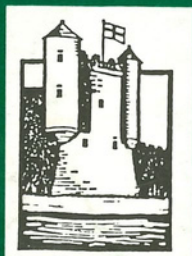


ENNISKILLEN CASTLE Newsletter

1994



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Major Restoration of the Castle and Barracks

If you have visited Enniskillen Castle recently you may have found yourself manoeuvring around soil heaps and workmen in various parts of the Castle Barracks yard. These are not roadworks, as the signs suggest, but part of an on-going programme of restoration and refurbishment being carried out by the Environment Service; Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch.

A network of underground ducting has been put in place so that soon all overhead cabling will be removed. Work on the curved range, once stabling

for army horses and storage for gun carriages, is progressing well. The arched doorways are being restored to their former glory and the ground laid with setts.

A major refurbishment of the Keep will mean closing its doors for six months from September until Easter 1995. The 19th century windows are being replaced and a new staircase is being installed. Longer term plans are to turn the barracks yard into an open area free of cars, introducing grassed areas and replacing tarmacadam with more appropriate surfaces.



William McFrederick and Reggie Dixon of the Environment Service laying setts in the arcaded range of the Castle Barracks yard.

The Benefits of Friendship

Over 350 local people know the advantages of being a Friend of the Museum;

- * free admission to Enniskillen Castle (incorporating the Regimental Museum) and to all special exhibitions
- * invitations to exhibition previews
- * free Enniskillen Castle Newsletter

Annual Subscription Charges:

- * individual - £ 7.00
- * family - £10.00
- * OAP/student - £ 3.00
- * Unwaged - £ 2.00
- * corporate membership - £20.00

Heritage Centre officially opened



Mr Gerry Burns, Chief Executive, Councillor Bertie Kerr, Chairman, Fermanagh District Council, Mr Robert Atkins, Economy and Environment Minister and Helen Lanigan Wood at the opening of the new Heritage Centre at Enniskillen Castle. (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter)

The new Heritage Centre at Enniskillen Castle was officially opened on 15th June 1993 by Mr Robert Atkins, the Economy and Environment Minister, another important amenity built by Fermanagh District Council. At a cost of nearly £700,000, the new centre provides a high standard of visitor facilities, including audio visual theatre, gift shop, lift and other facilities for children and the disabled. The two storied building designed by Richard Pierce, allows space for permanent displays about Fermanagh's natural and social history as well as for programmes of special exhibitions.

The new award winning displays are popular with

local schools, and students use them to study many aspects of the new curriculum, in the areas of art and science as well as history. Popular with all visitors are the beautiful models created by Gordon Johnson which as well as being highly educational convey a real sense of the past and of the diversity of Fermanagh's landscapes and wildlife

The natural history of Fermanagh is also the theme of one of the two audio visual presentations - a programme focusing on the wildlife of the west of the county. The second programme is about Enniskillen, about life in the town in earlier days as recalled by some of its citizens.

The Norwich Union Museum Award



Towards the end of 1993 Enniskillen Castle won the Norwich Union Museum Award 'in recognition of outstanding achievement in museum display.' This award is for museums and galleries which have an annual income of less than £500,000 and those which have 'imaginative and thoughtful' presentations. The judges said that the exhibition at Enniskillen Castle 'established a succesful link between the visitor and the county for both tourist and local alike...and made use of two continental languages in its displays.'

Mrs Mary Robinson, President of Ireland and Patron of the Gulbenkian/Norwich Union Awards for Museums and Galleries in Ireland at the award ceremony in Dublin Castle, where she presented the trophy and a cheque for £1000 to Helen Lanigan Wood and Janie Crone.



Helen Lanigan Wood, Councillor Bertie Kerr, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council and Mr Charles Horton, Curator of the Chester Beatty Library with the Norwich Union Museums Award. The award, shared with the Chester Beatty Library, can be seen at Enniskillen Castle throughout the summer. (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter)

New Guard on duty at Enniskillen Castle

You could be forgiven for thinking that the figure guarding the entrance to the Heritage Centre is real - it is a life sized model of a 17th century musketeer from the early days of the Inniskilling infantry regiment.

