



BELFAST TITANIC SOCIETY

2019 / 2020 Programme

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION ON MEETINGS AND EVENTS www.belfast-titanic.com

ALL MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 7.30PM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED AND REFRESHMENTS ARE NORMALLY AVAILABLE DURING THE MEETING

SEPTMBER 2019

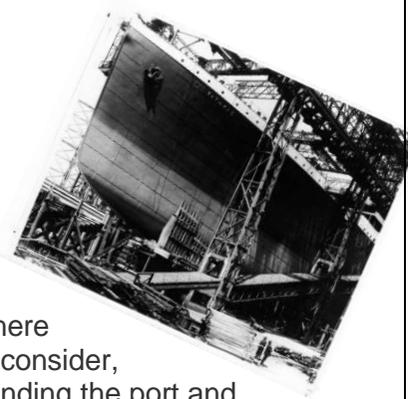
MONDAY 9th

AN 'OLYMPIC' CHALLENGE: OLYMPIC, TITANIC, BRITANNIC

MARK CHIRNSIDE

Titanic and White Star Author and Historian

A joint Belfast Titanic Society and PRONI event – the third annual lecture by Mark Chirnside, author and historian. Building the largest ships in the world wasn't simply a question of the shipbuilding process itself. There were all sorts of other practical challenges to consider, including financing them, insuring them, expanding the port and docking facilities to operate and maintain them, and powering them across the North Atlantic.



Mark Chirnside explores a few of the many financial, technical and engineering issues that confronted the White Star Line as they planned Olympic, Titanic and Britannic and explains how they overcame them.



Mark's books include *The 'Olympic' Class Ships: Olympic, Titanic & Britannic* (revised edition 2011); *RMS Olympic: Titanic's Sister* (revised edition 2015); *RMS Majestic: The 'Magic Stick'* (2006); *RMS Aquitania: The 'Ship Beautiful'* (2008); *Olympic, Titanic & Britannic: An Illustrated History of the 'Olympic' Class Ships* (2012); and *The 'Big Four' of the*

White Star Fleet: Celtic, Cedric, Baltic & Adriatic (2016). He co-authored *The Sting of the Hawke: Collision in the Solent* (2015) with Sam Halpern.

Time : 7.30pm

Location : PRONI, Titanic Boulevard, Titanic Quarter (Car parking is available in the Belfast Metropolitan underground car park next door or in the SEE Arena Car Park.)

FREE TICKETS - must be pre booked on 'Eventbrite' (there is a wait list on-line on the PRONI page on NIDIRECT)



✦ OCTOBER 2019

MONDAY 14th

**CQD TITANIC MAGAZINE
– 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

AIDAN MCMICHAEL
Belfast Titanic Society Co Chair



A journey through all 60 issues of CQD from start to the 60th golden anniversary edition taking account of all the editors and stories over the years as well as the role of the Society in the re-emergence of interest locally in the Titanic story.

Aidan has delivered many talks on the Belfast Naturalist and Titanic's photographer Robert Welch as well as other Titanic related subjects, he is also a member of the Carey Historical Society and a part time tour guide.

Time : 7.30pm

Location :
**Eastside Arts Centre,
Newtownards Road**

**Car parking for East Side Arts
Centre is located at the
Arches Centre**

EASTSIDE ARTS CENTRE

*A unique opportunity
to hear, and see,
how we covered the
Titanic story over 60
editions of our
Society
Magazine/Journal*

**EAST
SIDE
ARTS**

INSPIRING BELFAST

✦ NOVEMBER 2019

MONDAY 11TH

MARITIME BELFAST & THE GREAT WAR

NIGEL HENDERSON
Great War Author and Historian



Nigel will focus on Belfast ships, Belfast sailors and shipyard soldiers in the Great War period (1914-1919). Nigel is a Great War historian and author and a member of History Hub Ulster.

Nigel Henderson is currently collaborating on a Great War related book project about the Belfast shipyard of Workman Clark.

Time : 7.30pm

**Location : RBAI, Christchurch – enter the school front gate and
turn left and then right to park behind the school**

RBAI CHRISTCHURCH

*As we draw to a
close the final Great
War anniversary year
2019 we hear about
the men from
Workman Clark who
went to war!*

❖ DECEMBER 2019

MONDAY 9TH

CHRISTMAS AT THE EASTSIDE ARTS CENTRE

SOCIETY SOCIAL

Belfast Titanic Society

A social get together to celebrate the festive season for members and their guests. This year we will showcase the Society through photographs of events through the year (not published in CQD). We encourage members to bring along friends and family for some Christmas refreshments and a chance to see items from our Society Archive.

