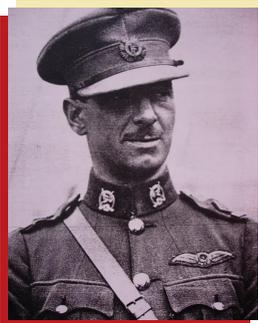


Laois FESTIVAL of FLIGHT 2022

Thursday
7th April
-
Sunday
10th April



Celebrating
the rich history
of flight in Laois



Col James Fitzmaurice - Ireland's Greatest Aviator

by **Teddy Fennelly (Chair)**
Col Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee

Was there ever an Irishman or woman who did more for their nation in terms of earning international acclaim than the Portlaoise man, Col James Fitzmaurice? At a time when the infant Irish Free State was struggling to establish itself as an independent entity, he put his life on the line for his country and earned for it worldwide attention and an unprecedented amount of respect and goodwill.

The flight of the Bremen in 1928 by Col Fitzmaurice and his two brave German comrades, Capt Hermann Koehl and Baron von Huenefeld, is, therefore a landmark achievement in aviation history. By making the first successful transatlantic east-west flight they conquered the wildest ocean on earth and by connecting the two most commercially advanced continents, Europe and America, opened up a whole new world of commerce and communication.



The Bremen in readiness for take-off from Baldonnell aerodrome on 12 April 1928.

The newspapers called it the greatest story of the century. Yes, Col James Fitzmaurice and his German comrades achieved "The Impossible Dream", a term used by the famous aviator, Charles Lindbergh, to define the east-west challenge.

A wonderful suite of music, "The Impossible Dream", composed by one of Ireland's most accomplished musicians, Martin Tourish, and being performed during our **Festival of Flight 2022** by our own wonderful Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra, is one of the highlights of this year's Festival, which marks the 94th anniversary of the famous flight.

It is planned to continue to mark each anniversary of the flight with special events up to the centenary year in 2028 and beyond. It is fitting that Portlaoise is the centre for these celebrations because it was here that the father of Irish aviation enjoyed a happy upbringing and received all his formal education. It was also here, he reveals in his memoirs, that he got his inspiration to become a world famous aviator by observing the construction of the Portlaoise Plane, the first airplane built in the Republic, at Aldritts' Garage and watching it take flight.

There is a bust of Fitzmaurice displayed in the foyer at Laois County Hall and we are pleased to have a fine public square dedicated to his honour in Portlaoise's Cultural Quarter. This will be the venue for the laying of wreaths on Sunday, and where the afore-mentioned Portlaoise Plane, now back in Ireland after many years in exile and fully restored, will be put on public display, weather permitting.



The wreath laying at the Fitzmaurice Bust at County Hall, Portlaoise.
Picture: Alf Harvey.

His achievements and legacy are deeply intertwined with the history of the Air Corps, which proudly celebrates the centenary of its founding this very year.

But in national terms this great Irishman is Ireland's forgotten hero. Surely he deserves a fitting national tribute. What about naming Dublin Airport in his memory? Now that sounds like a good idea!

Col Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee

The Festival of Flight is led by the Col Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee, which is made up of:

Teddy Fennelly (Chair)
Alan Phelan
Michael Parsons
Louise Fennelly
PJ Kavanagh
Sean Murray (Laois Heritage Society)
Catherine Casey (Laois County Council)
Ralph James

Honorary members

Tim Costello
Johnny Molloy
Brendan O'Donoghue
John Fennelly

A festival working group for 2022 also included:

John Fingleton
Brian O'Driscoll
Michelle de Forge (Dunamais Arts Centre)
Rosa Flannery (Music Generation Laois)

The event is being run in partnership with:

Laois County Council, Laois Heritage Society,
Music Generation Laois, Dunamais Arts Centre
and Midlands Science.

The Festival of Flight 2022 is supported by:

Laois County Council, The Heritage Council, Creative Ireland Laois
as part of the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 in partnership
with Laois County Council and The Decade of Commemorations

The committee is very grateful for the support of all our partners.
www.laois.ie/festivalofflight





LCC Chief Executive John Mulholland, Cllr Thomasina Connell, Cathaoirleach of LCC Conor Bergin; Teddy Fennelly and Cllr Willie Aird at the Portlaoise Plane Event, September 2021.



