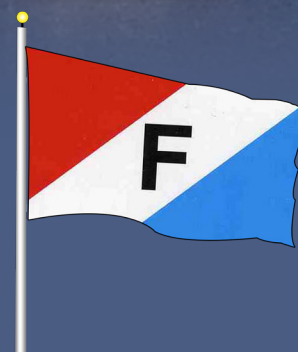


Seatruck steaming past Haulbowline Lighthouse, outward bound on Carlingford Lough, with the night service to the Port Of Heysham in Lancashire.



Photo credit, Fiona Mc Conville.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2022 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



2 022 seems to have come and gone in a flash and now we face the most uncertain New Year in Decades.

Just as we were all welcoming some semblance of normality following the Covid 19 Pandemic we find ourselves mired in an ever-worsening economic crisis.

Everyone is hurting, but the community and voluntary sector is suffering particularly badly. Groups and registered charities, such as NMA, are faced with ever-increasing costs and diminishing revenue. I wish to sincerely thank all our Corporate members who, despite their own difficulties, continue to support us and our activities. It is you who provide our core revenue stream. Allow me to remind you that NMA is a registered charity and you can invoke your gift aid with regard to your donation to us.

This year we delivered 2 "Marquee Projects" which were hampered and delayed largely due to Covid. The "FC MURTAGH" and "FINNEGANS FORGE" events were highly successful and well supported.

Perhaps our most satisfying event has been the totally unexpected outworking of our "James Mac Mahon" project which we delivered across 2021. During our research, we discovered a double-decorated war hero from WW1 and someone who had lain in Christ Church Cemetery, Bessbrook for 88 years. Working with a key partner group, the British Legion, we saw Dr Edwin Fitzgerald O Connor honoured with a new headstone in November.

The headstone was funded by the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), to whom the Doctor was attached, and supplied and erected by a local man, Kenny Wharton.

Once again we have had a very productive and successful year and delivered our events to a very high standard. Hopefully, the clouds will clear in 2023 and we will deliver another full programme of events throughout the year.

James Mc Arevey,
Chairman.
January 2023.



Mission Statement



Newry Maritime Association (NMA) is a not for profit community interest group. Our core objective is the preservation and active promotion of our rich Maritime Heritage which we showcase through a varied programme of activities. The development of Newry can be largely attributed to the Port and the efforts of those who worked there in Spartan and harsh conditions.

We also wish to see the Canal and its environs revitalised, becoming usable public space. The preservation of the built heritage and indeed the Waterway itself is of paramount importance and this must be protected for future generations. We aim to raise public awareness of the hidden gem in their midst which ultimately will lead to the instilling of civic pride amongst our resident Here in Newry our Maritime Heritage can be traced back to the establishment of the Cistercian's Abbey in the 12th century. The monks traded between the various abbeys and monasteries using small boats known as "cogs".

The opening of the Newry Canal in 1742 galvanised and increased this early trade and the Canal era made an incalculable contribution to the increasing good fortunes of Newry.

NMA works closely with our local Council and statutory bodies to bring our aims and aspirations to reality for our community and we thank them for their vital assistance.

We are an all inclusive group as reflected throughout our varied programme of activity.

James McArevey
Chairman
January 2023

**Newry Maritime Association
Newry, Co .Down**

**newrymaritimeassociation@gmail.com
T: 078 5652 0029**

NMA WELCOMES



The Kelly Family.

We are proud and humbled to be joined by the highly respected Kelly family formerly from River Street, Newry as Corporate Members in what is a special year for them.

19th March 2022 marks the 75th Anniversary of the death of Seaman Raymond Kelly who sacrificed his life in the service of others for which he was awarded the George Cross and the Lloyds Medal for Gallantry.

Over the years the Kelly family have made these valuable medals available to our Association when requested and we wish to acknowledge their generosity.

A big NMA welcome to the Kelly family.

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

protecting, enhancing & sharing

MARITIME HERITAGE

We are proud to have
THE KELLY FAMILY
As valued corporate members for

2022

**HELPING US TO PRESERVE AND
ACTIVELY PROMOTE THE HISTORY OF
THE PORT OF NEWRY**

Raymond Kelly 75th Anniversary 1947 - 2022

Name:

Date:

James McArevey
Chairman

NEWRY MARITIME ASSOCIATION

GIVING THE CANAL BACK TO THE PEOPLE OF NEWRY



NMA WELCOMES

Hanna - Hillen Estates.

NMA is very proud to welcome Hanna- Hillen Estates as a valued Corporate member.

The firm, established in 1991 by David Hanna and Peter Hillen, is a major contributor to the success and well-being of the Greater Newry Area Property Sector. Hanna-Hillen Estates is at the forefront of extensive residential and commercial property consultancy.

Welcome, Hanna-Hillen Estates.



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NMA CONGRATULATES



Braham Group.

The late Paul Braham launched his business, Paul Braham & Sons, in Hill Street, Newry in 1972 which is regarded as one of the worst years of "The Troubles".

The firm later became known as Braham Electrical and established itself as a brand leader in the delivery of industrial, commercial and domestic electrical contracts.

This year they celebrated their 50th Anniversary and also rebranded the business as Braham Group, reflecting the diversity of their offering to their ever-expanding customer base.

We wish continued success to Braham Group in the future.



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NMA CONGRATULATES

Felix O Hare & Co.

Each year we acknowledge the major achievements of our Corporate Members.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr Damian Gill and the team at Felix O Hares who excelled at the CEF Awards 2022

The judges deemed the Merchant Square project - the complete transformation of three existing buildings formerly known as Ferguson, Roysten and Oyster Houses to create 210,000 sq/ft of grade A office space right in the centre of Belfast - was worthy of the overall award.




**FELIX O'HARE
& CO LTD**

They remarked that Felix O'Hare "immersed themselves in the project, showcasing their skills, expertise and team-working approach to successfully deliver for their client".

The construction awards were returning to an in-person event for the first time in three years, and 550 people from across the sector gathered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel to celebrate the achievements of the industry and its people.





NMA CONGRATULATES

Haldane Fisher.

Headquartered in Carnbane Industrial Estate, Haldane Fisher operates a network of branches across Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and North West England.

They are leading timber and builders merchants providing to the trade, DIY & Self-Build markets across Ireland and Britain.

Their excellence was rewarded this year North and South of the border.

In Dublin they won the Octabuild Builders Merchant Award.

