

The Cave Hill Campaigner

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Resurrection of the Chapel?

The Chapel of the Resurrection, off Innisfayle Park is a sad little building with a sad history. It deserves better treatment, not only because of its architectural history and its association with Belfast's leading family for three hundred years but also because, despite being unused for nearly fifty years, it has withstood all attempts by the elements to reduce it to rubble.

The Chapel of the Resurrection stands in over 2 acres overlooking Belfast harbour. It was built in the late 1860s and consecrated in 1869. It was a family church for the third Marquis of Donegall and also a mortuary chapel for his only son Frederick, who died in Naples while on the Grand Tour, aged only 25. It was designed (probably by John Lanyon, son of Charles) by the firm of Lanyon & Lynn.

Following the death of the third marquis in 1883, the Donegall estate passed to his daughter Harriet who by this time was Countess of Shaftesbury. Regular use of the Chapel was abandoned in 1915 and in 1934, it was given by the Shaftesburys to Belfast City Council but critically there was no endowment to ensure its upkeep. In 1938 it was transferred to the Church of Ireland and became part of St. Peter's Parish. It was surplus to requirements by the Church of Ireland, a problem exacerbated by the changing demography in the



The Chapel as it is today

area and the fall in the number of members. However regular Sunday services did continue up to 1965.

During the 1970s the fittings were removed and the now derelict building became prey to vandalism. The roof was stripped of lead and the stained glass windows smashed. In 1974, it was listed B+ by the Department of the Environment. The Church of Ireland tried to get permission to demolish it but it was opposed by local residents and permission was refused. In 1982, bodies of seven members of the Donegall family in the vault were disturbed and desecrated. These bodies were subsequently collected, cremated and removed to St. Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus. In 1986, the building was deconsecrated and in 1989 sold to Glenbrook Homes for £56,000. Subsequently, it was acquired by Merit Homes, a subsidiary of the Conway Group.

We in Cave Hill Conservation Campaign have been concerned about its fate for many years, but in the past year, we have stepped up efforts to bring it back into public ownership and find a use for it. We have approached the developer who has indicated that he

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might entertain an offer to lease or buy the building. We have met Alex Attwood, the Minister of the Environment and Carál Ní Chuilín, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure. Following the latter meeting, we met with representatives of the Sports Council and then the Arts Council. We also met Unionist Politicians, the Belfast City Council Heritage Officer and the Belfast Buildings Trust. We wanted to bring the Chapel to the attention of decision makers and to initiate a debate among them in the hope that some funded body would step forward and offer to obtain, refurbish and run the building.

As we go to press, there has been a development; the developer, Merit Investments & Properties, has been in touch with us and we have had a meeting. It appears that the developer wants to set up a Trust to do precisely what we have wanted and campaigned for – to restore the Chapel and to find sustainable public use for it. This will be a long process. It will require setting up a group of 'Friends', exploring what uses the local community could find for it, putting together a business case and applying for funding. We will be part of that group and I am optimistic that at long last, the Chapel will be a vibrant part of the local environment.

Cormac Hamill

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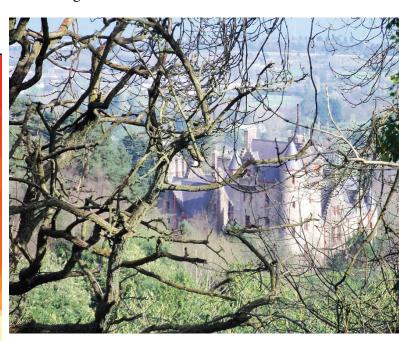
A Not So Cunning Plan?

The mere mention of planning law can cause even the most interested citizen to yawn and then stumble to the kitchen to make a cup of tea. That is until the stage, usually too late, when the same citizen's neighbourhood is forever transformed by unsympathetic or brutal development.

That is why the new Planning Bill currently wending its way through the Assembly should be scrutinized very carefully by all citizens.

As Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) point out, the planning system in Northern Ireland does indeed require streamlining. However the present Draft Planning Bill has serious flaws which most certainly require attention.

