

# The Sentinel

ISSUE 13    DECEMBER 1998

Fermanagh County Museum -  
Winner of 1998 Gulbenkian/Heritage Council  
Award for Best Smaller Museum.



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This has been a year of change and growth for Enniskillen Castle in many respects and we have ended the year on a high note, winning the Gulbenkian/Heritage Council award for Best Smaller Museum in Ireland for the second time.

The Museum has continued to work to high standards in traditional areas of collection management, documentation and research. We have also increased access and outreach by hosting a living history event on the May Day Bank Holiday in conjunction with the Environmental and

and Gallery Week. Gallery Week was a particularly successful venture. The aim of this week was to encourage children to engage in the visual arts and during it the exhibition of Kathleen Bridle paintings acted as a spring board for children to explore water colour techniques.

Caring for our collections must always be carefully balanced with the need to provide access. A Collection Management Plan (1998-2001) was drawn up which will take the Museum into the next century. It addresses all relevant issues ranging from documentation, storage, conservation and environmental controls to planning for potential disasters and risk management.

Co. Cavan, two art classes by Dr. Denise Ferran and various public lectures including one by Dr. Carole Durix on the subject of her aunt, Kathleen Bridle.

*Caring for our collections must always be carefully balanced with the need to provide access*

As always this year saw a range of special exhibitions - *New Sculpture*, a review of the recent work of local sculpture Anthony Scott and *Transformations* by photographer Anne Cassidy.

The exhibition programme was continued with *Early Christianity in Ireland*, which explored the material and cultural evidence of this important period in Ireland's history. *Kathleen Bridle: Watercolourist and Landscape Painter (1897-1989)*, was a timely and important retrospective exhibition of her work which was accompanied by the book, *The Life and Art of Kathleen Bridle*.

September opened with *Shay Nethercott's Fermanagh: An Exhibition of Photographs* which allowed another important review of a life's work. The year's programme ended well with the Ulster Museum's touring exhibition *Up In Arms*. This was launched with a lecture by Dr. Allan Blackstock, Institute of Irish Studies, QUB on Yeomen and United Irishmen in Fermanagh, and traditional music played on an Irish harp by harpist Paul Dooley from Co. Clare. □

# Review OF THE Year 1997-1998

Heritage Service, holding a workshop for visiting Chernobyl children, hosting the Ulster Museum Science Bus and facilitating an adult education evening entitled *Stop, Look & Listen*. This latter event

*The Museum aims to have a flexible and responsive approach to educational provision*

was in conjunction with the nation-wide Campaign for Learning. The Museum also took part in other nation wide events such as Museums Week

Another undertaking was a re-assessment of our existing education programme and education handling collection. The Museum aims to have a flexible and responsive approach to educational provision both for school groups and other users. To this end new programmes are currently being developed which explore Fermanagh's natural environment and interpret Enniskillen Castle as built evidence of the past.

Adult education has been served by various means including a Friends of the Museum trip to

# NEW FACES

## AT THE MUSEUM

*Enniskillen Castle  
welcomes a new  
Part Time  
Education Officer*

Kellie Pollock (pictured right), originally from New Zealand but now residing in Fermanagh took up her post at the Castle in early September. She has a degree in Environmental Science, majoring in geology, and was formerly involved with education provision at Florencecourt House. Kellie has a particular interest in creating hands-on activities as part of the educational



experience at the Museum in addition to developing new education modules. She replaces Jill Mulligan who left to concentrate on her art and interior design work and whom we wish well in her new career. □

## Staff Achievements

Members of staff at the Museum have been successful in gaining various qualifications in the last year.

**D**evelopment Officer Jayne Olphert gained a Postgraduate Diploma and Masters from Leicester University in Museum Studies; fellow Development Officer, Bronagh Cleary achieved a Postgraduate Diploma in Cultural Management from the University of Ulster (Jordanstown); Administrator, Fiona Cathcart passed an HNC with distinction in Travel and Tourism Management from

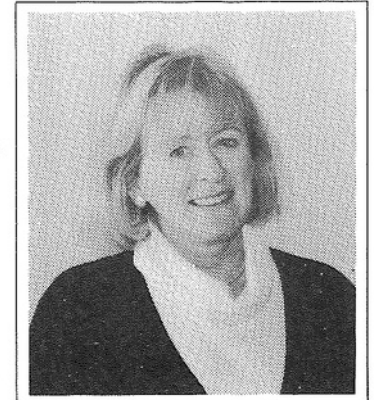
Fermanagh College and Museum Assistant Adrian Beattie was successful in gaining a Certificate in Museum Studies with a commendation from Queen's University, Belfast.

These qualifications have enhanced the skill base and theoretical knowledge within the Museum of good, modern museum management, visitor and collection care. □

## CLOGHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Women's Oral History Project

Enniskillen Castle is delighted to be associated with Clogher Historical Society women's oral history project. Project researcher, Joan Duffy is based at the Museum and has the use of Museum facilities. This project is managed by Museum Development Officer, Bronagh Cleary and a panel of Clogher Historical Society members; it is funded by Fermanagh District Partnership. Recordings and transcriptions will be available to researchers at Enniskillen Castle and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra, and will also be the basis for an exhibition in 1999 on the lives of Fermanagh women.