In Belfast they won the Builders Merchants Federation (BMF) Training Company of the Year. Congratulations to all at Haldane Fishers.



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NMA CONGRATULATES

Re-Gen.

Never far away when the accolades are there to be picked up, Re-Gen scooped a very prestigious national award recently.

Congratulations to Joseph Doherty and the Re-Gen team.



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NMA CONGRATULATES



Northfield Farm.

We are delighted to welcome our first UK-based Corporate Member, Northfield Farm. Animal husbandry and the production of top-quality meats is the business's core activity, which has strong links to Newry and our maritime heritage.

The principal, Leo Mc Court a retired Merchant Banker, established the business in Oakham, Leicestershire in 1994 followed by a farm shop in 1997.

Leo's Father, Dominic, was reared in the family home in Fishers Row, Bridge Street, Newry before emigrating to England. His Father, Patrick Leo, was a Master Mariner and a brother, also Patrick Leo and a Master Mariner also, was awarded the DSC for heroism during the Normandy Landings in June 1944.

Today, Leo is assisted by his sons, Leo and Dom, in running a very successful business which also operates a wholesale unit at Borough Market, London. Leo is very proud of his family links to our port story and hopefully, we will recognise their contribution in the near future.



PADDY MCCOURT

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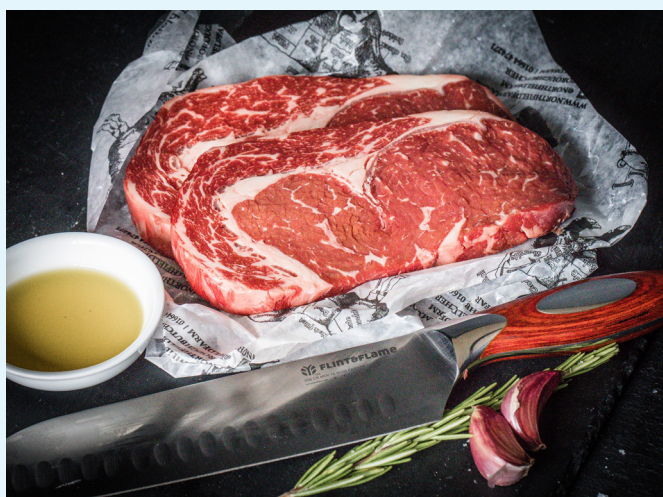
NMA CONGRATULATES

Northfield Farm
Farming, Sourcing, Retailing
Est. 1997

Handsome British Farmers. Beautiful British Meat.

WEEKLY MARKETS

Fridays - Uppingham Market
Saturdays - Oakham Market
8am-3pm



NMA CONGRATULATES



Mulkerns Eurospar.

This long-established family business remains on top of their game.

Their attention to detail, customer service value for money and support to the community continues to pay dividends.

The awards keep coming.

Awarded TWO Awards at the UK Wide Convenience Awards in London and BEST Retail Team at the Newry Chamber Employee & Team Awards!



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NMA CONGRATULATES



Crilly Sweets

Massive congratulations to Crilly Sweets who continue on an upward trajectory in these grim economic times.

The Newry-based family-run business is one of the biggest manufacturers of quality boiled sweets in the UK & Ireland, has experienced a 55% rise in sales over the past year. Crilly's Sweets has a successful track record in exporting to Europe and Asia. It regularly hosts visits from existing and potential buyers including delegations from China to its Newry operation.

David Crilly, Director of Crilly's Sweets said:

"We have picked up significant new business across a range of confectionery operations including many contract packers & discounters such as Aldi, B&M, Poundstretcher and private label producers."

"As a result, we are extremely busy currently and we have increased production capacity, storage and employment in many areas of the company."

NMA CONGRATULATES



Chestnutt Holiday Parks..

All at NMA were pleased and delighted to learn that our esteemed Corporate member, Chestnutt Holiday Parks had won a prestigious award against stiff competition.

The "Holiday at Home Staycation Awards Ceremony 2022 was held recently in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in South Belfast. Chestnutt Holiday Parks deservedly came away with the award for "Best Static Holiday Park (South Down) and our best wishes go to the entire Chestnutt team. Employee & Team Awards!



Richard and Ben



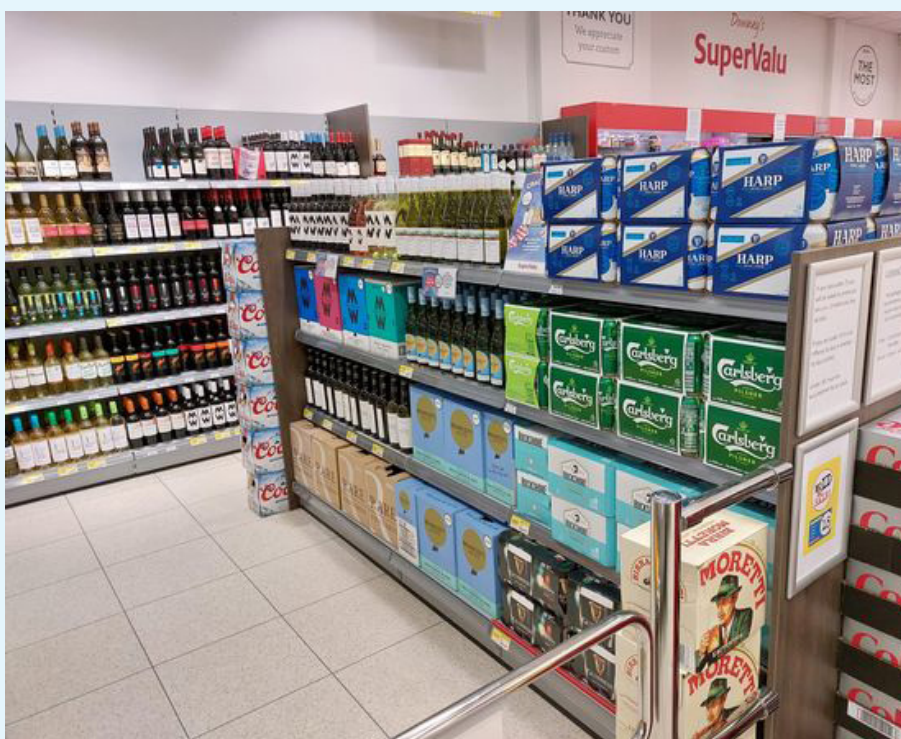
NMA CONGRATULATES

Supervalu Dublin Road, Newry.

