

Sunday 14 April, *Stories from Cork Docklands*, historical walking tour with Kieran, learn about the evolution of Cork's Docklands from its early days through its historical maps, 19th & 20th century industrialisation to housing and community building, meet at Kennedy Park, Victoria Road 2.30pm (free, duration, two hours, area tour, part of the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival, finishes nearby).

Sunday 21 April 2019, *Ballinlough Historical Walking Tour* with Kieran, learn about nineteenth century market gardens, schools, industries, and Cork's suburban standing stone, meet outside Beaumont BNS, Beaumont 2.30pm (free, duration: two hours, finishes on Ballinlough Road).

Cllr McCarthy's Community Talent Competition 2019

Cork's young people are invited to participate in the eleventh year of McCarthy's Community Talent Competition. The auditions will take place on Sunday 28 April 2018 between 10am-4pm in the Lifetime Lab, Lee Road. There are no entry fees and all talents are valid for consideration. The final will be held over one week later on Saturday 4 May in the Firkin Crane, Shandon. 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 been organised and funded by Cllr. Kieran McCarthy in association with Red Sandstone Varied Productions (RSVP).

The competition is open to all students in Cork City and region. A panel of well-known Cork professionals in the Arts will preside over the auditions and judge the final winner. 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". For further information contact Yvonne: rsvpireland@gmail.com. <http://kieranmccarthy.ie/?p=15059>

Poster: <http://kieranmccarthy.ie/?p=15135>



McCarthy's Make A Model Boat Project, May 2019

Douglas Road Cllr and local election candidate Kieran McCarthy invites all Cork young people to participate in the tenth 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 the Lough on Thursday 16 May 2019, 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 'Stories of Cork', which is open to interpretation. There are prizes for best models and the event is free to enter. For further information and to take part, please sign up at www.corkharbourfestival.com.

Cllr McCarthy, who is heading up the event, noted "The project is ten years old this year and over the years, all of the participants have been very creative and innovative. This youth project complements the Discover Cork Schools' Heritage Project and McCarthy's Community Talent Competition". In addition, Cllr McCarthy emphasises that places like the Lough are an important part of Cork's natural and amenity heritage.

The Cork Harbour Festival (1-9 June) 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 Saturday 1 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 Blackrock to Cork City in a spectacular flotilla.

Cllr McCarthy noted: "During the festival week embark on a journey to explore the beautiful Cork Harbour – from Douglas Estuary to Roches Point – and enjoy free harbour tours, sailing tasters, open days at heritage sites, and lots more; we need to link the city and areas like Blackrock and the Marina, Douglas estuary 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".



May 2019 Historical Walking Tours with Kieran

Bank Holiday Monday 6 May 2019, *Ballintemple Historical Walking Tour*; meet in old Ballintemple graveyard, Templehill, opposite O'Connor's Funeral Home, 2.30pm (free, duration: 2 hours, finishes on Blackrock Road).

Sunday 12 May 2019, *Stories from Blackrock and Mahon*, meet at entrance to Blackrock Castle, 2.30pm, (free, 2 hours, finishes near railway line walk, Blackrock Road).

Saturday 19 May 2019, *Douglas and its History*, meet in the carpark of Douglas Community Centre, 11am (free, duration: two hours, circuit of village, finishes nearby).

June 2019 Historical Walking Tours with Kieran

Sunday 9 June, *Stories from Cork Docklands*, historical walking tour with Kieran, learn about the evolution of Cork's Docklands from its early days through its historical maps, 19th & 20th century industrialisation to housing and community building, meet at Kennedy Park, Victoria Road 2pm (free, duration, two hours, on site tour, part of the Cork Harbour Festival and SeaFest).

Saturday, 22 June, *The Friar's Walk*; historical walking tour with Kieran; Discover Red Abbey, Elizabeth Fort, Barrack St, Callanan's Tower & Greenmount area; Meet at Red Abbey tower, off Douglas Street, 11am; free, duration: two hours.

Sunday 23 June, *The Lough & its Curiosities*; historical walking tour with Kieran, 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; 2.30pm (free, duration: two hours).

July 2019, Historical Walking Tours with Kieran

Saturday 6 July 2019, *The City Workhouse*, historical walking tour with Kieran; learn about Cork City's workhouse created for 2,000 impoverished people in 1841; meet just inside the gates of St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, 12noon (free, duration: two hours, on site tour, part of Friends of St Finbarr's Hospital garden fete).

Saturday 13 July 2019, *The Victorian Quarter*; historical walking tour with Kieran 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, 11am (free, duration: two hours).

Sunday 14 July 2019, *Sunday's Well*, historical walking tour with Kieran; discover the original well and the eighteenth-century origins of the suburb, meet at St Vincent's Bridge, North Mall end, 2.30pm (free, duration: two hours).

Cllr Kieran McCarthy's Historical Walking Tours for Heritage Week 2019

Saturday 17 August 2019 – *Historical Walking Tour of Cork City Hall* with Kieran, 11am, ticketed (free, part of Cork Heritage Open Day; duration: 75 minutes; details at www.corkheritageopenday.ie)

Sunday 18 August 2019, *Cork Through the Ages*, An introduction to the historical development of Cork City with Kieran; meet at the National Monument, Grand Parade, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours).

