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

[Department for Communities logo]
[Arts Council of Northern Ireland logo]
[Belfast City Council logo]

Cover Photos (from top):
Back row: Tim McGarry, Michael McDowell, Alexandra Ford, Martin Reid
Front row: Julie Andrews, Paddy Jenkins, Anne Davies, Olivia Nash, Damon Quinn

Middle Picture: BBC Radio 4 Bookclub host James Naughtie

Bottom picture: Author Patrick McCabe with students from St Patrick’s College, Maghera.
EXHIBITION

*Latin American Dance* by Rosaleen Sanderson

[Image of a charcoal drawing of two human figures]
"Tonights talk at @thelinenhall opened my eyes to all sorts of different aspects of the civil rights movement. Fascinating discussion. Look forward to further events. #CivilRights50"
@Paul_Doherty_-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President’s Foreword</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director’s Report</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian’s Report</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governors</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff &amp; Volunteers</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Report</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facts &amp; Figures</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Summary</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Financial Activities</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statement of Financial Position</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Members</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Below the Leap, River Bush by David Speers
Acting President’s Report

Following the retirement of President Anne Davies in October, I, as Vice President, stepped into the position of Acting President. On behalf of the Board of Governors I would like to thank Anne for her tireless, enthusiastic commitment to the Linen Hall Library. During her time as President, she brought an insightful, diligent and sincere commitment to her position on the Board. Her views and actions were always focused on promoting the best interests of the Library. It is fair to say our former President is a hard act to follow and emulate.

As Acting President, I have witnessed the professionalism of the staff to fulfill the aims and objectives of the Linen Hall. They have ensured the library functions as a vibrant organisation, delivering high quality service to the community.

The Director of the organisation and her staff ensure the Library brings about the best of our Library heritage with the demand to also deliver Library services through modern media formats.

Evidence of the uniqueness and diversity of the Linen Hall experience is around from the moment you enter the building where you will see the knowledge and commitment of the staff to create a living Library. View the extensive frequently hung exhibitions, the merchandise, or the weekly public thematic informative events with exciting speakers, or join a reading group.

I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to take up the post as Acting President. I am excited by the enthusiasm of the Director and her team to ensure the Linen Hall grows and continues to attract the confidence of its stakeholders, funders, membership and users locally, nationally and internationally.

President’s Report

The Library’s constitution states that ‘the Governors shall have and exercise general supervision and control over the Library’ which is what the Board endeavours to achieve. This called for all the powers of resourcefulness and resilience available during 2017. Given the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly the possibilities of attracting project funding were greatly diminished. Project funding had been an invaluable adjunct to the Library’s income in previous years.

Although in 1884, the year of the Library’s constitution under the Educational Endowments Act, a digital future might only have been dreamed of by the likes of H G Wells, it has become an imperative in our general supervision of the Library. In acknowledgement of the changing habits of researchers it is essential that the Library makes its unique collections available worldwide by digitisation. The Divided Society resource, thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, is a pathfinder project in this regard. There are so many other projects which would reveal the riches of the Library to the world, had we but wealth enough and time.

What the Library does have is an extremely loyal and generous membership. All members are gratefully thanked for their financial as well as moral support. The bleak funding situation of the Library was alleviated thanks to two significant legacies. Thanks to these generous donations the Library can fund prime future digitisation projects.

The Library also has a strong Board of Governors who give of their time and expertise to ensure the sustainability of this 229-year-old institution. To the Governors with whom I have worked in past years, I give my heartfelt thanks.
Director’s Report

As ever, 2017 was a year of both challenging and exciting times for the Library.

The Divided Society project, which is digitising large parts of the Library’s Northern Ireland Political Collection, kept to budget and timescale throughout the year. As it was drawing to a close towards the end of 2017, the Library received its first order for the resource from a U.S. academic institution. This is a strategic project for the Library as it helps make our collections more accessible to a local audience. However, as a charity we are always looking for new ways to generate income. By making this a chargeable resource to an international audience, we are providing the Library with a new income generation stream.

During the year the Library received funding from the Department for Communities; Belfast City Council; Arts Council of Northern Ireland; and Heritage Lottery Fund Northern Ireland.