Committee members, from left: Catherine Casey, Louise Fennelly, Ralph James, Teddy Fennelly, and Michael Parsons.



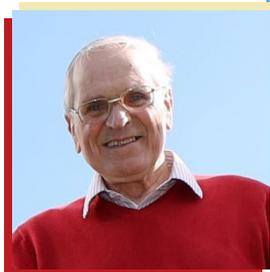
Bobby and Eva Cahill at Fitzmaurice Place, Portlaoise for the launch of the new Festival of Flight.



Portlaoise Plane.

Pictures: Alf Harvey

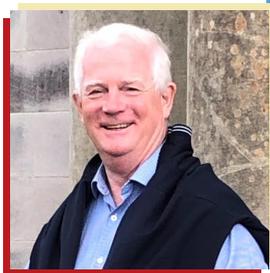
Festival Contributors



Teddy Fennelly

Teddy Fennelly was Managing Editor of the Leinster Express for 20 years and was a Director and Media Consultant with the Leinster Leader Group of Newspapers.

He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics. Currently President of Laois Heritage Society and Chairman of the Laois Heritage Forum, Teddy has written numerous books, mainly historical and biographical, including the biography of Ireland's most famous aviator, Col James Fitzmaurice, titled *Fitz and the Famous Flight*, published in 1998.



Ralph James

Major General (retired) Ralph James joined the Defence Forces as a Cadet in 1973. During his Air Corps career he flew many aircraft types in various mission profiles including maritime patrolling and Ministerial Air Transport.

Following seven years as General Officer in Command at the Air Corps, he was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, the first Air Corps officer to be appointed by the Government to the Defence Forces General Staff. Ralph's career continued as the Director of Safety Regulation and Digital Transformation with the Irish Aviation Authority.

In 2003 as GOC Air Corps, Ralph marked the 75th anniversary of the flight of the Bremen by recreating the flight in a modern twin propeller aircraft. He subsequently brought the Avro Cadet C7 home to Baldonnel from New Zealand. C7 is the oldest surviving Air Corps aircraft.

Ralph is a member of the Irish Historical Flight Foundation.



Alan Phelan

Alan is an aviation professional, with a background in jet engine overhaul and repair, aircraft engineering services and aircraft and engine trading and leasing.

He started his career with Aer Lingus at Airmotive Ireland in Dublin and more recently worked with Lufthansa Technik in Hamburg. He is currently the CEO of APTN.aero (Aircraft Professional's Technical Network) and is also Head of Engine Trading at Aircraft Finance Germany.

Alan holds the Law Society's Diploma in Aircraft Leasing and Finance, an MBA in Aviation from Embry Riddle University in Florida and a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from UCD. He is also a member of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) and the International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading (ISTAT).



Martin Tourish

Martin Tourish is an accordionist, composer, author and producer from Donegal. In 2014, Martin was awarded a PhD for his research into style in Irish Traditional Music. Shortly after, he became a member of the band Altan, with whom he performs internationally.

As a composer his music has been performed by among others Altan, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Martin Hayes, Paddy Moloney, Triona Marshall and by many fine trad orchestras across Ireland. As an educator, in partnership with the National Concert Hall, Martin designed and managed the Art of Tradition a national traditional music outreach programme of schools.

Later in 2022, Martin will launch Martin Tourish Accordions, in partnership with Bompezzo. This radical redesign of the piano accordion is the result of a long process of experimentation focusing on the stylistic challenges and possibilities of Irish Traditional music.



Siobhan Buckley

Siobhan Buckley is a harper from North Cork. She began her music studies in the County Cork School of Music with Damhnait Nic Suibhne and received many scholarships and awards before going on to study music at third level in NUI Maynooth.

Siobhan is a multi-instrumentalist and has collaborated and performed with various groups and musicians including the ConTempo String Quartet, the Clare Memory Orchestra, John Spillane and Jack L.

