

THE LINEN HALL

BELFAST 1788



THE LINEN HALL ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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



Belfast
City Council



Delivered by
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs
RECONCILIATION FUND

THE LINEN HALL

BELFAST 1788

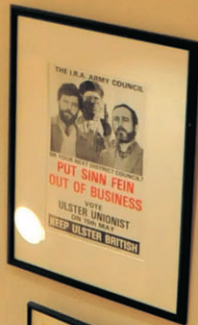
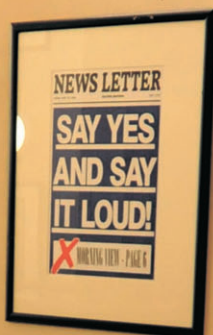
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The
Linen Hall Library

THE
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KNOWLEDGE
OUNDED 1788.

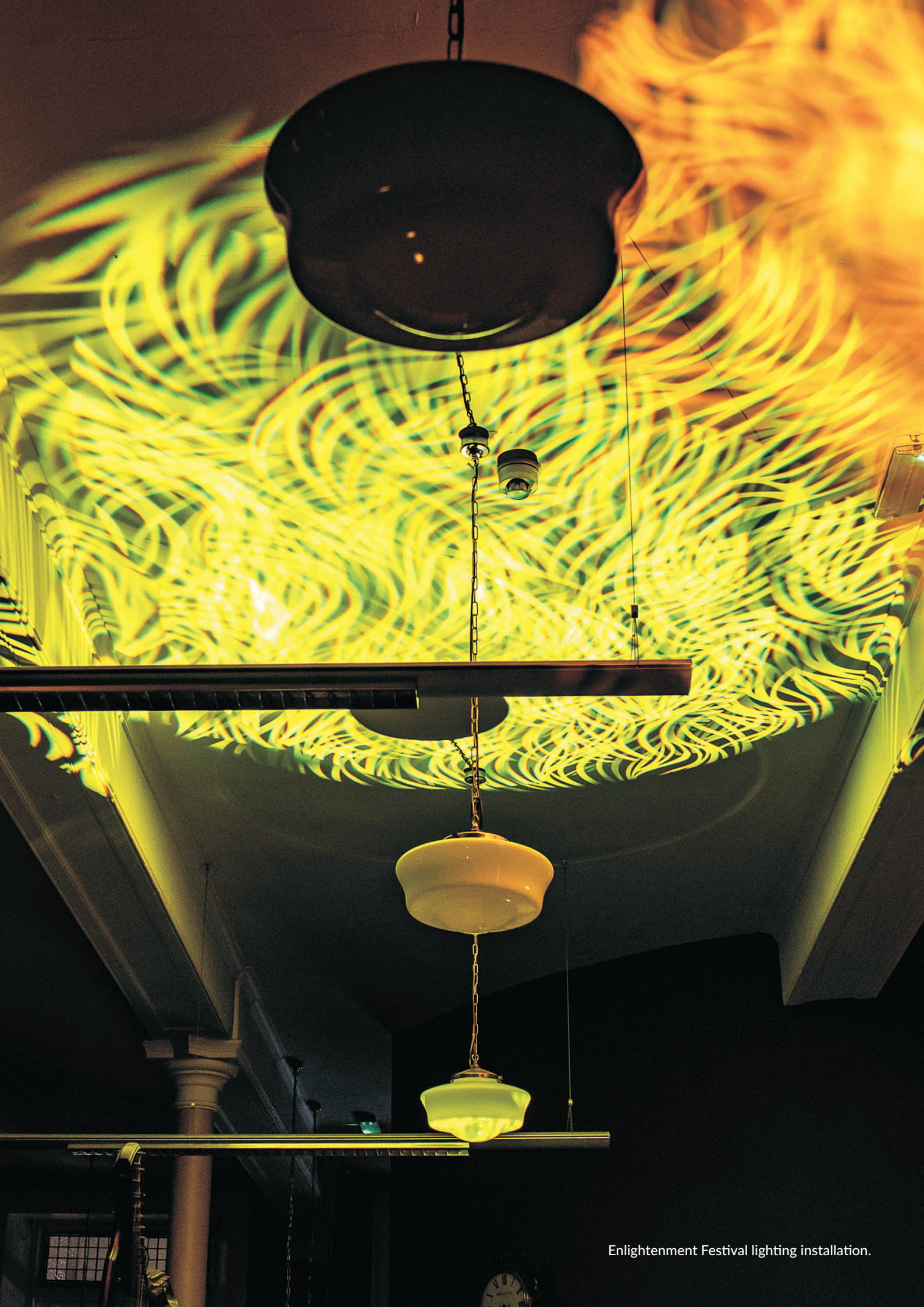
LINEN HALL
LIBRARY
THE LIBRARIAN
WILL BE PLEASED TO
ANSWER INQUIRIES
AS TO CONDICTIONS OF
MEMBERSHIP

CCTV
USES THE FOLLOWING DEVICES
FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY
GENERAL PURPOSES

THE LINEN HALL ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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Enlightenment Festival lighting installation.