Time : 7.30pm
Location : Eastside Arts centre

EASTSIDE ARTS CENTRE

Wishing all our members a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

EAST SIDE ARTS

INSPIRING BELFAST



❖ JANUARY 2020

MONDAY 13TH

1 DESTINATION TITANIC QUARTER – AN UPDATE FROM TITANIC FOUNDATION, BELFAST

MAEVE MORELAND

Titanic Foundation

Back with an update on behalf of Titanic Foundation and their work in development in the Titanic Quarter, and what's going on generally across the quarter in the coming year

2 TITANIC 2020 – with 20/20 VISION: was disaster inevitable?

PHILIP ARMSTRONG

Co-Chair Belfast Titanic Society and Titanic Historian

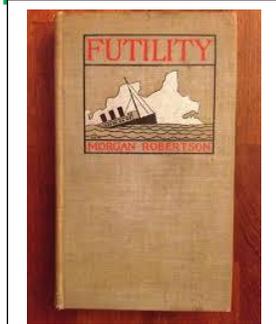
In 1898, author Morgan Robertson wrote the book “Futility” which appeared to pre-figure the Titanic disaster 14 years later with chilling accuracy – all the way down to the name of the ship – the ‘Titan’. Does this mean that the Titanic disaster was inevitable? Did the certain elements of the public see a catastrophic loss of life at sea happening

RBAI CHRISTCHURCH

Titanic Foundation has an interest in promoting and delivering Titanic Quarter as a maritime heritage destination and shared space for all of Belfast and Northern Ireland.



'Futility'



more than a decade prior to the event?

In this presentation, Society Co-Chair Philip Armstrong looks at the story of how Robertson's work was rediscovered after April 1912 and questions what elements of the Titanic disaster could indeed have been anticipated before the Olympic class had even been conceived. We will, in 2020, be looking at Futility and the Titanic story with 20/20 vision.



Philip is a practising solicitor with a particular interest in property law; in his day job, this extends to owning one of the largest conveyancing firms in the country, but in a Titanic context, he has a specific interest in the ownership of the wreck of Titanic and salvage over the years, and has consulted on various Titanic projects regarding artefact recovery and protection of the wreck.

Time : 7.30pm
Location : RBAI



🗓️ FEBRUARY 2020

MONDAY 10TH

RBAI, Christchurch

BELFAST SHIP-BUILDING AND THE SCOTTISH CONNECTIONS.

MARK DOHERTY

Society Committee Member and Local Historian

The modern powered passenger steamship was first developed on the River Clyde in the early 1800s. A few decades later, Belfast established a shipyard that would eventually lead the world building the most advanced liners afloat. This talk explores the development of this industry in Belfast, and how Scottish talent was critical to its success.



Mark Doherty at Dunallen

Mark Doherty holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and first worked at Queen's Island in 1986 as an aircraft designer in an office at the Musgrave Channel. He watched 'Ironbridge' being floated out of dry dock during his first week of work and as a rower saw the shipyard from the water more often than from the land. He is passionate about many aspects of the history of Belfast, particularly ship-building. He is also an experienced tour guide, working in Belfast City Hall and Clifton House. He is a volunteer for *Turas* in East Belfast, developing knowledge of our Gaelic past. Mark is currently writing his first book - a biography of Viscount Pirrie.

Time : 7.30pm
Location : RBAI

MARCH 2020

RBAI CHRISTCHURCH

MONDAY 9TH

SIR WILLIAM ARROL

SANDRA GILPIN

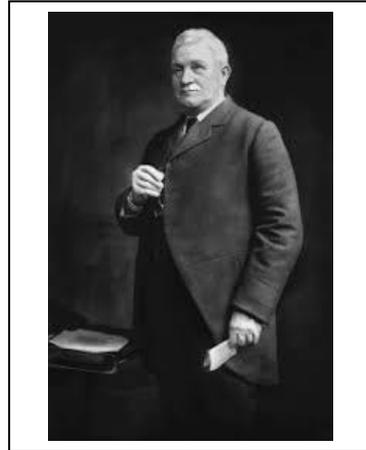
Society Committee Member and Local Historian

While the Arrol Gantry is well known in Belfast - due in large part to the iconic photographs of the Olympic and Titanic under construction in the Harland and Wolff Shipyard - few are aware of its namesake Sir William Arrol (1839-1913). This Scot rose from the humblest beginnings to be a civil engineer of world renown. Bridges built by his firm include the Tay, Forth and Tower, while his innovations and working practices shaped the modern world; some in evidence to this day.

Sandra Gilpin has lived in the Comber area all her life - the home town of the Andrews Family and location of the impressive Andrews Memorial Hall. After graduating from QUB with a degree in Scholastic Philosophy she taught children with special education needs and moderate learning difficulties. Her interest in local and family history informs her approach to the Titanic 'story' topics as the backgrounds of those involved in it enhances our understand of their achievements and places it in the wider social, economic, political and cultural life of the time.

Time : 7.30pm

Location : RBAI



APRIL 2020

SATURDAY 11TH

SOCIETY ANNUAL GALA DINNER

@ STORMONT

Parliament Buildings (from 6pm tour of House of Commons and Senate with dinner at 7.30pm)



Price £50

Tickets will be strictly limited this year due to a cap on the venue numbers.



✦ APRIL 2020

WEDNESDAY 15TH

ANNUAL TITANIC COMMEMORATION AT BELFAST CITY HALL



Belfast Titanic Society & Belfast City Council ... Belfast's Lord Mayor, the Society President, Co Chair and Chaplain presiding...

