

Church News Ireland



Image of the day – Top size Celtic Cross

Image of the day – Top size Celtic Cross

Thanks to our Drone friends for this view of Belfast Cathedral with a view of the Spire of Hope and the Celtic Cross on the southern transept. Within this transept is the Chapel of the Royal Irish Regiment which in itself is worth a visit. The Celtic Cross has been cited as the largest stonework expression of the genre in the island of Ireland

News

Nominations for The King's Award for Voluntary Service open today

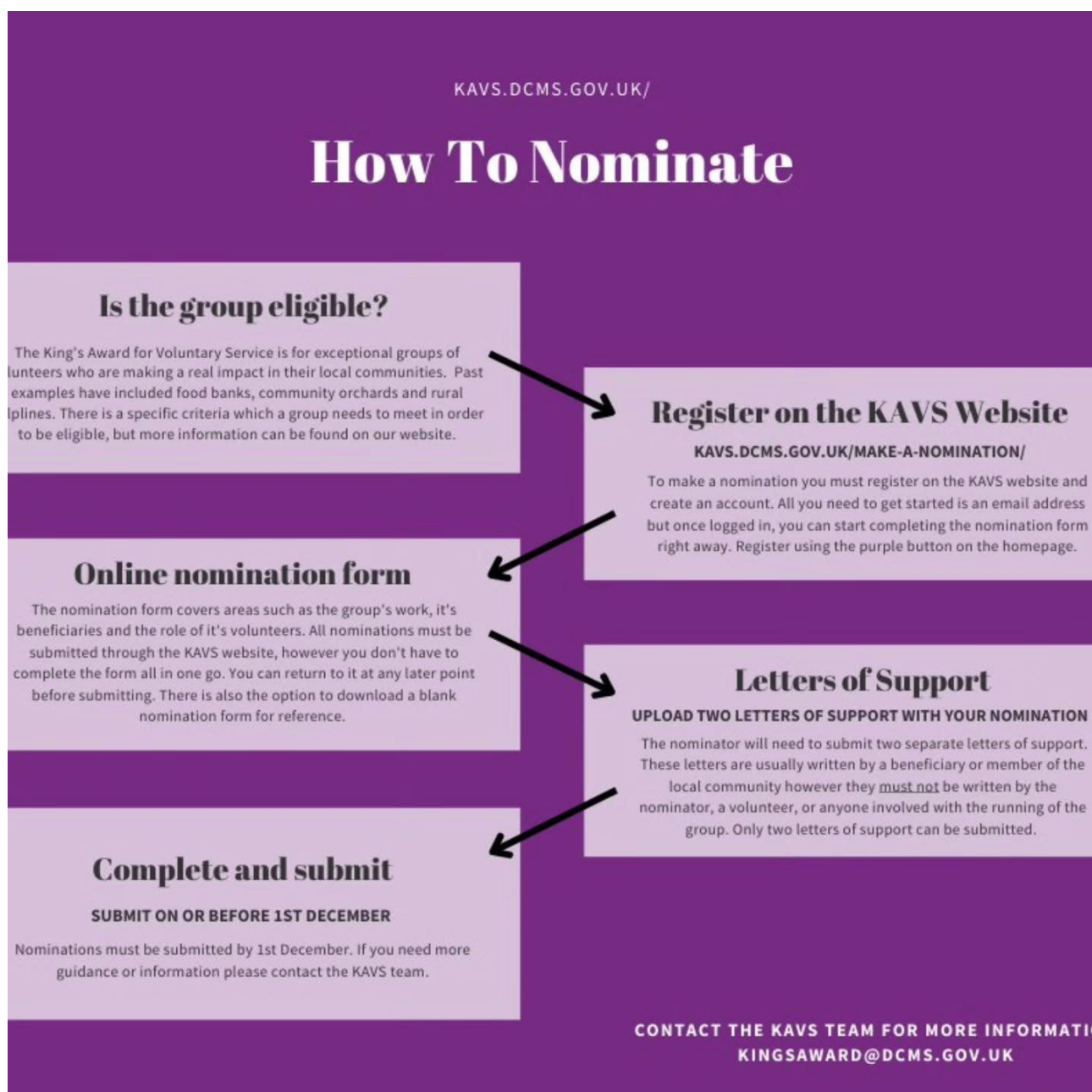
Equivalent to an MBE, The King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award for voluntary groups in the UK. Is there a group of volunteers in your community that is deserving of this award?