*Researcher for the  
Women's Oral History  
Project, Joan Duffy.*

## Temporary Documentation Assistant

For a four week period in August - September 1998 the Museum with grant aid from the Northern Ireland Museums Council employed a temporary documentation assistant to tackle a back log in the paper archives. Brendan

Fitzpatrick did a splendid job and good inroads were made in terms of upgrading documentation on the paper collections and identifying material that required some remedial conservation. He also carried out some preventive conservation making made-to-measure melinex sleeves to store valuable artefacts. □



*Members of Museum staff who gained new qualifications in 1998, from left to right: Adrian Beattie, Fiona Cathcart, Jayne Olphert, Bronagh Cleary.*

The Fermanagh County Museum at Enniskillen Castle has just won the 1998 Gulbenkian/Heritage Council Award for Best Smaller Museum. The award, presented by President Mary McAleese at a ceremony in Dublin Castle was received by the chairman of Fermanagh District Council, Mr. Patrick McCaffrey and the museum curator Helen Lanigan Wood. As well as a certificate, there was a prize of £2,500.

The award was made for achievement in display and for good communication. The judges felt that Fermanagh

## ANOTHER GULBENKIAN AWARD FOR FERMANAGH COUNTY MUSEUM

County Museum is an excellent example of what a local museum should be. 'The displays are excellent with adequate spacing and lighting and good explanatory labelling. There is an overall coherence in the permanent exhibition which provides a remarkable comprehensive picture of Co. Fermanagh through the ages'.

Commenting on the

award, museum curator Helen Lanigan Wood said that she was particularly pleased about the complimentary remarks made by the judges about their welcome at the museum. Visiting the museum anonymously accompanied by children, they were met 'by helpful and enthusiastic staff and the attention of young visitors was held throughout the visit' The Gulbenkian/Heritage

Award for Best Larger Museum was won by another museum in Northern Ireland, the Ulster American Folk Park. These awards which are open to all museums and galleries throughout Ireland have been running for six years. This is the second time that Fermanagh County Museum has won the award for museums with a budget of less than £500,000; it has also won two other Gulbenkian awards, one for Best Customer Care, another for Best Education Project. □

# Living History at the Castle

On May Day Bank Holiday, Enniskillen Castle hosted a living history event organised and funded by the Environment and Heritage Service.

For the event visitors were asked to let their imaginations take them back to the late 16th Century when in the year 1594 the Castle was besieged by English forces.

The re-enactment group Clanvisions, displayed the skills of sword fighting, pike drills, musket firing and archery within the

Castle walls. Minstrels playing replica medieval instruments entertained visitors with their

authentic airs and tunes.

Prior to the event the re-enactors paraded through Enniskillen. They were joined by Mrs. Joy Synton on horseback and dressed as a 16th Century Irish warrior. This gave the event that

## CLAN VISIONS

special extra touch for which the Museum is very grateful, as she gave freely of her time. Outside the walls a medieval style cooking site was recreated and the sight of a family eating around an open fire attracted visitors to the Museum. In all, over 400 visitors attended during the day. The lucky winner of the day's visitor survey prize draw came from Randlestown in County Antrim. □



Visitors Cameron and Hilary Robinson with a musketeer from Clanvisions during the 16th century living history event on the May bank holiday. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.



# INTERNET WORLD WIDE

Our main aim in 1999 is to establish ourselves firmly on the Internet. The Museum will be included not only in Fermanagh District Council's website but also on a website produced by a group called Artspark Consortium which promotes arts and museum organisations throughout Northern Ireland.

Artspark Consortium was funded by Co-Operation North (now Co-Operation Ireland) with a view to helping groups such as ourselves to create public access to all aspects of arts and culture. Artspark has enabled groups to publish and manage their own web site. They facilitated us by training members of Fermanagh County Museum's staff in web design as well as supplying us with the equipment and software we need to do this. We hope to have our site fully developed by early 1999.

Another major development for the museum will be the installation of software at our off-site stores to monitor the condition of the museum collections. We will be able to access equipment in these outside stores from our offices in the Museum. This means that we can check on the temperature and humidity on these stores at any time of the day and if problems arise we can set equipment to work to rectify them. □

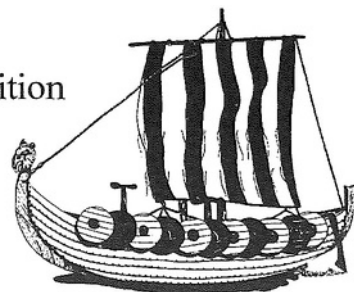
*February 5th - May 31st 1999*

Vikings and Viking Ships exhibition

*Thursday 29 April. 8pm.*

Dr. Patrick Wallace,  
Director, National Museum  
of Ireland.

Illustrated lecture on Everyday Life in Viking Dublin.



# diary

*March 12th, 15th, 16th, 18th 1999*

Science, Engineering and Technology Week (SET 99)

*May 15th - 23rd 1999*

Museums Week

**set99\***

exploring science  
engineering  
and technology

\*National celebration coordinated  
by the British Association

*June 11th - August 30th 1999*

Crafted by Candlelight:

Home Industries in Ulster 100 Years Ago.

*July 18th - 25th 1999*

Gallery Week

*September 2nd - October 14th 1999*

UTV Art exhibition - 20th Century Paintings from  
the Collections of Ulster Television.



**CAMPAIGN  
FOR LEARNING**

*September 9th 1999*

Campaign for Learning  
Stop, Look and Listen '99

*October 29th 1999 - January 14th 2000*

Memorable Women of Fermanagh: Past and Present.



## Roy King Medieval Armourer

For a week in early May, Roy King and his partner, Jackie Beevis lived and worked within the Castle. He is a talented and experienced craftsman who specialises in making armour from the Norman to the Medieval period. School children had the opportunity to handle and try on some of the weapons and armour and Roy explained to them the history of weapons. He did this in a way that did not glorify violence but sensitively explored this difficult facet of human history.