While this event is open to all, a special invitation from Belfast City Council will be issued to our members in March/April. The event reception is held inside City Hall and is hosted by the Lord Mayor and is strictly by invitation only (*this year names of those laying white roses on behalf of locals lost in the tragedy will be organised in advance - roses will be collected from the foyer of city hall at 11.45am to ensure the*

distribution is complete well before the event commences).

Time : 12 midday
(gather from 11.30)

Location : Belfast City Hall,
Titanic Memorial Gardens.

Please look for updates and details of how to attend – these will be posted on line at www.belfast-titanic.com

RBAI CHRISTCHURCH

*108th Titanic
Commemoration
Service led by Belfast's
Lord Mayor and Belfast
Titanic Society at the
Titanic memorial
Gardens City Hall...*

**....REMEMBERING
LOST LIVES OF
TRAGEDY.....**



✦ APRIL 2020

FRIDAY 10TH – WEDNESDAY 15TH

TITANIC TOGETHER

Special events across the Titanic Quarter and the wider Belfast region marking the 108th anniversary of the loss of RMS Titanic.

The mini festival includes:

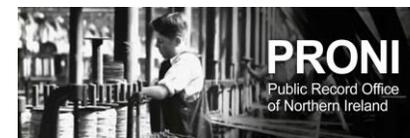
- PRONI Tours
- Society Gala Dinner at Parliament Buildings, Stormont
- Titanic Belfast's 'Night to Remember'
- Titanic Foundation tours
- Titanic related speakers and tours
- 'Britannic' Fund Raiser



Titanic Quarter



**Look out for more
details on our website
www.belfast-titanic.com**



✘ MAY 2020

RBAI CHRISTCHURCH

MONDAY 11th

1 SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS OF THE SOCIETY



All members are encouraged to attend – come and support elections and hear the latest news about the Society.

2 CATHERINE CHARLEY

Author and Historian

PIRRIE FAMILY STORIES

Catherine Charley, descendant of Captain William Pirrie, gives an insight into the Pirrie family history. Catherine Charley writes non-fiction books for children and adults. Children’s topics range from tales of tombs and treasures to stories of polar explorers and Everest adventurers. She has also written on art history and life in China. For adult readers she has written *Lest We Forget* and *Vision & Venture: A History of Bryson Charitable Group 1906-2006*. (an anonymous 'Mr X', the Titanic launch, the Belfast Blitz and the Troubles are all woven into the story of the charity).



Time : 7.30pm
Location : RBAI

✘ JUNE 2020

BELFAST, SAILORTOWN

SATURDAY 13th

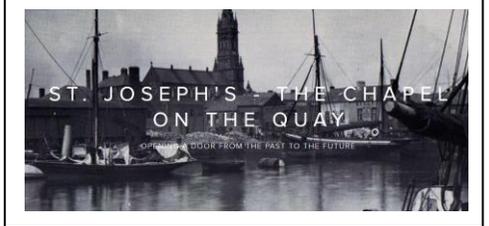
DISCOVER SAILORTOWN

On this unique walking tour through Belfast’s Sailortown, led by Terry McKeown

(Sailortown Regeneration Group), you will hear about the people, places and events that shaped the historic part of the dock area of the north shore of the lough/lagan. Travel through time soaking up the vibrancy and challenges of those who were part of the Sailortown and docks story. We will finish by a special visit to St Joseph’ Church recently awarded a heritage lottery fund award as part of the Sailortown Regeneration Project – “...working on restoring the church and associated buildings as a key project to enable a people-led regeneration of the area primarily for use by current and past residents of the area, and will provide a welcoming space for visitors and all those interested in the local culture and heritage...” **PLEASE NOTE ATTENDEES WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE REGNERATION PROJECT** (tour no more than 2 hours)

Time : 10am

Location : Meet at the Big Fish — the tour will commence from there and finish at Princes Dock Street, at St Joseph’s Church, Sailortown. Suggested car parking is at the new car park beside the M3 and approached from Corporation Square. This is a paid car park – other free parking may be available nearby.



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY



Becoming a member is easy....
just visit our webpage at
<http://www.belfast-titanic.com/>
and then click on membership.

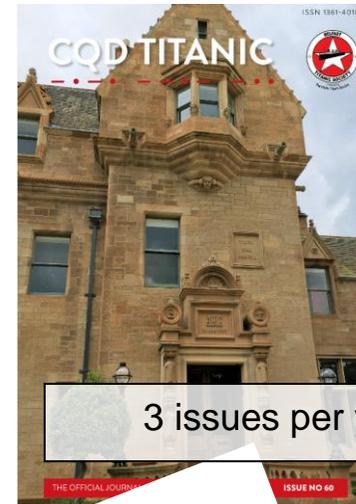
We welcome anyone with an interest in
the Titanic story as well as the wider
maritime history of Belfast.

Membership remains held at £25 per
annum for UK and Ireland members
and £30 for International membership.

**Membership renews at midnight
14th April each year.**

CQD TITANIC

The Journal of the Belfast Titanic Society



3 issues per year with your membership

