

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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The Linen Hall Library gratefully acknowledges the kind support of the following organisations:



Belfast
City Council



Cover Photos (from top):

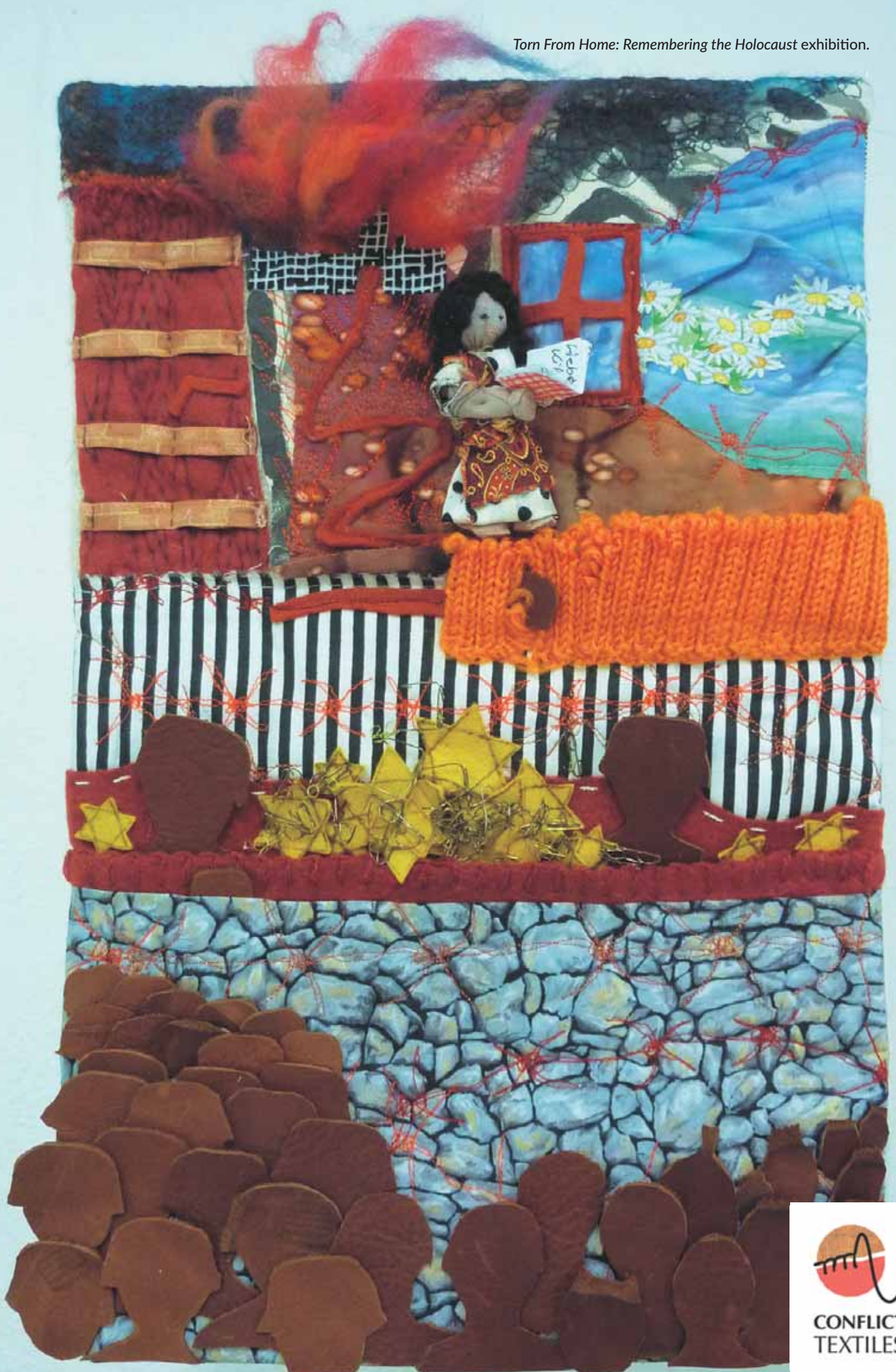
Eamon McGuinness wins the Michael McLaverty Short Story Award

Linen Hall Library board president Dr Eamonn Hughes, Polly Devlin OBE & Julie Andrews

Linenopolis tour

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





CONFLICT
TEXTILES

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Acting President's Report

When the Linen Hall President Alice Chapman stepped down from her position at the September meeting of the Library's Board of Governors, it fell to me as Vice President to take up the role of Acting President. Both personally and on behalf of the Board of Governors I want to thank Alice for her unflagging commitment to the Library. The Library fills many roles – registered charity, accredited museum, cultural institution, to name the most obvious – and needs to seek funding from multiple sources. As a result it is accountable to and scrutinised by various bodies. The Library's good standing and reputation for good governance owe much to Alice's expertise, professionalism and efficiency during her period as President. It would be extremely daunting to follow her were it not for the fact that, like her, I know I can also rely on the professionalism and creativity of the Library's staff.

