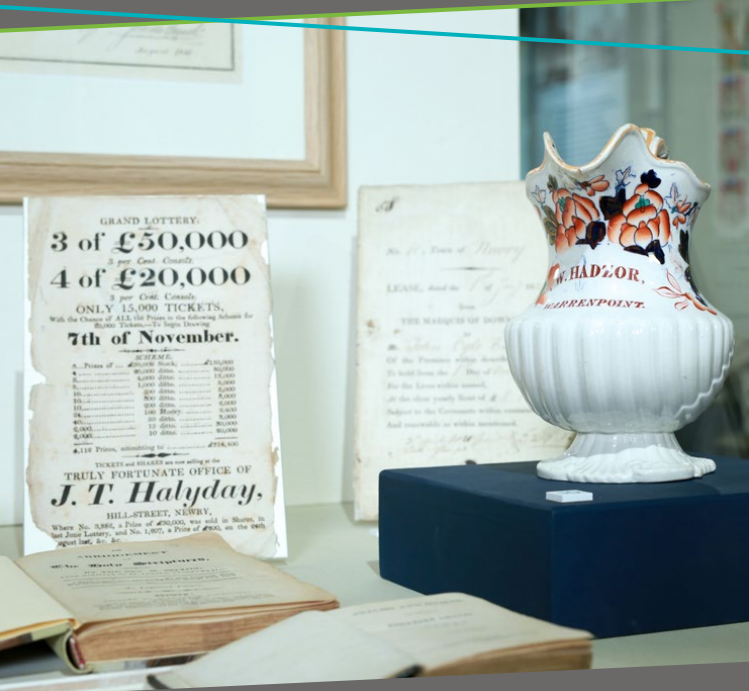


Comhairle Ceantair an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

# Iarsmalann an Iúir agus Mhúrn Newry and Mourne Museum



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an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne and Down  
District Council

# Welcome to Newry and Mourne Museum



Newry and Mourne Museum was originally housed within Newry Arts Centre and first opened its doors to the public on 31 May 1986. By March 2007 it had outgrown its home and moved to Bagenal's Castle where it remains to this day.

The Castle's exact location was lost over the years due to constant adaptation of the building, not least when the premises were purchased by Arthur McCann Ltd in 1894 and converted into a bakery.

Rediscovered in 1996 when McCann's sold the site, the Castle has been sympathetically restored. During the restoration process, drawings from a survey of the Castle completed c.1568 allowed archaeologists to uncover many original features of the Castle and these have been interpreted for the visitor.

The main exhibitions in the Museum include prehistoric material, Newry as a merchant town, the working life of the area and modern experiences of living in a border area. Changes are made to the main exhibitions on an annual basis.

## Tours

FREE guided tours of the main exhibitions are available each Sunday at 3pm.

Numbers are limited to 20 and pre booking of places is advisable. For more information please contact 028 3031 3178 or 028 3031 3182.

## Audio Guides

For visitors who just wish to take a stroll through the galleries the Museum provides audio guides in English, Irish, French and German.

## Opening Times

Monday – Saturday  
10am – 4.30pm  
Sundays  
1.30pm – 5pm



**Admission to  
the Museum is  
free of charge**

## Exhibitions



### Gallery 1

The story of Newry and Mourne is told from the prehistoric period up to the 16th century. Artefacts on display include a grave slab from a pre-Norman monastic foundation in the area and a stone carved with a human head and a heraldic animal from the medieval Cistercian abbey at Newry. Highlights include a range of artefacts including pottery from the Neolithic to post medieval period, excavated in 2011 at Carnbane, near Newry.



### Gallery 2

The commercial and cultural heritage of Newry and Mourne in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries is explored. Highlights include a late 16th century portrait of Sir Nicholas Bagenal, who developed the Carlingford Peninsula in the second half of the 16th century. He also played an important role in the political events of the period, and was Marshal of the Army in Ireland.

