



PICTURE CREDIT NEWRY REPORTER

The Anna Broere leaving the
Victoria Locks on Tuesday.

The last boat -

Newry Canal Closes

The first vessel sailed down the
Newry Canal in 1742. This week
the commercial life of the
waterway came to an end when

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2020 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

I am pleased to have been selected as Chairman of our Association for the next 3 years, albeit in very challenging and uncertain times.

I also wish to pay tribute to our outgoing Chairman, Mickey Mallon, who presided over a host of projects including the completion of our "SS Connemara"/"SS Retriever" remembrance tribute which included the creation of a 23 sites heritage trail.

Like so many others, we began the year with very high hopes and aspirations, and nothing could have prepared us for what has since transpired. This has been a year of troughs and peaks for our Association and our activities have been greatly restricted due to the Pandemic which has wreaked global havoc. Our monthly meetings were suspended in March and did not resume until July when we eventually held our AGM. Sadly, due to an escalation of outbreaks of the virus we again had to suspend our meetings in October. The health and wellbeing of our members, and others, is paramount and we will continue to monitor the situation.

We can be proud of what we have achieved under unprecedented circumstances, and I wish to sincerely thank all our Corporate Members who have supported us again in what has been an extremely challenging trading period. I am also very pleased to welcome the new members who have joined our Corporate Team this year and it is most gratifying to have their endorsement of our Maritime Heritage Project.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of our inception and we have had huge success in establishing a maritime footprint across the district and raising awareness of an era which

was all but consigned to the annals of history. **We can be very proud of our robust cross-community policy which is reflected in our wide and diverse range of activities and this, in turn, has led to the creation of strong bonds of friendship across the political and religious divide.**

We can all rightly feel very proud of what we have achieved as a small, voluntary group. We can avail of the opportunity to remember with pride all those members and mentors who sadly have "crossed the Bar" and reflect on their invaluable contributions to our Association, its aims and objectives.

The core objective of NMA is the preservation and active promotion of the history of the Port of Newry and those who created it. Year on year we have raised the bar and eclipsed our previous programmes and I firmly believe that without the existence of NMA and their input, our maritime history would have been largely airbrushed. Your memories will be refreshed as you read through our Annual Report and, no doubt, will engender a sense of pride in being associated with our group and our achievements.

Finally, whilst we live with this Pandemic and all that entails, I would encourage you all to keep a positive focus and look forward to the better days which undoubtedly lie ahead for us all. Hopefully, next year will be better for us all and together we will continue to highlight, and raise awareness of, our proud Maritime Heritage.

Please continue to protect yourselves and others, act responsibly, and keep safe.

James Mc Arevey.
Chairman.



Haulbowline Behind the scenes.

Each year we begin our illumination preparations in February ahead of the month-long illumination of our iconic lighthouse in August.

The process begins with our former Chairman, Michael O Hare, obtaining the necessary permission from the Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL) and furnishing CIL with the relevant insurance and indemnities. Once this is in place, we then contact the members of our close-knit team and put them on standby for the upcoming event which has grown in popularity year on year since our inaugural illumination in 2016. We also identify a particular theme for the event.

BRAHAM ELECTRICAL.

NMA are extremely fortunate to have a sponsor of the calibre of Braham Electrical, a high-profile firm based in Warrenpoint. The business was founded in 1972 by Paul Braham and has expanded over the years as a full-service electrical contractor serving the commercial, industrial and residential sectors of the construction industry.

Braham Electrical has established itself as a market leader in the electrical construction industry and enjoys a solid reputation for customer care and satisfaction.

Thomas Braham, Director and Head of the Street Lighting Division, takes personal charge of the installation of our equipment on the lighthouse and is on call throughout the month to rectify any problems that might arise.



Michael O'Hare

When the event concludes, Thomas plays a hands-on role in disassembling our equipment and bringing it safely ashore.

All at NMA extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Paul Braham who was recently awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in recognition of his charitable work with the Lions Club. Well earned and well deserved Paul.



BRAHAM ELECTRICAL
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Thomas Braham, Braham Electrical

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Haulbowline Behind the scenes.



STEPHEN ROONEY Artist and Photographer.

Stephen Rooney lives in the village of Dunavil which houses many remnants and artefacts from Cranfield Aerodrome which played a key role in WW2. He traces his artistic traits back to his formative years in primary school and his keen interests in outdoor living. Stephen sold his first 3 paintings when he was just 14 years old and today, he sends

his works across the world and American singer, Sheryl Crow, is the proud owner of a "ROONEY"

Stephen has won the prestigious **"UK YOUNG ARTIST OF THE YEAR"** for 2 years running, and we extend our heartiest congratulations to him. This talented young man creates a portfolio of photographs of our illumination event and this year he also did a video tour of the interior of Haulbowline Lighthouse which received over 40,000 views.



Haulbowline Behind the scenes.



Thomas Cunningham



Sean Cunningham

Philip Fitzsimons

Captain Sean Cunningham, Retired Pilot and Lighthouse Attendant.

Captain Sean Cunningham is a member of the family dynasty from the idyllic village of Greencastle, Co. Down. The Cunningham family are synonymous with marine activity on Carlingford Lough where pilotage is compulsory for ships accessing the ports of Greenore and Warrenpoint.

The late Willie John Cunningham was a Lough Pilot and was a familiar sight in the Port of Newry prior to its closure in March 1974. Willie John was also a keen fisherman and commissioned John Kearney from Annalong to build him a new open fishing boat. Sadly, Willie John passed away before the boat was finished in 1975 and his son, Sean, took over ownership and named the vessel "William John"

Sean like his father was a pilot and also took over his role as Lighthouse Attendant

of Haulbowline, retiring in February 2020. A further link with activity on the lough was severed when his brother, Captain Thomas Cunningham, retired as Harbour Master of Greencastle after over 50 years' service with the Carlingford Lough Commissioners.

Today, pilotage on the Lough is handled by Carlingford Lough Pilots Ltd., a company operated by Captain Leo Cunningham and his sons, Michael and Paul.

NMA are indebted to Sean Cunningham for the seamless manner in which he coordinates the logistical operation of our annual illumination.



Slieve Ban

HAULBOWLINE PREPARATIONS.

All equipment and personnel on board, we departed from the historic Greencastle Pier and set sail for Haulbowline lighthouse to install our equipment for our 5th illumination of this offshore main sea light. Haulbowline was completed in 1824 and was manned by 3 keepers until 17th March 1965 when it became the first Irish lighthouse to be fully automated.

This year we decided to illuminate the tower with blue lights in tribute to our frontline services.





HAULBOWLINE PREPARATIONS.

We are indebted to Michael Young, Harbour Master Greencastle and the Carlingford Lough Commissioners for their continued help and support of our project.

Their tug, "Slieve Ban" plays a key role placing and removing our generator from the lighthouse.

Michael Young,
Harbour Master



HAULBOWLINE PREPARATIONS.



Sean Cunningham

Thomas Braham

Philip Fitzsimons



Sean Cunningham

Thomas Cunningham



Thomas Braham

The operation to illuminate the graceful 34-metre tower continues under the personal supervision of Thomas Braham who this year has donated a new set of lights to the project.



HAULBOWLINE, DRESSED IN BLUE.



The tower is bathed in blue rays in tribute to all our frontline workers. We also created a “Blue Corridor” from Cranfield to Newry . The landmark Ross Memorial, Warrenpoint Town Hall, Newry Town Hall and the bridges across the Canal were illuminated blue courtesy of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. (NMDDC) whilst the Harbour Office at Warrenpoint was lit blue by Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. (WHA)

We extend our sincere thanks to both bodies for their help and support and also to the Chairperson of the Council, Cllr. Laura Devlin, Cllr Gavin Malone and Cllr. Jarlath Tinnelly.

