

THE POYNTZPASS AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

INTRODUCTION

While I have spent the majority of my working life in Belfast, I am still very much a 'Pass' man and my interest in our local history has never waned. During the past two years, as chairman, I have tried to continue the work of those who have gone before and I am glad to say that by any standard, our society is currently in excellent health.

We are a *local-history* society and so far as is possible, our monthly talks are given by local people on a wide variety of local topics. We aim to inform and entertain in equal measure and attendances at our monthly meeting and outings would suggest that in that we have been successful. One talk in our last season of lectures attracted an audience in excess of one hundred!

During the past two summers, we have had many very enjoyable outings both locally and further afield. These have ranged from our annual '*Dawn Chorus*' walk and '*Summer Evening Picnic*' to visits to the Ulster-American Folk Park at Omagh and Kilmainham Goal in Dublin.

Apart from arranging talks and outings our committee has been continuing to pursue several long-term projects, such as capturing and recording personal memories of yesteryear, documenting local 'hidden historic gems' and in various ways involving schoolchildren our activities. The schools' '*Blue-Plaque Project*' proved extremely successful and aroused a great deal of interest locally and further afield.

This edition of 'Before I forget ...' contains, as usual, a varied selection of articles, based on talks given to our society in recent years. There are articles on the origins of Mountnorris, the story of the Poyntz family, who gave our village its name, the colourful history of the Fivey family of Union Lodge and 'What the Papers said about Us'. Lewis Smart's 'Tales from the Fourtowns' and Jimmy Kenny's incredible feats are sure to cause a smile, while John Best's look back at a lifetime in farming will certainly evoke many memories. There are articles on Armagh Market Houses, on the architect William Barre's local connection, and on what interesting information can be gleaned from headstones in local churchyards. We include as well, a re-print of an interview with the late Tommy Morrow which appeared in 'The *'Pass Times*' in 1983. There is also an up to date transcription of Headstone inscriptions in Fourtowns Presbyterian Churchyard.

The Society members feel that it would be remiss of us not to acknowledge, in this edition, the achievements of our local sports star Rory Best, whose exploits have been followed with such interest and pride locally. We have been privileged to witness sporting history in the making, by one of our own, and, while a full account of Rory's career will hopefully feature in a future journal, in the interim, we include here an acknowledgement of our pride in what he has achieved to date.

I am confident that that you will find something here to amuse and inform you and it is my pleasure, as chairman of the Society, to welcome you to this edition of "*Before I forget...*".

Hugh Daly

Chairman. October 2017.

THE POYNTZPASS AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY 2016-2017

Hugh Daly – Chairman
Deirdre Graham – Vice-Chairman
Dympna Hamilton – Librarian
Hugh Daly – Hon. Secretary
Barbara Best – Hon. Treasurer

Committee:

Roy Copeland, Helena Gamble, Deirdre Graham, Robert Morrow,
Brian O'Hare, Michael O'Loughlin, Frank Watters.

Magazine Sub-committee:

Frank Watters, Helena Gamble, Barbara Best

Programme 2017/2018

The Society meets on the First Thursday of each month (September – April) at 8.00 p.m. in The Meeting Place, Poyntzpass Community Centre, Church Street, Poyntzpass.

NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME.

The Society welcomes correspondence and would be particularly glad to hear from anyone with old photographs or other documents relating to our area in the past.

You can contact us using our email address: *Secretary, PdLhs@gmail.com*
history@poyntzpass.co.uk

or by writing to :

Hugh Daly, 30 Upper Cavehill Road, Belfast BT15 5EZ

Telephone ~~(028) 90 715693.~~ *07305 776 591*

Our website is: www.poyntzpass.co.uk

Facebook: Poyntzpass and District Local History Society

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to all those who helped in any way in the production of this edition of 'Before I forget...' We particularly wish to thank our contributors for their research, all those who helped by providing photographs and our group of volunteers who devote so much time and effort to transcribing the headstone inscriptions in our local graveyards.

We are especially grateful to T.P.M. Credit Union for the continued use of their premises for our editorial meetings. Sincere thanks also to Mark Skillen of Downline Media for his expertise and for his patience.