BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 344 - 12th June 2008
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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 344 held in the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, Ballymoney on Thursday 12th June 2008 at 2.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR:	F Campbell
PRESENT:	**Alderman**
	H Connolly
	Councillors
	A Patterson
	M McCamphill
	E Robinson
APOLOGIES	**Alderman**
	C Cousley
	J Simpson
	Councillors
	A Cavlan
	J Finlay
	I Stevenson
IN ATTENDANCE	Director of Central & Leisure Services
	Head of Leisure Services
	Cultural Services Officer
	Museum Manager
	Committee Clerk

344.1   BALLYMONEY MUSEUM – PRESENTATION OF STORY OF BALLYMONEY

The Director advised that following the May meeting of the Committee this special meeting was called to discuss the draft storyline for the museum.

A paper detailing the proposed storyline together with the objects to be included was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

The Museum Manager gave an overview of the background and context of the storyline before outlining the main areas, which would be reflected in the story of Ballymoney including the images and artifacts, which would be incorporated into the exhibition.

During the presentation there were a number of questions from members, which were addressed including, the use of replicas in the museum, the artifacts from Dooeys Cairn, the loan of materials from other museums and the inclusion of current Council items in the museum following the implementation of the Review

of Public Administration, namely the Mayor Chain, Mayoress' Chain and the Councillor's Robes

The Museum Manager advised the Committee that there were three items, which he suggested would be included within the exhibition, namely the McArthur Plaque and Gordon's Clock which were currently situated in the Town Hall and the Ballymoney Borough Council Mace

Following discussion it was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED: -**

> ***to recommend that council***
>
> > 1. ***adopt the draft storyline as detailed in Appendix 1.***
> >
> > 2. ***approve the inclusion of the Ballymoney Borough Council Mace, McArthur Plaque and Gordon's Clock in the museum exhibition.***
> >
> > 3. ***approve the inclusion of existing Council items as detailed in the museum following the implementation of the Review of Public Administration.***

344.2 BALLYMONEY MUSEUM – MOTORCYCLE STORY

The Director advised the Committee that the Design Consultants would not be in a position to present the final design of the museum at the special meeting scheduled for 25th June 2008. However she recommended that the committee still meet on this date to discuss the draft storyline for the Motorcycle Exhibition and that another meeting is scheduled for late July to receive a presentation of the proposed final detailed design for the museum.

The committee **AGREED:**

> 1. ***to meet on 25th June 2008 to discuss the draft storyline for the Motorcycle Exhibition***
>
> 2. ***to recommend that a special meeting be scheduled for late July to receive a presentation of the proposed final detailed design for the museum.***

344.3 NORTH ANTRIM HORTICULTURAL ASSOCATION 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Councillor Robinson informed the committee that this year the North Antrim Horticultural Association are celebrating their 80th Anniversary and that an exhibition reflecting their works and shows throughout this period will be held in the museum from 4th –30th August 2008.

344.4 BALLYMONEY MUSEUM – SECURITY WORKS

In response to a query from Alderman Campbell the Director provided an update on the security works, which are taking place at the museum and agreed to provide more details on the completion of the works to the committee on 25th June 2008.

In closing the Chairman thanked the officers and in particular the Museum Manager, Museum Assistant and Cultural Services Officer for all their hardwork regarding the development of the storyline for the museum.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 4:05pm

Appendix 1 Draft Storyline

ANTIQUARIANS & COLLECTIONS

NARRATIVE

Understanding the past

Antiquarian - student or collector of ancient relics.

The antiquarians of the nineteenth century were early archaeologists. They collected the puzzling artefacts that farmers gathered as they drained peatland or ploughed the fields. They searched along the shores and river banks for flint blades and axeheads.

The modern approach to collecting and understanding archaeological finds is relatively recent. The concept of Stone Age, Bronze Age followed by Iron Age was only realised in the nineteenth century.

As archaeology became a science, it dispelled many myths. For example, polished stone axes come in all shapes, colours and sizes and were called 'thunder bolts' as it was believed they were formed when lightning hit the ground. It was also thought that megalithic tombs were sacrificial altars and that Norman forts and souterrains [man made underground chambers] were the home of the mythical 'little people' or fairies.

Ballymoney Museum

The museum collection originated from James Bell, a land steward on the Leslie Hill estate. Following Bell's death, his collection was bought by James Cramsie, a solicitor, who presented it to the Ballymoney Town Commissioners in 1860. This was the beginning of Ballymoney Museum.

The early museum was an eclectic mix of artefacts. Other antiquarians added to the collection and members of the public, proud of their rich heritage, donated their own chance finds and heirlooms.

In 2005, Ballymoney Borough Council re-opened the renovated Town Hall and for the first time ever the museum had its own, purpose built home.

The first Ordnance Survey

During the 1830s, the first maps of Ireland were prepared by the Ordnance Survey. As part of this process, a set of 'Memoirs' was collected for each parish, which included valuable historical and archaeological information. Many of the artefacts recorded in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs have since been lost.

IMAGES

001 "Curved Thunderbolt"
By permission of the Royal Irish Academy Copyright RIA.

002 An early illustration of a nocturnal in use.

003 The Ballymoney Collection of Celtic Antiquities
David Wilson, of Ballymoney, had a vast and diverse collection. He is known to have provided some of his collection on loan to the Ballymoney Museum when it opened. He also donated artefacts, for example, the nocturnal.

In 1877, Wilson moved to London. He offered his collection to the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin, who declined to buy it. It was subsequently auctioned in Edinburgh.

004 Ordnance Survey Memoirs
"In the year 1824 Clarke McDermott, a farmer in the townland of Culramoney, discovered in a dried up lake near the edge of an artificial island in the same townland... two curious brass instruments...."

