

THE SENTINEL

Fermanagh County Museum
Newsletter
Issue 16 Jan 2003



(from cover)

Fermanagh Takes Diversity by Storm!

A victorious Fermanagh County Museum scooped the award for *best project undertaken by a large organisation* at the Diversity 21 Awards ceremony in May 2001.

Competition was tight as the Museum held off strong competition from the University of Ulster and Ballymena District Partnership to win an award for its 'Local Identities Programme' in 2000 - 2001.

Paul Clark and Claire McCollum hosted the awards ceremony in the Market Place Theatre in Armagh. The award of a print entitled *Hillside Echoes* by Anne M. Anderson was made to Fermanagh County Museum by Dr Aideen McGinley (Permanent Secretary of DCAL) and Mr Victor Haslett (Chairman of the N. I. Millennium Company).

Fermanagh County Museum's Local Identities Access Project consisted of art workshops for children and adults, a community outreach project entitled 'Finding a Voice', as well as a series of literary, music and family events which took place from July 2000 to March 2001.

The Local Identities Project was grant aided by the Community Relations Council of N.I. through the Northern Ireland Museums Council and the Arts Council of N.I.

Another Award for Fermanagh County Museum



Fermanagh County Museum Staff Shows off Their Peace and Trust Award. Photograph courtesy of Raymond Humphries, The Impartial Reporter.

In 2001, the museum was the happy recipient of an award for "Best Small Museum for the Outstanding Exhibition on Culture and Heritage". It was presented by the Peace & Trust Awards for international peace centres and museums, a Boston-based organisation which commends high quality events and exhibitions promoting peace and trust throughout the world.

The museum won the award for its 'Local Identities Programme' which consisted of an exhibition, art workshops for adults and children, a community outreach project entitled 'Finding A Voice', the Family Heritage Day in September 2000 and literary events in 2001.



Glenn Patterson and Carlo Gebler

Celebrating identity by word and music

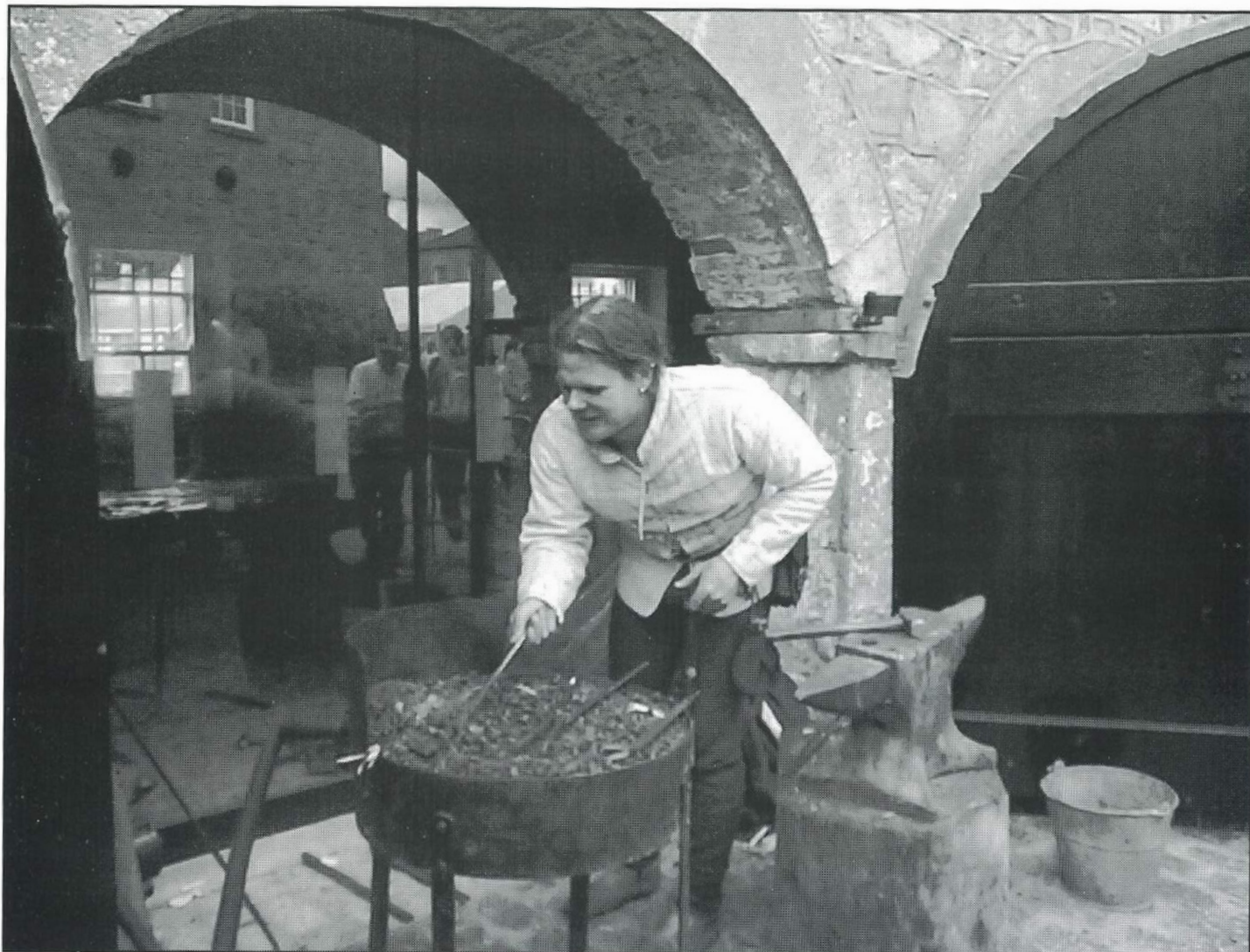
The award winning Local Identities project was rounded off with two special literary

events celebrating the best of local and national talent.

Two free literary events took place in January and March 2001. In January, local writers Bryan Gallagher, Marion Maxwell and the Irish language writer Seamas MacAnaidh performed readings and were greeted by gales of laughter and rounds of applause. The second event in March featured well-known writers Carlo Gebler and Glenn Patterson as well as the musical talents of Joy Beatty.

Both events were a resounding success. Richard Pierce spoke for most of the audience when he commented – *'This was one of the most stimulating events ever held at Fermanagh County Museum and I thoroughly enjoyed it'*.

