

Lecale News

Bulletin of the Lecale and Downe Historical Society
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Programme of Events for 2010 - 2011

The 2010-11 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 February, April and June) at 7.30pm on the third Monday of each month. The December meeting is on the second Monday to avoid Christmas week.

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

Opening Lecture:

Sir Hans Sloane 1660-1735

His life and legacy

Our season begins on **Monday, 20th September** with **Dr Stanley Hawkins** giving a lecture to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the birth of Killyleagh's most famous son. Ireland. Among his many achievements, Sloane became President of the Royal Society and his collections formed the nucleus of the British Museum.

Dr Hawkins is a native of Downpatrick and is a noted expert on Sir Hans Sloane.

Monday 18th October is

the date for a lecture on **The Ancient Gold of County Down** by **Richard Warner**, former curator of the Ulster Museum. Particular attention will be paid to the finds at Downpatrick and Inch.

Launch of Lecale Review 2010

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

The launch is on **Monday, 15th 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 2010* is free to members (one copy per subscription) and additional copies will be available at £8 per copy.

County Down Library Collection



The Library Headquarters in Ballynahinch housed an extensive collection of material relating to County Down. The Lecale and Downe Historical Society took part in the consultation process regarding the future of the Library and stressed the importance of keeping the Co. Down collection intact and accessible.

The decision has now been taken to close the Ballynahinch building but the County Down collection will be relocated to the library in Downpatrick. This will be more accessible in terms of location and opening times.

Public Record Office NI (PRONI) Temporary Closure

The Public Record Office in Balmoral Avenue, Belfast will be closed between September 2010 and May 2011, prior to the opening of the new PRONI headquarters at Titanic Quarter. This is to ensure that services in the new building will be operational.

In order to minimise disruption to customers, PRONI is increasing the amount and range of material which will be available online including the 1819 to 1900 street directories. Whilst the public will not be able to physically access the Balmoral Avenue site during the move, PRONI will continue to provide a limited correspondence and telephone enquiry service.

Forthcoming Events:

Sat 11 & Sun 12 September, EUROPEAN OPEN HERITAGE DAYS -This is an opportunity to visit many buildings usually closed to the general public. Check local press or DOE for details.

Sat 18 September, 1.00pm CAR BOOT SALE, DOWN MUSEUM

Changes in Society Committee

At the Lecale & Downe Historical Society AGM in May, Sean Nolan retired as President at the end of his three-year term. The new President is Patrick Cross, who was the former President of the Downe Society.

Berkley Farr is standing down after six years as Hon. Secretary to concentrate on his role as chairman of the Editorial Sub-Committee producing the *Lecale Review*.

The new Hon. Secretary will be Joan Magee who has been a Committee member for some time.