



Fisher Park Opening

The result of a lot of work and cooperation between the Voluntary and Public sectors was evidenced with the Official Opening of Fisher Park after refurbishment work by the Council.

The Mayor, Councillor Michael Ruane, was supported by 4 former first citizens, Councillors Casey, Moffett, Mc Ardle and Patterson. Former Deputy Mayor Geraldine Donnelly was there also, as was the Chairman of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, Peter Fitzsimmons, The Authority, Corporate Member of NMA, donated the anchor sited in the Park.



Welcome from the Mayor

On behalf of Newry and Mourne District Council and all our citizens I extend a hearty welcome to the Lord Mayor and his guests from Bolton Lancashire.

Here in Newry and Mourne we have a close affinity with the North West of England where trading links have existed for over 300 years. Many of our own citizens, including the Lord Mayor, have made the journey across the Irish Sea to seek employment and, as in Martins case, have settled in Britain and made a home there.

These ex patriots made a valuable contribution to the welfare of their dependants in Ireland as well as playing a full and constructive role as responsible citizens in their adopted country.

We have always had a considerable Irish community in the Bolton area with many local people being long term residents. They all bear testament as to how well they are received in the community. I thank you Lord Mayor, and the good people of Bolton for your undoubted spirit of generosity towards our people and equally I am proud of the meaningful contribution they have made as an integral section of their adopted community.

I am fully confident that we as a community will not be found wanting in our hospitality or warmth of welcome. Enjoy your visit and your varied itinerary and I look forward to meeting you all personally during the weekend.

Mayor, Councillor Daire Hughes,

Newry and Mourne District Council

8th August 2014.



“HELLO AND WELCOME”!

I am honoured to have been intimately involved in this project right through from the planning stage to delivery. Last April Martin Donaghy came to Newry for the unveiling of the “Newry Docker” sculpture, sited at the former Port of Newry, where his late father was employed for many years. He attended as a stakeholder, a son paying tribute to his Father and the genre of men to which he belonged.

During this visit he expressed a desire to return as Lord Mayor with a party from Bolton Council. His main aspiration was to equally pay tribute to his Grandmother who passed away anonymously in Newry Workhouse in 1924. Life was very harsh in the era before the NHS was created along with a full Benefits System and for the less fortunate the Workhouse was a place of refuge. Little dignity or respect was accorded to those who died in the Spartan surroundings and they were buried in unmarked graves, often without the presence of a clergyman.

Martin asked me to help him address this anomaly and it has been a privilege to bring his vision to reality. The highlight of your visit will be our inter denominational service at the Newry Paupers Graveyard when Martin will jointly unveil a tribute and lay a wreath in honour of his Grandmother and those countless souls who take their eternal rest with her. Local clergy will participate in what will undoubtedly be an emotional day when all the deceased in the graveyard are afforded the honour and respect they so truly deserve.

This exercise speaks volumes for the man who is your Lord Mayor, Martin Donaghy. I am quite confident that his Mayoral year will be remembered as one hallmarked by decency, integrity and creativity and here in Newry we are proud to claim him as one of our own.

I dearly hope that your visit to our shores will whet your appetite for more and that you will promote Newry and Mourne on your return home. On behalf of the members of Newry Maritime Association I hope that you have a most enjoyable sojourn amongst us and leave with happy and positive memories of your time here.

James Mc Arevey,
Research and PR,
Newry Maritime Association.
8th August 2014.



Mayors Ball 2014

Once again we supported the Mayors Charity Ball, one of the highlights of the local social calendar and an important fundraiser for local charities. We made a special presentation to the Mayor, Councillor Michael Ruane





On Board the “Soteria”

We invited the Captain and crew of this sailing Ketch to visit Newry and they accepted. This visit was an overwhelming success and greatly increased the status of our fledging Maritime Brand for the city of Newry.



THE PORT OF NEWRY

Originally tidal, the Port Of Newry was accessed by the Clanrye River and the old Port was situated around the Boat St/Kilmorey St area. The river was shallow and only small ships of around 100 tons could safely visit the Dock.

Trade was increasing however and the growing status of Newry was reflected in the relocation of the Customs and Excise from Carlingford to Newry in 1726.

The discovery of coal in Co Tyrone led to the building of the Newry Inland Canal to facilitate the export of the produce to the fast developing city of Dublin. The Canal opened in April 1742 and accessed the River via a lock situated roughly opposite Lilys Shop at Quay St. Further flourishing trade led the merchants to seek access to deeper water and a ship canal was built through to Lower Fathom, opening in 1769. Ships entered and exited the Waterway via the Fortesque Lock there which was named after the project architect, Sir John Fortesque.

Newry was now an international trading centre with ships travelling from and going to destinations globally. A host of industries looked to the Canal as the source for importing their raw materials and also as the conduit for the export of their finished goods.

Newry was also now a thriving industrial market town which was home to mills, quarries, tanneries, distilleries, breweries, glass manufacture, brick works and foundries. These labour intensive industries ensured that there was regular employment in the town and the people had money to spend.

In 1850, after 8 years of construction, work the last section of the ship canal was completed under the direction of Sir John Rennie who also deepened the channel up through Narrow Water. Victoria Lock and the Albert Basin were constructed also, giving us the Canal as we know it today. These facilities opened in April 1850 and served Newry faithfully for the following 124 years.

Sadly the Canal came to outlive its usefulness, eclipsed first by the railways and then road transport. The Waterway went into a terminal decline culminating with its closure in March 1974 when all operations were transferred downriver to Warrenpoint. A decision had been made to develop the small coal port there as a deepwater facility and today Warrenpoint is a highly successful trading model having just posted the best returns in their 40 year history.



BLACK GOLD

Ironically the waterway which had been constructed to facilitate the export of coal later became the conduit for the importation of coal from Britain.



