Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society

BOARD OF CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlocha

6th ANNUAL REPORT 2012

December 2012

Carlow County Museum

Members of the Board of Carlow County Museum

Carlow Town Council Members:
Cllr. John Cassin, Chairman; Cllr. Rody Kelly
& Cllr. Walter Lacey

Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society Members:
Mr. Seamus Murphy, Mr. Martin Nevin & Mrs Noreen Whelan

County Manager's Nominee:
Mr. Michael Brennan, Town Clerk

Secretary to the Board:
Mr. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator

LOCAL AUTHORITY MUSEUMS' NETWORK

Member of the Local Authority Museums' Network (L.A.M.N)

Front Cover: Picture of the new ground floor of Carlow County Museum, College Street, Carlow.

Museum Board:

This is the sixth Annual Report of the Board of Carlow County Museum. The Board consists of seven members, three Members of Carlow Town Council, three representatives of the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (CHAS) and a County Manager's nominee. The Curator of Carlow County Museum acts as Secretary to the Board.

The Chairperson is chosen from the three Members of the Town Council and the three CHAS representatives. As agreed the position of Chairperson alternates on an annual basis between the Members of the Town Council and the CHAS representatives. At the 2011 AGM Cllr. John Cassin was elected Chairperson.

New Carlow County Museum Premises Opens:

On Thursday April 11th 2012 the new Carlow County Museum on College Street in Carlow Town was opened by Minister Phil Hogan, TD, Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government and Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow Town Council. The Museum has been developed by Carlow Town Council in partnership with the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (CHAS). Speaking at the opening Minister Phil Hogan, TD, said "that the existing building is in a very good location and the renovation, extension and conversion didn't happen by accident and I want to thank the people and community for making sure that this particular part of our history in now a living part of the community in Carlow County Museum."

Pat O'Neill, President of CHAS speaking at the opening ceremony said "We have realised in this marvellous facility the ambitions of the founder members of our society, and if any museum deserves the description of a community museum this is it. The collection came from the community through the efforts and energies of our society members, and the local authorities accommodated our ambitions through the provision of this beautiful and historic setting."

Cllr Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow Town Council speaking at the opening ceremony said "I would like to thank the Society for having the vision to establish the Museum. They should be proud of what they achieved and that heritage of the county is all the better for their foresight." Martin Nevin, Chairman of the Board of Carlow County Museum spoke about the pioneering members of CHAS who established the Museum saying that "following a number of visits to museums such as Enniscorthy, Cork, Limerick and Drogheda the project was set in train. A public meeting was convened in the Forester's Hall….. By unanimous agreement it was decided to launch the project and a museum committee was set-up to look into the availability of a suitable premises."

Carlow County Museum ground floor exhibition gallery.

The building in which the Museum is now housed is a landmark building within the centre of Carlow town. Until 1989 it was home to the Presentation Sisters. The new Museum occupies the College Street end of the former Convent. The front of the building, facing Tullow Street, was renovated in 1998 to house the Carlow Library & Archive. In 2000 a Fáilte Ireland Tourist Office was opened in the building. The Museum occupies the rest of the building which has four exhibition rooms, the two largest houses the Museums permanent collection while the two smaller rooms are used for temporary exhibitions. The Museum is accessed through the Tourist Office.

The Museum's ground floor was used as the Convent's primary school until 1960. Originally there were three classrooms separated by partition walls with access provided by a corridor on the College Street side of the building. Since 1989 these rooms had been used for a variety of community and voluntary organisational purposes as a result alterations were made to a number of these internal spaces.
To provide the Museum with a flexible display gallery it was decided to open up the ground floor as one large display space.

Carlow County Museum's Sugar Factory display

Below the original stairwell a window that was originally a door was reinstated as an opening for access to the Museum's extension. At the foot of the stairs an opening was punched through into the Museum extension to provide a door into the new ladies toilets. The large north window above the stairs had all its broken panes of glass replaced while a new teak base was installed to replace the rotten timbers. Through this leaded window a framed view of the Cathedral steeple can be enjoyed. To retain this view and yet prevent natural daylight from entering the building, which would damage the artefacts, it was decided to build a new internal wall at the first floor landing all the way to the first floor ceiling. This stairwell was previously used by pupils as well the public to access the Convent's first floor Chapel to attend services.

The half landing has a limestone holy water font which now displays the Covent's 1811 chalice and is surrounded by a collage of Convent photographs.

At the top of the stairs one enters into what was the Convent's former Chapel. Considering the many architectural features in this room particular care and attention was given to the care and restoration of this room. Apart from the exhibitions that have been installed here the former Chapel is an exhibit in its own right.

The main part of the Chapel ceiling has fifty panels and each panel was gilded during the nineteenth century. Unfortunately sometime during the 1960s the ceiling was painted over. When the main construction works were completed and prior to the installation of the exhibitions all fifty panels were skillfully re-gilded.

Carlow County Museum's first floor exhibition gallery featuring the nineteenth century Pulpit and National League banner.

The six leaded and stained glass windows in Carlow County Museum have been retained and restored. Two of the windows are on view as part of the Museum's religious display. The other four windows are covered with removable panels to keep daylight out.

Directly behind the Chapel and at first and second floor levels directly above the Tourist Office are the Museum's two temporary exhibition galleries. In 2000 as part of the Tourist Office fit out these two floors were developed into exhibition galleries. A new staircase was installed in the void between the floors along with the addition of a lift, thus making the entire Museum building fully accessible to those with physical disabilities. At the end of the tour visitors exit the Museum and return to the ground floor via the beautiful original main Convent staircase.

