



# Mayo to honour its native casualties in unprecedented Titanic celebration

The history shared between Mayo and the Titanic will be celebrated when Lahardane host 'The Mayo Titanic Cultural Week' in April 2012. A re-enactment of the three hour journey by trap and sidecar from Castlebar Station will begin the proceedings, which will be followed by a traditional Live American Wake during the course of the week.

The event, which runs from April 8th -15th, will include a Mayo Titanic Ball on the 13th and the traditional annual bell ringing at 2.20am on the 15th - to commemorate the time of the vessel sinking.

The events final day will see the official opening of the Mayo Titanic Memorial Park, the burial of the Mayo Titanic Time Capsule and the unveiling of the Stained Glass Windows, which will bring a close to proceedings.

It is poignant that the people of Lahardane are hosts for this prestigious event due to the extraordinary human story of its people and the largest passenger steam ship. Of the 14 Lahardane brethren on-board, just three survived while the remainder drowned, the highest proportionate European loss. In addition, two Castlebar crewmen, William Duffy and Francis Young, lost their lives in the tragedy.

Mayo takes its place alongside Belfast, Southampton, Cherbourg, Cobh and New York in remembering this disastrous event on the centenary of the sinking.

Preparation for the event will provide planners with a challenge and a hectic schedule to boot. Increase in awareness of the event is evident as visitors to the official website ([www.mayo-titanic.com](http://www.mayo-titanic.com)) have increased exponentially, with regular visits from Ireland, USA and UK.

The Addergoole Titanic Society has been busy raising their profile by giving talks to audiences around Ireland. The organisation has also liaised with Boston Mayo Association, the Belfast Titanic Society and Cobh's Commemorative Service, while also attending the Manchester Irish Festival.

The society has been successful in gaining Government approval for its stamp suggestion or the 2012 Programme of Special and Commemorative Stamps.

The limited edition book, The Addergoole Titanic Story, recently published by a relative, in which all profits go to

the society and is available on the aforementioned website underpins the relationship between the historic sinking and the small Mayo parish. Further artistic efforts highlighting the relationship are the recording of the Titanic theme song "The Water is Black" and the impending documentary of the Addergoole Fourteen entitled "Waking the Titanic".

The 2002 Titanic Memorial will be joined by two stained glass windows with Titanic and Emigrations themes in St. Patrick's Church. The windows will be funded from descendant relatives in the USA of our three survivors and the descendant relatives of the casualties in Lahardane.

Funding for the Mayo Titanic Memorial Park, which will consist of 12ft sculpture of Titanic's bow pointing west, five large bronze story plaques and two life size bronze statues, was approved by the North East Leader while the society raised monies to match the Leader grant. Killala Diocese gave the land. Future years and further fundraising will ensure bronze statues for each of the Addergoole Fourteen.

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