Coal imports were the mainstay of the Port with a readymade industrial and domestic market. Many firms were established in Newry which traded in coal, the most successful being Joseph Fisher and Sons. Fishers also became shipowners and their coasters were a familiar sight in ports across Ireland, Britain, and North West Europe. They were key employers in the town and for very many, a job in Fishers was a job for life.



MV Olive entering Newry Ship Canal fully laden with coal, circa 1965

Other coal importers were MJ O Rourke, SJ Lockington, Heartys, Provincial and Moore and Dunwoody.

Very little evidence remains today of the very existence of these one time household names.



On Board the Tall Ship “Irene”

We welcomed the Tall Ship “Irene” to Newry Canal in June and the visit was very well received by the public and the crew. We plan to have more of this activity in the future.





NMA Book Launch at Newry Library

On the 26th June we held a very successful book launch and Maritime Exhibition in Newry Library.

New Pop-Ups, were unveiled for B&I Line and Fishers Ship, "MV Olive".

Publication of the book was part of the "Newry Docker" Project.

This followed an earlier most successful E-Book Launch for our local schools on the Second of June 2014



British and Irish Steampacket Company

This company, established in Dublin in 1836, became one of the best known names in the annals of Irish Shipping history. A constituent element of the business of the firm was the export of livestock. Cattle, sheep and pigs were exported to Britain where Irish stock was held in high repute.

In Newry, the Dundalk and Newry Steampacket Co operated passenger and general cargo services to Glasgow and Liverpool. In 1926 the B&I bought over the firm and carried on with the livestock and general cargo services to Liverpool.

In April 1937 one of their ships, "Lady Cavan", collided with the Newry collier, "ALDER", which was lying at anchor in thick fog in Carlingford Lough. The Captain, his wife and 4 crewmen perished on the coal boat. In 1938 they built a cargo vessel specially to access the Newry Canal. The ship, "MV Dundalk", was built in Ardrossan and worked from Newry until the closure of the service in 1964. The company also used another small ship, MV Inniscarra, on the route and in later years converted this vessel to service the fledgling container service which began in 1963 between Newry and Preston. The B&I link was withdrawn in 1968.

Many Newry men carved out very successful careers with the company and several held the rank of Captain including brothers Matt and Dominic Hollywood, Peter Mullan, Dessie Keenan and Kenneth Hollywood. The Company was closely identified with the flagship Dublin/Liverpool route and in the late 60s they invested in new build Ro Ro vessels.

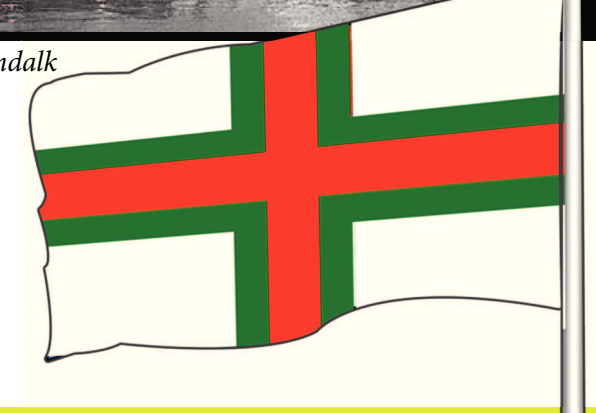
In 1985 the company was taken over by Irish Continental Group and the B&I brand disappeared from the Irish Sea after 149 years.



MV Inniscarra



MV Dundalk



SHIPS & SEA MEN



Captain Harry Hollywood MBE, Fishers Of Newry.

Captain Hollywood is an iconic figure in the history of Newry Port. A native of Fathom, he was born in 1875 commencing his seafaring career in 1889. A little man standing barely 5 ft tall, Harry was universally known as “Wee Harry” because of his need to stand on a wooden box to see over the ships wheel. He saw the genres of sail, steam and finally motor ships in a career with Fishers of Newry spanning an incredible 64 years. When he retired in 1953 Harry was the Commodore Captain of the Fisher fleet. Less than a year after he retired Harry Hollywood died in May 1954 and is interred in St Marys Cemetery Newry.



Captain Harry Hollywood MBE





Unveiling of Newry Docker

On the 26th April 2014 two years of hard work with various partners came to a conclusion with the unveiling of the “Newry Docker” Sculpture. Lord Mayor elect of Bolton, Martin Donaghy, whose father worked in the port, attended.



SHIPS & SEA MEN

Captain Dessie Keenan, B&I Line.

Like most Newry seamen Dessie commenced his career with the local firm, Fishers. During his long career with B&I he served under the legendary Commodore Captain, Gerry Barry, including a long spell as mate on the “MV Dundalk”. When Captain Barry was transferred Dessie succeeded him as Master and was the last Captain of the “Dundalk” when the service from Newry to Liverpool was terminated in April 1964. Later as a Captain with the company in Dublin he became one of the best known and respected masters on the Irish Sea.



Captain Dessie Keenan, B&I Line



MV Dundalk

Mickey Fearon Mate, Fishers Of Newry.

Now nearing his 91st birthday Mickey began his sea going lifetime in 1937, joining the Newry vessel SS Broom in Dublin, at the age of 14. He came to forge an excellent relationship with Captain Brian O Keefe with whom he sailed for over 20 years. In 1968 he became Lockmaster at Victoria Locks and held the position until the port closed in 1974. Mickey was at Normandy in WW2 with his brothers Hugh John and Paddy both of whom have passed away. Mickey is the oldest surviving seaman in the Newry area.



Mickey Fearon with his wife Sheila (RIP)



M.V. Oak arriving in Warrenpoint on her maiden voyage, one of the many Fisher ships that Mickey served on.

SHIPS & SEA MEN

Captain Brian O’Keefe, Fishers of Newry

Brian, a native of Fathom was one of five brothers who answered the call of the sea, With all five becoming Captains in the Merchant Navy. O’Keefe was also a name which was synonymous with the Fisher firm for decades. Brian reputedly became the youngest Captain with the fleet at the age of 23 and he went on to have a career at sea in excess of 40 years. Himself and Mickey Fearon forged a strong partnership both as friends and colleagues having sailed together for over 20 years.

