



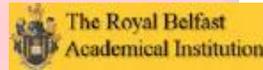
BELFAST TITANIC SOCIETY

25th anniversary year

2016 / 2017

Check our website for the most recent information on meetings and events www.belfast-titanic.com

We are proud to be associated with RBAI who continue to host our monthly meetings – the School is closely associated with Belfast’s wider maritime and Titanic story: Titanic’s Dr Simpson and Thomas Andrews were among its former pupils (old Instonians) as was Lord William Pirrie, Chairman of Harland and Wolff shipbuilders – for more information on RBAI’s illustrious history visit their school website at www.rbai.ac.uk



✠ MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

Gustav Wilhem Wolff
- shipbuilder and rope maker



MEETING
at RBAI

A talk by **AIDAN MCMICHAEL** *Chairman Belfast Titanic Society*

✠ SAT 10th AND SUN 11th SEPTEMBER

OPEN DAY AT GRAYMOUNT HOUSE ('Heritage Open Days')

EVENT at
Hazelwood

An event by TRACY BEARE *Vice Principal of Hazelwood Integrated School and BTS member.* Graymount House is a Regency House opened in 1835 by linen merchant William Gray. The house was bought by the Belfast Corporation for the municipal hospital for tuberculosis children. It was headquarters for the auxiliary fire service during WW2 and opened in 1945 as 'Graymount Girls'. Presently it is used as part of Hazelwood Integrated College. The Society will be providing artefacts from its historic archive collection. **Open times: both days 11:00 - 16:00.**
www.discovernorthernireland.com



How did Gustav Wolff leave Hamburg at the age of 14 years of age and end up Chief Draughtsman and then co- director for one of the biggest ship builders in the world, as well as owner of one of the biggest rope makers in the



Wolff grave in Brompton Cemetery, London

world?
He was Harland’s kindred spirit and they contractually bound to do nothing without each other’s knowledge ! Harland & Wolff were, and still are, viewed as "one of the greatest partnerships in maritime and industrial history". This talk aims to acknowledge the wider world and achievements of Wolff and explore some of his legacy.



MEETING
at Linenhall Library

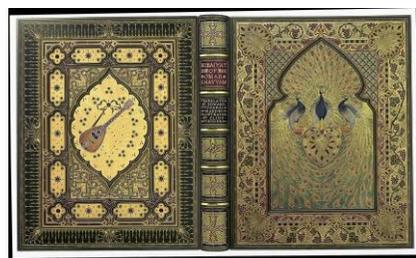
SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER

Lost on the Titanic

- *the Story of the Great Omar*

A talk by **DOMINIC RILEY** in association with Linenhall Library
(The talk is open to the public so please bring guests)

When it was completed in 1912, the 'Great Omar' was the most elaborate and opulent binding ever created. It was embellished with over one thousand jewels, five thousand leather onlays and a hundred square feet of gold leaf, and took a team of craftsmen over two and a half years to make. *It went down with the Titanic!* This talk tells the story of the 'Great Omar' and the renowned bookbinders *Sangorski and Sutcliffe*, who were known for their fabulous jewelled bindings. It also tells the moving story of life after the tragedy, and of one young man in particular, who decided against the odds to recreate the binding – a venture which itself is mired in tragedy and which occupied him for the rest of his life.



Dominic Riley is a bookbinder, artist, teacher, writer and lecturer. He specialises in the restoration of antiquarian books and the creation of contemporary fine bindings. He teaches bookbinding both in the UK and USA, and his prize-winning bindings are in collections world-wide, including the British Library, the Rylands Library in Manchester, the National Library of Wales and the Grolier Club in New York. In 2013 he was awarded first prize in the International Bookbinding competition, the Sir Paul Getty Award. His winning binding was acquired by the Bodleian Library in Oxford. Dominic is a Fellow of Designer Bookbinders and serves as Vice President of the Society of Bookbinders.

The Linen Hall Library is an independent and charitable body. www.linenhall.com

Monday 14th NOVEMBER

A talk by **SHERYL RYNKOL** *BTS Committee Member*

MEETING
at RBAI

Titanic's 'Big Piece': Excavating thoughts on this controversial exhibition

Named the 'Big Piece', due to its 15-ton weight and massive 26 by 12 feet size, this starboard section of Titanic's hull holds the title of being the largest-sized Titanic artefact surfaced to date.