The ancillary facilities such as offices, toilets, onsite storage and canteen are housed in the Museum's extension. The extension is located to the north and north east of the building, described by Michael O'Boyle, Bluett & O'Donoghue Architects as a 'bookend'. The first floor portion of the extension is respectful of the Convents leaded windows with the installation of a flat roof below the large north window and a balcony in front of the first window on the east side. The extension is clad in cut Carlow limestone to complement the existing convent building which was built of mainly limestone rubble. To achieve some onsite storage a basement was constructed as part of the extension.

New Exhibitions:
The exhibition design and installation was led in house by the Museum staff. It was decided to lay out the exhibitions thematically and not chronologically. Major themes of Carlow's history were identified and this was compared to the Museum's collection. Due to constraints of space the Museum can only display a snapshot of the county's entire history at any one time. The Museum has an off site storage unit that houses the reserve collection. It is planned over time to display more artefacts from the reserve collection as well as incorporating new items that are added to the collection. Through the temporary exhibition galleries a topic can be expanded and explained in more depth than may be possible in the permanent galleries due to constraints of space.

The majority of the artefacts were moved from the Museum store in portable boxes and containers but some required more planning and the use of lifting equipment.

Among the new displays are exhibitions dealing with:
John Tyndall, Carlow's prolific 19th century scientist whose discoveries still have an impact to this day, he is arguably the Father of Fibre Optics, discovered the greenhouse effect and was a renowned mountaineer. Captain Myles Keogh was in the 7th US Calvary and killed in the Battle of Little Big Horn along with General Custer. Kevin Barry, a medical student from Co. Carlow was executed in 1920 in Mountjoy Gaol at the age of 18 for his role in the War of Independence. For centuries during the Bronze Age Dinn Ríg was the seat of the Kings of the Province of Leinster and from where the name Leinster came from. Carlow Sugar Factory, Ireland's first and largest sugar factory, was in 1925 the first public private partnership in the history of the State and an

innovative agricultural business. The former convent Chapel exhibition gallery houses the Museum's largest object – the magnificently hand carved 19th century pulpit from the Cathedral of the Assumption. It is considered one of the finest pulpits in the Ireland. The Museum collection contains rare archaeological specimens of axes, swords, Bronze Age food vessel and an exquisite eleventh century piece of Irish silver which is part of the Jackson collection. The ground floor contains a display of trades and commercial life such as the forge, shop, bar, Boot Factory, plumber, carpenter, barber and a kitchen. The law and order section displays the original trap door from the gallows of Carlow Gaol, possibly the only one on display in a Museum in Ireland. All of the exhibitions will be added to and enhanced over the coming years.

Carlow County Museum's first floor exhibition gallery.

The new Museum's two temporary exhibition galleries will accommodate both travelling exhibitions and those created in house. Making full use of these galleries and the designation status the Museum decided that the first temporary exhibition is 'Journeys in Time – the Archaeology of the M9 Carlow By-pass'. It has been developed by Carlow County Museum in association with the National Roads Authority (NRA), the National Museum of Ireland and Rubicon Heritage Services, who carried out the excavation work. Speaking at the Museum opening archaeologist with the NRA Noel Dunne said that "Extensive archaeological research and investigations were undertaken between 2001 and 2006 along the route of the Carlow By-pass in advance of road construction - through constraint, route selection and environmental impact assessment phases, followed by archaeological test-trenching and finally excavation of discovered sites. In all, 64 sites were excavated and the results have contributed greatly to our understanding of Carlow's past – quite significant findings that will form a tremendous resource into the future, in terms of education, tourism and local historical awareness."

'Journeys in Time – the Archaeology of the M9 Carlow By-pass'

Significant sites include Carlow's oldest houses at Russellstown & Busherstown, the first Neolithic (4,000 - 2,500BC) houses ever discovered in the county. Many Mesolithic (7,000 – 4,000BC) objects were found including Bann flakes and stone blades. An unusual medieval ring-brooch or buckle is believed to be first of its kind found in County Carlow. Other finds range from a porcellanite stone axe originally from Co. Antrim, a number of grave goods, a red deer antler pick, pottery of different types and shapes, stone axes, stone scrapers, a medieval bone pin, different types of arrowheads and a iron quarry wedge. One Iron Age blue-green glass bead is the Museum's smallest object at less than 2mm in diameter. All artefacts on display in this exhibition are on loan from the National Museum of Ireland.

Museum Staff:

Along side the two full time staff employed by Carlow Local Authorities there are two people engaged through Jobbridge, the national internship scheme, two through the TUS programme coordinated by the Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd. The Tourist Office is operated by Carlow Tourism on behalf of Fáilte Ireland. To ensure the Museum can function on a day to day basis there is a team of volunteers who since the Museum opening have given selflessly of their time.

Carlow County Museum Project Credits/ Details

Board of Carlow County Museum:
Martin Nevin, Chairman; Michael Brennan, Town Clerk, Cllr. John Cassin, Cllr. Rody Kelly, Cllr. Walter Lacey, Seamus Murphy & Noreen Whelan.

Carlow County Museum Design Team:
Architect Michael O'Boyle, Bluett & O'Donoghue Architects, Dublin
Design Team Leader & Structural Engineer Ivor Bowe, Bowe Consulting Engineers, Carlow
Quantity Surveyor Andy Quinn of McCullagh Lupton Quinn, Kilkenny
Structural Engineer Tom Gleeson (R.I.P), Carlow
Mechanical & Electrical Engineer Eddie Doyle, Doyle Environmental, Ullard
Michael Brennan, Town Clerk, Carlow Town Council;
Tim Madden, Clerk of Works, Carlow County Council
Overall Project Coordinator & Exhibition Design Leader Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, Carlow County Museum.