The highlight of Captain O’Keefes Career was when he brought the “MV Olive” to Newry on her maiden voyage in December 1963. She would be the last new build ship for the famous Fisher Fleet.



Captain Brian O’Keefe, Fishers of Newry



“MV Olive”, sailing down the Newry Canal



School Visits

Thursday 13th March, the principals of both St Joseph & St James’s PS & Poyntzpass PS, Pauline McEvoy & Alison Lindsay showed our team tremendous hospitality. We wish to thank Crilco Sweets Cloughogue for their kind donation of confectionery for the pupils.



Our Principals, Pauline Mc Evoy and Alison Lindsay in Poyntzpass



NMA Visit to Ardagh National School, Omeath

Thursday 20th March 2014



James Mc Arevey NMA presents the Principal with a certificate to mark our visit. This is one of two primary schools in Omeath and one of the 10 visited on the Cooley Peninsula.





School Visits

We embarked on a schools visitation programme in November 2012, our inaugural visit was to St Malachys PS Carnegat and to date we have visited 42 schools. We held a joint visit to the primary schools of both traditions in Poyntzpass which was a great success. We also visited the 10 primary schools on the Cooley Peninsula, reflecting the important contribution of this area and its residents to the Port story. Souvenir booklets were published for these events.



NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION JOINT VISIT TO
ST JOSEPH & ST JAMES PRIMARY SCHOOL
& POYNTZPASS PRIMARY SCHOOL.
THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2014

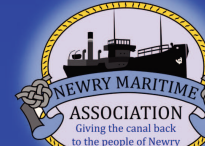
Newry Inland Canal

This is the first summit level Canal to be built in Ireland and Britain.
Construction began in 1731 and the 18 miles of waterway,
from Newry to Portadown, with 14 locks was completed in 1742.



The Labourers who dug the channel for the Canal were known as "navvys". They provided their own tools and were paid the equivalent of three pence per day.

The Main source of water for the canal came from Acton Lake, Poyntzpass.

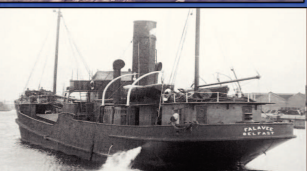


NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION

AS PART OF OUR EDUCATIONAL OUT REACH PROGRAMME WE ARE PLEASED TO BE VISITING SCHOOLS ON THE COOLEY PENINSULA, EXPLORING THE MARITIME LINKS BETWEEN COOLEY & CARLINGFORD LOUGH GENERALLY AND THE PORT OF NEWRY IN PARTICULAR.



ACCESS TO THE PORT OF NEWRY FROM THE IRISH SEA IS MADE VIA CARLINGFORD LOUGH, A NARROW SEA INLET BOUNDED BY COUNTY LOUGH ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE AND COUNTY DOWN ON THE NORTHERN APPROACH.



THE HELLYHUNTER BUOY IS THE LEADING BUOY ON THE APPROACH TO THE SHIPPING CHANNEL IN THE LOUGH AND MARKS NOTORIOUS ROCKS OF THE SAME NAME.

THE LAST COMMERCIAL VESSEL WRECKED ON THE ROCKS WAS SS FALAVEE ON 14TH JANUARY 1942. THE CREW WERE SAVED. SHIPS FORMERLY SAILED TO NEWRY WITH THEIR CARGOS UNTIL THE PORT CLOSED IN 1974 WHEN ALL BUSINESS TRANSFERRED TO WARRENPOINT.

TODAY THEIR ARE TWO COMMERCIAL PORTS AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE LOUGH, WARRENPOINT TO THE NORTH AND GREENORE TO THE SOUTH.



SHIPS & SEA MEN

Seaman Thomas Raymond Kelly, GC MN

Parents

Robert and Brigid Kelly, 7 River Street Newry. Brigid was pregnant when her husband died prematurely through ill health aged 37.

Their children were

Raymond
Rebecca
Rose
Robert
Mary
William.



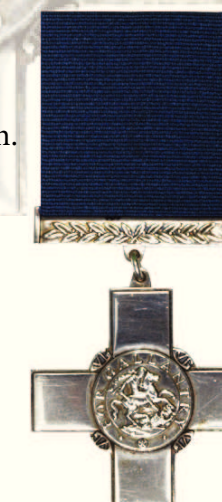
Mrs Rose O'Hare with lifelong friend,
Seaman, Paddy McCann NMA

Posthumously awarded the George Cross on 10th February 1948 in recognition of his **unquestionable courage and bravery**, when he succeeded in rescuing 2 men from mountainous seas in the Bay of Biscay. Raymond perished when he dived into the boiling seas for a third time in an attempt to save a female passenger.

Sadly, his body was never recovered.

Mrs Kelly, accompanied by her eldest daughter Rebecca, collected the award in London.

"Greater love hath no man"



Itinerary Thursday

Stormont

Named after the internationally acclaimed footballer, George Best City Airport is located in East Belfast adjacent to the famed Harland and Wolff Shipyard. George himself was born and reared in the Cregagh Estate, also in the east of the city and his father, Dickie, worked in the Shipyard all his life.

This morning we are visiting Stormont, the seat of Government in the North of Ireland, as the guests of another Bessbrook man, Dominic Bradley MLA. The Bessbrook connection is further galvanised by Danny Kennedy MLA who is the Minister for Regional Development.

Dominic is SDLP spokesman on Finance and Deputy Chair of the Northern Ireland Assembly's Finance and Personnel Committee. He also sits on the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee and has represented Newry and Mourne at the Assembly since 2003.

