

ORIGINAL CORPORATE MEMBERS 2011 - 2021



**TIERNANS
SOLICITORS**



**McPARLANDS
DEMOLITION**



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2021 FOR THE CHARITIES COMMISSION OF NORTHERN IRELAND

NMA IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION
OF THE HISTORY OF THE PORT OF NEWRY

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC 100431

COMPILED BY JAMES MC AREVEY.



Chairmans Foreword

Another year is over and a new one has just begun. Let us hope that we will see increased momentum and progress being made in the global battle against Covid 19. We all have it in our gift to play a positive and constructive role in restoring some semblance of normality in these extremely challenging times.



Our activities were curtailed due to the lockdown at the beginning of the year and the subsequent restrictions but as the year progressed and restraints were eased we guardedly set about our activities.

This year marked the 10th year since the inception of Newry Maritime Association (NMA) and we certainly have delivered a comprehensive programme of events reflecting on our Maritime Heritage and those who created it. Much of our programme has been delivered in partnership with other groups and individuals and inclusivity is the hallmark of our activities.

The last decade has witnessed us establish strong bonds of trust and friendship with the various faith communities across the district. Our strong cross-community ethos is embellished with the ready participation of the Royal British Legion, Irish National Foresters, political representatives from all sides and men of the calibre of Pipe Major David Hanna (Altnaveigh) and John Henry (Tullyvallen) contributing to our events. I am also very pleased that we can always count on the support of Michael Mallon, Tony Smith and Ronan Bradley when their specialisms are required.

Our Corporate Membership is very important to us as we derive our core revenue stream from their annual subscriptions. Back in 2011,

we managed to recruit 11 Corporate Members and I am very proud that we still have their endorsement 10 years later and last year we had grown our Corporate Membership to 50 !!.



I am minded of a conversation which I had with Dan O Hare whilst inviting him to become our first Corporate Member.

"Don't let it become a talking shop" was the advice from Dan and a decade later our burgeoning cv is proof, if required, that we adopted his mantra.

Year on year we have raised the bar and we have ensured that the foundations upon which Newry developed and prospered are not forgotten. Hopefully, circumstances permitting, we will continue to showcase personalities and episodes from our rich vein of Maritime Heritage which impacts so many families in the district and of which we can all be truly proud.

In this Annual Report, we recall some of the Marquee events which we have delivered over the past decade and which have contributed to a very comprehensive CV that eclipses many groups and can compete with the best.

James Mc Arevey.

Chairman.
January 2022.



"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021

Dan O Hare Commercials.

Dan was our inaugural Corporate Member back in 2011 and has supported us ever since. All at NMA are pleased to have the endorsement of a market leader in the commercial vehicle industry for over 10 years.

Thank you to Dan and the team.



"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021



AJ Plumbing Supplies.

This family-run business was established in 1979 by Jim O'Brien and headquartered in Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry. Today, AJ is one of the largest and best-known brands in the bathroom and plumbing supplies sector in Northern Ireland. **Thank you to Jim and the team.**





"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021

Michael Mc Caul Signs.

Michael and his close-knit team have garnered a niche for the firm as one of Ireland's foremost corporate signmakers with a portfolio of blue-chip clients. The firm has supplied all our bespoke requirements over the last decade, greatly contributing to the successful delivery of our events.

Thank you to Michael and the team.



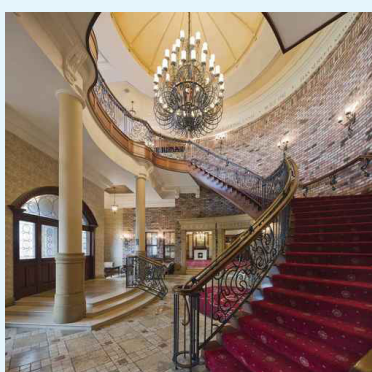
"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021



Canal Court Hotel.

We are very pleased to have the ongoing endorsement of Newrys premier hospitality venue, Canal Court Hotel. John and Paddy Mc Parland are well known for their benevolence and support of charitable activities and most notably, their weekly Charity Quiz recently passed £1 Million raised for various charities.

Congratulations, well done and thank you to John, Paddy and the team.





"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021

RE-GEN.

Re-Gen is a recycling and waste management company which was set up in 2004 and is headquartered in Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry.

The business is owned by the Doherty family with Joseph Doherty as Managing Director. Their Materials Recycling Facility, amongst the best in Europe, operates 24 hours a day and the company enjoys a very high profile in the waste management and recycling sector.

Thank you, Joseph and the Re-Gen team.



"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021



McParlands Demolition

Located adjacent to the Newry Inland Canal at Jerrettspass, this well-known firm was established by the late Felix Mc Parland in 1960. Today, the business is headed up by Felix son, Frankie and his wife, Ann. They specialise in plant hire, demolition and civil engineering projects and their fleet of well maintained, green liveried trucks are a familiar sight on our roads. Thank you, Frankie, Ann and the team.

McPARLANDS DEMOLITION





"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021

Surefreight

Established in 1989 by Vincent Waddell and Brian Mc Manus, Surefreight is a major player in the road haulage and logistics industry. Headquartered in Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry, the firm also has depots in, Heysham, Bradford, Cardiff, Sheffield, Liverpool and Manchester.

They operate a pristine fleet of over 250 trucks and 650 curtain side trailers. Included in their truck fleet is a limited edition Scania, Golden Griffin of which only 50 were manufactured. Surefreight were presented with No 25 to mark their 25th anniversary in business. Thank you, Vincie, Brian and the team.



"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021



Tiernans Solicitors.

This family law firm was established in 1982 by Thomas Tiernan at St Colmans Park, Newry. Thomas was later joined by his younger brother, Paul and the business expanded rapidly. A few years ago the business relocated to purpose-built premises on Dublin Road, Newry and they operate an office in Crossmaglen also. Today, Tiernan Solicitors is a name well known in legal circles across Ireland.

Thank you, Thomas, Paul and the team.



Country Carpets

Situated on Chancellors Road Newry, Country Carpets and Furniture Store enjoys a strategic location just off the A1 carriageway and equidistant between Belfast and Dublin.

Headed up by progressive and dynamic Managing Director, Colin Toner, the firm offers the best value across a comprehensive range of carpets, furniture, flooring and occasional furnishings with online sales now playing a key role in the marketing strategy of the firm.

Following major renovations, the store now boasts 25,000 sq ft of floor space making Country Carpets and Furniture Store the largest independent carpet and furniture retailer in Ireland.





"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021

Destination Newry

Destination Newry is a media company founded by local entrepreneur, Cathal Mc Coy.

The company is an information platform for residents and visitors to Newry and Mourne alike. Support for community-based activity has always been a hallmark of the company and we are pleased to have their ongoing support.

Thank you, Cathal and the team.



www.destinationnewry.com

 Newry Individual Final + Pairs Last 16 Nov 25, 2021 The individual Final is between Eddie McGaughey and Ja...	 Newry Pool League Individuals 23/11/2021 Nov 24, 2021 LAST 32 NEWRY INDIVIDUALS.	 Bessbrook and Camlough News Byte Jun 24, 2021 Declan quick update on whats happening around the C...
 Hilltown and Cabra News Byte Jun 23, 2021 This evening 23/6/2021 Martina shares the news from t...	 Camlough and Bessbrook Newsbyte Jun 16, 2021 Declan with updates on Camlough Rovers, Carrickrupp...	 Hilltown and Cabra News Byte Jun 9, 2021 This evening 9/6/2021 Martina shares the news from th...

