



All lectures will be held in Tipperary County Museum, Mick Delahunty Square, Clonmel.



Lectures will commence at 10.30am sharp.



€5 per lecture. Space is limited. Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis



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Tipperary County Museum
Lecture Series

OCT'17
APR'18

DEATH + DISEASE

We are lucky to be born in an era of developments in science and medicine, where new treatments and discoveries are made everyday for all parts of the mind, body and spirit. But imagine living in an era when diseases such as pneumonia, influenza and tuberculosis, which are all treatable illnesses today had the potential to kill! A time where going to the chemist to buy over the counter medicine was not an option, instead one had to employ the services of local wise women or use herbal cures, dangerous, if you don't know what you are doing. A time where the cure was sometimes more harmful than the illness.

This lecture series will highlight just some of the issues and challenges faced by ordinary people and medical professionals from medieval times to more recent times!

Cover Image: Hugo Simberg 'Garden of Death'

Lecture Calendar

2018

LECTURE 01	<u>JESSICA DE BÚRCA & MICHAEL BUCHANNAN</u> Wise Women and Barber Surgeons	 SATURDAY OCT 6
LECTURE 02	<u>DR BARRA O'DONNABHAIN</u> Like a Hole in the Head: surgery in medieval Ireland	 SATURDAY NOV 3
LECTURE 03	<u>LAURENCE GEARY</u> Famine in Ireland: Starvation, Disease and Death	 SATURDAY DEC 1

2019

LECTURE 04	<u>EAMONN LONERGAN</u> Clonmel District Lunatic Asylum	 SATURDAY JAN 12
LECTURE 05	<u>DR ANNE MAC LELLAN</u> That 'preventable and curable disease': tackling tuberculosis in Ireland in the 20th century	 SATURDAY FEB 2
LECTURE 06	<u>MAEVE SIKORA</u> 'The National Museum of Ireland's Burials Project' some evidence from Co. Tipperary	 SATURDAY MAR 2
LECTURE 07	<u>NOEL CAMPBELL</u> The Enemy Within - the Spanish Flu in Tipperary 1918-19	 SATURDAY APR 6

LECTURE
01



Wise Women & Barber Surgeons

Saturday 6th October 2018
Jessica de Búrca & Michael Buchanan



Biography: Jessica de Búrca has been bringing history to life for over 20 years. Her interests include the history of food, clothing, medicine and the social constructs of various periods of time in Irish history. Her work has afforded her the opportunity to work on many projects including documentaries, film, television programmes, historical event management and educational talks.

Currently studying in All Hallows, DCU, Michael Buchanan is a Member of An Garda Síochana. His areas of interest include Modern Irish History, Modern European History and Norman and Medieval History, with a particular emphasis on the influence of the Hospitaller Order on 13th Century European Medicine.

Synopsis: This lecture will take the format of a Show and Tell style presentation with audience questions and interaction. Michael demonstrates the use of Herbal and Traditional cures as well as discussing the tools and techniques available to 13th century Medical Practitioners. Jessica will focus on the herbs and resources used by women in traditional healing and discuss the way such women were viewed with suspicion.

LECTURE
02



Like a Hole in the Head: surgery in medieval Ireland

Saturday 3rd November 2018
Dr Barra O'Donnabhain



Dr Barra O'Donnabhain is a graduate of University College Cork and the University of Chicago. He teaches at the Department of Archaeology at UCC and is on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles-based Institute for Field Research. He has directed and collaborated on archaeological projects in Ireland and in other world areas. He began excavations at the 19th century prison on Spike Island in 2013. His publications include (with Cal McCarthy) *Too Beautiful for Thieves and Pickpockets: A History of the Victorian Convict Depot on Spike Island* (2016) and *Archaeological Approaches to Human Remains: Global Perspectives* (2018).

Synopsis: While texts provide some information about the nature of medical knowledge in Early Historic Ireland, archaeology has also provided some insights. Evidence of medical care can be difficult to trace in the archaeological record. An exception to this is the evidence for cranial surgery in the form of trepanation. Examples provide some indication of the motivation behind these interventions and the survival rates of those who endured the surgery without the benefit of anaesthesia or antisepsis. These dramatic cases provide a glimpse into medieval concepts of the body and its workings.

LECTURE
03



Famine in Ireland: Starvation, Disease & Death

Saturday 1st December
Laurence Geary



Laurence Geary retired recently from University College Cork, where he was Senior Lecturer in the School of History. Previously, he held teaching and research appointments at the Australian National University, Canberra; the University of Melbourne; the University of Edinburgh; and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He has published extensively on the social, political and medical history of nineteenth-century Ireland, and on the history of the Irish in Australia. He is the author of *The Plan of Campaign, 1886-1891* (Cork: Cork University Press, 1986); *Medicine and charity in Ireland, 1718-1851* (Dublin: University College Dublin Press, 2004), and is editor/joint editor of the five volumes published between 2001 and 2015.

Synopsis: Famine in Ireland is invariably associated with the Great Famine of the mid and late 1840s, and the country's other famines, minor and major, that occurred prior to and subsequent to the Great Famine are frequently overlooked. It has been estimated that there were at least eighty-five subsistence crises and famines in Ireland between the late thirteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth, crises that were usually caused by some abnormality such as war, social upheaval, extreme climatic conditions, or diseased crops, the outstanding example of which was potato blight in the 1840s. My presentation examines famine in Ireland from the 'Forgotten Famine' of 1740-41 to the Great Famine in the middle of the following century.

