



MAIN SPONSORS



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2016

FOR THE CHARITY 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



CHAIRMANS FOREWORD

As 2016 races towards its end and days just melt away at an alarming rate, I find myself voicing that age old phrase, where did that year go? Well when I look back at what our little group of volunteers have done, and the outstanding results achieved its not surprising. I feel not only pleased but immensely proud to have been part of this success, but be in no doubt about the enormous amount of hard work, time and dedication donated to making each event a success, it was, to say the least exhausting, and at times incredibly frustrating but always rewarding.



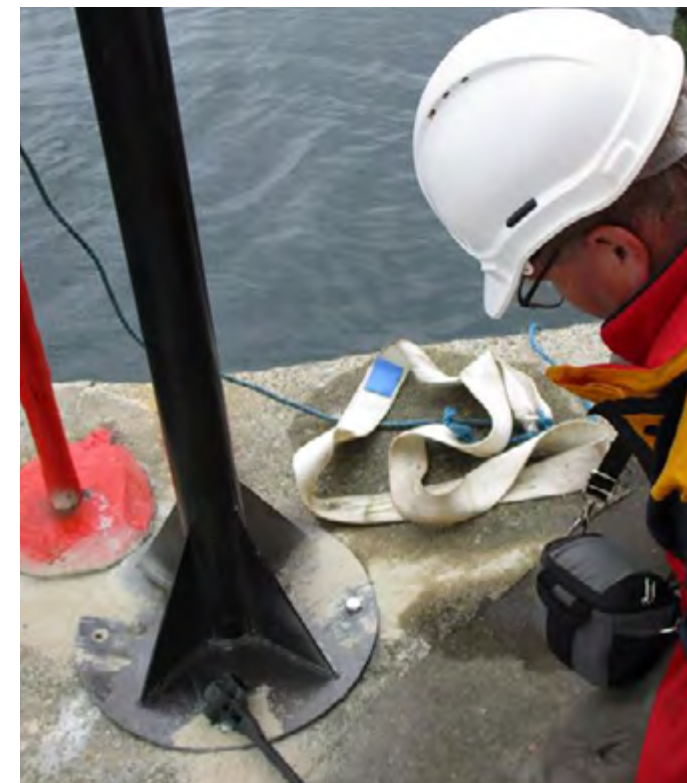
Michael O'Hare, Chairman

Most people when not directly involved, are only ever aware of the end result, and never the unseen hard work, and how at times the sheer volume can overwhelm. Regardless of this our little group as you will read have achieved an enormous amount in 2016 from the "SS Dingle" project through to the Dublin Bridge based conclusion of our "SS Connemara"/ "SS Retriever" Centennial Project.

Nine projects in all, and of course the major one, the commemoration of our greatest local maritime tragedy, the collision and sinking of the "SS. Connemara" and "SS. Retriever" which covered 16 events alone, all directly linked. So come Christmas a time to drop anchor, rest up and recharge our batteries for 2017, and then look at what projects our volunteers will take on in the new year.

Chairman: Michael O'Hare
Treasurer: Colum Curran
Secretary: Margaret Trainor
PRO: James McArevey

JANUARY 2016.



A lot of preparatory work was done during the month laying the foundations of important projects to be delivered in the months ahead. Meetings were set up with the Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership (ROGLP) and the Irish National Foresters (INF) to coordinate the revival of the "Flagstaff Fiesta" and the "Connemara"/ "Retriever Centennial" respectively. Monthly meetings were held with each body until June.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH 2016.



UC 5 COMMANDERS.
OBERLEUTNANT zur see
HERBERT PUSTKUTCHEN.
(1889-1917)

Pustkutchen was one of the most successful U Boat commanders during WWI. He was born on 28th December 1889 and joined the German Imperial Navy when he was 15 years old. He was in command of UC 5 from 19th June 1915 until 18th December 1915. His next command was UB 29 and finally UC 66. Pustkutchen and his crew perished off the Isles of Scilly on 27th May 1917 after being attacked by the Royal Navy.

Pustkutchens record makes formidable reading.