The Bill, for example, provides for a strategy to consider the promotion of economic development in the planning process. There is a clear risk that this clause could be invoked by planners or ministers in ways which might over-ride environmental considerations







The CCC deputation on a visit to the DCAL minister, Carál Ní Chuilín, accompanied by Tierna Cunningham, SF councillor for the Castle ward.

or local interests in favour of ill-defined economic interests. Such a clause could indeed result in a clash between a minister, or planners, and the expressed opposition of local residents. Professor Geraint Ellis of the Department of Planning and Architecture at Queen's University is also critical of the proposed legislation, pointing out that planning staff have no particular expertise in economics or economic forecasting.

In his article on the issue in the Belfast Telegraph

(March 142013) the columnist Eamonn McCann acerbically points out that with respect to such a conflict of interests the appeals procedure envisaged by the Bill is essentially nonexistent since the relevant minister will have power to appoint Planning Appeal Commissioners. He refers to a Friends of the Earth hypothetical where a plan, for example, to demolish St Anne's Cathedral in favour of a shopping mall could theoretically be accepted on the grounds that the Cathedral does little for economic development, while a shopping complex would create hundreds of jobs. 'Economics' trumps all.

Lest you, dear reader, think this too aggressive, consider the views of a very down to earth organization: The Belfast Holyland Regeneration Association. This represents the views of long term residents in that part of Belfast and it works with various agencies, including Belfast City Council, to identify suitable strategies to help develop the area.

The Belfast Holyland Regeneration Association believes that the proposed measure is "not fit for purpose" in promoting reform of planning or improving regulation. This group agree with Professor Ellis's analysis. In sum: the proposed planning Bill perpetuates fundamental

weaknesses in the existing system and does not go far enough in promoting reform; the failure to adequately define economic development is a fundamental oversight; and the proposed Bill will further skew the system in favour of developers and speculators - which is contrary to the public interest.

Edward McCamley



A woodland path in the Autumn

Our Cave Hill Seat



Alan Cargo talking to some of the attendees including the Deputy Lord Mayor, Tierna Cunningham at the launch. (It was a wet day!)

It began about two years ago in a conversation between two of us, high up on Cave Hill. As we were descending, we reached the point on the main path where the road to the Castle enters the tree line. There is a natural platform there. The amount of soil erosion showed that a lot of people stopped there and who could blame them? The place is at the top of the steepest part of the track where people would be feeling the effort of climbing. As well as that, it marks the first point on the ascent where the view opens out across to Holywood and Bangor. It is a natural stopping point.

We felt that by providing a seat there, we could provide a useful resource, reduce the erosion and pro-

mote ourselves. A wider discussion amongst us threw up the idea of making an artistic statement and involving young people. Our thought was that if we could give youngsters ownership of something on Cave Hill they could be proud of, both they and their friends would be more likely to take a more sensitive attitude to the Hill.

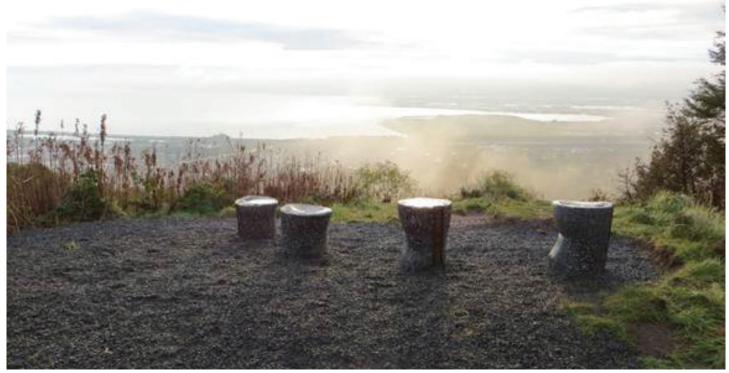
We contacted a number of local artists and asked them for ideas. At the same time, we applied for funding, 75% of which ultimately came from the Heritage Lottery Scheme of the Belfast Hills Partnership and 25%

from City Hall. The artist we chose, Alan Cargo, had a history of public art including the seat project in the Waterworks. His concept went beyond our idea of a seat. He wanted to reflect Cave Hill. His idea of an arc of pillars brings ancient monuments to mind and though there has been no standing stones discovered on Cave Hill, there are a number of Neolithic and Bronze Age sites. The composite material was chosen to reflect the grey-black basalt of the Hill and the white flecks represent both the chalk found commonly on the Hill and also the white zeolites which are found in the basalt.