Government Buildings are set in the sprawling 407 acre Stormont Estate overlooking Belfast. Originally purchased in 1921 for £20 million the estate comprised of the castle and 235 acres. Today the Office of the First and Deputy First Ministers is located there and adjacent is the imposing building housing our Legislative Assembly.

Built of Portland Stone, Stormont was opened on 16th November 1932 by the Prince of Wales who later became King Edward VIII. During WW2 the building was camouflaged with black paint which took 7 years of concentrated manual effort to remove following the cessation of hostilities with Germany.

On 3rd December 2005 Stormont hosted a hugely significant and poignant event, the funeral of George Best. Almost 100,000 people turned out to bid farewell to the lad from East Belfast, whom Pele described as the "Best Footballer in the World".



George Best at his peak, Manchester Utd and Northern Ireland

George Best funeral at Stormont
December 2005



Francis Carville: Blue Circle Day

On Saturday the 15th Feb the Ulster History Circle were back in town. In association with local businessman, Michael McKeown, they unveiled a prestigious Blue Circle in honour of Newry entrepreneur Francis Carville. Carville operated his business at 32 Merchants Quay site of the Canal Court Hotel. The plaque was unveiled by Mr John Fisher, 4th Generation of the Shipping Dynasty.





Currachs on the canal for Christmas

Carlingford Lough Currach Club brought festive cheer to the canal with a nocturnal visit before Christmas and Santa joined in the fun. Special thanks to our good friend and mentor Mr Dermot Russell. The event was a huge success and the club are regular visitors to the Albert Basin.



Itinerary Thursday



*Danny Kennedy, MLA
Minister for Regional Development*



Dominic Bradley, MLA



George Best City Airport

ROONEY INTERNATIONAL COACH HIRE

The transport requirements for this visit have been entrusted to a vibrant local family owned coach hire company.....Rooney International.

The firm operates a fleet of modern coaches from its depot at Hilltown, 8 miles east of Newry, which are deployed on scheduled and private hire services. They have established a reputation as one of the foremost operators in the industry.

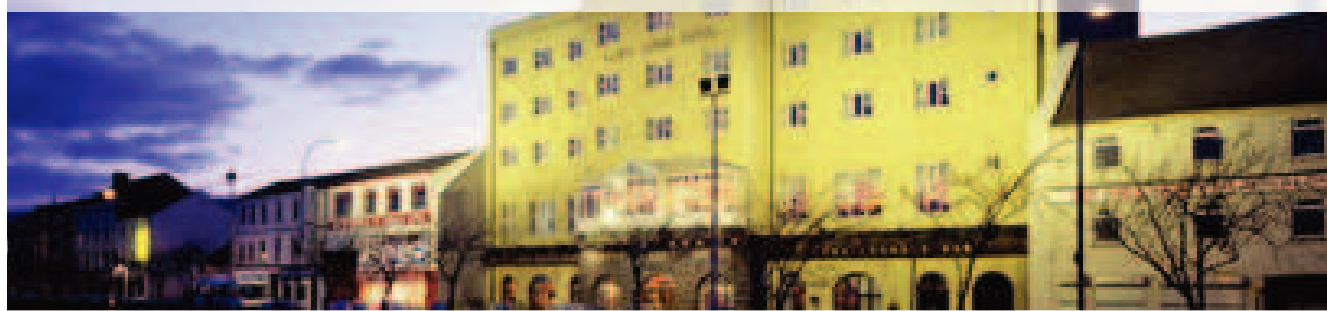


Your Accommodation

The Canal Court Hotel is built on an historic site in the heart of Newry, overlooking the Newry Canal, on Merchants Quay. This excellent 4 star facility is owned by local business men, John and Paddy Mc Parland and has a special ambience which complements the luxurious surroundings and leisure centre.

In earlier years the hotel site was the home of a spade mill owned by Newry entrepreneur, Francis Carvill, and in February a Blue Circle Plaque was unveiled at the hotel in his memory. Prior to the building of the hotel the O Hare family operated a mill manufacturing animal feed.

Today the Canal Court Hotel enjoys a reputation as one of the premier tourist destinations and is a key contributor to the local economy. In recent years the hotel has become a flagship for Newry, projecting a welcoming image for the district. The owners are synonymous with their support for the local community and generously sponsor a raft of events and organisations, including Newry Maritime Association.



John Fisher visits the Maritime Exhibition at the Gaelarus Newry

We participated in this very successful exhibition hosted by the Gaelic League in February 2014.

Mr John DF Fisher was a very welcomed guest.





The funeral of Tommy McKeown

The Planning for the Flagship unveiling of the sculpture of the “Newry Docker” and publication of an accompanying book was tragically marred by the sudden passing of Tommy McKeown. Tommy, a member of the committee and brother in law of our PRO James McAreyve, passed away on 15th December 2013. A true knight of the road for over 40 years, Tommy was given an individual appropriate an well deserved send off. We wish to thank are Corporate Member, Dan O’Hare Commericals, who facilitated us with the truck.



Newry

The city of Newry lies in a valley with the Mourne Mountains to the East and the Ring Of Gullion to the South West, both of which are Areas Of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Traditionally a market town, it has developed into an important commercial hub on the trade corridor between Belfast and Dublin.

The city has a population of around 40,000 and the electoral area of Newry and Mourne boasts a population of over 90,000 with the local Council headquartered here. In recent years Newry has become home to many from a multi cultural background, including a sizeable Polish community, who make a valuable contribution to the local area.

Newry is a well known mecca for shoppers.



Ariel View of Newry from the South East

Warrenpoint

Warrenpoint is a small coastal town which lies on the Northern shores of Carlingford Lough, the body of water that separates Northern Ireland from the Irish Republic.

The town has a thriving port, which just weeks ago welcomed its first cruise liner, and is strategically placed as “The Gateway to the Mournes”, the famed mountain range immortalised by Percy French in his ballad, “The Mountains Of Mourne”.