005 Ordnance Survey Memoirs
"...The above is an exact outline, in full size, of a brass instrument two of which are in the possession of James Laman in the townland of Glenlough, found by him 1827."

006 & 007 Ballymoney Museum, on display in the Town Hall, c.1970.
For decades, the collection was displayed in cabinets in the Town Hall. In the early 1970s, it was place in storage.

008 Ballymoney Museum & Heritage Centre
Ballymoney Museum & Heritage Centre, 33 Charlotte Street, was open from 1992-2003. This building was sold to fund the re-development of the Town Hall.

009 George, Earl Macartney of Lissanoure (1737-1806)
Trustee of the British Museum
The British Museum has one of the oldest and largest collections in the world. Earl Macartney was associated with many of the intellectual elite in Georgian London and became a Trustee of the museum in 1801. Born at Lissanoure Castle, near Loughgiel, he had an illustrious career as a politician and foreign diplomat.

To be sourced:
Giant Irish Deer illustration

LABELS

Many objects will have a simple name label. Others will have interpretative text, as below.

Giant Irish deer antler
[Work in progress]

Fossils
Fossil beds are known to exist on the North Antrim coast and were a popular focus of local collectors.

Polished axe head
It was once believed that polished axe heads were formed when thunderbolts struck the ground.

Bronze rings c.2,500BC - 300BC
These rings would have been used during the Bronze Age and Iron Age for fastening clothes or for decoration.

In the 19th century, a hoard of up to 50 bronze rings was discovered at Seacon. In 1927, when the rings were purchased by the National Museum of Ireland, over half of them were lost.

This collection bears such a strong resemblance to the other rings found at Seacon that it is believed they are the missing portion of the hoard.

Cannon ball
c.1700 Found during building excavations in Seymour Street.

Burgonet helmet
A 17th century burgonet helmet, which has been altered over the centuries with additional plates added by an unskilled armourer.

Roman coin from the reign of Antoninus Pius & mosaic fragment
The Roman's never invaded Ireland. These artefacts are thought to have been purchased by a local antiquarian and donated to the museum. Antoninus Pius was Emperor of Rome AD138-161. He succeeded Hadrain as Emperor in AD 138 and was famous for building the Antonine Wall in AD142 between Forth and Clyde estuaries.

Famine tokens
These tokens were issued by the Ballymoney Board of Guardians c.1845-59 to help destitute families and relieve their hunger during the Famine.

Nocturnal or 'night dial'

Nocturnals are used at night to estimate the time by focusing on the stars. They are accurate to within 10-15 minutes and were a common instrument on ships during the 17th & 18th century. The inscription "A.R.Kyle 1781" was probably made by the owner. This artefacts was donated to Ballymoney Museum by David Wilson in 1873.

Gunter quadrant
Edmund Gunter published the design for his quadrant in 1623. By measuring the solar cycle, the quadrant could be used to estimate the time to within 30 minutes.

Apple corer c.1800-1820
During the Napoleonic period, French prisoners often carved ornaments and everyday utensils from discarded animal bone. These items could then be discretely exchanged with visitors for tobacco or food.

Horse cheek piece
A piece of Medieval horse bridle. This artefact was discovered on the site of a crannog (artificial island) when a lake was drained at Culramoney in 1824. According to the Ordnance Survey Memoirs, It was found with a hoard of other artefacts from the same period, all of which have now been lost. Note the horse design used in the cheek piece.

LIFE IN EARLY TIMES

NARRATIVE

Stone Age
Early people

Archaeologists have discovered evidence that shows prehistoric people lived in Ballymoney 7,000 years ago. Excavations in Castle Street, revealed pottery, stone tools and traces of Neolithic dwellings.

Stone tools

The earliest settlers arrived in Ballymoney during the Mesolithic Period [8,000 - 4,500BC]. Numerous Stone Age sites have been discovered along the River Bann, suggesting these people travelled inland by boat searching for places to build their settlements.

During the Neolithic Period [4,500 - 2,500BC], the people in this region made polished stone axe heads from a rock called porcellanite. Porcellanite is only found in County Antrim.

Finding food

The Mesolithic people found food by hunting animals and gathering fruit, nuts and edible plants. Neolithic people were the first farmers. They cleared the forests with their stone axes and began keeping livestock and planting crops.

Tombs

The first signs of ritual and religion appeared in the Neolithic Period.   Tombs, or megaliths, were built with huge stones and were used for the burial of important local individuals.

Bronze & Iron Ages
Metals

By the Bronze Age (2,000BC - 500BC), the population was growing and fertile land became more valuable. Chieftains had to defend their territory against invasion or pillaging.

Gold, copper and bronze became precious commodities and were used by skilled craftsmen to make tools, jewellery and weapons.

During the Iron Age (500BC - 400AD) the skill of the craftsmen improved and beautiful, ornate metal work was created in Ireland.

Ancient ritual or lost?

Early people worshipped nature and the world around them. Some peatlands may have been sacred sites where ceremonial offerings, including human sacrifices, were cast into deep pools of water.

It is also possible that artefacts were simply buried and forgotten or dropped by accident and lost.

A series of buckets and cauldrons have been discovered around Ballymoney. These are believed to have been used during clan feasts. The beautiful Dunaverney Flesh Hook may have been used by Chieftains during these feasts and added to the ceremonial ritual of the occasion.

Hoards
A hoard is a collection of artefacts that were buried together at the same time. In the peatland that once surrounding Ballymoney, four Bronze Age hoards have been discovered, including two sets of horns at Drumabest and Drunkendult.

This suggests a very active population in this area 4,000 years ago and possibly also a religious association with the peatland.

