

Kieran's Completed Community Projects, 2021:

– Journeys to a Truce, 1921, Kieran's *Our City, Our Town* column in the *Cork Independent*:

Welcome to year 22 for my column *Our City, Our Town* in the *Cork Independent*. The column for 2021 highlights everyday events and local history nuggets from this period of centenary commemorations, and are weekly posted on this blog website.

The indices for *Our City, Our Town* are here,

[2021 Journeys to a Truce 1921 | Cork Heritage](#)

– 12th Cllr Kieran McCarthy's *Community Talent Competition* produced by Red Sandstone Varied Productions, deferred due to Covid restrictions.

- Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project, 2020/21:

To All Cork City National School Teachers and Secondary School History Teachers.

Covid-19 has brought many challenges to every part of society and never before has our locality being important for recreation and for our peace of mind. In the past few months more focus than ever has been put on places we know, appreciate and even on places we don't know but now depend on as we remain grounded in our neighbourhoods and corners of Cork City.

Against the backdrop of Covid 19, the *Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2021* (Cork City Edition) launches in its 19th year and is open to schools in Cork City. Funded by Cork City Council. The Project is an initiative of the **Cork City Heritage Plan**.

The City Edition of the *Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project* (est. 2002/03) is aimed at both primary and post primary level. Project books may be submitted on any aspect of Cork's rich past. Suggested topics are over the page. The theme for this year's project is "**Living Through History**", which is a nod to the historic pandemic we are living through.

FREE and important project support in the form of funded workshops (socially distanced, virtual or hybrid) led by Cllr Kieran McCarthy in participating schools will be held in October 2020. 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.

The overall Project continues to encourage and work with Cork students in **celebrating, highlighting, debating** and creating fresh approaches to our cultural heritage. Research and creativity are encouraged in an effort to create relevancy, awareness and appreciation of the past amongst young people. The Project also focuses on students gaining acknowledgement and self-confidence from their work.

There are **prizes** for best projects – trophies, book tokens, digital cameras and school workshops to be won. Certificates will be given to all entrants.

Interested...then read on!

– **The application form for the 2020/21 school season is available to download here,**

[2020-21 City BrochureDownload](#)



- Cllr McCarthy commissions two new street art murals on Douglas Road, January 2021

Independent Cllr Kieran McCarthy continues his commissions of street art on Douglas Road. In recent weeks, two new pieces have emerged on traffic switch boxes. The first mural, which is located at Cross Douglas Road, is that of Terence and Muriel MacSwiney who lived at 5 Eldred Terrace in 1917.

Cllr McCarthy highlighted: “There was a commemorative plaque erected on the wall of their former house in June 1980 but unfortunately the plaque was taken down a few months later. There have been calls within the Ballinlough area and Douglas Road by locals to once again mark the story from over hundred years ago of the MacSwineys living within the local community. This mural’s central image is from an old photograph of the couple whilst the rose motif is a nod to the always beautiful adjacent flower shop.

The second mural is opposite the entrance to St Finbarr’s Hospital. Cllr McCarthy noted: “The mural has the theme of “hold firm” and is dedicated to healthcare staff within the hospital who have held firm against COVID-19. The mural adds to the existing street art mural, which was painted Kevin O’Brien outside CUH last year”.

“It has been great to commission artist Kevin O’Brien again. This is my sixth commission with him. He really brings ordinary municipal utility boxes to life with his creativity, imparting uplifting and positive messages. Roads such as Douglas Road are well walked everyday, so it is great to bring his work into heart of suburban communities”, concluded Cllr McCarthy.

Artist Kevin O’Brien noted: “Street art is a fantastic way to improve the aesthetic of urban areas and build a sense of character in communities, but beyond that, with cultural spaces currently closed, the availability of street art in public spaces takes on an even greater importance”.



Terence and Muriel MacSwiney by Kevin O'Brien Commissioned by Cllr Kieran McCarthy



Hold

Firm by Kevin O'Brien Commissioned by Cllr Kieran McCarthy

- Talk on the History and Rehabilitation of Daly's Bridge (The Shakey Bridge), 16 February 2021:

VIEW the talk: [The History & Rehabilitation of Daly's \(Shakey\) Bridge, Cork City - YouTube](#)

The History and Rehabilitation of Daly's Bridge (The Shakey Bridge) presented by Michael Minehane, Chartered Principal Engineer at RPS and Kieran McCarthy, noted local Cork historian.

"As part of the Cork Regional 80th Anniversary celebrations, we are delighted to host this presentation on the history and refurbishment of the iconic "Shakey" Bridge which was originally built under the stewardship of the then City Engineer, SW Farrington, who was also the first Chair of the Cork Region of Engineers Ireland" says Ronan Keane, current Chair.