2022 was a transitional year for The Linen Hall as we returned to more normal modes of operating as the pandemic eased; it was a pleasure to see people using the Library on a regular basis again and to attend events in person rather than through a screen. But the Library was not simply emerging from pandemic constraints, it was also looking to the future more generally. A visible sign of this was the re-branding of the Library carried out sensitively and knowledgeably by McCadden Design. One reason for this re-branding was the design and implementation of the Library's new Digital Platform (funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland) with an accompanying re-designed website. This was launched in October, and we are grateful to Rosemary Jenkinson whose *Extraordinary Times*, a predictive novel, will be appearing one chapter per year for the next 32 years.

Much of what the Library does takes place behind the scenes in the management and care of our collections; one significant example of this was the completion of specialist paper conservation of one of the Library's most significant treasures, our first edition of *Ulysses*, and the volume was displayed for the anniversary of its original publication in 1922. A related event was the remarkable film directed by Carol Moore of the final section of the novel, known as Molly's soliloquy, read by 22 women (available on The Linen Hall YouTube Channel @TheLinenHall). This was a core event in the Library's Enlightenment Festival in which we celebrated and examined aspects of the ideas that inspired the founding of the Library. Other events through the year included 'Years of Chaos & Hope', a project on 1922, 1972, and 2022 (funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund), a successful Poetry Month (funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland), the second iteration of the Ulster-Scots writing competition (funded by the Ulster-Scots Agency), and the Art Unlocked project (funded by the Pilgrim Trust), the catalogue is available on The Linen Hall website.

It is a sad duty to record two losses this year. John Killen, past Librarian of The Linen Hall Library, died in January 2022 and we have planned a memorial lecture in his honour. John Moore Crossey, a former sub-librarian and, in recent years, our most assiduous donor also died in 2022 and we had the opportunity to meet with his family in October to convey our condolences and gratitude.

This is my last report as President as my term of office draws to a close. It has been an unusual time to serve in this role, but it has been a hugely rewarding and engaging experience. I know that the Library is in good hands and looking to the future while it preserves the rich heritage that it embodies. I offer my heartfelt thanks to the members, staff, volunteers, donors, funders and Governors who all contribute so much to the Library and do so with a clear sense of its importance. It has been a privilege to play a part in the continuing story of The Linen Hall.



Dr Eamonn Hughes

Director's Report

2022 started on a sad note when we learnt of the death of John Killen, our previous Librarian, who worked in the Library for 37 years. I know that John will be remembered fondly by many of our members for his good humour and knowledge of the Collections. It is true to say that his book charting the first 200 years of The Linen Hall is still a valuable resource to all of us.

2022 was the first 'normal' post covid year. During 2022 we were fortunate to receive standstill core funding from the Department for Communities of £246,000 and additional funding for other projects. We were delighted to receive funding from the Department for Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund for a special project looking at '1922 - 1972 - 2022: Years of Chaos & Hope.' This was a Linen Hall-curated exhibition and programme of debates and events. We also received funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Lottery funding for 'Home of Poetry.' This funding enabled us to focus on poetry and our poetry collections in October and more events in relation to this funding will take place in 2023. By the end of 2022, we also received news that we had received funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement through an exhibition and series of events.

In 2022 we built a new website and digital platform to integrate our digital assets. At the launch, a highlight was our partnership with the writer, Rosemary Jenkinson. We will be releasing one chapter per annum of a book she has written which is a predictive novel about a referendum on Irish unity.

We had our inaugural Enlightenment Festival focussing on the Library's links to the Enlightenment and its radical progressive thinking, but also to the Library's collections. We plan to progress this on a bi-annual basis.

We continue to work with the Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge to ensure the conservation and development of our Language Collections. A second Ulster-Scots writing competition was developed in 2022 which was very successful, and conservation continued on the Gibson Collection. Foras na Gaeilge funded the conservation of the McAdam Lexicon which is a hugely important treasure in our collections.