Drumabest & Drunkendult Horns
These two sets of Bronze Age horns were found in peatland surrounding Ballymoney. Whoever left the horns in the peat may have intended to come back and retrieve them. Or they may have been brought to the peat and buried as part of a ritual ceremony.

<u>**Early Christian Period**</u>
Earthen walls and forts
Following the arrival of the Celts, dwellings changed from sticks and turf, to stone and thatch.

The success of the harvest remained vital to the well being of the people. Cattle also became a measure of a person's wealth. The communities that lived in the fertile pastures of the River Bann valley would have thrived but they also faced the threat of attack.

To protect their homes and possessions, they built raths [or ring forts]. A rath consisted of an earthen wall, or rampart, that surrounded a dwelling or barn. On the top of the rampart was a tall palisade fence. A rath provided sanctuary for livestock at night or in poor weather and safety for a family when under attack.

Raths were common between 600-800AD, although some were built as late as the 11th century.

The Kingdom of Dalriada

The early Celtic Kingdom of Dalriada flourished 300-800AD. It covered the western coast of Scotland and north eastern Ireland. The name was derived from "Dal" (descendents of) and "Riata" the name of the ruling dynasty.

Medieval Period
Paradise
In 941AD, the Irish Prince, Murtough MacNeill stopped at Enagh Cross, Agivey, and it is recorded that:
> *We were a night at Oenach Cross - Not more beautiful to be in paradise.*
This may have been the early settlement that eventually moved further inland and became the town of Ballymoney.

The Normans invaded Ireland in the late 12th century and began to build motte & bailey castles. The best preserved in this region is at Knockahollet. Despite attempts by the Normans to control the local Gaelic chieftains and their clans, the north of Ireland remained volatile and difficult to govern.
Ballymoney
The name Ballymoney is thought to be derived from Baile Muine (town of the shrubbery) or Baile Mona (town in the bog). The first written evidence of the name dates back to the 14th century.

The Route
"The Route" was an ancient name given to this north eastern region of Ulster. The name may been associated with an ancient road named *Slige Midlauchhra*. The road ran from the seat of the Irish Kings, at Tara, to Dunseverick Castle on the coast. Another theory is that 'Route' is a corruption of 'Riata'.

IMAGES

01 Illustration of a Stone Age settlement.

02-04 Neolithic tombs
> The Broad Stone, Finvoy.
> Craigs Dolmen, Finvoy.
> Dooey's Cairn, Dunloy.

05 & 06 Objects of beauty
> Some artefacts are so valuable it is thought they were used by people of a high status - Chieftains or Kings. 3,000 - 4,000 years ago, skilled craftsmen were capable of creating objects of breathtaking beauty.

> **Dunaverney Flesh Hook**
> The Dunaverney Flesh Hook is thought to have been used during feasts to draw meat from a large cooking pot or cauldron.

> **Ballybogey Mirror Handle**

The Ballybogey mirror handle has a stylised bird neck decoration and is early evidence of prehistoric vanity.

07 Reconstruction illustration of a prehistoric oxen yoke in use.

08 The Derrykeighan Stone when it was found built into the wall of the church.

09-11 Aerial photographs
Moneycanon rath
Benvarden rath
Knockahollet motte.

12 & 13 Illustration of a rath and motte in historical context.

14 Illustration of an ard plough in use.

15 Map of the Kingdom of Dalriada.

LABELS

Flints tool
Arrow heads
Bann flakes
Microliths
Javelin heads
Scrapers
Axe heads
[Work in progress]

Stone axe head 'rough out'
An unfinished polished axe head. The next stage would have been the grinding of the surface until it was smooth or polished.

Polished axe heads
Made from various types of stone, including porcellanite.

Wooden ox yoke
This ox yoke was carved from willow for a farmer in the Late Bronze Age and is 2,400-2,770 years old. It is one of the oldest and best preserved examples of its kind ever found in Ireland.

Quern Stone
Originating from the Neolithic period, quern stones were used to grind grain to make flour. Querns were used in some rural Irish communities up until the late 19th century.

Anvil stone
Used by skilled early craftsmen working with metal.

Ingot mould
When metal was extracted from ore, it was melted and prepared as an ingot.
This could easily transported be used by craftsmen or as a form of currency to
trade in exchange for goods.

Bronze Age weapons & tools
> Flat axes
> Socketed axes
> Palstave
> Dirks
> Spear head
> Sword fragments

Bronze Age collection
Flat axes
Socketed axe
Palstave
Spearhead
Donated by the Staton family, Middlesex.

Iron Age spear butt.
There have been fewer than 70 spearbutts found in Ireland, with the majority
unearthed in County Antrim. Often called 'doorknob' spearbutts, these would
have been fixed to the base of the shaft as decorative attachments and to
provide balance.

Ballymoney cauldron and bucket
These large bronze vessels are believed to have been used during a ceremony
or ritual feast. Although it is unclear where they were discovered, they originally
belonged to the Ballymoney antiquarian David Wilson and were probably found
in this region.

The bucket has an unusual design of embossed half diamond shapes. A similar
design is found on another bucket discovered at Cape Castle and now on display
in the Hunt Museum, Limerick.

Along with the Drumabest horn, these vessels once belonged to the Ballymoney
antiquarian David Wilson. They were three of the first artefacts to be displayed in
Ballymoney Museum when it was established in 1860.
On loan from the Yorkshire Museum.

Drumabest Horn
This is one of four horns found at Drumabest. It originally belonged to the antiquarian David Wilson.

The horns made a low droning noise, much like an Australian aboriginal didgeridoo. They were probably only used on important occasions and could be heard from a great distance.
On loan from the York Museum Trust.

Glass beads
Found at Agivey, River Bann.

