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Services



NMA ANNUAL REPORT 2018

FOR THE CHARITIES COMMISSION OF
NORTHERN IRELAND

Compiled by James Mc Arevey

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD.

Once again our group has had a very busy and fulfilling year delivering a programme of events that are reflective of our rich maritime tradition.

We have also been involved in various community events and projects which involved networking with different groups and bodies across the district.

NMA have participated in the consultation process for the Southern Relief Road and the Masterplan launched by Warrenpoint Port. As stakeholders, both of these projects are of considerable interest to us and it is vital that we register our views.

Probably the most satisfying project for me personally was the refurbishment of the railings at the external grotto at the Church of the Sacred Heart Cloughogue. The Church has been extensively renovated and the railings were in need of major refurbishment.

As a blacksmith of over 60 years this was of particular interest to me. These railings were made by Tommy Connolly over a century ago in his forge which was situated just across the road from the Chapel.

I am pleased to say that they will most likely still be in place with the passing of another century and the memory of Connollys forge will live on. A lot has been achieved this year and i look forward to another eventful year in 2019.

**Michael Mallon,
Chairman.**



2018. ANOTHER YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT.

As I look back over the year that has just passed I marvel at just how much this small voluntary group has achieved with little resources at our disposal. An overview of our busy year is contained in this booklet and I hope you enjoy our review.

Corporate Membership hit an all time high of 50 and this provides us with our core revenue stream for the year. We were also fortunate to receive small amounts of money from the NMDDC Voluntary Contributions Scheme and the Small Grants fund administered by the Department For Communities. Our group operates on an entirely voluntary basis but our members are reimbursed for out of pocket expenses. This ensures that we get best value from our income whilst consistently delivering high quality events.

This year we added a further 5 sites to our “Connemara” / “Retriever” Heritage Trail and we also added a Heritage Trail Map and Guide. *This was made possible by the financial support of Country Carpets, a valued Corporate Member. The firm also continued to support the upkeep of Cloughogue Roundabout, a strategic junction on the arterial cross-border A1.*

Thanks to the sponsorship of Braham Electrical Warrenpoint we delivered the most successful external illumination of Haulbowline Lighthouse so far. Far from resting on our laurels we plan to make the event in 2019, the 195th anniversary of the lighthouse, even brighter and better.

The promotion of better cross-community and cross-border relations is an integral part of our activities and this was well reflected in our diverse programme of events during the year. We interacted with a host of groups and faith communities on both sides of the political, religious and geographical divide.

Now in our “close season” we will have a short period to recharge the batteries and then fire up for another busy year in 2019 preserving and actively promoting the history of the Port of Newry and those who created it.

James Mc Arevey,
Research and PR,
Newry Maritime Association.

NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION
Giving the canal back to the people of Newry

"SS Connemara" & "SS Retriever"
Heritage Trail

Carlingford Lough

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs

An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

country
carpets & furniture

BRAHAM ELECTRICAL
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

“LEST WE FORGET”



Our first major event of the year took place on Sunday 18th February and was a commemoration of a tragic incident on Carlingford Lough and the subsequent melancholy outcome.

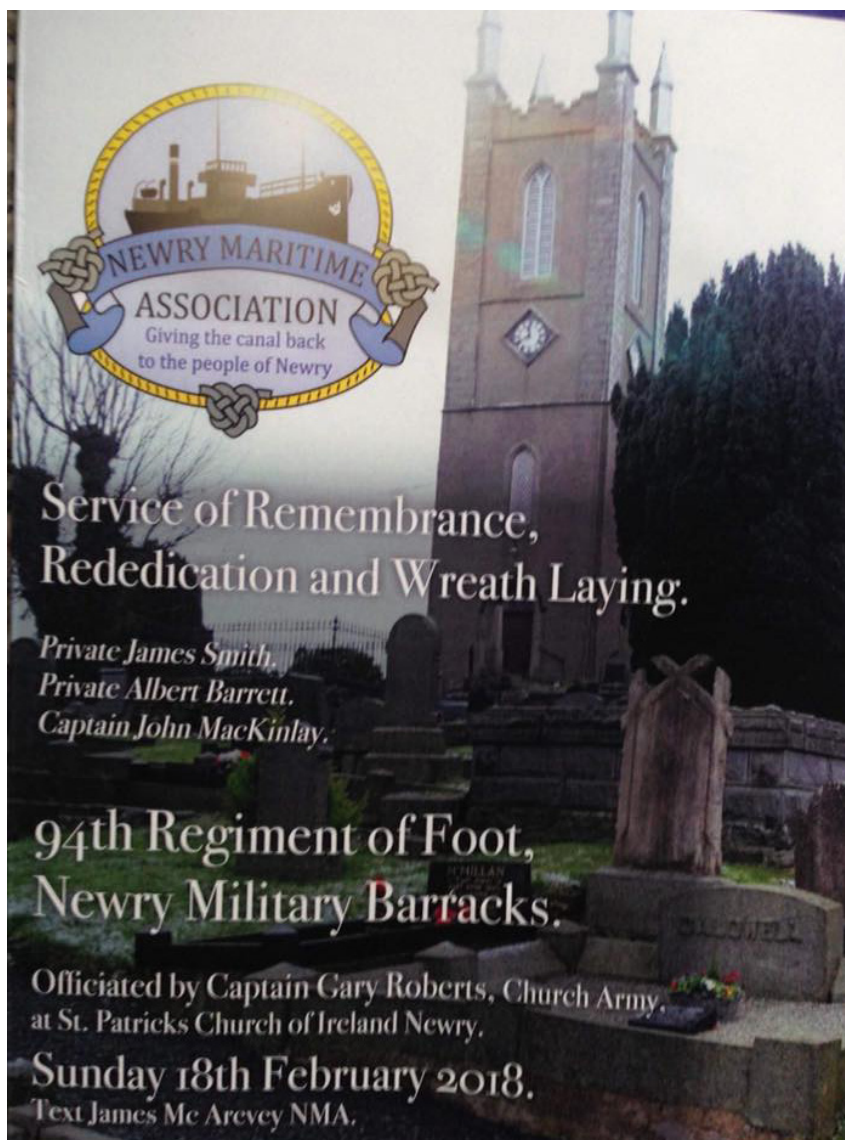
A local historian, John Mc Cabe, drew our attention to two badly neglected graves in St. Patrick's COI Newry and the story behind them.

