

Galway County Council Decade of Centenaries Funding 2022

The events of the decade between 1913 and 1923 were momentous and defining ones. It was the decade that influenced relationships for a generation and was a period which saw the achievement of Irish independence and the foundation of our State.

It was also a period of transformation and cultural renewal in Irish society, following on electoral reform, land reform, education reform and migration. The demand for constitutional change was in parallel with the assertion of workers' rights and women's rights.

The decade was one of the most momentous of modern Irish history and justifies a comprehensive commemorative programme that recognises its importance, acknowledges the achievements of its generation and enhances the understanding today of the events that shaped our society.

Therefore, Galway County Council in the context of its role in providing civic leadership recognises the importance of playing a positive and proactive role in leading commemorative activities during the course of the decade and has produced a County Commemorative Strategy for 2013 to 2023.

The Galway Commemorative Strategy and annual commemorative programmes encourages Galway people at home and abroad to remember our shared history and to reflect on the events which shaped us.

The Strategy and the annual commemorative programmes places a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling active community participation and engagement throughout the Decade of Commemorations.

Funding for 2022 Projects:

Minister Martin approved a funding allocation of **€50,000** from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, for every local authority under the Community Strand of the 2022 Decade of Centenaries programme. Local authorities were requested to allocate at least €15,000 from their allocations in 2022 to support artistic and creative endeavours. Local authorities were required to submit an outline the activities to be supported from the 2022 funding allocation by Monday, 31 January 2022.

The Commemoration Unit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media recognised that some local authorities may have additional funding requirements, in relation to the remembrance of specific centenary events or other larger projects. They welcomed proposals seeking additional funding and these proposals were assessed on a case-by-case basis, in the context of the overall available budget in 2022.

On 5th May 2022 Galway County Council received confirmation that Galway County Council's that the total funding allocation for **Galway County Council for 2022 is €73,000**. In addition to this a **further amount of €48,000 was allocated for the joint county project with Tipperary County Council and Roscommon County Council on Aleen Cust**.

The following is an outline of the projects that have received this funding:

Project 1: Historian in Residence 2022

The aim of this residency is to encourage Galway people at home and abroad to remember our shared history and to reflect on the events which shaped us. It aims to allow us to uncover and explore the many other stories of the period, that reveal the intertwining of our history and our lives, as we remember those times. In addition to this the residency is to place a strong emphasis on encouraging and enabling active community participation and engagement in our Decade of Commemorations.

Project 2: Title: Artists & Activists: 1922 Women in a changing Cultural Landscape

This project, *Artists & Activists: 1922 Women in a changing Cultural Landscape* will highlight the role of women as artists and creatives in the early twentieth century by highlighting the contributions of specific women who revolutionized Irish art including ‘domestic’ art pieces such as weaving, embroidery and clothing. This artistic movement was particularly significant as the nation was simultaneously trying to gain Independence.

A collection of five creative genres: Arts, Crafts, Music, Drama and Dance will form the basis of new commissions by creatives throughout the County who will collaborate and participate with their communities and focus on themes such as the revival of decorative art and craft practices, Irish Nationalism, the preservation of a ‘true’ Irish identity and social life in Ireland. These collaborations will lead us past the hard politics of the era to reflect more on a social, cultural and creative Ireland and promote the visual representation of women in Irish society.

Project 3: “Gardaí in Galway 1922 – 2022” A Bi-Lingual Exhibition

About the Exhibition

This exhibition hopes to give an insight into the founding of An Garda Síochána; how An Garda Síochána has contributed to building a safe and peaceful society in particular as it relates to County Galway and how members of An Garda Síochána contribute to the local areas in which they work and live. It will also seek to show the changing roles of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years.

Project Partners:

An Garda Síochána, Galway Division

Galway County Council

Galway City Museum/Galway City Council

Project 4: Bi-lingual Book: *A History of An Garda Síochána in County Galway: A Century of Service*

This will be a 250 page full colour bi-lingual publication. It will deal with the formation of An Garda Síochána, the coming of the force to Galway on 25 September 1922. It will also give how An Garda Síochána has contributed to building a safe and peaceful society in particular as

it relates to County Galway and how members of An Garda Síochána contribute to the local areas in which they work and live. It also aims to show the changing roles of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years. This publication will also compliment the exhibition entitled *Gardaí in Galway 1922 – 2022*. The publication will be distributed to libraries, schools and the wider community free of charge.