Ballymoney brooch
A decorative clothes fastener found in a bog near Ballymoney. The thistle design of this brooch reflects the strong cultural links between this region and Scotland. It would have been owned by an individual of high status with considerable wealth.

The brooch was donated to the collection of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1812.
On loan from the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Medieval bowl
Flat bottom bowl - The scorch marks still visible on the bottom of this bowl indicate that it was probably used to prepare food.

<u>Medieval wood</u>
Ard
Believed to be an early form of plough, known as an 'ard'. Fragments of wood sampled from this artefact have been dated to 1050-1230 AD.

Spades
Carved from ash wood, dated to 1450-1630AD.

A metal sheet was sometimes fixed to the blade of the spade to make it more durable. Dated to 1420-1465AD

Butter kegs
'Bog butter' is actually animal fat that was used for cooking. The fat was collected in wooden kegs which were then buried in peat bogs. The acidic qualities of the peat helped to preserve the fat until it was retrieved.

[Add date & wood type]

Paddles
The rivers of Ireland were the easiest and quickest way to travel great distances. Several ancient wood canoes have been found in this region preserved in peat or river beds.

[Add date & wood type]

Swingle tree
[Work in progress]

Lámhóg
A typical design of Medieval Irish cup, also known as a 'piggin'.

Mortar grinders
Mortar grinders c.1600-1700AD The pestle grinder had a tin grater nailed to its base. It was placed inside the mortar cup and used to grind e.g. peppercorns, cloves, garlic, mace or tobacco.

Oak mortar
Carved from a single block of wood, this mortar is believed to have been used in a kitchen for grinding large amounts of ingredients together.

CONFLICT

NARRATIVE
Throughout the centuries, armed conflicts have influenced the lives of Ballymoney people.

1641 Rebellion
In the early 17th century, in an attempt by the English to pacify the country, the Plantation of Ulster began. Local families were displaced by Scottish and English immigrants who were encouraged to come and live here.

On the west banks of the River Bann, near Ballymoney, London Companies established fortified settlements at important river sites such as Movanagher and Agivey.

East of the River Bann, the Earl of Antrim, a Roman Catholic, brought industrious Scottish Presbyterian settlers to County Antrim and began plans to improve his land. Migration between here and Scotland had been taking place for centuries and some of these "Planters" would have joined relatives who lived here already.

The newcomers were not welcome. In 1641 many of the Irish rose in rebellion. Across Ireland, the Planters, and the Protestant population, were attacked and thousands killed.

Agivey and Movanagher were both destroyed. A year later, when the rebellion was eventually crushed, Ballymoney was in ruins. The town had been burned by the rebel army. Clashes at the Leaney, Bendooragh, the Cross and Portna had left the countryside desolate and unpopulated.

Williamite wars
The 17th century ended with further upheaval when James II arrived in Ireland to begin his campaign to seize the British Crown from King William III. In March 1689, James' army camped near the town of Ballymoney for two weeks. A local farmer's daughter, Dorothea Ross, later gave birth to James' illegitimate son.

Later that year, the army of William III was garrisoned throughout this region, including two Danish regiments. Soldiers were stationed at Armoy, Billy, Derrykeighan, Loughgiel, Dunaghy, Killagan, Ballymoney and Rasharkin. These forces stayed in the area for some time following William's victory over James II at the Battle of the Boyne in July 1690.

1798 Rebellion
The Ballymoney Volunteer Corps

In 1779, much of the British military had been sent abroad to fight in France and America. Ireland had become vulnerable to the threat of a French invasion. In response, an Irish volunteer army was formed.

Each region had its own Volunteer Company recruited from the local merchants, farmers and physicians. Each Company was self funded and performed their duty with great enthusiasm.

The expected invasion never occurred and the Volunteers were disbanded in 1793.

The United Irishmen
The Society of United Irishmen was formed in Belfast in 1791 with the aim of bringing greater democracy to Ireland. They promised the people "liberty, equality and fraternity".

The United Irishmen began as a Presbyterian movement and were immediately opposed by the ruling classes, who were largely Anglican or Church of Ireland. Many Roman Catholics agreed with their ideas and the Society soon had widespread support.

In 1796, the United Irishmen were outlawed when they began planning an armed rebellion to overthrow the Government.

The uprising in Ulster began late on 6 June 1798. Most of the people living in Ballymoney were Presbyterian and joined with the United Irishmen. On the night of the 8 June they went to Ballymena to join with the gathering rebel army. However, within two days, the rebellion in County Antrim had been defeated.

The government retaliated quickly and the houses of known insurgents were burned. The army took control of the country and magistrates were permitted to pass sentence with indemnity. As a result, suspected rebels were punished and faced transportation, whipping or execution.

World War
As World War ravaged Europe during the first half of the twentieth century, the people of Ballymoney united to support their armed forces during the bitter conflicts.

Hundreds of young men were recruited and joined the army, navy and air force. Many were seriously injured or, tragically, did not return.

During World War One (1914-1918) over 300 local men were killed. On a single day, the 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 30 local men were among 20,000 Allied soldiers killed as they attacked the German trenches.

Casualties were fewer during World War Two (1939-1945) but the horror of war still brought sorrow to many local families.

British and American troops were billeted in the Ballymoney district.

Evacuees arrived following the Belfast Blitz in 1941 and were housed in the Town Hall. Refugees from overseas stayed in local accommodation centres, such as Stranocum Hall.

IMAGES

1641 Rebellion
01 The Mercers' Company Settlement at Movanagher

02 The Ironmongers' Company Settlement at Agivey

Williamite Wars
03 Standard of the Antrim Militia, 1690.

1798
04 Notice for the Review of Volunteers, Ballymoney 1784.
In 1783 and 1784, Volunteers Companys from across County Antrim came to Ballymoney and camped at Leslie Hill.