Monday 19 August 2019, *Shandon Historical Walking Tour* with Kieran, explore Cork's most historic quarter; meet at North Gate Bridge, Shandon Street, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours).

Tuesday 20 August 2019, *The Victorian Quarter*; historical walking tour with Kieran 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 22 August 2019, *The Lough and its Curiosities*; historical walking tour with Kieran; meet at green area at northern green of The Lough, entrance of Lough Road to The Lough; 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours)

Friday 23 August 2019, *Douglas and its History*, historical walking tour with Kieran in association with Douglas Tidy Towns; Discover the history of industry and the development of this historic village, meet in the carpark of Douglas Community Centre, 6.45pm (free, duration: two hours, circuit of village, finishes nearby).

Saturday 24 August 2019, *Park Stories*, Historical walking tour of Fitzgerald's Park with Kieran, explore the history of Cork's Mardyke, which is celebrating its 300th birthday this year; meet at band stand in park, opposite Cork City Museum, 11am (free, duration: two hours).

September 2019, Historical Walking Tours with Kieran

Saturday 21 September 2019, *Stories from Blackrock and Mahon*, historical walking tour with Kieran, meet at entrance to Blackrock Castle, 11am, (free, 2 hours, finishes near railway line walk, Blackrock Road).

Sunday 22 September 2019, *The Battle of Douglas, An Irish Civil War Story*, historical walking tour with Kieran, from carpark and entrance to Old Railway Line, Harty's Quay, Rochestown; 2pm, (free, 2 hours, finishes near Rochestown Road).

Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2020 launched for new school term

The Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project is entering its seventeenth year and is open to all schools in Cork City. The new areas of the City are especially welcome (including Douglas, Rochestown and Frankfield and beyond). The project encourages students to compile a project on any aspect of Cork history. It is about exploring and investigating local heritage in a constructive, active and fun way. Interested students can pick any topic on Cork's local history 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 and short films of their area.

Project books may be submitted on any aspect of Cork's rich past. The theme for this year's project is "The Past and its Legacy".

FREE and important project support in the form of funded workshops led by Cllr Kieran McCarthy in participating schools will be held in October 2019. This is an hour workshop to give participating students ideas for compilation and resources.

FREE Workshop support is also available to schools who have never entered before and wish to have a workshop to see how the project works.

The fourth-class level is open to fourth class students. The primary senior level is open to students of fifth and sixth class. Post primary entrant/s will be placed in Junior Certificate or Leaving Certificate levels. The post primary level is open to any year from first to sixth year. A student may enter as an individual or as part of a group or as part of a class project.

Co-ordinator and founder of the Schools' Heritage Project, Cllr Kieran McCarthy noted that "The project is about thinking through, understanding, appreciating and making relevant in today's society the role of our local heritage – our local history, our oral histories, our landmarks in our modern world for upcoming citizens. The annual workshops involve visiting *circa* 20 schools in Cork City with hours of workshops given overall to over 800 students. The workshops comprise showing students projects from previous years and providing a framework to work to and to encourage colour and creativity".

The City Edition of the Project is funded by Cork City Council. It is also sponsored by the Old Waterworks Experience, Lee Road, Learnit Lego Education, Sean Kelly of Lucky Meadows Equestrian Centre, Watergrasshill and Cllr Kieran McCarthy. Application forms to express interest and participation have been sent to all principals and history teachers in Cork. Unfortunately, due to back surgery for Kieran last year, the County Cork edition of the project has been discontinued. Contact Kieran at kieran_mccarthy@corkcity.ie for details or log onto Kieran's heritage website www.corkheritage.ie under the Discover Cork Schools' Heritage Project section to learn more and download the brochure.

<http://corkheritage.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2020-Discover-Cork-Schools-Heritage-Project-Brochure-City-Edition.pdf>

Auditions!!! Auditions!!! Auditions!!!

Cork City Musical Society presents its annual concert “An Evening at the Musicals” at the Firkin Crane, Shandon on Sunday 20 October 2019.

Open auditions to sing solo, duet, in a group or in the ensemble will take place at the Firkin Crane Shandon on Wednesday 4th August and Thursday 5th September, 6pm-9pm.

Prepare one song from any musical and preferably bring along sheet music for our MD or backing track on a phone. Older and newer musical theatre songs are all welcome.

Participants must be over 18 to participate in Cork City Musical Society.

To book an audition slot please PM us on our FB page with your optimum time and with the song you’ll be singing.

“An Evening at the Musicals will run on Sunday 20 October and will be directed by Cllr Kieran McCarthy, Musical Direction by Jimmy Brockie and production by Yvonne Coughlan, Red Sandstone Varied Productions.