WELCOME VISITORS TO CRANFIELD



The crew of the Irish Coastguard helicopter, R116, did a flypast over Cranfield Beach much to the delight of the crowds below.

We also welcomed representatives of our front line services to our event.

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TRIBUTES IN CO. LOUTH



Carlingford Lough forms part of the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic with Co Down lying to the East and Co. Louth to the West. There are 2 commercial ports in the Lough, Greenore in Louth and Warrenpoint in Co. Down.

NMA wished to have participation from Co. Louth in our “Blue Corridor” but whilst suitable sites proved to be scarce, we quickly identified the magnificent King Johns Castle in Carlingford overlooking the waters of the Lough.

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE JOB.



We were having difficulty establishing just who was responsible for switching on the state-of-the-art lighting system around the Castle. After a frustrating few days chasing shadows, a local businessman referred us to the doyen of politics in Cooley and indeed, much further afield.

Peter Savage was involved in public life for a record 45 years making him the longest-



Senator Erin Mc Greehan,



Peter Savage

serving county councillor in Ireland. First elected to Louth County Council in 1974 he stepped down in 2019 having also been Chairman of Louth County Council on a record-breaking 5 occasions.

Peter quickly identified the Office of Public Works (OPW) as the designated body with responsibility for the lights and engaged the help of his party colleague, Senator Erin Mc Greehan, to resolve the matter.

Erin raised the matter in Dublin and within a couple of days, the castle was illuminated like something from a Disney spectacular.

Thank you from all at NMA to Peter and Erin for your most successful efforts on our behalf.

Just 6 miles north of Carlingford the rural village of Omeath lies beneath Slieve Foy and the Lough shore. The impressive Granvue Hotel is situated just yards from the waterfront and clearly visible from Warrenpoint and we spoke to Clare O Hagan from the Omeath branch of Tidy Towns who readily came on board.

The proprietors of the “Granvue”, Shane and Helen Feehan kindly allowed the gable of the hotel to be illuminated as part of the project.

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THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

With our illumination having ended on 31st August and our equipment safely brought ashore we arranged a presentation to the main players in Warrenpoint Port in early September.

Pat Malone, NMA, made individual presentations of bespoke lighthouse table lamps to:

Michael Young, Harbour Master, Carlingford Lough Commissioners,

Captain Sean Cunningham,

Captain Thomas Cunningham

Thomas Braham, Director Braham Electrical, Sponsors of Haulbowline Illumination Project.



Pat Malone

Thomas Braham

Michael Young

Thomas Cunningham

Sean Cunningham





NMA WELCOMES



DUBLIN ROAD COSTCUTTER.

This family-run convenience store is proving to be a firm favourite with the local community, providing a full range of provisions and services.

Opening at 4.30 am, they are hugely popular with the early morning cross border commuters who call for newspapers, cigs, the all important shot of caffeine and much more. NMA are very pleased to have the endorsement of this very successful local business and wish them well in these difficult times.



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NMA WELCOMES



SUPERVALU, DUBLIN ROAD.

The "Downey" name resonates with superiority and quality in the butchery and fresh food sector and their SuperValu marque on Dublin Road Newry is hallmarked with excellence and value.

Renowned for quality, variety and presentation, their Deli Counter is proving a huge hit in their spacious premises which houses a comprehensive range of groceries, fresh veg and solid fuels. A very welcome and important addition is a Post Office counter providing the full range of postal services and utility payment facilities.

At SuperValu, Dublin Road Michael and David Downey are providing THE one-stop shopping experience.



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NMA WELCOMES!



JY HYGIENE SUPPLIES.

JY Hygiene Supplies is a family-owned business and was founded in September 1991 by Sean Magill.

Headquartered at Clontifleece, Warrenpoint the firm specialises in the supply of janitorial products to the public and private sectors across the country.

They take pride, as a family-owned concern, in giving their customers personal attention and providing them with a top-quality service at all times.

All at NMA also take this opportunity to thank JY Hygiene for storing and servicing our generator for the Lighthouse Illumination Project.



All 3 Studio.

Founded in November 2010 All 3 Studio is a dynamic design and print company with a fresh approach to design and based in Newry, Co. Down.

NMA is pleased to have the endorsement of Stephen Mc Alpine and to avail of the bespoke All 3 experience. All 3 Studio offers a wide range of printing services from short-run printing through to larger print runs, 100,000 +. They print and design leaflets, flyers, vouchers, Pvc banners, pop up banners, letterheads and much more.

All 3 Studio is indeed a one-stop-shop for all your print and design requirements.



NMA WELCOMES!

CARLINGFORD LOUGH FERRY.

The Ferry commenced operations in June 2017 carrying vehicles and passengers across the Lough between terminals in Greenore, Co. Louth and Greencastle, Co. Down.

This was the first such crossing since the London and North Western Railway Co. (LNWR) withdrew their paddle steamer service in 1921. LNWR ferried passengers from around the Lough to Greenore for onward travel on their steamer to Holyhead.

The crossing, which takes 20 minutes, showcases Carlingford Lough and its environs at its majestic best. The Ferry is, effectively, a landbridge between Counties Louth and Down and has proved to be an invaluable asset to our all-important tourism offering.

The Ferry is helping unlock the true tourism potential of the Mourne and Cooley Peninsula making both easily accessible from either side of the Lough.

During our Illumination of Haulbowline Lighthouse, the Ferry operates "Lighthouse Cruises" which have proved extremely popular.



Picture Credits Haldane & Fisher

NMA WELCOMES!



HALDANE FISHER.

Haldane Fisher is one of the leading independent suppliers to the construction industry across Ireland and the UK, serving both trade customers and the general public.

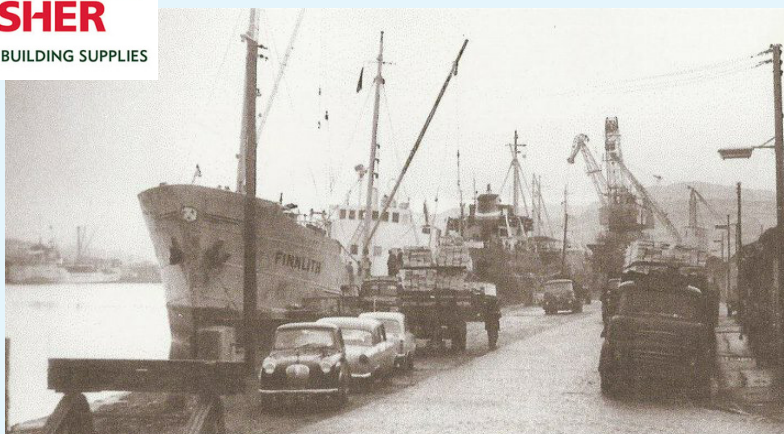
Headquartered on a sprawling modern site at Carnbane Industrial Estate, the company has 17 branches across Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and North West England.

Founded by Bob Haldane in 1946, the firm was a major player in the trade of the Port of Newry with regular imports of timber and building products.

Today the firm supplies a huge range of products-----everything from building materials to home improvement products. They are also a leading manufacturer of machined timber as well as engineered flooring and roofing solutions in Ireland.