He sank 81 Merchant ships	(104,640 tons)
3 Warships	(2880 tons)
Damaged 12 Merchant ships	(39,793 tons)
1 Warship	(3750 tons)

Herbert Pustkutchen was into his 28th year when he lost his life in WWI.

He was awarded the Iron Cross (First Class)

Oberleutnant zur see **ULRICH MOHRBUTTER.** (1889-1971)
Mohrbutter assumed command on 19th December 1915 and was taken prisoner after the submarine was captured by the Royal Navy on 27th April 1916. With his crew, he was held as a POW until the end of hostilities in 1918. He too was awarded the Iron Cross (First Class).
During his short period in command of UC 5 his record reads,
Sunk 8 Merchant ships, including "SS Dingle" (10,272 tons)
Damaged 2 (9232 tons).

Mohrbutter was promoted Kapitänleutnant on 24th May 1919. Born on 4th January 1889, Ulrich Mohrbutter had a long life and passed away on 21st June 1971, aged 82.

THE MEN OF THE MERCHANT NAVY.
The contribution made by these non combatant seamen, many from NEWRY, through 2 World Wars is incalculable. There is no doubt that Britain could not have withstood the threat from Germany without their selfless gallantry.

Never forget that these were civilian workers who were neither trained for nor engaged in warfare. The ships they sailed in, like the "SS Dingle", were not equipped for war either and when a Merchant ship went down the wages ceased immediately. The men of the Merchant Navy became the forgotten achievers of both conflicts

LET US REMEMBER WITH JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE OUR FELLOW CITIZENS FROM NEWRY AND MOURNE WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE 100 YEARS AGO TODAY AND ALSO THE BRAVE LONE SURVIVOR, EDWARD MC PARLAND.

"AS LONG AS WE EMBRACE THEM IN OUR MEMORY, THEIR SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US"



NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION & RE-GEN WASTE LTD

ARE MARKING THE CENTENARY OF THE LOSS OF THE
"SS DINGLE"

SATURDAY
20TH FEBRUARY
2016

AT YEWTREE PARK,
KILMOREY STREET NEWRY
@ 2PM.

TEXT BY JAMES MCAREVEY

"LEST WE FORGET"



We marked the centenary of the loss of the Liverpool registered collier, “SS Dingle”, with a commemorative service at Yewtree Park Newry. Ten of the eleven man crew hailed from Newry and Mourne and our all inclusive service included representatives of the INF and the Royal British Legion.

THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 2016.



We had the honour of leading the annual St. Patricks Day Parade in Newry. A vintage AEC Mandator lorry, on loan from Barry Haulage Warrenpoint, was adorned with banners depicting aspects of our port history.

MONDAY 18TH APRIL.2016



As part of our schools education programme we were pleased to organise a visit to Warrenpoint Port and Seatruck Ferries for the P7 pupils of Mullaghglass PS. Co. Armagh.

SATURDAY 30TH APRIL 2016.



Almost 3 years of hard work came to a conclusion with the unveiling of Phase 1 of our heritage project at Cloughogue Roundabout. We paid tribute to the blacksmiths who worked at Cloughogue Bridge and farm gates forged by Tommy Connolly over a century ago were sited on the roundabout between stone peers. They returned from the Quinn family homestead in Fathom to within yards of where they were made and now stand as a "Gateway To Newry".

FRIDAY 3RD JUNE 2016.



"RMS Lusitania"



"HMS Queen Mary"

We were pleased to be invited to Burren GAC to deliver a presentation on the Ryan Brothers, 2 local men who were lost on the "Lusitania" and "HMS Queen Mary". Members of the Royal British Legion accompanied us to this event which was hosted by the Ryan family.

SATURDAY JUNE 11TH 2016



MARITIME TRIBUTE





"SS CONNEMARA" & "SS RETRIEVER"



CENTENARY 1916- 2016

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE SHIPS "SS CONNEMARA" & "SS RETRIEVER" OCCURRED ON THE NIGHT OF 3RD NOVEMBER 1916 AS BOTH VESSELS NAVIGATED THE NARROW SHIPPING CHANNEL AT THE ENTRANCE TO CARLINGFORD LOUGH. IN THE TEETH OF A ROARING SOUTH WESTERLY GALE. THE "SS CONNEMARA" WAS A PASSENGER & LIVESTOCK FERRY OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY, OUTWARD BOUND ON HER REGULAR SAILING FROM GREENORE TO HOLYHEAD.

