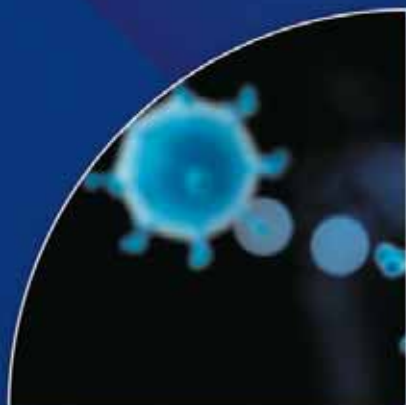


ANNUAL REPORT 2020



www.linenhall.com

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



Belfast
City Council



Cover Photos:

The Linen Hall Library and a selection of signage displayed during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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2020 could not have had a better start. The Library was the beneficiary of a fundraising concert generously given by Sir Van Morrison at the Lyric Theatre; we must also acknowledge the generosity of David Torrens of No Alibis bookstore who donated the takings from the bookstall he ran at the concert. Buoyed by this, we were looking forward to a busy year of events and projects: there was to be a visit to the Library from the Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, and we were setting up for the extraORDINARYwomen project. Then in mid-March the Library closed for St Patrick's Day and, with the safety of staff, members and users in mind, we closed for what soon became the first lockdown.

Looking back at my diary for those weeks I see many cancelled and postponed events, but I also see how quickly the Library adapted. By the end of March the Linen Hall Library Reading Group was online, and on April 1st we launched our first virtual exhibition; by the end of the month extraORDINARYwomen had been launched; our first online lecture had been given; and the Board of Governors had met over Zoom. I want to thank, and pay tribute to, the Library staff and its members for making this rapid response possible. Although the building was closed for large parts of the year, the work of the Library continued thanks to the dedication of the staff; those staff who could work from home have been carrying out their normal duties, and we were able to make use of the furlough scheme for those staff for whom working from home was not possible.

We are grateful to have received emergency funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Department for Communities and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Our bids for these funding schemes were successful because of the hard work of the staff, in particular the Director and Finance Manager. The success of these various bids is heartening, not simply because this funding is necessary to the Library's continued existence, but also because it is a signal that the importance and standing of the Library is recognised. This funding has allowed the core work of the Library Collections to continue and even expand under the guidance of the Librarian. In turn our programme of events online has been seen not just by people in Northern Ireland but by an increasingly global audience.

It is, it seems to me, typical of the Library that despite the real difficulties that we, along with so many others, face that we have also been thinking about how we emerge from this crisis and what part we might play in whatever new circumstances prevail as we emerge. There are challenging times ahead but there are also exciting developments in store.



Dr Eamonn Hughes

Director's Report

I started my report last year by saying 2019 was an exciting and challenging time for the Library. It would be an understatement to say that 2020 was exciting and challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I do want to stress the word 'exciting' as the Library rose to the challenges and also considered new opportunities.

In January 2020 Sir Van Morrison gave a fundraising concert for the Library. I would like to thank both Sir Van Morrison and all of the people who generously supported us in attending this concert and making donations.

In mid-March we had to shut the Library, as per Government guidelines, for the first lockdown. Our Head of Marketing and Arts and Cultural Programmer rose to the challenge of promoting the Library online. Many of the staff began to work from home with, initially, sub-standard equipment to protect the Library's future, and others were placed on furlough. I want to thank everyone for their contribution.

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

By the end of 2019 it was confirmed that we had been successful in two bids to the Department for Communities for the development of the Library's Children's Collection and a second for museum engagement. The museum engagement project was completed in the early part of 2020, and acquisitions for the Irish Children's Library was carried out by the Librarian while working from home.

Last year we discussed the development phase of the 'Seen and Heard Project, 'looking at women's lives in Northern Ireland from 1965'. This was very successful and culminated in an application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund at the end of 2019 for the newly titled 'extraORDINARYwomen.' Match funding was secured from the Department of Foreign Affairs (Peace and Reconciliation Fund) and the Foyle Foundation. The delivery phase of the project commenced in April 2020 during lockdown, and although some of the staff have been furloughed at times during 2020 the project is continuing with the support of its funders.

From April onwards, the Finance Manager and I focused on applying for emergency funding for the Library. We had a major success with The National Lottery Heritage Fund in July which helped support our core costs, along with upgrading our IT equipment and provision to enable smoother home working. We also received funding from the COVID-19 Charities Fund distributed by the Department for Communities and The National Lottery Community Fund. Additional funding was received from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Organisations Emergency Programme (OEP) in August 2020 which allowed us to develop our Arts and Cultural Programming for the continuation of the financial year.