Nominations for KAVS will open on the 1st of September.

With nominations for the KAVS opening on the 1st September, here is everything you will need to nominate that special group of volunteers in your community.

Nominations will close on the 1st December.

For more information see next page and please visit:
kavs.dcms.gov.uk



International Day of the Disappeared marked in Co Monaghan bog

Five white crosses were set in a Co Monaghan bog as a gathering took place to mark the International Day of the Disappeared.

Relatives of those still missing and found travelled to Bragan Bog, where a new search is currently ongoing for the

remains of Tyrone man Columba McVeigh, abducted, murdered and buried in 1975. Thousands of people gather in various parts of the world for the annual International Day of the Disappeared, organised here by the Wave Trauma Centre.

The five white crosses represent Mr McVeigh, Joe Lynskey, Seamus Maguire, Robert Nairac and Lisa Dorrian.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/yrjbxtv4>

Sing Haydn's Nelson Mass at Stranmillis University College

Northern Ireland singer and musician friends are warmly invited to join with members of The Ulster Consort and Talent Development Programme, accompanied by Tristan Russcher, and conducted by Matthew Owen, in learning and performing Haydn's Nelson Mass - one of the greatest choral works of the late 18th century...

"We will be in the beautiful surroundings of Stranmillis University College (with plenty of free parking) on Saturday 13 September. Details below or via the link. We hope to see you there!"

Please book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/choral-workshop-day-classic-haydn-tickets-1280499421239>

Irishwoman kidnapped in Haiti is released along with seven other hostages

An Irishwoman and seven other people kidnapped in Haiti earlier this month have been released, the Republic's deputy premier Simon Harris has said.

Gena Heraty, who is from Westport in Co Mayo, was one of eight hostages, including a three-year-old child, who were kidnapped from an orphanage in Kenscoff on August 3.

Ms Heraty oversees the orphanage, which is run by the humanitarian organisation Nos Petits Freres et Soeurs (Our Little Brothers and Sisters).

Tanaiste Mr Harris said he was delighted to confirm the release of Ms Heraty and her fellow hostages.

“We warmly welcome the news that Gena and all of the Haitian nationals taken captive on August 3, including a small child, have been released and are reported to be safe and well,” he said.

In a statement released by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, Ms Heraty's family said: “We are so delighted to be able to share that Gena, and all those taken with her, have been released following their kidnapping on August 3, 2025 from the St Helene property in Kenscoff, Haiti.

“We are relieved beyond words. We are so deeply grateful to everyone, in Haiti and internationally, who has worked

tirelessly over these terrible weeks to help secure their safe return.

“In particular we would like to acknowledge the support of Tanaiste Simon Harris, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and his team at the Department of Foreign Affairs, including Geraldine Byrne Nason, ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America.

“The global outpouring of concern, love, prayers and solidarity shown for Gena and to us by friends, neighbours, communities, colleagues, and indeed those with no connection to us at all has been a huge source of comfort and support.

“For now our priority is Gena — her health, protection and privacy — and those in her care. We kindly ask that the media respect the need for privacy as all those involved recover from this traumatic ordeal.



The poster features a dark blue background with white and teal text. On the right, there is a circular inset image of a stone castle. The text reads: 'EHOD 2025 European Heritage Open Days Get Involved! Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September'. At the bottom, there are four logos: 'Love HERITAGE NI' with a castle icon, the 'Department for Communities' logo with a geometric pattern and the website 'www.communities-ni.gov.uk', the 'An Roinn Pobal' logo, and the 'Department for Communities' logo.