February 1973

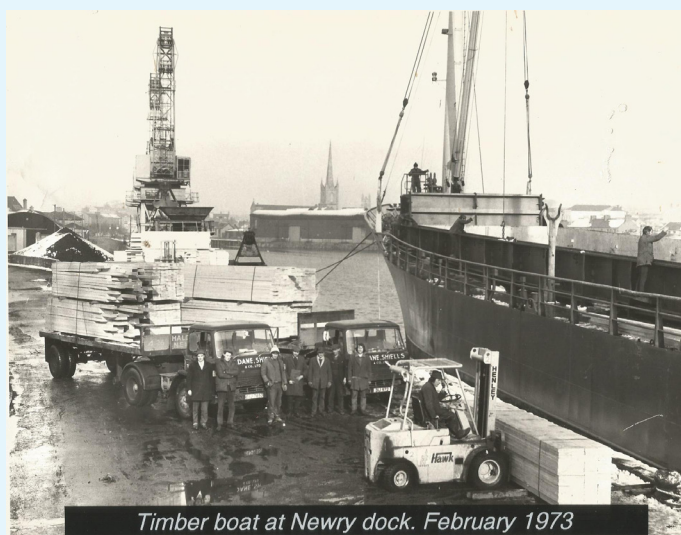


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NMA WELCOMES!

HMT SHIPPING.

Headquartered in Milltown Industrial Estate Warrenpoint, HMT was founded in 1995 and over the past 25 years have established themselves as major players in the cross-channel shipping industry. Along with state-of-the-art facilities at their depot in Heysham, Lancashire the company also has depots at Dundalk and Dublin.

Their modern fleet of Volvo trucks is complimented with a fleet of over 400 trailers, flats and tautliners, and are a familiar sight on the roads across Ireland and the UK.

Warehousing and distribution are additional services offered by the company. In 2010 HMT became a member of Palletline plc who specialises in the collection and delivery of 1 to 5 pallet consignments.

HMT forms part of a nationwide network of independent distribution businesses, working together to achieve this professional, high-quality collection and delivery service on low volume consignments.

HMT offers a comprehensive service tailored to individual customer requirements.



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FROM FATHOM TO FISHING. BY MICHAEL O'HARE

Born in the year that was known as the year of the big snow November 1947 when the temperature never climbed above freezing for a continuous nine weeks, and cars drove on Loughbrickland Lake.

Growing up in Fathom awakens a wealth of memories, one a simple vague recollection of a frightened little boy holding tight to Mamma's apron, as the Greenore train thundered over the bridge at the back of the house shaking the ground beneath tiny feet. Then there was the linesman who walked the line checking for loose saddles and rail blocks, whose name eludes me now and sadly don't have the one person who could have supplied details like this. This is the one mistake we all seem to make, and it's simply not asking the questions or listening to what we are being told when children and adults until it's too late.

Soon this line was closed and the last train trundled down the line to Greenore in 1951 unfortunately it was at night and photos are rare or non-existent but Mamma realising the importance of this historic event lifted my brother Dan from sleep to see it. As he was a little older she held him in her arms at the window in the hope he would remember seeing the last Newry to Greenore train "he does to this very day."

Having lost the sounds of steel on steel and steam mixed with coal smoke from the back of the house, the steam experience continued at the front with the Fisher colliers that plied the canal almost on



Michael, brother Dan and mother at the back of the house. The bridge in the background carried the Newry Greenore train.

a daily basis. The hoot of a steam whistle to the hiss and clatter of a steam winch, and



A steam tanker having discharged her cargo, and now on her way to turn at the Albert Basin.



FROM FATHOM TO FISHING. BY MICHAEL O'HARE



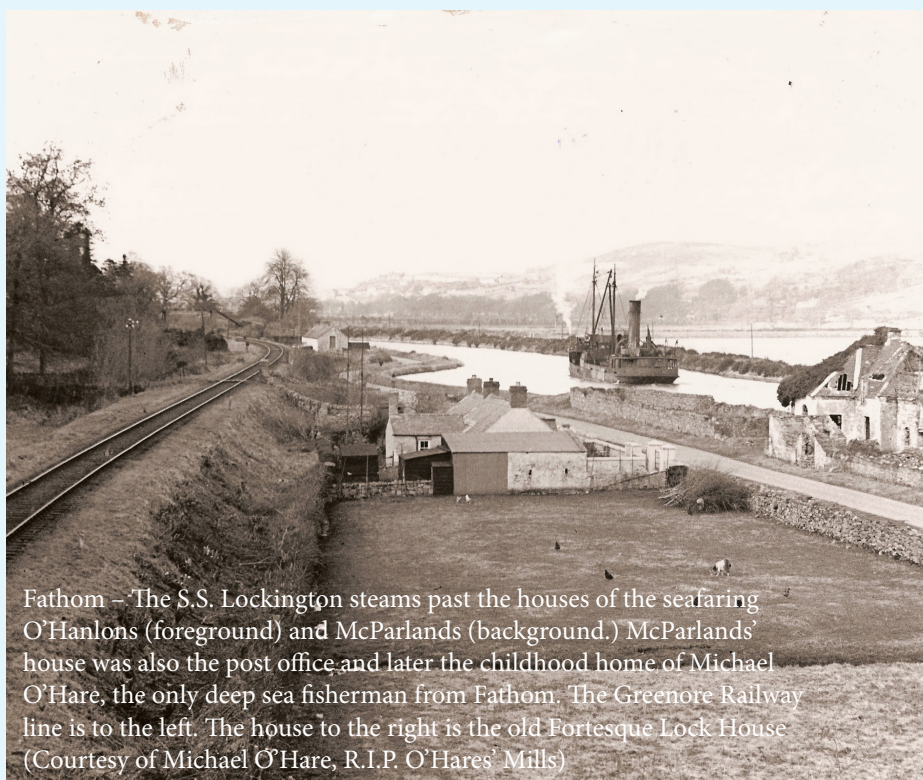
the squeal of a dry block sheaf as a landing derrick is hoisted into the landing position. The sounds were so much clearer then, perhaps because there was so little traffic on the road, few cars at this time, even the sounds on the Warrenpoint road and line were clear, including the voices and chatter of the children playing in the fields as the farmers set the sheaves of corn and seed hay in stooks, sadly those same fields are transformed with houses and roads now, and that I suppose is the changing of the times and the March of progress, but still a little sad.

The Warrenpoint railway was still in service and the sounds so familiar continued until this line was also closed in January 1965. Coming back to the canal it is now 1956 and I am nine years old. It is now when the ground work for a new and exciting project commenced with the clearing of the area known as the old Fortescue Lock. This old Lock had fallen into ruin when the final mile and a half extension was added to the canal, including the construction of the Victoria Lock. An incredible piece of engineering work at anytime, but this was accomplished during the Great Hunger (The Famine) and opened in 1851.

This site clearance was to prepare for the construction of the LOBITOS oil storage and distribution depot, or as it became locally known "The Green Tanks"

soon Newry ship canal was to acquire a new customer and service. Construction moved forward quickly and soon the retaining compound wall was completed and is still intact today. **This compound was built to contain the petrol should a major rupture have occurred, it is worth mentioning at this juncture that the capacity of each of these tanks was a staggering one and a half million litres.** Originally there were three and a further two large ones were constructed later to store Acetone and Toluene, two more highly flammable and explosive chemicals for use in the DuPont plant in Derry.

This whole installation was in effect an explosion waiting to happen should the slightest mistake or spark occur, luckily it didn't. And here I must stress should it have done so the families of Campbell's,



Fathom – The S.S. Lockington steams past the houses of the seafaring O'Hanlons (foreground) and McParlands (background.) McParlands' house was also the post office and later the childhood home of Michael O'Hare, the only deep sea fisherman from Fathom. The Greenore Railway line is to the left. The house to the right is the old Fortescue Lock House (Courtesy of Michael O'Hare, R.I.P. O'Hares' Mills)



FROM FATHOM TO FISHING. BY MICHAEL O'HARE



The Lobitos Oil Depot

Armstrong's, Hollywood's, O'Hares and Finches would have simply been vaporised, the canal a river of fire, and a large part of the Fathom landscape would have geographically changed forever, a very sobering thought. The construction was an exciting time for us as children with the many different people, the machines the cranes and welders as the tanks were plated and rose quickly from the ground, the adventure it was when work finished for the day and we ventured onto the site to investigate. Climbing through the manholes inside the tanks and shouting just to hear the echo, where was Health and Safety? Well this is 1956 it didn't exist, there wasn't even a watchman in charge over the site, changed times no doubt.

