

Newsletter

September 2010

Society seeks charitable status

You may recall that we altered our constitution last year, firstly to bring it up to date (it had remained unchanged since our formation in 1967) and secondly to allow us to seek charitable status. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) required further changes to clarify and affirm the charitable objects (objectives) of our Society and they also sought modifications to the sections dealing with amendment (to the constitution) and dissolution (of the Society). Proposed changes (enclosed) require a two thirds majority of members present at AGM – changes will not materially affect any of our activities but the granting of charitable status will allow us to make use of "Gift Aid" which increases the value of donations by allowing us to reclaim basic rate tax on your gift. If you pay higher rate tax you can claim extra relief on your donations. If you claim age-related allowances or tax credits, Gift Aid donations can sometimes increase your entitlement.

Success with funding application

We are delighted to announce success in obtaining a grant of £588 from Craigavon Borough Council under their Good Relations Small Grant Scheme. The grant will help fund speakers, hire of venue, insurances, telephone and postage costs. Congratulations and thanks go to Arnold Sleator whose determination and efforts helped ensure the success of our application.



Town Trails revisited



The Society has been actively involved in updating the Lurgan and Portadown Town Trails. The new Lurgan Trail (left) was completed first and is available free of charge in the tourist information office at Lurgan Town Hall. The design for the Portadown Trail has not yet been completed but the text has been updated to reflect the loss of a number of buildings since the trail was first completed in the 1990s.

Annual Outings success

Our evening outing this year was to Gosford Castle, Mullabrack Church and Kilcluney 'Abbey' followed by supper provided by ladies of the Parish. Our Saturday outing was to Gracehill, followed by a short guided walk in Cushendall, Bonamargy Friary and Boyd's Church in Ballycastle followed by a meal at the Causeway hotel. Both outings were very well supported and we were particularly pleased that some members brought along their friends helping to keep down costs and ensure that we returned a small profit on both events.

PRONI is on the move

In preparation for PRONI's forthcoming relocation to Titanic Quarter, there will be no public access to PRONI's Balmoral Avenue site from 6 September 2010 until April/May 2011.



Review 2011

This is the year in which we produce our biennial publication, Review. If you are able to provide a suitable article then please contact one of the editors, Rosalind Hadden or John Trimble. We are especially keen to include articles on aspects of Lurgan's history. If you don't have enough material for an article, perhaps you have some old photographs, billheads, posters, programmes or other interesting graphical information related to the Craigavon area which could be published in Review?

Our Review for 2009 (right) was so popular that we had to have a second print run and even this has nearly sold out. Copies of all available Reviews will be available for sale at the AGM on 21st September.



European Heritage Open Days 2010



You may have seen the brightly coloured programme (left) for European Heritage Open Days 2010 in your local library. Lots of exciting properties are open on one or both days (11th and 12th September) free of charge; some of them are not open at other times or levy an admission charge. Further up to date information is available online – just Google "EHOD NI". Try to visit at least one of the properties or take part in one of the guided walks.