

1-21-1923

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Christina Hayden

April Prendergast

Anne Murphy

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# Athy College and the Garda station plaque 1922

## A TY art installation for Kildare Decade of Commemorations

**Authors:** Richard Daly, Christina Hayden, April Prendergast, Anne Murphy

**Foreword:** Anne Murphy

**Abstract:** This article describes an art installation in Athy, Co. Kildare created by transition year students of Athy College to commemorate their school's connection with the centenary of the casting of the first Garda station plaques in 1922 in the Duthie. Large Foundry, Chapel Street Athy. The installation was unveiled on 14 May 2022 on the original foundry site supported by a grant from Kildare County Council's *Decade of Commemorations* and mentored by staff of Technological University Dublin. It is included here in **Level3** to celebrate fruitful and sustainable collaboration among academia, schools, local knowledge-holders, local public representatives, Gardaí and heritage enthusiasts.

### Foreword

It was my great pleasure to act as a mentor for the 2022 Deade of Commemorations Installation by transition year art students of Athy College commemorating their school's role in the design of the familiar Garda Siochána station plaque of 1922 and its casting in the local Duthie. Large iron foundry.

Art teachers Christina Hayden and April Prendergast cheerfully and efficiently delivered the installation in spite of Covid restrictions, disrupted timetables, variable weather and the myriad demands of school life. We titled the installation **Athy – town of Bricks and Iron** with the Garda station plaque as centrepiece. Principal Richard Daly delivered the unveiling address, setting the installation in its historic context of Athy's industrial heritage and the contribution of the local Technical School.

Other local mentors - Gregor Cox, Brian Madden and Louisa Spring - generously facilitated access to the former foundry site, known locally as 'Madden's carpark', while Athy Co-Operative Foundry staff - Rita Berry, Syl Bell and Gerry O'Rourke - supplied a replica Grada plaque, a Duthie. Large patress plate and a display case for the set of bricks manufactured by Athy Brick & Tile Co. fadó, fadó. Local Gardai and retired members supported the work, linking it to the handover of power from the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) to the Gardaí in Kildare in May 1922. Kildare County Council sponsored costs with the expert guidance of Kevin Murphy, Kildare Library Services (Local History).

For this December 2022 Issue of *Level3* we include the running order for the unveiling event, Principal Daly's address, a booklet showing the art process prepared by the students, a local heritage information booklet distributed at the unveiling, and a photo-gallery of memories.

The art installation is permanent and free to view every day except Sunday.

Le meas agus le buíochas do cách,



**Dr Anne Murphy** TU Dublin

## 1. Running Order for the unveiling event

**ATHY – town of bricks and iron**

**Art Installation**

created at the invitation of *Annals of Athy 2021* Group by  
**Athy College art teachers & TY Class 2022**  
 on the site of Duthie Large Foundry & Engineering Co (Madden's car-park)

**Commemorating the town's industrial heritage**  
*and*  
 marking the centenary of the Garda Station plaques  
 cast in Duthie-Large from 1922 using a mould carved  
 in Athy Technical School

**Saturday 14 May 2022**

### RUNNING ORDER

11.00am	Welcome, acknowledgements and opening address	Richard Daly, Principal, Athy College
11.15	About the Art Installation	Christina Hayden, Art teacher, April Prendergast, Art teacher TY students
11.25	Address on behalf of Co Kildare Committee for Decade of Commemorations	Councillor Veralouise Behan
11.35	Addresses on behalf of local Garda Siochana and Retired Members Association (RMA)	Garda Seán O'Mahony, Community Liaison Officer Marie Roche, Vice-President RMA
11.45	Open comments, contributions and viewing	<i>Yourselves</i>
11.55	Closure	Richard Daly
	Walk to Bradbury's <i>via</i> Chapel Lane, Chapel Hill, Stanhope Street - past the original site of Athy Technical School	

## 2. Address by Richard Daly, Principal, Athy College, at the unveiling of the transition year art installation, 14 May 2022

Good morning everybody and thank you for coming to the unveiling of our Transition Year Art installation.

We particularly welcome

- all the local Athy friends and supporters present today
- authors of chapters and editors of *Annals of Athy 2021* particularly Anne Murphy, Gregor Cox and Syl Bell
- Ceann Comhairle Seán Ó Feargháil
- Senator Mark Wall
- Martin Heydon, TD
- Members of Kildare County Council particularly Veralouise Behan, County Council Representative on the Decade of Commemorations Committee
- Representatives of serving Garda Síochána and retired Gardaí
- Members of the Association of Retired Gardai
- Representative of Kildare County Library Services (Local History)
- Members of staff and Board of Management of Athy College
- Committee members of Kildare County Show
- Members of Athy Promoters and Lions Club

We also acknowledge -

- The Madden family and McCabe's Pharmacy for the use of the car park
- Kildare County Council for funding the materials and the reception in Bradbury's
- Leon Kenny, Gerry O'Rourke, Aidan Kenny and Pat Murphy - meitheal workers.

We are delighted to mark the role of Athy College and Duthie Large in the **'branding' of the new Garda Síochána force in 1922** with the now famous Garda Station plaque, and to be a small part of a very significant year in the birth of our state.

We thank the *Annals of Athy Group* for working with us on the brief for the installation and all the local volunteers who helped.

As you will all know, this 'car-park' has had a very interesting history and we are delighted that it still looks like the boundaries of the important industrial site that it was for 100 years.

### **So, a bit of local history....**

The early Ordnance Survey maps of the 19th century show this yard as a foundry with the furnace chimney mid-way on the inner wall. There were small buildings on the street side as well.

All maps since then show the exact same foundry site as you are standing in now.

The street outside is called Chapel Lane.

Just where the entrance now is, was the site of a small, thatched chapel, built after the Penal Laws were lifted: thus, the name Chapel Lane. The current curate's house and garden across the wall are also marked on the old OS maps as a dwelling.

In the aftermath of the 1798 rebellion in the town, the thatched chapel got burned down.

Eventually the Duke of Leinster gave a site on Stanhope Street to build a Catholic church, which was the old St Michael the Archangel. A smaller version of the design was later built in Barrowhouse as a chapel of ease.

The Mercy order of nuns were originally located across the Barrow around St John's where they had a primary school. They expanded to Stanhope Street/Chapel Hill corner and had a convent building to the rear of the new church.