As each tank was completed they were

then pumped full of water from the canal to check for leaks and while all this was going on within the confines of the compound, another separate operation was taking place at the Omeath end, with the construction of two berthing jetty's for the Tankers to lay alongside and couple up to the main pipelines for discharging. The remains of these jetty's are still there to this day. A little here about Fathom, it is an area steeped in history much too detailed for this little story, with very small pockets of arable land for farming to support families, mostly forest and mountain, and because of its close proximity and access to the sea menfolk in this area had in the most part chosen the maritime life and the commercial shipping trade to the busy port of Newry and further afield going back generations.



FROM FATHOM TO FISHING. BY MICHAEL O'HARE



Most homes at that time would have had a family member at sea, some as many as three and four, a lot of these families were left saddened and destitute when over the



Captain Harry Hollywood MBE,
neighbour

years many of these family men sailed out from the Victoria Lock never to return. My parents were not Fathom born, both coming from rural farming communities, although my mother was born and reared almost on the banks of the inland canal, and was very familiar with what was known then as the Lighter traffic, (Horse drawn barges) hence the Tow Path, passing through the Locks along the Jerrettspass reach of the canal. Moving then to Fathom was not such a big change other than this was the ship canal with sea going colliers general cargo and livestock vessels and Fathom crews, plus the visiting Scandinavian timber vessels.

My father as a young man early on in his life was in no doubt the farming life was not for him and having learned to drive at a young age secured a job driving a bus from Newry to Belfast, then taking up a driving job with Newry coal merchant F. V. Harty and Sons, where he remained for the next twenty two years. **Then as the oil distribution depot neared completion in early 1957 my father submitted a successful job application as a tanker driver.** This job was life changing in many ways both for my father and the family, his wages more than doubled, he could walk to work in less than two minutes, overalls boots caps and gloves were supplied, something almost unheard of at that time, plus the work was lighter and cleaner.



This is Michaels father, known as big Paddy, note the size of the hands, a big gentle man, his car in the background is a MK2 Ford Consul.



FROM FATHOM TO FISHING. BY MICHAEL O'HARE

1957 was a troubled year politically and within a short time of the oil depot opening on the 15th May that same year an explosive device damaged the Victoria Lock which closed the canal to commercial traffic for a number of months while Harland & Wolf carried out repairs. The closing of the canal also disrupted the four tankers supplying fuel to the depot. This caused huge inconvenience for Lobitos regarding keeping up customer supplies, but as the old saying goes "It's an ill wind which doesn't blow some good" As it turned out this became a huge bonus for the drivers who now had to haul fuel from storage tanks in Larne and Belfast to replenish stocks, resulting in permanent overtime which increased wages dramatically.

Lobitos based in Larne, an advertising breakdown of the name was, (Less Oil Better Ignition Tons Of Speed) had built up a large customer base, and the construction of the depot would increase the numbers and distribution greatly and more efficiently, over a greater and more diverse range of customers. It is here this little story takes a

This photo shows the Oil Depot as it looked after the explosion which damaged the Victoria Lock in 1957.



different course. **On each Saturday morning delivery's were dispatched to Kilkeel harbour to McKee coal and oil merchants who had oil storage tanks at the harbour, these were replenished on Saturday's and the fishing boats refuelled from smaller Bowsers towed around the harbour. Living so close to the depot my father usually took on this run and being off school I accompanied him, this opened up a whole new world to me, and what a world!**

To a nine year old boy used to fishing on the canal bank with a straight hazel pole cut from the tree along the ditch, a length of line a hook and a bottle cork as a float, this was my first introduction to commercial fishing and I just couldn't get enough. While my father pumped oil into McKee's tanks I explored and loved meeting the people. One man sticks out in my mind from those first early days, a Mr George McKee, the oil man,



FROM FATHOM TO FISHING. BY MICHAEL O'HARE



a very dapper gentleman, I can see him yet, check sports coat with leather patches on the elbows, cravat, brown corduroy trousers and leather shoes shined within an inch of their lives, teaching me how to fly fish in the

George McKee (Credit Leslie Campbell)



Kilkeel river at a deep pool below the foot bridge, sadly all gone now. I remember the busy fishermen carrying out all the Saturday jobs in preparation for the the new week to

come, the buzz the excitement, the smells, the bread men, the coal men, the dry stores, the lorry from Belfast with big bags of ice, the lemonade vans, and the men greasing the winches and the blocks, mending nets, splicing ropes and wires, the 114 and 152 Gardener engines with all the brass shining and running like sewing machines, **I had caught the bug and those Saturday mornings spent at Kilkeel harbour would become the single biggest influence in the path my life would take.**

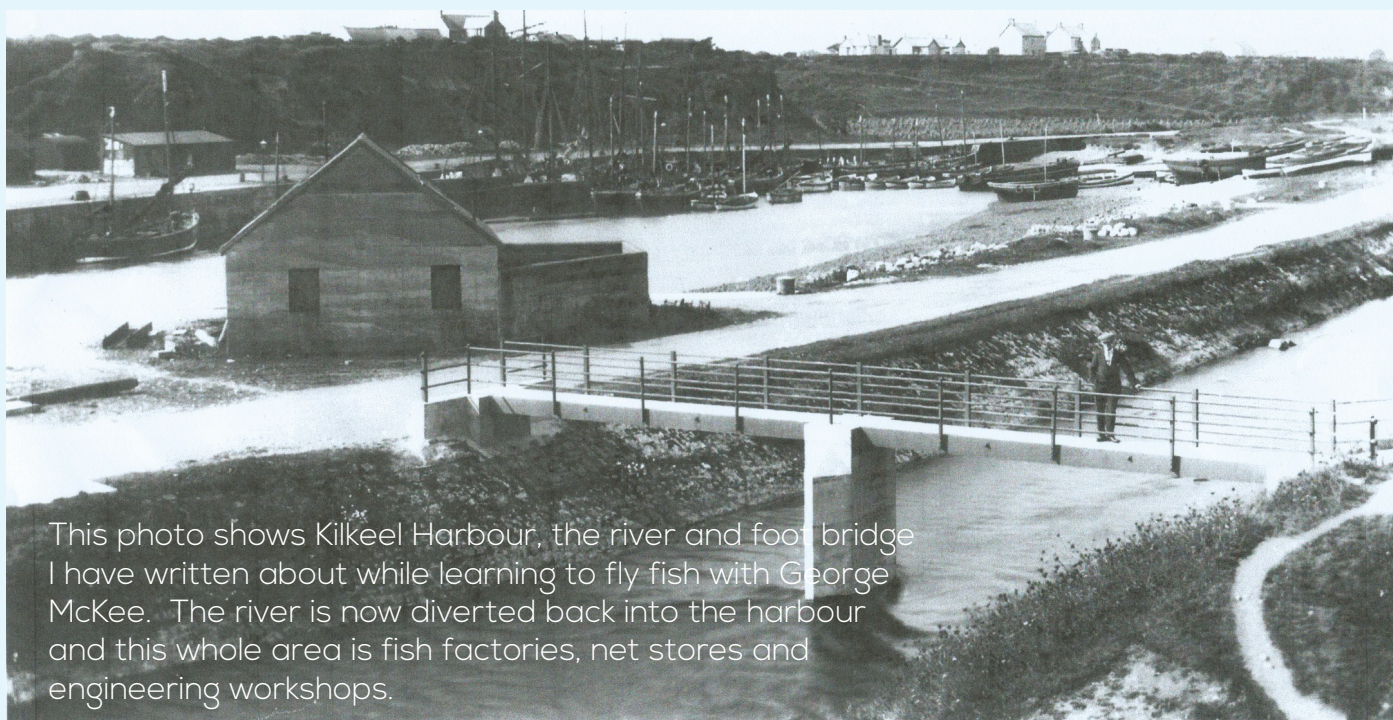
Leaving school at fifteen it was a forgone



