

Camann Seinealais na hÉireann



"Cuimhnigí ar Ár Sinnsir—Remember Our Ancestors"

Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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Seachtain na hOidhreachta 2016

HERITAGE WEEK 2016 is the annual nationwide celebration of our national heritage in Ireland. In communities, large and small, throughout the country groups of volunteers give of their time freely to promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the history and culture of their localities.

The local pride or 'sense of place' is an integral part of our own identity not just as members of a wider community, but as individuals and custodians of an ancient heritage. This is especially the case when one has an ancestral connection to an area stretching back over many generations. Your people built the place, worked its fields, fished its waters and in turn, it created an unique identity for its people.

This 'sense of place' is as vibrant and real in urban Ireland as it is in the townlands, villages and parishes of rural Ireland. However, unlike rural Ireland where change in the landscape may take several generations, urban Ireland's sprawl is engulfing villages and local communities. Nevertheless, these local communities take pride in recording and preserving their own heritage through events and, most importantly, through publications.

Local history societies produce wonderfully research works on all aspects of the history, heritage and people of parishes, villages and towns across Ireland. However, it is unfortunate these publications are rarely accessible to those outside the area where they are produced. Granted a lot has been made available online through the development of local websites promoting the area for tourism.

Twice Built

These local publications are of immense value to the study of Ireland's culture, history and heritage and therefore, it is important that a copy of each is deposited in the National Library of Ireland and with the local County Library Service.

An Daonchartlann, the Archive and Research Centre of the Genealogical Society of Ireland also welcomes copies of these local publications from across Ireland and from Irish communities overseas. Indeed, the research facilities at An Daonchartlann have assisted many people who have gone on to publish their research. Most recently, our own Director of Internet Services, Sales & Marketing and Publications, Tom Conlon, published two excellent works on local history partly researched at this Society's facility at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire.

Ever since the Society was founded back in October 1990, encouraging the publication of family and local histories has been an integral part of our promotion of the study of genealogy and related subjects. This promotion of genealogy continues right throughout the year through the Outreach Programme.

The Society's Outreach Programme, under the direction of Eddie Gahan with the assistance of Pádraic Ingoldsby, is the most extensive promotion of genealogy undertaken by a voluntary, not -for-profit organisation in Ireland.

Heritage Week is a busy time for Eddie Gahan and his team as the Society's research facility in Dún Laoghaire is open right through Heritage Week from August 20th to 28th from 10.00hrs to 17.00hrs each day. So if you're thinking of researching your family history, drop by for a chat.

GENEALOGY *HERALDRY VEXILLOLOGY* SOCIAL HISTORY Heritage Matters **Book Reviews Open Meetings** News & Events

HERITAGE WEEK

The Society's Director of the Outreach Programme, Eddie Gahan, is



seeking volunteers for Heritage Week again this year.

This year Heritage Week runs from August 20th to 28th and, once again, Eddie and his team

will have the Society's Archive & Research Centre open from 10.00hrs to 17.00hrs each day offering free family history research advice.

If you would like to help out this year, please contact Eddie by email on eddie gahan snr@hotmail.com

OPEN MEETINGS

Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Tuesday 9 August—20.00hrs

Tuesday 13 September—20.00hrs

Royal Marine Hotel Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Wednesday 24 August—10.30hrs

Wednesday 28 September—10.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(including Tea/Coffee at the Morning Meeting)

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'Twice Built' - On Sale €12.00

YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

If you are thinking of starting your family history research and just don't know where to start, don't despair as Eddie and his team are on hand to show you the ropes.

Whilst the Society does not undertake commercial research assignments, it does provide research advice to enable you to take a D.I.Y. approach to your research.

See page 4 of this newsletter for the times of opening of the Society's Archive and Research Centre. Also, please note that the facility will be open all through Heritage Week from August 20th to 28th 2016.



