



Communities
& Youth
Together

Communities & Youth Together

About this publication

This publication offers an insight into the Communities and Youth Together programme (2014-2015) and the participants' communities of Carrick Hill and Inner East Belfast.

It combines photographs taken by young people, with text and narrative which documents the work of the programme and the groups.

The publication was facilitated and produced by the Westcourt Centre, on behalf of Springboard Opportunities Limited.

This project was funded by the International Fund for Ireland, under their Peace Impact Programme, and managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

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Introduction

This publication has been produced by on the Communities and Youth Together programme, which engaged 12-17 yr olds in the Carrick Hill area of Inner North Belfast and communities in Inner East Belfast. During 12 months the programme engaged over 40 young people in diversity education, personal and social education and capacity-building on a single identity and cross-community basis.

The programme partnership comprised Springboard Opportunities Limited and Carrick Hill Residents Association. The programme was funded by the International Fund for Ireland, under their Peace Impact Programme, and managed by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.



International Fund for Ireland

The International Fund for Ireland was established as an independent international organisation by the British and Irish Governments in 1986. The Fund focuses its efforts in Northern Ireland and the southern border counties of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo.

Their Peace Impact Programme (PIP) is designed to deliver real and positive community transformation through sensitive interventions in communities that have not previously, or only partially, participated in peace building and reconciliation activities. Such interventions are critical to building a truly integrated, shared and peaceful society.

PIP aims to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas suffering from high levels of economic and social deprivation, where there are low levels of engagement in peace building and where the Peace Process has delivered limited benefits.

www.internationalfundforireland.com

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI) started life in 1979 as the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust. The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is now into its fourth decade of delivering social change and supporting voluntary and community action with intelligent giving.

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland has spent the last four decades delivering innovative, challenging and impactful community development programmes, helping communities across Northern Ireland work to better their everyday lives.

www.communityfoundationni.org

Springboard

Established in 1992, Springboard works to maximise positive choices for people who face disadvantage, through building personal and professional capacity, promoting peace and an appreciation of diversity within a local and global platform. The organization has a significant track-record with a range of target groups, but particularly in supporting young people realise their potential and build employability, civic and social capacities. The organisation also has extensive international experience and works with organisations across Europe on capacity building programmes. By 2015 Springboard had provided learning and development opportunities for over 8400 people leading to increased impacts and benefits.

www.springboard-opps.org



The Programme

Over 12 months young people from each community participated on personal and social education workshops, completed accredited qualifications and built an understanding of their heritage and community. As the programme progressed participants were introduced to the theme of 'working with others', and both groups participated together on residential and fun activities to support group bonding and develop relationships. This in turn led to increased cross-cultural understanding and exchange.

The programme also involved 'service' activity through which participants were encouraged to engage in a positive way in their community. In Inner East young people organised a family fun day and produced an APP on useful services/resources for young people in East Belfast; and in Carrick Hill young people led a community clean up, made a community garden and produced a treasure hunt trail of Carrick Hill and its surrounding area.



Carrick Hill Group

The Carrick Hill group aged 12 – 17 years and met each Thursday evening in Carrick Hill Community Centre. Divided into two age groups the junior group (12 – 14) and senior group (15 – 17) showed great enthusiasm and commitment to the programme. Throughout the programme some of the junior members progressed into the senior group to build on leadership qualities and become junior leaders within the centre.

Participants were recruited for the programme through our community partner, Carrick Hill Residents Association. Founded in 1982 to address a multitude of issues around social housing and other associated deprivation matters, Carrick Hill Residents Association (CHRA) exists today to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment where residents can meet to socialise, network and learn. They provide community development, capacity building, learning and training activities for residents of all abilities and backgrounds aged 0-100 years.





Local History: Clifton St. Cemetery

The cemetery was opened in 1797 by the Belfast Charitable Society and is awash with historical significance. In the paupers section there are over 2000 burials with no individual headstones and many from the Great Irish Famine of 1845-51.

Among the famous historical people here are the United Irishmen Henry Joy McCracken, William Steel Dickson and William Drennan. Drennan put forward the idea of the United Irish Society in 1791 and he was also the first to refer to Ireland as the 'Emerald Isle'. Other distinguished figures include the Dunville Family (Whiskey Producers), Heron Family (Ulster Bank) and Ritchie Brothers (Shipbuilding).