We asked two schools to take part, Cavehill Primary School and St Therese of Lisieux. The head teachers,



The pupils from Cavehill Primary and St. Therese of Lisieux, with their teachers and Alan Cargo, the artist



The seat project in early morning light.

class teachers, class assistants and pupils were enthusiastic. Twelve year 6 and year 7 pupils from the schools met together with Alan over a period of weeks and under his guidance recorded their ideas about, and associations with, Cave Hill. These were then carved in clay and baked. The clay tablets were taken one day to the foundry and cast in bronze. The pupils were in-

vited to attend and were intrigued and fascinated by the process. Alan then built these bronze plaques into his pillars.

The pillars were finished and installed in September 2012 and on 3 October we had an official commissioning. The pupils from the schools, their teachers, members of Cave Hill Conservation Campaign, officers from both the Belfast Hills Partnership and Belfast City Council attended. The ceremony was led by the deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Tierna Cunningham, herself a keen walker on Cave Hill.

The seats now sit proudly there. They are there for your convenience. Visit them, use them, marvel at the location and think how lucky we are to have such a wonderful resource as Cave Hill near us.

Cormac E Hamill



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Rocks Of The Cave Hill

'How beautiful the city looks from here Gilded with an Easter morning light'

From 'Cave Hill, Easter 2003' by Ann Murray (North Belfast poet).

The Cavehill is composed of three different types of rock. These are:

(1) Basalt (on top), (2) Chalk (below) & (3) Flint (in the chalk).

(1) Basalt



Sample of unweathered basalt around 60 million years old.

When fresh, basalt is a black-coloured rock but much of the basalt of the Cave Hill has a brownish colour on its surface due to weathering by water and air. It is an igneous rock, formed when hot lava, at about 1,000°C, cools. It is around 60 million years old and geologists can ascertain this because it contains tiny amounts of radioactive potassium, which can act as a 'clock' to enable the rock to be dated. When this rock was formed the dinosaurs, and many marine animals, for instance ammonites, had just become extinct. The demise of the dinosaurs left an ecological niche for the mammals to expand and this resulted eventually in

the emergence of humans. Around 60 million years ago was a time of intense volcanic activity worldwide. Geologists refer to this time as the Early Palaeogene Period.

The basalt of the Cavehill is part of the Antrim Lava Group. How did this igneous rock form? During the Early Palaeogene Period the American tectonic plate 'pulled away' from the European plate, on which Ireland was situated, leaving the Atlantic ocean between them. This 'pulling away' caused the Earth's crust below Ireland to stretch and fracture and the fissures ran deep into the Earth, from where magma (molten rock) ascended to spill out as lava over the surface of the land in episodes of volcanic activity. This volcanism generally would not have been of the extremely violent type; it would have been something like the volcanic activity in Iceland in recent years. Still, around 60 million years ago, when the basalt lavas were being extruded, Northern Ireland would not have been a salubrious place for the animals and plants of that time.

A question often asked is: How did the basalt caves at the top of the Cave Hill originate? This is still a bit of an enigma. One explanation proposed is that they formed from giant gas bubbles in the lava. Maybe subsequently, during the Bronze Age, in the case of the lowest cave, locals excavated some of the basalt to increase the size of the cavity. It is likely that we shall never know for certain. Caves in basalt are rare, making the local examples a fairly uncommon feature.

(2) Chalk



The Co. Antrim Chalk is exposed at a number of places in the Cave Hill area. It is composed of almost

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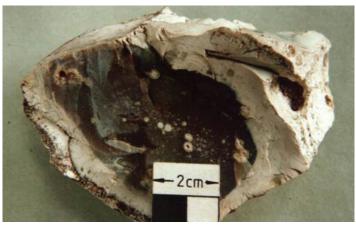
100% pure calcium carbonate. As it lies below the basalt, the chalk, as would be expected, is older than the basalt - being around 80 million years old – formed during what geologists call the Cretaceous Period. The name being derived from the Latin creta meaning 'chalk' because, during this time, this rock formed at many locations in the world. We can date the chalk because it contains fossils (belemnites, sea-urchins and others) which are approximately 80 million years old.

The Cave Hill/Co. Antrim chalk is much harder than, say, the contemporaneous chalk of southern England (e.g. the chalk of the White Cliffs of Dover). It was formerly thought this was caused by the heat of the overlying lavas but it may be because the weight of the overlying basalt played a significant part in the hardening.

