

Contributors

Karen J McDonnell's writing has been published in many countries in anthologies and journals. Her work has been awarded several bursaries and writers' residencies. Her latest poetry collection, *TIDAL*, has just been published by Doire Press. More at karenjmcconnell.com.

Lucille Ellis has written several books including *The People of High Street and Parnell Street formerly Mill Street*, *Women of Clare*, *Erasmus Smith House* and *Bindon Street and Bank Place*. She is a member of Clare Roots Society.

Ollie Byrnes is a local historian and author of twelve books primarily on hurling and social history. His comprehensive knowledge of the Clare music scene led to the publication of his recent book *On the Boards: Music in Ennis and County Clare from 1950 onwards*.

Kirsten Mulrennan is the Archivist for Engagement, Exhibition and Outreach Office in the Special Collections & Archives Department of the University of Limerick. The exhibition 'Developing Shannon: Exposing narratives from negatives' is based on the UL Wellcome-funded project.

Pat Fitzgerald a native of Ballingarry, Co. Limerick is author of *The Colleen Bawn*, the story of Ellen Hanley a young girl who was murdered by her so-called husband John Scanlan and his servant Stephen Sullivan over two hundred years ago. Pat will be joined by local author and historian Joe Queally.

Jaz Burns, Archives & Heritage Manager for the ESB, oversees the acquisition and preservation of historically significant collections and artefacts related to the Shannon Scheme, rural electrification, and almost 100 years of ESB history.

Dr. Jane Halloran is a professional genealogist and researcher. She recently completed her PhD. Jane tutors the Certificate in Local History programme at the Irish Workhouse Centre and she also tutors at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick.

Clifford Parrott has worked in the creative sector since 1999. The animation for the Clare Abbey Project was created and produced by Mi6 BIM, the Architectural Visualisation and Client Presentation division of Magpie 6 Media, an award-winning production studio based in Ennis.

Declan Barron is a local historian and owner of Newpark House in Ennis. Newpark was previously home of the Mahon family, one of whom, Charles James Patrick Mahon, better known The O'Gorman Mahon, nominated Daniel O'Connell to contest the Clare Election in 1828.

Eric Shaw is a well-known local historian and a member of both Clarecastle and Ballyea Heritage and Clare Roots Society.

Dr. Brian Gurrin is the census specialist in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland. His research includes census taking and the demographics of Ireland in the pre-Famine period. His work has included the identification of more than 70,000 names recorded in the nineteenth-century censuses of Ireland.

Brian Gallagher is an author known for his engaging historical fiction for young readers. His novels include *Across the Divide*, *Taking Sides* (Civil War) and *Friend or Foe* (Easter Rising).

Brian Crowley is Curator of Collections for Kilmainham Gaol and the Pearse Museum. He has also worked on the display and development of the collection in Derrynane House for many years.

Graham Hull is an archaeologist and co-founder of TVAS. His archaeological work included the M18 road schemes.

Cormac Griffith is a history, maths and physics teacher at the ALFA (Active Learning for Adolescents) Steiner Secondary School in East Clare.

Dolores Meaney, Michael Talty, Ciara Fahy and Ciara Carew work in Local Studies and Archives. **John Rattigan** is Curator of Clare Museum

Clare Libraries

ALL EVENTS
FREE

Seachtain na Staire / History Week

4 - 10 October 2025



Contributors include:

Karen J McDonnell - Lucille Ellis - Ollie Byrnes - Kirsten Mulrennan - Pat Fitzgerald - Jaz Burns
Dr. Jane Halloran - Clifford Parrott - Declan Barron - Eric Shaw - Dr. Brian Gurrin
Brian Gallagher - Brian Crowley - Graham Hull - Cormac Griffith - Michael Talty
Ciara Fahy - John Rattigan - Ciara Carew

With exhibitions from the Shannon Development Photographic Archive and Paddy Hannon