New school buildings were built on Mount Hawkins in the 1880/'90s. So, that 'school around the corner of Stanhope Street and Mount Hawkins became the first Technical School in Athy in 1899/1900 which they shared with the CYMS until 1940 when the new Vocational School was built on the Carlow Road.

It was in that Technical School on Stanhope Street, just a short walk away from the Duthie Large foundry, that the Vice Principal, Herbert Painting, carved the mould for the Garda Siochána Station plaque. That carving was used as a mould to cast the first plaques here in Duthie Large foundry for the first time in 1922. We understand that the current Athy Garda Station still has an original Duthie Large plaque on its front wall.

We are delighted to be here, in this important industrial heritage site, to mark the connection of Athy College with the new police force - the Garda Siochána - and to mark the centenary of the force with a replica plaque cast in another great Athy foundry – Athy Co-Operative Foundry... a direct descendant of both the Duthie Large and IVI foundries.

We are delighted too to have retired and active members of the Gardai here, as well as Athy 'born-and-breds' who worked in the foundries and who hold the same family names through the generations.

We are particularly pleased that young Athy people are taking such an interest in the town's industrial heritage and that they can see how the tradition of engineering and innovation continues in the many precision engineering companies in the town and the surrounding area.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh Christina agus April, for your excellent work with our students. No doubt they will remember today with pride.

END

### 3. Art process booklet

Fáilte roimh cách!



to the Unveiling of Our Art Installation

## ATHY - town of brick and iron

Transition Year students in Athy College, together with our teachers, celebrate the town's heritage of brickyards and iron foundries as our art project for 2022.

In particular, we celebrate the school's connection with the manufacture of the first cast-iron plaques for the new Garda Stations in 1922, with our art installation in 'Madden's carpark' - the former site of Duthie-Large foundry - which we unveil today, **14 May 2022**, to mark the centenary of the Force. **Our Art installation**

Our art installation is titled **Athy – town of bricks and iron** to recognise the industrial heritage of the town, alongside milling and malting, which sustained and served the local economy for many decades. We followed the brief from our Mentors from concept to installation.

### The Concept



### The completed installation



### **The process of creating the art installation** *February to May 2022*

We started with the back wall of Madden's carpark, the former site of the Duthie-Large foundry which produced the first Garda Station plaques. We had great assistance from our art teachers – Ms. C. Hayden and Ms A. Prendergast, from our Mentors – Anne Murphy, Gregor Cox, Brian Madden and Louisa Spring, from the Co.Op Foundry, from Kevin Murphy, and from a multitude of local volunteers.

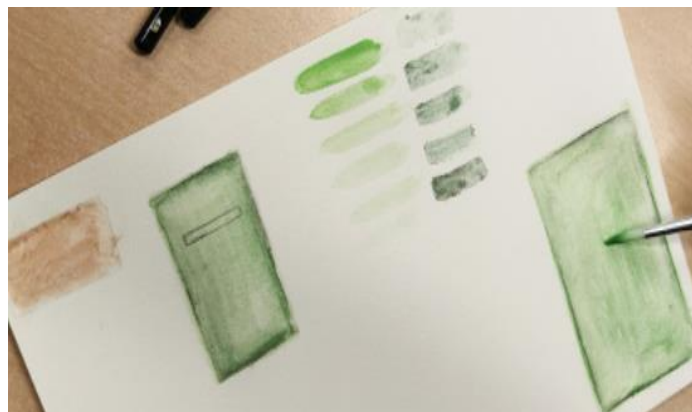
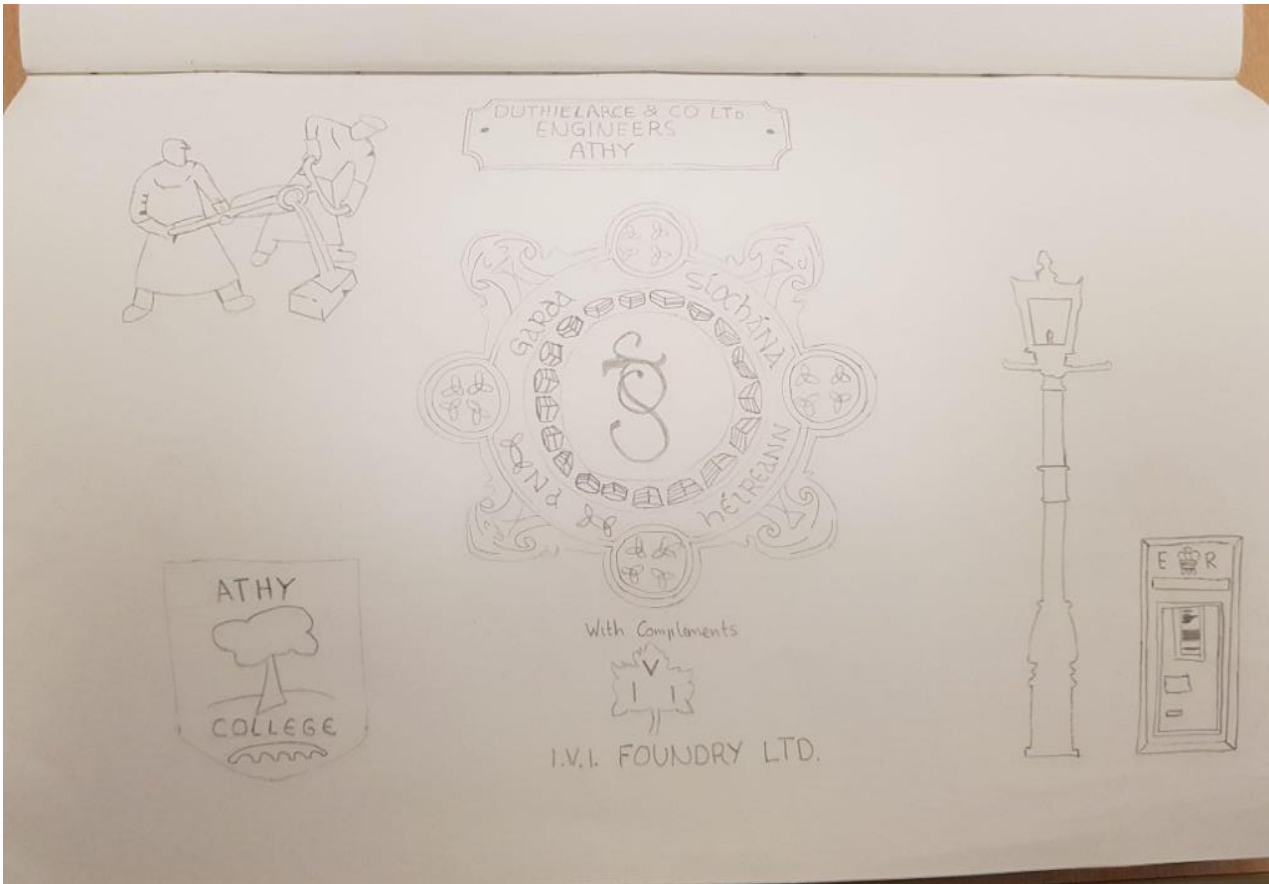


The main steps we took to complete the project were:

1. Research
2. Support Drawings
3. Planning & Risk Assessments
4. Material quotes
5. Individual research and drawing tasks.

