

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

ANTRIM AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



In the 1940s



In 1990

THE TORPEDO PLATFORM

This rather unusual 'landmark' can be viewed from the car park at the Lough Neagh Marina in Antrim. It is the Torpedo Platform in Antrim Bay. It was constructed during the early years of the Second World War so that the 'Mark 8 Thermal' torpedoes from the nearby Torpedo Factory could be tested for accuracy of direction and depth. Testing was stopped after a few years as the accumulation of sand deposits caused problems. As well as the launching platform this construction contained sleeping quarters together with a kitchen and food stores in case weather conditions prevented personnel returning to their land base. Today the only 'lodgers' are birds such as the common tern and the cormorant. The largest colony of common terns on Lough Neagh uses the remains of the platform as their summer residence. It provides a safe breeding place for these birds before they fly away, in August, to their winter home off the West Coast of Africa.