The Mournes have been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The town is a popular mecca for tourists and hosts major events such as “The Blues on the Bay” festival, which has attracted the internationally acclaimed Van Morrison. “The Maiden Of the Mournes festival” is another huge annual attraction.

In the halcyon days of the seaside holidays long before the advent of foreign travel, Warrenpoint was a popular destination for visitors from North West England and North Wales and a ferry service operated between Greenore and Holyhead until around 1930.

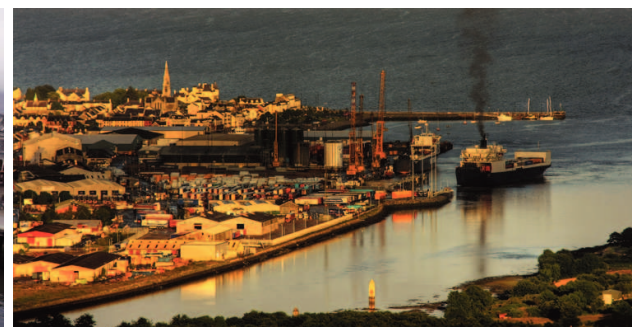
A local man, George Gardiner (1821/1891) was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry during the Crimean War.



Saga Pearl II, Visited Warrenpoint on Sunday 20th July 2014



Warrenpoint Marina



RoRo Ferry, off the Berth



The name of Raymond Kelly was perpetuated at this event in the street where he was born in 1928. His nephew Raymond and his son, also Raymond, attended the unveiling of the Blue Circle dedicated to this local hero. His brother Willie and sister Rose O'Hare were also present. We wish to thank the Kelly family for the continued availability of Raymonds Medals for our events when required.

Event for Raymond Kelly GC





Unveiling of Blue Circle Plaques for our George Cross Holders

The Event on the 7th December 2013 in honour of Michael Blaney GC & Raymond Kelly GC was hosted by the Ulster History Circle.

The Photos come Courtesy of Maud Hamill from the Circle.

This was the first occasion that both of these prestigious awards were on public display in Newry. The George Cross awarded to Max Blaney is held in Malta by a family member in residence there. The Blaney family graciously brought it to Newry for the event.

Event for Max Blaney GC



Itinerary Friday

Warrenpoint Port Visit

The Port of Warrenpoint is situated 6 miles south of Newry at the Northern extremity of Carlingford Lough. When the port in Newry was deemed to be no longer viable a decision was made to relocate to Warrenpoint and develop the existing facilities there.

This year the Port Of Warrenpoint celebrated the 40th anniversary of its redevelopment in style, posting its best ever returns. The 65 acre site is a bustling commercial hub with over 600 truck movements per day. Conveyance and storage of all types of cargo is provided and additional covered storage is presently under construction.

The Ro Ro service, operated by Seatruck Ferries between Warrenpoint and Heysham Lancs, also recorded a record year with just under 100,000 units carried. Just 3 weeks ago the Port hosted its first ever cruise liner for what was a most successful visit and it is hoped that Warrenpoint will become a regular port of call for cruise ships in the future.



Saica Pack Visit

Known locally as the “Box Factory” this enterprise has been a key employer in the Warrenpoint and Newry area since it first opened as Thompson and Norris in 1947.

In 1954 the firm was taken over by Reed Corrugated Cases, the biggest manufacturer of cardboard cases in the UK and employment peaked at over 500.

Reeds in turn were bought over by SCA Packaging and the firm continued to prosper investing heavily in new equipment and technology. SCA counted most of the majors in the food and drinks sector in their portfolio. Some years ago the Spanish firm Saica took over SCA and carry on the business began by their predecessors some 67 years ago. Technological advances have meant a reduction in the labour force but the firm remains at the pinnacle of corrugated cardboard case manufacture.



Itinerary Friday

Whistledown Hotel

This family owned enterprise is the venue for our lunch today. The hotel is positioned on the seafront with panoramic views of Carlingford Lough, the Mourne Mountains and Slieve Foy. Apart from being a favourite with tourists the hotel is a popular venue for weddings and all kinds of functions.



LUNCH IS SPONSORED BY THE MAYOR OF NEWRY AND MOURNE, COUNCILLOR DAIRE HUGHES.

Newry Chamber Of Commerce

Founded in 1892 the Chamber promotes business between members and others and it represents their interests at local, regional and national level.

The Chamber also enjoys the benefit of Newry's strategic geographical position on the eastern Economic Corridor of Ireland, equidistant from the cities of Belfast and Dublin.

The CEO is local lady, Orla Jackson, someone with a passion for the promotion of Newry and improving the lot of her members.



Orla Jackson, Mayor Daire Hughes, First Minister Peter Robinson and Chamber President: Deborah Loughran

Newry Golf Inn

Dinner will be hosted in Newry Golf Inn courtesy of **Newry Maritime Association**



This family run concern has an excellent reputation as a hub of local community activity, a popular venue for all social occasions

Our day concludes with a visit to the medieval village of Carlingford on the Cooley Peninsula, an area steeped in history, myth and tradition.



Carlingford, County Louth and Newry Golf Inn



Unveiling of Memorial Plaque for the Byrne Family.

Four members of the family perished in an accidental gassing on 7th December 1952 in what is still the worst domestic tragedy in Newry. The lady who raised the alarm that fateful day, Mrs Ann Quinn (Nee McConville) attended and laid a floral tribute.



Plaque at Thomas Street, Newry

Afternoon Tea is hosted by Newry Chamber of Commerce



St Malachys Primary School Visit to Warrenpoint Port

As Part of our schools outreach programme we arrange visits to the Port, courtesy of our Corporate Member, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. Pupils are given a rare opportunity to view the daily activities of the busy daily working enviornment of the Port.



