

Lecale News

Bulletin of the Lecale Historical Society

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~ Programme of Events for 2006 ~

The 2006-07 Programme of the Society's events is enclosed with this newsletter. The lectures cover a wide range of topics with a particular focus on Lecale and should be of interest to members.

Meetings are held in Down County Museum (except October and June) at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month. The December lecture is on the second Monday while the St.Patrick's Festival Lecture in March is on the second Monday to coincide with the rest of the Festival.

The Programme also gives details of the new Executive Committee for the coming year.

Attendances were good at the events last year and we look forward to seeing you throughout the coming year.

Opening Lecture: 'The Dawn of the Ulster Scots'

This year is the 400th anniversary of the Hamilton and Montgomery Settlement in County Down.

To celebrate this event, Mark Thompson, chairman of the Ulster Scots Society, is the lecturer at the first meeting of the season on **Monday 18th September**.

Special Meeting in Ardglass

In the last two years the Committee has tried to broaden the appeal of the Society throughout Lecale by staging some talks outside Downpatrick. Following the success of visits to Killough and Dundrum, the October meeting and the June Annual Outing will take place in Ardglass.

The meeting on **Monday, 16th October** will be held at 7.30pm in the Presbyterian Hall, Hill Street, Ardglass (turn right at cross roads if coming from Downpatrick). Local historian George Rice will give an illustrated history of Ardglass. This will be followed up by the Annual Outing on 19th June 2007 when George Rice will lead a guided walk around Ardglass.

Membership Year

The Society's membership year runs from 1st April to the following 31st March. The membership subscription of £10 per individual or £15 per family includes a free copy of our journal Lecale Review and newsletters, as well as free entry to all lectures.

The recent membership drive has been sustained with the vast majority of subscriptions being renewed. The vitality of the Society depends on this and the recruitment of new members.

You can help by encouraging a friend to join: use the form attached to your programme or simply send details and payment (£10 individual, £15 family) to Pat Devlin at 18 Ardmore Avenue, Downpatrick BT30 6JU. Cheques should be payable to Lecale Historical Society. Thank you.

Launch of Lecale Review 2006

In November the launch takes place of the fourth *Lecale Review* which records and encourages interest in our local history.

The President of the Society, Dr James Hawthorne, will be speaker at the Review launch on **Monday 20th November** and the evening will include musical entertainment and supper. This is a special evening for members to bring along friends and guests to take part in the occasion.

The *Lecale Review 2006* is free to members (one copy per subscription) and additional copies will be available at £7 per copy.

1901 Census of Lecale -- Update from Billy Stranney and Pat Devlin

The project to put the complete Census on the Society's website started in May and has been making steady progress. Although it is not certain until all of the microfilm has been transcribed, we estimate the total number of townlands involved to be 198, plus Downpatrick, Ardglass, Annsborough, Ballyhornan, Dundrum, Killough, Raholp and Strangford. Of these, 64 townlands, Annsborough, Downpatrick, Dundrum and Killough have been completed.

Uniquely, the project also provides for a complete index of all the people named in the census forms, pointing to their location in the record. To date this index lists almost 8,000 people and this will grow substantially as transcription progresses.

We have added features, such as interactive maps, to enable readers/researchers to find parishes/townlands linking to the census information.

Regular updates are provided so that people can easily check progress.

We are grateful to those who have let us know about corrections to the record, mainly based on family research, where the microfilm has been unclear. We encourage this support and provide on-line acknowledgement of such help.

So far, the project has attracted over one thousand visitors world-wide. Here are some of the comments received.

"Thought you might like to know that your census info for our area was hugely successful for the friends we have whose families have been in Castlescreen etc for generations. I picked up on familiar names and passed the info on. I can't wait 'til you get the Downpatrick section on for my husband's family--literally can't wait so will probably go search in PRONI, I know what a huge task this is so many thanks for your time and effort."

"This is tremendous stuff, I've already found a brace of the ----- family in Killough, just a half mile across the bay from Coney Island where my forefathers had a smallholding and worked on/out of Lord Bangor's harbour. Coney Island Ardglass next please...."

"I have only just discovered your website and cannot tell you what a wonderful surprise it was to discover that you have managed to put the Co. Down 1901 Census (a work in progress) on line! Well done to all those who have dedicated their time and energies to this mammoth task!!!!"

Find the 1901 Census at the website of the Lecale Historical Society:
www.lecalehistory.co.uk

Lecale News
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