How did the chalk form? Around 80 million years ago Ireland was covered by a warm shallow sea in which microscopic algae with calcium carbonate shells lived. When these organisms died, their shells fell to the sea floor where they became compressed and cemented to form the chalk we see today. Except for a very small exposure near Killarney, the chalk in Ireland is exclusive to north-east of the island where erosion was prevented by the overlying basalt.

(3) Flint

Usually a grey/brown colour, flint occurs in the Cave Hill area as nodules in the chalk and is composed of silica (also known as silicon dioxide). Often it can be seen with a white crust, but flint can be distinguished from the chalk because, unlike the latter, it cannot be scratched with a steel penknife. That is, flint is harder than steel. Flint played a major role in the lives of our



A broken sample of flint from the Cavehill.

remote ancestors – the Stone Age people – who first came to Ireland about 9,000 years ago. Because it is so hard and breaks to exhibit sharp edges, they used it for the manufacture of axe-heads, scrapers and weapons - artefacts which enabled them to survive. As the flint occurs in the chalk, it is the same age as the chalk – around 80 million years old.

How did flint form? To date there is no agreement among the experts as to how this occured. The most likely explanation is that it originated from the silica spicules ('spikes') of sponges, which inhabited the Cretaceous sea as the chalk was accumulating.

So, while traversing the Cave Hill and its environs, it is salutary to reflect that one is trampling on and viewing rocks that were laid-down in conditions vastly different from those of today, and that they are very many millions of years old, formed long before humans ever occupied Ireland - or, indeed, the Earth.

Patrick Gaffikin is the author of Irish Fossils (2008) and Set in Stone – A Geological Guide to the Buildings of Belfast (1999). He has also contributed articles to Earth Science Ireland (ed.) Tont Bazley.



So What Have We Been Doing Then?

We have been very active on Cave Hill this last year with varying degrees of success. A big disappointment was our inability, in advance of the Red Bull event, to initiate a reasoned debate about the wisdom of promoting mountain biking in a fragile environment. (for more detail, see Edward McCamley's article in this issue). There was, however, one good outcome: we had a meeting on 31 January with the director and vicedirector of the Parks and Leisure committee and we now have a written assurance that we will be consulted before City Council take any more decisions about events on Cave Hill. At the same meeting, we were assured that we would be provided with a written account of the plans for the restoration of the Hill to its pre-Red Bull state. This can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

On a happier note, our plans for a seat project bore fruit and in September, we launched the four pillars just below the caves. (See my article in this issue). We also organised our most diverse walks programme yet and a lot of people enjoyed and benefitted from these. Our programme this year is equally ambitious and promises to be as diverse and challenging.

We also had a number of meetings with government ministers, City Hall officials, Arts Council and Sports Council officials and others, all in an attempt to raise the profile of the Chapel of the Resurrection in Innisfayle Park, to stimulate discussion about it and





thereby to find a way to restore this building with such a sad history to reasonable public use. It will be a long process but we believe we made excellent progress. (See my article elsewhere in this issue).

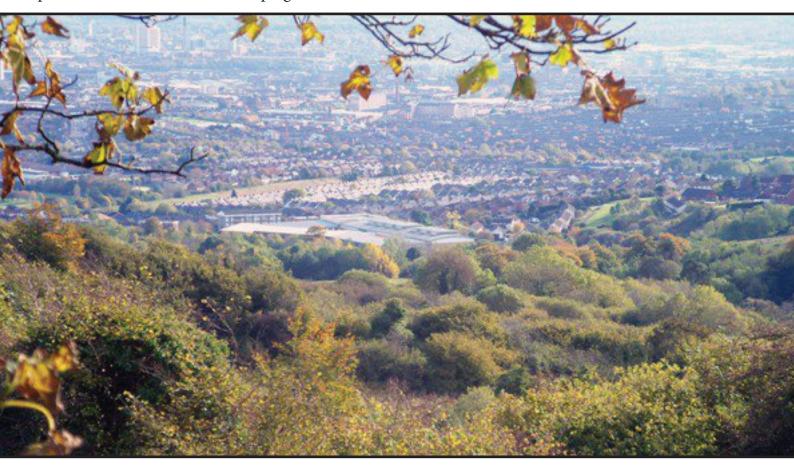
We were also out on the ground on Cave Hill a lot. We had two tree-planting sessions, one at Hightown Road and the other above the car park, south of the Castle. We had our own clean-up day in May and we assisted Belfast Royal Academy in their September clean-up. We also experimented with setting up a butterfly transect last year. This is a route which individuals amongst us will walk once a week recording the butterflies we see. This will begin in earnest this year and our observations will be sent to Butterfly Conservation Northern Ireland. We were pleased last year to have spotted three non-common butterflies: the dark green fritillary, the small copper and the grayling.