Itinerary Saturday



Locations:

1. Slieve Gullion (Morning Coffee & Refreshments Courtesy of Citywest Transport Ltd, Newry)
2. Flagstaff Viewing Point
3. Victoria Locks
4. Ross Memorial
5. Kilkeel Harbour (Lunch Courtesy of Country Carpets Limited Newry)
6. Silent Valley Reservoir
7. Spelga Reservoir
8. Downshire Arms, Hilltown

Itinerary Saturday

Our coach trip today will take us through some of the most beautiful terrain on the island of Ireland showcasing the Counties of Armagh and Down at their best.

Slieve Gullion (Morning Coffee & Refreshments Courtesy of Citywest Transport Ltd, Newry)

Leaving Newry we travel across the scenic countryside of South Armagh, through the village of Meigh, arriving at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. The mountain is the key feature of the Ring Of Gullion, designated an Area Of Outstanding Beauty (AONB), at 1880ft is the highest point in Co Armagh. There is a lake on the summit, 2 burial cairns and a passage grave and an unparalleled view over 9 counties.

Flagstaff Viewpoint.

We continue our journey through South Armagh towards the Border with the Irish Republic. En route to this famed beauty spot and tourist attraction we will cross the invisible dividing line 3 times. There are commanding, breathtaking views of Carlingford Lough, The Mourne and Cooley Peninsula in North Louth.

Victoria Locks, Fathom, Co Armagh.

Leaving the Flagstaff we travel across the border for the 4th time and into Co Louth. Minutes later we cross the land boundary for the 5th time to enter the North.

Victoria Locks, the entrance to and exit from the Newry Canal, is a magnificent example of Victorian engineering at its best. Built by the architect Sir John Rennie it opened in April 1850.

The Ross Monument, Rostrevor, Co Down.

We are now in our 3rd county, Down, and leaving Newry and Warrenpoint behind we arrive on the outskirts of the village of Rostrevor and the 99 ft granite obelisk built in 1826.

This imposing memorial commemorates Major General Robert Ross who was born here in 1766. After an illustrious career in the army he led a British Expeditionary Force to the USA and was in command of all the troops on the East Coast. Early successes saw him arrive in Washington where he is forever remembered as the man who burned the White House.

He was then persuaded to attack Baltimore but was killed at the Battle Of North Point on 12th September 1814. Eventually he was buried in Halifax Nova Scotia where he has an impressive gravestone. There is also a memorial in St Pauls Cathedral London to the man whom the Americans regard as "An honourable adversary."

Kilkeel Co Down. (Lunch Courtesy of Country Carpets Limited Newry)

We are now in our 2nd AONB of the day, The Mourne, about which Percy French composed a famous ballad in 1896. On the opposite side of the Lough, dominating the skyline, is Slieve Foy with the villages of Omeath and Carlingford nestling below and the Port of Greenore is at tip of the Cooley Peninsula.

A ten mile drive through this scenic vista, with panoramic views of the glistening Lough and the mountains surrounding it, leads us to the small coastal town of Kilkeel home to the largest fishing fleet in the North Of Ireland. Fishing, traditionally has been the mainstay of employment in the greater Kilkeel area and there are several fish processing plants situated at the harbour. The industry however is a pale shadow of its former self and this is reflected by the significant reduction in the local trawler fleet. A major player in the local economy is BE Aerospace, producing aircraft seats for a global market. Kilkeel is also home to the internationally acclaimed firm of stone masons, S Mc Connell and Sons, whose commissions include the Princess Diana and Bomber Command Memorials both located in London.



Cenotaph 2013

NMA Member Helena Carr, a member of an old Newry Seafaring family, pictured at the Remembrance Day ceremonies in London, when she laid a floral tribute in memory of all our Newry Sea men.

The wreath was a replica of the house flag of the Fisher Fleet.



SS Privet Newry, lost with all hands, 5th December 1940. This was just one of many Newry ships and crews lost over the years





NMA Visit Carrick on Shannon 20th & 21st September 2013



We were guests of Mr Larry McGuinness on board the Cruiser "Crystal Waters".

Itinerary Saturday

Silent Vally Reservoir

The Reservoir was built for the purpose of creating a water supply to Belfast. Work began in 1923 and over 1000 men were employed, developing a 9000 acre catchment area into a huge reservoir. During construction, which was completed in 1933, 9 men lost their lives. Nearby a tunnel some 2 and half miles long was constructed 800 metres below Slieve Binnian, the work took 4 years to complete and the Binnian Tunnel opened on the 28th August 1952.

Spelga Reservoir

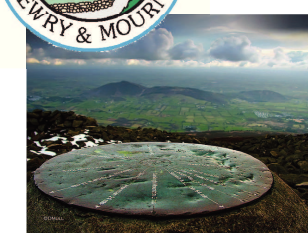
This Reservoir sits 1200 feet above sea level and takes its name from the mountain of the same name. The project which took 4 years to complete was finished in 1957 and created a water supply for Banbridge and Portadown, centres of the Linen Industry.

Hilltown

Hilltown with a population of 2000 is a small village nestling in the Mourne 8 miles east of Newry. The village is named after the Hill family who came to Ireland with the army of Queen Elizabeth 1st. They were later ennobled taking the title of "Downshire". The founder of the family Moyses Hill was landless when he arrived in Ireland but by 1854 the Hill family owned 115,000 acres in Ireland and 5,000 in England. The Downshire Arms Hotel built in 1820 is named after them and replaces the original inn which dates back to 1765.