In 2020 the Arts and Cultural programming made the Library visible in very difficult times. We moved from our traditional performance space in the Library to pre-recorded lectures on social media and our YouTube channel. A new online NI Political Collection lecture series was established. We launched an LGBTQ+ history club which has monthly online meetings. Then in November 2020 we began 'live' online events. Audiences have been developing rapidly from a national/ international perspective and numbers have averaged around 80 attendees per session. Both the English language and Irish book clubs have also moved online. More detailed information is available later in this report.

We were also delighted to receive funding from both the Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaeilge for conservation of our languages collections.

Later in 2020 applications were placed to the Shared History Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Heritage Fund on behalf of the Northern Ireland Office, and the Heritage Recovery Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Heritage Fund on behalf of the Department for Communities. Outcomes of these are expected in early 2021.

Our 'Making the Future' programme in partnership with the Nerve Centre, PRONI, and National Museums NI, and funded by SEUPB continued throughout the COVID-19 restrictions. The project embraced new technologies and online communication with individuals and groups across Northern Ireland and the border counties. We continued to provide a range of workshop programmes relating to our overall theme of Conflict to Peace which included creative writing, postcard making, banner history, photography and public art.



Julie Andrews

I would repeat my closing remarks from last year to say that future relevance and sustainability is at the forefront of everything we do. As a charity, I would ask you to tell others that we are a charity and appreciate donations, and I would ask you to encourage a friend to become a member of the Library.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Board of Governors, staff and volunteers for their help and support throughout 2020.

Librarian's Report

I am pleased to report on Library collections for 2020.

While acknowledging the challenging year 2020 has been for all, given the Linen Hall Library's long history we know the Library has survived through turbulent times and with this perspective we can focus on some of the positives there has been in 2020 – including the steadfastness of our Members, supporters and funders, and the loyalty and life-long affiliation the Linen Hall engenders – both of which have ensured that even at this most difficult time, the Library's collections have been enhanced for future generations.

As I reflect on 2020 a couple of examples are illustrative -

Thanks to funding from the Department for Communities we were able to enhance our children and young adult collecting to include works by writers and illustrators from or based in Northern Ireland and Ireland; books for children and young adults in the Irish language and Ulster-Scots; and from writers across the world which celebrate inclusivity and diversity allowing voices which reflect a modern, confident and outward looking society in Northern Ireland to be collected and shared to engage the next generation of users of the Linen Hall with a great children and young adult's collection.

The collection highlights the importance of reading for pleasure and development – the importance of books to enlarge the world or to find you are not alone is inestimable - and the funding has ensured the shelves are stocked with great books that feature a range of characters, from diverse creators, which reflect the change and diversity in what it means to be a child and young adult in Northern Ireland.

We are proud to hold an archive of the world-renowned children's author Martin Waddell, and young adult fiction writer Joan Lingard, and this project celebrates and builds upon these unique holdings of literary fiction.

Throughout our history, donations by Members and supporters have been crucial in making the Linen Hall Library the unique resource it is, and 2020 was no exception. A full list of donors to the collections is included with gratitude at page 12, but I would like to make special mention of Mr John Moore Crossey.

Mr Crossey was Sub-Librarian of the Linen Hall from 1956-1959 before emigrating to the United States of America to continue his library career in such illustrious institutions as Yale University. Mr Crossey's interest in and affection for the Linen Hall sustained, and now retired he has taken an active interest in enhancing the Library's catalogue and he and our Deputy Librarian Monica Cash enjoy a regular correspondence. Mr Crossey's tremendous generosity has allowed us to add thousands of Irish and local studies books to our collections which are testament to his character and love of books, and reflective of his affiliation and loyalty to the Linen Hall. Our gratitude to Mr Crossey is recorded with the sincerest of thanks.



Samantha McCombe

Governors

President:	Dr E Hughes, BA, MA, PhD (from May 2020)
Acting President:	Dr E Hughes, BA, MA, PhD (to May 2020)
Vice-President:	Ms L Maltman, BSc, MSc (from May 2020)
Honorary Secretary:	Ms K Blair, LLB, LLM, LARTPI (from May 2020) Mr C Radcliffe, BA (Hons) (to May 2020)
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr C McClean
Governors:	Mr M Adair Mrs A Chapman, OBE, BSc Hons, MSW (to May 2020) Ms K Hoey Ms S McCartan, BA Hons, ACIfA, FSA (London) (from May 2020) Mr J McCartney, MSc (from Feb 2020) Dr P McGarry, DL, FRCPsych (from May 2020) Mr S McKee, BA (from May 2020) Mr G Lucy, BA Hons, PGCE Prof M Ó Mainnín, BA, MA, PhD (from May 2020) Dr O Purdue, BA, MA, PHD Mr J Roberts Ms S Stevenson, ACR Mr J Stewart, MSc, MA, BSc (to May 2020)

Belfast City Council Observer: Councillor Matthew Collins

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		
Ms Roma Tomelty (sadly passed away in April 2020)		

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee meets four times per annum. There is a number of independent members of the committee who have a scrutiny function. These members include: Ms Anne Davies, Mr Gary Curran and an observer from the Department for Communities.