Saturday 4 October

10.30am - 2pm De Valera Library	Workshop with Karen J. McDonnell [booking required] <i>What's the story? - writing into family and local histories</i>
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Monday 6 October

11am Online	Lecture by Lucille Ellis <i>High Street and Parnell Street in Ennis</i>
1pm - 2.30pm De Valera Library	Lecture by Ollie Byrnes <i>An International Flavour: Music in Clare</i>

Tuesday 7 October

11am Online	Lecture by Brian Crowley <i>The Liberator in Chains: Daniel O’Connell in Richmond Bridewell, 1844</i>
1pm Online	Lecture: <i>Coimisiún na Gaeltachta 1925</i>
6.30pm Kilrush Library	Lecture by Pat Fitzgerald and Joe Queally <i>The Story of the Colleen Bawn</i>
6.30pm Shannon Library	Lecture by by Kirsten Mulrennan <i>The Shannon Development Photographic Archive</i>

Wednesday 8 October

11am Online	Talk by Michael Talty and Ciara Fahy <i>Collections in Clare Local Studies and Archives</i>
1.30pm De Valera Library	Talk by Cliff Parrott, Eric Shaw and Graham Hull <i>Clare Abbey Project</i>
6.30pm Clare Museum	Lecture by Jaz Burns, Archives & Heritage Manager, ESB <i>History and significance of the Shannon Hydro-Electric Scheme</i>



The Colleen Bawn at Killimer

Thursday 9 October - Genealogy Day

Clare Museum	Celebrating 25 Years with Museum Open Day, see https://claremuseum.ie .
11am - 1pm De Valera Library	<i>Genealogy sessions with Jane Halloran Ryan</i>
1pm De Valera Library	Lecture by Brian Gurrin, VRTI <i>Census Returns in the Virtual Record Treasury – Recovering County Clare’s lost Census Records</i>
3pm De Valera Library	Talk by by Michael Talty and Declan Barron <i>Genealogical uses of 1825 Freeholders List</i>

Thursday 9 October - Genealogy Day - continued

6.30pm Scariff Library	Lecture by Cormac Griffith <i>A Personal Reflection on Family History</i>
6.30pm De Valera Library	Clare Roots Lecture by Aoife Kelly <i>Sounds of Kilfenora: Uncovering Family Histories through Kilfenora’s Musical Traditions</i>

Friday 10 October

11.30am Online	Curator’s Talk by John Rattigan <i>New Acquisitions in Clare Museum</i>
1.30pm De Valera Library	Lecture with Quin Heritage Group <i>Remembering Paddy Hannan</i>



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An image from Shannon Development’s Photo Archive

Exhibitions (on display from 4 - 17 October)

- Shannon Library.....** Developing Shannon: Exposing narratives from negatives: the Shannon Development Photographic Archive (from 27 September)
- Ennistymon Library.....** Cumann na mBan in Co Clare
- Kilrush Library.....** Picking up the Pieces: Committees, Claims, Relief and Rebuilding after the War
- Miltown Library.....** 200 years of the Ordnance Survey in Clare
- Sixmilebridge Library....** Milling in Clare
- Scariff Library.....** Merriman Display
- De Valera Library.....** 1. 1825 Freeholders, 2. Paddy Hannan 3. Music in Clare

Exhibitions are available to view during library opening hours. All physical events are free of charge. All online content is available on the Clare Libraries website at <https://clarelibraries.ie>. Info and Booking at decadeofcentenaries@clarecoco.ie.

Scan the QR code for details.



CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Wednesday 8 October

10.30am De Valera Library	Author talk by Brian Gallagher
12.30pm Ennistymon Library	Author talk by Brian Gallagher
12pm De Valera Library	Workshop with Cliff Parrott and Michael Talty (Transition Year event) <i>Clare Abbey Virtual Reality Animation - This event can be pre-booked by schools.</i>

Friday 10 October

10.30am De Valera Library	Talk by Ciara Carew <i>Paddy Hannan</i>
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A bronze commemorative statue of Paddy Hannan on Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.