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Kilkee Civic Trust - Summer Schedule for 2019

Kilkee Civic Trust, (KCT), is a non-profit organisation working to enhance the quality of life in Kilkee, and its hinterland, by preserving and promoting its cultural heritage, and so making it a more attractive place to live, work and invest.

Talks - Arts in Focus - Music

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All of our events are recorded by Raidió Corca Baiscinn for subsequent broadcast on 92.5 & 94.8 fm streaming & later podcast on www.rcb.ie



Photograph courtesy of - © www.westclare.net

KCT Talks 2019 - All Talks will be hosted at Cultúrlann Sweeney, O'Connell St., Kilkee.

Entry to all KCT Talks is Free of Charge.

All of our speakers give of their time and energy on a pro-bono basis.

The appreciation of the audience & KCT is expressed by way of presenting each speaker with a Book Token, or similar, at the end of each Talk.

A Donations Box is provided at all Talks to assist us in defraying necessary expenses.

Date: Wednesday, 3th July 2019 at 8pm

No. 1 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Ruairí McKiernan

Talk Title: Hope and Healing in a Troubled World

Talk Description:

We live in an increasingly busy world where we're presented with huge opportunities, but also massive challenges. Issues such as anxiety, depression, loneliness, and social isolation are on the rise. The neglect of rural Ireland, economic and social inequalities, and a growing ecological crisis are evidence that big changes are needed. In this talk by well-known social campaigner Ruairí McKiernan, he reflects on his 20 years working for change and explores how we can co-create new paths and possibilities to a more hopeful future for all.



About the Speaker:

Lahinch-based Cavan native Ruairí McKiernan is an award-winning social innovator and campaigner who has been named by Ashoka as one of the top 10 'changemakers' in Ireland. Ruairí is the founder of the SpunOut.ie youth organisation, a co-founder of the Uplift campaigning movement, and recently finished a 7-year term as one of President Higgins's appointees to the Council of State. Ruairí is also a Fulbright fellow, a regular contributor to the national media, and host of the Love and Courage podcast. His book 'Hitching For Hope' will be published in the coming months.

Further information at: www.ruairimckiernan.com & Twitter: @ruairimckieran

Date: Wednesday, 10th July 2019 at 8pm

No. 2 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Christopher Power

Talk Title: Michael Hogan:
The Bard of Thomond



Talk Description:

Michael Hogan the Bard of Thomond created wonderful material about his native city of Limerick and much of County Clare. An early master in the genre of Gothic stories, he produced highly descriptive and very original material. Perhaps his best-known piece of literature was *Drunken Thady and the Bishops Lady* the ultimate Christmas story. Many other creations exist in his works such as the ghostly bride Mary who haunted Quin Abbey and of course terrifying Obhinn, the Banshee, and her dreadful curses.

Hogan's lovely descriptions of rural Clare and Limerick, not to mention various characters real, (and from beyond the grave!), are highly entertaining and, despite the huge amounts of material he produced which are largely forgotten, have a great deal to offer to a modern audience.

Hogan was also a social commentator of his time with compassion and sympathy for the many who suffered in post famine Ireland. On the issues of social justice, and those in public life, there was no sharper critic than Hogan who wrote ascorbic comment with hilarious and devastating effect against many senior figures of his time. This talk, (with visuals), will explore these fascinating aspects of Michael Hogan's eventful life both locally and abroad and will hopefully give a wider appreciation of this largely overlooked Irish writer.

About the Speaker:

A native of North County Wexford, Christopher Power has a keen interest in local history and has produced a number of publications covering a wide range of topics; including historical aspects of Wexford, Wicklow and South Tipperary. Professionally; Christopher is a Librarian working for Carlow County Council.

Christopher's recent book is titled "*The Last Dalcassian Bard: The Extraordinary Life and Works of Michael Hogan*", and it will be available for purchase on the night of the Talk. It is an illustrated full colour biography and recently came second in the Nilsson Local Heritage writing competition at Listowel Writers Week.