George McKee at "The Pool"
(Credit Leslie Campbell)



FROM FATHOM TO FISHING. BY MICHAEL O'HARE



This photo shows Kilkeel Harbour, the river and foot bridge I have written about while learning to fly fish with George McKee. The river is now diverted back into the harbour and this whole area is fish factories, net stores and engineering workshops.

conclusion as to what I wanted to do and where I wanted to go, before my sixteenth birthday **I was a member of a crew of six men, and my first Skipper was a man called Gerry Doyle** whom my father had got to know while delivering oil. Having asked if he would take me on as a trainee, while both thinking the notion would soon wear off

when the full realisation that being at sea on a working fishing boat was most definitely not the same as put- putting around the harbour. My mother too was obviously concerned about her fifteen year old son but was only partially assured when my father explained that after a week or so the notion would have worn off, having got it out

of my system. After a number of weeks prawn and white fishing they realised this was not happening, but they could see this was a good skipper and crew who looked out for me.

Before turning sixteen I found myself having my first winter herring fishing at Dunmore East in Co. Waterford



Skipper Gerry Doyle
(Credit Leslie Campbell)



FROM FATHOM TO FISHING. BY MICHAEL O'HARE



Skipper Frank McAlinden



1963/1964 and then moving on to the herring fishing in the North Minch on the west coast of Scotland.

1966 seen me change skipper when I joined Frank McAlinden on a boat called the Castle Bay and staying with the McAlinden family when in

1968 a whole new and exciting type of fishing was introduced when they took delivery of the first of the three steel purse seiners bearing the name QUO-VADIS, but that's a whole other story on its own.

And here I am fifty seven years later and although retired and unable to go to sea now, but I do still keep in touch with those old hands still living, sadly many have gone now but St. Peter won't be having any difficulty finding a crew, and my memories will always keep them alive. I still keep up to date with the latest developments in new vessel construction design and the advancement in



Castle Bay
(Credit Leslie Campbell)

propulsion and electronic technology.

To finish off now I can only describe the fishing as a tough dangerous life taking and life changing occupation interspersed with long periods separated from family and friends, and not always financially rewarding but I loved every aspect of it and every daily challenge. Some speak of the Nomad's of the desert, well we were the Nomad's of the sea, from the North Atlantic and the Norwegian Sea to the Fastnet light and the Scilly Isles, in our quest to seek and harvest the bounty of the sea. **The friends I have made the lessons I have learned, the trust, dependence, and reliance on each other are the ingredients in the bond that is the foundation stone of a trawler crew.**

These are lessons and qualities that is sadly lacking in so many of our shore based work spaces today. As I finish I can only say my small claim to fame, if it can be termed in that context is simply being **the only Fathom seaman that broke the mould of tradition and went to sea on trawlers.**

Quo Vadis 1





MAKING A MARINER PHILIP FITZSIMONS.



The Fleet at Dusk.

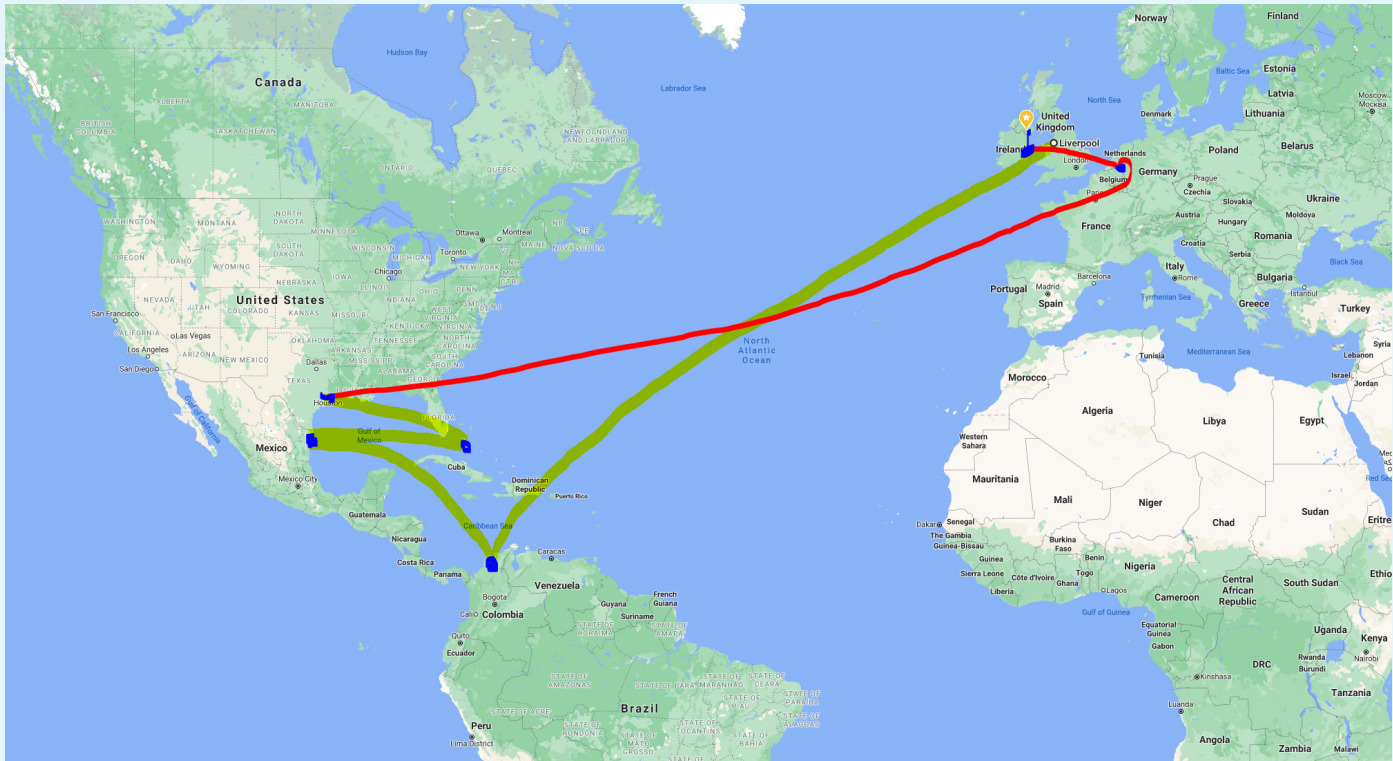
The idyllic hamlet of Greencastle nestles on the East coast of Carlingford Lough at the foot of the majestic Mourne Mountains and watched over by the Cooley Mountains from the West.

Greencastle is home to the Cunningham family who are synonymous with marine activity on the Lough. Compulsory pilotage is provided by Carlingford Lough Pilots Ltd, a company operated by Captain Leo Cunningham and his sons, Michael and Paul.

Leo has 2 brothers, now retired, and Sean and Thomas have over a century of experience on the Lough between them. Philip Fitzsimons is a young neighbour of the Cunninghams and in recent years was a regular with Captain Sean Cunningham on board "William John" assisting Sean hauling lobster pots.



