



linen hall  
library  
established 1788

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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



**Belfast  
City Council**



**Cover Photos:**

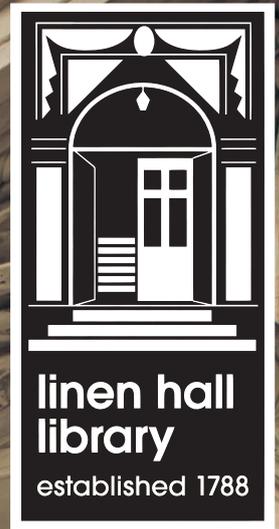
Linen Hall Library Director Julie Andrews and Lord Mayor of Belfast Councillor Kate Nicholl

Liz Weir at Ballintoy National Storytelling Week

extraORDINARYwomen - Amelia Kai, Dr Lindsay Broadbent & Orla McKeating

Ulster-Scots Writing Competition - Dr Frank Ferguson, Angeline King, Stuart Paterson, Julie Andrews, Gary Morgan, Gillian McMaster

Ireland Divided launch event with actor Tim McGarry



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The  
Linen Hall Library

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ELFAST  
BRARY  
AND  
TY FOR PROMOTING  
KNOWLEDGE  
OUNDED 1788.

LINEN HALL  
LIBRARY  
THE LIBRARIAN  
WILL BE PLEASED TO  
ANSWER INQUIRIES  
AS TO CONDICTIONS OF  
MEMBERSHIP

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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Mum,  
you hear me down here? well  
ght. it just when we were leaving conflict  
our troubled past behind our wee country once  
without an end date in sight. &  
Our country now asks us to  
stay at home & protect the blue sky!

I hate seeing people in  
masks and gloves - it  
feels like a bad dream!

Hello Mum

CAN YOU HEAR ME UP THERE SOMEWHERE ON  
THE RAINBOW? WELL WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT  
IT, JUST WHEN WE WERE LEAVING CONFLICT AND  
TROUBLES PAST OUR WEE COUNTRY NOW FACING  
A WAR WITH THE COVID19 VIRUS WITH NO END  
IN SIGHT.  
OUR COUNTRY NOW ASKS US TO STAY AT HOME  
# PROTECT THE NUS # SAVE LIVES. WHAT ARE  
# HASHTAGS FOR YOU MAY ASK? WELL MUM IT  
WE SEND MESSAGES OR COMMUNICATE IN A  
WORLD.

YOU WILL BE HEARTBROKEN TO HEAR THAT AS  
COMMUNITY WE HAVE MOVED FROM CONFLICT  
PEACE AS WE ARE # ALL IN THIS TOGETHER  
RELIGION & POLITICS ARE NO LONGER IMPORTANT  
THIS WAR WE ARE FIGHTING.  
THE LESSONS YOU TAUGHT ME GROWING  
CHILD OF THE TROUBLES HAVE SERVED ME  
AND WERE NOT IN VAIN. I HAVE SHARED  
CUP OF SUGAR & THE WEE DROP OF MILK  
NEIGHBOURS. I HAVE DANCED WITH YOU  
GRANDDADDY'S NANNY & VICTORIA -  
CALLED TIL TIL MUM, YOU CAN SING  
YOUR FAMILY AT THE TOUCH OF A BLITZ  
THEIR WAS WIFI IN NEARBY MUMS  
IF YOU SEE GRAYNIE

WOULD YOU TELL THEM I AM WORKING  
THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT PEOPLE  
LOWLY AND STAYING AT HOME. IT  
FOR THEM TO GET OUT, GODS ARE  
THE WOMEN'S GROUP HAD MEIR  
MILLIE AND MEIR WEEKENDS  
WHILE DISABILITY WAS NEVER  
LOCKDOWN WAS TAUGHT US TO  
NOW MORE THAN A MEMOR

In some ways simply surviving the past two years would have been a measure of success, but I am pleased to be able to report that the Library has done rather more than simply survive. Despite being closed for parts of the year, and open under various necessary restrictions, the Library continued with business as close to normal as possible, and also took a number of steps that will shape its future development.

The major project underway at the start of 2021 was extraORDINARYwomen (funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund) and even though it had to be adjusted because of the pandemic, there was a successful launch in November in an online and in-person event, with the virologist Dr Lindsay Broadbent as main speaker. The project website ([www.extraordinarywomenni.com](http://www.extraordinarywomenni.com)) has resources, exhibitions and links to the Library's collections. By that point in the year, we had already started Ireland Divided: A Linen Hall Perspective, our programme marking the centenary of Partition and Northern Ireland. Again, while the programme was subject to some unavoidable changes, this series of panels, lectures and other events (many available on the Library's YouTube channel) was a great success, bringing together a variety of speakers and considering the cultural and social as well as the political aspects of the centenary. It was good to be able to hold the Michael McLaverty Short Story award in December, and we are grateful to the judges Donal Ryan and Patsy Horton of Blackstaff Press, and to Professor Frank Shovlin for his address. A new competition for writing in Ulster-Scots was also held this year thanks to funding from the Ulster-Scots Agency, and again we are grateful to the judges: author Stuart Paterson, Dr Frank Ferguson of Ulster University, and Gillian McMaster from the Ulster-Scots Agency.

When we re-opened in May the most obvious change to the Library (apart from COVID-19 safety measures) was our new café, run by The Writers Cafe Group, which has been very well received. In July the Library was successfully assessed for BS 76005 Diversity and Inclusion; while this is a workplace assessment, it took account of the Library's work in the community at large and therefore both recognises and reinforces the Library's commitment to being a resource and space for all. Taken together with our museum accreditation, retained in 2021, and our Tourism NI status as a visitor attraction, this enables the Library to extend the range of possible activities and interactions with other organisations. Some of the emergency funding for Arts, Culture and Heritage from the Department for Communities which the Library received was dedicated to evidence-based reports on audiences and websites which will form the basis of future activity designed to make the Library more sustainable. One visible, and cheerful, sign of changes to come is the expansion of the children and Young Adult collections.