Our speaker has a Limerick & Clare connection; his Uncle Christy Power, arrived to work in Limerick in the mid-1960s, a well-known Printer with the Limerick Leader, now retired, and living in Ardnacrusha. As a result, with many visits to Limerick over the years, it was Uncle Christy who introduced his nephew Christopher and his Dad Pat to *Drunken Thady and the Bishops Lady*.

Date: Wednesday, 17th July 2019 at 8pm

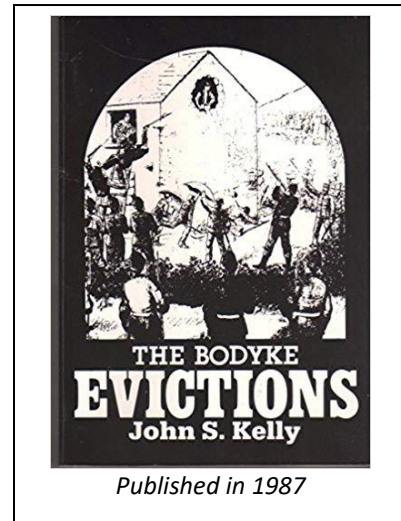
No. 3 of 9 Talks

Speaker: John S. Kelly

Talk Title: The Land War in East Clare with particular reference to the Bodyke Evictions of 1887

Talk Description:

During the latter half of the 19th century; Ireland experienced a Land War. Our speaker, John S. Kelly, explores the three distinct phases. The first, lasting until 1882, witnessed a violent struggle between landlords and tenants, orchestrated by the tenants' rights organisation, the Land League. During the second phase, 1882-1891, a more intensive struggle called the Plan of Campaign was instigated. The final phase of agreement and settlement eventually led to tenant ownership through a series of Land Acts.



If the Land War began as a means of securing rent abatements, it evolved into a campaign against landlordism. In County Clare, the disturbances that took place on the Bodyke section of Colonel John O'Callaghan's estate during the 1880s, culminating in the notorious evictions of June 1887, form one of the most dramatic episodes of the entire Land War in Ireland. The Bodyke evictions became a cause célèbre in the debate over the land question, a debate argued in both the House of Commons & House of Lords; the Local, National and International Press; and played a significant part in the overthrow of the prevailing land holding system in the country.

About the Speaker:

John S. Kelly, long-associated with East Clare, is a native of Rathcroghan in Co. Roscommon. A Boarder at Summerhill College, Sligo, from 1953 to 1958. Always the keen sportsman and team-player; John enjoyed a successful football career; playing centerfield for Roscommon in the 1962 All-Ireland Senior Football Championship Final; where he marked Kerry-man Mick O'Connell.

John S. Kelly is a History Graduate of University College Galway. He has done Post-Graduate Research on Land Agitation in East Clare, and is the author of "The Bodyke Evictions", published in 1987.

He was involved in the development of a Private Lay Secondary School in Scarriff in the mid-1960s, which in 1968 amalgamated with the local Vocational School to become one of the first Community Colleges in the country. John retired as Principal of the College in the year 2000.

In 1979, for the Centenary Celebrations to mark the founding of the Land League, John was invited by Clare County Council to deliver the Commemoration Lecture. All things historical are close to John's heart, and together with on-going speaking engagements, John is a Director on the Board of the Hunt Museum Trust, charged with responsibility for overseeing the Hunt Collection on behalf of the people of Ireland.

John is married to Marie and has four adult children.