We were very fortunate during 2017 to receive two significant legacies. We appreciate that former members of the Library thought of us and made a contribution to our income. With cuts in core funding, gifts like this are very important to us and we appreciate them.

Our Arts and Cultural Programming, funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, as usual looked at a diverse range of topics. These included the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Northern Ireland’s Civil Rights movement, and the exhibition War Torn Children highlighting the impact of conflict on children, in association with Conflict Textiles and INNATE. We continued our partnership with Belfast-based theatre company PintSized Productions, and offered a range of readings from our Theatre and Performing Arts Archive.

Two items were particular highlights for me. In June, BBC Radio 4’s Bookclub was broadcast live from the Library. Presenter James Naughtie was joined by author Patrick McCabe to discuss his novel The Butcher Boy. This was the first-ever recording of the popular radio book review programme to take place at the Linen Hall. We were privileged to reach such a huge audience nationally. In October, the cast of BBC TV’s popular political comedy Give My Head Peace, led by comedian Tim McGarry, performed two readings in the Great Hall at Stormont. They gave their time to us free of charge and raised a significant amount of money for the Library.

As ever, future relevance and sustainability is at the forefront of everything we do. I would ask you to remember that we are a charity and appreciate donations, and I would ask you to encourage a friend to become a member of the Library.

“Enjoyed The Troubled Images exhibition at @thelinenhall today.”
@mairinmurray

“The beautiful Linen Hall Library
Belfast @thelinenhall”
@j_loughrey
I am pleased to report on Library services for 2017.

The Library had a rewarding and expansive year and much was achieved. The Northern Ireland Political Collection, one of the most significant national and international political and social archives, and one of our museum collections, was front and centre with the Divided Society digitisation project. The cataloguing and digitisation of unique materials ensures not only their preservation and longevity, but their accessibility; stretching the physical boundaries of the library. Not only is the Linen Hall taking care of items entrusted to us and built up over decades, we are building upon the work started by former Linen Hall Librarian Jimmy Vitty by ensuring the NIPC is a living collection through acquisition and creating and curating content. As a membership library there is the temptation to be insular but the Linen Hall and its membership has always been outward looking, and our members are to be commended for supporting through membership the maintenance and upkeep of our collections and archives.

One of the highlights of the Divided Society project was the outreach work which included intergenerational reminiscence, school workshops, educational toolkits, oral histories, and two exhibitions. Engaging with the next generation of members of the Linen Hall and getting them enthused about the collections is essential. The continued academic reach and relevance of the collections is illustrated by visiting students from as far as Canada, the United States, Japan and South Korea; while our materials have inspired and featured in numerous documentaries and publications.

In a year of high profile projects, it has also been business as usual. Our emergency preparedness has been enhanced through training and development; the rolling programme of care and conservation of the collections continued, and our major retrospective cataloguing project to enhance our Irish and Local Studies holdings progressed. The collections and archives have benefitted greatly from ongoing work to reorganise and document, and this work will continue.

Acknowledging the continued difficult financial environment, I am particularly grateful to those who continue to donate to the library.
Governors

President: Mrs A Davies, BA Hons, DILS (to October 2017)
Acting President: Mrs A Chapman, OBE, BSSc Hons, MSW (from October 2017)
Vice-President: Mrs A Chapman, OBE, BSSc Hons, MSW (to October 2017)
Honorary Secretary: Mr J Stewart, MSc, MA, BSc
Honorary Treasurer: Mr D Lewis, MA, PGDip, BSc
Governors: Ms K Blair, LLB, LLM, LARTPI
Mr H Campbell, LLB, LLM
Mr P Cavan
Ms C Gallen, MSc (from October 2017)
Professor Y Galligan, PhD, OBE
Mr E Hughes, BA, MA, PHD (from May 2017)
Mr J Johnston, MA, MLitt, JP
Mr A Kershaw, BA
Ms M Mackin, BA, MSc, PGDip
Mr H Odling-Smee, MA, AdDip
Mr C Radcliffe, BA Hons
Mr J M Scott, BA, MA

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, Jonathan Hill, and a member of staff from our major funder, Department for Communities.

“The staff are a wonderful group of knowledgeable helpful people.”

