

Post SPECIAL REPORT

1916 COMMEMORATIONS

The women who

THE HISTORIC celebrations and commemorations of the 1916 Rising are taking place all over the county and city. Bernie Eng...

FORMER Mayor, Kevin Sheahan is a man who wants to see the women who took an active part in action and planning of the rising take their proper place.

Chairman of the Limerick 1916 commemorative committee, he was impressed from a very early age by the role of women in one of the defining events of Irish history.

One such Limerick woman is Kathleen Daly-Clarke, wife of the executed Thomas Clarke and founder of Cumann na mBan.

"She was a spirited, amazing woman. The women of Cumann na mBan had plenty to say in the Rising. They were well educated and, to be fair, they didn't have to get involved but the level of activism among the women was second to none," the Fianna Fail councillor told the Limerick Post.

Cllr Sheahan has proposed that the newly constructed tunnel under the Shannon should be named after Kathleen Clarke Daly and the organisation she founded.

"It doesn't have a name, so we're not taking anything away from someone else," he said.

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FORMER MAYOR, KEVIN SHEAHAN

Another suggestion is that every school would have a tricolour flag and a copy of the proclamation, an idea which has taken hold nationwide.

And secondary school children will be asked to write their own vision of a proclamation for a modern Ireland, one that would reflect the nation as it is now.

The Limerick committee is made up of representatives of each political party along with council officials and it has been a fertile ground for ideas.

Cllr Sheahan has brought the experiences he gained on his official travels to the table.

"On a visit to Kansas city, I saw a little memorial park, no bigger than a farm kitchen but it had flag poles, a lectern and facility to plug in a microphone. I would love to see one of those gardens in each of the principal towns in the county and one at the back of city hall. "I thought every town should have something like that so we're having an architect draw up a design. I would like to see a copy of the proclamation set in stone in each garden".

He is very encouraged that individuals and communities are making all kinds of suggestions about how the events of Easter week should be remembered.

"It's marvellous that people are activating their minds and coming up with suggestions. And if the local authority can't do all of projects that have been suggested, then we should help communities to do them themselves".

Cllr Sheahan said that while various political shades of opinion are represented on the committee, members have risen above party politics to get the plans moving.

"We wanted this committee to be for every party and none, to be inclusive and all of the members work in that spirit and have co-operated," the former Mayor said.



Kathleen Daly-Clarke and (inset) her 1916 service medal.

A woman of the revolution

BORN in Limerick in 1878, Kathleen Daly-Clarke became a crucial part of the planning and execution of the 1916 Rising.

In 1901 at the age of 23, she married a man 20 years her senior. Tom Clarke had served a 15 year sentence in England for treason and, to Kathleen, he was the embodiment of a heroic Irishman and the first signatory to the proclamation.

The couple had three sons – John Daly Clarke, Tom Junior and Emmet. Tom Clarke's involvement in nationalist politics culminated in his participation in the 1916 Rising, and his

subsequent execution. Kathleen's only brother Edward (Ned) Daly was another of the leaders to be executed.

A founder member of Cumann na mBan and the Fianna Fáil party, she had insider knowledge of the plans for the Easter week but did not take part in the fighting as she had been charged with distributing food and aid to prisoners' families.

During the War of Independence, she was an active fundraiser and sheltered men and women on the run. She worked as a District Justice in the Sinn Féin courts in Dublin for the north city

circuit and also as Chairman of the Judges on this circuit.

In 1919, she was elected Alderman for Dublin Corporation and subsequently became the first female Mayor the city and a Senator.

She refused to accept the mayoral chain of office as it had been donated by William of Orange and a smaller chain was commissioned.

On moving into the Mansion House she caused outrage by taking down a portrait of Queen Victoria and other monarchs and having them sent to storage.

POBLACHT NA THE PROVISIONAL OF THE IRISH RE TO THE PEOPLE

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of the people from which she receives her old tradition of her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her many organisations, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Women's Volunteers, she has perfected her discipline, having resolved herself, she now seizes that moment, and supported by gallant allies in Europe, but relying on her own strength, strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to the usurpation of that right by a foreign people a right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the every generation the Irish people have asserted their sovereignty; six times during the past three centuries, standing on that fundamental right of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic and we pledge our lives and the lives of our freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation a

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby guaranteed, and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens the happiness and prosperity of the whole of the children of the nation equally, and obliged by an alien Government, which have divided the people.