These are qualities that the Library has always needed and never more so than at the present. The restored Executive and Assembly will no doubt lead to political and economic changes, and the broader context of the year of transition to a post-Brexit world gives rise to further uncertainty. The Library was founded in turbulent times and has survived through (and recorded) many periods of unrest. Such familiarity with change may well stand us in good stead in the coming year.

It is an honour to take up the role of Acting President. As a member over many years I have made use of the Library's many facilities: read in its collections, consulted its archives, drawn on the knowledge of its staff, viewed its exhibitions, attended its diverse range of events, and sometimes simply treated it as a haven. It is a unique and invaluable institution and I look forward to working with the Board of Governors and the Director and her staff to ensure its continuing health and vibrancy.



Dr Eamonn Hughes

Past President's Report

I have entered the last months in my position as President of the Linen Hall Library, and over the past 6 months I have supported Dr Eamonn Hughes in a transitional role when he has been in position as Acting President of the Board of Governors.

I have been fortunate to have spent my tenure as President at a period when the Library has seen new projects emerge and achieve increased recognition locally, nationally and internationally. It has enhanced and strengthened its capacity to provide excellent standards in collating and disseminating knowledge. The Linen Hall Library has proven itself as a social and cultural hub for learning, education and social discourse in a challenging climate of reducing resources.

The staff of the Linen Hall are exceptionally competent and enthusiastic in promoting and developing the vibrant business of the Library. I have been humbled and delighted to have shared part of this journey of development towards sustainability with Director Julie Andrews and her staff.

I wish the incoming President and staff of the Linen Hall success and continued growth. Thanks to everyone for sharing your knowledge with me about the Library and I leave knowing much more than when I began!



Alice Chapman OBE

Director's Report

As is the norm most years, 2019 was an exciting and challenging time for the Library.

During the year the Library received funding from the Department for Communities, Belfast City Council, The National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland and the Ulster-Scots Agency.

Small grants were also received from the Arts Council of NI, Community Relations Council and Foras na Gaeilge. Projects funded through these organisations included *Staging Sexuality*, which celebrated the LGBTQ+ archives held in the Linen Hall. This series of readings and performances showcased the Theatre and Performing Arts Archive as well as introduced new audiences to materials from the Library collections. The Library was also able to organise the Let's Talk About Language series which marked 30 years of Irish language classes at the Library, and the *Andrew Gibson: An Ardent Son* exhibition, associated events and conservation works on the Gibson collection.



Julie Andrews

At the end of 2019 we had news that we were successful in two bids to the Department for Communities. The first of these is the development of the Library's Children's Collection focussing on local authors. The second is for museum engagement which focuses on working with schools to raise awareness of our collections and updating the fire suppression systems in our archive room.

We kicked off the year with the development phase of the *Seen and Heard* project, looking at women's lives in Northern Ireland from 1965. This culminated in a successful application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund at the end of 2019 for the newly titled *extraORDINARYwomen*. Match funding was achieved from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Reconciliation Fund (Ireland) and The Foyle Foundation. This exciting project, worth approximately £500,000 will commence in 2020. The *Linenopolis* project continued in 2019 truly bringing linen to the Linen Hall. The climax was an exhibition in July and August which has since travelled to other venues. The *Linenopolis* walking tour brought a new dimension to the Library's tour offering and this will re-commence in Spring 2020. The project was funded by the Department for Communities, Tourism Northern Ireland, and The National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Another major project, *Making the Future*, continued during 2019. This cross-border cultural programme empowers people to use museum collections and archives to explore the past and create a powerful vision for future change. The regional programme is being delivered by a consortium of leading cultural organisations including the Nerve Centre, National Museums NI, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Linen Hall Library, supported through €1.82m of EU funding under the PEACE IV Programme, and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). During 2019, exhibitions and programmes were designed around the *Women in the Archives* strand of the project which included a major exhibition, *Anonymous Was a Woman*, displayed in the Linen Hall in Spring 2019 which has since travelled to other venues.

Alongside these projects there was sustained community engagement around both Linen Hall and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland archives.

In 2018 we launched the Linen Hall Endowment Fund. This is our way of ensuring the future sustainability of our collections. During 2019 we were able to draw down the first return from this fund. This has been used for the conservational binding of the *Belfast News Letter*.

Through our Arts and Cultural Programming we continued to explore a diverse range of topics. Exhibitions included *Torn from Home: Remembering the Holocaust*, in association with Conflict Textiles, a collection of international textiles, exhibitions and associated events, which is an Associated Site of CAIN (Conflict Archive on the INternet) at Ulster University. This powerful exhibition exposed the tragic consequences of forced migration of peoples from their homeland, and formed part of Holocaust Memorial Day. Over the summer months we were proud to display *News and Views*, a series of powerful photographic images of the 'Troubles' by former *Belfast Telegraph* picture editor Gerry Fitzgerald.

The annual *Writers on Writers Festival* took place in May with special guest author Claire Keegan, who offered workshops and readings. Other notable events in the year include a performance of actress Marie Jones' *A Night in November* marking its 25th anniversary, and award-winning playwright and short story writer Rosemary Jenkinson hosting a workshop on writing for the stage.

