



John Herivel Plaque

- Susan Herivel, daughter of John Herivel.
- L-R Susan Herivel, Professor Alastair Adair CBE DL, Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Michelle Kelly, Principal of Methodist College, Jenny Lendrum, with senior pupils and guests.



William Starrat Plaque

- Robert Lowry Scott, Lord Lieutenant for Co. Tyrone unveils the blue plaque.
- L-R Robert Lowry Scott, LL, Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle, Trevor Wilson, Board Director-Ulster Scots and Alderman Keith Kerrigan-Derry City & Strabane District Council.
- Alan Miller speaking on the works of William Starrat, the Ulster Scots poet.



Dorothy Parke Plaque

- Mayor of DC&SDC, Councillor Sandra Duffy and Joan Smyth a former pupil of Dorothy Parke, unveil the blue plaque at St. Columba's Hall, Derry City.
- Willow McIntyre sings a Dorothy Parke composition "Over the Hills and Far Away".
- L-R David Byers, Dorothy Byers, Nuala McAllister Hart, Alan Boyd and Philip Hammond.



Brian Moore Plaque

- Chairman Ulster History Circle, Chris Spurr and Seamus McKee-UHC, welcomes the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tina Black.
- The Lord Mayor unveils the plaque.
- The extended families of Brian Moore together with the Lord Mayor.

CHARITY ACCOUNTS
Ulster History Circle®



Annual Report and Accounts 2022-2023



John Herivel plaque

11th November 2022 at 11.00 am

Back- Jenny Lendrum, Principal-Methodist College, Rev. Dr Janet Unsworth, Board of Governors, Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle, Ian Crozier, CEO-Ulster Scots Agency, George Busby and Piper, Alan McCormick

Front - Susan Herivel, Professor Alastair Adair, CBE, DL-Belfast, Dr. David Abrutat, GCHQ, and Deputy Lord Mayor-Belfast, Councillor Michelle Kelly

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Members of the Ulster History Circle 2022-2023

Officers:

Mr Chris Spurr	Chairman
Dr Peter Collins	Vice-Chair
Mrs Maud Hamill	Secretary
*Mr Tim Clifford	Treasurer

Mike Catto, Dr. Nuala McAllister Hart, Dr. David Hume MBE, Kenneth Irvine, Liam Logan, Leslie McKeague, Seamus McKee, Brian McKeown, Dr. Eibhlin MhicAoidh, Trevor Parkhill MBE, Kirsty Raffan (resigned October 2022), Alistair McReynolds (appointed February 2023), Richard Froggatt - Editor- The Dictionary of Ulster Biography.

This report covers the period from April 2022 to March 2023. There was a total of 10 committee meetings held and additionally, the Annual General Meeting took place in June prior to the regular monthly meeting.

A Background Note

The Ulster History Circle (the Circle) was founded over thirty years ago by James Hawthorne, the then Controller of BBC Northern Ireland. Observing how people of achievement were often commemorated elsewhere by plaques, he realised there was no universal scheme in place locally to celebrate those persons whose achievements had made a significant contribution to the history of Ulster. Mr Hawthorne considered there was an opportunity for a blue plaque programme and his inspiration created The Ulster History Circle. The first Circle plaque was to the artist William Conor and is on Stranmillis Road, Belfast, opposite Botanic Gardens.

Since this beginning in the mid 1980s, the Circle has put up 263 plaques to celebrate achievers, in every county and city in Northern Ireland, and in many towns and villages too. There are ten Circle plaques in the Republic of Ireland, four in Co Donegal, two in Co Monaghan and four in Co Cavan. Every year the blue plaque programme continues to expand, thanks to those who support its activities. There is no similar body within the whole island of Ireland doing what the Circle does. With no monies of its own, The Ulster History Circle relies on finance from outside funders, and its activities depend on the efforts of its members, a wholly volunteer working committee, which has a number limited by constitution, to twenty.

Ulster History Circle - Dublin Visit

11th April 2022

Visit by members of the Ulster History Circle to Áras an Uachtaráin to meet President Michael D. Higgins and his wife, Sabina.

Back row: Tim Clifford, Kenneth Irvine, Leslie McKeague, Dr. Nuala McAllister Hart, Dr. Eibhlin MhicAoidh, Brian McKeown, Seamus McKee.

Front row: Maud Hamill, Chris Spurr, Dr. Peter Collins.