These events were grant aided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and assisted by the Community Relations Council of NI through the Northern Ireland Museums Council.



A demonstration of medieval black-smithing skills.

Enniskillen Castle celebrates its medieval past.

1321 visitors turned out to re-live a medieval carnival at Enniskillen Castle in August 2001.

One of the highlights of the day was the demonstration of birds of prey. Visitors had a chance to get up 'close and personal' with some splendid birds including the majestic European Eagle Owl, the Common Buzzard, a Harris Hawk and a Saker Falcon. There were

also demonstrations of fencing, and cooking and performances of medieval music by entertainers in period costume.

This event was organised in partnership with the Enniskillen Island Community Festival and the Museum is very grateful to the organisers for their financial support.

The Urban Garden

An innovative and exciting hands-on children's art project took place at the Museum in 2001 to



celebrate the 'Year of the Artist'. The project was co-ordinated by Geraldine O'Reilly, arts officer for Fermanagh District Council and took place

over a ten-day period.

The two artists directing the project were Genevieve Murphy and Jon Kelly. Under their guidance the children produced an imaginative Fermanagh landscape with a beautiful green garden surrounded by a cluster of urban buildings. This garden was filled with fields,

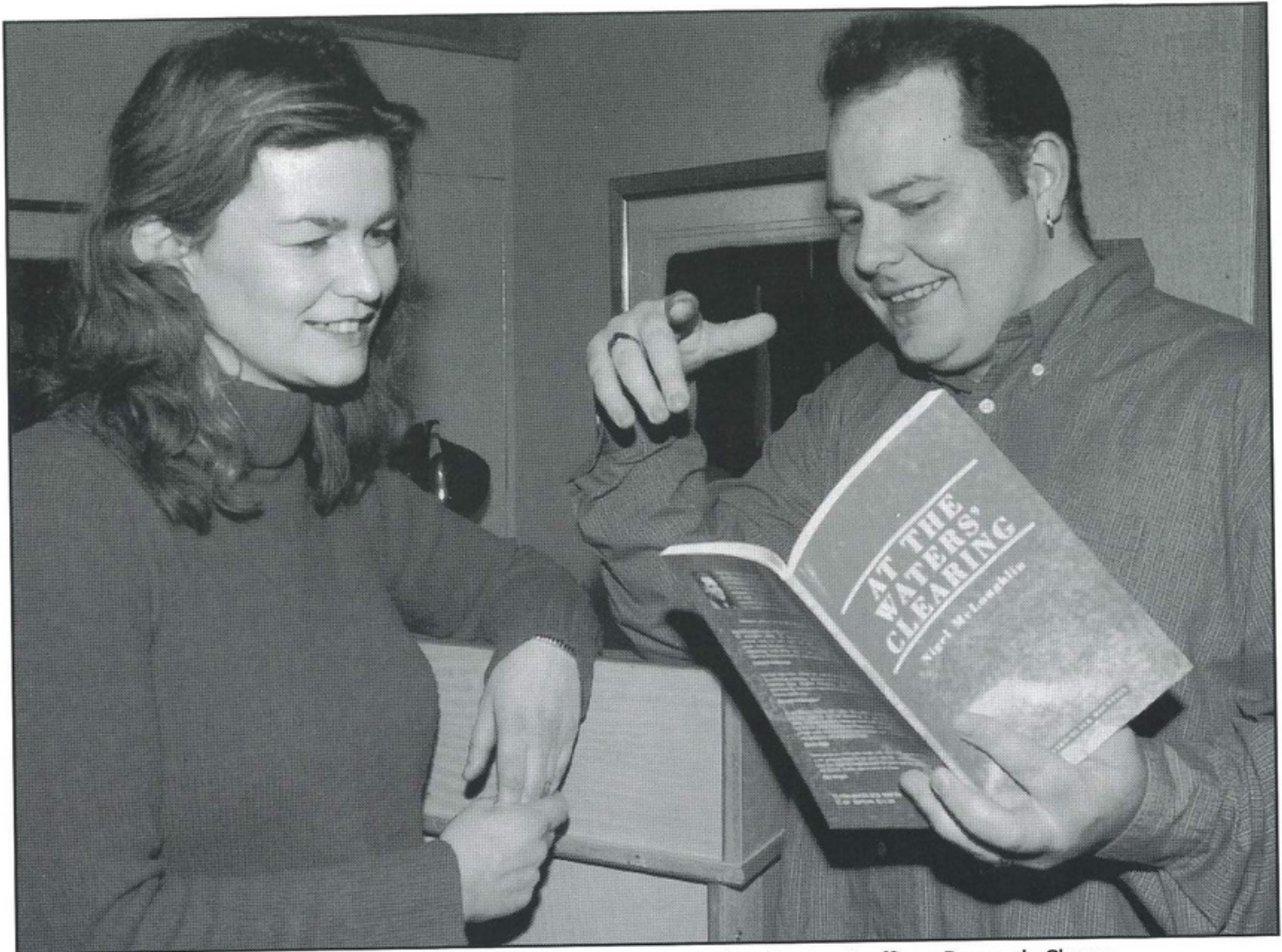


trees, and flowers, all made out of drawings, paintings and 3-dimensional forms.

This project was funded by Fermanagh District Council in partnership with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland



Children photographed with the magnificent Urban Garden display created for the Year of the Artist event in 2001.



Local poet Nigel McLoughlin talks with museum development officer Bronagh Cleary about his newly published poetry collection.

Poetic Licence

A November evening in 2001 was the occasion for an evening of poetry at the Museum when Nigel McLoughlin read from his newly published collection.

Born in Enniskillen, Nigel McLoughlin has a growing reputation as a poet and delighted his audience with beautifully crafted poems, their subject matter accessible and relevant to everyone. One of the poems called "Deora Dé" has been short-listed for the prestigious

Hennessy New Irish Writing Awards. Dedicated to his mother, this takes a playful look at the difference between generations and their varying perspectives on the world around them. There were also poems of quiet reflection including "Image" inspired by a family photograph of a relative who fought in the 1st World War, a photograph which seemed to be the only surviving evidence of the existence of this grand uncle.

Fermanagh District Council funded this event through its Arts Advisory Committee.

Hallowe'en Family Frenzy



Museum Staff prepared for the Hallowe'en Family Frenzy in 2001. *Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald*

'Hallowe'en Family Frenzy', held on 31 October, 2001 attracted over 450 junior ghosts, witches, vampires, and their parents!