In November 2019, we were absolutely delighted to hold a fundraiser with writer, broadcaster and filmmaker Polly Devlin OBE in the Baby Grand Studio at Belfast's Grand Opera House. I would like to thank Polly Devlin for giving so generously of her time to the Library and raising much needed funds for us. I would also like to thank the Grand Opera House for their support in this event.

Personally, I was privileged to become a member of the Board of Northern Ireland Museums Council. This provides me with an opportunity to represent the independent museum sector, which the Linen Hall Library is proud to be part of.

As ever, future relevance and sustainability is at the forefront of everything we do. As a charity, I would ask you to encourage others to become members and/or donate so that the Linen Hall can continue doing its great work.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Board of Governors, staff and volunteers for their help and support throughout 2019.

Librarian's Report

I am pleased to report on Library collections for 2019.

2019 was another busy and productive year in terms of collections care and enhancement at the Linen Hall. Having addressed and progressed a number of legacy issues, it was pleasing to be able to spend time researching and working with the amazing materials we hold to raise awareness and to secure funding for collection-based projects.

In January 2019 I delivered the annual Andrew Gibson Memorial Lecture. It was fascinating to work through our minute books to gain a deeper understanding of this important figure in the Linen Hall's history. The collection – variously described in our written history as 'unequalled', and 'without exception the most complete embodiment of the widespread influence of Burns' – is testament to former Linen Hall Governor and renowned 'Belfast Scot' Andrew Gibson as a prolific collector and bibliographer of Robert Burns. The custodianship and preservation of the Gibson collection for future generations is both a privilege and a responsibility, and Linen Hall members are to be commended for supporting, through membership, the maintenance and upkeep of this and our many other important collections.



Samantha McCombe

During 2019, we undertook the development phase of our collection-based *extraORDINARYwomen* project. The project focuses on the culturally and historically significant collections and archives of the Library which resonated with the diverse community focus groups undertaken during the project's development phase, and which reflect and illustrate women's lives and experiences in Northern Ireland since 1965. Unique primary materials from the world-renowned Northern Ireland Political Collection, Theatre and Performing Arts archive, and Literary archives, with an emphasis on the insightful Traveller collection and LGBTQ+ archives, feed strongly into the project themes of examining the political, social and economic changes and development of women. The roles and experiences of women feature in unique posters, printed materials, ephemera, objects and artefacts collected during the 'Troubles' and beyond. Detailed archives, such as the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Movement and Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, document women's participation in groundbreaking movements for social change, trailblazing grassroots activism, and momentous engagement with politics. Inspirational women's literary and theatrical outputs, such as that of Charabanc and Christina Reid, give insight into the lived experience of the time. The historical and cultural significance of this material cannot be overstated; in type and scope it is unique; it is an inspiring and insightful body of work which has intrinsic value to promote understanding.

As a trusted repository, the project will also allow for the creation and capture of heritage through contemporary collecting, and donations. In 2019, our collections continued to be enriched through donation, and a full list of donors is included with gratitude at page 12.

Governors

President:	Mrs A Chapman, OBE, BSSc (Hons), MSW (to October 2019)
Acting President:	Dr E Hughes, BA, MA, PhD (from October 2019)
Vice-President:	Mr D Lewis, MA, PGDip, BSc (to April 2019) Dr E Hughes, BA, MA, PhD (from May to October 2019)
Honorary Secretary:	Mr J Stewart, MSc, MA, BSc (to May 2019) Mr C Radcliffe, BA (Hons) (from May 2019)
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr C McClean
Governors:	Mr M Adair (from December 2019) Ms K Blair, LLB, LLM, LARTPI Mr H Campbell, LLB, LLM (to October 2019) Mr P Cavan (to October 2019) Ms C Gallen, MSc (to September 2019) Ms K Hoey (from May 2019) Mr J Johnston, MA, MLitt, JP (to December 2019) Mr G Lucy, BA (Hons), PGCE (from May 2019) Ms M Mackin, BA, MSc, PGDip (to April 2019) Ms L Maltman, BSc, MSc (from May 2019) Mr H Odling-Smee, MA, AdDip (to April 2019) Dr O Purdue, BA, MA, PHD (from October 2019) Mr J Roberts Mr J M Scott, BA, MA (to December 2019) Ms S Stevenson (from December 2019)

Honorary Members

The Linen Hall Library confers Honorary Membership on individuals who have shown exceptional support for the organisation.

Our current Honorary Members are:

Mrs Jennifer Campbell	Dr Pat Donlon	Mr Barry Douglas
Mr Tom Hartley	Ms Jennifer Johnston	Mr Brian Keenan
Mr Michael Longley	Mr Tim McGarry	Mr Neil Martin
Ms Sinéad Morrissey	Mr Glenn Patterson	Mr John Simms
Ms Roma Tomelty	Dr Brian Walker	

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee meet four times per annum. There are a number of independent members of the committee who have a scrutiny function. These members include: Simon Bridge, Gary Curran and an observer from the Department for Communities.



