



# BOARD OF CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

*Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlocha*

## 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Published December 2021



Carlow County Museum is part of the Heritage Council's Museums Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI) which promotes professional standards in the care of collections in Irish museums and galleries. Carlow County Museum is the first museum in County Carlow to participate in the programme. Carlow County Museum has been awarded Interim MSPI Accreditation by the Heritage Council.



LOCAL  
AUTHORITY  
MUSEUMS'  
NETWORK

Carlow County Museum is a member of the Local Authority Museums' Network (L.A.M.N) which represents the twelve Local Authority Museums across Ireland, which play a vital role in the social, cultural and economic life of regions across Ireland.

## **museum**

National Museum of Ireland

*Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann*

Carlow County Museum is a Designated Museum by the National Museum of Ireland under the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2004. Under this designation, Carlow County Museum is legally entitled to collect, retain, request and display archaeological objects on behalf of the State. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, is the Designated Person for County Carlow.



## **Members of the Board of Carlow County Museum**

### **Carlow County Council Members:**

Cllr. Fergal Browne,  
Cllr. Andrea Dalton,  
and Cllr. Ken Murnane, Chairperson

### **Chief Executive's Nominee:**

Mr. John Shortall, County Librarian

### **Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society Members:**

Mr. Pdraig Dooley, Mr. Gary Hughes,  
Dr Séamus Ó Murchú

### **Secretary to the Board:**

Mr. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator

**Front Cover photograph:** Wreath laying ceremony in Carlow County Museum to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the execution of Kevin Barry. (L to R) Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Cllr Charlie Murphy, Chairperson of the Carlow County Council Decade of Centenaries Committee with Evelyn, Niamh and Kevin Barry. Photograph: Michael O'Rourke.

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## **Museum Board:**

This is the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Board of Carlow County Museum. The Museum is operated by Carlow County Council in partnership with the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (CHAS). The Board consists of seven members, three Members of Carlow County Council, three representatives of the CHAS and a Chief Executive's nominee. The Curator of Carlow County Museum acts as Secretary to the Board.

The Chairperson is chosen from the three Members of the County Council and the three CHAS representatives. As agreed, the position of Chairperson alternates on an annual basis between the Members of the County Council and the CHAS representatives. In January 2021 at the deferred 2020 AGM Cllr Ken Murnane was elected Chairperson.

The Museum Board AGM meeting was due to take place on December 15th, 2020, but as a mark of respect to Ger O'Brien, Carlow Municipal District Engineer, who died on December 12<sup>th</sup>, the meeting, along with all Council meetings, was deferred.

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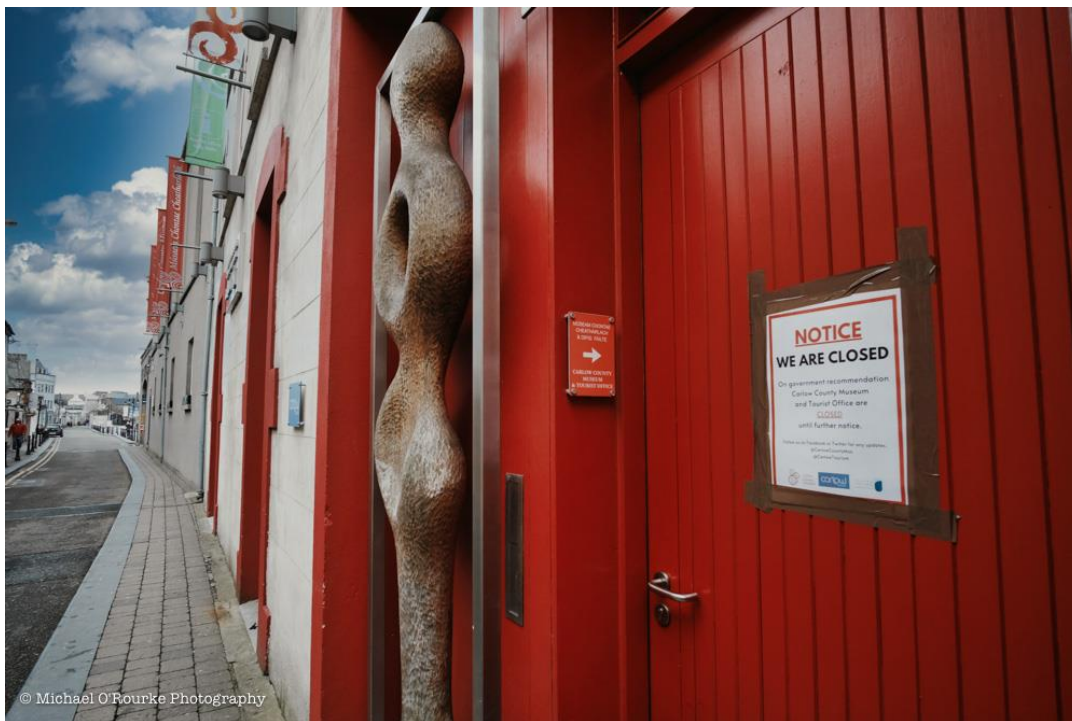
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## Covid-19 – A Global Impact

There is no doubt that the history books for 2020 will be dominated by the worldwide pandemic of Covid-19. The Museum, in accordance with the Government instructions for all cultural institutions, closed to the public on Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>. Museum staff for the next two weeks worked behind closed doors. From Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>, and early the following week, most of the Museum staff were redeployed to the Carlow County Council Covid-19 Call Centre in the role of coordination and operators. All Local Authorities established a Covid-19 Call Centre to assist those cocooning and vulnerable people who needed assistance in arranging shopping, prescriptions, travel to non Covid-19 medical appointments and the Bag of Books scheme on behalf of the Library. The Call Centre operated from 8am to 8pm seven days a week until mid-June from the County Council Chamber. A huge community effort was mounted to assist those who required the Call Centre’s assistance. The Centre worked with many groups and organisations such as First Responders, GAA Clubs, Tidy Towns, Development Groups, Order of Malta, Red Cross as well as the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Gardai, the Fire Service and the Civil Defence. Staff from across the County Council were redeployed to assist with the Call Centre operations.



Photograph by Michael O'Rourke that was used on the front page of the Carlow Nationalist on Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, under the title "Lockdown Begins"

Unfortunately, but obviously, due to the Covid-19 restrictions the many events the Museum had planned or were to be a part of didn't take place or became online events. The ARTiculation national final in Tralee has been deferred; Crinniú na nÓg became an online event; the Heritage Council's MSPI award ceremony in July has been deferred; Heritage Week and Culture Night will be all online events. Following the HSE guidelines we can't bring back our volunteers for quite some time, possibly 2021 at the earliest. When we do reopen it will be reduced days and reduced opening hours to facilitate the Covid-19 requirements and contact tracing. These restrictions will be with us for some time to come.

### **Museum Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI)**

Carlow County Museum has been awarded Interim Accreditation under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI). MSPI promotes professional standards in the care of collections in Irish museums and recognises the achievement of those standards through accreditation. Carlow County Museum is the first museum in County Carlow to participate in the programme.

On Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>, International Museums Day, Carlow County Museum received written confirmation that it has been awarded Interim Accreditation under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) by the Heritage Council. This award recognises Carlow Co. Museum's achievement of those standards through accreditation across such areas as its governance, caring for its collection, its education programming and its visitor care. The County Museum is the first museum in the county to both participate in the MSPI programme and to be accredited.

In her awarding letter, Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council, wrote "This represents a great achievement for Carlow County Museum and Carlow County Council. The Heritage Council acknowledges the hard work and perseverance of all involved in working to achieve Interim Accreditation."

Carlow County Museum had submitted its application to the Heritage Council for Interim Accreditation under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) on

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The Heritage Council appointed accessors visited the Museum on Friday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. A summary of follow up actions was received, the Museum had until February 2020 to have these actions updated/ completed. Overall, the accessors were happy with the work practices in place and it is mainly in the policy documents they recommended changes.



Among the items submitted were the updated:

- Carlow County Museum Strategic Management Plan 2020 – 2025
- Carlow County Museum Strategic Management Action Plan 2020
- Carlow County Museum Mission Statement
- Carlow County Museum Collection Policy 2020 – 2025
- Carlow County Museum Disposal Policy 2020 – 2025

These were approved by the Board of Carlow County Museum at the board meeting held on Monday February 4<sup>th</sup> and by the Members of Carlow County Council at its February 2020 meeting. It was expected that the Museum would have known in March the outcome of this process but due to Covid-19 it was May before the letter of confirmation from the Heritage Council was received.

This is a very significant achievement for the staff, volunteers, the Museum Board, Carlow Co Council (Members & staff) and the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society and is a hugely important milestone in the Museum's forty-seven-year history.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions the Heritage Council's annual award ceremony in July has been deferred.

### Heritage Council's Heritage Week Award

Carlow County Museum, Myshall Muintir na Tíre and the Myshall Community Centre Heritage Week 2019 event "St Columbanus and the making of Europe" event wins the Heritage Council's Heritage Week 2019 "Le Cheile san Eorap Award".

