

HEADFORD LACE Project

Annual Report
2023

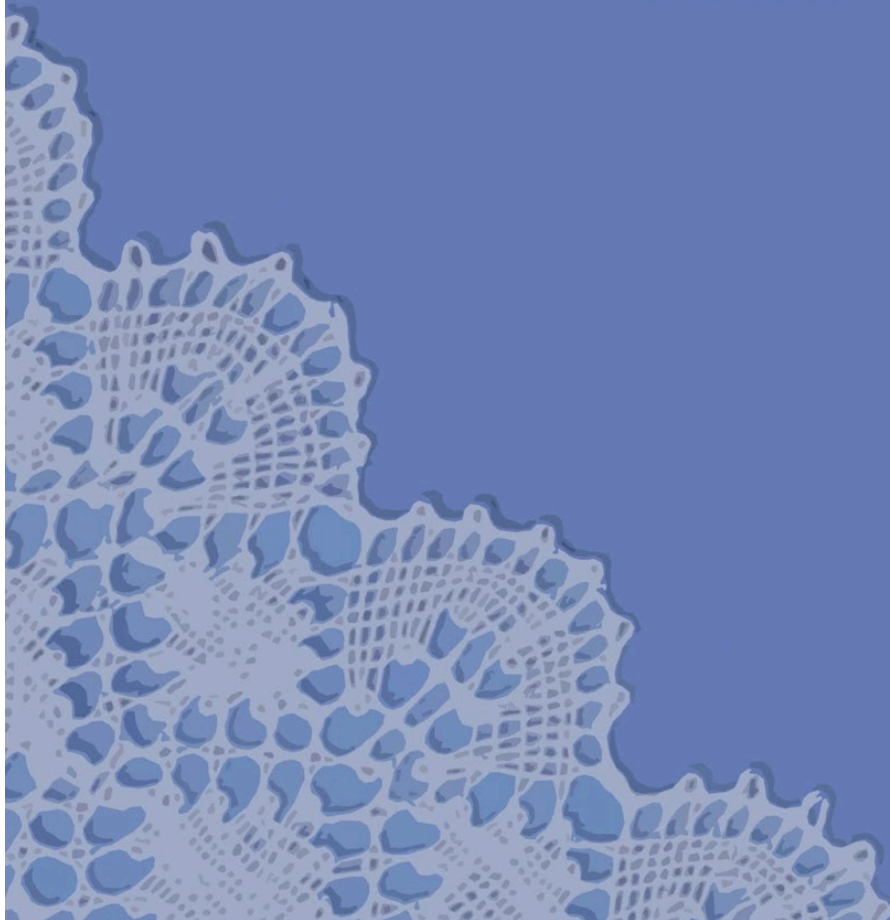


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Chairperson's Welcome

In this our seventh year of Headford Lace Project, we took the time to reflect and refocus. We continued teaching people to make lace and learning about it ourselves. We made an amazing discovery, started a major new initiative and we even had time for some celebrating. It has been a busy year!

Through the process of preparing our five year strategy with Senan Turnbull, Organisational, Development and Governance Specialist, we reflected and refocused on what our central themes and actions should be. We will continue to work on our three Rs - Research, Revive and Reimagine and the priorities for our work break down neatly into Headford, Lace and Project. We were delighted to publish our five year strategy in January and all felt the process of preparing it was hugely beneficial for us as individuals and as a group. This work was supported by Galway County Council Arts office.

We were hugely honoured this year to be invited to Áras an Uachtaráin in celebration of Irish heritage. We have worked hard to bring Headford Lacemaking back from the brink of extinction and to have it added to the Irish List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2021. To have this work acknowledged at the highest level by being guests of the President was very rewarding.

Also this year our long held belief that 'there must be more lace out there!' proved true. We were very excited to receive an email from a descendant of the St George family who had happened upon our website. They turned out to have a huge large collection of family textiles and were very open to us exploring it. Thanks to the Design and Crafts Council Ireland, we were able to send a small group to meet them in their home in Wales to view their collection and fill gaps in each other's research of their family line. A hugely fruitful and fun trip resulted in SEVEN confirmed new patterns of Headford Lace. For our first six years we have only had one design to work from so this is a hugely significant development.

