



OTHER RECIPIENTS OF FREEDOM OF THE CITY HAVE BEEN

MILITARY HEROES WITH STRONG FAMILY OR HISTORICAL ULSTER CONNECTIONS

- Sir George Stuart White VC, 'The Hero of Ladangh' (1906)
- Lord Roberts of Kandahar (1906)
- Field Marshal Henry Wilson (1919)
- Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery of Alamein (1944)
- Field Marshal Harold Alexander of Tunis (1945)
- Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke (1946)
- General Dwight D. Eisenhower (1945)

CELEBRATED HEROES OF THE ARTS, SPORTS AND SCIENCE

The first scientist given the Freedom of the City was Belfast born Sir Joseph Larmor FRS, eminent physicist and mathematician, and Sir Alcew Wright, lexicographer and lexicologist both 1910.

The first artist to enjoy the Freedom of the City was Belfast born Sir John Lavery RA (1930), an official artist in the Great War. The award of the honour to the poet John Keats in 1963 introduced the practice of conferring of the city's highest honour. Dame Mary Peters, the Olympic champion athlete, was given the honour in 2015.

In 2014, the renowned singer-songwriter and native son Van Morrison OBE, later to be Sir George Ivan Peter Morrison, was awarded the honour. The following year, Michael Longley CBE was made Freeman for his poetry and his invaluable contribution to the cultural life of the city during troubled times.

CEREMONIAL KEYS



FREEDOM OF THE CITY



MARGARET TITTEL





Marcon is continuing to make its mark on the museum and heritage sector. Since the last edition of our newsletter we have completed some high profile projects and have been awarded a number of exciting schemes.

This newsletter will give you an insight into these projects and how we are continuing to build our brand within the sector. We have also launched a new website www.marconheritage.com

Demonstrating that geography is not an issue, our talented heritage team has been working in the medieval surrounds of Ireland's Ancient East and over the summer will be visiting Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland to complete the UK's first landscape discovery centre.

The next couple of months will see our team complete sporting, military and cultural exhibitions, and visitor attractions across the UK and Ireland.

Enjoy the read!

Front Cover Image

Marcon has completed the fit-out of the new exhibition in Belfast City Hall which explores the cultural, political and sporting history of the city.



Marcon Completes Fit-Out of New Kilkeny Medieval Mile Museum

Marcon has handed over the latest project in Ireland's Ancient East – the new €6.5 million Kilkeny Medieval Mile Museum.

The 13th century St Mary's Church is the finest example of a medieval church in Ireland and has been converted into a modern museum. The stunning venue will also be available for select events and exhibitions.

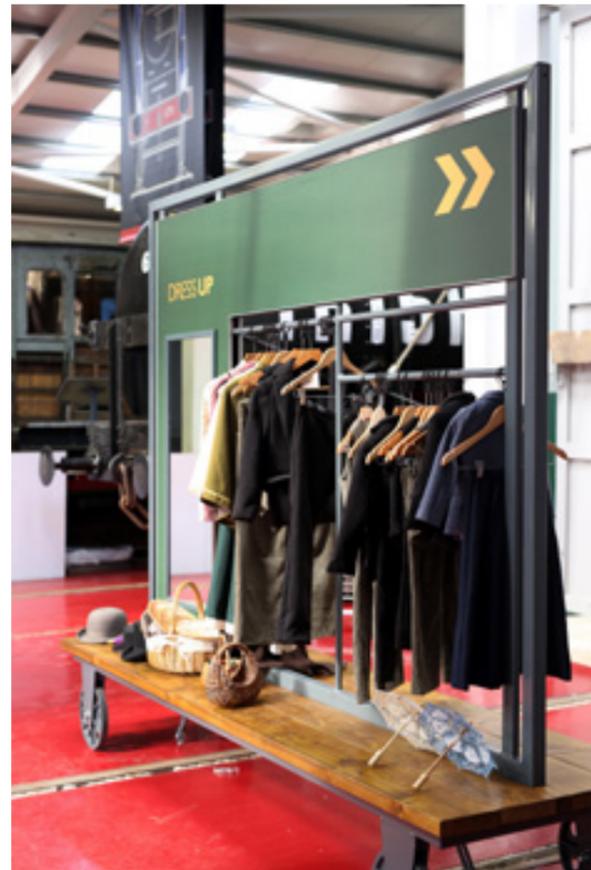
Working closely with leading Edinburgh-based interpretive designers Bright, Marcon completed the intricate scheme which complements the architecture and blends traditional and contemporary features within St Mary's Church.