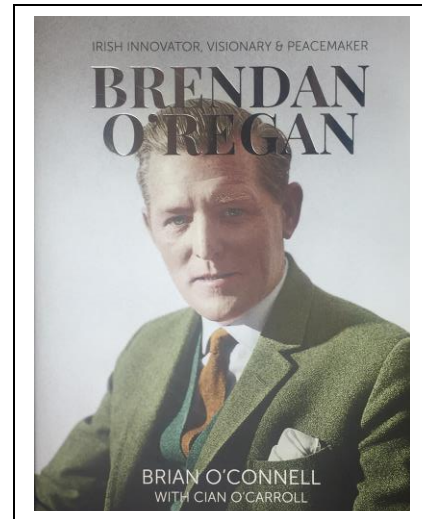
*A busy day on The Strand Line, Kilkee, Circa 1975
© Murphy Hynes Kilkee Collection & Clare Co. Co.*

Date: Wednesday, 24th July 2019 at 8pm

No. 4 of 9 Talks

Speakers: Brian O’Connell & Cian O’Carroll

Talk Title: Here Come The Yanks!
• Brendan O’Regan’s role in attracting international tourists to Ireland, 1943-1973



Talk Description:

Cian O’Carroll will deliver a summary of O’Regan’s life, illustrated by photographs showing his involvement in a wide range of activities.

Brian O’Connell’s talk will deal with O’Regan’s unique contribution to the development of an international tourist trade in Ireland; beyond visitors from Britain. It will cover O’Regan’s unique role in conceiving and creating an industry that today employs hundreds of thousands of Irish people in their home country and the countless obstacles he overcame in realising that vision.

Brian O’Connell & Cian O’Carroll’s book “*Brendan O’Regan*” will be available for purchase on the night of the Talk.

About the Speakers:

Dublin born Cian O’Carroll was hired by Brendan O’Regan as Estates Manager of Shannon Development in 1960 and oversaw the establishment of Shannon Town. He subsequently became the first CEO of Shannon Heritage. In retirement, Cian established an international consultancy on Heritage Tourism. In collaboration with Brian O’Connell, he played a leading role in creating the Brendan O’Regan Archive; a series of interviews with O’Regan in his final years.

Brian O’Connell first encountered O’Regan when setting up a business in Foynes Harbour more than 40 years ago. He later served for ten years on the board of Shannon Development and for most of that time as Chairman of Shannon Heritage. As well as his biography of Brendan O’Regan, Brian has authored biographies of antiquarian and benefactor John Hunt and Tipperaryman, Sir William Parker Carroll.



Date: Wednesday, 31st July 2019 at 8pm

No. 5 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Dermot Cosgrove

Talk Title: Solo Hiking in Remote Regions

Talk Description:

In July of 2017 Dermot solo hiked along one of the remotest hiking trails in the world, the Arctic Circle Trail. This trail is located 40 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle crossing over the coastal mountains in the tundra of Western Greenland as far as the Ice Sheet.

In 2018 Dermot continued his trekking activities by tackling the first stage of the GR10 trail in the French Pyrenees; as part of his training for an ultra-long-distance trail in 2019. His latest endeavour has been to walk solo, and unsupported, from the most Northerly point on mainland Iceland to its most Southerly point, hiking 620 kilometres and crossing a variety of terrains from tundra to volcanic black sand deserts to mountains.



Solo, long-distance hiking requires a particular mind-set, resilience and self-reliance which Dermot attributes to a combination of his time in the French Foreign Legion and love of the great outdoors. He has combined his long-distance hiking and love of birdwatching with fundraising for charity. Dermot will talk about the training and preparation required for travelling solo in remote lands, and enduring harsh and physically demanding conditions, with photos, video footage and maps. Then; because there are more journeys ahead; Dermot will reveal his future plans for more adventures in the Arctic.

About the Speaker:

Dermot Cosgrove is an Ennis native who at 19 years of age enlisted in the French Foreign Legion, where he served six years deploying operationally in Africa and the Middle East; including the First Gulf War.

