

# Lecale News

Bulletin of the Lecale and Downe Historical Society

Number 23

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

Spring 2010

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2010 Meetings at 7.30pm in Down County Museum

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| <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>  | <i>'The Importance of Being Wilde – the Wildes of Downpatrick'</i><br>by Maurice Cassidy   |
| <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>  | <i>'History – A Meteorological Splash!'</i> by Alan Johnston<br><b>Extra meeting</b> to celebrate Alan's new book.   |
| <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b> | <i>'Archibald Hamilton Rowan of Killyleagh Castle – United Irishman and social activist'</i> by Philip Orr   |
| <b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>    | <b>The St. Patrick's Festival Lecture:</b> <i>'Lecale sites associated with St Patrick'</i> by Dr Finbar McCormick   |
| <b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>    | <i>'The Neilsons – Educators from County Down'</i> by Dr Roger Blaney<br>(Joint meeting with the Down Gaelic Society)<br><b>VENUE: RADEMON NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Crossgar</b> (Turn right for Listooder after 2 miles on the Ballynahinch road) |
| <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>      | Annual General Meeting and members' items of interest  |
| <b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b>     | Annual Outing – Guided walk around Portaferry<br>(Details in next Lecale News)   |

## EXTRA MEETING! MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY



### **Alan Johnston** *History – A Meteorological Splash!*

This is a special meeting for Society members organised by Alan Johnston following the recent publication of his book 'Should I bring an umbrella'. The book celebrates weather in photographs making use of Alan's extensive archive of photographs from home and around the world over many decades. This is a chance to view many wonderful photographs. Signed copies of the book will be available.

## SOCIETY DEFENDS LECALÉ COAST ~~~~~

The Lecale & Downe Historical Society has formally objected to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's proposal to remove the Tyrella/Minerstown section of the Lecale coast and its visual hinterland from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The December meeting of the Society backed this action. Copies of the Society letter have been sent to public representatives. Society member Eddie McGrady MP has given full support to our objections.

**St. Patrick's Festival Lecture – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Lecale sites associated with St Patrick**  
**Dr Finbar McCormick**

*Change from  
published lecture*

This year's lecture, by Dr Finbar McCormick, is once again supported by Down District Council and is free to all members of the public. Dr McCormick is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University. He is a former member of the Lecale Historical Society Committee and is a leading authority on the historic sites of Lecale. He has recently been carrying out research into Struell Wells.

**LECALE REVIEW NO.7 (2009)**

The seventh edition of the redesigned journal, comprising 100 pages, was launched in November by Councillor William Dick, Chairman of Down District Council and Sean Nolan, President of the Lecale and Downe Historical Society. It has been very warmly received in and beyond the boundaries of Lecale. Copies have gone to members as a benefit of membership of the Society. Copies are also on sale at £8.00 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 welcomed. **Volunteers** for tasks such as proof reading are also needed.

**McIlrath Letters**

This excellent book of letters from New Zealand to Killinchy, 1860 to 1915, has been masterminded by Society member John Bassett. It is on sale for £12 at Society meetings.



**WEBSITES & NEWS**

**<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>**

1901 Census material, with all data transcribed, will be launched online on the National Archives of Ireland website between early and mid-2010.

**<http://www.nli.ie/en/homepage.aspx>**

The entire Lawrence Royal collection (10,784 plates 1870-1914) and part of the Lawrence Cabinet collection (2,040 plates) are available to view online at the National library of Ireland website. Also available on this website - **Sources: A National Library of Ireland database for Irish research** containing catalogue records for Irish manuscripts catalogued up to 1989. Sources also includes records for those Irish manuscripts held in other libraries and archives in Ireland and worldwide, which were listed between the 1940s and the 1970s.

**Family History Clinics at Downpatrick Library**

Free Family History Clinics take place on the third Tuesday of each month beginning Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 6.00 – 7.30pm. Admission is Free but booking is advisable. Please ask staff for details  
Telephone: 028 4461 2895 Email [downpatricklibrary@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:downpatricklibrary@librariesni.org.uk)

**PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE CLOSURE**

PRONI are advising customers of a temporary change to service delivery between September 2010 and May 2011 in preparation for their forthcoming relocation to Titanic Quarter, Belfast. The temporary on-site closure will last no longer than 8 months. If the necessary work is completed before that, the re-opening date will be reviewed. For more information please visit their website at: **<http://www.proni.gov.uk/>**

*Berkley Farr  
Hon Sec*