On 25th July 1886, Captain John Mac Kinlay and a group of his men rowed to Greenore from Newry Military Barracks to compete in a regatta. On the return journey a squall blew up, as so often happens on the Lough, and their boats were overturned. The men swam ashore and reached safety at Ballyedmond. After a headcount 2 were unaccounted for and despite an extensive search no trace of them was found.

On 10th August a fishing boat towed the remains of Private James Smith into Carlingford and following an inquest the body of the 19 year old was brought to Newry. The following morning Private Smith was interred in the graveyard of St Patrick's. The C.O and the entire company of the 94th Regiment of Foot were in attendance.

Some days later, “Lady Downshire,” a coal boat on passage from Dundrum to Whitehaven picked up a body in the Irish Sea and brought it to Whitehaven. The body was identified as the second missing soldier, Private Alfred Barrett (27). His C.O ,Colonel Lord Taylour, instructed that he be interred in Whitehaven.

Months later more tragedy unfolded. Captain MacKinlay, consumed with guilt over the loss of his men took his own life in Newry Military Barracks on 3rd January 1887. He was laid to rest beside young Private Smith in St. Patrick's the following day with full military honours. After 130 years both graves were becoming structurally unsound and in urgent need of remedial works. *We approached our*



Corporate Member, Mickey Keenan of Modern Fireplace Co., to survey the graves. Modern Fireplace Co. carried out all the works free gratis and we are most appreciative of their generosity.

Permission was sought from and granted by the Select Vestry of St. Patricks to have a rededication of the graves. Captain Gary Roberts conducted the service which was attended by representatives of the Royal British Legion and their Chairman, Colin Whiteside, laid a wreath. Pipe Major David Hanna played a lament and John Henry sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

This respectful event illustrates the strong bonds which we have forged in our community and we sincerely thank everyone involved.



LOOKING THE PART.

We decided that we needed to establish a Corporate Image for events and functions which we were organising or participating in. Matching shirts and jackets were purchased and are worn at all NMA events.



CURRACHS COME TO TOWN.

We had another of our “Currachs on the Canal “ sessions on Saturday 24th February and the weather was kind to us. Along with our partners at Carlingford Lough Currach Club (CLCC) we had visitors from Omeath and Drogheda and many availed of the opportunity to have a trip on the waterway. *The event was supported by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.*



TIMES REMEMBERED.

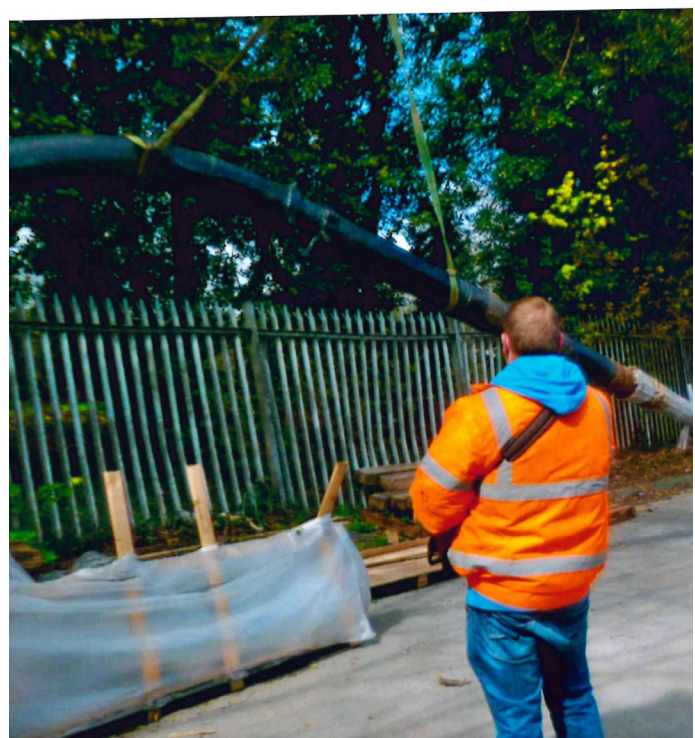
A seminal incident occurred on Friday 15th May 1915. The Cunard trans Atlantic liner, "RMS Lusitania" was torpedoed off the Old Head of Kinsale by German submarine U20. The ship sank within 18 minutes with a loss of 1198 lives. There were 761 survivors.

Fast forward 50 years and the Kilkeel vessel, Croidte a Duin, was fishing in the same area when a lifeboat davit came up in the nets. Former NMA Chairman, Michael O Hare, was a member of the crew that day under Skipper Gerry Doyle. The davit lay in Kilkeel for some years, was utilised as a swing for his children, by a local dentist, before Mr Doyle gave it on loan to Newry & Mourne Council. They, in turn, placed it on display in a municipal park in Annalong.

Meanwhile, an American entrepreneur, Greg Bemis, bought the wreck of the "Lusitania" and he heard about the lost davit. He approached Gerry Doyle to ask if he would consider donating his important artefact to a new "Lusitania" museum which was being built in Kinsale and Gerry readily agreed. Things were not straightforward and the council were reluctant to agree to the transfer. NMA was asked to lobby for the transfer of the artefact in September 2017 and secured a favourable outcome on 5th March 2018 when the full Council agreed to the switch.

On Thursday 26th April NMA organised the removal of the davit from Annalong to secure storage in Newry. Our job was completed, the heavy lifting had been done. *The relevant people in Kinsale are fully aware of the role played by NMA and we are acknowledged on the commemorative plinth on the site where the davit rests now.*





ST PATRICKS DAY 2018

Once again we were pleased to participate in the annual St. Patricks Day Parade in Newry. *Citywest Transport kindly donated a lorry to bring Camlough Brass and Reed Band around the route*



REMEMBRANCE AT CLOUGHOGUE ROUNDABOUT.

