

WHITEHEAD VICTORIAN STREET FAIR
Christmas Lights Switch On

Saturday 25 November 2017, 12noon - 7.30pm



Welcome to the Fair

Welcome to Whitehead

The Whitehead Community welcomes you to the ninth annual Victorian Street Fair.

As we begin the Christmas season, the town celebrates its unique history and heritage through the Fair. Whitehead was largely the creation of the railways and developed into the town we know today during the late Victorian and early Edwardian period.

Whitehead's churches, businesses, voluntary organisations and social groups are at the heart of the town's strong sense of community and neighbourliness. Without these and the many individual volunteers who give so much of their time and energy the Fair would not be what it is today.

We offer a special welcome to those who live outside Whitehead and have travelled to be with us for the day. Thank you and enjoy your time amongst us. Whether it is drinking a glass of mulled wine, wandering around the many arts and crafts stalls, watching the street entertainers or learning about the local history, we hope you will find something to surprise, entertain and delight you.



Wishing everyone a joyous festive season.

William Luney
Chairman
Whitehead Community Association



Mayoral welcome

The countdown to Christmas in Mid and East Antrim is well underway, with towns and villages throughout our Borough lighting up for the festive season.

One of the most special events in our local calendar is the Whitehead Victorian Street Fair, which takes visitors on a journey back in time.

The fair is a fabulously festive event in a stunning location and you are guaranteed to enjoy a truly traditional and magical Christmas experience. I look forward to you joining us to celebrate the true spirit of the season at our civic carol service from 6pm, the Christmas lights switch on just after 7pm and our exciting fireworks display shortly afterwards.

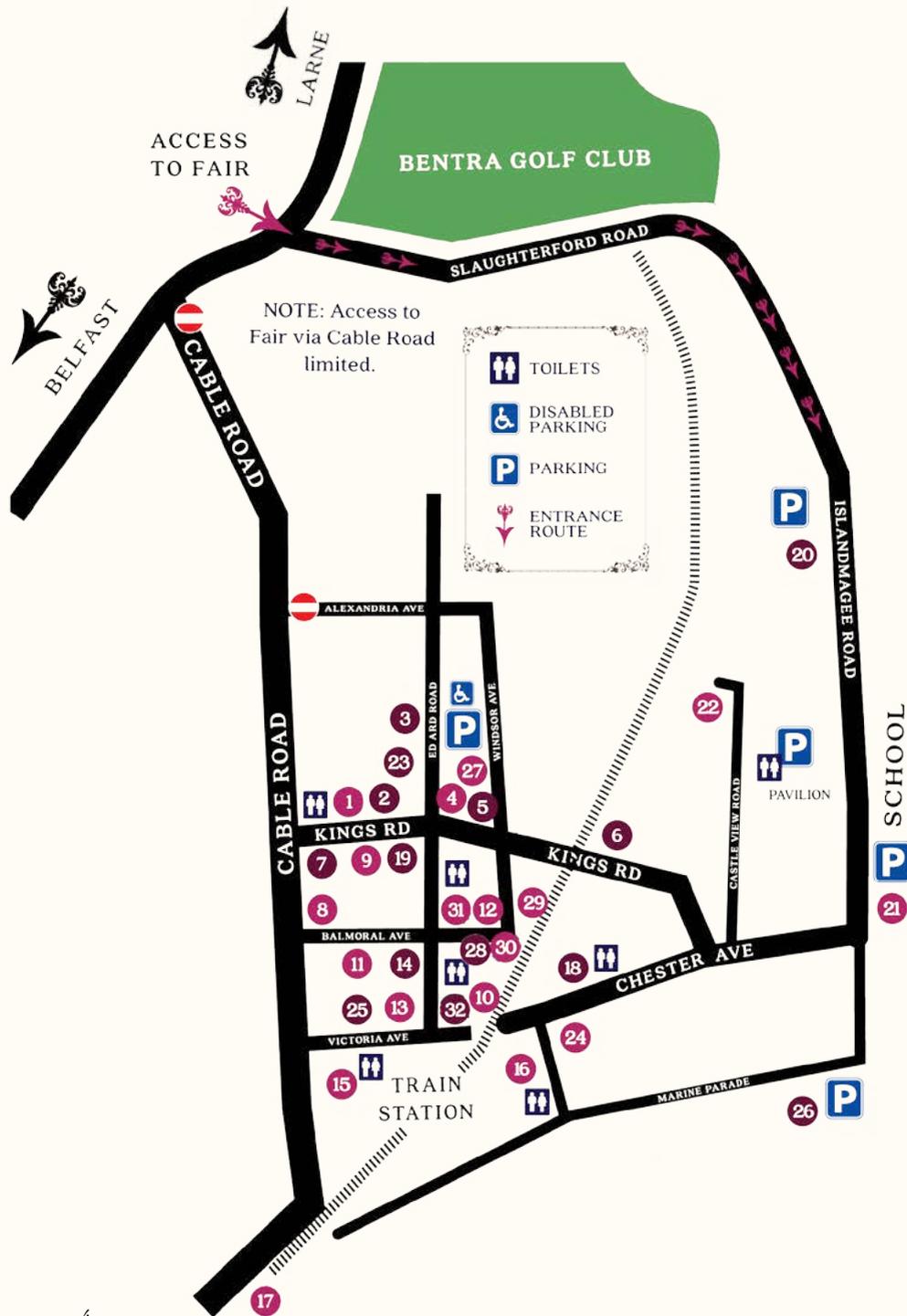
A very special mention goes to Whitehead Community Association and all the residents and traders of the town for their tireless efforts and dedication in bringing this event to fruition.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council is delighted to support the event, working in conjunction with local residents who take such pride in their community. On behalf of Council and all our staff, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.