We have also recently had our website (www.cave-hillconservation.org) completely overhauled and it is now much more user-friendly. We have a blog section where we want to record peoples' reminiscences and observations of Cave Hill. Please do visit it and add to this blog.

I should draw to your attention the activities of the Belfast Hills Partnership on Cave Hill. About a year ago, it accessed well over a million pounds of Heritage Lottery funding and it has embarked on a comprehensive and multi-stranded programme which will extend over the next two or three years across the whole Belfast Hills range. On Cave Hill it funded most of the costs of our seat and it also funded the new path from McArt's Fort to join the pre-existing path down towards Hazelwood. There are other plans for Cave Hill including making the large Wallace quarry more wildlife-friendly and putting a proper path there.

Cave Hill is not without its problems: there are issues about scramblers and quads, dog-fouling, youngsters drinking and path erosion. We work closely with the City Council in highlighting these and discussing strategies. The Council employees in the Park are known to us and we can and do discuss everyday issues with them. We are now officially a Friends' organisation (even though we have kept our old name). The Council host our meetings, give us a small annual subvention and facilitate our conservation activities. Throughout, we have reserved the right to be critical of the Council whenever its policies or practices are wrong and this was well illustrated by our correspondence and interactions over the Red Bull event. Working in partnership with the Council when we can, we try to ensure that future generations in Belfast get as much enjoyment from Cave Hill as we do.

Cormac Hamill



The Red Bull Event

"The trees are in their autumn glory, the woodland paths are dry."

Well, not on Cave Hill after the *Red Bull* mountain biking event held on the 24 and 25 November 2012.

This competition, consisted of a triple circuit of the Hill (on each day) by more than a hundred bikers and followed the route shown in the accompanying map on the following page.

To facilitate *Red Bull*, Belfast City Council had set aside one of its own by-laws, authorised the removal of gates, the digging out of some sections of chalk path, and limited public access to Cave Hill for the duration



A popular route on Cave Hill before the event.

of the tournament.

In our view the timescale between the initial proposal and this event was too short – perhaps in anticipation of concerted local opposition. Ecological objections were set aside, and warnings about permanent damage to Cave Hill were dismissed with the fatuous claim that one walker with heavy boots did more damage to the Hill than mountain bikes.

Let our readers be clear. The *Cavehill Conservation Campaign* is not (as has been mischievously suggested)

opposed to bikers using Cave Hill. The Castle Estate and the adjacent Hill are for the recreation of all citizens: family groups, walkers, joggers – and bikers. The area is a shared space, and our organisation is dedicated to maintaining, and where possible, enhancing Cave Hill for the benefit of everyone who wishes to enjoy it. This objective, we believe, can only be achieved if what is a fragile environment is protected from abuse. In our view sustainable use is incompatible with international mountain bike rallies such as this.

It was abundantly clear from the outset that Belfast City Council favoured the *Red Bull* event. Media coverage and press releases were designed to caricature



The same place only a few days later.

critics as being motivated by a desire to preserve Cave Hill as their own very special preserve. A meeting in Belfast Castle on 3 November 2012 between representatives of the Cavehill Conservation Campaign, the *Red Bull* team (with whom we otherwise have no quarrel), and city councillors, proved to be an exercise in public relations. Later that evening the matter was passed and permission was given by the Council with no discussion whatsoever.

Damage to the paths on Cave Hill has been considerable. After the wet summer this was entirely







Rally Map

predictable and the photographs in the Campaigner will support this judgement. Those now attempting to walk the full circuit of Cave Hill encounter, in certain parts, badly degraded pathways. Continued use of the *Red Bull* route by bikers has made the situation worse. Attempts by walkers to circumnavigate the worst sections has created a series of unofficial pathways.

What is to be done? Admitting beforehand that there would be damage, Red Bull posted a bond and the Council undertook to repair the damage. It must honour this commitment.

There should be no permission for any further use of Cave Hill for such purposes. The area is too small and the eco-system too fragile. A repetition of this, or a similar event, will, in all probability, result in irreparable damage.

