



**MHS**  
HERITAGE &  
CULTURE LTD

ISSUE  
**05**

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Edited by Brigid Campbell



Pictured is our newly commissioned mural depicting Bradley's Bottling Factory in the late 1950s carried out by artist Conor McGinley. *Full story on next page.*

Hello everyone, we hope you all had a pleasant Christmas and your 2021 is going well so far. Unfortunately since the last newsletter in December, restrictions have not eased as we had previously hoped, so with regret our centre will remain closed to the public until restrictions lift.

However, we are still busy with exciting plans and projects in the pipeline which we are keen to share with you in this issue. We encourage you to have a read through our upcoming projects. Why not use this time, in which we are advised to stay at home, to participate in sharing your memories with us?

We have two projects we hope you will participate in, one focusing on our memories of school, and the other gathering memories of the old railway line that ran through Maghera. Sharing and physically writing down our memories can have numerous benefits for mental, physical and emotional health. Please have a read of just a few of these benefits in the column to the right.

### **Benefits of**

### **Reminiscence**

#### **Bringing History 'to life'**

By sharing and recording your memories, future generations can get a feel for what life was really like, and not just how it was documented in a history book.

#### **Increased Self Esteem**

Writing our memories allows us to view ourselves from a new perspective. By reminiscing, you have an opportunity to reflect on your past achievements. For negative memories, you can now use your experience and wisdom to look upon your younger self with more compassion.

#### **Lower stress levels**

Studies have found that participants who reminisced about positive experiences had lower levels of cortisol, the hormone that causes stress.

#### **Stimulate your brain and memory**

Using your memory can often get the neglected parts of your brain active again. You may be surprised at what forgotten memories pop up once you start engaging with memories of your younger years.

## The story behind our new mural...

The building in which our Heritage and Culture Centre stands today originally belonged to Bradley and Company (N.I.) Ltd. The Bradleys were in the retail spirit trade as far back as 1846. In 1952 Bradley's bottling factory was established at 11 Main Street .

Last year, we decided that we should pay tribute to the history and heritage of our building, so set about planning a mural for our outdoor space.

We approached Jim Bradley, a local business owner and great great grandson of the original founder of the company. Jim kindly sent us a copy of a newspaper clipping from an issue of the Mid Ulster Observer from the late '50s. Featured in the article is Jim's father, managing director at the time, who can be seen in the far left of the image used for our mural.

Jim explained that his father, James, started as managing director of the company in 1949 and upped production in 1955 with his first import of Guinness in barrels from Dublin. The factory's main outputs were bottling and re-tailing stout, however they later branched out into the supply of mineral water and wholesale of wine and spirits. The award winning products of Bradley and Company (N.I.) Ltd. soon found their way to many homes throughout Derry, Antrim, Fermanagh and Tyrone during James' period of directorship.



The original description of this image reads: *'One hundred gallons of stout a minute pass into the large storage tank which dominates the interior of Bradley's bottling store. Supervising the operation is Mr. J. Bradley. Also in the picture are Messrs. Owen and Derek McGinley.'*

We are delighted with the outcome of our mural and believe it is a fitting tribute to the legacy of an innovative and enterprising company which had its roots in Maghera.

We cannot wait to welcome visitors to our outdoor area to view the mural themselves when our premises re-opens in the future.

A special thanks to The Maghera Development Association for their funding which allowed us to commission this mural.

Thank you to Jim Bradley for passing on the newspaper cutting for our archives and for providing information for this article.

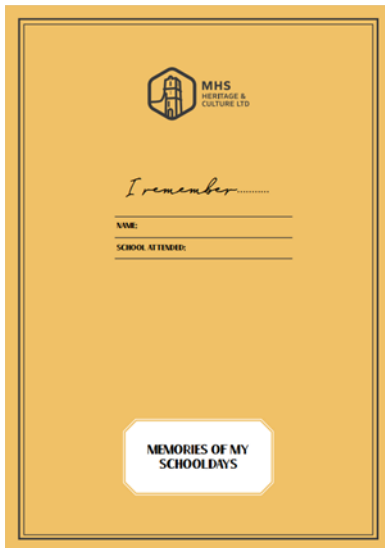
Many thanks to Conor McGinley who brought the image to life through his creative talents.