@merrillmorrow
Staff & Volunteers

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, PG Dip (LIS)
Customer Services Manager Mrs M Ryan
Administration Manager Ms I McGirr, HND, Dip RSA

Library Services
Senior Library Assistant Mr A Dunlop, BA (Hons), PG Dip (LIM)
Library Assistants Mrs H Arrell
Mrs M Delargy, BA (Hons), DLIS MSc
Ms M Flynn
Ms B Fox
Mrs V Geymonat
Ms J Hoben

Cataloguing Assistant Mrs D Ferran (until February)
National Collection of NI Publications (NIPR) Mr T Gordon, MSc, MA, BA (Hons), DLIS

Administrative Services
Digital and Marketing Comms Specialist Mrs R Wetherall, BA (Hons), MA, Dip Digital Marketing
Finance Assistant Miss A McDermott
Graphics Editor Ms D Elliman (until July)
Events Programmer Mrs D Douglas, BA (Hons), MA

Facilities Officer Mr R Grainger
Charity Book Shop Manager Mr D Cash, BA (Hons)

Divided Society
Project Manager Mr G Carville, BA, PG Dip (ILS)
Project Assistant Miss K Keane, BA, MA (until September)
Project Assistant Ms J Marulina (from September)
Sales and Marketing Officer Mr T McKernan (from August)
Education and Outreach Officer Mrs R Brady, BA Joint Honours, MA
Cataloguing Metadata Assistant Miss C Daly, BA, MA
Cataloguing Metadata Assistant Mr A Gordon, BA, MSc
Cataloguing Metadata Assistant Ms C McGowan

Interns Ms C Kane (to May)

Volunteers
We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their assistance during 2017:

Mr J Allen, Mr M Allison, Mr T Baird, Mr D Becker, Mr A Blackstock, Mr J Bradbury, Ms V Brown, Mr G Devaney,
Ms M Ferguson, Mr B Finlay, Ms E Gilmore, Miss E Gordon, Mr J Graham, Mrs M Haddock, Ms J Hall, Ms D Jones,
Mr T Kernaghan, Mr A Kershaw, Mrs D McAuley, Mr J McCartney, Mr N McCavana, Mr D McCombe, Mr G McCombe,
Mrs P McDermott, Ms S McGlue, Ms M McGoldrick, Mr S McKenna, Ms A McShane, Mrs L Murray, Ms S Napier,
Mr C Richardson, Mr O Ross, Ms K Wilson, Ms S Wilson.

Tour Guides Martin Allison, Gerry Devaney, Marian Ferguson,
Margaret Haddock and Jim McCartney.

NIPR Elizabeth Gordon
Tourism
The Library is delighted to announce that their Visitor Attraction rating from Tourism NI has risen from three to four stars.

Arts, Culture and Tourism
In 2017, 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 history.

Linking our collections to memorable occasions
2017 saw a number of anniversaries, including the 75th anniversary of the arrival of American troops in Northern Ireland and the 50th anniversary of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movement. Literary anniversaries were also celebrated with the 350th anniversary of Jonathan Swift’s birth marked by a lecture with Professor Moyra Haslett, Queen’s University.

Exhibitions
We hosted a number of significant exhibitions in 2017. Highlights included Representations of Jews in Irish Literature which examined a selection of key Irish-Jewish writing from the medieval Annals of Inisfallen through centuries of poetry, prose and drama to modern times.

Later in the year, the Library was delighted to be the launch venue for the War Torn Children exhibition, in association with Conflict Textiles and INNATE. This powerful exhibition exposed the tragic and devastating consequences of war on children across the world.

In June photojournalist Martin Nangle’s Street Life: 1973-1989 captured a chapter in Northern Ireland’s troubled history and was presented in partnership with National Museums Northern Ireland.

Dara Vallely and Réamonn ó Ciaráin presented Laoch na Laochra/ Hero of Heroes. Relaying the story of the great warrior Cú Chulainn, the exhibition consisted of a unique and authentic retelling of the legend with striking paintings by Dara Vallely.

The closing months of the year saw a major exhibition entitled Luther 500, Staunch and True marking the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and examining the legacy of this event and its relevance today. December saw a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of Belfast's Irish language theatre company Aisling Ghear, with an exhibition tracing the history of this remarkable organisation.