Cave Hill, which is lauded in *The Lonely Planet* as a tourist attraction, and by many citizens as a cherished feature of the city's natural and historical heritage. It is also of acknowledged importance to maintaining the character of this part of Belfast. Indeed the Cave Hill Conservation Campaign came into existence in order

Lucky the dog visits the site of the Old Gatekeepers Cottage.

to combat attempts to exploit the area for commercial advantage.

If Cave Hill is to be used by all the citizens there should be a determined effort by Belfast City Council to provide for and to maintain facilities and pathways. Sustainability should be more than just a slogan, and the public good should not be subservient to corporate interests. Rather than be subject to systemic degradation it should be the object of the highest standards of environmental protection.

We need the active support of the community to ensure that this is what happens. As a columnist for the Belfast Telegraph has pointed out, the merest mention of economic development tends to liberate politicians from the restraints of logic or the need for explanation. If the tourist potential of Cave Hill is to be properly realised, an environmental protection strategy is much more likely to be successful than abject surrender to whatever corporate entity makes an offer to raise the city's profile in return for the right to exploit a precious resource for immediate gain.

Edward McCamley

On the next page is a statement from the council in response to the issues raised.



Post Event Improvement Programme - The Council's Response

Cave Hill Country Park saw the first ever Red Bull Foxhunt in Northern Ireland last November. Since November, Belfast City Council has made a significant investment to improve the pathways and key features at Cave Hill, some of these actions are listed below:

Completed Works:

- Red Bull contributed £1,500 towards repairing paths, gullies and pot holes. Their staff also carried out remedial repairs to the upper level of the Fire Road directly after the event.
- Repairs were carried out to a path on the lower level of the Fire Road near the Cavehill Road, where drain water had begun to pool in a dipped area.
 A sump with a drainage stone was installed with smaller cut stone on the surface, to improve drainage and access for emergency services.
- Wooden sleepers were installed at the steep incline above the Volunteers Well, to reduce the rate of erosion and to allow easier access to the upper levels of the hill.
- Repairs were carried out to the lower pathways where drainage channels were cut into the paths to remove standing water.

Future plans:

- In the next few months: Belfast City Council will make improvements to the path network on the Fire Road leading to McArts Fort. The path requires work to deflect running water and to top-up stone levels. A contractor has been appointed by council.
- June August 2013: The area at Belfast Zoo which is currently covered thick with mud will be transformed with the construction of a new wooden boardwalk path. It was anticipated that this work would have been completed last winter but due to staff shortages and poor weather conditions, this project was delayed.
- Summer 2013 (subject to legal agreements): Plans have been drawn up to develop the path network around the quarry to improve safe access for visitors. Funding for this project will be sourced by Belfast Hills Partnership.
- September October 2013: Smaller pathways will be assessed to identify areas that require repairs following the growing season.
- November 2013 February 2014: The pathways, steps and edges will be upgraded at Hazelwood. The council will also start their routine winter work programme. This work involves topping up pot holes and dips with aggregate as well as draining areas of standing water. The council will also install wooden sleepers in particularly steep areas of terrain.



Cave Hill Quarry Casualties

Work in the Cave Hill quarries was a hard and dangerous business. Even the opening of the Cave Hill Railway running to the great quarry on the southern slopes of the hill on 5 September 1840 was marred:

"We are sorry to say that an unfortunate accident occurred... on account of the rope having been neglected to be drawn tight on the drum which lets down the laden wagons, and draws up the empty ones. One of the wagons ran off the line, and five men were thrown out – one of them named McQuillan, was severely injured."

We know little more about specific accidents in this quarry though a row broke out amongst the quarry shareholders in 1849 over subscribing to the General Hospital. John Wallace, the chief promoter of the quarry, won the day arguing that '... the hospitals at Belfast are frequently troubled with patients from accidents occurring at the quarries' and a modest two guineas was subscribed.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century as the working of the great southern quarry tailed off, it went on apace at the Whitewell quarry at the north end of the hill. We know far more of disasters there because by the 1870s newspapers were giving fuller coverage to accidents, and perhaps because this quarry seems to

have been exceptionally lethal.

In January 1871 an inquest was held on the death of Joseph McCrea who had been killed instantly by a fall of ten tons of rock on the 18th. He had been working at the foot of the 60 foot quarry face and, crucially, evidence was given that 'the quarry is never worked from the top downwards, but that the workmen always work at the bottom, undermining ... this perpendicular face of rock and thus bringing down at once immense "slides" or "falls" of the rock above them.'

