

**The Concrete Society**  
**Northern Ireland Region**



## **JOINT WEEKEND WITH THE IRISH CONCRETE SOCIETY**

**“Titanic Belfast®”**

**Friday 24th & Saturday 25th April 2015**

One of the highlights of our year's activities for many members and spouses is our annual meeting with our colleagues from the Irish Concrete Society. This year the Northern Ireland Region is hosting the event which will be based in Belfast at the wonderfully appointed Hilton Hotel on the banks of the River Lagan, close to St George's Market, The Waterfront Hall and Belfast Central Train Station. The technical visit on Saturday morning will be to Titanic Belfast® in the vibrant Titanic Quarter of the City. The exhibition centre extends over nine galleries, with multiple dimensions, drawing together special effects, dark rides, full-scale reconstructions and innovative interactive features to explore the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way.

Titanic Belfast is located on Queen's Island, an area of land at the entrance of Belfast Lough which was reclaimed from the water in the mid-19th century. It was used for many years by the shipbuilders Harland and Wolff, who built huge slipways and graving docks to accommodate the simultaneous construction of *Olympic* and *Titanic*. The decline of shipbuilding in Belfast left much of the area derelict. The derelict land was renamed the "Titanic Quarter" in 2001 and was earmarked for regeneration. Development rights over 185 acres was subsequently bought by Harcourt Developments and in 2005, plans were announced to build a museum dedicated to *Titanic* to attract tourists to the area, with the aim of completing it by 2012 to mark the centenary of *Titanic's* maiden voyage. The construction of the building cost £77 million with an additional £24 million spent on pre-planning and public realm enhancements. The foundations to the building involved one of the country's largest-ever concrete pours with 4,200 cubic metres (150,000 cu ft) of concrete delivered by 700 concrete lorries in 24 hours. Harcourt Construction (NI) Ltd oversaw the design and building phase of the project. First year visitor numbers significantly exceeded projections, with 807,340 visitors passing through its doors, of which 471,702 were from outside Northern Ireland.

A programme for the weekend is attached to this notice. The programme begins on Friday 24 April and concludes on the afternoon of Saturday 25 April but you are free to extend the weekend trip into the Sunday if you so wish.

The cost of bed and breakfast at the Hilton Belfast, which is paid directly to the hotel, is £115 per double room per night including breakfast (£110 per night for single occupancy).

The hotel offers excellent amenities and is perched on the banks of the River Lagan, next door to the Waterfront Hall. Details of all hotel facilities can be found at [www.hilton.com/Belfast](http://www.hilton.com/Belfast).

**If you intend to stay at the Belfast Hilton please make contact directly with the hotel (Tel +44-28-90277000 or use the above website) to confirm your booking as soon as possible and quote Group Code GCONA to take advantage of the above special rate that we have negotiated with the hotel. The hotel requires credit/debit card details to confirm the booking.**

If there are sufficient numbers staying overnight on the Saturday 25 April, we will make a reservation at a restaurant in the Cathedral Quarter for dinner that evening. Further details will be provided closer to the event.



## **Joint Weekend - Concrete Society NI Region & Irish Concrete Society**

### **Programme**

#### **Friday 24 April 2015**

##### **JKC Construction Golf Challenge - Venue to be finalized**

- 12:30am                      Lunch for Golfers in the Club House
- 1:00pm                      Tee Off

##### **Gala Dinner at Belfast Hilton Hotel**

- 7:30pm                      Wine Reception
- 8:30pm                      Banquet Dinner                      *Sonoma Restaurant*

#### **Saturday 25th April 2015**

- 8:00/9:30 am                      Breakfast

##### **Technical Visit to Titanic Belfast**

- 10:15am                      Coach leaves Hotel
- 10:20am                      Arrive at Titanic Belfast
- 10:30am -11:30am                      Technical Presentation on the construction of Titanic Belfast
- 11:30am - 1:30pm                      Tour of Titanic Belfast
- 1:30pm                      Lunch in *The Bridge* at Titanic Belfast
- 2:30pm                      Coach returns to Belfast Hilton

##### **Formal end of Joint Weekend**

##### **Saturday Evening (for those staying on)**

Arrangements will be made for a restaurant in Cathedral Quarter for Saturday evening meal

Details to follow.