"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021



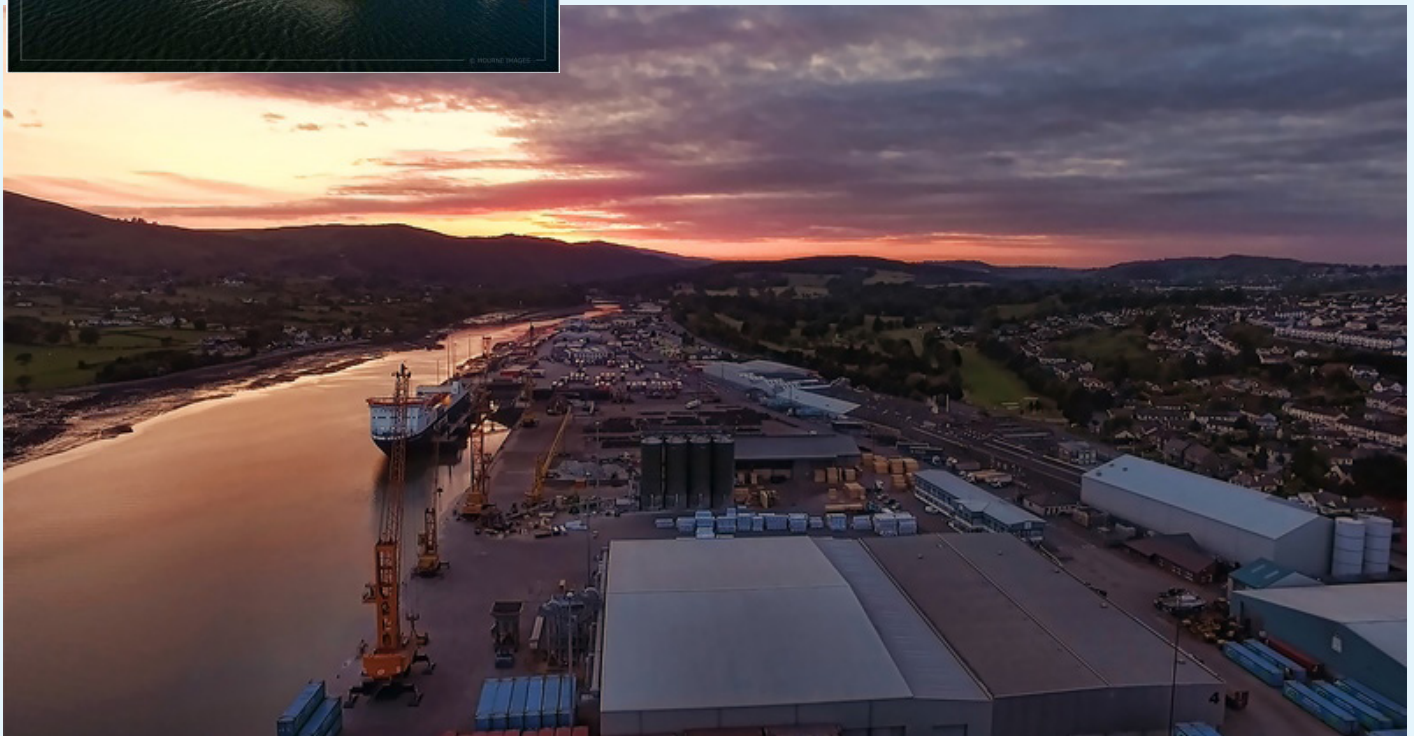
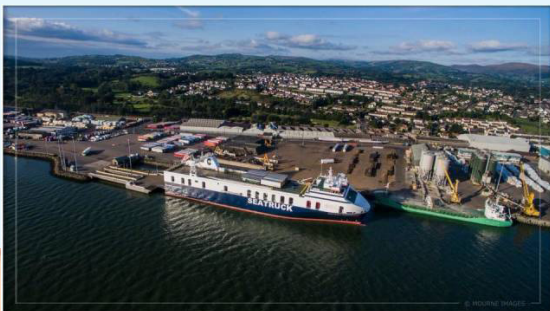
Warrenpoint Port.

Former CEO, Peter Conway, described Warrenpoint as the port for the city of Newry in his presentations. When the Port of Newry closed in 1974 the baton was passed to Warrenpoint and it has really consolidated its position since. Record figures on throughput and revenue year on year have seen Warrenpoint become the 4th most successful port on the island.

Thank you to Kieran Grant, Michael Young and all the team.



WARRENPOINT PORT



Newry Maritime Association
Newry, Co .Down

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"Corporate Members Roll of Honour" 2011- 2021

Courtneys Restaurants.

Another family-owned business that enjoys an excellent reputation in the community. Pat and Patricia Courtney operate 2 cafes on The Mall in Newry as well as a high quality "Steakhouse". They also offer bespoke outside catering of which NMA has availed with regularity over the years.

Quality is always assured and a keen price to boot.

Thank you, Pat, Patricia and the team.





Paddy McCann RIP

Sadly, many members, colleagues and friends have “Crossed the Bar” during the last decade but we hold their memories dearly. The year 2021 was particularly harsh in this respect and whilst we deeply miss our friends we can draw comfort from our memories of good times shared.

Gone, but certainly not forgotten.

Gone From My Sight.

Henry Van Dyke.

Gone From My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, “There, she is gone.”

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.
And, just at the moment when someone says, “There, she is gone,”
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, “Here she comes!”

And that is dying...



Obituaries.

Michael Downey **Corporate Member,** **Supervalu and The Bank Bar.**



A tribute paid to Michael at the time of his passing says it all. "A giant in local retail and a champion of the local community" With his brother, David, Michael was at the forefront of commerce in Newry through their 4 very successful businesses, Supervalu Hill St., Supervalu Dublin Road, The Bank Bar and Cobbles. He had a steely determination that exuded positivity. Failure was never an option. We extend our deepest sympathies to Michaels wife, Hannah and their children, Joanne, Gerard, Michael, Sean and Moninna. RIP Michael.

Willie Wilson. **Corporate Member,** **B Wilson Steel.**



Willie was a director in the family firm established by his late father, Ben and took a particular interest in our focus on the blacksmiths through his friendship with our former Chairman, Mickey Mallon. Sadly, Willie was predeceased by his wife, Margaret some years ago and we extend sincere sympathy to his daughters, Linda, Caroline and Beverly. RIP Willie.

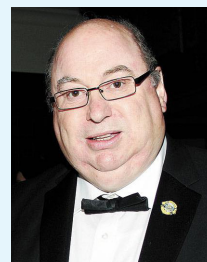
Patricia Purcell. **Corporate Member,** **Nomadic Caravans.**



Patricia was a very quiet and unassuming woman who shunned the limelight but she was the driving force behind her husband, John, in his dual role as a successful businessman and an Evangelical Minister. Pastor John has played a key role in our events over the years and Patricia was ever welcoming when we visited. We extend our

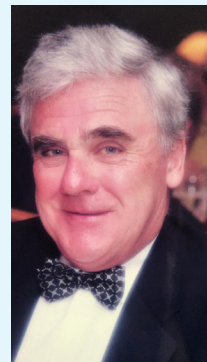
deepest sympathies to Pastor John and the family, Patricia, Michael, Barbara, Eileen, Melissa and Thomas. RIP Patricia.

Paul Braham B.E.M **Corporate Member,** **Braham Electrical.**



Paul was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in recognition of his charitable work over decades, shortly before he passed away. Paul had a keen business acumen and drove his company forward to become highly prolific and successful in the commercial, industrial and residential sectors of the construction industry. He also gave freely of his time to many charitable fundraising events, most notably, The Kilbroney Vintage Show and will be fondly remembered as someone who thought about others. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his wife, Margaret and their children, Mark, Thomas, Tracey, Michael, Edward and Paula. RIP Paul.

Captain John Mc Parland. **NMA Former Treasurer.**



John served for several years as our Treasurer and always had an eye for detail. Unsurprisingly, John followed the call of the sea just as his Father and Uncles before him and like them he began his career with the local firm of Joseph Fisher & Sons. Sometime later he got a position with Esso Petroleum and climbed the promotional ladder eventually attaining the rank of Captain, again following in the footsteps of his father, Captain Jack Mc Parland. John took a great interest in NMA activities and was always available for advice and information. We extend sincere sympathy to Johns wife, May and their children, John, Paul and Claire. RIP John.

NEVER DOCKED IN THE PORT OF NEWRY.



MV Anna Broere.

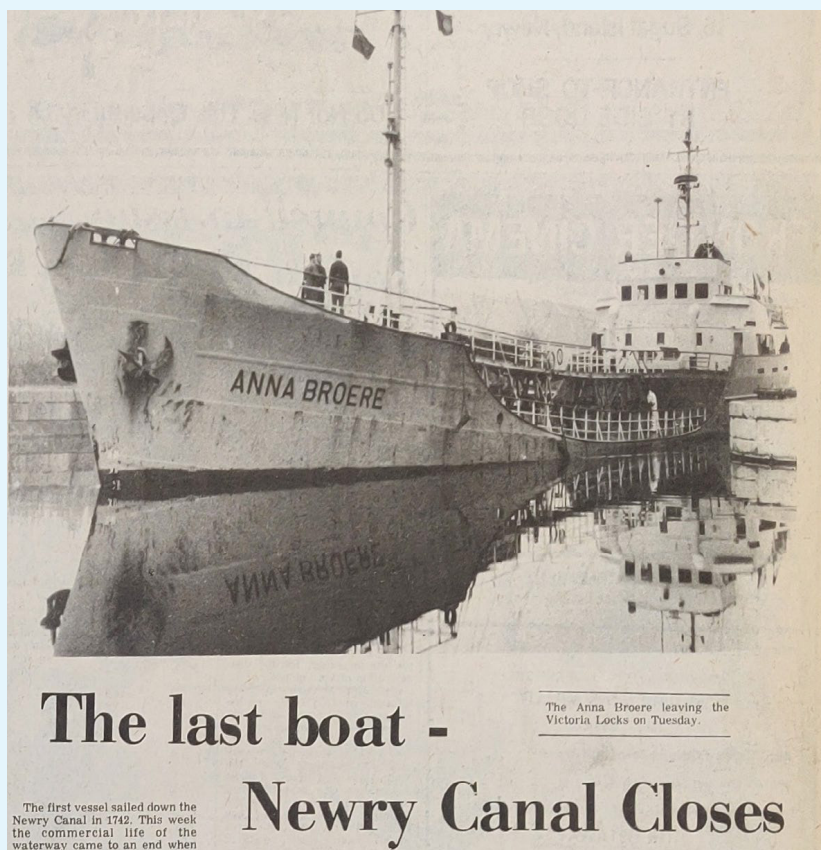
Last year the front cover of our annual report featured the Dutch coaster, MV Anna Broere" entering the Newry Ship Canal from Victoria Lock at Upper Fathom. The ship was laden with a cargo of 650 tons of Acetone and was bound for the Lobitos oil depot which was situated adjacent to the waterway just over a mile Northwards. "Anna Broere" is accredited as the last commercial vessel to visit the Port of Newry but this is not the case.

