

# GOING WITH THE FLOW

the towering 'Samson and Goliath', twin gantry cranes, bright yellow city landmarks.

No mistaking the Harland and Wolff shipyard, forming an industrial backdrop to the modernity of the Waterfront and the aluminium-foil-shiny Titanic visitor centre. We mooched about, drawn to the Lagan and its industrial heritage. Here you could still feel the past in spite of

everything having been tizzed up for us tourists, knowing that previous generations walked here, that ships were launched down the monstrous slipways built for the White Star line's trio of titanic cruisers, that vessels were tied to the metalwork set into the ground.

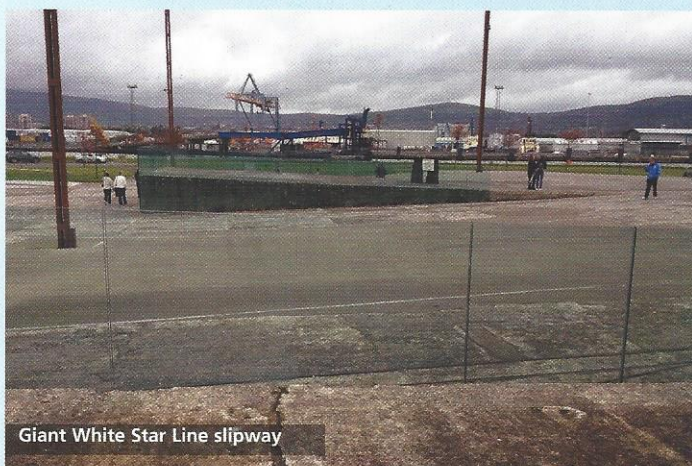
Best of all is the river itself, still bringing shipping through the natural harbour of Belfast Lough

and almost into the city centre. City rivers have a resonance all their own. Ferries arrive here from Douglas on the Isle of Man, Cairnryan in Scotland and Liverpool in the Northwest of England. The Liverpool ferry terminal is Liverpool in the Ryanair sense – it actually goes to Birkenhead across the Mersey on the Wirral.

We came away knowing we had only brushed the surface of this part of Ireland. We'd be back, only next time for longer, hopefully with the sailing dinghy, and with much much better planning.

**Photos: Nicki Griffin**

Lagan Weir, Belfast



Giant White Star Line slipway

## RIVER BANN & LOUGH NEAGH

FROM MICHAEL SAVAGE



On Saturday 8 November, despite a good weather forecast it rained off and on all day only brightening up in the afternoon. However the rain didn't stop the 19 volunteers from leaving Ram's Island spic and span for the special visitor coming to the Island next month.

The event was sponsored by Antrim Borough Council who provided litter bags gloves and litter pickers. Volunteers from the River Bann and Lough Neagh Association prepared and provided lunch aboard the floating interpretive centre.

**Photos: Michael Savage**



Ram's Island Litter Lift



Summer Visitors to Rams Island



Special Visitor making an early visit