In 2014, Siobhan joined Music Generation Laois, where she now leads two harp ensembles, a harp orchestra and is Director of the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra.



Laura Murphy

Laura Murphy is a poet, activist and communications strategist. Poet-in-Residence for Herstory, Murphy's recent work includes advocacy for Mother and Baby Home survivors and the campaign to make Brigid's Day a national holiday.

Murphy's work is centred around 'Imbas Forosnai', a practice used by the ancient poets of Ireland to bring healing to society and truth to power.

'In Laois I Fly Free' is kindly supported by Laois County Council and Creative Ireland Laois.

Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra



Music Generation
Laois/Laoise

The Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra was established in 2016 to provide a platform for the strong interest in traditional music among young people in Co. Laois. The Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra is directed by Siobhan Buckley.

The orchestra has collaborated with many well-known musicians including Chris Stout and Catriona McKay, Zoë Conway and John McIntyre, Ernestine Healy, Michael Rooney and the orchestra composed new music 'Loinnir Laoise' in collaboration with Ryan Molloy in 2018.

Music Generation Laois is part of Music Generation, Ireland's National Music Education programme, initiated by Music Network, co-funded by U2, The Ireland funds and the Department of Education. Locally, Music Generation Laois is part of, and funded by Laois Offaly Education and Training Board and supported by Laois County Council.

Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra Members

Directed by Siobhan Buckley

Harp - Niamh Byrne, Lily Breslin, Aoibhe Kettle

Accordions - Ruaidhrí Tierney, Máire Brennan, Conall Nevin, Darragh Egan, Sean Lawler

Flutes/Whistles - Eden Penfold, Aoibheann Dalton

Fiddles - Mary Jo Faherty, Nell Kettle, Laura Scott, Erin Lalor, Mary Lawler, Tara Lowry

Pipes - Alain Carroll, Kurt Dinneen Carroll, Michael Lawler, Muireann Meade, Tove Byers

Concertinas - Lucy Cahill, Rachel Nolan

Percussion - Jamie Troy, Taidhg Dalton, Tara Woodcock – directed by Dale McKay

Double Bass - Dearbhla Coggins, Esmee Van Den Bergh

Guest Musician: David Vesey (piano)

Programme of Events 2022

Thursday 7th April

Schools and Family Workshops

As part of the festival, schools and families are invited to participate in a range of workshops exploring all aspects of flight, from the science of superheroes to the biology of flight in the natural world to flights of fancy with imagination and creativity.

Portlaoise Schools: Science of Flight workshops with **Barry Fitzgerald** and Flights of Fancy Workshops with Artists **Angelina Foster** and **Aga Grandowicz**

Friday 8th April

Aircraft Technical Forum

The festival will feature a networking meeting of senior aircraft technical professionals in the field of aircraft leasing at Bloom HQ in Mountrath, drawing together the history of aviation in Ireland with its bright future.

Schools and Family Workshops

Portlaoise Schools: Science of flight workshops with **Barry Fitzgerald** and Flights of Fancy Workshops with **Martina Coyle and Paul Timoney**

Portlaoise Plane

Guided tour of the Portlaoise Plane for **Youthreach Participants**

Thursday

7th April

&

Friday

8th April

Saturday

9th April

&

Sunday

10th April

Saturday 9th April

Flights of Fancy Workshops

Workshops for families and home educators on the art and science of flight at Dunamaisie Arts Centre with **Dig it Kids**.
See www.dunamaisie.ie for details and to book.

The Impossible Dream

3pm at St Peter's Church of Ireland Portlaoise
Performance of the Impossible Dream by
Martin Tourish and the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra
Featuring Presentations from **Teddy Fennelly** and **Ralph James**,
and poetry by **Laura Murphy**

Tickets €10 adults, €5 children.
See www.dunamaisie.ie for details and to book.

Sunday 10th April

Ceremony of Commemoration

12 noon Fitzmaurice Place, Portlaoise
Flyover by historic and modern aircraft at 12.30pm
Weather dependent.



