



The Corkman



Rich heritage of Mallow is now coming to the fore

THE County of Cork possesses beautiful towns and villages, full of history and heritage. Mallow is no exception, with the Blackwater River, Mallow Castle and a wonderful streetscape in the town.

This streetscape has been the focus of attention by Cork County Council's Architects Department, working on a project entitled the 'Mallow Urban Heritage Masterplan'. Phase One of this project, the Thomas Davis Square, is now the focus of national architectural attention, having been shortlisted as one of three finalists for the RIAI (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland) Public Choice Award under the public space/masterplan category.

The Public Choice Award, as part of this process, gives the public an opportunity to vote for their favourite project. The Clonakilty 400 masterplan, designed by the Architects Department, won the Public Choice award in 2014 with over 12,000 votes. The publicity for Clonakilty and the whole West Cork area, including the national media coverage for Cork has been terrific since and it would be wonderful for Mallow to win the Award in 2016. Visit www.irisharchitectureawards.ie/public-choice and vote before Friday June 17th 2016.

Thomas Davis is certainly one person who comes to mind when one thinks of revolutionary Ireland. Another, without question, is Tracton's Diarmuid Lynch, who was a member of the IRB and a subsequent Sinn Féin member of the First Dáil.

In 1911, Lynch became the IRB's Divisional Representative for Munster and played an important role in the planning of the Easter Rising, having been chosen by Pádraig Pearse to identify the best location for the landing of the German Boat the Aud, which would provide over 20,000 rifles to the Irish Volunteers for use in the Rising.

Lynch was at the meeting at 27 Hardwick Street, Dublin, when it was decided to go ahead with the Rising and he was staff captain as well as aide-de-camp to James Connolly in the GPO during the Rising, considered by many as being the last Irishman to leave the GPO.

Although initially sentenced to death, this was shortly commuted to life in prison. Lynch was released from Pentonville Prison in England on 16th June in 1917 and died many years later in 1950. Today (16th June), 99 years ago to the day from his release, a lecture will be held in the Council Chamber, Cork County Council HQ. The talk, which commences at 6pm, will be given by author and historian Eileen McGough of Tracton, who has recently written a book on Lynch, published by the Mercier Press. All welcome.

On the subject of Tracton, a notable event, now in its fourth year, will take place on Saturday 25th June. This is the Annual Tracton Famine Walk - a reflective walk 'in memory of 124 desperate people who abandoned their Tracton homes and trekked eight miles to the dreaded workhouse in Kinsale.

Registration on the day is from 10am at the Tracton Arts and Community Centre and the walk starts at Kiely's Cross at 11am. Each participant is asked for a donation of €10 and proceeds go to the Kinsale Community Hospital and to Tracton Community Council projects.

In terms of further upcoming events the coming week does not disappoint, particularly with the Cork Summer Show scheduled for Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of June at Curraheen, just west of Cork City. As part of the weekend, Cork County Council will be present with representation from a number of different departments including environment, the Local Enterprise Office, Tourism, Library and Heritage. Re-enactors from the Irish Military Living History Group will also be present on both days, highlighting the strong focus of Cork County Council in commemorating 1916.

Elsewhere on Sunday 19th June, a 1916 Garden of Remembrance, featuring a memorial bench and plaque, will be officially opened in Glanworth. The garden contains seven trees to represent the seven proclamation signatories and will be unveiled following 10.30am mass in Holy Cross Church, Glanworth.

A parade will also feature as part of the day, leaving after mass and heading towards the

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Garden of Remembrance. Many participants on the parade will be dressed in the attire of 1916 and it should be a fitting event to be enjoyed by all.

A few days later, in Mallow on Thursday 23rd June, the Mallow Development Partnership has been planning a showing of 'The Wind That Shakes The Barley' to mark the 10th anniversary of the film. Released in June 2006, the film has received great acclaim at home and abroad and much of the film's recording took place around Mallow.

On June 26th, the annual U.C.C. Irish Genealogical Summer School will commence. The school, which continues up until July 2nd, will

focus on roots to the Rising and is directed towards those interested in tracing their Irish roots. It will involve talks, workshops and field-trips from genealogical experts and the week-long school will also see a number of musical performances by Uileann Ceoil in commemoration of 1916. Contact U.C.C. for more information.

Next week there will be further commemorative 1916 events in Lismire (Saturday 25th June) and Kilcorney (Sunday 26th June) and more details will be provided on these events next week.



The Thomas Davis Square development in Mallow by Cork County Council's Architects Department has been shortlisted for the **RIA** Public Choice Award - vote up until this Friday, 17th June.