With lots of hard work over the summer we were proud to launch our Headford Lace Trail on Culture Night in September. This is a geo-located audio walk accessed via a smartphone and Headphones and was developed by our long time collaborator Ed Coulson. Since this art form isn't very well known in Ireland it was a bit of a leap for both the committee and our funders in Galway County Arts Office to trust that it would be a good end product. The final result proved our belief in working with people who are passionate and skilled at what they do and then trusting them to do their work. The audio walk has been hugely well received locally and has even won an international award already (Sound Walk September Award 2023 - Announced January 2024). The walk features interviews as well as acting and music. We were delighted (but not surprised) to be able to source all the actors and musicians locally and the standard is incredibly high. The Headford Lace Trail will be available indefinitely and can be accessed at any time that suits the walker. We hope that it will not just help people understand the lace making heritage of the town but also, in time, draw more tourists into the town to see all that is on offer.

On top of these three highlights we have had our usual four lace weekends including beginner and improver bobbin lace making. It has been lovely to meet new crafters and link in with familiar faces while we enhance our skills under the always watchful eye of Jackie Magnin. We have also brought talks and workshops on Carrickmacross and Kenmare lace to Headford and have lots of new learners there too.

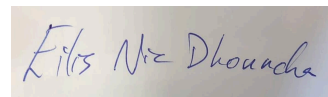
We have enjoyed making new links and strengthening old ones within lacemaking in Ireland like Gabriela Avram, Rosie Finnegan Bell and Fiona Harrington. We are continuously finding new links with other communities celebrating their lacemaking heritage and we look forward to developing these links in the years to come. Ní neart go cur le chéile!

We are also proud of where we come from and very happy to work closely with groups that are developing our town and surroundings; Headford and District Association, Corrib Beo and Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark. All three groups are very vibrant right now and are doing great work that we are proud to support.

The only low point in the year for me was one committee member stepping back. The wonderful Ella Hassett has been our London Office for the last five years and has focussed on our graphic design, social media, historical research and has prepared all our annual reports to date. She was also the one who pursued the application for Intangible Cultural Heritage Status and she has written several articles and other pieces for us over the years. She has stepped back from the committee to work on other projects for the time being and is already missed. Huge thanks to her for all her work, commitment and friendship over the years and best wishes for her new ventures. Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann xx

Finally, of course, I must thank all the remaining committee members for their hard work and commitment in 2023. It is no small task to keep the wheels of HLP turning but it is a pleasure to work with a group of women happy to play to their own strengths as well as pick up others' slack when that is needed. I'm delighted that there have been some celebrations and opportunities to get together this year and look for more of those in the coming years.

Go mbeirimid beo ag an am seo aríst!



Headford Lace Project Committee 2023

Eilís Nic Dhonncha - Chairperson

Ester Kiely - Treasurer

Ger Henry Hassett - Librarian & Archivist

Kathleen McMahon - Recording Secretary

Ella Hassett - Research & Communications Officer

Norma Owens - Research and Communications Officer

Anne O'Hara Quinn - Education Officer

Giulliana Victor Harte - Social Media Officer

Marina Postir - Committee member

Highlights

Garden Party at Áras an Uachtaráin

Committee members Anne O'Hara Quinn, Ester Kiely, Ger Henry Hassett, Giulliana Victor Harte, Marina Postir and Norma Owens of Headford Lace Project were privileged to be guests at a Garden Party at Áras an Uachtaráin on July 2. Hosted by President Michael D. Higgins and Mrs. Sabina Higgins this event was 'In Celebration of Irish Heritage'. The afternoon began with an opportunity to view the State Rooms, the Formal Gardens and explore the outdoor Musical Performances. Seán Moncrieff was Master of Ceremonies for the event. In his address President Higgins acknowledged the work done by An Taisce on its 75th anniversary and the many other people past and present involved in heritage in the country. This was followed by refreshments and musical entertainment. The celebration was a joyful and memorable experience for all present.