Eddie Gahan and his Team ready to discuss your Family History Research

Dublin's Civic Portrait Collection

'The Dublin Civic Portrait Collection—Patronage, politics and patriotism, 1603-2014' (ISBN: 978-1-84682-584-2: 238pp: full colour: H/bk: Price €40.00: Web Price €36.00) by Mary Clark and published by Four Courts Press is a lavishly illustrated work that combines a guide to this wonderful

art collection, an art history, a overview of the political history of the City and a treasure trove of excellently researched biographies.



The collection is divided into five categories, royal portraits; vice-regal portraits; lord mayors, aldermen and councillors; general portraits and portrait statues. Not all of the portraits discussed are still extant, some are copies of originals lost in the 1908 fire at City Hall, some are in private collections or in public galleries and others are held by Dublin City Council in either City Hall or the Mansion House. The Dublin Civic Portrait Collection contains sixty-six works in oil on canvas and eight statues in bronze or marble.

Mary Clark in her necessarily lengthy introduction explores the development of the City Council with reference to the portraiture and the influences, shifting allegiances or political expediencies that determined the style and subject of these works of art. As she says the "collection is expressive of the changing and developing world of patronage, politics and patriotism" and this is very evident throughout. Indeed, it is surpris-

ing that so much survives given our capital city's turbulent history.

The vice-regal collection puts faces to the origin of many of the street names of the city, which of course, was yet another form of political expression down through the centuries. The lord mayors, aldermen and councillors cover the period of the pre-reform oligarchic City Assembly right through eighteenth century legislative independence, the Act of Union of 1801, the democratisation of 1841 and the birth of the modern City Council right through to independence in 1922 and beyond.

This is an exceptionally beautiful publication that brings together the stories behind the civic portraiture works of some of Ireland's finest artists and sculptors. This is not just an art history, it is work of art in itself that introduces the citizens of Dublin to their own Civic Portrait Collection.

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the new catalogue and the special offers at www.fourcourtspress.ie

Précis of the July Lecture

The Irish DNA Atlas is collaborative academic project undertaken by Prof Gianpiero Cavalleri and Edmund Gilbert of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), and Séamus O'Reilly, Michael Merrigan, Darren McGettigan from the Genealogical Society of Ireland. The main objectives of the project are 1) to further our understanding of the population history of Ireland, and 2) to help us understand how genes influence disease within Ireland.

On Tuesday July 12th, Edmund presented some preliminary data to Members suggesting the Irish are closer to Scots and Welsh than to English – although the genetic distances are extremely small. Edmund also presented his latest results investigating fine scale population structure within Ireland, as determined from the perspective of DNA. This is investigating whether genetically distinct groups exist within Ireland, which might reflect historical population movements.

Preliminary results suggest that there are distinct genetic groups, albeit ones that are finely differentiated, within Ireland. Further, these groups appear to be regionally distributed, with a general north/south (Donegal to Cork) split in Irish genetics. In addition, Ed's analysis was able to distinguish individuals of possible Planter ancestry, who associate closely with people from the North of England or the South-west of Scotland. These results generated a lot of interest with Members and indeed, some of the correlations between the genetic maps produced by the project and those of the old Gaelic kingdoms and tribes will be of considerable interest to historians of early and medieval Ireland.

Edmund is a second year PhD student studying at the RCSI. His PhD is spent studying the population structure found within Ireland, and this is primarily achieved through using the Irish DNA Atlas - a DNA cohort of Irish ancestry. Prior to his PhD he studied at the University of Nottingham, studying for a MSci in Biochemistry and Genetics. Afterwards he worked for LGC Forensics in London.

Following the lecture, An Cathaoirleach, Gerry Hayden, presented Edmund with a framed drawing by the renowned local artist, Veronica Heywood, provided for that purpose by Senator Victor Boyhan, MGSI.

CASEMENT

In places right around Ireland on August 3rd the State, local authorities and communities marked the centenary of the execution of Roger Casement in 1916.

