

YOUGHAL CELEBRATES HISTORY



FIELDS' PRINTING WORKS – YOUGHAL

One of the most hidden gems of Youghal is a little shop on the main street. It is Field's Printing Works and it is truly an amazing shop!

There have been numerous publications celebrating the history of Youghal, and what is astonishing is that since 1824 many of them have been printed on the same printing press, still running in the same shop in North Main Street, Youghal. The letters are faded in some cases but most people accept that old age does bring some extra burden on the lettering. There are rare old booklets from the 19th and 20th century, posters for concerts, films and theatre, there are old postcards and tickets: anything which needed to be printed was usually printed in this shop. What is amazing is that most of the originals are still there, and unique old posters can be bought to day just like when they rolled off the press one or two or three centuries ago.

The printing press itself has a bit of history attached to it. John Lindsay purchased a second hand printing press in Cork. It had previously been owned by James Blow, a Belfast printer who claimed it was the very press at which the first Bible printed in Ireland, in 1704, had been printed. Lindsay died in the Workhouse in Youghal but a cousin of his, married to a man called Field, took over the business which still survives. Many, if not most, of the printed matter for Youghal was struck there – concert programmes, cinema advertising, theatre tickets, booklets, posters, post cards.

These items, using the original press, can be bought in the same shop, sold by a member of the same Field family. Especially popular is Canon Hayman's *Hand-Book for Youghal*, usually the 1896 Lindsay edition and another popular item is the cinema programme for the first Youghal screening of the film *Moby Dick*, which, of course, was partly filmed in Youghal.

The shop may look old, may look uninviting but cross the threshold to a cornucopia of printed delight and you can wallow in the nostalgia of a print works still churning out the posters and booklets which have made it famous.