05 The grave of William Reynolds
Died 2 June 1784, Surgeon with the Ballymoney Volunteer Company, buried with 'all due military honours' in Ballymoney Old Church Graveyard.

06 Celebration of the French revolution, *Northern Star*, 6-9 June 1792, No.46
The revolution in France in 1789 was welcomed by the liberal Presbyterians of Ballymoney. In the early 1790s, Bastille Day was celebrated in the town with popular commemorative events.

07 Badge of the Society of United Irishmen

08 Grave of Alexander Gamble
Alexander Gamble was arrested soon after the rebellion. He refused to tell the magistrate the names of other rebels and for this defiance, he was hanged from the town clock at the top of Charlotte Street. He was buried beneath the gallows.

In 1883, his body was discovered and a huge procession followed through the town as he was taken for re-burial in Ballymoney Old Church Graveyard.

09 John Caldwell (1769-1850)
10 Plattsburg Monument, Blooming Grove, New York
The Caldwell family

Two members of the Caldwell family of Harmony Hill were heavily involved in the Society of United Irishmen.

John Caldwell, the eldest son, wrote of his experiences and his journal is a valuable source for historians. In it, he describes how his younger brother, Richard, became a rebel general, despite being only 18 years old.

On the night of 8 June, Richard rode at the head of 5,000 rebels from Ballymoney as they marched to Ballymena. When the rebellion failed, Richard was captured and sentenced to death. His sentence was later repealed, however, the whole family were exiled to America.

Richard later died in 1812, fighting with the United States army against the British. This monument was erected to him in Blooming Grove, Orange County, New York, in 1891.

11 The grave of William Dunlop
12 Wax seal
William Dunlop, a United Irishman from Priestland, near Bushmills, was hanged in Coleraine. His farm was burned and his wife and children were left homeless. It is said that his family dressed as ghosts to frighten a sentry and retrieved his body from beneath the gallows.

In Dunlop's pocket, they found a wax seal of the family crest, which is still treasured by his descendents in Australia. He was later buried in Derrykeighan Old Churchyard.

13 George 'Bloody' Hutchinson
George Hutchinson was the local magistrate responsible for returning law and order to Ballymoney following the rebellion. His punishments were severe, as the government expected them to be, and he was hated by the Presbyterians of the town.

When compared to the brutal actions of other Irish magistrates, Hutchinson was actually quite lenient. Despite this, he is still remembered as 'Bloody' Hutchinson.

LABELS

<u>1798</u>
Pike head
The worst fear of the government was that the rebel army would secretly arm themselves with improvised weapons and stolen firearms. In Dervock and Bushmills, the blacksmiths were severely punished when they were discovered making illegal pike heads.

Cross belt plate of the Ballymoney Infantry
Worn by the local Yeomanry Corps, formed in 1801 to protect Ballymoney and district from the continued threat of armed rebellion.

Oath of Allegiance
In May 1797, a proclamation was issued forcing every adult male to sign allegiance to King George III. Those who signed had to admit any involvement in the United Irishmen, for which they would be pardoned, and hand over any firearms in their possession. If someone did not sign the oath, they risked imprisonment.

John Nevin sword, spurs and jug
One of the most famous of the Ballymoney United Irishmen was John Nevin. Nevin managed to evade capture and there are many exciting tales of his narrow escapes and eventual passage to a new start in America. He died in Tennessee in 1806 and his friends and family commissioned a set of jugs in honour of his life.
Sans culotte figurines
These figurines date back to the period following the French Revolution of 1789. Bastille Day was celebrated in Ballymoney during the early 1790s and there was great support for the new French Republic.

Irish Volunteer jug and Independent Volunteer mug
This Wedgewood china was manufactured to raise funds for the local volunteer companies. The jug bears the initials J.L., after James Leslie of Leslie Hill, who held the rank of General.

The jug and mug were two of the first artefacts to be displayed in Ballymoney Museum when it was established in 1860.

'Brown bess' musket
[Work in progress]

World War One
Princess Mary tobacco box
These brass boxes were given to the soldiers in the trenches during Christmas 1914. They were a gift from Princess Mary and each box was filled with tobacco, or chocolate for a non-smoker.

An officer's whistle
The signal for infantry to leave the trenches and go 'over the top'.

Honorary discharge certificate of Sapper Daniel McKay, Ballymoney
These certificates were presented to servicemen who were unable to continue their military service due to injury.
Donated by Mrs. Eileen Nash, Ballymoney.

Grave of Corporal Andrew C. McBride, killed in action 5 April 1918.
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established in 1917. The aim of the Commission was to honour everyone who died while serving in the Allied forces. To this day, it cares for 2,500 cemeteries across the world. The family of Corporal McBride lived at Seacon and this card was sent to them by the Commission after World War One ended. The wooden crosses were later replaced by headstones and each cemetery is carefully tended.

Battlefield relics
Collected from the Somme during a visit by members of Ballymoney Borough Council in 2006.

World War Two
Gas masks
On the outbreak of World War II in 1939, all civilians were issued with gas masks. Throughout the war years, members of the public were warned to be ready for a gas attack at any time and people were advised to carry their gas masks everywhere they went.

ARP Box
Every local authority was expected to employ Air Raid Precaution (ARP) schemes with personnel to act in the event of enemy bombing. They included Air Raid Wardens, fire crews, emergency medical services, gas decontamination teams, Observer Corps and rescue teams. In 1941, the term 'ARP' was replaced by 'Civil Defence' and the personnel were given a much more military role, for example the Home Guard.

Home Guard gaitors & cap
Donated by Fred Dunlop, former member of the Ballymoney Home Guard.