Tried for high treason in London and found guilty, Casement was hanged in Pentonville Prison in London on August 3rd 1916. His remains were returned to Ireland in 1965 and reinterred in Glasnevin Cemetery following a State Funeral attended by tens of thousands.

On the day before the centenary of the death of Roger Casement, Mr. Patrick Casement, relative of Roger Casement, and his wife Dr. Anne Casement, together with An Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Cllr. Cormac Devlin, launched an open competition for a major statue commission to commemorate Casement's life. The launch took place at Doyles Cottage, Lawson Terrace, in Sandycove, Dún Laoghaire, where Casement was born and spent his very early childhood. He was a proud 'Dunleary man' as attested by his entry on the 1911 census.

This statue will be prominently located on the redeveloped former Dún Laoghaire Baths site which will include a new public walkway connecting Newtownsmith and the back of the East Pier. It is also proposed to name this new marine walkway in his honour.

The statue will be located on the seaward side of the new promenade. Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is seeking a full sized representational sculpture of Casement, which will be recognisable as such for generations to come and will celebrate all aspects of Casement's career, including his well-documented humanitarian work. It is the first statue to be commissioned in the history of the local authority which dates back to 1834.

The competition is in two-stages and the deadline for Stage 1 applications and expression of interest is Friday 7th October 2016 at 12.00hrs. Visual Artists Ireland is managing the commission on behalf of the County Council. Interested parties are advised to contact Shelly McDonnell at 01 6729488 / shelly@visualartists.ie for details on the commission.

Meanwhile, a proposal to hold an annual summer school in honour of Roger Casement is being actively pursued by community groups in Dún Laoghaire. A proposal for a Casement summer school was tabled at the Council Meeting of May 11th 2015. The proposal sought "to explore the possibility of this Council [Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council] hosting, in collaboration with our County's institutions of further and higher education, an annual 'Casement Memorial International Summer School' to be held in a suitable Council owned venue and alternating annually between the west and east of the County to specifically explore issues of identity, ethnicity, nationalism, racism, multiculturalism, public culture, gender and LGBT issues, minorities, marginalisation, social exclusion, diversity, language rights and other such related issues and, to do so in honour of the Irish patriot, human rights activist and champion of the rights of indigenous peoples.'

The proposal envisaged that this summer school would be a collaborative event organised in conjunction with UCD, IADT, and the relevant interest groups.

In Brief....

GSI MEMBERSHIP

Join this Society on-line at www.familyhistory.ie Please note that GSI Membership is open to all interested in genealogy and related subjects. Discounted membership rates are available for those under 25 years and students at recognised genealogy courses.

OVERSEAS JOURNALS

The Society's Archive & Research Centre has one of the largest collections of journals published by genealogical societies overseas. These family history journals contain a wealth of very useful information on the history and emigration experiences of the Irish diaspora throughout the world. Why not check them out?

PARKING AT DFEI

Car-parking facilities at the **Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**. The most convenient option is to use public transport. Dublin Bus nos. 7, 7A, 46A and 75 all serve the college or streets adjacent to the college—Lower George's Street, York Road, Clarence Street. The DART (suburban rail) services to Salthill & Monkstown. On street car-parking is usually available in the area also. Members are asked to consider 'car pooling' for each month's open meeting. For details on the Institute and its courses please checkout wayw dfei ie

E-MAGAZINE

The current issue of Ireland's FREE digital e-Magazine 'Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy' which is dedicated to helping people trace their Irish Ancestry globally is available free of charge to read or to download on irishlivesremembered.com There is a small charge to read past issues.

DISCOUNTS

Exclusive discounts for the Members of the Society are available for online genealogical services and publications, including, Findmypast, Irish Newspaper Archives, Forces War Records and from Flatcapsandbonnets.com. To avail of any of these Member discounts, please contact Barry O'Connor, FGSI, by email at membership@familyhistory.ie







Inside the Society's Archive & Research Centre in Dún Laoghaire

JAMES SCANNELL REPORTS...

