



Looking Back, to Look Forward



Mid and East Antrim: 1921 - 2021



Larne Town OS 4th edition, 1901 – 1902, permission of Crown Copyright/LPS.

Front cover: Young people of Harryville Choir, Ballymena enjoying a day trip in the late 1920s. Image courtesy of Sam McCaig.

Foreword



Northern Ireland reached its first century on 3 May 2021.



As Mayor, I am delighted that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has led the way in our area's marking of this highly significant milestone. We have used the anniversary to highlight our Borough as a forward thinking and well-connected place, with huge potential.

Already, we have a proven track record in manufacturing innovation and business excellence. Ahead, through the Belfast City Region Deal, we have exciting plans for our Borough's future prosperity.

Residents and visitors alike also find Mid and East Antrim to be a vibrant and engaging place to explore. We have a wealth of built heritage, exceptional landscapes, and renowned local hospitality. We want to share our unique part of the world whilst ensuring that it is sustainably protected.

Councillor William McCaughey
Mayor,
Mid and East Antrim



One of the many ways we have chosen to mark the Centenary is by the 'Looking Back, to Look Forward: Mid and East Antrim 1921 -2021' project. Our project is supported by the Northern Ireland Office Shared History Fund, distributed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

This booklet captures some of the key outputs of the Looking Back, to Look Forward project. Content includes a condensed version of our touring museum exhibition and contributions from 20 community volunteers. Our skilled volunteers researched untold stories to share with a new audience.

There is also a further reference section for those who would like to learn more about the historical context of the Centenary.

Councillor Cheryl Brownlee
Chair,
Northern Ireland Centenary Working Group





Alderman Audrey Wales



Councillor Cheryl Brownlee



Alderman Gerardine Mulvenna



Councillor Lauren Gray



Councillor Patricia O'Lynn





Women in Politics



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This dimension to the Looking Back, to Look Forward project, provides an opportunity for female Mid and East Antrim Councillors to contribute to the Centenary in a filmed interview.

Their role as elected representatives, within the context of the Centenary, reflects how women, over the decades in Northern Ireland, have had an ever stronger voice in the public sphere and in shaping our futures.

Elected Members were filmed sharing their motivation and inspiration for getting involved in politics and what they bring to the role as a woman, highlighting areas of particular interest or importance to them.

Their interviews are available as a resource on council's NI100 pages www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/council/civic-and-ceremonial/ni100. The Nerve Centre were commissioned to create the film with Council. The 'Women in Politics' interviews are also on their Creative Centenaries website www.creativecentenaries.org/resources

Elected Members

Alderman Audrey Wales, MBE
(DUP, Ballymena)

Councillor Cheryl Brownlee
(DUP, Carrick Castle)

Alderman Gerardine Mulvenna
(Alliance, Coast Road)

Councillor Lauren Gray
(Alliance, Carrick Castle)

Councillor Patricia O'Lynn
(Alliance, Ballymena)



Partition and Creation of Northern Ireland

The UK-wide general election of 1918 resulted in a majority across much of Ireland for Sinn Fein, with the north eastern counties voting strongly unionist. Old tensions revived and violence flared in 1919- 1920, particularly in Belfast, Dublin and Munster. Finding a solution to the 'Irish

problem' was vital. That solution was the Government of Ireland Act 1920. This attempted to satisfy both ambitions by splitting Ireland into two jurisdictions: a unionist-ruled Northern Ireland, and an independent Southern Ireland.

1912



The Third Home Rule Bill (later to become the Government of Ireland Act, 1914) is introduced to the House of Commons.

1914-
1918



Outbreak of the First World War prevents the Government of Ireland Act 1914 being implemented.

1922



Following the establishment of the Ulster Special Constabulary in 1920, the Royal Ulster Constabulary was created.

1922-
1923



The Irish Civil War followed the War of Independence (1919-1921). It was fought in the new Free State between supporters and opponents of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921. The pro-Treaty side won.

1972



Stormont suspended. Aside from a brief period of power sharing in 1974, Northern Ireland was governed by direct rule from Westminster.

1998



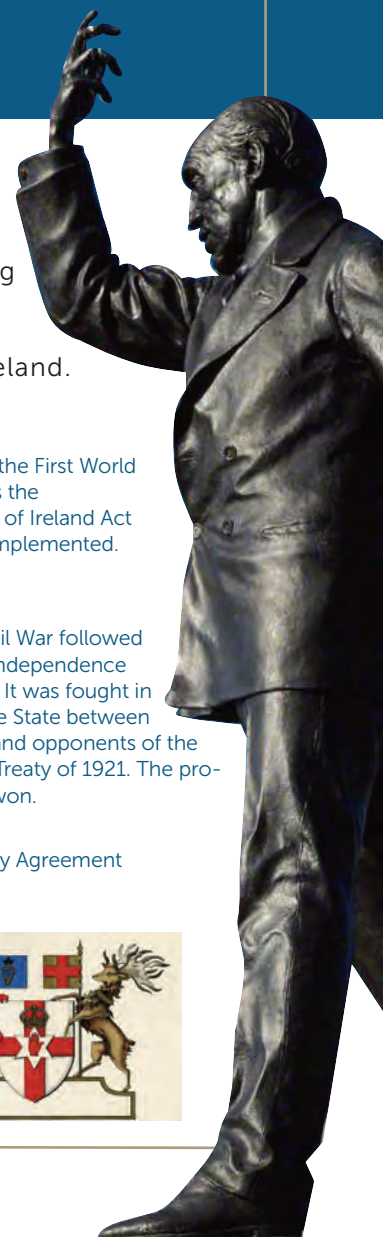
Good Friday Agreement signed.

2020



New Decade, New Approach agreement. This restored the Executive on 9 January 2020, after a three-year hiatus.

Crest of the Northern Ireland Parliament, 1924-1927



Irish nationalists campaigned for HomeRule throughout the nineteenth century. The Third Home Rule Bill was introduced in 1912 despite opposition from Ulster unionists and many conservatives. It was passed in 1914, but was never implemented due to the outbreak of war.

Although this compromise dissatisfied many, it was confirmed by the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921. Northern Ireland became a separate entity on 3rd May, 1921. Elections for its parliament were held on 24th May. The result was a significant victory for unionism.

The Northern Ireland parliament was suspended in 1972 after several years of civil unrest. Northern Ireland was then governed by direct rule from Westminster until 1999, when the Northern Ireland Assembly was established following the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement of 1998.

1920



23 December. The Government of Ireland Act (the Fourth Home Rule Bill) is passed. This separates Ireland into two jurisdictions.

1921



24 May. First NI elections held. Unionists win a huge majority, and nationalists refuse to take their seats in Belfast.

1932



The new parliament buildings at Stormont are opened.

1968-1998



Period of intense political unrest and violence in Northern Ireland, referred to as 'The Troubles'.

1999



Northern Ireland Assembly established. It has been suspended five times over the years, most recently between 2017-2020.

2007



St Andrew's Agreement between the British and Irish governments, the DUP and Sinn Fein. This established a decade of power-sharing between the parties until 2017, when the Executive collapsed.