EHOD 2025
European Heritage Open Days
Get Involved!
Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September

“We continue to hold Haiti in our hearts and hope for peace and safety for all those who are affected by the ongoing armed violence and insecurity there.”

Post-Brexit constitutional situation rocks Northern Ireland from one crisis to another says leader of the Royal Black Institution

The leader of the Royal Black Institution has claimed the “country is being overrun” while speaking out against political instability and the Windsor Framework.

In a speech marking the end of the official marching season at the Last Saturday parade in Cookstown, the Reverend William Anderson decried the political and social landscape.

Addressing a crowd of several thousand people, he said: “Unless you live in a parallel universe, you can't help but wonder what is going on in our world today.

“We struggle from one crisis to the next, we no longer trust our political leaders, our country is being overrun, and our national government lacks the will to deal with our problems.

“The biggest casualty is trust... (which creates) an air of hopelessness”.

Up to 17,000 members of the Royal Black were on parade at six major locations across Northern Ireland, including

Antrim, Castlederg, Cookstown, Ballyclare, Dundrum and Limavady.

Thousands of supporters turned out across the venues to watch the parades, which involved around 350 preceptories and 300 marching bands, according to the institution.

As part of his speech in Cookstown, Rev Anderson also criticised the post-Brexit constitutional situation and warned King Charles II he must uphold the Protestant faith to retain the support of the Black.

manoeuvring

He continued:
“Why does our national government persist in allowing a foreign power to make laws over this part of the United Kingdom? It is a question that goes unanswered, unless you examine closely the political manoeuvring

MUCKAMORE PARISH PRESENTS
A NIGHT OF GOSPEL MUSIC BY

HEART & SOUL

FRIDAY 10TH
OCTOBER
2025
7.30PM

HOSTED BY:
GEORGE JONES

ALL SAINTS PARISH HALL
RAILWAY STREET
ANTRIM

TICKETS £15,
INCLUDES A
LIGHT SUPPER

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFO
CONTACT JUNE ON
07922616787

Find us on
Facebook

that is going on in the background to remove us as citizens of the United Kingdom.

“There is simply no economic gain, no political gain for such a plan, yet we rock from one crisis to another, which only creates more instability, at a time when the nation is crying out for stability.

“Our hope for a stable future lies within the United Kingdom and not in some hybrid state, wobbling from one crisis to another.

“Leadership requires resolve, firmness in decision-making and a true upholding of that which we promised to uphold.

“Our king has resolved to uphold the Protestant faith, and that should be the guiding principle of his reign.

“If he keeps that as his focus, then he can be assured of our support.” Pictures from the Last Saturday parade in Antrim
Rev Anderson also encouraged people to find hope in Christianity.

He said: “Our biggest problem is that we talk the talk, but we don't walk the walk.

“Today, more than ever, we need to turn to God, set aside our foolish ways and plead with Him to save us from our sins and, in so doing, save our nation.

“Today, may I urge you to turn to God, to seek his forgiveness.”

Education



Belfast Boys Model farewell to Mrs Susan Todd – a remarkable lady

After 35 years of extraordinary service, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Susan Todd, a much-loved and deeply respected member of our school community. As Head of HE, a Science Teacher, a School Governor, Chair of the Staff Wellbeing Committee, Lewis Head Captain, Mrs Todd has inspired generations with her wisdom, warmth, unwavering dedication and love of the colour yellow!