Dinner: On our return to the Canal Court Hotel, dinner will be hosted by the Mayor of Newry and Mourne, Councillor Daire Hughes



Slieve Gullion, Summit



Flagstaff, Viewpoint



Victoria Locks, Newry



Spelga Dam, Reservoir



Ross Memorial



Kilkeel Harbour



Silent Valley, Reservoir



Downshire Arms, Hilltown

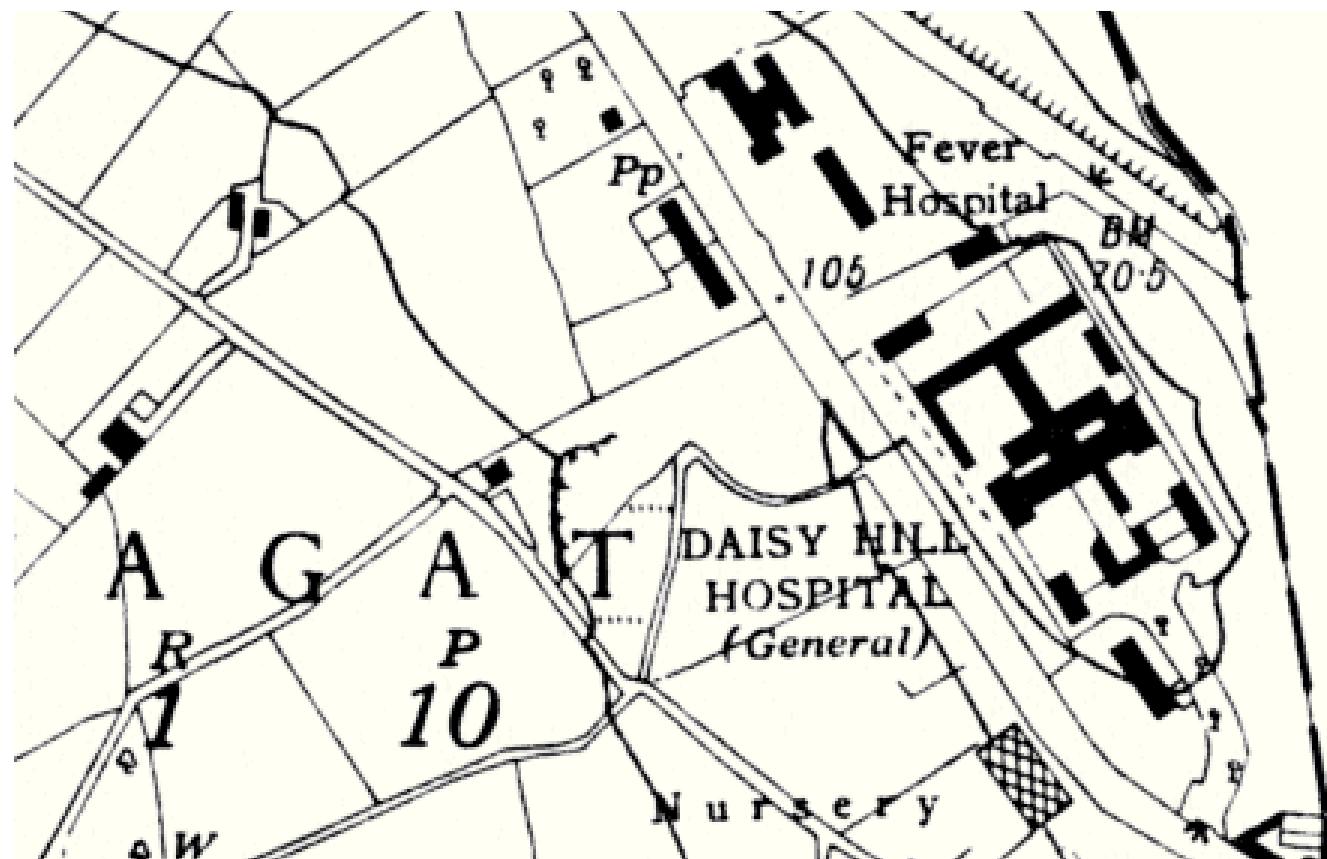
(Monday 11th August 2014)

Prior to the departure of the group from our area Dr Conor Patterson, Chief Executive of Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency, will host lunch at WIN Industrial Estate, Newry.

Newry Workhouse and Paupers Graveyard.

Apart from the giveaway monumental crosses a stranger would have no visual clues as to the true use of this pleasant, walled, open green space. This is no recreation area however as it is the last resting place of possibly thousands of inmates of the nearby Workhouse and members of the travelling community.

Today the ultra modern facility that is Daisy Hill, an acute hospital, occupies the site of the old Workhouse. This institution was no different to any of the other 129 such establishments sited across the island. The regime was extremely harsh for those unfortunate enough to seek refuge there.



The brief extended from the Poor Law Commissioners set the standard expected.

“The style of building is intended to be of the cheapest description compatible with durability and effect is aimed at by harmony of proportion and simplicity of arrangement, all mere decoration being studiously avoided.”

These were the criteria which the designer was expected to follow and there was a further caveat. **The designer was expected to build each facility for 75% of the cost of a similar building in England.** January 1839 saw George Wilkinson, an English designer, arrive in Dublin. His job was to oversee the building of 130 Workhouses across the country which would offer accommodation and employment to those who could not support themselves. Wilkinson's salary was £500 pa.



SS Alder Memorial Event at Victoria Locks 10th August 2013



A fully inclusive cross community event, all shades of political opinion and the main religious traditions were represented, Dr Michael Barry and Father Fergus Breslan presiding.



SS Alder Memorial Event at Victoria Locks 10th August 2013



Newry Workhouse and Paupers Graveyard.

Newry Poor Law Union was opened on 3rd May 1839 covering an area of 215 square miles, something similar to the Newry and Mourne electoral area. The building of the Workhouse began in 1840 and it was declared fit for use on 14th December 1841, with the first inmates arriving 2 days later. **The 7 acre site had cost £513 with a further £453 being paid in compensation to 3 tenants. The building cost £7100 and £1727 was spent on fixtures and fittings and the numbers of inmates soon exceeded 1000.**



Inside the boundary walls life was grim as no one was expected to be better off than those outside. Men and women were segregated and **slept in poorly lit and ill ventilated dormitories with flock pillows and horse hair blankets. These conditions helped incubate contagious diseases which spread rapidly from outbreak.** Typhus and Dissentry were rampant and medical attention was basic. One exception to that in the Newry regime was Dr William Alexander Davis, a humanitarian, who was appointed 1st Medical Officer. Davis succumbed to fever himself but survived and carried on with his never ending medical duties.