Sean was somewhat surprised by the interest and enthusiasm shown by Philip especially as he had no background or connection with the sea. "Philip just took to the boat like a duck to water" Sean observed. As a result of a mix of enthusiasm from Philip and encouragement from Sean and



Philips itinerary Yellow: Boat Red: Plane Blue: Car

the Cunningham family Philip decided that he would like a career at sea and having completed his studies at SRC Newry he applied to South Shields Marine School for a place as an apprentice deck officer cadet.

That Philip was successful with his application says a lot as these courses are oversubscribed with 10 applicants for every available place.

In September 2019 Philip enrolled for a 3-year course in South Shields. He is studying for a HNC in Nautical Science and an Officer of the Watch(OOW) Unlimited certificate.

After 6 months of study, it was now sea time and Philip travelled to Liverpool and on 16th



Philip Fitzsimons.



March 2020 joined the 64,000-ton tanker "Magnus". The tanker sailed the next day and just over a month later arrived in Covenas, Columbia , South America. For the next 2 months, the tanker loaded and discharged crude oil in destinations that most only dream about. Philip visited Mexico, Texas and that tourist mecca, The Bahamas. Coupled with a couple of periods at anchor and tank cleaning, time passed very quickly and on July 11th our intrepid Cadet flew out from Houston Texas for Dublin via Amsterdam. Following his quarantine period, Philip reported to Captain Sean for debriefing before returning to duty aboard "William John" in his dual role as a fisherman and a valued member of the Lighthouse Illumination Team.

When asked about his ambitions Philip is quite stoical. " I just want to keep learning and pass my exams and hopefully, when I start work, climb the ladder and become a Master Mariner. That's the aim"

A quiet, unassuming and well-mannered young man, Philip is most appreciative of the help and support that he is receiving from his family and he wants them to be proud of him. He is deeply appreciative of the encouragement and support which he is receiving from the Cunningham family.



"Sean and Denise have been very good friends and Seanie is a really good teacher and I am very fortunate to have someone like him as a mentor. But they have all been

very supportive, Leo, Michael, Paul, Thomas and the men who work with them, they have all been fantastic and it makes me more determined to do well, not just for me, but for them as well"

Hopefully, come Summer 2022 Officer Philip Fitzsimons will be affixing the epaulettes to his shirt and begin climbing the ladder of promotion.

"GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES, PHILIP".

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS. ERNIE REVELS.



Fishers Coal Yard

Here we have a most interesting cameo from our industrial past and the firm of Joseph Fisher & Sons. Ernie Revels was a well-known employee of Fishers where he was a foreman in the workshops. The tasks were many and varied given the scope of the Fisher operation. Mechanics could be deployed to work on machinery in the yard, on the fleet of lorries, dockside cranes and even on the company ships when berthed in the Basin.

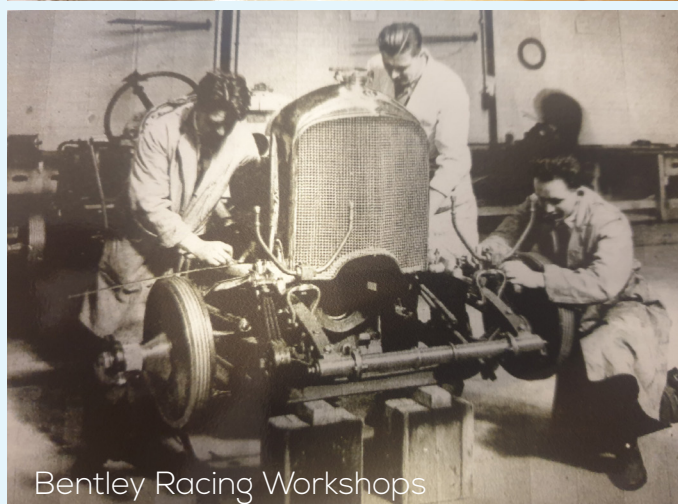
Ernie worked with Fishers for over 40 years and long term employment was a feature among the workforce. The Commodore of the Fisher fleet of ships, the legendary Captain Harry Hollywood had 63 years service when he retired in 1953.

Prior to taking up employment with Fishers, Ernie served his time with the Bentley Racing team which was based in Welwyn Garden City where the firm had extensive workshops.

When Ernie returned home, he took up employment at the Albert Basin with Fishers,



Ernie Revels on Mobile Car



Bentley Racing Workshops



Picture Credit
Brian Revels



becoming a foreman later. At that time there was a very reputable foundry at Millvale outside Bessbrook, Baileys. Ernie did some work for them in his spare time and the boss, Teddy Bailey, gave him an old Mobile car which needed some TLC and a set of tyres!!!

Ernie brought the old car into Fisher's workshops to do some restoration work and it soon caught the eye of a young John Fisher who was just beginning his career in the firm under the watchful eye of his father, Jim. Eventually, with the work to the car

completed, attention turned to the tyres. At the time, Ernie was earning £8 in the coal yard and the tyres were a colossal £70 but help was at hand. John Fisher purchased the tyres for the old girl and suggested to Ernie that he should donate it to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum which he did, and the Mobile is on display there today.

The Revels family had a further link with the Port through Ernie's son, Brian, who was a commercial diver working in Belfast Harbour. Newry Port and Harbour Trust employed Brian for numerous tasks along the waterway, most notably replacing rubber seals on the bases of the gates at Victoria Lock, Fathom.

Now enjoying well-earned retirement in Newtownabbey, we are very pleased to have Brian as a member of NMA and thank him for a most interesting anecdote.



NMA CONGRATULATES KC.HIRE



KC Hire was established by Kevin Clarke in 1991 in a small yard in Custom House Avenue in Newry and as the business grew, they relocated to larger premises in Greenbank and finally to their current location, Flagstaff Road.

Kevin's family have now joined him in the firm which caters for a varied range of customers from DIY enthusiasts to building contractors and from farms to factories

The firm's mantra is "If you need it, we hire it" and they have a range of over 800 products ready for hire.

Back up service and maintenance is carried out in house by skilled fitters in the firm's workshops.

Never standing still, KC has expanded again this time with the acquisition of John Shortt Hire in Dundalk which has since received the KC Hire branding guaranteeing the first-class service which is a hallmark of the firm. Deliveries can be made across Ireland on one of the firm's vehicles and an additional service is heavy



plant haulage and the repair and maintenance of all plant and equipment.

Congratulations and best wishes going forward to Kevin and the team at KC HIRE.



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NMA CONGRATULATES MULKERNS EUROSPAR.

This family-run business established by the late Paul Mulkerens (RIP) in 1976 has evolved into a thriving business serving the community 7 days a week.

Their large site, with ample car parking facilities caters for everyone's needs, housing, Butchery, Deli, Bakery, Fresh Produce, Post Office and Off Sales.

Mulkerens Eurospar wins constant recognition for

quality and service and this year was no exception.

In August they won 3 awards at the "Independents Day Retail Awards" in the following categories, GOLD Convenience Store of the Year, GOLD Independent Retail Team of the Year.

BRONZ Community Covid 19 Champions.



Congratulations to all the team at Mulkerens Eurospar. Truly well-earned and fully deserved.



NMA CONGRATULATES COUNTRY CARPETS.



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

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

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

Over the last decade, this innovative and successful business has been a major sponsor of our projects, most notably at the Cloughogue Roundabout. They have sponsored our "GATEWAY TO NEWRY" project and also entered into a maintenance agreement with DFI to cut the grass and present the area as a welcome introduction to our city.

Congratulations and a big thank you to Colin and the team at Country Carpets for their continued support of NMA and our Maritime heritage project.



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NMA CONGRATULATES RE-GEN AND WARRENPOINT PORT

Newry-headquartered Re-Gen WTE Ltd, has agreed another long-term licence with Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (WPHA), to export 'Refuse Derived Fuel' products from Warrenpoint Port.

