

Kilmainham Inchicore Heritage Group

Talk: **The Flanagan Family of West County Dublin**

The Flanagans, a Catholic family long-established in rural West County Dublin, built up a market gardening "empire" covering around 1,000 acres in Kilmainham, Rialto, Dolphin's Barn, Crumlin, Drimnagh, Walkinstown, Greenhills, Tallaght, and Rathfarnham in the second half of the 19th century. The family business served the growing city with fruit and vegetables. The genius behind the Flanagan fortune was Alderman Michael Flanagan, who was aged 98 when he died in Portmahon House 1931. His children included the practical joker Willie "The Bird" Flanagan, born in 1867 when the family lived in the garden lodge at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham; and Louisa, who married W.T. Cosgrave from nearby James's Street, the first head of government of the Free State (1922-1932) and whose son, Liam Cosgrave, was Taoiseach from 1973 to 1977. Mark Humphrys will provide a tour of this fascinating Irish family, starting in 1750 and running to the present day.

Dr. Mark Humphrys is a lecturer in Computing at Dublin City University with a decades-long interest in history and genealogy which pre-dates his computer work. (He first published on history in 1985.) His vast website at humphrysfamilytree.com has 2,700 public web pages and over 36,000 public images. He has recently (2025) discovered an unpublished story of Regency-era romance and tragic suicide in the family of Daniel O'Connell, the culmination of 40 years of research into the landed gentry of Kerry. This will form the basis of a forthcoming publication.

Talk Venue: Inchicore Library at Richmond Barracks, Emmet Rd, Inchicore

Speaker: Dr Mark Humphrys

Date: Monday 15 December 2025 at 6.30pm sharp

Admission: Free, but please book your place by email to:

KilmainhamInchicoreHeritage@gmail.com

Kilmainham Inchicore Heritage Group events are supported by a Dublin City Council Community Grant



Portmahon House, Rialto, where Michael Flanagan lived for over 60 years

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