THE "SS RETRIEVER" WAS A COLLIER, OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE CLANRYE STEAMSHIP COMPANY OF NEWRY, INWARD BOUND FROM GARSTON WHERE SHE LOADED A CARGO OF COAL DESTINED FOR HER HOME PORT.

THE COLLISION AND SUBSEQUENT SINKING OF BOTH VESSELS RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF 94 LIVES THE WORST MARITIME TRAGEDY EVER VISITED ON OUR COMMUNITY. THERE WAS ONE SURVIVOR JAMES BOYLE FROM WARRENPOINT, A NON SWIMMER AND CREW MEMBER OF "SS RETRIEVER."



MOURNE / HELLYHUNTER TROPHIES 2016



THIS PLAQUE WAS PRESENTED TO CLYC FOR MARKING THE LAUNCH OF NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATIONS CENTENNIAL "SS CONNEMARA" / "SS RETRIEVER" COMMEMORATION WITH THE MOURNE AND HELLYHUNTER TROPHIES EVENT.

Ocean separates lands, not souls.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



UNVEILED BY
MICHAEL O'HARE, CHAIRMAN NMA
11TH JUNE 2016.

TEXT BY JAMES MCAREVEY



**NEWRY STUNNED
94 SOULS PERISH IN
CARLINGFORD LOUGH TRAGEDY**

**CONNEMARA / RETRIEVER
CENTENARY**

NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION
Welcomes you to the launch of their centennial project marking the "SS Connemara" and "SS Retriever" collision in Carlingford Lough on 3rd November 1916.

With a death toll of 94 people from all walks of life this tragedy still ranks as the worst to strike this district.

OUR EVENT TODAY IS HOSTED BY THE COMMODORE AND MEMBERS OF CARLINGFORD LOUGH YACHT CLUB KILLOWEN CO DOWN.
SATURDAY 11TH JUNE 2016.

TEXT BY JAMES MCAREVEY



**NEWRY STUNNED
94 SOULS PERISH IN
CARLINGFORD LOUGH TRAGEDY**

**CONNEMARA / RETRIEVER
CENTENARY**

NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION
Welcomes you to the launch of their centennial project marking the "SS Connemara" and "SS Retriever" collision in Carlingford Lough on 3rd November 1916.

With a death toll of 94 people from all walks of life this tragedy still ranks as the worst to strike this district.

OUR EVENT TODAY IS HOSTED BY THE COMMODORE AND MEMBERS OF CARLINGFORD LOUGH YACHT CLUB KILLOWEN CO DOWN.
SATURDAY 11TH JUNE 2016.

Newry Maritime Association engaged with Carlingford Lough Yacht Club, to host the marking and launch of our SS Connemara/ SS Retriever centennial commemoration, with the unveiling of a plaque in the club house, which will be a lasting reminder to those who sail this beautiful Lough, and of those who perished in its waters.

SUNDAY 31ST JULY 2016



15/09/2016

NMA FLAGSTAFF FIESTA 2016

Launching the Lúnasa Festival across South Armagh.

FLAGSTAFF VIEWPOINT SUNDAY 31ST JULY, 3PM

History will be revisited at the Flagstaff Viewpoint on Sunday 31st July when the community festival kicks off there at 3pm to launch the Lúnasa Festival across South Armagh. The Flagstaff Fiesta, last held in 1970, will be a fantastic family fun day with something for everyone.

face painting, live music, various food stalls and barbeques. We will be unveiling a tribute to the seamen of Fathom who made such an important contribution to the Port of Newry. The centenary old tradition of hoisting the flag giving the area its name will be revived and all this set against the stunning backdrop of Carlingford Lough an unrivalled tourism gem on the island of Ireland.

Evans Leisure Mini Fun Fair will be on hand with a host of attractions along with balloon modelling.