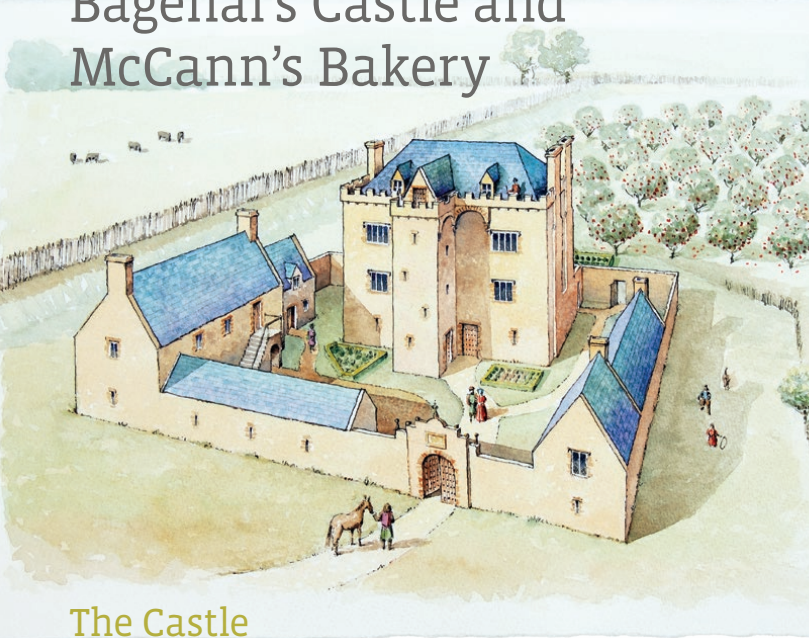


### Gallery 3

An eclectic range of artefacts are used to trace the impact of political, economic and cultural events on Newry in the 20th century. A section of the gallery is also devoted to the farming, fishing and domestic life of the area. Highlights include paintings by Newry-born artist, Margaret Clarke, one of the most significant figures in the history of early 20th century Irish art. An accomplished portrait painter, Margaret also ran her husband, Harry Clarke's stain glass studios in Dublin after his death in 1931.

In addition to the three main galleries, there are two temporary galleries, which have a vibrant programme of exhibitions.

# History of Bagenal's Castle and McCann's Bakery



## The Castle

Built in the environs of the site of a 12th century Cistercian abbey, Bagenal's Castle is an early example of a fortified residence. Documentary evidence also indicates that the Castle was surrounded by a bawn (a walled enclosure containing outbuildings) as well as a garden and an orchard.

It was built by Sir Nicholas Bagenal, an English settler from Staffordshire, who was granted the confiscated estates of the Cistercian abbey at Newry, along with land at Greencastle and Carlingford, by King Edward VI in 1552.

Appointed Marshall of the

Army in Ireland, Sir Nicholas Bagenal and, subsequently his son, Henry, played an important and influential role in late 16th century Irish government and politics. Henry, who took a leading part in the military campaigns against Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, during the Nine Years War, was killed when English forces were defeated at the Battle of Yellow Ford in 1598.

After the ravages of the Nine Years War, Bagenal's Castle was re-established as the centre of the Bagenal estates as part of the Ulster Plantation. After it was attacked during the 1641 Rebellion, historical evidence



## The Bakery

for the Castle becomes scarce making it difficult to know how far the Bagenals maintained the Castle as an important residence.

By the time of his death in 1712, Nicholas Bagenal (great-grandson of Sir Nicholas Bagenal) had a well-appointed house in London and his county Down estates passed to his cousin, Robert Nedham. A map accompanying a lease from Robert Nedham to Robert Hutcheson, a Newry merchant, in 1746 shows that the Nedhams may have been attempting to re-establish the Castle as a centre of commercial enterprise. Subsequent to this lease the Castle was converted into two dwelling houses.

Features relating to this phase of the building's history include a bread oven, fireplaces, windows with their original glazing bar holes and an 18th century basement.