Cllr McCarthy to stage An Evening of Musical Theatre

Douglas Road Cllr Kieran McCarthy directs Cork City Musical Society’s “Greatest Tunes and Melodies, An Evening of Musical Theatre” at the Firkin Crane, Shandon on Sunday 20 October at 8pm. The Musical Director is Jimmy Brockie and the producer is Yvonne Coughlan of Red Sandstone Varied Productions. Tickets are €18 and are online at www.firkin Crane.ie

Cork City Musical Society have staged 3 musicals and multiple community concerts since the society’s founding.

Founded by Cllr 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”.

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”. Check out Cork City Musical Society on facebook for more details.



Cllr McCarthy Launches New Book on Cork Chamber of Commerce

A new book *Championing Cork* chronicles the history of city region and that of the Cork Chamber of Commerce, which was founded 200 years ago on 8 November 1819.

Early last year, Douglas Road local historian Cllr Kieran McCarthy was commissioned to research the history of the Chamber, and the book was launched at a dinner to celebrate the Chamber's anniversary last week.

This book draws on the Chamber's records in Cork City and County Archives and from its press coverage over two hundred years. It highlights the big stories of the Chamber's past but also the subtler elements – the conversations, speeches, the messages, the creativity, the elements of empowerment – the intangible pulses, which drive an institution forward.

Speaking at the launch of the history book at The Metropole Hotel Cork, Chamber President Paula Cogan said, "This book brings together 200 years of history of the region. It gives a wonderful flavour of the Chamber's activities through the decades, describing them in relation to the socio-political and economic context at the time. Kieran took on the responsibility of bringing together 200 years of history with great enthusiasm and with an appreciation of both the importance and impossibility of such a task!"

Cork Chamber has lobbied on behalf of its members on key projects that have transformed the Cork over 200 years. Some of the early campaigns included the first railway services in Cork and supporting the establishment of the further education institutions.

Over the years the Chamber has been a strong advocate for infrastructure developments, such as the growth of Cork Airport, the Port of Cork and the docklands. Working to raise the profile of the region nationally and internationally has been a key part of the Chamber's mandate and this continues to be a core activity.

Commenting on the book, author and historian Cllr Kieran McCarthy said: "Two hundred years ago a small group of gentlemen met at Shinkwin's Rooms on St Patrick's Street – a small two storey building not overly developed. Minutes were kept, a chair appointed, and the rules of the new organisation were set out as their winter meetings progressed.

As the years passed, the new Chamber etched out its own vision and pursued development, across themes such as docklands development, the need to harness new technologies, the need for enhanced commuter belt transport, the need to mind and enhance the City's appearance, the role of Cork Harbour in the city's economic development, Cork's relationship with the UK, diplomatic opportunity building, branding the city – to name just a few. In essence, this new book explores the Chamber's journey and lobbying work into these themes over two hundred years and much more".

Speaking at the launch, CEO Conor Healy said: "While some things change over time, the core of the Chamber's remit of supporting our members through good and more challenging times remains unchanged. The Chamber values of being dynamic, purposeful, inspiring and above all responsible, underpin our vision and purpose, and we look to the next chapter of our history with confidence".



CHAMPIONING CORK

CORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | 1819-2019

Kieran McCarthy

Cllr McCarthy's new book 50 Gems of West Cork Launched

Cllr Kieran McCarthy has launched his third book of this year - 50 gems of West Cork (Amberley Publishing, 2019). The new book explores 50 well-known gems of the West Cork region and is a culmination of 18 months work. It brings 50 stories together in an accessible manner. It is not meant to provide be a full history of a site but perhaps does try to provide new lenses on how heritage is looked at and the power of construction and collective memory in West Cork.

The new book details 50 key sites detailing how they became the focus of attention and development – and how their stories, memories and the making of new narratives were articulated in an attempt to preserve an identity and/ or communities locally and nationally at sites or to create new identities and communities.

Cllr McCarthy highlights that several sites in the book came into being in the fledging years of the Irish Free State where tourism and story-telling about the nation's history were highlighted or some sites were created from the burgeoning boom time of 1960s Ireland, where the focus was on developing industry and recreational amenities. For example, the promotion of areas such as Inchidoney Island for more tourism was driven by the Irish Free State's Irish Tourist Association (ITA), which was established in 1925 to market the young Irish Free State as a tourist destination internationally. Small resorts along the West Cork coastline were developed simultaneously at sites such as Courtmacsherry, Glandore, Bantry Bay, Glengarriff and Berehaven.

The book takes the reader from Bandon to Dursey Island, from Gougane Barra to the Healy Pass. Cllr McCarthy notes; "Researching West Cork, the visitor discovers that each parish has its own local historian, historical society, village council, sometimes a library, tidy towns group, community group and business community who have inspired the collection of stories, the creation of heritage trails and information panels, and the championing of a strong sense of place and identity".

"Relics from the past also haunt the landscape with prominent landmarks ranging from Bronze Age standing stones to ivy clad ruined houses and castles, churches and old big houses, to beacons, cable cars and lighthouses. All add to the narrative of the spectacle that is West Cork", noted Cllr McCarthy.

50 GEMS OF WEST CORK

KIERAN MCCARTHY

