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COVENTRY TO HOST MICHAEL COLLINS HERITAGE SEMINAR

- *Hosted by the Collins 22 Society and Coventry Irish Society*
- *Nora Owen (Former Irish Minister for Justice and grand niece of Michael Collins) guest speaker*

COVENTRY, UK. – Michael Collins is known to many as ‘the Big Fella’ and a hero whose tactics became a model for other 20th century struggles as a statesman who negotiated Ireland’s break with England. Join Coventry Irish Society and the Collins 22 Society for an afternoon of discussion, presentations and film focusing on Michael Collins and his fight for freedom.

Coventry Irish Society is a charity supporting the local Irish community in a number of different areas including health, welfare and culture. As part of this cultural support and promotion, Coventry Irish Society is keen to provide opportunities for first, second and third generation Irish, as well as the non-Irish community, to learn more about the rich heritage of Ireland.

Following the success of a Michael Collins heritage seminar in Coventry in April 2009, Coventry Irish Society and the Collins 22 Society are pleased to host a follow on event on Saturday 26th September due to popular demand. This will take place at the Standard Triumph Club, Herald Avenue, Tile Hill, Coventry. There will be a traditional start to the event, with a full Irish breakfast served between 11am and 1pm. The seminar begins at 1pm with guest speakers Gerry O’Connell (Honorary Secretary, Collins 22 Society), Nora Owen (Former Irish Minister for Justice and grand niece of Michael Collins) and Bill Martin (National Organiser, Collins 22 Society) discussing the life and times of Michael Collins. There will also be a screening of a film showing former Irish President Mary Robinson speaking at Beal na Blath in Cork on August 23rd 2009, marking 87 years since the death of Michael Collins.

Coventry Irish Society is extremely pleased to work closely with the Collins 22 Society once again to allow the local community an opportunity to learn more about one of most important men in Irish history. The Society holds a regular heritage group on the second Thursday of each month at our offices and the event has encouraged further discussion and debate about the ‘Big Fella.’ These additional heritage seminars are part of a rolling programme of guest speakers, with future topics including the Industrial School system in Ireland and the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland.

“I would like to thank the Coventry Irish Society for their continued support in co-hosting this important event, It is an opportunity for people to meet members of the Collins family and others who will be glad to answer any questions they may have covering those sad times in Irish History ” said Martin Dunne of the Collins 22 Society.

The Michael Collins event is a part of the relaunched annual Coventry Irish Festival. As a pre festival event, the afternoon opens the Festival which will run from Thursday 1st to Tuesday 6th October. Events include cultural and heritage workshops, arts and crafts sessions, Coventry Irish Society’s annual dinner and dance, as well comedy, music and dance events with major act Joe O’Donnell’s Shkayla performing as part of a showcase of local Irish talent (Saturday 3rd October, Coventry Central Methodist Hall).



Note: Tickets for the event are £6 per person, including breakfast and are available to purchase on the door or in advance from Coventry Irish Society.

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For further details contact:

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Collins 22 Society

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Editors Notes:

About the Collins 22 Society: The society was founded in 2002 to perpetuate the name of Michael Collins. To extend the influence of Michael Collins by promoting an interest in his life, his work, his writings, and in the ethos he bequeathed to the Irish people, primarily among the youth of Ireland Its patron is Nora Owens, former Minister for Justice and grand-niece of Michael Collins. Membership is international.

About the Collins 22 Website: The website is the world's largest online resource dedicated to Michael Collins