The Second World War



Local industries contributed significantly to the war effort, and Northern Ireland's protected yet strategic location made it an ideal military and training base for Allied troops. The movement of troops was easily facilitated by the ports of Belfast and Larne.

Thousands of people were involved in the war effort in either a military or civilian capacity. In 1936 with war looming

government advisors recommended that preparations for aerial bombardment should begin.

In response, Air Raid Precautions (ARP) committees were formed in towns across Northern Ireland.

The war effort invaded the home. A blackout order in September 1939 was imposed.

3 September 1939



Britain declares war on Germany. The mobilisation order taking the UK into war with Nazi Germany in 1939 was signed by General James Stuart Steele, from Ballycarry.

26 May - 4 June 1940

Evacuation of Dunkirk. Dr George Kane (1907-2000) was a Ballymena GP who served in the army and was wounded at Dunkirk. He was later responsible for the sanitary clearing of Belsen and other concentration camps, for which he was awarded a military OBE.

21 June 1940



First full-scale Air Raid Precautions test in Ballymena. A further test followed in the Larne Group Area a few days later. JJR Bain from Larne, joined the ARP as a volunteer.

June 1942



Major William Orlando Darby organised and activated the 1st Battalion US Rangers at Carrickfergus. As the spearhead of Allied offences in Europe, 'Darby's Rangers' went on to fight in campaigns in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

1944



Evacuation of Gibraltar to the UK. Some 6000 Gibraltarians had arrived in Northern Ireland by 1944 and were housed in camps around Ballymena.

6 June 1944



Invasion of Europe on D-Day.



On 3 September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany. Shortly afterwards, Lord Craigavon, Northern Ireland's Prime Minister, pledged the province's support, which would prove invaluable.



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Rationing followed in 1940. Women played a vital role on the home front, medically, militarily and as civilians—often doing jobs previously done by men.

Everyday life

continued. After an initial closure, cinemas remained open. Dances and concerts continued as usual. Inevitably, romances formed between visiting troops and local women.

Victory in Europe and the Far East was achieved in the summer of 1945. This was marked by popular celebrations, holidays, and religious services.

1 December
1940



The former Sullatober Mill, Carrickfergus, opened as a Military Prison and Detention Centre. By December 1941, it held 130 British military prisoners.

17 April - 6 May 1941

Belfast Blitz. On four occasions German bombers attacked military and manufacturing targets in Belfast. 900 were killed and 1,500 injured. Thousands fled the city, heading for surrounding towns. 2000 refugees arrived in Ballymena alone.

March 1942



Arrival of American 36th Signal Battalion at Sunnylands Camp, Carrickfergus. Bases were also located in Ballymena and Larne for British, Belgian and American troops.

1 September 1944

Paddy, a carrier pigeon from Carnlough, was awarded the Dickin Medal after being the fastest pigeon to arrive back in England with news of the success of the D-Day invasion, out of hundreds dispatched.

May 1945



German collapse on all fronts. First Prisoners of War liberated by US forces return to Ballymena.

15 August 1945



Victory in Japan was declared. Celebration parades, dances and services of Thanksgiving were held across the Borough.

Working Life



The Second World War's boost to the economy proved temporary. Despite government interventions, the shipbuilding and textile industries declined throughout the 1950s. Unemployment soared. The government used incentives to attract overseas businesses to Northern Ireland.

This brought jobs and prosperity. In addition, roads, housing estates and schools were built to accommodate a growing workforce. Many workplaces fostered a strong sense of community and are remembered fondly today.

1925

Under a series of Land Acts between 1870-1925, local tenant farmers were able to buy land from landlords. In 1870, only 3% of Irish farmers owned their land. By 1929, 97.4% of farmers across the island of Ireland owned their land.

1940s-1980s

Pye Radio (Corran Works), 1947–1964.
British Aluminium Co, 1895–1861.
Magheramore Cement Works, 1911-1980. Finally closed in 2001.
Kane's Foundry, 1887–1957.
Mourne Clothing Company, 1913–1984.
Phoenix Weaving Company, late 19th c-1990.
Carreras/Rothmans Tobacco, 1967–1986.
Courtaulds Factory, 1951–1981.
Imperial Chemicals Industries (ICI) 1963 –1981.
Clipperstown Salt Works, late 19thc–1958.

1965

Irish Salt Mining and Exploration started at Kilroot. It still produces 500,000 tonnes of de-icing salt every year. It is the only salt mine on the island of Ireland and one of three across the UK.



Carrickfergus Museum Collection



Pye radio manufactured in Larne, Larne Museum Collection



Carreras tobacco factory, Seapark, Carrickfergus. Carrickfergus Museum Collection

2012-2017

Wrightbus produces the new London Routemaster.
Entrepreneur and politician Sir William Thompson Wright, O.B.E., C.B.E., b. 1925, grew up in Ballymena. He founded Robert Wright and Sons with his father in 1946. He was knighted in 2018 and awarded Freedom of the Borough in 2019.

The 1920s saw global economic turmoil. Northern Ireland was no exception, and local industries struggled. The government attempted to resolve the situation, but unemployment rose. By 1938, the unemployment rate was double that of the rest of the UK, increasing emigration trends.

A local success story is Wrightbus of Ballymena, which was founded in 1946. By the 1990s it had become a major player in UK bus construction. It has recently won a government grant for the development of hydrogen-fuel technology in buses.

The return of political stability in the late 1990s resulted in economic resurgence. Northern Ireland 'opened for business' to the world at large, and Mid and East Antrim has benefitted from the reorientation towards advanced engineering, agri-food and tourism industries.

1981

Kilroot Power Station, Carrickfergus, opens. It was converted to use oil and coal 1986–1989. A switchover to gas is planned for the near future.



2018

Michelin Tyres, established in Ballymena in 1969, closes. It was one of Ballymena's 'big three' employers. The factory site was sold for development as Silverwood Business Park.

1999

Braid Water Mill (est. 1865) closes.



2019

Wrightbus taken over by Jo Bamford's Bamford Bus company. As part of Bamford, Wrightbus is involved in the manufacture and deployment of new hydrogen buses, which are expected to be deployed from 2024.

2017

Gallaher's tobacco founded in 1857 opened a new factory in Ballymena in 1961, becoming one of Ballymena's biggest employers. It finally closed its doors in 2017.





The establishment of Northern Ireland placed the education, health and general welfare of the local population in the hands of local politicians.



The Education Act (Northern Ireland) of 1947 provided free secondary education and raised the school leaving age to 15. Consequently, school attendance rates increased.

The 'welfare state' is now more than 70 years old. It has seen many changes and faced many challenges—including a global pandemic. Yet, despite its difficulties, it still attempts to ensure that everyone is 'well fed, well cared-for, and well-taught'.

In 1948 the National Health Service came into being. This provided free medical care, dental care, and medications to all Northern Ireland citizens.

1945

Northern Ireland Housing Trust established to meet post-war housing needs. Working in conjunction with local councils, houses were allocated by need.