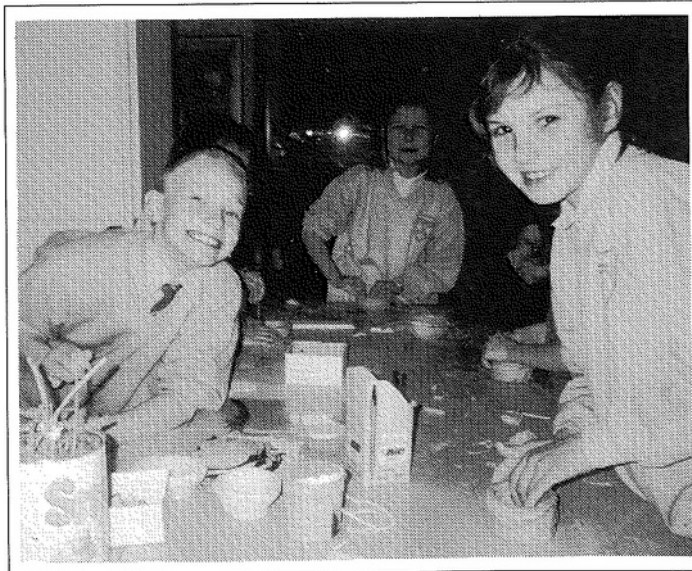
*ABOVE LEFT: Armourer Roy King with a group of Collegiate girls who are getting into the spirit of self defence!*

# Special \* Workshop Events \* for children

## CLAY POTTERY WORKSHOPS

These workshops are an optional extra within the Life In Early Times module offered to primary schools. Children learn to make pinch and coil pots just as their ancestors did thousands of years ago! They also create patterns using natural materials, anything from feathers to their own finger nails and they draw inspiration from Bronze Age pottery. In the past year the Museum has had replicas made of some of the Bronze Age pots in its collection for use in these workshops. □

*BOTTOM RIGHT: Children working with clay in a pottery session for Life in Early Times education module.*



## CHRISTMAS 1997

This event attracted all age groups, Christmas hats, mummer pop up Christmas cards and angel collages were made by children aged from four to nine years who took part in a special workshop. The workshop was enjoyed by all who participated,

including some parents! During the evening adults relaxed with seasonal hot mulled wine, listened to the Model Primary choir singing carols and wood wind instruments played by a group of talented girls from the Collegiate Grammar School and browsed in the Museum shop for Christmas gifts. □

## GALLERY WEEK

During the Summer months of 1998 the Museum held a retrospective exhibition of the work of the artist Kathleen Bridle. Coinciding with this Enniskillen Castle took part in Gallery Week. This is a nation wide event held in museums and galleries to encourage young children to become aware of and enjoy the visual arts. Entitled Art Insight and aimed at 4-12 year olds, Enniskillen Castle offered a morning tour followed by a 'have a go at' water colour art sessions, which proved very popular. In total almost 200 children got involved. □



BELOW: Children enjoying learning the basics of water colouring, pictured with Museum Development Officer, Jayne Olphert during Gallery Week. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.

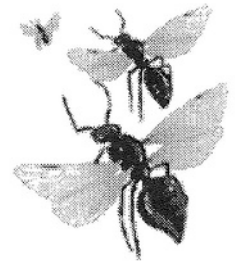


## ULSTER MUSEUM

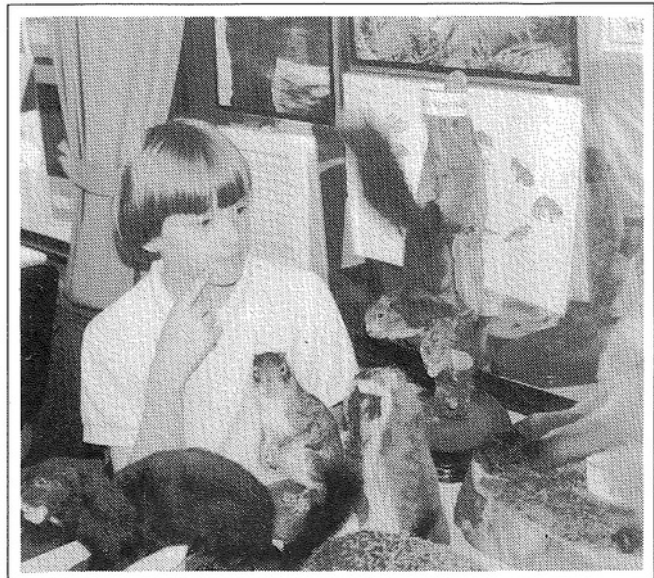
### Science Discovery Bus

The Ulster Museum Science Discovery Bus made their first visit to Enniskillen Castle on Thursday 18th June. The event was free to primary schools and was heavily subscribed.

Children who participated had the opportunity to touch, smell, look and listen. The exhibits included a preserved rain forest parrot, a selection of rock crystals, fossils, seashells, mammals, beetles, butterflies and spiders. Mr. "Build a Bird" alias Finbar Cross also attended from the RSPB. He showed children how to choose the correct components to build both real and fantasy birds.