COME AND JOIN US AT THE FLAGSTAFF ON SUNDAY 31ST JULY FOR WHAT WILL BE AN HISTORIC DAY AS WE LINK OUR PAST TO THE PRESENT.

Food Stalls.

Live Music.

Evans Leisure Funfair.

Balloon Modelling.

Face Painting.

Curraghs on the Canal.

Walk in Fathom Wood.

Fun For All The Family.

Tribute to the Fathom seamen

Flagstaff Walk from Victoria Locks through Fathom Wood (with guide)



Whats On

LOADS OF ENTERTAINMENT

10.30AM
-CURRACHS ON THE CANAL-
-VICTORIA LOCKS FATHOM

1.00PM
-FLAGSTAFF WALK FROM VICTORIA LOCKS THROUGH FATHOM WOOD (WITH GUIDE)-

3.00PM
FLAGSTAFF VIEWPOINT
-FOOD STALLS-
-LIVE MUSIC-
-EVANS LEISURE FUNFAIR-
-BALLOON MODELLING-
-FACE PAINTING-
-HOSTING THE FLAG-
-TRIBUTE TO THE FATHOM SEAMEN-
-FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY-

James McAreevey (Information)
T: 078 5652 0029

IT WILL BE AN HISTORIC DAY AS WE LINK OUR PAST TO THE PRESENT.

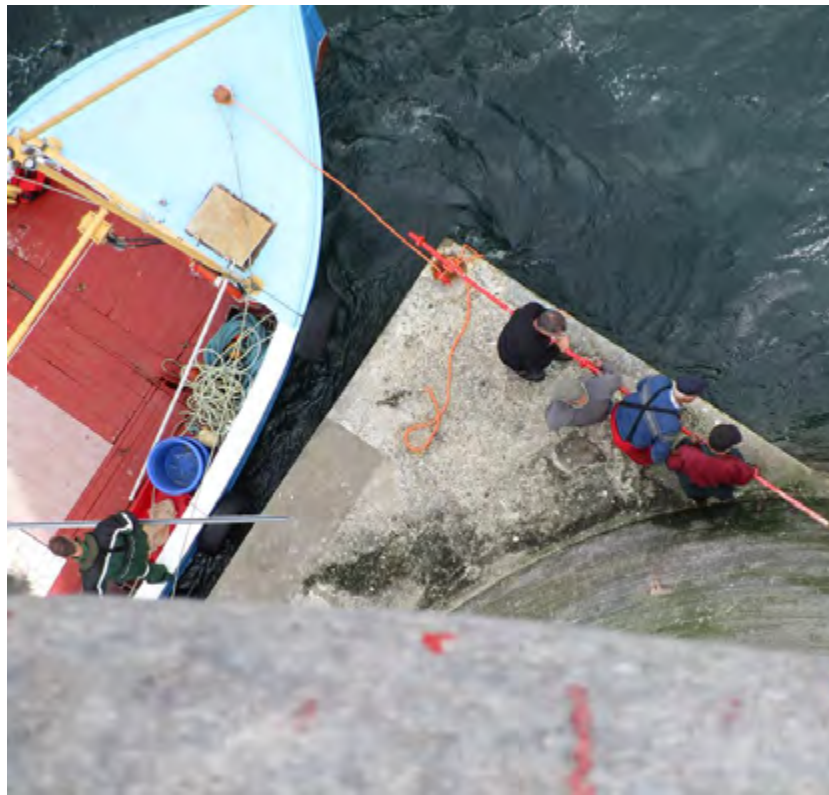
NMA FLAGSTAFF FIESTA 2016

Launching the Lúnasa Festival across South Armagh.

COME AND JOIN US AT THE FLAGSTAFF ON SUNDAY 31ST JULY, 3PM

Fond memories of a past era were rekindled when we reinvented the "Flagstaff Fiesta", a family fun day for the community, after an absence of some 46 years. Originally the brainchild of popular local priest, Fr. Henry Devlin, the highlight of the event came in 1970 when, fresh from her Eurovision triumph, Dana sang to an audience of over 5000 at this famed beauty spot. Our liason with ROGLP and Killeen and Edentubber Regeneration Group reaped dividends and the event was very successful. We also unveiled a fitting tribute to the generations of Fathom seamen who have a special niche in the annals of the Port of Newry and further afield.