1947

(Northern Ireland) Education Act introduced sweeping changes, including guaranteed free education for children up to the age of 15. Workhouses closed, with many becoming hospitals.

1948

Creation of NHS—free healthcare including medical, dental and prescriptions to all NI citizens.

Baby weighing scales from the former health clinic, Castle St, Ballymena. Scales in Mid Antrim Museum collection



2021

NHS staff at the Covid 19 Vaccination Centre at Seven Towers Leisure Centre, Ballymena 2021

Medicine has made great progress in the past 100 years, providing longer and healthier lives for all in Northern Ireland, but disease still afflicts us. A century on from the 'Spanish Flu', Covid-19 presents us with similar challenges in overcoming a fatal virus.

Image courtesy of Darren Crawford, Ballymena Guardian





Born in Larne in 1917, Valerie Hobson became a movie star at the age of 17. 'Werewolf of London' (1935) was one of her first films. The 1930s and 1940s were Hollywood's 'Golden Age' and the cinema became enormously popular.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES



Popular Culture

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Popular culture in Northern Ireland has transformed since the end of the Second World War. Until then, popular amusements included day trips to local landmarks, sport, and going to films, concerts, and dances.

After the war, the pace of change accelerated. Incomes increased, as did the rate of technological innovation. The range of products available in shops also increased, thus promoting a new consumerist culture.

By 1960, the 'baby boomer' generation had reached adolescence. Unlike their parents at the same age, many remained in education and had leisure time to spend as they chose.

This marked the evolution of the teenager, which went hand-in-hand with the emergence of new styles of music. The 1950s and 60s saw the height of the Irish show-band scene, when musicians performed to packed ballrooms and dance halls.

Many of Northern Ireland's larger employers encouraged the growth of a range of sports and social clubs. These included football and cricket teams, choirs and dancing groups.

Communities also benefited from locally organised events. These took—and still take—many forms, including annual dance festivals, music festivals, heritage events, and radio roadshows.

Bill McCullough wearing his NI International Football Cap. Bill made more than 250 appearances for Arsenal in the Football League and was capped 10 times for Northern Ireland. Cap in Carrickfergus Museum Collection



Pictured here at the People's Park, Ballymena, local showband, The Gentry played at the famous Flamingo Ballroom in the town. *Mid Antrim Museum Collection*



A Sense of Place



We shape our built heritage and in turn are shaped by it. Hospitals, churches and schools mark the turning points of our lives. Marketplaces, shops, and parks provide a communal point of reference.

These spaces are not themselves constant. Streets and houses disappear, or their names may change. New infrastructure is built, connecting us as never before. Some buildings are demolished while others change in purpose.



1924

Foundation stone laid by the Duke of York for the new town hall, Ballymena.



1928

Legg Park opens. In its heyday it contained four tennis courts, a swimming pool with bathing boxes, a playground and recreational area for the use of the people of Carrickfergus.



1936

Atlantic Steam Navigation Co established. This was the first roll-on roll-off service through Larne Port. *IWMH 28211*



1971

Larne Harbour Highway opens. The mile-long causeway known as the Harbour Highway was designed to give unrestricted access from the harbour over the A8 trunk road towards Belfast, Ballyclare, and Ballymena. Construction began in 1970 and finished in 1976. It was officially opened by local MP Ray Carter in 1971.



1980

Larne Carnegie Free Library closed after 75 years on this site and moved to Pound street. There has been a museum here since 1972.



1985

Carrickfergus Marina opens with space for 300 berths.



Street names reveal the history of our towns and cities. This sign for Meetinghouse Street in Larne takes its name from the Old Presbyterian Church of Larne and Kilwaughter, the first meeting house was built c.1668.



Our town centres and their rural hinterlands have seen much change in the last 100 years, but at heart they remain fixed points in our lives. Our identities are defined by places as much as people.

Our town centres reflect the path of history. They are where we gather to mark events large and small. Wider changes in politics, society and the economy in the post-war years have left their mark. Yet as we move into the 2020s there is reason for hope.

The Mid and East Antrim Borough now contains over 139,000 people. Previously a hub of industrial activity, global economic shifts have made it necessary to reimagine the commercial potential of the region. Council's commitment to this can be seen in the Belfast Region City Deal proposals for the area.



1948-
1966

Ulster Transport Authority oversees transport in NI.
Larne Bus Station.



1967

Marine Highway opens. This separated Carrickfergus Castle from the ancient town, but boosted trade and tourism.



1970

Infrastructure in Northern Ireland developed rapidly in this period. Millions of tonnes of soil and stone from Magheramorne Quarry was transported to the northern shore of Belfast Lough to provide a foundation for the M2 motorway.



2004

Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre opens.



2008

The Braid Arts and Museum Centre is opened by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall as part of a redesign and extension of Ballymena Town Hall.



2015

Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne boroughs amalgamated to form Mid and East Antrim Borough.





Community Project Volunteers



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The Looking Back, to Look Forward Project provided an opportunity for 20 volunteers from across the Borough to lend their time and research skills to uncover untold Mid and East Antrim stories from across the decades.

Once recruited, the volunteers participated in a 'Working with Archives' webinar at the opening stages of their research led by genealogist Natalie Bodle of Roots Revealed.

Each volunteer brought their own skills, experience and specialist interest to their research topic which linked in with the Looking Back to Look Forward project theme of exploring aspects of life across the Borough through the last 100 years. Many of the volunteers spoke about their motivations to be involved with the project and their research in a specially commissioned film 'Looking Back at Untold Stories.'

Over half the volunteers also carried out a study visit to the Ulster Museum to view the 'Collecting the Past/Making the Future. Marking Centenaries 2021' exhibition which explored the impact and legacy of the events of 100 years ago in Ireland, while encouraging reflections on the future.

Our project volunteers, through their combined community voices, have made a significant difference to the reach and impact of the Looking Back to Look Forward project. Their research contributions are on the pages which follow.



Susan McKinstry, undated studio photograph. *With permission of Kathleen T. Brinko.*



Susan McKinstry: Emigrant and entrepreneur

by Kathleen T. Brinko, North Carolina, U.S.A.



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For several years I have been researching my family ancestry in the USA, but was unable to uncover information about my great-grandmother, Susan McKinstry, prior to her emigration from Larne in 1886.

Through this project, I was able to identify my great-grandmother, Susan McKinstry's family of origin – 11 siblings plus extended family! Her father Nathaniel McKinstry was a fruiterer and green grocer on Main Street in Larne, an occupation continued by several of his children and grandchildren until the shop shuttered in 2016.

After emigrating to the United States, my great-grandmother married, sometime around 1905, Susan separated from husband George Lucas, taking her nine children with only bundles of clothing to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There she purchased a storefront/house for family living quarters and a boarding house that served local mill workers. When Susan would not turn over the rent from the boarders, George who had

returned, was furious, and again abandoned them. Other women during that time would have been destitute, but Susan, an astute business woman, achieved middle class status for herself and her children.

For me this story is important to shed light not only on the strength and resilience of women in general, but also of Ulster women in particular. With the backdrop of World War One and Northern Ireland's creation, there was great worry on both side of the ocean for the safety of families, and men in particular.