*"Just don't move a muscle? Being stared at like this is putting me right off".  
A young naturalist takes the opportunity for close observation provided by the Science Bus.*



## CHILDREN FROM CHERNOBYL

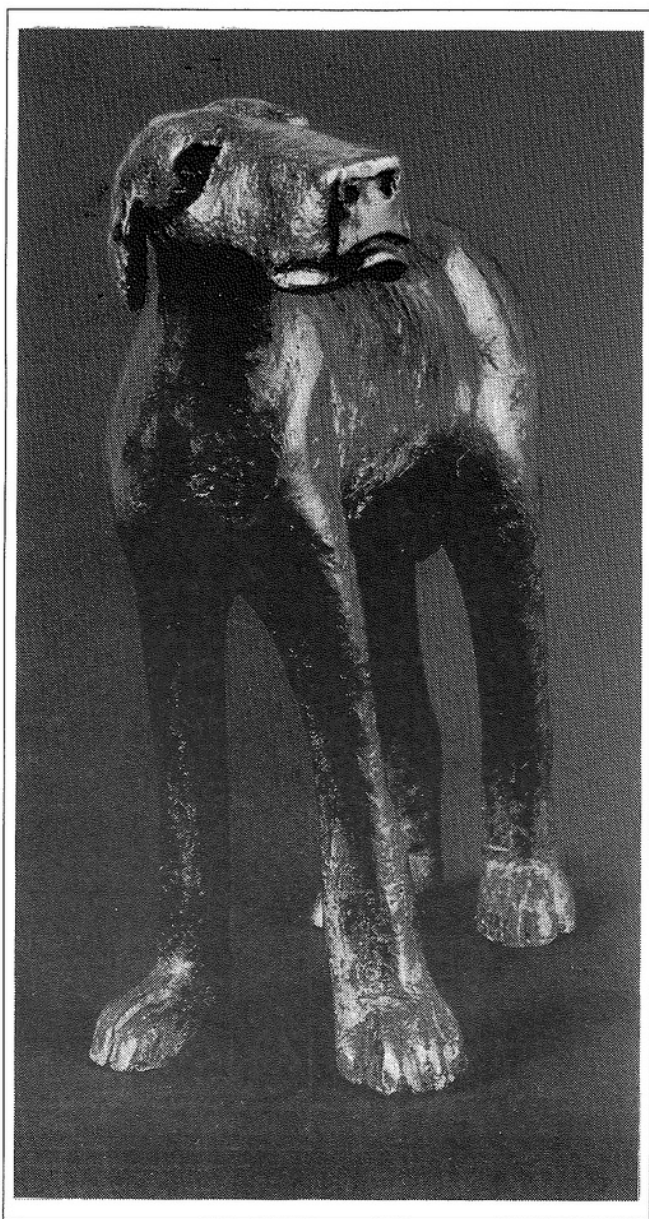
Friday, August 7th 1998

We were delighted to host a free event for children visiting from Chernobyl and for their host families from Lisnaskea. The children certainly seemed to enjoy the workshop, especially the messy bits, using dried pulses, pasta, glitter etc. to make up a picture. Everybody then had an opportunity to see around the Museum. □

The Museum continued to acquire interesting artefacts, both through donations and purchases, which reflect the history and culture of the county. Key pieces include:

# Acquisitions & DONATIONS 1997-1998

A sculpture of a dog in bronze entitled *Diarmuid* by local sculptor Anthony Scott (FCM\_1998-040), purchased with a 50% grant of £520 from the Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC) and £260 (25%) from the Association of Friends of the Museum.



"Diarmuid" bronze dog sculpture by local sculptor Anthony Scott (FCM\_1998\_040).  
Photograph courtesy of Anthony Scott.

Three photographic studies by Anne Cassidy (FCM\_1998\_033, 034, 042). These were purchased by the Association of Friends of the Museum for £180.

A Belleek first period wall plate (FCM\_1998\_041) purchased with 50% grant aid of £300 from the Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC).

Two paintings by Kathleen Bridle, *The East Bridge, Enniskillen, in Winter*, 1945 (FCM\_1998\_028) and *Fruitshop through Curtained Window, Enniskillen* c.1960 (FCM\_1998\_027) purchased with 50% grant aid of £250 each from the Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC).

An original lithograph in grey and white by William Scott entitled *Still Life - Three Pears and Pan* (FCM\_1997-118) was acquired thanks to assistance from the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland who gave £1,167, the Association of Friends of the Museum who donated £583.50 and the remainder of £584 from the Museum's budget.

Important donations have also been made in the last year to the Museum:

Mr. Eric Thomas donated an 18th century marriage document, dated 1778, (FCM\_1997\_117B).

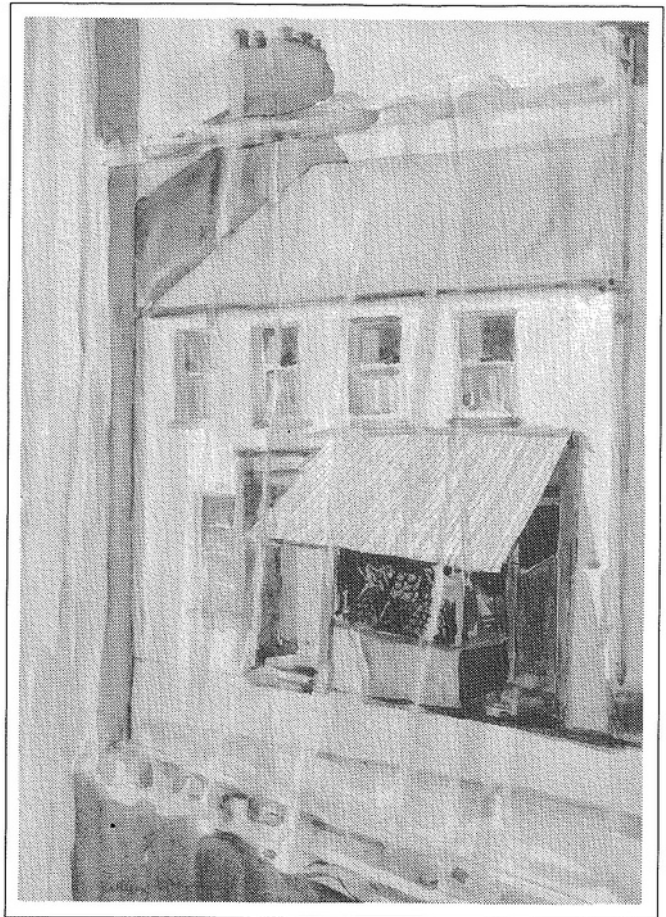
Mr. Shay Nethercott made a significant donation of his photographic collection, photographs taken by himself as well as those he collected over the years. (FCM\_1998\_106). Last September a small