Now firmly established in the burgeoning South side of Newry the Downey family have increased their customer offering with the opening of a new instore off licence.

We wish the Downey family and the Supervalu team all the very best with their new venture.

Dublin Road, Newry
SuperValu
 Real Food, Real People



Newry Maritime Association
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Seaman Raymond Kelly GC. 75th Anniversary.



A young Newry seaman, Raymond Kelly, from River Street, sacrificed his life in the service of others in the Bay of Biscay on 19th March 1947.

Raymond was a member of the crew of the steamer, "Empire Plover" which answered an SOS from "SS Famagusta". This ship was taking water and listing heavily to port when "SS Empire Plover" arrived at 3.30 am.

A lifeboat which had been launched from "Famagusta" capsized in heavy seas throwing its 11 occupants into the water. Without hesitation, Raymond (19), dived into the raging sea and succeeded in rescuing a seaman. Again, unflinchingly he dived into the heavy seas and saved a second sailor.

The wife of the owner of "SS Famagusta" could be seen in the water and incredibly Raymond dived into the boiling sea amid mountainous waves in an attempt to rescue the lady. He was seen to grab her shoulder before a huge wave swept them away. Sadly the body of this true young hero was never recovered.

There were 6 lives lost from "SS Famagusta" and Raymond Kelly tragically lost his life in what his Captain later described as, "The bravest act I have ever seen". On 10th February 1948 the "London Gazette" announced the posthumous award of the George Cross to Raymond for his heroism, and sacrifice. Raymond was also awarded the Lloyds Medal for Gallantry. Raymond's photo hangs in Newry Town Hall and Raymond Kelly Park on Dorans Hill was named in his memory by the local council. His Mother, Brigid, accompanied by her eldest daughter Rebecca travelled to Buckingham Palace to receive the award from King George VI.

Brigid died on 21st November 1984 aged 87 still battling her grief for her firstborn child.

On 18th March William Kelly unveiled an impressive NMA plaque to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of his brother's death. The plaque is sited on River Street, across from the site of the former Kelly family home and guests were treated to post-event hospitality in Courtneys Restaurant.

NMA are indebted to the Kelly family for their very generous sponsorship of this event.





Seaman Raymond Kelly GC. 75th Anniversary.

This plaque was unveiled opposite the Kelly family home at number 7 River Street by Raymonds brother, Bill John, on the 75th Anniversary of his death on 18th March 1947.

MARITIME TRIBUTE



This plaque is dedicated to the memory of Seaman, Thomas Raymond Kelly GC. on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of his death on 18th March 1947. Raymond was the eldest of 6 children born to Robert and Brigid and formerly of 7 River Street Newry.

Following the untimely death of his Father (37) due to ill health, Raymond took on the role of breadwinner for the family.

On 7th May 1942, he joined the Fisher vessel, "SS Rowan" at the age of 14. Sometime later he moved to foreign going vessels and his final voyage was as a crew member of "SS Empire Plover". The ship was on passage from Rio De Janeiro to London when a distress call was received in the Bay of Biscay from "MV Famagusta" to which they responded.

On arrival at the scene, the crew viewed an upturned lifeboat with people floundering in mountainous seas. Without hesitation, Raymond dove into the raging sea and succeeded in rescuing a seaman. Again, unflinchingly, he dived in again and saved a second man. Incredibly he dived in again in an attempt to rescue a woman and was seen to grip her shoulder but tragically both were swept away and their bodies never recovered. There were 6 lives lost from "MV Famagusta" which sank on 18th March 1947.

On 10th February 1948, the London Gazette announced the award of the George Cross to Raymond Kelly in recognition of his heroism and sacrifice. Raymond was also awarded the Lloyds Medal For Gallantry and his photograph hangs in the Town Hall. Raymond Kelly Park on Dorans Hill was named in his honour by the local council.

His mother, Brigid, accompanied by her eldest daughter, Rebecca, travelled to Buckingham Palace to receive the award from King George VI.



UNVEILED BY HIS BROTHER
WILLIAM KELLY,
18TH MARCH 2022

FC Murtagh Event Sat 4th June 2022.



Its always good when a plan comes together and today we took a massive step towards our remembrance tribute to the iconic "FC Murtaghs Bar" and its former customers. No less than 6 NMA Corporate members are involved in this heritage project.

The preservation of 2 inscribed cornerstones which adorned the front facade of the building, will form a prominent display, Michael McCaul Signs installed the tribute in Bridge Street.

This has been a tremendous team effort and Tinnelly Demolition, Modern Fireplace Co, Wilson Steel, All3studio and Michael McCaul Signs have played stellar roles and we thank them most sincerely.

Murtagh's also housed the last stabling yard in Newry and the premises was an important coaching inn for the Dublin/Belfast horse-drawn coaches.

We also wish to thank Lidl NI for granting permission to resite the stones.





FC Murtagh Event Sat 4th June 2022.

Newry Maritime Association (NMA) held a very important event in Bridge Street on Saturday the 4th June when they unveiled 2 ornate cornerstones which had graced the licenced premises formerly owned by Francis Connor and in later years, FC Murtaghs.

The stones, engraved with the letters "FC" were salvaged by Tinnellys during the demolition of the building in October 2020. Other local firms who had a major input to the project were,

Modern Fireplace Company, Wilson Steel, Michael Mc Caul Signs and All3Studio printed a commemorative booklet. The booklet, compiled by NMA Chairperson, James Mc Arevey, chronicles 2 centuries of the history attached to the building.

James wishes to thank Maud Hamill and Claudine Coyle for their invaluable help with key research. We wish to thank them sincerely for their help and support in creating a lasting memory to these iconic premises which date back to the days of horse-drawn transport.

Previously, on Friday night a well-attended reunion night was held in Newry INF and we wish to thank Macs Pizzas for the hospitality and to Tom O'Rourke for the music.



Venture Luck



On Thursday 24th February the world awoke to the news that Russia had invaded neighbouring Ukraine.

The grim reality of the consequences for the Ukrainian population became apparent nearer to home on 11th March when terrible news filtered out from Lough Foyle.

A general cargo ship, "Venture Luck", was lying at anchor awaiting orders under the command of a Ukrainian Captain.

The unfortunate officer received the devastating news that his Mother, Wife and Daughter had been killed in a Russian air strike.

