



# **Seán Mac Diarmada**

## **SUMMER SCHOOL 2015**

Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim  
presents

### **The Relevance of the 1916 Proclamation in the Ireland of Today**

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> – Sat 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Conference Co-ordinator: Proinnsíós Ó Duigneáin

# Seán Mac Diarmada

was born on February 28, 1883 near Kiltyclogher, County Leitrim. He emigrated to Glasgow at the age of fifteen years. Returning to Belfast he was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in 1908. He transferred to Dublin where he became a close personal friend of Tom Clarke. Together they later went on to form the military committee which would plan The Easter Rising which took place in 1916.

In 1910 he became manager of the radical newspaper Irish Freedom and as the national organizer for both the IRB and Sinn Féin he travelled extensively throughout the country. By November 1913 Mac Diarmada, who was one of the original members of the Irish Volunteers, continued to work to bring that organization under IRB control. In May 1915 he was arrested in Tuam,

County Galway under the Defence of the Realm Act for giving a speech against enlisting into the British Army. He was released four months later. Mac Diarmada fought in the General Post Office during the 1916 Rising and was one of the seven signatories of the Irish Proclamation, the document issued by the IRB on April 24th, 1916 which proclaimed Irish independence from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Along with the other six signatories to this declaration, Mac Diarmada was executed in Kilmainham Jail, just three weeks later, on May 12th 1916. Seán MacDermott Street in Dublin is named in his honour, as is the railway station in Sligo. The GAA park in Carrick on Shannon, Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada, is also named after him.

## Sean MacDiarmada Summer School Committee:

Chairperson: Pat Fox  
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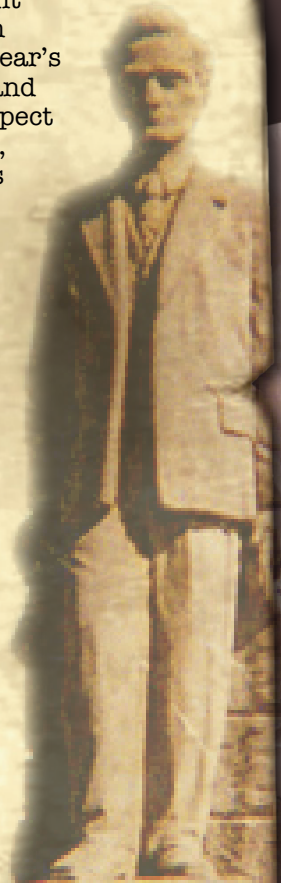
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## The Relevance of the 1916 Proclamation in the Ireland of Today.

In a recent article the journalist John Waters wrote: 'Nothing of the logic, philosophy, sentiment, rhetoric or passion of 1916 remains alive in our culture...There is no point in recalling the Proclamation: its once crystal sentences mean nothing now.' Waters's note of despair is in stark contrast to the view of the historian Ruth Dudley Edwards who rejects the Proclamation and its signatories out of hand: 'May I enquire why anyone should pay any attention whatsoever to what the signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic thought about anything.' She goes on to assert that 'you treat the 1916 Proclamation as Holy Writ at your peril.'

In the light of such contrasting opinions we are really looking forward to the views of our lecturers and panellists. We are delighted to have such eminent commentators on Irish life at this year's Summer School and I know we can expect stimulating talks, lively discussions and perhaps new insights into 'the relevance of the 1916 Proclamation'.



# Friday 12th June 2015

**Registration for the Summer school will take place from 4.00 pm to 5.30 at the Kiltyclogher community Centre.**

The opening ceremony of the 6th Seán MacDiarmada summer School will take place at 6.00 pm at the Seán MacDiarmada homestead. The Opening Ceremony will be officiated by Minister of State Simon Harris TD.

The three roomed thatched cottage overlooking Lough McNea remains much as it did 130 years ago. The vernacular buildings traditional furniture and cooking utensils bear witness to the simple lifestyle of a self-

supporting people. Visitors will have the opportunity to visit the home prior to the opening ceremony.

Following the opening ceremony light refreshments will be served in the Community Centre in Kiltyclogher.

On Friday evening parking is limited at the grounds of the homestead and we would encourage people to park in Kiltyclogher and avail of our free shuttle service. Shuttle buses to the opening ceremony will depart Kiltyclogher Community Centre from 16.00 and return after the event.

