

Enniskillen Castle

∞ 1996 ∞

Newsletter

Number 11

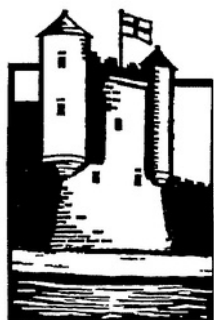


A Fermanagh District Council Facility





*Regimental displays renewed in the Castle Keep.
Photograph by Eustace Tierney*



RIGHT: Detail from Brian Keenan's model of the town of Enniskillen in 1833 showing the area around the parish church.

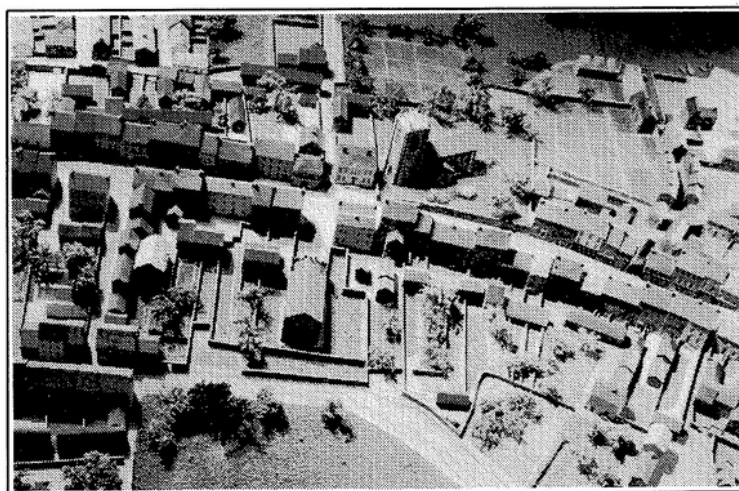
Model of Enniskillen Town

A large scale model of the town of Enniskillen in 1833 can now be seen on the top floor of the Castle Keep. The work of Belfast model maker Brian Keenan, and commissioned by the Environment and Heritage Service, it is based on an unpublished Ordnance Survey map of Enniskillen made in 1833. Enniskillen at that time was a thriving garrison town with excellent markets for agricultural produce. Many of the buildings that existed in 1833 survived into the days of photography and Brian Keenan has made extensive use of early photographs to recreate the key buildings of 19th century Enniskillen. He has also been able to avail of the museum's archives to check out details of buildings which no longer exist. The large scale of the model is impressive and teachers are finding it to be a very useful educational aid.

Computers & New Offices

A great many changes took place at Enniskillen Castle during 1995. Thanks to the renovation work carried out by the Environment and Heritage Service, we now have new offices, located within the arcaded barracks. As a result, staff now have adequate space to carry out the administration work of the museum and all the necessary activities such as cataloguing and conservation of our collections.

Although the new offices are separated from the reception area of the museum any difficulties resulting from this have been largely overcome by the installation of a new computer network, financed with the help of a 50% grant from the Northern Ireland Museum Council. The network consists of five computers all connected to one another, which means that records and information can be easily accessed by all staff. Our computer software has also been upgraded enabling us to produce much of our own marketing material for education programmes, exhibitions and special events.



Staff Training

Museum staff continue their efforts to improve their knowledge and skills mainly through courses organised by The Northern Ireland Museums Council. During the last year museum staff attended courses on such topics as multimedia in museums, care of collections, negotiating skills, marketing and visitor care.

Museum Curator Helen Lanigan Wood was at the Triennial Conference of the International Council of Museums last July in Stavanger, Norway. The theme of the conference was Museums and Communities and it was attended by some 2,000 museum colleagues from all over the world.



New figures in the vaults of the old Castle

The Historic Monuments branch of the Environment Service, recently renamed as the Environment and Heritage Service commissioned two new displays for the castle vaults last year depicting life in the castle in the 15th and 17th centuries. These include detailed, life-sized figures dressed in period costume, cleaning their weapons, preparing for battle and surrounded by all the equipment and foodstuffs that would have been stored in the castle vaults. Sacks of food, flickering candles, piles of armoury, huge barrels and even a cat and a rat all add to the atmosphere, and give the visitor a real sense of what it was like in the castle keep during these periods of history. They are well worth investigating!

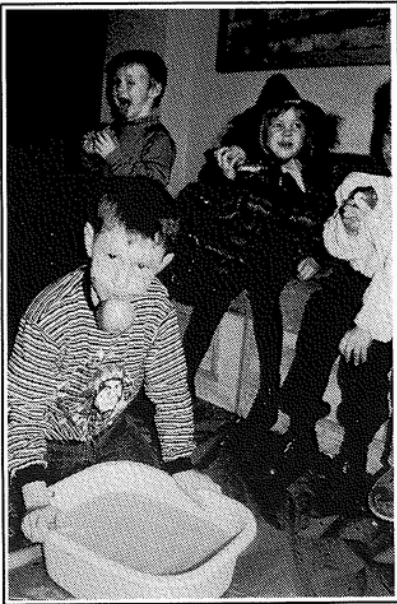
Model of Enniskillen Siege

Another addition to the displays in the Castle Keep is a model showing the Maguire Castle under attack in the late 16th century. Gordon Johnson spent several months working on this model of the siege of Enniskillen Castle, and the result of his painstaking work can be seen on the top floor of the Castle Keep. The attention to detail which Gordon is renowned for has brought to life this period of history in a way that will appeal to all.