From a commercial perspective, the new café partnership has been tremendously successful and well-supported. Room hire is starting to return as a source of income, and we have started to develop our tourism offering again.

We were also delighted to receive accreditation again in BS76005 in Diversity and Inclusion and were nominated for a British Standard award.

I would like to thank the Board of Governors, staff and volunteers for their help and support throughout 2023. I have an excellent staff team and they work incredibly hard 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 2022.

2022 brought a welcome year of 'business as usual', and thanks to the industry of the team much was achieved with the collections.

The culmination of extraORDINARYwomen provided an opportunity to reflect on the tremendous achievement of delivering such an insightful and collection-enhancing project during the most challenging of times. We brought the learnings from this project into our next major collections-based initiative as, thanks to funding from the Pilgrim Trust, we were able to turn our attention to The Linen Hall's art collection. Art Unlocked allowed us to audit, document, and take steps toward the conservation and preservation of our paintings, prints and drawings. Through the project we uncovered a collection of inspiring works of local and national significance from the 1700s to the present day, by artists such as George Morrow, Mabel Annesley, the Gage sisters, John Luke, Joseph W Carey, Rowel Friers, Neill Speers, and Eileen Ayrton. In addition to the inventory, we compiled a condition report with detailed observations of damage and deterioration and indicators of conservation priorities. The artworks were preserved via cleaning, packaging, labelling, and arrangement in organised storage. An online exhibition and social media campaign focusing on the stories and perspectives captured in the artworks brought the collection to life, making it more accessible and engaging to audiences. A series of lectures and impactful engagement workshops with students introduced The Linen Hall to new groups of young people.

Generous funding from Foras na Gaeilge continued support for our Irish Language Collection. In addition to continued conservational binding of newspapers, periodicals, and books, Foras na Gaeilge funded work on the unique Robert McAdam comparative lexicon was showcased with the creation and accessibility of digital surrogate copies. A treasure of the collection, the extant handwritten volumes from circa 1885 of comparisons of Irish headwords with 28 other languages is a unique gem which it is our privilege to preserve for future generations.

Steadfast support from the Ulster-Scots Agency facilitated - the continued comprehensive condition checking and conservation of the Gibson Collection of Robert Burns, with an emphasis on the aesthetically pleasing songbooks of Burns which illustrate the richness of this culturally significant collection.

It was also fitting that in the anniversary year of its publication, our first edition of Ulysses benefitted from specialist paper conservation to ensure it is in good standing for the next hundred years.

In 2022 we also received confirmation of retention of our full museum accreditation status following a thorough process to ensure our practices and procedures, documentation, disaster preparedness and emergency procedures all met the strict standards required. And while retaining accreditation was gratifying, the underlying and ongoing work enhances the longevity of the collections by ensuring they are cared for in the optimum manner.

And it was also 'business as usual' in relation to donations as I was overwhelmed by the continued 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)
	Dr S Bridge, MA, MSc, PhD	Mr J McCartney, MSc
	Dr P McGarry, DL, FRCPsych	Mr S McKee, BA
	Mr J McVey, OBE, MBA, MSc	Mr G Lucy, BA Hons, PGCE
	Prof M Ó Mainnín, BA, MA, PhD	Prof O Purdue, BA, MA, PhD
	Ms S Stevenson, ACR	

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 M Flynn, PGCert (ILS)
Library Assistants	Mrs L Caskey, BSc (Hons), ACLIP, PGDip (LIM) (from August 2022)
	Mr S Corr, MSc, PGDip (LIM)
	Miss C Daly, BA (Hons), MA, PGDip (LIM)
	Mr J Danby, BSc (Hons), M. Phil (until July 2022)
	Mr A Dunlop, BA (Hons), PGDip (LIM)
	Ms J Hoben, PGDip (LIM)
	Mrs L Ogryzko, BA (Hons), MA, MSc (from May 2022)

Administrative Services

Head of Marketing, Digital & Communications	Mrs R Wetherall, BA (Hons), MA, Dip Digital Marketing (until March 2022)
	Mrs A Kanakaki, BA (Hons), MA, MSc (from March 2022)
Digital Content Creator	Mr S Edgar, BSc (from April 2022)
Arts and Cultural Programmer	Mr J Burke, BA (Hons), MA (until October 2022)
Assistant Arts and Cultural Programmer	Mr S Edgar, BSc (Hons) (until April 2022)
	Ms M Baird, BA (Hons), MA (April 2022 - December 2022)
Special Projects Co-Ordinator	Ms M Baird, BA (Hons), MA (from December 2022)
Museum Engagement Assistant	Mr J Danby, BSc (Hons), M. Phil (from July 2022)
Membership Administrator	Mrs A Wallace

Staff (Cont'd.)

