

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me"



DISCOVER BELFAST'S LITERARY SON

This trail will take you to the places in east Belfast that influenced and inspired the young C.S. Lewis.

Clive Staples Lewis was one of the intellectual giants of the 20th century. He wrote more than 40 books, ranging from children's fantasy literature to popular theology.

Known as 'Jack' to his friends and family, Lewis was born in Belfast on 29th November 1898, the second child of Albert and Florence (Flora) and younger brother of Warren (Warnie). He grew up in family homes on Dundela Avenue and Circular Road in east Belfast. His early years in Belfast influenced much of his later writing, especially *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Lewis was a Campbell College and Oxford alumni and a veteran of WW1. He was appointed Fellow and Tutor in English Literature at Oxford University, where he served for 29 years until 1954. He died on 22nd November 1963 aged 64 and is buried in Oxford.

The trail starts at EastSide Visitor Centre adjacent to C.S. Lewis Square on the Newtownards Rd.

To get there catch the Glider 1 or Metro 3 or 4 from Belfast City Centre. Then enjoy a couple of hours exploring east Belfast's main C.S. Lewis sites.

C.S. Lewis Square is an exciting public space which features 7 bronze sculptures by artist Maurice Harron who was inspired by characters from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, including Aslan, the White Witch, Mr Tumnus and the Beavers.

At the edge of the square you will also find 'The Searcher', a life size centenary sculpture by Ross Wilson depicting Lewis as the character Digory Kirke from *The Magician's Nephew*. Pick up a copy of the C.S. Lewis Square map from EastSide Visitor Centre to find out more about the sculptures.

C.S. LEWIS SQUARE

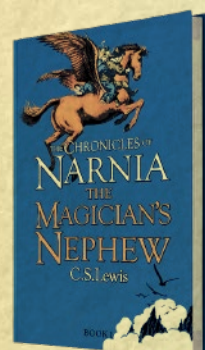


AN INSPIRING BELFAST CHILDHOOD

In Lewis' day, Belfast was a mighty industrial city. Nowhere produced more ships or linen, more ropes or tea than Belfast in the early 20th century.

Lewis loved 'the Belfast Symphony' - the pulsating rhythm of the Harland & Wolff riveters, ringing out across the city. He later described the sound as "more tunable than song of any bird, a thousand hammers ringing in the morn."

In 1905, the Lewis family moved from Dundela Avenue to 'Little Lea' (little field), Circular Road.



The young Jack probably played in the attic - could this have inspired the setting for the children's adventure to Narnia in *The Magician's Nephew*? A wardrobe in the home, built by Lewis' paternal grandfather, may also have inspired the gateway to Narnia.



ST MARK'S CHURCH

St Mark's Church was very influential in Lewis' life. His maternal grandfather, Rev. Thomas Hamilton, was the rector and baptised Lewis and his brother here.

Lewis denounced Christianity before returning to the faith in 1931. He is well known for his Christian apologetics including *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles* and *The Problem with Pain*.

The church has a strong 'lion' association - it is known as 'The Lion on the Hill' and has a lion shaped door handle at the rector's. As a young boy Lewis would have been standing face to face with this lion as he went to visit his grandfather and this, perhaps, influenced the creation of 'Aslan' in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In 1935 the Lewis brothers presented a stained glass window to the church in memory of their parents.



FIND OUT MORE - DUNDELA.DOWN.ANGLICAN.ORG

St Luke, the physician, could relate to Lewis' mother Flora who suffered from ill health. **St James** may refer to Lewis' father, Albert James Lewis. You will also notice that St James is holding a silver chalice - similar to that used in the church, a gift from the Lewis family.

There is a winged lion around the shoulders of **St Mark**. This is significant as the lion is the icon for St Mark and is also a symbol associated with Venice; his final resting place.



THE C.S. LEWIS LEGACY

A number of murals in east Belfast are dedicated to, or feature the author. The C.S. Lewis Reading Room, Queen's University Belfast, features glass engraved quotations from Lewis and a wardrobe door marks the entrance to the room. The carpets and central table are also based on Narnia themes.

Belfast's Writer's Square in the historic Cathedral Quarter features quotations from twenty seven local

Belfast



EAST SIDE INSPIRING BELFAST

/EastSideVC

/EastSideVisitorCentre

The C.S. Lewis Trail was developed as part of the Connswater Community Greenway, a 9km linear park in east Belfast, following the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers.

The Greenway is a visionary urban regeneration project that is transforming east Belfast through the creation of vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible parkland and pedestrian/ cycle routes for leisure, recreation, community events and activities.

This is a self-guided trail. Check out VisitEastSide.com to book a guided tour.



VISIT EASTSIDE.COM

"Some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again"

Grace of Campbell College



CAMPBELL COLLEGE

As Lewis embarked on his first journey to school here he would have been confronted by the solitary gas lamp on the grounds.

