

KATHLEEN LYNN

REVOLUTIONARY DOCTOR



**Creative
Centenaries**

The story of
Kathleen Lynn

Key Stage 3 Learning Resource



Creative Centenaries

The *Kathleen Lynn - Revolutionary Doctor* graphic novel has been developed by the Nerve Centre's Creative Centenaries project which produces innovative resources around events in the Decade of Centenaries.

This is a Key Stage 3 curriculum linked resource looking at the changing face of the Home Front in Ireland, through the experiences of Kathleen Lynn.

Developed in partnership with the National Library of Ireland and featuring many collection items from the National Library of Ireland and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Artwork by Revolve comics.

With special thanks to Nicola Ralston, National Library of Ireland, and Harriet Wheelock, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

www.creativecentenaries.org





KILMAINHAM GAOL. MAY, 1916.

THESE CONDITIONS ARE HORRIFIC; WE ARE TREATED WORSE THAN DOGS.



ALL I'VE EVER WANTED...



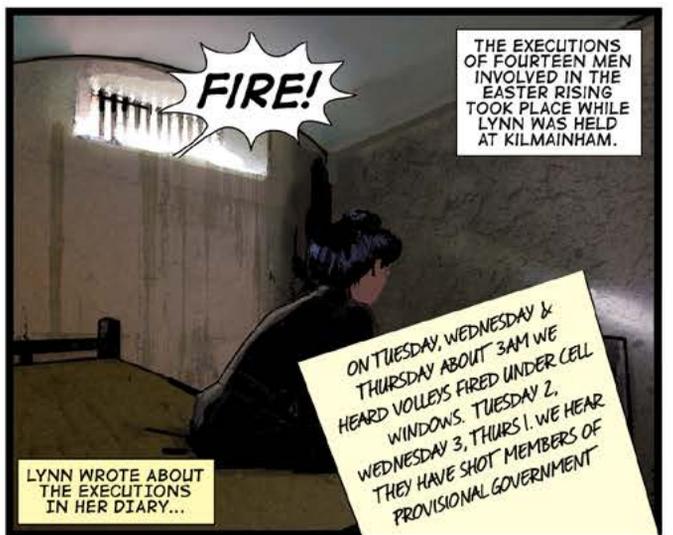
KATHLEEN LYNN HAD BEEN INSPIRED BY LABOUR ACTIVISTS SUCH AS HELENA MOLONY AND CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ. IN 1913, SHE WORKED IN SOUP KITCHENS TO SUPPORT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE DUBLIN LOCKOUT.

...IS TO HELP PEOPLE. WELL, I CAN'T HELP MANY WHILE I'M LOCKED UP IN HERE.



LYNN WAS ONE OF THE MANY WOMEN WHO HAD AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE EASTER RISING.

I HOPE THE PEOPLE DO NOT SUFFER TOO HARSHLY FOR WHAT WE DID.



THE EXECUTIONS OF FOURTEEN MEN INVOLVED IN THE EASTER RISING TOOK PLACE WHILE LYNN WAS HELD AT KILMAINHAM.

FIRE!

ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY ABOUT 3AM WE HEARD VOLLEYS FIRED UNDER CELL WINDOWS. TUESDAY 2, WEDNESDAY 3, THURS 1. WE HEAR THEY HAVE SHOT MEMBERS OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

LYNN WROTE ABOUT THE EXECUTIONS IN HER DIARY...



KATHLEEN LYNN WAS BORN NEAR CONG, COUNTY MAYO, IN JANUARY 1874. HER FATHER WAS A CHURCH OF IRELAND CLERGYMAN AND THE FAMILY OF THREE GIRLS AND ONE BOY HAD A COMFORTABLE UPRISING.

THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY SAW A PERIOD OF LAND AGITATION AND CIVIL UNREST IN IRELAND. DURING KATHLEEN'S CHILDHOOD IN MAYO, TENANT FARMERS WERE EVICTED FOR FAILING TO PAY THEIR RENTS.



COMMUNITIES WERE STILL SUFFERING REPERCUSSIONS OF THE GREAT FAMINE AND LYNN MAY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY SEEING POVERTY AND DEPRIVATION.



LYNN EXCELLED IN HER MEDICAL STUDIES AND GRADUATED IN 1899. SHE LATER MADE HISTORY BY JOINING THE ROYAL VICTORIA EYE AND EAR HOSPITAL IN 1910 AS ITS FIRST FEMALE RESIDENT DOCTOR.