Inner East Belfast Group

The Inner East Belfast group was made up of participants mainly from Lower Ravenhill. Aged 12-17 years they met each Tuesday evening in the Ulster Temple, Ravenhill Road. Divided into two age groups the junior group (12-14) and senior group (15-17) showed great enthusiasm for the programme and enjoyed the range of activities and workshops on offer and enjoyed meeting with their counterparts in Carrick Hill through the various activities and residential on offer.

Describing the programme one participant stated:

"This is a programme called CYT. It is situated on the Lower Ravenhill Road. We live at an interface area, so cross-community is important for our lives and future as young people. In the East Belfast group we learn about different religions and communities. This makes us more aware of who we are and what is around us".





Local History: RMS Titanic

East Belfast has a rich and famous maritime history and is synonymous with the city's golden era of shipbuilding. It is home to Harland & Wolff, which at one time was one of the biggest shipyards in the world, employing 30,000 people.

Today the symbolic Harland & Wolff cranes known locally as Samson and Goliath can be seen from all over the city and mark the industrial heritage of the past. Titanic Quarter is one of the world's largest urban-waterfront regeneration projects and sits on the site where RMS Titanic was designed and built. The new Titanic Belfast visitor centre tells the story of the Titanic and attracts tourists from all over the world.



Participant Feedback

"By taking part in the CYT programme I have learned how to interact better with people including those from another community."

"What I have liked best about the CYT programme is that I have learned about different religions and background."

"What I have enjoyed most about the CYT programme is the trips and being with people of other cultures as well as my own culture."

"I've learned that I enjoy working with people from other communities."



"By taking part in the CYT programme I have learned things I didn't know about my culture and other peoples and also how I can help in my community."

"I've learned how to be more independent."