Visitors have shown considerable interest in the musketeer - it is the most photographed figure at the Castle - and it serves a useful function in directing visitors towards the entrance. The model is dressed in the uniform of Tiffin's Inniskilling Regiment of Foot, named after the regiment's first colonel, Zachariah Tiffin.

The origin of this regiment can be traced back to 1688 when Gustavus Hamilton, Governor of Enniskillen, called upon the people of the town and surrounding areas to defend themselves against James II's invading army. It was from these unpaid volunteers that Tiffin's Regiment was formed, and it eventually became the 27th (Inniskilling) Regiment of Foot and later the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Lord Belmore, Patron of the Friends of the Museum, and Major George Stephens with the life sized model of a 17th century 'Grey Inniskilling'.

(Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter)



Enniskillen Castle SHOP

Books to suit all - cookery books, local history books and a wide range of childrens activity and reading books.

Unusual household gifts - Spanish glass, kitchen herb kits, Liberty candles and soaps, cross-stitch kits.

Historical reproductions - miniature Roman Centurians, coins, jewellery and Greek amphora

Childrens toys - Hand painted wooden toys, animal hand puppets, games and puzzles.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

New Appointment

Emma MacNeice - Development Officer

Emma MacNeice joined Enniskillen Castle as Development Officer in March, coming from the National Trust where she worked at Castle Coole as Administrator for almost two years. Born in Bangor, Emma spent most of her school years in Omagh before studying for a Leisure Management Degree in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, and working in a museum in America. In her spare time, Emma enjoys horse riding, tennis and sailing - and is a member of Lough Erne Yacht Club.



(Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter)

EXHIBITIONS



Guests attending the opening of the exhibition, 'For the Glory of God: Maguire Chalices and other Historic Church Silver'.

Dean John McCarthy, Rector of St Macartin's Cathedral; Madame Patricia Maguire; Most Rev Dr Joseph Duffy, Bishop of Clogher; The Maguire of Fermanagh; Mr Donal Begley, Chief Herald of Ireland; the Earl of Belmore and Helen Lanigan Wood.

(Photograph courtesy of Fermanagh Herald)

Greer Ramsey and Janie Crone working on the exhibition *When the Yanks came marching in*. Photographs and memorabilia from Fermanagh during the war years helped revive many memories, both happy and sad, of the friendly invasion of Ulster by American troops.

(Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter)



Ancient and twisted tree trunks reminiscent of a Celtic grove - from *Sweeney's Flight*, an exhibition of photographs by the American photographer Rachel Brown accompanied by poetic extracts from Seamus Heaney's translation of the ancient Irish saga *Buile Suibhne* - both capturing a journey through a landscape of immense beauty and isolation.

EXHIBITIONS



*Dinosaur fatigue...!
Endless activity painting,
stencilling, colouring and
dinosaur modelling, not to
mention the dinosaur
hunts through the long
grass of our Lowland
Meadow - all helping to
make the Dinosaur
Roadshow a lively and
enjoyable exhibition for
children, and I think for
parents also!
(Photograph courtesy of
Impartial Reporter)*

For Your Diary...

Programme of Special Exhibitions 1994 - 95

May - 2 September

Old World New World - the Americas before and after Columbus.

5 September - 21 October

Western Board Exposure - an art exhibition by Fermanagh Art & Design Teachers.

26 October - 11 November

Symbols - an exhibition by the Cultural Traditions Group aimed at promoting a greater understanding of the diverse symbols in our culture.

21 November - 6 January

The Click of the Camera - Historic photographs from the National Library together with our own collection of old photographic equipment and more..

16 January - 10 March

Pure Genius - The fine art of selling stout by Guinness.

20 March - 2 June

A Celebration of the European Year of the Bronze Age.
Art Between Covers - exhibition of books and bookbinding.

12 June - 29 September

The Finest of Fine Art - the detailed work of Daune Rashleigh includes her timeless miniature wax portraits, flower paintings and crafts.
Magical and Mysterious, Symbolic and Atmospheric - the work of Charles McClintock.

COLLECTIONS



At the launch of the new art work in memory of the late Mr Jim Nawn were Mr Desmond Preston, Helen Lanigan Wood, Lord Belmore, Miss Joan Trimble, Councillor Jim Lunny, Major George Stephens and Mr Warren Loane. (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter)

Acquisitions

During 1993 we added almost 100 items to our collection, many of them presented as gifts.