Pilotage is compulsory on Carlingford Lough with the exception of regular visitors such as Seatruck Ferries and even then the master must pass an examination to qualify for a Certificate of Exemption. With the Captain of the "Anna Broere" not having such an exemption, Willie John Cunningham, the Lough pilot was in charge of the vessel when she arrived at Victoria Lock on Tuesday 26th March 1974. He berthed her for discharge at the Lobitos moorings alongside the Canal in Lower Fathom.

The following day, Willie John arrived at Lobitos to pilot the vessel out to sea. His son Sean who succeeded him as the Lough pilot, and now retired after over 40 years service, takes up the story.

"My Da berthed the ship with the bow facing Newry so she had to be swung around to leave the Canal. Normally, this would have meant a journey to the Albert Basin to turn but on this occasion, Da just travelled the few hundred yards to Kellys Bend and he swung her around there and then headed back down the canal to Victoria Lock"

Anna Broere left Victoria Lock on Wednesday 27th March 1974, the last commercial vessel to have entered the Newry Ship Canal without having visited the Port of Newry.





NEVER DOCKED IN THE PORT OF NEWRY.

"SS Dundalk" Dundalk & Newry Steampacket Co.

This busy company, established in 1871, operated from a berth on the Eastern side of Albert Basin adjacent to Dublin Bridge and operated services to Liverpool and Ardrossan carrying passengers, livestock and general cargo.

In 1899 the company launched a new ship. Built-in Glasgow at a cost of £40,000, "SS Dundalk" was the flagship of the company fleet, however, at a length of 72 metres, she was too big to enter Victoria Lock.



"SS Dundalk" plied her trade on the company routes with the Port of Newry being the exception. The ship maintained her schedule during WWI and had a very lucky escape in December 1917 when she escaped with superficial damage after a German attack in the Irish Sea when 52 shells were fired at her.

Sadly, just 10 months later and weeks before the end of the conflict "SS Dundalk" and her valiant crew met their demise. Just after 5 pm on 14th December 1918, "SS Dundalk" slipped her moorings and set sail for Dundalk with a small cargo of groupage. Captain Hugh O'Neill, a native of Killowen, was a man with vast experience and this was a routine voyage.

At 11.10 pm disaster struck SE of the Isle of Man. Captain O'Neill had just come to the bridge to take up his watch when there was a terrific explosion. A German submarine, UB 90, fired a torpedo and it struck "Dundalk" amidships on the port side. The ship was virtually split in 2 pieces and sank by the head within 3 minutes. There were 2 lives lost, including Captain O'Neill, and there were 12 survivors. Callously, the submarine surfaced and surveyed the scene

NEVER DOCKED IN THE PORT OF NEWRY.



of carnage for 5 minutes but made no effort to assist before diving and leaving the victims to their fate.

As part of the Centenary commemorations, the Centenary Committee commissioned our Corporate Member, Modern Fireplace Company and Monumental Works, to build a magnificent memorial on the Navvy Bank, Dundalk.

NMA held a service of remembrance in Killowen and a plaque in memory of Captain Hugh O'Neill was unveiled. The event was sponsored by the family circle of Captain O'Neill.

"SS Ulidia" Mercantile Steamship Company of Ulster. (Joseph Fisher & Sons)

"SS Ulidia" was the sole experience of operating a deep-sea vessel for Joseph Fisher & Sons. The founder of the company, Joseph, passed away in 1902 and control of the firm passed to his son, Frank.

"SS Ulidia", Yard No. 372 was built on Tyneside at the shipyards of John Redhead & Sons. The ship was launched on 10th September 1903 and completed in November that year. Fishers operated a fleet of coasters that followed a basic design. Normally they were 142ft in length with a beam of 23ft and a draught of 11ft with a carrying capacity of 350 tons. This specification allowed 2 of their vessels to transit Victoria Lock together when necessary.



The last new-build vessel for the Fisher fleet was the "MV Olive" which was launched from the yard of Scotts of Bowling, Glasgow in December 1963. At 205ft in length and a carrying capacity of 1050 tons, "Olive" was the largest vessel that Fishers had built for accessing the Newry Ship Canal.



NEVER DOCKED IN THE PORT OF NEWRY.

"SS Ulidia" was certainly a big sister to the other members of the fleet!! At 323 ft long she was more than twice the length of the contemporary Fisher vessel and with a cargo capacity of 3080 tons, she equalled the capacity of half the fleet. Fishers operated this ship until 1916 when she was sold to the Cliffe Steamship Co.

"SS Ulidia had various owners thereafter and was requisitioned by the US War Department during WW2. Having survived the conflict, the ship was returned to her pre-war owners, Hwak Sung Steamship Co, and renamed "Hwak Jang".



On 11th June 1948, the ship sank near Shanghai whilst on passage from Keelung to Shanghai with a cargo of coal. Frank Fisher passed away at his residence, "Rockville" on Dromalane Road, Newry in November 1951. Aged 85, he had been at the helm of the firm for 49 years and had been at work on the morning of his passing. Control of the business passed to his son, Jim.

Very sadly, "MV Olive" suffered a similar fate to that of her bigger sister, "Ulidia" back in 1948. The ship had various owners after Fishers and eventually, she crossed the Atlantic and came under the ownership of the Omega Maritime Corporation based in Honduras. On 9th February 1984 the ship now renamed "Omega Lady" developed leaks whilst on passage to Puerto Cortes. Two days later, on the 11th, the ship ran into a severe storm and the leaks worsened. The following day, 12th February 1984, "Omega Lady" foundered in the Carribean Sea some 70 miles from her destination.

With her sinking, the curtain came down on the Fisher Fleet with what was their last ship foundering some 5,000 miles from her former home port.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORT CREW.



As a group, NMA interacts and collaborates with numerous groups and individuals in the course of delivering our various projects. We are, however, most fortunate to be able to call on the services of 3 local men each with their own specialism hallmarked with professionalism.

Michael Mallon is a superb reference point with his comprehensive video and photographic archive and always makes himself readily available when required.

Tony Smith and his media platform, "The Banter Show" is another ally who can always be depended on to showcase a project or event.

Ronan Bradley makes up the trio. Ronan has contributed regularly to our events with excellent drone footage. He has covered the annual illumination of the Haulbowline Lighthouse several times and most recently was involved in "Remembering Eddie Quinn" last September.

A big thank you for the support lads, we really appreciate your help and support.

Thank You to our Local Press.

Publicity is all-important and the local press has always given us a platform across the district. We particularly wish to thank Paul Welsh and Brian Hyland in the "Newry Reporter" and Liz Boyle who is always on hand for the all-important photos.

Lisa Ramsden and Ryan Sands have always highlighted our activities through the columns of the "Mourne Observer" whilst Ged Mc Kinley has snapped the photos.

Thank you all for your ongoing help and support. You are always there when we need you.



"REELING IN THE YEARS" "SS PRIVET" / "SS WALNUT" MEMORIAL EVENT. 25TH AUGUST 2012.

This was our first major event and was held at Victoria Lock on a sunny Saturday afternoon in August 2012. An impressive memorial was unveiled to commemorate the 18 men who perished on 2 vessels from the Fisher fleet when they sunk in the Irish Sea just 10 months apart.

"SS Privet" disappeared, with a crew of 9, without a trace somewhere in the Irish Sea whilst on passage from Birkenhead to Belfast with a cargo of coal on 5th December 1940. Just 10 months later on 27th October 1941, "SS Walnut" disappeared in almost identical circumstances. The ship was travelling from Birkenhead to Newry with a cargo of coal when she disappeared with 9 men, one of whom was a Royal Navy gunner. Oswald Hughes (19), from Wales, was on board to protect the ship from German attack.

The event was co-hosted by myself and Roisin Sweeney and attended by relatives of the victims from various locations across Ireland, including of course, Newry. The elderly Mother of Gunner Oswald Hughes travelled for Wales to be present. The memorial was unveiled by the late Mr John DF Fisher. Mr Fisher was a keen and enthusiastic member of NMA and a generous sponsor of our events, a trait continued by his family.

This stellar event marked the beginning of our long-lasting relationship with Camlough Brass and Reed Band and their dedicated conductor, Mr Tom McCabe. The Band have been an integral part of many of our successful and prolific events over the last decade.