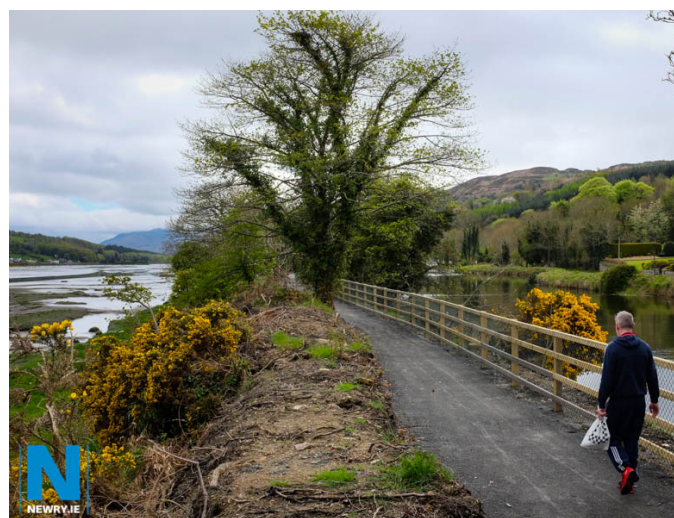
On Friday 4th May we unveiled 4 new local history murals on the Cloughogue Roundabout. We wish to thank our friends in CLCC who worked on the site in a voluntary capacity since January.

We also acknowledge the valued support of our Corporate Member, Country Carpets, who exclusively maintain the roundabout.



CANALSIDE RECREATION.

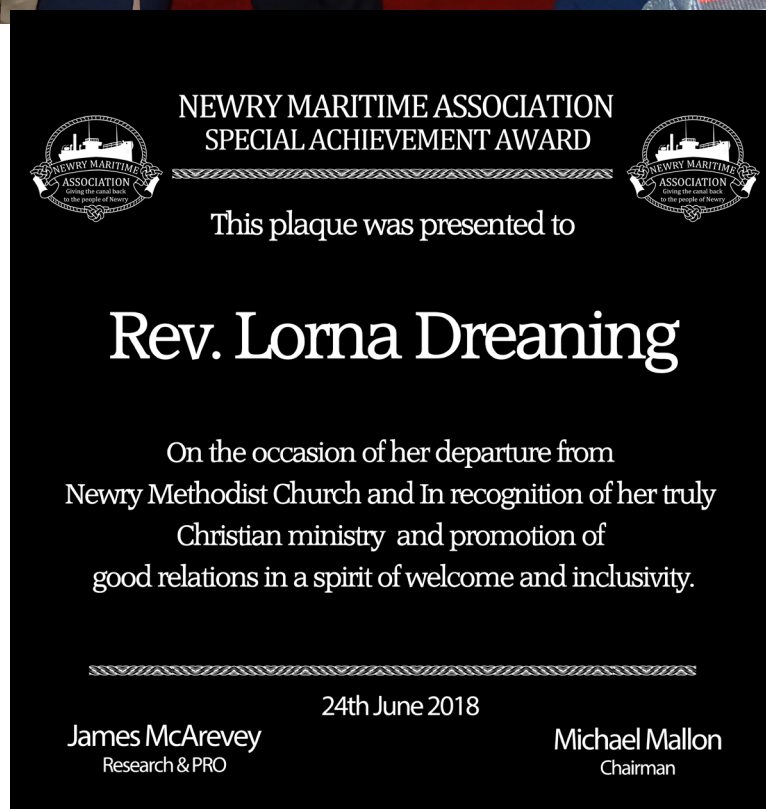
The opening of the new Greenway brought the curtain down on a project which started in 2012. Back then we began to lobby for the opening of the right of way at Albert Basin and the creation of a walkway from the Basin to Victoria Lock. That aspiration is now a reality.



FAREWELL REV. LORNA.

Rev Lorna Dreaning was the Minister on the Newry, Bessbrook and Warrenpoint circuit and based in The Manse, Sandys Street, Newry. Having completed her term in Newry she answered a call from the Methodist congregation in Enniskillen and NMA members were privileged to attend her final service in Sandys Street Church.

Rev Lorna endeared herself to the community and was a regular at NMA events across the district. James Mc Arevey presented her with an NMA slate plaque as a token of our appreciation and we wish her well in her new ministry.



We launched the “SS Connemara” and “SS Retriever “ Heritage Trail and Map at a well-attended event in the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Newry on 16th July. The informative leaflet has been widely distributed and has considerably raised the profile of our worst tragedy. Country Carpets were principal sponsors of the trail brochure and launch.



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FLAGSTAFF FIESTA 2018.

This year our event took place against the backdrop of a serious fire on Fathom Mountain and the area around the Flagstaff had been burned also. Eddie Quinn at 94 proudly raised the NMA flag, reviving a centuries-old tradition on this historic site.

The event was the brainchild of the late Fr. Henry Devlin, then CC in Upper Killeavy, and was inaugurated in 1968. NMA revived this community event after a lapse of 45 years in 2016. *Our friends in Camlough Brass and Reed Band provided music with Tom O Rourke and Citywest Transport kindly donated one of their lorries for use as a stage. Working in association with Killean/Edentubber Regeneration Group this event was a showcase of community activism and cooperation. The event was supported by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.*



SITES ADDED TO HERITAGE TRAIL.

This year NMA unveiled uniform commemorative plaques at 5 sites directly related to the “SS Connemara” and “SS Retriever” tragedy and part of the Heritage Trail. These sites, in counties Armagh and Louth, feature the infrastructure of the former Dundalk, Newry and Greenore Railway (DNGR) which closed in 1951. The plaques are located in Dundalk, Carlingford, Omeath and Newry. *We were also invited to give a presentation on the tragedy to year 10 pupils of St. Marys Girls High School in Newry. Local singer/ songwriter, Hugh Mulligan, accompanied us and rendered a poignant version of the ballad he composed about the disaster.*



The Greenore Railway Saloon Dundalk.
Unveiled by Declan and Jane Tinnelly.



