

Community Regeneration Projects, North Belfast

ABC is a 'shared' community education, health, leisure and arts centre. Flax Trust is working in collaboration with ABC Trust, TEO Urban Villages, Dept for Communities, Dept of Infrastructure and Belfast City Council, developing this community regeneration project.



Vanessa Brown, Jeff Finkle and Mike O'Neil all Washington DC with architect



Brandon McArdle, Peter McArdle, Michael Rafferty (Property Manager) and Matt McArdle, Washington DC; Lisa Kardell and Chris Pilzer, Washington DC. The old Brookfield Mill now contains 22 town houses and 55 apartments.

North Belfast Cross Community Youth Programme

Thank you once again Flax Trust for your generosity and commitment to empowering these young people through education and experience - Steps 2 the Future Project



The trip to New York and Washington DC was an incredible experience for our young people, filled with hands-on learning and new perspectives. They not only gained valuable life skills, but also had the chance to explore new environments, challenge themselves, and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them. The educational aspect of the trip was at the core of everything they experienced.

Flax Trust Music Bursary Awards 2025 Bridging the Divide



Cross Community Reflections Through Music at Holy Cross, North Belfast.

Master of ceremonies James McGinn, MBE; City of Belfast Youth Orchestra (CBSM Brass & String Ensemble - Pierce Morgan); Megan Mooney (Soprano) and Bethany Simpson (Oboe).

Chamber Serenade City of Belfast Youth Orchestra sponsored by Michelle McIlveen MLA, in Stormont Buildings in association with Flax Trust



Conductor: Paul McBride with **harpist** Jack Fusco; **Leader** Sienna Whiteman (violin); **Soloists** Ciara Rogan (harp); Bryan Barr (oboe).

Conductor's CBYO Award



Sienna Whiteman (violin) leader CBYO, receives the Flax Trust Conductor's Bursary Award from Conductor Paul McBride. Sienna recently performed as a soloist in the Ulster Hall Belfast, in Florence, Montecantini and Riva Garda. Sienna's aim is to pursue a career as a professional violinist.

Flax Trust / Camerata Ireland Bursary Award

Kseniia Yershova recipient of the Flax Trust Bursary Award, from Sr Mary Turley. Kseniia who graduated from Stolyarky Specialised Music School in Odesa performs as both violinist and violist and is now entering third year of BMus at MTU Cork.

Flax Trust / Queen's University Bursary Awards



Sarah Hoben



Phoebe Gooding

Sarah Hoben (soprano) Northern Ireland Young Musician of the year 2022; Operatic debut: Northern Ireland Opera 2024; Released her debut EP 2025. **Phoebe Gooding** (soprano) Background choral singing, currently solo artist, continuing studies in voice 2026.

The School for Social Enterprises in Ireland (SSEI) is a Flax Trust / Ulster University Alliance (2005) devoted exclusively to leadership, management and business development for the social economy sector.



In 2024/25 SSEI on behalf of the Flax Trust and Ulster University was delighted to announce the introduction of an innovative approach to the TRANSFORM social enterprise initiative integrating the Advanced Certificate in Social Enterprise with a high-level Professional Development Programme. Participants pursue an academic qualification as well as enhancing their personal and professional capabilities with customised workshops and masterclasses delivered by world renowned speakers and practitioners.

There has been a desire to explore environmental and sustainable approaches to social enterprise in collaboration with a range of stakeholders.

The Flax Trust continues to provide significant and valued support in the form of Bursaries to enable participants access the full programme of academic qualification and professional development.



Workshop: Richard Shotton founder behavioural science consultancy firm Astroten.



Participants engaged in a tutorial at Ulster University.



Workshop: Ian Robertson, Prof. Emeritus Trinity College Dublin, Dir. Global Brain Trust & Research Prof. University Texas.



Workshop: Prof. Chris Hinds MBE former sustainability Dir. Eden Project, Co-Founder Surfers Against Sewage.



Participants with former Irish Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, Prof. Ken O'Neill Chair, SSEI, Prof Jackie McCoy Vice Chair SSEI, Bill Manson Director of Podiem

Welcome to the Thirty Fifth Annual

FLAX TRUST WASHINGTON DC EVENT

Guests of Honor

Paul Bartholomew

Vice-Chancellor and President Ulster University'

Catherine Lucey

White House Correspondent for Bloomberg News

Rev. Joseph E. Ligan, S.J.