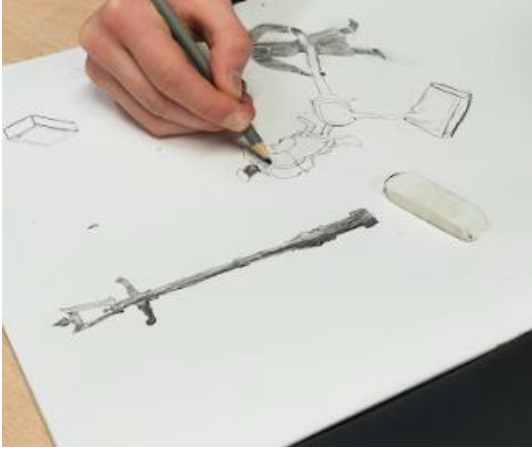
Daly et al.: Athy College and the Garda station plaque 1922  
**Photo Gallery of our art-work process**

All photographs approved by Athy College



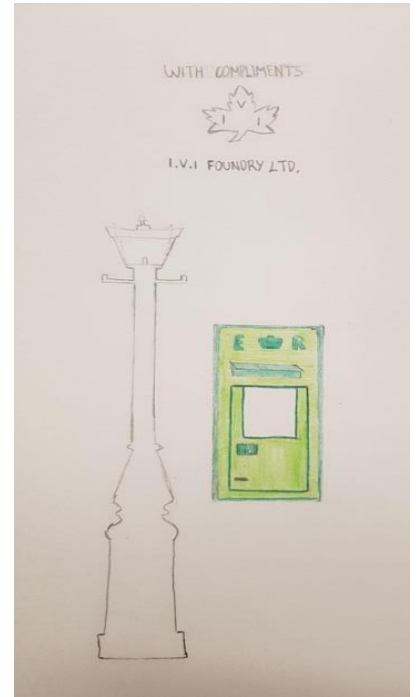














Daly et al.: Athy College and the Garda station plaque 1922  
**Our Transition Year class group 2022**

Maria Alvarez Garcia  
Artjoms Bobrovs  
Anton Budnyev  
Mar Clemente Ferrandiz  
Hollie Duignan  
Cillian Fisher  
Fabian Foley  
Alexander Gherciu  
Giulia Hevia  
Martin Holysz  
Aaron William Kinsella  
Dara Kissane  
Ava Anne Maher  
Jack McDermott

Alex McDonagh  
Oliwier Merta  
Abi Molly  
Aura Nadal Huerta  
Michael O'Connor  
Alvaro Sanchez Leon  
Ben Sourke Carr  
Oskar Stelmaszczyk  
Daniels Davis Sudars  
Gabija Svetokaite  
Valerija Vaivode  
Alex Walsh



#### 4. Heritage booklet distributed at the unveiling

# ATHY – town of bricks and iron

## Art Installation

created at the invitation of *Annals of Athy 2021* Group by

### Athy College art teachers & TY Class 2022

on the site of Duthie Large Foundry & Engineering Co (Madden's car-park)



Madden's Pharmacy

**Commemorating the town's industrial heritage**

*and*

**marking the centenary of the Garda Station plaques  
cast in Duthie-Large from 1922 using a mould carved  
in Athy Technical School**



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council

Funded by Kildare County Council/Kildare  
Decade of Commemorations

## Athy College since 1900



**Athy Technical School** was started by Athy Urban District Council in **1900** under the Technical Instruction Act 1899 using a former convent school building on the junction of Stanhope Street and Chapel Hill (later Stanhope Place/Mount Hawkins) shared with the CYMS. Next to it stood St Michael's Church, and further along a boys' junior primary school where the Council offices now stand. (See the 1907 OS map on back page)

Teenage boys were taught practical skills in afternoon classes in the Technical School and adults attended night classes.

In **1922**, **Vice-principal Herbert Painting** carved the mould for the famous **Garda Síochána station plaque** which was cast for the entire country in **Duthie-Large Foundry** just a short walk away on Chapel Lane – also marked as a foundry on the 1907 OS map.

**Ceard Scoil Naomh Brighde (St Brigid's Vocational School)** was built by Carbury Builders on the Carlow Road in 1940, having previously been planned for the Pound Field where IVI later established itself. The school came under the governance of Kildare Vocation Education Committee as required under the 1930 Vocational Education Act.

The photograph of the official opening on 16 December 1940 shows Agricultural Science instructor Stephen Cullinan hoisting the flag. The Macra na Feirme logo designed by Ivan Bergin, together with a news item from the *Irish Press* on the day, are inset.





From 1940 onwards the school's day-time activities and adult evening classes expanded to the extent that a much larger premises was required. In Autumn 2010 the new Athy College was opened on the splendid 25-acre complex on the Monasterevan Road under the governance of KWETB – Kildare and Wicklow Education & Training Board.



## Athy's connection with the Garda Station Plaque

In February 1922, the new state police force – *The Civic Guard* – replaced the RIC (Royal Irish Constabulary) and the Irish Republican Police. The Civic Guard became *An Garda Síochána* in 1923. The new force required a new identity and new uniform. *Thus the connection with Athy!*

A badge/button design for the new Garda Síochána first appeared in the *Irish Independent* on 18 August 1922 with an acknowledgment to its designer John Francis Maxwell, an art teacher in Blackrock & Dun Laoghaire Technical School. The badge is in the form of a Celtic cross, with the original colour design of black, white and blue. On the centrepiece are the intertwined letters G.S., the initials of the words, Garda Síochána.