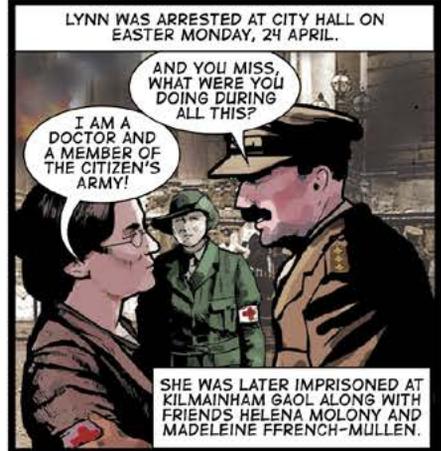
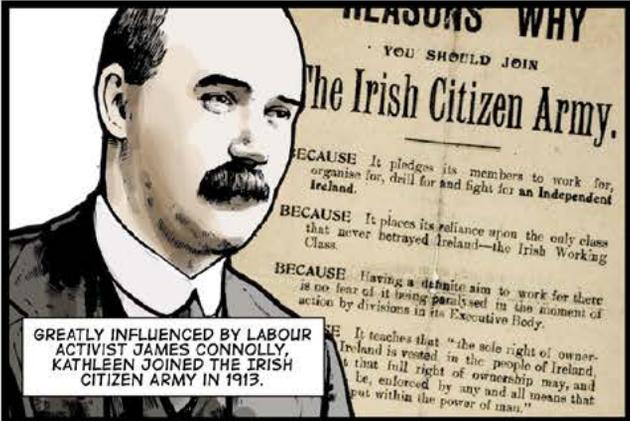


IN 1913, AT THE REQUEST OF FRIEND AND DISTANT RELATIVE COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ, KATHLEEN TREATED THE LABOUR ACTIVIST HELENA MOLONY FOR AN ILLNESS. MOLONY STAYED AT LYNN'S RATHMINES HOME FOR A TIME.



IN 1913, A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE, THE DUBLIN LOCKOUT, AFFECTED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES. MANY PEOPLE WERE LEFT WITHOUT FOOD AND RELIED ON SOUP KITCHENS. KATHLEEN LYNN SAW FIRST-HAND THE CONDITIONS FACED BY THE POOR.

THE DEATH RATE IN DUBLIN AT THE TIME WAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND AND 80% OF FAMILIES LIVING IN TENEMENTS HAD JUST ONE ROOM.





KATHLEEN WAS DEPORTED TO ENGLAND IN JUNE 1916. ALTHOUGH UNHAPPY ABOUT THE PART SHE PLAYED IN THE EASTER RISING, FAMILY AND FRIENDS PETITIONED FOR HER TO GET WORK WITH A GP THERE RATHER THAN FACE IMPRISONMENT, DESPITE KATHLEEN'S DISAPPROVAL.

SHE ABANDONED HER WORK AS A GP TO NURSE HER SISTER BACK TO HEALTH IN MAYO.

SHE LOST HER HOSPITAL POST FOR HER PART IN THE EASTER RISING AND BY EARLY 1917 HAD RETURNED TO DUBLIN AND TO POLITICS.