The company were making arrangements to fly him home to mourn the loss of his family members.





THE MV OLIVE

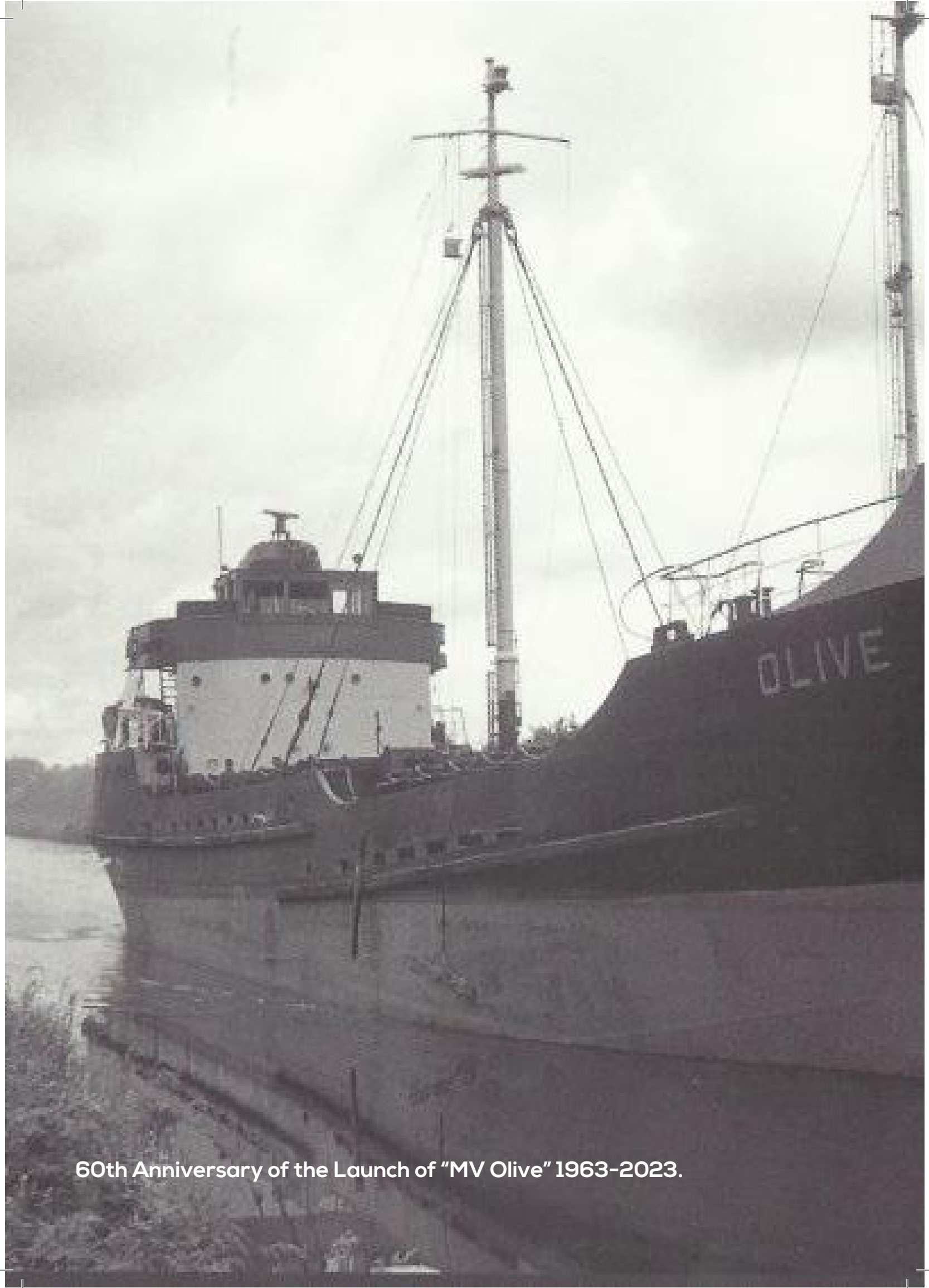
The Last New Build Ship for Fishers

The MV Olive arrived into Newry in December 1963 with a cargo of coal from Ayr. She was the biggest ship that Fishers had brought to Newry. Her gross weight was 1050 tons almost 3 times that of the steamer which she replaced, SS Palm. This little steamer had served Fishers well, having been built some 36 years earlier in 1927. Back then Fishers fleet comprised of over a dozen coasters and Frank Fisher usually built them in pairs. The arrival of the new ship gave Fishers, for a short time, 3 ships. They were Walnut, Oak and the Olive. Some months after the arrival of the "Olive", the Oak, which was launched in 1953, was sold off.

The Olive was built by Scotts of Bowling on the Clyde. They had been the preferred builder of ships for Fishers since the demise of John Fullerton and Sons in 1929. The crew on the maiden voyage were under the command of one of the icons of Newry Maritime History, Captain Brian O Keefe, the youngest of 5 brothers who all became Captains in the Merchant Navy.

"Big Brian", as he was known, was a native of Fathom living in Fishers Row in Bridge Street. The mate was Mick O'Rourke from Carlingford representing the Cooley Peninsula, from where many Newry sailors came. The Chief Engineer was John Mc'Ilroy a Belfast man who had been on the Karri at the time of the tragic incident in 1942.





60th Anniversary of the Launch of "MV Olive" 1963-2023.

MV Olive, last new build vessel for the Fisher Fleet of Newry, launched in December 1963 at Scotts of Bowling, Glasgow. Sold in 1980 and sank off the coast of Honduras in the Caribbean.

At 1050 Tonnes, Olive was largest ship in the Fisher Fleet.



THE MV OLIVE

The Last New Build Ship for Fishers



The 2nd Engineer was Paddy McLaughlin from Rooneys Terrace Newry and the Greaser was a man named Mick Hegarty from Mourne. Pat Quinn the cook was from Seafin, south of Newry. The lamptrimmer was

Paddy McKeown from Drumalane. The ABs were Paddy McCann and Peter Campbell from Newry and another Drumalane man, Vincie McShane completed the compliment of 10, as Ordinary Seaman. The Olive became a familiar sight on the Ship Canal and many local folk have fond memories of her. One of her ports of call was Blyth in Northumberland. This week long trip meant circumnavigating Scotland and sailing through the Pentland Firth where the run of the tide was almost a match for the speed of the ship. In September 1967 on the return leg of a trip to Blyth, the "Olive", laden with coal, was involved in a collision with a trawler off Duncansby Head in Northern Scotland in thick fog. The trawler, "Arctic Corsair", was returning to her home port of Hull having been in the fishing grounds of Greenland. Damage to the trawler was extensive and she had to be beached in Sinclair Bay. The Olive put into Wick for running repairs to her bow and then carried on to Newry.