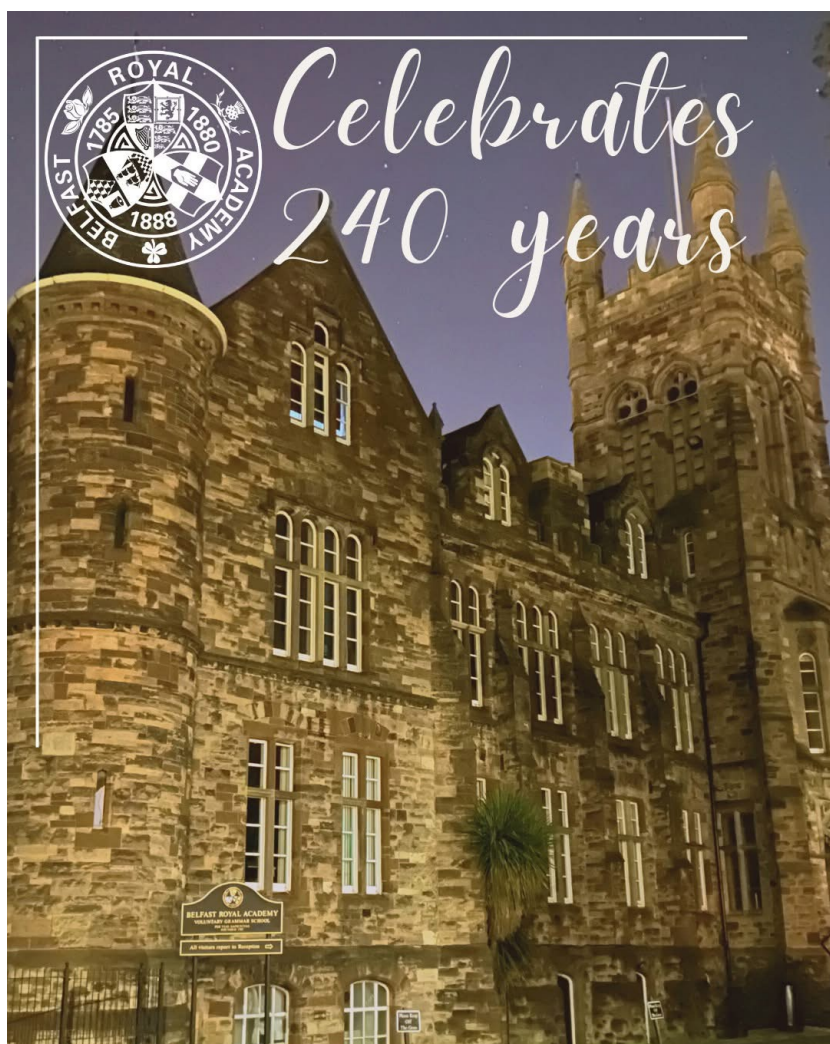
Her legacy is one of compassion, excellence, and tireless support for both students and staff. She will be missed.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, we offer our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Todd for her support and care of both boys and staff over so many years.

Wishing her joy, rest, and exciting new adventures (with Mr Todd) in retirement.

240th Anniversary events at Belfast Royal Academy


A reminder of three commemorative events planned to mark the 240th anniversary of the establishment of Belfast Royal Academy.



**An Illustrated
Talk: "Belfast
Royal Academy -
the School and the
City" with Eddie
McCamley,
Tuesday 9th
September, 7pm in
Sixth Form Study
Centre. *Open to all
members of the BRA
community including
current and former
pupils, staff,
Governors and***

parents.

Save the Date




BRA celebrates 240 years

An Illustrated Talk: “Belfast Royal Academy- the School and the City” Tuesday 9th September 2025

