

News

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1916 CENTENARY

Limerick to honour women revolutionaries

by Bernie English

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A FORMER Mayor of Limerick has called for the 1916 centenary celebrations in Limerick to include the naming of the tunnel under the Shannon after one of the Limerick's revolutionary figures, Kathleen Clarke.

Limerick-born Kathleen Clarke was a founder member of Cumann na mBan and one of very few privy to the plans of the Easter Rising. She was subsequently a TD and Senator with both Sinn Féin and Fianna Fáil and the first female Lord Mayor of Dublin.

She was married to Thomas Clarke who was the second person to be executed for taking part in the rising.

Cllr Kevin Sheahan (FF) said that it is the wish of the council committee set up to make proposals on the coming celebrations that the "role which was played by women be given special recognition.

"With is in mind, I would like to see the tunnel under the Shannon named in honour of Kathleen Clarke and Cumann na mBan. The tunnel has no name at present so it would not be taking anything away".

Cllr Lisa Marie Sheehy (SF) said she was "delighted that so much emphasis is being put on the role played by women in the fight for Irish Freedom," while her party colleague, Séighin Ó Ceallaigh, said that he hoped that if copies of the proclamation of the Irish Republic were to be displayed, they would be in Irish as well as English.

The members were speaking having been briefed on events planned for the centenary celebrations in Limerick.

They were told that there would be €100,000 in funding made available for events in the city and county but Cllr Ó Ceallaigh said that this would not be enough.

"This only happens once – by the time the 200th anniversary comes around, we will all be long gone. We need to seize the opportunity", he said.

EVENTS

Among the events planned in Limerick for the 1916 commemoration are:

1916 memorial gardens to be opened in all three Limerick municipal districts

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

Commemorative tree planting at Demesne, Newcastle West.

Exhibition on life of Edward Daly and 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

1916 Commemoration at Galbally with exhibition and lectures

Remembering Munster 1916 talk, Knocklong



Kathleen Clarke pictured alongside her 1916 service medal.

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