“Nothing better than a library on a rainy day!”
@curvedhouse
Music
Audiences enjoyed music by the Linley Hamilton Quintet in January and an enjoyable evening with the world-renowned Armagh Rhymers in July. September featured a number of events with The Recovery Café including an exhibition of hand-made musical instruments and a performance by the Voice of Recovery Choir.

Drama, Poetry and Literacy
In February we partnered with PintSized Productions to offer a series of readings from our Theatre and Performing Arts Archive. These included Pentecost by Stewart Parker whose archive is held at the Library. Other readings included Boyd’s Shop by St John Ervine and Joyriders by former Linen Hall Governor Christina Reid.

The fourth Writers on Writers Festival took place during our birthday week in May. The theme was ‘Working Class Writing’ and so it was fitting that we included works by Thomas Carnduff, Sam Thompson, and Stewart Parker. Participants included Glenn Patterson, Ruth Carr, Gerry McCullough, Dan Gordon and Gary Mitchell.

Our popular lunchtime reading series in association with women’s poetry organisation Of Mouth continued to expand with the introduction of masterclasses from the poets. 2017’s line up included Trevor Joyce and Eiléan Ni Chuilleánáin, the current Irish Chair of Poetry, as well as launching important works including Eavan Boland: Inside History and Washing Windows? Irish Women Write Poetry.

In August we were delighted to welcome a number of Canadian poets to Belfast as part of The Shaken and The Stirred series celebrating Canada’s 150th birthday. Readers included Jeanette Lynes, Ian Burgham, and Catherine Graham.

Popular children’s events saw our staff entertain our younger members with Easter Storytime and Rhyme. And we rounded off the year with Mr Hullabaloo’s Winter Wonderland show and his cast of colourful puppet friends. We also hosted the regional heats of the Poetry Aloud competition organised by the National Library of Ireland and featuring secondary school pupils from across Ireland.

Book Launches
New books were introduced by authors Marie Therese Rogers-Moloney for the Sins of My Mother. Peace activist Margaretta D’Arcy launched Ireland’s Guantanamo Granny and Dr Nuala McAllister Hart launched her biography of Irish tenor Josef Locke, Josef Locke The People’s Tenor, on the occasion of the centenary of his birth.

Professor Andrew Carpenter spoke on his new publication The Poems of Olivia Elder (1735-1780) to an appreciative audience. Finally Alan Parkinson launched Election Fever: Groundbreaking electoral contests in Northern Ireland.
Citywide Celebrations
The Library participated in a number of citywide celebrations including Holocaust Memorial Day, International Women’s Day and Irish Language Week. World Book Day was celebrated by a discussion with local authors David Park and Sophia Hillan.

We celebrated European Heritage Open Day with tours of our listed building and a free family event. Once again the Library participated in Culture Night with several well attended events.

The collections of the library facilitated exhibitions as part of Belfast Burns Week and the C.S. Lewis Festival among others.

Partnership Activities
The Library formed a number of strategic partnerships throughout 2017 in order to deliver a varied programme of events and exhibitions. These included collaboration with Arts Care, Centre Stage Theatre Company, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), the Ulster-Scots Agency, Ulster University, the National University of Ireland, Galway, Northern Ireland Screen and National Museums Northern Ireland.

Local Art
Visual arts were well represented with a number of exhibitions. Those who took part included David Speers, Joe Gildea, Rosaleen Sanderson and Ray Duncan. Antrim Art Club celebrated its 65th anniversary with an exhibition entitled Winds of Change.

Other
The Library’s popular reading group and Irish language reading group continued. The Irish language classes were also well attended. In June BBC Radio 4’s Bookclub was broadcast live from the Library. Presenter James Naughtie was joined by author Patrick McCabe to discuss his novel The Butcher Boy.

“Fine spot for a meeting! Coffee is good as well :)
@thelinenhall
@georgedorrian"
Library Facilities
The Linen Hall Library continues to offer a range of function rooms for hire including the fully-equipped Performance Area, Northern/Members Area and the iconic Governors Room. These rooms are available for meetings, book launches, seminars, workshops, and conferences. This year we were delighted to host an array of organisations and events, and even a wedding reception for newly married couple Ross and Suzanne.