During existential threats, what kind of conversations do you imagine took place between husbands and wives? Among the men or among the women during this time?





THE BANK

Portglenone Bank today functions as a community hub.

Portglenone Bank

by Joanne Brown Kerr, Bann Maine West Community Cluster



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The Northern Bank Building on the Main Street in Portglenone is an iconic building for which plans started in 1910 but due to the First World War, the work was not completed until 1920.

The bank staff consisted of Mr James, the manager, and Mr Barry, the cashier, assisted by a ledger clerk and junior. The bank provided a similar range of services to banks operating today.

This building was also the bank manager's home and was created by converting two houses on Main Street. In 1920, Mr Thomas Edwin James was the first bank manager appointed to the Northern Bank in Portglenone. He lived in the bank house with his wife Mary, three young children, a nursery governess and a cook. The Bank provided the accommodation but it was up to the James family to furnish the house. It was spacious and very comfortable, unlike many other local homes at the time.

The bank closed in 2013. The building was purchased by Portglenone Enterprise Group, who opened it as a community hub in 2021. It holds an exhibition space, workspace, and conference facilities.

There is a replica of the bank at the Ulster Folk Museum in Cultra. As the original was a listed building and still (at that time) in operation as a bank, it was decided to construct a replica using the original architectural plans. The replica building was constructed with generous support from the Northern Bank and it opened in 1991.



Buick Memorial Public Elementary School as it was in 1937, after it was rebuilt. *Mid Antrim Museum Collection*



Education in Cullybackey

by Joanne Brown Kerr with Tom Simpson. Bann Maine West Community Cluster



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Cullybackey Public Elementary School was built on the Main Street in Cullybackey in 1900. It was renamed Buick Memorial Public Elementary School after Rev. G. R. Buick's death in 1904 as he had given all his money towards the building of the school. The school was demolished and rebuilt in 1937 by the Ballymena Education Committee and continues, with additional extensions, to operate as a primary school today.

For the year 1921, PRONI's records show there were 43 children enrolled at the school: 21 boys between the ages of 4 and 6, and 22 girls aged from 3 to 12. These children came from surrounding areas such as Cullybackey, Broughdone, Hillmount, Dreen, Dunnygarron, and Ballyclose. Their fathers mainly worked as labourers and farmers, but also included a beetler, a publican, a mason, a shirt cutter and a linen lapper. Most of the children were Presbyterian, but there were a few Anglicans, a Methodist, and a Roman Catholic.

By 2020, including the nursery, the school had grown to 294 pupils. Other differences from 1921 include a broader curriculum with no teaching through repetition, the use of technology such as computers, and a much longer school year. In 1921 children were only in school for 99 days a year. Today it is approximately 180 days a year. A century ago children walked to school, but now they may use public transport. Punishment has also changed—naughty children need no longer fear the cane!





Gracehill Moravian Church Diary Entries, 1921

January

Discussions had re a memorial to those from the village "who willingly served in the Great European War" and its position in the church was finally decided. Total cost £331.0.3 of which £29.10 had been collected.

July

Church closed for repainting-services held in reading room and evening service in the open air in front of church.

February

Rev S Heath of Bluefields (Nicaragua) preached a Poor Missions Sermon – collection from lecture £2.15.2 and from Sunday School £9.3.3.

August

Smith aged 13 drowned while bathing in the river ... Party of 80 from University Road, Belfast, visited the village and had tea ... in the Reading room. Robert Ramsay, aged 12, killed at his own door while riding a bicycle - ran into a trap - death instantaneous.

March

Thomas Nicholl, aged 90, and Mrs M Ramsay aged 80 buried. Widows' house to be touched up & made more tidy.

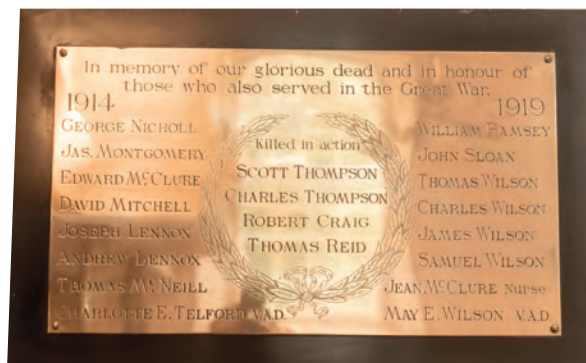
September

it is intended to have a sale of vegetables fruit etc. and a social (in October). It was agreed to have a light in church porches.

Gracehill Moravian Village

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by Roberta Johnston & Jackie Neill, with Sally Ann Johnston, Ballymena Church Members Forum



April

Widows' house has been tidied. Belfry inspected and measurements for beams obtained. Cost at Corry's Yard Belfast would be £18.

May

Unveiling of War Memorial (Note: Col. £5.13.6, 275 people present). Dial of the clock can be done up in Lisnafillan – carriage blue and white. The intention to visit Belfast congregation was postponed on account of the disturbed state in the city.

June

Sale of goods and side shows held in the square. Cold with light rain. Good attendance - £4.19.6 at the gate, charge 6d & 3d. All worked willingly resulting in £123.12.7.

October

Discussion was held as to who had the right to be buried in God's Acre and it was decided that no-one but members and adherents and the children of same under 18 years of age should be buried in the graveyard.

November

Clock not repaired yet. Collection to be made on behalf of Sunday School.

December

Christmas Service was 'Christmas in other lands' ... Wednesday evening services held in school room to save heating church.

No night Watch service on account of the curfew.

Memorial plaque remembering those who served in the Great War. The plaque is unusual for the time because it includes the names of female Fallen. *Image courtesy of Gracehill Moravian Church*



St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Parish Church. It is one of the "Seven Towers" of Ballymena. *Mid-Antrim Museum Service*



St Patrick's Parish Church of Kilconriola & Ballyclug

by Canon Stuart Lloyd, Ballymena Church Members Forum

When Northern Ireland was established in May 1921, the Rev. John Cullen had been rector of the Church of Ireland Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug for just over a year.



As rector during that fateful year of 1921 he ministered in 2 churches – St Patrick's Ballymena and St Patrick's Ballyclug which was just outside the town. 'The Parish Church' at the top of Castle Street was one of the Seven Towers of Ballymena. Built in the 1850s, it was destroyed by fire in 1879. It was splendidly restored and reopened for worship in 1885.

Records show that in St Patrick's Ballymena in 1921, between 300-600 people attended services each Sunday, with more on special occasions. The Ballymena Observer of Friday 8th July 1921 carried a report of a triennial confirmation service held in the church. Every one of 800 seats was occupied.

By contrast, St Patrick's Ballyclug was a much smaller church, with a congregation of up to 40 people. There were 80 baptisms and 25 weddings across the parish in 1921. Infant mortality was high, and 40% of the burials from 1921 were for children under two.

1921 was a year of great significance for the island of Ireland, yet events on the national stage were scarcely mentioned in available church records—with one notable exception. At the parish Annual General Meeting of 1921 sympathies were expressed to the Curate, Rev. J.B. Cotter, on the murder of his brother, in County Cork, during the unrest.