Research Trip to Wales & England

On July 26-29, committee members Eilís Nic Dhonncha, Kathleen McMahon, and Norma Owens along with our lace tutor, Jackie Magnin, and photographer Aengus McMahon undertook a research trip to Wales and the West Midlands of England. The purpose was to meet with descendants of the St. George family of Headford Castle, who started the lace industry in Headford and were patrons of it for over a hundred years. We were very excited when they contacted us through our website to let us know that they have a considerable collection of lace passed down to them from their ancestor, Sophia Grace St. George (1840-1918), whose brother Richard was the last St. George occupant of the castle. Jackie identified seven of the lace specimens that she is confident are consistent with the lace produced in Headford and created a replica collection for the HLP archive. We also added to our historical research by clarifying some details about the family that form part of the story of the lace industry. One heartwarming anecdote was that eldest daughters in their family are still given the middle name of L'Estrange in honour of Frances St. George née L'Estrange (d.1843), Sophia's mother, who is buried at

White Chapel in Headford. We are grateful to Aengus for creating a photographic record of the lace collection and family portraits.



The second part of the trip was a visit to the Lace Guild museum in Stourbridge, where we viewed some Irish lace in their collection and had the opportunity to learn about the museum's long-established administration practices, particularly regarding the organisation and management of their considerable lace collection, which is of benefit in establishing policies regarding our own growing archive of lace specimens. The research is already invaluable in our ongoing mission to research, revive and reimagine the lacemaking heritage of Headford, but will continue to reap benefits in the coming years through the new connections we have established.

We are extremely grateful to DCCI for funding this research trip.
See the Research Update for more.

Headford Lace Trail

In 2023, we initiated and launched the Headford Lace Trail. We started off with an idea to make some kind of self guided audio tour but we wanted it to be more interesting than a traditional walking tour. We took this nebulous notion to our long term collaborator Ed Coulson (producer of the award winning radio documentary *Toss the Bobbin*). To our delight, he accepted the challenge. We were lucky to have visionaries in the Galway County Arts Office who trusted us enough to fund this even though they may not have known exactly what we had in mind (we weren't 100% sure ourselves!). There followed several months of researching, writing, cross checking, interviewing, auditioning, recording and lots and lots of walking. We were grateful to locals Teresa Eagleton, Margie Mc Namara and Pat Monaghan as well as our own historian Norma Owens who all agreed to be interviewed. After auditions were held, we were very pleased to have Emma O Grady, Mary Mc Hugh and Sophie Morrow in the acting roles as well

as music from Matther Berrill. The high standard is, for us, all the more remarkable for knowing that all the performers live in Headford and surrounding areas!



We launched the Headford Lace Trail on Culture Night 2023 to a great reception. It was great to see a mixture of visitors and locals wandering around the streets with their headphones in seeing things in a new way. We decided a pamphlet was necessary to ensure that visitors to the town can readily get the information that they need to do the trail. This was produced and launched in November and is now available in several local businesses.

Headford Lace Trail is a legacy piece. The initial run is for five years and we have the option to extend it beyond that. Locals and visitors alike can access the trail at a time that suits them, day or night, winter or summer. It is completely free and all that is needed is a smartphone and headphones. For more information please pick up a leaflet in Headford or see:

<http://headfordlaceproject.ie/reimagine/143-headford-lace-trail-audio-walk>.

Community Engagement

Craft Month Event: Interconnecting Threads - Snáitheanna Idirnaschta

Headford Lace Project (HLP) hosted an interactive celebration event of bobbin lacemaking 'Interconnecting Threads - Snáitheanna Idirnaschta' for August Craft Month 23. This took place at The Angler's Rest Hotel, Headford on August 19. Our craft heritage was explored with an exhibition of lace replicas, made by our tutor, Jackie Magnin. Lace from Cong found on a research trip to NMI in 2019 and recently discovered bobbin lace in a private collection in Wales, with excellent provenience, were showcased. Committee member Ger Henry Hassett talked about the evolution of the project since 2016 outlining our research to date, explaining how we have revived skills and brought the story of Headford Lace to a local, national and international audience. MEP Maria Walsh opened the exhibition. There were live bobbin lace demonstrations and an opportunity for the public, young and old, to engage with the craft. This proved very popular and the event was well attended. HLP appreciate the work of Headford Men's Shed for making stands for the exhibits and to the Anglers Hotel for facilitating the day and making it all possible. It was a great celebration of the heritage and craft of bobbin lacemaking in the town. We wish to acknowledge the support of DCCI for this event.



