



Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon MBE

on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Councillors
of Belfast City Council

invites you to
the portrait unveiling by Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA of
Councillor Mrs Florence E. Breakie OBE, JP

Member of Belfast Corporation 1949 - 1961, representing St Anne's Ward
High Sheriff of Belfast 1959

at 9.30am on Thursday 19 January 2017
in the Ulster Unionist Group Room
at Belfast City Hall



Councillor Mrs Florence E. Breakie OBE, JP was High Sheriff of Belfast in 1959 when the portrait by artist Raymond Piper being unveiled by party leader Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA was presented to her by her colleagues and friends in the City Council. She represented St Anne's Ward on Belfast Corporation from 1949 to 1961.

From 1954 to 1956, she was Chairman of the Library, Museums and Art Committee which ran the then Belfast Municipal Museum and Art Gallery at Stranmillis Road. It was during her tenure that Stormont was invited to raise its status to the national museum of Northern Ireland. It became the Ulster Museum thereafter in 1962.

She was instrumental in establishing the Ulster Transport Museum at the old Belfast and Co Down Railway Motor Shed at Queen's Quay in 1955, which later moved to Witham Street on the Newtownards Road. It ultimately became the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum on transfer to the Gallery at Cultra. She was also a founding member of the Ulster Folk Museum.

A long-time member of the Gas and Welfare Committee, Mrs Breakie was chair of St Anne's Women's Unionist Association and a member of the Ulster Unionist Council.

Although not the first female High Sheriff in Ireland (that was Alderman Julia McMordie in 1928 who was also an MP), Florence Breakie was probably the next most high profile woman in Belfast politics until the 1960s.

Florence Breakie's achievements are well worthy of recognition and we should take pride in them, proving that Ulster Unionism was in the vanguard when it came to female representation and advancement.