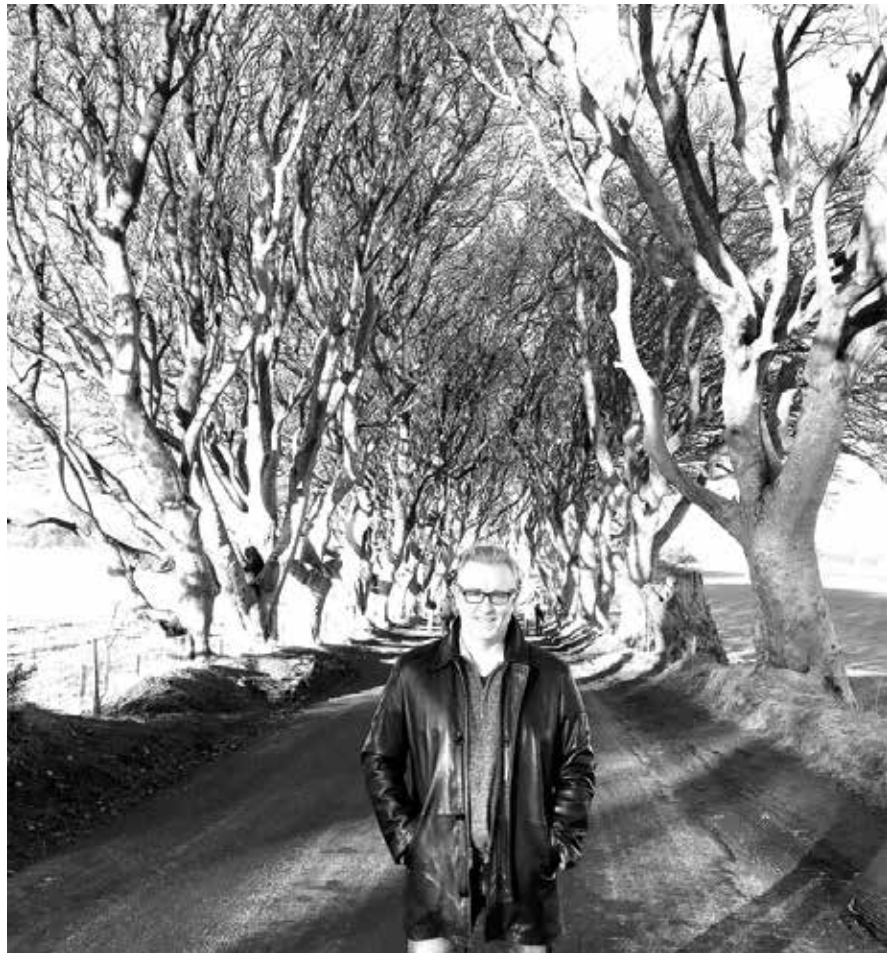




Magical History

Now a famous backdrop, 'The Kingsroad' is also more plainly known as the Bregagh Rd., located near the sleepy village of Armoy tucked away in the northeast farmland of Northern Ireland. A personal childhood memory, it is one facet of a small land with a past that is perhaps more fascinating and influential than one might expect. Notwithstanding its position at the epicenter of rotational molding research, the ancient province of Ulster, its history and its people have much to offer the curious traveler. The land is dotted with the ruins of Norman era (and older) castles and the Giant's Causeway. With its rare formation of hexagonal basalt structures jutting into the sea, it was created by a volcano but has always been part of the legendary battle between the Irish giant, Finn McCool, and his Scottish rival Benandonner. The Giant's Ring, a Neolithic site with extensive earthen works on the outskirts of Belfast, is as equally important historically as it is great for an afternoon stroll. Bushmills, the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery which dates back to 1608 is still going strong and the Belfast shipyards of Titanic and World War II fame are still in operation too; look out for commemorative T-shirts with the iconic "She was Alright When She Left Here" printed on the back! Her people have made their mark too: Lord Kelvin of the temperature-scale fame and who oversaw the laying of the first transatlantic cable was an Ulsterman, as was CS Lewis of Narnia fame; actors Sir Kenneth Branagh, Liam Neeson and singer Van Morrison who all started out in this wee province; the Short Brothers were



A View Along the 'Kingsroad' of Game of Thrones Fame

contemporaries of the Wright Brothers and obtained the rights to build copies of their aircraft design in 1908 – the company has been sold but remains in operation adjacent to the City airport today; Harry Ferguson whose work shaped the development of the modern tractor and worked with Henry Ford, was the first person in the British Isles to build and fly his own aircraft just outside Belfast; and modern-era golfing in

Northern Ireland punches well above its weight with two Royal golf courses and legends McIlroy, Rafferty, Feherty and Clarke making their mark worldwide. So, if you do happen to pass by on a tour of the mystical 'Thrones' sites, make sure to keep your eyes open – there's real magic around here too...

Magical Future

And the magic is real in the rotomolding

community worldwide too, with new developments and a packed global agenda for 2017. I'm always amazed at the energy and programs generated by rotomolders and am often pleasantly surprised when I conduct a review for these articles. By way of example, Wave Energy Scotland has announced funding for three separate rotomolding projects to support development of materials and designs for floating energy conversion systems in ocean-shoreline projects. Other projects include fuel storage systems from bio-diesel to hydrogen to CNG, bio-digesters, fully automated rotomolding, storm shelters for tornados and ubiquitous rotomolded furniture, all in multiple regions. The Indian rotomolding community continues to benefit from infrastructure projects for water and sewage systems and their

association, StAR, actively supports their molding community with multiple regional meetings and their first annual conference of the year was held in Jaipur from 29-31 January. The Nordic ARM group has instituted an Academy for training operators and supervisors, the next event is due to be held in Boras, Sweden on 14-15 February. The enthusiastic South African association (who always hold their annual events in super locations) will hold their Rotation 2017 event at Muldersdrift 8-9 March. ARMA, the Australian Association will once again be hosting a tour of Chinese rotomolding companies; Rototour 2017 will take place between 17-26 March as a precursor to the joint executive meeting of ARM and ARMA in Hawaii from 26-28 March. Should be quite a trip. Penn College in Williamsport

will hold their ninth annual Hands-On Workshop from 21-22 June and, providing enough members make it back in one piece from China and Hawaii, Australia will hold their Rotomould 2017 event in Melbourne from 25-27 June. The highlight of the year will be the tri-annual Rotoplas event to be held by ARM in Chicago from 26-28 September – always a great gathering and matched only by the global ARMO events, the next of which will be held in Hamburg, Germany in September 2018. No details as yet, but there are more events no doubt planned by Rotopol in Poland, Anipac in Mexico and the Chinese association, RPC-CPPIA.

Something for everyone I think and hopefully something close enough (or in an attractive enough location) to make it worth your while to attend. Hope to see



suc•cess [sək-'ses]

Innovative solutions for demanding requirements

With one of the largest rotomolding grade portfolios and technical services to match, we can help to make your project a success!

suc•cess [sək-'ses]
Our definition of success is helping you achieve yours.

