

BELFAST STREET NAMES

STREET OF THE WEEK

Since May this year we have been running a social media campaign called Street of the Week on Facebook and Instagram. The response has been very positive, with users contributing interesting memories and valuable insights into the names and the local history in general. We have also found that the process has helped enormously to sharpen our research focus on the streets featured.



NORTH BELFAST

Cliftonville Road

The name comes from a property development of the 1830s, consisting of Georgian style houses designed by Thomas Jackson, a Quaker from Waterford who settled in Belfast. This increased our knowledge of Jackson as an architect who had a huge influence on the streetscape of 19th century Belfast, as he designed buildings for the community, such as the Old Museum and St Malachy's Church, and also many fine private residences, such as "Hampton", which recently won the BBC's House of the Year show. Some of the insights gained through the social media campaign fed into blogs and a research article, and the entries for a number of streets on the website were expanded and improved.

EAST BELFAST

My Lady's Road

This street refers to the Marchioness of Donegall. It was featured one week after Judith Acheson's talk on the History of Nettlefield (the school and the big house which preceded it) and this certainly contributed to the excellent response which we received from residents of the area and other people with a connection to it.

Incidentally, Judith's book on Nettlefield was launched on September 9th.

SOUTH BELFAST

Cranmore Park

Named after one of the oldest houses in the Belfast area, now in ruins. It was given the name Cranmore (an anglicised form of Irish An Crann Mór, 'the great tree') in the early 1800s by the botanist John Templeton. This name refers to some Spanish chestnut trees associated with King William of Orange, who sheltered there in 1690.

Through the campaign we learned a great deal about the history of the house and the wider area, which has been written about quite extensively by historians and archaeologists.

WEST BELFAST

Springfield Road / Bóthar Chluanaí

Springfield was an 18th century house and farm where later a textile mill was built. Ultimately, the name refers to some natural springs, but these were probably lost when a mill dam was built. The Irish name, Bóthar Chluanaí comes from a different name meaning 'place of meadows'.

Featuring the road allowed us to explore the local landscape, its industrial history, residential development and Irish and English place-names in the neighbourhood.



COMING NEXT

Round two of the compass

Glandore Avenue / Ascaill Chuan Dor, Ravenhill Road, Haypark Avenue / Ascaill Pháirc an Fhéir and Distillery Street / Sráid na Drioglainne will feature in the next issue.

A big thank you

To Nicole Hamilton for designing all the social media posts and keeping the pages fresh with some great material.



Take a look at Belfast Street Names on Facebook or Instagram to catch "Street of the Week" and news of all our events.



CONUNDRUM CORNER ?

*How are you getting on with those conundrums?
Are you still Belvoir-ing away?*

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Dub Lane

This lane off Upper Malone Road is best explained as containing the Ulster-Scots word *dub*, meaning a muddy pool or puddle. This fits with the fact that Dub Lane was originally a rough, muddy, untarred road.

Denorrton Park

This street off Holywood Road probably has a portmanteau name consisting of three elements: DEN + ORR + TON. This development was built on the site of the former residence of the shipbuilder and politician Gustav Wolff (1834–1913). He named his house “The Den”, a pun on his surname (wolves live in a den). The following two elements seem to come from the name of a property developer called Robert Orr Templeton.

NEW PUZZLES

01

Eversleigh Street (BT6)

Looks like a place-name, but the nearest we’ve found is Eversley, Hampshire. There is a military insignia called the Eversleigh Star, though nobody seems to know how it got this name either. Any ideas?

02

Corby Way (BT11)

Is this street in Andersonstown named after Corby, Northamptonshire? Or corby, ‘a crow’ in Ulster-Scots?

03

Priory Park / Gardens (BT10)

We are not aware of any priory or abbey in the history of Finaghy which would explain these names. Is there another reason?

CALLING ALL SLEUTHS

01

Do you know what a ‘trap street’ is?

a) a trap for criminals b) a trap for plagiarists c) a trap for rat-run motorists?

02

What connects these Belfast streets:

Pirrie Park Gardens, Lewis Drive, Queen Street, Gray’s Lane, Foyle Court and Rosemary Street?

03

Who famously lived at 221b, Baker Street?

04

Which Dublin street was previously called Sackville Street before being renamed?

05

Which perfume is named (or rather, numbered) after a numbered house in a city which officially had no street-names?



BELFAST STREET NAMES

Dual Language Street Signs at Belfast City Council

The Belfast City Council information on dual language street signs was updated in May 2025.

Of particular interest is the newly added list of older approvals from 1998 – 2022, providing a useful record of previous decisions.

The latest information also includes more recent approvals from 2023 – 2025, listed by year and month. There is also a separate list of street names approved under the Ceathrú na Gaeltachta / Gaeltacht Quarter scheme.



For the full information, including the lists of approved street names, visit:

<https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/building-control/street-naming-and-building-numbering#416-4>



Belfast Street Names

Keep up with our Street of the Week campaign and find out about upcoming events, new research and Belfast's fascinating street-name history.

**BELFAST
STREET NAMES**



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