West Church, Mid Antrim Museum Collection



West Church, Ballymena

by Jennifer McLernon
Ballymena Church
Members Forum



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The congregation known as West Church had existed for 58 years by 1921. One of five Presbyterian churches in Ballymena, West Church members superintended several Afternoon Sabbath Schools in the town and may also have contributed financially to the upkeep of some.

The church maintained libraries for its Sabbath School and Teachers, evidence of the emphasis put on reading skills development and education generally.

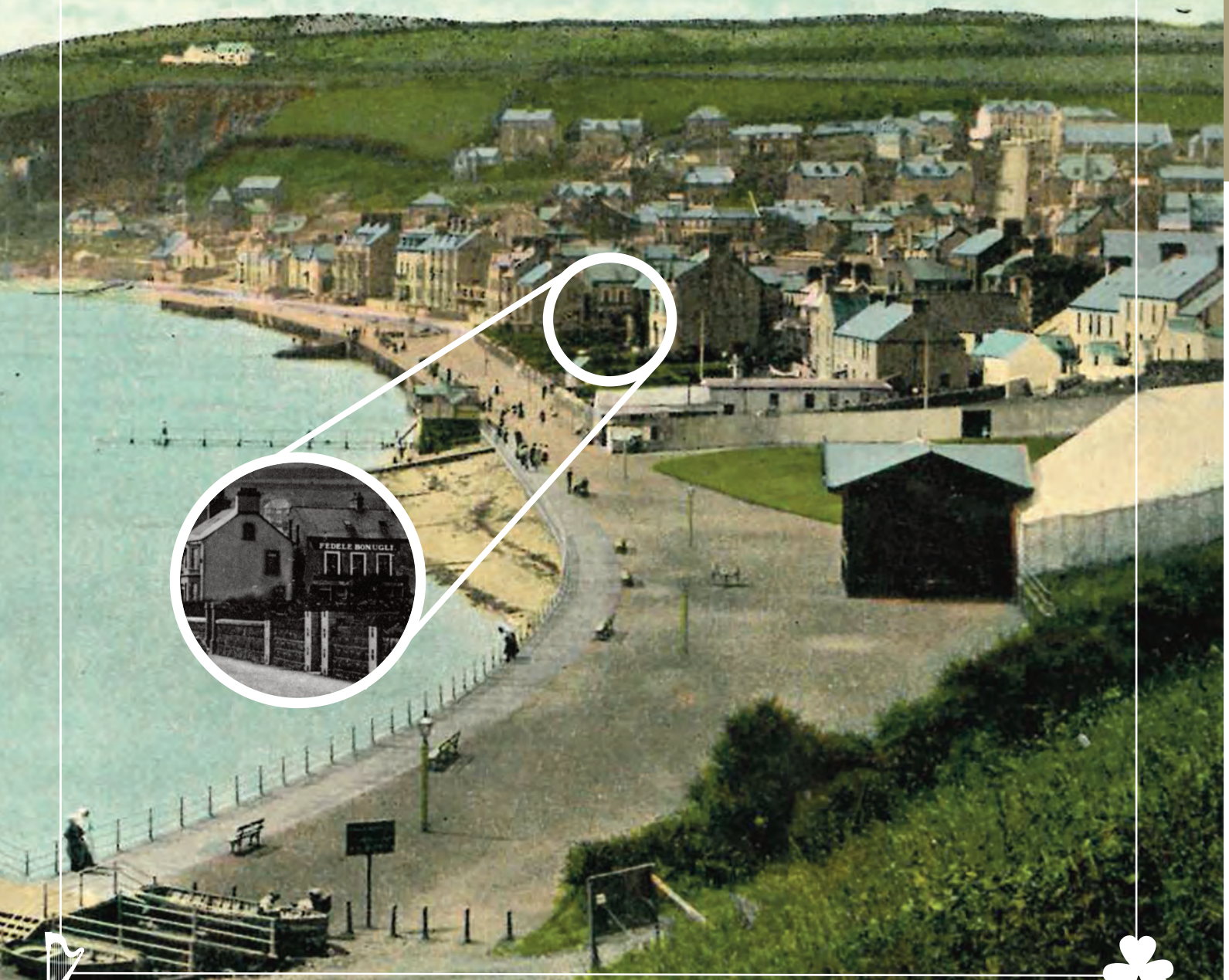
Miss Mary Stevenson, one of the first deaconesses ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland was the Town Missionary for the five churches, working mainly with children and women. In 1921, West Church appointed its first female Committee member, Lillian Raphael.

There were 320 families connected with West Church in 1921, 487 Communicants on the Communicants Roll, 262 children in the Sabbath School, and 16 teachers. There were 30 baptisms and 15 deaths in the same year.

Church organisations operating in 1921 included the West Church Auxiliary, which supported the Presbyterian Orphan Society and the West Church Guild, a fellowship group open to all members of the congregation over 16. Other organisations were missionary support groups and temperance clubs.

A War Memorial was designed and installed with a Service of Dedication held on Sunday 19 June 1921. Meanwhile, the congregation continued to grow, and plans were made to extend the church. Ironically, a disastrous fire in 1926 allowed these plans to materialise. The new church was opened in 1928.





Postcard showing Whitehead in the 1920s. (Bonguli's shop circled) Carrickfergus Museum Collection.



Whitehead & the Bonugli Dynasty

by Steve Diamond



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One century ago, in a time of extraordinary chaos, some people had faith in the future. From out of the turmoil of the Home Rule crisis, World War One, the Spanish 'flu pandemic and partition, they began building communities in the new Northern Ireland.

This chain takes us back to those days. In Whitehead in 1925, nine people first met as the Town Commissioners, under Mr Charles M. Legg, Justice of the Peace and Chair of Carrickfergus Urban District Council. They campaigned for full urban powers for the town. By law only places with 1500 people or more could do this. They held a private census in August 1923 that said the population was 1566, so Whitehead Urban District Council was born.

Among the commissioners was Fedele Bonugli. Originally a poor Italian immigrant, he became a popular and powerful landowner. He topped the polls in the 1926

council elections. He was chosen to represent Whitehead on the Larne Board of Guardians. He retired from the council, but they needed him back, so he returned to public service. His example was followed by his two sons, who joined the British Army in World War II. The story of the Bonugli dynasty is remarkable. One generation contributed to the building of the town, while the next fought for the survival of the entire nation.

A century on, this chain (above,) created for the council in 1966, links us to the people who built the communities we live in today.





Fedele Bonugli's shop on Marine Avenue, Whitehead. From the private collection of P.J O'Donnell and F McHugh.

Bonugli Ice-Cream

by Morag Wilson



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I am descended from an Italian family who came to Ulster in the late 19th century. One hundred years on, NI100 has allowed me to look back and explore my Italian family's activities in their adopted country a century ago.


In 2017, I was invited to a talk by the local historian Steve Diamond about my Great Uncle, Fedele 'Fred' Bonugli, who was a councillor in Whitehead, and his two sons Fred Jr and Peppy. The flyer for the talk featured a photo of Fedele's main shop in Marine Avenue. Steve's talk inspired me to discover more about my ancestors, besides the stories handed down by my mother.

