



# The Cave Hill Campaigner



## Rinty and the Cave Hill: A Family Recollection

By the time Rinty Monaghan retired from the ring in 1950 he had been British, European, Commonwealth and World Champion at Flyweight. He was a hero in his home city of Belfast and a boxing legend whose memory lives on nearly forty years after his death on 3 March 1984.

Cave Hill became an integral part of his training regime and over 70 years ago a friendship was formed between my wife's grandparents and Rinty during his training endeavours on Cave Hill. He would call with them at their home, Cave Hill Cottage as he pounded the trails around the Hill. He would also chop wood for my wife's grandparents as part of his strengthening work and drink the milk which came from their goats as part of his nutritional supplements.

Wood chopping was regarded as an effective training method to develop punching power. Although the benefits of the practice have been questioned within modern training regimes, the almost mythical status of the practice has been continued and enhanced by boxers of the eminence of Muhammad Ali and Floyd Mayweather.

Coincidentally, the head of the axe used by Rinty was found in 2017 by Ciaran Mulligan in a shed beside

his home at Cave Hill Cottage and it has since been restored. It is an interesting piece of local folk history which thankfully has been preserved.



*Rinty Monaghan*

Rinty was sure that the milk from Beauty, the goat belonging to the Caufield family helped him to achieve success in the ring and it was an important part of his diet in an age long before the introduction of scientific, nutritional expertise into sport. The drinking of goat's milk was part of the health conscious regime of boxers around Belfast who spent many lonely hours, rising early in the morning, running along the roads and hills of the city. Rinty's route took him from his home in Corporation Street, climbing up the Cavehill Road, stopping at Cave Hill Cottage with the Caufield family, across the 'Camels'

Humps', looping around the old quarry, ascending Cave Hill and returning home again.

A few years ago, the friendship between the Caufield family and the Monaghan family was renewed. My wife, Jacqueline (Caufield) Corr met up with the

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*The head of the axe found at Cave Hill Cottage*



daughters of Rinty Monaghan on a number of occasions and at one of those meetings my wife Jacqui made a representation of Rinty, depicting him chopping wood at Cave Hill Cottage. The painting was supplied by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

I tagged along and took a few photographs. It was a most enjoyable evening with the time spent reminiscing and during the conversation I discovered that a distant relative of mine had fought Rinty on three occasions.

According to Rinty's daughters, my relative had given Rinty the toughest fight of his boxing career!

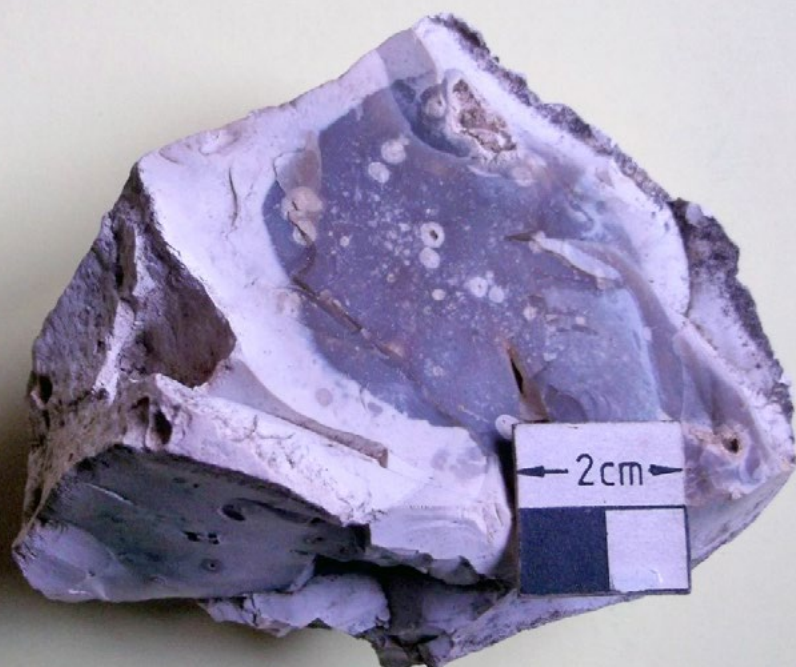
It is interesting to reflect that while so many people have discovered or perhaps rediscovered the beauty and benefits of being on Cave Hill during these COVID months, we are following the path taken by one of the most enduring legends in our boxing history.

*Bill Corr*

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## The Flint of the Cave Hill

*'Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.'*  
Confucius (551 - 479 B.C.)



*A broken specimen of Cave Hill flint.*

is composed of almost pure silica (silicon dioxide – SiO<sub>2</sub>) and it cannot be scratched with a steel penknife; in other words it is harder than steel. The silica is in the form of tiny needle-like crystals and is described as cryptocrystalline. Chalk is the only rock in which flint is embedded.

Today, in many parts of the world, dealers specialising in rocks and minerals sell specimens of flint to collectors. It has also been an important building material, for instance flint has been employed as a building stone for houses, walls etc., mainly because it weathers better than some other building stones like limestones, some sandstones and even some granites. This rock/mineral occurs in many places in Europe and Asia and in some parts of America and Africa. It has to be pointed out that the 'flint' in cigarette-lighters is not true flint but is actually Misch-metal, which is an alloy of cerium and other rare-earth metals with iron.

### General Description

Sometimes called a rock, and sometimes called a mineral, flint is usually grey or black but can also exist with a variety of hues, for example traces of iron oxide can produce a brown colour, and often has a white patina. The word 'flint' is from the Old English meaning 'a hard stone'. Even those who have never seen a sample of flint would understand the metaphors like 'skinflint', 'heart of flint' and the similes 'set one's face like flint' and 'as true as flint'. It has the distinction of being one of the few rocks/minerals to be alluded to by name in the Bible (e.g. Book of Psalms, Deuteronomy, Isaiah).

In Ireland, it is only found in situ in the north east, in the Chalk, but it has been transported by ice, during the last Ice Age, as far as Dublin and beyond. Samples, for instance, can be found on the Co. Dublin beaches. Flint

### The Age of The Cave Hill Flint

Since the flint occurs in the Chalk it is the same age as the Chalk i.e. around 80 million years old. Geologists call this time the Late Cretaceous.

### How did the flint form?

It is still a bit of an enigma as to how flint formed. The puzzle has exercised the skills of a myriad of geologists over the years. One theory is that it originated from the silica skeletons of sponges. Once deeply buried in the accumulating chalk sediment, the pressure and temperature caused the silica (from sponges) to dissolve in the sea water circulating through the sediment. (Silica, under normal conditions, is only sparingly soluble in salt water.) Subsequently, when conditions were right, the silica precipitated from solution to form the flint deposits we see today.





*Flint can be found in the Chalk in the exposure behind the wall, which lies opposite the car-park at Belfast Zoo.*

### Where can flint be found in the Cave Hill area?

Flint can be found in the Chalk in the exposure behind the wall, which lies opposite the car-park at Belfast Zoo.