ABOVE: New displays in the castle vaults depict soldiers preparing their weapons during the 15th century. Photograph by Eustace Tierney.

BELOW: A detail from Gordon Johnson's model of the siege of Enniskillen Castle in 1594 showing a Maguire soldier receiving treatment for wounds..





Traditional apple ducking games at Hallowe'en.



Pictured at the Halloween event at Enniskillen Castle were, from left, Ciara Balfour, Emma Moore, development officer (alias Morticia), Kirsty Burrell, Olwia Kane and Claire Maguire.

Successful Events at Enniskillen Castle

The two special events held at Enniskillen Castle at Hallowe'en and Christmas last year were very well supported by our local community. Almost four hundred children and parents prepared themselves for the ghastly ghosts and scary spooks at our first

Hallowe'en party on October 28th, with only the truly brave enduring chilling stories in the dimly lit barracks! We would like to record our thanks to the staff of Enniskillen Library for all their help with the story telling. The face painting was a tremendous success, although some had to have another go after washing it off in the apple ducking. Many are still talking about the green-haired witch who was spotted fleetingly in the kitchen room-set, and rumour has it that she may return this year - but who knows where?



The wicked witch (alias Tierna Malone) and Sophie Brown at the Hallowe'en event.

Mulled wine, mince pies, Christmas carols and traditional Irish music provided the perfect atmosphere for a popular social evening, now set to become an annual event thanks to the overwhelming success of the last two years. Almost three hundred and fifty people enjoyed the festive cheer at Enniskillen Castle on Thursday 14th December, and it offered the ideal opportunity for those who had not yet explored the current exhibitions to have a browse and to sample some festive refreshments.

Volunteers Wanted

We hope that some of you will volunteer to help us at these two events. Among the vacancies is one for a face-painter and another for a witch! Please get in touch if you would like to be part of our team.

Staff Changes At Enniskillen Castle

Bronagh Cleary replaces Elizabeth Crooke as development officer, Elizabeth having left to take up a three-year scholarship to work for a Phd degree in Cambridge University. Bronagh, a native of Belleek, holds an honours degree in Geography from Queen's University in Belfast and her interests include history, environmental issues and reading. Her main museum responsibilities are the care of collections including preventive conservation in addition to researching and organising education programmes and exhibitions.

Our new administrative assistant is Darren Crawford, a native of Lisnaskea. Before taking up his post at Enniskillen Castle, Darren gained administrative and retailing experience in Belfast and London working for Stewarts supermarkets and for Marks and Spencer. Darren enjoys reading and his particular interest in computers has turned out to be quite an asset to us in the museum.

Neil Armstrong of Lisnarick, is our new information assistant. Educated at Portora Royal School, Neil spent almost two years in temporary employment at Enniskillen Castle and has also worked with the Environment Service at Castle Archdale. He recently returned to Fermanagh after spending three months working in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His sporting interests include soccer, golf and tennis; he also enjoys drawing and painting, talents which are being put to good use in the museum.



Mrs Ingrid Wilson and pupils from Enniskillen Model School singing carols at Enniskillen Castle. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.



Members of St. Michael's College band providing entertainment during the Christmas event at Enniskillen Castle. Photograph courtesy of the Impartial Reporter.

Dates for your diary:
Hallowe'en Party

Saturday 26th October 1996



Christmas Evening

Thursday 12th December 1996

New Curator For Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Museum

Hugh Forrester, the new curator of the Regimental Museum, replaces Major George Stephens who retired last year. Originally from Scotland, Hugh is a history graduate from Edinburgh University and also holds a post-graduate diploma in archive administration. After working as an archivist in Lancashire, Staffordshire and Cumbria Record Offices he moved to Northern Ireland in 1989 and worked with the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. There he had the distinction of being the last curator of the original transport museum at Witham Street in Belfast. His previous post was as director of the Somme Heritage Centre at Newtownards.

Hugh, who took up his new position in July, is looking forward to working at the castle and is in many ways coming home, as his great-grandfather was born in Enniskillen.



Councillor Sam Foster, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council welcomes Colleen Dube, vice chairman of the Irish Museums Association at a Reception in Enniskillen Townhall during the IMA conference. Also pictured are Helen Lanigan Wood, conference organiser, Alistair Wilson, guest speaker and Aideen McGinley, chief executive of Fermanagh District Council. Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald.

Museum Conference In Enniskillen

Over 200 delegates were in Enniskillen in February to attend the annual Spring Seminar of the Irish Museums Association, the theme of which was 'Museums for a New Millennium - Balancing the Demands'. The three-day conference was based at the Killyhevlin Hotel and included representatives from all over Ireland and speakers from France and Denmark as well as Ireland.

