



Press Release
17th June 2016

The Unveiling of the Fingal Memorial Garden at County Hall Swords

Mayor of Fingal, Cllr David O'Connor today unveiled the 1916 Commemorative Garden at Fingal County Hall, Swords, marking another significant milestone in this year of remembrance and commemoration. Today's event is another significant element of the Centenary Programme and is also one of the final duties for Cllr O'Connor as Mayor of Fingal.

The Fingal Memorial Garden features a large carved block of local limestone engraved with the Proclamation in both Irish and English and will serve as a permanent reminder of our respect and regard for the men and women of Fingal who made a contribution to the events of 1916. A dedication stone bears the inscription of a quote by Eamon de Valera (1918) "*Fingal has contributed more than its share*", which references the Rising and the number of casualties from the County.

Speaking at the unveiling, Mayor of Fingal Cllr David O'Connor said, 'I am honoured that one of my final duties as Mayor of Fingal is that of opening this Commemorative Garden. It is a sign of our respect and regard for those men and women of Fingal who made a contribution to the events of 1916. I would like us now to remember all those who died and those who were injured during the fateful events of Easter week 1916.'

Fingal County Council Chief Executive, Paul Reid said: "In order to honour the role of the men and women of Fingal in the events of 1916, and share this story, the Council has compiled a broad programme for the Fingal 1916 Centenary Commemoration. The Commemorative Programme has had a significant impact on raising the level of awareness of people in Fingal about the unique story that is 'Fingal & the Fight for Irish Freedom and the Garden is a key part of that.'

Ends

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Notes to the editor:

The Fingal Centenary Programme has been aimed at commemorating the unique part that men and women from Fingal played in the events of 1916. In order to honour the Fingal participants, and to share this story, Fingal County Council organised a broad and varied programme for the Centenary Commemoration. A wide range of events have been planned across the county

including several Memorabilia Days and our special Commemorative Day was held in Swords on Sunday 24th April 2016.

A number of local community events were also arranged including Plays, Parades, Lectures and the launch of the Public Arts Sculpture 'Mobile Monuments' which is an intergenerational initiative involving schools and senior citizens from across the county.

Many men and women from across Fingal took part in the Rising. The Fingal Brigade of the Irish Volunteers were drawn from many parts of the north county including St Margaret's, Swords, Lusk and Skerries. Thomas Ashe and Richard Mulcahy led the Fingal Brigade in actions across the north county culminating in the Battle of Ashbourne which took place on Friday 28th April 1916. The members of the Fingal Brigade also sent a contingent into the city under Richard Coleman of Swords to fight at the Mendicity Institute. There were many Fingal Volunteers attached to other Brigades – including from Donabate, and from Dublin 15 (Ashtown, Abbottstown, Blanchardstown, Castleknock, Chapelizod, Clonee and Clonsilla), who also took part in the Rising. In addition, in the Baldoyle area there was an Irish Citizen Army unit – the only one in north County Dublin.

The Fingal Centenary Programme has been a measured and reflective programme informed by a full acknowledgement of the complexity of historical events and their legacy and of the multiple identities and traditions which are part of the Irish historical experience.