

A little piece of Liberties history

A NEW publication reflecting a collaboration between artist Chris Reid and the local community in Dublin 8 was launched by Dublin City Council last week.

'Heirlooms and Hand-Me-Downs' is described as a "public history of community and place made up of private voices" and has been published as part of the Public Art Commission.

Funded by the Per Cent for Art Scheme by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government the publication is part of a larger DCC Public Art commission where the stories of residents within the Dublin 8 area were recorded and immortalized in the form of 20 heritage plaques.

The plaques were cast in bronze and affixed to the external walls of flat complexes on Nicholas Street, Bride Street, Bride Road and the Ross Road as a lasting legacy to the lives and stories of all the people who have lived there.

Launched by local councillor, John Gallagher, the book is a distillation of the rich oral history of the last 100 years as expressed through the memories of people who live or who have lived in a small corner of the Liberties in Dublin 8.

This residential area centres around the distinctive red

brick Victorian flats on Nicholas Street, Bride Street, Bride Road and the Ross Road.

The content of the book is

informed primarily by audio recordings made by Chris Reid with over 40 people who agreed to participate by sharing their memories and collaborating on aspects of the book's content.

The resulting work is an open-ended, insightful history based on a process of engage-

ment with the residents past and present, as Reid himself puts it 'a public history of community and place made up of private voices.'

Heirlooms and Hand-Me-Downs celebrates the resilience of communities across decades and the publication provides a vivid

demonstration of how collaborative arts practices makes and shapes civil society.

'Heirlooms and Hand-Me-Downs' will be available through libraries across Dublin and also directly from the artist through his website at www.chrisreidartist.com



● **LIBERTIES LAUNCH:** Pictured at the launch of 'Heirlooms and Hand-Me-Downs' with artist Chris Reid (left) are Cllr John Gallagher, Ray Yeates and Ruairi O'Cuiv. PHOTO BY JOHNNY BAMBURY