

BALLYMONEY TOWN HALL

Ballymoney Town Hall was first opened on Tuesday, 28 August 1866



Ballymoney Town Hall, 1866

This illustration demonstrates how the modern Town Hall still retains much of the architectural character of the original building.

Since then it has always been an important local building and has provided valuable service for all the community.

As a civic centre it was the former offices of the local Council for over a century and has welcomed many famous visitors. As a friendly, social venue, it continues to host concerts, dances, plays, weddings, grand gala dinners and the meetings of many local community groups.

Inside are rooms which commemorate some of Ballymoney's most celebrated historical figures – George Shiels, the playwright, K.K. McArthur, Olympic gold medallist and James Cramsie.

Cramsie helped to establish the town's first museum and subscribed over £400 to the building of the Town Hall. A stained glass window at the front of the building depicts the former Ballymoney Coat of Arms.

In 1934 the Town Hall was renovated for the first time and the Ballymoney Drama Festival, now the oldest in Ireland, was launched in the newly refurbished auditorium.

In 2005 an extension was added to the rear of the building, providing a museum and tourist information centre. Ballymoney Borough Council is proud to have ensured the future of this historic building for generations to come.



HERITAGE SITES IN BALLYMONEY

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 |



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.

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