The awards ceremony was held in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, on Thursday February 6<sup>th</sup>. The Heritage Week event, held in August 2019, was supported by Carlow County Council, through the Creative Ireland programme.

Dr Alexander O'Hara, Department of Medieval History, University of St Andrews, presented the keynote lecture. The accompanying pop-up exhibition explored the influence of St. Columbanus (c. AD 550-615), a native of the Myshall area. The exhibition included photographic displays of intercultural visits between members of Myshall Friends of Columbanus, and Friends of Columbanus Francaise and Italy, with a focus on the Columban Way, which is currently being mapped from Myshall to Bangor, Co. Down, on through England, France, Switzerland, and on to Bobbio in Italy where St. Columbanus is buried.



(L to R) Patsy McLean, Damian Howard, Michael Parsons, Cllr. John Pender, Ann Cassin, Dr Alexander O'Hara, Padraig Dooley and Dermot Mulligan accepting the Heritage Council's Heritage Week 2019 "Le Cheile san Eorap Award" in the Royal Irish Academy.

In 1950, following the devastation of World War II, a group of statesmen and scholars from across Europe met in Luxeuil-les-Bains in eastern France to commemorate the 14<sup>th</sup> centenary of Columbanus birth, and to discuss plans for the future of Europe. The founding of the modern European Union can be traced to this gathering. Dr O'Hara's lecture looked at the surprising influence of Columbanus on Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister, and a founding father of the European Union, and how an Irish immigrant from the edge of Europe was one of the first to voice the concept of a united Europe.

The Heritage Council's Heritage Week 2019 awards ceremony was attended by Cllr. John Pender, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Dr Alexander O'Hara, Patsy McLean and Damian Howard from Myshall, Mr. Padraig Dooley, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum, Dermot Mulligan and Aisling O'Halloran from Carlow County Museum. The awards were jointly presented by Michael Parsons, Chairperson of the Heritage Council, and Niall Ó Donnchú, Assistant Secretary Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with RTE's Ann Cassin as MC.



**St Columbanus Heritage Week 2019 Lecture**

Dr Alexander O'Hara, presenting his lecture, 'Saint Columbanus and the Making of Europe' in the Myshall Community Centre in August 2019.

**John Tyndall 200, I Know why the Sky is Blue. Do You?**

On Sunday August 2<sup>nd</sup> the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of County Carlow's great 19<sup>th</sup> century scientist, inventor, educator and mountaineer, John Tyndall, was celebrated with an online collaboration between Carlow County Museum and Tyndall National Institute, Cork. The Museum's Facebook page hosted the broadcast which featured some eminent John Tyndall experts: Martin Nevin, Tyndall -Dargan Committee, from Leighlinbridge, who has promoted John Tyndall for nearly 50 years; Sir Roland Jackson, author of Tyndall's biography 'The Ascent of John Tyndall: Victorian Scientist, Mountaineer, and Public Intellectual', Julie Donnelly, Head of Access

Programmes, Tyndall National Institute, Professor Tatiana Perova, School of Engineering, and Professor Iouri Gounko, School of Chemistry, Trinity College, Dublin. Alicia Premkumar of Planet Pals and St Leo's College was the MC for the event. This was the first online event hosted by the Museum and over six hundred viewers logged in during the event.



**I know why  
the sky is blue.  
Do you?**

SUNDAY AUGUST 2ND 2020 AT 2PM

Celebrate the 200th birthday of the great Co. Carlow scientist John Tyndall and learn about his life and contributions to modern science.

The lecture will be streamed live on Carlow County Museum's Facebook page at 2pm.

Join **Martin Nevin**, **Sir Roland Jackson**, and **Julie Donnelly**, Tyndall National Institute, for this online lecture for **#Tyndall200**

Visit [www.carlowmuseum.ie](http://www.carlowmuseum.ie) and [www.tyndall.ie](http://www.tyndall.ie) for more info.

John was probably born in 1820 in Leighlinbridge and the legacy of his career is very much in evidence to this day. As one of Ireland's great scientists he discovered among many things the science of climate change, why the sky is blue, he developed the sterilisation method called Tyndallisation and published among the first books in English on mountaineering. A peak in Alps and craters on the Moon and planet Mars are named in his honour!

Tyndall National Institute was established in 2004 at University College Cork, as a successor to the National Microelectronics Research Centre (founded in 1982). It is one of Europe's leading research centers in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) research and development and the largest facility of its type in Ireland. The

Institute can link much of its present-day research to John Tyndall's original work across several scientific fields.

For Science Week 2020 TG4 visited the Museum on Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup> and interviewed John McDarby, Staff Officer, about the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Carlow 19<sup>th</sup> century scientist, John Tyndall. The interview for TG4 was broadcast during Science Week 2020 which ran from November 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Visit by Minister Malcom Noonan, TD

On Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup> the Museum welcomed Malcom Noonan, TD, Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, along with Michael MacDonagh, Chief Archaeologist, and Chris Corlett, Archaeologist, National Monuments Service. Minister Noonan was on a constituency visit and requested a visit to the Museum. Cllr Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fergal Browne, Mayor, and Kathleen Holohan, CE, Carlow County Council, welcomed Minister Noonan to the Museum.



(L to R) Kathleen Holohan, Chris Corlett, Cllr Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Fergal Browne, Mayor, Malcom Noonan, TD, Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Michael MacDonagh and Dermot Mulligan.

## Kevin Barry 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations

Kevin Barry, Tombeagh, County Carlow, was executed one hundred years ago at 8am on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1920 in Mountjoy Gaol, Dublin, for his role in the Irish War of Independence. Kevin was just 18 years old when he was executed and the first execution since the 1916 Rising. Both lead to his death receiving near worldwide coverage.

Recently his nephew, Kevin Barry, along with his wife Evelyn, their daughter Niamh along with Ian Dowling, of Irish Pickers television show fame and whom he can call Kevin a cousin, visited Carlow County Museum and in a private ceremony laid a wreath to mark the anniversary of Kevin's execution. This was coordinated by the County Council's Centenaries Committee.



(L to R) Cllr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach, Cllr Charlie Murphy watching Evelyn, Niamh and Kevin Barry lay a wreath to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the execution of Kevin Barry.

Since the 1980's Carlow County Museum has displayed Kevin Barry's wallet and the remains of the last cigarette he smoked in Mountjoy Gaol immediately before his execution by hanging. These belongings were returned to the Barry family after Kevin's death and remained in Tombeagh until his nephew, Kevin, presented them to the Museum. For the occasion Ian brought Kevin's Death Mask, which was placed beside the wallet and cigarette, probably the first time they were together. The death mask was cast very soon after Kevin's death and Ian is very proud that he is the owner of this historic item. Ian has very kindly agreed to loan the Death Mask to the Museum for 2021.



Kevin Barry, nephew of Kevin Barry holding Kevin's death mask. Photograph: Michael O'Rourke

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions this was a private family affair with Cllr Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, and Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Chairperson of the Carlow County Council Decade of Centenaries Committee, present.

Also, as part of the commemorations coordinated by the County Council's Centenaries Committee, Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, pre-recorded an online interview with Professor Emeritus, Eunan O'Halpin, Professor of Contemporary Irish History, Trinity Centre for Contemporary Irish History, and a relation of Kevin, on his newly published book 'Kevin Barry, An Irish Rebel in Life and Death'. This interview was broadcast on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8pm through the Libraries YouTube channel.



Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, recording an online interview with Professor Emeritus O'Halpin

## ARTiculation

On Friday 28th February, the first-ever Carlow Regional Heat for ARTiculation Ireland was organised by Carlow County Museum.

ARTiculation is a public speaking competition which promotes the appreciation and discussion of art and history in secondary schools throughout Ireland. Carlow students were tasked with delivering a ten-minute presentation before an audience about a work of art, an artefact or piece of architecture of their choice, and express their ideas, opinions and conclusions on their chosen work. ARTiculation is run by the Roche Court Educational Trust, England, and the competition in Ireland is coordinated by Tipperary County Museum.

St Leos College, Carlow Town, participated in the Carlow Final which was held on the first-floor gallery of Carlow County Museum. The students spoke about their chosen pieces while surrounded by heritage and history of Carlow. Judging the presentations were Sinead Dowling, County Arts Officer for Carlow, and John O' Neill of Toastmasters Carlow. As part of the competition, the judges also ask the speakers a question each about their presentation; the speakers don't know the question in advance, and it really challenges their knowledge and interpretation of their chosen topic.



(L to R) Ms. Amy McLoughlin and Mr. Sean Woods, St Leo's College, in the Museum for the national ARTiculation Final in November 2020.

Amy McLoughlin secured first place with her fascinating take on the Basílica de la Sagrada Familia, the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Barcelona, designed by Antoni Gaudi. Second place went to Méabh Johnson who spoke with great passion about Kryzwy Domek (the Crooked House) in Poland, while Clodagh O' Regan placed third for her engaging interpretation of Botticelli's 'The Birth of Venus'.