The Quays, Newry.
Unveiled by Eddie and Ann Quinn.



Cornamucklagh, Omeath.
Unveiled by Ita and Harry (Jnr) Collins.



San Jose Apartments Carlingford.
Unveiled by Pat O Hare.



Essmore Bridge Omeath.
Unveiled by NMA Chairman, Michael Mallon.

LIGHTING UP THE LIGHTHOUSE.

For the 3rd successive year NMA illuminated the iconic Haulbowline Lighthouse which stands sentinel-like at the mouth of Carlingford Lough. We are justifiably proud that Haulbowline is the only offshore lighthouse to be externally illuminated in Ireland and Britain. The lighthouse remains a main sea light for mariners and was the first to be automated in Ireland on 17th March 1965. Next year will mark the 195th anniversary of the completion of the structure in 1824. Undoubtedly, the illumination is the highlight of our calendar and presents our stiffest challenge, providing and sustaining an efficient source of light on the 34-metre high tower, offshore and for a month !!!!

The illumination took place for the duration of the month of August and represents a mammoth undertaking for a small voluntary group. The main prerequisite of the event is obtaining permission from Irish Lights who have control over all lighthouses and navigational aids around our coastline. We have cultivated an extremely good relationship with the CEO and the board of Irish Lights through the project and got their consent again this year.



Logistics management is a key element in the safe delivery of the event and we are most fortunate to be able to call upon the services of Captain Sean Cunningham from Greencastle. Sean is the lighthouse attendant and a retired Lough pilot with over 40 years experience. The "William John", built for and named after Seans Father Willie John, carries our men and equipment from Greencastle to the lighthouse expertly piloted by Sean and his young crewman, Philip Fitzsimons.

Last year through the generosity of our former Chairman, Michael O Hare and Corporate Member Leode Quarries, we acquired a bespoke new generator which gave an added dimension to the spectacle. *Landing the generator inside the lighthouse was always going to be problematic. The provision of specialist equipment in the form of the Carlingford Lough Commissioners tug, "Slieve Ban", resolved the issue. The tug comes under the authority of the harbour master at Warrenpoint Port, Captain Catriona Dowling pictured above, who very generously sanctioned its use.* A brother of Sean Cunningham, Thomas, is in charge of the vessel which is deployed on operational duties in the Lough. Following a highly professional and cohesive operation, the Cunningham brothers completed their task in minutes and installation begun.

Philip receives his portrait of an illuminated Lighthouse from James McArevey and Captain Sean Cunningham



Braham Electrical, Warrenpoint offered to sponsor new lights for the project this year and director, Thomas Braham, took personal control of the installation of the lighting and all the associated works. The end product was the best and most successful illumination to date. With the best people and equipment working in tandem, this was never in doubt.

This was a phenomenal team effort that showcases a perfect example of the Public, Private and Voluntary working in unison to deliver for the community.

NMA wish to acknowledge the help and support of their partners and thank them for their commitment to the project. Without them, this would not be possible. Our sincere thanks to,

**IRISH LIGHTS,
THOMAS BRAHAM AND BRAHAM ELECTRICAL, WARRENPOINT,
CAPTAIN CATRIONA DOWLING AND THE CARLINGFORD LOUGH COMMISSIONERS.
CAPTAIN SEAN CUNNINGHAM, PHILIP FITZSIMONS, AND THE "WILLIAM JOHN"
CAPTAIN THOMAS CUNNINGHAM AND THE CREW OF "SLIEVE BAN".
MICHAEL O HARE,
LEODE QUARRIES,
THE MEMBERS OF NMA.**



GOODBYE NEWRY, HELLO NEWCASTLE.

Back in September journalist Ryan Sands left his post with the “Newry Reporter” to take up a new position with the Newcastle based, “Mourne Observer” Ryan was a good friend to NMA over the years and has a keen focus on community-based topics. We were very pleased to make a presentation to him at a leaving function in “The Bank” organised by his colleagues.

All at NMA extend very best wishes to Ryan in his new position and we look forward to interacting with him in the future.



REMEMBRANCE AT THE PAUPERS GRAVEYARD.

The diversity of our programme of events was reflected in our participation at the Annual Service of Remembrance in the Paupers Graveyard adjacent to the Hospital. This was the burial site for inmates of the former workhouse which preceded the hospital. Thousands were buried between 1860 and 1948 and lie beneath the greensward in perpetual anonymity.

As part of the National Famine Commemoration held in Newry in 2015 NMA helped restore the integrity of the site and the dignity of the deceased by fitting a gate and a commemorative plaque. Previously, unscrupulous people had used the graveyard as an exercise pound for their dogs with all the obvious implications. Fitting the gate has eradicated this practice.

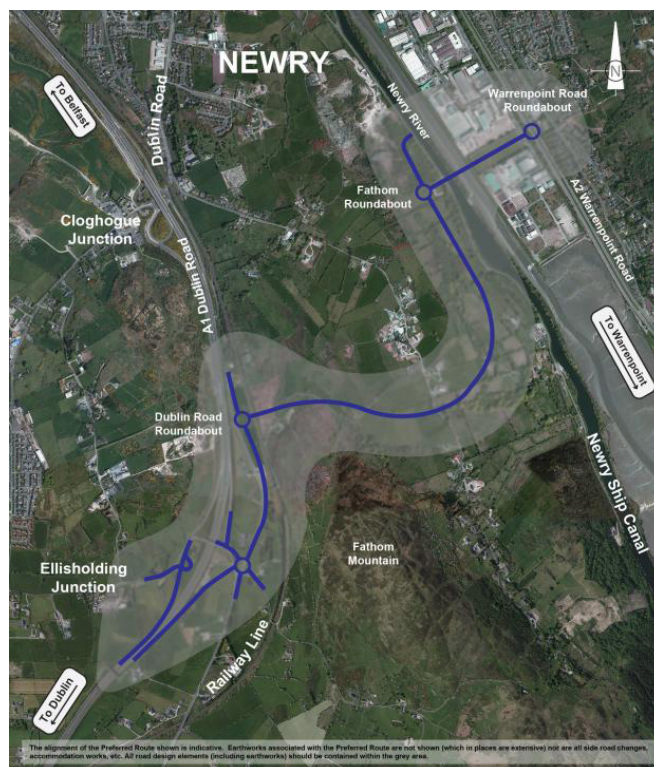
NMA organised a memorial service in conjunction with Carnagat C.A and they have since become lead partners in the hosting of the event. This year the service was led by local curate, Fr. Damien Quigley, and Pastor John Purcell. The service concluded on a poignant note as balloons were released and candles lit in memory of all the deceased children in the cemetery and our community.