Children arriving in costume received the prize of a bag full of 'goodies' before being entertained by ghostly stories, a 'gremlin-challenge', face painting and monster mask workshops, and tormented in their search for 20 hidden pumpkins. A 'spooky cave' was created where adult and child alike could be subjected to blood curdling howls and vampire laughs combined with frightening ghostly images.

The Museum would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary Herbert, Marion McLaughlin, Stephen Bleakley and Olivia Edwards for their contribution to this event.



An Easter of Fast Cars & Great History

Easter 2002 saw a completely new event at Enniskillen Castle. Rally cars set off from Enniskillen Castle on the Circuit of Ireland rally on Easter Saturday and Easter Sunday.

As well as powerful revving rally cars to see, there were displays of vintage cars for those interested in the predecessors of today's motor car. For younger people there were special Easter activity packs and an Easter egg hunt through the museum.

The Circuit of Ireland was based in Fermanagh in 2002 and we look forward to this event taking place again at Easter 2003.



Sculpture & Fairytales

The Museum had the pleasure of hosting a special exhibition and event to coincide with the Oscar Wilde Weekend in June 2002.

Children had the highly unusual experience of a storytelling performance in the shade of a huge giant and a garden of flowers. Local storyteller



Storyteller Bernadette Layden with the sculpture of the Selfish Giant.

Bernadette Layden presented a selection of children's stories written by Oscar Wilde including the tale of 'The Selfish Giant'.

The eight foot high giant figure was designed by local artists Jon Kelly & Genevieve Murphy and was originally created in Dublin by a group of 25 Primary School teachers for Wilde's centenary celebrations in 2000. It formed the centre piece for a cross-border community event at Fermanagh County Museum during which over 1600 children created flower children in the giant's garden.

Record crowds of 1750 gather for a music and dance extravaganza at Enniskillen Castle.



Audience showing their delight during the Family Fun Day Event in August 2002.

Bank Holiday Monday 26 August, 2002 was the date that crowds poured in to the castle. The event began with a majestic performance by the Fermanagh Concert Band, a fully cross-community band of adult and young amateur musicians. The music continued with a popular session of traditional music by 'Maisie's Farm' a group of traditional musicians from Fermanagh followed by the Belfast based group – 'A Clatter of Folk', who performed an Ulster Scots musical set.

A magic show called "Wells and Wishes", by Christophe Lombardi and Chris Thompson from 'Hit and Myth' was held in the specially erected marquee.

Children of all ages provided superb entertainment as they learned choreographed

dances from Louise Rossington from Big Telly Theatre Company.

Local storyteller Bernadette Layden was so popular this year that an extra session had to be organised. She presented selection of children's stories throughout the afternoon and mesmerised her audience both young and not so young.

Keith Ndolvu, of African Theatre Works, performed the grand finale in traditional Zulu costume. His performance involved chant song, African drumming and dance as well as a great deal of audience participation. Fermanagh District Council, Waterways Ireland and Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism supported this Event.

2D 3D: Craft 2000

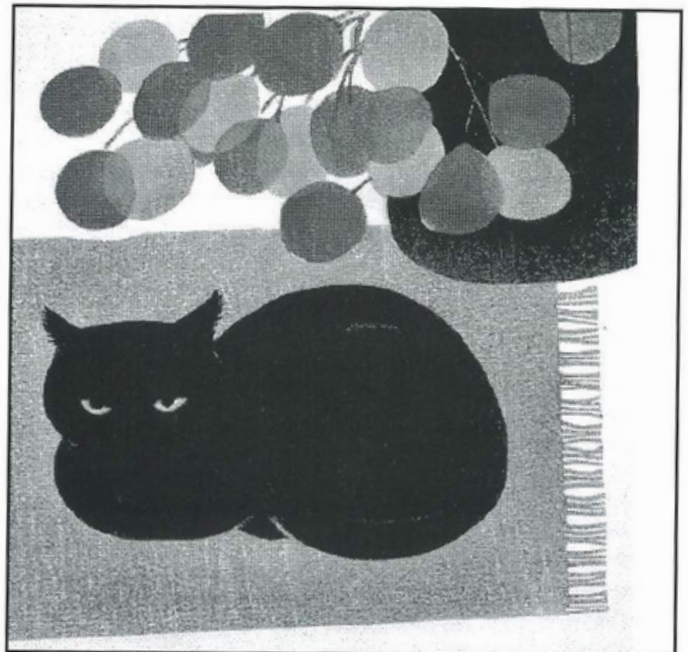
Over one hundred people gathered to enjoy the opening of 2D 3D Craft 2000 on Friday 8 December 2000. This was an exhibition of photographs on the theme of craft in Fermanagh by members of Enniskillen Photographic Society, and was combined with examples of contemporary craft by six Fermanagh-based craft workers.

It was an exhibition which worked well, the high quality photographic images complementing the attractive craft exhibits. The latter included a diverse range of work- from the hand woven textiles of Louise Hardman to the exquisitely finished furniture produced by S C Minns and Sons.

The well-crafted ceramics of Ann McNulty and silk batiks by Alison Britton were also on display while the creations of Randolph Repass of Crystal Lotus Glass and of Genevieve Jon Designs added a sculptural element to the exhibition.

Two pieces were purchased for the Museum's collections by the Association of Friends of the Museum –a batik by Alison Britton entitled Celtic Revival and a raku pot by ceramic artist Anne McNulty.

Zheng Shuang Woodcuts



One of the Zheng Shuang Woodcuts included in the exhibition

Fermanagh experienced a taste of the Orient in the shape of an exhibition of beautiful woodcuts by Zheng Shaung in April and May 2001. Zheng Shuang is the niece of Emperor Pu Yi, the last Emperor of China, a family relationship which the artist prefers not to be remembered today. Whilst not embittered by her arduous experiences during the political upheavals of her lifetime, she avoids obvious political statement in her work preferring to concentrate on creating beautiful images. Thirty-one woodcuts were included in the exhibition belonging to the period between 1980 and 1996.