This mode of operation had already taken a deadly toll. As the jurors on this occasion observed, 'fatal accidents have been of at least occasional occurrence in this quarry, as well as in other quarries in the neighbourhood which are worked in the same manner'. More specifically Joseph McCrea's father had been killed in 'a similar manner' three years earlier, and his brother 'in a like manner' four years before that!

Now in 1871 the jury concluded that Joseph McCrea had died because of his own 'foolhardiness' but that 'the manner of quarrying... (from below, upwards) is most dangerous for the workmen.' They noted that 'certain prosecutions which were recommended at the time of his father's death have not been carried out' and



A section of the old deer-park wall that is still standing.

recommended that in the light of the circumstances the owners of the quarry should make provision for McCrea's widow and three orphaned children.

Almost thirty years later in June 1900 an even more serious accident in which two workmen, Joseph Smith and John McRoberts, were killed and another, Robert McKeown, was seriously injured, made it clear that nothing had been learnt.

William Agnew had taken over the quarry in 1892 and quarried there for both blackstone and limestone, and operated a lime-kiln immediately adjacent to the Antrim Road. At the time of the accident he employed 60 men there.

It transpired that the workmen were tunnelling into the base of the cliff. As Nathaniel McRoberts, the brother of one of the deceased, put it, 'They went in to burrow it. This was a common thing in this quarry.' Mr Agnew, the owner, conceded that 'there was danger attending the working of the quarry,' though he had had 'every confidence' in the experience of Smith, his now dead foreman.

The quarrymen's mode of working was as follows:

The men work in gangs of three, and the usual process is to bore holes for blasting... One of the gang holds a crowbar while his companions hammer alternately until a hole of sufficient depth is made in the rock to admit the charge.

The gang caught up in the disaster had started work at 6.00am and during the day had bored four or five such holes to a depth of approximately 22 inches, and in each case blasting had followed. It was a long day because the last charge was not fired until 4.45 p.m.

Even then the men had to further break up the blasted rock with crowbars. They paused for a few minutes to check that all was safe, and then, under the supervision of Joseph Smith, advanced. Another

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workman, Hugh Doran, saw earth falling from the top of the cliff. Moments later a mass of perhaps 40 tons of rock fell enveloping three men. Robert McKeown was immediately pulled clear though badly injured, but the other two men were trapped though still alive. Then a further massive rockfall of some 200 tons entombed them and it was only after an all night struggle that their 'fearfully mangled' bodies were retrieved.

In the light of this evidence one juror certainly argued that 'the quarries should be worked from the top'. An inspector of quarries was present and 'agreed' though there is no evidence of any prosecution. The jury recorded a verdict of accidental death but with a rider that 'the quarry should be worked on the platform system.'

John Gray



Sunset on Cave Hill.



A mist hangs over Cave Hill.



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Discoveries!

Earlier in the magazine it was mentioned that the Cave Hill Conservation Campaign is taking part in a butterfly survey in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation Northern Ireland and now in a lizard survey as well. Here are three photos of what has already been spotted this year:



Thursday 25 April - Small tortoiseshell butterfly.







Ben Simon introducing one of our Walks in 2012.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS!

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	£10 Waged
	£5 Unwaged (Please tick appropiate 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

The Cave Hill Conservation Campaign is a Registered Charity (Charity Number XR96728)

Cave Hill Conservation Campaign.)

Cave Hill Walks Programme 2013 - Come And Join Us!

Our popular walks programme for this year started in April and there are still many interesting themed walks coming up!

All walks on Saturday mornings at 10.00am from Belfast Castle unless otherwise stated.

Approximate end time: 1.00pm

Event	Date	Time	Description
Birds	15 June	10:00am	Find out more about the lives of the birds that occupy the hill
Features	20 July	10:00am	Hear about the background to some of the features of the Cave Hill itself
Foraging	17 August	10:00am	Find edible plants! Are you game enough to try some?
Carr's Glen	21 Septem- ber	10:00am	Learn about its industrial heritage & see remnants of time gone by. Walk meets at entrance to Carr's Glen on Ballysillan Road (beside Boys Model School)
General	19 October	10:00am	Explore Ballyaghagan Natural Reserve and see a different side to the hill! Walk meets at Hightown Road Car Park