The Impossible Dream

Saturday

9th April

Saturday 9th April 3pm

St Peter's Church of Ireland Church, Portlaoise

This special event celebrates the life and achievements of Col James Fitzmaurice, the pioneering aviator from Portlaoise who was part of the first successful transatlantic aircraft flight from East to West in 1928.

MC Alan Phelan

Speakers: John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Laois County Council
Teddy Fennelly, Chair Col James Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee, Ralph James, Former General Officer in Command, Irish Air Corps (retired)

Performances



"In Laois I Fly Free"

Accompanied by Dale McKay on bodhran, Laura Murphy will recite her poem, 'In Laois I Fly Free'. Inspired by the history, mythology and beauty of Laois, this poem is a powerful tribute to the county. Described as 'evocative', 'primal' and 'magical', it juxtaposes all that is grim and great about Laois.

The poem opens with a representation of the perceived insignificance of the county followed by the stark revelation that Laois is the place from which the British empire began, the place from which it began to fall and the launch-point of the first flight out of the Republic of Ireland.

"The Impossible Dream"

Composed and performed by Martin Tourish and Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra, directed by Siobhan Buckley with percussion directed by Dale McKay.

In 2019, Musician and composer Martin Tourish was commissioned to create a suite of music inspired by the life of Colonel James Fitzmaurice in collaboration with the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra.

The musicians of the Orchestra worked collaboratively with Martin Tourish during the first Covid Lockdown to compose "The Impossible Dream".

This new commission was supported by Creative Ireland Laois, part of the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 in partnership with Laois County Council



'The Impossible Dream' performed by The Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra led by composer Martin Tourish and directed by Siobhan Buckley at the Laois Music Centre, Sunday 19th December 2021. Picture: Alf Harvey.

"The Impossible Dream" - Movements

<i>Movement 1</i> <i>The Impossible Dream</i>	Stargazer The Epiphany De Providentia The Extinguishing Flame Lighter than Air
<i>Movement 2</i> <i>The Zero Hour</i>	Chained Reveille The Death and Glory Boys Bewitchment The Zero Hour The Very Light Courage
<i>Movement 3</i> <i>The Princess Xenia</i>	Bovine Wisdom The Razzmatazz Violetta
<i>Movement 4</i> <i>Destiny Day</i>	<i>5:00 GMT</i> Dawn in Baldonnel <i>5:09 GMT</i> Engines Start <i>5:35 GMT</i> To New York or Heaven <i>5:38 GMT</i> Airborne <i>7:05 GMT</i> Between Heaven and Earth <i>20:30 GMT</i> Clouds Like Mountains <i>22:00 GMT</i> The Inferno of the Sea <i>6:50 GMT</i> The Bowl of Stars <i>14:00 GMT</i> Landfall, 580 N, 630 W Touchdown <i>17:50 GMT</i> <i>18:08 GMT</i> "Greenly Island, Plane Slightly Damaged, Crew Well"
<i>Movement 5</i> <i>Epilogue</i>	

Programme notes, by Martin Tourish

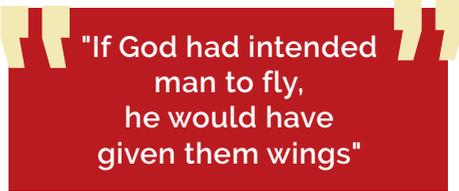
Of the music you will hear today, the first movement *Stargazer* conjures the enchanting world of Fitz's youth in Portlaoise after stumbling into Aldritts' Garage, which he himself described as an Aladdin's Cave.

The tone changes dramatically in *Movement Two - The Zero Hour*, as he experienced the extreme horrors of the First World War.

Movement Three, The Princess Xenia sees our character shell-shocked but finding his wings in the air and meeting his wife Violetta, who as the extraordinary character she was is celebrated in the finale of this movement.

Destiny Day is the title of the fourth movement and is constructed around the logbook entries of that famous first successful east to west transatlantic flight. During their thirty-six and a half hours in the air, you'll hear the serenity of the Atlantic ocean, the violence of the storm they described as the 'inferno of the sea' followed by their hours of hallucination when they felt like they were floating in 'a bowl of stars', and of course, their exhausted but triumphant landing on Greenly Island.