One of the most apt gifts was an etching commissioned by Colin and Eileen Burns. The etching, made by the Kent artist Gordon Miles, depicts the Watergate from the banks of the Erne with a backdrop of Enniskillen's skyline.

Another art work we acquired was a copy of an 18th century drawing of Enniskillen painted on ceramic tiles by Seamus Malone a potter at Kilkenny Design Centre. The piece was commissioned in memory of F J Nawn, former librarian in Enniskillen, and was paid for by public subscription.

To mark the opening of the First Trust Bank we were presented with an important bank note, issued by the Provincial Bank of Ireland more than 150 years ago.

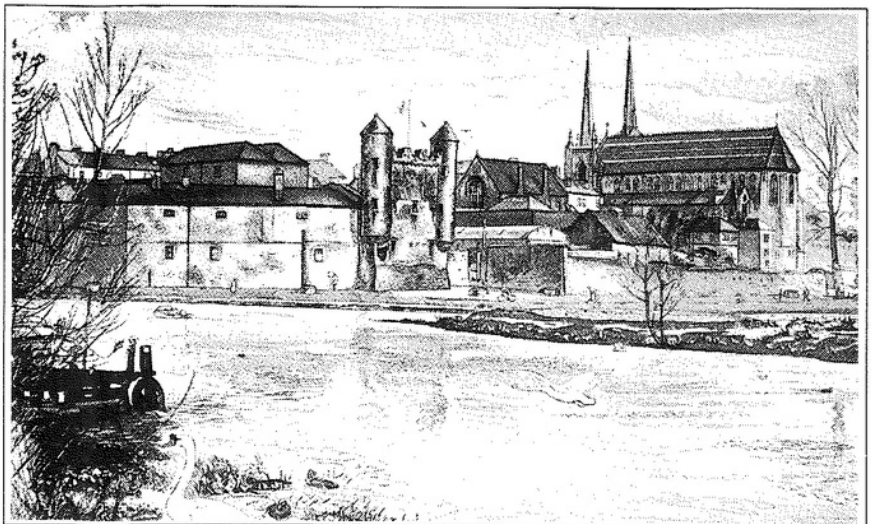
In 1840 the Provincial Bank was on Enniskillen's main street where its successor, a branch of the Allied Irish Bank, now First Trust Bank, stood. In the early days of banking all Provincial Bank notes were printed in London. Each note was signed by the clerk before being despatched to Ireland where it was then countersigned by the local bank manger.

An important addition to our lace display was a donation from Mrs Reo Radcliffe of Belfast of crochet hooks used for making Irish crochet lace. Of even greater importance was all the information about Inishmacsaint lace provided by Mrs Hassard of Blaney who gave us a collection of rare Inishmacsaint lace patterns together with letters, billheads, invoices and receipts. These had originally belonged to Miss Eleanor Hassard who taught at the Inishmacsaint lace school from the turn of the century until the 1920s.

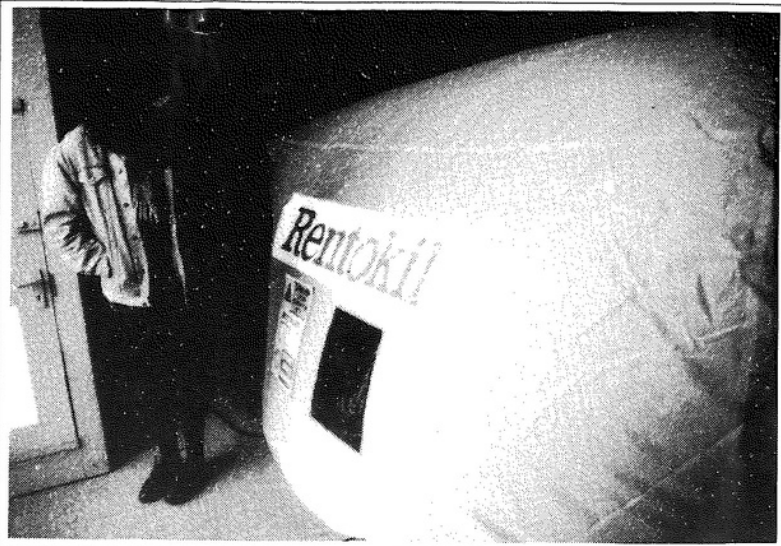
One of the Museum's prized possessions, a recent purchase, is 'a very rare and beautiful wooden cup', which was published many years ago in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*. The details of this cup's early history remain obscure. It belonged to Sir John Langham's father and had been found 'somewhere in Fermanagh' possibly by turfcutters. The cup, carved from yew, is decorated and originally had two metal (probably silver) bands around it. It is a drinking cup and could date to the 16th century.

