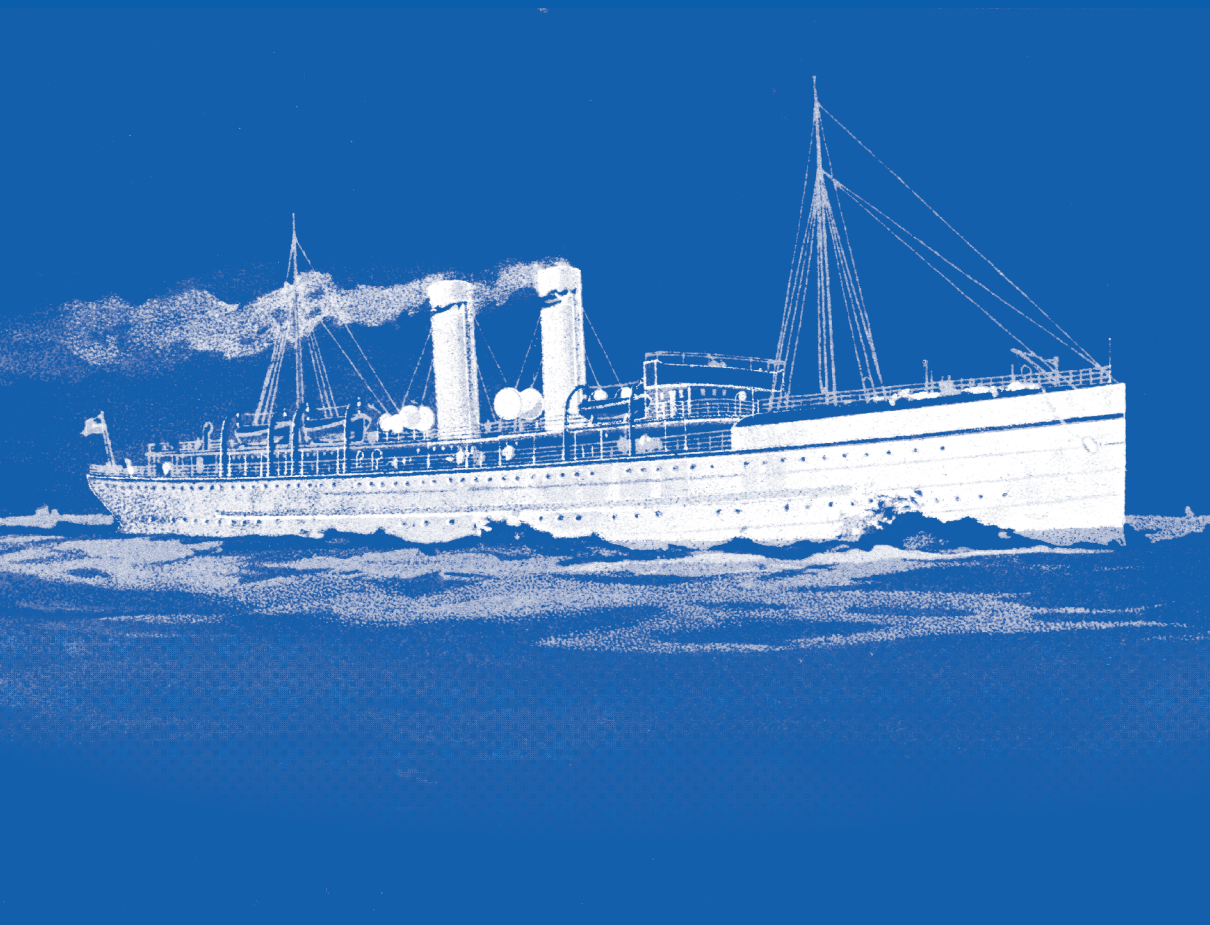


# RMS Leinster

CENTENARY  
COMMEMORATION  
PROGRAMME

Calendar of Events



## Foreword

IN OCTOBER 1918, towards the very end of World War One, the Royal Mail ship RMS Leinster, en route from Dún Laoghaire harbour to Holyhead, was sunk by German submarine UB-123 near the Kish Bank just outside Dublin Bay with the tragic loss of 569 passengers and crew. It stands as the largest loss of life in the Irish Sea. As fate would have it, all 36 crewmen on board UB-123 were subsequently lost when they hit a mine off the Scottish coast, on their return journey to Germany.