After leaving the French Foreign Legion Dermot entered the world of private security; frequently working with clients,



Dermot standing at the edge of the Russell Glacier at the end of his hike in West Greenland.

such as the media, in conflict zones in Africa and the Middle East. He moved to Kilkee in the late 1990's where he rekindled his love of birdwatching which, ultimately, led him to remote solo hiking. His sister's involvement with the charity *Irish Dogs for the Disabled* led him to starting the "Walk for the Dogs fundraising initiative", through which he has raised more than €15,000 to date, and continues to provide him with the motivation to plan further treks with newer, more testing, conditions.

Date: Wednesday, 7th August 2019 at 8pm

No. 6 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Joe Coleman

Talk Title:

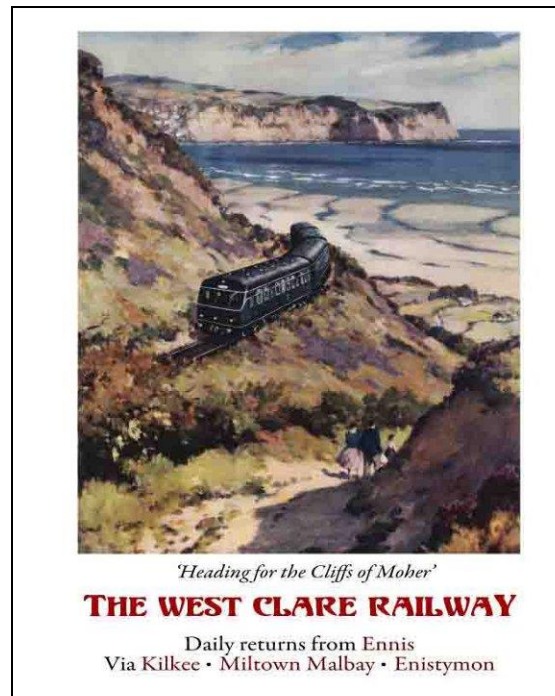
Steaming and Puffing Through West Clare

Talk Description:

This illustrated talk, will focus on the last commercial narrow-gauge railway line to operate in the country, the sometimes infamous "West Clare Railway" which served the communities of West and South Clare from 1888 until 1961. It will feature many rare photographs, diagrams and drawings. It will look at some of the people who worked on the line; those who travelled on it and also lamented its passing.

About the Speaker:

Joe Coleman has spent over 39 years in various roles working in road transport with CIE & Bus Éireann until retiring in 2017. He has a great passion for railways and published the bestselling book: "Falling Gradient"- '*Limerick's Railway Connections, the people and the times*' in 2016. He has given a number of lectures on the subject of local railway lines in various locations around the south west.



Picture: Kilkee Cliff Walk
In May, with Sea Pinks in bloom

Joe's other publications include: "House Full"(2014) - '*An affectionate look back at the old cinema's and theatres of Limerick...*' and "The Breaking Rapids" (2018) - '*Aspects of the Treaty Riverside City and its environs.....*'. All but the latter are now out of print. Joe is also a Distinguished Toastmaster and is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Ireland).

Date: Wednesday, 14th August 2019 at 8pm

No. 7 of 9 Talks

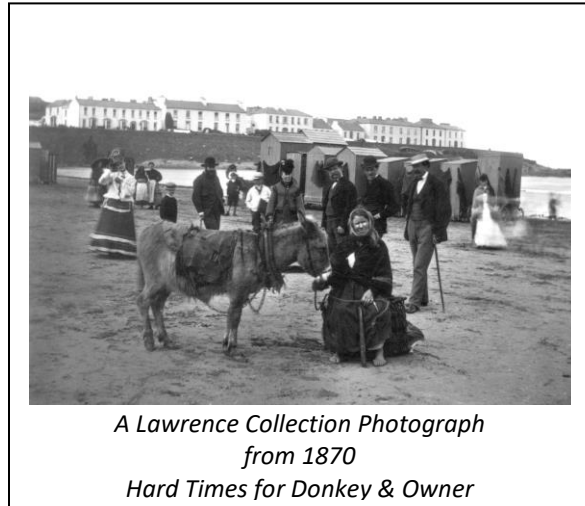
Speaker: J.J. Hickie – Kilkee History Group

Talk Title: Pictorial Record of Kilkee since 1865

Talk Description:

A Treasure Trove of old photographs across not only decades, but two centuries; representing a lifetimes passion for all things Kilkee; has been assembled by well-known and greatly admired Kilkee man J.J. Hickie. So large is his collection; the great dilemma for J.J.

will not be what photographs to put in, but what ones to leave out! Each photograph will be accompanied by J.J.'s insightful commentary, revealing many interesting historical facts, anecdotes and, perhaps, even a few surprising revelations.