Management Team

Director	Ms J Andrews, LLB (Hons)
Librarian	Miss S McCombe, MA, MSc
Finance Manager	Mrs K Law, BSSc (Hons) Accounting, FCA
Deputy Librarian	Mrs M Cash, BA (Hons), DLIS, PGDip (LIS)
Customer Services Manager	Mrs M Ryan

Library Services

Senior Library Assistant	Ms M Flynn
Library Assistants	Ms C Daly, BA, MA Mrs M Delargy, BA (Hons), DLIS, MSc Mr A Dunlop, BA (Hons), PG Dip (LIM) Ms V Geymonat Mr A Gordon, BA, MSc Ms J Hoben PG Dip (LIM)
National Collection of NI Publications (NIPR)	Mr T Gordon, MSc, MA, BA (Hons), DLIS

Administrative Services

Head of Digital and Marketing Communications	Mrs R Wetherall, BA (Hons), MA, Dip Digital Marketing
Events Programmer	Mrs D Douglas, BA (Hons), MA (until November)
Finance & IT Officer	Miss A McDermott

Membership and Technology

Administrator	Mr S Barr, BA (Hons) (until June)
Facilities Officer	Mr R Grainger
Charity Bookshop Manager	Mr D Cash, BA (Hons)

Seen and Heard Project

Archivist	Ms Yvonne Kelly, BA (until May)
Project Assistant	Mrs Amy New, BA, MA (until May)

Education and Outreach Officers

<i>Linenopolis</i> Project	Mrs R Brady, BA (Joint Honours), MA (until August)
<i>Making the Future</i> Project	Mr J Burke, BA (Hons), MA
Various In-house Projects	Mrs R Brady, BA (Joint Honours), MA (from August)

QUB Intern

Nichole Ross

Volunteers

Charity Shop - John Allen, John Bradbury, Jim Graham, Alan Kershaw, Tom Kernaghan, Emma Kelsall, Deirdre McAuley, Noelle McCavana, Pauline McDermott, Sean McKenna, Heather Munro, Craig Richardson, Oscar Ross

Meet & Greet Volunteers - Lavina Wilson, Siobhan Napier, Maureen McFarland, Irene Ross, Victoria Brown, Peter Duff

Admin Volunteers - Thomas Baird, Brian Finlay, Eileen Gilmore

Tours - Martin Allison, Gerry Devaney, Margaret Haddock, Jim McCartney

Library Services - Gerry Devaney, Elizabeth Gordon, Kathryn Wilson

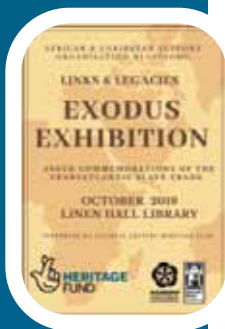
Reading Groups - John Bradbury, Marian Ferguson, Stiofán O'Direáin, Irene Ross

Linenopolis - Naomi Cavanagh, Shona MacKay, Rachel Maxwell

Linenopolis Tour Guides - John Bradbury, Anna Smyth, Claire Mooney

Volunteer Co-Ordinator - Jim McCartney

2019



Arts, Culture and Tourism

In 2019, the Library offered a range of arts and cultural programmes, bringing a broad range of artists to its audiences. The continued reduction in funding meant a curtailment in the arts and cultural offering. The programme of events continues to explore the social, cultural, linguistic, economic and political legacy of many events in our shared history.

2019 saw several significant anniversaries which the library marked with appropriate events and exhibitions using the Linen Hall's extensive archives. The *Exodus* exhibition marked the 400th anniversary of the transatlantic slave trade and was presented in association with ACSI (African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland) and the Links and Legacy Project, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Exhibitions

The Library hosted a number of exhibitions in 2019. Highlights included *Andrew Gibson: An Ardent Son*, which examined the role of former Linen Hall Governor Andrew Gibson and his vast collection of Burns' material which later became the Library's Burns and Burnsiana collection. Later in the year, the Library was delighted to be the launch venue for *Torn From Home: Remembering the Holocaust* exhibition, in association with Conflict Textiles, a collection of international textiles, exhibitions and associated events, all of which focus on elements of conflict and human rights abuses based at Ulster University. This powerful display exposed the tragic consequences of the forced migration of peoples from their homeland, and formed part of Holocaust Memorial Day. Hard-hitting photographic works of the 'Troubles' by former newspaper picture editor Gerry Fitzgerald featured in *News and Views*. The year also saw the major exhibition *Mapping Urban Ireland* on loan from the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin.

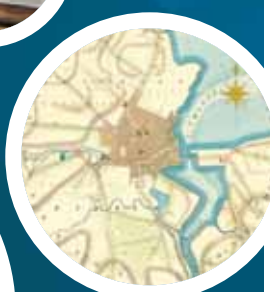
Music

Audiences enjoyed music by the Bookshop Band in March to mark World Book Day and an enjoyable evening with folk singers Maurice Leyden and Jane Cassidy in July to celebrate Belfast's industrial past as part of the Library's *Linenopolis* project. Poet Frank Ormsby was joined by musician Anthony Toner to perform songs inspired by Frank's collected works.

September saw a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Irish Harp Society and international harpist Lily Neill presented a selection of pieces based on works from the Library's Beath Manuscript Collection.

