



CONTRIBUTORS

BRENDON DEACY'S paintings, prints, drawings and photographs are inspired by the human effects of culture, history and politics, and have been exhibited in nineteen solo shows. Brendon's specially commissioned exhibition 'Siorai: Visualising the Words of James Fintan Lalor Today', premiered at the James Fintan Lalor School 2014, has been shown at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka from July to September this year, supported by Culture Ireland and the Laois 2016 Committee as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Commemorations.

DIARMAID FERRITER was born in Dublin in 1972 and is one of Ireland's best known historians and commentators. He has published extensively on modern Irish history, writes on history and current affairs for a number of newspapers and is Professor of Modern Irish history at University College Dublin.

TOMMY GRAHAM is a founder (1993) and editor of *History Ireland* magazine and convener of its lively Hedge Schools, an ongoing series of round table discussions of historical and contemporary interest, which debuted at the 2010 Electric Picnic. He lectures in history and politics at Griffith College, Dublin, and is founder and director of Historical Walking Tours of Dublin. A presenter of Newstalk's 'Talking History', he's also a regular contributor to the station's Moncrieff Show.

FRANCES HARNEY is a retired primary school teacher who lives with her husband in Ballyfin, Laois. She has two children. Together with her daughter she runs a very successful Speech and Drama School, educating students up to and including Diplomas in performance and teaching. Having completed an M.A. in Education in Trinity College Dublin she attained her Licentiate Diploma in Speech and Drama with the Leinster School of Music and Drama. She is presently an examiner with this body. Frances has presented lectures and workshops in St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra and Waterford Institute of Technology.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE...

- **FERGAL McGARRY** Professor of Irish History at Queen's University Belfast
- **CONOR BRADY** Columnist with the Sunday Times
- **CATRIONA CROWE** Head of Special Projects, National Archives of Ireland
- **EVE MORRISON** Historian & Author
- **LORRAINE COMER** Head of Education, the National Museum of Ireland
- **ROBERT BALLAGH** Artist
- **CONOR MCNAMARA**, NUI Galway 1916 Scholar in Residence
- **MARY McAULIFFE** Author and Assistant Professor at UCD School of Women's Studies
- **SUSAN McKAY** Director of the Glens Centre in North Leitrim

BOOKING

- Friday 30th September €10
- Saturday 1st October €10

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CONTACT US

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The James Fintan Lalor School is co-ordinated by the Arts Office, Laois County Council



ÉIRE
IRELAND

1916
2016

Clár Comártha
Cúil Bliain
Comhártha
Programme

HISTORY
IRELAND

LAOIS HERITAGE SOCIETY
Laois County Council



LEINSTER
Express

Leaflet illustrations from "Siorai: Visualising the Words of James Fintan Lalor Today" by Brendon Deacy, www.brendondeacy.com. Used by kind permission of the artist.

THE JAMES FINTAN LALOR
AUTUMN SCHOOL 2016

LOOKING BACK LOOKING FORWARD

FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER-
SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER

DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE, PORTLAOISE

THE DISTANCE THAT SEPARATES



YOU FROM THE PEOPLE

THE JAMES FINTAN LALOR
AUTUMN SCHOOL 2016

1916 LOOKING BACK LOOKING FORWARD

A weekend of drama, debates and political discussion inspired by the writings of James Fintan Lalor, this Autumn School will be a fitting tribute to a significant national figure who engaged directly with the political climate of his time, fighting for land rights on behalf of the oppressed Irish farming community and the working classes.

James Fintan Lalor (1807-49) patriot, land agitator and political activist, was born in Queen's County (now Laois) in the early Nineteenth Century. He suffered from chronic ill-health, but made an enormous contribution to national independence through his writings. Although his impact on events in his lifetime was limited, his writings exerted a seminal influence on later Irish leaders such as Michael Davitt, James Connolly, Patrick Pearse, Arthur Griffith and Eamon De Valera.

As the programme of commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 Rising draws to a close, the James Fintan Lalor School this year will reflect on the year of commemoration, and look forward to what the future will bring for Ireland and her people.

1916-2016: THE JOURNEY PERFORMANCE OF HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016 COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME

Produced by Frances Harney

The programme of commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 Rising has resulted in a rich array of cultural activity throughout Laois. This production showcases some of the music, drama, poetry, prose and dance which has featured throughout the year of commemoration, including a performance of a specially commissioned work by the Music Generation Laois Harp Ensemble, "Harps Rising" written by Catriona McKay. The event will be a celebration of the synergy between heritage and the arts in Laois, stimulated by this year of commemoration.

UNFETTERED MAN OF LETTERS EXHIBITION OF MEMORABILIA LINKING JAMES FINTAN LALOR AND 1916

As we continue to remember, reflect and reimagine Ireland in the context of this centenary year, you are invited to take a close look at a rich spectrum of artefacts which celebrate Lalor's links to the Rising. From a 1915 manuscript draft of 'Ghosts' by Patrick Pearse, in which he metaphorically 'raises' the ghost of Lalor 'that will take a little laying', through to recently made films of artistic expressions of Lalor's contribution to national independence, a diverse collection of fascinating visual references are being displayed in the foyer at the 2016 Autumn School. In cooperation with the National Library and curated by Brendon Deacy.



FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

- 7.30pm** **Unfettered Man of Letters**
Exhibition of Memorabilia pertaining to James Fintan Lalor
- 8.00pm** **Official Opening of the James Fintan Lalor School, 2016 (Theatre)**
An Cathaoirleach, Tom Mulhall
Address by Chief Executive of Laois County Council, John Mulholland
Welcome by Michael Parsons, Chair of Laois Heritage Society
- The Journey 1916-2016**
Performance of Highlights from 2016 commemorative programme
Featuring Music Generation Laois Harp Ensemble.
- 9.30pm** **Reception in the Mezzanine**

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER

- 10.00am** **SOAP BOX: Brendon Deacy, Artist**
164 Years Later: James Fintan and Peter Lalor Reunited in 2016

Tea/Coffee/Networking

- 10.30am** **Panel Debate: "1916: What are we remembering and why?"**

Chair:

- 11.00am** ■ **Diarmaid Ferriter, UCD**

Panellists:

- **Fergal McGarry**, *Professor of Irish History at Queen's University Belfast*
■ **Conor Brady**, *Columnist with the Sunday Times*
■ **Catriona Crowe**, *Head of Special Projects, National Archives of Ireland*
■ **Eve Morrison**, *Historian & Author*

- 12.45pm - 1.45pm** **Lunch**

- 2.00pm** **SOAP BOX: Lorraine Comer, Head of Education, the National Museum of Ireland**
1916 Commemoration:
A National Museum Viewpoint

- 2.15pm** **HISTORY IRELAND HEDGE SCHOOL**
Panel Debate:- Were the ideals of the 1916 Rising subsequently betrayed?

Chair:

- **Tommy Graham**, *Editor, History Ireland*

Panellists:

- **Robert Ballagh**, *Artist*
■ **Conor McNamara**, *NUI Galway 1916 Scholar in Residence*
■ **Mary McAuliffe**, *Author & Assistant Professor at UCD School of Women's Studies*
■ **Susan McKay**, *Director of the Glens Centre in North Leitrim*

- 4.00pm** **Reflection:**
Teddy Fennelly, Laois Heritage Society