



# Local Studies

e-bulletin



to the December 2008 issue of the SEELB Local Studies e-bulletin. This issue will keep you informed about Local Studies events in our libraries, the history of Holywood, plus useful websites. Information on the County Down Spectator newspaper and the 1901 census is also included.

Photo - Bangor Carnegie Library  
D Hunter, SEELB Marketing .

## Archaeology & Palaeoecology Talks

### Lisburn City Library

QUB is doing a series of outreach talks at Lisburn City Library.

- Tracing the spread of modern humans around the planet with Dr Chris Hunt

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

- Ireland after the Ice Age with Dr Nicki Whitehouse  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm

Entrance is free though booking is essential tel: 028 92669345 or email: [lisburncitylibrary@ni-libraries.net](mailto:lisburncitylibrary@ni-libraries.net)



Photo -Some of the participants who attended one of our genealogy workshops

Genealogy Workshops are taking place in SEELB libraries. The workshops are designed to familiarise participants with the invaluable reference tools available in the SEELB Local Studies Department, which could aid them in their research. Relevant resources include maps, newspapers on microfilm, street directories and Griffiths valuation. Those attending also have the opportunity to browse through a selection of stock, representative of family history material available for borrowing from our library service, and they are also directed towards other relevant sources of information. Internet access is provided during the sessions to

enable participants to browse through a selection of useful websites. Helpful guidance material is also distributed to those involved for their future reference.

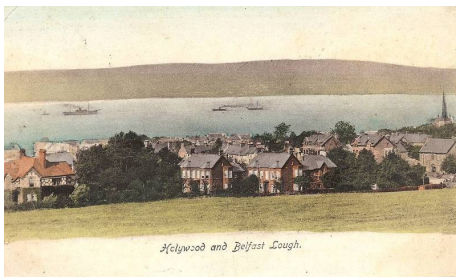
*“High Holywood,” so called for the reason that the town has succeeded in climbing the magnificent hill which rises immediately behind it.*

**Bassett’s Directory of County Down, 1886.**

*In the year 1200, Thomas Whyte founded at this place a Franciscan priory, which was amply endowed, and continued to flourish till the dissolution. Among its possessions were the Copeland Isles, and the Isle of Rathlin or Raghery, to the north of the county...The village, which is delightfully situated on the eastern shore of Carrickfergus Bay, and on the road from Belfast to Bangor, previously to 1800 contained only about 30 dwellings, chiefly poor cabins; but from its proximity to Belfast, and its fine sandy beach, it has since been greatly extended, and is now become a favourite place of resort for sea-bathing. It contains at present 225 houses, mostly well built; bathing-lodges have been erected for the accommodation of visitors, a new road has been made along the shore, and a daily mail has been established.*

**Samuel Lewis – Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, published 1837**

*There is 1 hospital. It was fitted up as a cholera hospital; no patients have been in it but those who had that disorder. There is 1 poor house, having 15 inmates, some of which are aged and infirm, but those who can work are employed spinning, for which they receive as an encouragement one half their earnings. 60 other families derive support from it in proportion to their necessity. It is supported by annual subscription, together with the interest of 500 pounds, which is the donation and bequest of different individuals. The poor house is very small and was originally a work house or house of industry. People quite destitute are taken into the poor*



Postcard of Holywood dating from the early 1900s – from a collection held at:

LOCAL STUDIES  
SEELB LIBRARY HQ  
WINDMILL HILL  
BALLYNAHINCH  
BT24 8DH  
T- 028 97566400

EMAIL-[seelb.localstudies@ni-libraries.net](mailto:seelb.localstudies@ni-libraries.net)

## TOWNS HOLYWOOD

*It had a population of 3,293 in 1881. Before the bathing attractions of Bangor were so easily taken advantage of, Holywood was more popular as a summer resort for families making a stay of a month or longer. It is still a great summer day resort; but it is as a place of residence all the year round that it has reached the zenith of popularity...The streets are broad, and the buildings generally substantial and sightly in every part of the town. Then there is*



house, and if they can work they are made to spin and dress flax. They are commonly very old people.

Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland (PRONI – MIC/6)

# History On The Web

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

A subscription website, with an emphasis on records pertaining to the UK mainland. It's free to search but to view the original images you are required to be a paying member. You may search records online relating to births marriages and deaths and migration, as well as census and military information.

[www.ancestorsonboard.com](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com)

Findmypast.com presents this website in association with the National Archives. The database features passenger lists for long-distance journeys leaving the British Isles for destinations worldwide, including America, Canada, Australia and South Africa. The passenger lists date from 1890 up until 1960.

## NEWSPAPERS COUNTY DOWN SPECTATOR

Bangor Technical Institute and Free Public Library.

Completion of a Great Enterprise.

Opening Ceremony by Lord Londonderry.

English and Irish Educational Systems Contrasted.

Advice on the Selection of Books.

Reminiscences of the Late Lord Dufferin.

Distribution of Prizes to Students.

On Saturday afternoon the Public Library and Technical Institute, which, at a cost of £5,500, has been erected to meet the steadily increasing requirements of Bangor, was formally opened by the Marquis of Londonderry, K.P., in the presence of a large and representative assembly. The work of the Municipal Technical School of which Mr. John Bruce, M.A., is the efficient principal, has in

### Article from the County Down Spectator, 14<sup>th</sup> January 1910.

**"Bangor Technical Institute and Free Public Library Completion of a great enterprise"**

The County Down Spectator was launched in the summer of 1904 by D.E. Alexander, a Scotsman who had previously worked on W.G. Lytle's journal, the North Down Herald. It is a weekly newspaper covering

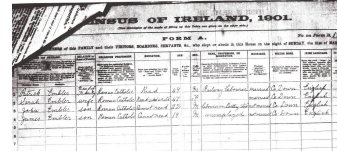
the Bangor/North Down area, and was the 2008 winner of the Weekly Newspaper of the Year at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations Press and Broadcast Awards for Northern Ireland. Jack McCoy, a past Local Studies Librarian for the SEELB, wrote that when launched: *"Almost immediately the Spectator's progressive editorial line became evident. Yet, although championing most of the town council's expansionist programmes, it never neglected to emphasise*

*past glories, seeking, with this dual approach, to cultivate in its readership a sense of civic pride, and a closer interest in the town's daily affairs."*

Jack was responsible for producing "An Index To The County Down Spectator and Ulster Standard 1904-1964", a publication which is still available for consultation in our libraries. It is an index to the first edition of the Spectator, deposited in and microfilmed by, the British Library. While not comprehensive the items selected were considered "useful" and "Interesting" for the researcher.

The Local Studies Department at Library Headquarters in Ballynahinch holds complete runs of most local newspapers on Microfilm. Microfilm Reader/Printers are available at Library Headquarters, Bangor, Downpatrick, Donaghadee, Newcastle and Lisburn libraries. The following newspapers on microfilm will become available at the new Bangor Library. Belfast Newsletter 1828-2007, Belfast Evening Telegraph 1871-April 18<sup>th</sup> 1918, Belfast Telegraph 19<sup>th</sup> April 1918 - 1938, and the County Down Spectator 1904 – present.

## FAMILY HISTORY



## 1901 CENSUS

The 1901 census is Ireland's oldest complete surviving census, as almost all previous census returns dating from 1821 were either lost in Dublin in 1922 or were destroyed under government orders during the First World War. The 1901 census returns are listed by county, then alphabetically by district electoral division within the county. The information was gathered on 31<sup>st</sup> March and all persons in the house at the time were included on the form, including servants and visitors. Those members of the family away from home on the day were not included with other family members. Microfilm copies of the census returns are available for consultation in PRONI, The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. <http://www.proni.gov.uk/>

If you have any photos or items which may be suitable for inclusion, please forward to:  
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 Phone – (028) 4461 2895