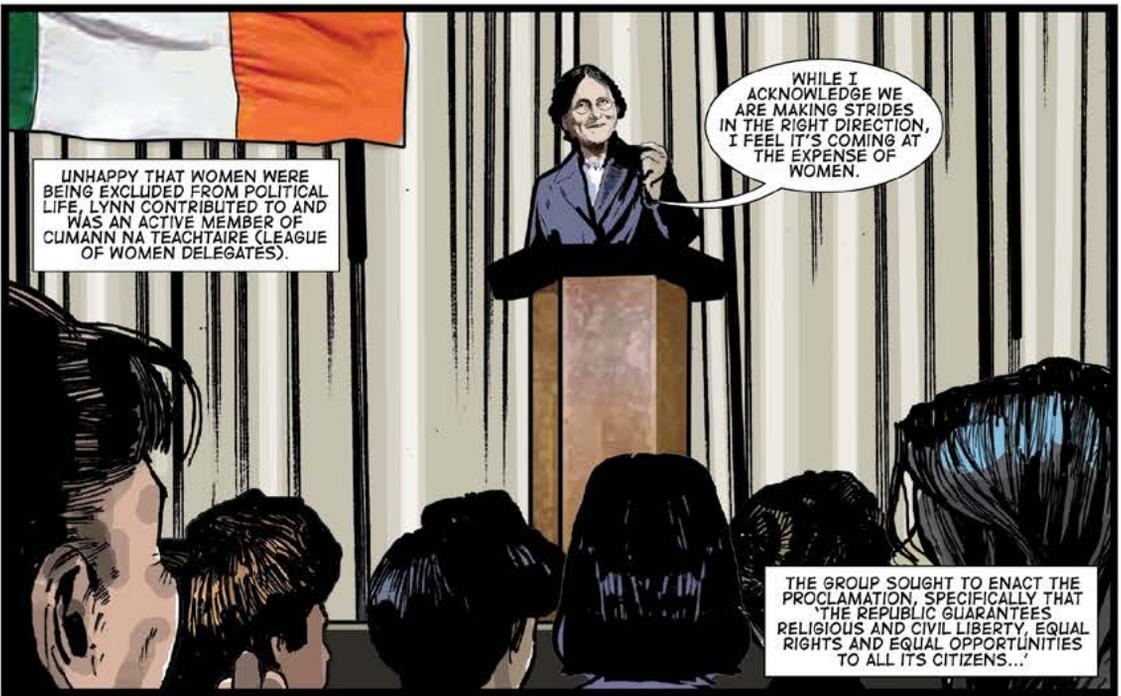
SHE ALSO SAW THE GRAVE HEALTH AND POVERTY CRISIS GRIPPING DUBLIN AND SPREADING ACROSS IRELAND.



MORALE AMONGST IRISH PEOPLE WAS LOW AS FOOD SHORTAGES AND INFANT MORTALITY ROSE. THE WAR OVERSEAS AND THE EASTER RISING HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL ON THE IRISH PUBLIC.



THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE WAS ALSO SHIFTING ACROSS IRELAND. SINN FÉIN'S FIRST PARLIAMENTARY VICTORY CAME WITH COUNT GEORGE NOBLE PLUNKETT, FATHER OF JOSEPH PLUNKETT, WINNING ROSCOMMON NORTH IN JANUARY 1917.



UNHAPPY THAT WOMEN WERE BEING EXCLUDED FROM POLITICAL LIFE, LYNN CONTRIBUTED TO AND WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF CLUIMANN NA TEACHTAIRE (LEAGUE OF WOMEN DELEGATES).

WHILE I ACKNOWLEDGE WE ARE MAKING STRIDES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, I FEEL IT'S COMING AT THE EXPENSE OF WOMEN.

THE GROUP SOUGHT TO ENACT THE PROCLAMATION, SPECIFICALLY THAT "THE REPUBLIC GUARANTEES RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL LIBERTY, EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL ITS CITIZENS..."

SUPPORT FOR THE WAR EFFORT WAS DECREASING AS CAMPAIGNS FOR HOME RULE AND INDEPENDENCE GAINED MOMENTUM.



SINN FEIN'S JOSEPH MCGUINNESS WON THE PARTY'S SECOND SEAT FOR SOUTH LONGFORD IN MAY 1917 WHILE STILL IN PRISON.

ONE WEEK AFTER JOSEPH MCGUINNESS' ELECTION VICTORY, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER DAVID LLOYD GEORGE ANNOUNCED AN IMMEDIATE APPLICATION OF HOME RULE FOR IRELAND, WITH A FIVE YEAR EXCLUSION TO APPLY TO THE SIX NORTH EASTERN COUNTIES.



WE MUST FIND A WAY TO ANSWER THE IRISH QUESTION.



A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR REPUBLICAN PRISONERS WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED IN JUNE 1917 ALLOWING KATHLEEN LYNN'S FRIENDS, INCLUDING CONSTANCE MARKIEWICZ AND EAMON DE VALERA, TO RETURN TO IRELAND.

THOUSANDS CROWDED THE STREETS TO WELCOME THE FORMER PRISONERS HOME.

FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF MAJOR WILLIAM REDMOND MP AT THE BATTLE OF MESSINES, SINN FEIN'S EAMON DE VALERA CONTESTED AND WON HIS EAST CLARE SEAT IN A BY-ELECTION IN JULY 1917.



MR REDMOND HAS SERVED THE AREA WELL BUT IT IS TIME FOR A NEW KIND OF POLITICS.