A Fine Summer Collection

The Museum displayed some of its own art collection during the Summer of 2001, works by William Scott, T.P.Flanagan and others, as well as an exhibition of children's art from the National Gallery of Ireland entitled 'Clean Air Keeps Ireland Green'. The latter, as its title suggests, was developed around the theme of the natural environment. On National Children's Art Day the beautiful pictures in the exhibition became the inspiration for local children, with museum staff organising various activities to encourage them to create their own artworks.

The McClelland Art Collection at Fermanagh County Museum

This exhibition was drawn from the work of 20th century Irish painters and sculptors, with artists from the north of Ireland such as William Conor, Gerard Dillon, William Scott, Colin Middleton and F.E. McWilliam being particularly well represented. The show also included the work of Louis Le Brocqy, Gerda Fromel, Nano Reid, and Paul Henry. The McClelland art collection is currently on long term loan to the Irish Museum of Modern art and it was thanks to that institution as well as to the generosity of George and Maura McClelland that the exhibition came to be shown in Enniskillen.



Left to right: Helen Lanigan Wood, museum curator, Brian Ferran, former director of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Bertie Kerr, vice chairman of Fermanagh District Council, Marguerite O'Molloy, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Mrs Mary McClelland, mother of George McClelland, Mr. George McClelland and Mrs. Maura McClelland.

The policy of the National Programme of the Irish Museum of Modern Art is for its collections to be seen all over Ireland and this was the first time that the McClelland collection was shown in Northern Ireland.

In September, Catherine Marshall, Senior Curator at IMMA delivered a public lecture on the paintings in the exhibition. This was a well attended event and was followed by an interesting and informal discussion between Catherine Marshall and George McClelland which drew on the latter's memories of many of the artists.



From Past To Present

On the evening of 8 November, 2001 over 130 people gathered at the museum to enjoy 'From Past to Present', an exhibition featuring some of the best of Irish 20th century art. Fermanagh County Museum was the first venue in the North to host this impressive exhibition.

'From Past to Present' was organised by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Belfast and the Office of Public Works in Dublin. This collection of fifty paintings was assembled from various municipal collections north and south of the border. It included works from the collection of Fermanagh County Museum, paintings by William Scott, T. P. Flanagan, Jeremy Henderson, Kathleen Bridle, Denise

Ferran and Janet Pierce. There were also excellent examples of the work of Nano Reid, Sarah Purser, Mainie Jellett, George Russell, W. J. Leech, Andrew Nicholl, Grace Henry, Paul Henry, Jack B. Yeats, Basil Blackshaw, Barrie Cooke, Louis le Brocquy and Sean McSweeney.



The Thread of Life:

Snap-shots through Time

The exhibition was the culmination of a special one year project in which the Shay Nethercott Collection, a large archive of images from one of Fermanagh's longest established photographers, was digitally scanned and stored on computer. This exhibition entitled 'The Thread of Life' represented some of the highlights of this collection.

Bernadette Layden who officially opened the exhibition said:

"It is a testament to the work of photographers like Shay Nethercott whose work lives on in the collections of Fermanagh County Museum and the Ulster Museum. Such photographers should be rightly acknowledged as recorders of social history. Shay Nethercott has, over the years, captured on camera everyday life and scenes which were then taken for granted, but which now provide a rich and varied insight into life in the past. We are lucky and honoured to have such a collection in our local museum."

The museum staff offer their condolences to the Nethercott family on the death of Shay Nethercott in 2002. Shay's generosity to the Museum will be long remembered.



Colin Fawcett, conservation assistant and Trevor Vance, museum development officer, reveal some of the photographs from the 'Thread of Life' exhibition. Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald.

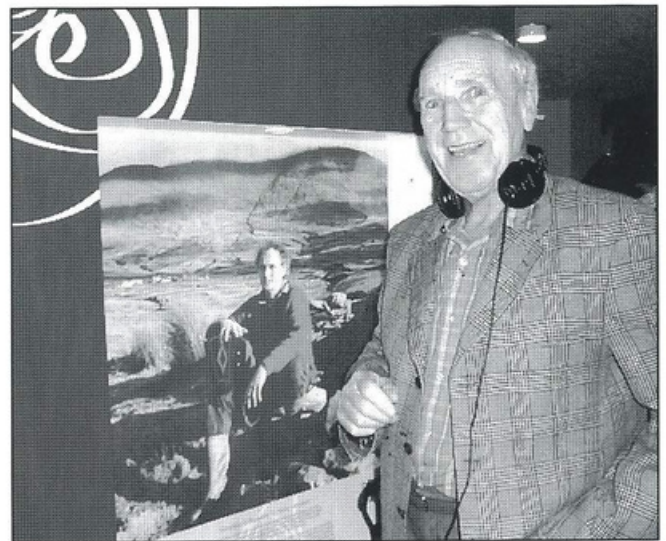


Fermanagh Women's Network's Millennium Quilt at the Museum

Dr Aideen McGinley, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, unveiled the Millennium quilt, which was made by women representing all parts of Fermanagh. The quilt remained on display at the museum from May until August 2002.

Ireland The Musical!

For all those interested in traditional Irish music, Summer 2002 was a good time to visit the museum, with the exhibition "They Love Music Mightily" providing an opportunity to hear some



Gabriel Murphy at the opening of the 'They Love Music Mightily' exhibition on 13 June 2002.

of the finest Irish traditional musicians.

The exhibition featured specially commissioned audio recordings and photographs of thirteen of today's leading traditional musicians, giving visitors an opportunity to experience the complexities, subtleties and scope of such instruments as banjo, harp, tin whistle, uilleann pipes, fiddle and accordion. The exhibition was jointly produced by the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum and the Irish Traditional Music Archive.



Life in an Anderson Air Raid Shelter in World War II
Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald.

From Black Out to Blast Off

This exhibition depicting life in Northern Ireland in the 1940s, 50s and 60s was very popular with visitors during the Spring of 2002. They took delight in the World War II uniforms and the Anderson air raid shelter, as well as in the old style cookers, washing machines, televisions, children's toys and clothing. The displays evoked the Spartan lifestyle during the war years, and the changes during the 1950s and throughout the 'raving' 60s.

