

Lisburn PDF



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Name

The town was originally known as Lisnagarvy (also spelt Lisnagarvey, Lisnagarvey, Lisnagarvy, Lisnagarvagh or Lisnagarvagh) after the townland in which it formed. This is derived from Irish Lios na gCearrbhach, meaning 'ringfort of the gamesters/gamblers'.

The origin of the town's current name is uncertain. The modern spelling Lisburn first appears in a January 1662 entry in church records. After February 1662, the name Lisnagarvy is no longer found in the records. It is commonly believed that the town was renamed after being burnt during the Irish Rebellion of 1641. In his book *Lisburn Cathedral and Its Past Rectors* (1926), Reverend WP Carmody argues "This seems to be most improbable; after twenty years the burning would be a memory, and the loyal people of the town would not be disposed to give it a name that would be forever reminiscent of its destruction by rebels". There is evidence that the name existed even at the time of the rebellion. In the depositions concerning the rebellion, an English soldier stated on 9 June 1653 that the rebels entered the town of Lisnagarvy at "a place called Louzy Barne". Carmody believes that, in the town's early days, there were two co-existing ringforts: Lisnagarvy to the north and Lisburn to the south. He suggests that both names come from Irish and concludes: "Lisburn, being shorter and more easily pronounced by the English settlers, became the familiar name and Lisnagarvey gradually dropped out".

The original name is still used in the titles of some local schools and sports teams.

History

Lisburn's original site was a fort located north of modern-day Wallace Park. In 1609 James I granted Sir Fulke Conway, a Welshman of Norman descent, the lands of Killultagh in southwest County Antrim. During the 1620s the streets of Lisburn were laid out just as they are today: Market Square, Bridge Street, Castle Street and Bow Street. Conway brought over many English and Welsh settlers during the Ulster Plantation; he also had a manor house built on what is now Castle Gardens, and in 1623, a church on the site of the current cathedral. In 1628, Sir Edward Conway, brother to the now deceased Sir Fulke, obtained a charter from King Charles I granting the right to hold a weekly market. This is still held in the town every Tuesday. The Manor House was destroyed in the accidental fire of 1707 and was never rebuilt; the city's Latin motto, *Ex igne resurgam* ("Out of the fire I shall arise"), is a reference to this incident.



Lisburn is also known as the birthplace of Ireland's linen industry, which was established in 1698 by Louis Crommelin and other Huguenots. An exhibition about the Irish linen industry is now housed in the Irish Linen Centre, which can be found in the old Market House in Market Square.

In 1920, disturbances related to the ongoing Irish War of Independence saw almost all of Lisburn's Catholic businesses burned out and many of the town's Catholic population forced to flee. The town was one of the first to recruit special

constables, who went on to become part of Northern Ireland's Ulster Special Constabulary.

The Cold War

Between 1954 and 1992 Lisburn contained the operational headquarters of No 31 Belfast Group Royal Observer Corps who operated from a protected nuclear bunker on Knox Road within Thiepval Barracks. Converted from a 1940s Anti-aircraft Operations Room (AAOR), the bunker would support over one hundred ROC volunteers and a ten-man United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation warning team responsible for the four-minute warning in the event of a nuclear strike on the UK. The ROC would also have detected radioactive fallout from the nuclear bursts and warned the public of approaching fallout.

The two organisations were disbanded in 1992 at the end of the Cold War. In 2007 a commemorative plaque was mounted on the wall of the nuclear bunker which still stands, in recognition of the service of ROC volunteers in Northern Ireland.

Administration

Lisburn is the administrative centre of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area, which also includes Mazetown, Hillsborough, Moira, Dromara, Glenavy, Dunmurry and Drumbo.



In elections for the Westminster Parliament the city falls mainly into the Lagan Valley constituency but partly into West Belfast.

The headquarters of the British Army in Northern Ireland at Thiepval Barracks and the headquarters of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service are located in the city.

Churches

Lisburn is notable for its large number of churches, with 132 churches listed in the Lisburn City Council area. One of two cathedrals in the Church of Ireland Diocese of Connor is in Lisburn, Christ Church Cathedral.