We are grateful to the various bodies which have provided funding for our activities: in addition to those already named our funders included the Department for Communities, Department of Foreign Affairs (Ireland), Shared History Fund, Belfast City Council, Tourism NI, Foras na Gaelige, and ACNI. We are also grateful for corporate sponsorship from John Roberts of BAC, Gallagher Insurance, and McConnell Property. Such funding is by no means automatic; applications for funding require hard work by the staff, in particular the Director, Finance Manager and Librarian, and the success of those applications rests on the solid foundation of work by the whole staff which is responsible for the Library's continuing and growing reputation. One successful application is worth particular note: funding from the Dormant Funds Account will enable us to develop a new website for the Library.

We continue to receive donations to the collections and occasional legacies. Our most assiduous donor in recent years is Mr John Moore Crossey, a former sub-librarian in the Library, long resident in the USA, who has for several years sent us books to fill gaps in our catalogue. We expressed our gratitude to him by offering him honorary membership of the Library, and we are grateful to all our donors.

This has been a year of change and I am grateful to the staff, volunteers, members and Governors who have kept the Library going, and, while respecting its traditions, helped to develop it for the future. It is an honour to serve such a vital and well-loved institution as President.



Dr Eamonn Hughes

# Director's Report

When I authored my report last year, I really did not think I would still be dealing with COVID-19 related issues for the entirety of 2021. We again rose to the many challenges presented by this ongoing pandemic.

The Library was closed until 24th May 2021. During that time staff conscientiously worked at home to conduct business as usual and to ensure the Library profile remained high and funding was sought and accessed where possible. One area where we were successful in acquiring funding was for emergency and recovery purposes. This allowed us to fill gaps in our financial situation, but also enabled us to secure funding for a Digital Platform Scoping Study; Audience Development Report; Social Impact Study; and Preservation Assessment Report.

The commissioning of a Digital Platform Scoping Study gave us substantial evidence to apply for funding to the Dormant Funds account. This was successful and the new digital platform build is commencing in 2022. This will allow us to gather all our digital assets on one platform.

During the year, the Library received funding from the Department for Communities; Belfast City Council; National Lottery Heritage Fund; Arts Council for NI; Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge.

The extraORDINARYwomen digitisation project continued during 2021. This resulted in two exhibitions and a website offering extensive resources. The new website [www.extraordinarywomenni.com](http://www.extraordinarywomenni.com) was launched in November 2021 by Dr Lindsay Broadbent, a virologist from Queen's University, Belfast. There was huge press coverage of the project.

The Library was also successful in securing funding from the Shared History Fund for a project about partition and the centenary of Northern Ireland. Mindful that narratives of the period are highly contested, we endeavoured to create a high-quality exhibition that would offer a 'Linen Hall Library perspective' on the period based on our collections. To that effect, 'Ireland Divided' was launched in September 2021 and an accompanying events programme followed allowing high quality debate and discussion.

The Library re-opened in May 2021. It was good to welcome both staff and members back. A new coffee shop concession opened. This is a collaboration with the Writers Café Group and has been tremendously successful.

Restrictions were still in place, and this, unfortunately, led to uncertainty. With regards to our Arts and Cultural programming, a sample of (234) evaluation responses (taken in May 2021) of the online events provided us with a useful insight into our online audience. 79% of those who completed an evaluation were non-members while almost 50% were first time attendees at Linen Hall events. The online events programme was successful in attracting brand new audiences. 37% of evaluation responses stated that they were residents outside of Northern Ireland, and the most remote attendee joined from Melbourne, Australia! As a result, we gained new associate members from other parts of the world.

We received funding from both the Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge for the conservation of our languages collections. Alistair Heather, prominent Scottish broadcaster, made a film about the Library's Gibson Collection which was useful for the celebration of the 120th anniversary of its acquisition by the Library. The Ulster-Scots Agency also funded an inaugural Ulster-Scots writing competition, and the winners were announced during Ulster-Scots Language week.

Future relevance and sustainability are at the forefront of everything we do. I would like to thank the Board of Governors, staff and volunteers for their help and support throughout 2021. The staff have worked incredibly hard over the past two years to make the organisation relevant, resilient, and sustainable, and I am immensely proud to work with all of them.



Julie Andrews

I am pleased to report on Library collections for 2021.

As the Linen Hall navigated the phases of the pandemic, 2021 was a year of recovery and reconnection.

The year began with the continuation of remote services and brought into sharp focus the value of the cataloguing and digitisation of our collections, ensuring not only their preservation and longevity, but their accessibility by stretching the physical boundaries of the Library. The collection-based extraORDINARYwomen project, focusing on the culturally and historically significant collections and archives of the Library which reflect and illustrate women's lives and experiences in Northern Ireland, added to our digitised content with 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. This project allowed us to procure a content management system for the archives, ephemera, and objects held at the Library, meaning they can be documented to the same high standards as our books and pamphlets.

In addition, we focused on maximising the opportunity of support for the collections facilitated by funding designed to enhance the sustainability of our rare and unique collections for now and the future. As such we were able to undertake several evidence-based works, including a preservation assessment survey, which provided an overview of the conservation needs of the collections.

Generous funding from Foras na Gaeilge supported our Irish language collection. An expansive collection, it is made up of historic and contemporary material - works of history, memoir, fiction, poetry, and linguistics, as well as periodicals and offprints to encourage and support research and linguistic development. It is a living collection which is added to through acquisition and donation, and the funding facilitated much needed remedial and preventative conservation of books and periodicals. A treasure of the collection is the Robert McAdam comparative lexicon - from circa 1885, extant handwritten volumes of comparisons of Irish headwords with 28 other languages. Representing a major contribution to the canon of Irish scholarship, the funding allowed for interventions by an expert paper conservator which prepared the lexicon for scanning to create digital surrogate copies of this unique gem.

Continued support from the Ulster-Scots Agency allowed us to shine a light on the conservation of the Gibson Collection of Robert Burns with digital and promotional curation and interpretation of this important collection - variously described in our written history as 'unequaled', and 'without exception the most complete embodiment of the widespread influence of Burns'.

And in 2021 we again focused on the archive of Michael McLaverty through the biennial short story award given in his name. With a record number of entries, we are grateful to all for their creativity contributing to the Linen Hall's continued celebration of the legacy of one of Ireland's most important writers.

When we regained access to the physical building and collections, alongside welcoming back our members and visitors with care and sensitivity, the collections team worked tremendously hard to minimise the impact of closure on collections care and made great strides to progress collections projects, and I am grateful for the industry and ambition shown in 2021. Donations also flooded in, and I was overwhelmed by the generosity of members and supporters. A full list of donors is included with gratitude at page 12.