Facilities Officer	Mr R Grainger
Charity Bookshop Manager	Mr D Cash, BA (Hons)
Finance Assistant	Mr B Sloan, MIATI
Operations and Visitor Experience Manager	Ms B Hunter
National Collection of NI Publications (NIPR) Manager	Mr S Corr, MSc, PGDip (LIM) (April 2022 – December 2022)
extraORDINARYwomen Archive Assistant	Ms L Ogryzko, BA (Hons), MA, MSc (until May 2022)
extraORDINARYwomen Archive Assistant	Ms A O'Hagan, BDes AFEA (until May 2022)
Art Unlocked Project	Ms A O'Hagan, BDes AFEA (May 2022 - December 2022)

Volunteers

Charity Shop - John Allen, John Bradbury, Emma Ferguson, Meriel Hahn, Elizabeth Hilditch, Jim Graham, Tom Kernaghan, Alan Kershaw, Janine Lynch, Deirdre McCauley, Noelle McCavava, Lesley McConnell, Sean McKenna, Evelyn Moles, Heather Munro, James Orchin, Craig Richardson, Tristan Wallace

Meet & Greet Volunteers - Martin Allison, Anne Lennon, Nigel Killops, Paul Lawrence, Jim McCartney, Maureen McFarland, Irene Ross, Gwen Tener, Lavinia Wilson

Tours - Martin Allison, John Bradbury, Gerry Devaney, Jim McCartney, Maureen McFarland, Nigel Killops, Paul Lawrence

Collections - Gerry Devaney, Mal Higgins, Kathryn Wilson

Reading Groups - John Bradbury, Stiofan O'Direain, Irene Ross

Volunteer Co-Ordinator - Jim McCartney

Honorary Members

The Linen Hall is an independent organisation, and memberships are vital for our survival and growth. By becoming a member of The Linen Hall, you are continuing a tradition dating back to 1788. More than that, your membership helps us protect and preserve our unique collections for future generations.

While supporting our work, you will enjoy all the exclusive benefits of being a member, such as borrowing from our extensive range of books, early bird access to all The Linen Hall Events, and generous discounts on event bookings, The Linen Hall Gift Range and The Linen Hall Café.

If you ever need support with your membership, you can contact our Membership Administrator Mrs Amanda Wallace.

Our current Honorary Members are:

Mrs M J Campbell	Ms Catherine 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 Neil Martin	Mr Tim McGarry	Sir George Ivan Morrison OBE
Mr John Moore Crossey	Ms Sinead Morrissey	Mr Glenn Patterson	Mr John Simms
Dr Brian M Walker			



2022 REPORT

Our Year's Review

During 2022 many events returned in person to The Linen Hall. We continued to focus on our Ulster-Scots and Irish Language collections with events to complement both collections.

Writers and poets such as Gerald Dawe, Brian McGilloway and Rosemary Jenkinson took part in literary events. We looked at sporting-themed events with Michael Cockcroft; Barry Flynn and Gerry Armstrong to encourage the development of sporting archives.

We celebrated International Women's Day and continued to celebrate the extraORDINARYwomen project with an event with JoinHer Network looking at women in media.

Some significant programming areas included:

Enlightenment Festival

Due to the Enlightenment roots of The Linen Hall, an Enlightenment Festival was held in the early part of 2022. This was mainly programmed by Sean Doran and Liam Browne and funded by the Arts Council of NI; Belfast City Council; Department for Communities; the Ulster-Scots Agency; Gallagher Insurance; McConnell Property and BAC Systems. The programme looked at modern issues through the lens of the Enlightenment and included Coffee Shop Conversations with Jo Egan; events with Siri Hustvedt and Jeanette Winterson and a programme of Burns and Mozart.

Images clockwise from top left
Enlightenment Festival lighting installation in the Vertical Gallery

Ian Burnside and Janis Kelly performing arias
from Mozart and Burns poems

Enlightenment Festival lighting installation at the front entrance



Years of Chaos & Hope

'1922-1972-2022: Years of Chaos & Hope' was a project funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund. The project encompassed an exhibition, which was displayed in The Linen Hall's Vertical Gallery throughout August, and an events series which ran in the same month.