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)
Customer Services Manager	Mrs M Ryan (until April 2020)

Library Services

Senior Library Assistant	Ms Melissa Flynn – PGCert (ILS)
Library Assistants	Ms C Daly, BA (Hons), MA, PGDip (LIM)
	Mrs M Delargy, BA (Hons), PGDip (LIS), MSSc
	Mr A Dunlop, BA (Hons), PG Dip (LIM)
	Ms V Geymonat (until July 2020)
	Ms J Hoben PG Dip (LIM)
National Collection of NI Publications (NIPR)	Mr T Gordon, MSc, MA, BA (Hons), DLIS

Administrative Services

Head of Digital and Marketing Communications	Mrs R Wetherall, BA (Hons), MA, Dip Digital Marketing
Arts & Cultural Events Programmer	Mr J Burke, BA (Hons), MA
Finance & IT Officer	Ms A McDermott (until June 2020)
Membership Administrator	Mrs A Wallace
Facilities Officer	Mr R Grainger
Charity Bookshop Manager	Mr D Cash, BA (Hons)

extraORDINARYwomen Project

Project Manager	Ms Triona White Hamilton, BA (Hons), MA
Curator	Mrs R Brady, BA (Joint Honours), MA
Education and Outreach Officer	Mr Ciaran McQuillan, BA (Hons)
Senior Archive Assistant	Mr A Gordon, BA, MSc
Archive Assistants	Ms Kate Grimshaw, MA, MSc
	Mr Colum McGrath, BA (Hons), PGCert

Making the Future Project

Education and Outreach Officer	Ms Lesley Cherry, BA (Hons), MFA
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QUB Intern

Nicole Ross

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

Meet & Greet Volunteers - Lavina Wilson, Siobhan Napier, Maureen McFarland, Irene Ross, Liz Paton, Sarah Foster

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

Library Services - Gerry Devaney, Elizabeth Gordon, Kathryn Wilson

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

Volunteer Co-Ordinator - Jim McCartney



2020



Arts and Cultural Programme

The First Quarter

2020 began with a new Arts and Cultural Programmer when Jason Burke moved across from his role on the Making the Future project.

January saw the return of the annual Andrew Gibson Memorial Lecture, on this occasion delivered by Ian Crozier, Chief Executive of the Ulster-Scots Agency. We also had a full house for a showing of the film *Two Angry Men* in memory of writer and broadcaster James Ellis whose archive the Linen Hall is custodian of. In February, our audience were treated to a haunting musical performance by Peacock Angell (Songs of the Shipyard) in memory of poet and former Linen Hall resident caretaker Thomas Carnduff. March brought another full house to hear the story of Isabella Augusta, Lady Gregory 'The Greatest Irishwoman', in an event that marked International Women's Day. By this time, however, it was becoming increasingly clear, given the rapid acceleration of COVID-19 in the UK, that public events would soon be curtailed.

It was with much frustration and regret that our ambitious plan to bring the UK Poet Laureate Simon Armitage to the Library turned out to be the first event which fell victim to the growing crisis.

Online Events: A New Era

The April-June programme, which had taken two months to plan, was shelved overnight. Every challenge, though, brings new possibilities, and for us at the Linen Hall our aim was to move tentatively into the world of online events for the very first time. Our first online event welcomed Dr. Gavin Hughes giving a talk to mark ANZAC Day in April 2020. This event, and those which followed, now form the basis of a growing YouTube channel featuring a range of digital resources.

In May we virtually celebrated the Linen Hall's birthday with the help of journalist and Library patron Henry McDonald who spoke of his ongoing affection for the Library. We also launched the first of two new lecture series; the Northern Ireland Political Collection Lecture Series (NIPC Series), designed to promote this unique collection, and has welcomed speakers such as Gareth Mulvenna, Michael Boyd, Paul Donnelly, and others. The second new series was *From The Linen Hall Archives* by Jason Burke. The series was designed to illuminate hidden treasures from the Library's vast collection and covered a range of topics from the forgotten poet and Irish rebel Joseph Campbell, to Edward Carson's personal scrapbook from the Home Rule crisis.



An 'LGBT History Club' was formed in partnership with the LGBT Heritage project led by Dr. Richard O'Leary. The idea was initially discussed in a pre-COVID-19 world with a view to hosting guest speakers in the Library as a monthly meeting for the club. As it transpired, we had no choice but to hold the first meeting online, however this actually helped attract a larger audience and the Club continues to move from strength to strength. We look forward to eventually hosting the LGBT History Club in the Library when circumstances permit.