Samantha McCombe

# Governors

**President:** Dr E Hughes, BA, MA, PhD

**Vice-President:** Ms L Maltman, BSc, MSc

**Honorary Secretary:** Ms K Blair, LLB, LLM, LARTPI

**Honorary Treasurer:** Mr C McCleane

**Governors:**

Mr M Adair	Ms S McCartan, BA Hons, ACIfA, FSA (London)
Ms K Hoey	Mr J McCartney, MSc
Mr S McKee, BA	Dr P McGarry, DL, FRCPsych
Ms S Stevenson, ACR	Mr G Lucy, BA Hons, PGCE
Prof M Ó Mainnín, BA, MA, PhD	Prof O Purdue, BA, MA, PhD
Mr J Roberts	

**Belfast City Council Observer:** Councillor Matthew Collins

# Staff

## Management Team

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

## Library Services

Senior Library Assistant	Ms Melissa Flynn, PGCert (ILS)
Library Assistants	Mr S Corr, MSc, PGDip (LIM) (since August 2021)
	Ms C Daly, BA (Hons), MA, PGDip (LIM)
	Mr J Danby, BSc (Hons), M. Phil (since July 2021)
	Mrs M Delargy, BA (Hons), PGDip (LIS), MSSc (until October 2022)
	Mr A Dunlop, BA (Hons), PGDip (LIM)
	Ms J Hoben, PGDip (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
Arts and Cultural Programmer	Mr J Burke, BA (Hons), MA
Assistant Arts and Cultural Programmer	Mr Scott Edgar, BSc (from May 2021)
Membership Administrator	Mrs A Wallace
Facilities Officer	Mr R Grainger
Charity Bookshop Manager	Mr D Cash, BA (Hons)
Finance Assistant	Mr Brian Sloan MIATI (from May 2021)
Visitor Experience Officer	Ms B Hunter (from May 2021)

## extraORDINARYwomen Project

Project Manager

Acting Project Manager

Curator

Education and Outreach Officer

Senior Archive Assistant

Archive Assistants

Ms Triona White Hamilton, BA (Hons), MA (until September 2021)

Monica Cash, BA (Hons), DLIS (from September 2021)

Mrs R Brady, BA (Joint Honours), MA (until October 2021)

Mr Ciaran McQuillan, BA (Hons) (until January 2021)

Mr A Gordon, BA, MSc (until December 2021)

Ms Kate Grimshaw, MA, MSc (until October 2021)

Mr Colum McGrath (until September 2021)

Ms Hannah Gallagher, MA (June - October 2021),

Ms Ailie O'Hagan, BDes AFEA (from June 2021)

Ms Laura Ogryzko, BA (Hons), MA, MSc (from September 2021)

## Making the Future Project

Education and Outreach Officer

Ms Lesley Cherry, BA (Hons), MFA (until September 2021)

# Volunteers

**Charity Shop** - John Bradbury, John Allen, Jim Graham, Alan Kershaw, Tom Kernaghan, Deirdre McAuley, Noelle McCavana, Pauline McDermott, Sean McKenna, Heather Munro, Craig Richardson, Oscar Ross, Evelyn Moles, James Orchin, Lesley McConnell, Yvonne Banks, Meriel Hahn, Janine Lynch, Tristan Wallace, Kaisla Puncanem, Olga Eicher, Emma Ferguson

**Meet & Greet Volunteers** - Lavina Wilson, Siobhan Napier, Maureen McFarland, Irene Ross, Liz Paton, Sarah Foster, Mal Higgins, Sofie Ross, Ruby Thorton

**Tours** - Martin Allison, John Bradbury, Gerry Devaney, Margaret Haddock, Jim McCartney

**Library Services** - Gerry Devaney, Mal Higgins, Kathryn Wilson

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

**Volunteer Co-Ordinator** - Jim McCartney

# 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

Ms Anne Davies

Ms Polly Devlin, OBE

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

Dr Brian Walker

Sir George Ivan Morrison, OBE

Mr John Moore Crossey

# 2021 REPORT

## Arts and Cultural Programme

Funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland was particularly useful in supporting our activities in the early part of the year. Examples include, events on the 'shipyard poet' Thomas Carnduff and with Liz Weir for National Storytelling Week. The monthly Northern Ireland Political Collection Lecture Series continued to prove popular and explored a diverse range of issues throughout the year.

As always, it has been important for the Linen Hall to collaborate with other organisations. Collaborative highlights from 2021 include the Imagine Belfast Festival (March), the LGBT History Club (monthly) and the 'Mary Ann 250' festival (July) which celebrated the life and times of former Linen Hall member Mary Ann McCracken.

Even though the Library re-opened its doors to the public in late May 2021 we were still unable to host in-person events in our Performance Area. Coinciding with the Library's re-opening was the appointment of an Assistant Arts and Cultural Programmer (Scott Edgar) who worked almost exclusively on the Library's events programme while Jason Burke worked simultaneously on a Shared History Fund project.

It was crucial for us to understand the make-up of the 'new' audience with which we had been engaging. A sample of (234) evaluation responses (taken in May 2021) of the online events provided us with a useful insight into our online audience. 79% of those who completed an evaluation were non-members while almost 50% were first-time attendees at Linen Hall events. This confirms that despite the frustration of not being able to host events in the Library,

the online events programme was successful in attracting brand new audiences. Online events also created the possibility of new engagement with audiences that would otherwise have not been able to attend in-person events at the Linen Hall. 37% of evaluation responses, for example, stated that they were resident outside of Northern Ireland, the most remote attendee joined from Melbourne, Australia.

Online events continued until September when relaxed Covid restrictions allowed us to explore the possibility of hosting audiences in the Library for the first time in 18 months. A photographic exhibition by John Minihan was the first exhibition in our Vertical Gallery space in that time, and the first event in the Performance Area was organised by the Shared History Fund project.

Moving forward, it was important that we continued to harness our new online audience as well as our in-house audience, and to blend the two we looked to organise more hybrid events with both in-house and online audiences. The first event of this kind was organised for November 2021 with Monica McWilliams which produced 250 bookings; one of the biggest audiences for an event in the Linen Hall Library.