selection of this collection was put on display in the exhibition entitled 'Shay Nethercott's Fermanagh' and it proved to be quite a draw with the public, particularly on the weekend of September 12th and 13th when over 300 people gained free admission to the Museum. for the Heritage Open Days

A copy of the new edition of *The Annals of Ulster* was presented to the Museum by the McManus Clan Association on the quincennial commemoration of the death of its compiler Cathal Og Mac Maghnusa (FCM\_1998\_095).

We would like to thank all those who gave us gifts during the year and also those bodies which supported us financially, the Northern Ireland Museums Council, The Arts Council of Northern Ireland National Lottery Fund, the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland and last but not least the Association of Friends of Fermanagh County Museum. □



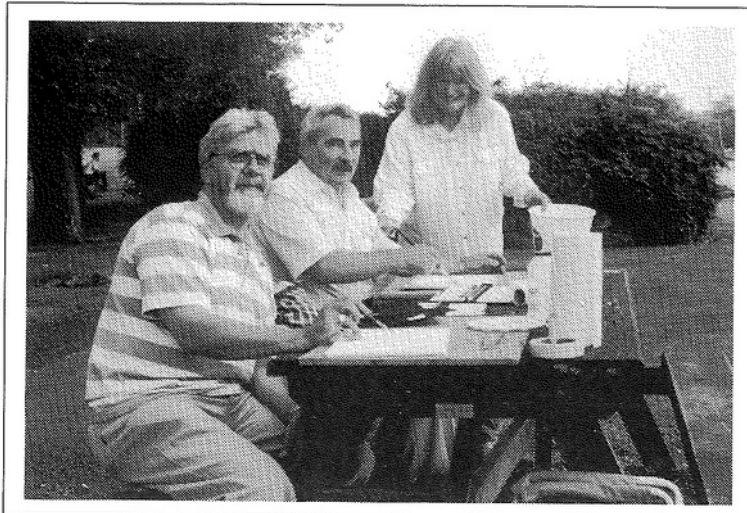
*Fruitshop through Curtained Window, Enniskillen, c. 1960. One of two water colour paintings by Kathleen Bridle acquired by the Museum. (FCM\_1998\_027)*



*To mark the quincennial celebration of the life and works of Cathal og Mac Maghnusa, the honorary clan chieftain, Sean McManus from Tipperary presented a complete set of the "Annals of Ulster" to Helen Lanigan Wood, Curator. In the group are (L -R) "The Maguire of Fermanagh", Terence Maguire, Dublin; Bishop Joseph Duffy, Councillor Patrick McCaffery, Chairman, Fermanagh District Council, Frank and Brian McManus. Photograph courtesy of Pat Reilly. (FCM\_1998\_095)*

# Art Workshops

*Tutor Denise Ferran gives advice to two participants at the summer art workshop.*



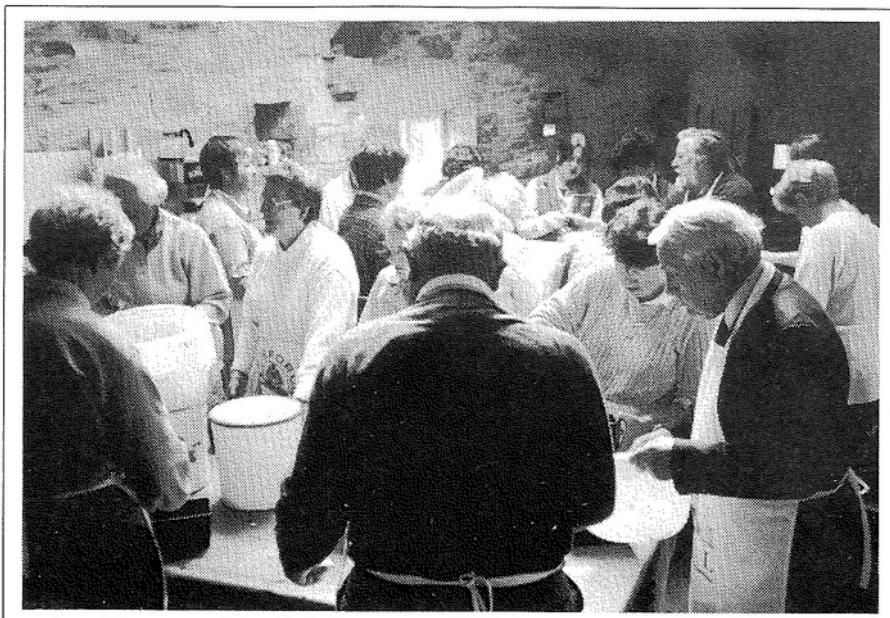
On two Saturday afternoons, 20th June and 19th September, the Museum was pleased to host art workshops given by Enniskillen-born artist Dr. Denise Ferran. The first workshop concentrated on the use of water colours and was held out of doors in the Broad Meadow. The second workshop explored the use of acrylics and again was blessed with fine weather and held in the open air. Both were well attended, by very enthusiastic participants eager to perfect their technique. □

