

PRESS RELEASE

1916 Commemorations come to a close with unveiling of commemorative monuments

After a busy commemorative year with over 80 events reflecting the 1916 Rising, Waterford's commemorations will conclude on Thursday, December 22nd with the unveiling of permanent memorials in both Waterford City and Dungarvan.

Reflecting on the 2016 programme, Chairman of the Commemoration Committee Ger Crotty commented "We were particularly pleased with the input from the wider community to the Waterford Commemoration Programme and that includes schools, tidy towns groups, history groups, community groups and youth groups.

There really was something for everyone in the 2016 calendar of events. Along with the dignified flag raising and civic ceremonies, projects from the artistic and Irish language communities including film, theatre, writing and music were very exciting and enhanced the contribution to cultural expression of the 2016 Commemoration in Waterford."

Mr. Crotty went on to say that the Steering Committee and the Council were keen that the centenary of 1916 be marked through a permanent reminder and the outcome of an architectural design and artistic collaboration is the installation of two striking and distinctive memorials this December in Waterford City and Dungarvan.

Each memorial is reflective of its context with a stone based memorial in Dungarvan comprising stone from the four provinces - Valentia Slate, Connacht Limestone, Mourne Granite and Wicklow Granite. The memorial will be sited in the Park at the Lookout with views across Dungarvan Bay to *An Rinn* - home of Seán Ó Griofain and Liam Ó Reagáin, two Waterford men involved in the Rising.

The Waterford City memorial will be sited in front of the Bishop's Palace on the Mall and comprises a cantilevered stainless steel structure presenting the proclamation to the observing visitor.

Each memorial presents a bronze replica of the Proclamation complete with original variations in typeset. The proclamations were cast in a foundry in Brittany in France, which has produced previously commended work in Waterford such as the 3D models of the Viking Triangle and the bronze sculptures of Strongbow and Aoife. Their work also includes the bells of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Ger commended the work of Waterford Council Architect, Rupert Maddock, and his team who worked expeditiously in collaboration with artists Liam Rafferty and Eithne Ring on designing and procuring the memorials.

He went on to say "An open invitation is extended to the general public to the unveiling of both memorials which will take place at The Bishop's Palace at 11.00 a.m. and the Lookout in Dungarvan at 2.30p.m. on Thursday to mark the culmination of a truly remarkable and memorable centenary commemoration of 1916".

Ends