Recovered in 1998 by *RMS Titanic Inc.*, this artefact has undergone conservation efforts and travelled across the United States to debut in many exhibitions. The 'Big Piece' has become THE pilgrimage of many *Titanoraks* and currently can be seen at *Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition* at the Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Should this large piece of the RMS Titanic ever have been raised to become an exhibition tribute or should it have been left alone on the ocean floor and revered as part of gravesite? While this question lies at the heart of a monumental controversy, this presentation will share thoughts from exhibition visitors and workers as well as connect descriptions and inter-related details about the 'Big Piece' itself. Come join the historical journey of this 'piece' and reflect upon its public reception and impact on the overall Titanic legacy.



BRITANNIC 100

Events to mark the anniversary of the loss of Her Majesty's Hospital Ship (HMHS) Britannic



EVENT
in South Belfast

✠ **Sat 19th NOVEMBER**
10.00am – 12 midday

Private 'ticket only' visit (with refreshments) in South Belfast to view the original panelling taken from RMS Britannic's 1st class accommodation. The furnishings were not required when the ship was called up for the war effort. Later in 1919 they were auctioned off in Belfast – a limited number of places will be available. Tickets will be released on 1st October 2016 (all proceeds will go to charity)



✠ **Sun 20th NOVEMBER**
2.00pm

'Britannic 100' talk
@ Titanic Belfast

by **SIMON MILLS**

TALK
at Titanic
Belfast



Simon is a long-standing camera technician in the UK film industry.

During his career he has also researched numerous documentaries on historical and maritime subjects, and is a published author on all three Olympic-class ships. In August 1996 he bought the wreck of HMHS Britannic.

Paintings the Olympic Class Ships

An exhibition @Titanic Belfast

Paintings by Society member Richard Wood will be on display in Titanic Belfast over this 'Britannic commemorative weekend' – his maritime art includes images drawn from Olympic, Titanic, Britannic and Nomadic.

www.richardwoodart.com/



✠ **Monday 21st NOVEMBER 2016**
8.30am

EVENT on the slipways

Commemorative event led by the Belfast Titanic Society on slipway where RMS Britannic was launched – in partnership with Titanic Belfast – meet in foyer of Titanic Belfast from 8am.

Please look for updates on www.belfast-titanic.com



✠ SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER



EVENT at Bangor

A unique opportunity at Christmas time to visit the historic *Royal Ulster Yacht Club* at Bangor – tea/coffee mince pies. Lifts will be arranged from Bangor railway station for those travelling by rail. Look out for more information on the website www.belfast-titanic.com



*The club was initially established in 1866 as the **Ulster Yacht Club**. In a letter dated 20th August 1869 from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, it received the gracious approval of Queen Victoria to take the title of The Royal Ulster Yacht Club.* www.ruyc.uk/about/

✠ MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2017



MEETING
at RBAI

RMS Titanic
- the Ravishment of the Wreck

A talk by **PHILIP ARMSTRONG** *Vice Chairman BTS*

Looking at the legal issues surrounding the ownership of TITANIC and future protection of the wreck as it moves from the realm of salvage law in to the area of archaeological law via UNESCO. This will be an updated version of a talk given to the Ulster Titanic Society in 1993, when future laws were planned but not yet effected. This new presentation, which covers an area of the Titanic story that has never been properly considered, brings the picture up to date and shows that even in the 21st century, TITANIC is still the impetus for changes to international law.

✠ MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY



MEETING
at RBAI

HMS Caroline
– the jewel in the Titanic Quarter

A talk by **VICTORIA MILLAR**

*Victoria is the Curator of **HMS Caroline**. Graduating with a BA in Archaeology & Modern History from Queen's University Belfast in 2007, she subsequently obtained a MA in Museum Studies from the Uni of Leicester. Victoria has since held posts in a number of institutions including National Museums Liverpool, Down County Museum and most recently, the National Museum of the Royal Navy.* www.nmrn.org.uk/exhibitions-projects/hms-caroline



Much of HMS Caroline has undergone extensive restoration to her 1916 appearance at the Battle of Jutland. Caroline almost didn't take part in the Battle of Jutland as her steering gear failed as the fleet left Scapa Flow on the evening of May 30th, 1916. Her role in the Battle of Jutland was as part of a screening force intended to find the enemy fleet and report back on them, whilst protecting the Grand Fleet from attack. Caroline is the only ship that fought at Jutland to have survived.