A good place to find samples of flint is in the Chalk behind the small wall, which lies on the R.H.S. of the path, which runs from the Antrim Road to Belfast Zoo. Loose specimens can be found at the base of the exposure. But, pieces of flint can also be found on the ground along the many tracks throughout the Cave Hill region.

### Flint and the Stone Age people

Our distant ancestors, the Stone Age people, who lived in Ireland over 4,500 years ago, used flint for the making of implements like axe-heads, arrow-heads and scrapers because it is able to break along curved planes

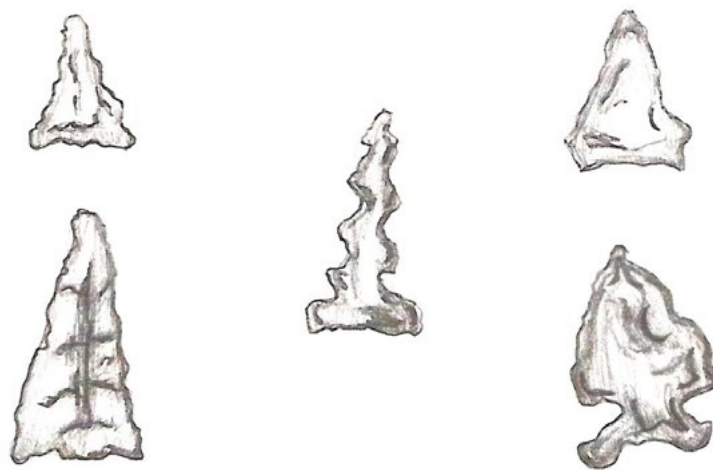
leaving razor-sharp edges and because of its hardness. To say flint is the world's oldest industrial rock/mineral would not be an overstatement. The likelihood is that it was first discovered by the Early Stone Age people in Africa after they experimented for many years with quartz pebbles and igneous rocks such as basalt.

The Stone Age people would have used flint, struck against iron pyrites, or another suitable mineral, or even another piece of flint, to generate sparks used to ignite tinder (such as dried fungi or dried lichen) and so produce fire. Flint, for this purpose, would preferably be of good quality and free from inclusions such as fossils.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that of the three main rocks found in the Cave Hill area – basalt, Chalk and flint – flint would have been the most important one for the survival of our very distant ancestors.

*Patrick Gaffikin*

*Some Neolithic (Late Stone Age) flint arrow-heads.*



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# Crash on Cave Hill – A Commemoration 75 Years Later

In 1996 I had returned the wedding ring to the widow of B17 Crew Member Lawrence Dundon and this generated considerable media interest culminating in several radio and television interviews. Peter Woodward heard an interview I had given to BBC Radio 4 and he was moved to put together a script for a film.

In 2006 Lord Attenborough produced the film “Closing the Ring” which was loosely based on my true story and became popular throughout the world. I had the idea for a memorial stone some ten years earlier and although Belfast City Council was favourable, I could not get any sponsorship for this project. Whilst this film was in production Belfast City Council decided at their expense to erect a memorial in Belfast Zoo Complex. The memorial stone itself is a replica of the original stone which was unveiled by Dwight Eisen-

hower during the Second World War in the grounds of Belfast City Hall where it remains to this day.

My wife Dawn and I were aware that the Cave-hill/Oldpark branch of the Royal British Legion laid wreaths on 1st June and the Friday closest to Remembrance Sunday in November each year. Therefore, we contacted John MacVicar and John Grace to organise a commemorative event as this would be the 75th anniversary of the crash.

My co-writer, Will Lindsay and I were releasing our book 42-97862 and we had contacted new family members of Corporal Lawrence McGrane and Sergeant Robert L Graves Jnr. during our research. Dawn, The Royal British Legion and Belfast City Council undertook months of planning for what turned out to be a most successful event which included invitations to these Americans.

On Friday 31st May 2019 we visited the crash site where we were warmly welcomed by representatives from Cave Hill Conservation Campaign and the appalling weather did not dampen the visitors' enthusiasm or spirit on Cave Hill that morning. This was followed by a beautiful lunch provided at Belfast Castle which was welcomed by all. In the afternoon we travelled to Lisnabreeny, the former military cemetery at Castlereagh, followed by afternoon tea in the Lord Mayor's Chamber in Belfast City Hall, hosted by the newly elected Lord Mayor, Mr John Finucane.

On Saturday 1st June, Dawn and myself made our way to Belfast Zoo Complex in our World War Two Jeep for the Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving. The weather, unlike the previous day on Cave Hill, was warm, dry and sunny, an added bonus. As I looked upon the rugged rock face below McArt's Fort with the lone piper playing Amazing Grace, I was overwhelmed by the turnout of people including our newly acquainted friends, the relatives of some of the B17 crew who

*Service of Commemoration at Cave Hill*



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are now like extended family members.

The service was to take place at 10.30am, the exact time and date the aircraft had crashed into Cave Hill some 75 years earlier. In attendance at this service was the US Consul General MS Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau, the High Sheriff of Belfast, representatives from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, The Royal British Legion, other dignitaries and of course our friends from Cave Hill Conservation Campaign.

