Local Studies 2019

# Proposed programme of events

We plan to build on successful programme of events delivered in 2018 with a renewed focus on events related to the decade of centenaries and a determination to engage our younger citizens in the history and heritage of their local area. We will work with identified partners such as the Heritage Officer, Local Historical Societies and others to develop this programme.

An exhibition marking the centenary of the First Dáil was launched on 21 January and is currently on display in County Library, Tallaght, Ballyroan, Lucan and Clondalkin Libraries. Over the course of the year further events will be arranged to commemorate the events of 1919 including the start of the War of Independence. Looking beyond Ireland, it is proposed to stage an exhibition to mark the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and an exhibition to remember the first moon landing in 1969. We also plan to host an exhibition that celebrates the history of The Dublin Fire Service.

A major focus for the year will be our History and Heritage programme of events which takes place from July to September. Last year 52 separate events took place across the county and this year promises even more. The programme includes guided heritage walks, historical lectures and exhibitions as well as history related events specifically for children such as the Massy’s wood children’s Treasure Hunt. We have also engaged with The School of Irish Archaeology with a view to hosting ‘The Big Dig’ at one or two library branches during the summer. This is an experience for schoolchildren that allows them to get their hands dirty and practice actual archaeology.

This year we have launched an ambitious new project that is aimed at primary schools in the Tallaght area. Entitled ‘Where do you think you are from?’ it aims to develop a greater sense of place by introducing 5th Class students to the history of Tallaght and then getting them to explore their family history and gain an understanding of how they came to live in Tallaght. It will involve school visits and it is anticipated that the students work will be edited and published with a launch scheduled for Culture Night in September.

Throughout the year County Library, Tallaght will be hosting The Tallaght Historical Society lecture series. Two lectures have already taken place in January and a full programme of speakers has been engaged to speak on a variety of historical topics on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Lucan, Clondalkin and Ballyroan libraries are also working with their local historical societies and a programme of talks and walks have been arranged.

On a day to day basis genealogy and local history queries are directed to the Local Studies Librarian at County Library, Tallaght and we will continue to provide this service to the public. Also, to improve our ability to respond to genealogy queries, we are exploring taking out a subscription to FindMyPast genealogical database, which we hope will be available to the public in the branch network later on this year. Lectures and courses on how to trace your family tree will also be arranged in branch libraries during the year.

As part of our programme of support for senior cycle students, Local Studies will provide advice and assistance to Leaving Certificate history students including a workshop on how to complete their History Research Project.

Local Studies supports the publication of material that adds to sum of local historical knowledge and we are currently working with the author of a new work on the history of Newlands Demesne. It is expected that this book will be launched in 2019.

In 2019 we will also continue to add items to **Source** our digital archive of over 11,000 images, maps, audio and ephemera relating to the history of the county.