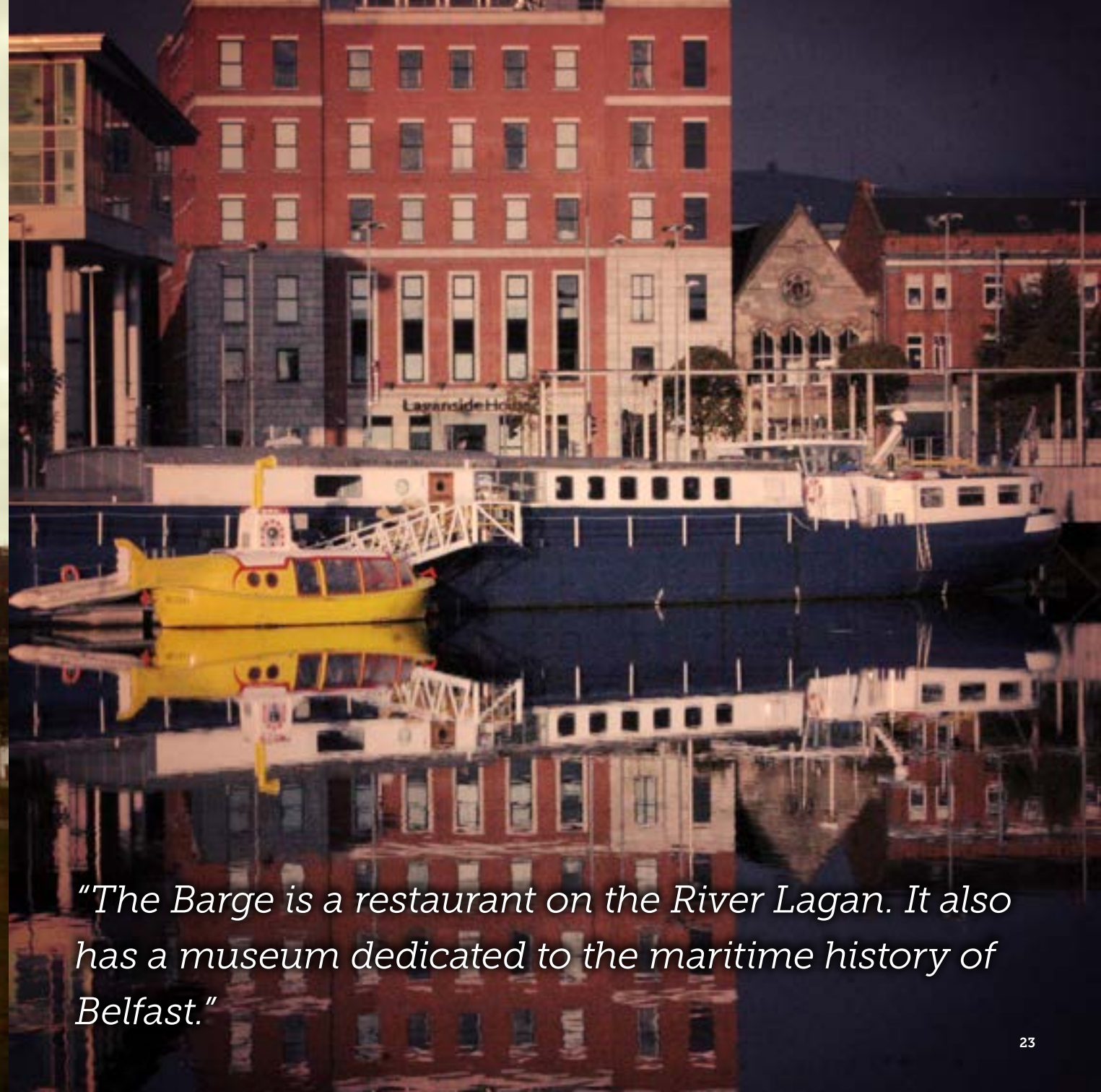
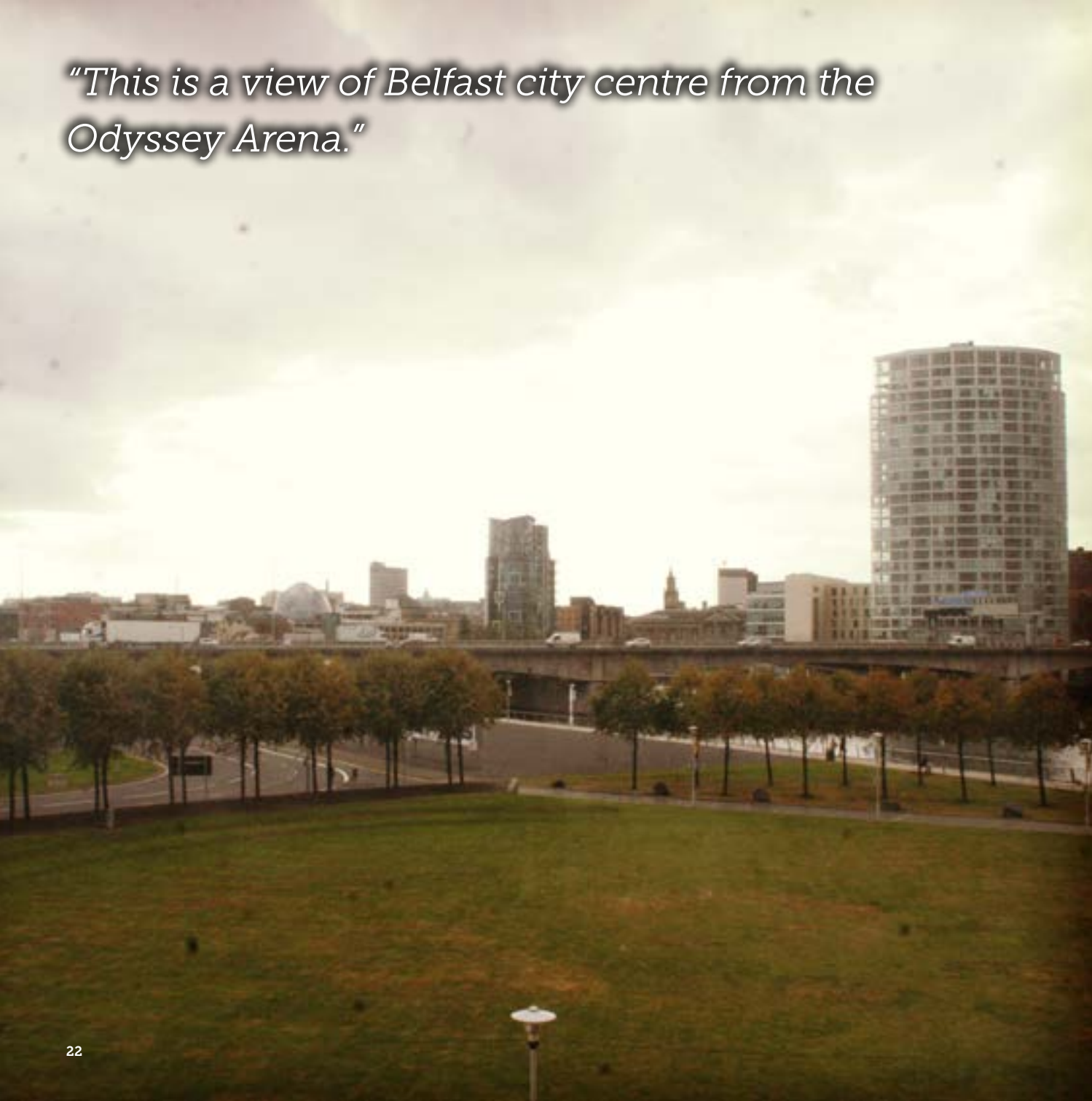
"I have become more confident."