The presentation will outline the social and economic context of the original construction, first opened in 1927, replacing an earlier ferry crossing at the same location. It remains the only suspension bridge in Cork City and is the only surviving bridge of its type in Ireland.

Michael Minehane says, "I will be giving the second part of the talk which will outline the recent rehabilitation of the bridge which re-opened in December 2020, including the special inspection and structural assessment, site investigations and material testing, rehabilitation works, approach to conservation, structural dynamics and aspects of design and construction."

Kieran McCarthy will talk about the history of the bridge.

"Of all the bridges in the city centre island, one can argue that Daly's Bridge is the one which holds the fascination of the public the most. The removal of the main body of the bridge to deep clean it off site caused a large tinge of public sadness. Its return to the Banks of the Lee in the spring of 2020 heralded hope, and almost a sense that a valued family member had returned. The bridge's essence has transcended time from a physical bridging point to one of playfulness, one of fun, and one whose shakiness is a key part of Cork's Cultural Heritage."

The History & Rehabilitation of Daly's (Shakey) Bridge on Tuesday, 16th February at 7pm online via zoom, It's a FREE event and all are welcome:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7M2J_bAKQsGsGxKCD4QBaq

- Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project 2021 concludes with online Awards Ceremony:

The conclusion of this school season's Discover Cork Schools' Heritage Project was recently marked by an online awards ceremony and presentation of winning projects. A total of 25 schools in Cork City took part in the 2020-21 edition, which ranged from schools in Ballinlough, Ballintemple, Blackrock to Blarney and Glanmire, and from Ballyphehane to the Shandon area. *Circa* 1,000 students participated in the process this year with approx 200 project books submitted on all aspects of Cork's local history & heritage.

The Discover Cork Schools' Heritage Project is in its 18th year and is a youth platform for students to do research and write it up in a project book whilst offering 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 this year was even more apt this year as we all find ourselves within our localities much more. In particular, this year's entries focussed on famous buildings of Cork City, historic walkways, public parks and many oral history projects. Again, this year students made fab models and short films on their topics. One could also see the family and friend involvement in projects. Technically with this project for every one student, there are another four people who have been consulted and who are consulted to help with projects. One could argue that over 4,000 people have some input into project books every year".

"The Schools' Heritage Project remains focussed about developing new skill sets within young people in thinking about, understanding, appreciating, and making relevant in today's society the role of our heritage - our landmarks, our stories, our landscapes in our modern world. Ultimately the project focuses on motivating and inspiring young people through them working on a heritage project for several weeks and seeks to build a sense of place and identity amongst younger people", concluded Cllr McCarthy.

The Project is funded by Cork City Council with further sponsorship offered by the Old Cork Waterworks Experience and Cllr Kieran McCarthy.

Full results are online on Cllr McCarthy's local history website, www.corkheritage.ie. There is also a link there to the YouTube award ceremony. On the YouTube video Kieran, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Joe Kavanagh, and Niamh Twomey, City Council Heritage Officer speak about the winning projects for this school season.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wnBxmpvTrY&feature=youtu.be>

- Cllr McCarthy's Make a Model Boat Project 2021:

Douglas Road and Independent Cllr Kieran McCarthy invites all Cork young people to participate in the eleventh year of *McCarthy's Make a Model Boat Project*. This year because of COVID all interested participants once again make a model boat at home from recycled materials and submit a picture or a video of it to the competition organisers. All models should be photographed or videoed and emailed to admin@corkharbourfestival.com by 23 May 2021.

The event is being run in association with Meitheal Mara and the Cork Harbour Festival Team. There are three categories, two for primary and one for secondary students. The theme is 'At Home by the Lee', which is open to interpretation. The model must be creative though and must be able to float. There are prizes for best models and the event is free to enter. For further information, please see the community events section at www.kieranmccarthy.ie

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. I am going to miss this year seeing the models float at The Lough. The Make a Model Boat Project is part of a suite of community projects I have organised and personally invested in over the years– the others include the Discover Cork: Schools' Heritage Project with Cork City Council, the Community local history walks, local history publications, McCarthy's Community Talent Competition and Cork City Musical Society"*.

CORK HARBOUR FESTIVAL



Cllr Kieran McCarthy's

Make a Model Boat Project

AT HOME BY THE LEE - 2021

Make a model boat at home from recycled materials - the theme is: "At Home by the Lee".

