



Lost souls remembered in Ireland's Titanic Village in County Mayo

The village of Lahardane in County Mayo on the West coast of Ireland, from where a group of 14 emigrants travelled to join the RMS Titanic on her ill-fated maiden voyage, is holding a special Titanic Cultural Week over the centenary anniversary of the ship's sinking.

The Addergoole 14, as the group is known, named after the parish they were from, began their journey 100 years ago this month when they departed for the town of Castlebar in County Mayo.

There they took the first of several trains to Queenstown (now Cobh), the Titanic's last port of call before it sailed for New York.

As steerage (third-class) passengers on the Titanic, the Addergoole contingent was all known to each other and some were related. They hoped their long journey to America would lead to bright new future.

When the transatlantic liner struck the iceberg, 11 of the 14 perished. The 3 who survived were Annie Kate Kelly, Delia McDermott and Annie McGowan

It is believed that the death toll suffered by the parish is the largest proportionate loss of life from any locality in relation to the Titanic disaster, giving rise to Lahardane's label of 'Ireland's Titanic Village'.

Each year, members of the Addergoole Titanic Society and the parish remember the lost lives and the survivors with a commemoration. An annual Bell Ringing Ceremony takes place on the 15 April at 2.20am, the time Titanic sank.

This year, on the centenary of the ship's sinking, the society is organising an extended programme with a Mayo Titanic Cultural Week, which will run in Lahardane from 8 – 15 April.

It starts with a re-enactment of the emigrants' journey from Lahardane to Castlebar by pony, trap and sidecar, complete with period costumes.

The cultural week also features activities to entertain and inform all ages, including a treasure hunt, a vintage and heritage display, exhibitions, an American wake (an evening of Irish song and poetry, the traditional farewell to emigrants who were not expected to be seen again) and a spectacular Titanic Ball.

Paul Nolan, Addergoole Titanic Society Chairperson says: "Emigration gave Addergoole its central place in this epic maritime disaster. During The Mayo Titanic Cultural Week, we will commemorate the centenary of the Titanic and its relevance

to Mayo, its people and the emigration story. Here in County Mayo we have the human side of the story.”

The week closes with the opening of Mayo Titanic Memorial Park, the installation of a Titanic Time Capsule and the dedication of two stained glass windows at St Patrick’s Church, designed by Michael Coleman, an American artist now living in Lahardane.

The theme of one window is emigration and is dedicated to all those who have left Addergoole Parish. The other window, the ‘Titanic window’, shows Lifeboat 16 being lowered and is likely to be one of the very few church Titanic themed windows worldwide.

It is based on what survivor, Annie Kate Kelly, recalls from that fateful night. Annie was standing in line waiting to enter Lifeboat 16. A man accompanying two woman was refused entry. One woman said: “I’ll not leave my husband”, and the other “I’ll not leave my brother”. They were Catherine and Mary Bourke from Addergoole who perished on the Titanic.

American descendants of the three survivors donated the cost of the Titanic window.

Visitors to the friendly Mayo village also come for fishing. Lahardane is a short distance from Lough Conn and Lough Cullen, both part of the great natural fishing waters of Ireland, famed worldwide for their large stocks of salmon and brown trout.

It is also a perfect base for exploring the stunning scenery of the West of Ireland, including County Mayo’s Holy Mountain, Croagh Patrick.

www.discoverireland.com

www.addergoole-titanic.com