The centenary of the sinking of the RMS Leinster will be commemorated this October, culminating in the official commemorative event on Wednesday 10 October 2018 in Dún Laoghaire – 100 years to the day since this appalling disaster.

Surrounding this important event on 10 October, there is a wealth of exhibitions, seminars, talks, theatre and performances in the National Maritime Museum, dlr LexIcon, St Michael's Church, Christ Church and Mariners Church, Deansgrange Cemetery, Pavilion Theatre and other venues in the Dún Laoghaire area. These events commemorate the RMS Leinster in a variety of informative and interactive ways and this brochure aims to bring all these events together so that those travelling from near and abroad can see, at a glance, the range of events.

It is very much a community effort with so many different groups involved and on behalf of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council we would like to thank all those involved in marking this highly significant date in such a respectful and fitting manner. Our thanks in particular goes to the National Maritime Museum, the Mail Boat 'Leinster' Centenary Committee and Families and Friends of the 'Leinster', with the support of the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.

Alongside these events the National Maritime Museum in Dún Laoghaire will be open free of charge during the commemorative week 6-14 October to encourage members of the public to visit and learn about the story of the RMS Leinster with a special Information Desk providing details on the more than 800 people on board.

We look forward to welcoming all visitors to the commemorative events taking place throughout the area in the coming weeks.

An Cathaoirleach  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council,



Councillor Ossian Smyth

# Calendar of Events

## September – December

### EXHIBITION

**RMS Leinster exhibition including touchscreen technology with data on all 800+ casualties and survivors onboard RMS Leinster.**

RMS Leinster artefacts and story boards installed in the Museum. Information on passengers, crew, military and Post Office workers.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum



## September – December

### DISPLAY

**Come and see an amateur radio station dedicated to the RMS Leinster in action. Call Sign EI 100 MCV (RMS Leinster call sign was MCV) spreads knowledge of the RMS Leinster centenary worldwide.**

To date 24,000 contacts from 76 countries worldwide  
<https://www.qrz.com/db/EI100MCV>

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum

## September – end October

### EXHIBITION

**Des Branigan 1918-2016**

Des Branigan was a seaman, trade unionist, archaeological diver and maritime historian. His role in bringing one of the RMS Leinster anchors to Dún Laoghaire forms part of his fascinating story. Also included is the Des Branigan maritime book collection, donated to dlr LexIcon and catalogued to coincide with exhibition launch. Curated by Joe Ryan, retired Irish Coast Guard.

**Venue:** dlr LexIcon Level 5.



## September – end October

### EXHIBITION

**The SS Hare and SS Adela: Dublin Port in time of war 1914–1918**

On 14 December 1917, the S.S. Hare was torpedoed as it travelled from Manchester into Dublin Port, with the loss of 12 lives. On 27 December 1917, the S.S. Adela was torpedoed as it travelled to Liverpool from Dublin Port and 24 lives were lost. This exhibition tells their story and covers the rise of the U-boat threat 1914-18. Travelling exhibition, courtesy of David Cotter and Dublin City Public Libraries.

**Venue:** dlr LexIcon Level 5.

## 5 September – 26 October

### EXHIBITION

**World War I & Ireland's Humanitarian Effort**

The exhibition curated by St John Ambulance Ireland tells the stories of the non-combatants, who volunteered to provide medical care and assistance, for World War I casualties at home and overseas. Over 400 members of the St John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society turned out when the RMS Leinster was sunk, treating the injured and attending to bodies recovered from the Irish Sea.

**Venue:** dlr LexIcon Level 3.



## Mid September

### PUBLICATION

**RMS Leinster: The Forgotten Tragedy by Carmel Uí Cheallaigh, illustrations by Jimmy Burns**

Book aimed at 8-11 year olds and is also NALA approved for literacy accessibility. Copies in English and Irish will be gifted to all schools in the County.