- There are three age categories: 4-6yrs, 7-11yrs and 12-15yrs.
- There are prizes for best models and the project is free to enter.
- The closing date for entries is **23rd of May 2021**
- You will need to send a picture or video of your creation to admin@corkharbourfestival.com



Cllr McCarthy's Make a Model Boat Project 2021

Cllr Kieran McCarthy's

Make a Model Boat Project

Categories:

- The entrants will be placed in categories or levels, of which there are three: 4-6yrs 7-11yrs and 12-15yrs
- Special need categories will be created on the basis of interest by applications received.

Prizes:

Gift vouchers will be awarded to the firsts in each category. Certificates will be awarded to each participant. Prizes are kindly sponsored by Cllr Kieran McCarthy and will be posted out to the winning participants.

Model Presentation:

- The theme is "At home by the Lee", which is open to interpretation.
- Models should be made from recycled materials. The nature of what kind of model boat should be made is up to you.
- As per previous years, we still hope to give your boat its maiden voyage at The Lough later this year so do test it in a sink or bath for floatability.
- All models should be photographed or videoed and emailed to **admin@corkharbourfestival.com** by **23rd of May 2021**.
- Please include the names of the boat builders and their ages, as well as the name of the boat.
- As we will be posting these up on social media please only submit photos of the boats (not the boat builders) and we will only use first names, age and area on our posts.
- There are no restrictions on the size of the model.
- Prizes will be awarded to models that are of a high standard and in particular, which demonstrate colour, creativity and imagination.
- Photos will go up on social media under hashtag: #makeamodelboat
- You will be contacted by email if you have won a prize and look forward to seeing you at our Model Boat event at The Lough later this year (date to be confirmed).

**CORK
HARBOUR
FESTIVAL**



**Good luck to
everyone!**

Cllr

McCarthy's Make a Model Boat Project 2021

VIEW Model boats from McCarthy's Make a Model Boat Project 2021:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHLcMPA4_7k

– The Marina – Self Guided Audio Trail:

- **4 June 2021 – June 14, 2021, 06:00 – 23:55, In association with Cllr Kieran McCarthy, FREE**

A stroll down The Marina is popular by many people. The area is particularly characterized by its location on the River Lee and the start of Cork Harbour. Here scenery, historical monuments and living heritage merge to create a historical tapestry of questions of who developed such a place of ideas. Where not all the answers have survived, The Marina is lucky, unlike other suburbs, that many of its former residents have left archives, autobiographies, census records, diaries, old maps and insights into how the area developed. These give an insight into ways of life and ambitions in the past, some of which can help the researcher in the present day in understanding The Marina's evolution and sense of place going forward. Take a walk with us and discover more.

The audio tour will be available here to stream live on your smartphone from 4-14 June 2021, [The Marina – Self Guided Audio Trail ~ Cork Harbour Festival](#)



Autumn at The Marina, Cork (picture: Kieran McCarthy)

– Bridges of Cork – Online Talk:

- **8 June 2021, 19:30 – 20:30, In association with Cllr Kieran McCarthy.**

Cork City's growth on a swamp is an amazing story. The city possesses a unique character derived from a combination of its plan, topography, built fabric and its location on the lowest crossing point of the river Lee as it meets the tidal estuary and the second largest natural harbour in the world. Indeed, it is also a city that is unique among other cities, it is the only one which has experienced all phases of Irish urban development, from circa 600 AD to the present day. Hence its bridges all date to different times of urban growth and possess different architectural traits. This zoom presentation explores the general development of the city's bridges and why they were historically so important and are still so important in connecting the different parts of Cork City together.

[Bridges of Cork – Online Talk ~ Cork Harbour Festival](#)

VIEW Kieran's Talk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqW1DXQXFsk>

FREE, Register here: <https://forms.gle/pazrXi1nVPQFSqKJ7>



Bridge, AKA Shaky Bridge, present day (picture: Kieran McCarthy)

Daly's

– Bridges of Cork Treasure Hunt:

- **12 June 2021, 13:00 – 13:15, In association with Cllr Kieran McCarthy.**

They say the best way to get to know a city is to walk it – in Cork you can get lost in narrow streets, marvel at old cobbled lane ways, 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. This treasure hunt is all about looking up and around and exploring the heart of Cork City whilst exploring the stories and place of the city centre's bridges.

Suitable for all ages, approx. **2hr self-guided walk**, mixed footpaths on city's quays.

FREE, Join: Meet Cllr Kieran McCarthy at National Monument, Grand Parade, Cork, between 13:00-13:15, no booking required. Bring a pen. Self guided heritage treasure hunt.

[Bridges of Cork Treasure Hunt ~ Cork Harbour Festival](#)

- **Kieran's Online Events for National Heritage Week, 14-22 August 2021:**
- **Event: Cork City Hall: Stories from the Past:**

Date: Saturday 14 August, All day online at www.corkheritageopenday.ie

Organiser: Interview with Cllr Kieran McCarthy in collaboration with Cork City Council.