Carlow County Museum Contractors:
Main Contractor: Bam Building Ltd, Kill, Co. Kildare
Electrical Contractor: Seamus Byrne Electrical Ltd., Carlow
Mechanical Contractor: Murphy & Kelly, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny
Lift Contractor: Kone Ireland Ltd., Dublin
Leaded Windows Contractor: Irish Stained Glass, Dublin
Gilding Contractor: Naomi McBride & Associates, Co. Sligo
Oil Painting Contractor: Naomi McBride & Associates, Co. Sligo
Display Cases: Armour Systems Ltd, Milton Keynes, England; Click Netherfield, Scotland
Conservators: Liz D'Arcy, Studio for Paper Conservation, Co. Wicklow; Susannah Kelly Archaeological Conservator, Dublin; Rachel Phelan Textile Conservation, Dublin; On the Edge Ltd, Co. Wicklow.
Picture Framing: Fine Framers, Carlow Town
Moulding: Old Mould Company, Co. Wicklow.
Historical Researcher: Dr. Margaret Murphy, Co. Carlow.
Irish Translation: Máire Ui Iarnáin, Co. na Gaillimhe
Graphic Design & Printing: Lightning Print & Design, Carlow; Carlow Graphics.
Environmental Monitoring: Instrument Technology, Co. Meath

Contractors:
Gerrie Dunne Building Contractors; Edwards Engineering, Tullow, Co. Carlow; James J Farrell, Carlow Town; Paul Hoey Decorator, Carlow Town; Thomas O'Neill & Sons, Carlow Town; Proctory Carpentry, Carlow Town; Walls Engineering, Carlow & Xenon Security, Carlow.

Museum Staff:
Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator; John McDarby, Staff Officer; Martin O'Rourke, Building Maintenance Superintendent; Museum Assistants - Deirdre Kearney, Sinéad Marshall, Shannon Basso Gaule, Tom Roche, David Halpin & Jake Duggan. Thanks to all our volunteers who have and are assisting in the running of the Museum.

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Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Carlow County Development Partnership
European Regional Development Fund Interreg 111A Programme
Fáilte Ireland
The Heritage Council
The National Roads Authority

Thanks for help, support, guidance to the following organistions, societies, groups & individuals:

Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow Town Council, Members of Carlow Town Council - Cllrs Michael Abbey, Anne Ahern, Eileen Brophy, John Cassin, Des Hurley, Rody Kelly, Walter Lacey, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.
Cathaoirleach and Members of Carlow County Council; Cathaoirleach and Members of Muinebheag Town Council.

Tom Barry, County Manager; Michael Brennan, Town Clerk and the Carlow Local Authorities Management Team. The Board of Carlow County Museum. To all the staff of Carlow Town Council. Josephine Coyne, County Librarian and the staff of Carlow County Library. To the staff of Carlow Local Authorities. To the staff of Carlow Town Amenity Trust.

The President, former Presidents, committees and members of the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society and Museum Committees for their vision, foresight, enthusiasm and pioneering spirit in founding and operating Carlow County Museum since 1973.

Director and staff of the National Museum of Ireland including Dr. Patrick Wallace, Raghnall Ó Floinn, Ned Kelly, Paul Doyle, Anthony Read, Gregory Kelly, Isabella Mulhall, Nessa O'Connor, Mary Cahill, Maeve Sikora, Carol Smith, Christopher Harbidge, Padraig Clancy, Andy Halpin and Mathew Parkes.

Michael Murphy, Chairman and the Board of Carlow Tourism, Eileen O'Rourke CEO and the staff of Carlow Tourism – Gwen Brennan, Lorraine Brennan, Kay Farrell, Alison Fitzharris, Alberto Urbina and Carolyn Wilkinson.

Rónán Swan, Acting Head of Archaeology & Noel Dunne, Archaeologist, National Roads Authority (NRA)

To the Chairperson, Festival Directors and staff of Eigse, Carlow Arts Festival for their help and support over the years.

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The Staff of Bam Building Ltd including Leo Harmon, Derek O'Connor, Kieran Brophy, Tavin Broaders; The Local Authorities Museums' Association (LAMA); Carlow – Kilkenny Energy Agency; Former County Managers: Matt O'Connor, Tom

Dowling & Joe Crockett; Mary Walsh and staff of Carlow County Development Partnership; Michael Starrett and the staff of the Heritage Council; Sergeant Mary Corcoran, Crime Prevention Unit; Carlow Gardai; Carlow Civil Defence; Chris Corlett, Archaeologist Department of Environment, Community & Local Government; Fr. John Cummins, Fr. Rory Nolan, Bernard Gerraghty and the Cathedral Parish; Monsignor Caoimhín Ó Néill, Dr. Thomas McGrath, staff and students of Carlow College; Jarlath Judge and the staff of CRISP Carlow; Mark Thomas and the staff of the Pembrokeshire Museum Service, Wales; Judith Martin and the National Council for the Blind; Emma Whitmore, Glór Cheatharlach; Grace Marshall, Office of Public Works; Staff of Visual and the George Bernard Shaw Theatre; Fiona Cunnane and the staff of Carlow Volunteer Centre; FAS; Jobbridge – National Internship Scheme; Dr. Gillian Barrett; Alan Cassin, Tom Clowry; Ger Deering; Therese Jackman; Matt Kelly; Dr. Peadar McArdle; Hugh Maguire; Paddy Matthews, Declan O'Connor; Mary O'Neill, Bobby, Mary & Gemma Quinn, Lorcan Scott, Joe Watters, Town Clerk (retired); Pat Mealey, John Kavanagh, Bill Flemming & the residents of Presentation Close;

To all the people who since 1973 have presented the Museum with artefacts and objects for display. Together these objects give us a greater understanding of our rich past.

Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society

BORD IARSMALANN CONTAE CHEATHARLACH

Iarsmalann Contae Cheatharlach

An 6ú TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2012

Nollaig 2012

Comhaltaí Bhord Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach

Comhaltaí Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach:
An Clr. John Cassin, Cathaoirleach; An Clr. Rody Kelly agus
An Clr. Walter Lacey

Comhaltaí Chumann Staire agus Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach:
Seamus Murphy, Uas., Martin Nevin, Uas. agus
Nóirín Uí Fhaoláin

Ainmnithe ag an mBainisteoir Contae:
Michael Brennan, Uas., Cléireach an Bhaile

Rúnaí an Bhoird:
Diarmuid Ó Maologáin, Uas., Coimeádaí Músaeim

Comhalta de Líonra Mhúsaeim na nÚdarás Áitiúil (L.M.Ú.Á.)

Clúdach Tosaigh: Pictiúr den bhunurlár nua i Músaem Contae Cheatharlach, Sráid an Choláiste, Ceatharlach.

Bord an Mhúsaeim:
Is í seo an séú Tuarascáil Bhliantúil de chuid Bhord Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach. Seachtar comhaltaí atá ar an mBord, triúr atá ina gComhaltaí ar Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach, triúr ionadaithe thar ceann Chumann Staire agus Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach (CSSC) agus duine amháin atá ainmnithe ag an mBainisteoir Contae. Is é Coimeádaí Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach atá ag gníomhú mar Rúnaí ar an mBord.

Roghnaítear an Cathaoirleach as triúr Comhaltaí na Comhairle Baile agus triúr ionadaithe an CSSC. Mar atá socraithe, déantar uainíocht go bliantúil ar phost an Chathaoirligh is é sin idir Chomhaltaí na Comhairle Baile agus ionadaithe CSSC. Toghadh an Clr. John Cassin ina Chathaoirleach ag CCB 2011.

An Foirgneamh do Mhúsaem Contae nua Cheatharlach á Oscailt:

D'oscail an tAire Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil, Phil Hogan, T.D., agus an Clr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach an Músaem Contae nua do Cheatharlach ar Shráid an Choláiste i mBaile Cheatharlach Déardaoin, an 11ú Aibreán. Is í Comhairle Baile Cheatharlach i gcomhpháirtíocht le Cumann Staire agus Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach (CSSC) a rinne an fhorbairt ar an Músaem. Dúirt an tAire Phil Hogan, T.D. agus é ag labhairt ag an oscailt go bhfuil an foirgneamh atá ann suite ar láthair an-mhaith agus nár tharla an t-athchóiriú, an méadú agus an úsáid a bhainfear as trí thimpiste. Dúirt sé freisin gur mhaith leis buíochas a ghlacadh leis na daoine agus leis an bpobal a chinntigh go bhfuil an chuid áirithe sin dá stair á tabhairt chun suntais anois i measc an phobail i Músaem Contae Cheatharlach.

Dúirt Pat O'Neill, Uachtarán CSSC ag labhairt dó ag searmanas na hoscailte go raibh aidhmeanna na mball a bhunaigh an cumann bainte amach anois ó tharla an tsaoráid iontach seo a bheith ann agus má bhí músaem pobail le tabhairt ar aon mhúsaem gurbh é sin an ceann é. Dúirt sé gurb iad muintir an phobail a thug faoin mbailiúchán le cúnamh agus tacaíocht ó bhaill an chumainn agus gur thug na húdaráis áitiúla deis dóibh a n-aidhmeanna a bhaint amach mar gur sholáthair siad an cúlra álainn stairiúil sin.

Agus eisean ag labhairt ag searmanas na hoscailte dúirt an Clr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach gur mhian leis buíochas a ghlacadh leis an gCumann mar go raibh sé d'fhís ag na baill an Músaem a bhunú. Dúirt sé gur cheart dóibh a bheith bródúil as a raibh bainte amach acu agus go rachadh a bhfadbhreathnaitheacht chun tairbhe d'oidhreacht an chontae. Labhair Martin Nevin, Cathaoirleach Bhord Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach faoi bhaill cheannródaíocha CSSC a bhunaigh an Músaem agus thug sé le fios gur cuireadh tús leis an tionscadal i ndiaidh na gcuairteanna a tugadh ar mhúsaeim cosúil leis na cinn atá in Inis Córthaidh, Corcaigh, Luimneach agus Droichead Átha. Tionóladh cruinniú poiblí i Halla na bhForaoiseoirí. Cinneadh d'aon ghuth an tionscadal a sheoladh agus bunaíodh coiste músaeim féachaint an bhféadfaí foirgneamh a bheadh oiriúnach a fháil.

An gailearaí taispeántais ar an mbunurlár i Músaem Contae Cheatharlach.

Foirgneamh suntasach i lár bhaile Cheatharlach is ea an foirgneamh ina bhfuil an Músaem anois. Is ansin a bhí Siúracha na Toirbhearta go dtí an bhliain 1989. Is ar cheann Shráid an Choláiste den Chlochar mar a bhíodh atá an Músaem nua lonnaithe. Athchóiríodh an taobh den fhoirgneamh a bhfuil a aghaidh ar Shráid na Tulaí sa bhliain 1998 ionas go bhféadfaí Leabharlann agus Cartlann Cheatharlach a lonnú ann. Osclaíodh Oifig Turasóireachta de chuid Fáilte Ireland san fhoirgneamh in 2000. Is é an Músaem an chuid eile den fhoirgneamh. Tá ceithre cinn de sheomraí taispeántais ann agus tá bailiúchán buan an Mhúsaeim sa dá sheomra is mó díobh agus baintear úsáid as an dá sheomra bheaga le haghaidh na dtaispeántas sealadach. Is istigh san Oifig Turasóireachta atá an bealach isteach go dtí an Músaem.