Project Partners:

An Garda Síochána, Galway Division

Galway County Council

Project 5: Sixteen Page supplement in the Connacht Tribune Newspaper

It is proposed to have a 16 page supplement in the *Connacht Tribune* Newspaper in September 2022 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the coming of An Garda Síochána to Galway on 25th September 2022. 20,000 copies of this supplement will be published and it will seek to increase knowledge and awareness of the various roles and work of the Gardaí in Galway over 100 years.

Project Partners:

An Garda Síochána, Galway Division

Galway County Council

Project 6: Workbook on *An Garda Síochána in County Galway: A Century of Service for primary schools*

This bi-lingual workbook is aimed at 5th and 6th class students will be integrated into the primary school curriculum and will focus in on creating an awareness, knowledge and interpretation of life in 1920s Ireland and the role of An Garda Síochána over the past 100 years. It is proposed to embed videos and podcast into the workbook and this will assist in brining history to life in the classroom.

Project Partners:

An Garda Síochána, Galway Division

Galway County Council

Project 7: THE LOUGHNANE BROTHERS HERITAGE TRAIL Go Explore the Historic Sites & Memorials of Ireland's War of Independence Creation of a Z-Card and Story Map

This eleven-point heritage trail incorporates historic sites and memorials linked to the capture and killing of brothers Harry (Henry) and Pat (Patrick) Loughnane. The brothers, who lived in Shanaglish village in south County Galway, were prominent members of the local Sinn Féin organisation. They also played with Beagh GAA Club's hurling team. Harry, aged 21, was the goalkeeper and Pat, aged 29, was the full-back. Pat also served with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) during Ireland's War of Independence. He was a suspect in an engagement with the Royal Irish Constabulary at Blackwater, Gort on 12 September 1920, in the Castledaly Ambush on 30 October 1920, and in a raid on the residence of a retired policeman on an unknown date.

The historic sites and memorials identified herein will be of interest to anybody who wishes to find out more about the Loughnane brothers and their place in the history and memory of the Irish revolutionary era.

Project Partners:

Atlantic Technological University (Galway-Mayo)

Galway County Council

Project 8: Liam Mellows – Film and Conference

Liam Mellows was born in Lancashire in May 1892, the son of a British army sergeant; his parents were from Kilkenny and Wexford. He spent much of his youth in Ireland, attending military and garrison schools in Wexford, Cork and Dublin. Mellows' gateway to Irish republicanism was Na Fianna, the nationalist version of the British Boy Scouts. He soon proved himself a talented organiser and in 1913 was tasked with reorganising them on a nationwide basis. At the same time, Mellows joined both the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and the Irish Volunteers. Upon the outbreak of the First World War, the Volunteers split over the issue of joining the British forces and Mellows remained with the breakaway group that opposed enlistment. In October 1914, as part of a national shake-up of the Volunteers, Mellows was dispatched to Galway to both train the existing members and found new battalions.

Project Proposal:

It is proposed to produce a short film dedicated to Liam Mellows and to hold a conference in Athenry on 7th December 2022 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the shooting of Liam Mellows.

Project 9: Eibhlín Uí Choisdeailbh (elected as a Cumann na nGaedheal member to the first Free State senate on 7 December 1922): Concert and Exhibition

Eibhlín Uí Choisdeailbh, (Edith Costello) (1870–1962) was a folksong collector, Irish language enthusiast, and political activist, was born 27 June 1870 in London. She was christened Edith Drury and raised a member of the Church of England.

She qualified as a teacher and later became principal of St Michael's Church of England school, Buckingham Palace Road, London. She joined the Irish Literary Society in London where she became acquainted with the Yeats sisters. She began collecting songs in Irish from emigrants there and joined the London branch of the Gaelic League (Conradh na Gaeilge) at its inaugural meeting in 1896. During the next six years she played an active role in the organisation, being elected to the committee on 3 November 1898. She was also involved in other Irish-language organisations in London and taught singing classes.

She travelled as a delegate to the Conradh ard fheis in Dublin in 1902, remaining in Ireland afterwards. She changed her name to Eibhlín and moved to Tuam in 1903 to become a teacher in the Presentation convent. Between 1908 and 1913 she began collecting folksongs from Irish speakers and others in Galway and Mayo while accompanying her husband, Thomas Bodkin Costello on his medical rounds in the county. Eighty of these were

included in vol. xvi of the *Irish Folksong Society Journal* (1918). She later became vice-president of the Irish Folk Song Society and in 1923 published a collection under the title *Amhráin mhuighe seola*. This was one of the first publications of Irish songs that included the text and the music as well as translations and notes.