Despite the Library reopening briefly in the late summer of 2020 we were still in no position to host any events in the building and so the online events continued. By October, then, we had delivered 20 online events with an (international) audience engagement of c.12,000 people. It was clear that, despite the frustration of not being in the Library to host events, we were reaching new audiences far beyond our traditional catchment area.

Going Live

In November 2020 we opted, for the first time, to move into live online events. The first of these was Professor Eunan O'Halpin's live session on Kevin Barry. This live session was an unprecedented success in terms of our online offering, and this was largely down to two things; moving the event to the evening helped attract a wider audience, and by utilising a well-rehearsed format to ensure that the event flowed smoothly. Since then we've hosted 7 of our own live events (as well as other ongoing staple programming). The live events are averaging 80 people per session. It is worth noting that our recent (growing) audiences, as a result of the move to online events, have had an international dimension to them. These events have opened up a whole new world of people for us in the USA, across the British Isles and throughout Europe.

The Library's popular Reading Group and Irish Language Reading Group both moved online early in the year and have continued each month.

Images clockwise from top left (page 6)

Dr Eamonn Hughes, Sir Van Morrison, Julie Andrews at Linen Hall Fundraising concert.

Selection of material from extraORDINARYwomen archive project

Two Angry Men event in memory of writer James Ellis - January 2020

Peacock Angell band who performed in Songs of the Shipyard event - February 2020

'The Greatest Irishwoman': Augusta, Lady Gregory talk by Dr Ann McVeigh

Images clockwise from top left (page 7)

Collage of 2020 online Linen Hall exhibitions

One of many Zoom conferences

Image by Jackie Sheridan from her online Linen Hall exhibition

Linen Hall COVID signage



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 during most of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these rooms are normally available for all kinds of events; meetings, performances, talks, book-launches and conferences find a welcome here.

The Library is also a sought-after filming location, and some couples have chosen to have their wedding photographs taken against its unique interior backdrop, or to entertain their guests after the ceremony.

Gift Range

The Library's unique range of gifts, for lovers of all things literary and local, is always expanding and is popular with members and visitors alike. All income from gift shop sales helps to promote the Library's financial sustainability.

Charity Bookshop

The Linen Hall Library Charity Bookshop is located just around the corner at the Fountain Centre in College Street and its income provides a significant boost for the Library's charitable mission. The Charity Bookshop Manager, Damien Cash, took the opportunity to open the shop whenever COVID-19 restrictions allowed in 2020, and the Governors and staff would like to extend their gratitude to all the volunteers who give so generously of their time to support him in the shop.

2020 Public Relations and Marketing Overview

2020 was a year of huge challenges, changes and adaptations for the Linen Hall Library marketing and PR department.

Just as the year got underway, COVID-19 hit and the Library closed to the public from 17 March and remained closed for most of the year. This presented enormous challenges as we moved our marketing focus online. We added Instagram to our already growing social networks (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) to extend our digital footprint and are pleased to report that it reached 1,000 subscribers by year end. The move to a predominantly digital strategy



also involved the acquisition, development and use of a range of new digital applications which had to be mastered in a very short period of time.

We also continued to service traditional media, newspapers, radio and television, and retained significant presence in this arena as evidenced by our 2.9 million circulation (9.9million reach) and equivalent advertising spend of just shy of £300,000.

The Linen Hall is the only remaining library in Ireland that raises some of its costs from membership. This posed a particularly challenging issue because the Library was closed for most of the year. We maintained regular contact with members through our ezine and special members' only events.

Despite a crowded and highly competitive digital marketplace we attracted a growing international audience with many of our events attended by people from all over the globe.

The circumstances thrown up by the 2020 pandemic will have repercussions well into the future in terms of PR and marketing strategy. Going forward there will be greater focus on a two-pronged approach between traditional media and the constantly growing and changing digital/internet arena.

NIPR

It goes without saying 2020 was not 'business as usual' for NIPR. NIPR has been out of the office since March 2020 but hopes to return to base as soon as possible. NIPR spent lockdown redesigning our website www.nibooks.org and the end result is a new user-friendly platform that will allow more aspects of the collection to be digitised and made available to the public who have been unable to access the collection during the period of lockdown.

We have also been busy expanding the Advisory Panel to bring on board experts in the local publishing industry. We were very pleased to welcome Katleen McCracken and Liam Campbell onto the Panel this year and look forward to their contributions in assisting NIPR identifying and acquiring local publications.

