

**The Chairperson and Members,  
South Central Area Committee**

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***2019 Annual Report of Activities, Historian In Residence Project*  
Cathy Scuffil, Historian in Residence (HIR) Dublin City Council (DCC)  
South Central Area (SCA)**

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During 2019, Dublin City Council's (DCC) Historians in Residence (HIR) continued their remit to bring history to community-based audiences, especially under the Decade of Commemorations. 2019 continued the momentum set in previous years, with a range of events and projects undertaken, reaching a broad-based and diverse audience in DCC South Central Area. Formal presentations and informal talks on a range of history related topics were delivered, together with guided walks, classes, conferences, and schools, colleges and nursing homes visits. HIR was the 'special guest' at official and community-based events, occasionally acting as 'MC'. Group visits were also arranged to places of historic and cultural interest to broaden the accessibility and understanding of our shared history and culture.

Key points:

- Presentations arranged through Dublin City Public Libraries and Dublin City Community and Social Development Team, South Central Area.
- HIR role featured at history, heritage and community groups meetings.
- HIR participated in Festival of History, Heritage Week, Bloomsday, Culture Night, Social Inclusion Week, International Men's Day, and conferences on Burning of the Custom House and Josie McGowan.
- Visits/tours/outings to places of historic interest, including Dublin City Library and Archive for interested parties and groups.
- War of Independence talks compiled and rolled out to libraries in South Central Area. Each talk tailored to include events that occurred in the locality.
- First Dáil commemoration, Mansion House
- Guest on Radio Maria and RTE's History Show (twice).
- MC/co-ordinator and occasional presenter at 'Tuesdays at the Outhouse' series of talks by external speakers on key issues in the Kilmainham/Inchicore area. DCC collaboration with Office of Public Works at Kilmainham Gaol.
- The Liberties Cultural Association (established by HIR in 2017) achieved first place in the 'Communities Reaching Out' category of the All-Ireland IPB Pride of Place awards event in Kilkenny in November. Their submission showcased efforts made to welcome and integrate new student and hotel 'communities' through walks, talks and events. Judging day was hosted in Warrenmount House and Little Flower Centre, Meath Street linked by a carriage-ride through the area.

**Library Service**

The four public libraries in the South Central Area, Ballyfermot, Dolphin's Barn, Inchicore and Walkinstown each hosted HIR events. These were widely promoted via Facebook and Twitter as well as by posters through DCC Libraries Service with a special two-part talk series highlighting local events of the War of Independence.

Ballyfermot library also hosted HIR talks for their Ballyfermot Adults Learning Together group.

Walkinstown library continued to host meetings of the Crumlin/Walkinstown History group with a pictorial history exhibition held in the Crumlin Church of Ireland village hall.  
Dolphin's Barn Library

### **Dublin City Council Community and Social Development Team**

The Community Development Teams in Ballyfermot and Eblana House were a hugely helpful resource to the HIR, providing a direct link with related projects and community groups in South Central. Promotion, and venue availability and equipment was arranged by the community officers with good attendances achieved in all cases. The following are some community groups with whom presentations, talks and history discussions were arranged:

Dolphin House Men's Shed and Senior Citizens Group, Mount Argus Chat Club, Warrenmount Community Education and Development, Kilmainham/Inchicore Heritage, Donore Ladies Club, The Liberties Community in Timber Yard and Little Flower Centre, Meath Street.

### **Events**

Talks were conducted in Hollybrook Lodge Inchicore and Marymount Chapelizod (Nursing Homes), for patients, family members and staff. Continued Support was extended to National College of Art and Design (NCAD) tutor and students, conducting guided walks in the area. Presentations were given to members of the University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age in Rathmines and BALT Ballyfermot and also to DCC staff retirement groups. HIR also acted as MC at the Meath Street Community Awards.

Drimnagh and The Liberties are two areas where venues for meetings and events can be difficult to arrange. Community Development assisted HIR in holding talks in Good Counsel GAA Drimnagh, and in establishing a history group in this area. Timberyard near The Coombe became the venue for classes style #WeavingInTheLiberties which are on-going, and will be extended into 2020.

Outings were arranged to Dublin City Library and Archive and Drimnagh Castle, following advance presentations given.

Guided walks included Dolphin's Barn, The Liberties and through the Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge.

Support was extended to Chapelizod History Heritage Society with HIR acting as guest speaker during their Heritage Week (The Pubs of Chapelizod). Special effort was made to attend their committee meetings with the Society making images from their archive available to HIR for presentations.

Work with Transition Year students was undertaken with students in Loreto College Crumlin with a special class explaining research sources and how to use them. Ongoing support was given to US students living within the South Central area from Wisconsin and Champlain College as well as the students in Pearse College.

### **General**

Interviews with The History Show, RTE Radio 1 (2) and Radio Maria, together with documentary recording with student from Griffith College. Assisting Walkinstown Film Club, with their DVD of the history of Crumlin, Drimnagh and Walkinstown, including events relating to the War of Independence, launched in October 2019.

'History on Your Doorstep' publication distributed free at all public libraries and made available in Meath Street also as article included reference to Spitalfields Housing. A number of blog posts were also written, all featuring some aspect of the history of Dublin South Central.

Requested to assist as consultant historian with the projects including and evaluation of walking tours and tourism potential of the Military History Quarter, Kilmainham, St. Luke's Church (Heritage Officer). Queries were also received from DCC planning department, Public Realm and individual City Councillors.

As part of the Festival of History, HIR was requested to present at the Worth Library and Dr. Steeven's Hospital.

The connections with Canon Gleeson, WW1 Chaplain were again celebrated in Meath Street with a solo piper's salute at the Grotto on 11<sup>th</sup> November with excellent public support.

The year ended with success in the Pride of Place Awards, where the Liberties Cultural Association won first prize in their category, Communities Reaching Out.

The above is a general summary of some of the events undertaken as HIR in South Central Area during 2019. It has been a very rewarding experience to work with DCC staff in a community with a genuine interest in their heritage and history.

Sincere thanks to DCC for the opportunity.

**Cathy Scuffil**

6<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

[cathyscuffil@gmail.com](mailto:cathyscuffil@gmail.com)