The Friends of the Museum have helped us to purchase several items of Belleek for the museum during the past 18 months. These include a first period washstand (£1400) and a beautiful parian figure of a Bather (£2000), to which the Northern Ireland Museums Council also contributed. We also bought a Belleek bust of Gladstone for £1700.

We would like to thank all of our very generous donors and express our appreciation to so many of our friends who have helped us during the last year.



'The Watergate, Enniskillen' by Gordon Miles



Conservation by Rentokil!

Rentokil was called in to treat the organic artefacts which are now part of our permanent displays. A hen, a cradle and numerous straw objects were gathered into a fumigation bubble which was then filled with poisonous gas for 24 hours. This killed any mites or pests still present, thus making these artefacts fit for a controlled museum environment!

At work on Belleek!

Museum Assistant Adrian Beattie carefully registering a porcelain centre piece of Belleek pottery. Made between 1863-90, it was presented to us by Lady Langham and is now on display.

Northern Ireland Museums Council

Two local women have been appointed to serve on the newly-formed Northern Ireland Museums Council.

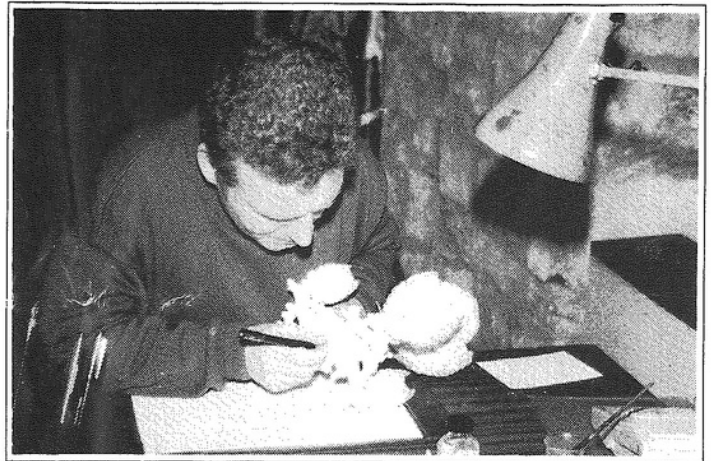
Helen Lanigan Wood, Curator of the County Museum at Enniskillen Castle, and Joanna McVey, Managing Director of William Trimble Ltd and a Director of the Enniskillen-based Celtrim Printing Ltd. will together serve on the new body.

The new Northern Ireland Museums Council, under its new Director Aidan Walsh, will promote the strategic development of appropriate new museums in the North.

It will encourage excellence in existing museums by focusing on self-help and co-operation, and by providing common services and grant-aid, all of which is designed to take its network of museums into the new millennium.

Already the museum has reason to be grateful to the NIMC for grant aid towards several projects. We have been able to fit out a new store, organise staff training in photography and computerisation and commission a feasibility study on the development of Enniskillen Castle. NIMC has also contributed 50% of the cost of two important acquisitions of Belleek pottery to which the Friends of the Museum also contributed.

(See under Acquisitions)



Come Closer!

Mr Bill Barbour, one our Friends of the Museum, and a latin scholar, undertakes the arduous task of deciphering, transcribing and translating a 17th century document at the museum, written partly in English, and partly in Latin.

The vellum document dated 1622 confers the title of Viscount of Ely on Adam Loftus, an eminent lawyer who became Chancellor of Ireland in 1619. The Fermanagh connection began in 1736 when Nicholas Loftus, first Earl of Ely, married the heiress of Castle Hume, site of the present Castle Hume Golf Club.



EDUCATION

A stimulating alternative to the classroom.