Drama, Poetry and Literacy

World Storytelling Day was attended by an appreciative audience and Liz Weir and friends entertained us with stories and song. The Writers on Writers Festival took



Images from top

Exodus exhibition

Samantha McCombe with conservator Sean Madden and two restored Burns items

Andrew Gibson

Mapping Urban Ireland exhibition
Belfast colour map 1791 by James Williamson

News and Views exhibition - photo by Gerry Fitzgerald

Torn From Home: Remembering the Holocaust exhibition

The Bookshop Band

place during our birthday week in May with special guest writer Claire Keegan, who offered workshops and readings. We also hosted the regional heats of the Poetry Aloud competition organised by the National Library of Ireland. In addition, the Library's reading group and Irish language reading group met monthly, and the popular Irish language classes celebrated their 30th anniversary in the Library. A performance of Marie Jones' award-winning play *A Night in November* marked the 25th anniversary production, and playwright Rosemary Jenkinson offered a workshop on writing for the stage.

Book Launches

New books were introduced by authors including Bob Salisbury, *Field of Dreams*, Wesley Hutchinson, *Tracing the Ulster-Scots Imagination*, and Gareth Russell, *The Darksome Bounds of a Failing World*.

Michael McLaverty Short Story Award

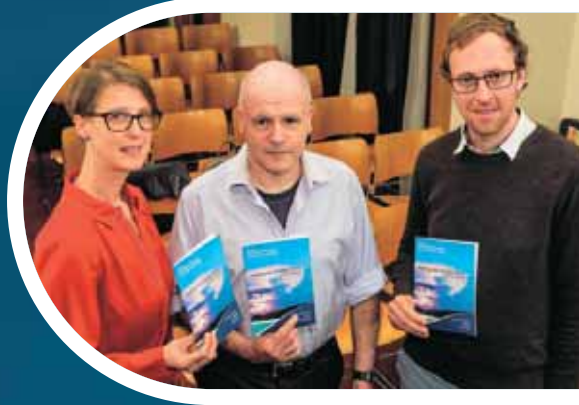
In May 2019 the Library announced Eamon McGuinness as the winner of the popular biennial Michael McLaverty Short Story Award. Eamon received a cheque for £2,000 and his story 'Nothing He Couldn't Carry' was published in a limited-edition anthology entitled *Nothing He Couldn't Carry and Other Stories* which is available to purchase exclusively in the Library. The two runners-up were Lucy Beevor with 'Bread' and Ciarán Folan with 'Crows'. They each received £250 and their stories were published in the anthology. The competition was adjudicated by award-winning writer Claire Keegan (*Antarctica*, *Walk the Blue Fields* and *Foster*), and Patsy Horton, Managing Editor of Blackstaff Press.

Citywide Celebrations

The Library participated in several citywide celebrations and commemorations including Holocaust Memorial Day, International Women's Day 2019 and World Book Day. We celebrated European Heritage Open Day with tours of our beautiful listed building. The Library participated in Culture Night marking Lapwing Publications' 40th anniversary and took part in the 30th Cinemagic Film Festival with a pop-up cinema. We also hosted an event as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival.

Partnership Activities

The Library formed several strategic partnerships throughout 2019 in order to deliver a varied programme of events and exhibitions. These included the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), the Ulster-Scots Agency, Belfast Charitable Society, the Digital Film Archive and ACSONI (African and Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland) as well as Foras na Gaeilge.



Images from top
Lily Neill

Claire Keegan

Musician Anthony Toner and poet Frank Ormsby

Marie Jones' award-winning play *A Night in November*

Discovering Shakespeare's *Indian Connections* exhibition

Culture Night Belfast and European Heritage Open Days

Michael McLaverty Short Story Award winners:
Lucy Beevor, Ciarán Folan and Eamon McGuinness



Other

A number of other projects were undertaken, namely Staging Sexuality, funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and celebrating the LGBTQ+ archives held in the Library. This series of readings and performances showcased the Theatre and Performing Arts Archive as well as introduced new audiences to materials from the Library's collections. The *Let's Talk About Language* series was funded by Foras na Gaeilge and marked 30 years of Irish language classes at the Library. The series of events, lectures and workshop events organised were well attended and highlighted language issues with a one-day conference organised by Newcastle University.

Library Facilities

The Linen Hall Library's listed Victorian building in the heart of Belfast offers a range of function rooms for hire, including the atmospheric Governors' Room, an intimate, book-lined meeting space, the well-equipped Performance Area and the Northern Room/Members' Area with its privileged viewpoint overlooking Belfast City Hall and Donegall Square. These rooms are available for all kinds of events: meetings, performances, talks, book-launches and conferences find a welcoming home here. The Library is also a sought-after filming location, and some couples have chosen to have their wedding photographs taken against its unique interior backdrop, or to entertain their guests after the ceremony.

Gift Range

The Library's unique range of gifts for lovers of all things literary and local is always expanding and is popular with members and visitors alike.

All income from gift shop sales and room hire helps to promote the Library's financial sustainability.

