

# Memoir of 100 years in the Liberties released

By Mary Dennehy  
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A LIVING history of the Liberties has been captured in an interesting and moving memoir which has been compiled by writer and artist, Chris Reid.

A history of the last 100 years, Heirlooms and Hand-me-downs, Stories from Nicholas Street, Bride Street, Bride Road and the Rosser, was written from more than 40 audio recordings which together paint a very different picture of Dublin's history.

Chris told *The Echo*: "I think the book is very interesting in terms of its take on history, it's history from the bottom up not from the top down.

"It is not written in an academic way rather its history through the generations and history through memories and experience."

Chris began the project in 2004 and spent the best part of six years

recording his interviews and allowing the story to grow.

"The Liberties is a very tight knit community and some families have known each other for years, in some cases

generations", Chris said.

"At the beginning it was hard to get people to talk but I slowly started to get introductions to the community and people opened up.

"It really was a work in progress, I let it develop in its own time."

He added: "It was a very interesting project to be involved in and was a very intense urban experience.

"There is a really strong pattern of work mapped into the area geographically - the flats were deliberately built near barracks, Guinness, the docks, government buildings etc.

"It is a residential area which is very specific to a part of Dublin, it's very unique."

The book also boasts a selection of photographs from the archives but also from families living in the area.

Heirlooms and Hand-me-downs is available from Eason on O'Connell Street, Hodges & Figgis on Dawson

Street, Books Upstairs on College Green, The Winding Stair Bookshop on Ormond Quay and the IMMA bookshop in the Irish Museum of Modern Art for €18.50.

Visit [www.cgrisreidartist.ie](http://www.cgrisreidartist.ie) for more.



**LAUNCH:** At the launch of Heirlooms & Hand-me-downs are (from left) Marie, Sean, Irene and Fergus Redmond with author Chris Reid. Photo by Johnny Banbury

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