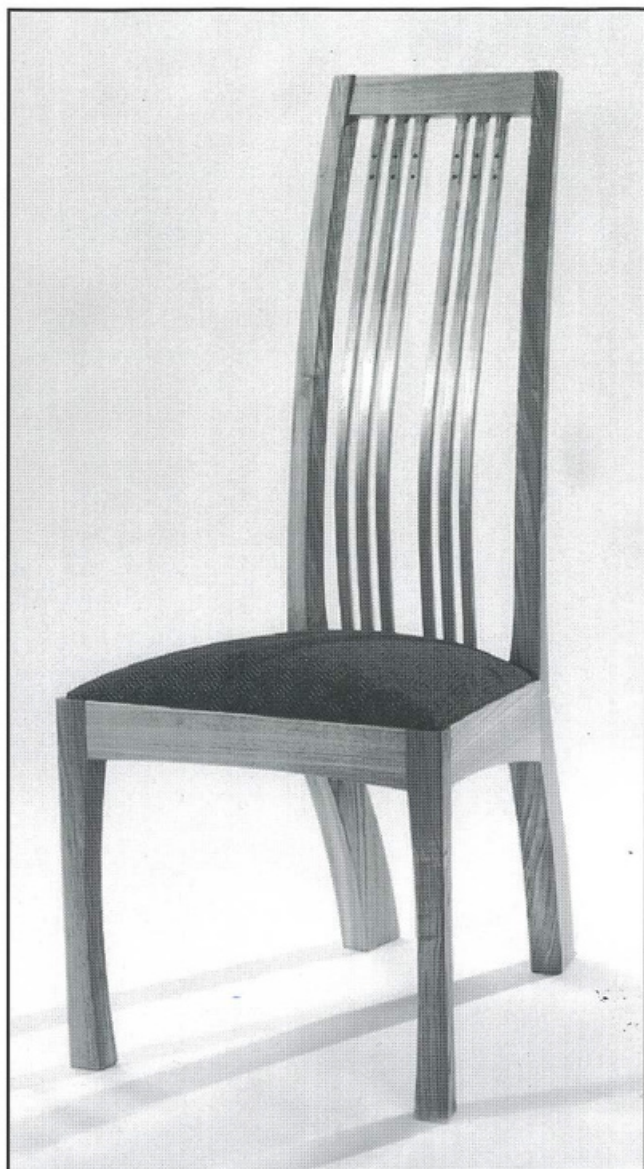
Prepared by Armagh County Museum, the exhibition also included local material from the Fermanagh County Museum's collections and material lent by the Ulster Museum, Down County Museum, the Hailstone Trust and the

National Trust at Crom. Mr David McCallion kindly lent and assembled all the fittings for the Andersons Air Raid Shelter.

We are much indebted to our former staff colleagues Catherine McCullough and Dr. Greer Ramsey from Armagh County Museum for all their work in making this exhibition available to us.

Prize-Winning Crafts Exhibition

Contemporary crafts of the highest quality were on display at the museum in September 2002. The exhibition represented the winners of the prestigious RDS annual crafts competition.



Dining Chair by Jeremy Suffern which won 1st prize in the furniture category.

Fermanagh County Museum was the first of only four venues chosen by The Royal Dublin Society for its travelling Crafts Exhibition. The competition has 19 categories and the exhibition included superb examples of wrought ironwork, wood-turning, rod, rush and straw work, knitting, weaving, patchwork quilting, jewellery, glass, furniture, ceramics, lace, embroidery, calligraphy and lettering.

Among the highlights of the exhibition was the large hand-tufted rug by Gillian Freedman and a fine dining chair by Jeremy Suffern, and of

particular local interest was the unusual glassware range by Carmel McElroy of Enniskillen.

Jeremy Henderson: Recent Paintings

The Fermanagh-born artist Jeremy Henderson exhibited at Fermanagh County Museum in



It is a Poor Thing to Paint Only in Words,
2002 by Jeremy Henderson

November and December 2002, a well received show of richly coloured canvases that dispelled all the glooms of autumn. The exhibition was opened by Suzanne Woods, Visual Arts Director of the Model Arts and Niland Gallery in Sligo. It represents the mature work of this well established artist who, after being based for many years in London, now works from his studio in rural Fermanagh.

Motion and the Middle Ages

Fermanagh County Museum celebrated National Science Week in March 2001 with an imaginative two-day schools event titled 'Motion and The Middle Ages' - combining science with the castle's Medieval heritage.

Almost 250 local primary and secondary pupils from six Fermanagh schools enjoyed an array of dazzling activities. Professional re-enactors from the firm Irish Arms dressed in period costume joined museum staff similarly clad and exhibited Medieval skills such as archery, siege machinery, quill writing, food preparation, and pole-lathe woodturning.

These events were generously supported by COPUS.

Some of the Special Exhibitions planned for 2003

3 April – 23 May
Holy Show

Exhibition of prints by contemporary artists in response to the Old Testament, devised by the Graphic Studio Dublin in association with the Chester Beatty Library.

6 June – 6 September
The Doll Story

A magical display of dolls and playthings through the ages produced by the Armagh County Museum and the Ulster Museum.

17 September - 26 October 2003

UTV Art Collection
Fine examples of contemporary art.



Children enjoying their quill writing work shop as part of the National Science Week event in 2001.

Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald.

National Children's Art Day at the Museum

There were smiles all round at the special event on 5 July, 2001 celebrating National Children's Art Day.

The group 'Different Drums' performed special workshops for the children illustrating the richness of many types of traditional music, including Irish and Ulster Scots. The special

event included art workshops during which children created an unusual view of Lough Erne in stained glass, featuring castles, boats, fish, butterflies and hot air balloons.

This event was generously supported by Le Graphics and the performance by 'Different Drums' was kindly funded by Diversity 21.



Children creating a scene in stained glass as part of the National Children's Art Day in July 2001.

Viking Drama

Six hundred 'little' Vikings from 18 different Fermanagh and Tyrone primary schools attended the special Viking drama called 'Sitric & Finn: the Vikings Come to Ireland' in November of 2001. This interactive drama run by the Belfast based Theatre Company UPTURN was very successful with children and teachers deriving great enjoyment from their experience of drama. The play was set in

Ulster in the year 950AD, and began with two young boys from different backgrounds, one Irish, the other a Viking, developing a friendship together.

Many school groups attending the Viking drama also availed of the Viking programme offered regularly by the Fermanagh County Museum Education Service. The programme allows

children to enter Viking Ethel's long-house and to learn about Viking society. They can undertake an archaeological excavation to

discover Vikings artefacts and can even make a Viking brooch as a memento to take home with them.