About the Speaker:

An active member of Kilkee History Group & Kilkee Civic Trust; J. J. Hickie is a well-known Kilkee native, businessman, purveyor for many years of Hickie's Victualler Shop at O'Connell St. Kilkee; now in the safe hands of his son Shane. Those who know him well say the accolade of "Local Historian" is more than justified. J.J. Hickie has an encyclopaedic knowledge of Kilkee's life and times over recent centuries and his personal selection of photographs is certain to be memorable.



Speaker: Jim Warny

Talk Title:

Life In The Darkness:

A captivating story of Cave Exploration & Cave Rescue

Talk Description:

Our speaker, Jim Warny, will provide a personal account of the Tham Luang Cave Rescue mission. In June and July



2018, a widely publicised Cave Rescue successfully extricated members of a junior football team trapped in Tham Luang cave in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand. Twelve members of the team, aged eleven to seventeen, and their 25-year-old assistant coach entered the cave on 23 June after football practice. Shortly afterwards, heavy rains partially flooded the cave, trapping the group inside. The rescue efforts were an extremely treacherous task that involved people from across the globe. Jim was part of the team of Cave Rescue Specialists that spearheaded the operation. The story of the search and recovery of the boys, and their coach, is truly gripping and an inspiring tale of humanity working together



against all odds to save the lives of the young soccer players. Jim will take you through the sequence of events in detail and provide a first hand account of the extraction efforts that lasted 3 days, which involved transporting the boys, one by one, through several kilometres of flooded cave passages.

About the Speaker:

Jim Warny; a Belgian Cave Explorer is based in the west of Ireland. He has been actively involved in Cave Exploration and rescue for 20 years. For Jim; exploration is his passion and true calling in life. He regularly explores and documents places no one has ever laid eyes on. Caves are truly one of the last frontiers on our planet. Jim will take you on a journey through these harsh yet beautiful places with imagery collected over the many years he spent in the intense darkness. The act of visiting these places in a safe and efficient way is truly rewarding and inspiring. Jim believes the true Spirit of Exploration is something that every human is endowed with from birth and that it is the very essence of human evolution. Subsequently; Jim participated in the production and filming of a feature film telling the story of the many volunteers participating in the Tham Luang Cave Rescue. For his efforts in in the rescue Jim was honoured and awarded a Knighthood of the Leopold Order by the King of Belgium.



Philippe, King of Belgium & Jim Warny

Date: Wednesday, 28th August 2019 at 8pm

No. 9 of 9 Talks

Speaker: Jane Halloran Ryan

Talk Title: Emigration from Clare & Limerick to New York in the 19th Century: Epic Journeys for Families to the U.S.

Talk Description:

It's all in the Talk Title! Jane Halloran Ryan will recount the experience of emigration, the personal pain, the tears, searing loneliness, forever farewells, the Irish Wake, the experience upon arrival in the New World, Ellis Island, new ways of living; ultimately a new life for those fortunate enough to survive the journey; and place it all in the context of the world before modern transport by sea and air; when, if you were literate, and most were not, communication was by letter taking several weeks to reach its recipient.



