

Hidden Gems and Forgotten People

CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



BULLAUN STONE AT ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH CHURCH, BELFAST

This stone is on the outside and on the right of the main door of this architecturally remarkable late-nineteenth century Neo-Gothic round-towered Church on the Woodvale Road just above the top of the Shankhill Road. The Church gate is closed but never locked and everyone can have access to the stone.

The Church information booklet says of the stone: *Just outside the main door of the Church the stone is a hollowed boulder which was probably used as a quern for grinding meal or metal ore. It was found in the Old Shankhill Graveyard and moved to its present position in 1911.*

Historically, it is reasonable to suppose the quern would come from the period, 4,500-5,000 years ago when cereals were being cultivated: from mid to late Bronze Age. Permission to photograph the Baullaun Stone as well as the use of the quotation from the Church's information booklet was kindly granted by the Rector of St. Matthew's Church Rev. Tracey Mc Roberts.

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