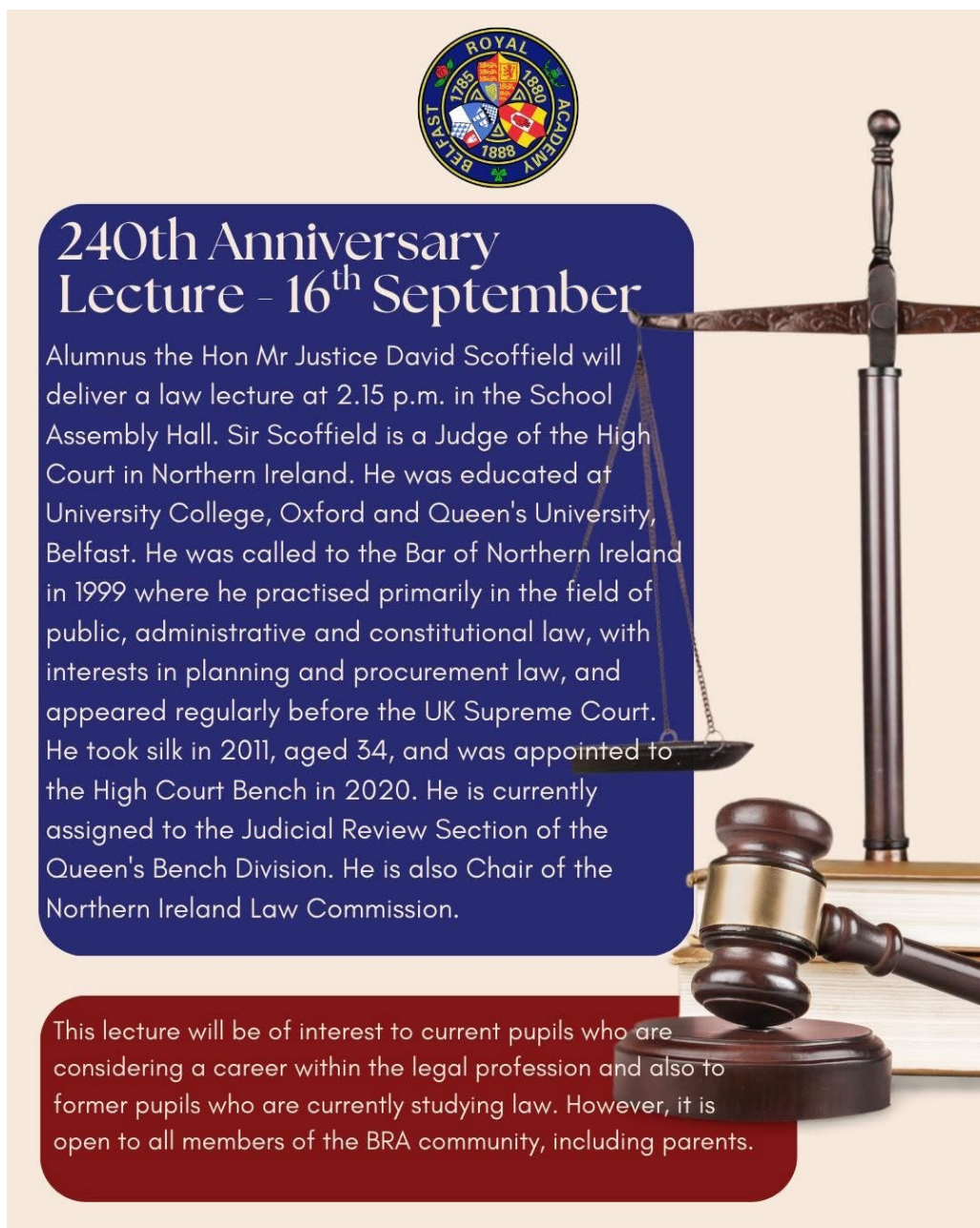
Former Head of History in BRA, author of ‘Belfast Royal Academy, The Second Century 1885–1985’ and editor of the 225th anniversary book, Mr Eddie McCamley, will deliver an illustrated talk on the history of the Academy and link it with the growth of the City of Belfast.

This will take place at 7pm in the Lower Sixth study area. After the talk, which should last approximately 45 minutes, refreshments will be served by members of FOTA.

This talk is open to all members of the BRA community including former pupils, former staff and Governors.



240th Anniversary Law Lecture with Hon Mr Justice David Scoffield, Tuesday 16th September, 2.15pm in Assembly Hall. *Open to all members of the BRA community including current pupils who are considering a career within the legal profession, former pupils who are studying Law, staff, Governors and parents.*






**240th Anniversary
Lecture - 16th September**

Alumnus the Hon Mr Justice David Scoffield will deliver a law lecture at 2.15 p.m. in the School Assembly Hall. Sir Scoffield is a Judge of the High Court in Northern Ireland. He was educated at University College, Oxford and Queen's University, Belfast. He was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in 1999 where he practised primarily in the field of public, administrative and constitutional law, with interests in planning and procurement law, and appeared regularly before the UK Supreme Court. He took silk in 2011, aged 34, and was appointed to the High Court Bench in 2020. He is currently assigned to the Judicial Review Section of the Queen's Bench Division. He is also Chair of the Northern Ireland Law Commission.