AS IRISHMEN UNITED ON THE WESTERN FRONT AGAINST A COMMON ENEMY, THE HOME FRONT WAS BECOMING EVER MORE FRACTURED.



JULY 25, 1917.



FOLLOWING A SHIFT IN THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE, DAVID LLOYD GEORGE ORGANISED THE IRISH CONVENTION TO TAKE PLACE IN DUBLIN IN JULY 1917.

POLITICIANS FROM ALL PARTIES WERE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND. HOWEVER, SINN FEIN REFUSED TO TAKE PART.



IN AUGUST 1917, SINN FEIN WON ANOTHER BY-ELECTION WITH A LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR W.T. COSGRAVE IN KILKENNY CITY.



AT THE SAME TIME, OTHER REPUBLICANS WERE ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED, INCLUDING THOMAS ASHE.

HE WENT ON HUNGER STRIKE IN SEPTEMBER 1917 BEFORE EVENTUALLY BEING FORCE FED.



HOW HAS THIS MAN BEEN TREATED?

HE IS SURELY SET TO DIE!

LYNN WAS PRESENT WHEN HE DIED. IN HER DIARY SHE WROTE, 'THOMAS ASHE DIED IN MATER WHILE MY FINGER ON HIS PULSE.'

HIS DEATH AND FUNERAL SERVED AS A RENEWED RALLYING CALL TO MANY IRISH PEOPLE FOR A REPUBLIC AS PUBLIC OPINION BEGAN TO SHIFT...



AND MANY CONTINUED TO SUFFER WARTIME FOOD SHORTAGES...



KATHLEEN LYNN AND CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN FORMING THE SINN FEIN FOOD COMMITTEE IN 1917.

CONSTANCE, IF WE DO NOT TAKE ACTION, I FEAR WE WILL SEE ANOTHER GREAT FAMINE. THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH ALREADY.

WE MUST HALT EXPORTS OF IRISH GOODS AND KEEP THEM IN THE COUNTRY.



SINN FEIN CONVENTION, OCTOBER 1917.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. KATHLEEN LYNN...

WHO HAS BEEN ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SINN FEIN EXECUTIVE.

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP



WE AGREE THAT THE PARTY IS AIMED AT SECURING THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF IRELAND AS AN INDEPENDENT IRISH REPUBLIC...

ÉAMON DE VALERA, THE ONLY SURVIVING COMMANDANT FROM THE RISING, ALSO BECAME THE PARTY'S NEW PRESIDENT.



HAS LLOYD GEORGE'S CONVENTION MADE ANY PROGRESS?

THEY ARE FAILING TO GET A CONSENSUS ON HOME RULE, THERE'S TALK OF PARTITION, KATHLEEN.



WE ARE WINNING SEATS AND THE PEOPLE SEE WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE. OUR FOCUS IS ON GROWING THE PARTY AHEAD OF THE ELECTION NEXT YEAR.

THE IRISH CONVENTION CAME TO AN END IN APRIL 1918 AS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTED BUT FAILED TO INTRODUCE HOME RULE AND CONSCRIPTION TO IRELAND. A POLITICAL ERA WAS DRAWING TO A CLOSE.



LYNN WAS ARRESTED AGAIN IN 1918 BUT RELEASED TO ASSIST WITH THE 'SPANISH FLU' OUTBREAK THAT WAS CLAIMING UP TO 250 LIVES PER WEEK.



DON'T WORRY, YOUNG MAN, WE'LL LOOK AFTER YOU HERE.

THE UK GENERAL ELECTION IN DECEMBER 1918 SAW A RISE IN SINN FEIN'S SUPPORT. THE IRISH PARLIAMENTARY PARTY LOST ALMOST ALL OF THEIR SEATS WITH 75 GOING TO SINN FEIN.



LIKE A LOT OF COUNTRIES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, IRELAND WAS GRIPPED BY POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UPHEAVAL.

CONTINUING HER COMMITMENT TO HELPING PEOPLE, KATHLEEN LYNN FOUNDED SAINT ULTAN'S HOSPITAL FOR INFANTS IN DUBLIN.



