No county was left unsathed by the famine; research undertaken by museum staff has uncovered first-hand accounts of the suffering and tragedy which unfolded during these years. Reports relating to famine relief across Down and Armagh relay the sense of destitution and distress in places like Crossgar, Downpatrick, Forkhill and Donaghmore. Workhouses in Newry, Kilkeel, Downpatrick and elsewhere accommodated “paupers..., miserable spectacles... emaciated and reduced in strength” (Downpatrick Recorder 13 February 1847).

This programme of events has been put together to explore further the social, cultural, linguistic, economic and political legacy of the famine. We are privileged to have contributions by renowned authors, historians, artists and academics. Our local school children and students will have opportunities to engage with the human stories of the famine and respond creatively. We have formed partnerships with cultural, community and educational agencies and groups in order to ensure as wide an audience as possible for these events, which are happening in libraries, museums, arts centres and schools. I would like to acknowledge our partnerships with Libraries NI, Linenhall Library, C2KNI, Greater Mourne Good Relations Forum, Newry City Tours, Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail, Newpoint Players, National Museums of Northern Ireland, The Mitchel Conference Committee, and Newry Maritime Association.

Councillor Naomi Baillie
Chair, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

A show for primary school children. During the Irish Famine in which millions of people died or were forced to leave Ireland, the Choctaw tribe in America answered the cry for help. Their generosity saved countless lives. With the help of children in the audience, the Armagh Rhymers re-tell this part of history, a time when one group of impoverished people helped another group on the other side of the world. We should recognise, acknowledge and honour this act of kindness and solidarity.
**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

**MONDAY 21 - 25 FRIDAY SEPTEMBER**

**UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF THE GREAT FAMINE IN ULSTER**
- NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM AT BAGENAL'S CASTLE
- 1PM–3PM
- FREE
- DECLAN CARROLL: 028 3031 3178
- DECLAN.CARROLL@NEWRYANDMOURNE.GOV.UK

A history course with Dr Gerard MacAsnesey, aimed at secondary schools and adults.

While much has been written about the impact of the Great Famine/An Gorta Mór, there still remains the perception that Ulster escaped relatively lightly from the effects of the catastrophe. This short course will examine conditions during the Famine years in the linen stronghold of Country Armagh and the thriving industrial metropolis of Belfast. By way of contrast, the years of hunger in County Leitrim, a county bordering the province, will also be examined. The course aims to address the belief that Ulster was immune to one of the greatest human disasters of the nineteenth-century.

**TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**

**‘THE GREAT FAMINE AND THE IRISH LANGUAGE’— DR. FIONNTAN DE BRÚN**
- NEWRY AND MOURNE MUSEUM AT BAGENAL’S CASTLE
- 7.30PM
- FREE
- DECLAN CARROLL: 028 3031 3178
- DECLAN.CARROLL@NEWRYANDMOURNE.GOV.UK

The Great Irish Famine is generally regarded as having dramatically precipitated the decline of the Irish language. Yet scholars are revisiting the question of language use in Ireland in the 19th century, as is most recently evident in Nicholas Wolf’s study *An Irish-Speaking Island State, Religion, Community, and the Linguistic Landscape in Ireland, 1770–1870* (2014).

This talk will consider this linguistic landscape as part of an examination of how Irish speakers reacted to the crisis as it unfolded. For example, how did poets and scribes describe the situation as it appeared to them? And how useful is the oral testimony of survivors as this was passed down to us after the catastrophe?

**WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

**LECTURE: ‘AR AN TRÁ FHOLAMH – O SCÉAL GO SCRIPT SCANNÁIN’**
- GAELÁRAS MHIC ARDGHAIL, NEWRY
- 7.30PM

Dr. Art Hughes – Reader – Irish and Celtic Languages Research Institute, University of Ulster.