## Evening Session 8.00 pm

**Susan McKay**

**Title: Though I did not say so; The Silences Women Keep**

Susan McKay is an award winning author and journalist. Her most recent documentary 'Inez' - A Challenging Woman won best short documentary at the Galway Film Fleadh in 2013 and recent work has been included

in the Irish Times Book of the Year 2014 and Penguin Book of Great Irish Reportage 2013. She is former Northern Ireland editor of the Sunday Times and founder of the Belfast Rape Crisis Centre. Susan is the author of critically acclaimed books including Northern Protestants - An Unsettled People, Sophia's Story and Bear in Mind these Dead.

## This will be followed by Panel Discussion chaired by Susan McKay

**Panel: Eithne McNulty, Frank White, Seán Ó Súilleabháin, Marie Crawley**

**Eithne McNulty** is a native of Manorhamilton. In the 1980s and 90s she was a volunteer

with the Irish government's pilot initiative which led to the hill walking festival and the Glens Centre. She was also a member of the Dublin based National and Economic Forum. After moving



to Northern Ireland in 1996 she became an active member of the NI Women's Coalition and ran for election to the Assembly in 2004. She went on to become vice chair of NI Civic Forum. She also worked on peacebuilding with women on the Shankill Road and in rural border areas. More latterly Eithne became Regional Director of Trócaire heading up its NI functions and travelling widely to the many poverty programmes it funds. She remains in that post and is currently on sabbatical.

**Frank White**, a native of Meenagh, Glenfarne, has been involved in local history from an early age. From 1990 he has been systematically collecting oral history from older members of the community. He was a major contributor to Glenfarne: A History and has given talks on The Ancient Territory of Breifne, The Tottenhams of Glenfarne and The Sligo Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway. He was involved in the recent discoveries on Thur mountain where a landscape rich in megalithic monuments was identified. His great grandfather Charles Cullen was secretary of the Glenfarne Sinn Féin Organisation prior to 1916 and according to family lore he attended meetings with Sean Mac Diarmada in Tom Clarke's shop in Dublin. Charles took the pro-Treaty side after the civil war.

**Seán Ó Súilleabháin** was county librarian in Leitrim for 33 years, retiring in 2012. He has written

a number of books and articles on different aspects of his native Longford and his adopted county of Leitrim. Among these are: Longford Authors (1978), Scéal Chlub Colmcille, Colmcille GAA Story (1984), Leitrim GAA Story 1886-1984, Come on Cannaboe, 100 years of Sean O Heslin's Club (1978), Leitrim GAA Millenium Book (2000), Leabharlann Chontae Liatroma 75 Bliain ar an Saol (2000). Seán is a passionate supporter of Gaelic games, the Irish language and Irish music. His interest in things Irish stems from the events and publicity surrounding the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising when he was a young lad.

**Marie Crawley**, originally from Roscommon and now living in Belleek, manages a Sligo/Leitrim multi-agency project. Since 1995 she has co-authored numerous publications on gender proofing and mainstreaming commissioned by both the Irish government and NI Assembly. She has also written many reports on minority experiences. A former vice chair of the NI Women's Coalition she contested elections in Fermanagh/South Tyrone following the Good Friday Agreement. Marie has served on numerous NGO/statutory partnerships throughout Ireland, mainly in the areas of rural development, gender equality and peace and reconciliation programmes. She is a strong advocate for Palestine and is a founder member and chair of Sadaka-the Ireland Palestine Alliance.



# Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Registration: 9.00 am

Welcome 9.45 am

## Session 1: 10.00 – 11.00 am

**Dr Mary McAuliffe**

**Title: Women and Revolution - Gender, Politicisation and Participation in the 1916 Rising**

Mary McAuliffe is from Co. Kerry and holds a PhD from the School of History and Humanities, Trinity College. She lectures on gender history at UCD Women's Studies. Her research interests include gender and Irish history, memory and history, oral history and military history. Her latest publication was a re-issue, with new introduction, of the mid-19th century travelogue by Frances Taylor Irish Homes and Irish Hearts (UCD Press, Classic Series 2012) and a biography of Kathleen Browne entitled Senator Kathleen Browne 1876-1943, Patriot, Politician and Practical Farmer.