Mural artist Conor McGinley in action. Conor is an artist from Newry and is part of art collective Pigment Space.

# Share your Memories with us!

## I Remember... Memories of My School Days



Now that many of us have more time on our hands with the restrictions caused by the pandemic, MHS Heritage & Culture are producing a workbook to prompt memories of our school days and record them to share with family and friends or maybe just as a keepsake for ourselves.

Being based in Maghera we are particularly interested in memories people have of local schools. If you went to school in Maghera or the surrounding area we would really appreciate it if you could fill in an extra booklet to donate to our archives, as well as keeping one for yourself. This collection would be a wonderful resource for future generations documenting the development of education in Maghera.

The workbook is free to anyone interested in filling one in. We have a limited number of these so order one while stocks last! To get your copy just drop us an email at [info@maghera-heritage.org.uk](mailto:info@maghera-heritage.org.uk)

The booklet will also be available to download from our website [www.maghera-heritage.org.uk](http://www.maghera-heritage.org.uk)

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## Following the Line: Magherafelt-Macfin

There are many memories associated with the old Railway Line in Maghera which operated from 1880 to 1959. The Station House, now beautifully restored thanks to Joe Mallon, stands as a reminder of the days when the place was a hive of activity, as passengers, goods of all kinds (and even cows) travelled by train to exotic far-flung destinations such as Knockloughrim, Upperlands, Tamlaght, Kilrea, Garvagh, Monycarrie, Aghadowey, Curragh Bridge and MacFin.



Image courtesy of Robert McQuiston

Our project aims to bring together a collection of memories and stories relating to this railway line. We will be uploading all the information we can gather onto our website.

We are asking anyone who is interested in contributing to the project to add their story onto the website or send it by email to [info@maghera-heritage.org.uk](mailto:info@maghera-heritage.org.uk). Of course, we welcome written contributions as well. If you feel like jotting down some thoughts and memories please send them to The Hearth, 11 Main Street, Maghera, BT46 5AA.

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Our School Reminiscence Project and the Railway Project are both supported by grant aid from the National Lottery Community Fund.



We thank all National Lottery players for making this possible.

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## Keep on Knitting!

Many of you have been inquiring about the donation of knitted squares, we are still accepting these along with fully knitted blankets.

Once you have your 6" squares completed you can either sew them together into a blanket or drop them off with us and we will arrange for them to be sewn together. When completed they can then be posted to us at 11 Main Street, Maghera or dropped off at our premises.

Please note that we are closed to the public at this time, so please phone and leave a voicemail on 02879642677 or email us at [info@maghera-heritage.org.uk](mailto:info@maghera-heritage.org.uk) to arrange a drop off. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been knitting and donating squares over the last few months, your generosity is greatly appreciated.



**We are grateful to the Department for Communities and The National Lottery Heritage Fund for providing this funding. Thanks to this grant, we can reach out to new audiences in our community and help them to better understand the heritage on our doorstep.**

## Community Heritage Fund

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant for our planned future project 'Heritage on your Doorstep: Exploring Maghera'. This project aims to help people connect with the heritage in their community. Details of our project will be released in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out on our social media pages and in the next newsletter for more information!

## Local Walks

Walks can help clear your mind, improve your mood, and boost your energy levels.

If you are local to Maghera, we have many beautiful local walks to enjoy such as Largantogher Walkway, Moyola Forest, Drumnaph Wood, and Glenshane Forest (see photo). With these sites being on our doorstep, it is great to take advantage of our surroundings and yield the physical and mental benefits of walking.



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