Annual Report 2022-2023 Foreword

After two years of unexpected disruption, the Ulster History Circle's work to erect commemorative blue plaques and organise unveiling ceremonies had almost returned to its usual pattern by April 2022. Over the following year we were hoping to put up twelve plaques, but two have been postponed, so ten new Circle plaques appeared across five counties and in Belfast city by March 2023. Some of these plaques were on holders from previous years on account of Covid-19, and they were joined by some new additions.

In April 2022 Francis Street in Londonderry rang with music when James MacCafferty's plaque was unveiled. In May more music was to the fore in Crossmaglen to celebrate John Hannon, and the uilleann pipes were played in Carnlough in June to commemorate Netta Johnston. In September our plaques became dramatic, with a plaque unveiled at Lyric Theatre in Belfast to Mary O'Malley, and in Bangor to the new city's actor-son Colin Blakely. Thomas Reid was commemorated in Drumgooland in October, then on Armistice Day John Herivel was remembered at Methodist College, Belfast. To close the calendar year, in November William Starrat had his plaque unveiled in Strabane. February 2023 saw two further plaques throughout this twelvemonth, to Dorothy Parke in Strabane at another musical event of note, and to Brian Moore in Belfast, bringing home recognition of this transatlantic author. All our plaque unveilings aim to be individual, distinct, and exceptional, and the first citizens of the town and boroughs concerned, and family members of the person commemorated attended the majority of the unveiling ceremonies.

Beginning in 2012 the Circle has put up a plaque annually in March to a woman of achievement to mark International Women's Day, except during the pandemic year in 2021 and now in 2023. Although we had a plaque planned and funded for IWD this year, circumstances have delayed its unveiling. Nor was it possible to unveil a Circle plaque this year in any of counties Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan. It is the hope that our plaque programme will ensure that both these non-occurrences are exceptions.

In April 2022 the Circle travelled en masse to Dublin to pay a courtesy call on President Michael D. Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin. This visit had originally been planned for March 2020 but was postponed on account of covid. For those members present it was a privilege to meet President Higgins and his wife to discuss the work of the Circle across the nine counties of Ulster.

The Circle usually holds its AGM in May. Our 2021 AGM was delayed until February 2022, and then our 2022 AGM was held in June 2022. We sincerely trust that we are now back to our pattern of meeting regularly throughout the year and delivering our plaque programme without undue interruption. Our volunteer members continue to give their invaluable support to the Circle, generously sharing their expertise and knowledge, and deserve thanks for the contribution they make to our efforts, especially those who volunteer to lead a plaque programme. One member left our committee during the year, and another was welcomed.

Thanks are due to those bodies who have supported the plaques we have put up during the past year: Strabane District Council, City and Strabane District Council, Foras Na Gaeilge, Carnlough Community Association, the Lyric Theatre, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, the Ulster Scots Agency, and Belfast City Council. Several of these organisations have committed to a partnership with the Circle for one annual plaque or more.

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography represents an important part of the Circle's work and includes thousands of entries. The Dictionary, much broader in scope than our plaque programme, offers a rich and continuing expanding base of entries, all written and edited in a voluntary capacity to an extremely high standard, and is available on its own dedicated website at www.ulsterbiography.co.uk

The Circle always has a busy programme of plaque unveilings in progress, but it is possible to propose a plaque of achievement for consideration. However, it is advisable to understand that many of the proposals we receive for a blue plaque are not always accepted. It is also important to remember that any new plaque proposal must indicate how this might be funded, as the Circle has no money of our own. To discover more about our plaque programme, I encourage you to read the information included in this Annual Report, or to access the How to Apply Scheme Works page on our web site at www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

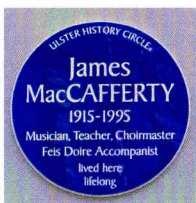
In conclusion, it is my pleasure once again to thank all those who have supported the Ulster History Circle across the past year, both with funding and in friendship, and to thank in advance those who will do so in the future.

Chris Spurr, Chairman, May 2023.