Perhaps most poignant is *Movement Five, Epilogue*, marking the frustration and frequently isolated years that followed for Fitzmaurice.



"If God had intended man to fly, he would have given them wings"

These are the words James Michael Christopher Fitzmaurice heard after Aldritts' monoplane marked its few glorious seconds in the air a mere decade or so after humanity first managed flight in a machine heavier than air. Within the half century that followed, that spark of imagination, bravery and ability to see beyond the possible marked 'Fitz' not only as the aviation pioneer that we know, but as a visionary human being.

The narrative of the daring, fearless aviator overcoming the mighty challenge of the first east to west transatlantic flight is, however, only one aspect of the story. Through the research of Teddy Fennelly, the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra and I were able to delve into the story of Fitz the person; his triumphs, tragedies and motivation.



'The Impossible Dream' performed by The Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra.

He wrote: *"In this flight we have fought side by side with the hope that our attempt would bring greater good-will and better understanding between the peoples of the earth. The history of civilisation and progress has been based to a tremendous extent upon the development of communication and transportation. Misunderstanding becomes more and more difficult when our neighbours are brought closer home to us by the rapid communication of the ideas, thoughts and motives which go to make up the traditions of that country.*

"It is not hard to realise that many years ago, when a hundred miles seemed a formidable distance, suspicion, greed and hatred were allowed to run rife.

As the feudal systems of the Old World gave way to nationalism so will nationalism give way to universalism when our systems of communication are perfected to a degree that we are all bound together with a common understanding. The radio, telegraph, television, telephoto, steamships, railways, automobiles and airplanes are forging communication links between nations that envoys and foreign chancellors will find difficult to break through petty political quarrels and personal greed."

The airplane will be a tremendous factor in bringing about a universal peace.

As a piece of music created with the immensely talented musicians of the Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra, the power of communication, the sharing of ideas and the magic of bringing people together have perhaps never seemed more relevant and important.

Today as we salute Colonel James Fitzmaurice, to everyone who worked together to create the Impossible Dream and who has been a part of this journey.

- Míle Buíochas,

Martin Tourish



The Music Generation Laois Trad Orchestra performing at the Mountmellick Community Arts Centre for re: CENTRING Mountmellick, February 2022. Picture: Alf Harvey.



After the trip from Greenly Island to Lake St. Agnes.



Getting set up at the Portlaoise Plane Event. Picture: Alf Harvey.

Laois FESTIVAL of FLIGHT 2022

Sunday
10th April

Ceremony of Commemoration

Fitzmaurice Place, Portlaoise | Sunday 10th April, 12 noon

March on by Irish Air Corps and Irish United Nations Veterans Association Post 27 Portlaoise

MC Alan Phelan

Speakers

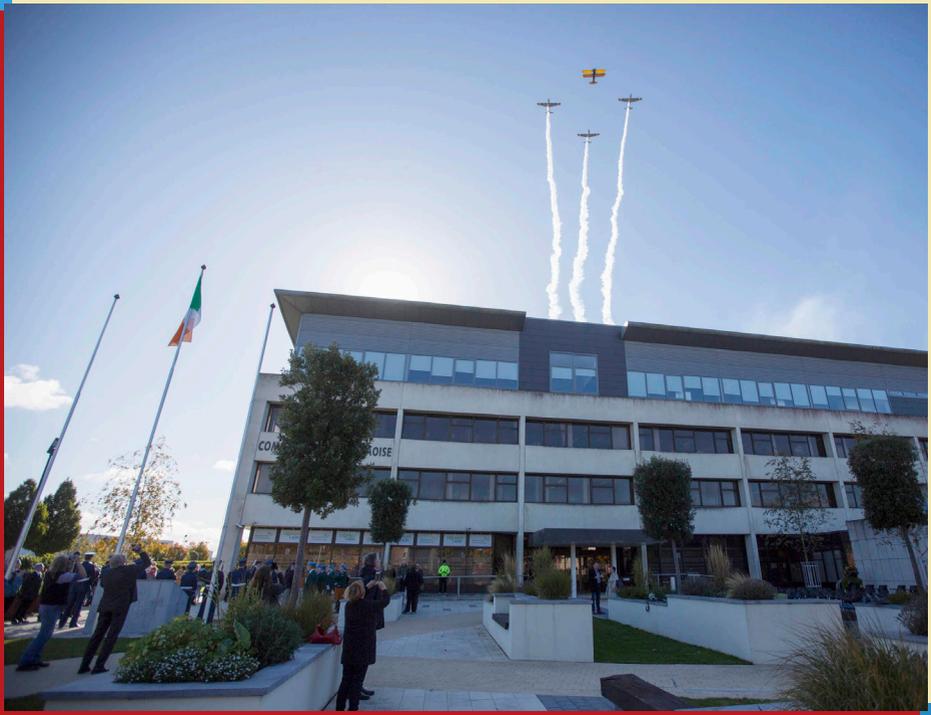
- Cllr Conor Bergin Cathaoirleach LCC
- Brigadier General Rory O'Connor, General Officer Commanding Irish Air Corps
- Teddy Fennelly, Chair Col James Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee
- Sean Murray, Chair Laois Heritage Society