"REELING IN THE YEARS"

Reeling In The Years. Reopening of Fisher Park, Newry. Saturday 29th June 2013.

This public amenity was gifted to the Council on behalf of the people of Newry by the Fisher family. The attractive little oasis is located at the junction of Bridge Street and Buttercrane Quay. For years it was kept in pristine condition by the Council but then maintenance ceased and by 2012 it was an overgrown wilderness. Worse still, we heard that the Council were preparing to sell the property to a nearby retailer.

NMA began to lobby strongly for the retention of the Park and attended a high level meeting with Council officials and a representative of the potential buyer.

Thankfully, our voices were held and the proposed sale was cancelled. The Park was restored to its former glory and NMA sited a 200 years old anchor there, a gift from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.

Fisher Park was reopened on 29th June 2013 by Council Chairman, Councillor Michael Ruane.



Reeling In The Years, "SS Alder" and "MV Karri" Memorial. Saturday 10th August 2013.

NMA held a commemorative ceremony at Victoria Lock to mark two significant incidents from the history of the Fisher fleet.

We recalled the tragic sinking of the "SS Alder" as she lay at anchor in Carlingford Lough on Sunday 4th April 1937 in thick fog. She was struck amidships by the Newry bound < "Lady Cavan" and sank within minutes. Her master, Captain Robert Campbell, his wife and 4 crew perished. There were 3 survivors.

A horrific 13 month period for the Fisher fleet during WW2 ended on 15th January 1942. On the evening of the 15th, "MV Karri" was following a dredger outward bound on the River Mersey with a cargo of coal for Dublin. The dredger



NMA member and local blacksmith, Mickey Mallon, forged the replica hull which was unveiled by Mr JDF Fisher in August 2013.



"REELING IN THE YEARS"

struck a mine and "Karri" suffered severe collateral damage. One man, James Mc Kevitt (25), from Carlingford was killed and several of the crew very seriously injured. NMA unveiled a commemorative plaque and a bespoke ships hull which was fabricated by Mickey Mallon.

Reeling In The Years. "SS Upas" Memorial. Saturday 18th March 2015.

Built by John Fullerton & Co in Glasgow in 1913, "SS Upas" was the flagship of the Fisher fleet. She foundered off the County Down coast near Ballyhalbert during a severe storm on the morning of 18th March 1915. Captain William Mc Ferran and 5 of his crew perished and there were 2 survivors one of whom was Sam Hanna from Kilkeel. Sadly, Sams younger brother, Joe on his first trip to sea perished. After the tragedy Fishers never permitted brothers to sail together again. NMA marked the centenary of the loss of the "SS Upas" with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in River Street, Newry.



Reeling In The Years. The National Famine Commemoration. Saturday 26th September 2015.

NMA was part of a group of voluntary organisations which was set up to lobby for the Commemoration to be held in Newry in 2015. The bid from Newry was successful and the National Famine Commemoration, hosted by The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in association with the Council, was held in the North for the first time. NMA hosted 4 stand-alone events over the weekend including one at the Paupers Graveyard. We were also accorded the signal honour of bringing proceedings to a close at the Albert Basin with the ringing of the bell on the cruiser, "Lady Majella". We were kindly facilitated with the use of the boat by her owner, Mrs Majella Anderson.





"REELING IN THE YEARS"

Reeling In The Years. Murals In Fisher Park. Saturday 18th December 2015.

On a bitterly cold Saturday afternoon, 18th December 2015 the Chairperson of the Council, Councillor Naomi Bailie, unveiled 4 large murals depicting 200 years of port history. The event was attended by Mr John DF Fisher and his son, James. In 2017 we installed a lighting system and the murals are now illuminated at night.

Reeling In The Years. "Gateway to Newry" Cloughogue Roundabout Project. Saturday 30th April 2016.

The Cloughogue Roundabout is a major intersection on the arterial A1 Dual Carriageway and carries over 20,000 vehicles daily. The roundabout carries a high profile as it welcomes Southern visitors to our city and its appearance resembled a building site.

NMA members, supported by colleagues from Carlingford Lough Currach Club (CLCC) set about clearing the site and making it aesthetically pleasing. Colin Toner from our Corporate Member, Country Carpets, signed a 5-year grasscutting deal with DFI and soon the Roundabout was a sight to behold.

A good friend of our Association now deceased, Eddie Quinn, donated the gates from his homeplace in Fathom on the condition that they are sited on the Cloughogue Roundabout. A local blacksmith who operated at Cloughogue Bridge, Tommy Connolly, had made them for his Mother over a century previously and Eddie wished them to return to where they were forged. Getting the necessary permissions proved a long and arduous struggle and we were greatly assisted by the Minister for Regional Development, Danny Kennedy, former CEO Newry and Mourne District Council, Eddy Curtis and Councillor Andy Moffett. Eddie finally got his wish and himself and Queenie were present when the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Michael Ruane, unveiled the gates on Saturday 30th April 2016.



Eddie Quinn with Micky Mallon and the Gates



REDEDICATION OF THE CALVARY SITE AT ST. BRIGIDS, NEWRY.



In early November of last year a statue of Our Lady, part of a Calvary scene in St. Brigid's Church, was desecrated in a mindless act of vandalism. The figures at Calvary were sculpted by John Haugh to coincide with the opening of the Church in 1970 and there was widespread shock and anger when the incident became public knowledge.

Having been informed of the damage by Councillor Gavin Malone we contacted our Corporate Member, Modern Fireplace and Monumental Works, and within an hour Mickey Keenan, the boss, had removed the statue to the firm's Greenbank workshop. Over the next 10 days, a painstaking and intricate repair saw the statue restored to pristine condition.

Mickey then oversaw the repainting of the figures and repointing of the base in the Church grounds and Damian Mallon, DM Powerwashing, washed down the site. A service of rededication was organised by Helena Young, in partnership with Meadow/Armagh Road CA.

Members of the Choir Studio attended the service which was conducted by Canon Francis Brown before many of the local residents.

We are indebted to Mickey Keenan (Modern Fireplace Co.)

Damian Mallon (DM Powerwashing)

Kathy Mc Caughey (The Choir Studio) who provided their services in a voluntary capacity showcasing a spirit of generosity and community engagement.

the
modernfireplace
company



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"REELING IN THE YEARS"

Reeling In The Years. "SS Connemara" and "SS Retriever" Centenary Project. Thursday 3rd November 2016.

On the night of 3rd November 1916, the South Down/ North Louth district was in the grip of a raging storm, the aftermath of which would leave lasting, terrible consequences in its wake.

At 4.25 am the Newry registered collier left the port of Garston on Merseyside bound for Newry with a cargo of coal. Normally, the ship would have arrived at Victoria Lock in around 12 hours but after the ship crossed the Liverpool Bar weather conditions began to deteriorate.

Some 15 hours later Captain Paddy O'Neill sighted the flash from Haulbowline Lighthouse and knew he was now within 10 miles from Omeath Railway Station the shelter of Carlingford Lough and safety.

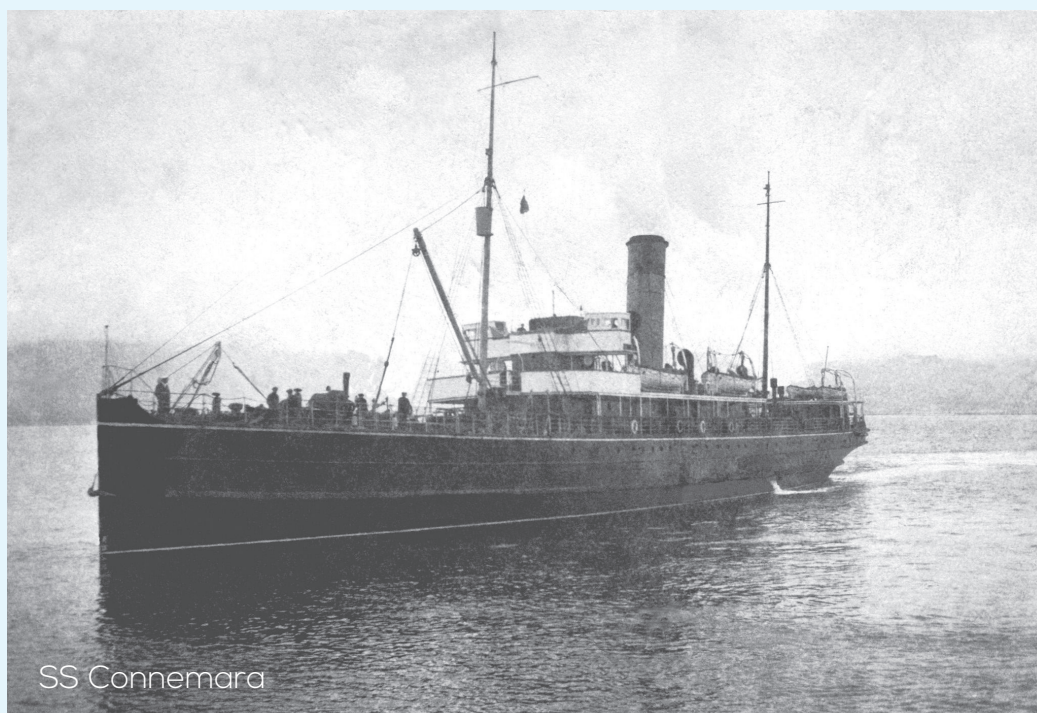
Meanwhile, in Greenore the S"SS Connemara" was being readied for her nightly crossing to Holyhead. Locals later described the storm as the worst witnessed in 70 years. Shortly after 8 pm Captain Doeg steered his ship, a passenger/livestock ferry, into the channel and headed for the Bar and the Irish Sea. At 8.20 pm "Connemara" passed the lighthouse ploughing towards the Bar. By now "SS Retriever" had entered the narrow channel, just over 320 ft wide, and tragedy was about to unfold. The lighthouse keepers fired flares to try and alert the ships Captains of potential danger.