SATURDAY JULY 30TH/ AUGUST 1ST



In a ground breaking event, never before achieved in Great Britain or Ireland, Newry Maritime Association in an effort to heighten the importance of this centenary decided with funding from the Loughs Agency to externally illuminate the off shore Haulbowline Lighthouse for six weeks. This iconic lighthouse built in 1824 also housed the only three witnesses to this terrible tragedy where they stood helpless as the ships collided and sank. The light today continues to serve shipping as a main navigational aid.

MONDAY 1ST AUGUST 2016



We unveiled a commemorative plaque at Cranfield in view of Haulbowline Lighthouse to mark the significant milestone of illuminating this iconic navigational aid. Over a six week period the illumination was viewed by an estimated 50,000 people. This challenging feat was a first in Ireland and Britain.

FRIDAY AUGUST 5TH 2016



With the assistance of Pamela Houston CEO. of KDA a commemorative plaque was unveiled in the Nautilus centre reflecting the huge contribution Mourne has made to the richness of the maritime history of the area, and also how Kilkeel was affected by this tragedy. Captain Patrick O'Neill master of the "SS Retriever", married to Margaret Donnan of Newry St. Kilkeel perished as did his son and brother in law on that fateful November night in 1916.

SATURDAY 6TH AUGUST

EVENT 1

A plaque highlighting the wooden pier at Greencastle, built by the London and North Western Railway Company, who owned and operated the ill fated vessel "SS Connemara" was unveiled by Sean Cunningham. This pier since its construction in 1880 has echoed to the footsteps of so many leaving, never to return.



EVENT 2

Nicholsons store at Derryogue served a very sombre purpose in this tragedy as a temporary morgue in which to lay out the bodies as they were washed ashore, so the distressed relatives could identify their loved ones. The store today is still owned by the Nicholson family 100 years later, who graciously afforded NMA permission to erect a plaque on the store to mark the event, and was unveiled by Edward & Shirlee Nicholson, followed by their generous hospitality event.



FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER



The Rostrevor branch of the Irish National Foresters in conjunction with the John Mitchell branch in Newry, both branches having had members who perished in this tragedy, have been great supporters and fund raisers for this commemoration. Plaques have been erected at, and financed by both branches to remember and honour their lost members.

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016.



The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted a visit to Greenore Port by the naval gunboat, LE Roisin, following her spell in the Mediterranean on a humanitarian exercise which saw 1800 migrants rescued. We were pleased to be invited to attend a reception on board the vessel and made a presentation to Lt. Commander, Patrick Doherty.

SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2016.



Our location moved from Greenore to Glasnevin Cemetery in North Dublin as guests at the National Famine Commemoration which was attended by the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins. After the ceremony we met the President and the Minister for the Gaelteacht, Heather Humphreys.

SUNDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2016.





Newry Maritime Association & Carnagat Community Association

Invite you to a cross community Service of Simple Remembrance for all those interred in the Paupers Graveyard, Camlough Road Newry.




Once again we held a service of remembrance for all those interred in the Paupers Graveyard Newry in association with Carnagat Community Association.

MONDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER



Newry Maritime Association were invited to Grange School Greencastle to speak to the children on the “SS Connemara” / “SS Retriever” tragedy, and were pleased and surprised at the level of knowledge the children had acquired on the event, and the wish to know more, plus the sincerity expressed which was heart warming, and showed the extensive work and time the teachers had taken on the subject, these children will remember.

WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2016.

PLAQUE UNVEILING AND SCHOOL VISIT TO ST BRIGIDS PS DRUMILLY

Date: Wednesday 28th September.
Time: 11am
Location: St Brigids PS, Drumilly

The 9th event in our centennial programme brings us to South Armagh and St Brigids PS. The forerunner to this modern primary school was Drumilly National School which was built in 1846 during the “Famine”. This appears a rather odd move by the government given the mass starvation in the district and indeed across the island.