The Blue Plaque Programme 2022-2023



Plaque Number	Person Commemorated	Location of Plaque	Date of Unveiling	Unveiled by	Funding Body
254	James MacCafferty (1915-1995) Musician, Teacher, Choirmaster, Feis Doire Accompanist	25 Francis Street Derry City	23rd April	Graham Warke-Mayor of Derry City & Strabane District Council, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Pat and Una MacCafferty	Derry City & Strabane District Council
255	John Hannon (1867-1931) Scholar, Collector of spoken Irish of the Fews	20 Newry Street Crossmaglen	26th May	Seán Ó Coinn CEO Foras na Gaeilge	Foras na Gaeilge
256	Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston (1878-1953) Uilleann Piper, Teacher of Music, 'The Lady Piper of Carnlough'	19-21 Marine Road Carnlough	30th June	Rev. Violet Johnston, niece	Carnlough Community Association
257	Mary O'Malley (1918-2006) Theatre Director Co-Founder Lyric Players	Lyric Theatre 55 Ridgeway Street Belfast	13th September	Conor O'Malley, son, & friend of Mary O'Malley, Winifred Bell	Lyric Theatre Belfast
258	Colin Blakely (1930-1987) Stage and Screen Actor	Studio 1a 1a Hamilton Road Bangor	24th September	Caroline and Stephen Blakely niece and nephew	Ards and North Down Borough Council
259	Thomas Mayne Reid (1818-1883) Novelist and Adventurer	Drumgooland Presbyterian Church 64 Drumgooland Road, Cloiskelt Co. Down	25th October	Mayor of ABC Council, Councillor Paul Greenfield	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
260	John Herivel (1918-2011) Mathematician Codebreaker Bletchley Park 1940	Methodist College 1 Malone Road Belfast	11th November	Professor Alastair Adair, CBE DL-Belfast, and Susan Herivel, daughter of John Herivel	Ulster-Scots Agency
261	William Starrat (1690-1768) Philomath, Land Surveyor, Early Ulster-Scots Poet 1722	The Alley Theatre 1a Railway Street Strabane	25th November	Robert Lowry Scott Lord Lieutenant Co. Tyrone	Ulster-Scots Agency
262	Dorothy Parke (1904-1990) Musician and Composer	St. Columb's Hall Newmarket Street Derry City	2023 15th February	Councillor Sandra Duffy, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council	Derry City and Strabane District Council
263	Brian Moore (1921-1999) Novelist and Screenwriter	Clifton Street Surgery 15-17 Clifton Street Belfast	21st February	Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tina Black	Belfast City Council



James MacCafferty Plaque.

- Family of James MacCafferty with Mayor of DC&SDC, Graham Warke, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Pat MacCafferty, Nuala McAllister Hart, Ulster History Circle and Chris Spurr, Chairman Ulster History Circle.
- Guests and friends celebrate the unveiling of the blue plaque - Francis Street, Derry City.
- Archbishop Eamon Martin with Nano McCabe and Cathal McCabe, former Musical Director for RTE.

The Blue Plaque Programme 2022-2023



John Hannon Plaque.

- Ulster History Circle Chairman, Chris Spurr and Eibhlin Mhic Aidh, Ulster History Circle welcome guests to the event in Crossmaglen.
- L-R Kieran McConville, Chairman-Creggan History Society, Gearóid Trimble and Seán Ó Coinn, CEO of Foras na Gaeilge who unveiled the blue plaque to John Hannon.
- Deputy Mayor NM&DC, Oonagh Magennis, Councillor Aoife Finnegan, MLA-Conor Murphy, Brian McKeown-Ulster History Circle and Carmel McKeown.



Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston Plaque.

- Chris Spurr, Chairman-UHC with Mary Watson, Carnlough Community Association and Deputy Mayor of M&EAC, Councillor Beth Adger MBE.
- L-R Uilleann piper, Marie Kinney, David Hume, Mary Watson, Beth Adger, Rev. Violet Johnston, niece of Netta Jane Nicholl Johnston who unveiled the blue plaque, and Chris Spurr.
- International musician, Louise Mulchay on the Uilleann pipes playing with Marie Kinney and her family.



Mary O'Malley Plaque.

- Conor O'Malley, son of Mary O'Malley and Winifred Bell lifelong friend of Mary, unveil the blue plaque at the Lyric.
- Jimmy Fay, Executive Producer-Lyric Theatre (right) with dignitaries including, Stephen Douds, Claire Murray, Conor O'Malley, Winifred Bell and Chris Spurr.
- Guests and friends gather at the Lyric in Ridgeway Street, Belfast.



Colin Blakely Plaque.

- L-R Kenneth Irvine and Tim Clifford, Ulster History Circle with Colin Maltman, long standing member of Bangor Drama Club.
- Chris Spurr welcomes Caroline Blakely, niece of Colin Blakely, Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council, Councillor Karen Douglas, and Stephen Blakely, nephew of Colin Blakely.
- Caroline and Stephen Blakely celebrate the unveiling of the blue plaque.



