

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

ANTRIM AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE ORCHARD

This 'hidden gem' is there for all to see as you approach Antrim town along the dual carriageway where Fountain Hill joins the Greystone Road. Today this dual carriageway and a housing estate are to be found on what was once the site of the manse of High Street Presbyterian Church. In 1850 the congregation of 2nd Antrim or High Street Presbyterian Church was formed. An area of ground at Greystone Road, known as the Spittal Field, was purchased in 1859 to build a new manse for the congregation. In 1895 the Reverend William Adams came, as the second minister of this congregation, to reside in the manse. In 1920 he received a sum of money as a legacy and decided to use it to have a portion of the manse garden planted out as an orchard. Although he may have witnessed his pastoral ministry 'bear fruit', sadly, he never saw his orchard mature and produce fruit. Due to ill health he was forced to retire from his charge in 1924 and he died in 1927. His legacy, not only to his congregation but also to Antrim, continues to produce fruit to this day. Recently some attention has been given to the trees and new ones have been added.