President Gonzaga College High School

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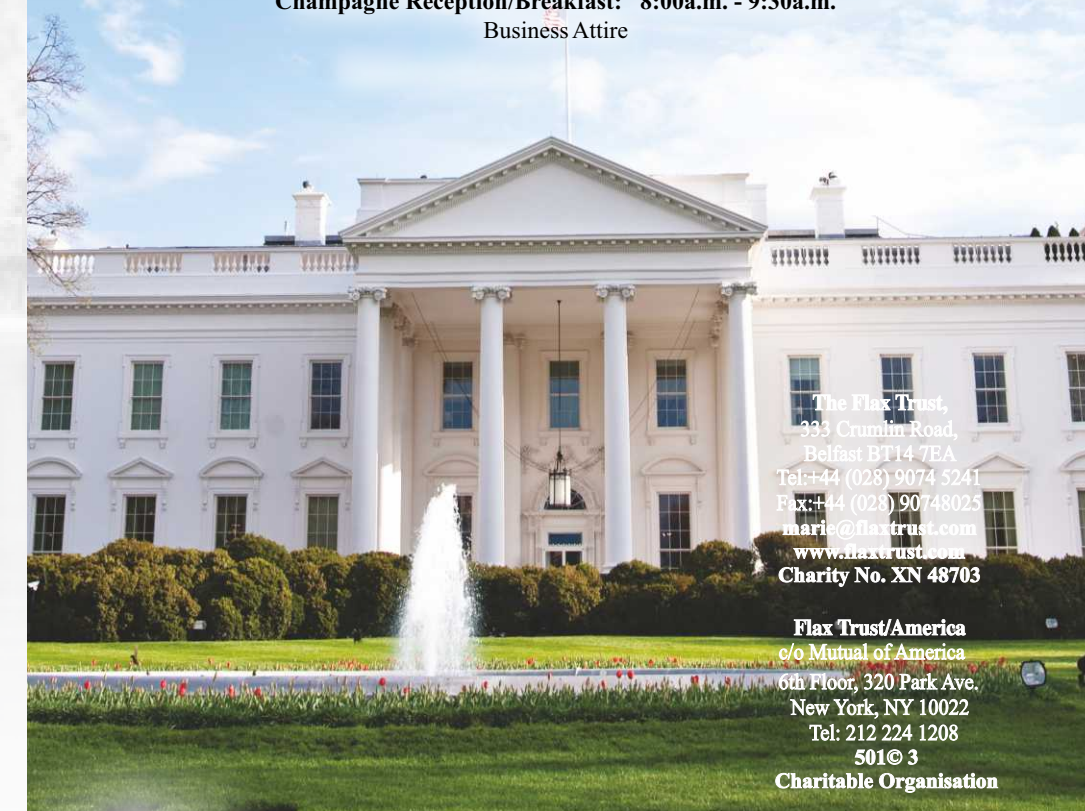
Michael D. McCurry
Former White House Press Secretary
& Director Flax Trust / America

Tuesday, November 25th, 2025

Hay Adams, The Rooftop Terrace

Across from The White House

Champagne Reception/Breakfast: 8:00a.m. - 9:30a.m.
Business Attire



The Flax Trust,
333 Crumlin Road,
Belfast BT14 7EA
Tel: +44 (028) 9074 5241
Fax: +44 (028) 9074 8025
marie@flaxtrust.com
www.flaxtrust.com
Charity No. XN 48703

Flax Trust/America
c/o Mutual of America
6th Floor, 320 Park Ave.
New York, NY 10022
Tel: 212 224 1208
501© 3
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We are very grateful to
Mutual of America for
this invaluable facility.

Rev. Joseph E. Lingan, S.J.
President Gonzaga College High School



Fr. Lingan, S.J. is a graduate of Gonzaga College High School and Virginia Tech. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1979 and pronounced his first vows in 1981. He studied humanities, philosophy, and theology at Creighton University, St. Louis University, Weston School of Theology, and Boston College. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1990. Since that time, he has served within the ministries of Secondary Education, Higher Education, Spiritual Formation and Vocational Development.