Mickey Fearon who was mate on the Olive at the time says they were very fortunate that the consequences were not a lot worse. Cawoods became the owners of the Olive when they acquired Fishers and they sold her in 1981.

Renamed "Omega Lady", she sank after springing leaks in heavy seas off Honduras in 1984. Sadly, the sisters she had on her arrival in Newry suffered similar fates in new ownership. In 1972 the Oak, now Saint Brigid, was deliberately blown up off Cornwall after her cargo of Nitro Glycerine began to leak. Then in 1981 the Costas A, formerly Walnut, sank off the coast of Albania. All the Newry ships have gone and all but a handful of those who sailed them have, sadly, gone too.





St Patricks Day 2022



The annual St. Patricks Day parade returned to Newry for the first time in 3 years and was greeted by a massive turnout all along the route.

We were very pleased to participate once again and assist a partner group, Camlough Brass and Reed Band, with their transport arrangements.

We wish to thank Vincent Waddell and Brian Mc Manus, joint Managing Directors of Surefreight, for providing a lorry as a float for the event.

A big thank you also to Surefreight driver, Noel Weir, whose immaculately turned out Scania was a credit to both him and the company.

Noel ensured a seamless drive around the route and everyone was most appreciative

of his input to a very successful outing for the band.

Following the 2 years hiatus, this was the largest turnout for a St. Patricks Day parade in many years and hopefully the momentum is maintained this year again.



SUREFREIGHT

A Partner in Your Success

Cruiseliners Return to Warrenpoint



Tuesday 28th June saw the arrival of the first of 3 cruise liners to visit Warrenpoint since the Pandemic began.

"World Navigator" is a premium, small luxury expedition ship operated by Atlas Ocean Voyages.

"Azamara Pursuit" arrived in Warrenpoint on Friday 5th August and is the largest cruise liner to berth in the port. There is an earlier local link to the liner. Back in 2018 she was fitted out for her previous owners by our Corporate Member, MJM Marine, at Harland & Wolff Shipyard, Belfast.

"World Voyager" arrived in the Port on Thursday 18th August. The ship, on a 17-day itinerary around Britain, carries 200 passengers and 109 crew. She was the 3rd and final cruise liner to visit the port this year. Everyone involved in developing this fledgling business for Warrenpoint Port is to be congratulated and hopefully, there will be many more visits in the future.



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Heavenly Bliss.

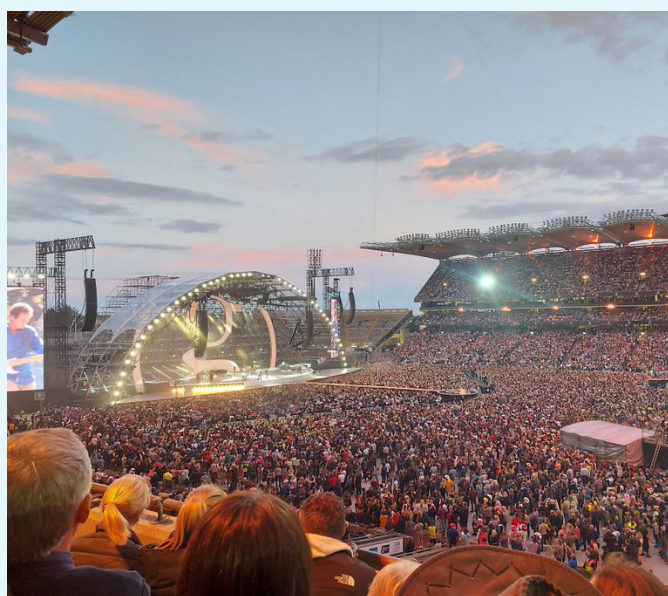
9TH SEPTEMBER 2022



Rev. Lorna Dreading, an accomplished singer, is pictured at one of 5 sellout concerts at Croke Park, Dublin back in September.

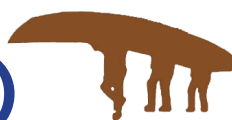
Rev. Lorna is the former incumbent of the Newry, Bessbrook and Warrenpoint Methodist Circuit. Based at Sandys Street in Newry she attended many of our events over the years. Rev. Lorna is currently ministering to the Methodist congregation in Enniskillen.

Ps. Apparently there was an American singer as a support act in Croke Park !!!!!



Carlingford Lough Currach Club. (CLCC)

17th Annual Currach Championships.



NMA are very proud to have built up a strong relationship with CLCC over the years and they are one of our lead partner groups. The club have gone from strength to strength in recent years following their acquisition of 4 new currach boats which were built in Connemara. These new additions have given them an added dimension to their competitive offering.



The new boats and the leasing of a clubhouse building on the front shore in Warrenpoint have been a conduit for more new members joining. The emphasis on coaching and training is paying dividends and with improving standards of rowing, the club now boasts 5 elite teams to row competitively.



With CLCC now attending events across the island they are reaping the benefits with reciprocal attendance for their events. This was particularly evident at the 17th Annual Currach Championships held in Warrenpoint this year.

Teams from Skerries, East Wall, Clare, Galway and Donegal took to the waters of Carlingford Lough to compete in one of the most vibrant championship events hosted by CLCC. Held over a weekend in August, there is something for everyone. Friday sees coaching sessions for juveniles and older folk and a family fun day.

The competitive heats follow on Saturday with the finals on Sunday. NMA sponsor a perpetual trophy for the CLCC Club Person



Carlingford Lough Currach Club. (CLCC)

17th Annual Currach Championships.



of The Year which is handed over at the Presentation Dinner.



After a sumptuous meal provided by the Lough and Quay, the award was presented to a very popular winner, Madonna Jones by NMA Chairperson, James Mc Arevey. In his presentation speech, James availed of the opportunity to remember John Russell and Tony Mc Kevitt who both passed away earlier this year. Guests were then entertained to a night of Ceol Agus Craic by Currach Folk, an offshoot of CLCC featuring, Dermot Russell, Mickey Mc Kevitt, Jack Brennan, Liam Cooper and the lady herself, Madonna Jones. For her exquisite rendition of "The Lonesome Boatman" on the tin whistle, Madonna received rapturous applause.



