

Celebration of life and Death of Famous poet in Rathcoole

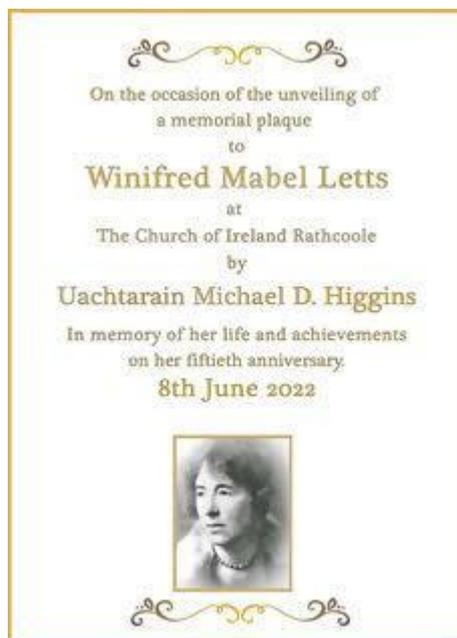
On 8th June 2022 the 50th anniversary of the death and burial of Winifred M Letts takes place in

the Anglican Church in Rathcoole. Winifred was a very famous international poet and author, and only the second female playwright to write a play for the Abbey Theatre. She was only the second female Playwriter to have her play performed at the Abbey Theatre

The event will be attended by the vicar Alan Rufli, Mervyn Ennis and fellow poets, church vestry members, SDCC councilors, including the Mayor, and long-term church attendees and others from the local community with a plaque being unveiled by The President Michael D Higgins at the event. He will be attending from 11.30 am. Attendance in the Church is limited and will be by invitation only.

A local commemoration subcommittee led by Mervyn Ennis is coordinating the event with the church and other organisations

Music will be provided by local harpist Aisling Ennis before and after the ceremony and a pupil from Scoil Chroinin reciting one of her poems



10th Feb 1882	Born Manchester Father: C of E Rector Ernest Letts. Paternal Grandfather: Thomas Letts of Letts Diaries, founded by his father, John. Mother: Mary Isabel Ferrier of Knockmaroon, Dublin Maternal Grandfather: Alexander Ferrier of Ferrier Pollock, Dublin
1898	Moved to Dublin to attend Alexandra College (age 16)
1904	After her father's death, her mother and eldest sister moved to Ireland too – lived in Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Jan 1907	She attended her first performance in the Abbey Theatre – 'Riders to the Sea'
Apr 1907	Her 1 st play was performed in the Abbey Theatre - she was only the second female to have a play performed there, Lady Gregory being the first
1907	Her first two novels published
1909	Her 2nd play was performed in the Abbey Theatre
1910	1 st poem published in The Spectator – <i>possibly incorrect</i>
1913	'Songs from Leinster' her 1 st book of poetry published
1914	Family moved house to Dal Riada, Blackrock
1915	Joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment – worked in Manchester, Alnwick (Northumberland), Blackrock
1916	'Hallowe'en & Poems of the War' published
1917	Qualified as a masseuse in the Dublin School of Massage
1917	'Hallowe'en & Poems of the War' re-published as 'The Spires of Oxford and Other Poems'
1920s	Her poetry featured on Cuala Press publications
1926	'More Songs from Leinster' published
1926	Married the widower W H F Verschoyle. Lived at 19 Fitzwilliam Sq. Lloyd-Praegars and Richard-Orpens were tenants of WHFV in the house. Jack B Yeats lived and worked next door / on a floor of the house (probably a tenant). Spent time in Kilberry, Co. Kildare where

	they had a house on their land. My grandfather came up from Clare to work as Steward on that land and that was how my mother came to know W M Letts.
1932	Published Knockmaroon (book of memoir essays)
1932 – 1938	Published children's books which were broadcast on the BBC Children's Hour
	Involved in the Fresh Air Fund, Irish Women Writers' Club, various charities & orphanages.
mid1940s	Moved to Faversham, Kent to live with her sisters following death of her husband.
Early 1950s	Returned to Ireland – lived in the Killiney area
1958	Bought Beech Cottage on Ballinclea Rd
Late 1960s	Moved to the Tivoli Nursing Home, Dún Laoghaire
7 th June '72	W M Letts died. She is buried in Rathcoole Cemetery.

WINIFRED M LETTS (1882 – 1972)