The conference began with a reception at Castle Coole hosted by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board where the Earl of Belmore welcomed delegates. The next day there was a visit to the County and Regimental museums at Enniskillen Castle and a reception in Enniskillen Townhall hosted by Fermanagh District Council. On the last day of the conference, after the formal papers, Richard Pierce led a walk around Enniskillen after which there was a visit to the Marble Arch Caves.

Visitor Attractions Fair 1995

Encouraged by the success of last year's fair, Enniskillen Castle was represented at the 1995 Visitor Attraction's Fair organised by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board on 16, 17 and 18 October.

The fair took place in Belfast, Dublin and Cork and attracted a total of 1500 visitors, the majority in Dublin. They mostly consisted of teachers, youth group leaders, journalists, tour operators as well as individual families with an interest in planning their holidays.

All the important visitor attractions in Northern Ireland participate in these fairs, which provide a very useful advertisement of our educational services, our exhibition programmes and all our other services and activities. A co-operative venture like this is a very worthwhile marketing strategy.



Museum staff prepare to welcome IMA conference delegates to Enniskillen Castle. Pictured from left are Adrian Beattie, museum assistant, Helen Lanigan Wood, museum curator, Darren Crawford, administrative assistant and Emma Moore, development officer. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.

Visitor Figures up again at Enniskillen Castle

Enniskillen Castle has enjoyed a further increase in visitor figures during the 1995 season, continuing the trend set in 1994.

1995 saw an increase of 8.5% bringing the total number of visitors to over 18,000 - the largest number yet recorded. This is believed to be due to a number of factors: the peace process, wider distribution of a greater number of leaflets, regular media coverage, the popularity of the Halloween and Christmas events, promotion work at Visitor Attractions Fair in Belfast and Dublin, the new access route of the Shannon-Erne Waterway and a significant increase in school groups from the Republic.

A visitor survey carried out at Enniskillen Castle during the summer months showed that the percentage of visitors from the Republic of Ireland increased by an impressive 12% in 1995, and the number of American visitors grew from 5.6% to 9% -

mainly due to the fact that they now felt safer visiting Northern Ireland.

The number of Germans who came proved to be similar to 1994, and it appears that they were relatively unaffected by the cease-fires since the 'troubles' never deterred them from coming to fish in County Fermanagh. The percentage of

French tourists was much lower than expected, but there were many more Italians and Spanish, pointing to the need to provide information in Italian and Spanish in addition to the existing guides in French and German. Already new guides have been provided in these languages.



Lady Mayhew on a visit to Enniskillen Castle with, on left, development officer Bronagh Cleary.

Comments About Enniskillen Castle!

Comments taken from the visitor book during the 1995 season:

Brilliant places to see; love coming to the north of Eire.

Exceptionally good value; well worth the journey here (from Wales).

Great experience, worth coming back for. Very friendly.

Open and interesting museum.

Made with great love and skill - especially the upper Heritage Centre.

Something interesting for children and adults.

No matter how often the visit always proves most interesting.

Very interesting, staff very helpful.

Lovely atmosphere. Beautiful music. Fire drill was fun too!

I had great fun.

Thumbs up, brilliant.

A family affair.

Excellent customer care.

Glad we made the trip.

The Daune Rashleigh exhibition in particular is exquisite.

Brought back a lot of memories.

Most brilliant place I've ever been to!

Very well run and impressive.

Good. Thank goodness for air conditioning!

Would love some re-creation of pre-1700.

Happy atmosphere.

So well presented.

Lovely! Keep up the good work!

Good. Especially the farm house.

Thank you very much for your help and kindness.

EXHIBITIONS

Summer Exhibitions

The two summer exhibitions of art and craft were officially launched on a lovely sunny evening in June, one of many such evenings in the memorable summer of '95. The proceedings were opened by the chairman of Fermanagh District Council, Mr. Sam Foster, who thanked local artist Charlie McClintock for his excellent exhibition of paintings and carved wooden artworks. He also welcomed Sir James and Lady Langham and expressed gratitude for their loan of the art and craft works of Daune Rashleigh, aunt of Sir James. Commenting on the quality of the two exhibitions, Councillor Foster continued, 'It is said that "in art the hand can never execute anything higher than the heart can inspire"'. He then called first on Richard Pierce who formally opened the McClintock exhibition and later on Lady Langham who spoke about Daune Rashleigh's work.

A Lady's Secret Garden

The artist responsible for this exhibition of wax portraits, silk embroidered pictures, flower paintings, jewellery and craft works was Daune Rashleigh who was born in 1900 and who lived in Fermanagh from 1960 until her death in 1988. Daune's sister, Rosamond, had come from Worcestershire to Fermanagh in 1930 to marry Sir John Langham of Tempo Manor. Daune remained at home in Malvern Wells and during the war years she responded to the call for women to take men's places in factories and

offices by offering her artistic skills to the Royal Porcelain Works in the neighbouring town of Worcester. She remained at the porcelain factory until the end of the war and it was the only job she ever held. The exhibition included a porcelain lark sparrow made by Daune during her time at Worcester.