The first Garda Síochána station PLAQUE was wood-carved by Herbert Painting, Vice-Principal of Athy Technical School, and cast in Duthie-Large foundry for all new Garda Stations from 1922 onwards – including the first Garda Station in Athy - using a slightly modified design to suit wood and iron. Green and yellow colours were used for the plaques before the more familiar, black, grey and blue of to-day. The Athy Garda Station plaque is an early Duthie-Large plaque painted many times.

Replicas of the plaque were cast in Athy Co-Operative Foundry in 2021 at the request of the Garda Museum to celebrate the centenary of the Force 1922-2022.

We are proud to include a replica plaque from Athy Co-Operative Foundry in our art installation and to recall Athy College's early association with its design and production.

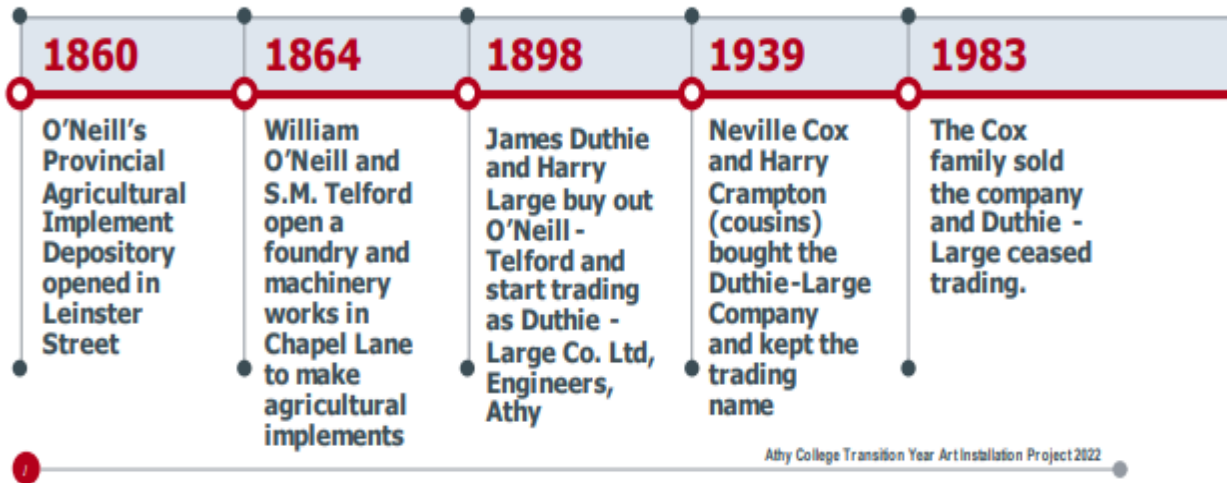






# History of Duthie-Large

## Foundry & Engineering Company, Athy



The genesis of Duthie Large is generally attributed to O'Neill's Provincial Agricultural Implement Depository in Leinster Street in 1860, not long after the Duthies moved to Athy from Scotland. William O'Neill and S.M. Telford developed a foundry in that premises around 1864 which is recorded on Ordnance Survey maps.

A letter to the Leinster Leader in 1884 describing businesses in Athy included the statement: *'Mr Telford in his foundry near the chapel, constructed splendid machinery'*.

**So, the Duthie involvement:** William Thomas Duthie, who came from a farming background, worked for W. O'Connor, the veteran watch and clockmaker. When Mr. O'Connor died in 1903, his business was left to William Thomas Duthie and to two spinster sisters, the Miss O'Neills.

**So, the Large involvement:** The Duthie family links were extended into the O'Neill-Telford foundry firm since James Duthie, who set up the partnership with Harry Large of Rheban, was a brother of William Thomas Duthie and an uncle of Albert Duthie the jeweller.

Duthie Large advertisements in 1898 acknowledged that their business was formerly *O'Neill, Telford & Co.* as below.



**Duthie, Large & Co. Ltd.**  
*Automobile & Agricultural Engineers*  
EXIDE BATTERY STATION  
FORD AUTHORIZED AGENTS  
Telegrams: "Duthie, Athy." Telephone 4  
ATHY - CO. KILDARE

WE ARE AGENTS FOR  
**WALTER A. WOODS', SAMUELSON & DOYLE'S MACHINES.**

**MOWERS for £10 10s. 0d.**

WE ALSO HAVE A LARGE STOCK OF  
STEEL TURNOVER RAKES from 37s. 6d.

OUR STOCK OF  
Wearing Parts for Mowing & Reaping Machine,  
IS THE LARGEST IN THE PROVINCE.

*Lists and Prices sent on application.*

**DUTHIE, LARGE & CO.,**  
(Lato O'NEILL, TELFORD & CO.,  
**FOUNDRY, ATHY.**  
— From our files of 1898.

**DUTHIE, LARGE, LTD.**  
**ATHY**

HARDWARE, TOOLS, BEE APPLIANCES,  
CHURNS, SEPARATORS, BEST COALS,  
MANURES SEEDS, IMPLEMENTS,  
CEMENT, TIMBER, IRON,  
MOTOR, CYCLES, ACCESSORIES,  
TYRES & TUBES, PETROL & OIL, TRACTORS,  
WIRELESS SETS AND ACCESSORIES.

BATTERY CHARGING.

Machinery & Motor Repairs by Experienced  
Mechanics. Power Greasing, Oiling, and  
Washing.

AGENTS FOR MASSEY HARRIS, McCORMICK,  
DEERING, WOODS, BAMLETT, HORNSBY,  
RANSOMES, LISTER, BLACKSTONE, BARNFORDS,  
MARSHALL, STAR, PIERCE.

DIABOLO, MELOTTE AND WAIDE CHURNS  
AND SEPARATORS.

CARTER'S STRAW ELEVATORS.  
DELCO ELECTRIC LIGHTING SETS.  
RALEIGH CYCLES.

MAIN FORD DEALERS.

All Classes of Insurance Transacted at Lowest Rates.  
ALL CLASSES OF CYLINDER BORING.



### The Jackson connection

William Cox came to work in Jackson's from Drum, Templemore and he is recorded in the 1911 census as living as a 'male boarder' and 'apprentice (hardware)' at 54 Leinster Street with the Jackson family. He was born in Tipperary, was 17 years old, and could read and



write. Other 'boarders' who were shop assistants or apprentices in grocery and hardware are still family names associated with agriculture and engineering around Athy, including Hendy, Boyd, Pearson, and Merdith.

**CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.**  
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given as the other side.

**FORM A.**

No. of Form B. *511*

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this house on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND SURNAMES	RELATION to Head of Family	RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE	EDUCATION	AGE (See Remarks) and SEX		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE			WIDOW'S DOWRY	BORN LANGUAGE	SCHOOL and District (Each only): What, Institute or School, or Lane, &c.
				Male	Female		Whether Married, Widowed, Single, or Single.	Number of Children from the present Marriage (If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.)	Total Children born alive.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1. James Robert Jackson	Head of Family	Church of Ireland	Read & write	32		General Merchant	Married 24 yrs	2	2		Kildare	
2. Anne Dwyer Jackson	Wife	Church of Ireland	Read & write		26		—	24 yrs	2	2	—	—
3. Robert William Jackson	Son	Church of Ireland	—	2		—	—	—	—	—	Kildare	—
4. Francis Louis Jackson	Son	Church of Ireland	—	under 1		—	—	—	—	—	Kildare	—
5. Frank Edward Hendy	Boarder	Church of Ireland	Read & write	24		Shop Assistant (Hardware)	Single	—	—	—	Kildare	—
6. Henry Boyd	Boarder	Church of Ireland	Read & write	24		Shop Assistant (Grocery)	Single	—	—	—	Wexford	—
7. William George Pearson	Boarder	Church of Ireland	Read & write	15		Apprentice (Grocery)	Single	—	—	—	Kildare	—
8. James Barber	Boarder	Methodist	Read & write	25		Shop Assistant (Grocery)	Single	—	—	—	Wexford	—
9. Thomas A. Ryan	Boarder	Church of Ireland	Read & write	16		Apprentice (Grocery)	Single	—	—	—	Wexford	—
10. Thomas Meredith	Boarder	Church of Ireland	Read & write	19		Apprentice (Hardware)	Single	—	—	—	Dublin Co.	—
11. William Gore	Boarder	Church of Ireland	Read & write	17		Apprentice (Hardware)	Single	—	—	—	Wexford	—
12. Walter James Ryan	Boarder	Church of Ireland	Read & write	17		Apprentice (Hardware)	Single	—	—	—	Wexford	—
13. Mary Byrne	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read & write		22	Domestic Servant	Single	—	—	—	Kildare	—
14. Charlotte Carroll	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read & write		18	Domestic Servant	Single	—	—	—	Kildare	—

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII, and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

*J. Murphy* Signature of Enumerator. *James Robert Jackson* Signature of Head of Family.

### Cox & Crampton families

Neville Cox and Harry Crampton (cousins) bought out Duthie-Large in 1929 though the name continued as the trading name. We can see from the Articles of Association that William Cox was then residing in The Abbey and was described as a 'hardwareman'.

John Greene, Mageny was the witness to the signatures on 7 January 1929.

10

We, the several persons whose names, addresses, and descriptions are subscribed, are desirous of being formed into a Company in pursuance of this Memorandum of Association, and we respectively agree to take the number of shares in the capital of the Company set opposite our respective names:—

Name, Address and Description of Subscriber.	Number of Shares taken by each Subscriber.
WILLIAM COX, THE ABBEY, ATHY, Co. KILDARE, HARDWARDMAN.	One Ordinary Share
HENRY MEREDITH CRAMPTON, 194 RATHMINES ROAD UPPER, DUBLIN, ACCOUNTANT.	One Ordinary Share

Dated this 7th day of January, 1909.

Witness to the above signatures:—

JOHN N. GREENE,  
ACCOUNTANT,  
MAGERRY, Co. KILDARE.

11

The Companies Acts, 1908 to 1924.

COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES.

**Articles of Association**  
OF  
**DUTHIE LARGE, LIMITED**

1. These Articles wholly exclude the Regulations contained in the Table marked "A" in the First Schedule to the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, save so far as any of the said Regulations are embodied or contained in these Articles.
2. In these Articles, unless the context otherwise requires expressions defined in the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908 or any statutory modification thereof for the time being in force shall have the meanings as defined, and words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa, and words importing the masculine gender shall include females, and words importing persons shall include bodies corporate.
3. The Directors shall forthwith on behalf of the Company proceed to purchase or otherwise acquire on behalf of the Company all or any of the businesses carried on by William Cox and Henry Meredith Crampton under the style of "Duthie, Large & Co." at Athy in the County of Kildare and the other property and assets mentioned in paragraph one of Clause three of the Memorandum of Association, and to enter into all such Agreements and Writings and do all such acts as shall be necessary for the completion of such purchase or acquisition, and shall have power to modify such purchase or acquisition in any manner which they may consider necessary.

**BUSINESS.**

4. The business of the Company, as expressed in the Memorandum of Association, shall be carried on under the management of the Directors.
5. The Registered Office of the Company shall be situate in Eire, and the business of the Company shall be carried on there, or elsewhere, as the Directors shall appoint.



Duthie-Large provided the agricultural sector with innovatory machinery for ploughing and harvesting, being agents for several agri-companies including Massey-Harris, McCormick, Deering, Woods, Bamlett, Hornsby, Ransome, Lister, Blackstone, Bamford, Marshall, Star, and Pierce.







The photograph above from the Spring Show includes three generations of Cox family with representatives of Massey-Harris: William Cox, grandfather; Neville Cox, father; with Gregor Cox and Roland Cox, sons. Also included is Gregor and Roland Cox's cousin Harry (Henry) Crampton who features as a subscriber in the Articles of Association in equal status with William Cox.

In 1953 Duthie Large was recognised by Massey-Harris for fifty years dealership service.

Duthie Large was a very diverse company with a national reputation for being at the forefront of agricultural technology until they ceased trading and the company finally dissolved in 1990. Foundry products with the famous Duthie Large logo have achieved the status of collectors' items.



## Athy Brickyards

The Athy area west of the Barrow is unique on account of deposits of clay suitable for brick-making. The soil map below shows the deposits of clay, identified as the Mortarstown series, around Blackford, Churchtown, Coursetown, Cardenton and Tomard.