Go dtí 1960, bhíodh bunscoil an Chlochair ar an áit a bhfuil bunurlár an Mhúsaeim anois. Trí sheomra ranga a bhíodh ann agus spiaraí eatarthu agus is ar an bpasáiste ar thaobh Shráid an Choláiste den fhoirgneamh a bhíodh na doirse. Is iomaí úsáid a baineadh as na seomraí seo ó 1989 i leith le haghaidh imeachtaí a bhí ag an bpobal agus ag eagraíochtaí deonacha agus mar sin rinneadh athruithe ar roinnt áirithe de na seomraí.
Cinneadh aon spás fairsing taispeántais amháin a dhéanamh den bhunurlár ionas go bhféadfaí na gailearaithe taispeántais a bhogadh ó áit go háit sa Mhúsaem.

An taispeántas atá i Músaem Contae Cheatharlach faoin Monarcha Siúcra

Bhíodh fuinneog faoi sheanlog an staighre ach bhíodh doras ann roimhe sin arís agus crochadh doras ann arís ionas go mbeadh bealach isteach sa phíosa a cuireadh leis an Músaem. Tolladh an balla ag bun an staighre isteach sa phíosa a cuireadh leis an Músaem agus is é seo anois an doras isteach go dtí leithris nua na mban. Bhí gach ceann de na pánaí gloine a bhíodh san fhuinneog mhór ó thuaidh atá os cionn an staighre briste ach cuireadh pánaí nua san fhuinneog agus cuireadh isteach íochtar nua téice in ionad na gclár adhmaid a bhí lofa. Tá amharc breá ar bhuaic na hArd-Eaglaise - faoi mar a bheadh sí i bpictiúr - le feiceáil ón bhfuinneog luaidhe seo. Rinneadh cinneadh balla nua a thógáil taobh istigh ar cheann staighre an chéad urláir suas ar fad go dtí síleáil an chéad urláir chun go mbeadh an t-amharc seo ann i gcónaí ach freisin chun nach mbeadh solas an lae ag teacht isteach san fhoirgneamh mar dhéanfadh sé sin

damáiste do na déantáin. Is suas an staighre seo a théadh daltaí scoile agus na daoine roimhe seo chun dul isteach i Séipéal an Chlochair ar an gcéad urlár chun freastal ar na seirbhísí. Is ar an umar aolchloiche le haghaidh uisce coisreacain atá ar an leathcheann staighre atá an chailís a bhí sa Chlochar ó 1811 agus tá bailiúchán de ghrianghraif a bhaineann leis an gClochar thart timpeall air.

Nuair a bheidh tú ag barr an staighre beidh tú ag dul isteach san áit a mbíodh Séipéal an Chlochair tráth. Bhíothas an-aireach i dtaca le cúram agus athchóiriú an tseomra seo de mar gheall ar an lear mór gnéithe ailtireachta atá ann. Taispeántán ina cheart féin atá sa seomra seo a bhí ina Shéipéal tráth gan trácht ar na taispeántais atá curtha isteach ann.

Tá caoga painéal sa phríomhchuid de shíleáil an tSéipéil agus óraíodh gach ceann díobh sa naoú céad déag. Ach mar bharr ar an donas cuireadh péint ar an tsíleáil am éigin sna 1960idí. Athóraíodh an caoga painéal go stuama tar éis don phríomhchuid de na hoibreacha tógála a bheith críochnaithe agus sular cuireadh isteach na taispeántais.

An gailearaí taispeántais ar an gcéad urlár i Músaem Contae Cheatharlach mar a bhfuil an Phuilpid ón naoú céad déag agus meirge na Léige Náisiúnta.

Coinníodh na sé fhuinneog luaidhe agus dhaite atá i Músaem Contae Cheatharlach agus deisíodh iad. Tá dhá cheann de na fuinneoga ina gcuid de thaispeántas reiligiúnach an Mhúsaeim. Tá painéil inaistrithe ag clúdach na gceithre fhuinneog eile chun solas an lae a stopadh ó theacht isteach.

Is díreach ar chúl an tSéipéil agus ar an gcéad urlár agus ar an dara hurlár díreach os cionn na hOifige Turasóireachta atá an dá ghailearaí do na taispeántais shealadacha a bhíonn sa Mhúsaem. Réitíodh an dá urlár seo le bheith ina ngailearaithe taispeántais mar chuid den obair a bhain le feistiú na hOifige Turasóireachta sa bhliain 2000. Cuireadh staighre nua isteach san fholús a bhí idir na hurláir. Cuireadh ardaitheoir isteach freisin rud a fhágann gur féidir le daoine faoi mhíchumas coirp dul isteach i ngach cuid d'fhoirgneamh an Mhúsaeim. Nuair a bhíonn an turas tugtha imíonn na cuairteoirí amach as an Músaem agus téann siad síos príomhstaighre álainn an Chlochair le filleadh ar an mbunurlár.

Is sa phíosa a cuireadh leis an Músaem atá na fo-áiseanna - oifigí, leithris, áit stórála ar an láthair agus an ceaintín. Is ó thuaidh agus soir ó thuaidh den fhoirgneamh atá an méadú, 'leabharthaca' mar a thug na hailtirí Michael O'Boyle, Bluett & O'Donoghue Architects air. Rinneadh cúram d'fhuinneoga luaidhe an Chlochair nuair a bhí cuid an chéad urláir den mhéadú á déanamh mar cuireadh díon leibhéalta suas faoin bhfuinneog mhór ó thuaidh agus cuireadh balcóin taobh amuigh den chéad fhuinneog ar an taobh thoir. Aolchloch ghearrtha Cheatharlach atá mar chumhdra ar an éadan ionas go dtiocfadh sé le foirgneamh an Chlochair a tógadh le spallaí aolchloiche den chuid is mó. Nuair a bhí an méadú á dhéanamh tógadh íoslach ionas go mbeadh áit stórála éigin ar an láthair.