CAMPAIGNING IN THE COMMUNITY.

NMA is at the forefront of issues that impact on their area of benefit and articulate their views accordingly. The appalling gridlock of traffic in Newry is having a negative impact on the well being of our citizens, stifles our economy and is impeding further development of Warrenpoint Port. *We have campaigned for many years for the building of the Southern Relief Road to alleviate the problem whilst placing the interests of the affected residents as of paramount importance.*

We were in attendance when the preferred route for the road was announced on 3rd October and will continue our role in future consultations.



Also in October Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (WHA) held a drop in consultation to present their proposals for a dredging exercise which would involve dumping the spoil in the Lough as opposed to the current dumping at sea. This was explained as a cost-cutting exercise, something totally rejected by all who attended. The representatives of WHA who were present could not have been oblivious to the level of opposition which their controversial plans generated. *NMA fully recognise the importance of the Port as a key economic driver of our local economy and acknowledge the very good results achieved by the board in these challenging times of austerity. We also support the future development of the Port but are totally opposed to these cost-cutting proposals which we see as totally misconcieved and irresponsible.*

NMA will continue in the consultation process and campaign strongly for the withdrawal of this proposed strategy.

Footnote:

NMA were pleased that WHA decided to withdraw their dredging proposals in early December based on scientific evidence provided by their consultants.

“SAVE OUR WALL”

A planning application lodged by the Southern Regional College (SRC) to demolish part of the boundary wall of the former livestock mart in Patrick Street caused a lot of anger in the close-knit Ballybot community and further afield. Livestock sold in the mart had, for generations, been walked through the streets to the Albert Basin for export. This trade created a lot of employment and memories. The export of livestock was an integral element of the trade of the Port for decades until cessation in 1964. Local community representatives asked us to support the “Save Our Wall” campaign and we readily agreed.

NMA anchored the community protest and partnered community representatives in discussions with the senior management of SRC. To their credit, they listened and they withdrew their planning application. Common sense and logic prevailed and the normally good working relationships have been restored.



TRANS ATLANTIC SAILORS AT THE BASIN.

Husband and wife, Peter and Ginger Niemann from Seattle USA, are halfway through the trip of a lifetime circumnavigating the world on their yacht, "Irene". The trans-Atlantic leg of their voyage from Canada to Baltimore, West Cork saw them cover over 3000km in 16 days.

Their intention is to cruise around Scotland and so they set sail for the East coast of Ireland calling at various ports along their route. By chance, they came across an old sailing guide on the internet which listed Carlingford Lough and the Port of Newry linked to the sea by its historic canal.

Intrigued, the intrepid pair decided that Newry was a must-see destination. When we met them at the Albert Basin they were fulsome in their praise of the waterway and the "unrivalled" scenery of Carlingford Lough. They were, however, bewildered by the absence of facilities for visiting seafarers and even more so when they learned that the Port was dormant for almost 45 years.

They stayed in the basin for 2 days before leaving for Bangor en route to Scotland. Having been on their global voyage for 2 years, they estimate that it will be a further 3 years before they are home. We wish them well.



CHURCH FUNDRAISER.

In April this year, the stained glass window in the south transept of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in William Street was badly damaged through a mindless act of wanton vandalism which shocked and disgusted our community.

NMA approached local film archivist, Michael Mallon, and suggested that we would promote a film show of "Old Newry" to raise funds for the repairs to the window and he immediately agreed.

We are indebted to John and Paddy Mc Parland of the Canal Court Hotel (NMA Corporate Member) who put their facilities at our disposal and also provided refreshments on the night for everyone, free of charge.

The large crowd present were treated to an excellent cameo of "Old Newry" courtesy of Michael and a substantial sum of money was raised. We are pleased to have been of some help and further cement our already strong links with this congregation.



“SS DUNDALK” CENTENNIAL EVENT.



Many people from across our district were killed or maimed during WW1, also called the great war. A lot of people are unaware that the “Spanish Flu” pandemic of 1918 claimed more victims than this terrible conflict.

The sinking of the “SS Dundalk” on 14th October 1918 had many elements which lend added poignancy to the story. The vessel, built in Glasgow in 1899 was the flagship of owners, Dundalk and Newry Steampacket Co. (D&N) At 235 feet in length the ship was too big for the Newry Canal and operated from Dundalk mostly to Liverpool and Ardrossan carrying livestock and passengers.



Marking the centenary of the sinking has been a marquee event for NMA in 2018.

At 5 pm on the evening of 14th October “Dundalk” slipped her moorings in Liverpool and set sail for Dundalk with 150 tons of general cargo. The ship was under the command of Captain Hugh O Neill, a native of Killowen Co. Down. There was a crew of 23, 4 cattlemen, 3 gunners and 1 passenger, making a total complement of 32.

Just after 11pm, the ship was 18 nautical miles SSW of Langness, Isle of Man when disaster prevailed. A German U Boat, U90 commanded by Kapitanleutnant Heinrich Jebb, was lurking in the busy shipping area and spotting “Dundalk” fired 2 torpedoes from 900 metres.

The ship was struck amidships virtually breaking her in half and she sank in minutes. As the men

scrambled desperately for the lifeboats the U Boat surfaced and the commander clinically surveyed the aftermath of his actions but offered no assistance.