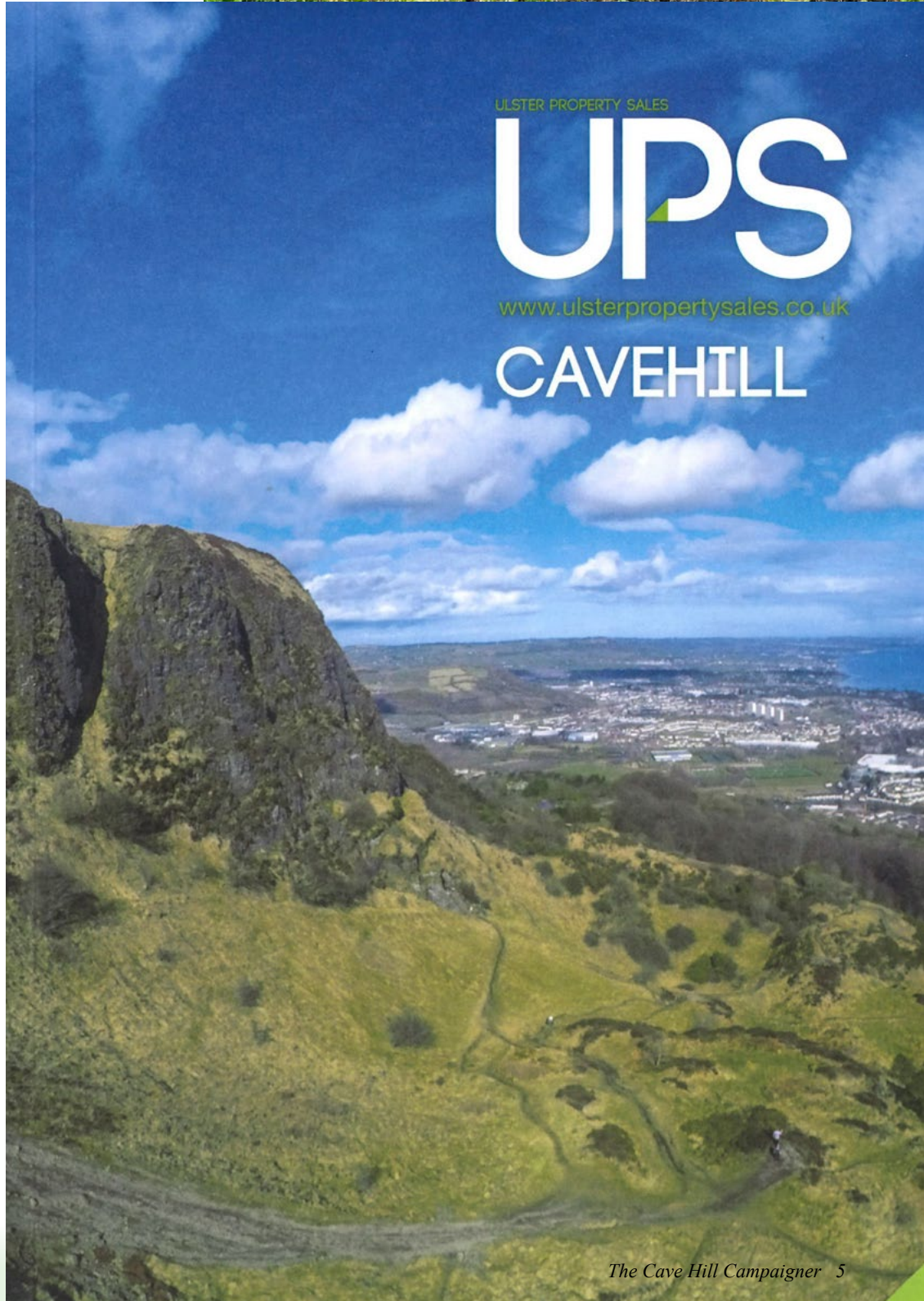
I opened the service, having been invited to say a few words of welcome and gave a brief outline for the day's memorial service. The Reverend Mervyn Gibson conducted the service, followed by wreaths being laid by the dignitaries and American families, who laid 10 poppy crosses, one for each of the ten crew who perished in the crash. The service was followed by light refreshments in the teahouse provided by Belfast City Council and afterwards television interviews were conducted and screened on UTV's six o'clock news the following Monday.

Dawn and I would like to thank Belfast City Council, The Royal British Legion, Belfast City Sightseeing, The Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick, and our fabulous friends at Cave Hill Conservation Campaign who all extended their hospitality and warmth towards our American visitors making their entire trip an enjoyable and unforgettable experience.

We would also like to congratulate the Cave Hill Conservation Campaign for achieving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. It is well deserved.

*Alfie Montgomery*

Visit to the site of the crash with the Cave Hill Conservation Campaign





# Join us for an organised walk in 2021

The following guided walks are planned and available free of charge. Please check our website and facebook page before travelling to the event in case we need to make any changes in relation to Covid-19 restrictions.

DATE	DAY	TIME	DETAILS
19-Jun	Sat	03:30 - 06:30	<b>Solstice Walk.</b> Greet the sun at dawn on top of Cave Hill on a summer solstice morning before most of Belfast has stirred. Meet at the Castle. Grade M
17-Jul	Sat	10:00 - 13:00	<b>The Flowers of Cave Hill.</b> Wildlife consultant Karl Hamilton will introduce us to a selection of the wide range of flowers that grow on Cave Hill. Meet at the car park on the Upper Hightown Road. Grade E
07-Aug	Sat	10:00 - 13:00	<b>A Bug Bonanza.</b> Conservation Officer with Buglife, Anna Hart will lead a fossick through the Park looking to find and identify whatever we come across. Meet at the Castle. Grade E
03-Sep	Fri	20:30 - 22:30	<b>Bats of Cave Hill.</b> Aidan Crean will introduce us to these enchanting nocturnal animals during an evening dander. Meet at the Castle. Grade E
18-Sep	Sat	10:00 - 13:00	<b>The Archaeology of Cave Hill.</b> Local archaeologist Cormac McSparron will lead a trip to the various remains on the hill from the Neolithic period to the early Christian period. Meet at the entrance to the Park at the top of the Upper Hightown Road. Grade E
06-Oct	Wed	19:30 - 22:00	<b>Cave Hill by Starlight.</b> A chance to look down on Belfast by night, and get a view of the stars and planets. Meet at the Castle. Grade M
16-Oct	Sat	10:00 - 13:00	<b>Fungal Foray.</b> Debbie Nelson will lead us in a snuffle through the Cave Hill woods to see what fungi we can find and identify. Meet at the Castle. Grade E

## What you should know beforehand:

Please be prepared for bad weather and bring foot-wear suitable for rough ground. Some of the walks will be moderately strenuous and some people may find them challenging. Easy walks are graded E and more challenging ones are graded M. Young people under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

If you have any worries about fitness or have medical conditions which might affect your ability to walk, please talk to the leader at the start of the walk. If the leader assesses you as not being fit for the walk, you will not be able to take part.

It is very important for your own safety and that of the group that you obey the instructions of the walk leader or of any of the assistant leaders. Of particular importance is that you must ensure that the group stays together at all times.

All these activities are free.

## For further details:

- [www.cavehillconservation.org](http://www.cavehillconservation.org)
- Facebook page for Cave Hill Conservation Campaign
- [cormachamill47@gmail.com](mailto:cormachamill47@gmail.com)

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# Daddystown

by Sam Moore

We are all familiar with the sense that the recent past - just beyond memory, but outside everyday experience seems more remote in some curious way than what we think of as 'history'.

Sam Moore's recently published booklet on Daddystown falls into this category. This was in fact a terrace of seven cottages originally built for the workers at the Limestone quarry near Cave Hill which was in operation from 1840 to 1896. With the departure of the original occupants some of the houses were sold. In 1933 Sam's grandmother rented the cottage which was second in the row. The family home was in Oldpark Road and the cottage was used during the summer months. Their neighbours the Blairs lived permanently in one of the other houses. Family and friends would make the trek up past where the Boys' Model School is now, skirting the ruins of an old flax mill and down into the glen that led to the cottages. Over time a sense of community developed and enduring friendships were formed.

The author describes a way of life, which by modern standards, was austere. There was no mains water, no gas supply and no electricity. The cottage interiors were spartan: no floor coverings, a 'range' for heating

and cooking, and some basic furniture. The upstairs bedroom was reached by an open stairway; what he describes as "convenience" was female only, with the male members of the families consigned to al fresco necessity.