This lecture will be of interest to current pupils who are considering a career within the legal profession and also to former pupils who are currently studying law. However, it is open to all members of the BRA community, including parents.

A Celebration of Sport - unveiling of 100 years of photographs capturing some of our sporting teams, Saturday 27th September, 10am at Roughfort. This event will be followed by an inter-house sporting tournament covering hockey, rugby and cricket to celebrate the School house system, *This event is open to all members of the BRA community including former pupils, former staff and Governors.*

A CELEBRATION OF SPORT



There will be an unveiling of 100 years of photographs capturing some of our sporting teams (1st XI girls' hockey, 1st XV rugby, 1st XI cricket) and Prefects at The Foundry, Roughfort. Breakfast will be served.

Following this event there will be an inter-house sporting tournament covering hockey, rugby & cricket to celebrate the School house system.

**THE
FOUNDRY
ROUGHFORT
SATURDAY
27TH SEPTEMBER**

This event is open to all members of the BRA community, including former pupils, former staff and governors.

Please email alumni@belfastroyalacademy.net to reserve your place.

Ballyclare High School heads

As we return to school, we're proud to introduce our Head Boy and Head Girl for 2025–26, Oscar and Jess.



Together they will lead our Prefect team this year, and we wish them every success in their new roles ✨

Clergy and ministry

Celebrating 250 years of Ministry with Youth, Children, and Families in the Church of Ireland

On September 20th at 10:30 AM in St Mary's Church of Ireland, Newry, we warmly invite you to join us in celebrating 250 years of Ministry with Youth, Children, and Families in the Church of Ireland.

This will be a service filled with joy and blessings, open to all ages and Dioceses from across the island of Ireland.

Whether you are currently involved, have been involved in the past, are considering involvement in ministry with youth or children in the future, or if you have been blessed by those who have served in your church, we would love to see you there!

The message will be delivered by the brilliant Mark Griffiths, author of "One Generation From Extinction" and many other inspiring works. This is an event you won't want to miss! Mark it in your diary now :)

Events

Renowned organist and evening of music and cinema

The Ulster Society of Organists & Choirmasters presents a captivating evening of music and cinema, as renowned organist, Darius Battiwalla, presents an

improvised organ accompaniment to the classic silent film 'The Phantom of the Opera', on Friday 12th September, at St Philip and St James, Hollywood Parish Church.

Darius Battiwalla (Organist of Leeds Town Hall) is celebrated for virtuoso playing and stunning improvisations. He will



take the audience on a journey through the haunting and romantic themes of the silent film, originally released in 1925. He will create a 'live' score, drawing on his extensive knowledge of both classical and contemporary music to enhance the emotional depth of this timeless story.

This is a rare opportunity to witness a master organist at work; attendees are advised to arrive early to secure their seats. The event will take place at Hollywood Parish Church, starting at 7.30pm and is a wonderful chance to hear the recently renovated organ.

Admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the costs of the show.

All Saints Eglantine EH European Heritage Open Days

As part of the European Heritage Open Days, Our B+ listed church will be open on Saturday 13th September from 10am-4pm and on Sunday 14th September from 2pm-4pm.

Boyne Camino-Guided Camino Experience

Welcome to the Boyne Valley Trails September Festival; immerse yourself in our guided walks, hikes and trails and discover the beauty, history and nature of the stunning Boyne Valley region.

Join guide Dusty Flanagan on a guided walking tour of the 25km Boyne Camino loop walk, part of the official Celtic Camino.