2022 marked two poignant anniversaries in the history of Northern Ireland. 1922 was the bloodiest year of the 1920s troubles, and 1972 was the bloodiest year of the more recent 'troubles'. When we began to trawl through our materials pertaining to 1922 and 1972, we quickly realised that what they had in common was times of 'trouble,' evidenced most clearly by the fact that both years suffered the highest number of casualties of the 'troubles'. What we also found was that in both 1922 and 1972, there were significant interventions made by the government which had significant and lasting repercussions on the course of history in Northern Ireland.

Thus, the exhibition was divided into 3 themes which were shared across both 1922 and 1972: The Linen Hall Snapshot, Troubled Times, and Arrests and Intervention. There were artefacts on display in all of the Library's cabinets in the Vertical Gallery. In total 59 artefacts were on display ranging from photographs, pamphlets and printed materials, posters, and badges, all from The Linen Hall's political collection.

The events programme consisted of 5 events: a keynote lecture by Dr Éamon Phoenix; an academic panel on the Troubled Twenties; a special showing of the BBC documentary Pop Goes Northern Ireland with Tim McGarry and Malachi O'Doherty; a community panel discussion with ex-prisoners, ex-internees, or family of former-internees; and a youth activists panel which discussed contemporary issues for young people.

Images clockwise from top left
Dr Éamon Phoenix, Years of Chaos & Hope exhibition launch

Pop Goes NI with Malachi O'Doherty and Tim McGarry

Tour of the Years of Chaos & Hope exhibition



FANTASTICAL
GREAT WOMEN

AMELIA EARHART
Adventurer and Aviator

MARY ROBINSON
A VOICE FOR FAIRNESS

GIRLS
PLAY
500

Firsts For Irish Women
They Led the Way

Ten Women of the
16th Century

Countess
Markievicz
An Adventurous
Life

HEROES
OLIVE COLLINS

ANN CARROLL

THORNHILL

HOW TO
DEAL WITH
POXES

HOW TO BE
MASSIVE



Home of Poetry

The Linen Hall has been always known as the home of poetry in Belfast, holding some of the most significant works of poetry, from the historic works of Robert Burns to local poets Louis MacNeice, John Hewitt, and many more.

The 'Home of Poetry' was a special programme curated by The Linen Hall to celebrate the great poets of the past and present, and pushed the boundaries by hosting new voices and themes.

The programme was launched with a month-long photo exhibition and local poetry by Noel O'Connor focussing on the Number 12 trolley bus in Belfast. That was followed by a series of events and workshops that brought together renowned poets, local talent, and poetry lovers in a

celebration of poetry including Maria McManus, Viviana Fiorentino and Amar Naggar. Eamonn Mallie brought an evening of curated poetry inspired by his 'Covid-19' poetry programme on social media during lockdown.

The 'Home of Poetry' was kindly funded by the Arts Council of NI.



Images (Pg. 8)
Children & Young Adult Collection

Jeanette Winterson in Conversation, with Emma Warnock

Images (Pg. 9)
Washing Windows Too event

Eamonn Mallie's Covid-19 Poetry event



Marketing

With funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland, in 2022 we had our major branding revamp. We hope you have noticed our new logo and website. More than that, in September 2022, we unveiled a brand-new Digital Platform. This online repository already contains digitised material from the Library's archives and collections, including the Northern Ireland Political Collection, the Northern Ireland Literary Archive, and the Theatre and Performing Arts Archive. As The Linen Hall embraces the latest in modern technology, more items and publications will become available to a global audience including materials in Ulster - Scots and the Irish language. Advanced searching and filtering allow visitors to explore the wealth of material on offer and will whet the appetite for further exploration. The launch of the Digital Platform is the first step in an ambitious move from The Linen Hall to

modernise while adhering to the Library's founding ethos of preservation and promotion of knowledge.

Library Facilities

The Linen Hall's listed Victorian building in the heart of Belfast offers a range of function rooms for hire, including the atmospheric Governors' Room, an intimate, booklined 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, 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 Linen Hall'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.

Revenues are returning to strength post-pandemic, thanks to the support of members and local visitors, and the welcome return of tourists and cruise ships to Belfast. All income from gift shop sales helps to promote The Linen Hall's financial sustainability.