The wartime bombing of Belfast by the Germans, and especially the notorious 'Easter Tuesday' air-raid of 14th/15th April 1941, which resulted in over 900 deaths, rendered existence at the cottages even more precarious. Thousands of Belfast's citizens, (known colloquially as 'Ditchers') fled the city to seek refuge in rural areas - including Cave Hill and its surrounds, and Sam's family sheltered in Daddystown.

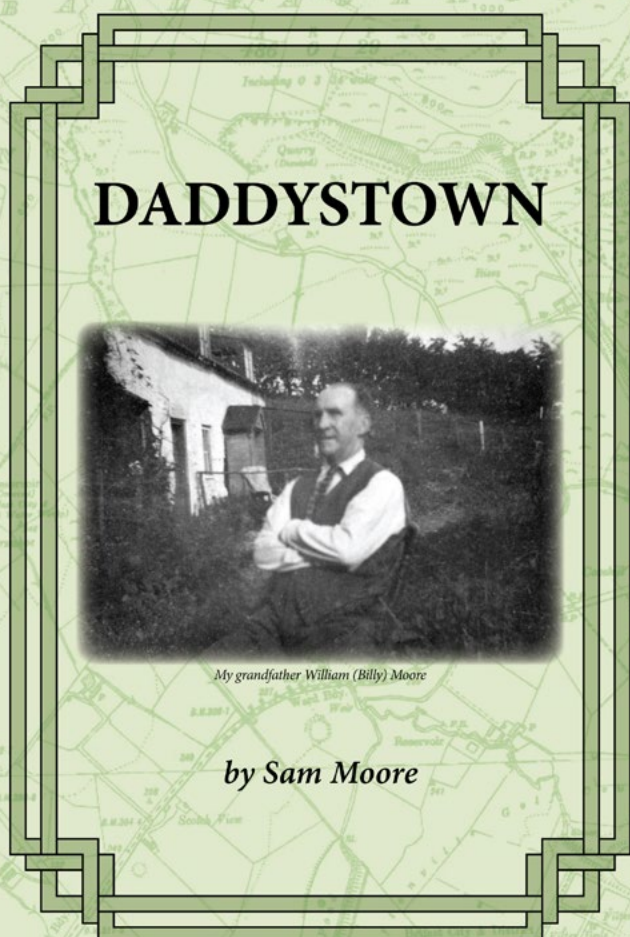
Sam, seen with his brother, in one of the evocative photographs which illustrate the booklet, vividly describes the bucolic experience at Daddystown. He describes their lives "in its raw state", and the photographs of the cottages in winter merit that description.

In the post-war years, when Daddystown was used by the 29th Boy Scout Troop, the community recovered some of its earlier carefree atmosphere. However, the accidental death of one of the adults, marked the point at which it began to decline. This accelerated in the 1960s as the cottages fell into disrepair and today there is little visible evidence of their previous existence.

But we do have Sam Moore's charming account of his family's life there. This wonderfully evokes a world which, however relatively recent in time, seems remote from our existence. In doing so, he has illuminated a largely unknown part of our local history.

*Eddie McCamley*

Copies of the booklet, priced at £5.00 each, can be purchased through the Cave Hill Conservation Campaign



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# Chair's Report 2019-2021

The highlight of 2019 was undoubtedly the presentation to us of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in September in Belfast Castle. Many of our past directors and members attended along with most of our present-day directors and supporters. It was a chance to highlight our activities, to parade our strengths, to pay tribute to all those who contributed to our success and it was a very public recognition of our achievements over thirty years.

There were even more activities during that year than ever before. There were eleven public guided walks between April and October along with three guided walks for Community organisations. We also spent three mornings introducing children in two local schools to the delights of rummaging around in the woods on their doorsteps. We hosted six visits by various company and organisational employees to Cave Hill to spend the day lifting litter.

We delivered talks on Cave Hill to four local community groups in their own premises and we put up our banner and stand at four local fairs. We also had a presence at the commemoration ceremony for the wartime B17 crash and we participated in a meeting with Belfast Hills Partnership as part of a community consultation exercise.

We carried out a weekly butterfly survey over twenty-six weeks for the seventh year running; eliminated some invasive Himalayan balsam; and in conjunction with a local secondary school, put up nest boxes in the woods close to the Castle.

We published our very attractive and successful magazine, the Cave Hill Campaigner, once more and distributed 2,500 copies. Our Facebook page now has over 2200 members. We have put a range of objects found on Cave Hill in our new exhibition in the Castle basement. This is a work in progress; as soon as the Castle re-opens we intend to provide explanatory notices for these artefacts.

With the arrival of Covid-19 nearly all the activities planned for 2020 came to naught. Although we just managed to hold our AGM in the Castle a few days before the first lockdown, all our walks in April to June were cancelled. There was a partial relaxation in the summer and we managed our tree walk in July and a bat walk in September although with restrictions. Our other activities in September and October were then cancelled. Unfortunately, and for the first time in 20 years, publication of the Campaigner had to be cancelled. We had arranged a delivery of over 400

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trees from the Woodland Trust in pre-Covid times. These arrived in November and instead of being able to invite our members to help plant them, six of our directors went up quietly on a Saturday morning and observing suitable precautions, planted them. Some weeks later, a donation of spring bulbs from local online nursery Stupidpricedplants was accepted and these were planted along the path beside the new trees. However, the ambition of involving ordinary members had to be forgone.

Our monthly directors' meetings in the Castle were also cancelled throughout the year and we held all our meetings on Zoom. This was useful but no substitute for meeting around that lovely large table in the Ashley Room.

It is interesting to note that in times of trouble, people have an instinct for the healing and consoling powers of open spaces and nature. But the resulting great increase in footfall affected Cave Hill itself. As the citizens of Belfast flocked to Cave Hill, there was a great increase in the use of the paths and trails around the estate. A lot of people came for the first time and had difficulty finding their way about. This highlights an ongoing problem with signage on Cave

Hill. A minority did not understand the codes applying to being in the countryside and the problem of litter in the park became much worse. The paths themselves became degraded; they widened as people made efforts to pass each other at safe distances. Some of our members, acting individually, lifted litter on many occasions. I estimate about 300 bags of rubbish were taken off the hill by us over the last year.

As I write, the vaccinations are being rolled out and there is the prospect of a gradual lifting of restrictions. Our yearly walk programme is ready to go and I have every hope that we will once more have an opportunity to learn about and to enjoy Cave Hill in the company of friends.

After that public recognition of the QAVS, we are not resting on our laurels. As directors change and new blood comes aboard, all organisations reflect and consider the future. In the last two years our memorandum and articles of association (our constitution) along with our policies have been reviewed. We want to use these documents as a means of determining how best to achieve our objectives and accessing guidance in the next three years. Our programme of walks and talks will continue, and the proposed involvement of members in practical activities will be encouraged. Plans are in hand to implement these initiatives as soon as the easing of restrictions allow us to do so.