The National ARTiculation Finals were scheduled to take place in Tralee in late March but because of Covid-19 the event has been postponed until November 5<sup>th</sup> where it became an online event. There were four counties participating, Carlow, Kerry, Tipperary and Waterford. All students were asked to prerecord their presentation, and then on the day of the final be prepared to answer questions live with the judges. Mr. Sean Woods, teacher, St. Leo's College, and Amy McLoughlin visited the Museum and participated in the online final. The judges described Amy's presentation as 'excellent'. The winner was Rosie Keneally, Presentation College Tralee, with all other finalists receiving a participant's medal. Subsequently we heard that Amy came a 'very close second'.

We thank Mr. Sean Woods, St Leo's College, for his assistance in promoting this event among the students.

## Ecclesiastical Lecture

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, Dermot Mulligan presented a lecture to the first-year students of the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore on '*The impact of Irish monks on Early Medieval Europe: A County Carlow Perspective*'. Dermot had been invited by Dr Linda Doran to deliver this special lecture to the students. Dr Doran has for many years been using the Carlow Trails of the Saints book as part of her course. Dermot gave a summary of the county's ecclesiastical heritage and made specific reference to St Laserian's Cathedral, St Mullins, St Brigid, St Columbanus, St. Ecgberct, St Laserian and St Willibrord.

## Crinniú na nÓg

The national Crinniú na nÓg took place on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> and was coordinated locally in County Carlow by the Arts Office. With the suggestion from the Museum, the day was themed around the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Carlow's great 19<sup>th</sup> century scientist, John Tyndall, under the banner of "why the sky is blue", a discovery associated with John. Tyndall who was the founding Scientist on our current understanding of climate science, the Greenhouse Effect and climate change.

The Museum, through the Arts Office, partnered with local online education company, Create School, to run a series of online workshops based on the theme for children to participate in before and on the day itself.

## Archaeology Ireland Magazine

Archaeology Ireland, Summer 2020 edition featured as it's regular 'Museum Piece' article an object from Carlow County Museum. The object is on the Bronze Age Ballon Hill objects that were rediscovered in 1997 after being found as part of a house clearance in England and posted to the Museum.

Ballon Hill was a burial ground of significant importance in Bronze Age Ireland (2,500 – 700 BC). A collector of Carlow's folklore, Edward O'Toole, associated this site with the burial place of the ancient Kings of Leinster, who ruled from the site of Dinn Righ, near Leighlinbridge. Excavations carried out in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and more recent investigations by the Ballon Hill Archaeology Project have revealed at least twenty-eight burials, twenty-four ceramic vessels, and other diverse grave goods. The majority of the objects excavated are in the National Museum of Ireland or in the British Museum. The leather-covered presentation case, now displayed in the Museum, was made in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to hold four artefacts found in a Bronze Age cist burial at Ballon Hill: a bronze blade, a white pebble, a black pebble, and a third green pebble (now missing).

The blade is significant in that it is the only metallic object found on Ballon Hill, the rest were pottery or amulet stones. The article was written by Tomás Skinner, Museum Archaeologist.

The past in the present

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# Archaeology

I R E L A N D

<b>Hard times on horseback</b> Where is Ireland's early medieval tack?	<b>The Venerable Bead</b> A small artefact with a big story.	<b>Uncovering medieval Ferns</b> Recent excavations in County Wexford.	<b>Margaret Stokes</b> A pioneering early medieval scholar.
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**A MUCH-STORIED SHIELD**

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## MUSEUM PIECE

Tomás Skinner tells us about Carlow County Museum and describes a piece from its collections.

Carlow County Museum is located in the Cultural Quarter of Carlow town in the former Presentation Convent. Part of a complex that also houses the Tourist Office and the County Library, it is operated by Carlow County Council in partnership with the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society (CHAS). Originally opened in 1973, it was run for nearly 30 years by the CHAS until its operations, with the agreement of the CHAS, were transferred to the local authority in 2002. The newly renovated museum was opened in 2012.

The Museum is designated by the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) to collect and display archaeological finds and is one of twelve members of the Local Authority Museums' Network (LAMN).

Among the items on display is the famous nineteenth-century hand-carved pulpit from Carlow Cathedral, included in Fintan O'Toole's *A history of Ireland in 100 objects*; the gallows trapdoor from Carlow Gaol; the wooden smoking pipe of Carlowian Captain Myles Keogh, who was killed at the infamous Battle of the Little Bighorn; the remains of the last cigarette smoked by Kevin Barry, a medical student from County Carlow who was executed in 1920 at the age of eighteen for his role in the War of Independence; a magnificent 1916-2016 commemorative stained-glass panel by artist Peadar Lamb; and the 'Journeys in Time'—The Archaeology of the Carlow Bypass' exhibition in association with the NMI and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The Museum is open all year round and admission is free.

Address: Carlow County Museum, College Street, Carlow, Co. Carlow, R93 E3T2.  
Tel: (00353) 59-9131554  
Website: <https://carlowmuseum.ie>  
Twitter: @carlowcountymus  
Opening hours: September–May: Monday–Saturday 10am–4.30pm; June–August: Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm; Sundays & Bank Holidays 2pm–4.30pm.

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## Ballon Hill finds



Ballon Hill, Ballon, Co. Carlow, is the site of a burial ground of significant importance in Bronze Age Ireland (CW013-065-068). A collector of Carlow's folklore, Edward O'Toole, associated this site with the burial place of the ancient kings of Leinster, who ruled from the site of Dinn Righ, near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. Excavations carried out in the mid-nineteenth century and more recent investigations by the Ballon Hill Archaeology Project have revealed at least 28 burials, 24 ceramic vessels and other diverse grave-goods. This leather-covered presentation case was made in the nineteenth century to hold four artefacts found in a Bronze Age cist burial at Ballon Hill: a bronze blade, a white pebble, a black pebble and a green pebble (now missing).

Ballon Hill was first excavated between 1853 and 1855 by John James Lecky, owner of the nearby Ballykealy Estate, and his brother-in-law, J. Richardson Smith. Full details of the excavations and the discovery of these artefacts were recorded in the diaries of Smith and published by the Revd James Graves in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* in 1853.

In late June 1853 a five-sided chamber was found, covered by a large stone slab. Upon removal of the capstone, the cist was found to be filled with sand, and the thin, bronze blade was discovered close to the surface. Slightly deeper was a small, neatly decorated bipartite vase. This is housed in the British Museum, but a replica—fired in an open pit in Ballon—can also be viewed in Carlow County Museum.

The removal of the remaining sandy fill revealed a large inverted urn, under which were fragments of burnt bone and the three pebbles. The pebbles were believed to be charms or amulets.

Many of the artefacts recovered from Ballon Hill were donated by Col. Beauchamp Lecky, grandson of John James Lecky, to the National Museum of Ireland. The history of the whereabouts and use of the blade and pebbles is unclear, however, until their rediscovery in 1997 in a house in East Sussex, England. The case and artefacts were posted to Carlow, where they fortuitously ended up in Carlow County Museum.

The oval shape of the blade, its rounded point and its extreme thinness compare well with Bronze Age razors. This small and very sharp tool would have primarily been used to remove hair from the face or scalp. In cross-section the blade has a broad and gently rounded midrib with shallow fluting and flattened edges, which might indicate that it was adapted for a secondary use from another item, such as a larger blade.