Charity Shop

The Linen Hall Charity Bookshop is located in College Street (between Savers and Sawers, just around the corner from our Fountain Street entrance). Its income provides a significant boost for the Library's charitable mission. The Governors and staff would like to extend their gratitude to all the volunteers who give so generously of their time to support manager Damien Cash in the shop.

Images from top

Staging Sexuality - *It Only Takes a Minute*; *A Cock and Bull Story*;
Quartered: Belfast, *A Love Story*

Linen Hall Library Facilities - the Governors' Room;
Performance Area; Northern Room/Members' Area

A selection from the gift range
Inside the Charity Bookshop

2019 Public Relations and Marketing Overview

The Linen Hall regularly reviews its PR and marketing strategy to ensure it meets the ever-changing challenges of the current climate. As a charity with limited resources, we prioritise public relations and, more increasingly, digital marketing, over other disciplines.

There were many events throughout the year that produced significant media results including *Andrew Gibson: An Ardent Son* exhibition and associated events; *Torn From Home: Remembering the Holocaust* exhibition and events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2019; *Anonymous Was a Woman* exhibition and events, part of Making the Future project, supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB); *A Celebration of the Beath Collection and the Bicentennial of the Irish Harp Society of Belfast (1819 - 39)* which featured performances by world-renowned harpists; Linenopolis exhibition and events funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund NI, Tourism NI and Department for Communities; and a December fundraiser with writer, broadcaster and filmmaker Polly Devlin OBE which was held at the Grand Opera House. These are just a few of the events that stood out in a very full programme.

Digitally, we continue to move with current trends and in 2019 began advertising through Google and Facebook to expand our digital footprint and profile in the digital universe. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts continue to grow with a combined total of subscribers just under 10,000. Our new website (www.linenhall.com), launched in late 2018, has gained much praise for its user friendliness and comprehensive information. Tourism NI commented as part of its 2019 Visitor Attraction rating review: "There is an excellent, informative website in place, incorporating a wealth of pre-arrival information such as an events guide and opening times."

We maintain and generate a broad selection of marketing and PR vehicles, including *What's On* guides, membership leaflets, posters, ezines, flyers, press releases and brochures. These were reviewed in 2019 and updated accordingly.

And in May 2019, the Library embarked on a completely new and novel path when we entered a team to run in the RiverRock Belfast City Marathon. We finished in a very respectable time as well as raised funds for the Library.

Continued next page..



Images from top

Richard and Owdens linen, image courtesy of McBurney and Black

The new Linen Hall Library website

Anonymous Was a Woman launch - Alice Chapman OBE, Former Lord Mayor of Belfast Deirdre Hargey and Jason Burke

The Linen Hall Library RiverRock Belfast City Marathon team

Polly Devlin OBE and Julie Andrews



Our cuttings agency NIMMS reports the combined circulation/reach number of the Library's traditional media coverage for 2019 was 13,895,296. The equivalent ad spend would be approximately £680,000. This has increased significantly from 2018 with comparative figures of 7,400,000 and £520,600.

NIPR

NIPR (formerly known as The Northern Ireland Publications Resource) is Northern Ireland's national collection of Northern Ireland publications and is based at the Linen Hall Library. NIPR aims to identify, collect, preserve and make available for public consultation, every book, pamphlet, periodical and report published in Northern Ireland since January 2000.



Highlights in 2019 include a research partnership with Ulster University, an online campaign seeking the public's assistance in identifying gaps in the collection, attendance at several book launches to collect material, running a stall at the Belfast Book Festival and launching a new feature called 'Quarterly Choice' that enables individuals from the local publishing industry to share their thoughts on recent acquisitions.



Funded Projects

Linenopolis

2019 was the year linen came to the Linen Hall Library. *Linenopolis* engaged with community groups and individuals across Belfast collecting memories of the linen trade. The project was run in partnership with the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, contemporary photography organisation Belfast Exposed and Ormeau Business Park. Some participants recorded fascinating experiences of working in mills, living in the surrounding areas and family life at the time of Belfast's linen boom. The Linen Hall Library was especially pleased to celebrate the important objects associated with the linen industry held in its collections. This includes a flax growers index from 1796 and logbook detailing linen weaving apprenticeships at Clifton House between 1835 and 1844. The culmination of the project was a celebratory exhibition which has since travelled to other venues. Another positive outcome was the creation of *Linenopolis* walking tours, which will return in the Spring of 2020. *Linenopolis* was funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund Northern Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and the Department for Communities.



Images from top

PRONI archive

View from the Linen Hall Library cafe

Part of the Library's closed access collection

Pure Flax label. Courtesy of Libraries NI (Belfast Central Library)

Burns Schools Outreach

Towards the end of the year a schools' outreach project based on the poetry of Robert Burns was organised. Primary school children explored the story behind the poem 'To A Mouse' which Burns wrote around the themes of farming, landscape and life experience. This project will be continued in 2020 with further schools' workshops and new lesson development. This was funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency.

