

Independent Museums of Northern Ireland

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Museums and Galleries Month, which has been held from 29 April to 4 June this year, has been celebrated throughout Northern Ireland, including a joint venture organised by local independent museums. There are seventeen independent museums, who recently formed the group, the Independent Museums of Northern Ireland or IMNI, with the aims of providing mutual support for its members and of ensuring that their interests are heard at various levels.

As one of its first joint activities, IMNI produced an information flyer to publicise the existence of these less well known museums. Funding and support were received from the Northern Ireland Museums' Council, of which all the independent museums are members.

It was agreed to launch the information flyer during Museum and Galleries Month at the Downpatrick and County Down Railway Museum. Representatives from IMNI at the launch included Michael Collins, as Chairman of the Downpatrick and County Down Railway Museum and designer of the joint flyer, and Carol Conlin, Assistant Keeper of Armagh Public Library.

Michael Collins said: "In the leaflet you will discover the riches of history which for too long have been largely unknown, both to residents of Northern Ireland and to visitors." He also said that the locations of the museums have been set out, county by county, along with information such as opening times, entrance fees and illustrations of some of the exhibits on display. It is intended to have the information flyer on display at all the member museums and local tourist information centres.

End of Press Release

For further information, please contact:-

- Michael Collins at the Downpatrick and County Down Railway Museum, telephone 028 44615779 or 0772 0775 080
- Carol Conlin at Armagh Public Library, telephone 028 37523142

The seventeen independent museums are:-

Flame, the Gasworks Museum of Ireland, Carrickfergus

The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, Whitehead

Fernhill House “The People’s Museum”, Belfast

Royal Irish Regiment Museum, Ballymena

The Royal Ulster Rifles Museum, Belfast

Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum, Armagh

Armagh Public Library

Downpatrick and County Down Railway

Somme Heritage Centre, Newtownards

Police Museum, Belfast

The Naughton Gallery at Queen’s, Belfast

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Regimental Museum, Enniskillen

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