Charity Bookshop

The Linen Hall Charity Bookshop is in its eleventh year and continued to thrive in 2022 at the Fountain Centre. 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 unfailing support has made the shop the success that it has been.

Charity Bookshop Donations

We are grateful to the following for their donations to the Charity Bookshop: Barry Bradley, Fionn Corbett, T Cullen, Mandy Kelly, Gareth Lee, Mr A P MacDonald, Mrs Catherine McWhirter, Cathy Moore, Elaine Neill, Ned Thacker Rainer, Pagel & Frank Robinson, Archibald Sharp, Mr Simon Smith, Dr Denis Stewart, Myra Zepf, and to all the other kind donors of books.

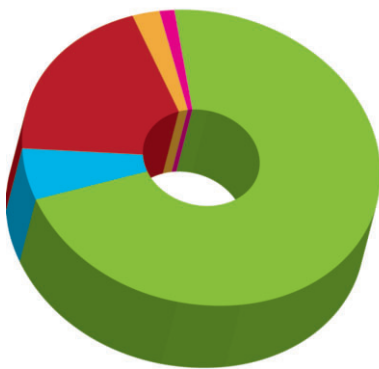
Facts & Figures



LOAN FIGURES 2022

■ General	4,858
■ Irish & Ref.	3,593

TOTAL COLLECTION QUERIES 3,664



■ Irish & Local Studies	2,279
■ Newspapers	341
■ NIPC	917
■ Theatre	86
■ Other	41

Cataloguing

The total number of items added to the catalogue in 2022 is 3,996.

COLLECTION DONATIONS

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

ABC Family History Society; Alliance for Choice; Michael Avila; Andrew Beattie; Belfast City Council; Belfast Girls Club Union; Alison Black; Bloomfield Collegiate; Maureen Boyle; Dr Terry Bradley; Louise Brittain; Colin Brown; Izzy Burke; Liam Burke; Martha Burke; John Burns; S Butler; Susan Carlin; Joe Cassells; Kate Morrison Catterall; Clogher Historical Society; D Collie; Jennifer Cornell; Seán Corr; Holly Crawford; Kelly Creighton; David Z Crookes; John Moore Crossey; Culmore Community Partnership; Monica Cummings; John Cushnahan; Gemma Daly; Joshua Danby; Gerald Dawe; Mary Delargy; Harry Donaghy; Maggie Doyle; Anthony Drennan; Marcus Duignan in memory of John Killen; Sara Duncan; Eugene Dunphy; Jo Egan; James Elliott; Robina Ellis; Kieran Fagan; Rob Fairmichael; Falls Community Council; David Farrell; Lena Ferguson; Geraldine Finucane; David Flinn; John Foster; Francis Gallagher; Andrew Gamble; Rev Dr Norman E Gamble; Dr David Gilligan; Brian Gilmore; Paul Gilmore; Michele Gilroy; Diana Gleadhill; Robin Glendinning; Anne Goggin; Edward Goodall; Rosemary Gordon; Grand Opera House; Dr James Grant; John Gray; Philip Gray; Michael Hall; Conor Hammond; Tom Hartley; Here NI; Daire Hogan; Mary Hughes; Linda Hunter; Dr Neil Jarman; Rosemary Jenkinson; John Johnston; Myrtle Johnston; Kabosh Theatre Company; Kate Kelly-Tanguay; Roger Kelly; John Kennedy; Mark Kennedy; Prof John Kirk; Lecale & Downe Historical Society; Leschenault Press; Lisburn Museum; Liverpool Irish Festival; John Logan; Martin Lynch; Lyric Theatre; Mary Jo McAllister; Joanne McAuley; Doreen McBride; Wesley McCann; Mary McCaughey; Dr John McCavitt; Dr Peter McEvoy; Maureen McFarland; David TW McFarlane; Conn Mac Gabhann; Dr P McGarry; John McGettrick; Fr Thomas McGlynn; Jane McKee; Sean McKee; Manus C MacManus; P MacManus; Dr Cathryn Bronwyn McWilliams; Prof Monica McWilliams; Julie Mackie; Cathal Magee; Margaret Marshall; Trevor Martin; Graham Mawhinney; Dr David J Mehaffey; Jeremy Monson; Cedric Morrison; David NK Murphy; Richard Murphy; Yvonne Murphy; National Trust; New York Genealogical & Biographical Society; Rev Dr Ken Newell; Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin; Northern Ireland Office; Andrew O’Kane; Dr Donal O’Tierney; Andrew Pearmain; Fiona Pegrum; Lady Moyra Quigley; Dr Katy Radford; Alastair Rankin; Prof Sir Desmond Rea; Reclaim the Enlightenment; Karen Reihill; Joe Reynolds; Dr Robin Ruddock; Gareth Russell; Prof E Sagarra; Rob Sawyer; George V Scott; Hilary C Scott; Elizabeth Sides; Patricia Sides; Laurence Simms; James Simpson; Lynne Smith; Neill Speers; Hugh Stevenson; Laura Anne Stewart; Rev Jim Stothers; Tinderbox Theatre Company; Alfred D Traylen; J Ross Traylen; Deirdre Trew; Wallace Thompson; Máire Bean Uí Bhrúadair; Ulster-Scots Agency; View Magazine; Sally Visick; Brian Walker; Bruce Watson; John Watson; Heather Weir; James Weir; Lord Peter Weir; Philip Weir; Rachel Wetherall; A Whelan.