Just as the ships were passing a rogue wave caught the "Retriever" on her port stern and literally spun her around with the result that she struck "Connemara" amidships virtually splitting the ship in half. The ferry sank very quickly with "SS Retriever" following her to the bottom within 15 minutes.

The aftermath was the worst tragedy ever visited on our district with 94 people dead. There was just one survivor, James Boyle from Warrenpoint. James was a seaman on "SS Retriever" and incredibly a non-swimmer.

In 2014 we began preparations to mark the Centenary of the tragedy and it soon became obvious that a remembrance project would be on a scale comparable to the magnitude





of the disaster. Primarily, we focused on a fitting memorial in Newry as "SS Retriever" was a Newry ship and crewed by local men.

We hosted 2 events in Newry on Centennial day, Thursday 3rd November. We unveiled a commemorative plaque in River Street in memory of the 5 Newry men lost on "SS Retriever". Our main event was the unveiling of a

magnificent and innovative memorial at Dublin Bridge at the entrance to the Albert Basin for all the victims, 94.

The focal points of the memorial are a stern plate and rope bitts which were salvaged from the wreck of "SS Retriever" on her resting place on the seabed in Carlingford Lough. We are deeply appreciative of the efforts of the members of Newry Sub Aqua Club, who along with Captain Sean Cunningham, recovered the artefacts. Our then Chairman, Michael O Hare, designed the profile of the memorial which was unveiled at a very well attended event by Alex Easton M.L.A. Mr Easton is a 4th generation relative of the Glenny family who owned the ill-fated "Retriever"

Over the following two and a half years we created a "Connemara" / "Retriever" Heritage Trail following a circuitous route from Kilkeel to Dundalk, showcasing sites of particular relevance to the story. There are 23 sites on the trail and we held an event at each one and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Irish and English versions of a full-colour Heritage Guide were published as well as a schools activity book in similar versions. Undoubtedly, the most challenging feature of the project was the external illumination of Haulbowline Lighthouse in Carlingford Lough as a tribute to the 94 victims of the tragedy. Such a feat hadn't been achieved before.



Having secured permission from the Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) Michael O Hare set about designing a solar system to power the lights. Whilst Michaels system was a success he soon discovered that we did not have enough sunlight to amass a sufficient charge in the batteries to fully power a session.

Michael decided that a generator would be required to do the job properly and when he couldn't source a suitable spec, he designed his own bespoke version. He duly had the generator built by Ashvale Engineering which he financed with his son in law, Shay Fitzpatrick, with NMA being granted usage for the annual illumination.

The event in 2016 was a resounding success that garnered lots of publicity. This was the first time a wave lighthouse had been externally illuminated in Ireland or Britain, no mean feat for a small voluntary group. We have continued with the illumination each year since with a different dedication annually.

We are very fortunate to have gathered a close-knit team to help us deliver this unique event. Captain Sean Cunningham, assisted by his brother Thomas and Philip Fitzsimmons, coordinate the logistics of the operation with Sean's boat, "William John".

Harbour Master for the Carlingford Lough Commissioners, Michael Young and the tug "Slieve Ban", are key contributors also and the event is sponsored by Braham Electrical, This year was the 6th illumination that we have undertaken and the team is rightly proud that Haulbowline remains the only offshore lighthouse in Ireland or Britain to be externally illuminated.



ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE.

NMA is especially proud of the fact that 4 of our nominees to the Ulster History Circle have been awarded Blue Plaques. The recipients exemplify the best traits of human nature. The events that we held to mark these awards are amongst our most prestigious.

Saturday 7th December 2013. Acting Captain Max Blaney GC.

Max Blaney, a Civil Engineer employed by Newry Urban Council, joined the army at the outbreak of WW2 in 1939. Attached to the Royal Engineers, he was assigned to the Bomb Disposal Squad and was killed defusing a German bomb in the playground of an East London school on 13th December 1940. He was buried in St Marys Cemetery, Newry on Christmas Day 1940. He was posthumously awarded the George Cross.



Seaman Raymond Kelly GC. Lloyds Medal for Gallantry at Sea.

Young seaman Raymond Kelly was homeward bound from Rio De Janeiro, Brazil to London with a cargo of wheat aboard, "SS Empire Plover". The ship received a distress call whilst sailing through the notorious Bay of Biscay from "MV Famagusta". "Empire Plover" responded and steamed to her aid. On arrival, they found an overturned lifeboat with the passengers floundering in mountainous seas.

Raymond Kelly dived overboard and pulled a seaman to safety. He then dived in for a second time and rescued another man. Noticing a woman battling in the waves, incredibly, Raymond dived into the icy waters for the third time. He got his arm on her shoulder and a huge wave broke over them and they were swept away. Raymonds body was not recovered. He died on 18th March 1947, a day before his 19th birthday.

In February 1948, Raymond was awarded the George Cross and the Lloyds medal for Gallantry at Sea. A relative of Max Blaney, living in Malta, is the custodian of his medal and our events that day united them in public in Newry for the first time.

This was also the first occasion that the Ulster History Circle held a dual event in the same town and on the same day.



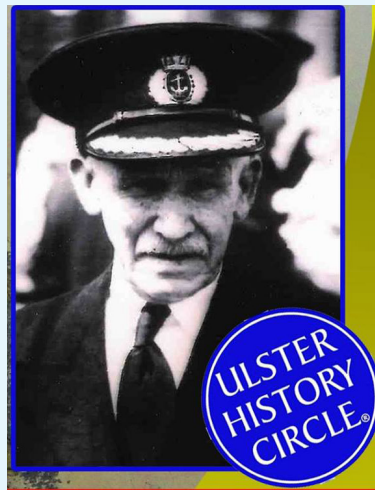


ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE.

Saturday 25th July 2015.

Commodore Captain Harry Hollywood M.B.E. Fisher Fleet, Newry.

Captain Harry Hollywood, a native of Lower Fathom, commenced his career at sea in 1888, aged 14. His incredible tenure of 52 years saw him witness the genres of sail, steam and then diesel vessels. He sailed through 2 World Wars with Fishers. Following WW1 he received Letters of



of the Fleet. He received an M.B.E. for services to shipping at the end of WW2. Known to all as "Wee Harry", because he was just 5ft tall and stood on a box to see over the ship's wheel, he was a very accomplished seafarer who became Commodore of the Fisher fleet which numbered 17 vessels at its height. His last command was "SS Balsa" launched alongside "SS Ebony" in 1946. Captain Hollywood retired after 64 years of service in 1952 and he died in May 1953.

His Blue Plaque mounted on a decorative pole in Victoria Lock is the only stand-alone Blue Plaque unveiled by the Ulster History Society.

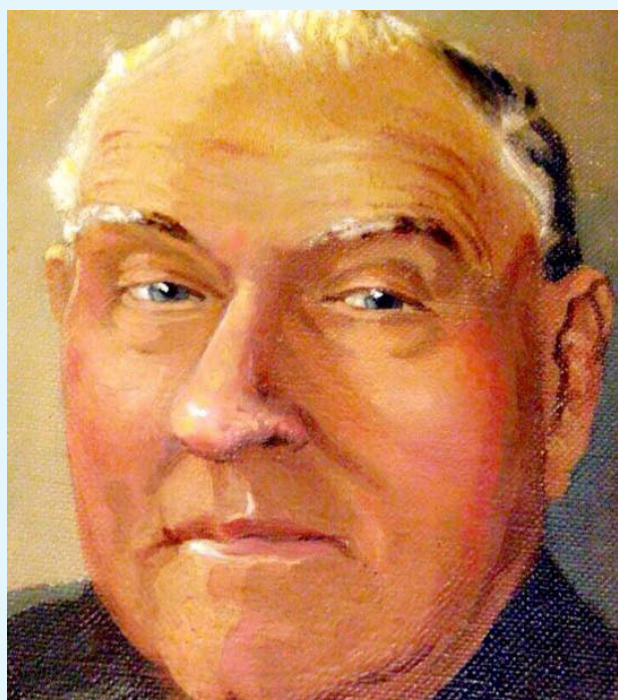
Saturday 28th October 2017.
Charles Blaney CE M.B.E.