I want to thank all those who helped us in the last two years: the Belfast City Council park manager for Cave Hill in 2019 Michael Grant and the new 2020 manager Kevin McKee, the BCC Community Outreach officer Mark Turner and his colleague Jenny Fawcett who attend all our meetings, the manager Cathryn McOscar and the staff of Belfast Castle, Peter McCloskey who reviews our finances every year and all our members upon whose financial support we rely. In particular I want to thank our directors who contributed so much over the year and gave me great support.

It is a pleasure to have a role in the maintenance of Cave Hill as a resource for the citizens of Belfast in particular. The parkland, woods, cliffs, moorland with their many flora and fauna are always a refuge in troubled times. And as we navigate the medical and social turbulence at this particular time, we know that Cave Hill can give us solace in so many ways.

*Cormac E Hamill*



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# Cave Hill Volunteers

The directors of Cave Hill Conservation Campaign have long wanted to give our members a bigger practical role in the management of this country park. After all, members pay us an annual subscription because they have a fondness for the Hill and want to support us in our work on it. And now they will be able to help in a hands-on way.

Managing an area as big and diverse as Cave Hill demands resources, human and financial. The Council is very aware that all the funds needed are not available and resources are therefore concentrated largely on the area around the Castle, the area that most people see. But this means that essential jobs elsewhere in the park are being neglected.

And that's where our members can help. We plan to launch a new initiative in the coming months. We will organise volunteers to carry out a task on the first Tuesday of each month. Obviously there will be things we will not be able to do; we cannot cut down trees nor use any chemicals. But we can do a lot to keep paths clear and to tackle some invasive species as well as native plants such as gorse which, if uncontrolled, can spread and take over large areas. And we can plant trees and wildflowers to increase the natural diversity of the park.

About a week in advance of the task, we will send out an email to all our members giving details of where to meet and what tools to bring – generally spades, secateurs and hand-saws. There will also be advice about essential comfort and about health and safety. Young people are welcome but those under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

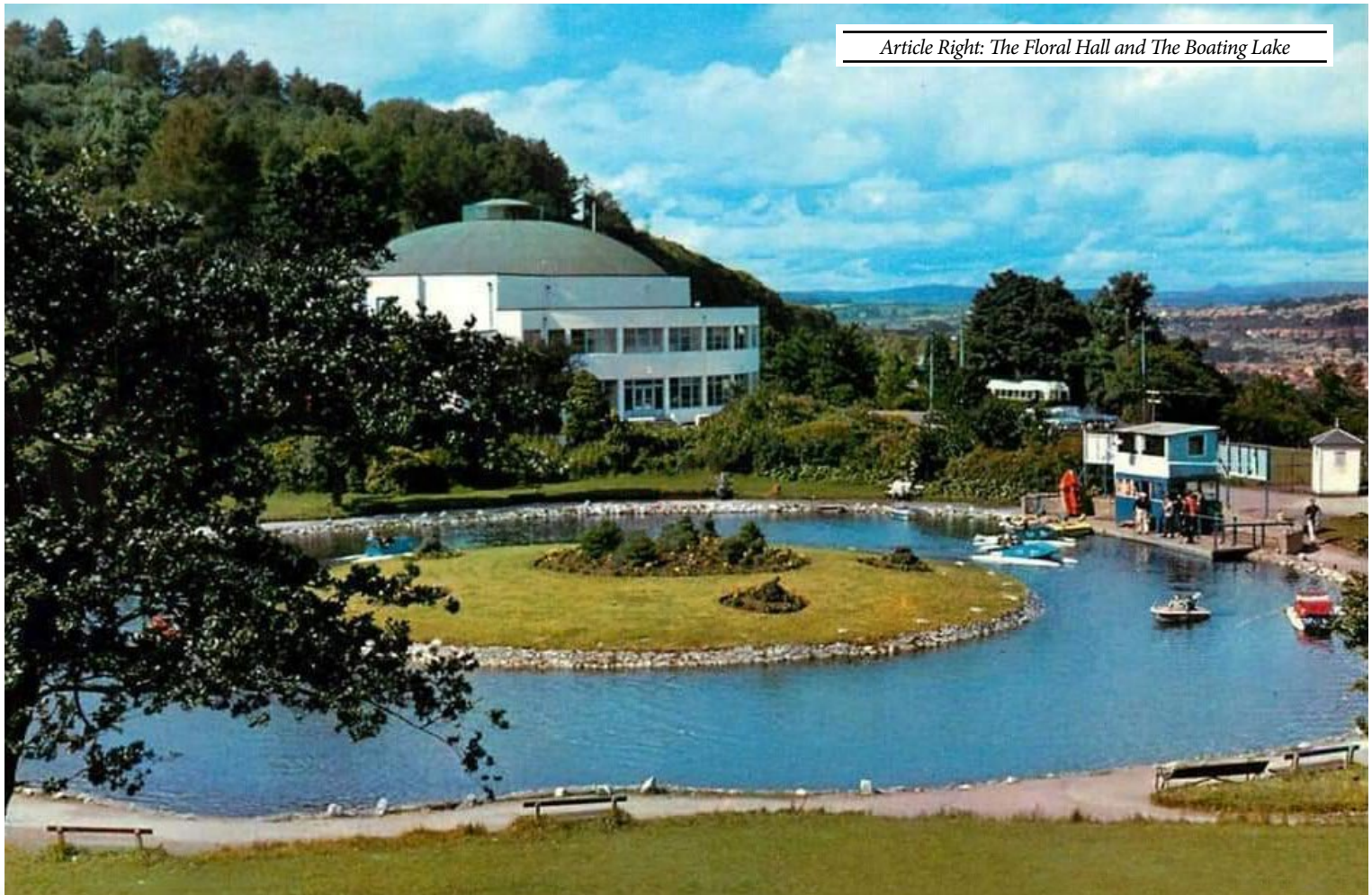
By coming along and being part of this, you will be helping to maintain the hill; but you will also enjoy yourselves. Volunteering with like-minded people is fun. It will involve work but not of the back-breaking variety and there will be plenty of opportunity to chat and learn from each other. And as we meet and talk, the tasks we undertake will doubtless change and evolve. The hill will be the better for your efforts and so too will you.

We fully intend to launch the scheme as soon as the Covid crisis has passed and in keeping with the Health Regulations. We will keep everyone informed of our intentions via social media and we will email all our members as soon as we have a firm date for the launch.

See you there!

*Cormac E Hamill*

*Article Right: The Floral Hall and The Boating Lake*





# Day trips to Bellevue Pleasure Gardens

At the beginning of the 20th century passengers from Belfast were transported to the then villages of Whitewell and Glengormley by horse-drawn trams belonging to the Belfast Street Tramway Company and Steam Tramways.