Images clockwise from top left (page 8)

Governors' Room

Performance Area

Northern Room/Café area

A selection from the gift range

Linen Hall Charity Bookshop

Images at top (page 9)

The Linen Hall Library and new NIPR Websites

Funded Projects

Outreach

Education and outreach work continued to offer access to the Linen Hall Library's treasured collections in the first quarter of 2020. Building on previous years' successes, a selection of workshops were offered to both primary and secondary schools. In particular, the 'To A Mouse' Robert Burns workshop was well received, and noted in the local media as one of the top ten workshops for homework during the first COVID-19 lockdown.



Early in the year we welcomed pupils from St. Malachy's College to the Library. A session was held about the Linen Hall's Political Collection. As the pupils were studying the new GCSE history curriculum, they found the resources on offer to be of great use for their learning.

They also connected to the archive through hearing oral history clips and reading extracts of diaries written by people living through the 'Troubles' period.

The Linen Hall Library looks forward to welcoming groups for projects in the future.

**MAKING
THE
FUTURE**

Peace 
Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund

Making the Future Programme

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.



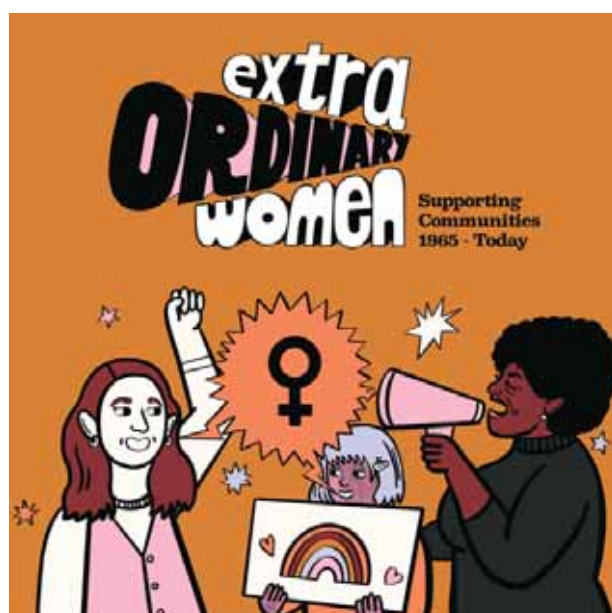
Like many organisations, we embraced new technologies and online engagement with individuals and groups across Northern Ireland and the border counties. We continued to provide a series of workshop programmes relating to the theme of 'Conflict to Peace', which ranged from creative writing sessions to examining post-conflict public art in discussion forums. We also delivered several 'hothouse' workshops for teens focusing on protest poster and billboard design, and a programme exploring Halloween traditions around the world alongside special effects make-up classes.



By using the Library's archives and resources and a stable of tutors, the programme was varied, informative, entertaining, thought-provoking and at times emotional. Despite the many challenges, we recognised the demand for continued engagement and the public's desire for social interaction, to learn new

skills, to have a creative outlet and a release valve where they can share, discuss and debate their experiences and stories.

Making the Future is due to come to an end in 2021, and while end-of-project showcases and celebrations are uncertain, the legacy of the project will remain through its many artworks, documents, stories and creative outputs that have been delivered since its inception. These will become a part of the Linen Hall Library's digital and physical archives.



extraORDINARYwomen: Supporting Communities (1965 – Today)

extraORDINARYwomen is a ground-breaking community driven heritage project. It highlights activism, change, and the experience of 'ordinary' women during the 'extraordinary normality' of our recent past. Examining women's roles and attitudes in Northern Ireland the project focuses on women supporting and raising each other up!

COVID-19 restrictions have meant that certain aspects of the project have been paused at various times. Launching the project in the middle of the first lockdown in April 2020 meant that only three out of six members of staff were able to start work immediately from home. With restrictions easing later that year this allowed staff to work in the Library with the collections

for almost three months until further restrictions returned and staff were again put on furlough. COVID-19 has created many challenges, particularly with regards to engagement with marginalised and socially excluded communities; however, the Library is committed to developing new audiences. and has submitted new engagement plans to our funders for 2021.

The documentation and digitisation of approximately 10,000 pages of significant collections from the Linen Hall as well as the procurement of a new Spectrum and ISAD(G) compliant Collections Management System over the last year is ensuring the Library's archives about women are better preserved and more accessible, in line with both Museum and Archive Accreditation standards.

