

RIADA HOUSE



Ballymoney Unitarian Church, 1832

Riada House was a Unitarian Church from 1832-1949. This illustration shows the facade of the building before it was converted into the Council offices in 1950.

The earliest municipal government of the town of Ballymoney was the Town Commissioners who were first elected to office in 1845. Their primary responsibility was to provide “lighting, cleansing and paving” and they met in the old Town Hall, now the Masonic Hall, Charlotte Street.

By 1866 the responsibilities of the Town Commissioners had significantly increased and they had moved their seat of power to the newly built Town Hall, in Townhead Street.

In 1898 an Urban District Council and a Rural District Council were subsequently established in Ballymoney to serve the town and the surrounding communities.

By 1950 new offices were needed for the Rural District Council and Riada House was opened by Sir Basil Brooke, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.

In 1973 Ballymoney District Council was formed, merging much of the former Urban and Rural Council areas and Riada House became the offices of the new body. In 1977 Ballymoney was granted Borough status and elected its first Mayor, Councillor F.E.C. Holland, and four Aldermen.

Riada House remains the centre of government for this region and reflects the tradition of fair and balanced elected representation in North Antrim.



Key

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| 1 Ballymoney Town Hall | 11 The Old Bank House |
| 2 St James's Presbyterian Church | 12 Old Church Tower |
| 3 Belfast Bank Building | 13 St. Patrick's Parish Church |
| 4 Ballymoney Reformed Presbyterian Church | 14 Birthplace of comedian James Young |
| 5 Old Court House | 15 Trinity Presbyterian Church |
| 6 Charlotte Street | 16 Ballymoney First Presbyterian Church |
| 7 Masonic Hall & Town Clock | 17 Ballymoney Railway Station |
| 8 Home of 1798 Rebellion Magistrate George 'Bloody' Hutchinson | 18 Ballymoney Methodist Church |
| 9 Home of renowned playwright George Shiels | 19 Kirgan Monument |
| 10 Samuel Robinson, founder of the Robinson Memorial Hospital, served his apprenticeship here | 20 Church of Our Lady & St. Patrick |

For more information on the history of Ballymoney, please visit the Tourist Information Centre & Museum in Ballymoney Town Hall.



View of Church Street, c.1910

The town of Ballymoney began to grow rapidly four centuries ago. Many settlers arrived from Scotland and others were attracted here by the thriving agricultural markets and the prospect of work. The modern town still reflects the layout found on early maps, with the busy thoroughfare of Main Street connected to Church Street, Pyper Row (now Charlotte Street), Castle Street and Meeting House Lane. The oldest surviving building in the town is the Old Church Tower which has been standing since 1637.