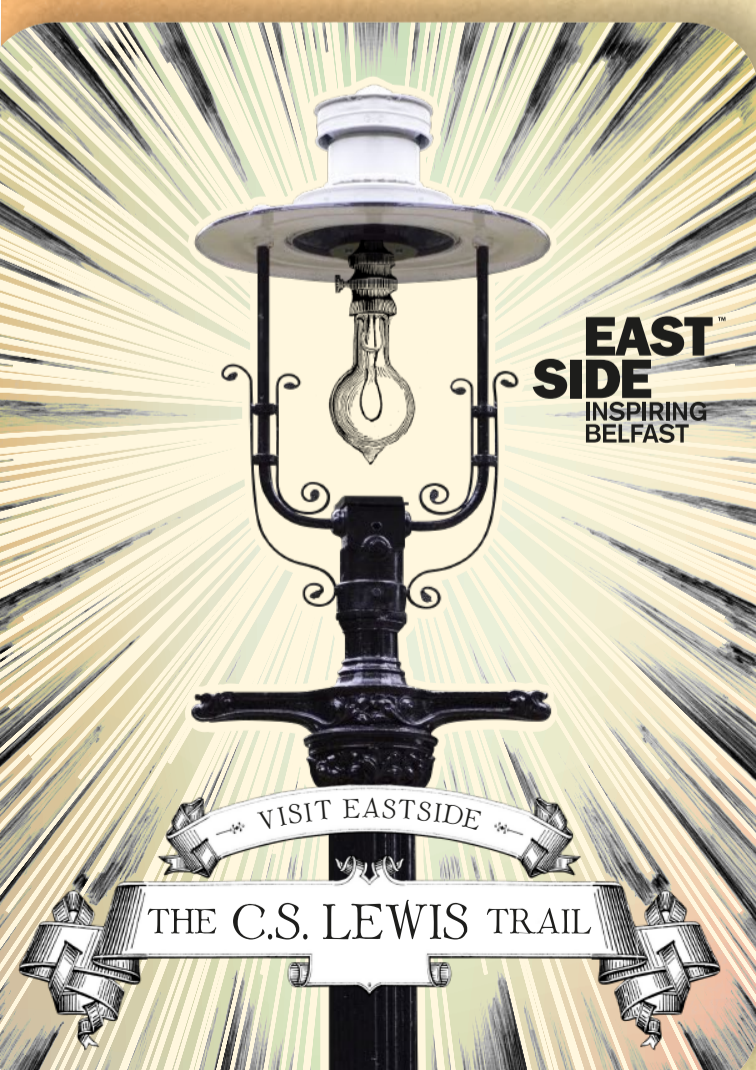
Could this lamp have been his inspiration for the Narnian lamp post we read of in both *The Magician's Nephew* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*? "This is the land of Narnia . . . all that lies between the lamp post and the great castle of Cair Paravel . . ." Mr Tumnus, the faun, explains to Lucy when they meet.



THE C.S. LEWIS LEGACY

celebrated writers which are carved into the paving, including C.S. Lewis. In 2013, on the 50th anniversary of his death, Lewis was memorialised in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey.

Movies and TV series have been made based on Lewis' life and work including *The Chronicles of Narnia* movies by Walden Media. The BBC produced a popular TV series (Nov 1988- Dec 1990) based on the Narnia books. The film, *Shadowlands*, (1993) is based on Lewis' later life, focusing on his relationship with his wife Joy Davidman.



EAST SIDE INSPIRING BELFAST

VISIT EASTSIDE

THE C.S. LEWIS TRAIL



C.S. Lewis, as a boy, perhaps looked out from his home at 'Little Lea' across Belfast Lough, through the telescope his father bought him, and felt inspired by the shimmering towers of Belfast Castle, nestling on the slopes of Cavehill.

BELFAST CASTLE



BELFAST LOUGH

In April 1905, the Lewis family moved into



(PRIVATE)

The house where a young Clive Lewis wrote and illustrated his first stories, 'Little Lea' seemed to him 'more like a city than a house' and who knows, was perhaps the inspiration for Prof. Digory's house?

CIRCLAR ROAD
METRO 3E

C.S. Lewis was christened at St Mark's Church in January 1899.

The font used for his baptism is still inside the church.

In 1935, Lewis and his brother Warren presented the magnificent stained glass Lewis window to the church in memory of their parents.



HAWTHORNDEN WAY

CAMPBELL COLLEGE



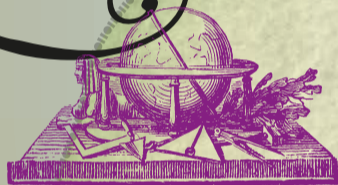
Lewis boarded at Campbell College in 1910.

The ornate gas lamp on the driveway is thought to have inspired the one that stands at the entrance to Narnia.

The College War Memorial contains the names of pupils who volunteered during WWI, including Lewis who was wounded in France in 1918.

(PRIVATE)

C.S. Lewis TRAIL



VICTORIA PARK

C.S. Lewis spent the first ten years or so of his childhood in East Belfast. During that time, many of the people that he met, the places he visited and things that he saw had such a profound influence on him that they were to emerge in his later writings.

This trail will lead you to many of these influential places. It will reveal the events that helped to shape one of the most wonderfully creative minds of the twentieth century.

* TY-ISA (PRIVATE)

The Welsh name Ty-isa means the low house. Home to C.S. Lewis' grandfather, Richard, who built a beautiful wardrobe for the Lewis family. Perhaps the inspiration for the gateway to Narnia?

CONNSWATER RIVER



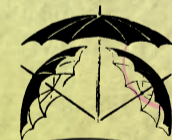
EastSide VISITOR CENTRE



C.S. LEWIS SQUARE



HOLYWOOD ARCHES LIBRARY



CONNSWATER COMMUNITY GREENWAY

The LINEN HALL LIBRARY in Belfast City Centre is home to a unique collection of books by and about C.S. Lewis. The collection was donated by the C.S. Lewis Association of Ireland.



H&W Shipyard

TITANIC BELFAST & PRONI

Lewis' grandfather came to Belfast from Dublin to set up an engineering company near the shipyard

ISLAND ST
DEE STREET

* C.S. LEWIS MURAL



METRO 3A-G

NEWTOWNARDS RD

LINEN HALL LIBRARY

