

CONFERENCE

DEMOCRACY & THE PEOPLE

Date: Thursday 7th November 2019

Time: 9.30am ~ 5pm

Venue: Loughrea Hotel and Spa, Loughrea, Co Galway

EVENT COST:

€10

**INCLUDES TEA/
COFFEE & LUNCH**



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Venue: Loughrea Hotel and Spa, Loughrea, Co Galway

Programme

9.30 am - 10.00 am	Registration & Tea/Coffee
10.00 am - 10.15 am	Welcome by Cllr Jimmy McClearn, Cathaoirleach, Galway County Council
10.15 am - 11.00 am	‘Liam Mellows, Democrat or Demagogue: Personal Writings and Political Speeches’ by Dr Conor McNamara
11.00 am - 11.15 am	Tea/Coffee
11.15 am ~ 12.30 pm	‘Provincial talks for Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection ~ Connacht’ by Robert McEvoy
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm - 2.15 pm	‘What it said in the papers a century ago ~ Loughrea and County Galway in 1919’ by Steve Dolan
2.15 pm ~ 3.00 pm	‘Stacking the coffins: the impact of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic on Loughrea and Ireland’ by Dr Ida Milne
3.00 pm ~ 3.15 pm	Tea/Coffee
3.15 pm ~ 4.00 pm	‘The Mutiny of the 1st Battalion of the Connaught Rangers in 1920’ by Joe Loughnane
4.00 pm ~ 4.45 pm	‘The majority have emigrated: Post-Civil War Cumann na mBan Emigration’ by Síobhra Aiken

Exhibition: Dave Swift and Claíomh will have a display of revolutionary period materials and artefacts on display throughout the day.

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Biographies

Síobhra Aiken

Síobhra Aiken is an Irish Research Government of Ireland postgraduate scholar at the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway. Her doctoral research explores the traumatic memory of the Irish Civil War (1922-1923) by locating traces of trauma in various personal, literary and (auto) fictional narratives by veterans of the conflict. She is co-editor of *The Men Will Talk to Me: Ernie O'Malley's Interviews with the Northern Divisions* (Merrion Press 2018). She also curated a major exhibition, 'Fathach File: Reluctant Modernist', on the modernist Irish-language poet Máirtín Ó Direáin and published an edited collection of his prose writings entitled *An Chuid Eile Díom Féin: Aistí le Máirtín Ó Direáin* (Cló Iar-Chonnacht 2018). In 2013-14 she was a Fulbright Scholar at Elms College, Springfield, Massachusetts, and has published a number of peer-reviewed articles on aspects of the Gaelic Revival in the United States, including in *ComharTaighde* and *Éire-Ireland*.

Lecture Title

'The majority have emigrated': Post-Civil War Cumann na mBan Emigration

Synopsis of Lecture

This paper considers the extent of Cumann na mBan emigration in the aftermath of the Irish Civil War (1922-1923). It will further consider the contributions of female emigrants to the republican movement in the diaspora.

Steve Dolan

Steve Dolan is a historian based in East Galway. He holds an MBA from NUIG and an MA in History from UL. He is the author of several heritage publications, editor of the *SEGAHS Journal*, and a part-time lecturer in history and heritage.

Lecture Title

'What it said in the papers a century ago ~ Loughrea and County Galway in 1919'

Synopsis of Lecture

The lecture presents the major local and national news items from a century ago and pieces together the main events which affected the lives of Loughrea's inhabitants in 1919.

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Ida Milne

Ida Milne is a social historian of disease, and an oral historian. Her PhD on the influenza pandemic has been published as *Stacking the Coffins, Influenza, War and Revolution in Ireland, 1918-1919* (Manchester University Press, 2018). She is part of an international research network exploring the global impact of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. She lectures in European History at Carlow College, and is a member of the Royal Irish Academy historical sciences committee, and chair of the European Social Science Conference health and environment group, and co-president of the Oral History Association international committee. Her book has been given a Choice Books Highly Recommended listing.

Lecture Title

‘Stacking the coffins: the impact of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic on Loughrea and Ireland’

Synopsis of Lecture

The 1918-19 influenza pandemic has for many years been a hidden history, hidden behind the stories of the revolutionary period and of the war.

Perhaps too it was hidden in plain sight as other diseases were having a massive impact on most Irish families. Death by disease was all too common in the Ireland of the 1910s, but our modern lens measures its impact differently. This paper will explore the impact of the pandemic through news stories, death statistics and, most poignantly, personal stories of suffering and death.

Joe Loughnane

Joe is a member of the Loughrea Memorial Group, and has an MA in military history. He is a military history enthusiast and has an in-depth knowledge of the Connaught Rangers, WW1 and the locals who were involved. Joe presents lectures to various groups on the subject of World War 1.

Lecture Title

‘The Mutiny of the 1st Battalion of the Connaught Rangers in 1920’

Synopsis of Lecture

Next year is the centenary of the Mutiny in India in 1920. This talk will focus on that event, and will endeavour to explain what happened using all available information. Many men from Galway and the west of Ireland were involved, one of those being John Oliver from Loughrea, who was a victim of that event.

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Robert McEvoy

Rob McEvoy is employed on the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection. Rob qualified with a Masters in Archives and Records Management and has over ten years' experience as a professional archivist. Prior to qualification, Rob qualified with a Masters in History and has a specific interest in twentieth century Irish history and Northern Ireland. He has been working on the Project since 2012. His duties include processing material for release to the public and undertaking promotional activities as required.

Lecture Title

'Provincial talks for Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection - Connacht.

Synopsis of Lecture

The talk will focus on the revolutionary period within Connacht with special emphasis on the 1919-1923 period of the War of Independence and the Civil War utilising the material contained in the MSPC. The MSPC offers unrivalled depth as a source for this crucial period in Irish history.

Conor McNamara

Dr Conor McNamara is the author and editor of five studies of post-Famine Ireland including, *The West of Ireland in War and Revolution: Galway 1913-22* (2018) and *Liam Mellows, Soldier of the Irish Republic* (2019). He currently teaches at the University of Minnesota, Dublin Program. He has won several national awards including the National Library of Ireland, History Researcher 2011.

Lecture Title

'Liam Mellows, Democrat or Demagogue: Personal Writings and Political Speeches'

Synopsis of Lecture

Liam Mellows was a TD for Galway when he played a key role in organizing the anti-Treaty forces in the build up to the Irish Civil War. This paper examines Mellows character and political aims and explores the debate concerning his rejection of the Anglo-Irish Treaty and his determination to oppose the establishment of the Free State.

Colman Shaughnessy

Colman is a founding member of Loughrea Memorial Group. He is a former Merchant Navy Radio Officer. He has a passionate interest in the culture and heritage of Loughrea and its surrounding area. Colman gives guided walking heritage tours of the town of Loughrea and provides assistance to Clonfert Museum during Heritage Week.

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**To reserve a place please
contact one of the following:**

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council.
Tel: 091 509198/087 9088387 or email mmannion@galwaycoco.ie

or

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or

Joe Loughnane, Loughrea Memorial Group
Tel: 00353 876754328 or email joeloughnane52@gmail.com

or

Michael Maher, Clostoken, Loughrea, Co Galway
Tel: 00353 86 8109185 or email: mmaher@cllr.galwaycoco.ie

This conference has been organised by Galway County Council in partnership with Loughrea Memorial Group. This conference is supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries programme.

It is an action of Galway County Council's Decade of Commemoration Strategy 2013-2023.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



LOUGHREA
MEMORIAL GROUP



**An Roinn Cultúir,
Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Culture,
Heritage and the Gaeltacht