

# Lecale News

Bulletin of the Lecale & Downe Historical Society

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[www.lecalehistory.co.uk](http://www.lecalehistory.co.uk)

May 2011

## Forthcoming Events

**Monday 16th May**                      *Annual General Meeting*

**Monday 20th June**                      *Annual Outing - details below*

### Meetings in Down County Museum at 7.30pm

Attendances have been excellent at the events this year and we look forward to seeing you there.

### AGM and Members' Night – Items of Interest Monday 16th May at 7.30pm

In recent years members have been encouraged to bring along items of interest following the formal AGM proceedings. This has proved to be one of the most interesting nights of the year with many fascinating and unexpected items being produced.

We would urge members to bring along anything with a story or historical interest which might appeal to other members. On this occasion a special item which has been produced before can be shown again.

### OUTING TO STRUELL WELLS MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 7.30pm

In March the Society launched its first monograph in addition to the annual *Lecale Review*. Over 70 people attended the launch of *Struell Wells* by Dr Finbar McCormick and this is being followed up by the outing which will be led by Dr McCormick.

Struell Wells, near Downpatrick, is one of the very few holy wells that can be directly associated with St Patrick on the basis of early documentary evidence. Dr McCormick has made a particular study of the writings about Struell Wells and associated rituals.

#### Struell Wells

Finbar McCormick



Lecale and Downe Historical Society

The location of Struell Wells is 1km past the new Downe Hospital on Struell Wells Road. Copies of the book are available at the outing and Society meetings @ £3.99 or by post @ £5 (including p&p) from Philip Blair, Hon Treasurer, 6 Monabot Road, Downpatrick BT30 6TG – Cheques payable to Lecale & Downe Historical Society.

## Lecale Review No. 9 (2011)

The ninth edition of the new-look journal will be launched in the autumn. Contributions are still required. Short articles and photographs of local interest are particularly welcome. You can bring them to the AGM.

Please contact *Berkley Farr* – Chairman of the Editorial Committee Tel: 028 4483 0442

## COUNTY DOWN LIBRARY COLLECTION

The unique County Down collection of books and records from the former Library HQ in Ballynahinch has been kept intact and accessible. It has been relocated in the Downpatrick library where it was officially opened in March by Dr Maurice Hayes. This is a very satisfactory outcome as this collection is now safe and is available during normal library hours to the public.

## DOWN MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS

The Down County Museum has recently launched three separate (free) publications:

*DOWN TOWN 120 years of Downpatrick shops in photographs.*

*FARMING IN NORTH AND EAST COUNTY DOWN - an oral history* by Jonathan Bell & Mervyn Watson.

*STRANGFORD TOWNLANDS* map by Brian Turner & Gerard Lennon.

## New website:

A mostly Irish website associated with the late Christopher Napier has been re-launched: <http://www.alecbanmacconaille.org/> It also has Strangford and de Ros material in English.

## Public Records Office

PRONI has relocated to Titanic Quarter, Belfast and has now reopened. For more information please visit their website at: <http://www.proni.gov.uk/>

## Local Garden Open

The garden of Kevin & Ethna Flanagan, Bridgewater House, 86 Church Road, Crossgar will be open on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2pm to 5pm under the National Trust's Ulster Garden Scheme.

This garden was created over the last twenty years in a former part of the Rademon estate. It continues the tradition of a country estate with a tree-lined avenue through wooded parkland set in lovely undulating countryside. The avenue passes a lake with a wooded island and there is a ¾ mile woodland walk.

In 2005 an acre of land between the house and the woodland was used to create a new walled garden. A specially designed octagonal summer house is the focal point in the centre of the walled garden overlooking a waterfall flowing into a small lake. Other sections of the walled garden include a formal lawn as well as fruit and vegetable areas. The surrounding brick wall provides warmth for fruit and ornamental trees as well as a conservatory. This is a rare opportunity to see a new walled garden which draws inspiration from the landscape gardeners of past centuries.

**Location:** From Crossgar follow the B7 Ballynahinch Road for 1½ miles and turn left into Church Road. The garden is the first entrance on the right. **Teas.**



## Do you have a relative or friend with an interest in local history?

Please encourage them to join the Society – a bargain for £10 and includes a free copy of our annual journal *Lecale Review* and newsletters, as well as free entry to all lectures. Show them your copy of the *Lecale Review*.

The Society's membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to the following 31<sup>st</sup> March. The membership subscription is £10 per individual or £15 per family.

Join by seeing Philip Blair at any meeting or phone him at 028 4461 3500.

*Berkley Farr*  
Acting Hon Sec