**Venue:** Launching in dlr LexIcon



## 17 September – end December

### EXHIBITION

**Irish Lights 1911–1923: Safety at Sea Through War and Upheaval. A joint collaboration of the Commissioners of Irish Lights and the Royal Irish Academy.**

This exhibition highlights the history of Irish Lights between 1911 and 1923. Irish Lights' overall mission of safe navigation at sea is looked at in the context of the wider political and economic developments of the time. The exhibition uses hitherto unexplored sources from the Irish Lights' archive to present a new and distinctive view of modern Ireland's most critical decade.

**Venue:** dlr LexIcon, Level 4.

## 19 September

### SEMINAR

**The Sinking of the RMS Leinster – a talk by Cormac Lowth**

**Venue:** Royal Marine Hotel at 20:00

## 21 September – end October

### EXHIBITION

**Large scale LEGO model of RMS Leinster**

In dazzle camouflage on one side and original livery on the other. Created by James Shields, using RMS Leinster plans provided by the National Maritime Museum.

**Venue:** dlr LexIcon, Level 3

## 22 & 23 September

### ACTIVITY

**“100 Boats for 100 Years” – a maritime tribute – from Dún Laoghaire Harbour to the site of the RMS Leinster wreck and back.**

The flotilla departs Dún Laoghaire Harbour at 10:30. Race entry information on [www.dymc.ie](http://www.dymc.ie).

**Venue:** Dublin Bay

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29 September

ACTIVITY

**RMS Leinster Angling Tribute**

The Holyhead - Dún Laoghaire Link Association are organising commemorative angling competitions in both port towns, sponsored by Wild Atlantic Leisure, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo

**Venue:** Bandstand at the East Pier, Dún Laoghaire Harbour.  
15:00 – 17:30

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End of September

PUBLICATION

**People on the Pier by Marian Thérèse Keyes and Betty Stenson.**

Includes the history of the harbour, covering the Bicentenary plus important historic moments such as the sinking of the RMS Leinster. Published by New Island.

**Venue:** Launching in dlr Lexlcon

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4 October

EXHIBITION

**RMS Leinster sculptures by Philip Murphy**

On display all throughout the commemorations.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum

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5 October

EXHIBITION

**RMS Leinster Adult Art**

Providing an RMS Leinster focus for the County's very talented artistic community.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum Adult Art Exhibition launch at 18:45

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5 & 8 October

PLAY

**It Happened Here in Dún Laoghaire. This short play, written by Hazel Boylan and directed by Anthony O'Reardon is set against the background of the sinking of the RMS Leinster**

Based on actual events, featuring the story of a young man John Heffernan. John's mother is played by Anne Keegan, a founder member of the Loughlinstown community drama group Raging Hormones. Anne is John's niece and this is her family's story.

**Venue:** dlr Lexlcon, Studio Theatre 2 performances: both days at 19:00

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5 October

PERFORMANCE

**Sea shanties performed by The Sick & Indigent Song Club. Remembering the Leinster through music and song.**

Entry €10 per person.

For further information and ticket purchase telephone:

086-4089611 or [www.leinster2018.com](http://www.leinster2018.com)

**Venue:** Dún Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club at 21:00 – 23:00

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6 October

PLAY

**Anchor, a radio play by Roseanne Lynch**

The play tells the story of the RMS Leinster's anchor, from when it was built in Birkenhead, Liverpool in 1895, through the disaster in 1918 up until 1996 when it was brought up from the depths to stand as a memorial in Dún Laoghaire.

dlr Librarian Seán Downes created a replica anchor to promote this and other RMS Leinster events. It is on display in dlr Lexlcon.

**Venue:** dlr Lexlcon, Studio Theatre Premiere to be held on Family Day at 15:00

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6 October

**Family Day at dlr Lexlcon.**

**Commemorating RMS Leinster, World War One and the Suffragettes movement**

Numerous events commemorating the RMS Leinster, WWI and marking the centenary of the Suffragettes and votes for women. Featuring the radio play Anchor by Roseanne Lynch, launch of the Irish Lights exhibition, workshops for children, new exhibition on Irish women suffragettes & trailblazers by Sarah Webb, interactive displays by the Irish Vintage Radio and Sound Society, Irish Great War Society & WWI Military Living History events organised by Leinster Centenary Committee and St John Ambulance, also WWI memorabilia presented by Gerard O'Meara, plus many more workshops and events throughout the day.

