Heritage Week runs from Saturday 19th to Sunday 27th August this year and will feature a wealth of events around the country, with a huge number in Fingal, the majority of which are free.

“The theme of Heritage Week 2017 - It’s in Your Nature – invites participants to explore the rich natural heritage all around us” says Gerry Clabby, Fingal County Council’s Heritage Officer. “There will a huge calendar of events taking place during the week on many aspects of our heritage. So why not get out and explore Fingal during Heritage Week 2017”.

In Swords, there’s a very exciting opportunity to volunteer as part of the community archaeology project Swords Castle: Digging History now in its third
season. Fingal Community Archaeologist, Christine Baker, leads the community excavation at Swords Castle from Friday 18th August to Wednesday 6th September (excluding Mondays). For more information see http://www.fingal.ie/planning-and-buildings/heritage-in-fingal/swordscastledigginghistory/.

On Saturday 19th August Birdwatch Ireland Fingal Branch host a birdwatching walk in Ardgillan Demesne, and there’s a Tree Trail Tour at Ardgillan on Monday 22nd. On Wednesday 23rd August you can take part in kayaking on the Liffey, or go kayaking on the Royal Canal on Friday 25th. On Thursday 24th August members of the Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society lead a walk along the ancient hedgerows of Naul, while on Friday 26th you can hike Howth Head and explore its natural heritage. Tours of Bremore Castle Balbriggan will also be available during the week but must be booked in advance as numbers are limited. On Wednesday 23rd the Fingal Heritage Network hosts a Fingal in Ten Items evening with a natural history theme in St Sylvester’s Parish Centre, Malahide.

Other talks throughout the week include:
Saturday 19th August in Blanchardstown Library, a talk on Garden Birds by local resident Frank O’Connor.
Saturday 27th a talk in St. Colmcille’s Church by Swords Historical Society on the history of the plaques in the church.
Saturday 27th August a talk in at the Bracken Court Hotel by Dr David Sorensen - Stockings for the Queen - explores the industrial heritage of Balbriggan.

Fingal County Libraries will also host a series of events for Heritage week including ‘Telling Your Own Story Workshop’ with Brendan Nolan, Researching Your Family History - Advice Sessions, Sisters of the Revolutionaries: The Story of Margaret and Mary Brigid Pearse and Presentations on Dúchas.ie and Logainm.ie. Full details available here https://www.facebook.com/events/798063830369758/ Please contact the relevant library branch to book your place at any of these events.

The events listed above are only a sample, there’s much, much more. The Event Guide for Fingal, listing full details of all events can be downloaded from the heritage week website www.heritageweek.ie, along with an event guide for each county including Fingal. With over 1700 events nationally (the majority FREE to attend), there’s something for everyone to enjoy during Heritage Week.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:
The Heritage Council is the statutory body charged with identifying, protecting, preserving and enhancing Ireland’s national heritage. National heritage includes Monuments, Archaeological objects, Heritage objects,
Architectural heritage, Flora, Fauna, Wildlife habitats, Landscapes, Seascapes, Wrecks, Geology, Heritage gardens and parks, and Inland waterways.

Established under the Heritage Act 1995, and operating under the aegis of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Heritage Council provides advice to the Minister, and partners and networks with Local Authorities and a wide range of other organisations and individuals to promote Ireland's heritage.

Heritage Week is co-ordinated in Ireland by The Heritage Council and is part of European Heritage Days, which is celebrated in over 40 countries across Europe.