Mary was the organiser of the 4 day national commemoration on the founding of Cumann na mBan in April 2014 which included the State celebration at Glasnevin Cemetery led by President Higgins, an unveiling of a commemorative plaque at Wynn's Hotel and a major 2 day conference on Cumann na mBan in Collins Barracks. She is currently working on research on the female revolutionaries in the Rising. She is past president of the Women's History Association of Ireland (2011-2014) and a committee member of the Irish Association of Professional Historians.

**11.00 am – 11.30 am Tea/Coffee Break**



## Session 2: 11.30 am– 12.30 pm

**Roy Garland**

**Title: A Unionist Reflects on the 1916 Proclamation**

Roy Garland was a regular Irish News columnist and is the author of a biography of Gusto Spence. He completed a thesis The Ulster Volunteer Force: Negotiating History in 1991. He worked with Gusto Spence during the ceasefires and Good Friday

Agreement. He was a founding member of the Guild of Uriel, a dialogue group based near Dundalk. Roy led Understanding Ulster workshops with Fr Henry Grant S.J. during the 1980s and worked with Loyalist and Republican leaders during crucial years. He was the first Unionist to address the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation and engage in Talks Back at

THOMAS J. CLARKE  
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EAMONN CEARNEY  
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M. Mac DIARMADA  
DIER



Féile an Phobail. Roy was raised in an evangelical Protestant home, left school at 14, became a student at All Nations Bible College and at Queen's University. He was a leading Unionist and a member of the Grand Orange Lodge of Research. He recently addressed the Irish American Unity Conference at Boston and

Washington and meetings of University of Chicago, Tusculum College Tennessee, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Ohio and Queen's University, Belfast.

**12.30 pm – 1.45 pm - Light Lunch available on site.**  
**Cost €5.00**

### **Session 3: 1.45 pm – 2.45 pm**

**Tim Pat Coogan**

**Title: Limping into History**

Tim Pat Coogan is Ireland's best known historical writer. He has published upwards of fifteen major books over a time-span of fifty years. His first book Ireland since the Rising (1966) was the first history of the half century following the 1916 Rising. In 1970 he published The IRA which became the definitive work on the subject. Since then he has written two acclaimed biographies, Michael Collins (1990) and Eamon De Valera: Longfellow, Long Shadow (1993). The Collins book created an enormous interest on both sides

of the Atlantic and spawned the famous Neil Jordan film Michael Collins. Tim Pat has written extensively on events in the Six Counties. In 1980 his On the Blanket: the H-Block Story was published and another work 'The Troubles' - Ireland's Ordeal and the Search for Peace (1995) was described as 'essential reading for any future scholar of Irish peace-making'. His most recent book, The Famine Plot: England's Role in Ireland's Greatest Tragedy was published in 2012. Tim Pat was editor of the Irish Press newspaper from 1968 to 1987.

### **Session 4: 2.45 pm – 3.30 pm Question and Answers session.**

Coordinator

**Proinnsíós Ó Duigneáin** is the author of Linda Kearns-A Revolutionary Irishwoman (2002), The Priest and the Protestant Woman (1997), North Leitrim In Famine Times (1985), North Leitrim In Land League Times (1985), Dromahaire-Story

and Pictures (1990) and St Joseph's College, Manorhamilton (2013). His company Drumlin Publications published Seán MacDiarmada - The Mind of the Revolution (2004) by Gerard MacAtasney. He is the editor of the Irish language anthology of prose and poetry Scribhneoirí Cois Teorann (2014).

# BOOKING FORM

## SEAN MAC DIARMADA SUMMER SCHOOL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Friday 12th June .....Cost €5.00 ☐

Full conference (Fri & Sat) .....Cost €45.00 ☐

(Note: Conference Fee does not include lunch.

Lunch is available on site. **COST €5.00)**

All cheques and postal orders to be made out to:  
Sean MacDiarmada Summer School

Please post your booking form and relevant fee to  
Patricia Barrett, Kiltyclogher Holiday Centre,  
Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim Tel: 071 9854044.

Please note: The Conference fee does not include accommodation.  
We recommend early booking as spaces are limited.

**[www.seanmacdiarmada.ie](http://www.seanmacdiarmada.ie)**

Leitrim