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURES

Details of the week long Rathmichael Historical Society Summer lecture series, which will take place nightly at 20.00hrs in Rathmichael School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill, from Monday 15 August to Friday 19 August are as follows - Monday 15 August: 'Medieval Rathdown' by Chris Corlett; Tuesday 16 August: 'Before De Ridelsford: Mapping the Proto Manor of Bre, 1171 – 1173' by David McIlreavy; Wednesday 17 August; The Leo Swan Memorial Lecture - 'The National Museum of Ireland – Memories and Anecdotes' by Dr. Patrick Wallace; Thursday 18 August: 'Recent Archaeological Research at Glendalough' by Graeme Warren '; and Friday 19 August: 'Some Exceptional Women in Early Medieval Ireland – Evidence from the Grave' by Betty O'Brien. All welcome to attend these lectures. Admission charge.

SUMMER OF HERITAGE TOURS

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's 'Summer of Heritage 2016' programme of free Summer Tours which operate on a daily basis, except on Fridays, continues during August and will conclude on Sunday 4 September. Copies of the tour brochure are available from the Dún Laoghaire Tourist Information Office in County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, DLR branch libraries, or log onto – www.events.dlrccoco.ie.

DUBLIN DOCKLANDS

The Dublin Dock Workers Preservation Society will hold a five-day exhibition from Monday 22 August to Friday 26 August from 09.00hrs to 17.00hrs each day in Dublin City Council Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8. The exhibition hopes to celebrate the history of Dublin Docks and the surrounding dockland communities from 1960 to 1973 through pictures, stories and through the perspective of a very unique publication, The Waterfront News. The current news can be found on Facebook Dublin Dockers and 3,500+ photographs on www.bluemelon.com/alanmartin.

DUNDRUM EXHIBITION

On view in Dundrum Library, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, until 31 August during normal opening hours is the 'Did you Know...?' exhibition celebrating forgotten aspects of the local heritage of the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown area, curated by Tim Carey, County Heritage Officer. Admission free

THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

On Tuesday 23 August at 18.00Hrs in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, Mary O'Connell will present her lecture 'From Meath of the pastures: The Story of Smithfield, Dublin, and a family who lived there' – an illustrated story of the founding of the cattle market in Smithfield, a family of drovers who settled there in 1823 and whose descendants stayed for over 100 years,

Mary is a member of that family and of the Old Dublin Society. On Wednesday 14 September at 18.00Hrs in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, Brian Siggins will present his lecture 'Fifty Years in the Old Dublin Society' in which he will recall numerous events and various personalities that he has encountered over past the 50 years as a member and former Programme Secretary of the Old Dublin. All welcome – admission free.

DLR LEXICON

On view during normal opening hours until 20 August on Level 5 in the dlr Lexicon, Haigh Terrace, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, is 'Christ the King Exhibition' in Partnership with UCD School of History 2015–2016. Admission free.

BRAY CUALANN

During Heritage Week in August, Brian White, chairperson of the Bray Cualann Historical Society, will lead a free Walking Tour covering Bray 1916 – 1921 on Saturday 20 August starting at 15.00Hrs from St. Peter's Cemetery, Little Bray, Bray, Co. Wicklow, and finishing at Daly Station Bray. All welcome - free. This tour will be repeated at 11.00Hrs on Monday 22 August. Again, all are welcome - free. Please dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions. On Saturday 27 August at 14.00Hrs, James Scannell will present his lecture 'The Week That Was in Bray: 20 August to 28 August 1916' in Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome – admission free.