## MUSEUMS WEEK

16-24 MAY 1998

Museums Week is a nationwide event which aims to raise the profile of museums and galleries by organised events, promotions and linked activities. Enniskillen Castle got involved by mounting a Mystery Objects Competition and two lunch time

lectures on "Behind the Scenes" conservation and documentation work at the Museum. The Mystery Objects proved so mysterious that the competition was left open for the Summer season to give more people an opportunity to guess. □



## FRIENDS' NEWS

This year the Friends' annual trip was to Co. Cavan. It proved to be a very enjoyable day and included a visit to the Cavan County Museum in Ballyjamesduff. There was also an opportunity to make wheaten bread during a visit to the Lifeforce Water Mill in Cavan town.

The Museum would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends for their support throughout 1998. □

*BOTTOM: Making wheaten bread at the Lifeforce mill was one of the activities enjoyed by the Friends of the Museum on their visit to Cavan in June. Photograph courtesy of Toni Johnson.*

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE FRIENDS OF FERMANAGH COUNTY MUSEUM?

*Membership information is available from the museum at:*

ENNISKILLEN CASTLE  
CASTLE BARRACKS  
ENNISKILLEN  
Co FERMANAGH  
Tel: 01365 325000

# All Our Yesterdays

Communication and Access

We have aimed in the past year to make innovations in our education service and to provide a greater range and depth in our service to both children and adults. In order to rise to this challenge we have reassessed our education programme for schools.

Pre-visit planning forms and evaluation sheets have been introduced and we are also benefiting from regular meetings with the school subject advisors of the Western Education and Library Board.

## ADULT LEARNING

The age range we serve has also widened this year. Groups from further education classes are regular visitors to our special exhibitions.

Adults with an interest in our cultural heritage attend workshops, lectures and outings and we will continue these programmes thus fulfilling our commitment to providing facilities and opportunities for life-long learning. □

## EXHIBITION REVIEW



Photographer, Anne Cassidy (second left) at the opening of her exhibition "Transformations", with (from left) Fergus McQuillan, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council; Shay Nethercott, who officially opened the exhibition and Helen Lanigan Wood, Museum Curator. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.

### Anne Cassidy, Photographer **TRANSFORMATIONS**

### Anthony Scott, Sculptor **NEW SCULPTURE**

examples of Fermanagh talent. Anne Cassidy's exhibition was opened by Mr. Shay Nethercott, himself an acclaimed photographer, who spoke of Anne's love of photography and her considerable ability. Anthony Scott's exhibition was officially opened by Mrs. Noelle Farry, art advisor to the Western Education and Library Board. She expressed her admiration for Anthony's work and congratulated him on having his sculptures widely collected around the world. □

A great many people braved the miserable December weather on Tuesday 9 December to attend the opening of two exceptional art exhibitions at Fermanagh County Museum. The exhibitions were a selection of photographs by Anne Cassidy entitled Transformations, a glimpse of the way in which flowers are represented in our

lives. The second exhibition was a collection of ceramic and bronze animals by Anthony Scott, entitled New Sculpture, and mainly inspired by animals from Celtic mythology. The opening was attended by the Chairman of Fermanagh District Council, Councillor Fergus McQuillan, who spoke of his pride at viewing such fine

An exhibition exploring the period of early Christianity  
in Ireland with particular reference  
to Fermanagh.



# EARLY CHRISTIANITY

9 March to 25 May 1998



*Drawing by Henry  
Glassie of detail from  
St. Molaise's Shrine.*

This exhibition on Early Christianity in Ireland included a number of important artefacts from the Museum's collection - an ogham stone found at Topped Mountain in Co. Fermanagh, part of a High Cross from Killesher, a grave slab with an Irish inscription from Kilcoo, near Garrison and full scale replicas of the celebrated White Island figures.

A key element of the exhibition was provided by The Ulster History Park who used replicas and reconstructions to show how the Book of Kells was created. A fine copy of the famous manuscript was lent by the Western Education and Library Board.

A new CD programme added an exciting dimension design by the Nerve Centre, Derry in association with the Tower Museum which provided a "visit" to the Virtual Museum of St. Colum Cille.

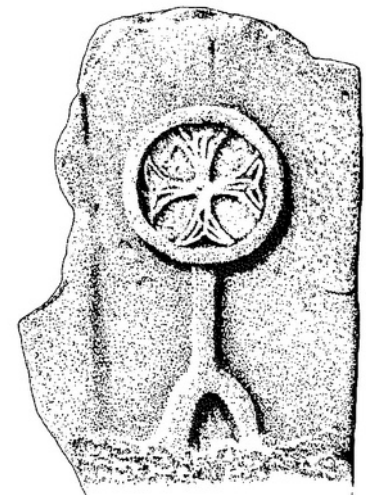
The exhibition was opened by Mr. Tony Candon, Manager of the Ulster History Park who was welcomed by Mr. Derrick Nixon, Vice - Chairman of Fermanagh District Council. Mrs Rosemary



*Attending the launch of the Early Christianity in Ireland exhibition were (from left) Mr Anthony Candon, Manager of the Ulster History Park, who opened the exhibition, Mr Derrick Nixon, Vice-Chairman of Fermanagh District Council, and Bronagh Cleary, Museum Development Officer.*

Adams of the Western Education and Library Board also attended the opening.

