

Press release 4.12.17  
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## **New historical atlas of Clontarf by Colm Lennon**

**Lecture:** 6.30pm Wednesday 6 December 2017, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2.  
- Lord Mayor to open proceedings

**Launch:** 7.30pm Wednesday 6 December 2017, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street Dublin 2.  
- Professor Peter Kennedy, President, Royal Irish Academy

### **Lecture:**

'Clontarf: perspectives on the historic suburb'

The Lord Mayor Mícheál Mac Donncha will open proceedings at Colm Lennon's lecture on Clontarf to celebrate the launch of the atlas. In the illustrated lecture, Colm will explain the development of the suburb from earliest times up to the modern day.

### **Launch:**

Professor Peter Kennedy, President, Royal Irish Academy to launch new atlas of Clontarf on 6 December in Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street.

This new historical atlas of Clontarf – the first of its kind – promises to reveal the unexpected in this specially designed format. For those familiar with the well-loved suburb and its seafront, and for all enthusiasts of Dublin history, *Clontarf* traces the development of a small port village to a modern city suburb in unprecedented detail. Familiar features such as the thirteenth-century Clontarf Castle, the seventeenth-century fishing sheds used for 'curing of herring and preparation of oysters' allude to its manorial and fishing village past, while the sea wall was both a place for social recreation and occasional damage from storms in the eighteenth century as is the case today. The numerous bathing spots, first recorded in the seventeenth century suggest that for centuries, residents have enjoyed all that a coastal village has to offer. Many sporting and social clubs have their foundations in the later nineteenth century and catered for the growing population who took up, and continue to take-up, residence in this popular suburb.

A dedicated section of the atlas displays historic maps and plans (from 1673) that allow readers to discover changes over time in unusual detail. Text is interspersed with early views and maps explaining the growth of the suburb.

*Clontarf* is the first in a series of atlases devoted to Dublin suburbs under the auspices of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas and takes its place in Europe as part of the International Commission for the History of Towns where it may be compared to over 530 other towns and cities.

Quote from Lord Mayor: 'This is a wonderful addition to the history of Dublin and surrounding suburbs. The quality and expertise that produced *Clontarf* raises the bar in local studies for generations to come and Dublin City Council are proud to be associated with this project'.

Quote from Minister Richard Bruton: 'Irish Historic Towns Atlas Dublin Suburbs: is a great initiative and I am delighted that the first volume is based in Clontarf. I would like to commend the hard work of everyone who contributed to producing such high quality work, particularly author Colm Lennon. This atlas portrays the development of one of Dublin's oldest suburbs in a wonderful way'.

**Publisher:** Royal Irish Academy. In association with Dublin City Council and Ordnance Survey Ireland.

### *Further information*

**Author:** Colm Lennon, MRIA, is former professor of history in Maynooth University and is also the series editor with Jacinta Prunty, Maynooth University, of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas, Dublin Suburbs series. He is widely published in early modern Irish history and author of *IHTA, no. 19 Dublin, part II, 1610 to 1756* (Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, 2008); co-author of *John Rocque's Dublin: a guide to the Georgian city* with John Montague (Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, 2010). He is also author of *That field of glory: the story of Clontarf from battleground to garden suburb* (Dublin, 2014).

### **Dublin Suburbs series:**

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Series editors: Colm Lennon, Jacinta Prunty; Cartographic editor: Sarah Gearty, Editorial assistant: Angela Byrne; Designer: Fidelma Slattery.

**Irish Historic Towns Atlas series:**

Editors: Raymond Gillespie, H.B. Clarke, Jacinta Prunty, Michael Potterton; Cartographic editor: Sarah Gearty; Editorial assistants: Jennifer Moore, Frank Cullen,

**Price:** €30

**Format:**

140 pages; 260 x 355 mm; colour; illustrated.

**Contents:** Text section, topographical information with c. 900 topographical entries, 21 illustrations, 9 thematic maps, 28 historic maps, 2 further study maps, bibliography.

**Images:** On request.

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