Museum education officer, Kellie Beacom helps children to make a Viking brooch as part of the Viking Education Programme. *Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald.*

Operation: Bright Spark

Science Week 2002 was celebrated with style and ingenuity. A special science and technology programme was devised to bring these subjects to life for pre-school, primary and special needs children. This event entitled 'Operation Bright Spark' investigated the magical properties of light from simple candles to fibre-optics and from magic mirrors to rainbows.

Museum staff dressed in historic costume and performed the role of famous historic inventors including Isaac Newton, Mrs Thomas Edison and the contemporary genius 'Dr Maguire'. Children learned about the evolution of lighting from fire to oil to electricity concluding with the development of the incandescent light bulb in

the 1880s. They were enthralled with mirrors, prisms, rainbows and lasers in the quest to demonstrate reflection, refraction, shadows, and colours. This project was possible thanks to the support of COPUS, the funding agency for National Science Week.



Kellie Beacom and Geraldine McCaughey pictured with pupils from Erne School during the 'Operation Bright Spark' *Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald.*

Recent Acquisitions

The Museum's collections grow steadily and, hopefully before too long, space will become available so that artefacts now in storage can go on public view. There is so much interest in our local history and we look forward to the day that we can satisfy this interest with permanent exhibitions about the history and culture of Fermanagh. We would like to thank the many people who contributed to our work during the last two years, those who gave us the benefit of their research, those who donated books and photographs as well as those who donated artefacts. It is not possible to mention everyone by name but all these contributions will be acknowledged in the future as they become accessible to the public.

A Spoon with a Story

Not every silver spoon has as fascinating a history as the one presented to us by Mr Warren Loane of Ballinamallard (FCM1999-333). Bearing the crest of the Barton family and inscribed H.B., it was made for Hugh Barton in 1761 by J. Shiels of Dublin. Hugh was grandson of Thomas Barton ('French Tom'), founder of the Barton wine firm in Bordeaux. At the time of the French Revolution, Hugh Barton was owner of the family firm and was one of many leading merchants to be imprisoned. As an alien he was no longer allowed to hold property or run a business in France. However with the help of his wife, Mary, he managed to escape from prison and before returning to Ireland, entrusted the management of the wine firm to an employee, Daniel Guestier. After the Revolution in acknowledgement of his role in saving the firm, Guestier joined Barton as a

partner and so began the well known firm of



A selection of some of the early weights and measures used in Fermanagh, donated by Eamon McPartland from the Trading Standards Service.

Barton and Guestier.

Weights and Measures

Thanks to Eamon McPartland from the Trading Standards Service in Enniskillen we were able to acquire an impressive set of early weights and measures used in Fermanagh and a lot of information about the regulations and administration of trading standards.

Belleek Pottery

Robert and Rosemary Arnold of Garvery, Enniskillen, presented an interesting collection of documents relating to the running of Belleek Pottery in the earlier part of the 20th century. Robert's grandfather took over the management of the Pottery in 1934 and Robert has provided a fascinating account of his family's involvement with the factory in his recently published book, 'Belleek: The Green Stamp Years'.

A Mantle of Black

We are much indebted to the family of the late Mrs. Peggy O'Reilly of Enniskillen for donating a beautifully preserved black mantle bought in Dublin about 1890 (FCM2002-167). Older women, especially those in mourning, wore this kind of mantle one out of doors in the summer, when visiting friends.

A Treasured Table Cloth

Miss Ida Gilmour of Belfast donated her late mother's table cloth which had been used for serving afternoon tea (FCM2001-141). Miss Gilmour's grandfather, Richard Wilson Foster, was born in Enniskillen and educated at Portora. About 1860 he emigrated to America

and fought on the Federal side in the American Civil War. His daughter Ida, Miss Gilmour's mother, was born in America in 1867 but after the premature death of both her mother and father, was sent back to live with her grandfather in Lackaboy, Enniskillen.

A Memorable Head Scarf

Mrs Jean Agnew donated an interesting head scarf which she received as a present in 1944 (FCM 2002-166). Designed, in patriotic colours of red, white and blue, to celebrate the contribution made by women during World War II, it shows women serving in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force, and working as nurses, chauffeurs and farmhands.

Interesting document

Mr Noel Maguire of Lisnaskea donated a very interesting document describing an irregular marriage which took place near Maguiresbridge about 1820. The Presbyterian clergyman who performed the ceremony had been suspended, hence the illegality of the marriage, which took place between Patrick Martin and Penelope Henderson at William Henderson's house in Drumgannon townland.

Calamite Fossil

By far the oldest donation that we received was a fossilised calamite, an ancestor of the mare's or horse tail plant, which is between 310 and 320 million years old. It was donated by Mr. Pat Flanagan of Belcoo who found it close to Lough Melvin during ploughing work in a field at Rossmore Point, Muckenagh, near Garrison. Donated by Mr Pat Flanagan, Belcoo.

(FCM2000-043)



Miss Ida Gilmour photographed with the table cloth she presented to museum curator Helen Lanigan Wood. Displayed behind the cloth is the head scarf donated by Mrs. Jean Agnew.

Historic Trophy

Dr. Leonard Kidd, who had a long and distinguished medical career in charge of the Fermanagh County Infirmary in Enniskillen, was also a good runner. In 1884 when he was at university, he ran a half mile in two minutes, four and one fifth of a second, and won the Dublin University Athletic Sports Trophy for that year. This fine trophy has been donated by Mrs Phyllis Winslow of Enniskillen (FCM2001-050).

Ulster Special Constabulary Badges

Mr. Christopher Wilson of Limavady donated a number of interesting items including two collar badges of 1924/25 worn in Fermanagh by the Ulster Special Constabulary (FCM2000-034,035). This part-time force, popularly known as the 'B Specials', was established in 1920 and disbanded in 1970.

Mr Edmund Richey, Enniskillen donated many 20th century items including two portable radios from the 60s and a television from the 50s. Mr Ian Burns, now living in Ballycastle, donated a record player from the same period.