The warehouse adjoining Bagenal's Castle on the north side was added in the early 19th century. In 1894 the complex became the home of McCann's bakery and employed generations of local families until it ceased operating in the late 1990s.

On the top storey of the warehouse, the original floor and roof have been preserved along with some machinery from McCann's bakery. There are also displays of artefacts from the bakery throughout the building.



# Education Services

## School Programmes

The Museum provides workshops that utilise artefacts from the Collection which are based on the history of Newry and Mourne. Some of the topics include:

### Build your own Castle Workshop

Students will learn more about who lived in Bagenal's Castle, the servants that were employed plus have a chance to build their own castle.

### Dress up Costumes

Children can try on some of the costumes on display and enjoy role play fun.

### Living History Workshops

These have been devised for schools so that pupils can learn more about the past in an interactive and enjoyable way. They include:

- **The Workhouse:** Students are transported to the time of Irish Famine and are transformed into paupers entering the Newry Union Workhouse in 1847 for the first time.
- **The Victorian School Room:** Pupils will appreciate education in the 21st century after they experience the strict discipline and rigorous lessons of a 19th century classroom, where they may even face the threat of the cane!
- **World War Two:** Pupils will learn how to be Fire Guard Messengers. They will be instructed on blackouts, gas masks, and what to do during an air raid.



### Archaeology Workshop

Students will become archaeologists for the day. They will examine changes over time, handle artefacts plus have the opportunity to create their own piece of 'Neolithic' pottery.

### Toy Workshop

Designed for the younger pupil, children will learn about toys from the past and around the world, plus make their own to take home.

### Historic Walking Tours

We also organise historic walking tours of Newry town. To complement this activity we can also provide a virtual tour of 19th century Newry, using maps and photographs from the Collection.

### Seasonal Activities

There are activities for schools at Halloween, Christmas and Easter, themed on the temporary exhibitions that run throughout the year.



## Families

Seasonal arts and crafts activities for families are available throughout the year. There are plenty of activities on offer during these sessions including the ever popular Museum Treasure Hunt and the Children's Comic.

## Events

There are a number of workshops, courses and lectures organised throughout the year on different topics and themes including the history and heritage of the region. To find out what is scheduled and to join our mailing list, please feel free to contact us at any time. Current and upcoming event information will also be published on our Facebook page.



Events and activities only cost £1 per child. Workshops can be arranged according to your school or organisation timetable. For bookings and more information please email: [museum@nmandd.org](mailto:museum@nmandd.org)



## Outreach Services



### Reminiscence Loan Box

The boxes are designed to include multi-sensory items to help stimulate memories and encourage reminiscence.

This service is free and the boxes can be borrowed for a two week period. Museum staff can provide brief instruction on how they can be used. They include information and items relating to:

- The 1940s and 1950s
- School Life
- Household
- Earning a Crust
- Rural Life
- Grooming and Fashion
- The 1970s and 1980s
- Christmas

### Touring Exhibition Programme

Travelling exhibitions are also available free of charge from the Museum. The current exhibitions available, which each comprise of five pop-up stands, are:

#### **Newry and Mourne in the Great War**

Tells the local story of the impact of the First World War, with references to Bessbrook, Jerrettspass, Kilkeel, Newry, Newtownhamilton, Rostrevor and Warrenpoint.

#### **The Great Famine**

Provides an overview of how the famine affected the local area, with reference to Newry, Forkhill, Warrenpoint, Downpatrick and Crossgar.

#### **1916 and After**

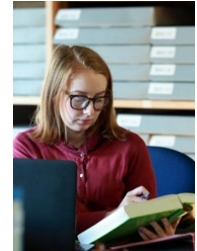
Themes explored include local figures associated with the Easter Rising of 1916, how it was reported in local newspapers and its impact on local politics.

#### **Farming in the Local Area**

Looks at the development of farming, highlighting agricultural shows and farming co-operative information from Newry, Loughbrickland, Rathfriland and south Armagh.