The exhibition was selected from a collection of the artist's work owned by Sir James and Lady Langham. It included furniture, paint brushes and ornaments which had belonged to Daune Rashleigh and these formed a room setting suggesting the artist's drawing room. It was an exhibition that attracted considerable interest and the general concensus was that work of this calibre, so delicate and finely crafted, was rarely seen today. Thanks to the generosity of Sir James and Lady Langham, one of Daune Rashleigh embroidered pieces will shortly go on permanent display at Enniskillen Castle.

Wanted Hoarders and Collectors!

We are planning a special exhibition next year of collections made by people living in Fermanagh. So if you are a collector and would like to display your collection in the museum we would be interested in hearing from you. Maybe you have a collection of old toys, old Christmas cards, dolls, teddy bears, or bottles? Maybe you collect something very unusual? Maybe you have something relating to our history that would interest people? Please contact us before the end of 1996.

Pictured at the opening of the summer exhibitions of Enniskillen Castle were (from left), standing: Sir James Langham, Lady Langham, Helen Lanigan Wood and Mr Charlie McClintock. Seated, (from left) are: Miss Lucinda Langham, Councillor Sam Foster, chairman of Fermanagh District Council and Mr Richard Pierce. Photograph courtesy of the Impartial Reporter.



EXHIBITIONS

Famine Exhibitions

The 150th anniversary of the Great Famine was commemorated by two exhibitions, one about the experience of famine in Fermanagh, the other, from the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, comparing the Irish famine with contemporary famines in Africa. The latter was opened by Dr. Jonathan Bell from the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum while Mrs. Bernadette Layden from St. Michael's College, Enniskillen opened the Famine in Fermanagh exhibition. This display drew heavily on the files of the Impartial Reporter which Mrs. Layden had researched in 1995 for an exhibition at St. Michael's College and which she kindly made available to the museum. Local exhibits such as a bell and weighing machine from Enniskillen Workhouse and a famine pot lent by Mr. and Mrs Cooke of Thomastown, Enniskillen were particularly popular as was the

opportunity to taste the kind of gruel eaten in famine times.

Comments about the Famine exhibitions from the Primary 6 class of Maguiresbridge C.P. School:

'I enjoyed tasting the food they would have eaten during the famine. The Indian corn wasn't nice, it tasted like porridge which I do not like at all!' (Leanne Magee).

'Thank you for showing us around the museum, I really enjoyed it. My favourite part was tasting the food, I liked it. I felt sorry for the people who lived during the famine' (Joy Dowds).

'I really liked learning about the soup pot. I would have hated to have lived in those days. I thought it was really sad, especially the workhouse. You could have cried at the picture of the lady holding up her child screaming as the workhouse door was being closed' (Trudie Hunter).

Enniskillen - born artist T.P. Flanagan, (third from left) at the official opening of his exhibition with, from left, his wife Sheelagh, his son Philip, Lord Belmore, who opened the exhibition, Mrs Aideen McGinley, chief executive of Fermanagh District Council and Mr Sam Foster, chairman of Fermanagh District Council. Photograph courtesy of The Fermanagh Herald.



T.P. Flanagan Exhibition

This exhibition was selected from a larger retrospective exhibition organised by the Ulster Museum and it was formally opened by Lord Belmore. A great variety of work was on display, portraits including one of his Enniskillen art teacher Kathleen Bridle, landscapes almost abstract in form

including a poignant oil commemorating the tragic drowning in 1961 of the two Rooney brothers, one of them a postman, trapped in the icy waters of Lough Erne. The show also included examples of recent landscapes painted both in Ireland and abroad and, among items of memorabilia, a very early drawing consisting of ice skaters cavorting on the Mill Lough lake in Enniskillen, done when the artist was six or seven years old!

EXHIBITIONS



Magical and Mysterious, Symbolic and Atmospheric

Art works in mixed media by
Charlie McClintock.

This was the first one-man show by Enniskillen-born artist Charlie McClintock and brought together paintings, wooden sculptures and carved and painted wooden panels completed during the last decade. It was a show that attracted many buyers with oil paintings and wooden panels going as far away as Italy and the United States. The Museum also purchased one of the wooden carvings, an *Early Christian Panel* inspired by early Irish art.

ABOVE LEFT: Among the guests at the preview of the Charlie McClintock exhibition were Mrs Helen Whittaker and Mrs Florence Sullivan. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.