Education

- Pond Park Primary School
- Central Primary School
- Tonagh Primary School
- Largymore Primary School
- St. Aloysius Primary School
- Killowen Primary School
- Ballymacash Primary School
- Brownlee Primary School
- Forthill Primary School
- Harmony Hill Primary School
- St. Joseph's Primary School
- St. Colman's Primary School
- Old Warren Primary School
- Knockmore Primary School
- Pond Park Primary School
- Friends' School
- Lisnagarvey High School
- Wallace High School
- Fort Hill College
- Laurelhill Community College
- St. Patrick's Academy
- South Eastern Regional College: Lisburn Campus (formerly Lisburn Institute)

Transport

Lisburn railway station was opened on 12 August 1839. The railway remains a popular means of transport between Lisburn and Belfast, with the express trains taking 10–15 minutes to reach Belfast's Great Victoria Street. The train also links the city directly with Newry, Portadown, Lurgan, Moira and Bangor. The station also has services to Dublin Connolly in the city of Dublin, with three trains per day stopping at the station. All railway services from the station are provided by Northern Ireland Railways, a subsidiary of Translink. The city is also served by Hilden railway station.



Bus

Ulsterbus provides various bus services that connect the city with Belfast city centre, which lies eight miles northeast. These services generally operate either along Belfast's Lisburn Road or through the Falls area in west Belfast. In addition to long-distance services to Craigavon, Newry and Banbridge, there is also a network of buses that serve the rural areas around the city, such as Glenavy and Dromara; as well as an hourly bus service 6am-6pm Monday-Saturday to Belfast International Airport.

The city has a vast network of local buses, serving the local housing developments and amenities. These are operated by Ulsterbus.

A new Bus Centre, provided by the regional public transport provider Translink, opened on 30 June 2008 at the corner of Smithfield Street and the Hillsborough Road. It replaced the shelters that formerly stood in Smithfield Square.

Road

The city has a favourable position on the Belfast-Dublin corridor, being connected with the former by the M1 motorway from which it can be accessed through junctions 3, 6, 7 and 8. The A1 road to Newry and Dublin deviates from the M1 at the Sprucefield interchange, which is positioned one mile southeast of the city centre. An inner orbital route was formed throughout the 1980s which has permitted the city centre to operate a one-way system as well as the pedestrianisation of the Bow Street shopping precinct. In addition to this, a feeder road leading from Milltown on the outskirts of Belfast to Ballymacash in north Lisburn, was opened in 2006. This route connects with the A512 and permits traffic from Lisburn to easily access the M1 at junction 3 (Dunmurry) thus relieving pressure on the southern approaches to the city.

Areas

North Lisburn

The north and south divide in Lisburn can be seen either side of the railway line that goes through the centre of the city. North Lisburn is home to many of the residential neighbourhoods, and contains the notable landmarks of the Theipval Barracks, and the Laurelhill Sportszone.

People in Arts and Media

- Richard Dormer - actor.
- Duke Special - Singer-songwriter, born in Lisburn in 1971.
- Barry Fitzgerald - actor, born in Lisburn in 1972.
- Sam Cree - playwright.
- Anna Cheyne (1926–2002) - artist and sculptor, resident of Lisburn.
- Donna Traynor - journalist, born in Lisburn.
- William H. Conn (1895–1973) - Irish cartoonist, illustrator, water colourist and poster artist.
- Samuel McCloy (1831–1904) - Irish painter
- Kristian Nairn - actor, portrayed Hodor in Game Of Thrones

People in Politics

- Sir Richard Wallace - politician, created baronet in 1871, Member of Parliament for Lisburn from 1873 to 1885.
- David Trimble - politician, lives in city.
- John McMichael (1948–1987) - politician, Senior Ulster Defence Association leader, a native of Lisburn.
- Henry Munro (United Irishman) - politician.
- Sir John Milne Barbour, 1st Baronet JP, DL (1868–1951) - Northern Irish politician and baronet.
- John Jeffers (1822–1890) - member of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

People in Sport

- Damien Johnson - Northern Irish, international footballer born here.
- Mary Peters - athlete, lives in Lisburn.
- Jonny Ross, bowler
- James Tennyson, professional boxer