About the Speaker:

Jane Halloran Ryan is the principal and founder of Dalcassian Origins, a family and local history and genealogy research service based in county Clare. Growing up in America; her own interest and experience in genealogy began in her teens when she started her own family research journey, bringing her back to Ireland, and her roots, where she now lives in her ancestral parish of Tulla in East County Clare. Professionally; Jane is a Solicitor and member of the Law Society of Ireland. Her legal background, armed with a Certificate in History of Family & Genealogical Research Methods from University of Limerick and later her M.A. in Local History at University of Limerick in 2017; is a powerful skillset, drawing on genealogical & legal research methods, enabling her to deal knowledgeably with queries and research work including house histories, heir research services, family research reports and genealogy consultations. Generously; Jane undertakes volunteer work for "Ireland Reaching Out", acting as Parish Liaison for Tulla, Co. Clare. In 2013, she was voted "Volunteer of the Year" with "Ireland Reaching Out".

Further information at: www.dalcassianorigins.ie & Facebook: @dalcassianorigins
Twitter: @janehalloryan & Wordpress: janehalloran.wordpress.com



Affiliate, Accredited Genealogists Ireland.



Picture
Kilkee's Road Train

Our Annual KCT - Arts in Focus - 2019

Date: Friday, 5th July 2019 at Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee

- Local Arts & Crafts Exhibition Opens Upstairs from **7pm**
- Concert begins at **8pm** in the Theatre
- Entry is Free of Charge!

Compère for the evening: Fionnuala Murnane, KCT Coordinator for *Arts in Focus*

A special "Thank-You" to all our *Arts in Focus* participants & performers who make this night possible



Arts KILKEE CIVIC TRUST PRESENTS... **FOCUS 2019** Cultúrlann Sweeney Fri 5th July

Concert 8p.m. Admission Free

- **Newfound Sound Chorus**
A tribute to Olga Reynolds
- **The Talented Men in Black**
- **Colleen Bawn** - Eye Witness Account on the 200th Anniversary : By Full Moon Theatre Co
- **Inis Cathaigh Comhaltas** Music & Song
- **David O'Connell - Violinist**
- **A Journey Through Poetry & Music**
Michael Reeves & Emma Karran
- **Dance by the Children of Scoil Realt Na Mara Kilkee**

FROM 7pm : Local Arts & Crafts Display featuring:

- KILKEE CIVIC TRUST**
- Stained Glass**
ET Crafts
- Sináire Jewellery**
- ECO CRAFT**
GORMLAITH WILLIAMSON

www.kilkeecivictrust.org
kilkee Civic Trust on Facebook

CULTÚRLANN SWEENEY

KCT Music 2019

Date: Friday, 26th July 2019 at 8pm No. 1 of 4 Music Events

Compère for the evening: Martin Bourke

Music Event Title: The “Nelson Eddy & Jeanette MacDonald” Profile

Venue: Cultúrlann Sweeney, O’Connell St., Kilkee
Box Office: All Tickets: €10
Tel: (065) 906 0769
Kilkeeboxoffice@clarelibrary.ie
www.culturlannsweeney.ie

Music Event Description:

Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald were arguably the most successful and popular pair of singing stars ever to appear together on the silver screen. Remarkably that popularity continues almost 80 years after they made their last movie together, and over 50 years after they had both died. Why were they so successful, what chemistry existed between them that sparked the magic so many fans experienced? What was their relationship off screen? They are reported as having been real life lovers by some and yet others contend, they were constantly feuding. Personality wise they were opposites. She was vivacious, glamorous, a great partygoer and was known as ‘The Iron Butterfly’. He was reserved, conservative and intensely private. He was known as ‘Bricktop’.



They were both in their mid-thirties when they married. She married a film actor, whom it was rumoured was Nelson Eddy’s brother, (as they looked so alike), in a big spectacle wedding. Nelson on the other hand eloped to Las Vegas where he married the ex-wife of a Hollywood producer. With an age difference of only 2 years they both grew up and spent some of their formative teenage years in the same city, Philadelphia, but did not meet until 1934; when they were in Hollywood. They made 8 films together, breaking box office records, with films such as *Naughty Marietta*, *Rose Marie*, *New Moon*, *Sweethearts*. Then; there was the extraordinary story on the making of the film *Maytime*. Almost complete and in the can, it was then abandoned and virtually remade from the beginning but still made in excess of \$0.5million in profit.