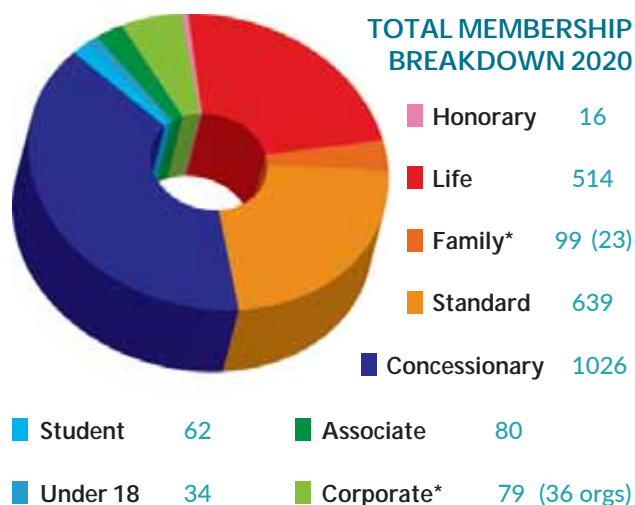
New stories relating to issues affecting women of all generations in Northern Ireland are actively being collected. A successful call out for donations in 2020 saw over 1,500 items from over 60 individuals and organisations added to the Library's political, literary, theatre, Traveller and LGBTQ+ archives. A programme of oral history recordings has been initiated, capturing the opinions and experiences of women in Northern Ireland.

We are extremely grateful to Tourism NI and Department for Communities for awarding grants to the project this year which will ensure a high quality, immersive digital resource will be a lasting legacy of the project.

The extraORDINARYwomen project is increasing the sustainability of the Linen Hall Library ensuring the Library is forward thinking, inclusive and embracing new opportunities and partnerships. The improvements to collections care, management and access, staff development and training, development of new audiences as well as the development of an online resource which has the potential to generate income from overseas visitors are all contributing to the future proofing of the Library.

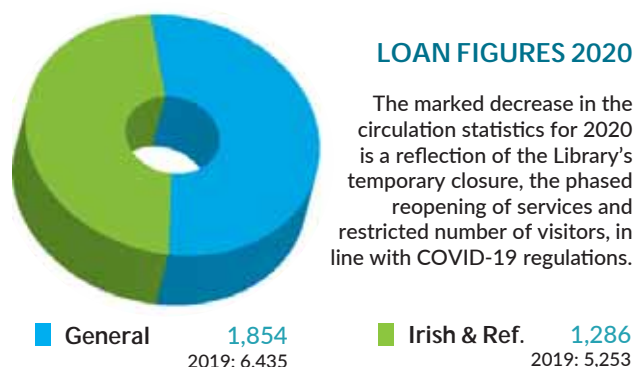
Facts & Figures

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN 2020

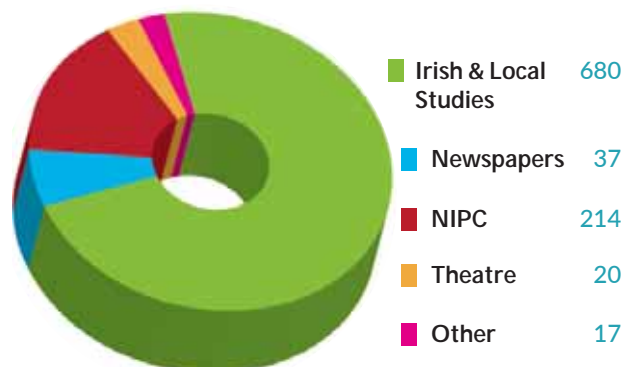


*Figure counted in tickets issued with number of such multiple memberships shown in brackets.

LOAN FIGURES 2020



TOTAL COLLECTION QUERIES 968



Cataloguing

The total number of items added to the catalogue in 2020 is 3,811.

Website statistics for 2020:

Users: 26,808 (compared with 2019: 32,108)
 New Users: 26,236 (compared with 2019: 31,424)
 Pageviews: 85,316 (compared with 2019: 116,519)
 Age range: 18 – 34
www.linenhall.com

