

Lecale News

Bulletin of the Lecale and Downe Historical Society
Number 28 www.lecalehistory.co.uk September 2011

Programme of Events for 2011 - 2012

The 2011-12 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 generally held in Down County Museum at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month; please check the programme for any variation to this.

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

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

Opening Lecture:

St Patrick's Town

Exploring the history of Downpatrick and Lecale

The season begins on **Monday, 19th September** with **Anthony Wilson** giving a lecture about the journey he made to find out about the history of Downpatrick and Lecale that was eventually encapsulated in the publication 'St Patrick's Town', unfortunately now out of print. The lecture provides a wonderful opportunity to hear the story of Anthony's personal experience of historical recording.

REMINDER:

Copies of the Society's publication on **Struell Wells** are still available. Demand has been high so please contact the Treasurer to purchase a copy or make sure to visit the Society shop when at one of the lectures.

Launch of Lecale Review 2011

In November the launch takes place of the ninth *Lecale Review*, the Society's journal, which records and encourages interest in our local history.

The launch is on **Monday, 21st November**. 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 2011* is free to members (one copy per subscription) and additional copies will be available at £8 per copy.

County Down Heritage Collection



This collection is now housed in the Downpatrick Library and contains books relating to County Down, including the Gravestone Inscription Series, Griffith's Valuation, Grand Jury Records and Ordnance Survey Parish Memoirs; Street Directories; County Down Maps; Local Newspapers on microfilm; photographs; postcards and other material relevant to the study of local history. Staff can also offer guidance on Family History Resources and there is Internet access to Ancestry Library Edition and other Family History Websites. Opening hours are the same as the library. For further information email:

localstudies.down@librariesni.org.uk

DOWN COUNTY MUSEUM

2011 has been a special year for Down County Museum as it celebrates its 30th Birthday. Lecale & Downe Historical Society has a special relationship with the Museum; we are grateful to them for all their support and wish them a Very Happy Birthday!

The Museum has recently unveiled a new exhibition, **Off to Play**, on the theme of toys, games and playtime. This exhibition is sure to be of interest to Society members as it offers an opportunity to see some of the wonderful toys and games from the Museum's collection. The exhibition is open daily and admission is FREE.

Changes in Society Committee

At the Lecale & Downe Historical Society AGM in May, Wendy Osborne OBE retired as Chairperson.

Berkley Farr, a long standing committee member, was appointed as the new Chairperson and the new Vice Chairperson is Alastair Killen.

Wendy Osborne OBE has taken on the role of Honorary Secretary and Philip Blair continues as Treasurer and Membership Registrar.

We welcomed Patricia McFarlane as a new Committee Member.

Forthcoming Events:

17th October Society Lecture: Keep the Home Fires Burning – Lecturer, Philip Orr.

Sat 10 & Sun 11 September, EUROPEAN OPEN HERITAGE DAYS -This is a great opportunity to visit many buildings usually closed to the general public. Admission is FREE, please check local press for details.

Full information can also be found at www.wonderfulni.info