In 1911 the tram line was taken over by Belfast Corporation, now Belfast City Council. The Corporation decided to build a playground and pleasure gardens at the end of the line to encourage customers to use the service. The area was named Bellevue Gardens, meaning good or pretty view.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the gardens were a popular destination for day trips. In 1933 the Corporation decided to install a zoological collection on the site.

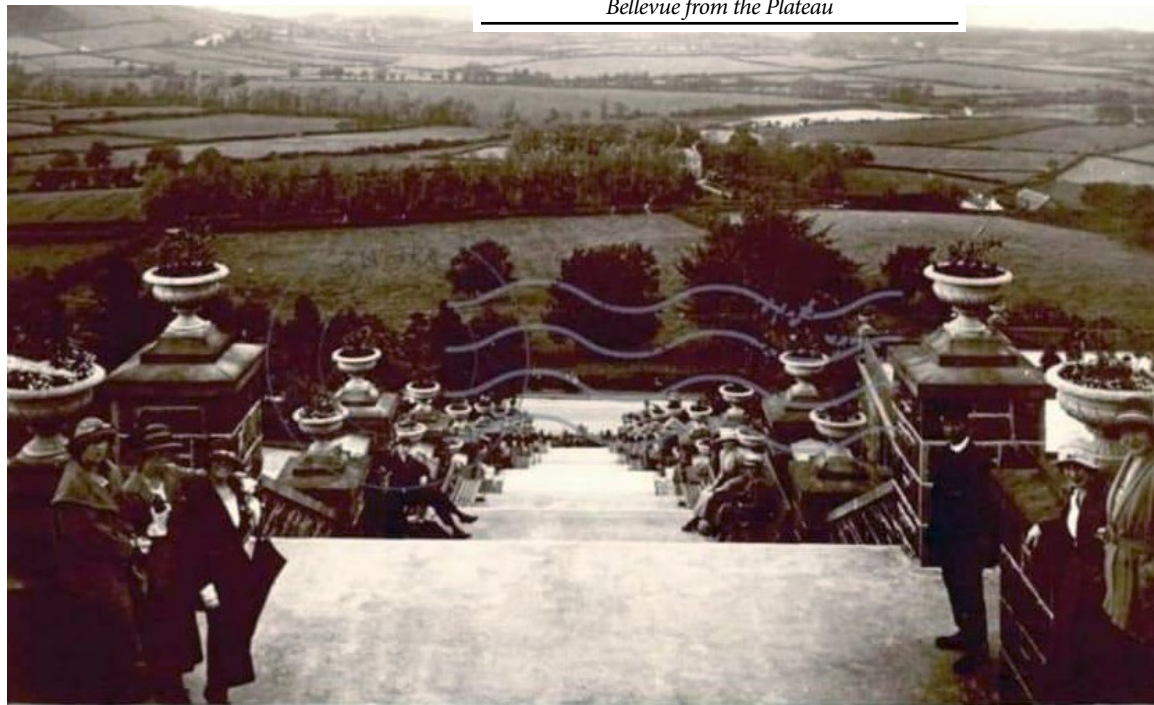
In 1934 12 acres on either side of the Grand Floral Staircase, a series of steps designed to reach the top of the hillside, were laid out as Bellevue Zoo. It took 150 men to build the site and the steps can still be seen from the Antrim

Road today. The zoo was opened on 28 March 1934.

It must have been a magical place with such attractions as the band stand, mini golf course, a café, a miniature railway, amusements and not forgetting the Floral Hall. There are many photographs available of Hazelwood and Bellevue Gardens. These are some of my favourite, dated between the 1920s and 1950s. Enjoy!

Arthur McIlwaine

Bellevue from the Plateau



Bellevue List of Attractions

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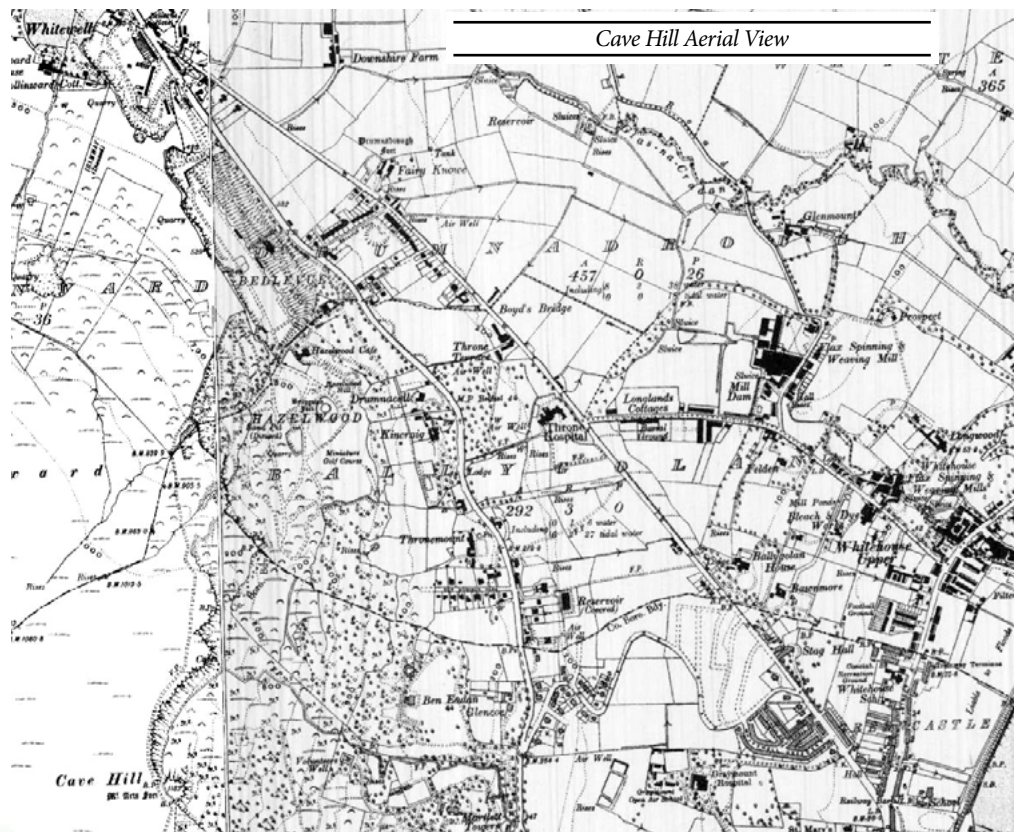
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Cave Hill Aerial View





# Watercolour Paintings

## Cave Hill from the parks in North Belfast

Every morning of every week since my retirement from work, I have walked our dog through the parks that all lie within a 5 kilometre radius of my home on the Antrim Road, North Belfast. This daily routine has replaced my not so interesting and very stressful journey to work and has provided an opportunity to get to know and appreciate the landscape in the vicinity of my home.