Fedele left his native Tuscany in the late 1800s, first for Scotland and later Ulster. As was often the tradition with emigrant families, his three younger brothers followed. By the 1920s the Bonugli brothers owned 15 businesses across Northern Ireland, including Fedele's shop in

Whitehead which sold ice-cream made from cream from his own farm. Two brothers left Northern Ireland, but Fedele and my grandfather Giuseppe—who had married local women—stayed.

Fedele died in 1945. His son Fred, a doctor, had a ward named after him at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. The younger son, Peppy, was at Dunkirk, and was awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the Belgian government. After WW2, Peppy took over the running of the farm and opened the popular Rendezvous cafe in Larne. Unfortunately, none of the Bonugli descendants are in the ice-cream business today.



Our Farm 

to Kilwaughter

to Larne

Narrowgauge Railway

Raloo Road

BALLYRICKARD BEG

BALLYRICKARD MORE

Townland border

Our House

William's Farm

School



Hand-drawn map showing location of the family farm.

MOUNTHILL



'Roadside', the Buchanan Farm

by Linda Hooke



37

The Buchanan farm - known as 'Roadside' to locals because the farmhouse was so close to the Raloo Road near Larne - was acquired by my great-great grandfather shortly before 1845.

Like almost all farmers at the time, Robert Buchanan rented his farm from the landlord, in his case Viscount Dungannon. In May and November tenant farmers, as they were known, paid the half-year rent. The tenancy was handed on to Robert's son but, although he had the chance to buy his farm under the 1909 Land Act, he chose not to take it and carried on renting like most farmers in Ballyrickardbeg. In 1925 one of the first acts passed by the new Northern Ireland government was The Northern Ireland Land Act.

After careful thought, Samuel Buchanan, Robert's grandson took the big step of buying the family farm with a mortgage. For the first time in nearly 90 years his family were working their own farm.

Sadly Samuel died just over a year later and left his wife, Florence, to bring up their nine children, run the farm and pay off the mortgage. Fortunately the land was good and her eldest children were of an age to help. The farm prospered and remained in the family until the last farmer in the family died in 2005.



Buchanan Farm rates receipt for half year ending 31st March, 1919.
Studio photograph of Florence Buchanan. *Larne Museum Collection*





Whitehead Degaussing station staff photo





Whitehead Degaussing Station

by Paul Grainger

No.	Date	Ship Name	Class	Age	Country	Remarks
1001	10/10/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1002	10/11/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1003	10/12/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1004	10/13/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1005	10/14/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1006	10/15/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1007	10/16/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1008	10/17/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1009	10/18/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓
1010	10/19/40	USS DEWEE	DD	1	USA	✓

39

My grandfather James McK. Grainger was a physics teacher at Ballyclare High School. He became the first headmaster of Carrickfergus Grammar School when it opened in 1962.

During the Second World War, he applied his scientific expertise at the degaussing station at Whitehead.

The station in Whitehead was one of several in operation throughout the war. Degaussing was developed to counter the dangers presented by enemy mines, particularly magnetic mines. Magnetic mines were laid on the seabed. Unlike other mines, they did not explode on impact. Instead, they were triggered by the movement of ships passing nearby. This meant they worked best in shallower waters.

The degaussing process affected the ship's magnetic field. As a result, that ship would no longer set off the magnetic mine.

However, the degaussing process had to be repeated regularly to ensure the safety of the ships. Whitehead saw a huge number and variety of ships undergo the degaussing process. Between October 1940-July 1945, 4471 ships were tested at the station. These ranged from frigate, destroyer, corvette to liberty, coaster and patrol yacht.

After the war the degaussing station was a private dwelling until it was destroyed by arsonists. The only surviving station artefacts are a range officer's key and a teak table. Teak is a very dense and heavy wood. It was used in the station as the calculations carried out were very precise, susceptible to any vibrations and the wood negated any vibrations emanating from the nearby railway track.





Members of the 26 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery pose for a photo in Waring Street, Harryville, Ballymena, before leaving Northern Ireland for the Middle East. *Mid Antrim Museum Collection*



The 2/6 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery

by Patrick Taylor

ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN AND
INSTRUMENTS

RECRUITS WANTED
FOR THE
BALLYMENA BATTERY

41

2/6 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery was formed in Ballymena in early 1939 as part of the Supplementary Reserve (Northern Ireland's equivalent of the Territorial Army).

Together with other batteries from Londonderry and Coleraine, it constituted the 9th (Londonderry) Heavy AA Regiment, RA (SR), one of 4 AA regiments initially responsible for the aerial defence of Northern Ireland. Many of 2/6 Battery's men were from Harryville.

The regiment was one of the first reserve units deployed overseas when they were assigned to the defence of Alexandria in November 1939. They spent the next 18 months defending this important naval base from air attacks. They were so successful that no ships were lost to enemy aircraft. Such was its reputation that the 9th regiment was sent to defend Tripoli from January 1943 onwards. As a result of their

ferocious defence, Tripoli became one of the most unpopular Axis targets in the whole Mediterranean.

Following another year of heavy fighting in Italy, the regiment finally returned to the UK in September 1944, having served longer overseas than any other Army unit. They spent the rest of the war assigned to various positions along the British coastline, defending it against V1 flying bombs.

Disbanding in 1946, the seven year existence of 2/6 Battery and the 9th Regiment was short but their service in the Middle East, Italy and beyond meant they had done more than enough to earn their place in local and military history.





Gas mask distribution at Carrickfergus Town Hall, Carrickfergus Museum Collection



Women's Voluntary Services, WWII

43

by Adrian Hack

By 1937, with war looming, it was compulsory for all local authorities to set up air raid precautions (ARP).

Soon after war was declared on 3rd September 1939, 'ARP' became 'Civil Defence General Services' and volunteer recruitment rose across the United Kingdom. Men, women and young people over the age of 15 all answered the call.

While Northern Ireland escaped the severe hardships suffered in Britain, it did experience serious air raids in the spring of 1941, and the civilian population – including women – played an important part in war-time defence.

The most prominent civil defence organisations were male-only. However, there were opportunities for women, too. At the outbreak of the war, women were already volunteering with a range of organisations:

- Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)
- British Red Cross
- Women's Land Army
- YMCA
- Women's Institute

On 2 April 1941, Larne ARP Group informed Carrickfergus Council that a Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) had been constituted for Carrickfergus. This included Greenisland and Eden Village. It was led by Mrs. Robert Wallace. The WVS encouraged women to join the ARP services as wardens, ambulance drivers or to assist in hospitals. The WVS was also useful in co-ordinating the work of the other female-led voluntary organisations. Many women were members of more than one organisation.

In October 1945, with the war over, the Ulster WVS were notified that they were now to operate on a "reserve" basis and were no longer part of the formal civil defence.