*Images clockwise from top left (page 7)*

*Postcards from the Edge exhibit*

*Liz Weir at Ballintoy National Storytelling Week*

*Sarah McCleave talking at the Mary Ann 250 festival*

*Ulster-Scots Writing Competition with Dr Frank Ferguson*

*Dr Marisa McGlinchey - political collection series*

*Assistant Arts and Cultural Programmer Scott Edgar*

*Linen Hall Library Director Julie Andrews and Lord Mayor of Belfast Councillor Kate Nicholl*

*Gibson, Burns, and Belfast: Preserving the Tradition with Alistair Heather*

*Filming in the Linen Hall Library*

# 'Lockdown has taught us to love more..'



## 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. Whilst unavailable for most of 2021, and with limited seating numbers due to the COVID-19 restrictions, these rooms are normally available for all kinds of events: meetings, performances, talks, book launches, and conferences, to name but a few. 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.

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. We have expanded our range of locally produced jewellery, gifts, crafts, and linen. We have a new range of Linen Hall stationery, a Flax Fox linen tea towel, tote bag and print which incorporate a stunning watercolour painting of the Library and, due to COVID-19, a limited-edition Linen Hall Library face mask which exceeds FFP2 protection. Although figures are down compared to pre-Covid times, the gift shop has managed to exceed budgeted figures by nearly 100%, thanks to the support of members and local visitors. All income from gift shop sales helps to promote the Library's financial sustainability.

## Charity Bookshop

The Linen Hall Library Charity Bookshop is in its tenth year and continues to thrive in its current location at the Fountain Centre in College Street. Its income provides a significant boost for the Library's charitable mission, and the Governors and staff would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all the customers, benefactors, volunteers and friends whose unflinching support has made the shop the success that it has been.



Linen Hall Charity Bookshop

We are grateful for the following for their donations to the Charity Bookshop:

Peter and Janet Auld, Mr Barry Bradley, Mr David Brownlee, Ms Hazel Brownlee, Mr Raymond Crilly, Mr Tim Laverty, Ms Jennifer Lowry, Mr Gerard Magennis, Ms Carolyn McCaw, Maralyn McBratney, Ms Karen McKee, Mr Dermot Nolan, Dr O'Malley, Mr Robert Pimley, Ms Audrey Scales, Mr Phil Stuart, Ms Linda Williamson.

## PR and Marketing

2021 proved to be another very challenging year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Library was closed for the first five months, reopening to the public on 24 May. This meant we continued to depend largely on our social media channels, ezines and digital output.

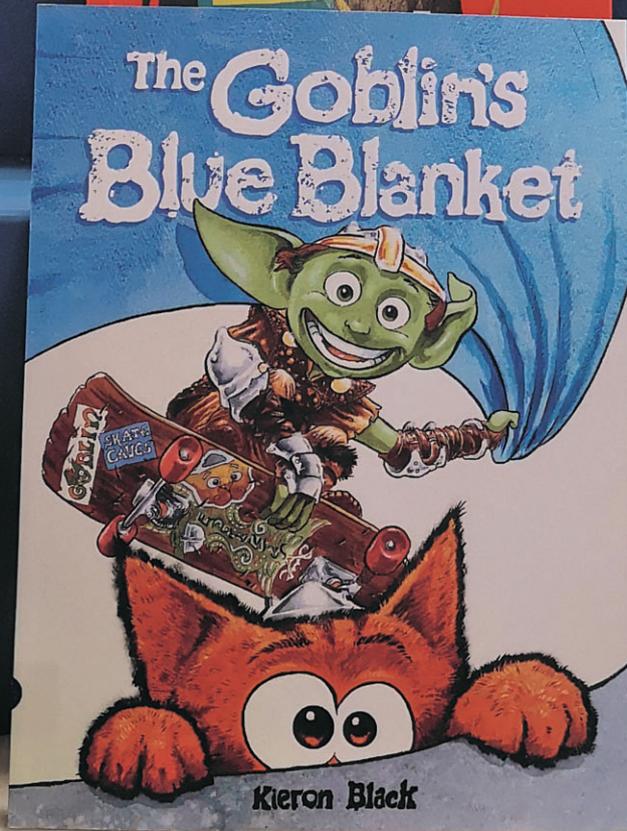
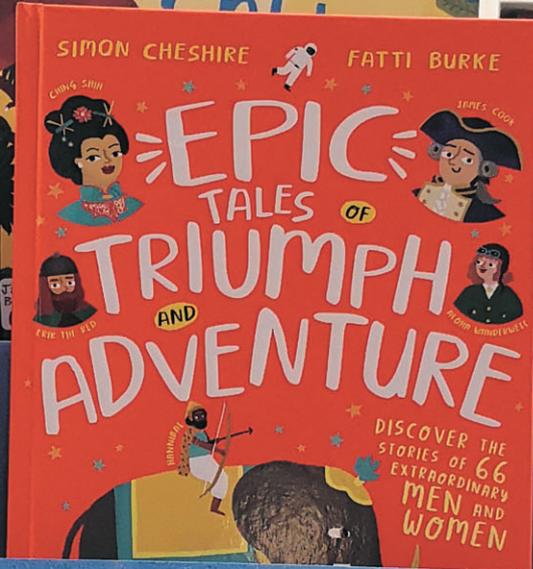
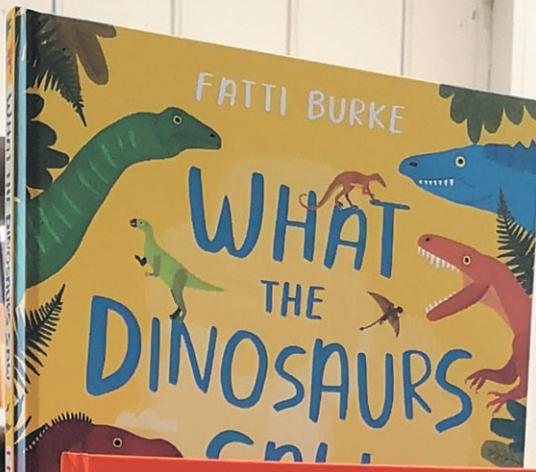
Work continued behind the scenes to ensure we communicated regularly with our members and external audiences in as many ways as possible. Our social media channels continued to grow and by the year's end we had reached approximately 13,500 subscribers.

Press releases were dispatched to traditional media (newspapers, radio and television) which continued to garner coverage and maintain the Linen Hall's prominent position. End of year statistics show circulation coverage at 4,100,000 which translates into an equivalent ad spend of £640,000.