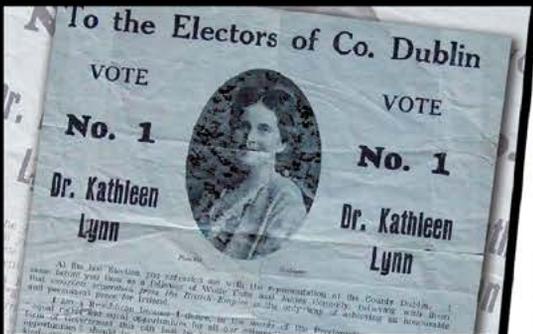
THE STAFF WERE ALMOST ENTIRELY FEMALE.

KATHLEEN RECONCILED WITH HER FAMILY AND SPENT CHRISTMAS WITH THEM IN MAYO 1920.



IT IS SO LOVELY TO BE HOME WITH YOU ALL, THIS IS TRULY JOYFUL.

IT IS NICE TO HAVE YOU HOME AGAIN, KATHLEEN, IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!



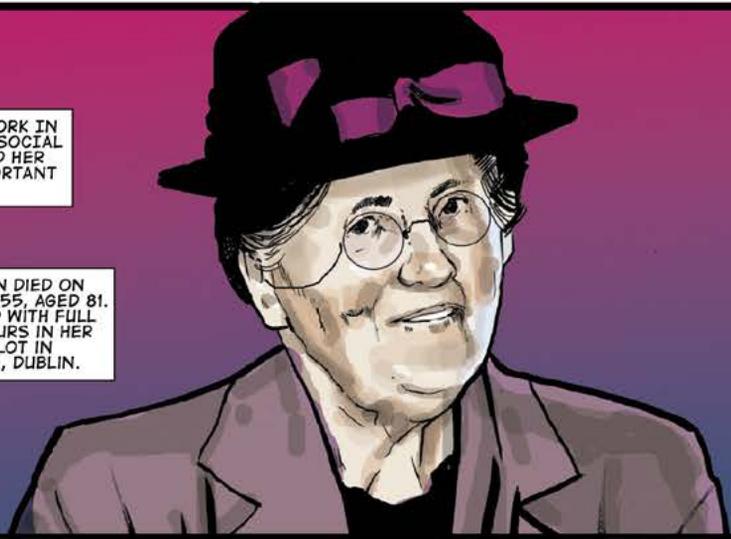
KATHLEEN REMAINED INVOLVED IN POLITICS AND WAS ELECTED AS A TD FOR DUBLIN COUNTY IN 1923 OPPOSED TO THE ANGLO-IRISH TREATY.

HER PASSION TO HELP THOSE WORSE OFF CONTINUED, AND SHE PURSUED IMPROVEMENTS IN HOUSING, FOOD AND SANITATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF DUBLIN. SHE CONTINUED TO WORK AT ST. ULTAN'S INTO HER EIGHTIES.



LYNN'S PIONEERING WORK IN POLITICS, HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES HAVE ENSURED HER LEGACY REMAINS IMPORTANT TO THIS DAY.

KATHLEEN LYNN DIED ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1955, AGED 81. SHE WAS BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY HONOURS IN HER FAMILY'S PLOT IN DEANSGRANGE, DUBLIN.





THE HOME FRONT IN IRELAND

The Easter Rising in Ireland in 1916 ignited a chain of events that would dominate Irish life over the following decades. The aftermath of the uprising saw the emergence of new political and social movements, with women playing a significant role.

Sinn Féin's rise to power began in 1917 when they won by-elections against the Irish Parliamentary Party. The first two seats were won by George Noble Plunkett and Joseph McGuinness.

Éamon de Valera was released in June 1917, along with other Republican prisoners held for their part in the Rising. Following Willie Redmond's death at the Battle of Messines, de Valera won his East Clare seat and announced a new kind of politics.

The British Prime Minister David Lloyd George initiated the Irish Constitutional Convention in July 1917 in an attempt to solve the issue of Home Rule for Ireland. Sinn Féin, however, refused to take part in the talks and in August won another seat for W.T. Cosgrave.

Women played an integral role in Sinn Féin's politics and at their convention in October 1917, Kathleen Lynn was elected vice-president of the Sinn Féin Executive and de Valera became the party's President and began to push for an independent republic.