Geopark Connections

Joyce Country and Western Lakes proposed Geopark is an area of outstanding natural beauty, rich in geology, mountainous terrains, the Irish language, culture and heritage incorporating north Lough Corrib, Lough Mask and Lough Carra and extending to Killary Harbour. Headford Lace Project (HLP) supports this initiative and were present for the final UNESCO assessment of the region 12-14 July. As Headford is a gateway town to this region, HLP was invited with other craft workers and groups to contribute to an event held in Joyce Country Co-op, (Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach Teo), Corr na Mona. We showcased our heritage craft of bobbin lacemaking, explained how we revive the skills and reimagine Headford Lacemaking through projects that inspire. In a bid to strengthen ties between Geoparks, a visit was organised to Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark (MGS) by JCWL Geopark on 18/19 October. Headford Lace Project was part of this trip as we share links with South Armagh Lace Collective. This afforded an opportunity to learn from the experiences of other community groups and initiatives being undertaken in that area. A reciprocal trip was undertaken from MGS Geopark and Headford was the first stop. The group enjoyed a visit to Ross Errilly Friary. HLP had a display of lace from the 1800s from Cullaville, South Armagh held in our Lace Archive. A Cultural event of music, song and dance was held during lunch at The Angler's Rest. The Geopark is important for the development of the tourism potential of the Headford area.



Culture Night

Strengthening cultural links with South Armagh Lace Collective brought Rosie Finnegan Bell to Headford's Anglers Rest Hotel for Culture Night. In an illustrated talk 'Lace, Love & Forget me nots' Rosie shared the rich history of Carrickmacross Lace from the Cullaville area with many personal stories and memories. It was a privilege to view her display of treasured lace. Rosie invited the community members to bring examples of their family lace and audience members showed us some beautiful lace made here in Galway. This event was enabled by support from The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon in partnership with Galway County Council.



Flax Festival

The Flax Festival took place on October 8 hosted by Headford Community Garden and Headford Mens Shed. It was run alongside the local arts festival *Something in the Water*. The day featured two choirs, Sing On Choir and The Corrib Singers as well as musicians from the Men's Shed. The event was well attended and catering was provided by The Anglers Rest Hotel. Flax related poems were recited and The Go Wild Forest School joined us with a nature crafting table. Two spinners, Sandra Coote and Elizabeth O'Connor gave wonderful demonstrations and flax processing was ongoing all day as well as some bobbin lacemaking of course! The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This event was funded through Pobal (Headford Tidy Towns) and Galway County Community Support Scheme (Headford Community Garden).



Brazilian - Irish Lace Exhibition

Headford Lace Project committee members, Brazilian native Guillian Victor Harte and Ger Henry Hassett were honoured to be guests of the Ambassador of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Marcel Biato for the launch of the 'Brazilian - Irish Lace' exhibition. Held at The Mansion House, Dublin on November 23 it was jointly organised by The Brazilian Embassy in Dublin and the Government of the state of Sergipe. Dublin's Lord mayor Cllr. Daithí de Róiste hosted the event and gave the opening address. This was followed by Ambassador Biato's speech where he explained the cultural links between our two countries and the background to Irish Lace being made in Brazil. In attendance also were Mayor of Divina Pastora Maria Clara Rosemberg and Vice Governor of Sergipe, José Macedo Sobral. It is believed that lacemaking was introduced to Brazil in the mid-19th century by Irish Nuns. Irish lace - Renda Irlandesa was developed as a craft in the City of Divina Pastora, Sergipe in north eastern Brazil and is deeply rooted in the historical, social, and cultural traditions of that area. Irish Lace - Renda Irlandesa is classified in Brazil as a traditional craft as it is produced on a small scale reflecting the area and its people. Irish Lace - Renda Irlandesa was granted Intangible Cultural Heritage Status in Brazil in 2009 by the Institute of National History and Artistic Heritage. (IPHAN)

During the exhibition, opportunities were made available to forge links with the Brazilian Embassy and the lace makers. Guillian presented Mayor Rosenberg with a bobbin lace

'Headford Heart' on behalf of Headford lace Project. We discussed the global reach of Headford Lace Project's exhibition 'The Space Between' with Jacqueline Caldeira, representative of Sergipe Government in Brasilia and other aspects of our project. It is the Brazilian Government's intention to strengthen trade and cultural links between Ireland and Brazil.