Councillor Paul Reid,
Mayor of Mid and East Antrim





1. Presbyterian Church Hall - Victorian teas, coffees and cakes.
2. Presbyterian Church - Nativity tableaux and carol service.
3. Wright's Spar - Fun for children.
4. Library - Children's story-time, talks and lectures.
5. McMaster's Butchers - Hog roast and hot potato stand.
6. McKee's Bakery - Fresh baked breads, cakes and sodas.
7. The Old Tea House - Cooking up Oliver Twists dream dishes with a festive twist from 1pm until 7pm. Locally made bratwurst sausage, spiced roast gammon and colcannon, fisherman's pie, sherry cobbler, baked apple dumpling and custard. All washed down with mulled wine and ginger cordial.
8. The Gallery Whitehead - Art exhibition and Edwardian house tours.
9. Foster's Fruit and Veg - Victorian Fayre serving hot potatoes, roasted chestnuts, jams and chutneys.
10. Genesis - Enjoy the children's entertainment all day long.
11. Methodist Church - Christmas trees switch on, craft stalls, teas, coffees, bacon rolls and hot dogs.
12. Community Centre - Victorian craft and food stalls, Victorian Kitchen, Santa's Grotto.
13. Church of Ireland Hall - Craft stalls and refreshments.
14. Christmas Tree
15. Maud's Ice Cream - Ice Cream treats, hot chocolate and crepes.
16. Marine Bar - Traditional music.
17. County Antrim Yacht Club - Unwind with mulled wine and festive home bakes.
18. The Whitecliff Inn - Live music from local artists.
19. The Bank House - A feast of fun and creativity at the Bank House and Lighthouse Yarns.
20. Parking at Baptist Church.
21. Parking at Whitehead Primary School.
22. Parking at Whitehead Playing Fields.
23. Railway Preservation Society - Steam train rides and tours.
24. Coffee & Cream - Music from local artists plus Christmas barbeque.
25. Presbyterian Carpark - Craft and food stalls.
26. Church of Ireland (Victoria Avenue Entrance) - Storytelling and Whitehead Ladies Community Choir.
27. Recreations Grounds Playing Fields.
28. Parking at seafront until 5pm only.
29. Parking behind old Health Centre.
30. Presbyterian Church Concourse - Craft and food stalls.
31. Pizza Gourmet - Authentic fayre.
32. Whitehead Home & Hardware - Christmas gift ideas.
33. Victoriana Floral - Quiz competition. Win a fabulous Grumpy Charley bear - you'll love him!
34. Whistle Stop Café - Soups, stews & festive favourites.