"My biggest achievement on the CYT programme is getting qualifications."

"My biggest achievement on the CYT programme is gaining confidence."

"My biggest achievement on the CYT programme is gaining new skills."

"This is a view of Belfast city centre from the Odyssey Arena."

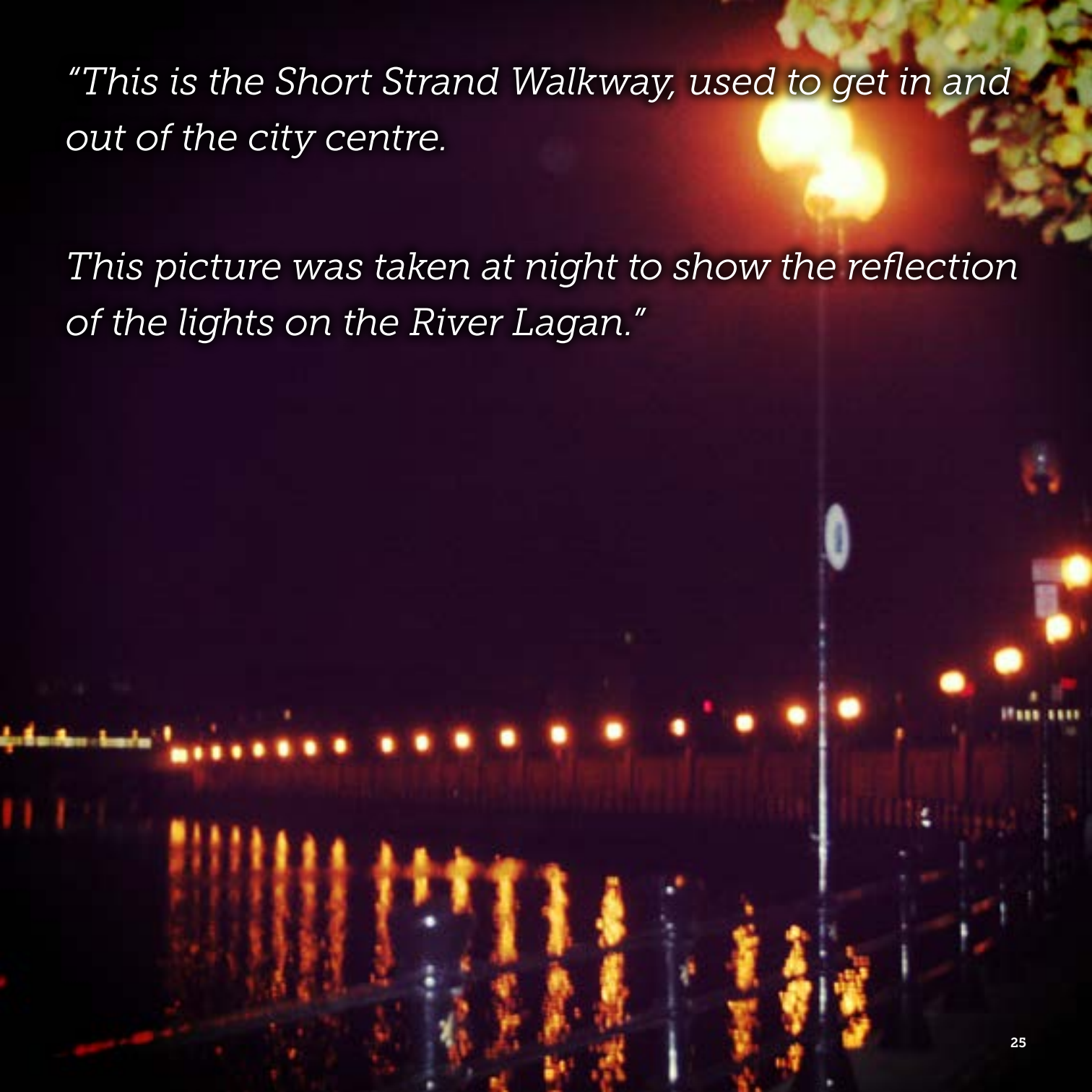


"The Barge is a restaurant on the River Lagan. It also has a museum dedicated to the maritime history of Belfast."