The Irish Convention convened by David

Further information

VISIT

The National Library of Ireland in Dublin hold a variety of original documents and materials from Kathleen Lynn, including notes and letters. They can be viewed online through the website or in the Library's Reading Rooms: nli.ie

ONLINE

Read the '*Greatest killer of the twentieth century: the Great Flu of 1918-19*' article on History Ireland for detailed analysis of the pandemic: historyireland.com

VIDEO

Watch a 42 minute documentary called '*Kathleen Lynn – The Rebel Doctor*' on the Irish Film Institute site: ifplayer.ie

ONLINE

Read Kathleen Lynn's Revolutionary Diary written in the aftermath of the Easter Rising and online at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland: rcpi.ie/heritage-centre/1916-2/

Lloyd George came to an end in spring 1918 with the simultaneous introduction of Home Rule and conscription to Ireland, marking the end of a political era. Both Sinn Féin and the Catholic church unite to oppose conscription which is later dropped as an idea.

As the First World War entered its final stages, the 'Spanish Flu' pandemic was said to have infected one billion people around the world, killing approximately 100 million. The pandemic was felt across the whole island, notably in Belfast and in Dublin. Kathleen Lynn, who was arrested after being on the run between May and October of 1918, was released so she could provide essential professional services. She set up a vaccination centre and hospital for flu victims at Charlemont Street in Dublin

Sinn Féin won 73 seats in the UK general election of December, 1918 with the Irish Parliamentary Party practically wiped out. Instead of going to Westminster, Sinn Féin chose to set up a new Irish parliament, known as Dáil Éireann, in January 1919.

Kathleen Lynn

Kathleen Lynn was born in County Mayo on 28th January 1874 as the second oldest of three daughters and one son to parents Catherine and Robert, who was a Church of Ireland clergyman.

She was educated in Manchester, Düsseldorf and later Dublin and graduated in 1899. Following a postgraduate placement in the United States she became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Lynn joined the staff of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital after she was refused a position at the Adelaide Hospital because of her gender. She served as a clinical assistant at the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital from 1910 to 1916 where she became its first female resident doctor.

Although she came from a respectable and well-off background, Lynn was most concerned in her professional life with those less well-off and influenced by friends and labour activists Helena Molony

and Constance Markievicz, she also identified as an active suffragist and nationalist.

During the Dublin Lockout of 1913 Lynn saw firsthand the suffering of Dublin's population through her work in the city's soup kitchens.

Kathleen Lynn was a member of the Irish Citizen Army and during the Easter Rising, as the group's Chief Medical Officer, she helped the injured and wounded at City Hall.

She was imprisoned at Kilmainham Gaol for her role in the Rising along with Helena Molony and Madeleine French-Mullen. Lynn and French-Mullen lived together at Lynn's home in Rathmines from 1915 until French-Mullen's death in 1944. They were said to have been in a relationship.

After the Easter Rising Lynn became the vice-president of Sinn Féin's Executive in 1917 and she used her home for meetings of Cumann na dTeachtaire - the league of women delegates.



She played an important role during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-19 and with French-Mullen established St Ultan's Hospital for Infants, in Dublin, which provided essential medical and educational facilities for infants and their mothers.

Lynn's political career continued and she was elected to Dáil Éireann in 1923 but didn't retain her seat in the 1927 election.

Her commitment to health reform saw Lynn encourage pioneering tuberculosis vaccination and develop relationships with medical practitioners in the US.

Kathleen Lynn died on 14th September 1955 and was given a full military funeral.



Create a film detailing the 'Spanish Flu'

Produce a short film looking at the impact of the 'Spanish Flu' of 1917-18 and its particular affect in Ireland.

Investigate which cities and areas were hardest hit and the increasing death tolls as the pandemic took hold.

Students will use filmmaking software to combine images from the time with text descriptions or a voiceover that conveys their findings.

TIP: Read the links at 'further information' above for a detailed analysis of the disease.



Record a podcast with Kathleen Lynn in her later life

Imagine you are talking to Kathleen Lynn in the 1940s and record a podcast as you talk to her about important aspects of her life.

In pairs, students will assume the role of Kathleen Lynn and a reporter. They will script and record a podcast that reflects on Lynn's life, her personal achievements and politics.

Students will use audio recording software to compile their podcast.

TIP: Search online for free sound effects to use in your broadcast.

Areas of Learning

The Arts; English (with Media Education); Environment & Society

Cross Curricular Skills

Communication; Using ICT

Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities

Managing Information; Being Creative; Working With Others

Key Elements

Personal Understanding; Moral Character; Citizenship; Cultural Understanding; Media Awareness