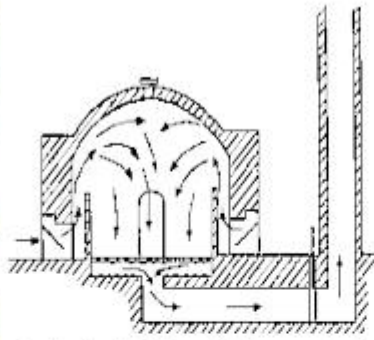
lics			Brown Earths	Podzols
89	122	90	123	124
Kellistown	Kennycourt	Mortarstown	Hughstown	Cupidstown
6,640	16,050	12,400	5,480	1,080
2,087	6,495	5,018	2,218	437
1.59	3.83	2.79	1.30	0.2

At least 13 brickyards produced hand-made bricks up to the 1910s: Morrin, Keegan, Foley, Doyle, Hanlon, 2 brickyards on Heydon's farm, Lawler, Haydons, Doyle, Hosie, Maxwell/Fennelly, Harris, and Large of Rheban.

Hosie's brickyard in Coursetown (now Fox's) was one of the largest. Luckily, the original sales and purchases records are still available. Locals recall the furnace chimney-stacks and the piles of bricks waiting to be transported by horse and cart to clients all over Leinster.







Typical brick kiln and chimney stack – and Hosie's/Fox brickyard, Coursetown

Smaller brickyards around Churchtown were mostly family-owned, and small-scale. Wooden moulds and cutting wires were used to form the 'yalla'/golden bricks, working mostly in Spring and Summer. Bricks were laid out on the ground to dry before being stacked for the kiln.



Brickmaking in Churchtown



In the 1920s Doyle's invested in plant and machinery to mass-produce bricks under the Athy Brick & Tile Co Ltd label on Telford's farm on the Monasterevan Road at Tomard. A siding from Athy Railway Station collected consignments of bricks for builders in Dublin and further afield. Athy bricks were of excellent quality and were used in the Curragh Camp, Guinness Brewery, several terraces in Athy, and many elegant town houses in Dublin. The photograph of brick workers above is said to be from Doyle's brickyard, Churchtown, in the early 1920s.

Unfortunately, brick-makers could not compete with cheaper concrete blocks. Kildare County Council stopped using Athy bricks for housing in the early 1930s, and that was the death knell for an old and honourable local industry. But its legacy is evident in buildings all around the town, and locals take great pride in preserving their craft-based heritage.





## IVI (industrial Vehicles Ireland)

The RTE archive photograph below shows the last, familiar entrance to IVI, and the photograph beneath it shows Smith's Garage (later Maxwell's). *Inset is Colonel Hosie.*



The I.V.I. Foundry was established by Captain Hosie of Coursetown in what was previously the Pound Field beyond St. Michael's Terrace and Smith's garage. The field had been designated as a site for the proposed new Technical School for Athy to replace the old school building then in use on Stanhope Street.

Captain Hosie has previously worked in Duthie-Large of Leinster Street, an extensive business which had a Foundry Works and agri-machinery agencies in Chapel Lane. Hosie left Duthie-Large to open a garage in 1928 (Smith, then later Maxwell's). When McDonnell's Amusements left the Pound Field in 1934 for the last time, John Blanchfield, of the former Sawmills and green-grocers in Leinster Street, began levelling the site for the new IVI Foundry buildings.

The first casting was made in the IVI Foundry on the 21 March 1935.

In the early years, manufacturing trailers and agricultural implements was the mainstay of the business: thus the company name: **Industrial Vehicles Ireland**. But World War II brought a downturn in demand. All pig iron and coke used in the Foundry was imported from England, but during the war years 1939 to 1945, pig iron could not be brought into the country. It was then that scrap metal was used whenever and wherever it could be obtained, while a limited supply of English coke was supplemented with supplies from Irish coal mines. The Foundry closed down for short periods during the War when supplies of coke and iron were not available.



The end of the War saw a resurgence in the Irish building industry, and the making of manhole covers, rainwater gutters and downpipes gave a new lease of life to the Foundry. At the height of its activity upwards of 150 men were working in IVI. Hosie, who had enlisted for the duration of the Second World War, returned as Colonel Hosie while sadly his only son, who might have been expected to follow his father into the Foundry business, was killed in action. Colonel Watson, an Englishman, was employed after the War as General Manager of the Foundry, and later on George Hudson came from Wales to take over as Works Manager. The post-War success was not sustained and the business closed in 1986 having been taken over some years previously by Waterford Foundry.

IVI has left a unique legacy on the Irish landscape in the form of the familiar green wall letter boxes for The Department of Post and Telegraphs. The door includes: **'IVI Foundry Ltd Athy'**.



We are fortunate to have photographs of the work processes in the IVI foundry.



## IVI's Wall-mounted Post Boxes



**Newtownpark Avenue**



**Courtnacuddy**

There are many green-painted British post boxes still used in Ireland from the reigns of Victoria, Edward VII and George V.

The wall-mounted post boxes in **Lower William Street**, **Offaly Street** and **Woodstock Street** were cast in the reign of King Edward VII, sometime between 1901 and 1910. All three have POST OFFICE beneath the crown and ER VII. They were originally painted red.

The post box at the **railway station** manufactured by W.T. Allen & Co London is similar, but without the royal letters and crown. It could date back to the early reign of Victoria.

During the reign of Victoria, post boxes were also commissioned from the foundry of H. & C. Smith in Dublin - very early in the history of wall boxes! A first national standard box of this type made by Smith can be seen at Johnstownbridge, Co. Kildare.

After 1922 the Republic of Ireland continued to commission foundries to make post boxes of similar design to those installed under British rule, but without a royal cipher, obviously! All the existing red boxes were re-painted in green and are still used a century later.

Many of the post-boxes in the new state were cast in the IVI Foundry in Athy, Co. Kildare, which held the contract for several decades. The IVI cast-iron, wall-mounted post box was manufactured between 1939 and 1984. They had the familiar monogram of *P and T* in the Cló Gaelach, with or without ornamentation or a harp.

Well-preserved examples of IVI wall-mounted post boxes are on Newtownpark Avenue, Rockfield, Dublin, and in Courtnacuddy, Wexford.

Cast-iron, wall-mounted post boxes are now classified as protected features of vernacular architecture, and as such, cannot be removed or replicated without the imprimatur of An Post. They are an integral part of Athy's foundry heritage, and particularly of IVI.