Highlights of the year's coverage include the launch of the new extraORDINARYwomen website and exhibition which achieved significant profile in the Northern Ireland media; winners of the inaugural Ulster-Scots language writing competition secured considerable column inches in a number of regional media outlets; and we regularly appeared in the newspapers' what's on sections spotlighting the many cultural events that took place in the Library throughout the year.

Once the Library had reopened to the public in May, the generation of hard copy What's On guides and other marketing literature resumed.

A project high on the Linen Hall's marketing wish list was finally realised when we received funds to engage a design agency to create a brand suite for the Library. A comprehensive brand examination and development has never been undertaken in the history of the Library. We met with many top Belfast agencies and were delighted to finally appoint Belfast-based McCadden. We look forward to the new brand being officially launched in 2022.



## Funded Projects



### extraORDINARYwomen

extraORDINARYwomen is the Linen Hall Library's innovative collections based and community driven project which celebrates the powerful and important role that women have played in Northern Ireland's recent history. It examines the experience of 'ordinary' women during the 'extraordinary normality' of the time, and celebrates their important, and often unacknowledged, contribution to society from 1965 to present day.

Unfortunately for the first quarter of the year, the project's progress was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, on return to the Library, the team made excellent headway, which culminated in a celebratory event and official launch of the extraORDINARYwomen digital platform in late 2021.



Dr Eamonn Hughes and Carol Moore (Charabanc)

Throughout the year an ambitious outreach programme gave women from across Northern Ireland the opportunity to tell their stories through a series of online and in-person workshops. These events captured the diverse views, memories, and opinions of many under-represented groups, from both urban and rural backgrounds. A legacy from this aspect of the project has been the creation of a dedicated collection which comprises the physical outputs from the workshops, and an oral history archive. Included are marginalised and often hidden voices, which give a multi-dimensional understanding of the participants lived experience and provide a tangible reflection of the powerful and important contribution women continue to make in communities across Northern Ireland.

In 2021, two major extraORDINARYwomen exhibitions were on display in the Library. In June, the *Sparks* exhibition explored the diverse roles of women in Northern Ireland over the previous 55 years, and featured stories from a range of women. In November, *Together We Are Strong* drew on the main themes of the project; family life and gender roles - femininity, appearance, and stereotyping - education, employment, and leadership - health and resilience - 'Troubles' and peacetime. These topics were used to examine the roles and attitudes of

women from Northern Ireland and elucidate the key part they played during this momentous period in recent history. Both exhibitions highlighted the important and lasting contribution local women make in our society.

During the life of the project over 50,000 items from the collections have been digitised, and a dedicated digital resource created. Through the website [www.extraordinarywomenni.com](http://www.extraordinarywomenni.com), the archives of Charabanc, Northern Ireland Women's Right Movement, Joan Lingard, and many others, can now be accessed, viewed, and researched worldwide.



It also contains a series of blogs, online exhibitions, films, and publications. On 8th November 2021, a launch event was held in the Library, with many joining the live proceedings virtually. Dr Lindsay Broadbent, a highly respected and leading virologist, from Queen's University Belfast, gave the keynote address and spoke of her own personal journey growing up in Northern Ireland. This was followed by a discussion led by journalist Amanda Ferguson, with children's author Amelia Kai, diversity champion Orla McKeating, and LGBTQ+ activist Orlaith O'Connor.

The project team would like to acknowledge all those who generously donated to the extraORDINARYwomen project, and individuals and organisations that loaned items for inclusion in the exhibitions. We are grateful to the Northern Ireland Museum Council and Esmé Mitchell Trust for supporting the acquisition of a portrait of Mairead Corrigan Maguire, by visual artist Amanda Dunsmore. Finally, our sincere thanks to all those who engaged with the project through its outreach programme, and to the volunteers who kindly gave their time to work on the project.



Dr Lindsay Broadbent and Lord Mayor Councillor Kate Nicholl

The extraORDINARYwomen project would not have been possible without funding from The National Heritage Lottery Fund, Department of Foreign Affairs

and Trade (Ireland), Department for Communities, Foyle Foundation and Tourism Northern Ireland.



## Making the Future

Making the Future is a cross-border cultural heritage programme which empowers people to use museum collections and archives to explore the past and create a powerful vision for future change. Delivered in partnership with the Nerve Centre, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and National Museums NI, and funded by the Peace IV programme managed by Special EU Programmes



Body (SEUPB), the project continued throughout the year despite major disruptions as a result of the pandemic. Like many organisations, we embraced new technologies and online engagement with individuals and groups across Northern Ireland and the border counties. We also continued to provide a series of workshop programmes. By using the Library's archives and resources and a stable of tutors, the programme was varied and informative. Lesley Cherry engaged with a wide range of groups and developed new audiences. The project ended in December 2021.



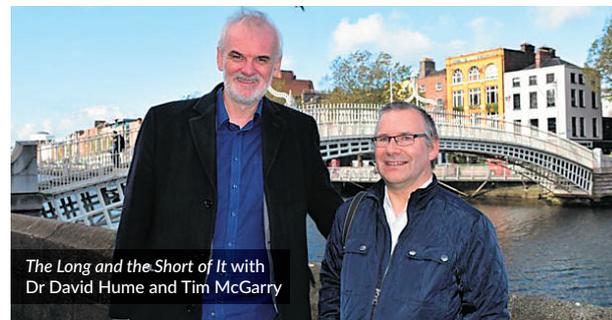
## Ireland Divided

The Linen Hall Library's Ireland Divided programme was funded through the Shared History Fund, which The National Lottery Heritage Fund distributed on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office to help groups mark the centenary of Northern Ireland and partition.

The project was launched on Saturday 4 September with an event called 'The People's History of Partition', during which an associated events and learning programme was revealed.



Behind the scenes, several months of archival exploration provided us with a great understanding of the material in our collection relating to the partition story. Mindful that narratives of the period are highly contested, we endeavoured to create a high-quality exhibition that would offer a 'Linen Hall Library perspective' on the period based on our collections. This resulted in an exciting exhibition in our Vertical Gallery which opened to the public on Monday 4 October; launched by an event with actor Tim McGarry and followed by an important panel discussion featuring representatives from the Centenary Historical Advisory Panel. The exhibition received a visit from NI Minister of State Conor Burns MP and featured on an episode of the BBC's critically acclaimed Year '21 Podcast.