During the War of Independence she stood for Sinn Féin in the 1920 local elections and became the first woman district councillor for north Galway. She became a Tuam town commissioner and was subsequently elected chairman; it is reported she never missed a meeting, even during the Black and Tan raids. Her own house was raided because she often hid Volunteers who were on the run. Also in 1921 she was elected to the Tuam board of guardians and became a judge in the Sinn Féin arbitration courts between 1921 and 1922.

She was elected as a Cumann na nGaedheal member to the first Free State senate on 7 December 1922. She remained a senator until her defeat in the 1934 election.

A supporter of the treaty, in 1923 she joined Cumann na Saoirse, a women's organisation founded the previous March to help the establishment of the new state.

Concert and Exhibition:

It is proposed to hold a concern in her memory in Tuam and also hold an exhibition. This event would be delivered in partnership with the Old Tuam Society.

Project Partners:

Old Tuam Society

Galway County Council

Decade of Centenaries Specific Centenary Project of Significance

Aleen Isabel Cust 1868 - 1937

First woman veterinary surgeon in Ireland, Britain & Europe



Project Proposers & Project Proposal

The Aleen Cust Memorial Society, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, Tipperary County Council working in partnership with the Atlantic Technological University (Galway & Mountbellew), a number of second level schools and community groups in the three counties seek to commemorate and to remember this very courageous and determined Irish woman who overcame all odds to become the first female veterinary surgeon in Ireland, Britain and indeed Europe.



About Aleen Cust

Aleen Cust was a pioneering Tipperary woman who commenced her studies in veterinary science at the New Veterinary College in Edinburgh. She qualified in 1900 but was not allowed to call herself a veterinary surgeon as the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) claimed to have no power to admit women. After over 20 years of fighting, Aleen Cust was finally awarded her qualification in December 1922.



Family Background

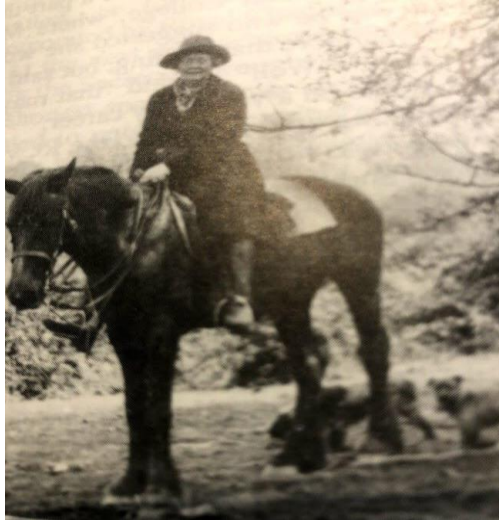
Aleen Isabel Cust was born on 7 February 1868 at Cordangan Manor, County Tipperary. She was one of six children of Sir Leopold and Lady Isabel Cust. Her father, a land agent for the Smith-Barry family, died when Aleen was just 10 years old and her mother took the family to England.

The road to becoming a veterinary surgeon and her post in Galway County Council

Her guardian encouraged her decision to become a veterinary surgeon, despite her mother's disapproval. She enrolled in the New Veterinary College, Edinburgh. She was an excellent student, coming top of her class in her first year. She completed her training in 1900, but was barred because of her gender from using the title 'veterinary surgeon'.

Aleen had excellent references and when William Byrne, an esteemed vet in Athleague, Co Roscommon, heard of her case he offered her a role working as his assistant.

She was appointed as a veterinary inspector by Galway County Council in 1905 under the Diseases of Animals Acts, an appointment that was denied by the RCVS due to her lack of professional recognition. The post was advertised again, and when Cust was again selected for the post in 1906 an agreement was reached under which she carried out the duties of the position with an amended title of "inspector".



World War 1: Volunteer on the Western Front

In 1915, she took a leave of absence from Galway County Council and drove her own car to Abbeville, France, to volunteer in the treatment and care of horses on the Western Front. She worked as a bacteriologist with an animal vaccine unit and looked after many horses.

Final Recognition

The passage of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act in 1919 prohibited the exclusion of women from professions, and meant that the RCVS were now required to consider Aleen's membership. She was finally awarded her diploma in December 1922, 22 years after sitting her final exams.