DALKEY WALK

On Wednesday 24 August at 19.00Hrs, local historian Alice Cullen of the Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society will lead a Heritage Week 'Dalkey Town and Coastal Walk.' Meet at Dalkey R.C. Church car park, Dalkey, Co. Dublin. Please wear appropriate footwear and dress for the prevailing weather conditions. All welcome.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues August 9th 2016 Sisters of the Revolutionaries: Margaret and Mary Bridget Pearse by Teresa O'Donnell. The Board is currently organising the speakers for the period September to December. Forward any suggestions for topics or speakers by email to Tony O'Hara, Director of the Society's Lecture Programme at toharadsl@gmail.com

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI
The Society strongly recommends to anyone embarking
on their family history quest that one essential piece of kit
must be, without doubt, a copy of the latest edition of
'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'. Please checkout the
website www.gillmacmillan.com Price €22.99 [RRP].

German Bombing of Dublin's North Strand in 1941

'The Bombing of Dublin's North Strand, 1941 – The Untold Story' by Kevin. C. Kearns, published by Gill & Macmillan. One of the anniversaries that was overshadowed this year in May by events relating to the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising was the 75th anniversary of the bombing of the North Strand area of Dublin by German aircraft in the early hours of Saturday 31 May 1941 resulting in the deaths of at least 34 people and 90 people seriously injured.

This fascinating and engrossing book is the oral history of that event, supported by other printed sources and official records, told to the author by people who were that night and from the collections of memoirs from residents held in North Strand library. The first section provides readers with an insight into Dublin life in 1941, how unprepared the authorities were for an air raid, the lack of proper air raid shelrers for the ordinary populace, and a general feeling that nothing would ever happen as Ireland as the modern republic then was then termed, was neutral, even though nightly German aircraft entered Irish air space on their way to attack targets in Great Britain. Despite this, a number of incidents of German bombs falling on Ireland resulting in fatalities had occurred but complaints from the Irish government were dismissed by the Germans. Even those in Northern Ireland felt that they were immune from attack, a complacency shattered at Easter 1941 when the German air force blitzed Belfast resulting in hundreds of deaths and injuries, returning twice in May to inflict further death and destruction. This section concludes with description of the North Strand area, its people and streets, a community with a distinct identity and a place where many lived all their lives, worked and shopped locally rather than venturing in the city centre.

The second section introduces the numerous people living in that area and how they reacted to events that night as German aircraft began to circle overhead and ignore the green, white, and orange flares fired into the air to advise them that were over neutral air space after which anti-aircraft opened fired on them. Over a two hour peiod the circling aircraft dropped 4 bombs in all, the most serious of which was a landmine which fell on the North Strand with such a blast force that it did most of the damage and caused the bulk of the casualties, most of whom were killed or wounded by the blast wave from it.

The remaining sections deal with the aftermath of the explosions, the massive rescue operations carried out, the scale of the devastation that the rescue and emergency services faced and what their members had to contend with, the challenges faced by medical services and hospitals in dealing with the variety of casualties that they were presented with, and the search by families for missing members. The closing parts of this book deal with the aftermath of this events, including the inquests on the deceased, the relocation of families whose houses were damaged beyond repair to Cabra which broke apart this tightly knit community. Also discussed by Kearns are the possible reasons for this bombing and the long process it took to have a memorial garden opened in memory of the victims, and how survivors felt about this delay.

Over all, this a very thorough account of this momentous Dublin event from the people who were there and from it I can now understand how my mother, who was called out as member of the Irish Red Cross Society that night, never spoke about what she saw or experienced that night, such was the scale of death, injury, and destruction, the emergency service volunteers faced and had to work in.

James Scannell

Checkout the Society's website for further information www.familyhistory.ie



REPRESENTING IRELAND IN GEORGIA

Once again this year, the Society will represent Ireland at a major international conference on heraldry and vexillology. The CEO of *Vexillology Ireland* and *Heraldry Ireland* (branches of the Society), Stanislav Zamyatin, will be attending the 1st Georgian National Conference of Vexillology and Heraldry from September 29th to October 1st 2016. This inaugural event is being organised by the State Council of Heraldry at the Parliament of the Republic of Georgia in Tbilisi. The Society received a special invitation to attend from Mr. Mamuka Gongadze, State Herald of Georgia and financial assistance to attend is being provided by

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. Stan will be continuing the Society's campaign to have the prestigious FIAV Congress in Ireland in 2021. Photo: Stan (right) with Charles Spain of FIAV.