NMA are proud of our partnership with CLCC, looks forward to furthering joint projects and wishes them continued success in 2023.

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Finnegans Forge Event.

1st October 2022



Like our other flagship heritage event, FC Murtaghs, back in June, this project had been hampered and delayed mainly due to the onset of Covid 19.

However, on a beautiful Autumnal sunny Saturday, 1st October, we finally hosted our remembrance tribute to the Finnegan family who operated a blacksmith forge on the site from the mid-18th Century until 1928 when the property was sold. **Once again, Chris Cassidy from Newry City Library, was on hand to assist with research and Brian Finnegan fully researched his family tree.**

The significance of their contribution was recognised by the Chairperson of the Council, Cllr. Michael Savage, when he made a presentation to their descendants at the Council offices in Newry.



The event was very well attended and a real highlight was the visit of Eddie Murtagh with his magnificent Clydesdale horse, "Dan", who became the centre of attention.



Finnegans Forge Event.

1st October 2022



The Chairperson of, NMA, James Mc Arevey, gave a short oration on the background to the project and unveiled a plaque showcasing the important role of the blacksmith in the community.

The Finnegan family sponsored a plaque which carries a cameo of their stewardship of the site. **Collette Quinn unveiled a plaque in tribute to her late Father, Raymond Carroll, a Newry seaman who passed away suddenly aboard his ship. The 4th plaque, sponsored by Michael Mallon, commemorates local men, Owen Toal and Owen Rice, who died prematurely through illness and accident.**

James then introduced Newpoint Players stalwart, **Sean T Treanor who delivered a stirring rendition of "The Forge", a poem by Nobel Prize Laureate, Seamus Heaney.** Following the shooting of countless photos and videos,

we adjourned to the nearby St. Monnina GAC for craic and hospitality which was enjoyed by the large attendance.

This is a standalone project in comparison to over 60 others which we have delivered.

There are 4 commemorative plaques at Finnegan's Forge whereas the others are marked with a solitary disc.

The ironwork on site was fabricated by our artistic blacksmith, Michael Mallon, and John Loughran was responsible for the groundwork. Graphics were created by Design Sticks and Michael Mc Caul Signs was responsible for the manufacture and installation of the plaques. We extend our sincere thanks to Seamus and Collette Quinn for generously hosting our event on their property and Mallon's Hardware for their kind sponsorship, help and support.



Yet again, this was a classic example of teamwork and lends impetus to the NMA mantra,

"PARTNERSHIP MAKES PROGRESS"

MV Arrow sold by Clipper Group.



Upon the decision by the owners of "MV Arrow" to sell the cargo ship, the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company has confirmed it has secured her ownership [for 9 million Euros]. As part of the previous longstanding charter agreement, the Company negotiated the option to purchase the vessel.

The acquisition is being financed from existing Company resources.

Managing Director Brian Thomson said: "The MV Arrow has proven to be an extremely valuable back-up for our vital Island services. Securing her ownership will provide continuing service security and resilience for freight traffic, especially during events such as the TT, Manx Grand Prix and other peak travel periods".

MV Arrow was known in Warrenpoint having serviced the Warrenpoint / Heysham route with Seatruck



Seatruck Buy Over 20 Sept 2022.



Danish company Clipper Group has entered into an agreement to sell Seatruck Ferries Ltd to CLdN. With eight purpose-built vessels, Seatruck is one of the largest RoRo operators on the Irish Sea, transporting close to 20% of the region's seaborne cargo volumes.

The contemplated acquisition of Seatruck Ferries is subject to regulatory approval from the Irish competition authorities, expected before year-end. After closing, the Seatruck operation will continue to run under the Seatruck Ferries brand with the existing management team led by Alistair Eagles.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NEWRY. 13TH NOVEMBER 2022.



Once again, we were very pleased to participate in the "Remembrance Sunday" commemorative event organised by Newry British Legion. On a lovely Autumnal Sunday morning, with the sun beaming down, the service was well attended.

We laid 2 floral tributes.
A "Fisher Flag" wreath, kindly sponsored by Mrs Susan Fisher, was laid by Murtagh Duffy in memory of all those who sailed with the Fisher fleet.

A Merchant Navy wreath, kindly sponsored by our members Helena Carr and Bridie Kane, was laid by Bendan Walsh in memory of all those sailors who made the ultimate sacrifice.





Remembrance Sunday, Whitehall, London. Sunday 13th November 2022.

Following a hiatus last year, this high profile national commemoration returned to the metropolis.

The "Fisher Flag" wreath took pride of place at the head of the Merchant Navy Association party alongside their floral tribute. NMA were represented by our esteemed member, Mr Adam Fisher, who also very kindly sponsored the wreath which attracts a lot of attention annually.



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CIVIC RECOGNITION FOR RAYMOND KELLY GC.



The year 2022 marked the 75th anniversary of the death of Seaman Raymond Kelly in the Bay of Biscay on 18th March 1947 a day before his 19th birthday. The story of Raymonds heroism that fateful night has been well ventilated by NMA over the past decade and still, many are unfamiliar with Raymond and his enactment of the biblical quote,

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS"

This begs the question.
What of the man who makes the ultimate sacrifice for strangers???

To briefly recap.

Whilst on passage from Buenos Aires to London with a cargo of wheat, Raymonds ship, "SS Empire Plover" answered a distress call from "SS Famagusta" which was in serious difficulties in the notorious Bay of Biscay off the coast of Portugal. Arriving on the scene they saw that a lifeboat which had been launched from "SS Famagusta" had capsized and the occupants were floundering in the boiling seas. Unhesitatingly, Raymond dived into the water

and rescued a sailor. He repeated the exercise and saved a second sailor. Incredibly he dived in a third time to attempt to rescue a woman and was seen to get a grip on her shoulder before a huge wave broke over them, washing them away. The bodies were never recovered.

In February 1948, Raymond was awarded the George Cross and the Lloyds Medal for Gallantry At Sea. In Newry, a housing development is named after him and in 2014 NMA obtained a





CIVIC RECOGNITION FOR RAYMOND KELLY GC.



Blue Plaque for Raymond from the Ulster History Circle.