During the year many corporate bodies hired rooms including the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, BBC NI, Department for Communities, N.I. Environment Link, and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Gift Range
The Library added a new range of merchandise to its gift range in 2017, which has been a great success. The imprinted merchandise range also sold well. We will continue to investigate new products to enhance the library gift line.

All sales from room hires and the gift range help generate income for the Library.

Charity Shop
The Linen Hall Library Charity Bookshop is still at its Fountain Centre, College Street, premises and is going very well. The Library would like to give a big ‘thank you’ to all of the volunteers who have very generously given of their time to support manager Damien Cash and the shop. The income generated by the shop is a significant addition to our finances.

“So do I. @thelinenhall is truly magical ... #Belfast”
@SheilaMcWade

“Well where else would I come when it won’t stop raining @thelinenhall”
@booksandwine76
2017 Public Relations and Marketing Overview
The PR highlight of the year was undoubtedly BBC Radio 4’s *Bookclub* broadcast from the Linen Hall Library. This was recorded in June and broadcast in September. It marked the first-ever, nation-wide BBC broadcast of a full programme from the Library. We were delighted to welcome host James Naughtie and author Patrick McCabe, whose book *The Butcher Boy* was the chosen title for review. Taking over a year to organise, this recording was a very significant opportunity to bring the Library to the attention of approximately 1.25 million people.

We continue to publicise the Library to local, national and international audiences through a variety of publicity mechanisms, including press releases, listings releases, website news, videos, and social media channels. Our proactive approach ensures that we have maintained a strong presence in both traditional and digital outlets.

Our media monitoring company NIMMS has calculated that our print circulation figure for 2017 is 7,333,157. The equivalent ad spend of coverage for the year would be in the region of £315,000. These figures are solely concentrated on the Northern Ireland market. Coverage including national print would further increase these figures.

Digitally, the marketing department works to ensure that we stay on top of current, and passing, trends. We decided, for economic as well as practical reasons, to discontinue the hard-copy newsletter. This has been replaced with a more comprehensive monthly e-zine. We are also examining our website to ascertain its relevance in today’s internet universe, and are planning a rebuild in 2018 so that it meets with the most up-to-date standards.

Our social media subscribers have grown considerably. At the end of 2017 we were approaching 3,000 Facebook ‘likes’ and nearly 4,000 Twitter followers. Social media demands more of our time and resource as this arena slowly eclipses the traditional hard-copy media.

NIPR
Raising the profile of National Collection of Northern Ireland Publications has been very much the focus of NIPR’s attention this year.

To help raise awareness of what NIPR is actively collecting we listened to feedback from our audience and changed how we present our quarterly list of acquisitions. The newly redesigned lists present the books and materials we have collected in a much more appealing and eye-catching format. The redesign also enables our stakeholders to visualise our collection and acquire further information about the materials by clicking on embedded links within our lists which we continue to share on our website [www.nibooks.org].

These changes have been widely welcomed by both local authors and publishers alike and continue to show the broad variety of material NIPR strives to collect whilst encouraging those producing material in the community to donate and add to our archive at the same time.

This has definitely been a year of firsts for NIPR. At the start of the year we teamed up with a local publisher to launch our first-ever online competition which received a very positive response as a way to mark the rebranding of our acquisition lists.
The NIPR advisory panel has extended this year, and we are delighted to have brought on board representatives from the Irish language publishing sector to further enable NIPR to identify and collect locally published material. Outreach work continues to be something NIPR places a high importance on, and last year we were fortunate enough to establish many new links with youth organisations, charities, creative writing groups and local history societies. We endeavour to expand on this work in the forthcoming year to ensure locally produced material, wherever it is being produced, is identified and saved for posterity in our archive.

Digitised Archives

The Library’s Divided Society project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, began in August 2016 and continued its work throughout 2017. The project saw the digitisation of 512 journal titles and 818 posters from the Northern Ireland Political Collection, along with a range of outreach activities.

Throughout 2017 publishers and organisations were approached to allow their material to be included in the archive, and the project was met with huge enthusiasm and support. The journals and posters were scanned by Cookstown-based Mallon Technology, and all of the material was returned to the Library in June 2017. The digitised images were then catalogued by the project’s cataloguing team, adding detailed metadata for each image to ensure every item could be searched for and retrieved from the resulting Divided Society website (www.dividedsociety.org).

