

By Surging Sea and Quiet Lough
Exploring the Maritime Heritage of Ards and North Down
Conference Programme

09:00 – 09:20 REGISTRATION

09:20 – 09:30 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

MORNING SESSION 09:30 – 13:00

09:30 – 10:00 ULSTER MARITIME HERITAGE *Robin Masefield, Ulster Maritime Heritage*

10:00 – 10:30 NEW DISCOVERIES FROM THE COASTAL HERITAGE LIDAR SURVEY OF THE NORTH DOWN AND STRANGFORD AREA *Colin Dunlop, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs*

10:30 – 11:00 ALONG COASTLINE AND LOUGHSHORE, A BRIEF APPRAISAL OF THE MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN *Moira O'Rourke, North Down Museum*

11:00 – 11:30 BREAK

11:30 – 12:00 THE SIR SAMUEL KELLY LIFEBOAT- A VISION FOR A DEDICATED HERITAGE CENTRE *Alan Couser, Donaghadee Heritage Preservation Company*

12:00 – 12:30 THE BALLYWALTER LIFEBOAT *Billy Carlile, Ballywalter and District Historical Society*

12:30 – 13:00 1000 YEARS OF THE STRANGFORD FERRY *James Elliott, Portaferry and Strangford Trust*

13:00 – 13:45 LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION 13:45 – 17:30

13:45 – 14:15 STRANGFORD RIVER CLASS *James Nixon, Strangford Yacht Club*

14:15 – 14:45 THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY COASTGUARD ESTATE, IRELAND *Denis Mayne, Bangor*

14:45 – 15:15 FISHING FAMILIES FROM PORTAVOGIE *Ashley Moore, Portavogie*

15:15 – 15:45 BREAK

15:45 - 16:15 THE WILD DEER SHIPWRECK *Ivan McFerran, Upper Ards*

16:15 – 16:45 THE FANNY CROSSFIELD, RINGNEILL QUAY *Leo Van Es Ulster Archaeological Society*

16:45 – 17:15 THE RESULT, ULSTER FOLK & TRANSPORT MUSEUM *Clare Ablett, National Museums Northern Ireland*

17:15 - 17:30 **CLOSING REMARKS**

SPEAKERS

ULSTER MARITIME HERITAGE, Robin Masefield, Ulster Maritime Heritage

Robin Masefield is a local historian, with interests in the built and natural environment. He has published three books on different aspects of the history of North Down and has a forthcoming publication on Irish people in 19th century China. He is one of the founders of a new organisation, Ulster Maritime Heritage, which aims to promote knowledge of and interest in traditional craft and their associated culture, in both coastal and inland locations. UMH aspires to becoming a representative body and provide a voice for the sector with central and local government, and the wider public.

NEW DISCOVERIES FROM THE COASTAL HERITAGE LIDAR SURVEY OF THE NORTH DOWN AND STRANGFORD AREA, Colin Dunlop, Marine Historic Environment Advisor, Marine and Fisheries, DAERA

Colin Dunlop, MCIfA, is the Marine Heritage Advisor for DAERA. He has 20 years of field archaeology experience working in the private sector followed by four years working within the Historic Environment Division as a curatorial archaeologist with responsibilities for inspecting sites and monuments, working on cultural heritage legislation, and liaising with stakeholders in Northern Ireland's marine and coastal area.

ALONG COASTLINE AND LOUGHSHORE, A BRIEF APPRAISAL OF THE MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN by Moira O'Rourke, North Down Museum

Having formerly worked in the commercial sector for over 20 years as an archaeologist and heritage consultant, Moira O'Rourke is the Heritage Development Officer for Ards and North Down Borough Council and based in North Down Museum.

THE SIR SAMUEL KELLY LIFEBOAT- A VISION FOR A DEDICATED HERITAGE CENTRE, Alan Couser, Donaghadee Heritage Preservation Company

Alan Couser is currently Chair of Donaghadee Heritage Preservation Co. and Branch Chair of Donaghadee RNLi Station. He has had an interest in the Lifeboats of Donaghadee for over 20 years and is actively involved in the conservation of the Sir Samuel Kelly and the planning for a future Heritage and Education Centre in Donaghadee.