The period between 1845 and 1855 saw Ireland and its population ravaged as never before. The population was halved from 8 to 4 million people as people starved due to the failure of the potato crops, Government policy and emigration. The foundations of the modern day Irish Diaspro were laid during this period especially and for generations after. **Death was commonplace in the Workhouse and the corpses were unceremoniously buried in the graveyard on the site.** By 1860 additional land was purchased for the creation of the present graveyard and all burials were centred here then. Bodies were brought to the cemetery on a horse and cart and often there was no clergyman present to officiate. During the Famine years soup kitchens operated in Newry with one at New St feeding over 1100 people. **Even in the 20th century the problem of hunger amongst poor people still reigned.**

On 10th October 1932 the Canteen of Our Ladys School was opened to give the poor 1 meal per day and hundreds were accommodated. Here in this cemetery remains from a Famine Graveyard were reinterred in 1953 and more remains discovered on the old Workhouse site were reburied here in 1960.

Newry Workhouse and Paupers Graveyard.

During building works at the Hospital in 2006 human remains were discovered and a team of archaeologists were summoned to examine and fully excavate the site. The remains were then brought to Queens University Belfast for Carbon Dating and gender identity. This process took almost 3 years and then the bones were returned to Daisy Hill. The scientists reported that these were the remains of 18 people, men, women and children. The senior official from the Southern Health and Social Services Trust, Mr Danny Mc Kevitt took responsibility for the burial of these remains. He engaged a local funeral director and 2 clergymen, Fr Fergus Breslan and the current Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Rev Dr Michael Barry, and the remains were accorded a dignified reinterment here in 2009. This was the last recorded burial on this site.



Mr Danny Mc Kevitt



Dr Michael Barry & Fr Fergus Breslan



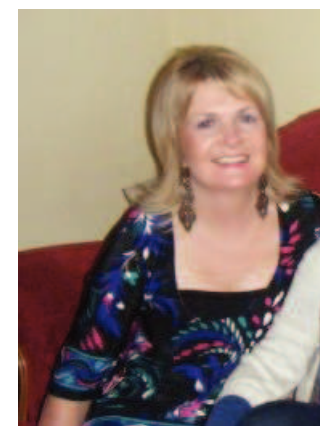
Famine Headstone, erected on this site on Sunday 4th May 2014, the first one erected in Ireland



An Eventful Year in Words and Pictures

The on going help and support of our local Civic Authority, Newry and Mourne District Council is crucial to the delivery of our varied range of events and activities to our community.

We record our sincere thanks to our elected representatives and officials



Great to be home!

Lord Mayor of Bolton, Martin Donaghy.

As First Citizen of my adopted city I am pleased and delighted to lead a party from my Council to the area which I am proud to call home and where my extended family still reside.

Mr Mayor,I am looking forward to renewing friendships and forging new links during this visit to the lovely area of Newry and Mourne of which we can all be rightly so proud.I am especially looking forward to sharing the generosity and hospitality of my fellow countrymen with my colleagues from Bolton.

Over the coming days they will also share the striking beauty of the place which we are privileged to call our home.I also bring best wishes from our Irish Community in Bolton,particularly those from the Newry and Mourne area,many of whom have resided there for a lifetime.They have made a valuable contribution to the community and I am minded of Canon Charles Hollywood,a native of Fathom,who worked tirelessly among the Deaf Community for over 40 years until he sadly passed away in 2003.

Hollywood House in Collyhurst stands in tribute to this selfless man.

Everyone in my visiting group is really looking forward to what I have personally guaranteed them.....a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable visit.

Councillor Martin Donaghy,

Lord Mayor of Bolton.

Native of Bessbrook Co Armagh.



Lord Mayor of Bolton, Martin Donaghy



Canon Charles Hollywood, RIP

Newry Workhouse and Paupers Graveyard.



Martin Donaghy, Lord Mayor of Bolton

No one knows for sure just how many people were buried here as sometimes records were not very accurate. To remember our dead, especially those cloaked in anonymity by the mists of time,is a holy and worthy thought.

For Martin Donaghy personally, this will probably be the most important engagement of his Mayoral year.A local man,he has returned to his roots to pay tribute to his maternal Grandmother and all those who rest here.People who had no voice and who were marginalised in their traumatic lives take centre stage today.

Quietly, proudly we remember all those interred in this cemetery and pray that the terrible plight which befell them will never revisit our country again.

“He spake well who said that graves are the footprints of angels”.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



Remembering Yesterday

Ours is an inclusive service of shared remembrance by local clergy, representative of the various denominations present in our community today.

Sunday 10th August 2014, 2pm.

This afternoons event will be presented by James McAreevey, PRO of Newry Maritime Association

This is a local Voluntary group dedicated to the preservation and active promotion of the History of the Port of Newry and its hinter land.

Our Music today is provided by Camlough Brass and Reed band with soloist, Miss Kathleen Moore, under the direction of their conductor Tom McCabe. The band are synonymous with helping the voluntary sector organise events in the local community for almost 80 years.

The Pipe Major of Altnaveigh Memorial Pipe Band, David Hanna, MBE, will make an individual contribution.

In keeping with the recognition being accorded to our honourable deceased, the First Citizens of Newry and Mourne and Bolton Councils will jointly preside.

A fitting memorial will be unveiled and floral tributes laid to perpetuate the memories of all those worthy people interred in this cemetery.



Conductor
Tom McCabe



Soloist
Miss Kathleen Moore with her brother, Andrew



A reception hosted by the Good Relations Section of Newry and Mourne District Council will take place in Bessbrook Town Hall, the Lord Mayor being a native of Bessbrook.