Until our arms have brought the opportunity of a permanent National Government, representing the suffrages of all her men and women constituted, will administer the civil and military government of the people.

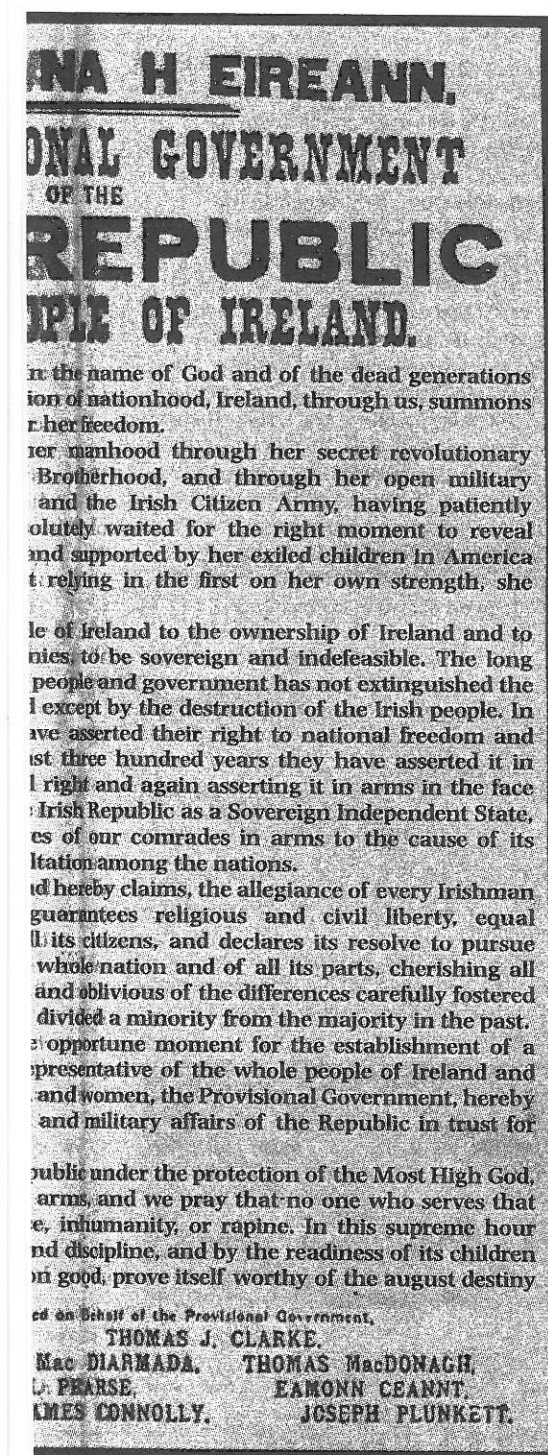
We place the cause of the Irish Republic upon Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, a cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline, to sacrifice themselves for the common good, to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of

SEAN M. DUFFY
P. H. HARRIS
JAMES C.

no made history

of the 1916 rising in Limerick will see events happening
English got a preview of what's in store.



WHAT'S HAPPENING WHERE

The Centenary commemoration plans are well advanced with a deadline of Autumn of this year set to develop the programme. The local authority is leading the charge with a budget of €100,000. An independent adjudication panel and they are linking in with all the large bodies involved, including the three third level institutions and Iarnród Éireann. Events are being divided under various headings:

Strand 1 – Commemorations

Six Memorial Gardens in all three municipal districts and at City Hall

Con Colbert memorial plaque at his birthplace in Castlemahon and a commemoration event in Athea

Commemorative tree planting project at the Demesne in Newcastle West

Planting of seven trees to commemorate the 1916 leaders at Grange, Kilmallock

Limerick International Veterans Day Parade 2016

Ceremonial events at Newcastle West Monument, Ballintubrid Monument and Sarsfield Bridge Monument, featuring the Irish Army.