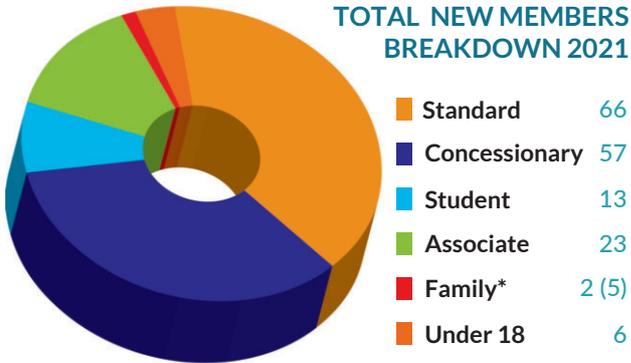
Our centenary events continued into November with Professor Guy Beiner joining us online from Boston College to discuss 'remembering and forgetting' partition. During this time, several community groups organised visits to the Library for educational sessions and for an opportunity to get close to some of the interesting artefacts that had been on display during the exhibition.

In December, a young people's panel discussion hosted by Linen Hall Governor Seamus McKee was a notable highlight. We were also pleased to reach the conclusion of our 'Book of the Century' campaign which sought to identify the public's favourite book from the past 100 years. The overall winner was declared as *Milkman* by Anna Burns (2018), closely followed by Seamus Heaney's *Field Work* (1979).

# Facts & Figures

## MEMBERSHIP

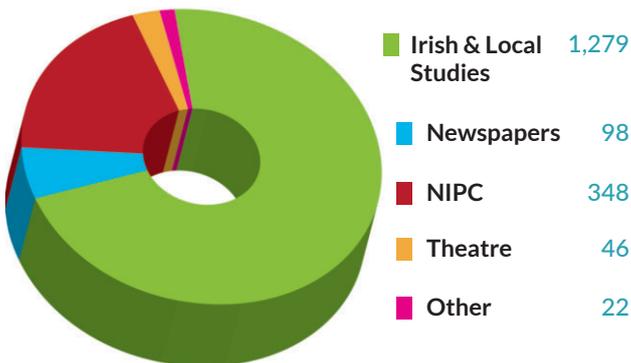
Total number of members	2,143
New members in 2021	170
New members joined from outside UK	23



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



**TOTAL COLLECTION QUERIES 1,793**



### Cataloguing

The total number of items added to the catalogue in 2021 is 4,014.

### Website statistics for 2021:

Users: 42,535 (compared with 2020: 26,808)  
 New Users: 42,241 (compared with 2020: 26,236)  
 Pageviews: 127,786 (compared with 2020: 85,316)  
 Predominant age range: 25 - 34

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

## COLLECTION DONATIONS

The Library would like to thank all donors to our collections:

Ms Marie Abbott; Mr Gary Allen; Ms Maggie Anderson; Ms Kate Armes; Prof Sir George Bain; Ballaghbeg Books; Ms Sally Balmer; Mr Frank Barronwell; Mr Ray Bassett; Mr Andrew Beattie; Mr David Bell; Ms Nadia Benidire; Mr Stephen Birkett; Blackstaff Press; Ms Sylvia Blair; Bloomfield Collegiate; Mr Alan Boyd; Dr Ava Brown; Mr Colin Brown; Mrs Hazel Brownlee; Ms Jane Buckley; Mr Jason Burke; Dr David J Butler; Mr Don Carleton; Ms Anne Carr; Mr Nigel Carr; Ms Ruth Carr; Dr Elizabeth Carrey; Cave Hill Conservation Group; Ms V'cenza Cirefice; Ms Paula Clarke; Mr Thomas Clarke; Ms Maura Colgan; Ms Rosemary Collins; Mrs Hilary Colmer; Ms Catriona Corrigan; Ms Kelly Creighton; Mr DZ Crookes; Mr Ciaran Crossey; Mr John Moore Crossey; Ms Clare Cunningham on behalf of the Cunningham family; Mr Jonathan Cunningham; Mrs Anne Davies; Prof Gerard Dawe; De Burca Rare Books; Mr Robert Deignan; Mrs Mary Delargy; Mr Mark Dingwall; Ms Sue Divin; Mr Harry Donaghy; Prof Hastings Donnan; Ms Anna Donnelly; Mr Stephen Dornan; Dr Bill Duff; Ms Heather Duff; Early Years; East Belfast GAA; Mr Louis Edmundson; Mrs Robina Ellis; Mr Rob Fairmichael; Ms Jane Ferguson; Ms Lena Ferguson; Ms Lorna Fitzpatrick; Ms Sharon Fleming; Ms Amy Frazer; Ms Debbie Furphy; Ms Yolanda Fusciardi; Mr Shane Garrett; Ms Judith Gillespie CBE; Ms Angela Graham; Grand Opera House; Mr John Gray; Ms Pauline Greene; Mr WR Grey; Ms Janet Hackney on behalf of Scrubs NI; Mr Keith Haines; Mr Blackwood Hall; Mr Michael Hall; Mr Tom Hartley; Healing Through Remembering; Mr Conal Heatley; Mr Malachy Gerard Higgins; Ms Jude Hoben; Mr Tony Hughes; Mrs Maureen Irvine; Dr Lesya Ivasyuk; Ms Ruth Jamieson; Ms Rosemary Jenkinson; Mr Jack Johnston; Ms Rosemary Johnston; Kabosh Theatre Company; Ms Amelia Kai; Dr Brian Kaplan; Mr Seamus Kelly; Mr John Kennedy; Ms Bernadette Kerr; Ms Angeline King; Ms Irene Kingston; Mr Felix M Larkin; Larne Golf Club; Lecale and Down Historical Society; Mrs Patrick Lepper; Mr Robin Lewis; Dr Douglas C Lockhart; J Logan; Mr Andy Luke; Mr Stephen Lynas; Mrs Doreen McBride; Ms Naomi McBride; Mr Wesley McCann; Ms Mary McCaughey; Mrs Susan McCombe from the library of the late Mrs Helen Walker; Ms Kate McAllister; Ms Jaki McCarrick; Ms Marie-Louise McClarey; Ms Hilary McCollum on behalf of Women Aloud NI; Ms Lesley McConnell; Prof Seán McConville; MEA McCord; Ms Margaret McCormick; Mr Martin McCullough; Mr Alasdair MacDonald; Mr Donald MacDonald; Mr Henry McDonald; Mr David McFarlane; Ms Julie McGowan; Ms Susan McKay from the collection of the late Mr Russell McKay; Ms Raquel McKee; Ms Daire McKenna; Mr Jack McKinney; Ms Maria McManus; Mr David McNarry; Ms Margaret McNulty; Mr Gary McSweeney; Ms Kathleen Madine; Ms Betty Magee; Mr Gerard Magennis; Ms Eileen Marshall; Mrs June Martin; Mr Sam Martin; Mr Graham Mawhinney; Maynooth University; Mr Charles Moffett; Ms Lynn Moffett; Ms Mary Montague; Mrs Eileen Mooney; Ms Carol Moore; Ms Moya Morris; Mr Terry Moylan; Ms Angela Mulholland; Ms Maeve Mulholland; Mr David NK Murphy; Prof Pauline Murphy; Ms Claire Murray; Ms Réalta Ní Leannaín; Ms Jean Nolan; North of Antrim Family History Society; Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders; Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education; Northern Ireland Screen; Mr Sean O'Baill; Ms Jane O'Brien; Ms Ailie O'Hagan; Mr Liam O'Hare; Ms Siobhán O'Hare; Old Newry Publications Ltd; Ms Ann Marie O'Neill; Ms Fiona O'Rourke; Ms Kate O'Shea; Mr Stuart A Paterson; Mr Robert Phipps; Lady Moyra Quigley; Ms Katy Radford; Ms Susie Rea; Reclaim the Enlightenment; Mr Anthony Ross; Ms Anne Rossiter; Mr Brendan Sadlier; Ms Cara Sanquest; Mr Vivek Kumar Sarawai; Mrs Audrey Scales; Mr Dermot Scott; Ms Heather Semple; Mr Larry Sheeran; Mr Jeremy Shields; Sinn Féin; Mrs Maria Smith; Mr Ted Smith; Mr Neil Speers; Mr Ed Spence; Mr Christopher Stalford; Ms Victoria Steven on behalf of Mr Andrew Steven; Ms Ruth Taillon; The 343; Theatre and Dance NI; Tides Training and Consultancy; Mr Alan Tongue; Mrs Christine Torney; Mrs Rosemary Tumilty; Ms Cate Turner from the estate of RE Turner; Ulster-Scots Agency; Ulster University; Ms Mimi Unamoya; Prof Brian M Walker; Ms Lynda Walker; Dr Margaret Ward; Ms Sheena Wilkinson; Dr Fionnuala Carson Williams; Mr Roy Willis; Women's Resource and Development Agency; Mr Stan Woodside; Ms Jacqueline Wylie; Mr Padraig Yeates; Ms Sahar Zeinolebadi.