I have created a seasonal collection of small watercolour paintings from my many observations made on

these daily walks. They use the Cave Hill, probably Belfast's most well known natural landmark, as a link between each of our city parks because in this part of Belfast we can see it from so many places. Sometimes it dominates the view in front of us and other times it's a small detail among trees and buildings, but its changing face throughout the year gives my mornings a sound focus, a great source of inspiration and joy in the simple fact of being alive.

*Brendan Ellis*



*Autumn fading to Winter viewed from the path between the Waterworks ponds*



*Cave Hill above the Grove Playing Fields*



*Cave Hill through the trees of Alexander Park*



*The north face of Cave Hill viewed from the Valley Park, Newtownabbey*



*Early signs of Autumn near the Cave Hill Fire Station entrance to the Waterworks*



*Winter willows on the edge of the frozen lower pond in the Waterworks*



# To Do about Dog Do! What to do!

## How to feel really saintly on your morning walk!

Dog waste on our paths is loathed by most walkers, runners, cyclists and pram pushers. In fact many of the citizens of Belfast complain vigorously when faced by an offending faeces on the path ahead.

As a responsible dog owner I would say my dear pet would never leave a trace of dirt in anyone's path - even after dark when she is out for her night time stroll.

However I admit there can be a problem and the solution is not totally pleasant. We are never going to eradicate all dogs - nor their owners. And what about other animals of the night who pollute the pavements. We couldn't even catch them.

The solution is simple and obvious. Already many good citizens pick up other people's litter and deposit it in nearby bins. All we need to do is carry an extra 'Do' bag or two and LIFT the offending dog deposit disposing of it appropriately. This will clean the environment, and stop feet and prams becoming contaminated. You will gain such a good feeling for being the best citizen around.

Dog Do is the responsibility of humans and as such we should all DO our bit for the environment. MY IDEA - I THOUGHT OF IT FIRST (when they're giving out the awards!)

*Ann Marrion McCambridge*



*Trees donated by the Woodland Trust being planted by members.*



# Delightful Photographs Taken by Our Members

*If you have any pictures old or new, please share with us on Facebook or by email. We would love to place them on our website so they can be viewed by people from all over the world who have an affinity with Cave Hill.*



*Early risers meet at the Castle Gates*



*Early morning bird misting event*



*View from the Caves*



*Exhibition at Ballynature Day, Ballynure*



*Emergency services arrive at Cave Hill*





*Litter picking to help keep our Hill tidy.*



*A sea of bluebells.*



*Beaming bright yellow gorse, a sight to behold!*



*Look up, Cave Hill is behind you.*





*Chewing the cud.*

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# My Dissertation Study on Cave Hill.

Unlike most others who are interested in Cave Hill Country Park, I am not from the local area. The site is not close to where I live and grew up. However, I am a student at Queen's University, and it is through my time studying in Belfast that I came into contact with Cave Hill. As a geography student I have an avid interest in the relationship between human beings and the natural landscape. This includes why we humans have an intimate relationship with the landscape and also the impacts that we have on the natural world. When it came to deciding what my dissertation theme would be it was clear that it would focus on this topic. While planning my dissertation, it was recommended that I focus on Cave Hill and it did not take me long once I visited the site to decide that it was perfect for my study. The Belfast Hills play a critical role in defining the landscape surrounding Belfast which means they are of paramount importance to a large portion of the community. The Belfast Hills and Cave Hill in particular are unique. They provide access to nature so close to a city, where a wide range of activities can take place, offering varying significance to a wide variety of people. Cave Hill in particular is an incredibly attractive site offering a wide variety of activities in one location from picnics to hiking.

As part of my investigation into Cave Hill I created an online survey in order to help me gain access to the importance that the site has to those who visit it often. This survey investigates the personal relationship of the participants to Cave Hill Country Park. This relationship includes how often the site is visited by the individual, the activities that are carried out and the importance of addressing certain issues. The survey was completed by 101 respondents. Of these 101 responses over 50% visit the site on a weekly basis and 97% visiting at least on an annual basis. This indicates that the site is of great importance to almost all of the participants in the survey which is visited on a regular basis.

The length of time spent at the site by 94% of the group ranges between 1-5 hours. This further indicates the importance of the site to the individuals as they spent a substantial period of time at Cave Hill. Due to the fact that people spend a lot of time there it is important that it caters sustainably to the variety of people who access it. The participants of the survey have ranked how abundant certain issues which could be addressed are at Cave Hill. 72.9% of the surveyed population have expressed that the presence of litter is moderate to abundant around the pathways and 73% believe that dog fouling is also evident around the site.



*Lough view from McArt's Fort*

Covid-19 has made Cave Hill more popular recently than in previously times. With more people visiting the site the paths have shown signs of wear and tear making it an increased issue that needs to be addressed. While asked to rank the issue of path deterioration 70% of the group ranked it as being an issue.

Through my investigation it has become clear just how important Cave Hill is to those who visit it. These visitors enjoy the site for a variety of reasons and believe that it is important to protect it so that future generations can benefit from Cave Hill as we are today. The Cave Hill community is increasing as more people are recognising the importance of nature, especially now with the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions associated. With increased foot-traffic it has become more evident now that we can have a negative impact on the natural beauty of the landscape. In order to improve and maintain this natural amenity of which there are few and make it an even more important site going forward we have to combat issues such as dog fouling, litter, and antisocial behaviour. The vast majority of the visitors value and respect this gift that nature has provided. Hopefully through education and positive reinforcement the community will help rectify these issues and it will allow everyone to enjoy their visits to the full potential of Cave Hill.

*Claire McLaughlin*

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## Wordsearch

*There are 8 words hidden in the word search below, the words may be found across, down, diagonally and backwards and can overlap with each other. The words are all associated with Cave Hill.*

E	N	E	T	S	N	R	D	T	C	E
L	A	W	R	D	L	W	S	A	E	N
H	I	H	U	A	N	L	V	N	R	I
T	T	A	L	C	R	E	U	D	N	R
E	L	O	R	T	R	O	F	F	N	G
G	E	L	E	T	R	W	N	B	N	E
A	H	A	W	T	H	O	R	N	N	R
L	A	R	I	M	D	A	D	E	R	E
K	K	L	A	H	C	L	S	I	R	P
A	H	A	Z	E	L	W	O	O	D	D
E	U	F	E	T	S	O	P	B	R	R

*Wordsearch answers at the end of the magazine.*

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# When is a Diamond not a Diamond?

## Reflections on the Cave Hill Diamond

The BBC has recently reported that many thousands of people in South Africa have flocked to a small village in the belief that a large diamond has been discovered there. The discovery of a crystal - like stone in a field has resulted in a diamond rush as people eagerly anticipate the opportunity of instant wealth.

Unfortunately for the gem seekers, the stone has been analysed and has been certified as a piece of quartz, undoubtedly very attractive, but in monetary terms, of little value.