Taispeántais Nua:
Go hinmheánach, is baill foirne de chuid an Mhúsaeim a bhí i gceannas ar dhearadh agus ar shuiteáil na dtaispeántas. Beartaíodh gur de réir téamaí agus nach de réir dátaí a leagfaí amach na taispeántais. Piocadh amach mórthéamaí i stair Cheatharlach agus cuireadh an méid sin i gcomparáid lena raibh i mbailiúchán an Mhúsaeim. Ní féidir leis an Músaem ach beagán den stair go léir a bhaineann leis an gContae a chur ar taispeáint aon tráth áirithe mar níl dóthain spáis ann. Tá aonad stórála seachtrach ag an Músaem agus is ann a choinnítear an cúlbhailiúchán. Tá sé beartaithe níos mó de na déantáin as an gcúlbhailiúchán a chur ar taispeáint in imeacht ama agus nithe eile a chuirfear leis an mbailiúchán a bheith ar taispeáint freisin. Ó tharla go bhfuil gailearaithe ann chun taispeántais shealadacha a bheith iontu is féidir cur le cibé ábhar agus dul isteach níos doimhne ann ná mar is féidir a dhéanamh sna gailearaithe buana mar níl dóthain spáis iontu siúd.

Tugadh formhór na ndéantán isteach as stór an Mhúsaeim i mboscaí agus i gcoimeádáin arbh fhéidir iad a iompar ach bhí níos mó pleanála i gceist le roinnt eile díobh agus b'éigean gléasra ardaithe a úsáid.

Tá eolas fúthu seo a leanas i measc na n-ábhar atá sna taispeántais nua:
John Tyndall, an t-eolaí bisiúil a mhair sa 19ú céad agus a bhfuil tionchar ag a chuid fionnachtana ar an saol go dtí an lá atá inniu ann. D'fhéadfaí a rá gurbh é a chruthaigh an tsnáthoptaic, tháinig sé ar an iarmhairt cheaptha teasa agus bhí clú agus cáil air mar shléibhteoir. An Captaen Myles Keogh a bhain le 7ú Marcshlua SAM agus a maraíodh i gcath an Little Big Horn in éineacht leis an nGinearál Custer. Kevin Barry, mac léinn leighis ocht mbliana déag d'aois de bhunadh Cho. Cheatharlach a lámhachadh sa bhliain 1920 i bPríosún Mhuinseo mar gheall ar an bpáirt a ghlac sé i gCogadh na Saoirse. Dinn Ríg mar a mbíodh a ndúnfort ag Ríthe Chúige Laighean ar feadh na gcianta sa Chré-umhaois agus tháinig an t-ainm, Laighin, chun cinn ansin freisin. Monarcha Siúcra Cheatharlach, an chéad mhonarcha siúcra agus an mhonarcha siúcra ba mhó a bhí in Éirinn; bunaíodh í in 1925 agus ba í an chéad

chomhpháirtíocht phríobháideach phoiblí í i stair an Stáit agus ba ghnó talmhaíochta í ar bhain an nuálaíocht léi freisin. An gailearaí taispeántais sa Séipéal a bhí sa Chlochar tráth - is ann atá an ní is mó atá sa Mhúsaem, an phuilpid a snoíodh go stuama ealaíonta le lámh sa 19ú céad agus a bhíodh in Ard-Eaglais na Deastógála. Meastar go bhfuil sí ar cheann de na puilpidí is breátha dá bhfuil sa tír. Áirítear iad seo leis na nithe atá i mbailiúchán an Mhúsaeim - eiseamail seandálaíochta annamha de thuanna agus de chlaimhte, soitheach bia ón gCré-umhaois agus píosa airgid Éireannaigh fíorálainn ón aonú céad déag agus ar cuid é de bhailiúchán Jackson. Léiriú ar cheirdeanna agus ar an saol tráchtála atá sa taispeántas atá ar an mbunurlár - ceárta, siopa, teach ósta, an Mhonarcha Bróg, trealamh don phluiméir, don siúinéir, don bhearbóir agus cistin. Feictear an chomhla a bhíodh faoin gcroch i bPríosún Cheatharlach sa chuid a bhaineann le riail agus reacht. Seans gurb í seo an t-aon cheann amháin atá ar taispeáint i Músaem in Éirinn. Beifear ag cur le gach ceann de na taispeántais agus á bhfeabhsú in imeacht na mblianta.

Na gailearaithe taispeántais ar an gcéad urlár i Músaem Contae Cheatharlach.

Sa Mhúsaem nua, beidh spás sa dá ghailearaí do na taispeántais shealadacha do thaispeántais ar camchuairt agus dóibh siúd a chuirfear le chéile sa Mhúsaem féin. Ar mhaithe le lánúsáid a bhaint as na gailearaithe seo agus ó tharla stádas ainmnithe a bheith ag an Músaem beartaíodh gurb é 'Turais siar sna blianta - Seandálaíocht Sheachbhóthar Cheatharlach ar an M9' an chéad taispeántas sealadach a chuirfí ar siúl. Thiomsaigh Músaem Contae Cheatharlach é i gcomhar leis an Údarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta (ÚBN), le hArd-Mhúsaem na hÉireann agus le Rubicon Heritage Services, a rinne an obair thochailte. Ag labhairt dó ag oscailt an Mhúsaeim dúirt Noel Dunne a oibríonn mar sheandálaí le ÚBN go ndearnadh lear mór taighde agus cigireachta idir 2001 agus 2006, sular tosaíodh ag tógáil an bhóthair, feadh an bhealaigh ar a mbeadh Seachbhóthar Cheatharlach - bhí na codanna a bhain le sriantacht, roghnú an bhealaigh, agus measúnacht tionchar timpeallacht i gceist leis an obair agus ina dhiaidh sin rinneadh tástáil seandálaíochta ar na trinsí agus ar deireadh tochlaíodh na láithreáin a dtángthas orthu. Tríd is tríd tochlaíodh 64 láthair agus is mór mar a chuir gach a dtángthas orthu lenár dtuiscint ar stair Cheatharlach - is fionnachtana an-suntasach iad agus is iontach an acmhainn a bheidh iontu amach anseo, ó thaobh oideachais, turasóireachta agus feasachta ar an stair áitiúil.

