

**CHAIRPERSON'S 2023**  
**REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES**

The group met nine times throughout the year and were represented at several Remembrance Day events on the Ards Peninsula in November

We were successful with an application to Ards & North Down Borough Council for running costs to sustain the group which allows us to pay for insurance, storage facilities and venue hire, and cover bank fees. A letter of offer has been received for the running costs for 2024-2025. These running costs are vital to the sustainability of the group.

Through the Cultural Expression Programme, we held a three-day Memorabilia and Militaria Exhibition was held in Ballywalter Village Hall on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> November with guest speakers which was extremely well attended and very positive, encouraging feedback from the community

Michael Nugent gave an excellent presentation on "The Ulster & Irish Divisions at the Battle of Langemarck

Kirkistown Primary School & Ballywalter Primary School visited the exhibition with members of UUHF in attendance to guide them through the exhibition and talk to the children about the First World War. The children also had an opportunity to a hands-on session with the artefacts on display.

In March, United Ulster History Forum members travelled to Derry Walls and member Jim Galloway gave a firsthand talk on the history of the walls. Everyone who had participated in the visit agreed that it was a worthwhile experience.

Nicky reiterated that every member has a role to play within the group and thanked them for their dedication throughout the year. He also thanked the secretary, treasurer, and vice chair for their duties as office bearers.

Nicky Gilmore

Chairperson

17.05.24