

Shorts Camera Club
East Belfast Heritage Panel Project

Shorts Camera Club, also operating as East Belfast Photo Club, is based at Shorts Recreation Club on the Hollywood Road in East Belfast.

Following an opportune invitation to photograph heritage aspects of the Portview Trade Centre, Newtownards Rd, Belfast before a refurbishment, the centre and views from there form the heart of our “panel”.

The final panel is a subset of a greater number of photos taken by the six contributing photographers over a single club day outing. Utilising conference style video-calls in November 2021, the club membership discussed all the photos to arrive at a shortlist. This was then arranged to present a timeline of changing heritage from the prominent linen mill in the heart of East Belfast, now known as Portview Trade Centre, through to the modern-day Titanic Centre which in itself is iconic of East Belfast Heritage.

The sequence of images commences inside the Portview Trade Centre where spools for thread were moved via dollys on tram tracks that transported the spools to the sewing machines which were specially modified to run on electricity. In the outside alley that are artifacts of life when the mill had been operating. Moving beyond the mill, the images highlight the neighbouring industry of ship building with pictures of the Hamilton graving dock and its environs, HMS Caroline in juxtaposition with modern industries of IT and Film and contrasting buildings in the East of the City.

The sequence of images concludes with the iconic Titanic museum which represents something new celebrating something old – the historic heritage of East Belfast and the modern Northern Ireland. The new can complement the old, the old can drive the new.

From a linen mill, to workers homes, to the docks through the ages, we have shown the rich history and industrial heritage that is East Belfast.

For a full narrative on the panel, please visit www.eastbelfastphoto.club.