Strand 2 – Historical Reflection

Family history and exhibition on life of Edward Daly by Limerick Genealogy

Family history and exhibition on life of Con Colbert by Limerick Genealogy

Eamonn De Valera will be remembered in a programme of events and reflections in the De Valera Museum.

Exhibition and lecture by Donal Sheehan in Newcastle West

Reading of Proclamation and collection of local material leading to exhibition and lectures in Galbally.

Remembering Munster in 1916. Public lecture in Knocklong

Lectures on the Easter Rising by Rathkeale Historical Society

Limerick Spring Festival of Politics will focus on the 1916 Proclamation and where we are now

The Military History of Limerick exhibition by the Organisation of National ex-servicemen and women

Strand 3 – An Teanga Bheo

The Seachtain na Gaeilge programme will feature a range of Irish events.

A cultural event at Newcastle West will include a focus on the Irish language.

Initiatives aimed at young people will be delivered through the Irish language using the county's Gaelscoilleana

Strand 4 – Youth and Imagination

Limerick: A Musical Auto-Ethnography, 1916-2016 involves members of Music Generation Limerick City researching Limerick's musical identity and reflecting on the past 100 years.

Exhibition "Cherish our Children" by Limerick Printmakers reflecting on children of the nation, 100 years after the Rising.

Strand 5 – Cultural Expression

Exhibition of Tapestries for the centenary by Deirdre Carr in Kilmallock

A night of song, poetry and commemoration in Newcastle West

1916: How Did We Get Here – A play leading up to the events of the 1916 Rising by Anglesboro Drama Group

Art Work by Aislinn O'Keeffe focusing on the role of women in the struggle for independence

Children of the Revolution – traditional music and song research and performance project drawing on the 1916 Rising

Limerick Writers' Centre will produce an Anthology of Reactions to 1916

Strand 6 – Community Participation

Re-enactment of march by 300 Irish Volunteers to Glenquin Castle, to receive shipment of German arms

Oral History: A recording of stories of those with 1916 connections

Limerick Printmakers community project involving six artists working with six community groups culminating in an exhibition.

Limerick 1916: A weekend recreation of events to commemorate Limerick life in 1916

Strand 7 – Public Bodies

As well as community based projects, the centenary events will also feature major involvement by Limerick City and County Council, CIE and the University of Limerick.

The Library service: Public lectures on 1916 will include Dr. Diarmuid Ferriter and Dr. Sinéad McCoole.

An exhibition will be held in Rathkeale on Dr. Richard Hayes, a Limerick man who participated in the Rising.

Facsimile reproductions of the Limerick Leader for the week of the Rising will be on display.

"Your Ireland" – A 1916 poetry competition for post primary schools.

Limerick Museum: A major exhibition on Life in Limerick in 1916 at the former Franciscan Church. The tricolour seized from the Limerick Volunteers in 1916 will be on display

'Limerick on the Eve of Revolution' exhibition using material sourced from a series of roadshows held this Summer.

The distribution of an education pack for all Limerick Schools to include documents, songs and narratives explaining the local and national context of 1916.

The Arts service: Eva International Festival will concentrate on the post-colonial condition of Ireland as a point of departure.

The Limerick City International Ballad Conference will be held in July 2016, on the theme 'Songs of Rebellion, Songs of Freedom'

University of Limerick: 'A Song Trail of Limerick' partnership project in conjunction with the World Academy of Music to create a song tour based on 1916 as part of a conference organised by UL

A special concert will be held at UL in May 2016 on the anniversary of the executions.

Other events: A portrait of Con Colbert will be unveiled at Colbert Station with QR code enabling passengers to download an e-book about his life.

The Limerick Smarter Travel street project 'Re-imaging Travel' will celebrate the use of cargo bikes in 1916. The Old Limerick Journal will produce a special 1916 commemorative edition.

this During her time in office, she helped found the Irish Red Cross.

ublin After being imprisoned for a short time by the Free State, she went to the United States to lecture and raise money for the Republican movement.

1 of She died in Liverpool in 1972, aged 94 having moved there to live with her son and his family.

ed. Her contribution to the fight for Irish freedom and the foundation of the Irish Republic was considered important enough for her to be given a state funeral.