Marcon was responsible for the manufacture and installation of all specialist joinery and corian plinths, graphics, conservation grade display cases and the coordination of all audio visual hardware. Kilkeny's 800-year story is told with a contemporary twist within the new museum.

The customer experience contains a long colourful interactive touchscreen table, an elongated plasma TV screen and projected imagery onto a giant wall allowing visitors to get immersed in the rich history with the aid of modern technology. Visitors are led to the priceless LiberPrimus Kilkeniensis – the First Book of Kilkeny dating from 1231, using intriguing floor projection.

“The fit-out of the Kilkeny Medieval Mile Museum was an enjoyable project to be involved in. It was a pleasure to work with the entire project team to bring the interpretive design to life. To see the restoration of St Mary's church and the transformation of the building into a fully functioning museum was a rewarding experience for our heritage team. The combination of traditional and contemporary elements, the use of stone, timber and Corian throughout the space and the integration of audio visual displays and stunning showcases makes this project very special.”

Martin McErlean, Heritage Contracts Manager



“Full steam ahead” for new Railway Museum

Marcon has completed the fit-out of the new Railway Museum and Interpretive Centre in Whitehead. The company's heritage team has added the finishing touches to the new £3m project which has transformed the RPSI's base into a modern tourist attraction.

Marcon was responsible for the manufacture and installation of all specialist joinery, display cases, integration of audio visual hardware, interactives and installation of graphics within the new museum space.

Working closely with interpretive designers GBDM, Multimedia Team CMC Associates and RPSI volunteers, Marcon converted the carriage workshop and locomotive sheds into a fully functioning museum.

Martin McElean, Contracts Manager, Marcon comments; "It has been a pleasure to work with the client and the design team on this project and to share in their enthusiasm of showcasing our railway heritage. The RPSI do some amazing work restoring historically important locomotives.

This new visitor attraction is a living museum that will tell the story of the development of the railways and the RPSI in an engaging way. Visitors of all ages will be able to watch from a viewing gallery as work is carried out on locomotives within the engineering workshops."



Marcon Awarded Fit-Out of The UK's First National Landscape Discovery Centre

Marcon has been appointed to carry out the fit-out of The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre in Northumberland. Due to open this summer, The Sill is an architecturally stunning building that will transform how people of all ages understand and explore landscapes, history, culture and heritage.

The Sill promises to be a visitor attraction like no other, it is designed to enable the landscapes of Northumberland National Park and surrounding Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to be opened up to even more people, including children, families, older people, disabled people and those who are less confident exploring natural places. The eagerly awaited centre is considered to be one of the UK's most significant museum projects of 2017.

A key part of the experience at The Sill will be the exhibition and interpretation areas to educate and engage audiences in a conversation about our shared landscapes. Edinburgh based interpretive designers Bright have employed Marcon to help turn the vision for the centre into reality.

Marcon will fit-out a series of designated spaces within the building namely the welcome lobby, visitor information, temporary exhibition and the main interpretive exhibition. Each of these spaces hosts a range of audio visual displays, graphics and interactive programmes.

Key to the delivery of this project will be Marcon's specialist joinery workshop. The company's skilled craftsmen will

manufacture and install all of the bespoke items which include; fitted furniture, interactive plinths, exhibition display structures, retail displays and feature wall panelling.

Harry Fisher, Projects Director at Bright adds; "We have been working with the team at The Sill for a number of years through the funding and design stages of the development. To complete the project successfully requires companies who are experienced in installing high profile projects to the highest standards. We know that Marcon have the experience, drive and enthusiasm needed to ensure the successful delivery of this nationally significant flagship project."