‘Ar an Trá Fholamh’ is the title of a short story written by Seosamh Mac Grianna from Rannafast and set during the Famine – translated as left destitute, or high and dry. This is a powerful piece of Irish literature and Art Hughes details the difficulty of scripting this emotive tale for the screen. This event will be presented in Irish with simultaneous translation available for those without the language.

**WEDNESDAY 23 - FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER**

**“JOHN MITCHEL AND THE LEGACY OF THE GREAT FAMINE” CONFERENCE.**
- CANAL COURT HOTEL, NEWRY

Starting Wednesday 23 September at 7pm Canal Court Hotel. For further information contact tommyfegan@gmail.com

**THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**

**SONGS OF LOSS AND EMIGRATION**
- BELL GALLERY, SEAN HOLLYWOOD ARTS CENTRE
- 7.30PM
- FREE
- 028 3031 3180
- ARTSRECEPTION@NEWRYANDMOURNE.GOV.UK

This event will mine the rich seam of stories through song which have been passed on through the song tradition in English and Irish. Songs of loss through emigration and yearning for home form a vital part of the singing tradition and these well-known voices will highlight the best of the canon.

**MARITA CONLON MCKENNA LIVE BROADCAST FROM WARRENPOINT**
- ST. DALLAN’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, WARRENPOINT
- AISLEAIN MCGILL: 028 3031 3180
- AISLEAIN.MCGILL@NEWRYANDMOURNE.GOV.UK

This production, in association with EA Productions and C2K will feature a live videoconference from St Dallan’s PS in Warrenpoint. The main guest on the day will be Marita Conlon McKenna who is the author of one of the most popular books in schools on the island of Ireland – Under the Hawthorn Tree. This book captures the hardship and horror of the Great Famine. Other links with guests and experts are being planned as part of this videoconference. This is a schools’ event – not open for the public.
# Programme of Events

## Friday 25 September

### The Great Hunger
- **Location**: Sean Hollywood Arts Centre
- **Time**: 7:30PM
- **Cost**: £8 / £6
- **Phone**: 028 3031 3180

The Great Hunger is a dramatised version of the epic Patrick Kavanagh poem performed by Peter Duffy. Following an invitation to perform in the Irish Cultural Centre in Paris in October 2013, The Great Hunger commenced a country-wide tour with performances in Galway (Town Hall Theatre), Waterford (Theatre Royal), Drogheda (Droichead Arts Centre), Kilkenny (Watergate Theatre), Tallaght (Civic Theatre), Derry (Playhouse Theatre), Armagh (Marketplace Theatre), Coleraine (Riverside Theatre) and Ratoath (Venue Theatre). That tour ended with a standing ovation at a sold-out performance in the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival in Belfast in May 2014. The production has garnered some really good reviews on the way: “A treat for the ear, the eye and the imagination” Down Recorder

### Newry City Tours
- **Location**: Outside Newry Town Hall
- **Time**: 2PM
- **Cost**: Free
- **Website**: [www.newrycitytours.com](http://www.newrycitytours.com)

Join Martin Murtagh on a short walking tour highlighting how Francis Carvill’s shipbuilding industry and work as a famine agent ensured the safe passage of thousands who left these shores during the famine years.

## Saturday 26 September

### Annual Famine Commemoration 2015
- **Location**: Albert Basin, Newry
- **Time**: 2PM

This will be the highlight of the Council’s Famine Commemoration programme. The Official Ceremony will feature musical performances, poetry readings and unveiling of an historical plaque as well as contributions from local school children, community representatives, and the Chair of Council alongside Senior Government Representatives. The Annual Famine Commemoration will culminate in a wreath-laying ceremony and a minute’s silence in remembrance of those who were lost through death and emigration.