Wreath laying by representatives of

- Laois County Council
- Col James Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee
- Irish Air Corps
- Irish UN Veterans Post 27
- Laois Heritage Society

12.30pm Fly-past by modern and historic aircraft (weather permitting)

The Portlaoise Plane will be on display during the Festival of Flight, in Fitzmaurice Place on Sunday 10th April from 12 noon until 3pm.



The fly over during the wreath laying at the Fitzmaurice Bust at County Hall, Portlaoise. Picture: Alf Harvey.



Members of the Irish Air Corps at the Portlaoise Plane Event, September 2021. Picture: Alf Harvey.



Colonel James Fitzmaurice and the first East West Transatlantic Flight

James Christopher Fitzmaurice, later known as 'Fitz', moved to Maryborough (now Portlaoise) at the age of four in 1902 when his father, a prison warden, was transferred from Mountjoy. He attended the Christian Brothers' School until he was sixteen.

As a lad, Fitz spent every minute he could, helping out in Aldritts' Garage and assisted in the construction of a plane built by the Aldritts.

From that moment I decided that this new art of flying, if it ever came to anything, would be one of my foremost interests in life.

Colonel Fitzmaurice in his memoir about Aldritts' Garage

Following time spent with honour in the British Army and the Irish Volunteers, Fitz was promoted to second-in-command of the Air Corps in 1925 but he sought further adventure. The Atlantic had been crossed by air from west to east in 1919 but it was considered impossible to fly across the ocean in a westerly direction against the prevailing winds.

A number of attempts had ended fatally but a German team led by Herman Köhl and Baron von Huenefeld decided to attempt a flight taking off from Ireland. They needed an experienced flyer to join them plus the cooperation of the Irish Army Air Corps. Fitz, who by now was officer-in-command at Baldonnel, was their man.

At 5am on 12 April 1928, Fitz, Köhl and the Baron took off from Baldonnel in the Bremen, a beautifully designed Junkers aircraft.

Few words were spoken on the flight due to the engine's noise and the language barrier. Köhl and Fitz alternated on the controls for three hour periods by day and half-hour spells at night.

Twenty four hours of flying in good weather ended as they flew into a fierce storm and zero visibility. The storm lashed without mercy for hours and the crew lamented the absence of a radio which had been sacrificed in favour of extra fuel.

Later, the clouds below cleared, and a huge expanse of snow-covered land became visible. Realising that they had strayed hundreds of miles north of their course they flew south through blizzards until a lighthouse on a small island was spotted.

The 'Bremen' was landed on the frozen surface which then broke to leave its nose in the ice and its tail in the air. They had arrived safely on Greenly Island in Canada and made history.

As the news of the successful flight broke, there was world-wide rejoicing. The international press paid tribute with victorious headlines. On 30 April, the 'Three Musketeers of the Air', as they were now being called, were treated to a ticker-tape parade over a ten mile route around New York where over two million people lined the sidewalks in jubilation.