Belfast-based web-design firm BT48 spent the year building a modern, accessible, curated website that presented the diverse range of material in an exciting and innovative way. The project was pleased to receive an endorsement from Senator George J. Mitchell, Chair of the Peace Process talks, who also agreed to write an introduction to the resource. The project received additional support from media organisations RTÉ and UTV who provided video clips focused on key political events in the nineties.

Outreach work also continued throughout the year with engagement sessions with community groups from around Northern Ireland. These groups also contributed to a community advisory panel. Interviews from this work were captured for the project’s oral history archive. Also featured in the Library was the exhibition We Lived It – the Social Impact of the Troubles. Six educational toolkits were also produced which have been cited as a resource on the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) website. By the end of 2017 the project team were building up to the official launch in 2018 when the site would go live at www.dividedsociety.org.
Facts & Figures

Cataloguing
2,344 items were added to the Library’s catalogue in 2017.

Footfall
Visitor numbers to the Library in 2017 were 108,480.

Website and Electronic Access
www.linenhall.com
Visitor figures from Google Analytics for 2017 identified 44,925 sessions; 28,766 users; and 110,985 page views. The site was most popular with the 25 – 34 age group.

BOOK DONATIONS
The Library would like to thank all donors to our collections:
Mr Jack Adair, Dr Maureen Alden, Mr Gary Allen, Atlantic Philanthropies, BBC NI, Mrs Norah J Beare, Belfast Film Festival, Mr Peter Bennett, Mr Richard Boggs, Mr David Bolton, Ms Anne Boyd, Mr Simon Bridge, Ms Kathryn Brown, Prof Steve Bruce, Mr Wilson Burgess, Mr Ian Burgham, Dr Sam Burns, Mr Paul Butler, Ms Ophelia Byrne, Mr WF Caldwell, Ms Jennifer Campbell, Carleton Street Heritage Centre, City of Belfast ABF, Mr Tom Clarke, Mr J Coffey, Dr Anthony Coughlan, Mr Patrick Cross on behalf of the late Mrs Norah Skelton Beath, Mr Ciaran Crosse, Ms Aileen Cunningham, Ms Margaretta D’Arcy, Mrs Anne Davies, Prof Richard P Davis, Ms Anne Dawson, Ms Mary-Clare Deane, Mrs Mary Delargy, Mrs Margaret Haddock, Ms Anne Hailes, Mr Keith Haines, Mr Brian Hanna, Miss Mary Hanna, Ms Dilys Harkins on behalf of Ms Clare Powell, Mr Tom Hartley, Mr Ralph Hauptmann, Mr Andy Hinds, Ms Jude Hoben, Ms Maria Holland, Mr Alan Houston, Mr James Houston, Irish Pages Press, Mrs Maureen Irvine, Ms Helen Jenkins, Mr Donald Jenkinson, Mr Jack Johnston, Mr John Johnston, Mrs M Johnston, Mr Peter Keating, Mr Eugene McKendry, Dr Anthony McKeown, Mr Joseph McKnight, Ms Karen McMinn, Ms Jackie McMurray on behalf of the late Lady Eleanor Brown, Mr Alan McQuillan, Mr Richard Frazer-McRobert, Mr William McCay, Mr Robin Masefield, Mr Graham Mawhinney, Ms Elizabeth Maxwell, Ms Janet Miles, Ms Daisy Mules, Mr David NK Murphy, Mr Clifford Norton, Rev John Pickering, Prof Réamonn Ó Ciaraín, Prof Conchúr Ó Gíolláigín, Mr Andrew O’Kane, Prof Seán Ó Riain, Mr Roger Orr, Mrs E Pollock, Prof Sir Desmond Rea, Mr Samuel Noel Rea, Mr Robin Reid, Mr Dieter Reinisch, Mr Jack Riordan, Mr Colin Rooney, Royal Dublin Society, Mr Gareth Russell, Dr CE Schultze, Mr Michael Sheane, Sinn Féin, Mr Denis Smyth, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Special Collections Queen’s University of Belfast, Mr Neil Speers, Mrs M Stokes, Ms Anne Taylor, Tinderbox Theatre Company, Ms Margaret Tolson, Ms B Tomko, Ulster-Scots Agency, E Warwick, Mr JDN Whyte, Ms Marilyn Wickstead, Mr Hugh Widdis, Ms Fionnuala Carson Williams, Ms Helga Woggon, Mr John Mitchell Wylie.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>+ or -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honorary</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family*</td>
<td>84 (26)</td>
<td>80 (25)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concessionary</td>
<td>1,070</td>
<td>1,011</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate*</td>
<td>118 (51 orgs)</td>
<td>128 (59)</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>2,755</td>
<td>2,710</td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