Photographs and Books

We would like to thank all those who gave us photographs and slides including Mr. Joe O'Loughlin of Belleek who donated historic photographs collected by the late Horace Fleming (FCM2000-066-084). These provide a fascinating view of the Belleek area prior to the construction of the hydro-electric plant. Another valuable collection of photographs and slides was donated by local historian Walter Brady. We are indebted to the late lamented Shay Nethercott for donating many interesting

books including 'The Lily of the Loughs', an early tourist guide to Fermanagh and a signed copy of 'The Birth of the Lisnaskea Emmetts' by John Carron. John James Dundas of Drumcose, Enniskillen has undertaken considerable research into the history of the Dundas family and has presented the Museum with a bound copy of his work and other archival material. Samuel Morrow donated a copy of his recent book 'The Church of Ireland Parishes of Clabby and Tempo' and Vicky Herbert donated a copy of her book 'The Crom Story: People and Places'. We are also grateful to Anne Cassidy, Enniskillen, who presented the museum with a copy of Saint Patrick's Purgatory' by Joseph McGuinness.

Fermanagh Grand Jury Spoon

With the help of contributions from the Association of Friends of the Museum, we were able to buy some interesting items including a silver spoon used by the Fermanagh Grand Jury in the 19th century. (FCM 2001-001) The Friends contributed half the cost - £225 - while the Northern Ireland Museums Council provided the other half. The spoon was made by P. Week's of Dublin in 1832. At this time and throughout most of the 19th century, the Fermanagh Grand Jury, as well as co-operating with central government bodies in building and maintaining roads, contributed to the maintenance of the County Infirmary and the Fever Hospital in Enniskillen, and to the building and maintenance of court houses throughout the county. Until 1877 it was responsible for Enniskillen Gaol. Following the Local Government Act of 1898 the business of the Grand Juries was transferred to elected councils and roads and public works in



'A Hired Boy on the Border', a short story by Cahir Healy, published in 1946 by the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland.

Fermanagh became the responsibility of the newly formed County Council.

The Friends also provided £124 which helped us to buy two items - a book 'Methodism in Enniskillen' by Fred Gordon which was published in 1917 to celebrate the jubilee of the Darling Street Church and an 1835 Ordnance survey map of Enniskillen. The Museum also purchased an interesting booklet entitled 'A Hired Boy on the Border', a short story by Cahir Healy, published in 1946 by the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland. Cahir Healy, as well as being a leader of the northern nationalist movement, was a writer and a poet. He had

connections with Fermanagh, working for a time as a journalist with the Fermanagh News and later employed as an insurance supervisor, based in Enniskillen.

We are indebted to The Northern Ireland Museums Council for providing a grant of £500 towards the purchase of three copper plates used in the production of transfer-printed wares at Belleek Pottery (FCM2002-168). These plates, engraved with beautiful floral and bird designs, were widely used in the Pottery's first period of production in the 19th century. The Pottery's distinctive First Period stamp was also evidently applied by the transfer method and copies of this stamp are engraved on the copper plates.

Another interesting purchase was a beautiful Belleek parian basket of four strand weaving made during the period 1921 - 1954 (FCM2002-169). It belonged to Cyril and Maureen Arnold and may have been made in the late 40s or early 50s. Cyril Arnold worked for many years at the Belleek Pottery, becoming design manager in 1945 and general manager in 1966.

Friends of Fermanagh County Museum Dublin Trip



Friends of Fermanagh County Museum outside Malahide Castle. The only member missing is the photographer Eamon Hoy.

"It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive." This pearl of wisdom was, obviously, not written by a man with a coachload of eager departees, impatiently awaiting his appearance. I mention this, as our electronically activated awakening system, was, on that day, incompatible with our requirements. However, we (breathless) and our fellow travellers, (no discourtesy intended) boarded and departed on time.

Far to the south, ominous clouds threatened rain. Curiously, as we advanced, the clouds receded. In retrospect, I think this was coincidental, rather than being attributable to the presence of any particular person. Fortified

by scones, our first visit was to the Garden of Remembrance, at Islandbridge, a work in the Classical manner, by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Here we met the distinguished architect John O'Connell, whose informed and informative guided tour, gave us insight into Lutyens aims and achievements. As we ambled in an elongated crocodile, back across the park, I was mildly surprised to see first one, and then another, break ranks, to perform a little dance. Side step- turn, slide-slide and a one leg twist. Just as I was thinking Victor Sylvester lives, it occurred to me that this may have more to do with our sharing the park with Dublin dog walkers, than any abandoned frivolity.

A minor directional error, behind Collin's Barracks, left the coach irreversibly trapped, in little more, than an alley. No one is quite sure how we got out, and how it was that the pillar box we must have straddled was still there. A well earned round of applause for an excellent driver. In the National Museum in Collin's Barracks, we saw a fascinating exhibition of 250 years of Irish clothing. Some of the corsets had minute waists. There was a fad, apparently, among young ladies, to have a waist measurement equal to their age. Some of our more mature ladies did not see this as being a problem. In one gallery I saw a photograph of a reed boat on the river Suck. This type of boat was also used on the Erne system. I think, given the construction details, it would be nice to see them again.

After lunch we went to see Gandon's masterpiece, the Custom House, on the Liffey's north bank. Looking across the river, one saw a distorted reflection of the building, in a glass fronted office block. It seemed there was a profound architectural statement awaiting elicitation.

Later that afternoon, we visited the Casino at Marino. A most charming piece of 18th century architecture. It was equated with Dr. Who's Tardis, as it seemed disproportionately larger inside than the exterior would suggest, but there the comparison ended. Seeing a building so near to proportional perfection, is a most uplifting experience.

One impression I gained from some of the ladies, was that if souvenirs had been on offer, our guide would have been snapped up. An

affable young man, whose enthusiasm for the Casino, was infectious.

We dined well at the Central Hotel, and eventually, after 'doing' the town, enjoyed the experience of staying overnight in Trinity College. Next morning some went to church and some to the Book of Kells. Thence to Malahide castle, home of the Talbot family, for eight hundred years. The portraits were magnificent, as were the rooms with such exquisite furniture.

On a personal note, having walked quite a long way earlier, I would have been happy to see a G-plan chair, circa 1980, that I could sit on after looking at so many soft period pieces, on which sitting was prohibited. There was much to see in the demesne, but our whistle stop tour was only an appetiser. Which brings me to lunch, in the castle restaurant, another excellent meal.

Sometimes people and places are inextricably linked. Our guide in Newbridge House was a people person, she was so relaxed and welcoming, that I warmed to the house before seeing it. Even the family museum had a homely quality, the sort of place one would like to hoke about in.