Home Guard cap badges

'The Prisoner of War' Vol. 1, No.3 July 1942.
Bill Balmer served as a Vickers machine gunner with the Royal Marines. He was taken prisoner by German soldiers at Calais on 26 May 1940. He was just 17 years old. With very little food, he joined a column of prisoners on a three week forced march. At the German border they were crammed onto overcrowded railway cattle wagons. Five men died during their three days imprisoned on the railway. Bill spent the next four years as a prisoner of war (PoW). During his time in captivity he spent a year in East Sudetanland working in appalling conditions down a coal mine from 6am-9pm. On 2 May 1945, he was liberated by the Americans.

Thanks to the International Red Cross, some of Bill's letters reached home in Ballymoney. His family also regularly received this magazine which gave a misleading impression of tough life in the German camps.

After recovering from his years of imprisonment, Bill served with the Marines in Malaya.
Donated by Bill Balmer

War Saving Bonds plaques
To fund the war effort, communities were encouraged to invest their money in government sponsored campaigns by buying Savings Bonds, Savings Stamps, Savings Certificates.

Medals and documents of James Tweed, Ballymoney.
Donated by Bill Tweed, son of James Tweed.

Casualty list, 5 May 1941
A list of casualties, released following the Belfast Blitz on the nights of 4 & 5 May 1941. 191 people were killed.
"I was in the Air Training Corps. They asked us would we go up to do rescue in Belfast. We had to look for the bodies. It was a terrible sight to see. I was about 16. You've never seen a disaster on that scale. It was very frighteneing, and to see so many people homeless." James White, Ballymoney.

Bomb site report sheet
Following an air raid, wardens would be expected to fill in report forms giving an account of damage and casualties.

WORKING LIFE

NARRATIVE

Linen
In the 17th & 18th centuries, the weaving of linen was a valuable source of income for many rural families across Ulster. It was woven by workers on looms in their own cottages and then brought to a linen hall for auction.

In the late 18th century, John Adams, of Chequer Hall, Loughgiel, introduced a much more 'cost effective' approach to linen manufacture which was adopted across Ireland. He employed weavers to work looms which were housed in a large weaving shed at his farm.

Balnamore Mill
By the early 19th century, linen was made by the huge power looms of the mills.

In 1810, the huge mill Balnamore was one of the largest outside Belfast. Over the next century, a thriving community grew around the mill, with schools, shops and a library, all supported by the mill company.

Conditions in linen mills were harsh. The day was long, workers were poorly paid and they risked injury or death using the dangerous mechanical looms.

In the twentieth century, the local linen market collapsed and Balnamore Mill was forced to close in 1959.

The Ballycastle Railway
In 1855, the opening of the Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Portrush Junction Railway revolutionised the north.

In 1880, a narrow gauge railway line was completed to connect the main line at Ballymoney to the coastal resort of Ballycastle. The link became vital for tourism, freight and on market day.

Unfortunately, the railway closed in 1950 as the investment needed to upgrade the line to a broad gauge track could not be found.

"Improving our situation"
In the 1850s, one of only three Model Farms in Ireland was established in Ballymoney. It proved a valuable institution and for over 30 years it employed instructors to 'help improve the situation' of the students. The Technical School opened in 1904 and successfully educated young and old in valuable academic and vocational skills.

Markets & Fairs

Fair Day
There were three fairs held in Ballymoney every year, in May, July and November. The busiest was in May as it also served as a "hiring fair". Hundreds of men, women and children would gather in the town looking for paid work on the local farms. People would be hired for a six month contract - or 'term' - and paid a set fee rather than a weekly wage.

The Ballymoney Show
Although agricultural shows had been held in the town since the mid-nineteenth century, they did not become an annual feature until the North Antrim Agricultural Association was established in 1903. The "Ballymoney Show" helped to promote and reward the achievements of farmers and continues to this day, as popular as ever.

Market Day
Until recently, Ballymoney's local economy relied heavily on agriculture. Markets were held regularly in the town and neighbouring villages. They were an opportunity to buy or sell any surplus produce from a farm and also brought a regular boost in trade for the local merchants.

In the 17th & 18th centuries, all the trade at Ballymoney markets took place on High Street (then called Market Street) and in the old Town Hall (now the Masonic Hall). Then, in 1835, Thomas McElderry established his market yard, bringing everything to a single site in the town. To supplement this, in 1864 a regular cattle market was started at the 'Fair Hill'.

Shops & business
As a large market town, the local shops served the townsfolk and the farmers who arrived from the rural communities. Blacksmiths, tanneries, cobblers, undertakers and many other tradesmen all made their living in the town.

Like many rural communities, the reliance on agriculture decreased during the twentieth century. Machines replaced labourers on the farms and there were fewer jobs. Rural communities formed Co-operatives to market their goods to large distributors in nearby cities and large towns but eventually these were forced to close. The linen industry also declined and mills shut down across Ulster.

However, there were many improvements to working life during the same period. Better railways and roads allowed freight and people to travel further and faster. Men and women found employment elsewhere, in local shops and businesses, or factories, such as K.G. Corfield Limited.

K.G. Corfield Limited
In 1959, Sir Kenneth Corfield opened Ireland's only camera factory, here in Ballymoney. The cameras were manufactured to high standards and it was

hoped that "cameras would be to Ballymoney what carpets are to Axminster". Unfortunately, as cheaper Japanese cameras came onto the market, K.G. Corfield Ltd. stopped making cameras just three years later.

IMAGES

Linen
01 Balnamore Mill
02 Reeling Room, decorated for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 1953.