The Library would like to thank Belfast Print Workshop, Glasgow Women's Library, Dr Janet Gray, Charmain Jones, Alison Lowry, Mary Peters Trust, and Scrubs NI for loans of archives and artefacts to the Library.

In late 2021, the Library received £100,000 funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund NI to review and update our main website ([www.linenhall.com](http://www.linenhall.com)) and satellite sites ([www.extraordinarywomenni.com](http://www.extraordinarywomenni.com); [www.niliteraryarchive.com](http://www.niliteraryarchive.com); [www.digitaltheatrearchive.com](http://www.digitaltheatrearchive.com); [www.postcardsireland.com](http://www.postcardsireland.com) and [www.dividededsociety.org](http://www.dividededsociety.org)). This is a vast project that will ultimately gather all of the digitised material into one main platform. This will streamline our digital output and create a much stronger position for digital sustainability.

# Financial Summary

Summaries of the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2021 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](http://www.linenhall.com).

## Overview

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to present a challenge to the Library in 2021, when it had to close to members and the public until late May and was unable to continue with some of its fundraising trading activities; however, the Governors and staff succeeded in mitigating the impact of the pandemic on the Library's financial position by applying for and winning further emergency funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Department of Finance Localised Restrictions Support Scheme. Some of this additional funding was directed at projects to build up the resilience of the charity and prepare it for enhanced performance in future.

The Library's operating deficit, before actuarial movements on the pension scheme and gains on revaluation of fixed assets and investments, was £30k in 2021 (2020: £23k surplus). The balance on its current bank account increased to £232k at the end of 2021, from an overdraft of £6k at 31 December 2020, as grants were received near the end of 2021 for funded projects taking place in 2022. The Library normally 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 core income and keeping core operating costs in check.

The management team kept core operating costs as low as possible in 2021, although net operating charges and finance costs within the Library's defined benefit pension scheme amounted to £203k (2020: £152k) and this is included in reported operating costs. Conversely, the pension scheme deficit carried in the Library's balance sheet was reduced at 31st December 2021 from £804k to £323k, due to actuarial movements beyond the Library's control.

In 2022 and beyond, the emphasis will again be on reinvigorating and broadening the income spectrum of the Library, to prepare for potential future reductions in public sector funding and to achieve long-term financial sustainability.

## Income

The Library's grant income from all sources was £1,124k in 2021, compared to £861k in

2020, with funding for special projects up by £289k and grants towards core operating costs down by £26k. The Library's total income rose by 26% in 2021, and the proportion of income obtained from all types of grant funding increased from 68% to 71%.

Income from membership subscriptions and associated Gift Aid was £126k in 2021 (2020: £127k); the Governors and staff are grateful for the loyal support of the Linen Hall by its members during the pandemic and will strive to keep the Library's membership offer relevant and attractive in 2022 and beyond.

Commercial rental income from the two shop units owned by the Library fell from £135k to £124k in 2021 as one of the two high quality business tenants moved out during the year and their unit was not re-let until 2022.

The Linen Hall Charity Bookshop sales, café income, sales of gift items, commercial use of the Library's facilities for room hire and filming, box office income and Library tours were all impacted by the closure of the Library and curtailed physical activities during the first five months of 2021, but built up steadily again as Covid restrictions were eased; the newly refurbished Linen Hall Café has been particularly successful in attracting visitors and members alike.

Income from donations and legacies increased from £91k in 2020 to £127k in 2021, and all gifts and legacies are gratefully received, whether to general funds or to the Linen Hall Library Endowment Fund.

