

Report on	Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower
Date of Meeting	27 May 2021
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report								
1.1	To bring to the attention of Members the opportunity to attend the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower								
2.0	Background								
2.1	Each year many people from across the world make a pilgrimage to the Somme Battlefields to commemorate those who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars. In 1921 the Ulster Tower Memorial was built on the Somme battlefields to commemorate the service and sacrifice of men from the island of Ireland at the Somme and the wider First World War.								
3.0	Main Report								
3.1	<p>November 2021 marks the Centenary of the Opening of the Ulster Tower. The Somme Association is inviting Members to commemorate the event by attending a 4 day tour. The tour will be fully escorted with specialist guides.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>18 November 2021</td> <td>Travel from Belfast to selected UK Airports to join tour coach and travel to Dover for ferry crossing to Northern France.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19 November 2021</td> <td>Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 November 2021</td> <td>Travel to Flanders and visit battlefields the Irish Regiments fought on</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21 November 2021</td> <td>Travel back to the UK and flight back to Belfast.</td> </tr> </table>	18 November 2021	Travel from Belfast to selected UK Airports to join tour coach and travel to Dover for ferry crossing to Northern France.	19 November 2021	Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower	20 November 2021	Travel to Flanders and visit battlefields the Irish Regiments fought on	21 November 2021	Travel back to the UK and flight back to Belfast.
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3.2	The tour costs is £549 per person and includes return flights from Belfast to the UK with one piece of hand luggage, 3 nights hotel with continental breakfast, specialist Battlefield guide, and excursions as detailed in the itinerary attached. Please note should the trip be cancelled due to Covid the tour provider has indicated that monies will be refunded.								

3.3	Key visits will include Ulster Tower Centenary Commemoration; Thiepval Wood, Pozières Memorial to the mission; Thiepval Memorial to the missing, Messines Ridge, Spanbroekmolen Mine Crater; Tyne Cot Cemetery and Last Post Cemetery.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: Cost for the four day trip is £549 plus return travel to Belfast and subsistence. This will be from Members individual conference budget which totals £750 per annum. Costs in excess of £750 will be allocated to party colleagues as per conference policy or alternatively met by Member.
	Human: Not Applicable
	Risk Management: With respect to the ongoing COVID pandemic should foreign travel be cancelled all monies will be refunded
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That approval be granted to those Members who wish to attend the event with costs attributed to individual Member conference budget.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Tour Brochure: Itinerary for Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower

Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower

18th November 2021

A fully escorted tour
with Specialist Guides

4 DAYS
from only
£549
PER PERSON

Includes:

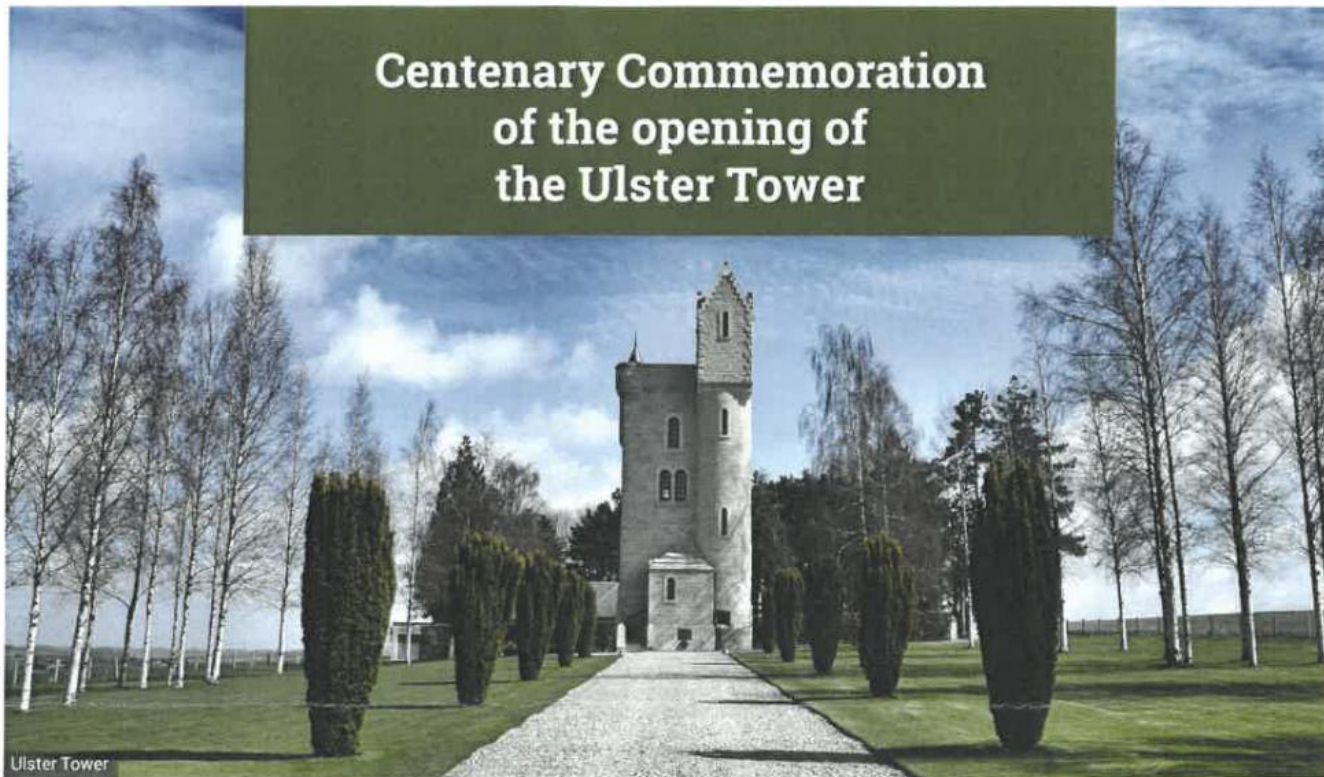
- Return flights from Belfast to the UK with one piece of hand luggage
- 3 nights hotel with continental breakfast
- Specialist Battlefield Guide
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary



Call today to secure your place
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HOLIDAYS

Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower



Ulster Tower

November 2021 marks the centenary of the opening of the Ulster Tower Memorial on the Somme battlefields, a memorial commemorating the service and sacrifice of men from the island of Ireland at the Somme and the wider First World War. Travel with us to attend the commemoration service and visit some of the key battlefield sites.

Day 1: 18 November 2021

Fly from your local airport in Belfast to selected UK airports where you will join your tour coach and travel to Dover for the ferry crossing to France. We continue to our hotel in Northern France for three nights.

Day 2: 19 November 2021

Today is the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower. We attend the ceremony and events here, with time to visit Thiepval Wood. Later, we look at the fighting on the Somme, seeing the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing, the battlefield at Guillemont and ending at the impressive Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. B

Day 3: 20 November 2021

We travel to Flanders and look at the role of Irish Regiments here in the fighting during the Great War. On the Messines Ridge we visit the Island of Ireland Peace Tower, look at the battlefield where the 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) Divisions fought side-by-side in June 1917, seeing the Spanbroekmolen mine crater, the Lone Tree Cemetery and the nearby memorials at Wytshaete. After lunch we visit the battlefield at Hill 60, and then look at the Third Battle of Ypres seeing the areas where Irish Regiments fought and visiting the vast Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial, the largest British War Cemetery in the World. In the evening we have free time in Ypres, prior to attending The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, which is sounded at 8pm each evening. B



Thiepval Memorial

Day 4: 21 November 2021

We travel back to the UK and to your UK airport for the flight back to Northern Ireland. B



Messines Ridge



Tyne Cot Cemetery

4 days from £549

Your tour includes...

- 3 nights hotel with continental breakfast
- Specialist Battlefield Guide
- Return flights from Belfast to the UK (supplements may apply) with one piece of hand luggage
- Battlefield visits as described

Key visits

- ✓ Ulster Tower Centenary Commemoration
- ✓ Thiepval Wood
- ✓ Pozieres Memorial to the Missing
- ✓ Thiepval Memorial to the Missing
- ✓ Messines Ridge
- ✓ Spanbroekmolen Mine Crater
- ✓ Tyne Cot Cemetery
- ✓ Last Post Ceremony

Hotels will be min. 3-star & located within 60 miles of Ulster Tower Memorial. Flight supplements may apply. Prices based on 2 sharing a room. Single supplement £149. Terms & conditions apply.