Kieran Grant, Finance Director of Warrenpoint Harbour with Joseph Doherty, Managing Director of Re-Gen and David Holmes, CEO of Warrenpoint Harbour agree a long term licence to ship product from the Port. The company processes around 200,000 tonnes of waste at its facility every year and Warrenpoint Port is an important transit point for processed, non-recyclable 'Black Bin' waste, destined for Europe.

Commenting on the licence renewal, Joseph Doherty, Managing Director of Re-Gen Waste said; "The Port has been a valuable partner and an essential part of our supply chain solution. By providing a professional facility, Re-Gen can service our customer base amongst councils in Northern Ireland and overseas power plants, such as in Vasteras, Sweden.

David Holmes, CEO of WPHA added: "Warrenpoint Harbour is delighted to be part of this refreshingly green initiative, which so sustainably and responsibly tackles waste issues. Re-Gen is a market leader in this area of green expertise and the Port is committed to continuing to play its part in enabling their success story."

Both Firms are Original Corporate Members of NMA and we wish them continued success going forward



50 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE LORD AND THE FAITHFUL. REV. FR. PAT TUMILTY. OP.



On Sunday 5th July this year Fr Pat Tumilty celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood for the Dominican Order in Dublin back in 1970.

Once again, the pandemic caused disruption and in this case the planned official celebration of this milestone for Fr. Pat had to be cancelled. I was firmly of the opinion that "Fr T" deserved recognition and with the generosity of

various cafes in Newry having his much loved smoke and a coffee and he can also be found at the railings outside St. Catherines conducting his "urban ministry"

As a result of these assignments with the populace Fr. Pat is a cleric very well equipped for the complexities of the 21st century and truly,
"A Peoples Pastor"

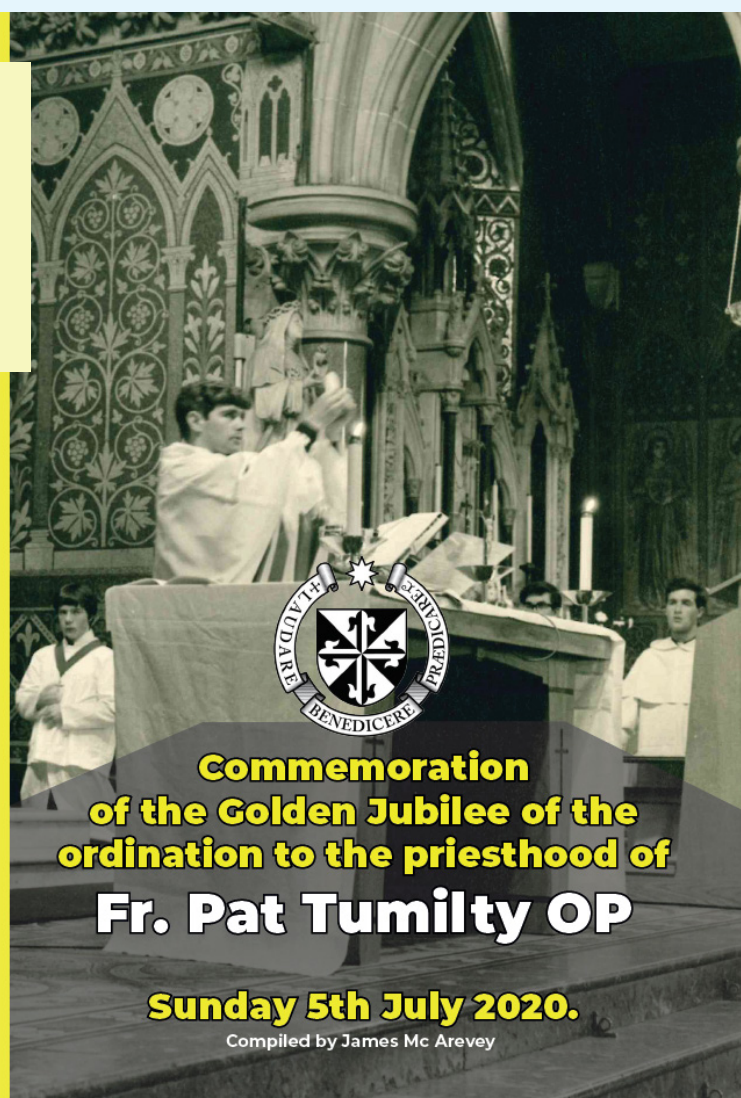


I was able to publish a commemorative booklet for distribution across the community.

Presentations were also made to Fr. Tumilty by the community associations representing Ballybot and also from his native Drumalane.

The low key event was well received by Fr Pat, a humble and unassuming man, who is always approachable and preaches a message of forgiveness, compassion and understanding from a God of love.

Fr. Pat is a familiar sight sitting outside





SALUTING OUR FRONTLINE WORKERS



NMA were pleased to be involved in the fantastic tribute to our essential workers as a banner in their honour was unveiled in Newry at Fisher Park.

Special thanks to Michael McCaul for sponsoring the banner and the Corn Dolly bakery for the special cakes.

Councillor Gavin Malone made the presentations to the 10 representatives from the various sectors including local Dominican Jubilarian, Father Pat Tumilty OP.







WALL MURALS UNVEILED ON DUBLIN ROAD



Our last event of 2019 was held at the property of Patrick Hollywood on Dublin Road, Newry. Patrick, very generously, permitted us to erect a bespoke plaque to commemorate the Mc Connell family who had owned the property from 1868 until they sold it to his Grandfather, also Patrick, in the mid-1920s. Mr Hollywood also replastered a section of his boundary wall to facilitate us and as a result of further discussions, it was decided that we would place 3 large murals on his site at a later stage.

Covid 19 and the resultant lockdown and associated restrictions severely disrupted our schedule of events for 2020 but eventually in August Michael McCaul Signs sited the 3 large panels on the wall. Situated in a prime location adjacent to the arterial Dublin Road, these murals showcasing our maritime heritage, have been received with great acclaim and are stimulating a lot of interest.

We wish to record our sincere thanks to Mr Patrick Hollywood for his generous accommodation regarding this aspect of our heritage project.

MV WALNUT, FISHER FLEET NEWRY AND PADDY DUFFY.



"MV Walnut", Fisher Fleet Newry and Paddy Duffy.

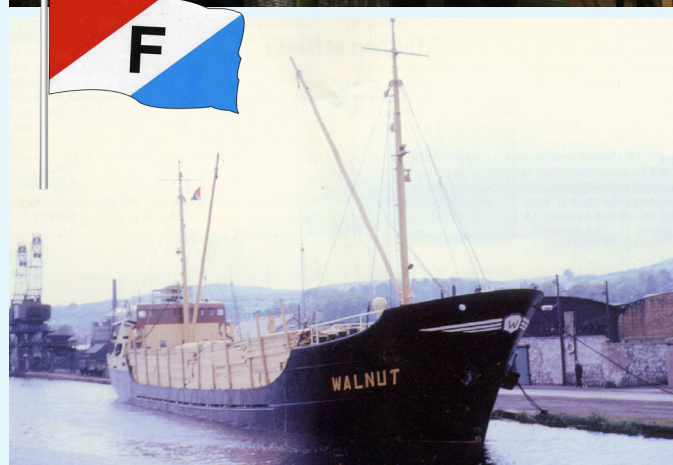
Pictured is the Newry registered vessel, "MV Walnut" moored at the timber berth at the Albert Basin circa 1967. The ship is laden with timber from Finland for JS Fisher Ltd, Buttercrane Quay.

Not many people would be aware that popular, retired council official Paddy Duffy was a merchant seaman in his formative years and was a member of the crew from 1966 to 1968. Paddy recalls the FA Cup Final played on Saturday 20th May 1967. He listened to the commentary in port in Finland when Spurs defeated Chelsea 2 -1 in what became known as the "Cockney Cup Final". Chapel Street man, Pat Jennings was in goal for Tottenham at Wembley that day.