## Research Resources

The Museum has archival collections which are available to research in the Museum Reading Room.



### **The Reside Collection**

A wide ranging collection shedding light on many aspects of local history in the Newry area from 1715 to the 1990s. The papers include estate records such as rental books, titles deeds, maps and estate surveys.

The records relate to the Earls of Kilmorey, Marquises of Downshire, the Hall family of Narrow Water and the Ross family of Rostrevor. The Collection was compiled by Major Gerald Reside, a local architect and historian, and can be viewed online at [www.bagenalscastle.com](http://www.bagenalscastle.com)

### **The Hugh Irvine Collection**

Compiled by Hugh Irvine, a teacher in Kilkeel High School,

the Collection relates to local and family history in the Kilkeel area. This includes photographs, postcards, receipts from local businesses, newspaper cuttings and detailed notes on family history.

### **The Éamon Donnelly Collection**

The Collection comprises the personal and political papers of Éamon Donnelly, a prominent Nationalist politician in Ireland during the 1920s and 1930s, and one of the founding members of Fianna Fáil. The Collection also includes correspondence from leading figures including Éamon de Valera, Michael Collins, and Maud Gonne MacBride.

For further information, or to make an appointment to consult any item please get in touch.



### **Online resources**

The Museum also has an extensive range of resources on its website. These can be accessed at: [www.bagenalscastle.com/newsletter](http://www.bagenalscastle.com/newsletter)



## Donating artefacts and documents to the Museum

Donations of objects and documents by the public are pivotal to the work of a museum as it seeks to tell the stories of the past and help us understand our heritage.

Objects are also employed in education work to bring the past alive for children and to stimulate memory and share personal histories in reminiscence work.

Guided by its Collections Development Policy, Newry and Mourne Museum collects objects and documents relating to the Newry and Mourne area, including south Armagh, Newry and south Down. The Museum collecting policy also respects Newry's historic hinterland of Rathfriland, Poyntzpass, Markethill and Omeath.

### **Making a Donation**

If you have an object or document which you would

like to donate, please contact us. You can either bring your item to the Museum, or if you have a number of objects, we can arrange for museum staff to visit your home to assess them.

As an Accredited Museum we work to national standards of collection care and practice. Items are accepted or declined according to guidelines set out in the Museum Association's Code of Ethics for Museums and our defined collections policy.

If you would like to see a copy of our Collections Development Policy, please contact the Assistant Curator or Curator at the Museum.

### **If we Accept Your Object**

If your object or document matches ethical guidelines and our collecting criteria you will be requested to sign a Museum Object Entry Form. Your item

will then be accessioned and accepted into the Museum Collection. Please do not be disappointed if your item does not go on display immediately. Our main exhibitions are revised periodically and your object may also be used in one of our temporary exhibitions. Even if your object goes into storage it will always be available to the public for research.

We may decide that our education activities or reminiscence work would benefit from your object. If this is so, the object, with your consent, will not be accessioned but will join our 'handling' collections to be used by school children or reminiscence groups.



## Meeting and conference facilities at the Museum

There are two rooms available for events and activities that complement the Museum ethos e.g. lectures, workshops, seminars, community events and meetings. Laptop, data-projector, screen and flip-chart are also included in the room hire.

### **Banqueting Room**

Located on the second floor of the 16th century Castle, the room contains original features, including a fireplace.

### **Meeting Room**

Located on the ground floor of the 19th century warehouse, this room occupies the former McCann's Bakery shop frontage.

To check availability, conditions of hire, price and to book a room please contact Museum Reception. A booking form must be completed.

 / newryandmourneArtsMuseum

 @nandmmuseum

## **Newry and Mourne Museum**

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Newry & Mourne  
**MUSEUM**



**Ag freastal ar an Dún  
agus Ard Mhacha Theas  
Serving Down  
and South Armagh**