Later Life

She sold her practice in Ireland in 1924 and moved to Plaitford, Hampshire, England. Aleen died in Jamaica on 29 January 1937. In her will she left £5,000 for a scholarship in veterinary research (with a preference for female candidates), and £100 for a kennel at the RCVS in memory of her spaniels.

Why Commemorate Aleen Cust?

Aleen Cust was the first female Veterinary Surgeon, admitted to the Register of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) in 1922. She is a leading example of a visionary in the sphere of animal welfare, overcoming many barriers to practise a profession she dedicated her life to.

This is further relevant to the Sex Disqualification Act of 1919 which enabled females to gain admittance to the professions for the first time in Ireland.

Volunteering in the treatment and care of horses on the Western Front and working with the farming community in Co Roscommon and Co Galway was not the typical life path for a woman of her aristocratic background.

By undertaking this commemorative project, it will assist in creating a greater awareness and knowledge of what Ireland was like one hundred years ago and the hardships, difficulties that people endured and how Aleen's perseverance triumphed over adversity.

It will also shed light on the life of one of Ireland's unsung heroes and ensure that her work, sacrifices and her determination are known by those of us who live in the Ireland of 2022.

Partnerships & Target Audiences:

This is a unique and strategic partnership between The Aleen Cust Memorial Society, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, Tipperary County Council working in partnership with the ATU, a number of second level schools and community/heritage groups in the three counties, the veterinary and farming communities (including the IFA and the local marts) to be involved in a Decade of Centenaries project. The synergy of all of the above groups working together not only will strengthen the impact of the delivery of the project on the ground but will also showcase the work of the Commemoration Unit of the Department and its partners to a wider audience. Aleen is a person of inspiration for all not just in 1922 but now in 2022.

The Aleen Cust Commemoration Project 2022

The following is an outline of the various aspects of the Aleen Cust Commemoration Project 2022:

Secondary Schools Transition Years Projects

Second level schools in Galway, Roscommon and Tipperary are and will be involved in the Aleen Cust, Transition Year Projects initiative.

Conference

It is proposed to hold a two- day conference dedicated to the memory of Aleen Cust on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th August 2022 in Mountbellew Agricultural College, ATU Campus, Mountbellew, Co Galway followed by a related event in Keypak in Athleague, Co. Roscommon on Saturday 13th August 2022.

Exhibition

The exhibition will deal with various aspects of Aleen's life, what Ireland and in particular Tipperary, Roscommon and Galway was like in 1922.

Workbook for Primary School Children

This bi-lingual workbook for primary school children will be integrated into the primary school curriculum and will focus in on creating an awareness, knowledge and interpretation of life in 1920s Ireland, Britain and the world at large, work, the life of women, World War 1, life in the big house, the political landscape in Ireland of the 1920s. Aleen will be the central character in the workbook and it will look at her upbringing, her quest to become a veterinary surgeon, her work in the sphere of animal welfare and her work on the Western Front. It will seek to show how she overcame many barriers to practise a profession she dedicated her life to. It will assist in cross-curricular learning as students will read broadly across aspects of local, national and international history. It will help extend their vocabulary and the podcasts and videos can be imbedded in the workbook and will assist in brining history to life in the classroom.

StoryMap and Z-Card

It is hoped to develop a StoryMap and z-card to help tell the remarkable story of Aleen's life. Built on leading-edge geospatial technology it is hoped that this customised StoryMap will bring Aleen's remarkable story to life. The StoryMap will bring together the latest innovative mapping technology with text, images and multimedia content to tell powerful location based stories accessible from any internet enabled device with a Web Browser including tablets and phones. StoryMaps are a simple yet powerful way to share information and enlighten, engage, and inspire people with stories that relate to our past and in particular to tell Aleen's story.

Podcasts and Videos

It is hoped to create a short video showing the places associated with Aleen's life. There are a number of local historians who have very interesting stories to tell about aspects of Aleen's life such as her work in Athleague, Co Roscommon, her landed gentry roots in Tipperary and the UK and the work she would have engaged in during her life as a veterinary surgeon. All will be available on the Heritage Officers websites and Decade of Commemoration websites and to Mná 100 .

Artistic/Creative Project

It is proposed to undertake an artistic/creative project as part of the Aleen Cust commemoration project. As the interpretation of significant historical events by our artists and creative practitioners provides an important platform to encourage reflection and the consideration of issues, both past and present, which may be challenging, difficult and sometimes deeply personal.

Project Partners:

1. Galway County Council
2. Roscommon County Council
3. Tipperary County Council

4. Atlantic Technological University (Galway-Mayo)