LECTURE
04



Clonmel District Lunatic Asylum

Saturday 12th January 2019
Eamonn Lonergan



Eamonn Lonergan is a native of Clonmel. He worked in the Health Services in the South-East for over 44 years the majority in a management/administrative role in the mental health services. In 2002 he wrote the "History of St. Joseph's Hospital, Clonmel". In 1992 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of St. Patrick's Hospital, Cashel, he wrote a history of the hospital dating back to its' days as a workhouse, entitled "A Workhouse Story". Some years previously (1985) Eamonn published a history of St. Luke's Psychiatric Hospital, Clonmel. (1834 - 1984). In 2014 he updated his previous history of St. Luke's Hospital, Clonmel to commemorate the closure of the hospital.

Synopsis: This talk will deal with the History of Mental Health Services in Ireland with particular reference to County Tipperary and the Clonmel District Lunatic Asylum (later St. Luke's Psychiatric Hospital) and the changes in attitudes and treatment of mental illness during the 19th and 20th centuries. The passing of the Lunacy (Ireland) Act 1821 provided for a network of Lunatic Asylums throughout Ireland and it was under this Act that the Clonmel District Lunatic Asylum was built. The rapid escalation of the Asylum system during the 1800s will be discussed. The laws for committal remained in their mid 19th century form until the passing of the Mental Treatment Act 1945. Recent changes in care and treatment will be outlined.

LECTURE
05



That 'preventable and curable disease': tackling tuberculosis in Ireland in the 20th century

Saturday 2nd February 2019
Dr Anne Mac Lellan



Dr Anne Mac Lellan is a medical historian and a medical scientist. She is a part-time lecturer in NCAD. In 2011, she completed a Wellcome Trust funded PhD in the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, in UCD. Anne is the biographer of Dorothy Stopford Price who introduced BCG vaccination to Ireland (Dorothy Stopford Price: Rebel Doctor, Irish Academic Press, 2014) and the joint editor of an essay collection which addresses childhood illness in Ireland in a historical context (Growing Pains: childhood illness in Ireland 1750-1950, Irish Academic Press, 2013). She has published and broadcast extensively on tuberculosis in twentieth century Ireland.

Synopsis: Much of the credit for the ending of Ireland's tuberculosis epidemic has been claimed by colourful and controversial characters Dr Noel Browne, Minister for Health (1948-51) and Dr James Deeny, Ireland's chief medical advisor (1944-50) who bitterly dispute each other's version of events. I will argue that many others, including Dr Dorothy Stopford Price, played important roles in combating tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was effectively vanquished using a mixture of public health and medical measures including the advent of effective antibiotic therapy, the provision of sufficient X-ray equipment, increased availability of hospital and sanatoria beds, BCG vaccination, tuberculin testing, and better housing and nutrition.

LECTURE
06



'The National Museum of Ireland's Burials Project' some evidence from Co. Tipperary

Saturday 2nd March 2019
Maeve Sikora



Maeve Sikora holds a BA in Archaeology and History and an MA in Archaeology from University College Cork. Her interests are in the early medieval and Viking collections and in the archaeology of death and burial in Ireland. She joined the National Museum of Ireland in 2001 as a curatorial researcher on the Unpublished Burials Project. In 2004 she was appointed as full-time Assistant Keeper in the Irish Antiquities Division, where she engaged in a wide range of curatorial tasks including fieldwork and excavation, lecturing and outreach. Maeve was appointed Keeper of Irish Antiquities at the National Museum of Ireland in July 2017, taking responsibility for the Museum's archaeological collections. She has curated exhibitions including *The Treasury: Celtic and Early Christian Ireland*, *Iconic Treasures*, *Ceramics and Glass from Ancient Cyprus* and *The Sea Stallion* from Glendalough.

Among Maeve's recent publications are a two-volume co-edited work on burial archaeology, *Breaking ground, finding graves—reports on the excavations of burials undertaken by the National Museum of Ireland 1927-2006*. This lecture will detail some of the findings from the Tipperary graves and compare the evidence from Tipperary with the rest of the country.

LECTURE
07



The Enemy Within - the Spanish Flu in Tipperary 1918-19

Saturday 6th April 2019
Noel Campbell



Noel Campbell is an Assistant Keeper at the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life where he has worked since its opening in 2001. He is a graduate of NUI Galway and UCD and holds a particular interest in the history of local government and public services. Noel is the author of *A History of Castlebar: Municipal Government 1613-2014* and is curator of the NMI travelling exhibition *Preserving the Peace: Policing on the Island of Ireland 1814-2014*.

Synopsis: Between 1918 and 1919, the influenza pandemic known as the 'Spanish Flu' killed 23,000 people across Ireland and infected 800,000. No demographic group, geographical location or aspect of life in Ireland was spared from this devastating infection. In this illustrated lecture, *The Enemy Within - the Spanish Flu in Tipperary 1918-19*, Noel Campbell will detail local stories of personal loss and public service breakdown brought by the flu outbreak. This lecture forms part of the National Museum of Ireland's nationwide series of lectures marking the centenary of the Spanish Flu. Visit www.museum.ie for the full Spanish Flu programme of events.