"This is the East Belfast Protestant Boys Flute Band's flag on the Ravenhill Road.

I walk past this flag every day."



"This is the Short Strand Walkway, used to get in and out of the city centre.

This picture was taken at night to show the reflection of the lights on the River Lagan."



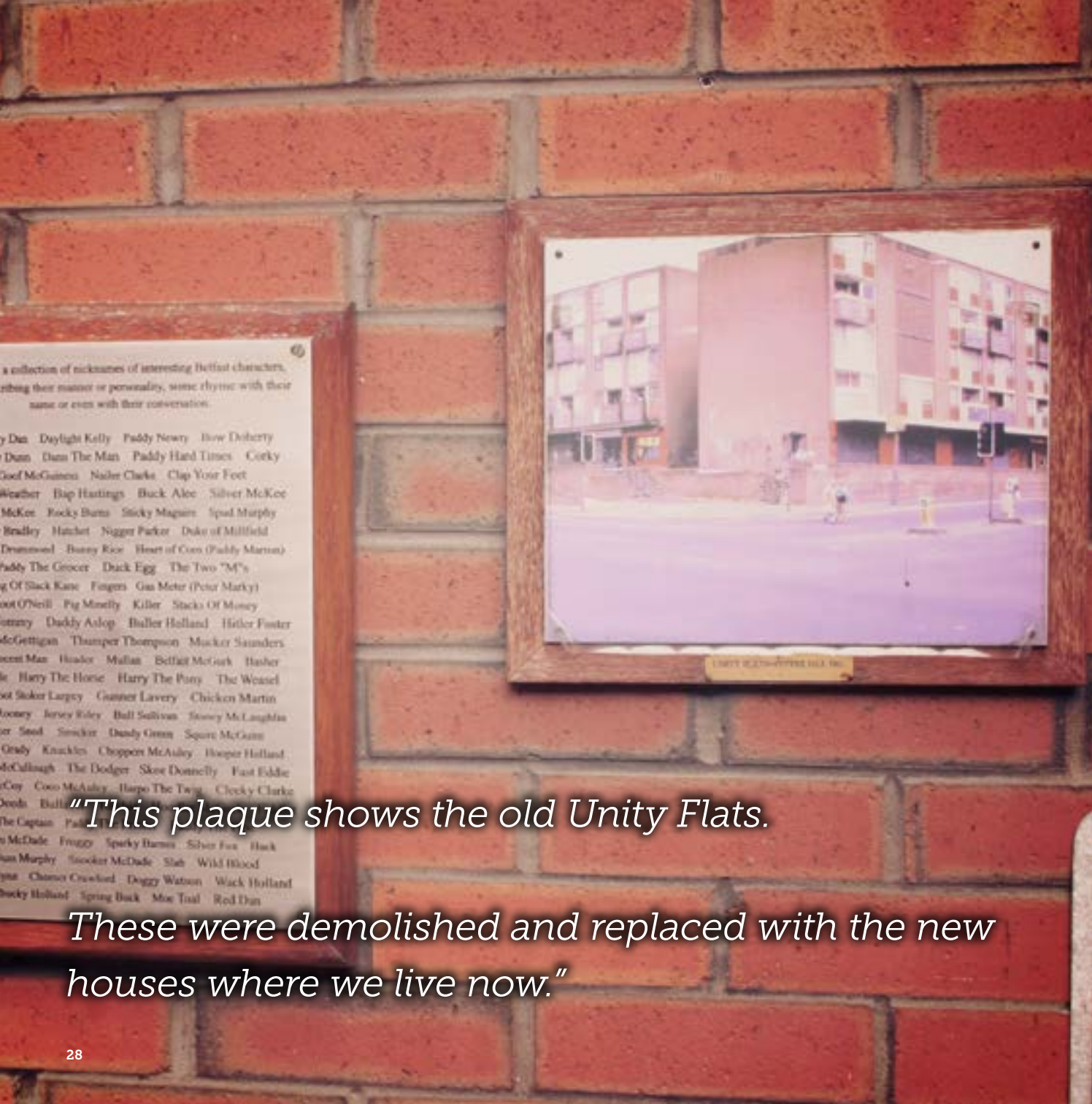
"This is one of the Harland and Wolff cranes.

