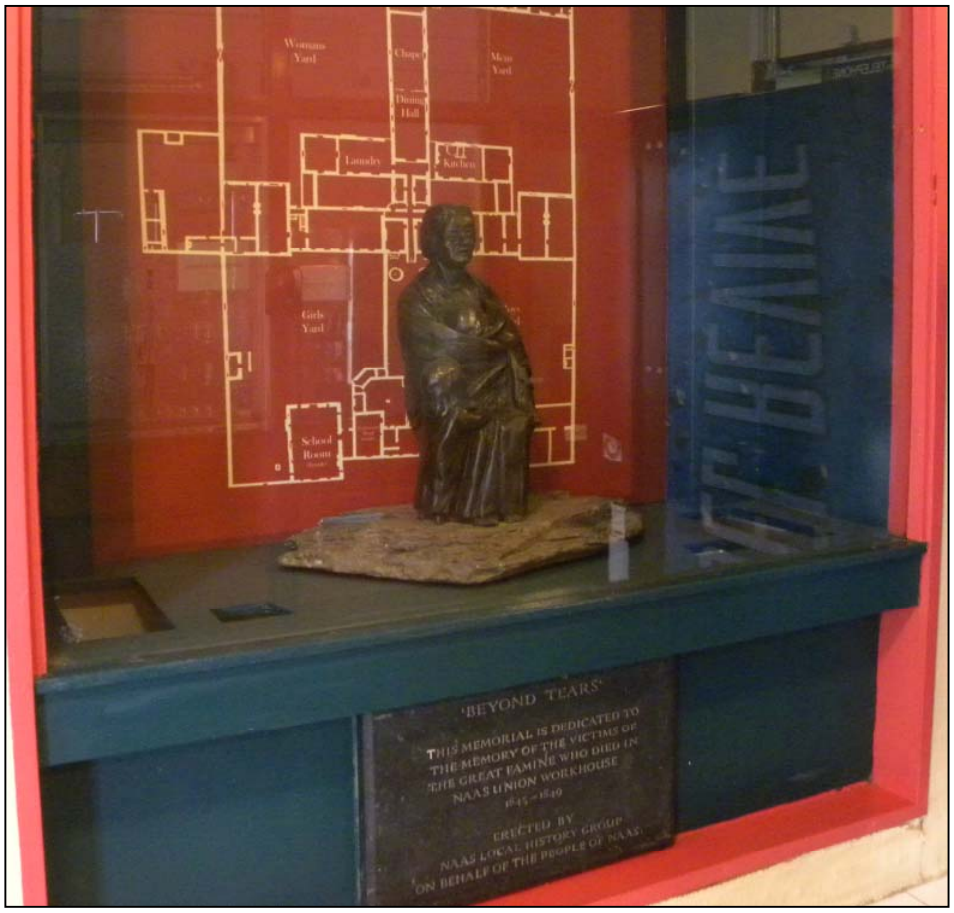
HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

NAAS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



BEYOND TEARS

The "Great Famine" arguably the most traumatic event in the course of Irish history has not failed to leave its mark on most communities. There are many memorials in Ireland and in different parts of the world lest it be forgotten.

Although not immediately obvious and unknown to many people there is a unique little famine memorial located in the foyer of the old Naas hospital which was previously the workhouse. In the foyer stands a poignant reminder of that dreadful time and the hardship and misery suffered by so many people. In acknowledgment of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the event in 1995 a specially sculptured statuette was commissioned by the Naas Local History Group. The centrepiece of the memorial is a bronze statuette of a mother and two children which captures the plight and agony experienced by the poor and destitute of that terrible time. The statuette was designed and made by Newbridge artist, Annette Mc Cormack and installed with a backdrop of an 1841 floor plan of the then Naas Workhouse.

The memorial is called *Beyond Tear*" and is dedicated to those many victims of the Great Famine who died in the Naas Workhouse between the years of 1845 to 1849.