Marcon Puts The Finishing Touches To A New £1.3m Visitor Attraction At Belfast City Hall

Our latest museum and heritage fit-out project has been officially opened by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Brian Kingston. The new visitor attraction at Belfast City Hall charts the history of Belfast from a quiet hamlet to the vibrant, innovative, attractive city it is today.

This self-guided visitor exhibition takes up the ground floor of the City Hall's east wing fulfilling the council's ambition to make the building more inclusive and welcoming. It also contributes to the council's Belfast Agenda putting good relations front and centre of city centre regeneration.

Marcon worked with interpretive designers Redhead Exhibitions to transform the space into a modern exhibition. The design allows visitors to interact with the rich cultural heritage of Belfast and facilitate the effective and efficient flow of people throughout the space which includes the new exhibition, the official guided tour, the stained glass window collection and the memorial grounds.

Marcon completed the fit-out of the 16 rooms and was responsible for the

installation of all of specialist joinery and fitted furniture, feature display cases to house artefacts, exhibition graphics, seamless floor graphics and illuminated signage within the exhibition. The company commissioned local conservator Sean Madden from Fine Art Conservation to install artefacts and manufacture mounts within the exhibition.

Mark O'Connor, Director, Marcon comments; "The fit-out of the new exhibition at Belfast City Hall was a challenging and rewarding project. It is not every day that you get the opportunity to work within such an iconic building. The new exhibition tells the story of Belfast's past, present and future and combines the latest technology with traditional craftsmanship.

This is the latest high profile project completed by our specialist heritage team and adds to Marcon's reputation for delivering world class visitor attractions."

Sarah Lyons, Director, Redhead adds; "We are delighted that over 3 years of work has now been realised in the new exhibition. Initially, we worked with the political parties on Council to agree

how the past was to be represented. These were challenging sessions which led to a historic agreement. Today, our interpretation, designs and specifications for the exhibition are on show and available for everyone to enjoy in what is a terrific addition to our historical, political and tourist infrastructure."

Visitors will be able to journey through 16 rooms in the east wing of City Hall which has now been divided into six separate zones highlighting different aspects of the city of Belfast.

The zones are Growth and Governance; At Work and Play; City Speech and City Streets; The City Commemorates; The Reflection Space; and The City Celebrates. They cover everything from our distinct dialect to street games, how the winds of rebellion in the late 18th century swept across us, the importance of our manufacturing and shipbuilding industries, the rise of trade unions, the First and Second World War, the Blitz, and our emergence from 'The Troubles' to the city Belfast is today.





Marcon appointed to carryout redevelopment of US Rangers Museum in Carrickfergus.

This summer Marcon will work with Tandem Design to modernise the United States Rangers Museum at Boneybefore. The unique facility first opened in 1994 following a 50th anniversary event when visiting US Rangers veterans generously gave their photographs and memorabilia to create a permanent exhibition.

The museum is dedicated to the men who joined the first battalions of the elite American Army unit, formed at Sunnylands Camp in Carrickfergus in June 1942.

Marcon will be responsible for the manufacture and installation of specialist

joinery, plinths, fitted furniture, graphics, touch screen interactives and display cases that will house the many artefacts from the museum.

The Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough, Councillor Audrey Wales MBE said: "When complete, the facility will boast a new, visually striking set of displays that will include previously unseen artefacts, photographs and extensive film footage.

The updated museum will offer a high quality visitor experience which aims to be a fitting tribute to the men who volunteered their services to the elite

fighting force the US Rangers."

The US Rangers – which is part of the US Special Forces today – was set up as a 'Commando style' unit drawn solely from volunteers and was nicknamed 'Darby's Rangers' after their dynamic leader Lieutenant Colonel William Darby.

They trained in extreme conditions and went on to fight in some of the deadliest battles in Europe and became one of World War II's most courageous and decorated units. It remains the only US military unit ever founded on foreign soil.