Enniskillen: The Development of an Island Town

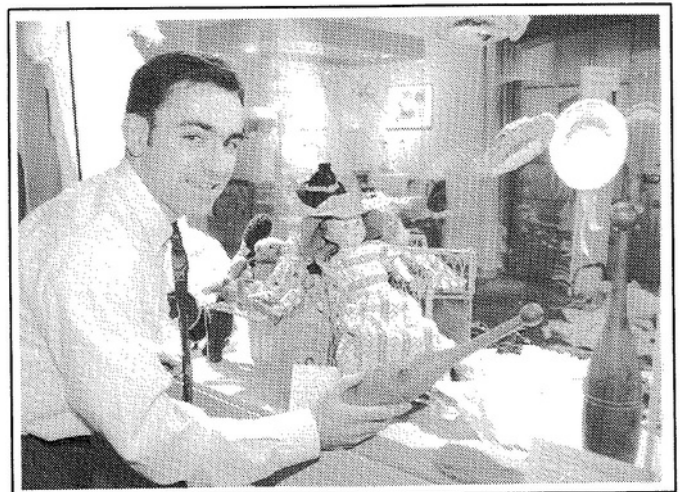
This exhibition of historic maps, prints, paintings and photographs of Enniskillen was of particular interest to schools but it also had a strong appeal to the general visitor. In many ways it complemented the video programme - Enniskillen Today and Yesterday- and provided a good visual record of the town from its beginnings in the 17th century right up to the 20th century.

The Year of the Bronze Age

The spring exhibition celebrating the year of the Bronze Age allowed us to explore in some depth one of the great eras of our European past, a time of great change, innovation and creativity. The Office of Public Works in Dublin provided illustrated panels giving a general description of the Irish Bronze Age. This was part of Ireland's contribution to a Council of Europe campaign to raise awareness of a period which could well be regarded as the Golden Age in Europe. These panels provided an informative backdrop for a display of Bronze Age artefacts from our own collections, an array of tools and weapons made of flint and bronze, superb examples of pottery bowls and burial urns and a real Bronze Age cremated burial set in a stone-lined grave which was excavated some years ago at Altanagh in Co. Tyrone.

Toys For All

Lord Belmore launched the Toys For All exhibition on our "Christmas Night", December 14th 1995. The exhibition contained toys and games from different periods of the past including many from Castlecoole kindly lent by Lord Belmore.

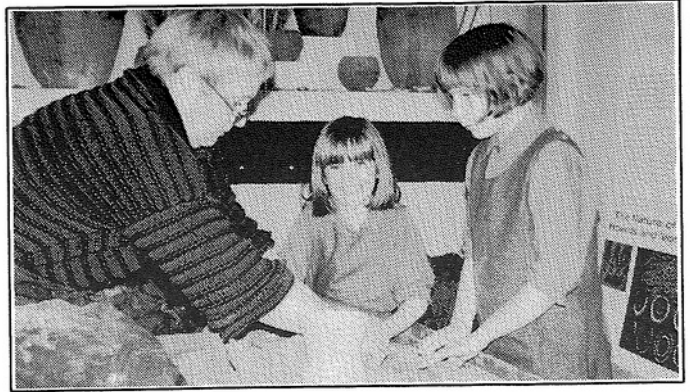
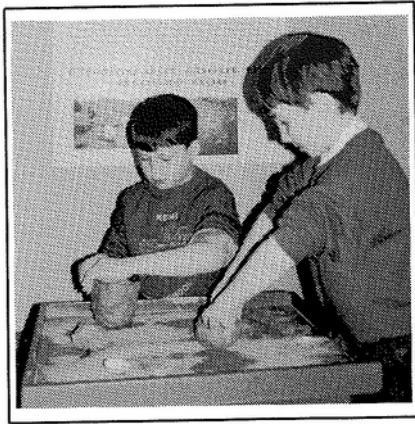


Staff member Darren Crawford helping to display the Toys for All exhibition.

Busy Bronze Age Workshops

The educational aspects of the Bronze Age exhibition were well developed with a series of workshops and demonstrations organised especially for those primary school pupils with a special interest in the history study unit 'Life in Early Times'. The workshops were designed to explore the technological aspects of the Bronze Age and were part of a week's celebration of science, engineering and technology, known as SET7, organised in association with the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Pupils from Kesh Primary School making Bronze Age pottery.



Pupils from St. Teresa's Primary School, Enniskillen, learning the technique of Bronze Age pottery making from potter Deirdre Crone.

Stone technology was explained by Dr. Mike Baillie from the Archaeology department of Queen's University in Belfast and followed by a practical demonstration of how flint tools were knapped. Deirdre Crone from the Ulster Museum, an expert potter, showed how Bronze Age pottery was made and decorated. Dr. Greer Ramsey, former museum officer at Enniskillen Castle and now deputy curator at Armagh County Museum, concentrated on the sophisticated technology that enabled the production of copper and bronze tools and weapons while Museum Officer Janie Crone undertook a workshop about death and ritual in the Bronze Age.

New Education Officer Post

A very welcome development this year is the creation of a new Education Officer post which was made possible with the support of the Northern Ireland Museums Council.

Enniskillen-born Jill Mulligan has been appointed to this five-year post and began work in May. Jill holds an honours degree in Textile Design graduating from Dundee Art College in 1984. She has seven years experience of teaching art and also has a particular interest in local history.

Bronze Age Ramble

A popular event organised for the Bronze Age celebration last year was a guided tour of the Bronze Age tombs in Burren forest, near Blacklion, led by Museum Curator Helen Lanigan Wood. The highlight of this energetic trip was undoubtedly the impressive Wedge tomb, which must rank as the best preserved of its kind in Ulster. This was an event which attracted people of all ages and as well as the outdoor walk, participants were also given a guided tour of the Bronze Age exhibition.