**Venue:** Moran Park and dlr Lexlcon, All Day

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6 October

EXHIBITION

**Children's RMS Leinster artworks**

The Children's Art Exhibition is a very well-attended annual feature in the Maritime Museum's calendar. Sponsored by Easons.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum Children's Art Exhibition Prize-giving at 11:00 – 12:00

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7 October

SEMINAR

**History Ireland Hedge School**

History Ireland Hedge School. Discussion panel on "The Sinking of the RMS Leinster and the War at Sea". Bernadette Whelan, University of Limerick, Dr. Michael Kennedy, Royal Irish Academy, Dr. Jeff Kildea, University of New South Wales and Philip Lecane, National Maritime Museum.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum at 19:30

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7 October

TOUR

**Guided journey discovering the 11 RMS Leinster graves and plaques at Deansgrange Cemetery**

Conducted by John McCann, DLR County Council Cemetery Manager, followed by the official unveiling of a monument on the grave of RMS Leinster hero, William Maher

**Venue:** Deansgrange Cemetery at 14:00

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7 October

PERFORMANCE

**RMS Leinster Centenary Concert sponsored by the British Royal Mail.**

A similar concert was held 100 years ago to raise funds for the dependants of those who died on the ship in 1918.

Tickets €10 each.

**Venue:** Christ Church & Mariners Church, Park Road, Dún Laoghaire at 19:30

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8 October

PERFORMANCE

**Combined Dublin & Anglesey Welsh Male Voice Choirs - sponsored by Rachel Burke.**

Combined Irish – Welsh choral event in the Maritime Museum. Tickets €15 and booking essential.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum at 20:00

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9 October

SEMINAR

**RMS Leinster One Hundred Years On – Exploring Various Facets of the Sinking.**

Stephen Ferguson An Post, Michael Kennedy Royal Irish Academy, Dr. Jeff Kildea, University of New South Wales, Philip Lecane, Maritime Museum, Andrea Ward, RMS Leinster relative and researcher Lucille Ellis. Tickets €10. Booking required.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum at 10:30 – 18:00

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10 October

**Centenary Day Ecumenical Service**

All welcome.

**Venue:** St. Michael's Church, Dún Laoghaire at 09:30

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10 October

**Official Commemoration to mark the centenary of the sinking of the RMS Leinster**

**Venue:** dlr Lexlcon, Moran Park 10:30 – 12:15

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10 October

PLAY

**“Fatal Voyage” – The story of the sinking of the RMS Leinster told through music and dramatic readings**

Featuring: Michèle Forbes, Cathy Belton, Cormac de Barra, Lisa Lambe, Geoff Minogue, Bryan Murray, & Clara Rose Thornton.

Tickets available to purchase from: [www.paviliontheatre.ie/](http://www.paviliontheatre.ie/)

**Venue:** Pavilion Theatre at 20:00

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11 October

TOUR

**Guided bus tour to visit RMS Leinster graves in Grangegorman Military Cemetery, departing from the National Maritime Museum.**

Tour of Grangegorman Cemetery followed by a visit to Phoenix Park OPW Interpretive Centre 10:00 – 15:00. Tickets €10 and booking essential, with priority given to RMS Leinster relatives.

**Venue:** National Maritime Museum

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21 October

**Special requiem Service of Remembrance of the RMS Leinster – its crew, postal sorters, passengers and military.**

The event is open to all.

**Venue:** Dublin's Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 at 11:00

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'A contemporary drawing showing the sinking of the RMS Leinster. Reproduced as the cover for Torpedoed! The RMS Leinster Disaster by Philip Lecane.'



**An Roinn Cultúir,  
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta**  
Department of Culture,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Back cover image: 'The Crest  
of the City of Dublin Steam  
Packet Company'