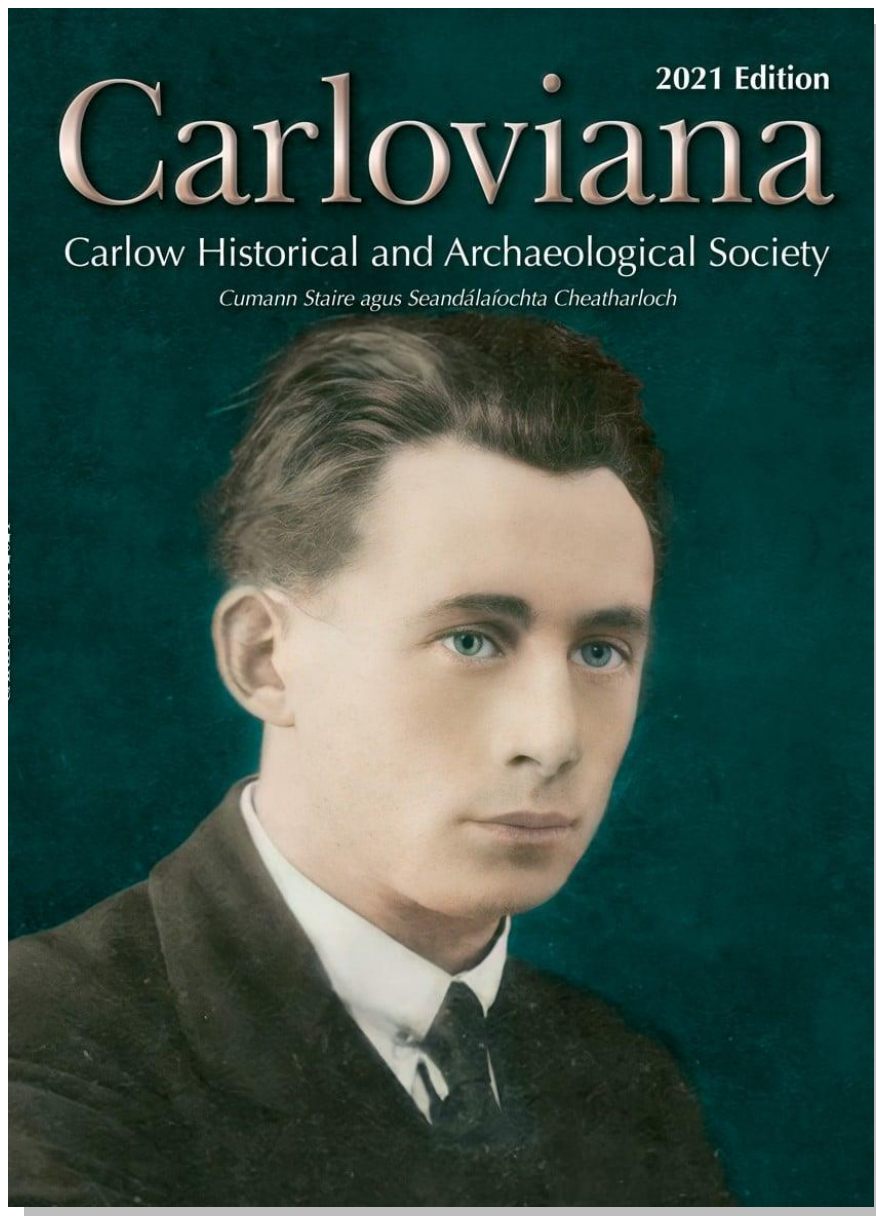
**Further reading**  
O'Neil, N. and Kearney, D. 2014. Ballon Hill Archaeology Project: Phase 1 Report. Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society, Carlow County Museum and Carlow County Development Partnership. Accessible from <https://carlowhistorical.com>.

Archaeology Ireland Summer 2020

Archaeology Ireland Summer 2020 edition featuring Carlow County Museum.  
Photographs: Archaeology Ireland

## Carloviana:

CHAS launched their 2021 edition online with special guest Malcom Noonan, TD, Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform. The Journal, 210 pages, has an article from the Museum titled “Restored Early Medieval Cross of Rath Melsigi Unveiled”. This details the August 2019 visit by Yves Wengler, Mayor of Echternach and the delegation from Luxembourg who came to assist with the unveiling of the restored Rath Melsigi Cross, see also the Museum Board Annual Report 2019.



Carloviana 2021 front cover. Photograph: Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society

## Museum Staff and Volunteers

The Museum has three full time staff, Mr. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, and Mr. John McDarby, Staff Officer, and Mr. Paul Dunne, Marketing and PR Officer, with Mr. Martin O'Rourke, Maintenance Superintendent, shared staff member with the Library Service.

On Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>, Tomás Skinner, Museum Archaeologist, completed his contract with the Museum. Tomás had worked with the Museum for approximately one and a half years. On Friday August 14<sup>th</sup>, Ms Aisling O'Halloran, Graduate Intern, resigned her position for a job in the civil service. On Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>, Mr Paul Dunne commenced his one-year contract of employment in the Museum as Marketing and PR Officer.

The Museum had three people (19.5 hours per week each) on the Tús Employment Scheme coordinated by the County Carlow Development Partnership (CCDP) and supervised by Ms. Lucy Stevenson. In line with the Government regulations they were withdrawn from the Museum on Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>. Over the course of three weeks in August the Museum's three Tús participants, Derek Keating, James McDermott and Sean Glancy, all completed their term on the Tús scheme.

Following the HSE guidelines our volunteers were stood down from March 13<sup>th</sup> and will remain so for some time to come.

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# BORD NA HIARSMALANNA CHONTAE CHEATHARLACH

*Iarsmalann Chontae  
Cheathairlocha*

## 14ú TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2020



Foilsithe i mí na Nollag 2021



Tá Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach mar chuid de Chlár um Chaighdeáin Músaem na hÉireann (MSPI) de chuid na Comhairle Oidhreachta a chuireann caighdeáin ghairmiúla chun cinn maidir le cúram na mbailiúchán i músaeim agus gailearaithe na hÉireann. Is é Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach an chéad mhúsaem i gContae Cheatharlach a ghlac páirt sa chlár. Tá Creidiúnú MSPI Eatramhach bronnta ag an gComhairle Oidhreachta ar Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach.



Tá Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach ina bhall de Líonra Músaem na nÚdarás Áitiúil (L.A.M.N) a dhéanann ionadaíocht ar an dá Mhúsaem Údarás Áitiúil ar fud na hÉireann, a bhfuil ról ríthábhachtach acu i saol sóisialta, cultúrtha agus eacnamaíoch na réigiún ar fud na hÉireann.

## **museum**

National Museum of Ireland

*Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann*

Is Músaem Ainmnithe ag Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann é Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach faoi Achtanna na Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta 1930 – 2004. Faoi ainmniúchán seo, tá Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach i dteideal réada seandálaíochta a bhailiú, a choinneáil, a iarraidh agus a thaispeáint thar ceann an Stáit. Is é Dermot Mulligan, Coimeádaí an Mhúsaem, an Duine Ainmnithe do Chontae Cheatharlach.



## **Baill Bhord Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach**

### **Baill Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach:**

Cllr. Fergal Browne,  
Cllr. Andrea Dalton,  
agus Cllr. Ken Murnane, Cathaoirleach

### **Ainmní an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh:**

Mr. John Shortall,  
Leabharlannaí an Chontae

### **Baill Chumann Staire & Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach:**

Mr. Pádraig Dooley, Mr. Gary Hughes,  
Dr Séamus Ó Murchú

### **Rúnaí an Bhoird:**

Mr. Dermot Mulligan, Coimeádaí an Mhúsaem

**Grianghraf den Chlúdach Tosaigh:** Searmanas leagan bláthfhleasc i Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach chun comóradh 100 bliain ó cuireadh chun báis Kevin Barry a chomóradh. (C go D) An Clr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach, an Comhairleoir Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach Choiste Deich mBliain Céad Bliain Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach le Evelyn, Niamh agus Kevin Barry. Grianghraf: Michael O'Rourke.

Mura luaitear a mhalairt is cóipcheart Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach na grianghraif go léir.

## **Bord an Mhúsaem:**

Seo an Ceathrú Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Déag ó Bhord Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach. Tá an Músaem á fheidhmiú ag Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach i gcomhpháirtíocht le Cumann Staire & Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach (CHAS). Tá seachtar comhalta ar an mBord, triúr Comhaltaí de Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach, triúr ionadaithe ó CHAS agus ainmnitheach an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh. Feidhmíonn Coimeádaí Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach mar Rúnaí don Bhord.

Roghnaítear an Cathaoirleach as triúr Comhaltaí na Comhairle Contae agus as triúr ionadaithe CHAS. Mar a comhaontaíodh, athraítear post an Chathaoirligh ar bhonn bliantúil idir Comhaltaí na Comhairle Contae agus ionadaithe CHAS. I mí Eanáir 2021 ag CGB iarchurtha 2020 toghadh an Comhairleoir Ken Murnane mar Chathaoirleach.

Bhí cruinniú CGB Bhord an Mhúsaem le bheith ar siúl ar an 15 Nollaig, 2020, ach mar chomhartha measa ar Ger O'Brien, Innealtóir Cheantar Bardasach Cheatharlach, a fuair bás ar an 12 Nollaig, cuireadh an cruinniú, mar aon le cruinnithe uile na Comhairle, cuireadh siar.

Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach,  
Sráid an Choláiste,  
Baile Cheatharlach,  
Ceatharlach,  
R93 E3T2  
Éireann

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## Covid-19 – Tionchar Domhanda

Níl aon dabht ach go mbeidh na leabhair staire do 2020 faoi smacht ag paindéim domhanda an Covid-19. Dúnadh an Músaem, de réir threoracha an Rialtais do gach foras cultúrtha, don phobal Dé hAoine 13 Márta. D’oibrigh foireann an Mhúsaeim ar feadh na coicíse ina dhiaidh sin taobh thiar de dhoirse dúnta. Ó Dé hAoine an 27 Márta, agus go luath an tseachtain dár gcionn, ath-implonnaíodh an chuid is mó d’fhoireann an Mhúsaeim chuig Ionad Glaonna Covid-19 Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach i ról an chomhordaithe agus na n-oibreoirí. Bhunaigh gach Údarás Áitiúil Lárionad Glaonna Covid-19 chun cabhrú leis na daoine cúnála agus leochaileacha sin a raibh cúnamh ag teastáil uathu chun siopadóireacht, oidis, taisteal chuig coinní leighis neamh-Covid-19 agus an scéim Mála Leabhar a eagrú thar ceann na Leabharlainne. Bhí an tIonad Glaonna ag feidhmiú ó 8am go 8pm seacht lá na seachtaine go lár mhí an Mheithimh ó Sheomra na Comhairle Contae. Cuireadh iarracht ollmhór pobail ar bun chun cabhrú leo siúd a raibh cúnamh an Ionaid Glaonna de dhíth orthu. D’oibrigh an tIonad le go leor grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí mar Chéad Fhreagróirí, Clubanna CLG, Bailte Slachtmhara, Grúpaí Forbartha, Ord Mhálta, An Chros Dhearg chomh maith le Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte (FSS), na Gardaí, an tSeirbhís Dóiteáin agus an Chosaint Shibhialta. Ath-implonnaíodh baill fhoirne ar fud na Comhairle Contae chun cabhrú le hoibríochtaí an Ionaid Glaonna.