NMA nominated Raymond and the Kelly family for Civic Recognition from the Council to mark the 75th anniversary of his passing. The Chairperson of the Council, Cllr Michael Savage granted our request and graciously hosted a Civic Reception in the Boardroom of the Council offices at Monaghan Row, Newry on Tuesday 13th December in what was our last major event of 2022.

Prominent guests on the night were, Raymond Kelly Junior, a nephew and his son, Raymond !!!.

Raymond Junior is a son of the late Robert Kelly and his wife Ann.

Councillor Savage presented a suitably inscribed crystal bowl to Raymonds sole surviving sibling, William who was visibly moved as he expressed his thanks to everyone involved in the event. There was a terrific ambience in the Boardroom as the guests enjoyed a lovely buffet hosted by the Chairperson and our Council.



Thank you Michael and to the Democratic Services team from Newry, Mourne and down District Council for hosting a brilliant event and what a way for NMA to bring the curtain down on 2022

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Remembering Dr EF O Connor. Service of Dedication on Sunday 20th November 2022. Christ Church, Bessbrook.



One of our major projects last year featured the eminent 19th-century Newry merchant, James Mac Mahon. During our research into Mr Mac Mahon, we accidentally stumbled across a medical doctor who had resided in a house of the same name, "Bellevue". This man lived in Bessbrook and curiosity drove us on to learn more about him.

The story behind this medical professional is absolutely incredible and one that needed to be ventilated.

Over the years we have delivered many successful projects and published accompanying literature. It must be noted that the "James Mac Mahon" project and the unexpected outworking, which led to the discovery of a decorated war hero lying in anonymity has been one of the most rewarding.

As with so many of our projects, this one was delivered through working in partnership with groups and individuals with whom we have forged strong and meaningful relationships.



Military Cross 1914



Croix De Guerre 1914



LATE DR. E. F. O'CONNOR.



Home Is The Hero.

This scenario around Dr O Connor is a most welcome and totally unexpected outworking of our James Mac Mahon project which we commenced almost 3 years ago with COI Newry.

We wish to sincerely thank, and deeply appreciate, the following for all their help and support.

Rev Scott Mc Donald, Billy Graham, John Russell and the Select Vestry of St. Patricks COI Newry.

Rev Alan P.S. Synott, Trevor Kinnin and the Select Vestry, Christ Church, Bessbrook.

Colin Whiteside and The Royal British Legion, Newry & Bessbrook.

The Royal Army Medical Corps.

Tommy Murray and Maud Hamill, Historians.

Danny Kennedy.

Kenny Wharton.

Chris Cassidy, Newry Branch, Libraries NI.

"Partnership means Progress"

A Service of Dedication in Memory of, Dr Edwin Fitzgerald O Connor.

Sunday 20th November 2022
Christ Church, Bessbrook.

"Lest We Forget"
Compiled
by James Mc Arevey.





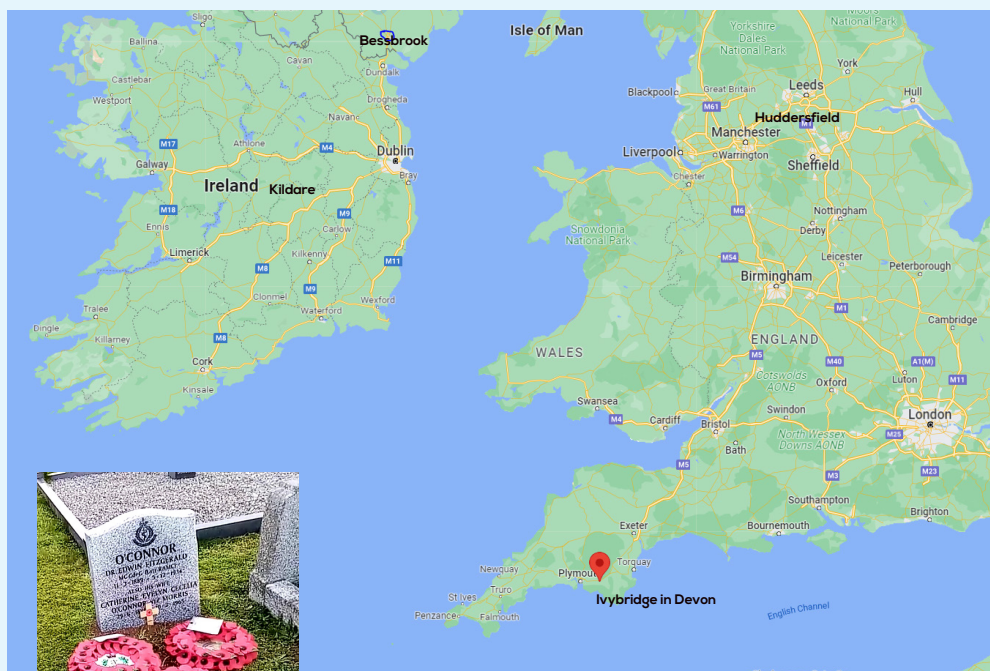
Dr EF and Catherine O Connor. The Legacy.

The union of Dr O Connor and his wife Catherine produced 4 children, 3 girls and 1 boy. Following the death of her husband in 1934, Catherine moved to Huddersfield in Yorkshire with her young family and resided there until she died in 1965 and her remains were repatriated to Bessbrook alongside her husband in Christchurch cemetery. The firstborn was Evelyn Geraldine, known as Gerry and she joined the WRENS as an officer in WW2. She married Surgeon Captain Russell Slater but they had no children.

The 2nd child born was a boy, Hamilton Fitzgerald, known as Tony. He married Margaret Julia Edmondson and they had 2 children, Sally and Susan but nothing more is known of them.

Mary Doreen was the 3rd child in the family and she went on to marry Francis Beck. They had 2 sons, Patrick and Michael. Again, nothing more is known about them.

The 4th born, and "Daddys Girl" was Patricia Atkinson. Atkinson was her paternal Grandmothers' maiden name. With Patricia, we have the lineage to the present day. A nurse just like her Mother, she married Dr Douglas Petrie and her marriage replicated that of her Mother and Father, a nurse married to a doctor. Douglas and Patricia have 2 children, Sheena and Alan Fitzgerald and the Fitzgerald name appears in the 33rd generation. Sheena married Paul Ludgate and they too have 2 children, Graham and Victoria. Both children are now married and Paul and Sheena are proud Grandparents. Daughter Victoria has 6 children whilst Graham



has 2 sons, Jamie and Charlie. Often, the question is asked,

"Is there a Doctor in the house" ??