### “Under the Hawthorn Tree” Event Day
- **Location**: Ulster American Folk Park, 2 Mellon Road, Castletown, Omagh, Co Tyrone BT78 5QU
- **Time**: 10AM–5PM
- **Phone**: 028 8224 3292

Come to the Ulster American Folk Park on Saturday 26 September to experience the effects of the Great Famine on a typical family. Based on the well-known book by Marita Conlon-McKenna, visitors will follow in the O’Driscoll family’s footsteps. Discover Mary Kate’s secret herbal cures, taste famine foods, visit the Land Agent’s house and travel on an emigrant ship. This trail will recreate the story of the Famine and open your eyes to the reality of life in Ireland at the time.

### Captain William Marshall and the Hannah
- **Location**: Newry/Warrenpoint
- **Time**: TBC
- **Website**: [www.newrycitytours.com](http://www.newrycitytours.com)

Unveiling of plaques at Newry and Warrenpoint to commemorate Captain William Marshall and the victims of the Hannah famine ship.
Programme of events

Sunday 27 September

Retracing the steps in Warrenpoint

Performance begins at 2pm on promenade, next to baths. Unveiling of plaque at 4pm: Opposite the Lough and Quay

Aisín Mcoill: 028 3031 3180
Aisín.Mcoill@newryandmourne.gov.uk

This is a public event, featuring specially-commissioned performances which will recreate scenarios which would have featured in the exodus of people from Warrenpoint in the wake of the Famine. The walk from Newry and the surrounding villages towards Warrenpoint Harbour would have been a poignant journey. The Lady Caroline set sail from there to New Brunswick, Canada and the passengers embarking at Warrenpoint knew that there was little chance they'd ever see their friends and families again.

Monday 28 September

Dr. Eamon Phoenix Lecture: “The Famine, Ireland, and County Down”

Kilkeel
7:30pm

For further information contact
Suzanne Rice: 028 3031 3065 / 077 9388 3664 (Good Relations Officer)
Suzanne.Rice@newryandmourne.gov.uk

Hosted by the Greater Mourne Good Relations Forum.

Monday 28 September

Women, children and the Famine

Sean Hollywood Arts Centre
7pm

Free
028 3031 3065
Kerril.morrow@newryandmourne.gov.uk

Hosted by Newry Soroptimists.

Tuesday 29 September - Thursday 1 October

“Irish Migration: The Famine and After” - Gráinne McEvoy

Newry and Mourne Museum at Bagenal’s Castle
3pm–5pm
Free
Declan Carroll: 028 3031 3178
Declan.carroll@newryandmourne.gov.uk

A history course for adults.

Day 1: Tuesday 29 September

An overview of Irish migration: placing the Famine migrants in context.

The objective of this session will be to place the generation of migrants who left Ireland during the Famine within the context of the much longer history of emigration from the Island. We will step back and take in the long-view of Irish migration, considering number of departures, destinations, places of origin, and the circumstances in which they left. This will help us understand the unique character of Famine-era migration and the long history of Irish emigration.

Day 2: 30 September

Work, play, and prayer: daily life in the Irish diaspora

This session will look at the daily lives of the men, women, and families who made up the Irish Diaspora in the nineteenth century. The working, social, and religious lives of Irish emigrants varied depending on when they emigrated, where they came from, where they settled, and whether they were men or women.

We will examine the fascinating complexity of Irish experiences of everyday life in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and elsewhere.

Day 3: 1 October

In the shadow of exile: political life in the Irish diaspora and the legacy of the Famine

In our final session, we will examine how Irish people around the world participated in local and national politics, and the ways in which they led and supported movements for change, including campaigns both for and against Irish independence. We will also think about the ways in which Irish people encountered discrimination, but also how they were instrumental in the alienation of others. In certain ways, these activities have been shaped by popular conceptions of the Famine as the great tragedy in Ireland’s history that callously scattered its sons and daughters far and wide.

We will conclude our workshop by considering how the experience of the Famine migrants has continued to shape the identity of the Irish Diaspora.