The exhibition attracted many local school children who paid particular attention to the intricacies of Celtic art as shown in the Book of Kells. They learned how to do Celtic calligraphy and experienced the richness of early Irish art by applying colour to complex interlace designs. □



*Cross-slab from Killadeas, Fermanagh  
Drawing by Ursula Mattenberger*

This exhibition which opened on June 4th was an important retrospective of the work of Kathleen Bridle, representing her work from 1925 - 1985. Kathleen Bridle was a well - known figure in Northern Irish art and education circles for over half a century until her death in 1989. Her expertise in portraiture was recognised in her early career but she is mainly

sixty years and was a remarkable teacher, including among her pupils the artists T.P. Flanagan and the late William Scott.

The exhibition was opened by the Right Reverend Brian Hannon, Bishop of Clogher, and was also attended by Dr. Carole Durix, the late artist's niece. Dr. Brian Kennedy, Head of Fine and Applied Art at the Ulster

Museum and T.P. Flanagan, who in association with Dr. Durix were responsible for selecting the paintings, also attended the opening.

On the same evening the book *The Life and Art of Kathleen Bridle* was launched. Written by Carole Durix and edited by Helen Lanigan Wood, it contains a forward by T.P. Flanagan. Handsomely published by the Four Courts Press Dublin, it was grant aided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Present at the launch were the Enniskillen born director of the Four Courts Press Michael Adams and the designer of the book Jarlath Hayes.

# Kathleen Bridle

## 1897-1989

### LANDSCAPE PAINTER AND WATER COLOURIST

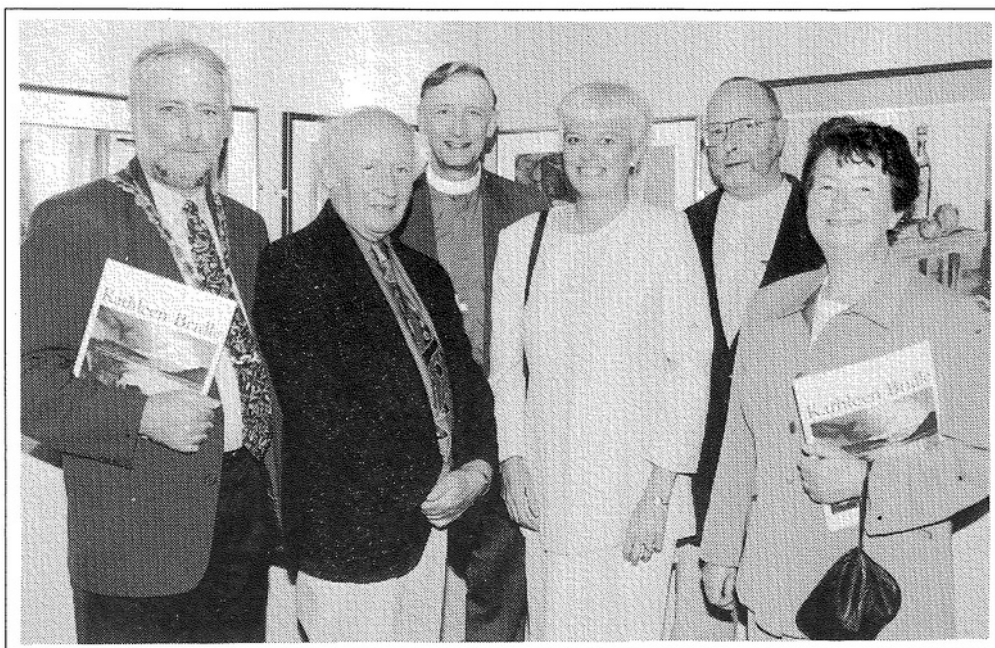
remembered for her water colours - the strong, forceful pictures of the thirties and forties, the brighter colours of the fifties and sixties and the transparent blues and greys of the later years. Although she painted all over Europe, in New Zealand and in French Guiana, the Fermanagh lake land remained her favourite source of inspiration. She lived in Enniskillen for over



The exhibition remained on view in Fermanagh until the end of August after which it went on display in the Ulster Museum. It will be shown in Armagh County Museum from 20th January until 27 March 1999. □

*Portrait of Kathleen Bridle by T.P. Flanagan, 1988.*

*At the opening of the Kathleen Bridle exhibition, and launch of the book "The Life and Art of Kathleen Bridle" are (from left) Patrick McCaffery, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council; artist T.P. Flanagan; the Rt. Rev. Brian Hannon, Bishop of Clogher, who offically opened the exhibition; Dr. Carole Durix, author; Michael Adams, publisher and Helen Lanigan Wood, Curator. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.*



**S**hay Nethercott is a recently retired professional photographer from Enniskillen. On his retirement he presented to the Museum an extensive and unique collection of photographs and slides. These represent a pictorial history of Fermanagh spanning decades. He captured on film the changing face of the county, recording social events, lost buildings, old forms of transport and people of yesteryear.

In addition he collected many older photographs dating back to the late 19th century, some of which were also included in the exhibition.

The opening of the exhibition on September 8th was open to all and there was a very strong turn out of over a hundred people. It was officially opened by photographer Anne Cassidy and

# Shay Nethercott's **FERMANAGH**

4 September - 31 October 1998

attended by the Chairman of Fermanagh District Council, Mr. Patrick McCaffrey. Ms. Cassidy remarked that Shay was a "man with a real passion for photography". "This collection", she added, "is absolutely wonderful in that it has captured moments in time which otherwise would have gone forever".