Charles Blaney, a native of Rosnagill on the Fanad Peninsula in Co. Donegal was born in May 1877. Following his graduation, as a Civil Engineer from UCD, he took up a position with Belfast Corporation in 1898. He applied for the position of Town Surveyor of Newry and was chosen from 19 applicants, taking up his appointment on 1st November 1902.

Notably, he walked to his office in Newry Town Hall, taking a different route each



ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE.



day and recording any issues in his notebook which he then prioritised when he got into work.

He set about implementing much needed transformative change across the board in Newry. Major improvements in sanitation, provision of clean water, road infrastructure and the extension of quay space at the Port were implemented.

However, Mr Blaney will always be remembered as a pioneer of social housing. His first major housing project was the conversion of the Military Barracks following its vacation by the British Army in 1923. This redevelopment, "Linenhall Square", was the first site of social housing in Newry. Charles always used locally produced materials where possible, such as bricks. He was also responsible for what became as the "Blaney Drain". Long before the advent of perforated concrete pipes, Mr Blaney was moulding earthenware pipes, laying them on a bed of fine stone and covering them with larger aggregate. Decades later many of these drains were uncovered.

Rooneys Meadow, Dromalane and O'Neill Avenue are just some of the social housing stock built during his tenure. In 1954 he was awarded an M.B.E. and he retired in 1959 after 57 years of exemplary service to the people of Newry. He was 82 years old.

Charles Blaney died on 1st March 1975, aged 98, and is buried in St. Marys Cemetery Newry. His Blue Plaque was unveiled on the family home at 65 Bridge Street, Newry alongside that of his son Max. Not only is this the first time a Father and son have been so honoured but it is also the first time the Ulster History Circle have placed 2 plaques on the same building.



NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION

NMA WELCOMES. M.L. White Solicitors, Newry.

This busy general legal practice is housed in modern, spacious offices on bustling Monaghan Street. Ronan Haughey, the Principal, has owned the business since 2001 and is well known for his generosity to the community and voluntary sector across Newry and District. We are very pleased to welcome Ronan and M.L. White Solicitors as part of our valued Corporate Team.

Massive thanks to Ronan Haughey who today purchased 20 new balls for Tommy O Hanlon and the Respect Team. Great work being carried out by these people in our Community.



NMA CONGRATULATES. CRILLY SWEETS.

Established by Peter Crilly in 1974, the firm is now the sole manufacturer of boiled sweets in Ireland and despite all the difficulties caused by the Pandemic, they have continued to grow the business with new products and increased export markets.

Earlier this year they concluded new deals which sees their products on sale in China and Southern Spain. Recently they launched their new "Mr Crilly" range of menthol sweets and already have clinched a deal with Poundstretcher that sees "Mr Crilly" on the shelves of their 350 UK Stores.



Congratulations and well done to Peter, David and Ciaran.

NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION



NMA CONGRATULATES Haldane-Fisher.

2021, marked the 75th Anniversary of Bob Haldane setting up his own account business in 1946. He bought the business of "A Sheills & Co from JS Fisher and formed Haldane Shiells with premises on Monaghan Street, Newry. Initially, the business was a timber operation concentrating on the supply of native timber a lot of which came from Fathom Wood. Former Northern Ireland goalkeeper, Pat Jennings, was employed there with his father, "Logger" when he left school.



In 1958 Bobs son, John came into the business and began sourcing timber from Scandanavia, Russia and Canada as well as developing the firm as builders merchants. In 1990 they acquired their main competitor, JS Fisher, and relocated the business to their present headquarters on Carnbane Industrial Estate.

Today, the firm has 20 branches across the North, Isle of Man and North West England and are one of the leading independent suppliers to the construction industry and the domestic market with a workforce in excess of 700. We are very proud to have the endorsement of Haldane-Fisher.

NMA CONGRATULATES MJM Marine.

Our Corporate member, MJM Marine, a specialist in cruise ship refurbishment and interior outfitting recently won the Collaboration Award at this year's Cruise Ship Interiors Expo Awards held at Excel, London.

The Collaboration Award was created to celebrate the outstanding collaboration which exists in the cruise industry and the fantastic new products which come about from it. For MJM collaboration with strategic partners is key to success in the cruise industry. They entered into a new partnership with Vyv, a health tech company and a market leader in UV-free microbial light. Vyvs range of antimicrobial light solutions continuously cleans the environment in which they are installed. MJM Marine, CEO, Gary Annett said "They offer safety and security to customers and staff at a time when people demand higher environmental wellness standards" Well done toall at MJM Marine.





NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION

NMA CONGRATULATES Mulkerns Eurospar.

The business was established in 1976 in Mick Cunninghams shop in Newtowncloughogue by the late Paul Mulkerns and has grown exponentially over the last 45 years.

This year, their efforts were recognised at national award ceremonies in London. They initially scooped 3 awards at the high profile UK Wide Convenience Awards and this success was followed up by claiming 3 further awards at the most prestigious event for the sector in the UK. Mulkerns Eurospar championed their

peers at the UK Retail Industry Awards and Terry Mulkerns, praising his staff, said.

"I am so proud of my team who not only worked tirelessly throughout lockdowns and all the challenges that brought but also extended their hand to our local community showing their dedication to their local area."

That says it all really, Terry.



NMA CONGRATULATES. Re - GenWaste.

Established by the Doherty family in 2004 as a recycling and waste management company, the firm has now developed one of the most advanced MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) installations in Europe. Re-Gen is also one of our original corporate members.

Headquartered in Carnbane, the firm operates 24/7 and processes over 1.5 million tons of waste annually.

Recently, the company won a contract to supply 100,000, tons of refuse derived fuel to a Norwegian company, Fortum.



NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION



NMA CONGRATULATES Surefreight.

Blue Chip haulage and logistics company, Surefreight was established by joint Managing Directors, Vincent Waddell and Brian Mc Manus in 1989. Today, the firm is a major player in the road haulage industry in Ireland and Britain. Despite the challenging economic situation caused by the Pandemic, and consolidated by Brexit, the company continues to expand and added a consignment of new Scania "S Class" vehicles to their fleet this year.

Surefreight now operates in excess of 250 trucks and 700 curtain side trailers to deliver their cross channel services.

Headquartered in Carnbane Industrial Estate, Newry, Surefreight also has depots based in Cardiff, Bradford, Heysham, Sheffield, Liverpool and Manchester. NMA is very proud that the firm is also one of our original corporate members.



Well Done HMT Shipping. "Walking In Good Company"

Our Corporate Member, HMT Shipping, has recently been delivering consignments of prestressed concrete from Northern Ireland to Anfield Stadium, home of the mighty Liverpool FC. The Anfield Road end of the ground is currently undergoing an £80 million redevelopment which will see capacity increased by 7,000 seats and bringing the overall capacity to 61,000. The work will be completed for the 2023/24 season.

We are pleased to see HMT involved in the delivery of this prestigious contract and confident that they will never walk alone !!!





NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION

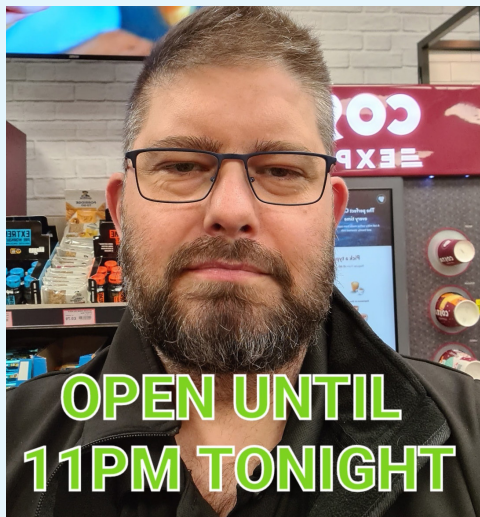
NMA Congratulates. Spar. Dublin Road Convenience Store.

The team have really established themselves in the community by providing an excellent service under the "Costcutter" marque. Early last year a decision was taken to raise the bar and give the customer base an even more appealing and cost-effective offering.

This seminal change not only involved rebranding but a complete reconstruction of the internal layout of the premises. The mammoth task was completed in just 16 days and the shop reopened to eager customers on Wednesday 15th September, rebranded as Spar.

An added service, Daily Deli", has proved a real winner with a wide-ranging menu of hot takeaway food available from 5 am. This provision is proving most popular with the early morning commuters and the 7 days availability is also well received by the customers.

Craig, Alistair, Jonny and the team continue to deliver high-quality service which is a hallmark of the business and we wish them the very best going forward.





SILENT LIGHT.