LEFT: Pupils from St. Mary's Primary School in Tempo performed their play about the famine before a packed audience of Fermanagh primary school students at Enniskillen Castle. RIGHT: These girls were just some of the pupils from St. Mary's Primary school, Tempo who took part in their award-winning play about the famine at Enniskillen Castle. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.





LEFT: Photographed at the seminar on the Great Famine held at the Museum were, back, from left: Mr Gabriel Murphy, Mr John Cunningham, Mr Jack Brian, Mr Jack Johnston and Professor David Fitzpatrick from Trinity College, Dublin. Front, Miss Anita Gallagher and Mrs Breege McCusker. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.

BELOW: Children from Jones Memorial Primary School Emiskillen, handing over their time capsule to Emma Moore, development officer at Enniskillen Castle. They are, from left, Christopher Dolan, Laura Pritchard and Peter Wright. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.



Enniskillen Castle Shop

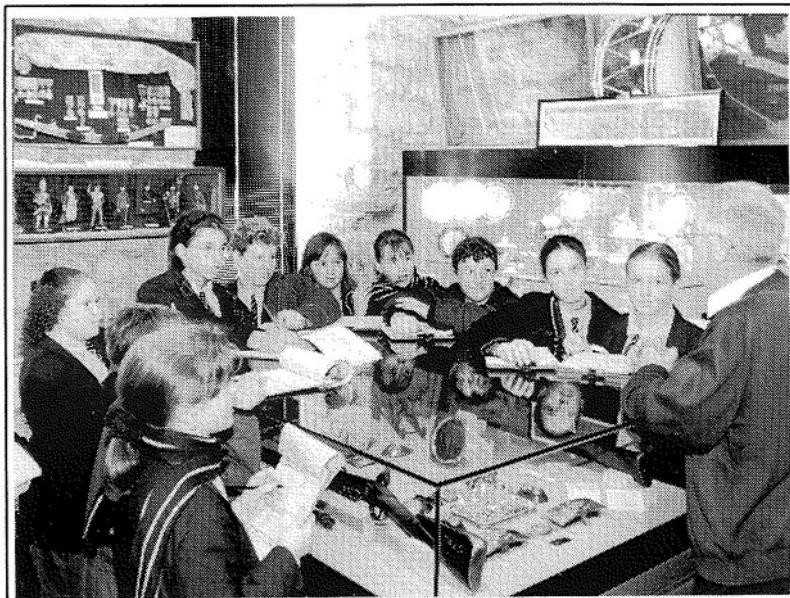
Our shop stock has increased quite a bit in recent years and there is now an excellent selection of books, cards, jewellery, unusual toys and a variety of Irish crafts. Our shop is just the place to come to when choosing gifts for family or friends. Particularly popular are the many goods embossed with the Enniskillen Castle logo, items such as a stylish boxed pen, black and gold address books, good quality t-shirts and sweat shirts, book marks and children's 'frisbees'.

So remember that our shop offers good value combined with quality and an excellent selection - a convenient place to find something different.

BELOW: Pupils from Enniskillen High School taking part in a special project at Enniskillen Castle, with Museum Assistant Dick Thompson, of the Regimental Museum.

Lecture By T.P.Flanagan

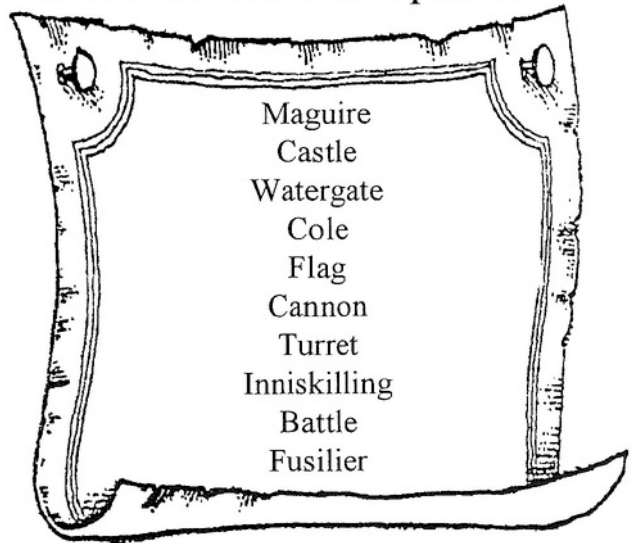
At the end of May T.P.Flanagan enthralled a capacity audience at the Museum with an eloquent lecture about his art. He spoke in detail about the inspiration for many of the paintings in the exhibition and provided a fascinating insight into the work of an artist. A lively question and answer session followed, the audience seeming reluctant to allow the evening to come to a close.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Can you find all the words below in this word puzzle?