Making The Future/Women in the Archives

In June 2018, Community Engagement Officer Jason Burke began work on a major, new cross-border cultural programme entitled *Making The Future*. Funded by Peace IV (SEUPB) and led by the Nerve Centre, *Making The Future* empowers people to use museum collections and archives to explore the past and create a powerful vision for future change. The Linen Hall Library's remit for *Making The Future* encompasses two strands: *Women In The Archives* (2019) and *Conflict To Peace* (2020). *Women in the Archives* has been a successful collaboration between the Linen Hall Library and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) aiming to uncover women's stories from our extensive archives. As part of the *Women In The Archives* strand the Linen Hall hosted the hugely popular *Anonymous Was A Woman* exhibition. A well-attended events programme featuring talks, tours, and roadshows ran alongside.

The community engagement programme for *Women In The Archives* culminated in a showcase event in the Library in November 2019 when all of the groups came together. This was an opportunity for each of the groups to display their findings and build new relationships with one another. It was evident on the day that the showcase event was the beginning of an exciting, new chapter for many of the groups rather than the end of a process.

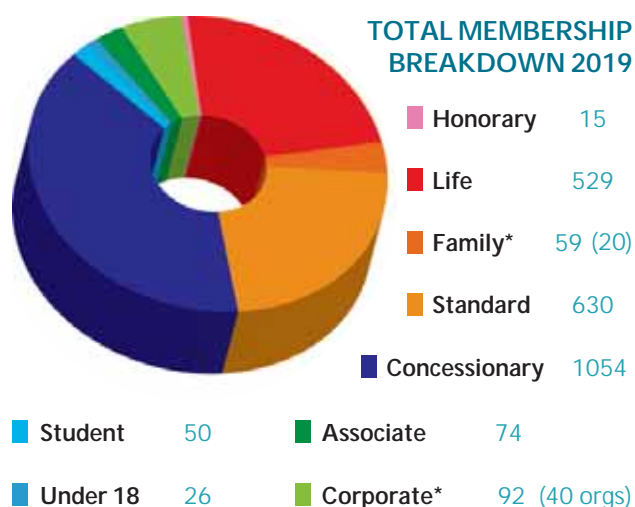


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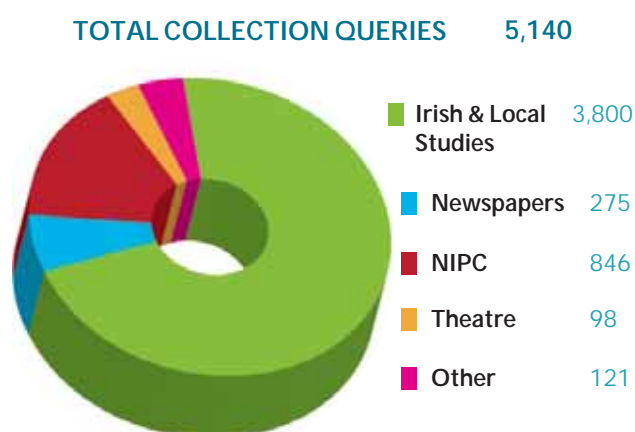
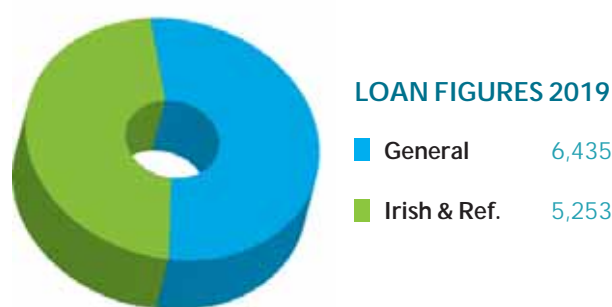
Robert Burns

Photos and artifacts from the
Making the Future/Women In the Archives
programme and *Anonymous Was A Woman*.

Facts & Figures



*Figure counted in tickets issued with number of such multiple memberships shown in brackets.



Cataloguing

The total number of items added to the catalogue in 2019 is 3,828.

Website and Electronic Access

www.linenhall.com

Digital visitor figures from Google Analytics for 2019 identified 50,375 (46,682) sessions; 32,108 (26,81) users; and 116,718 (111,000) page views.

Figures in parenthesis = 2018.

COLLECTION DONATIONS

We are grateful to everyone who made donations to the Library during the year; without the support and generosity of these donors we would be unable to provide the wide range of services we offer.

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Financial Summary

Summaries of the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2019 and the Statement of Financial Position as at that date are set out on pages 14 and 15. Full financial statements have been published separately and are available on request from the Linen Hall Library or on the Library's website www.linenhall.com.

Overview

The Library's operating deficit, before actuarial movements on the pension scheme and gains on revaluation of fixed assets and investments, was £98k in 2019 (2018: £147k). The bank overdraft balance increased from £115k at the end of 2018 to £129k at 31 December 2019. The Library uses its bank overdraft facility of £150k to finance its day-to-day operations, and the Governors and staff aim to reduce reliance on this facility in the medium term by generating additional income and keeping operating costs in check.

Total income from all sources rose from £947k in 2018 to £1,029k in 2019, thanks to several generous legacies. Core operating costs continued to be kept as low as possible, although net operating charges and finance costs for the Library's defined benefit pension scheme amounted to £61k (2018: £46k) and this is included in operating costs. The pension scheme deficit carried in the Library's balance sheet increased during 2019 from £188k to £357k, due to actuarial movements beyond the Library's control.

