

# Lecale News

Bulletin of the Lecale Historical Society

Number 20

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

Spring 2009

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2009

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February**      *'The Belfast & County Down Railway – its rebirth in Downpatrick'*  
by Michael Collins, Chairman of the Management Committee
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March**      **The St. Patrick's Festival Lecture: 'Down Cathedral'** by Fred Rankin  
**VENUE – DOWN CATHEDRAL**
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**      *'The Coastal Archaeology of Strangford Lough'* by Sinead McCartan
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**      Annual General Meeting and members' items of interest
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**      Annual Outing – Guided walk around Downpatrick  
(Details in next Lecale News)

**Meetings in Down County Museum at 7.30pm  
except March 9<sup>th</sup>**

## **St. Patrick's Festival Lecture – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March Down Cathedral – lecture in the Cathedral**

This year's lecture, by Fred Rankin, is once again supported by Down District Council and is free to all members of the public. Fred Rankin is a former president of the Lecale Historical Society and is the leading authority on the history of Down Cathedral. He is author of the book on the history of the Cathedral published by the Ulster Historical Foundation.

Down Cathedral is one of the two oldest ecclesiastical foundations in Ulster still in use. Although the present structure dates from the early thirteenth century it is known that there had been a monastery and place of worship on the Hill of Down for many centuries before then.

### **Have you old photographs?**

If you have any old photos of Lecale interest, the Society would like to display a selection at the AGM in May. Please contact a Committee member or bring the photos along to any of the meetings before May and we can arrange for the Museum to prepare them for display. This would be a valuable addition to the 'items of interest' by members which have been a very popular part of the AGM in recent years.

## LECALE REVIEW NO. 6 (2008)

The sixth edition of the redesigned journal, comprising 100 pages, was launched in November by Sean Nolan, President of the Lecale Historical Society. 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.

## Dick Oram

Dick Oram, who died in December, was one of Northern Ireland's leading conservation architects. A resident of Newcastle, he was an active member of Lecale Historical Society contributing articles and lectures over many years. He will be missed.

Lisburn City Library presents **Migration in Irish History** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009

Sponsored by [Rondo](#) Free Admission

This event will begin at 11.30am with a workshop introducing participants to the Irish Emigration database, and demonstrating the usefulness of this online resource. Booking is advisable as places for the workshop are restricted. The afternoon programme, beginning at 1.30pm and finishing at 4.00pm, will include presentations by Brian Lambkin and Patrick Fitzgerald, who will discuss migration in Irish history, with Fintan Vallely examining songs of emigration.

### WEBSITES

#### [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)

This website has a section on "Resources" which permits researchers to search Griffiths Valuation, both by family name and by placename. The researcher can also obtain access to a digitised valuation map. It is possible that some difficulties may be encountered as this site is still under development.

Griffiths Valuation was the first land valuation in Ireland and is an important genealogical resource as it lists every landholder and householder for every county in Ireland in the mid 1800s.

#### [www.logainm.ie/?uiLang=en](http://www.logainm.ie/?uiLang=en)

Launched in October 2008, this website is a placenames database of Ireland, created by Fiontar(DCU) and The Placenames Branch (Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs). This resource is still under development and is of use to historians and researchers in genealogy, featuring a system which enables simultaneous Irish-English and English-Irish translation of lists of placenames.

#### [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)

The National Archives of Ireland has established a research partnership with Library and Archives Canada to facilitate digitisation, indexing and contextualisation of the 1901 and 1911 census records. The records for 1911 are being digitised first, followed by those for 1901. The 1911 Census records for Antrim, Down, Dublin and Kerry are now available online. Further details regarding the publication of the other counties are available on the website.

You can search this site either by name of individual, or by location. The less information you enter, the more numerous the results. The names on this site have been transcribed as they were written into the census forms and spellings have not been corrected.

## Peter Rankin OBE

Congratulations to Peter who has been awarded an OBE for services to architectural heritage.

*Berkley Farr  
Hon Sec*