The term 'Quartz' comes from the Greek, meaning 'ice' and ancient Greek philosophers, like Theophrastus believed that the transparent stone was a permanent form of ice, so cold, that it did not thaw. Some cultures used quartz amulets to ensure good health, prosperity, positive results in battle and the ancient Egyptians believed that quartz amulets ensured longevity.

Science informs us that quartz, (Silicon Dioxide) is the most common element on the earth and is the second



*The Cave Hill Diamond*

most abundant element in the earth's crust, after feldspar. It is found in nearly every geological environment, and this fact brings us quite some distance from the ancient Greeks and Egyptians, nearer to home and to the Cave Hill itself.

In previous articles in the Campaigner, in 2000 and 2009, John Gray explored the myths, folk songs and the history of the Cave Hill Diamond, from obscure references to the fact of its existence when it came to light in the

late 1800s. His articles make interesting reading and I would encourage the 2021 audience of the Campaigner to visit the past editions on the website for an extended explanation of this quirky story.

The photographs accompanying this short article reveal an impressive crystal, weighing around 830 grams, a substantial size and an attractive appearance. It remained in the possession of John Erskine of North Street, Belfast and his descendants until 2008.

In 2009 it was presented to the Linen Hall Library as a gift from the Erskine estate and it was put on display, creating much interest. The library was delighted with this acquisition and at the time of its presentation, it was described by Rachel Wetherall, the library's P.R. and Marketing Officer as 'a cultural icon'. Those wishing to view it should enquire about its location as it has been moved on occasion.

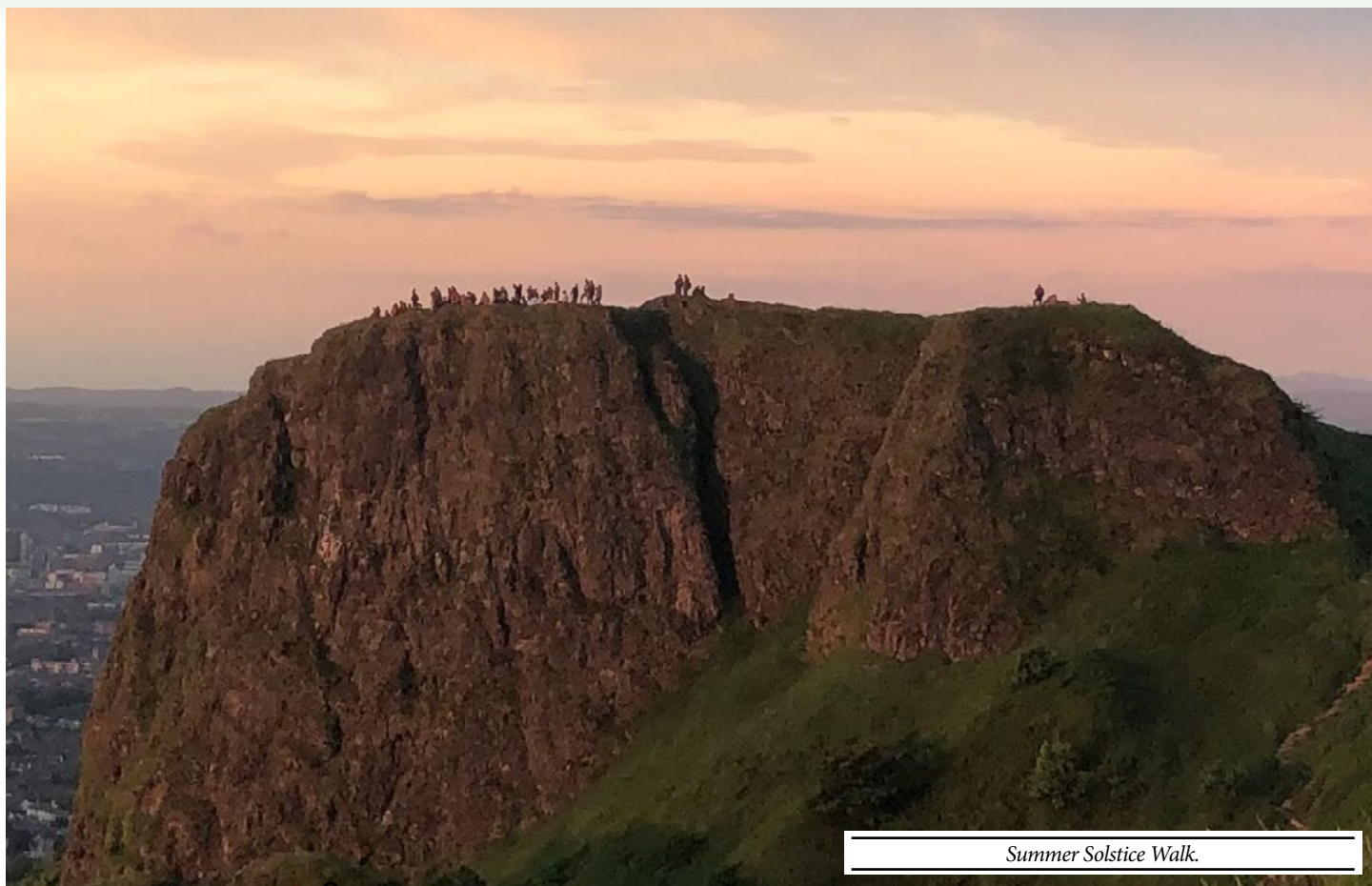
So perhaps there are not diamonds in 'them thar hills' and we shouldn't expect crowds with spades and pick axes ascending the slopes of Cave Hill but we do have an interesting and attractive piece of mineral rock, alluded to in story and song and explained by science, to reflect upon as we walk the hills around Belfast.

*Martin Donaldson*

*Display at the Linen Hall Library, Belfast*







Summer Solstice Walk.



## CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS!

If you are a member wishing to renew your membership for 2021, or a new member wishing to join, it's never been simpler! Please attach a cheque to the form below and send it to:

Cave Hill Conservation Campaign,  
32 Waterloo Park, Belfast, BT15 5HU

*All e-mail addresses will be kept secure and only used to communicate with our members*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ £10 Waged

☐ £5 Unwaged (Please tick appropriate box)

☐ If you are a current British taxpayer, please tick here (we will then be able to reclaim the income tax already paid from the Inland Revenue. Ticking this box will not cost you any more money, but will benefit the Cave Hill Conservation Campaign.)

There are 2 ways to pay:

• Cheque, payable to Cave Hill Conservation Campaign

• Bank transfer (standing order if possible)

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(Cave Hill Conservation Campaign, Allied Irish Bank, Glengormley)

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## Wordsearch Answers:

Cave	Chalk	Fort
Hawthorn	Hazelwood	Peregrine
Redadmiral	Trail	

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