Mr Charles Kearney was appointed Principal of the school in 1882 and held the position until his retirement in 1922. The last 6 years of his tenure saw the island of Ireland plunged into turmoil culminating in partition.

Mr Kearney and his family were friends and confidantes of General Michael Collins and the Kearney family home was a safe house.

Charles Kearney was acknowledged as a religious man who attended Mass daily in the Parochial House before coming to school each morning. His faith was to be sorely tested by the events of Friday 3rd November 1916.

St Brigid's Drumilly
Primary School



PATRICK AND KATHLEEN KEARNEY

Miss Kathleen Kearney worked as an assistant to her Father in the school. Her younger brother Patrick, known as Packie, had just qualified from Waterford as a teacher and was going to join them in Drumilly.

Another sister had emigrated to America and when her marriage failed she decided to come home. Kathleen and Packie decided to travel to Liverpool to meet her off the ship and lend support. They intended to take the ferry from Greenore to Holyhead and thence to Liverpool by train.

The night of the 3rd November was wild and stormy and when they arrived at Edward St Railway Station in Newry the RIC Sergeant on duty, Sgt Fitzpatrick, advised them to travel by Dublin. He thought the Greenore ferry would not sail due to the terrible weather.

Packie decided to toss a coin with his sister and on winning the toss opted to travel via Greenore, a decision that cost both their lives. The body of Packie was recovered and buried in Tullywinney but sadly Kathleen's remains were never found.



We wish to thank Kevin Murphy for providing the memory cards of Patrick and Kathleen.



NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION
LIVING THE CANAL BACK TO THE PEOPLE OF NEWRY

“SS Connemara”
1916 - AND - 2016
“SS Retriever”

CENTENNIAL REMEMBRANCE

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

James McAreevy (Information)
T: 078 5652 0029



St Brigids PS, Drumilly has a key role in the Centennial story. Charles Kearney was the principal there from 1882 until retirement in 1922 and his daughter Kathleen assisted him. His son Patrick, a newly qualified teacher, was going to join them in the little school. Patrick and Kathleen were passengers on the “SS Connemara” that fateful night, travelling to meet a sister in Liverpool. Patrick's body was recovered but sadly Kathleen was never found. A plaque in their memory was unveiled by their nephew, Dermot Boyle.

SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2016.



Photos courtesy of Joanna Donnelly

Our centennial journey took us from South Armagh to North Louth and the Cooley Peninsula. The youngest of 14 soldiers on board the "SS Connemara" was Boy Trumpeter, Edwin Righton Carter aged 17 years and 7 months. Edwin, from London, was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery Carlingford and his grave overlooks the waters of the Lough which claimed his young life. Pastor John Purcell officiated and the Camlough Brass and Reed Band played the Last Post and Reveille in a poignant tribute. Local man, Captain Joe Woods unveiled a commemorative plaque.

SUNDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2016



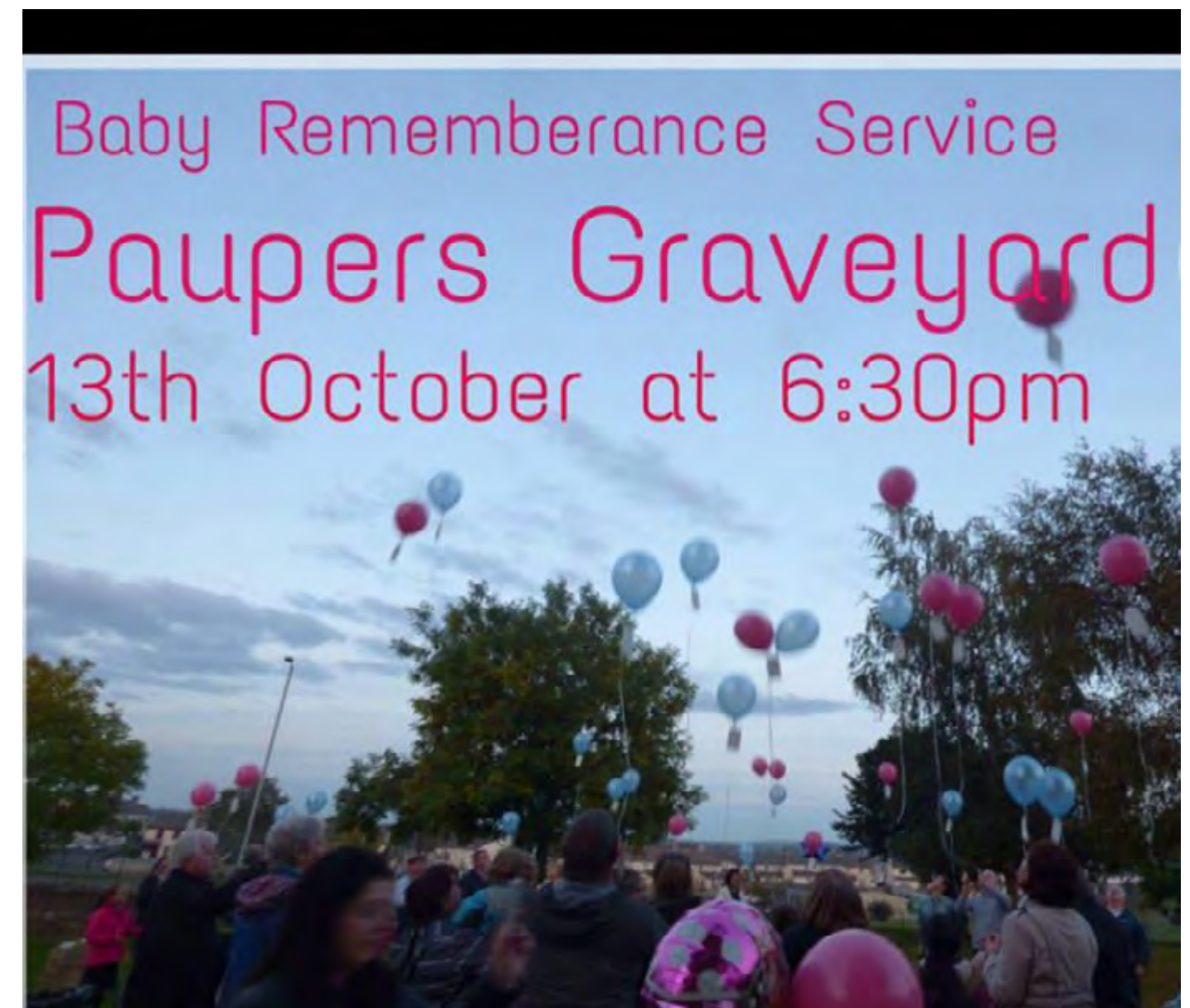
The historic Cill Mhuire Cemetery in Cooley was the setting for our remembrance tribute to 3 local cattle drovers who perished on the "Connemara". On a sunny Sunday afternoon FR Malachy Conlon led a prayer service and Mrs Ita Collins unveiled the beautiful plaque in memory of the men.

TUESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2016.



We completed the facelift of the Cloughogue Roundabout with the upgrade of the large flower bed on the western side. This work was complimented by the installation of a bespoke piece of artistic ironwork from Mickey Mallon. Aptly titled, "A Day in the Forge" the piece depicts the various tasks carried out in a typical forge and features a varied range of tools availed of by the blacksmith. The Cloughogue Roundabout Heritage Project is one that we can be truly proud of and the appearance of the roundabout is in keeping with its role as a "Gateway to Newry" from the arterial A1 Belfast / Dublin route.

THURSDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2016.



We returned to the Paupers Graveyard along with our partners, Carnagat CA, for a service of remembrance for all deceased children. This is a popular and well supported event and further adds to the integrity of the cemetery which we helped to restore with the provision of a new gate. Since then the local community have taken ownership and anti social activities have waned.

SUNDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2016.



LECTURES.

Michael O'Hare and James McAravey from NMA will deliver comprehensive lectures on the tragedy and will give an in-depth analysis of the background to, and cause of, the devastating calamity which occurred that fateful night.

These events will take place on:

Tuesday 6th October.
Time: 6.30 pm
Location: Newry Library.