'Turais siar sna blianta - Seandálaíocht Sheachbhóthar Cheatharlach ar an M9'

Áirítear na tithe ba shine i gCeatharlach i mBaile an Ruiséalaigh agus i mBaile Bhúiséir ar na láithreáin shuntasacha - is iad seo na chéad tithe Neoiliteacha (4,000 - 2,500BC) a dtángthas orthu sa chontae. Thángthas ar go leor nithe Méisiliteacha (7,000 – 4,000BC) lena n-áirítear Calóga na Banna agus lann chloiche. Creidtear gurb í an dealg fháinneach mheánaoiseach neamhchoitianta nó búcla an chéad cheann dá leithéid a fuarthas i gContae Cheatharlach. Áirítear iad seo a leanas i measc na bhfionnachtana eile a dtángthas orthu - tua cloiche poircealláiníte a tháinig as Co. Aontroma, líon áirithe d'earraí reilige, piocóid déanta as beann fia rua, cineálacha agus cruthanna éagsúla d'earraí criadóireachta, tuanna cloiche, scríobairí cloiche, biorán cnáimhe meánaoiseach, cineálacha éagsúla de reanna saighde agus ding iarainn le haghaidh an chairéil. Is é an coirnín gloine gormghlas ón Iarannaois an ní is lú atá sa Mhúsaem. Tá a thrastomhas faoi bhun 2mm. Fuarthas na déantáin go léir atá le feiceáil sa taispeántas seo ar iasacht ó Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann.

Baill foirne an Mhúsaeim:
Oibríonn beirt atá fostaithe trí Jobbridge, an scéim náisiúnta intéirneachta, beirt atá fostaithe tríd an gclár TÚS atá á chomhordú ag Comhpháirtíocht Forbartha Chontae Cheatharlach Teo. i dteannta beirt bhall foirne lánaimseartha atá fostaithe ag Údaráis Áitiúla Cheatharlach. Is í Turasóireacht Cheatharlach atá i mbun na hOifige Turasóireachta thar ceann Fáilte Ireland. Is ann d'fhoireann oibrithe deonacha atá ag obair go dian dícheallach ó d'oscail an Músaem. Cinntítear ar an mbealach seo gur féidir leis an Músaem feidhmiú ó lá go lá.

Teidil Chreidiúna /Sonraí Tionscadail Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach

Bord Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach:
Martin Nevin, Cathaoirleach; Michael Brennan, Cléireach an Bhaile, An Clr. John Cassin, An Clr. Rody Kelly, An Clr. Walter Lacey, Seamus Murphy agus Nóirín Uí Fhaoláin.

Foireann Deartha Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach:
Ailtire, Michael O'Boyle, Bluett & O'Donoghue Architects, Baile Átha Cliath
Ceann na Foirne Deartha agus Innealtóir Struchtúr, Ivor Bowe, Bowe Consulting Engineers, Ceatharlach
Suirbhéir Cainníochta, Andy Quinn, McCullagh Lupton Quinn, Cill Chainnigh
Innealtóir Struchtúr, Tom Gleeson (R.I.P), Ceatharlach
Innealtóir Meicniúil agus Leictreachais, Eddie Doyle, Doyle Environmental, Iolard
Michael Brennan, Cléireach an Bhaile, Comhairle Baile Cheatharlach;
Tim Madden, Cléireach na nOibreacha, Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach
Comhordaitheoir an Tionscadail ina Iomláine agus Ceannasaí Deartha an Taispeántais, Diarmuid Ó Maologáin, Coimeádaí Músaeim, Músaem Contae Cheatharlach.

Conraitheoirí Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach:
An Príomhchonraitheoir: Bam Building Ltd, An Chill, Co. Chill Dara
Conraitheoir Leictreachais: Seamus Byrne Electrical Ltd., Ceatharlach
Conraitheoir Meicniúil: Murphy & Kelly, Baile Mhic Andáin, Co. Chill Chainnigh
Conraitheoir Ardaitheora: Kone Ireland Ltd., Baile Átha Cliath
Conraitheoir na bhFuinneog Luaidhe: Irish Stained Glass, Baile Átha Cliath
Conraitheoir an Óraithe: Naomi McBride & Associates, Co. Shligigh
Conraitheoir na Péintéireachta Ola: Naomi McBride & Associates, Co. Shligigh
Cásanna Taispeántais: Armour Systems Ltd, Milton Keynes, Sasana; Click Netherfield, Albain
Caomhnóirí: Liz D'Arcy, Studio for Paper Conservation, Co. Chill Mhantáin, Susannah Kelly Archaeological Conservator, Baile Átha Cliath; Rachel Phelan Textile Conservation, Baile Átha Cliath; On the Edge Ltd, Co. Chill Mhantáin.
Frámáil na bPictiúr Fine Framers, Baile Cheatharlach
Múnlú: Old Mould Company, Co. Chill Mhantáin.
Taighdeoir Staire: An Dr. Margaret Murphy, Co. Cheatharlach.
Leagan Gaeilge: Máire Uí Iarnáin, Co. na Gaillimhe
Dearadh Grafach agus Clódóireacht: Lightning Print & Design, Ceatharlach; Carlow Graphics.
Monatóireacht ar an Timpeallacht: Instrument Technology, Co. na Mí

Conraitheoirí:
Gerrie Dunne Building Contractors; Edwards Engineering, An Tulach, Co. Cheatharlach; James J Farrell, Baile Cheatharlach; Paul Hoey Decorator, Baile Cheatharlach; Thomas O'Neill & Sons, Baile Cheatharlach; Proctory Carpentry, Baile Cheatharlach; Walls Engineering, Ceatharlach agus Xenon Security, Ceatharlach.