Another Dundalk registered ship, the collier “SS Carlingford”, came on the scene but seeing the U Boat and acting under Admiralty orders did not stop. This had serious consequences in Dundalk, creating a toxic atmosphere and the master of the “Carlingford”, Captain Hughes, had to be spirited out of the country and never returned.



Almost half of the crew of “Dundalk” had been replaced the week before as they had succumbed to the flu virus which added to the sadness. There were 20 fatalities on that cold October night and no bodies were recovered. Survivors were picked up in 2 lifeboats after 16 and 17 hours respectively and landed in Douglas and Holyhead. Ironically, there was a fireman on board the ship also named Hugh O Neill and he survived!!!

NMA held an event in Killowen on 13th October in tribute to Captain Hugh O Neill as part of the Centennial weekend and a commemorative plaque was unveiled. We wish to thank the O Neill family in Killowen for all their help and support. This event was an excellent template for good community relations and interaction and there was a real ambience evident on the day.

NMA wish to thank,

Mr; Mary O Neill and family, Killowen.

Andrew Pollock, Gordon Cunningham and David Hanna, Altnaveigh Memorial Pipe Band.

Colin Whiteside and Aidan Rowland, Newry Branch, Royal British Legion.

John Henry, Tullyvallen Silver Band.

Fr Damien Quigley CC, Middle Killeavy.

Captain Gary Roberts, St Patrick; COI Newry.

Deirdre, Liam and Dermot for the music afterward;

Our NMA members who participated and attended the event.

Special thanks are due to Chief Ranger and Committee of Fr. Mathew branch Rostrevor INF who generously sponsored the post-event hospitality in their premises.



Twas a “hasky day” as they say in mourne but it didn’t dampen the spirit or enthusiasm of everyone who attended the Remembrance of a true hero, Captain Hugh O Neill.

Lest we forget.

RETURN OF THE CURRACHS.

In October we welcomed the boats and members of our valued community partners, Carlingford Lough Currach Club (CLCC) back to the Albert Basin.

The Chairman of the Council, Mark Murnin, was on hand to welcome representatives of various community groups and members of the public who were attending the event. We were also pleased to make a presentation to Newry DEA Coordinator, Kerri Morrow, a most capable and efficient official. These sessions on the canal always prove to be extremely popular and this one was extra special, making a little bit of history.

Owing to a leakage of water at Victoria Locks the level of water in the canal had dropped by almost 4 feet. This allowed 2 currachs to get under the 3 bridges straddling the waterway and make their way to Sugar Island. We believe that this is the first navigation of the "Town Section" of the canal since its closure in 1956. Our thanks go to CLCC for once again bringing our waterway to life and affording our community the opportunity to enjoy it.

This event was supported by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.



ROSTREVOR WW1 ROLL OF HONOUR EVENT.

We were very pleased to be invited to participate in this prestigious event to remember those from the area who lost their lives in WW1. The event was held in the newly refurbished Kilbroney Parish Church in the village and a striking feature was the illuminated “Tommies” who lent an eerie presence when the lights were dimmed.

James Mc Arevey gave an account of the loss of the “SS Dundalk” and the death of Captain Hugh O Neill who hailed from Killowen where NMA have erected a memorial.



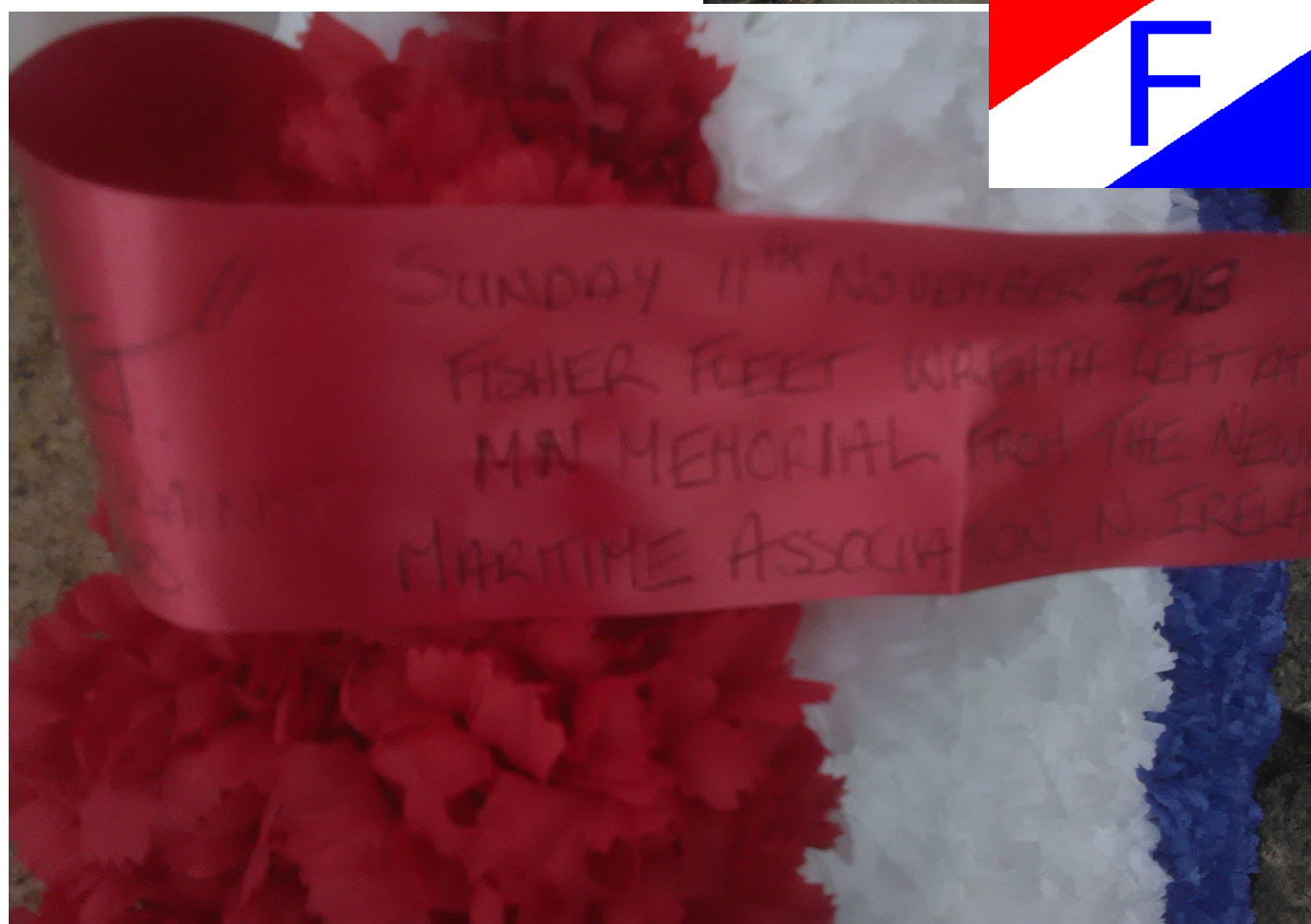
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY / ARMISTICE DAY.

