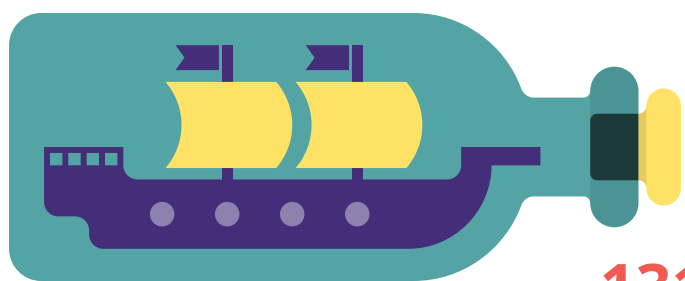
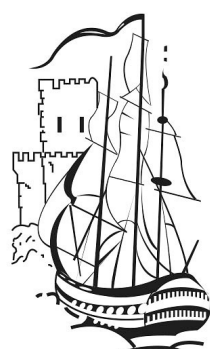


A BRIEF HISTORY OF DOBBINS INN



1315

Carrickfergus Castle is attacked by **Edward Bruce's** army. A siege begins and eventually ends in mid 1316. Bruce's Army was defeated at Dundalk in 1318 and he was hung as a result with part of his body sent to the castle in celebration.

1600 - 1690

During the Plantation of Ulster under King James the Dobbins's Castle was shelter for those souls wishing to celebrate mass and during this period the "**priest's hole**" was constructed and is visible today near reception.

1753

By 1753 the Inn was a stout town house owned by the Seeds family and on February 21st with Britain at war with France, **Sheriff John Seeds** escorts French prisoners to Belfast. At Boneybefore soldiers under Commodore Francois Thurot land and soon they were being repelled in the high street. Seed's wife Susanna tries to comfort her young family frightened by the fighting outside but young **Thomas** slips out only to find himself between the armies. Chevalier D'Estrees, a French officer breaks ranks, runs to the child and takes him to his distraught mother. The defenders, so moved by the officer's gallantry, send a dispatch to Thurot commending D'Estrees.

1798

Rebel leader **Henry Joy McCracken** with 2 comrades leave the safe house of David Bodle on the Cavehill and approach Carrickfergus but they are recognised by soldiers. Realising that a compromise can be made the two parties retire to the Inn. One young soldier, fearing the consequences, **flees through the tunnel**, returns with an officer and the fugitives are taken to Belfast where they are hanged

1200

DOBBINS INN

Norman Knight **Reginald D'Aubin** is gifted some land in the shadow of Carrickfergus Castle and the Tower House he built became the forerunner for the hotel as we know it today.

1401

Peter Doby is now the Constable of the Castle. In the century following his family hold the titles of either Sheriff or Mayor.

1600 - 1650

During this period one of the town's most endearing ghost stories has its origins. Hugh Dobbin's young wife fell in love with a handsome captain of foot stationed at the castle barracks. Dobbin, returning from the Tyrone rebellion, discovered the deception and "did put them to death with his sword" The unfortunate pair roam the castle, as **Buttoncap** and the Inn, as **Maude**.

1778

April 1778 and a ship "the Ranger" captained by American privateer **John Paul Jones** lies off Carrick, the crew of a fishing boat is taken by Jones who captures the vessel "Drake" a naval rigger under Captain Burdon. The fishermen, amongst who is **John Dobbin**, are freed as the War of Independence touched these shores.

2017

In 1946 the building was converted to a hotel by the Mabbut family. The Inn was bought by local couple **Maureen and Derek Fallis** in 1978 and the family link is preserved today by daughter Kirsty.