Ballycastle Railway
03 Route of the Ballycastle Railway
04 Ballycastle Railway Company, postage stamp
05 "Our local express, Ballymoney to Dervock"
06 Ballymoney Railway Station, c.1910
07 Passing beneath the Conagher Bridge on the narrow gauge railway line to Ballycastle. Courtesy K.A. Benington
08 No.41 engine on the narrow gauge line at Ballymoney Railway Station. Courtesy Sean Kennedy
09 Narrow gauge engine leaving Ballymoney.
10 4th July 1950 - the last day of the Ballycastle Railway Company
Back row: unknown, unknown, William Chestnutt (Ballycastle, shunter), Bob Devenny (Ballymoney, guard), Jack McDuff (Ballycastle, fireman)
Front row: J. McKessick (Ballycastle, driver), John Heffron (Ballycastle, fireman), Barry Limerick (Ballycastle, driver), Harry Mooney (Ballymoney, jacker).
11 After the narrow gauge closed in 1950, engine No. 141 lay derelict for three years on waste land at Meetinghouse Street, Ballymoney.

Hospitals
During the 20th century, Ballymoney was unique as it had two hospitals. They provided quality care and attention for patients and were also a valuable source of employment.
12 Robinson Hospital
The Robinson Cottage Hospital opened as a private in 1933. It was built with money donated by the American millionaire Samuel Robinson who was born in Ballymoney.
13 Route Hospital
Nearly two decades after the Ballymoney Workhouse closed, it was renovated and re-opened as the Route Hospital in 1937. It closed in 2001.

Working the land
14 Horse drawn plough, Dervock.
15 Harvest time - the Boyd Bailer (left) and Boyd Mill (right) harvesting machines were hired out by Matthew Parkhill along with his team of skilled farm labourers.
16 & 17 Fair Day, Ballymoney.
18 Hiring Fair
19 Annual Ballymoney Agricultural Show, c.1905

20 Old Pork Store, Townhead Street - Ballymoney was well known for its high quality pork. During the 1930s up to 800 pigs a week were cured.
21 Ballymoney Markets
22 Dervock Co-op
23 Cloughmills Co-op

"Improving our situation"
24 Ballymoney Technical School

Shops & businesses
25 Albert McKay worked in his blacksmith forge in Townhead Street until the late 1960s.
26 William Redpath, chemist, Church Street.
27 Hugh McCurdy Hamilton, department store, Church Street
28 W.H. McAfee, general store, Church Street
29 William Moffett, hardware, bicycles & gramophones, Main Street
30 The Reliable Stores, Smyth & Dunlop, general store, Main Street
31 R. Holmes, grocer, Main Street
32 O'Kane, public house, Main Street
33 J. Maconaghie, drapery, millinery, dressmaking & outfitting, the Diamond
34 A.L. Hanna, hardware, Linenhall Street
35 Main Street, c.1910
36 The Diamond, market day, c.1910
37 Church Street, c.1910
38 Clothes market, 1937
39 High Street, c.1900

Corfield
40 Logo
41 Sir Kenneth Corfield

LABELS

Linen
Balnamore Spinning Co.
This leather satchel was used for delivering mail to Balnamore Mill.

Set of spinning tools (five pickers and a knife) from Balnamore Mill, worn as a belt around the waist. [Check donor]

Ballycastle Railway Company
Syphon pump
This device was used to drain excess water from an engine after it had been cleaned.

Engine shovel

Tickets

Lamps
Lamps used at Ballymoney Station on both the Broad and Narrow Gauge until the late 1950s.

Bridge plate
Plate originally fixed to the steel bridge at the 'Ballylig curves' on the narrow gauge Ballycastle Railway.

Wagon plate
Plate originally fixed to a station wagon on which ran on the narrow guage Ballycastle Railway.

Working the land
Agricultural show posters

Farming Society medals
Route (1847) and Ballymoney Farming Society medals (1851 & 1853). In the mid-19th century Ballymoney was a pioneer of argricultural education, having both the Model and Argricultural Schools. Shows were often held in the Market yards.

Purchase of markets, 1887 - poster

Wigtownshire Creamery jars
Wigtonwhsire Creamery, based in Stranraer, Scotland, ran a large creamery in Ballymoney until the 1920s at the junction of Meetinghouse Street and the Roddenfoot.

Nestle Group News, August 1966
Several years after the closure of the Wigtownhsire Creamery, Nestle opened their first factory in Northern Ireland on the same site in 1937.

Model Dairy Milk bottle
[Work in progress]

Corfield
Corfield Enlarging Lumimeter
This was the first commercial product introduced by Corfield, made in Wolverhampton.

Periflex One
The first Corfield camera, made in 1954 in Wolverhampton.

Periflex 3a
This was the first 'new' Periflex produced at Ballymoney and it came onto the market in early 1960. (Not many months after the move from Wolverhampton.) It was basically the same as the Periflex 3, but with enhanced body styling and a few technical improvements.

Periflex Gold Star Camera.
Introduced in 1961 this model had the largest production volume of any Corfield camera made in Ballymoney.

Corfield 66
A Single Lens Reflex camera which was designed and produced in Ballymoney. Only 1,000 were made.

Newspapers
"The Balance" was an eight page printed and published in Ballymoney in 1850 by J.W. Lithgow. It was not a great success and production ceased after a short period of time.

The Ballymoney Free Press Newspaper, dated August 8, 1878. The Ballymoney Free Press was published in town from 1863-1934.

"Lighting & Cleansing Act, 1845"
The Ballymoney Gas Works were built in 1851 and the streets were then lit by gas lamps. It was not until the 1920s that electricity became widely available in the town.

Silver cased pocket watch made by J Gordon & Son, Ballymoney c.1892.
The Gordon family were well known watch and clock makers in Ballymoney from the late years of the 18th Century. The first generation of Gordon watchmakers in Ballymoney, Joseph, is believed to have arrived here in 1777. Sons followed fathers into the business for several generations. The last Gordon who was in business in Main Street, died in 1927.