This year Armistice Day fell on Remembrance Sunday and NMA were represented at events connected with the “Great War” which ended 100 years previously at 11 am on 11th November 1918.

LIVERPOOL.

NMA member, Helena Carr a member of an old Newry seafaring family who resides in Hampshire, represented our Association on Remembrance Sunday in Liverpool. Helena was part of the Merchant Navy Association party who held a commemorative service at the Pier Head in the city. She laid a “Fisher Flag” wreath on behalf of all our Newry seafarers who lost their lives.

We wish to thank Mrs Susan Fisher and her family who once again sponsored this beautiful tribute.



DUNDALK.

A fine memorial was unveiled on the Navvy Bank in Dundalk by members of the “SS Dundalk” Centenary committee on Remembrance Sunday also and we were very pleased to have been invited.

The commission for the construction of this imposing granite tribute was entrusted to our valued Corporate Member, Modern Fireplace Co. of Newry and Mickey Keenan did a sterling job.

The plinth carries the names of the 20 victims of the sinking of the vessel by the German submarine, U90. The names of the 12 survivors are inscribed also and the memorial is adorned with the original clock from the old B&I offices in Dundalk Port. The hands of the clock are fixed at the time of the sinking, 11.10pm. The ship was sunk on the night of 14th October 1918, just a week before the German Admiralty ordered their submarine fleet back to base ahead of the Armistice.



NMA AT IRISH LIGHTS.

We were delighted to attend Irish Lights state of the art headquarters in Dun Laoghaire as their guests on their annual open day. *Operations director, Brian Kelly, gave us a personal guided tour of this stellar building whose innovative design houses the most up to date technology and equipment.*

Met Eireann gathers a lot of their data from the buoys, lighthouses and other equipment dotted around our coastline which is fed back to Dun Laoghaire. This information is collated and used to compile the weather forecasts which are broadcast and circulated to the general public and specialist users.

Brian Kelly was presented with an enhanced image of “ILV Granuaile” and an NMA slate plaque in the boardroom for Irish Lights. We in NMA are especially proud of our strong relationship with Irish Lights and also the fact that Haulbowline Lighthouse remains the first and only offshore lighthouse to be externally illuminated in Ireland or Britain.

We look forward to repeating this challenging feat in 2019 in conjunction with Irish Lights and all our partners.



ST. MARYS GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL VISIT

On Friday 9th November, Year 10 were treated to an afternoon of local history when they were retold the story of the biggest shipping disaster on Carlingford Lough, the sinking of the SS Connemara and Retriever which took place on 3rd November 1916. We would like to thank James McAreavey and Michael O'Hare for such an interesting afternoon and a special thanks to Hugh Mulligan who performed his specially written song to commemorate the tragedy. Thanks also to Mr Morgan and his GCSE Technology class who created specially designed plaques commemorating the event to give to our speakers



SQUARING THE CIRCLE... 52 YEARS LATER

MICHAEL O'HARE OUR FORMER CHAIRMAN MADE THE JOURNEY TO KINSALE, CO CORK, IN EARLY DECEMBER TO VISIT THE DEDICATED "RMS LUSITANIA" VISITOR CENTRE, WHICH IS NOW HOME TO THE DAVIT WHICH WAS REPATRIATED FROM ANNALONG EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

This was Michael's first visit to Kinsale since the davit was recovered while fishing off the coast there in 1965. Michael described his visit as "squaring the circle"



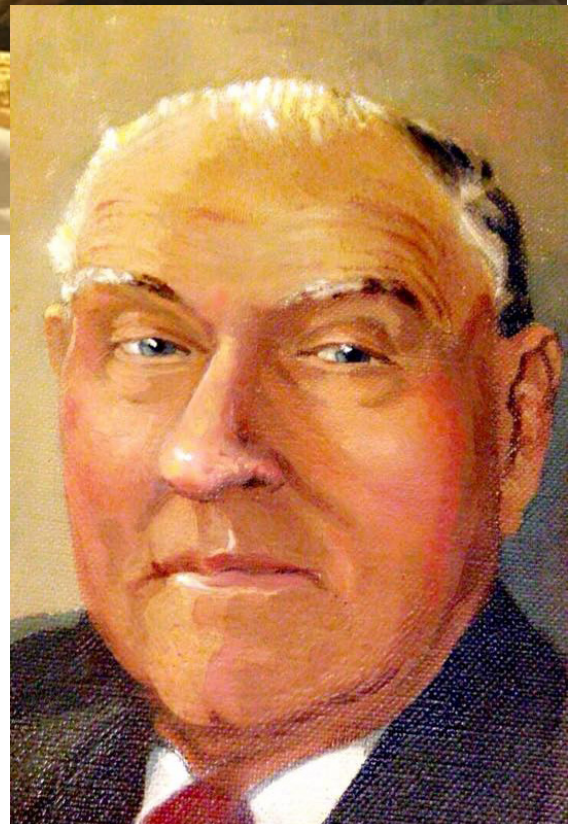


CHARLES BLANEY PORTRAIT HANDOVER.