Financial Summary

Summaries of the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2022 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 or on the Library's website www.linenhall.com.

Overview

The year 2022 saw the first full twelve months of normal opening hours for The Linen Hall after the prolonged closures necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which had continued until late May in 2021 and prevented some of its fundraising trading activities. A portion of the emergency funding applied for and won during the pandemic had been directed at projects to build up the resilience of the charity and prepare it for enhanced performance in future; for example, £100k had been received from the Dormant Accounts Fund Northern Ireland account in late 2021 for the build of a Linen Hall digital platform. This project was completed and the digital platform launched in 2022. Other projects for which grants were received in 2021 and spent in 2022 included The Linen Hall Enlightenment Festival, '1922 – 1972 – 2022: Years of Chaos & Hope', a Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund project focusing on the years 1922, 1972 and 2022 in the history of Northern Ireland, and The Linen Hall Library re-branding project funded by the Department for Communities.

The Linen Hall's operating deficit, before actuarial movements on the pension scheme and net losses/gains on revaluation of investments, was £515k in 2022 (2021: £30k). The balance on its current bank account fell to £20k at the end of 2022, from a balance of £232k on 31 December 2021, mainly due to grants which had been received near the end of 2021, to be spent on funded projects taking place in 2022. The Linen Hall has a bank overdraft facility of £150k which can be used to finance its day-to-day operations, although the Governors and staff aim to minimise reliance on this facility in the medium term.

Core operating costs were kept as low as possible in 2022, although net operating charges and finance costs within The Linen Hall's section of the NILGOSC defined benefit pension scheme amounted to £201k (2021: £203k) and this is included in reported operating costs. Conversely, actuarial movements on pension scheme assets and liabilities resulted in a net gain of £1.8m in 2022 (2021: £684k), and the liability of £323k carried in the balance sheet at 31st December 2021 became an asset of £1.3m at 31st December 2022. Actuarial movements on the pension scheme are beyond The Linen Hall's control.

In 2023 and beyond, The Linen Hall will continue to diversify its income and

modernise its approach whilst retaining its heritage values and charitable mission. New strategies will be developed to enhance The Linen Hall's sustainability for the future.

Income

The Linen Hall's grant income from all sources was £602k in 2022, compared to £1,124k in 2021, with funding for special projects down by £398k and grants towards core operating costs down by £124k. Total income fell by 34% in 2022, and the proportion of income obtained from all types of grant funding fell from 71% to 58%. Grant income had been particularly high in 2020 and 2021 as opportunities arose to apply for additional core and project funding related to the Covid-19 emergency.

Income from membership subscriptions and associated Gift Aid was £131k in 2022 (2021: £126k), and the Governors and staff are grateful for the loyal support of The Linen Hall by its members, especially during the pandemic and its aftermath; they will strive to keep the membership offer relevant and attractive in 2023 and beyond.

Commercial rental income fell from £123k in 2021 to £102k in 2022. There had been a period of vacancy in one of the two shop units owned by The Linen Hall, and the new business tenant did not start paying full rent until September 2022.

The Linen Hall Charity Bookshop, café income, sales of gift items, commercial use of the building for room hire and filming, box office and tour income had all been impacted by the closure of The Linen Hall building and curtailed physical activities during the pandemic, but returned to strength over the course of 2022. The recently refurbished Linen Hall Café has continued to attract new visitors and members alike.

Income from donations and legacies fell from £127k in 2021 to £56k in 2022; all gifts and legacies are gratefully received, whether to general funds or to The Linen Hall Library Endowment Fund.