Gráinne McEvoy, Ph.D

Gráinne is a native of Newry, but has been living in Boston for some years, where she obtained a Ph.D. in History at Boston College in 2014. She has five years of experience teaching at the university level, and will be teaching two Open Access history courses (one on the Irish Diaspora) at Queen’s University beginning in September 2015.

The retracing of emigrants’ steps will be enlivened by performances of scenarios which, using artistic license, are close to real events.

Performances by the Newpoint Players will act as a background to the official placement of the Famine Marker in Warrenpoint. This plaque will be commissioned, and will be presented at the Official Ceremony in Newry on Saturday 26th. It will be placed in Warrenpoint to mark the significance of the harbour as the embarkation point for emigrants. Another plaque will make its way to St. John, New Brunswick, to be placed there.

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## Programme of Events

### SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

**ULSTER FOLK AND TRANSPORT MUSEUM Famine and Family: A Tour Looking at Family Life During the Irish Famine**

- **Tours Available at 12pm and 2pm**
- **(Due to the size of the exhibit buildings, each tour is limited to 12 people)**
- **1 Hour**
- **£ Normal Museum Admission Costs Apply, Please Refer to the Website www.nmni.com/uftm**

For Workshops Contact

Lauraine Lindsay: 028 9039 5091

*Learning staff will guide you and your family around some of the homes in the rural area of the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, telling the stories of households, from the Landlord to the Cottier, and how they coped with the hardships of the time. History will come alive when you meet people from the period who will share the stories of their life and the hardships they endured. If you wish, you can then ask your own questions of each character.*

NB: This tour takes place outdoors and requires a lot of walking. Due to the nature of our exhibit buildings access for wheelchairs and pushchairs is limited. Suitable for ages 8+

### LIBRARIES NI

#### MONDAY 24 AUGUST - SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

**“From Home to Here: Stories of Migration Old and New” Exhibition**

- **NEWRY CITY LIBRARY**
- **Available to view during Library opening hours**
- **Free**

#### SEPTEMBER

**“The Great Famine” Exhibition**

- **NEWRY CITY LIBRARY**
- **Available to view during Library opening hours**
- **Free**

#### SEPTEMBER ONWARDS

**Other Resources**

From 1 September Famine Information packs will be available for consultation in the Heritage Gallery, Newry City Library, which will include a copy of an original Famine relief ticket, dated 1847 (and signed by James Harshaw, who was involved with a local Famine Relief Committee). There are also transcriptions of the Harshaw diaries (handwritten by Crossie) from our unique Crossle collection, which includes cover of the Famine period. There are frequent mentions to James Harshaw attending Relief Committees, providing relief to local people, as well as mentions of local deaths. Famine Commemoration bookmarks will be available at Newry City Library as part of Libraries NI programme of activities during September, and Warrenpoint and Newry City Library will each hold a Junior Reading Group during this period, where group members will be able to read books on the topic of the famine. Please contact the individual library for details.

### LIBRARIES NI

- **NEWRY CITY LIBRARY**
- **028 3026 4683**
- **NEWRY.city.library@librariesni.org.uk**

- **WARRENPOINT LIBRARY**
- **028 4175 3375**
- **warrenpoint.library@librariesni.org.uk**

### THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

**The Great Famine in Ulster, Talk by Dr. Gerard MacAtasney**

- **NEWRY CITY LIBRARY**
- **6:30pm**
- **Free (Booking is Advisable)**
- **028 3026 4683**
- **NEWRY.city.library@librariesni.org.uk**


He was a contributor to the ‘Atlas of the Great Irish Famine’ (2012). He has been and brought up in Lurgan. BA Hons from QUB; Masters from QUB; Masters from UU; PhD from University of Liverpool. He has lectured throughout Ireland and in America and England.

### WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

**“Relating Ulster’s Famine Experience: An Exercise in Myth-Making?”**

- **CROSSMAGLEN LIBRARY**
- **7PM**
- **Free**
- **028 3086 1951**
- **CROSSMAGLEN.LIBRARY@LIBRARIESNI.ORG.UK**

A talk by Dr Gerard MacAtasney.