Grianghraf le Michael O’Rourke a úsáideadh ar leathanach tosaigh an Náisiúnach Cheatharlach Dé Máirt 17 Márta, 2020, faoin teideal “Tosaíonn an Dianghlasáil”

Ar an drochuair, ach is léir, mar gheall ar shrianta Covid-19, níor tharla an iliomad imeachtaí a bhí beartaithe ag an Músaem nó a raibh sé le bheith páirteach iontu nó rinneadh imeachtaí ar líne díobh. Tá cluiche ceannais náisiúnta ARticipation i dTrá Lí curtha siar; Tháinig Crinniú na nÓg mar imeacht ar líne; tá searmanas bronnta MSPI na Comhairle Oidhreachta i mí Iúil curtha siar; Imeachtaí ar líne ar fad a bheidh sa tSeachtain Oidhreachta agus san Oíche Chultúir. De réir threoirlínte FSS ní féidir linn ár n-oibrithe deonacha a thabhairt ar ais le tamall maith, b'fhéidir 2021 ar a luaithe. Nuair a athosclaimid é laghdófar laethanta agus uaireanta oscailte laghdaithe chun riachtanais Covid-19 agus rianú teagmhála a éascú. Beidh na srianta seo linn go ceann tamaill eile.

## Clár Caighdeán Músaem na hÉireann (MSPI)

Tá Creidiúnú Eatramhach bronnta ar Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach faoin gClár um Chaighdeán Músaem na hÉireann (MSPI). Cuireann MSPI caighdeán ghairmiúla chun cinn maidir le cúram na mbailiúchán i músaeim na hÉireann agus aithníonn sé baint amach na gcaighdeán sin trí chreidiúnú. Is é Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach an chéad mhúsaem i gContae Cheatharlach a ghlac páirt sa chlár.

Ar an Luan 18 Bealtaine, Lá Idirnáisiúnta na Músaem, fuair Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach dearbhú i scríbhinn go raibh Creidiúnú Eatramhach bronnta air ag an gComhairle Oidhreachta faoin gClár um Chaighdeán Músaem na hÉireann (MSPI). Aithníonn an dámhachtain seo an méid atá bainte amach ag Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach sna caighdeán sin trí chreidiúnú thar réimsí mar a rialachas, ag tabhairt aire dá bhailiúchán, a chlár oideachais agus a chúram cuairteoirí. Is é Músaem an Chontae an chéad mhúsaem sa chontae a ghlac páirt sa chlár MSPI agus a fuair creidiúnú.

Ina litir bhronnta, scríobh Virginia Teehan, Príomhfheidhmeannach na Comhairle Oidhreachta, “Is mór an t-éacht é seo do Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach agus do Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach. Aithníonn an Chomhairle Oidhreachta an obair chrua agus buanseasmhacht gach duine a bhí páirteach san obair chun Creidiúnú Eatramhach a bhaint amach.”

Chuir Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach a iarratas faoi bhráid na Comhairle Oidhreachta ar Chreidiúnú Eatramhach faoin gClár um Chaighdeáin Músaem na hÉireann (MSPI) Dé hAoine an 27 Meán Fómhair 2019. Thug an Chomhairle Oidhreachta cuairt ar rochtaineoirí a cheap an Chomhairle Oidhreachta ar an Músaem Dé hAoine 15 Samhain, 2019. Achoimre ar an obair leantach Fuarthas gníomhartha, bhí go dtí Feabhra 2020 ag an Músaem chun na gníomhartha seo a nuashonrú/cur i gcrích. Ar an iomlán, bhí na hiontrálaithe sásta leis na cleachtais oibre a bhí i bhfeidhm agus is sna doiciméid pholasáí go príomha a mhol siad athruithe.



I measc na míreanna a cuireadh isteach bhí an nuashonrú:

- Plean Bainistíochta Straitéiseach Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach 2020 – 2025
- Plean Gníomhaíochta Bainistíochta Straitéisí Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach 2020
- Ráiteas Misin Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach
- Beartas Bailiúcháin Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach 2020 – 2025

- Beartas Diúscartha Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach 2020 – 2025

Cheadaigh Bord Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach iad seo ag an gcruinniú boird a tionóladh Dé Luain 4 Feabhra agus ag Bail Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach ag a gcruinniú i bhFeabhra 2020. Bhíothas ag súil go mbeadh toradh an phróisis seo ar eolas ag an Músaem i mí an Mhárta ach mar gheall ar Covid-19 ba é Bealtaine a bhí ann sula bhfuarthas litir dheimhnithe ón gComhairle Oidhreachta.

Is éacht an-suntasach é seo don fhoireann, do na hoibrithe deonacha, do Bhord an Mhúsaem, do Chomhairle Chontae Cheatharlach (Comhaltaí & don fhoireann) agus do Chumann Staire & Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach agus is cloch mhíle thar a bheith tábhachtach é i stair dastair dhaicheadmbliana an Mhúsaeim.

Ar an drochuair, mar gheall ar shrianta Covid-19 tá searmanas bronnta bliantúil na Comhairle Oidhreachta i mí Iúil curtha siar.

### **Gradam Sheachtain Oidhreachta na Comhairle Oidhreachta**

Bhuaigh Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach, Muintir na Tíre Myshall agus imeacht Sheachtain Oidhreachta Ionad Pobail Mhistéal 2019 “Naomh Columbanus agus déanamh na hEorpa” “Gradam Le Cheile san Eorap” Sheachtain Oidhreachta na Comhairle Oidhreachta 2019.

Bhí an searmanas bronnta ar siúl in Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann, Baile Átha Cliath, Déardaoin 6 Feabhra. Thacaigh Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach le himeacht na Seachtaine Oidhreachta, a reáchtáladh i mí Lúnasa 2019, tríd an gclár Éire Chruthaitheach.



(C go D) Patsy McLean, Damian Howard, Michael Parsons, An Clr. Seán Pender, Ann Cassin, an Dr Alexander O’Hara, Padraig Dooley agus Dermot Mulligan ag glacadh le Seachtain Oidhreachta 2019 na Comhairle Oidhreachta “Gradam Le Cheile san Eorap” in Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann.

Thug an Dr Alexander O’Hara, Roinn na Meánaoise, Ollscoil Chill Rímhinn, an phríomhléacht. Scrúdaíodh tionchar Naomh Columbanus (c. AD 550-615), as ceantar Mhistéala ó dhúchas, sa taispeántas aníos. Áiríodh sa taispeántas taispeántais ghrianghrafadóireachta de chuirteanna idirchultúrtha idir baill de Chairde Columbanus, agus Cairde Columbanus Francaise agus an Iodáil, le fócas ar Shlí Columban, atá á léarscáiliú faoi láthair ó Míosal go Beannchar, Co. an Dúin, ar fud Shasana, an Fhrainc, an Eilvéis, agus ar aghaidh go Bobbio san Iodáil áit a bhfuil Naomh Columbanus curtha.

I 1950, tar éis scrios an Dara Cogadh Domhanda, tháinig grúpa státairí agus scoláirí ó ar fud na hEorpa le chéile i Luxeuil-les-Bains in oirthear na Fraince chun comóradh a dhéanamh ar an 14ú céad bliain ó rugadh Columbanus, agus chun pleananna do thodhchaí na hEorpa a phlé. Is féidir bunú an Aontais Eorpaigh nua-aimseartha a rianú go dtí an cruinniú seo. Bhreathnaigh léacht an Dr O’Hara ar an tionchar iontach a bhí ag Columbanus ar Robert Schuman, Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha na Fraince, agus ar

bhunaitheoir an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus ar an gcaoi a raibh inimirceach Éireannach ó imeall na hEorpa ar cheann de na chéad daoine a chuir an coincheap a Eoraip aontaithe

D'fhreastail an Clr. John Pender, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach, an Dr Alexander O'Hara, Patsy McLean agus Damian Howard ó Míosal, an tUasal Pdraig Dooley, Cathaoirleach Bhord Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach, Dermot Mulligan agus Aisling O'Halloran ó Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach. Ba iad Michael Parsons, Cathaoirleach na Comhairle Oidhreachta, agus Niall Ó Donnchú, Rúnaí Cúnta na Roinne Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta a bhronn na gradaim i gcomhpháirt le Ann Cassin ó RTÉ mar fhear an tí.



