



Photo: Sir Cyril Hinshelwood (second from right), Mr B.P.C. Bridgewater (Secretary, British Museum), The Earl of Clanwilliam and Mr R.E. Parkinson.

## Sir Hans Sloane Memorial Unveiling

October 1960

*Extract from the News Letter website, 4th April 2014, 'The Way We Were' feature*

*"Hundreds of people gathered in the little square in front of the grey stone walls of Killyleagh Castle, Co. Down on a Saturday afternoon in October 1960 to watch the unveiling of a simple memorial to Sir Hans Sloane, the renowned doctor and botanist, who was born in the village 300 years previously.*

*One of the most interested spectators at the ceremony was one of Sloane's descendants, Mr Thomas Sloane (85) of Cambourne Park, Belfast. He and his son, Mr H.W. Sloane, were thought to be the only surviving branch of the family in Ulster. They were descended from one of Sir Hans' sons who came over from Scotland and settled at Carr, near Drumbo.*

*The idea of the memorial to mark the tercentenary of the birth of Sir Hans, originated with the president of the Downe Society, Mr R.E. Parkinson, and the director of the Belfast Museum and Art Gallery, Mr W.A. Seaby.*

*When the initial cost of the memorial had been paid the fund was to be used to provide either a scholarship or a prize to further perpetuate the memory of the man who became president of both the Royal Society and the Royal College of Physicians, and whose vast collections of books, paintings and natural history specimens formed the nucleus round which the collections in the British Museum.*

*The memorial, which was unveiled by Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, president of the Royal Society, took the form of a bronze plaque, designed and carved by Mr James Warwick, principal of the Belfast College of Art. The plaque, which was set in a Strangford Lough boulder, included a profile of Sir Hans.*

*The Earl of Clanwilliam, chairman of the memorial fund committee, who presided at the ceremony, described Sir Hans' story as a classic one of "log cabin to White House", only in the case of Sir Hans he started from "a small stone cottage and became the largest landowner in the borough of Chelsea..."*

**The Memorial Fund is still rewarded today, as The Hans Sloane Medal, to the student obtaining the highest combined marks in Biology, Chemistry and Physics at 'A' level.**

**In 2017 a further award, The Sloane McClay Award, was established in partnership with the Almac group to commemorate not only the life and work of Sir Hans Sloane, but that of Almac founder Sir Allen McClay, who was also inspired by science.**