Woodland Trust - WW1 Centenary Woods planting event

Cregagh Memorial Recreation Grounds

On Friday 9th November 2018 at 9.15am a tree planting event will take place at Cregagh Cricket Club, Gibson Park Avenue, Belfast BT6 9GL to mark the Centenary of the WW1 armistice. Primary 4 pupils from Harding Memorial primary school will assist in this event to complete the planting of 120 saplings. The event will also be attended by Patrick Cregg MBE - Director of the Woodland Trust Northern Ireland.

Since 2014 the Woodland Trust, supported by lead partner Sainsburys and others, have delivered 3 million trees across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to commemorate the Centenary of the end of the 1st World War. Four flagship woods were created in each of the UK's countries, providing a living legacy to all those affected by the conflict:

* [Langley Vale Wood in England](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/england/)
* [Coed Ffos Las in Wales](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/wales/)
* [Dreghorn Woods in Scotland](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/scotland/)
* [Brackfield Wood in Northern Ireland](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/northern-ireland/)

Cregagh Cricket Club has a long and rich history in the heart of the East Belfast community. The ground is officially called Cregagh Memorial Recreation Grounds and has been home to Cregagh Cricket Club since 1906. When the 1st World War broke out, 75% of our membership volunteered to fight for King and Country. The land was purchased to remember those players and members of Cregagh Cricket Club who died during the 1st World War. The grounds were officially opened on 30th June 1923 when the memorial gates were unveiled, and the ground was given its official name.

William McFadzean VC (1895 – 1916) received the Victoria Cross during the 1st day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. He lived locally in Jocelyn Gardens and latterly at ‘Rubicon’ 370 Cregagh Road where a blue plaque was erected by the Ulster Historical Society on 11th November 2016. His father William McFadzean Senior was a founding member of Cregagh Cricket Club.

“We are very proud of our history at Cregagh Cricket Club and look forward to seeing the trees and hedges planted as part of this Woodland Trust – Centenary Woods project blossom and grow over the next few years. They are a welcome addition to our grounds and a colourful legacy not only to our members but also for the 8 million plus soldiers who lost their lives”. Graham Watt – Club Historian

“We are thankful to the Woodland Trust and their partners in this enormous project for providing our club with the opportunity to mark this occasion. Our club is part of this community and it is great to have Harding Memorial PS children involved to help them understand what today is about and how local people and a local club like ours played a part in the making of this history”. Club Chairman

The last of the 120 hedge and tree saplings at Cregagh CC are being planted on the boundary of the cricket pitch by pupils from the local primary school as part of the Woodland Trust – 1st World War Centenary Woods project as a living and colourful memorial to the 8 members who lost their lives during the 1914 – 1918 conflict.

**Cregagh CC history** [www.cregaghcricketclub.co.uk/history.aspx](http://www.cregaghcricketclub.co.uk/history.aspx)

**Patrick Cregg** [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/authors/patrick-cregg-mbe/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/authors/patrick-cregg-mbe/)

**Centenary Woods information** <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/>

**Centenary Woods partners** <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/centenary-woods-partners/>

**Ulster History Circle** https://ulsterhistorycircle.org.uk/william-f-mcfadzean-vc-1895-1916/

**ENDS**