

Lecale News

Bulletin of the Lecale Historical Society

Number 17

www.lecalehistory.co.uk

January 2008

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2008

- Monday 21st January** *'Painting Lecale' - "As I see it"* by Richard Croft
- Monday 18th February** *'Valuing the Past - protecting our historic monuments'*
The work of the Environment and Heritage service by Rhonda Robinson
- Monday 10th March** **The St. Patrick's Festival Lecture: 'Aodh MacAingil - Scholar, Poet & Bishop 1576-1626'** by Christopher Napier
(in partnership with Lecale Gaelic Society)
- Monday 21st April** *'Monasteries of the North: A historical exploration'* by Tony Fleck
- Monday 19th May** Annual General Meeting and members' items of interest
- Monday 16th June** Annual Outing - Guided walk around Strangford
(Details in next Lecale News)

Meetings in Down County Museum at 7.30pm

St. Patrick's Festival Lecture - Monday 12th March **Aodh MacAingil - Scholar, Poet and Bishop 1576 - 1626**

This year's lecture, by Christopher Napier, is once again supported by Down District Council and is free to all members of the public. This is being organised in partnership with the Lecale Gaelic Society. *Aodh MacAingil is one of Downpatrick's most famous sons and Christopher Napier is a noted authority on the Irish Language and its history.*

Lecale Miscellany on CD

A complete set of 20 Lecale journals from 1983-2002, fully indexed and searchable, is now available on CD at £10 from Pat Devlin, 18 Ardmore Avenue, Downpatrick, BT30 6JU.

Frank Maxwell

Frank Maxwell of Ballee, who has died at the age of 97, was one of the most respected members of the Lecale Historical Society. As a founder member, he was the first chairman and subsequently President of the Society. He was an honorary life member and took a great interest in the Society. He will be greatly missed.

LECALE REVIEW NO. 5 (2007)

The fifth edition of the redesigned journal, comprising 100 pages, was launched in November by Margaret Ritchie, Minister for Social Development and one of our members. It has been very warmly received in and beyond the boundaries of Lecale. Many of the copies have gone to members as a benefit of membership of the Society. Copies are also on sale at the unchanged price of £7.00 in a wide range of outlets.

The Committee hopes you will enjoy the Review and asks for your support and **contributions** in the production of future editions. Short articles and photographs of local interest are particularly welcome.

STOP PRESS

Townland Victory!

Following pressure from the Lecale Historical Society, Down District Council has agreed to put townland names on new road signs.

The first sign has already been spotted in Saintfield.

Local History Publications



Apart from the *Lecale Review*, several other books of interest have been published recently, including two by Society member and former editor Ian Hill :

'Our DJ' - Photographs of D J McNeill Down Survey 2007 (Down County Museum) £8. The latest Museum yearbook is devoted to a selection of the extensive photographic archive of D J McNeill who was a leading member of this Society. The archive provides an outstanding record of Lecale in the 20th Century.

Strangford – Portrait of an Irish Lough by Alain Le Garsmeur and Ian Hill. (Blackstaff Press) £20. The photographs of Alain Le Garsmeur and the words of Ian Hill combine to give a new insight into Strangford Lough. This book is a stunning book which will appeal to anyone with a love of this part of County Down.

Lecale – St. Patrick's County Down by Ian Hill and James G Miles. (Cottage Publications) £16.95. This is the latest in a series of books by Cottage Publications covering specific areas of Ireland combining the talents of local writers and painters. The words of Ian Hill and the paintings of James Miles are a worthy tribute to this area and will be of great interest in Lecale.

Harnessing the Tides-The Early Medieval Tide Mills at Nendrum Monastery, Strangford lough by Thomas McErlean and Norman Crothers. (Stationery Office) £25. This book tells the story of the excavation of two monastic tide mills, one of which is the earliest yet discovered anywhere in the world. It also covers the history and archaeology of the monastery at Nendrum.

Websites of interest

www.proni.gov.uk/index.htm The new PRONI website was launched on 10th January. New innovations include online access to will calendars from 1858 to c1920.

www.census.nationalarchives.ie The National Archives of Ireland has started to make the 1911 census available online starting with Dublin.

www.lennonwylie.co.uk/index.htm This site is of considerable Belfast interest and includes items such as street directories and the 1913 phone book.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~rosdavies/> This site is run by our Australian member Ros Davies and contains an amazing amount of information on County Down.

*Berkley Farr
Hon Sec*