Libraries NI have hosted our mini exhibition on the tragedy for the past 6 weeks and we wish to thank Joan Magee and Celia Cundy from the Heritage Section for their on-going help and support of all our activities. Libraries NI and their Newry branch in particular, are valued partners in our Maritime Heritage project.

Date: Tuesday 18th October
Time: 8 pm
Location: Dill Lane @ The Quays Newry.

This lecture is forming part of the 'Old Newry Society' programme for 2016/17. Normally the lectures are hosted in the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre but due to unforeseen circumstances we are relocating to The Quays. The venue is most appropriate given that the main coal berths were located just outside the building in the Albert Basin. The Provincial Coal Company, owned by Henry and here until bankruptcy in 1924 when Fishers bought over their assets. Sadly, although Joseph Fisher & Sons traded on the site for over a century there is no reference to the firm on the premises today.

PLAQUE UNVEILING IN NEWRY

Date: Sunday 23rd October
Time: 12.30pm
Location: St. Patrick's C of R, Newry

Our Centennial journey began in Killymore on Saturday 11th June and saw us create a heritage trail running through Mourne, South Armagh, the County Fermanagh and now with our 14th event, St. Patrick's in Newry.

This is our final event ahead of our Centennial programme in Newry on Tuesday 30th November the highlight of which will be the unveiling of a bespoke memorial at Dublin Bridge.

Remembrance of our dead is of tremendous importance and the significance of this project cannot be overstated. Almost a century has elapsed since the occurrence of the worst tragedy to be visited upon our community. There were people from various walks of life on the ships that night but the saying, "Death is a great leveler" was verified within a matter of minutes.

The "brutalities of the Great War, most notably the "Battle of the Somme" and the "Tanner Raid" in Dublin made 1916 a seminal year on this island and our tragedy added to the significance. Amongst the 51 passengers on board the "SS Connemara" were a party of at least 14 British soldiers. One of these unidentified men was killed and his body was not identified. He was buried here in St. Patrick's Cemetery on 8th November 1916. We remember him today, a century later. A MOTHER'S SON.

We wish to sincerely thank the Saint's Society of Saint Patrick's for granting us permission to hold our event here today, once again demonstrating their keen appetite to encourage and participate in, cross community activity. Thank you to everyone in the Congregation.

"SS Connemara" AND "SS Retriever"

REMEMBRANCE IN NEWRY.

James McAravey (Information)
T: 078 5652 0029

MONDAY 24TH OCTOBER



It was on this day that NMA with permission from Warrenpoint Harbour Authority erected a commemorative plaque on the dock railings in Warrenpoint Square to the sole survivor of the sinking, James Boyle from Warrenpoint. James was a 21 year old crew member on the "SS Retriever" when both vessels collided and sank. Ironically James was a non swimmer but managed to cling to an upturned lifeboat and was washed ashore. James died in 1967, 51 years after the sinking.

THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2016.



A refurbished municipal bench seat was sited adjacent to the “Newry Docker” sculpture at Albert Quay in memory of all the victims of the tragedy and the sole survivor, James Boyle from Warrenpoint. The gold leafing on the seat is a key feature and the work of master sign writer, Mickey McCaul snr, who at the age of 85 still produces the goods.

THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER



On this date the actual date the tragedy took place 100 years ago Alex Easton unveiled a plaque at Yew tree park River Street Newry to the memory of the entire crew of the “SS Retriever”, the majority of whom lived in the streets nearby, fortunately all of their bodies were recovered, and interned in the local cemeteries, bringing closure to the bereaved families.

THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER



The final event at Dublin Bridge Newry was the unveiling by Alex Easton a forth generation grandson of Robert Glenny a local wealthy merchant who was owner of the “Clanrye Steamship Company” and also owned and operated the collier “SS Retriever”. Newry Mourne and Down District Council granted permission to site the memorial in the small park at the Albert Basin. The site is most appropriate as the “SS Retriever” would have lain alongside these quays being discharged, as indeed her crew would have walked these streets 100 years ago.

The memorial consists of artefacts recovered from the wreck of SS Retriever by Newry Sub Aqua Club, and included into a lasting iconic piece depicting our rich maritime history.