I T M C A S T L E P C A I V S
 E N I R B Q E J W E I C P L I
 C E N U R F W F U S I L I E R
 B T X I A D T P A B H E A G B
 S W O G S Y R E B M F C L R D
 D I A H B K N U R P W V A C F
 L M E T R O I P E R I U G A M
 A J G C E M O L H C U B R N H
 U R H V K R P E L N G T W N J
 C B I F L A G K B I H D M O C
 N O R E F A M A Y H N A V N E
 A S T I C L S E T J I G T H D
 G J B O D T N C Q E M A Y S F
 M W L C H R O E W U K I M P L
 B E L O G C A L S B A T T L E



Coat-of-Arms

Enniskillen Castle was once the home of the Maguires of Fermanagh. They had their own Maguire coat-of-arms. Every powerful family had a distinctive coat-of-arms made up of special pictures and symbols.

Draw your own coat-of-arms. Include things that you like eg. your pets, your house or your family.

Local History Quiz

1

Who stands on Forthill overlooking Enniskillen?

2

Why was this person's family so important to the history of Enniskillen?

3

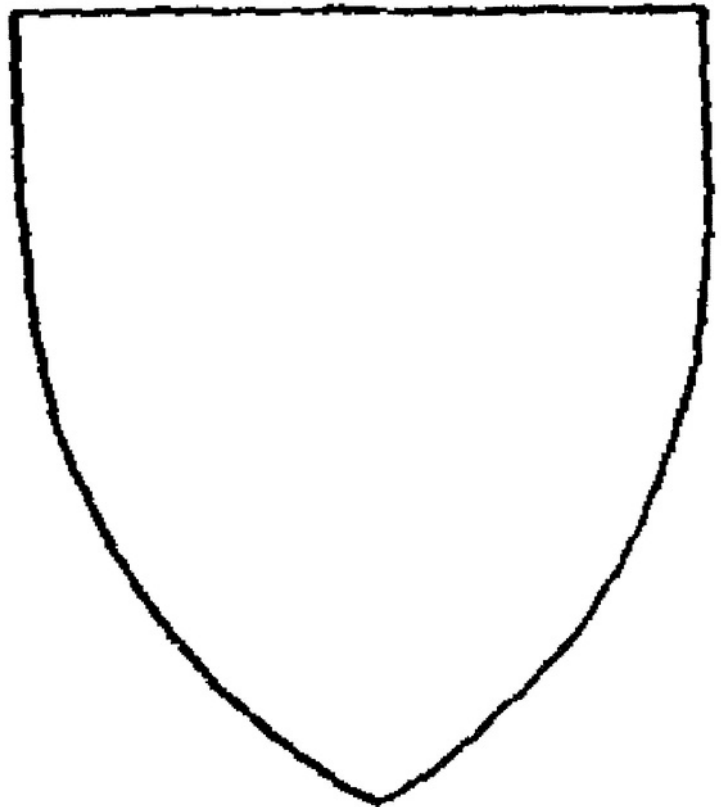
How many people do you think lived in Enniskillen in 1842:

- a) 5,900?
- b) 3,200?
- c) 1,700?

4

How many people do you think live in Enniskillen today:

- a) 16,000?
- b) 25,000?
- c) 10,000?



ANSWERS: 1) Cole's monument stands on forthill. It is a memorial column to Sir Galbraith Lowry Cole who lived between 1772 and 1842 and who distinguished himself during the Penninsular Wars.
 2) General Galbraith Cole was the second son of the first Earl of Enniskillen and a direct descendant of Sir William Cole who built the town of Enniskillen.
 3) A 4) A

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Recent Purchases

A wooden carved panel inspired by Early Christian motives was purchased recently by the museum. It was carved by local artist Charles McClintock, and was included in his exhibition of his work at Enniskillen Castle in the summer of 1995. This piece was purchased with grant aid from the Northern Ireland Museums Council.

The museum has also recently acquired an important early painting by the Enniskillen-born artist William Scott. The painting entitled "Still Life with Flowers" was purchased



Still Life with Flowers
by William Scott.
Photograph courtesy of
John Jones Frames Ltd.,
London.

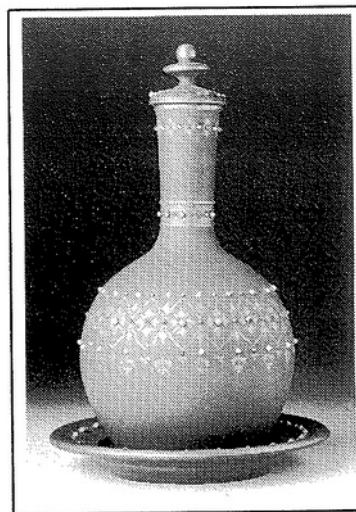
Other Recent Acquisitions at Enniskillen Castle

The collections at Enniskillen Castle have continued to grow through 1995 and 1996. We received a donation of an old gramophone and records from Mr Ian Burns of Enniskillen. The gramophone is still in perfect working order and there are several original needles stored within it. Mr Burns had bought the gramophone from a friend for half a crown after he finished boarding school.

