

## Public inquiry announced into Mid-Ulster 'supercouncil'

A PUBLIC inquiry has been announced into the new Mid-Ulster 'supercouncil'.

The one day inquiry is one of nine being held into the new Local Government districts in Northern Ireland. It was announced by the district electoral area commissioner.

In a statement the commissioner, Dick Mackenzie, said: "Following the consultation period and analysis of the objections received, I have decided that it is appropriate to conduct nine out of a possible 11 public inquiries.

"The inquiries are a vital part of the process leading to the final shape of the electoral areas which will be used for the election of councillors to the new Local Government districts. The Assistant Commissioners will provide an independent view on the objections to my recommendations.

"I would encourage all those who have made objections or who have a comment on those objections, to attend the relevant inquiry and present their opinions."

The inquiries will be presided over by assistant commissioners and will provide an opportunity to discuss objections that were raised during the consultation period.

Objections must relate to the proposed grouping of wards and the naming of the electoral areas only.

The written representations received about the provisional recommendations can be viewed on the commissioner's website at [www.deac-ni.org](http://www.deac-ni.org).

If anyone has any specific language or access requirements, they should let the commissioner's office know in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

The inquiry into the Mid Ulster council area will take place at the Glenavon Hotel, 52 Drum Road, Cookstown, this Monday 9th September from 10am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm.

## DC Camera Club starts again

DC Camera Club recently brought to a close another very successful season. Formed five years ago the club has now over fifty active members.

Last year saw the completion of a very busy programme which included photo shoot outings as well as hotly contested club competitions both at Advanced and Novice levels.

The club reopens on Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm in Gables Restaurant, Carland. New Members will be made especially welcome with sessions arranged to introduce them to the enjoyment of this wonderful hobby.

Last season's competition winners were:	
Advanced Trophy:	Brian Scullion
Novice Trophy:	Aidan Kelly
Advanced Top Print:	Rosemary Hughes
Novice Top Print:	Aidan Kelly
Advanced Panel:	Eileen McCausland
Novice Panel:	Evelyn McKenna
Club Critique:	Briege Martin

## Mid Ulster Photography Club reconvenes

THE Mid Ulster Photography Club is now into its ninth year.

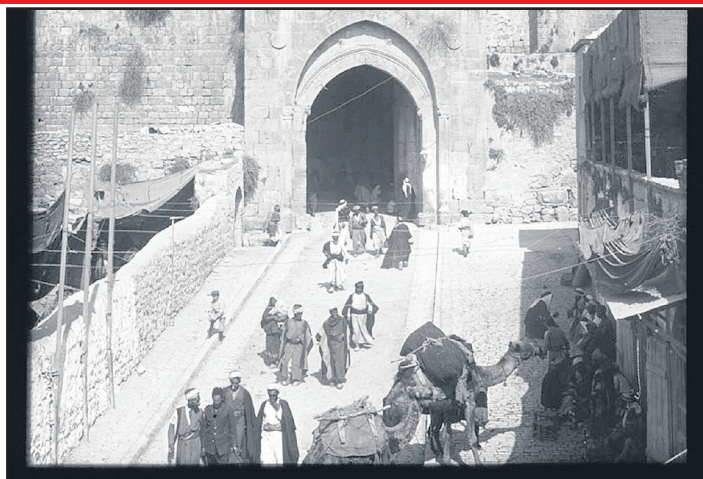
It is a cross community club and is made up of predominately novice photographers. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome to join. Throughout the season (September to May) they participate in the Northern Ireland Photographic Association (NIPA) competition rounds as well as our own internal competitions.

This year they will have more guest speakers planned than before covering a wide variety of photography disciplines, backed up with our own in house studio sessions.

They meet every other Tuesday night upstairs at the Ballyronan Marina Centre at 8pm, with our first night being on the 3rd September.

New members are always welcome and anyone who wishes to find out more about the club can contact us on [secretary@midulsterphotographyclub.com](mailto:secretary@midulsterphotographyclub.com), on Facebook, Mid Ulster Photography Club group or through our web site [www.midulsterphotographyclub.com](http://www.midulsterphotographyclub.com).

# Donaghmore industrialist behind treasure trove of old photographs



Street beside Damascus gate. Images from the Killaloe Lantern Slide Collection in the RCB Library Dublin are reproduced here courtesy of the Representative Church Body. sc3613.



Unidentified coastal town or village, with church spire, terraced housing and possibly a train station in the background. Images from the Killaloe Lantern Slide Collection in the RCB Library Dublin are reproduced here courtesy of the Representative Church Body. sc3615.

**HIDDEN** trove of photographs taken over a century ago are believed to have been taken by a Donaghmore industrialist.

A total of 296 slides were found in the deanery of Killaloe in Co Clare and passed on to the Church of Ireland RCB Library in Dublin.

Now the archivist at the RCB library, Dr Susan Hood, says the photographer behind the photographs is "almost certainly" David Brown.

David and his twin brother, Robert, ran a soap factory in Donaghmore, the largest in Ireland at the time. They produced the McClinton and Colleen soap brands.

The brothers used the wealth they accrued through their business to indulge their many hobbies, among them photography.

Some of the lantern slides depict scenes from Ireland around the turn of the 20th century, however there are many others from further afield.