Cork has had a number of City Hall sites through the ages but none as grand as the present one. In the age of the Anglo Norman walled town and eighteenth century, civic business was conducted in King's Castle. Business was also conducted in Cork City Courthouse for a time in the nineteenth century. In 1883, it was decided by a number of Cork businessmen that the Corn Exchange should be converted into an exhibition centre, a centre, which in 1892 became Cork's City Hall.

In December 1920, the premises were burned down by fires attributed to the Black and Tans as retribution for republican attacks during the Irish War of Independence. A new City Hall by architects Jones and Kelly was subsequently built. The limestone like for so many of Cork's buildings is from nearby Little Island. The foundation stone of Cork City Hall was laid by Éamon de Valera on 9 July 1932.

- **Event: Bridges of Cork Audio Heritage Trail:**

Date: Saturday, 14 August-Sunday 22 August, 2021

Organiser: Cllr Kieran McCarthy in collaboration with Meitheal Mara

Needs: Smart phone and headphones; Log onto on Bridges of Cork Audio Heritage Trail under history trails at www.corkheritage.ie

Suitability: Suitable for all ages; approx two hours walk, mixed footpaths on city's quays.

Event: Begins at South Gate Bridge and follow around the historic bridges of Cork City Centre island, discovering their history plus exploring some of the local history along the way.

Details: This audio trail provides insights into the histories of the Cork city centre's bridges, their place in Cork and some of their surrounding histories. The walk around the bridges is about two hours and the trail is clockwise from South Gate Bridge up the south channel and down the north channel to cross back to the south channel. It ends at Nano Nagle Bridge. There are 31 bridge stops.

All you need is your smartphone and some headphones. The audio trail starts at South Gate Bridge. Download The Bridges of Cork map as a Jpeg so you can easily follow the route. Have fun!

- **Event: The Marina Audio Heritage Trail:**

Date: Saturday, 14 August-Sunday 21 August, 2021

Organiser: Cllr Kieran McCarthy in collaboration with Meitheal Mara

Needs: Smart phone and headphones; Log onto on The Marina Audio Heritage Trail under history trails at www.corkheritage.ie

Suitability: Suitable for all ages; approx. 90 minute walk, mixed footpaths on The Marina.

A stroll down The Marina is popular by many people. The area is particularly characterized by its location on the River Lee and the start of Cork Harbour. Here scenery, historical monuments and living heritage merge to create a historical tapestry of questions of who developed such a place of ideas. Where not all the answers have survived, The Marina is lucky, unlike other suburbs, that many of its former residents have left archives, autobiographies, census records, diaries, old maps and insights into how the area developed. These give an insight into ways of life and ambitions in the past, some of which can help the researcher in the present day in understanding The Marina's evolution and sense of place going forward. Take a walk with us and discover more.

All you need is your smartphone and some headphones. The audio trail starts at the very western end of The Marina, near Shandon Boat Club. Download The Marina map as a Jpeg so you can easily follow the route. Have fun!



St Patrick's Bridge, Cork, present day (picture: Kieran McCarthy)

- Engineering 19th Century Cork: Exploring the Work and Times of Sir John Benson, 25 November 2021:

Kieran McCarthy gives a zoom talk on Nineteenth Century Engineer Sir John Benson on his Cork works ranging from bridges to waterworks to special sites such as the Berwick Fountain.

Thursday 25 November, 6.30pm, with Engineer's Ireland, Cork Branch, and the Friends of the Crawford. Booking details here: www.engineersireland.ie/listings/event/7906

The talk reflects on the enormous legacy of engineer and architect Sir John Benson. His work as County Surveyor, Cork Harbour engineer and then City Engineer in Cork from 1846 to 1873 was concerned with not only developing a public road network, developing river dredging works programme but also engineering a water supply for the entire city, and ultimately improving the quality of life in the city and region.

Much has been written on many of John's well-known works over the years such as the beautiful Berwick Fountain, the red bricked English Market exterior, the striking St Patrick's Bridge and his work on designing the North Cathedral's western tower.

John was passionate about his work and about Cork. His array of works he was involved in show he was a hard-worker and a visionary for his time. He was also a pioneer in designing National Exhibition buildings in Cork and in Dublin in order to showcase the products of the country. He is also remembered for his extensive railway line work being the engineer for the old Cork-Macroom rail line and the architect for the first Cork-Dublin railway terminus, which existed before the current Kent Station, and part of which still survives and is currently being preserved.