Baill Foirne an Mhúsaeim:
Diarmuid Ó Maologáin, Coimeádaí Músaeim; Seán Mac Diarmada, Oifigeach Foirne; Martin O'Rourke, Maor Cothabhála an Fhoirgnimh; Cúntóirí sa Mhúsaem - Deirdre Kearney, Sinéad Marshall, Shannon Basso Gaule, Tom Roche, David Halpin agus Jake Duggan. Buíochas lenár n-oibrithe deonacha go léir a chuidigh linn agus atá fós ag cuidiú linn an Músaem a rith.

Deontas i gCabhair agus Cistiú Sonrach faighte ó:
An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Comhpháirtíocht Forbartha Chontae Cheatharlach
Ciste Forbraíochta Réigiúnaí na hEorpa Clár Interreg 111A
Fáilte Ireland

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
An tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta

Buíochas leis na heagraíochtaí, na cumainn, na grúpaí agus na daoine aonair seo a leanas as a gcabhair, a dtacaíocht agus a dtreoir:

An Clr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach, Comhaltaí Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach - na Clrí.Michael Abbey, Anne Ahern, Eibhlín de Bróithe, John Cassin, Des Hurley, Rody Kelly, Walter Lacey, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor.
Cathaoirleach agus Comhaltaí Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach; Cathaoirleach agus Comhaltaí Chomhairle Baile Mhuine Bheag.

Tom Barry, An Bainisteoir Contae; Michael Brennan, Cléireach an Bhaile agus Foireann Bainistíochta Údaráis Áitiúla Cheatharlach. Bord Mhúsaem Contae Cheatharlach. Le baill foirne uile Chomhairle Baile Cheatharlach. Josephine Coyne, An Leabharlannaí Contae agus baill foirne Leabharlann Contae Cheatharlach, Le baill foirne Údaráis Áitiúla Cheatharlach. Le baill foirne Iontaobhas Conláistí Bhaile Cheatharlach.

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Michael Murphy, Cathaoirleach agus Bord Thurasóireacht Cheatharlach, Eileen O'Rourke PF agus baill foirne Thurasóireacht Cheatharlach – Gwen Brennan, Lorraine Brennan, Kay Farrell, Alison Fitzharris, Alberto Urbina agus Carolyn Wilkinson.

Rónán Swan, Ceann Gníomhach na Seandálaíochta agus Noel Dunne, Seandálaí, an tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta (ÚBN).

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Le baill foirne Bam Building Ltd lena n-áirítear Leo Harmon, Derek O'Connor, Kieran Brophy, Tavin Broaders; Cumann Mhúsaeim na nÚdarás Áitiúil (CMÚÁ); Gníomhaireacht Fuinnimh Cheatharlach - Chill Chainnigh; Na hIarbhainisteoirí Contae: Matt O'Connor, Tom Dowling agus Joe Crockett; Mary Walsh agus baill foirne Chomhpháirtíocht Forbartha Chontae Cheatharlach; Michael Starrett agus baill foirne na Comhairle Oidhreachta; an Sáirsint Mary Corcoran, An tAonad Coiscthe Coireachta; An Garda Síochána, Ceatharlach; Cosaint Shibhialta Cheatharlach; Chris Corlett, Seandálaí, An Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil; An tAth. John Cummins, An tAth. Rory Nolan, Bernard Gerraghty agus paróiste na hArd-Eaglaise; An Moinsíneoir Caoimhín Ó Néill, An Dr. Thomas McGrath, baill foirne agus scoláirí Choláiste Cheatharlach; Jarlath Judge agus baill foirne CRISP, Ceatharlach; Mark Thomas agus baill foirne de chuid The Pembrokeshire Museum Service, An Bhreatain Bheag; Judith Martin agus an Chomhairle Náisiúnta do na Daill; Emma Whitmore, Glór Cheatharlach;

Grace Marshall, Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí; Baill foirne Visual agus Amharclann George Bernard Shaw; Fiona Cunnane agus baill foirne Ionad Oibrithe Deonacha Cheatharlach; FÁS; Jobbridge - An Scéim Náisiúnta Intéirneachta; An Dr. Gillian Barrett; Alan Cassin, Tom Clowry; Ger Deering;

Therese Jackman; Matt Kelly; An Dr. Peadar McArdle; Hugh Maguire; Paddy Matthews, Declan O'Connor; Mary O'Neill, Bobby, Mary agus Gemma Quinn, Lorcan Scott, Joe Watters, Cléireach an Bhaile (ar scor); Pat Mealey, John Kavanagh, Bill Flemming agus cónaitheoirí Chlós na Toirbhirte;
Leis na daoine go léir a bhronn déantáin agus nithe ar an Músaem ón mbliain 1973 i leith ionas go bhféadfaí iad a chur ar taispeáint. Tugann na nithe seo agus iad i dteannta a chéile an deis dúinn tuiscint níos fearr a bheith againn ar an stair atá againn agus ar an saibhreas a ghabhann léi.