Charles Blaney, a native of Rosnagill in Donegal, was born in 1877 and qualified as a Civil Engineer in UCD Dublin in 1898. Later that year he commenced his working life as an assistant surveyor in Belfast. Following the retirement of the Town Surveyor in Newry in 1902 Charles was appointed to the position from a pool of 11 applicants. He was then aged 25 and held the post for the next 57 years, retiring in 1959 at the grand age of 82.

Charles Blaney has left an unrivalled legacy in Newry which will never be eclipsed. He introduced an efficient sewage system, clean water and was a pioneer of social housing with several of the large housing estates such as





Dromalane and Rooneys Meadow built during his tenure.

NMA succeeded in obtaining Blue Plaque recognition for a son of Charles, Max, who was awarded the George Cross and Charles was awarded a Blue Plaque by the Ulster History Circle in 2017.

A Grandson of Charles, Michael Blaney, donated an oil painting of his Grandfather to NMA as a token of appreciation. The consensus among our members was that we should donate it to the heritage gallery of Newry Library where it would be viewed by the considerable footfall and stimulate interest in a man who is arguably our greatest public servant.

At a very well attended event in Newry Library on 14th October, Michael Blaney (Grandson) and Jim O'Hagan, CEO Libraries NI unveiled the portrait of which the frame had been restored by Michael Mc Caul (snr). Talented young artist, Stephen Rooney from Dunavil pictured above, meticulously restored the portrait using over 400 cotton buds in the painstaking process .

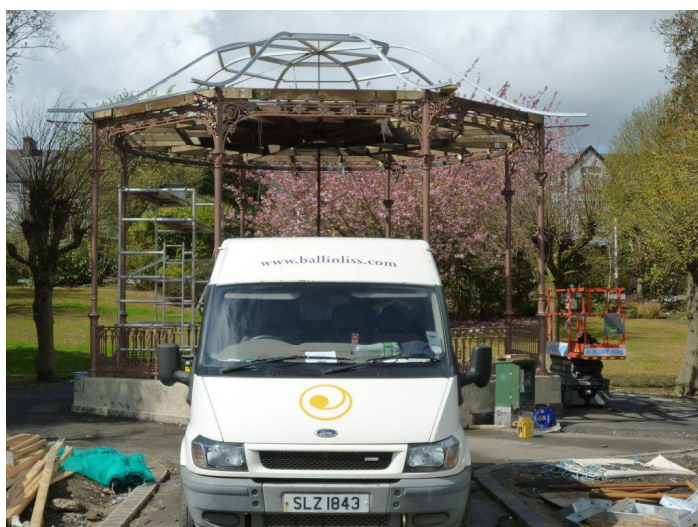
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBER, BALLINILISS FORGE WORKS



2018 has been a stellar year for master blacksmith, Gerard Loughran and his company Ballinliss Forge Works. Building the firms reputation year on year, Gerry's name is now synonymous with high profile bespoke contracts in the public and private sectors.

This year the firm secured 2 lucrative and prolific contracts in Co.Down. They were responsible for refurbishing the structural steel work in the bandstand in Warrenpoint park.

Gerry and his team have now restored it to its original glory.



Hillsborough Castle is the official residences of the Queen in Northern Ireland and is also used by the Secretary of State.

A refurbishment scheme costing in the region of £20 million is currently underway.

Part of this scheme involves upgrading and repairing gates and railings on the estate and ballinliss forge works secured a large element of this work.

We wish to congratulate Gerry on his success and extend our best wishes for his future business development



PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE.

The Church of the Sacred Heart Cloughogue is an iconic landmark which stands on a commanding elevated site across from the railway. In bygone days there was a toll at Cloughogue and blacksmiths operated there for over 200 years providing the equivalent of a modern motorway service area. They were vital service providers looking after the needs of horses and making and repairing carts, tools and implements.

During the first half of the 20th century, the Magill and Connolly families operated forges across the road from each other. The Malone brothers, Hugh, Pat and Stephen, worked in the forges also. NMA Chairman, Mickey Mallon, is a blacksmith with over 60 years experience and carries on the tradition in Cloughogue today.

The blacksmiths carried out any tasks they were given around the Church. Tommy Connolly made the railings which border the beautiful grotto to Our Lady, an attraction that draws visitors from across the country. The Church was opened on Easter Sunday 1916 and during the centennial celebrations in 2016 it was discovered that these railings needed urgent refurbishment.

Mickey Mallon carried out the intricate repairs to restore the railings to their former glory, following in the traditions of the blacksmiths at Cloughogue. He reports that they are good for another hundred years but will there be a blacksmith in Cloughogue then ???



EAMON ON THE ROAD AGAIN !!!

NMA Environmental Officer, Eamon Walker, was not deterred by the atrocious weather in early October and made the long journey to Haulbowline Island in Cork Harbour on a research exercise.

Eamon visited the National Maritime Centre and also the Test Tank Facility of University College Cork where he met key personnel whilst flying the flag for NMA.



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED US THROUGH 2018.



Dan O Hare Commercials.
Mallon's Hardware.
Flagstaff Lodge.
KC Hire.
Ballinliss Forge.
Crilly Sweets.
AJ Plumbing.
Autoline.
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority.
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.
MJM Group.
The Bank Bar.
Mc Veigh Property Sales.
Michael Mc Caul Signs.
Modern Fireplace Company.
BMC Freight.
Country Carpets.
Canal Court Hotel.
Nomadic Caravans.
Re- Gen Waste.
Braham Electrical.
Saica Pack.
B Wilson Steel.
Mc Parland Demolition.
Surefreight.

Courtneys Restaurants.
New Century Printers.
Rooney International Coach Hire.
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Tiernans Solicitors.
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Chestnutt's Holiday Parks.
Nan Rices.
Citywest Transport.
Destination Newry.