An Dr Alexander O'Hara, ag tabhairt a léachta, 'Saint Columbanus and the Making of Europe' in Ionad Pobail Mhistéal i mí Lúnasa 2019.

## John Tyndall 200, Tá a fhios agam cén fáth go bhfuil an Spéir Gorm. An bhfuil Tú?

Ar an Domhnach 2 Lúnasa ceiliúradh 200 bliain ó rugadh eolaí, aireagóir, oideachasóir agus sléibhteoir iontach Chontae Cheatharlach ón 19ú haois, John Tyndall, le comhoibriú ar líne idir Iarsmalann Chontae Cheatharlach agus Institiúid Náisiúnta Tyndall, Corcaigh. Bhí leathanach Facebook an Mhúsaeim ina hóstach ar an graoladh ina raibh roinnt saineolaithe iomráiteach John Tyndall i láthair: Martin Nevin, Coiste Tyndall-Dargan, as Leithghlinn an Droichid, a thug ardú céime do John Tyndall le beagnach 50 bliain; Sir Roland Jackson, údar beathaisnéis Tyndall ‘The Ascent of John Tyndall: Victorian Scientist, Mountaineer, and Public Intellectual’, Julie Donnelly, Ceann na gClár Rochtana, Institiúid Náisiúnta Tyndall, an tOllamh Tatiana Perova, Scoil na hInnealtóireachta, agus an tOllamh Iouri Gounko, Scoil na Ceimice, Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath. Ba í Alicia Premkumar ó Planet Pals agus Coláiste Naomh Leo a bhí mar bhuachaill don imeacht. Ba é seo an chéad imeacht ar líne a d’óstáil an Músaeim agus logáil breis is sé chéad lucht féachana isteach le linn na hócáide.



**I know why  
the sky is blue.  
Do you?**

SUNDAY AUGUST 2ND 2020 AT 2PM

Celebrate the 200th birthday of the great Co. Carlow scientist John Tyndall and learn about his life and contributions to modern science.

The lecture will be streamed live on Carlow County Museum's Facebook page at 2pm.

Join **Martin Nevin**, **Sir Roland Jackson**, and **Julie Donnelly**, Tyndall National Institute, for this online lecture for **#Tyndall200**

Visit [www.carlowmuseum.ie](http://www.carlowmuseum.ie) and [www.tyndall.ie](http://www.tyndall.ie) for more info.

Is dócha gur rugadh John sa bhliain 1820 i Leithghlinn an Droichid agus tá oidhreacht a shlí bheatha le sonrú go mór go dtí an lá inniu. Mar dhuine d'eolaithe móra na hÉireann fuair sé amach i measc go leor rudaí eolaíocht an athraithe aeráide, cén fáth go bhfuil an spéir gorm, d'fhorbair sé an modh steiriliú ar a dtugtar Tyndallisation agus d'fhoilsigh sé i measc na gcéad leabhar i mBéarla ar sléibhteoireacht. Ainmnítear buaic sna hAlpa agus cráitéir ar an nGealach agus ar an bpláinéad Mars ina onóir!

Bunaíodh Institiúid Náisiúnta Tyndall i 2004 i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, mar chomharba ar an Ionad Náisiúnta um Thaighde Micrileictreonaic (a bunaíodh i 1982). Tá sé ar cheann de na lárionaid taighde is mó san Eoraip i dtaighde agus forbairt Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide (ICT) agus an tsaoráid is mó dá cineál in Éirinn. Is féidir leis an Institiúid go leor dá taighde sa lá atá inniu ann a nascadh le saothar bunaidh John Tyndall thar réimsí éagsúla eolaíochta.

Do Sheachtain na hEolaíochta 2020 thug TG4 cuairt ar an Músaem Dé hAoine 23 Deireadh Fómhair agus chuir sé agallamh ar John McDarby, Oifigeach Foirne, faoi chomóradh 200 bliain ó rugadh John Tyndall, eolaí Ceatharlach ón 19ú haois. Craoladh an t-agallamh do TG4 le linn Sheachtain na hEolaíochta 2020 a bhí ar siúl ó 8 go 15 Samhain.

## Cuairt an Aire Malcom Noonan, TD

Ar an Máirt 11 Lúnasa chuir an Músaem fáilte roimh Malcom Noonan, TD, an tAire Oidhreachta agus Athchóirithe Toghcháin, in éineacht le Michael MacDonagh, Príomh-Seandálaí, agus Chris Corlett, Seandálaí, Seirbhís na Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta. Bhí an tAire Noonan ar chuairt dailcheantair agus d'iarr sé cuairt ar an Músaem. An Comhairleoir Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach, An Clr. Chuir Fergal Browne, Méara, agus Kathleen Holohan, Príomhfheidhmeannach, Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach, fáilte roimh an Aire Noonan chuig an Músaem.



(C go D) Kathleen Holohan, Chris Corlett, An Comhairleoir Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach, An Clr. Fergal Browne, Méara, Malcom Noonan, TD, Aire Oidhreachta agus Athchóirithe Toghcháin, Michael MacDonagh agus Dermot Mulligan.

## Kevin Barry Comóradh 100 Bliain

Cuireadh chun báis Kevin Barry, Tombeagh, Contae Cheatharlach, céad bliain ó shin ag 8am ar an 1 Samhain 1920 i bPríosún Mhuinseo, Baile Átha Cliath, as a ról i gCogadh Saoirse na hÉireann. Ní raibh Kevin ach 18 mbliana d'aois nuair a cuireadh chun báis é agus an chéad duine a cuireadh chun báis ó Éirí Amach 1916 é. Fuair an dá bás clúdach beagnach ar fud an domhain.

Le déanaí thug a nia, Kevin Barry, in éineacht lena bhean chéile Evelyn, a n-iníon Niamh in éineacht le Ian Dowling, as an seó teilifíse Irish Pickers iomráiteach agus ar féidir leis a bheith ina chol ceathair air Kevin, cuairt ar Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach agus i searmanas príobháideach leag sé bláthfhleasc chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh. comóradh bás Kevin. Rinne Coiste Céad Bliain na Comhairle Contae comhordú air seo.



(C go D) An Clr. Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach, an Comhairleoir Charlie Murphy ag faire ar Evelyn, Niamh agus Kevin Barry ag leagan bláthfheasc chun comóradh 100 bliain ó bás Kevin Barry a chomóradh.

Ó na 1980idí i leith tá sparán Kevin Barry ar taispeáint ag Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach agus iarsmaí an toitín deiridh a chaith sé i bPríosún Mhuinseo díreach sular cuireadh chun báis é ar crochadh. Tugadh na giurléidí seo ar ais do theaghlach Barry tar éis bhás Chaoimhín agus d'fhan siad sa Tom Beag go dtí gur bhronn a nia, Kevin, don Mhúsaem iad. Don ócáid thug Ian Masc Báis Kevin, a cuireadh in aice leis an sparán agus an toitín, is dócha an chéad uair a bhí siad le chéile. Caitheadh an masc báis go han-luath i ndiaidh bhás Kevin agus tá Ian an-bhródúil as go bhfuil sé ina úinéir ar an mír stairiúil seo. D'aontaigh Ian go cineálta an Masc Báis a thabhairt ar iasacht don Mhúsaem do 2021.



Kevin Barry, nia Kevin Barry a bhfuil masc báis Kevin aige. Grianghraf: Michael O'Rourke

Mar gheall ar na srianta reatha maidir le COVID-19 ba ghnó teaghlaigh phríobháideach é seo leis an gComhairleoir Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach, agus an Clr. Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach Choiste Deich mBliana Céad Bliain Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach, i láthair.

Chomh maith leis sin, mar chuid de na comórtha atá á gcomhordú ag Coiste Céad Bliain na Comhairle Contae, rinne Dermot Mulligan, Coimeádaí an Mhúsaeim, agallamh ar líne a réamhthairfeadh leis an Ollamh Emeritus, Eunan O'Halpin, Ollamh le Stair Chomhaimseartha na hÉireann, Ionad na Tríonóide do Stair Chomhaimseartha na hÉireann, agus gaol le Kevin, ar a leabhar nuafhoilsithe 'Kevin Barry, An Irish Rebel in Life and Death'. Craoladh an t-agallamh seo ar 2 Samhain ag 8pm trí chainéal YouTube na Leabharlanna.



Dermot Mulligan, Coimeádaí an Mhúsaem, ag taifeadh agallamh ar líne leis an Ollamh Emeritus O'Halpin

## ARTiculation

Ar an Aoine 28 Feabhra, d'eagraigh Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach an chéad Teas Réigiúnach Cheatharlach do ARTiculation Ireland.