COLLECTION DONATIONS

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

Alliance for Choice; Mr & Mrs F Andrews; Another World Belfast; Mr James Ashe; Ms Laura Atkinson; Mr Chris Bailey; Sir George Bain; Dr Bruce Baker; Mr Frank Barronwell; Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; Belfast History Project; Dr Aoife Bhreatnach; Ms Kathy Bollom; Dr Timothy Bowman; Dr Alison Black; British Council; Dr Ava Brown; Mr Colin Brown; Prof Steve Bruce; Mr Jason Burke; Ms Anne Cadwallader; Ms Donna Carolan; Ms Anne Carr; Mr Jonathan Chambers; Dr Andrew Charles; Ms V'cenza Cirefice; Rev David Coe; Mrs Hilary Colmer; Ms Marion Craig; Ms Stella Creasy; Mr Ciaran Crossey; Mr John Moore Crossey; Mrs Anne Davies; Mrs Mary Delargy; Ms Anne Devlin; Dr James Dingley; Mr Mark Dingwall; Ms Jane Dodge; Mr Desi Douglas; Mr Anthony Drennan; Dublin Historical Society; Mr Paul Duffin; J Dunne; Ms Amanda Dunsmore; Ms Julie Dutkiewicz; East Belfast GAA; Mrs Robina Ellis; Ms Maura Erskine; Ms Linda Ervine; Prof Audrey Eyler; Mrs Geraldine Finucane; Mr Patrick Flood; Ms Angelina Fusco; Mr Trevor Gill; Ms Victoria Gleason; Mr John Gray; Mr WR Grey; Mrs Margaret Haddock; Mr Keith Haines; Mr Tom Hartley; Ms Linda Hatton; Healing Through Remembering; Historic Environment Division; Ms Jude Hoben; Mrs Margaret Hoben; Howth Singing Circle; Institute for Conflict Research; Mrs Maureen Irvine; Ms Rosemary Jenkinson; Mr Jack Johnston; Mr John Kernaghan; Mr David Kerr; Mrs Rosie Leavett; Mr John Leckey; Ms Anna Lo; Mr John Logan; Ms Kathleen Loughnane; Ms Alison Lowry; Dr Catriona MacArthur from the library of Mr Colán William Porter MacArthur; Mr David MacAulay; Rev John MacConnell; Ms Louise Matthews; Maynooth University; Ms Felicity McCall; Ms Jaki McCarrick; Ms Mary McCaughey; from the estate of the late Ms Kathleen McCausland; Ms Maria McCausland; Mr Denis McConnell; Mr Alf McCreary; Ms Mary McCurrie; Ms Katrina McDonnell; Ms Maureen McFarland; Ms Lizanne McKee; Ms Raquel McKee; Mr Raymond McLarnon; Ms Sheelagh McRandal; Mr ACW Merrick; Mr James Montgomery; Ms Harriet Moore-Boyd; Mr Merrill Morrow; Mr Terry Moylan; Ms Marie Mulholland; Prof Maeve Murphy; Prof Pauline Murphy; Ms Olivia Nash; Ms Róise Ní Bhaoill; NI Scrubs Group; Mr Robert Niblock; Ms Sinéad O'Donnell; Ms Fidelma O'Kane; Ms Orlagh O'Neill; Ms Roisin O'Neill; Ms Ruth Patterson; Mr Victor Patterson; Ms Helen Perry; Mr Noel Quinn; Dr Katy Radford; Mr Jim Rea; Ms Carmel Roulston; Mr Martin Rowson; Mrs Bernadine Ruddy; Ms Brid Ruddy; Ms Paula Ryder; Ms Cara Sanquest; Ms Ann Simmons; Ms Cherry Smyth; Southern Health and Social Care Trust; St Mary's University College; Mr Jonathan Stewart; Ms Bronagh Taggart; Ms Anne Tannahill; Mrs Eileen A Taylor; TL Thousand; Ms Frances Tomelty; Ms Rosemary Tumilty; Ms Kate Turner from the estate of Rev RE Turner; Ms Keike Twisslemann; Michéle Van Veerssen; Prof Brian M Walker; Western Health and Social Care Trust; Ms Sheena Wilkinson; Dr Fionnuala Carson Williams; Mr Roy Willis; Wispa NI; Women's Resource and Development Agency.

The Library would like to thank Pamela Ballantine, Angelina Fusco and Andrea Catherwood for loans of archives to the Library.

Financial Summary

Summaries of the Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2020 and the Statement of Financial Position as at that date are set out on pages 14 and 15. Full financial statements have been published separately and are available on request from the Linen Hall Library or on the Library's website www.linenhall.com.

Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic presented a major challenge to the Library in 2020 as it had to close to the public and members for prolonged periods of time and was unable to continue with some of its fundraising trading activities; however, the Governors and staff strove to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the financial security of the charity by applying for and winning emergency funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Department for Communities, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Ulster Scots Agency and the Department of Finance Localised Restrictions Support Scheme. Part of this additional funding also provided for projects to build up resilience and prepare the Library for enhanced performance in future.

The Library's operating surplus, before actuarial movements on the pension scheme and gains on revaluation of fixed assets and investments, was £23k in 2020 (2019: £98k deficit). The bank overdraft balance was reduced from £129k at the end of 2019 to £6k at 31 December 2020. The Library uses its bank overdraft facility of £150k to finance its day-to-day operations, and the Governors and staff aim to reduce reliance on this facility in the medium term by generating additional income and keeping operating costs in check.

Core operating costs continued to be kept as low as possible in 2020, although net operating charges and finance costs for the Library's defined benefit pension scheme amounted to £152k (2019: £61k) and this is included in operating costs. The pension scheme deficit carried in the Library's balance sheet increased during 2020 from £357k to £804k, due to actuarial movements beyond the Library's control.

In 2021 and beyond, the emphasis will 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 £861k in 2020, compared to £483k in 2019, with funding for special projects up by £202k and grants towards core operating costs up by £176k; the main driver of these increases was the COVID-19 emergency

funding obtained. The Library's total income rose by 22% in 2020, and the proportion of income obtained from all types of grant funding increased from 47% to 68%.