Programme

Time	Events	Location
11.30am	Evan Marshall: 'Northern Ireland in the 1958 World Cup'	<i>Railway Museum</i>
12noon - 4pm	Steam train rides	<i>Railway Preservation Society (adults £2.50, children £2)</i>
12noon	Steve Diamond: Walking tour around old Whitehead	<i>Gathering at train station waiting room</i>
12noon	Victorian story time	<i>Library</i>
12noon	Tour of Edwardian house	<i>The Gallery Whitehead</i>
1pm	Fair officially starts	<i>See 'What's on Where'</i>
1pm	Performing Starz: Thomas the Sweep (a puppet show for ages 2-7)	<i>Genesis</i>
1pm-3pm	Reindeer	<i>Victoria Avenue</i>
1.30pm	Talk: Guy Warner on 'Whitehead Aerodrome and the Great War'	<i>Library</i>
1.30pm	Fairy tale puppet show (for the very young)	<i>Genesis</i>
1.30pm	Babcock and Bobbins	<i>Kings Road</i>
2pm	Bubbletrouble	<i>Community Centre</i>
2pm	Steve Diamond 'The Heroes of Whitehead'	<i>Presbyterian Church</i>
2pm	Tour of the Edwardian house	<i>The Gallery Whitehead</i>
2.30pm	Punch and Judy Show	<i>Genesis</i>
2.45pm	Drumlough Pipe Band	<i>Methodist Church Gardens</i>
2.45pm	Storytelling with Billy Teare	<i>Church of Ireland (Victoria Avenue Entrance)</i>
3pm	Bubbletrouble	<i>Presbyterian Church</i>
3pm	County Antrim Yacht Club opens	<i>County Antrim Yacht Club</i>



3pm	Performing Starz: Thomas the Sweep (a puppet show for ages 2-7)	<i>Genesis</i>
3.30pm	Talk: Philip Orr	<i>Library</i>
3.30pm	Babcock & Bobbins	<i>Outside Methodist Church Hall</i>
3.30pm	Whitehead Ladies Community Choir	<i>Church of Ireland (Victoria Avenue Entrance)</i>
3.40pm	Magic Show	<i>Genesis</i>
3.45pm	Drumlough Pipe Band	<i>Presbyterian Church</i>
4pm	Tour of Edwardian house	<i>The Gallery Whitehead</i>
4pm	Bubble Trouble	<i>Methodist Church Garden</i>
4.15pm	Storytelling with Billy Teare	<i>Church of Ireland (Victoria Avenue Entrance)</i>
4.30pm	Live music	<i>The Whitecliff Inn</i>
4.45pm	Drumlough Pipe Band	<i>Community Centre</i>
5pm	Nativity Tableaux - The Nativity story told through a series of dramatic tableaux with Uplift Theatre Group and Whitehead Presbyterian Church	<i>Presbyterian Church</i>
6pm	Live music	<i>The Whitecliff Inn</i>
6pm	Mulled wine and festive treats	<i>Country Antrim Yacht Club</i>
6pm	Civic Carol service	<i>Presbyterian Church</i>
6.55pm approx.	Lantern parade	<i>From Presbyterian Church to Christmas tree at Methodist Church</i>
7pm	Christmas tree lights switch on	<i>Methodist Church</i>
7.15pm	Fireworks at the sea front (approx. 7.30pm, weather dependent)	<i>Seafront</i>
7pm	Authentic Victorian menu bistro nights provide an authentic sample of Victorian dishes and delights! Bookings in advance.	<i>Mauds</i>
9pm	Live music	<i>Marine Bar</i>



Welcome to Whitehead

The town with no streets

We hope you have a wonderful time today, we welcome you to Mid and East Antrim. A few words about the town of Whitehead...

Located halfway between the towns of Carrickfergus and Larne, Whitehead lies along the Causeway Coastal Route, nestled in a small bay between white limestone cliffs – hence the name Whitehead.

Part of the civil parish of Templecorran, the original settlement grew up around the small tower-house known as Castle Chichester, built by Sir Moses Hill around 1604.

The Whitehead of today is largely a product of the late Victorian and Edwardian periods and the expansion of the railways by the legendary Belfast and Northern Counties Railway.

The railway company developed Whitehead as both a commuter town and a holiday destination, with two of its civil engineers Edward John Cotton and Berkley Deane Wise presenting their vision of how Whitehead should look by building tea houses, promenades and bandstands and rejuvenating the beach front space.

Indeed among Wise's most enduring achievements were the paths and footbridges beginning at Whitehead, through Blackhead and onto The Gobbins at Islandmagee. Officially opening in 1892, these paths mark the starting point of The Gobbins walkway, described as 'an unexpected white-knuckle walk to thrill those with a sense of adventure and delight those wishing to experience the coast up close'.