**Athy Railway Station post-box**



**Woodstock Street post box**



**Lower Wiliam Street post box**



**Offaly Street post box**



**First Victorian post box in Johnstown**

**ATHY TOWN FOUNDRIES**

**McHugh, Meeting Lane & Janeville  
1911-'42**



**Duthie-Large, Leinster St & Chapel Lane  
1860-1983**



**IVI Leinster Street 1928 -1986**



**Athy Co-Operative Foundry, Maybrook**

**1988 -**

**Founding Co-Operative Members (former Bergin employees)**



**Bergin Engineering & Iron Works, Maybrook**

**1899 - 1988**



**Recent engineering commissions**



**Blennerville  
wind mill**

**Birr Castle  
telescope**

**Christchurch  
Cathedral gutters**

**Kilbeggan Distillery  
watermill wheel**

### Continuing the engineering tradition

The tradition of engineering and innovation continues in the Athy area with several precision engineering works providing continuity with the past and sustainability into the future.



**Athy Trailer & Engineering Ltd**

Barrowford Industrial Estate Barrowford Co. Kildare





# Thanks to funders, supporters, colleagues and friends



**Comhairle Contae Chill Dara**  
Kildare County Council



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



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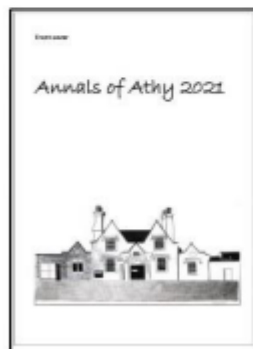


**Madden's Pharmacy**



**Athy Co-Operative Foundry**

*Bradburys*



**Annals of Athy 2021 group**

<http://www.athyphotos.gallery/>

**Martin Thompson's Facebook page**



**Garda Síochána**  
RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION



**Photo  
Gallery**

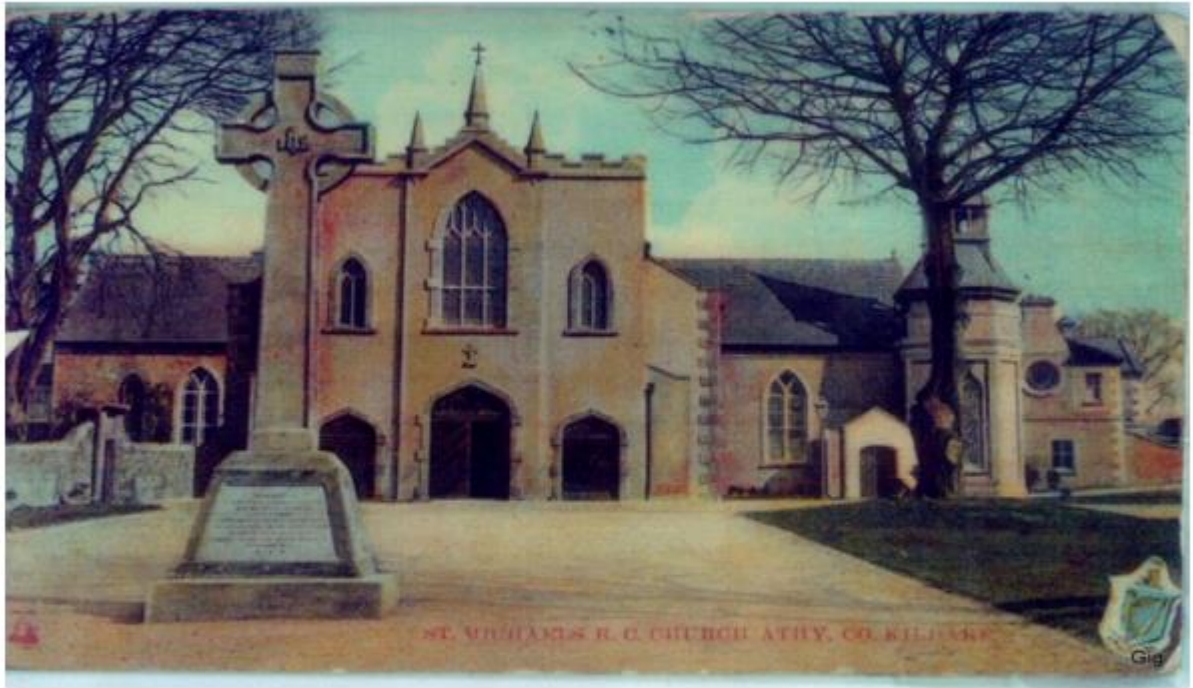








*This photograph was taken after Jenatzy's victorious return to the German team's headquarters at The Leinster Arms Hotel, Athy, which is just visible in the background.*







## **International Committee on Monuments and Sites**

### **The Dublin Principles for the Conservation of industrial heritage sites, structures, areas and landscapes, November 2011**

#### ***Definition***

1. Industrial heritage consists of sites, structures, complexes, areas and landscapes as well as related machinery, objects or documents that provide evidence of past or ongoing industrial processes of production, the extraction of raw materials, their transformation into goods, and the related energy and transport infrastructure.

Industrial heritage reflects the profound connection between the cultural and natural environment, as industrial processes – whether ancient or modern – depend on natural sources of raw materials, energy and transportation networks to produce and distribute products to broader markets.

It includes both material assets – immovable and movable - and intangible dimensions such as technical know-how, the organisation of work and workers, and the complex social and cultural legacy that shaped the life of communities and brought major organisational changes to entire societies and the world in general.

2. Industrial heritage sites are very diversified in terms of their purpose, design and evolution over time. Many are representative of processes, technologies as well as regional or historic conditions, while others constitute outstanding achievements of global influence. Others are complexes and multiple site operations or systems whose many components are interdependent, with different technologies and historic periods frequently present. The significance and value of industrial heritage is intrinsic to the structures and sites themselves, their material fabric, components, machinery and settings, expressed in the industrial landscape, in written documentation and also in the tangible records contained in memories, arts and customs.
-

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage  
for Society \* Faro, 27.X.200**