The 25km walk forms a figure of eight looped walk via Townley Hall Woods on the way out to Mellifont Abbey, through Tullyallen Village, down King William's Glen via Belnumber Wood, across the beautiful Boyne at the Obelisk and back into Drogheda via Oldbridge along the Boyneside Trail and ramparts.

Starting in Drogheda, the Boyne Camino passes through some of the most stunning scenery in the Boyne Valley, where the Battle of the Boyne was fought and along the majestic Boyne river to return to Drogheda.

Official Celtic Camino passports are included in the ticket price and walkers will have the opportunity to collect Camino stamps along the route.

Please note: Photos and video footage may be captured during this walking tour/event.

Additional Details

Registration email/URL - <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/boyne-camino-guided-camino-experience-tickets-1309951302609?aff=oddtcreator>

Date And Time

20-09-2025 @ 09:00 to 20-09-2025 @ 15:00

Location

St Peters Church West Street Drogheda

Home Scent & Candle Making Workshop

We're teaming up with the wonderful Causeway Aromatics for a Home Scent & Candle Making Workshop.

With September on its way, it's the perfect time to refresh your home with a beautiful new fragrance.



Date: Thursday 4th September



Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm



Location: Moores of Coleraine



Tickets: £25 <https://bit.ly/4m7JJJa6>

Other venues throughout Ireland are also included at site above.

You'll enjoy a creative evening learning the art of fragrance blending and candle making, and you'll take home your own wonderful hand-poured candle to keep or gift.

Your ticket includes:

All materials for your candle making session

Your finished candle to take home

A Causeway Aromatics sample goody bag with every purchase made on the night

A glass of prosecco and tasty nibbles during the workshop
Spaces are limited for this special event – book early and be part of the very first Moores of Coleraine Fragrance Club gathering.

Open Day at St John's Point Lightkeepers Houses EHOD 2025

To mark European Heritage Open Days 2025, St. John's Point Lightkeepers' Houses, will be open for free tours on Sunday 14th September, 10am–4pm.

Discover life at one of Ireland's most striking lighthouses, set on a dramatic, wave-battered coast.



St. Johns Point, 1 Point Road, Killough, County Down



Sunday 14 September

September 1, 2025



10am - 4pm

Book here via link below and see some super photos

<https://www.visitmournemountains.co.uk/whats-on/open-day-at-st-johns-point-lightkeepers-houses-ehod-2025-p850531>

European Heritage Open Days at Connor churches

European Heritage Open Days 2025 take place across Northern Ireland on September 13 and 14, with a number of Connor churches throwing open their doors over the two days. 11 churches listed here -

https://connor.anglican.org/2025/08/27/plan-your-european-heritage-open-days-visit-to-connor-churches/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook

Resources

Funding now available for arts projects supporting the wellbeing of older people

Organisations across Northern Ireland are encouraged to apply for funding from the National Lottery Arts and Older People Programme.

GoldenThread Gallery in Belfast recently received National Lottery Arts and Older People Programme funding for their project, City of Stories. Over the course of several weeks, participants engaged in a range of visual arts techniques such as painting, colouring, felting and more, with the project culminating in a showcase event at the gallery. Activities were designed to stimulate the senses, promote conversation through storytelling, enhance mobility, dexterity and well-being, plus connect participants to each other and the world around them.

Further information on the programme and details on how to apply here: <https://artscouncil-ni.org/news/funding-now-available-for-arts-supporting-wellbeing-of-older-people>

New book, 'A Short History Of Ulster'

Acclaimed former Queen's University lecturer Dr Jonathan Bardon has penned a new book, 'A Short History Of Ulster', which provides a comprehensive account of the province from the earliest settlements nine thousand years ago to the turmoil of The Troubles, and the fragile peace period that followed.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/b8unbery>

Speaking to the soul

Short reading and a prayer - daily on this site

Church News Ireland

The publication of Church News Ireland is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD. He may be contacted at houstonmckelvey@mac.com

Church News Ireland

www.churchnewsireland.org

**Link in Monday through Saturday from
early morning**

Please recommend to your friends