The educational potential of the exhibitions and historic buildings at Enniskillen Castle seems to be limitless. Thanks to the new school curriculum, the museum's extensive resources can now be used to make a valuable contribution to children's education. Working very closely with the Western Education & Library Board, particularly the Primary Assistant Curriculum Advisory Officer, curriculum links are being developed in a variety of subject areas. One day courses have been organised for History co-ordinators at Enniskillen Castle with Museum Officer Janie Crone offering teachers an opportunity to find out about the educational value of the displays.

The results of this fruitful co-operation between teachers, Western Education & Library Board and Museum staff can be seen daily. Teachers and children become immersed in 'Life in the Recent Past' and 'Life in Early Times', handling museum objects, studying displays, listening to extracts from our oral history archive and looking at old photographs.

As well as the curriculum-linked education programme, which will be developed and expanded over the coming years, we also offer a range of activities related to our special exhibitions and to the Castle environs. These activities include a Castle Activity Trail, Wildlife Spotting and a number of workshops about textiles, pottery and food relating to our current exhibition Old World New World.



Enniskillen Castle staff members Adrian Beattie and Janie Crone with Nancy Elliot, Assistant Advisory Officer, WELB and teachers during an In-service History co-ordinators course.

Planning a Visit?

Enniskillen Castle now offers several alternatives (see above) for educational visits. Janie Crone, Museum Officer, will assist and advise teachers and leaders who intend bringing groups to the Castle, and will offer suggestions about special focus visits.

All group visits must be pre-booked: Tel. (0365) 325000

Focus on Children

Recently we have concentrated on providing more facilities and activities for our younger visitors, a development which has been very well received by parents and children alike.

Using our portable stools, smaller visitors are now able to inspect at close quarters the award-winning displays and models about Fermanagh. Children can also occupy themselves with jigsaws, crayons and colouring sheets which are always available.

Children now have their very own notice board with up-to-date information, articles and pictures. These guide them on how to start their own collections as well as telling them, in cartoon form, the history of everyday items such as the telephone.

Recent additions to the shop include special items for children such as wooden toys, activity books, flower presses and bug discovery kits! Other practical additions include nappy changing facilities.

Summer activities for children have been prepared and will be available for visitors. They include a Castle Activity Trail which takes children on a self-guided tour within the old walls, discovering some of the castle's 500 year history.

The response from families to our new additions has been very positive, and it is hoped that they will keep children busy while allowing parents to explore our exhibitions in peace.

Medieval Banquet at the Castle



Sir Hugh and Lady Jayne De Lacy, alias Rodney Connor, Director of Environmental Services and Helen Lanigan Wood.

baked stuffed apples and was finished off with a selection of cheeses, all washed down with delicious apple wine.

The evening came about as part of European Studies, a programme which encourages cross-curricular study linking subjects together - in this case history, art, cookery, music and PE - giving students the opportunity to develop individual study and teamwork skills.

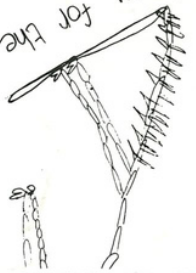
A photographic display of the Medieval Banquet can be seen at the Castle during the summer.

A very special night took place recently in the Castle Keep. The second year pupils of Enniskillen High school, with a little help from their teachers, staged a Medieval Banquet - a gastronomic feast and included entertainment of all kinds. There were musicians, acrobats and jugglers, a very cheeky jester, several battle-weary knights, a devout but humorous monk and a medicine woman with interesting cures for all ailments. A band of busy kitchen servants waited at table to look after Sir Hugh and Lady Jayne De Lacy and their 10 guests. The menu consisted of nettle and garlic soup followed by a rack of pork with leeks and carrots. The feast continued with



Students from Enniskillen High School in their roles as Medieval characters. (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter)

Thank you for the exhibition



Thank you for the exhibition



Dinosaur Facts



Thank you for the exhibition
Caraithe



Thank you for the dinosaur exhibition I liked the dinosaur search

Lisa Fleming



Thank you for the exhibition
John

Front cover photograph : Janie Crone and Christopher Elliott from Enniskillen, feel the sharpness of *Megalosaurus*' teeth during the Dinosaur Roadshow. (Photograph courtesy of the Impartial Reporter)

Back cover photograph : Winners of our Easter Dinosaur competition were Edwina McDowell (aged 10), Fionn McAloon (aged 6) and Simon McDowell (aged 13) all from Enniskillen.

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