



Title of Report:	Ulster History Circle Blue Plaques
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 November 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Community & Culture Museum Services Manager

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	31 st March 2025

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Approx. £1500 per annum
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1038
Staffing Costs	n/a

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

Assessment (DPIA)	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
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1.0 Purpose of Report

To update members on the proposed blue plaque installation for 2025 from the Ulster History Circle, in consultation with the Community & Culture team.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Ulster History Circle (UHC) is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for placing the blue circular plaques in public spaces across Ulster in honour of men and women who have contributed to the province's history. UHC is an entirely voluntary organisation that has no earning capacity of trust funds of any kind. Its erection of blue plaques is facilitated purely on the basis of partnerships with local government bodies and other local organisations.
- 2.2 Following an initial report in February 2023, a second report was taken to the Leisure & Development Committee in November 2023 in which it was recommended to Council that they engage in a partnership arrangement with the Ulster History Circle at a cost of circa £1,500 per annum and subsequent installation of one blue plaque per year for an initial term of three years, subject to review.
- 2.3 In October 2024 the first blue plaque in recognition of James Sayers (1912 – 1993) Physicist was unveiled at Ballyweaney Presbyterian Church, Corkey.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 2025 sees the Open Championship return to Royal Portrush Golf Club. As part of this programme, it is fitting that the achievements of Golfer, May Hezlet is recognised through the installation of a blue plaque.
- 3.2 Officers from the Community & Culture team together with representatives from the Ulster History Circle propose to the Leisure & Development Committee that May Hezlet receives a plaque in 2025. Further information regarding the proposed recipient is included in **Annex A** attached.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that approval is granted by both the Committee and full Council to accept the nomination of May Hezlet as the recipient of the Ulster History Blue Plaque for 2025.

Annex A

Mary Linzee (May) Hezlet (1882-1969)



MISS MAY HEZLET (Royal Portrush)
Ladies' Golf Champion, 1899. Irish Ladies' Champion, 1899

May Hezlet, of Bovagh House, Aghadowey is known for her success as a golfer. She played at Royal Portrush Golf Club. At age seventeen, she became the youngest ever winner of the British Ladies open Amateur Championship (1899). May won the British Ladies open Amateur Championship another two times. She also won the Irish Championship five times and was the author of Ladies Golf (1904).

Coleraine Museum holds various archive material and objects relating to May Hezlet and the Hezlet family. The family played a key role within the North Coast and Coleraine's society. They travelled widely, held many important functions in their family home (Bovagh House) and have an important military background.

The installation of a blue plaque to May Hezlet at Royal Portrush in 2025 will coincide with the return of the Open Championship.