Marcon adds ‘spark’ to new visitor exhibition at Ardnacrusha

Marcon has been appointed to carry out the interpretive fit-out for a new exhibition at Ardnacrusha power plant in Limerick.

The Shannon hydroelectric Station was a major development by the Irish government in the 1920's to harness the power of the River Shannon.

The new exhibition details the history of the station, focusing on the spectacular feat of engineering used to construct the hydroelectric station.

The fit-out of the exhibition consists of the manufacture and installation of joinery networks, interpretive graphics and audio visual hardware. The new visitor attraction is due to open in the summer. The Shannon Scheme was one of the largest engineering projects of its day and it served as a model for large-scale electrification projects worldwide. Operated by the Electricity Supply Board of Ireland, it had an immediate impact on the social, economic and industrial development of Ireland. By 1935, it was producing 80 per cent of Ireland's electricity.

It continues to supply this power in the 21st century although its contribution is now only 2%. At the time, it was the largest hydroelectric station in the world, though this was soon superseded by the Hoover Dam, which commenced construction in 1930.



Cromford Mills Wins EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award

Cromford Mills is a large complex of industrial mill set in the beautiful Derwent Valley in Derbyshire, a UNESCO World Heritage site. It consists of 20 buildings, the earliest and most substantial of which were built commencing in 1771 by Sir Richard Arkwright, the inventor and entrepreneur. Arkwright, with his patented water frames, revolutionised the manufacture of cotton from a small

cottage industry and created what is now regarded as the world's first successful factory at Cromford Mills.

Marcon worked with interpretive designers Tandem to fit-out the new Gateway Visitor Centre. The jury noted the high quality of the centre and stated that "the interpretive activities and materials for children are a great addition to the site and its educational function is significant for the entire World Heritage site".

The project to recover Building 17 of the complex was initiated by The Arkwright Society, a small voluntary organisation. The organisation bought the building and secured substantial funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund to redevelop this Grade I listed site into a gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and a centre for creative industries on the upper floors.



Marcon Named in Squad to Complete Women's Rugby World Cup Exhibition

This summer Ireland will host the Women's Rugby World Cup with fixtures played in Belfast and Dublin.

To mark the occasion Ulster Rugby is adding to the popular exhibition at the Nevin Spence Memorial Centre at the Kingspan Stadium.

Marcon has been selected to deliver the intricate exhibition fit-out that will consist of joinery networks, graphics, display cases and audio visual hardware.

World Rugby Chairman Bill Beaumont adds: "The Women's Rugby World Cup is going from strength to strength. The 2014 tournament in France was a huge success as was the 2010 version in England. As women's rugby is currently one of the world's fastest growing team sports, we have no doubt that the 2017 event in Ireland will continue that upward trend and inspire the next generation of future stars."

The Semi-Finals will take place in Kingspan Stadium on Tuesday 22nd August with the Final scheduled for Saturday the 26th in the home of Ulster Rugby.

Ranking play-off games will take place in Queens University over the same dates. All of Ireland's knock-out matches will take place in Kingspan Stadium.



Marcon's Redevelopment of American Air Museum at IWM Duxford highly Commended at Industry Awards

The £3m transformation of the American Air Museum at IWM Duxford, which houses the largest collection of American aircraft on public display outside the United States received the runner up prize within the hotly contested 'Permanent Exhibition' category in this year's Museum + Heritage Awards.

The museum tells the story of Anglo-American collaboration in twentieth and twenty-first century conflict, as seen through the eyes of the people linked with the aircraft and objects on display. From Private to President, the American Air Museum tells the personal stories of 85 people whose lives have shaped or been shaped by their experiences of conflict.

Working closely with leading interpretive designers Redman, Marcon completed all of the museum network displays, graphics, interactive exhibits and coordinated the installation of the integrated audio visual hardware and display cases.

Our team was on 'cloud nine' after receiving this recognition at the ceremony in London.

Well done to everyone involved in the project!



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