In the Ludgate household, the answer is definitely yes as Jamie has recently qualified as a Doctor like his Great Grandfather and Grandfather before him. Today, Sheena and Paul Ludgate live in the small town of Ivybridge in Devon which is about 15 miles from Plymouth. The good news is that they intend to come to Ireland this summer to see the grave of Sheena's Grandparents and the area where they lived, worked and reared their family and we will be very pleased to see them.

Sheena and Paul have a great interest in the story of Dr O Connor and have done a lot of research on their family tree and we are indebted to them both for sharing their research with us.

Thank you, Sheena and Paul, and we look forward to welcoming you to Newry and Bessbrook in the coming months.

PS Waverley visits Warrenpoint.



We were delighted to welcome an illustrious visitor to Warrenpoint for a refuelling stop before proceeding to her home port of Glasgow.

A paddle steamer, "Waverley," was launched from the shipyard of A&J Inglis on the Clyde on 2nd October 1948 (Yard No. 1330P). She has a service speed of 14 knots and a capacity for 925 passengers.

Since 2003 "Waverley" has been listed in the National Historic Fleet by National Historic Ships UK as "A vessel of pre-eminent importance"



Kate Cahill and Gina Jennings received awards



Everyone here at NMA is delighted that 2 stalwarts, Kate Cahill and Gina Jennings, of St Marys Youth Club received awards at the Council Chairmans award ceremony in Newcastle. We were pleased to be involved in their nomination by Gavin Malone.

This year marks 32 years (individually) of unstinting voluntary service to the club and the local community. Over the last 3 decades, these ladies transformed a fledgling youth group into one of the most prolific groups in the community and voluntary sector. They oversaw the transition of countless children into confident, high-achieving young adults. They laid the foundations for, and became the

bedrock of, our very vibrant club, always setting and demanding the highest standards. Now they have decided that the time is right to hand over the baton to the excellent team they have gathered around them in St Marys.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to these marvellous ambassadors for the club on their success and hope they enjoy their well-earned retirement at the youth club. Both Kate and Gina will always enjoy iconic status here at St Marys and we thank them sincerely for their unrivalled contribution to the development and success of the voluntary sector and St Marys in particular. We also thank them for hosting our monthly meetings in the club. We really appreciate it.

MAKING A MARINER.

Philip Fitzsimmons.

The Voyage Continues.



For the third year, young Philip Fitzsimmons features in our Annual Report as we continue to monitor his progress as an apprentice deck officer cadet. Philip is enrolled on a 3-year course at South Shields Marine School in September 2019 where he is studying for an HNC in Nautical Science and an Officer of the Watch (OOW) Unlimited Certificate.

Christmas 2021 was put on hold as our intrepid sailor was instructed to commence further seetime and join a ship in Brazil. Leaving home in Greencastle on 16th December, Philip flew to Amsterdam and then took a flight to Sao Paulo. Two days later he joined the crew of "MT Fortes", a bulk tanker that would be home for almost 8 months.



In the intervening period, cargos of gas oil (100,000 tons) were ferried between Rio De Janeiro in Brazil to Singapore Sikka in India to Sao Luis in Brazil and also from Ruwais in the United Arab Emirates. The tanker traversed the Malacca Straits several times going to and coming from Singapore. This narrow channel, which is over 500 miles in length, lies between the Malay Peninsula and the island of Sumatra and is one of the busiest shipping routes in the world, linking the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. Philip observed that the bridge team had to be especially vigilant after a long voyage where little or no traffic was encountered. Now in the Straits, they even had to contend with fishing boats.

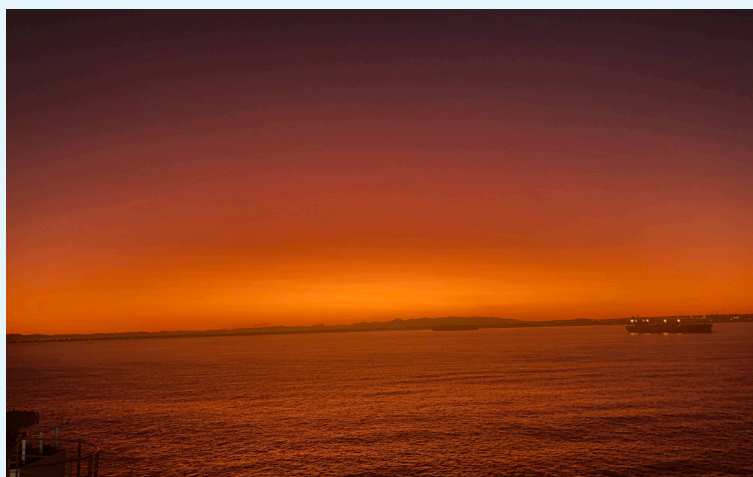
Philip recalled two particularly unpleasant



MAKING A MARINER.

Philip Fitzsimmons.

The Voyage Continues.



episodes of bad weather. On the first occasion, when the ship was in ballast, the crew endured 3 days of rolling in heavy seas. For him, the worst part was the sleep deprivation and he was happy when the storm abated. The second incident played out off the coast of Madagascar when the ship was caught up in a Category 3 hurricane which lasted for over 30 hours. The Captain deployed "Weather Routing" as the tanker battled against gusts up to Force 12. Philip describes this as a surreal experience and he says the humidity was unbelievable.

"Just like a sauna". He also described the scorching heat in the Middle East, where the temperatures peaked between 45 and 50 degrees, as very uncomfortable and said his feet were burning when walking on deck.

Eventually, in August the ship arrived in the port of Ruwais in the United Arab Emirates to load a cargo of Gas Oil. From there they sailed to the port of Fujairah for bunkering and it was here that Philip disembarked and began the long journey home. A 2 hours trip brought

him to Dubai, then to Doha, where he caught a flight to Heathrow in London and then on to Dublin. Finally, a 2 hours road trip brought him home to Greencastle.

Philip travelled over 25,000 nautical miles during his sojourn on "MT Fortes" and has now returned to college in South Shields to complete his studies. We wish him well in his endeavours and congratulate him on his achievements so far. Good luck, Philip.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED US THROUGH 2022.



Photo Jason Ruddy



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