David married Ada Wilson,

whose brother William was a Presbyterian Minister, later to serve the New Row Presbyterian Church in Coleraine.

The brothers-in law travelled together to the Middle East and returned with a wealth of photographs that throw fresh light on life in Palestine over 100 years ago.

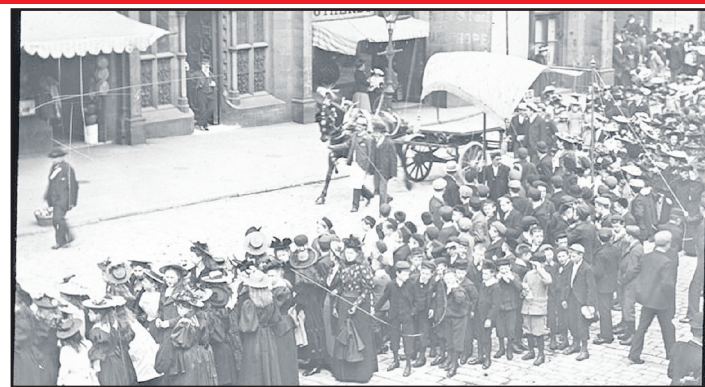
Mystery still surrounds how the slides ended up in Killaloe, County Clare, in the Republic of Ireland but according to Dr Hood the evidence that David Brown took the photographs is very strong.

According to a copy of the Coleraine Herald in 1897, the Rev Wilson had given a lecture about his journey to the Holy Land as part of a group in the Spring of that year. The lecture was accompanied by lantern slides taken by a companion.

"We are pretty convinced that this is the identity," she said.

"The descriptions in the Coleraine newspaper are so vivid and match so closely to the actual pictures.

"We cannot absolutely prove it.



A street procession, possibly a Sunday school outing. Images from the Killaloe Lantern Slide Collection in the RCB Library Dublin are reproduced here courtesy of the Representative Church Body. sc3614.



View of Belfast Harbour with two men rowing in foreground and the Rotterdam Bar and church spire in the background. Images from the Killaloe Lantern Slide Collection in the RCB Library Dublin are reproduced here courtesy of the Representative Church Body. sc3616.

But it is a very convincing lead. How many Irishmen were through Palestine at that time?

"The Donaghmore link shows that the Brown brothers ran a booming local industry. They appear to have given a lot of money to other causes and supported Presbyterian Church causes.

"The local historian Patricia Bogue said the Browns were a family who did good works all of their lives."

Mr Brown campaigned to eradicate tuberculosis in Ireland. The cheap availability of pure soap-based products that his company promoted at events such as the Dublin International Industrial Exhibition, photos of which are in the Killaloe collection, made an important practical contribution to improving general standards of hygiene.

He also promoted Ireland at industrial exhibitions in Dublin, London and Paris. They even recreated a model Irish village to advertise Ireland.

"To sell Ireland, they created a

village with Irish colleens who were dancing and serving goodies to visitors. They walked around with the soap products. The Browns were very creative people who were giving others employment."

Other slides show scenes from a northern region of India. But nearer to home there are pictures of Belfast, Ballyclare and Coleraine.

Many remain unidentified and Dr Hood would love to hear from people who might recognise a location. Personal photographs are also included in the archive.

But there are still questions that remain unanswered and anyone who might recognise a face or a place featured in the photographs, or who might have any information about the Brown family in Donaghmore, should contact the Church of Ireland Representative Church Body library in Dublin.

You can see the photographs online at: <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/174>.

## Still no sign of start date for beleaguered Public Realm Scheme in Dungannon town

A DUNGANNON Councillor has registered his "disappointment" that the Public Realm Scheme in Dungannon has still not begun.

Despite numerous projected start dates, the last of which was 22nd July, contractors have yet to begin the £2.3 million scheme.

At a recent meeting of Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council the DUP's Lord Morrow said councillors had been "sold a pup".

It is believed the delay is due to negotiations over a licence between the contractor for the project and Roads Service. No definitive start dates have been provided, however one source said the start of the

project was "imminent".

Lord Morrow told the Courier: "I think it's very disappointing that the contractor is not on site before now. I pushed this in council for a definitive date and after persistent questioning at one stage I was given the 22nd July. I took that with a pinch of salt and it transpired that my scepticism was well founded because nothing started.

"I tried to find out why they hadn't started and I was told it work was taking place off site. Then I was told that work was taking place on one area, namely Thomas Street, but try as I might I couldn't find anybody there. So we are currently still waiting for a contractor."

## Mystery shopper scoops Lottery £1m

THE Coalisland community is buzzing with the news that a mystery lottery winner has scooped £1 million in the National Lottery after having their numbers checked at the local SuperValu store.

The unidentified winner is not believed to have purchased the ticket at the Dungannon Road store but simply checked their numbers there leading to speculation that they may not actually be from the Coalisland area.

A spokesperson for the store confirmed that the winning ticket had been checked by one of its cashiers but said none of

the staff working that night recognised the lucky customer.

## Armagh Service

THE Rector of Castlecaulfield Parish Church, the Rev Dr Peter Thompson, conducted a special service in Armagh on Sunday, which was broadcast in Northern Ireland and throughout the United Kingdom.

The service, for the Charles Wood Summer School, was broadcast from Armagh Cathedral and was broadcast on Radio 4 and Radio Ulster.