Ulster History Circle

Financial Summary 2022-2023

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2023

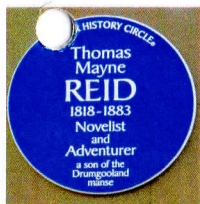
Receipts		Payments	
Derry & Strabane District Council	£2,800	Plaque Manufacture and Fitting	(£7,030)
Ards & North Down District Council	£2,200	Plaque Design	(£560)
Belfast City Council	£1,200	Meeting Expenses	(£480)
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon BC	£1,200	Events	(£836)
Foras na Gaeilge	£1,000	Administration	(£88)
Carnlough Community Association	£1,000	Printing and Stationery	(£294)
Lyric Theatre NI	£1,000	Insurance	(£508)
Ulster Scots Agency	£258	Accounting	(£50)
Total Grant Income	£10,658	Other	(£357)
Donations	£35		
		Total Expenditure	(£10,203)
		Net Income	£489
Total Income	£10,693		

Statement of Assets/Liabilities

Opening Resources	£8,548
Net Income	£489

Net Assets carried forward	£9,037
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Represented by:	
Balance per Bank Statement	£9,072
Uncashed Cheques	(£35)
Net Bank Balance	£9,037



Thomas Mayne Reid Plaque.

- Councillor Paul Greenfield, Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Council unveils the blue plaque watched by the MacAuley, Anson and Herron families.
- Councillors for the ABC Council with Mayor Paul Greenfield, and the Council Heritage officers, Sean Barden and Jason Diamond.
- James MacAuley shows the Thomas Mayne Reid family tree to Chris Spurr, Chairman-Ulster History Circle.



Proposing, Funding, and Achieving a Blue Plaque

An Ulster History Circle blue plaque unites a person with a location in their life, and the Circle carries out careful and extensive research into the site of each plaque. Street indexes are checked over, site visits made, and owners and tenants consulted for permission to allow the plaque on their premises. These activities can take considerable time, especially when seeking permission to put up a plaque. The plaque wording is carefully chosen; invitations are designed and issued; a person to unveil the plaque invited; guest speakers arranged, as each unveiling is accompanied by a talk on the person being honoured, and family members, as well as members of professional bodies associated with the plaque recipient, are contacted and invited. The whole is carefully planned and co-ordinated, towards creating a single special event.

- a person must be deceased at least twenty years, unless they would have reached their 100th birthday by the date of the proposed plaque unveiling.
- the person must be associated with Ulster (nine counties) by reason of birth, education, work, residence, or vocation.
- the person should be acknowledged and recognised as having made a significant contribution to education, industry, commerce, science, arts and literature, international affairs or other calling anywhere in the world.
- the person must have a building associated with them in Ulster: a place of birth, education, residence, work, or similar.
- the Circle's plaques are to persons of achievement and do not commemorate buildings, places, organisations or movements.

A proposal for a plaque should contain the reasons for a person's nomination, a short biographical note, and a suggestion of where a plaque might be located. All proposals should also give an indication of how the plaque will be funded. The Circle has no funds of its own, and relies on such as local authorities, businesses, organisations, and individuals to pay for its plaques.

Each proposal is carefully considered by the Circle committee, and if accepted, it joins the list of prospective plaques. The list always has a considerable number of plaques pending, so a new acceptance can take considerable time to process. The Circle undertakes all the necessary work as outlined above in order to achieve the plaque unveiling but can only undertake a plaque project when funding is agreed beforehand, and in place. Proposals for plaques can be submitted to the Circle at: ulsterhistorycircle1@gmail.com

The Circle's website has undergone a significant improvement and redevelopment and can be accessed at: www.ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography

The Dictionary of Ulster Biography (DUB) has its origins in the published work (1993) of the same name, compiled by Kate Newmann. Its initial 1644 entries were digitised by the Circle in 2007, and form the basis of the present on-line *DUB*, which is edited, in a voluntary capacity, by the Circle to a very high standard. Many of the original entries now include additional details, and new entries are added every month, with the result that the *DUB* currently offers information on over two thousand people. By publishing on-line, the *DUB* benefits from regular updating, and there are many contemporary entries, for although a person must be deceased to be included in the dictionary, the 20-year delay related to blue plaques does not apply. The *DUB* contains biographical information on all the persons commemorated in the Circle's Blue Plaque Programme, including many of those people celebrated by the Circle's plaques up until March 2023.

The *DUB* has the special advantage of being free for all to access, and is easily searchable. It is recognised as a valuable reference source, and the *DUB* website receives tens of thousands of visitors every year from across the world.

As with the Circle's plaques, the *DUB* concerns itself with persons born in, or strongly associated with Ulster. The Editor always welcomes suggestions for entries from new contributors, who will receive full acknowledgement of authorship, and copyright, although there is no payment made for entries.

The Editor can be contacted at the *DUB* website, which is at: www.newulsterbiography.co.uk