The Castle would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the public who generously supported this exhibition by giving information relating to people and places in

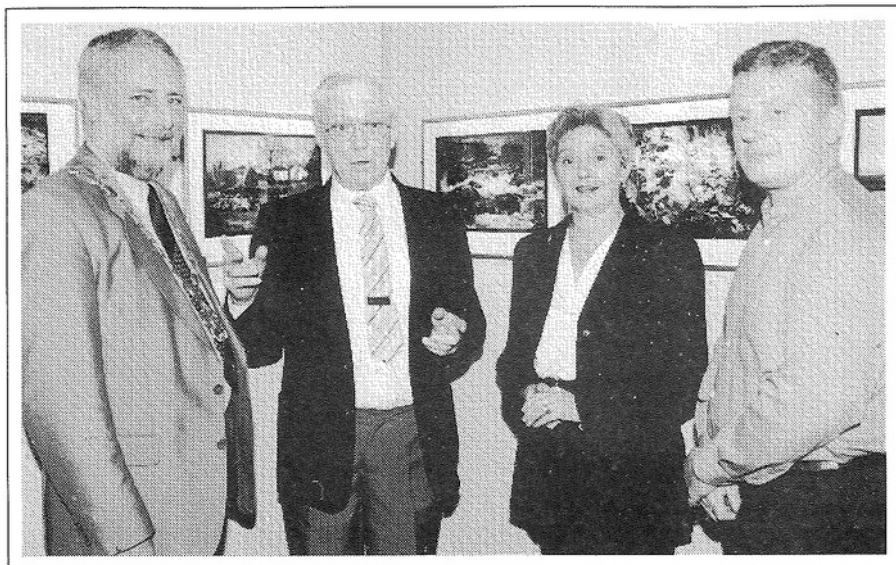


Photograph courtesy of Anne Cassidy

*Shay Nethercott*

the photographs displayed. This has resulted in an enriched archive which will be invaluable to researchers in years to come. □

*"A man with a passion for photography" - at the launch of the Shay Nethercott exhibition are (from left) Patrick McCaffery, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council; photographer, Shay Nethercott; Anne Cassidy, who opened the exhibition and Adrian Beattie, Museum Assistant. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.*



# THE 1798 REBELLION

## in IRELAND

On Thursday 12th November the *Up In Arms* exhibition opened at the Castle. This touring exhibition from the Ulster Museum tells the story of the 1798 Rebellion in Ireland and outlines the broad historical background to these events. It included some very fine portraits and artefacts from the collections of both Armagh County Museum and the Ulster Museum.

This exhibition rounded off the bi-centennial year of the Rebellion, a year which has seen intense academic and popular interest in the 1798 era. *Up In Arms* was launched with a lecture given by Dr. Allan Blackstock, from The Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University, Belfast. He broke new grounds in his research for this lecture highlighting the strategic importance of Enniskillen in the preparation of defence against French invasion and local rebellion. He also suggested that

although Fermanagh appeared to be unaffected by the Rebellion, it was likely that sympathetic support for the United Irish and Defender movements was strong in the area.

The lecture was followed by a session of music performed by

A BICENTENARY EXHIBITION FROM THE ULSTER MUSEUM

12 NOVEMBER 1998 - 6 JANUARY 1999



the Clare harper, Paul Dooley, who played on the small traditional Irish harp, an instrument he made himself. He played a lovely selection of music, some very old pieces; some jigs and reels including ones composed by the blind harper Carolan (1670-1738). There was full house for the event. □



Dr. Allan Blackstock, The Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University, Belfast, pictured with Museum Curator Helen Lanigan - Wood, discussing "The French Are On The Sea" display panel at the launch of the *Up In Arms* exhibition. Photograph courtesy of The Impartial Reporter.



*FRONT COVER*

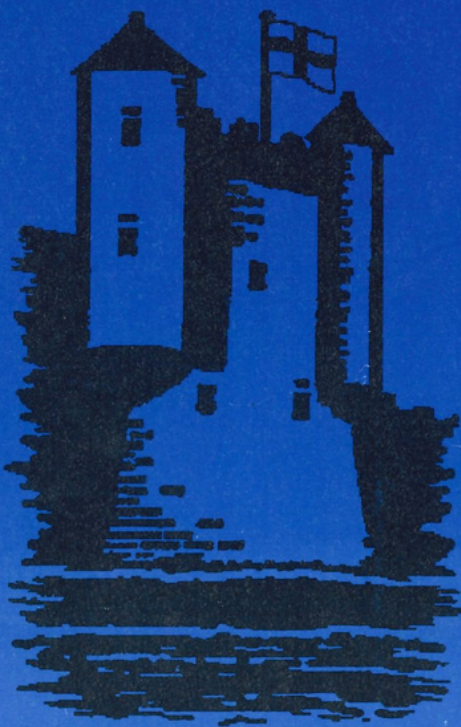
*President Mary McAleese presents the 1998 Gulbenkian/Heritage Council Award for Best Smaller Museum to Fermanagh County Museum at a ceremony in Dublin Castle.*

*Pictured with the president, from left to right: Bronagh Cleary, development officer at the museum, Helen Lanigan Wood, museum curator, Councillor Patrick McCaffrey, chairman of Fermanagh District Council and Jayne Olphert museum development officer.*

*Photograph courtesy of Frank Fennell Photography.*

*BACK COVER*

*Fermanagh County Museum staff with the Gulbenkian/Heritage Council Award for Best Smaller Museum, from left to right: Jayne Olphert, Neil Armstrong, Helen Lanigan Wood, museum curator, Joe Sheerin, Adrian Beattie, Bronagh Cleary, Fiona Cathcart and Kellie Pollock.*



**NEWSLETTER DESIGNED BY NEIL ARMSTRONG**

**ENNISKILLEN CASTLE IS A FERMANAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL FACILITY**