He was a contributor to the ‘Atlas of the Great Irish Famine’ (2012). He has been and brought up in Lurgan. BA Hons from QUB; Masters from QUB; Masters from UU; PhD from University of Liverpool. He has lectured throughout Ireland and in America and England.
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

LIBRARIES NI

THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

A FAMINE LINK: THE HANNAH, BY KEVIN MURPHY

NEWRY CITY LIBRARY
12:30PM
FREE (BOOKING IS ADVISABLE)
028 3026 4683
NEWRYCITY.LIBRARY@LIBRARIESNI.ORG.UK

Kevin Murphy will retell the story of The Irish famine ship “The Hannah” which attempted a harrowing Atlantic crossing from Ireland to Quebec in 1849, only to encounter an iceberg. The captain abandoned the sinking ship and its nearly 200 passengers, many of whom miraculously survived 17 hours on the frozen ice. Kevin has undertaken extensive research, lectured widely, and contributed to many historical publications.

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

THE GREAT IRISH FAMINE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

WARRENPONT LIBRARY
12:30PM
FREE (BOOKING IS ADVISABLE)
028 4175 3375
WARRENPONT.LIBRARY@LIBRARIESNI.ORG.UK

By Francis Xavier McCorry

This talk is by the author of “A Portrait of West-County Down: Past and Present”, who will discuss the pre famine poverty which existed in West County Down, farming practices in the locality, the impact of the famine and its consequences. Francis Xavier McCorry, historian, author and lecturer, has forty years of local history publications under his belt. He counts a number of well-respected historians such as Cormac O’Grada as admirers.

MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

“NOT THE SAME SKY” BY EVELYN CONLON, BOOK LAUNCH

NEWRY CITY LIBRARY
2PM
FREE (BOOKING IS ADVISABLE)
028 3026 4683
NEWRYCITY.LIBRARY@LIBRARIESNI.ORG.UK

Not the same sky: book review

Copies of Evelyn Conlon’s Not the Same Sky will be placed at strategic locations throughout Newry, Mourne and Down District, with an email address attached, so that whoever finds the book and reads it, can email a review. The finders will be encouraged to attend the book launch in Newry library.
**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

**LINENHALL LIBRARY**

**MONDAY 7 - WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER**

**THE FAMINE DECADE**

- LINEN HALL LIBRARY, 17 DONEGAL SQUARE NORTH, BELFAST BT1 5GB
- £ FREE
- 028 9032 1707
- INFO@LINENHALL.COM

The trauma of the famine decade struck a deep blow to the psyche of the Irish people. This exhibition, illustrated with contemporary drawings, newspaper reports, scientific comment and agricultural advice, offers an insight to the period.

**MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**

**HUNGRY FOR CHANGE – THE EFFECT OF THE GREAT FAMINE ON IRISH MIGRATION, BY DR ANN McVEIGH**

- LINEN HALL LIBRARY, 17 DONEGAL SQUARE NORTH, BELFAST BT1 5GB
- 1PM
- £ FREE LECTURE
- 028 9032 1707
- INFO@LINENHALL.COM

Examining the suffering inflicted upon the population of Ireland from 1845 to 1852, explaining how emigration became the only option for many faced with famine.

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**MAP OF NEWRY**

**KEY**

1. Tourist Information Centre
2. Albert Basin
3. Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail
4. Sean Hollywood Arts Centre
5. Newry & Mourne Museum, Bagenal’s Castle
6. Newry City Library
7. Canal Court Hotel
8. Newry Town Hall
9. Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Offices
10. The Quays Shopping & Leisure Centre
11. Buttercrane Shopping Centre
12. Bus Centre
13. The Courthouse
14. Cathedral

Please note that this map is not to exact scale and is for reference only.