Is comórtas cainte poiblí é ARTiculation a chothaíonn meas agus plé ar an ealaín agus ar an stair i meánscoileanna ar fud na hÉireann. Cuireadh de chúram ar dhaltaí Cheatharlach cur i láthair deich nóiméad a thabhairt os comhair lucht féachana faoi shaothar ealaíne, déantúsán nó píosa ailtireachta dá rogha féin, agus a gcuid smaointe, tuairimí agus conclúidí a chur in iúl ar a rogha oibre. Tá ARTiculation á reáchtáil ag Iontaobhas Oideachais Roche Court, Sasana, agus tá an comórtas in Éirinn á chomhordú ag Músaem Contae Thiobraid Árann.

Ghlaic Coláiste St Leos, Baile Cheatharlach, páirt i gCluiche Ceannais Cheatharlach a bhí ar siúl ar ghailearaí an chéad urláir i Músaem Chontae Cheatharlach. Labhair na scoláirí faoina gcuid píosaí roghnaithe agus iad timpeallaithe ag oidhreacht agus stair Cheatharlach. Ba iad Sinead Dowling, Oifigeach Ealaíon an Chontae do Cheatharlach, agus John O'Neill ó Toastmasters Ceatharlach na moltóirí ar na bronnta. Mar chuid den

chomórtas, cuireann na moltóirí ceist ar na cainteoirí freisin faoina gcur i láthair; níl an cheist ar eolas ag na cainteoirí roimh ré, agus tugann sé dúshlán mór dá n-eolas agus dá léirmhíniú ar an topaic a roghnaíonn siad.



(C go D) Amy McLoughlin agus Sean Woods, Coláiste Naomh Leo, sa Mhúsaem le haghaidh an Chraobhchomórtas Náisiúnta ARTiculation i mí na Samhna 2020.

Bhain Amy McLoughlin an chéad áit amach lena dearcadh iontach ar an Basílica de la Sagrada Familia, Láithreán Oidhreachta Domhanda UNESCO in Barcelona, a dhear Antoni Gaudi. Tháinig Méabh Johnson sa dara háit a labhair le paiséan mór faoi Kryzwy Domek (The Crooked House) sa Pholainn, agus tháinig Clodagh O' Regan sa tríú háit as a léiriú mealltach ar 'The Birth of Venus' le Botticelli.

Bhí na Babhtáí Ceannais ARTiculation Náisiúnta le bheith ar siúl i dTrá Lí go déanach i mí an Mhárta ach mar gheall ar Covid-19 tá an imeacht curtha siar go dtí an 5 Samhain nuair a rinneadh imeacht ar líne de. Bhí ceithre chontae rannpháirteach, Ceatharlach, Ciarraí, Tiobraid Árann agus Port Láirge. Iarradh ar na scoláirí ar fad a gcur i láthair a thairfeadh roimh ré, agus ansin ar an lá deiridh a bheith réidh ceisteanna a fhreagairt beo leis na moltóirí. Thug an tUasal Sean Woods, múinteoir, Coláiste Naomh Leo, agus Amy McLoughlin cuairt ar an Músaem agus ghlac siad páirt sa chluiche ceannais ar líne. Chuir na moltóirí cur i láthair Amy ‘ar fheabhas’. Ba í Rosie Keneally, Coláiste na Toirbhirte, Trá Lí an buaiteoir, agus bhuaigh na hiomaitheoirí ar fad eile bonn an rannpháirtí. Ina dhiaidh sin chuala muid gur tháinig Amy ‘an-dlúth soicind’.

Gabhaimid buíochas leis an Uasal Sean Woods, Coláiste Naomh Leo, as a chuidiú leis an imeacht seo a chur chun cinn i measc na mac léinn.

## Léacht Eaglasta

Ar an gCéadaoin 4ú Márta, thug Dermot Mulligan léacht do mhic léinn na chéad bhliana de chuid Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhéaloidis UCD ar ‘*Tionchar manach na hÉireann ar Eoraip na Meánaoise Luath: Peirspictíocht Chontae Cheatharlach*’. Thug an Dr Linda Doran cuireadh do Dermot an léacht speisialta seo a thabhairt do na mic léinn. Tá an Dr Doran ag úsáid leabhar Carlow Trails of the Saints le blianta fada mar chuid dá cúrsa. Thug Dermot achoimre ar oidhreacht eaglasta an chontae agus rinne sé tagairt ar leith d’Ardeaglais Naomh Léasair, Naomh Moling, Naomh Bríd, Naomh Colm Cille, Naomh Ecgberct, Naomh Léasair agus Naomh Uilibrord.

## Crinniú na nÓg

Bhí Crinniú na nÓg náisiúnta ar siúl ar an Satharn 13 Meitheamh agus é á chomhordú go háitiúil i gContae Cheatharlach ag an Oifig Ealaíon. Le moladh ón Músaem, bhí an lá mar théama ar chomóradh 200 bliain ó rugadh John Tyndall, eolaí mór Cheatharlach ón 19ú haois, faoin mbratach “cén fáth go bhfuil an spéir gorm”, fionnachtain a

bhaineann le John. Tyndall a bhí ar an Eolaí bunaidh ar an tuiscint atá againn faoi láthair ar eolaíocht aeráide, ar an Iarmhairt Cheaptha Teasa agus ar athrú aeráide.

Chuaigh an Músaem, tríd an Oifig Ealaíon, i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an gcomhlacht oideachais ar líne áitiúil, Create School, chun sraith ceardlann ar líne a réachtáil bunaithe ar an téama a bhféadfadh leanaí páirt a ghlacadh iontu roimh agus ar an lá féin.

## Iris Seandálaíochta Éireann

Bhí Seandálaíocht Éireann, eagrán Samhradh 2020 le feiceáil mar alt rialta ‘Píosa an Mhúsaeim’, réad ó Mhúsaem Chontae Cheatharlach. Tá an réad ar réada Chnoc Ballon na Cré-Umhaoise a athaimsíodh i 1997 tar éis é a fháil mar chuid d’imréiteach tí i Sasana agus a cuireadh sa phost chuig an Músaem.

Reilig a raibh tábhacht shuntasach ag baint leis a bhí i gCnoc an Bhalláin in Éirinn ón gCré-umhaois (2,500 – 700 R.Ch.). Bhain bailitheoir béaloidis Cheatharlach, Edward O’Toole, an suíomh seo le háit adhlactha Ríthe ársa Laighean, a rialaigh ó shuíomh Dhinn Righ, gar do Leithghlinn an Droichid. Léirigh tochailtí a rinneadh i lár an 19ú haois agus imscrúduithe níos déanaí a rinne Tionscadal Seandálaíochta Chnoc an Bhalláin ar a laghad ocht n-adhlacadh is fiche, ceithre shoitheach ceirmeacha is fiche, agus earraí uaigne éagsúla eile. Is in Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann nó i Músaem na Breataine a bhíonn formhór na réad a tochlaíodh. Rinneadh an cás cur i láthair atá clúdaithe le leathar, atá ar taispeáint sa Mhúsaem anois, sa 19ú haois chun ceithre dhéantúsán a fuarthas in adhlacadh cist ón gCré-umhaois ag Cnoc an Bhalúin a choinneáil: lann chré-umha, méaróg bhán, méaróg dhubh, agus an tríú glas. méaróg (ar iarraidh anois).

Tá an lann suntasach sa mhéid is gurb é an t-aon rud miotalach a fuarthas ar Chnoc an Bhalláin, agus ba chriadóireacht nó clocha amulet an chuid eile. Ba é Tomás Skinner, Seandálaí an Mhúsaeim, a scríobh an t-alt.

The past in the present

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# Archaeology IRELAND

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## MUSEUM PIECE

Tomás Skinner tells us about Carlow County Museum and describes a piece from its collections.

Carlow County Museum is located in the Cultural Quarter of Carlow town in the former Presentation Convent. Part of a complex that also houses the Tourist Office and the County Library, it is operated by Carlow County Council in partnership with the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society (CHAS). Originally opened in 1973, it was run for nearly 30 years by the CHAS until its operations, with the agreement of the CHAS, were transferred to the local authority in 2002. The newly renovated museum was opened in 2012.

The Museum is designated by the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) to collect and display archaeological finds and is one of twelve members of the Local Authority Museums' Network (LAMN).

Among the items on display is the famous nineteenth-century hand-carved pulpit from Carlow Cathedral, included in Fintan O'Toole's *A History of Ireland* in 160 objects; the gallows trapdoor from Carlow Gaol; the wooden smoking pipe of Carlovian Captain Myles Keogh, who was killed at the infamous Battle of the Little Bighorn; the remains of the last cigarette smoked by Kevin Barry, a medical student from County Carlow who was executed in 1920 at the age of eighteen for his role in the War of Independence; a magnificent 1916–2016 commemorative stained-glass panel by artist Peadar Lamb; and the 'Journeys in Time—The Archaeology of the Carlow Bypass' exhibition in association with the NMI and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The Museum is open all year round and admission is free.