The cranes can be seen from all over Belfast."



"This represents a paramilitary organisation in our local community.

Growing up we have seen murals and flags representing them."



a collection of nicknames of interesting Belfast characters, describing their manner or personality, some rhyme with their name or even with their conversation.

Dan Daylight Kelly Paddy Newry Bow Delirery
Dann Dunn The Man Paddy Hand Times Corky
Goof McGuness Nader Clarke Clap Your Foot
Weather Bap Hastings Buck Alec Silver McKee
McKee Rocky Burns Sticky Maguire Spud Murphy
Bradley Hatchet Nigger Parker Duke of Millfield
Drummond Bunsy Rice Heart of Corn (Paddy Martin)
My The Grocer Duck Egg The Two "M"s
g Of Slack Kane Fingers Gas Meter (Peter Marky)
oot O'Neill Pig Minelly Killer Sticks Of Money
Johnny Daddy Aslop Buller Holland Hitler Foster
McGettigan Thumper Thompson Mucker Saunders
Deent Man Hoador Mullan Belfast McGuirk Basher
le Harry The Horse Harry The Punt The Weasel
ot Stoker Lavery Gannet Lavery Chicken Martin
Looney Jersey Riley Bull Sullivan Stoney McLaughlin
er Snod Snodder Dandy Green Squirt McGuinn
Grady Knuckles Chopper McAuley Hooper Holland
McCallough The Dodger Skoe Donnelly Fast Eddie
oCoy Coco McAuley Harpo The Twin Clocky Clarke
Donda Bulla
The Captain Paddy
McDade Frizzy Sparky Barnes Silver Fox Buck
an Murphy Snooker McDade Slab Wild Blood
yne Chancer Crawford Doggy Watson Wack Holland
ucky Holland Spring Duck Moe Tait Red Dan

*"This plaque shows the old Unity Flats.
These were demolished and replaced with the new
houses where we live now."*