This photo shows a number of women's voluntary organisations in Carrickfergus. Those in uniform include the British Red Cross, the Auxiliary Territorial Service and the Women's Voluntary Service. Other volunteers are in civilian clothing, but are wearing badges and/or armbands to show the organisation they represent. *Carrickfergus Museum Collection*





The dragon made from concrete by Leonard Matheson. *Courtesy Carrick Times*

THUR'S an ir

The Dragon at Prospect

by Jana Matheson



45

I have been researching the story of a dragon carved from concrete at Prospect House.

The dragon - the emblem of the Royal Berkshire Regiment - was created by my great grandfather, Leonard John Matheson.

During the Second World War Prospect House in Carrickfergus was used as a barracks. The slab sat outside the guard-room. Since then the slab has disappeared!

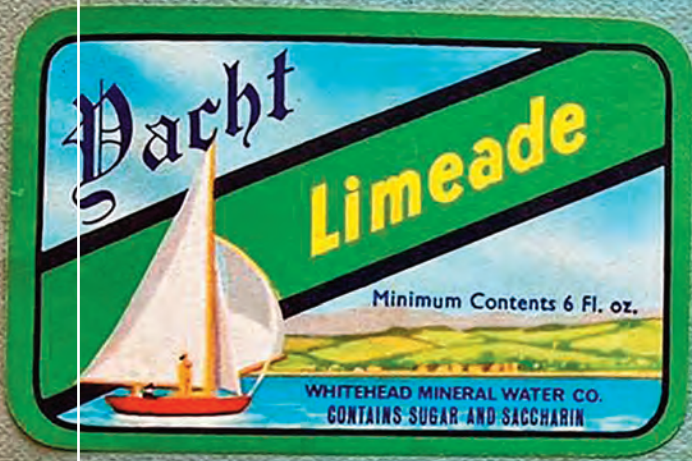
Leonard was born in Oxford. When war broke out he joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was stationed at Prospect Camp, as well as Redhall, Ballycarry, where he met his wife, Georgina. After the war Leonard and Georgina settled in Ballycarry, where Len worked as a plumber. Later they moved to Whitehead. Len died in 1994.

I was intrigued by the mystery of the dragon at Prospect. What happened to it?

I contacted many people for help and did many hours of research. I came across rumours and speculation about the slab, but no solid leads.

One of the people I spoke to was Leah McIlroy, whose grandparents lived at Prospect. She told me how large the stone was; approximately 5ft x 4ft! Leah also said it was her job to maintain the slab each year.

Although I have been unable to discover what happened to the slab, I am so pleased with this opportunity to get my great-grandfather's (and my) story out there. I'm extremely proud of my great-grandfather and pleased to show the face behind the artwork!



This scrapbook page shows a range of Yacht Lemonade labels. Those labelled 'crush' contained juice, whereas those labelled 'ade' were flavoured. People often state a preference for the brown or white lemonade, but owner Ronnie Addy said both 'flavours' were made with the same ingredients!

The Yacht Lemonade Factory

by Jane Robb



47

I came to live in an apartment in Alexandra Avenue, Whitehead, in late 2019 after 51 years in Carrickfergus. I joined Whitehead Suffragette Society soon after moving to Whitehead and am aware of the the pride people here take in its history.

This spurred my interest in what was here before my apartment was built.

Through Facebook, I discovered that a lemonade factory, Yacht Lemonade, was at my address. The owners, Ronnie and Greta Addy, lived in a bungalow built where the apartment block's car park is today. I have talked with their daughter Linda and grandson Gary.

Yacht Lemonade was established on a factory site previously used by the Whitehead Mineral Water Co Ltd which began life in 1958. Around 1963 the factory site came up for sale as the electric generator which stood on it became obsolete. Ronnie bought the land and the

building of the lemonade factory began. The factory, which employed approximately ten workers, was there until it closed in 1997.

By 1982, five delivery lorries carried lemonade for distribution across Counties Antrim and Down. It was very popular and people remember their favourite flavours today. However, as Ronnie grew older, no one in the family wanted to take over production. Seamus McKee, a long-time friend from Lurgan, joined Ronnie in Whitehead to help out and learn the business. Eventually, he bought the business and production moved to Lurgan. Today the brand is known as Maine lemonade, and is still delivered across the region.

Irish champions go to Luxembourg

GLENS LINE UP 'PROGRES'

By Malcolm Brodie

IRISH LEAGUE champions Glentoran look set for what could be a bumper European Cup series next season as they approach their centenary celebrations. They have been drawn against the comparatively unknown Luxembourg side, Progres Niedercorn (Luxembourg) in the first round.

And although the first match is away from home, they seem assured of reaching the next round. Linfield in 1966-67 drew 3-3 in Belfast and won 6-1 in Luxembourg, while in 1976-77 Carrick Rangers beat the same club 3-1 at Seaview, but lost 2-1 in Luxembourg.

Ballymena United, too, oppose the crack Italian side, Roma, one packed Cup Winners draw. They with star names, and

But Ballymena draw Roma

they've got the first game at the Showgrounds. For United it is a real bonanza — a match which, no doubt, should break the ground record. "It's a magnificent draw," was the comment of

United secretary Jimmy Coulter today. How right he is.

Ards drew 0-0 with Roma in Belfast in the 1969-70 Cup Winners Cup but lost 3-1 in Rome.

And Linfield, Northern Ireland's representatives in the UEFA Cup, face Beveren Waas (Belgium) with the first game away. The Blues have, of course, experience of Belgian football: they met Standard Liege in 1971-72, losing 2-0 in Liege and 3-2 at Windsor Park.

Beveren were one of the seeded clubs in the draw made in Zurich today — and that is an indication of their strength.

Meanwhile, European Cup holders Liverpool begin the defence of their trophy with a first round game against the Finnish side they thrashed in the opening games of last season's campaign — Oulu Palloseura.

New League champions Aston Villa also head for a cold climate after being paired with Valur Reykjavic of Iceland. And, in the Cup Winners Cup, Tottenham Hotspur, due at the Oval on August 8, return to Europe with a tough preliminary round tie against Ajax of Holland.

Scotland's representatives in the two major competitions have awkward first round ties. League champions Celtic

A total of 34 teams, which, over the past five seasons reached the finals or semi-finals of the UEFA club competitions, were seeded.

European Cup

PRELIMINARY GAME

St. Etienne (France) v Dynamo Berlin (East Germany) (seeded).

FIRST ROUND

Widzew Lodz (Poland) v PSC Ardenais (Belgium) (seeded). Winner of the preliminary v Borussia Dortmund (seeded). Ferencváros Budapest (Hungary) v Borussia Dortmund (seeded).

Gloucester City v Juventus Turin (Italy) (seeded). Hibernians (Malta) v Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) (seeded). Oulu Palloseura (Finland) v Liverpool (seeded). Oosters Vaux (Sweden) v FC Bayern Munich (West Germany) (seeded).

Benfica Lisbon (Portugal) (seeded) v Oosters Vaux (Cyprus). Austria Vienna (Austria) (seeded) v Borussia Dortmund (seeded). Trabzonspor (Turkey) v SK Brann (Norway) v AZ W Alkmaar (Netherlands) (seeded).