Solitary sentinel, herald, gatekeeper,
Towering surveyor, sweeping the borders.
Impregnable, solid, secure commander,
Unsurpassed, unshakeable, bastion of light.
Unflinching beacon, surrounded by water,
Protector, guiding ships in the night.

The worst night in living memory,
Swirling, surging, stormy waters.
A ship departing, another arriving,
Unspeakable disaster, shattered lives.
Splitting, smashing, disappearing,
Drowning in the depths, sucked by the sea.

Enshrined, floodlit, revealed, significant,
Illuminated, elevated, pride of place.
Photographed, painted, public attraction,
Visited, celebrated, halo in the Lough.
Seen from afar, acknowledged, connected,
Silent light, star of the sea

JP Mc Arevey,
Manchester.
January 2021..



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS.

Our biggest project undertaken in the last decade was the centennial commemoration of the "Connemara" and "Retriever" collision, and its aftermath, which we showcased in 2016.

The Port of Greenore, London and North Western Railway Co. (LNWR) and the Dundalk, Newry and Greenore Railway (DNGR) were key contributors to the story. They also feature on our heritage trail and the accompanying heritage guide.

Little remains of DNGR infrastructure today especially along the route of the trackbed from Newry to the Co Louth border at Ferryhill. One lost artefact reappeared as a result of essential work carried out to address a flooding problem experienced by a Corporate member. Dan o Hare was alerted to excess water building up in his commercial yard and after extensive investigation, he sourced the core of the problem.



An underground water culvert built by DNGR prior to the opening of the Newry/ Greenore line in 1876 had collapsed. The route of the culvert was heavily overgrown and the resulting clearance operation revealed long-hidden iconic features from railway history. A sweeping orate stone wall led to a crossover pedestrian footbridge, with supporting brick columns, which gave access to the imposing residence now home to Michael and Bernie Heaney. The steel structure was hidden from view for decades by thick ivy and trees. The remedial works saw the culvert repiped with inspection manholes added, Dan's problem solved and a cameo from our industrial heritage revealed. Win, win all around.

Supporting Our Community Partners.

NMA were the lead applicant in a successful bid for funding from the Department For Communities and administered by Co-Operation Ireland. St Marys Youth Club used the award to purchase outdoor furniture for the children's play area. Carlingford Lough Currach Club purchased safety equipment whilst Meadow/ Armagh Road CA were able to provide a Remembrance Bench in memory of former residents. NMA benefitted from their award with the purchase of a laptop and printer. We were very pleased to be able to assist these groups who regularly partner us in our activities and we also wish to thank the Department For Communities and Co-Operation Ireland for providing us all with much needed financial support.



St Marys Youth Club

THE GOLDEN BOY. REV FR PAT TUMILTY OP.



Fr Tumilty marked the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on 5th July 2020 by celebrating Sunday Mass in St Catherines Dominican Church, Newry. Over the last 50 years, he has ministered in the Dominican communities in Cork, Newbridge, Sligo Waterford, Tallaght and is now retired in St Catherines Priory.

NMA published a commemorative booklet to mark the occasion and nominated Fr. Pat for Civic recognition from our Council. Although this was approved by Council, the event had to be mothballed due to Covid restrictions and although disappointed, we were happy in the knowledge that the event would take place when conditions permitted. After almost a year in abeyance, the event took place in the Lectio Centre on Thursday 27th May with a small group of family, close friends and confreres in attendance.

Chairperson of the Council, Councillor Laura Devlin presented Fr. Pat with a beautiful inscribed crystal bowl and hospitality was organised by Democratic Services Officer, Sheila Kieran.

The recognition accorded to Fr. Tumilty was truly well earned and well deserved and we wish him a long, happy and fruitful retirement.



NMA CONGRATULATES, SEATRUCK.



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6TH ILLUMINATION OF HAULBOWLINE LIGHTHOUSE LAUNCH EVENT.



We held a press call to launch the annual illumination began on Friday 30th July. The newly-elected Chairperson of our Council, Councillor Cathy Mason, joined us on the 17th July for a visit to the lighthouse. On a fantastic summer, Saturday afternoon sun-drenched Carlingford Lough was akin to a resort in the Mediterranean and Stephen Rooney was on hand to take the photos.



Newry Maritime Association
Newry, Co .Down

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The Illumination. 30th July - 31st August.

The Illumination. 30th July - 31st August.

This year our illumination proved to be the most successful and well-received yet. This was largely due in part to the provision of 2 downlighters by our sponsor, Thomas Braham.



Thank you to the Team.

Without the input of our close-knit, specialist team we could not deliver the project. We appreciate Warrenpoint Harbour Authority granting us the use of their Boardroom to make presentations to our valued crew.

We are very proud that our lighthouse, Haulbowline, remains the only wave washed lighthouse around the coastlines of Ireland and Britain to be externally illuminated..



Newry Maritime Association hosted an event in Warrenpoint to thank those responsible for the annual illumination of Haulbowline Lighthouse (photo: Stephen Rooney).

GROTTO OF CHRIST THE KING, NEWRY.



This unique outdoor shrine is located at Church Street, Newry and was built in 1934 in remembrance of the Eucharistic Congress which had been held in Ireland in 1932. Prelates of the Catholic Church from across the world travelled to Dublin for the event.

The Grotto is unique as it is the only such artefact built on public space in Newry. Sadly, in recent times the Grotto had become somewhat run down and was causing concern to the voluntary caretaker.

Local lady, Miss Betty Woods has been looking after the shrine for over 20 years

and when she contacted us and asked if we could help we immediately agreed.

The relevant NMA Corporate Members were contacted and quickly they had donated all the materials required.



DM Powerwashing
Braham Electrical
Mc Caul Signs
Damian Gill
Modern Fireplace Co.

Complete Washdown.
New Lighting.
Gold Leaf.
Paint.
Granite Stonework.

Well known local man and renowned painter and decorator, Sean Mc Caul, was entrusted with the refurbishment and he restored the Grotto to pristine condition.

The finishing touches were added by Cecilia Heaney (Central Florists) who arrived unannounced with a beautiful range of flowers and plants.

On Sunday 28th August, a beautiful summers evening, a large crowd assembled for a Service of Rededication conducted by Fr. Des Loughran, himself a local man. This was a brilliant team effort and an excellent example of networking in the community. Most importantly, Betty was a very happy lady indeed.



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The James Mac Mahon Project.



This project, featuring 19th century Newry Merchant, James Mac Mahon was our biggest undertaking since the "Connemara" / "Retriever" portfolio several years ago.

Although not on the same scale it was, nonetheless, a significant and detailed tranche of work. The project gave us an opportunity to engage once again with the Church Of Ireland and its congregations in Newry and Bessbrook who both helped enormously with the research for our 24 page booklet. Chris Cassidy, Heritage Officer with Newry branch of Libraries NI, was also a key contributor to our research on the project.

Mac Mahon was a shipping agent during the years of the Famine and we showcased the plight of those unfortunates who sailed from Warrenpoint in April 1849 onboard the "Hannah". The majority of the passengers came from the Parish Of Forkhill and we were most fortunate to secure the services of the eminent South Armagh historian, Kevin Murphy, to recant their stories.

authority on the Famine era and the "Hannah" devised an itinerary for a coach trip highlighting the places the passengers on the ill-fated ship originated from.

With Kevin as a courier, our 6 coach trips were very well received and refreshments were served in the magnificent surroundings of the new Thomas Davis Hub on Dorans Hill. Piper Bernie Mc Cabe from Thomas Davis Pipe Band led us into the building and everyone received a copy of our publication, James Mac Mahon. A Titan of Newry Commerce.

This project was only made possible through funding from Peace IV and we wish to thank Sarah Mc Clory and Julie-Ann Harte for all their help and assistance and special thanks to Newry DEA Coordinator, Kerri Morrow, for her guidance and support.



The James Mac Mahon Project.



Chair Person makes presentations to
Thomas Davis Band and Thomas Davis Hub



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Making A Mariner, Part 2 Philip Fitzsimmons.