Expenditure

Core staff costs represented 44% of all The Linen Hall's costs in 2022, up from 34% in 2021, largely because a greater proportion of total payroll costs in 2021 had been re-chargeable to funded projects, but employment costs overall remain the largest single area of expenditure. Average staff numbers, on a full-time equivalent basis, fell from 20 to 19 in 2022, including additional

project staff, and employment costs increased from £894k to £913k. A detailed breakdown of all expenditure is set out in notes 5 to 10 to the separately published financial statements.

Pension Scheme

The Linen Hall operates a defined benefit pension scheme through NILGOSC, and the scheme was in surplus by £1,294k on 31st December 2022, an improvement of £1,617k over the previous year's deficit position. The cost of pension contributions, net operating charge and related finance in 2022 was £311k, up from £308k in 2021, whilst The Linen Hall's contribution rate to the NILGOSC scheme will be reduced from 20.3% to 18.7% of salary on 1st April 2023.

Grants

The following table sets out recent levels of support from each of The Linen Hall's top five funders in 2022.

FUNDER	2022	2021	2020	2019
	£k	£k	£k	£k
Dept. for Communities	309	291	355	284
National Lottery Heritage Fund	157	376	261	39
Belfast City Council	34	49	25	35
DoFA; Reconciliation Fund	34	38	0	33
Ulster-Scots Agency	32	82	38	19

Grants awarded for defined projects in pursuit of The Linen Hall's mission, from all sources, decreased from £692k in 2021 to £294k in 2022, and grants towards core operating costs fell by £124k. 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 2022 can be found at note 23.

Donations

We are grateful to all those who made donations to The Linen Hall in 2022; your support and generosity are essential in enabling us to fulfil its charitable mission and ensure the sustainability of its unique contribution to society.

Karen Law, Finance Manager

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies	35	460	294	789	1,377
Rental income	-	102	-	102	123
Income from investments	-	9	-	9	9
Income from charitable activities					
Other trading activities	-	128	-	128	70
Total income	35	699	294	1,028	1,579
Expenditure on					
Rental expenses	-	2	-	2	2
Raising funds	-	59	-	59	45
	-	61	-	61	47
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Projects and events	-	-	322	322	567
Library operating costs	-	1,160	-	1,160	995
	-	1,160	322	1,482	1,562
Total expenditure	-	1,221	322	1,543	1,609
Net (expenditure)/income	35	(522)	(28)	(515)	(30)
Transfers between funds	-	(5)	5	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income before recognised gains and losses	35	(527)	(23)	(515)	(30)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	(37)	-	-	(37)	29
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	1,818	-	1,818	684
Net movement in funds	(2)	1,291	(23)	1,266	683
Fund balance brought forward	361	6,616	390	7,367	6,684
Total funds carried forward	359	7,907	367	8,633	7,367

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	4,252	4,303
Heritage assets	2,760	2,760
Investments	263	299
	7,275	7,362
Current assets		
Stocks	16	17
Debtors	114	218
Cash at bank and in hand	82	295
	212	530
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(148)	(201)
Net current assets	64	329
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	(1)
Net assets excluding pension liability	7,339	7,690
Pension liability	1,294	(323)
Net assets including pension liability	8,633	7,367

Funds		
Unrestricted funds:		
- General fund	87	(420)
- Revaluation fund	7,036	7,036
	7,907	6,616
Restricted funds	367	390
Endowment funds	359	361
Total funds	8,633	7,367

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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

Antrim & Newtownabbey
Borough Council

Bar Library

Barnett, W & R Ltd

BBC Trust NI

Belfast Natural History and
Philosophical Society

Belfast Royal Academy

Belfast Visitor & Convention Bureau

Below the Radar

Building Automation Controls Ltd

Colourpoint Creative Limited

County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast

Davison Lamont Limited

Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd

Historic Environment Division, DfC

International Futures Forum

Irish Association for Cultural,
Economic & Social Relations

Irish News

Masonic Lodge of Research

McConnell Chartered Surveyors Ltd

National Union of Journalists Belfast
and District Branch

NIPSA

Northern Ireland Public Services
Ombudsman

Northern Ireland Assembly Library

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Police Ombudsman's Office Library

Public Record Office of NI

Tandem Design

Ulster Historical Foundation

Ulster-Scots Agency

Unison

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THE LINEN HALL
BELFAST'S
HOME
OF POETRY

OCTOBER 2022



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The Linen Hall is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 104 564