Aston Villa v Valur Reykjavik (Iceland). Progres Niedercorn (Luxembourg) v Glentoran. FC Copenhagen (Denmark) v Aston Villa. CRKA Belga (Belgium) v Real Sociedad San Sebastian (Spain). Dinamo Zagreb (Yugoslavia) v Olympique Lyonnais (France).

Cup Winners' Cup

PRELIMINARY GAMES

Politehnica Timisoara (Romania) v Lokomotiv Leipzig (East Germany).

FIRST ROUND

Tottenham Hotspur (England) v





When in Rome

by Matthew Bell



49

The story of Ballymena United's tie with A.S. Roma in the First Round of the European Cup Winners' Cup, 1981/82.

You may think that the humble Ballymena United would have a pretty ordinary history. However, it turns out that the club, established in 1928, has much to be proud of.

Despite lacking a top division title, Ballymena United have lifted the Irish Cup on 6 occasions. In 1981, this led to a place in the prestigious European Cup Winners' Cup.

The much-anticipated first leg against Italian giants A.S. Roma took place at the Ballymena Showgrounds on Wednesday 16th September 1981, with 3,500 in attendance. Multiple Champions League winner, Carlo Ancelotti, was on the scoresheet in a 2-0 win for Roma. A fortnight later, the return leg was held in Rome in front of 24,000 home fans. Ballymena lost 4-0—a

respectable result for a small provincial club from Northern Ireland. Considering Roma also boasted Brazilian superstar Falcão among their ranks, it's fair to say that Ballymena returned home with dignity.

The team of the early 1980s paved the way for future travels in Europe. Belgian side Anderlecht were welcomed to the Showgrounds at the end of the decade. Although fans would have to wait the best part of 30 years for another major European tie, they were rewarded in July 2019 with a tie against Malmo. As expected, the Swedes would prove too strong for the Braidmen.

Nevertheless, it is hoped that more glamour ties like the mighty A.S. Roma in September 1981 await Ballymena United in the years to come!





Aerial view of Carrickfergus, 1970s. Carrickfergus Museum Collection

Carrickfergus in the 1970s

by Carrickfergus & District Historical Society



51

Carrickfergus in the 1970s was a busy, vibrant town with bustling streets and many shops and cafes

As part of the NI100 programme, members of the Carrickfergus and District Historical Society worked with Carrickfergus Museum's collection of photographs and Town Guides to develop a town map showing where the various businesses were located.

We chose to look at the 1970s as the Historical Society was formed in 1974 to promote knowledge and understanding of the past. In addition, this was a time of growth in Carrickfergus with many businesses still active in the area including the Albion, Carreras, Courtaulds and ICI.

As part of the project, society members also looked at home movies, newspaper and TV archives. Working on the project sparked a lot of debate and memories of the various businesses in the town and also of events held in Carrickfergus during the 1970s including Back Carrick Week, 'It's a Knockout' and the Circuit of Ireland Rally.



Creative Engagement

Fashion Heritage & Visible Mending Workshop

This workshop was held in partnership with the Kick the Dust: Reimagine, Remake, Replay project, which aims to connect young people aged 16-25 with museum collections using creative media and technologies.

The online workshop was designed to showcase fashion and textile items from the 1920s to the present day from Mid and East Antrim Museum and Heritage Service collections. This presentation focused on:

- how and why made people made or mended their own clothes
- how fashions were influenced by music and popular culture
- how attitudes to sustainability have changed within the textile industry.

A practical workshop followed, led by artist Grace McMurray. The 16 participants were sent a darning mushroom, needle and thread in advance to allow them to mend an item of clothing during the workshop.

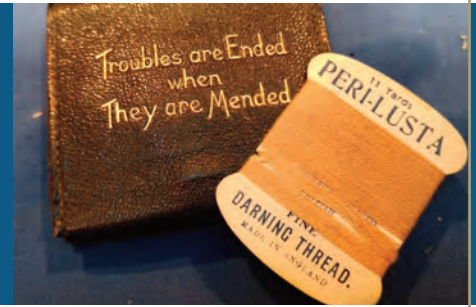
Grace used two screens to demonstrate stitches and practical mending techniques and participants were encouraged to chat and share their progress with the rest of the group.

Celebrating Children's Creativity

Three primary schools in the Mid and East Antrim Borough, Carniny Primary School, Ballymena; St Nicholas' Primary School, Carrickfergus and Moyle Primary School, Larne, took part in facilitated workshops with Angeline King, writer in residence at Ulster University.

Angeline encouraged the children to have their young voices heard through a creative process to express what it means to them to live in Mid and East Antrim and to be from Northern Ireland.

The resulting poem (reproduced opposite) has been inscribed on three stone tablets to be installed in Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne Town Halls as a permanent reminder of the Centenary year.





HOME

Hope flutters across frosty Astroturf at Inver Park
in Larne. My spine tingles to the roar — Goal!
Dad haps me up in his arms and I hear horses
gallop at Ballygally, hoofing sand
underneath a Sallagh solstice sky.

Love kisses me in Carrickfergus on a scarfed
autumn morning. I spin kaleidoscopic in the Pirate
Park dreaming of my Polish granny calling me
Lizak — Lollipop. And Mammy buys me lollipops
and Mauds icecream the colours of a Whitehead terrace.

Home is a walk through Portglenone Forest
holding my wee sister's hand. Her braided plait swishes,
a long Maine winding Ballymena towers back
— tick, tock — from Cullybackey to a starry
summer's night long ago on Slemish.

Angeline King (October 2021)





Further Resources

Looking Back to Look Forward web pages

<https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/council/civic-and-ceremonial/ni100/looking-back-to-look-forward/capsule-exhibition>

BBC NI NI100 website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-55401938>

PRONI NI Centenary A Level Resource <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/ireland-1900-1925-crisis-war-and-revolution>

Community Relations Council Marking the Northern Ireland Centenary

<https://www.community-relations.org.uk/sites/crc/files/media-files/Resource-Fair-Organisation-resources.pdf>

Community Relations Council Decade of Centenaries Toolkit https://www.community-relations.org.uk/sites/crc/files/media-files/NI%20Community%20Relations%20Council%20Toolkit_0.pdf

National Museums Northern Ireland – loans of collection items and picture library resources for communities <https://www.community-relations.org.uk/news-centre/national-museums-ni-free-access-archives-ni-centenary-events>

A Century of Women <https://www.acenturyofwomen.com>

Creative Centenaries/ Nerve Centre <https://www.makingthefuture.eu/resources>

Wise Programme link: <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/peace-iv-programme/peaceiv-building-positive-relations#WISE>

All timeline images are from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council's museum collections, unless otherwise stated.





CARRICKFERGUS
 A R P
 80 3 30
 Including 3 1 16 without Carrick

CARRICKFERGUS
 B.M.24.8 (Urban District)
 Constabulary
 Barrack
 Victoria Hotel

U. D. Bdy.



Carrickfergus Town
 OS 4th Edition Survey Date 1901-1902

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Ballymena town centre, OS Survey map, 4th Edition, 1922. Reproduced with permission of Crown Copyright/LPS