Mr Gabriel Hassard made a donation of a hydraulic barber's chair. This chair was used in Leo Campbell's Barber shop of 60 Belmore Street from the years of 1952 - 1969. The chair was later owned by Malachy Love until 1977 and finally it belonged to Mr Hassard. There is a leather strap at the rear of the chair which was used for honing or "sweetening" the razor after it was sharpened on a stone. This chair was one of

in London for a total of £25,000. It was thanks to Lord Belmore, patron of the Friends of the Museum, that the painting came to our attention. He spotted the work hanging in the Bernard Jacobson Art Gallery in London and was able to reserve it until we found the funds to finalise the purchase. A 90% grant was given by the National Lottery Fund and the remainder of the finance came from the National Art Collections Fund and a contribution of £1,250 from the Association of Friends of the Museum.

A very unusual terracotta water cooler manufactured by Belleek Pottery between 1863 to 1890 was purchased in 1995 at the cost of £800. The purchase was assisted by a grant of £400 from the Northern Ireland Museums Council and the piece is at present on display along with our growing collection of Belleek Pottery.



Terracotta water cooler - first period Belleek - purchased with grant aid from the Northern Ireland Museums Council.

the first hydraulic chairs in Enniskillen.

Our collection of local sports memorabilia has expanded this year through the generosity of Miss Jean Bleakley. She donated several photographs of local sportsmen in the 1920s and 1930s and a billiards cue and rest used by her brother, Norris Bleakley.

Mrs Maureen Arnold of Bundoran gave the museum a collection of pots, pans and baking utensils. These have been recently restored and can now be used as a teaching resource for our education programme.

Interesting items of costume were given to Enniskillen Castle by Mrs Fisher and Mrs Brien of Ballinamallard. These costumes included several hats and some capes with ornate embroidery.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Another Map Conserved

Recently another historic map in the museum's collections has been conserved. Made by the Ordnance Survey in 1863, it is a large scale map of Enniskillen which, like the 1842 map of the town restored last year, can be seen at any time by appointment. The map, printed in four parts, was purchased at an auction of rare books and maps held in Dublin in 1994. Two of the maps had been hand coloured so it was decided to get the others painted to match. The maps were then cleaned, flattened and mounted by a professional conservator before being set in specially crafted oak frames. A generous grant from the Northern Ireland Museums Council helped with the cost of framing and conservation.

Inishmacsaint Lace Can You Help Us?

We are looking for one or two examples of Inishmacsaint lace to include in our permanent lace displays. We have received a lot of interesting items relating to this cottage industry from Mrs. Hassard of Blaney, original patterns, a list of lace workers, letters, receipts and billheads. All we need to complete the story of this beautiful Fermanagh lace are some actual pieces which we would be happy to buy, borrow or be given. Some of you may have lace at home which could have been made at Inishmacsaint. If you are uncertain about its origin we could help to identify it.

The Irish Victorian Household Exhibition. More Help Needed.

There was a very good response to our request in last year's Newsletter for old household equipment for a Victorian Household exhibition. The exhibition, postponed because of staffing difficulties, is now scheduled to take place in February 1997. We are still interested in acquiring old household equipment of any date; it does not have to be Victorian. So if

you can put us in touch with anyone who can give or sell us any of the following items, we would be most grateful:- early electrical appliances such as fires, kettles, toasters or vacuum cleaners, pots and pans, can openers, water filters, wash tubs, wash dollies or washing machines.

Friends' Coach Trip To Clonmacnoise And Corlea

The coach trip to Clonmacnoise and Corlea on 29 June was fully booked and took place in ideal weather conditions. Our first stop was in the middle of a bog at Corlea, not far from Longford, where an excellent guide gave us a fascinating talk about the making of the prehistoric timber trackway which forms the centrepiece of the new Visitor Centre there. Then on to the monastery at Clonmacnoise where another Visitor Centre houses the ancient High Crosses of Clonmacnoise. Particularly attractive was the natural setting of the monastery beside the river Shannon, with sailing boats gliding past and flocks of geese flying overhead.

Next year we plan to visit the lovely Cooley peninsula in County Louth, the old port town of Carlingford and the award winning County Museum in Dundalk.

Membership of the Friends of the Museum

What do you gain?

- * Free admission to both museums and exhibitions at Enniskillen Castle.
- * Invitations to attend exhibition previews and other functions at Enniskillen Castle.
- * Opportunities to attend Friends' outings and to see "behind the scenes".
- * Our annual Newsletter to keep you in touch with developments and news.

The aims of the Association

- * To help with the enlargement of the museums collections and to provide funds for this purpose.
- * To join in the activities of the museum and to encourage a wider enjoyment of its facilities.

Subscription

Individual membership	£7.00
Family membership	£10.00
OAP's & Students	£3.00
Corporate membership	£20.00



FERMANAGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL



FRONT COVER: Sword fighters in 17th century costume at Enniskillen Castle on the special family event in June. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.

BACK COVER: Staff member Elizabeth Crooke passing around mince pies at the Christmas event to (from left), Mark McCutcheon, Victoria Foster, Kathryn Craig, Clare Foster and Paul McCutcheon. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.