The Governors regularly monitor all revenues and costs, comparing them to approved budgets, and are working towards the elimination of the operating deficit. There is a constant emphasis on broadening the income spectrum of the Library, in order to compensate for current and future reductions in public sector funding and to achieve long-term financial sustainability.

Income

The Library's grant income from all sources was £483k in 2019, compared to £449k in 2019, with funding for special projects up by £37k and grants towards core operating costs down by £3k. The Library's total income rose by 9% in 2019, and the proportion of income obtained from all types of grant funding remained at 47%.

Income from membership subscriptions and associated Gift Aid was £138k in both 2018 and 2019; the Governors and staff are endeavouring to keep the Library's membership offer relevant and attractive and will encourage more members to sign up for Gift Aid during 2020.

Commercial rental income from the two shop units owned by the Library remained at around £145k in 2019, with two high quality business tenants in place.

The Linen Hall Charity Bookshop contributed its profit of £19k (2018: £17k), raised through the sale of donated books, to the Library's running costs in 2019. Sales of gift items, commercial use of the Library's facilities for room hire and filming, box office income and Library tours all performed well this year, and the Governors and staff continue to seek new fundraising activities and to maximise revenue from existing operations.

Income from donations and legacies increased from £89k in 2018 to £151k in 2019, due to several generous legacies bequeathed to the Library's general funds, as well as gifts gratefully received by the new Linen Hall Library Endowment Fund.

Expenditure

Staff costs represented 62% of total costs in both 2019 and 2018 and are therefore the largest single area of expenditure for the Library. Average staff numbers, on a full-time equivalent basis, remained at 18, including additional project staff, and employment costs overall increased from £676k to £697k. A detailed breakdown of all expenditure is set out in notes 5 to 9 to the separately published financial statements.

Pension Scheme

The Library operates a defined benefit pension scheme through NILGOSC, and the scheme was in deficit by £357k at 31st December 2019, an increase of £169k over the previous year's position. The cost of pension contributions, net operating charge and related finance during 2019 was £168k, up from £152k in 2018, and the Library's contribution rate to the NILGOSC scheme remained at 22.5% of salary.

Grants

The following table sets out recent levels of support from each of the Library's top six funders in 2019.

FUNDER	2019	2018	2017	2016
	£k	£k	£k	£k
Dept. for Communities	284	269	319	294
SEUPB Peace IV	61	22	0	0
National Lottery Heritage Fund	39	71	219	88
Belfast City Council	35	35	35	110
Department of Foreign Affairs ROI	33	5	0	0
Ulster-Scots Agency	19	20	0	25
Total	471	422	573	517

Grants awarded for defined projects in pursuit of the Library's mission, from all sources, increased from £164k in 2018 to £201k in 2019, and grants towards core operating costs fell by £3k. It is expected that the Library's core public funders will continue to experience significantly reduced budgets, and that grants from these sources towards core operating costs may continue to fall. Full details of all grant income and awarding bodies are set out in note 2 to the separately published financial statements, and further information on the funded projects undertaken in 2019 can be found at note 21.

Karen Law, Finance Manager

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2019	Total Funds 2018
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies	22	549	201	772	676
Rental income	-	146	-	146	145
Investment income	-	7	-	7	6
Income from charitable activities					
Other trading activities	-	104	-	104	120
Total Income	22	806	201	1,029	947
Expenditure on					
Rental expenses	-	2	-	2	2
Expenditure on raising funds	-	61	-	61	51
	-	63	-	63	53
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Projects and events	-	-	168	168	162
Library operating costs	-	895	-	895	879
	-	895	168	1,063	1,041
Total Expenditure	-	958	168	1,126	1,094
Net (expenditure)/income	22	(152)	33	(97)	(147)
Transfers between funds	-	(6)	6	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income before recognised gains and losses	22	(158)	39	(97)	(147)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	28	-	-	28	(7)
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	-	870	-	870	-
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme	-	108	-	108	84
Net movement in funds	50	604	39	693	(238)
Fund balance brought forward	263	5,864	100	6,227	6,465
Total funds carried forward	313	6,468	139	6,920	6,227

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	4,483	3,642
Heritage assets	2,734	2,734
Investments	251	202
	7,468	6,578
Current assets		
Stocks	7	7
Debtors	84	71
Cash at bank and in hand	62	65
	153	143
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(324)	(306)
Net current liabilities	(171)	(163)
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(20)	-
Net assets excluding pension liability	7,277	6,415
Pension liability	(357)	(188)
Net assets including pension liability	6,920	6,227
Funds		
Unrestricted funds:		
- General fund	(542)	(276)
- Revaluation fund	7,010	6,140
	6,468	5,864
Restricted funds	139	100
Endowment funds	313	263
Total funds	6,920	6,227



LINEN HALL LIBRARY

17 Donegall Square North, Belfast BT1 5GB

T: +44 (0)28 9032 1707 E: info@linenhall.com

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