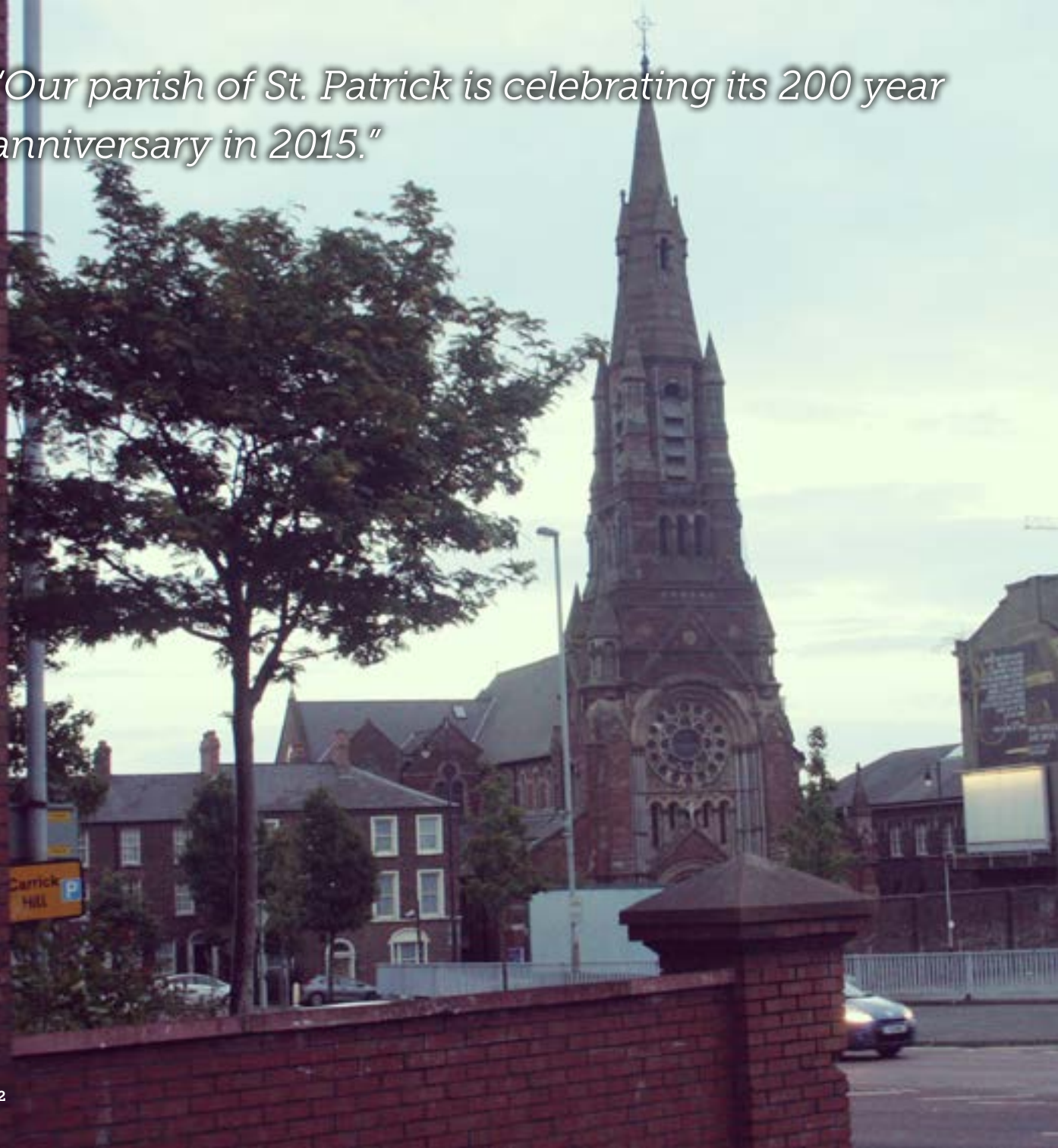
*"Our local community set up a peace camp to show
solidarity with the people of Gaza."*

"This is a historical map of the Carrick Hill area."



"Kent Street, one of the few streets left in Belfast with cobblestones."

"Our parish of St. Patrick is celebrating its 200 year anniversary in 2015."



"Different generations of Carrick Hill residents use the local community centre to socialise and learn."

Comments

"We live at an interface area, so cross-community is important for our lives and future as young people. We learn about different religions and communities. This makes us more aware of who we are and what is around us."

"I've learned that even though people have different cultures you can still get along with them."

"As a result of the CYT programme I've gained OCNs and confidence in meeting new people."

"Brilliant" "Phenomenal"

"Amazing" "Weaker"

"Powerful" "Class"

"Fun" "Unbelievable"

"Surprising" "Amazing"

"Awesome" "Parfuulll!"

Acknowledgements

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