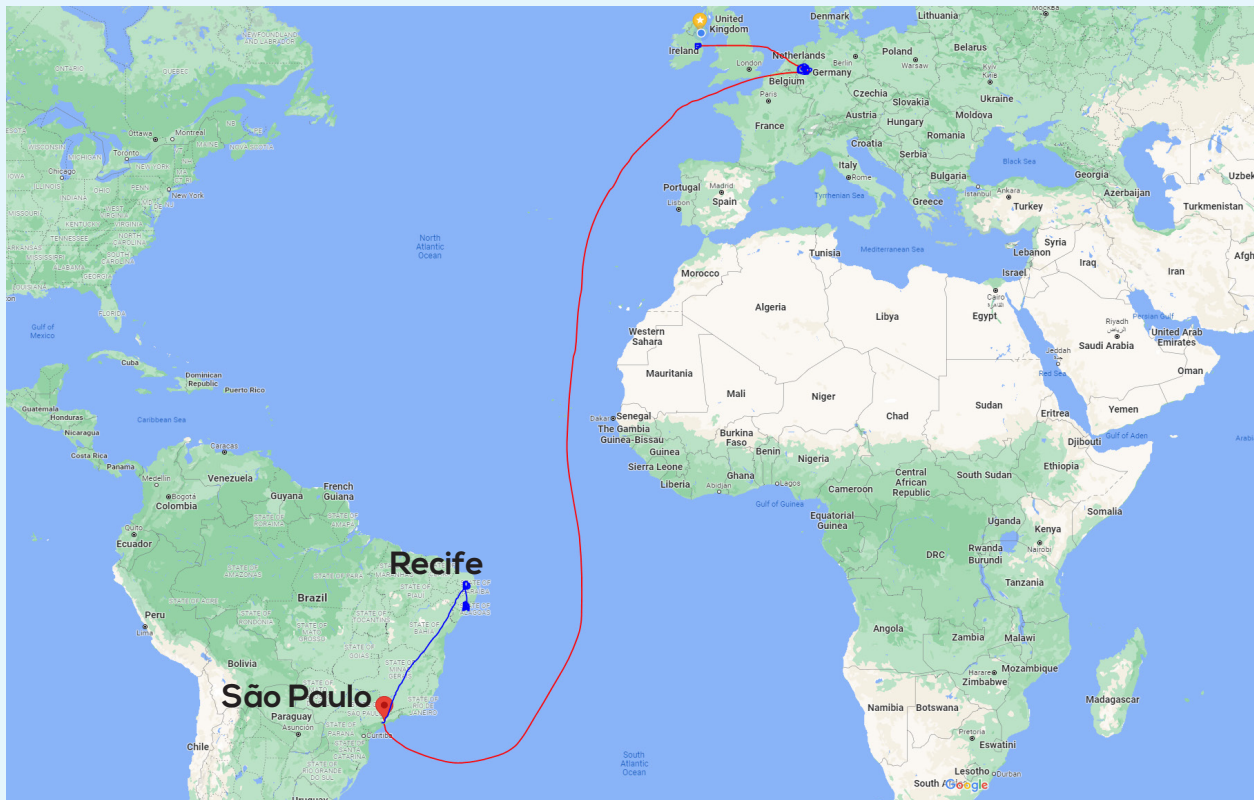
Last year we detailed how a young man, Philip Fitzsimmons from Greencastle, had enrolled in a Merchant Navy college on Tyneside as an officer cadet. Philip was then engaged on a period of sea time on board the 64,000-ton tanker, "MT Magnus".

This year his studies have been hampered due to the Pandemic but after a long and patient wait Philip received the call he was waiting for. He had been assigned a ship on which to complete a further period of sea time. On 16th December 2021, Philip left home to embark on a 5500 miles journey from Ireland to North West Brazil. The first leg of the journey saw him fly from Dublin to Amsterdam and the following day he crossed the Pacific and landed in Sao Paulo. After a nights rest, he flew to Recife and then followed a 40 minutes journey by road to the Port of Saupe.

The Port of Saupe lies 8 degrees south of the Equator and it was here that our intrepid traveller joined the tanker, "MT Forties" a sister ship of "Magnus".

"MT Forties" will be home to Philip for the next few months, a long, long way away from Greencastle, The "William John" and Seanie.

We wish Philip the very best of luck in his endeavours and safe passage.



Remembering Eddie Quinn.



Eddie Quinn was a native of the Townland of Fathom and a man fiercely proud of his rural heritage. Fathom is a townland synonymous with seafaring and there was a time when almost every house had at least one sailor and some, many more. Eddie had an elder brother, Felix, who was a Merchant Navy Captain and Eddie himself had an almost forensic knowledge of the seamen of Fathom. He was one of our "Walking reference books" and could always be relied on to provide valuable information for a project.

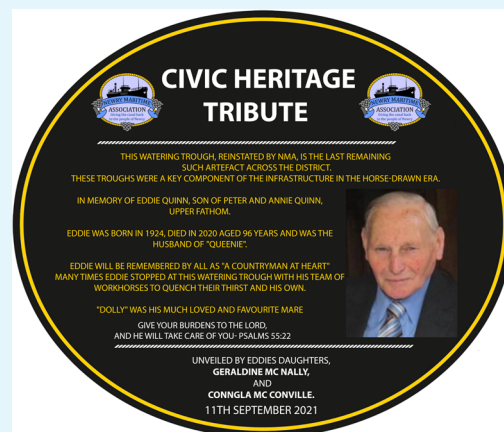
Eddie had a strong affinity with the horse watering trough on the Old Dublin Road and often recalled how he would stop with his horses and give them a well-earned drink when he was working. He also bemoaned the fact that the trough had become neglected over the years and expressed a desire to see it restored to its former grandeur.

We were always going to pay tribute to Eddie and the obvious plan was a dual purpose event. The trough would be cleaned up and we would host a tribute event for Eddie on site. So it was that on what was arguably one of the best days of the year we held the event in honour of Eddie. The large attendance bore testimony to the high esteem in which he was held and the mood was celebratory as, collectively, we remembered a man who had enriched our lives.

Geraldine and Conngla, Eddie's daughters, unveiled a beautiful plaque that is appropriately sited on the wall of the trough. The presence of the ponies, organised by Clare Toal, added to the ambience and Eddie surely would have been beaming when Eddie Murtagh arrived with "Dan" his beloved Clydesdale horse, complete with an original farm cart.

Contributions from Canon John Kearney and Pastor John Purcell hallmarked the solemnity of the occasion and afterwards, guests were treated to a buffet at MJM Headquarters. This, one of our most successful events of the year, was a fitting tribute to a very special man who is sadly missed by all who knew him.

The event was kindly sponsored by Eddie's daughters, Geraldine Mc Nally and Conngla Mc Conville.





Remembrance Sunday.



After a hiatus last year the Newry branch of the Royal British Legion hosted the annual commemoration on Sunday and permitted us to lay 2 wreaths.

Murtagh Duffy laid a "Fisher Flag" wreath in memory of all who served with the fleet. This wreath, along with another destined for London, was generously sponsored by Mr Adam Fisher.

A Merchant Navy wreath commemorating all our Newry seamen and sponsored by NMA member, Helena Carr, was laid by James Mc Arevey.



Later, Murtagh Duffy and Mickey Mallon laid a "Fisher Flag" wreath at the "Walnut" and "Privet" memorial at Victoria Lock. This wreath was sponsored by NMA.

"Lest we forget"

Happy Birthday, John.



The legendary John Dalzell commenced his 30th annual sit out to raise funds for the Hospice on 11th December. So far, John has raised an incredible £1.5 million for the Hospice and hopes to break the £2 million barriers with this sit out.

Tuesday 21st December marked John's 80th birthday and we were delighted to partner with Councillor Gavin Malone and present John with a large birthday cake and an inscribed crystal bowl. This presentation was well earned and well deserved by one of our unsung heroes.





CURRACH EVENT 2021.

This year again we hosted events on Newry Canal with our partner group, CLCC, which culminated in bringing the Big Man himself, Santa Claus, via currach to the children's party in Drumalane.

We also congratulate everyone involved with CLCC on the delivery of their 4 new Connemara built currach boats, an indicator of the vibrancy and enthusiasm within the group.



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED US THROUGH 2021.



BRAHAM ELECTRICAL.
MODERN FIREPLACE COMPANY.
DAN O HARE COMMERCIALS.
KC HIRE.

CRILLY SWEETS.
NOMADIC CARAVANS.
CLARKE WHOLESALE.
THE MEDICAL HALL.
MALLONS HARDWARE.
FLAGSTAFF LODGE.
FELIX O HARE & Co.
B WILSON STEEL.
BMC FREIGHT.

COUNTRY CARPETS.
CITYWEST TRANSPORT.
THE BANK BAR.

COURTNEYS RESTAURANTS.
MULKERNS EUROSPAR.
ML WHITE SOLICITORS
JOHN TINNELLY & SONS.
WARRENPOINT PORT.
DINEEN OFFICE SUPPLIES.
AJ PLUMBING SUPPLIES.

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
MJM GROUP.

MICHAEL MC CAUL SIGNS.
CANAL COURT HOTEL.
RE-GEN.

MC PARLAND DEMOLITION.
SUREFREIGHT.

ROONEY INTERNATIONAL COACH HIRE.

TIERNANS SOLICITORS.

BOYDS STORES.

NW KEHOE & SONS.

PHELAN & PRESCOTT.

PKF-FPM.

MC SHANE SOLICITORS.

CHARLES DIGNEY & SONS.

LEODE QUARRIES.

PAT O HARE BOOKMAKERS.

NAN RICES.

DESTINATION NEWRY.

SEATRUCK FERRIES.

DUBLIN ROAD COSTCUTTER.

JY HYGIENE.

HALDANE-FISHER.

HMT SHIPPING.

SUPERVALU DUBLIN ROAD.

ALL 3 STUDIO

TRAINOR TRANSP