It only remains for me to thank all those people whose efforts gave us such a memorable weekend. The driver, the guides, those on the committee who were personally involved in working out the itinerary, the museum staff, and in particular, the one who gathers all the pieces, and assembles an event. Helen, we thank you.

Gordon Johnson

Friends's Trip to Armagh

The coach trip to Armagh on 7 September 2002 was another successful event organised by the Friends of Fermanagh County Museum. Under the excellent guidance of one of our members,



Roger Weatherup, who has an unrivalled knowledge of the history and architectural delights of his adopted city, we learned to appreciate the beauty of Armagh. The civic reception and the warm welcome given by Mayor Brolly in the Archbishop's Palace were particularly appreciated, as was the excellence of the evening meal at the City Theatre.

Weekend Trip to Kilkenny in 2003

Already, the hardworking committee of the Friends of the Museum have put in place the arrangements for a three day visit to the Marble City, from Sunday to Tuesday 14 - 16

September. Based in the new Ormonde Hotel in the centre of the medieval city, this should be a very special event.

Booking is now open for members of the Association of Friends. As numbers are limited, early booking is advisable.

Fermanagh County Museum has been the venue for the launch of a variety of books by individuals and groups. Here are some of the books launched:

'Innocence in the Fields of Paradise'

by

Frank Rogers

launched at the museum on
11 Dec 2001.

'A Time of Desolation. Clones Poor Law Union 1845 - 50'

by

Brian MacDonald

launched at the museum on
17 May 2002.

'Enniskillen in the Rare Ould Times'

by The Millennium Babes

launched at the museum on
6 June 2002

'Enniskillen:- A Walking Tour'

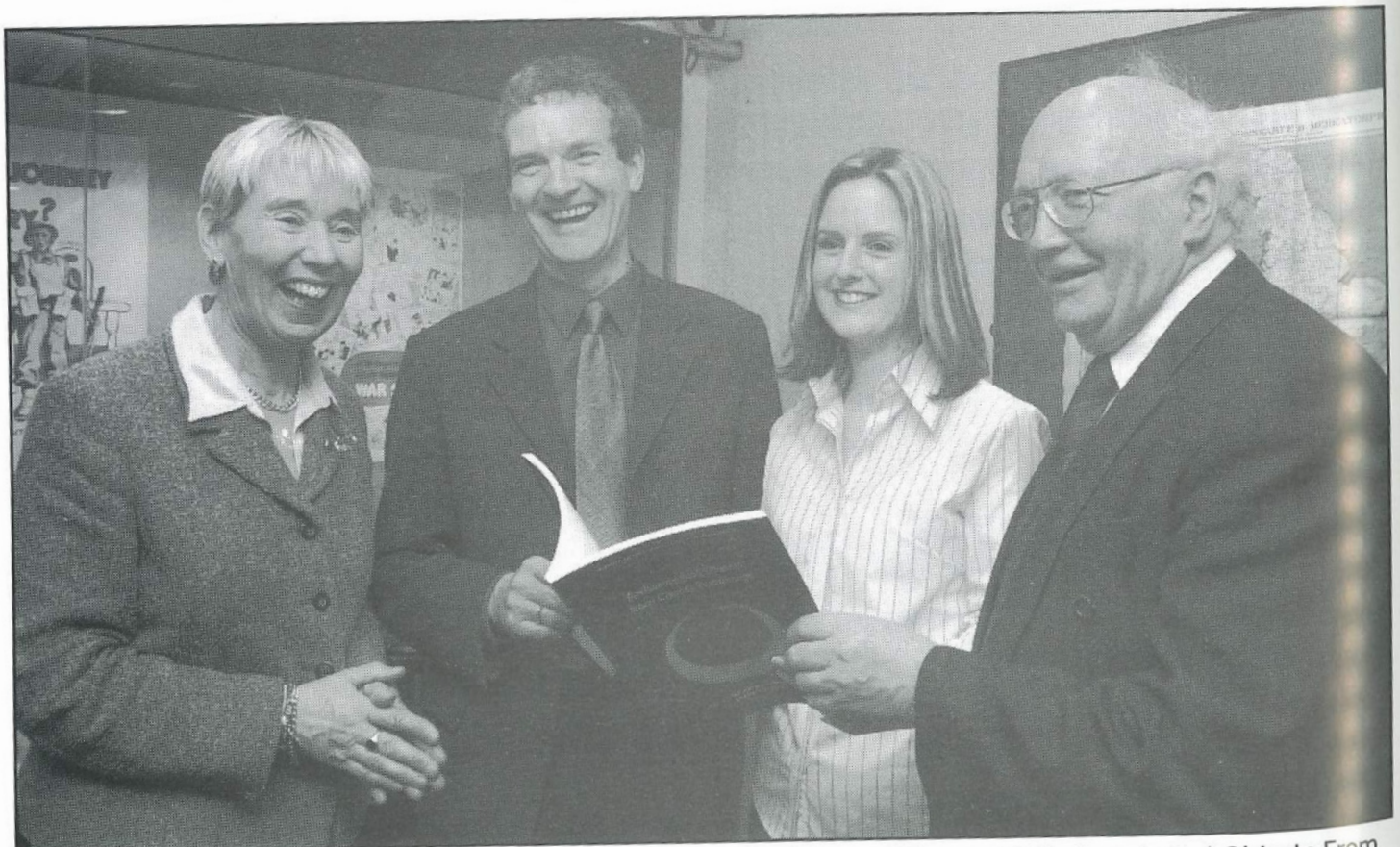
by John Cunningham, Rosalind McConkey & Catherine Robinson

launched at the museum on
8 August 2002



Attending the launch of a new website – www.castlesbytheerne.co.uk – are, from left at back, Fred Johnston, Helen Lanigan Wood, Madame Patricia Maguire and The Maguire of Fermanagh. This project was the brainchild of Dr Marie Maguire who is seated in the foreground.

Photograph courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald.



Co-authors Brian Williams and Sarah Gormley in centre at the launch of their book 'Archaeological Objects From County Fermanagh' with Margaret Gallagher, manager of Belcoo Historical Society and Sam Foster, former Minister of the Environment.

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Cover Photo: Staff of Fermanagh County Museum receiving a Diversity 21 Award from Dr. Aileen McGinley, Permanent Secretary of Culture Arts and Leisure and Mr. Victor Haslett, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Millennium Company