LOAN FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>+ or</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>8,770</td>
<td>8,588</td>
<td>+182</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish &amp; Ref.</td>
<td>6,112</td>
<td>4,618</td>
<td>+1,494</td>
<td>+32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14,882</td>
<td>13,206</td>
<td>+1,676</td>
<td>+13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Collection Queries 5851 100%
Irish & Local Studies 3546 61%
Newspapers 396 7%
NIPC 900 15%
Theatre 125 2%
Other 884 15%

Cataloguing
2,344 items were added to the Library’s catalogue in 2017.

Footfall
Visitor numbers to the Library in 2017 were 108,480.

Visitor figures from Google Analytics for 2017 identified 44,925 sessions; 28,766 users; and 110,985 page views. The site was most popular with the 25 – 34 age group.
Overview
The Library’s operating deficit (before actuarial movements on the pension scheme) was £198k in 2017, however in cash terms the bank overdraft balance was reduced from £164k at the end of 2016 to £84k at 31 December 2017. The Library relies on its bank overdraft facility to finance its day to day operations, and the Governors and staff aim to continue reducing reliance on this facility in 2018 by means of additional income generation and ongoing control of operating costs.

Total income from all sources rose from £1,125k in 2016 to £1,170k in 2017, with two generous legacies more than offsetting a temporary reduction in rental income during a changeover of commercial tenants. Core operating costs were kept under strict control, although net operating charges and finance costs for the Library’s defined benefit pension scheme amounted to £89k, and this is included in operating costs. The pension scheme deficit carried in the Library’s balance sheet was reduced during 2017, from £489k to £58k, due to actuarial movements outside the Library’s control.

The Governors continue to monitor all revenues and costs, and are working towards the elimination of the operating deficit. There remains an 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 £629k in 2017, compared to £634k in 2016, with funding for special projects up by £20k and grants toward core operating costs down by £25k. The Library’s total income rose by 4% in 2017, whilst the proportion of income obtained from all types of grant funding fell to 54% from 56% in the previous year.

Income from membership subscriptions and associated Gift Aid remained steady at £136k in 2017; a 1% fall in subscriptions received was offset by increased Gift Aid permissions from members. The Governors and staff are endeavouring to refresh the Library’s membership offer and will encourage more members to sign up for Gift Aid during 2018. Fundraising trading activities made a net contribution of £60k in 2017, up from £46k in 2016, mainly through the sale of donated books in a pop-up Charity Shop and commercial use of the Library’s facilities for room hire, catering and tours, boosted by early subscriptions to the new Divided Society online archive. The Governors and staff are working to identify new fundraising activities and to maximise revenue from existing operations.

Grants
The following table sets out recent levels of support from each of the Library’s top five funders in 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDER</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Council NI</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast City Council</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Lottery Fund</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept for Communities</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulster Garden Villages</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grants awarded for defined projects in pursuit of the Library’s mission, from all sources, increased from £317k in 2016 to £337k in 2017, whilst grants towards core operating costs fell by £25k. The main project undertaken in 2017 was the delivery phase of Divided Society, which employed six dedicated members of staff in digitising and making available online part of the Northern Ireland Political Collection, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Ulster Garden Villages. It is expected that the Library’s core public funders will continue to experience significantly reduced budgets for a number of years, 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.

Income from donations increased from £11k in 2016 to £216k in 2017, due mainly to two generous legacies received towards the Library’s general funds.