- One of 8 C-class light cruisers ordered under the Admiralty's 1913/14 construction programme
- Launched on 21/9/14, and commissioned on 4/12/14
- Today, Caroline is the only ship that fought at Jutland to have survived.
- She was towed to Belfast in February 1924, where she was converted by Harland and Wolff into a drill ship

25years

MEETING
at RBAI

☒ MONDAY 13th MARCH

Belfast Titanic Society at 25 years

- In a key note interview Society Committee member **Susie Millar**, with its founders Una Reilly and Stephen Cameron, will recount the birth of the Society through recollections of key moments, from the very first meeting in the Linenhall Library through to the present day.
- The interview will be followed by screening of Society memoirs of former H&W shipyard workers.
- We will also mount a temporary exhibition using our own unseen archive material to document memories of the Titanic Society and how the Titanic story was brought back to life in Belfast.

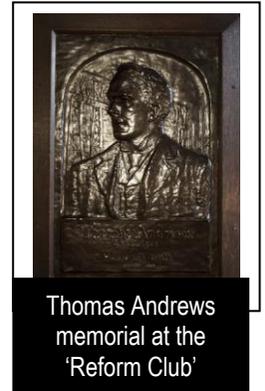


EVENT
at the 'Reform Club'

☒ FRIDAY 31st MARCH

GALA Dinner to celebrate the 25th
Anniversary of the Belfast Titanic Society

This year we make a return visit to Belfast's Historic Reform Club. As always tickets won't be released until nearer the event and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis – look out for further details of the dinner, event time and entertainment which will be published on our website early in 2017.



Thomas Andrews
memorial at the
'Reform Club'

Please look for updates on
www.belfast-titanic.com

www.ulsterreformclub.com/the-club/heritage-timeline



☒ SATURDAY 15th APRIL at 12 noon

EVENT
at Belfast City Hall

'Annual Commemorative event marking the 106th anniversary of the loss of Titanic' ...in association with Belfast City Council

Attended by family members of those lost on Titanic, Belfast's Lord Mayor, as well as Society members, this is an opportunity to take time out to reflect together with other Belfast citizens and visitors to the city.

The event takes place at the Titanic Memorial Gardens, Belfast City Hall and is open to the public. All welcome to make this a special event marking '25th Anniversary Year'.

Please look for updates on www.belfast-titanic.com



The Belfast list at Belfast Titanic memorial gardens

☒ MONDAY 8th MAY

❶ Society Annual General Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend – come and support elections and hear the latest news about the Society.

MEETING
at RBAI



❷ De Profundis Clamavi

– 'Out of the Depths' a short talk by Joanne Rock



Joanne is one of the lead organisers of Belfast's Lagan Dragons charitable organisation (last year we made a donation). Their motto *de profundis clamavi* was also the motto that was used to describe the survivors from Titanic who were landed in New York and a great link to

the Belfast Dragons! <https://twitter.com/lagandragons>

☒ SUMMER 2017

(a date has not yet been set)

EVENT
at Comber

Cricket 'n' BBQ @ North Down Cricket Club



– support the North Down Cricket Club in this historic location with its close Andrews family connections and enjoy a summer evening BBQ.



Tommie - Thomas Andrews Jnr the cricketer !

Young Tommie went straight into an apprenticeship at Harland & Wolff shipyard after he left "Inst" (RBAI) in 1889. He moved to live in Belfast during the week but despite the long

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working hours he loved nothing better than his weekend soirees home to Ardara and playing at the Green. But despite his natural sporting prowess, work always took precedence and his progress through the various design sections at the shipyard meant less and less time for cricket. As he moved steadily through the ranks in the company he found it increasingly more difficult to attend committee meetings of both club and Union but amazingly, he still took an active role right up to 1908 when he was a Vice President of the NCU and chaired a number of meetings. Due to pressure of business he declined the NCU Presidency on several occasions. His boundless energy and his insatiable appetite for work elevated him to Head of Design in 1905 and eventually to Managing Director in 1907, much to the delight of his adoring Uncle. At the time Harland and Wolff was at the peak of its prosperity, the most prolific shipbuilders in the world, and sending ships all over the globe to a bevy of satisfied customers. Source :

www.northdowncricketclub.co.uk/pages/15/the-andrews-family

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

Becoming a member is easy just visit our webpage at <http://www.belfast-titanic.com/> and then click on membership

We welcome anyone with an interest in the Titanic Story as well as the industrial and maritime history of Belfast.