As well as the boom in tourism in the early 1900s, Whitehead also developed as a residency for those privileged enough to live outside the dust and grime of industrial Belfast. This led to

a growth in bespoke buildings like holiday villas and grand houses and even the construction of a 'Bishop's Palace', making the town an architectural treasure trove and leading to its eventual designation as a conservation area.

This exclusive development resulted in the town having plenty of avenues, roads, parades, crescents and parks but as none of the thoroughfares were deemed a 'street', this has given Whitehead the unique accolade of being the only town in Ireland without any 'streets'.

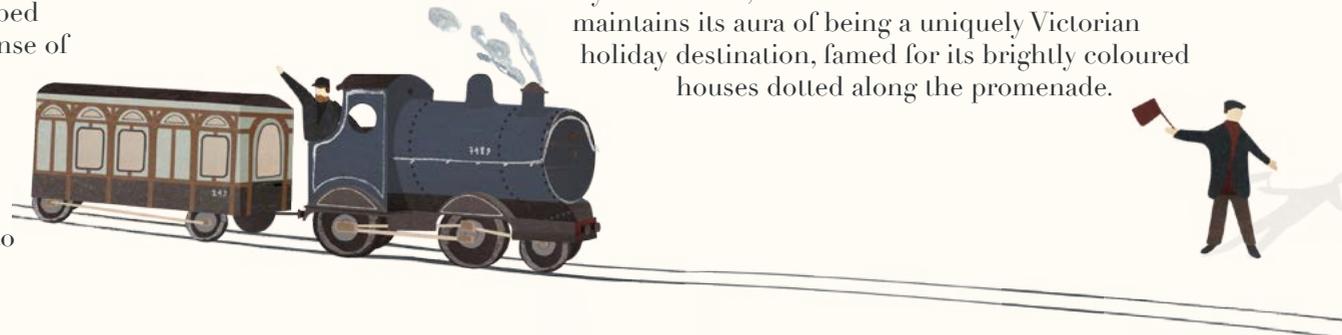
Few may be aware that during World War I, Whitehead retained a military aerodrome with the skies above being patrolled by two airships and during World War II the town was headquarters to the Royal 8th Engineers Railway Construction Company.

Whilst tourism may have declined at that time due to the surge in package holidays and the demise of factory workers' 'charabanc' excursions, Whitehead still maintains its link to its glory days.

Aside from the normal Translink rail-line, the town is proud to be the headquarters for the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, maintaining many old-fashioned steam trains, carriages and locomotive sheds whilst developing a new interpretive centre.

County Antrim Boat Club is also an established facility in the town, allowing children and adults alike the chance to enjoy the pleasure of sailing.

Today, Whitehead thrives as a modern commuter town and as a popular tourist destination. It attracts visitors, from railway enthusiasts, hikers and architectural buffs and maintains its aura of being a uniquely Victorian holiday destination, famed for its brightly coloured houses dotted along the promenade.



Events - all day



- **Christmas and craft stalls** - Presbyterian carpark and gardens, community centre, Methodist Church, Church of Ireland
- **Santa's Magic Christmas Forest & Grotto** (run by Our Lady of Lourdes, Genesis Youth and Whitehead Scouts) - Community Centre
- **Victorian themed Arts and Crafts** - Community Centre
- **Christmas Tree Decorating**- Community Centre
- **Victorian Fair Organ** - Edward Road/Balmoral Avenue
- **Street Entertainment Uplift** - All around the town
- **Blacksmith's forge** - Front of Bank House
- **Victorian kitchen** - Community Centre
- **Music** - All around the town
- **Steam trains rides and tours** - Railway Preservation Society of Ireland
- **Victorian fun** - Spar
- **The Gallery Whitehead** - The Gallery
- **Stiltwalkers, unicyclist** - All around the town
- **Pipe & drum band** - All around the town
- **All day quiz** - Victoriana
- **Curry's Amusements** - Train station and community centre
- **Tours of train museum and café** - Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

Whitehead Community Association

The Victorian Street Fair is run by Whitehead Community Association, supported by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. Founded in 1972, the original aim of the association was to rescue and maintain Whitehead's old 1930s cinema, bequeathed by the building's owners to the town on the proviso of being run for the benefit of the whole community.

As a result, Whitehead Community Association is an independent body of volunteers banding together to promote communal, social and civic life in the town.

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