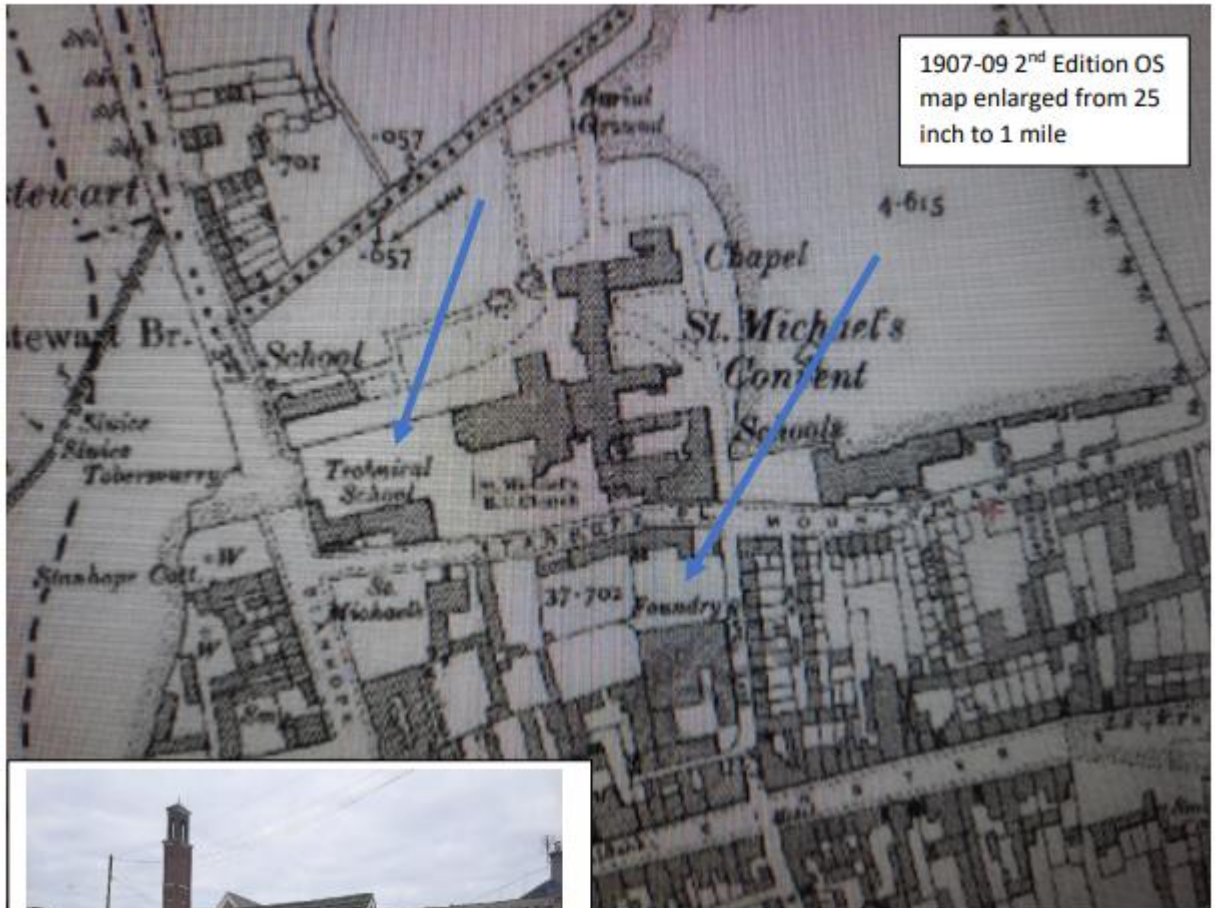
## **The Faro Convention on Cultural Heritage**

The Convention was concluded and signed on 27 October 2005 in [Faro, Portugal](#).

### **What is cultural heritage?**

**Article 2 – Definitions for the purposes of this Convention, a cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.**

**A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.**





## Memories

### BEFORE



### DURING



### AFTER



4.



**ORIGINAL PLAQUE COLOURS 1922**



**PLAQUE ON ATHY  
GARDA STATION WALL**

**REPLICA PLAQUE cast by Athy Co-Op Foundry and painted in standard colours of white, black, silver and blue by Athy College students for the TY Art Installation Project 2022, under the supervision of Christina Hayden.**



20 NEWS

# Installation details Athy's role in first garda station plaques

By Conor Forrest

ATHY'S role in the creation of the first plaques to grace garda stations throughout the country was remembered on Saturday 14 May when a large crowd turned out for the unveiling of an installation by students of Athy College detailing the town's involvement in their creation in the 1920s.

The unveiling of 'Athy - town of bricks and iron' took place that morning in Madden's car park, formerly the site of the Duthie Large engineering company where the original garda station plaques were produced.

According to Kildare author and historian James Dunne, as a printed device the garda badge first appeared in the masthead of police magazine *Irish Guards* (February 1923). He noted that it was the subject of criticism in the Department of Home Affairs when Garda Commissioner Michael J. Staines sought financial sanction for the casting of metal station plaques.



Retired members of an Garda Síochána along with local gardai and elective representatives



Gregor Cox and Frank Taaffe

The cast-iron station plaques were made by the Duthie and Large foundry in Athy from a mould by Herbert R. Peatling, headmaster of Athy Technical School (which would later become Athy College). This commemorative art project carried out by Athy

College, in association with the *Annals of Athy 2021* (industrial history) group, also commemorates the town's very strong industrial heritage. The local school congratulated students Dabija and Jack on their presentation at the launch, adding that it's very

proud of its association with the first production of the garda crest. "Well done to the students and their teachers from Athy College for all their work on this project and of course to Anne Murphy and all who helped with remembering this historic event," said Senator

Mark Wall, who was among those who turned out for the unveiling. Kildare Decade of Commemorations have supported this project, along with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012/23 initiative.



Richard Daly, Principal of Athy College and students who were involved in the project



Eoin Doyle, Vera Doyle, Cllr Aoife Breslin and Frank Taaffe



Pat Murphy and Jim Fox



Garda Ralph Holmes, Anne Murphy and Garda Jennifer Barry



Community Garda Seán O Mahoney



Senator Mark Wall school principal Richard Daly



Leon Kenny, Claire Bradbury and Marian Kenny



Cllr Veralouise Bohan and her mother Vera

Photos: Aisling Hyland





**Iconic Duthie.Large cast iron logo reproduced by hand-drawing on marine plywood by art students**





## The Meitheal at work







**Athy bricks are last**



### The details: iron or art?



The Stephen Cullinan connection, November 2021, at the launch of *Annals of Athy 2021*





## Athy College teachers and art students



## The details: blue is always the colour!





### Athy Gardai and local elected representatives show support



All images and photographs were either sourced from the public domain or taken by Dr Anne Murphy

END