The 'Irish Independent' reported, "the cheering of the people was on a scale never before experienced in this city."

Welcoming the men to the White House on 2 May, President Calvin Coolidge bestowed the US Distinguished Flying Cross on them – the first foreigners ever to receive this award. After an extensive tour of American and Canadian cities where they enjoyed congratulations, the airmen returned to Europe.



Pictured are President Coolidge, Capt. Hermann Koehl, Baron von Huenefeld and Col James Fitzmaurice.

On 3 July they made a triumphant return to Dublin where they were cheered rapturously all along the ten mile parade route from Baldonnel to the GPO before receiving the Freedom of the City.

Text Courtesy of Brendon Deacy

The Portlaoise Plane

The first aeroplane built and flown in what is now the Republic of Ireland was constructed in Portlaoise (then Maryborough) by a family of renowned motor engineers, the Aldritts - Frank, the father and founder of the business, and his sons, Louis, Frank and Joseph.

The Portlaoise Plane is a rare aviation artefact but, better still, it has a close connection with Ireland's most famous aviation pioneer, Col James Fitzmaurice, the co-pilot on the Bremen, the first aircraft to fly the Atlantic east to west in 1928. Fitzmaurice grew up in Portlaoise and received all his formal education in the local CBS, next door to Aldritts' Garage.

He later wrote that as a schoolboy he became involved in the plane's construction, with particular mention of his mentor, Louis Aldritt, and it was from this early experience that he first acquired his interest in aeroplanes.

The aircraft, a monoplane similar to that used by the famous early pioneer aviator, Louis Bleriot, (Bleriot X1) was powered by a three cylinder in-line water-cooled engine, cast in Dublin by Tonge and Taggart and with a forged crank from R. & E. H. Hall of Salford, fitted with a Bosch magneto.



Committee members, from left: Teddy Fennelly, Sean Murray, Michael Parsons, chairman of The Heritage Council; Louise Fennelly, Alan Phelan and Catherine Casey at the Portlaoise Plane official return on Sunday 12th September 2021. Picture: Alf Harvey.

The plane was sold to a private collector from England, and it stayed in a small collection of transport artefacts for over 40 years, until discovered by Joe Rogers, a native of Portlaoise who recognised it as the Portlaoise Aeroplane on which his father, William Rogers, had worked, the first plane to be manufactured and flown in the now Republic of Ireland.

A local newspaper in Portlaoise (*Leinster Express*, 9 July 1961) states that the propeller was made by Richard P. Bannon (who included undertaking among his many business ventures) of Market Square and that John Conroy, a master wood craftsman from the town's Main Street, helped formulate the plans and did the carpentry work on the

plane. It also mentions William Rogers, father of Joe Rogers, as one of those who helped the Aldritts in the construction.

Historian and author, Teddy Fennelly, purchased the plane after a visit to England to see the plane by Teddy and Alan Phelan, who works in the aircraft leasing sector. It was restored by Brendan O'Donoghue and Johnny Molloy, both well-known aviation engineers, with assistance from Tim Costello, Dublin, and John Harris, Portarlington.

Following a triumphant return home in September 2021, the plane is now safely in storage in Portlaoise and it is hoped it will soon be on long term public display.

The Portlaoise Plane will be on display during the Festival of Flight, in Fitzmaurice Place on Sunday 10th April from 12 noon until 3pm.



Members of the UN Veterans Post 27 with the plane at the Portlaoise Plane official return on Sunday 12th September 2021. Picture: Alf Harvey.



Booklet produced by Laois Heritage Office, Laois County Council, Portlaoise,
as part of the **Laois Heritage and Biodiversity Strategy 2021–2026**.
For more on the heritage of Laois see www.laois.ie/heritage

Col James Fitzmaurice Commemoration Committee in partnership with:



Laois County Council
Áras an Chantae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



Music Generation
Laois/Laoise



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

Supported by the Heritage Council, the Decade of Centenaries and by Creative Ireland Laois
as part of the *Creative Ireland Programme (2017-2022)* in partnership with **Laois County Council**.

Clár Eire Iddinach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022