President relocating to London

The President of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, has recently announced that he and his lovely wife, Beverley, will be moving to London, England, over the coming weeks.



Mr. Rosenblatt attended both the Evening and Morning Open Meetings last month to advise the Members personally of his plans to relocate to London. The President assured Members that he will be a regular visitor to Ireland and that he will continue to represent the Society at events

both nationally and internationally.

Meanwhile this month, as a world renowned authority of the archival history of the Irish Jewish Community, Mr. Rosenblatt has been invited to deliver a paper at the 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Seattle, Washington, USA.

Mr. Rosenblatt has confirmed that he will be attending the annual *Back to Our Past* event at the RDS in Dublin in October, at which, the Society will have a stand.

The Board and Members of the Society wish Mr. and Mrs Rosenblatt every happiness in their new home in London.

IRISH DNA ATLAS

The Irish DNA Atlas is collaborative academic project undertaken by Prof Gianpiero Cavalleri and Edmund Gilbert of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and Séamus O'Reilly, Michael Merrigan, McGettigan from the Genealogical Society of Ireland. The main objectives of the project are 1) to further our understanding of the population history of Ireland, and 2) to help us understand how genes influence disease within Ireland. Contact Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI by e-mail Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie Please checkout the project newsletter on the GSI website.

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The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate)

Board of Directors 2016-2017

Gerry Hayden (Cathaoirleach: Chairperson); Tony O'Hara (Leas-Chathaoirleach: Vice-Chairperson, Lecture Programme); Michael Merrigan (General Secretary, Company Secretary, Gazette' Editor, RF:-Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Vexillological and Heraldic Services, and Irish DNA Atlas); Billy Saunderson (Finance and pro tem An Daonchartlann Foundation, Philanthropy); Eddie Gahan (Outreach Programme, GSI Exhibitions); Tom Conlon (Internet Services, Sales and Marketing, and the Annual Journal); Barry O'Connor (Membership Services & Cemetery Projects); Séamus Moriarty (Building and Utilities, Health and Safety Officer); Anne Brophy (Social Inclusion, Diaspora Affairs, GSI Social Club); Lua Ó Scolai (Archival Services, RF:- Education Services) [Note: 'RF' signifies a 'reporting function' for a Non-Executive Officer].

INDEX TO TEN VOLUMES

The "Gazette" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world. All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor back to 1996 have been fully indexed by Brendan Hall, MGSI and they are available in pdf format to read or to download free of charge on www.familyhistory.ie we're not members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), the team at the "Gazette" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the NUJ Code of Conduct www.nuj.org.uk/ about/nuj-code/ and in line with the 'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland' which was endorsed by the Genealogical Society of Ireland back in June 2014 soon after its launch at the Royal Irish Academy. (see the June 2014 issue at www.familyhistory.ie)

FREE RESEARCH ADVICE

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archive and Research Centre at the historic Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire is open, as per the Society's spring schedule, for two days a week as follows: each Wednesday from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs and each Saturday from 14.00hrs to 17.00hrs.

With around twelve hours of archival time available each week new volunteers are always needed and very welcome. Our Members are on hand to provide free family history research advice.

The use of our extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members, however, day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable on-line at the GSI website.

Resources freely available to Members include a number of excellent pay-for-view websites including Ancestry.com, Findmypast, Forces War Records, Newspapers.com, British Newspaper Archives and Irish Newspaper Archives.

Travelling to the facility is best by public transport as both Dublin Bus (nos. 7, 7A, 8, 46A and 75) and the DART (suburban rail) are nearby.

Please note: *Pay-and-Display Parking* is available at the Harbour. See: www.familyhistory.ie