In the third of a trilogy of Profiles on America's Singing Sweethearts, Martin Bourke examines their relationship both on screen and off, the films and above all the beautiful music they made, featuring their timeless hits like *Ah Sweet Mystery of Life*, *Wanting You*, *Indian Love Call*, *Will You Remember*, *I'll See You Again*, together with some unusual renditions of songs not immediately associated with them such as *My Little Grey Home in the West*. The audio-visual presentation, which will also include a generous selection of photographs, will take place on **Friday 26th July 2019, at 8.00 p.m. in Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee.**



These Profiles are devised, researched, scripted and presented by Martin Bourke, in aid of Kilkee Civic Trust projects. Martin has had a lifelong interest in the career and vocal art of classical and light classical singers collecting recordings and biographies of these artists. This is the Seventh Profile presented by Martin for the benefit of Kilkee Civic Trust.

Date: Saturday 10th August 2019

No. 2 of 4 Music Events

Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band

- Kilkee Bay Swim 2019 & Kilkee Civic Trust have joined forces to invite "Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band" to enhance the annual Bay Swim.

Event Details:

- Two performances; to coincide with the timing of the Small Bay & Big Bay Swims at Kilkee Bandstand.
- Exact Band performance times will be posted nearer the event as they are tide and weather dependant.



Boherbuoy Brass & Reed Band at Kilkee Bandstand ~ Saturday, 19th August 2017

Date: Friday, 16th August 2019 at 8pm

No. 3 of 4 Music Events

Compère for the evening: Cian O'Carroll

Music Event Title: Catherine Hayes
World famous Limerick born Operatic Soprano 1818 - 1861

Venue: Cultúrlann Sweeney, O'Connell St., Kilkee
Box Office: All Tickets: €10
Tel: (065) 906 0769
Kilkeeboxoffice@clarelibrary.ie
www.culturlannsweeney.ie

Music Event Description:

The presentation will include a narrative account of Catherine Hayes' musical life, career and worldwide travel. It will be illustrated with historic images, as well as musical extracts from her repertoire of Opera and Ballads.

Cian, a Dublin man, living in Limerick for more than 50 years has a lifelong interest in the Arts. When Cian retired as CEO of Shannon Heritage, he undertook many Heritage Tourism assignments in the Middle East. He is a former Director of the Belltable Arts Centre in Limerick. Cian has written and lectured on local history and planning. Cian O'Carroll is a Director of the Limerick Civic Trust.

Cian is married to Ann and has four adult children.



This Musical Evening
has been devised, researched, scripted and presented by
Cian O'Carroll,
in aid of Kilkee Civic Trust projects.

Date: On a Sunday in July or August 2019 (Exact Date TBC)

No. 4 of 4 Music Events

Ennis Brass Band

- Kilkee Chamber of Commerce & Kilkee Civic Trust have joined forces to invite “*Ennis Brass Band*” to perform at Kilkee.

Event Details:

- Venue: Kilkee Church & Bandstand
- The Band will participate by joining the Church Choir and playing during the 11am Sunday Mass.
- Then; from Kilkee Church, (after 11am Mass), the Band will Play & March, via O’Curry St. to the Bandstand where the music will continue.
- As always; Kilkee Chamber of Commerce & Kilkee Civic Trust wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of our Parish Priest Fr. Kenny, and the Church Choir, with this annual event.

*Ennis Brass Band
Marching down O’Curry St., Kilkee*



*Kilkee Enjoying
The Big Band Sound!*

Examples of two Kilkee Civic Trust Heritage Projects



First World War Memorial in the Church Grounds at Kilkee



Wall Plaque on the former holiday home of Richard Harris at West End, Kilkee