Expenditure
Core staff costs represented 46% of total costs in 2017 and are therefore the largest single area of expenditure for the Library. Average staff numbers, on a full-time equivalent basis, increased from 20 to 22 in 2017, including additional project staff. Employment costs overall rose from £655k in 2016 to £839k in 2017 but this increase included £76k of additional costs related to the pension scheme as well as the cost of project staff on temporary contracts. A detailed breakdown of all expenditure is set out in notes 4 to 8 to the separately published financial statements.

Pension Scheme
The Library operates a defined benefit pension scheme through NILGOSC and, at 31st December 2017, the scheme was in deficit by £58k, an improvement of £431k over the previous year’s position. The cost of pension contributions, net operating charge and related finance during 2017 was £216k, up from £134k in 2016, and the Library’s contribution rate to the NILGOSC scheme increased from 20% to 22.5% of salary at 1st April 2017.

Financial Summary
Summaries of the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2017 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.

“@thelinenhall library in Belfast.
Absolute hidden treasure of the city. #thelinenhall”
@naomijanewrites
### Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Endowment Funds</th>
<th>Unrestricted Funds</th>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Total Funds 2017</th>
<th>Total Funds 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£'000</td>
<td>£'000</td>
<td>£'000</td>
<td>£'000</td>
<td>£'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income and endowments from</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and legacies</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income from charitable activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other trading activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>1,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure on</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental expenses</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure on raising funds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure on charitable activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects and events</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library operating costs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>1,314</td>
<td>1,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>964</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>1,368</td>
<td>1,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net (expenditure)/income</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(131)</td>
<td>(67)</td>
<td>(198)</td>
<td>(12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers between funds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net (expenditure)/income before recognised gains and losses</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(126)</td>
<td>(72)</td>
<td>(198)</td>
<td>(12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>(220)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net movement in funds</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>(72)</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>(232)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fund balance brought forward</strong></td>
<td>261</td>
<td>5,718</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>6,143</td>
<td>6,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total funds carried forward</strong></td>
<td>261</td>
<td>6,112</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>6,465</td>
<td>6,143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£'000</td>
<td>£'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>3,725</td>
<td>3,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage assets</td>
<td>2,734</td>
<td>2,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total fixed assets</strong></td>
<td>6,459</td>
<td>6,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>351</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>(287)</td>
<td>(398)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td>64</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets excluding pension liability</strong></td>
<td>6,523</td>
<td>6,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pension liability</strong></td>
<td>(58)</td>
<td>(489)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets including pension liability</strong></td>
<td>6,465</td>
<td>6,143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Funds**

**Unrestricted funds:**
- General fund          | (28)   | (422)  |
- Revaluation fund      | 6,140  | 6,140  |
**Total unrestricted funds** | 6,112  | 5,718  |

**Restricted funds** | 92     | 164    |

**Endowment funds**   | 261    | 261    |

**Total funds**        | 6,465  | 6,143  |
CORPORATE MEMBERS
The Library is most grateful to the following organisations for their continued support throughout the year:

Abbey Bond Lovis
Allen & Overy
Antrim & Newtownabbey Council
Arts Care
BBC Trust
Bar Library
Belfast City Centre Management
Belfast National History & Philosophical Society
Belfast Royal Academy
Belfast Telegraph
Belfast Visitor Centre
British Council NI
Below the Radar
Building Automation Controls
Campbell Fitzpatrick
Colour Point Creative Ltd
Crescent Arts Centre
Crown Solicitor’s Office
Davison Lamont
Grand Orange Lodge
Healing Through Remembering
Historical Enquiries Team
Historical Environment Division
Information Commissioner
Insurance Institute of NI
International Futures Forum
International Red Cross
Irish Association for Cultural, Economic & Social Relations
Masonic Lodge of Research
McConnell Chartered Surveyors
MCG Services Ltd
NI Assembly Library
NI Environment Link
NI Housing Executive
NI Ombudsman’s Office
NI Screen
NIPSA
Police Ombudsman’s Office
Public Record Office
Queen Mary Uni London
Royal Belfast Academical Inst
St Mary’s University College
Tandem Design
The McClay Library
Ulster Historical Foundation
Ulster Journalists
Ulster-Scots Agency
UNISON
W&R Barnett Ltd
Westway Film Productions
Xperience
Ardmoulin Street, 1974
by Martin Nangle
from Street Life