

Lecale & Downe News

Bulletin of the Lecale and Downe Historical Society

Number 1

www.lecalehistory.co.uk

September 2009

~ Programme of Events for 2009 ~

The 2009-10 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 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.

Attendances were good last year and we look forward to seeing you throughout the coming year.

Opening Lecture:

Migration in Lecale History 1607-2007

Home, family and Diaspora

Our season begins on **Monday, 21st September** with Dr Brian Lambkin the founding Director of the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park, Omagh, Northern Ireland. He is Chairman of the Association of European Migration Institutions and was formerly Principal of Lagan College, Belfast.

There will be a reception afterwards to mark the merger of the Lecale Historical Society and the Downe Society (*See overleaf*)

Monday 19th October is

the date for a lecture on

Stone Circles and

Monuments by

Malachy Conway who

is an archaeologist with the National Trust, based in Rowallane.

Particular attention will be paid to the Ballynoe

Stone Circle.

Launch of Lecale Review 2009

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

The launch is on **Monday, 16th 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 2009* is free to members (one copy per subscription) and additional copies will be available at £7 per copy.

Dear Member

Welcome to this first newsletter of the newly merged Lecale & Downe Historical Society. As you are aware special member meetings of both societies (the Downe Society on the 10 June in Denvirs Hotel and the Lecale Historical Society on the 15 June in the Down Hunt Rooms) were held to outline the proposal to merge the two societies. The outcome of these meetings was complete approval from both sets of members for the merger.

The current committee of the Lecale Historical Society incorporated members from the Downe Society committee and everyone has been working together to establish the new name and develop a programme of lectures 2009/10 for all members to enjoy.

The joining of both societies has been very straightforward and yet we should not underestimate the significance of the event. This is brought into focus when we consider that the special meetings of both societies to agree the merger were held in two of the most historic venues in Downpatrick. Bringing people together to promote greater awareness and understanding of the history and culture of Downpatrick and Lecale is the cornerstone of both societies. Over a number of decades both societies have made a tremendous contribution to their community. It is clear that there was more that united than separated us, and the time was right to move forward as a joint venture.

It seems fitting that there should be a more formal occasion to mark the merger and therefore, after the September lecture, we intend to host a small reception. We do hope that as many members as possible will take this opportunity to join us in recognising the work of both societies and celebrating our future together as the Lecale & Downe Historical Society.

We take this opportunity to thank all members for their support and look forward to seeing you in September.

With best wishes

Wendy Osborne & Patrick Cross
Lecale & Downe Historical Society

Forthcoming Events:

Sat 3 October, 10.00 am-4.00 pm FAMILY HISTORY FAIR, Lisburn Library
– Booking essential

Thur 19 November, 12.30 pm AN INTRODUCTION TO TOWNLAND NAMES IN LECALÉ
– Talk by Joyce Gibson of Lecale Gaelic Soc. in Downpatrick Library
Admission free

Alan Johnston former chairman of Lecale Historical and noted photographer will be launching his book on weather in time for the Christmas market. This promises to be a photographic celebration of weather at home and around the world making use of Alan's extensive collection of photographs taken over many years. Watch local press for details.

Lecale News
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