The crew of the "Walnut" then was,

Captain	William Cahoon.
Mate	Mick Bell.
Chief Eng	Hugh Hollywood.
1st Eng	Frank Wylie.
2nd Eng	John Craven.
Greaser	Tom Casey.
Bosun	Kevin Holland.
AB	Kevin Meehan.
AB	James Donnan.
OS	Paddy Duffy.
Cook	Michael Ward.

Recently, James Mc Arevey presented Paddy Duffy with a framed photograph of the "Walnut" on behalf of NMA.





REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY NEWRY



Murtagh Duffy and Brendan Walsh



Circumstances forced the authorities to greatly curtail the prestigious ceremony in London. The normal compliment of 10,000 participants was reduced to mere dozens comprising of representatives of the Royal Family, Government, Armed Forces, Diplomatic Corps and other nominated bodies.

Resulting from these restrictions NMA was unable to lay the "Fisher Flag"

wreath, a role which had been carried out by Helena Carr and Adam Fisher respectively. The unique tribute, which was always clearly visible amongst the hundreds of poppy wreaths, is sponsored by Mrs Susan Fisher and family. Although greatly restricted, the event in Newry was nonetheless, poignant and dignified.

NMA was permitted by the Royal British Legion to lay 2 wreaths.

Our esteemed members and retired seafarers, Murtagh Duffy and Brendan Walsh, laid "Fisher Flag" and Merchant Navy wreaths at the Cenotaph. We are indebted to our member, Helena Carr, for her sponsorship of the Merchant Navy tribute for all our Newry and Mourne mariners.

We also sincerely thank Mrs Susan Fisher and family for the "Fisher Flag" wreath which was laid in remembrance of all those who served with the fleet.

80TH ANNIVERSARY AND COMMEMORATION OF THE LOSS OF "SS PRIVET", NEWRY.



We held a weekend of simple, yet very poignant events across the weekend of Saturday 5th, the anniversary, and Sunday 6th December to remember the 80th anniversary of the loss of the Newry registered collier, "SS Privet". The ship disappeared on Friday 5th December whilst on passage from Birkenhead to Belfast with a cargo of coal.

No sign of the 9 men or their ship has ever been found. Saturday 5th December @ 1 pm.



Councillor Harold McKee laying the Fisher Wreath at Victoria Lock

A number of relatives of the 4 victims from Newry assembled at Victoria Lock Upper Fathom, Newry. We were joined by Rev. Annie Deche who is the incumbent at Newry Methodist Church with whom we have an excellent relationship.

Rev. Annie delivered suitable oration followed by "The Lord's Prayer"

A "Fisher Flag" wreath, sponsored by Mrs Susan Fisher and the Fisher Family, was laid at the memorial by the Deputy Chairperson of Newry, Mourne, and Down District Council, Councillor Harold Mc Kee. Harold delivered a short oration and held a minute's silence for the victims. Our thanks are also due to Eamon Walker for having the memorial in pristine condition for this important event.



Rev Annie Deche



We then travelled the short distance to the Flagstaff Road and the former home of Seaman Lorcan Murphy, a victim of the tragedy. Peter Crilly, a nephew of Lorcan and

Peter Crilly unveiling the commemorative plaque



The Carr Family laying the tribute to Jimmy Carr (SNR)

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Picture Credit Eamon Walker, NMA and
Liz Boyle, Newry Reporter



event sponsor, unveiled a magnificent plaque and we were then joined by colleagues from a partner group, Carlingford Lough Currach Club. Madonna Jones and Dermot Russell delivered haunting renditions of "The Lonesome Boatman" and "Raglan Road" to a most appreciative and socially distanced gathering.

A big thank you to Madonna and Dermot for joining us and for their meaningful and insightful contribution.

Next day, Sunday 6th, we assembled at the Carr Family grave in St. Marys Newry to remember a young fireman, Jimmy Carr (Snr) aged 23. another victim.



Dermot Russel and Madonna Jones



Picture Credit Eamon Walker, NMA and
Liz Boyle, Newry Reporter



Mrs Bridie Kane lays the Fisher Wreath

The Carr Family commissioned a beautiful engraved black marble plinth dedicated to Jimmy (snr) engraved with his details in gold lettering. Following an oration from James Mc Arevey, Mrs Bridie Kane, a niece, laid the "Fisher Flag" wreath on the family grave which they also sponsored.

The Carr family wish to thank Mickey Keenan and all the staff at Modern Fireplace Company for all their help and support with this family project.

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

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

CRILLY'S SWEETS
Est. 1974

MARITIME TRIBUTE
80th Anniversary
REMEMBRANCE OF
THE LOSS OF "SS PRIVET", NEWRY AND HER CREW

THIS TRIBUTE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORIES OF SEAMAN LORCAN MURPHY (21) AND HIS 8 SHIPMATES.

CAPTAIN	SAM PERRY (40)
DATE	DAVID BROWN (20)
2ND END	WILLIAM HEDDITH (23)
3RD END	JOE BARNETT (20)
AB	HENRY CLARKE (37)
STEAMER	JIMMY CLARK (28)
LANDTRENCHER	PAT MC VEDIN (41)
DOCKBOY	DAVID MCGARR (28)

WHO ALL PERISHED ON THE NIGHT OF 27th DECEMBER 1940.

THE 9 MEN WERE CREW MEMBERS OF THE NEWRY REGISTERED COLLIER, "SS PRIVET" WHICH DISAPPEARED WITHOUT TRACE IN THE IRISH SEA WHILE ON PASSAGE FROM BUNRADDY TO BELFAST WITH A CARGO OF COAL.

"SS PRIVET" WAS A VESSEL BELONGING TO THE FAMED FISHER FLEET FROM NEWRY.

"THEY HAVE NO GRAVE BUT THE SEA"

UNVEILED BY
PETER CRILLY
Saturday 5th December 2020.
Commissioned by James Mc Arevey

**80th Anniversary
and Commemoration of
the loss of
"SS Privet", Newry.**

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

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED US THROUGH 2020.



BRAHAM ELECTRICAL.
MODERN FIREPLACE COMPANY.
DAN O HARE COMMERCIALS.
KC HIRE.
CRILLY SWEETS.
NOMADIC CARAVANS.
CLARKE WHOLESALE.
THE MEDICAL HALL.
MALLONS HARDWARE.
FLAGSTAFF LODGE.
FELIX O HARE & Co.
KINNEY RECYCLING.
B WILSON STEEL.
BMC FREIGHT.
COUNTRY CARPETS.
CITYWEST TRANSPORT.
THE BANK BAR.
COURTNEYS RESTAURANTS.
MULKERNS EUROSPAR.
JOHN TINNELLY & SONS.
SAICA-PACK.
WARRENPOINT PORT.
DINEEN OFFICE SUPPLIES.
AJ PLUMBING SUPPLIES.
NEWRY, MOURNE& DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MICHAEL MC CAUL SIGNS.
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ROONEY INTERNATIONAL COACH HIRE.
TIERNANS SOLICITORS.
BOYDS STORES.
NW KEHOE & SONS.
PHELAN & PRESCOTT.
PKF-FPM.
MC SHANE SOLICITORS.
CHARLES DIGNEY & SONS.
LEODE QUARRIES.
PAT O HARE BOOKMAKERS.
NAN RICES.
DESTINATION NEWRY.
SEATRUCK FERRIES.
DUBLIN ROAD COSTCUTTER.
JY HYGIENE.
HALDANE-FISHER.
HMT SHIPPING.
SUPERVALU DUBLIN ROAD.
ALL 3 STUDIO