Income from membership subscriptions and associated Gift Aid was £127k in 2020 (2019: £138k) with some members unfortunately suffering the impact of the pandemic on their finances and activities; the Governors and staff are endeavouring to keep the Library's membership offer relevant and attractive and will encourage more members to sign up for Gift Aid during 2021.

Commercial rental income from the two shop units owned by the Library fell from £146k to £135k in 2020 as the two high quality business tenants faced their own trading difficulties through the pandemic.

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 heavily impacted by periods of closure and curtailed physical activities.

Income from donations and legacies were reduced from £151k in 2019 to £91k in 2020, several generous legacies having been bequeathed in 2019 to the Library's general funds, but all gifts and legacies are gratefully received, whether to general funds or to the Linen Hall Library Endowment Fund.

Expenditure

Staff costs represented 66% of total costs in 2020, up from 62% in 2019, largely because of pension-related costs, and are therefore the largest single area of expenditure for the Library. Average staff numbers, on a full-time equivalent basis, increased from 18 to 19, including additional project staff, and employment costs overall increased from £697k to £814k. 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 £804k at 31st December 2020, an increase of £447k over the previous year's position. The cost of pension contributions, net operating charge

and related finance in 2020 was £255k, up from £168k in 2019, whilst the Library's contribution rate to the NILGOSC scheme was reduced from 22.5% to 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 2020.

FUNDER	2020	2019	2018	2017
	£k	£k	£k	£k
Dept. for Communities	355	284	269	319
National Lottery Heritage Fund	261	39	71	219
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	53	0	0	0
SEUPB Peace IV	40	61	18	0
Ulster-Scots Agency	38	19	20	0
Total	747	403	378	538

Grants awarded for defined projects in pursuit of the Library's mission, from all sources, increased from £201k in 2019 to £403k in 2020, and grants towards core operating costs increased by £176k. 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 2020 can be found at note 23.

Donations

We are grateful to everyone who made donations to the Library during the year; without the support and generosity of these donors we would be unable fulfil the Linen Hall's mission and maintain its unique contribution to society.

Karen Law, Finance Manager

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Endowment Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies	8	668	403	1,079	772
Rental income	-	135	-	135	146
Income from investments	-	7	-	7	7
Income from charitable activities					
Other trading activities	-	36	-	36	104
Total Income	8	846	403	1,257	1,029
Expenditure on					
Rental expenses	-	2	-	2	2
Expenditure on raising funds	-	35	-	35	61
	-	37	-	37	63
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Projects and events	-	-	281	281	168
Library operating costs	-	916	-	916	895
	-	916	281	1,197	1,063
Total Expenditure	-	953	281	1,234	1,126
Net income/(expenditure)	8	(107)	122	23	(97)
Transfers between funds	-	(1)	1	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) before recognised gains and losses	8	(108)	123	(23)	(97)
Net gains on investments	10	-	-	10	28
Gain on revaluation of fixed assets	-	26	-	26	870
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme	-	(295)	-	(295)	(108)
Net movement in funds	18	(377)	123	(236)	693
Fund balance brought forward	313	6,648	139	6,920	6,227
Total funds carried forward	331	6,091	262	6,684	6,920

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020

	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	4,421	4,483
Heritage assets	2,760	2,734
Investments	264	251
	7,445	7,468
Current assets		
Stocks	9	7
Debtors	138	84
Cash at bank and in hand	62	62
	209	153
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(151)	(324)
Net current liabilities	58	(171)
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	(15)	(20)
Net current assets/(liabilities)	7,488	7,277
Pension liability	(804)	(357)
Net assets including pension liability	6,684	6,920
Funds		
Unrestricted funds:		
- General fund	(945)	(542)
- Revaluation fund	7,036	7,010
	6,091	6,468
Restricted funds	262	139
Endowment funds	331	313
Total funds	6,684	6,920

CORPORATE MEMBERS

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

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough

Council

Bar Library

W & R Barnett Ltd

BBC Trust NI

Belfast Harbour Commissioners

Belfast Natural History and
Philosophical Society

Belfast Royal Academy

Belfast Visitor & Convention Bureau

Below the Radar

British Council NI

Building Automation Controls Ltd

Colourpoint Creative Ltd

County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast

Davison Lamont Ltd

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

NI Assembly Library

NI Housing Executive

NI Public Services Ombudsman

NI Screen

NIPSA

Police Ombudsman's Office Library

Public Record Office of NI

Royal Belfast Academical Institution

Tandem Design

The McClay Library at Queen's

Ulster Historical Foundation

Ulster Scots Agency

Unite The Union

Westway Film Productions Ltd



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