THE BALLYWALTER LIFEBOAT, Billy Carlile, Ballywalter and District Historical Society

Billy Carlile is the current chairman of Ballywalter and District Historical Society and before retiring was Ship Repair manager in Harland and Wolff.

1000 YEARS OF THE STRANGFORD FERRY, James Elliot, Portaferry and Strangford Trust

James Elliot is the chair of the Portaferry and Strangford Trust (PAST), constituted in 2013 with the aim of helping people regain an awareness of our fascinating maritime heritage and environment, past and present, and to understand how it has shaped our lives and continues to do so. PAST achieves this by holding events and exhibitions from Easter to September in the Ropewalk Maritime Heritage Visitor Centre, Portaferry, and their collation of the Jim Blaney Memorial Archive, a remarkable collection of local maritime heritage that is available to the public for consultation.

AFTERNOON SESSION

STRANGFORD RIVER CLASS, James Nixon, Strangford Yacht Club

James Nixon grew up in a sailing family whose home overlooked Ballyholme Bay in Bangor. He started sailing as a child on Belfast Lough in assorted dinghies and local one-design classes. From university onwards James has raced competitively in in Firefly dinghies, crewed on long distance cruises around Ireland, the Faroe Islands, and Norway, and followed Lord Dufferin with voyages into the Arctic.

Since 2014 he has been co-owner of a River Class sloop racing on Strangford Lough. This Class celebrated its centenary in 2021 and he compiled and published a history to mark that anniversary. He was appointed Honorary Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Queen's University, Belfast, and was appointed OBE in 2015 for services to medicine and the community.

THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY COASTGUARD ESTATE, IRELAND, Denis Mayne, Bangor

A local historian and former Field Monument Warden, Denis Mayne will provide a quick survey of the type of coastguard buildings with emphasis on fortification and a calculation from the number of stations of the population of coastguards and families living along the narrow coastal fringe. And the question: Why have the coastguard and their buildings been ignored?

A FISHERMAN'S TALE - FISHING IN PORTAVOGIE THROUGH THE YEARS, Ashley Moore, Portavogie

Ashley Moore was born into a fishing family and has lived all his life in Portavogie. His father, grandfather, etc. were all fishermen as far back as they can trace. Upon leaving school in 1981, he joined as crew on his father's fishing boat. After four years at sea, Ashley undertook his navigation qualifications and gradually took over as skipper of the family boat. After some deliberation, he opted for a career change in 2006, sold the boat and joined Belfast Harbour Commissioners as a Port Controller where he has worked for 16 years.

He is still connected with the fishing industry, being a board member of Seafish training in Northern Ireland and a Sea Survival instructor for 30 years.

THE WILD DEER SHIPWRECK, Ivan McFerran, Upper Ards

As a small-time sheep farmer & agri. hedge-cutting contractor, Ivan travels around the farms, fields and laneways of The Upper Ards. When he sees something that catches his eye, such as an old building, hillfort, or harbour, he will chat to the locals to see what they have to say and perhaps make a little video of their story. In the case of the Wild Deer shipwreck, his interest was sparked upon realising that the ship's figurehead which sat in the grounds of an old house belonging to his father came from that very wreck.

THE FANNY CROSSFIELD, RINGNEILL QUAY, Leo Van Es, Ulster Archaeological Society

Leo van Es is an Archaeology enthusiast being a member of both the Ulster Archaeology Society and its associated Field Survey Group. He is also a member of The Nautical Archaeology Society and The Society for Medieval Archaeology. His particular interest is Maritime History.

THE RESULT, THE LAST ULSTER SCHOONER, Clare Ablett, National Museums Northern Ireland

Clare Ablett is the Curator of Transport and Industry at the Ulster Transport Museum. At the Ulster Transport Museum sits the last Ulster-built cargo sailing ship, Result. Built in Carrickfergus, the ship's life at sea was exciting and sometimes dangerous, from starring in a movie to fighting off German U-boats during the First World War. This talk looks back over her life and charts her journey from cargo ship to museum exhibit.