His ministry has included serving as Staff Member of the Jesuit

Center for Spiritual Growth (Wernersville, PA), Faculty Member and Director of Campus Ministry at Gonzaga College High School (Washington, DC), Rector/President of St. Michael's Institute (Spokane, WA), Executive Assistant to the Provincial of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, Rector at Loyola Blakefield (Baltimore, MD), Novice Master (for the Maryland, New England, and New York Provinces of the Society of Jesus), Rector of the Jesuit Community at Georgetown University (Washington, DC), and Associate Director of Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center (Atlanta, GA).

Presently, Fr. Lingan serves as President of Gonzaga College High School.

Gonzaga College, founded in 1821, is a top-rated private college offering a values – orientated and academically challenging curriculum to young men of diverse backgrounds.



Gonzaga College High School, Eye Street Campus Washington D.C.



The Flax Trust as a registered, charity, formed in Belfast in 1977, has as its mission the reduction and, if possible, the elimination of community tensions and religious prejudices by creative engagement in economic and social development, education and training with inter-community activities including culture, the Arts, sport, health, social programmes and personal development.

Paul Bartholomew
Vice-Chancellor and President Ulster University



As Vice-Chancellor at Ulster University, Professor Bartholomew has overall responsibility for all aspects of University business. As a dual-focused University delivering excellent teaching and research which spans multiple campuses within a unique geographical and political context, Ulster is one of the UK's most complex large universities.

Ulster University is within the top 10% of all UK universities for the measure of research impact and for students' experiences.

Professor Bartholomew had a clinical career in the NHS as a diagnostic radiographer before moving into higher education in 2001. Since then, he has led on various aspects of learning and teaching and the enhancement of academic quality for the universities within which he has worked prior to leading Ulster University.

Paul is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a National Teaching Fellow and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Under his leadership Ulster University has completed and opened a new campus in the centre of Belfast and has launched a new School of Medicine at its campus in Derry~Londonderry - the first graduates of which qualified in 2025.

In 2024 Ulster University was named the UK and Ireland University of the Year, the first time a university on the island of Ireland has received the award.



Ulster University, Belfast Campus



Catherine Lucey
White House Correspondent for Bloomberg News



Based in Washington DC, she has covered the White House and national politics for nearly 20 years. Her reporting has taken her across the country and around the world, with stops in Europe, Asia and South America during President Donald Trump's first term and to the Middle East, India and Ireland with President Joe Biden.

Prior to joining Bloomberg, Lucey worked for the Wall Street Journal and the Associated Press.

Most recently, she covered the 2024 presidential election, including the historic candidate change from Biden to Kamala Harris, as well as electoral demographics and key policy issues like abortion. She chronicled Trump's 2020 re-election bid, his Supreme Court nominees, legislative battles and the Covid pandemic response.

Lucey has conducted interviews with leading political figures such as President Trump, Donald Trump Jr., House Speaker Mike Johnson, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Hillary Clinton. She has appeared as a political commentator on CNN, MSNBC and Fox News.

Before she came to Washington, Lucey worked in Iowa, where she documented state politics and the 2016 Iowa caucuses. She started her career in Philadelphia, writing about city politics and government.

Lucey graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. Born in Dublin, she moved to the United States as a child. She grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan and suburban Philadelphia.

Washington DC Honoree Co-Chairs

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The Boland family
Washington DC -
Sean Jr and Alison,
with Gabriel, Myles
and Amalie - check
out the Ulster
University
Belfast Campus

**The 34th Flax Trust / America Washington DC Banquet Breakfast
The Hay Adams, Rooftop Terrace, across from the White House**



Jim Boland, Chair, Flax Trust/America; Jim Quinn President Flax Trust/America; Honoree Kevin Sullivan, Executive Director Ad Hoc Committee to Protect the GFA; John Feehery, Director Flax Trust/America; Honoree Daniel Colman, The Dubliner; Mike O'Neil, Director Flax Trust/America; Sr Mary Turley, Trustee, Chair Flax Trust, Vice President Flax Trust/America; Honoree Ed O'Keefe, CBS News Senior White House & Political Correspondent; Ciara Delaney, Chief Operations Officer US Mission Network; Mike McCurry, Director Flax Trust/America.

**The 34th Flax Trust / America New York Banquet
The 'Links' 36 East 62nd Street**



Honorees,
Ambassador Fergal
Mythen, Permanent
Representative of
Ireland to the United
Nations; Pauline
Turley, Vice Chair
Irish Arts Centre;
Robert J. Reilly,
Assistant Dean
(retired) Fordham
Law School, with
Sr Mary Turley