## Expenditure

Staff costs represented 56% of total costs in 2021, down from 66% in 2020, largely because a greater proportion of the expenditure in the year related to funded projects, but staff costs remain the largest single area of expenditure for the Library. Average staff numbers, on a full-time equivalent basis, increased from 19 to 20, including additional project staff, and employment costs overall increased from £814k to £894k. A detailed breakdown of all expenditure is set out in notes 5 to 10 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 £323k at 31st

December 2021, an improvement of £481k over the previous year's position. The cost of pension contributions, net operating charge and related finance in 2021 was £308k, up from £255k in 2020, whilst the Library's contribution rate to the NILGOSC scheme remained at 20.3% of salary during the year.

## Grants

The following table sets out recent levels of support from each of the Library's top five funders in 2021.

FUNDER	2021	2020	2019	2018
	£k	£k	£k	£k
National Lottery Heritage Fund	376	261	39	71
Dept. for Communities	291	355	284	269
Dormant Funds Account	100	0	0	0
Ulster-Scots Agency	82	38	19	20
Belfast City Council	49	25	35	35

Grants awarded for defined projects in pursuit of the Library's mission, from all sources, increased from £403k in 2020 to £692k in 2021, and grants towards core operating costs fell by £26k. Full details of all grant income and the awarding bodies are set out in Note 2 to the separately published financial statements, and further information on the funded projects undertaken in 2021 can be found at note 23.

## Donations

We are grateful to all those who made donations to the Library in 2021; without the support and generosity of these donors, we would be unable to fulfil the Linen Hall's mission and sustain its unique contribution to society.

**Karen Law, Finance Manager**

# Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Income and endowments from</b>					
Donations and legacies	1	682	694	1,377	1,079
Rental income	-	123	-	123	135
Income from investments	-	8	1	9	7
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Other trading activities	-	70	-	70	36
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>1,257</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>					
Rental expenses	-	2	-	2	2
Expenditure on raising funds	-	45	-	45	35
	-	47	-	47	37
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>					
Projects and events	-	-	567	567	281
Library operating costs	-	995	-	995	916
	-	995	567	1,562	1,197
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>1,234</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income before recognised gains and losses</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>(160)</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>23</b>
Net gains on investments	29	-	-	29	10
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	26
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	684	-	684	(295)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>(236)</b>
<b>Fund balance brought forward</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>6,091</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>6,684</b>	<b>6,920</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>6,615</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>7,367</b>	<b>6,684</b>

# Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£'000	£'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	4,303	4,421
Heritage assets	2,760	2,760
Investments	299	264
	7,362	7,445
<b>Current assets</b>		
Stocks	17	9
Debtors	218	138
Cash at bank and in hand	295	62
	530	209
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(201)	(151)
<b>Net current assets</b>	329	58
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>	(1)	(15)
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>	7,690	7,488
<b>Pension liability</b>	(323)	(804)
<b>Net assets including pension liability</b>	7,367	6,684

<b>Funds</b>		
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>		
- General fund	(421)	(945)
- Revaluation fund	7,036	7,036
	6,615	6,091
<b>Restricted funds</b>	391	262
<b>Endowment funds</b>	361	331
<b>Total funds</b>	7,367	6,684

# CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Library is most grateful to the following organisations for their continued support throughout the year:

Public Record Office NI

W&R Barnett Ltd

Antrim & Newtownabbey Council

BBC NI

The Irish News

Masonic Lodge of Research

NI Ombudsman's Office

Ulster Historical Foundation

Below the Radar

NI Assembly Library

Bar Library

NI Housing Executive

Police Ombudsman's Office

The McClay Library

Belfast Royal Academy

Belfast Visitor & Convention Centre

McConnell Chartered Surveyors

UNISON

Belfast Natural History  
& Philosophical Society

NIPSA

Tandem Design

Irish Association for Cultural,  
Economic & Social Relations

Ulster-Scots Agency

Colourpoint Creative Ltd

National Union of Journalists

Building Automation Controls

Davison Lamont Ltd

International Futures Forum

County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast

Historic Environment Division

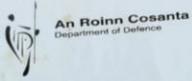
Unite the Union

Gallagher Insurance Broker Ltd

# IRELAND DIVIDED

A LINEN HALL PERSPECTIVE

Exhibits from the Ireland Divided programme,  
Ireland Divided roadshow event,  
*The Long and the Short of It* with Dr David Hume and Tim McGarry



## TRUCE (1921) COMMEMORATION MEDAL

**YEAR OF CREATION:** 1971

**PURPOSE OF MEDAL:** The Jubilee Anniversary of the Truce (11 July 1921).

**CONDITIONS OF ISSUE:** The medal was issued to Veterans of the War of Independence who were alive on 11 July 1971 and who were awarded the Service (1917-1921) Medal.

**DESIGN:** A bronze circular medal approximately 32 millimetres in diameter similar to the obverse side of the Service (1917-1921) Medal. The reverse side has the inscription "1921 - 1971".

**RIBBON:** Green, Tan, Black, Tan and Green, the Green stripes being narrower than the others.

**SUSPENSION BAR:** The suspension bar from which the ribbon is suspended bears a Celtic interlaced design.



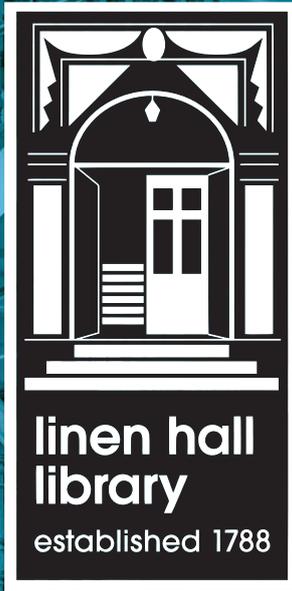
Aras an tSiúil, An Roinn Mhó, Clárán  
Aras an tSiúil, Revenue, Galway

Telephone: (091) 743700    loCall: 1890 426444    E-mail: customer@defence.ie    Web: www.defence.ie



**JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL MATCH - SCOTLAND**  
PLAYED AT CELTIC PARK, GLASGOW, 12TH MARCH, 1921.    RESULT: IRELAND 1 - 0 SCOTLAND  
The first Irish Junior Team to defeat Scotland on her soil





# LINEN HALL LIBRARY

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

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



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