



Recreation of The Liffey Swim

How the Liffey Swim won Ireland's first Olympic medal...

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A selection of photos, taken at the 100th Liffey Swim celebration that took place at Custom House Quay and was organised by Leinster Open Sea Swimming.

On 23 July 2019, six swimmers set out to recreate the famous 1923 painting by Jack B Yeats that documented the event, which was then in its fourth year. The swimmers who were chosen to recreate the painting, which won a silver medal for art at the 1924 Summer Olympics, are all former winners consisting of three men and three women.

The first Liffey Swim took place in 1920 with just 27 participants and was devised to prove to the public that the water was not polluted. The course has since remained 2,200 metres in length, with the first ladies' race introduced in 1991.

To recreate the painting, volunteers dressed up in 1920s costumes and an old tram from the National Transport Museum was placed on the quay.

Lord Mayor of Dublin Paul McAuliffe who attended the event said that Dublin city "really wanted to mark" the anniversary of the iconic event with the launch that set out to recapture the painting.