Address: Carlow County Museum, College Street, Carlow, Co. Carlow, R93 E3T2.  
Tel: (00353) 59-9131554  
Website: <https://carlowmuseum.ie>  
Twitter: @carlowcountyhm  
Opening hours: September–May: Monday–Saturday 10am–4:30pm; June–August: Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays & Bank Holidays 2pm–4:30pm.

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## Ballon Hill finds



Ballon Hill, Ballon, Co. Carlow, is the site of a burial ground of significant importance in Bronze Age Ireland (CW013-065–068). A collector of Carlow's folklore, Edward O'Toole, associated this site with the burial place of the ancient kings of Leinster, who ruled from the site of Dinn Righ, near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow. Excavations carried out in the mid-nineteenth century and more recent investigations by the Ballon Hill Archaeology Project have revealed at least 28 burials, 24 ceramic vessels and other diverse grave-goods. This leather-covered presentation case was made in the nineteenth century to hold four artefacts found in a Bronze Age cist burial at Ballon Hill: a bronze blade, a white pebble, a black pebble and a green pebble (now missing).

Ballon Hill was first excavated between 1853 and 1855 by John James Lecky, owner of the nearby Ballykealy Estate, and his brother-in-law, J. Richardson Smith. Full details of the excavations and the discovery of these artefacts were recorded in the diaries of Smith and published by the Revd James Graves in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* in 1853.

In late June 1853 a five-sided chamber was found, covered by a large stone slab. Upon removal of the capstone, the cist was found to be filled with sand, and the thin, bronze blade was discovered close to the surface. Slightly deeper was a small, neatly decorated bipartite vase. This is housed in the British Museum, but a replica—fired in an open pit in Ballon—can also be viewed in Carlow County Museum.

The removal of the remaining sandy fill revealed a large inverted urn, under which were fragments of burnt bone and the three pebbles. The pebbles were believed to be charms or amulets.

Many of the artefacts recovered from Ballon Hill were donated by Col. Beauchamp Lecky, grandson of John James Lecky, to the National Museum of Ireland. The history of the whereabouts and use of the blade and pebbles is unclear, however, until their rediscovery in 1997 in a house in East Sussex, England. The case and artefacts were posted to Carlow, where they fortuitously ended up in Carlow County Museum.

The oval shape of the blade, its rounded point and its extreme thinness compare well with Bronze Age razors. This small and very sharp tool would have primarily been used to remove hair from the face or scalp. In cross-section the blade has a broad and gently rounded midrib with shallow fluting and flattened edges, which might indicate that it was adapted for a secondary use from another item, such as a larger blade.

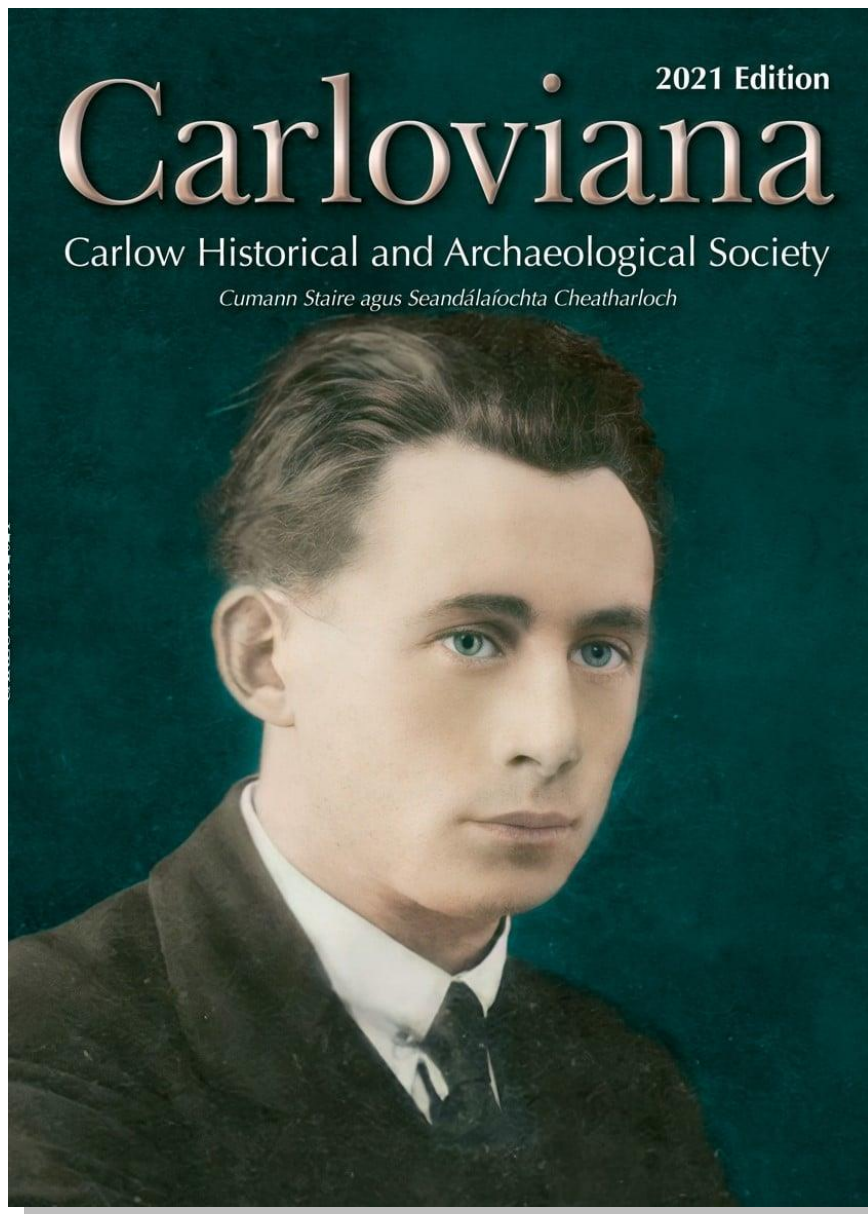
**Further reading**  
O'Neill, N. and Kearney, D. 2014. Ballon Hill Archaeology Project: Phase 1 Report. Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society, Carlow County Museum and Carlow County Development Partnership. Accessible from <https://carlowhistorical.com>.

Archaeology Ireland Summer 2020

Archaeology Ireland Summer 2020 edition featuring Carlow County Museum.  
Photographs: Archaeology Ireland

## Carloviana:

Sheol CHAS eagrán 2021 ar líne leis an aoi speisialta Malcom Noonan, TD, an tAire Oidhreachta agus Athchóirithe Toghcháin. Tá alt san Iris, 210 leathanach, ón Músaem dar teideal “Restored Early Medieval Cross of Rath Melsigi Unveiled”. Sonraítear leis seo cuairt Lúnasa 2019 ó Yves Wengler, Méara Echtertnach agus an toscaireacht ó Lucsamburg a tháinig chun cabhrú le Crosaire Ráth Melsigi athchóirithe a nochtadh, féach freisin Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Bhord an Mhúsaeim 2019 .



Clúdach tosaigh Carloviana 2021. Grianghraf: Cumann Staire & Seandálaíochta Cheatharlach

## Foireann agus Oibrithe Deonacha an Mhúsaeim

Tá triúr ball foirne lánaimseartha ag an Músaeim, an tUasal Dermot Mulligan, Coimeádaí an Mhúsaeim, agus an tUasal John McDarby, Oifigeach Foirne, agus an tUasal Paul Dunne, Oifigeach Margaíochta agus Caidreamh Poiblí, agus an tUasal Martin O'Rourke, Ceannfort Cothabhála, ball foirne roinnte leis an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne.

Ar an Déardaoin 30 Aibreán, chríochnaigh Tomás Skinner, Seandálaí an Mhúsaem, a chonradh leis an Músaem. Bhí Tomás ag obair leis an Músaem ar feadh tuairim is bliain go leith. Ar an Aoine 14 Lúnasa, d'éirigh Ms Aisling O'Halloran, Intéirneach Iarchéime, as a post le haghaidh poist sa státseirbhís. Ar an Luan 16 Samhain, chuir an tUasal Paul Dunne tús lena chonradh fostaíochta bliana sa Mhúsaem mar Oifigeach Margaíochta agus Caidreamh Poiblí.

Bhí triúr ag an Músaem (19.5 uair in aghaidh na seachtaine an ceann) ar Scéim Fostaíochta Tús arna chomhordú ag Comhpháirtíocht Forbartha Chontae Cheatharlach (CCDP) agus faoi mhaoirseacht Lucy Stevenson Uasal. Ag teacht le rialacháin an Rialtais tarraingíodh siar as an Músaem iad ar an Aoine 13ú Márta. Thar thréimhse trí seachtaine i mí Lúnasa chríochnaigh triúr rannpháirtí Tús an Mhúsaem, Derek Keating, James McDermott agus Sean Glancy, a dtéarma ar scéim Tús.

De réir threoirlínte an HSE, d'éirigh ár n-oibrithe deonacha as an áireamh ó 13 Márta agus fanfaidh siad amhlaidh go ceann tamaill eile.

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