Victorian Royal Mail post box
Originally from Charlotte Street.

Guinness bottle label.
John McCormick's public house, Linenhall Street, Ballymoney. - Barrels of Guinness were delivered to a public house which would then bottle and label it.

T.J. Graham bicycle frame
The frames made by T.J. Graham in his workshop in Ballybogey were used by some of the best competitive cyclists in the area.

BALLYMONEY TOWN HALL

NARRATIVE

Dancing, drama and government
Ballymoney Town Hall has always been a focus for community life. It began as the offices of the Town Commissioners (from 1866-1898) which later became the Urban District Council (from 1898-1973). In addition, it has hosted theatre, dances, bazaars, exhibitions, a library, political demonstrations, and important civic functions.

IMAGES

01 Ballymoney Masonic Hall - Ballymoney Masonic Hall was the original Town Hall where public meetings would be held. Since it was built in 1775, it has also been used as a court house, market house, place of worship and classroom.

02 Ballymoney Library – Ballymoney's first library was an immediate success when it opened in 1839 in the old Town Hall. By 1863, larger premises were needed and this was the incentive to raise money for the erection of this building.

03 Ballymoney Town Hall - Over £1,300 was provided by public subscription to build the 'New Assembly Rooms' in 1866. Since then, the building has been re-developed twice - in 1934 and 2005 - and it will serve the community for many more decades to come.

Re-opening of Ballymoney Town Hall, 16 February 1934.

04 Logo of the Ballymoney Rural District Councils (to be sourced) and Urban District Council.

05 Rev D. D. Boyle

06 K.K. McArthur winning the marathon at the Olympic Games, Stockholm, 1912

07 & 08 Renovations of the Town Hall

09 & 10 Town Hall re-opening

11 George Shiels.

LABELS

Illuminated address

IMC/SI

In 1870, the people of Ballymoney decided to honour James Cramsie and Dr. William Taylor, the men who were instrumental in the building of their new Town Hall. Two life size paintings were commissioned and this illuminated address expressed the gratitude of the local people.

Ballot box
From 1898-1973, Ballymoney was the home of two local government authorities. The Urban District Council served the needs of the people who lived in the town and had its offices in the Town Hall. The Rural District Council stretched from Gortaharan (near Rasharkin) to the coastal towns of Portrush, Portballintrae and Bushmills.

Bye laws for lodging houses
In 1897, the Town Commissioners were expected to ensure that lodging houses maintained a high standard of cleanliness and moral integrity.

Ballymoney Borough Council mace
In 1973, the Rural & Urban District Councils were dissolved and Ballymoney District Council was formed. In 1977, the Council was awarded Borough status and elected its first Mayor, Fred Holland. This ceremonial mace is carried by the Mayor of Ballymoney at important civic functions.

Ulster's Solemn League & Covenant
Ulster Day, 28 September 1912, was the culmination of defiant protests by the Unionist people of Ulster. On this day, over 470,000 men and women signed Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant. This pledge was a proclaimation of their opposition to the Home Rule Bill which passed the government of Ireland from London to Dublin. In Ballymoney, hundreds queued at the Town Hall to sign their name and these Covenants were proudly displayed in many local households.

"The principle of Home Rule is a Presbyterian principle" Reverend J.B. Armour, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney.
In contrast to the Unionist demonstrations on Ulster Day, a year later Ballymoney Town Hall hosted a controversial meeting of Protestants in support of Home Rule. At that time, Ballymoney was recognised as a liberal community in which Home Rule was openly supported, in particular by the outspoken clergyman, Reverend J.B. Armour. The public debate attracted interest from across Britain and Ireland, with notable speakers including the famous Nationalist politician Roger Casement.

Independent Loyal Orange Institution plaque
In 1903, the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland split when a number of disenchanted members established the Independent Loyal Orange Institution. The Reverend D.D. Boyle, of St. James's Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, played a significant role in its formation and the majority of its members are still drawn from the Presbyterian congregations of North Antrim. This plaque was

presented to the Borough Council during the tercentenery commemoration of the Battle of the Boyne in 1990.

K.K. McArthur plaque

Kennedy Kane McArthur was born in Dervock in 1881. He emigrated to South Africa as a young man and won the gold medal in the marathon for his adopted nation at the 1912 Olympics. Before returning to South Africa, he visited Ballymoney and received a hero's welcome, with a lavish reception in his honour held in the Town Hall. This plaque was originally erected at the former entrance to the Town Hall, beside what is now named the 'McArthur Room'.

Ballymoney Town Hall re-opening ceremony, 1934 menu & ticket

On 16 February 1934, Ballymoney Town Hall re-opened after extensive renovations. With its new stage, it now boasted "the best small theatre in the Province" and the perfect place for the first ever Ballymoney Drama Festival.

Ballymoney Drama Festival programmes

The first Ballymoney Drama Festival began on 28 February 1934 and it is recognised as the oldest provincial festival in Ireland.
"I have been to a great many drama festivals and I do not think I have ever been to one where the standard was so high...It has been a delightful experience."
Lennox Robinson

'Tenants at Will' by George Sheils, programme from the premiere performance at The Abbey Theatre, Dublin, 10 September 1945.

George Shiels was once the most successful playwright in Ireland. In 1940, he broke all records with his play "The Rugged Path" which ran for three months at the Abbey Theatre and attracted an unprecedented 35,000 people. Born in Ballymoney in 1881, as a young man Shiels emigrated to North America. He was working on the Canadian Pacific Railway when he was tragically paralysed in an accident. Faced with the rest of his life in a wheelchair, he returned to Ballymoney and used his skill as a storyteller to write plays which proved hugely popular on stage and radio. The Shiels Room in the Town Hall is named in his honour.