Training Update

Workshops & Gatherings

We held four lacemaking weekends during this year - March 4 & 5th, June 10 & 11th, Sept 22 & 23rd, November 11 & 12th. Our tutor, Jackie Magnin held two 1-day bobbin lace beginner classes and four 1-day bobbin lace classes for improvers. Alongside these, visiting tutors provided a 1-day Kenmare Lace class (Fiona Harrington) early in the year and a Carrickmacross Lace (Rosie Finnegan Bell) in the autumn. Alongside these classes, we held gatherings, by inviting external lacemakers to join us and we provided additional work space in order to facilitate practice and exchange of ideas. Within this space, our librarian and archivist, Ger Henry Hassett provided a library and an exhibit of lace from our extensive archive. We evaluated all of our classes and welcomed feedback in order to find out what we can do better. Some comments from our evaluations were: 'Keep what you are doing well'; 'Really inspiring'; 'Supportive, welcoming, friendly and the lacemaking was good too'; 'Jackie is my favourite super hero'.



Visiting Tutors

We aim to promote all laces and so this year we hosted two distinguished lacemakers, Fiona Harrington and Rosie Finnegan Bell, who specialise in needle lace. We had full attendance at both classes and we received very positive feedback via our evaluations.



Kenmare Lace: On June 11, Fiona Harrington delivered a one-day class on Kenmare Lace. Fiona is a graduate from the Crawford College of Art in Cork and she completed her studies in textile design at NCAD. She is a recipient of the Eleanor de la Branchardiere award for her innovations in lace design.

Carrickmacross Lace: On September 22nd, Rosie Finnegan Bell from South Armagh Lace Collective delivered an inspirational talk for Culture night on the history of lacemaking in her area, coming from a family of five generations of lacemakers. She is proud of her heritage, from a long line of lacemakers in her family, who have lived and worked in the Culloville area of South Armagh for over 150 years. On September 23th, Rosie delivered a one-day class on Carrickmacross lace

US Craft Tours

US Craft Tours is an organisation we developed a relationship with since we began the project. This tour operator specialises in bringing craft makers on a tour of Ireland, while also providing them with some talks and workshops from local craft makers. Following the interruption to travel due to the Covid pandemic in recent years, 2023 saw this tour operator return with increased numbers of groups visiting Galway and we were asked to deliver our talk and demonstration on eight occasions. While this was a significant increase in demand for our volunteer committee, we were delighted to oblige as it allowed us to connect with fellow textile enthusiasts, share our story and increase our following on social media. The talks/demos are always very well received by the visitors and the fee we received significantly helped us to fund our UK research trip. This relationship also highlights a potential for craft tourism in Headford due to our unique lacemaking heritage.



Research Update

A research highlight this year was meeting the Cartwright family in Wales, who are descended from the St. George family of Headford Castle. They had learned about HLP through their own genealogical research and, finding the historical articles published on our website, reached out to us. See the Highlights section for more about the invitation they extended to us to view their exquisite collection of heirloom lace, whereby seven specimens connected with Headford were identified by Jackie Magnin.

Welcoming us into their home, the family also shared some beautiful family photos that trace their descent from Sophie Grace St. George (c.1840-1918), who had spent her early childhood at Headford Castle before being orphaned when her father, Stepney, died of Famine fever in 1847. Sophie's mother, Fanny, had died of puerperal fever after delivering twins in 1843. Both of Sophie's parents, as well as her brother, Richard, are buried at White Church in Headford.

The visit also allowed some historical details about the family to be clarified. For example, the exhibition about Richard St. George Mansergh St. George (1752-1798) curated by Matthew Skic at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia in 2019 had ascertained that the St. George family owned property near Bristol, where they hosted mediaeval-style pageants. The location of that property was unknown, but the family informed us that, although the house is no longer extant, the estate had been sited in the vicinity of Headford Avenue near the current St. George's park. They also shared a wonderful anecdote about the historic canoe made by the indigenous Maliseet Canadians that Stepney St. George purchased while on a military campaign and had transported home to Headford. Family lore tells that the St. George children once enjoyed paddling the canoe on a lake near the castle; presumably the same one recorded in an 1824 survey by Hely Dutton, who mentions that 'This demesne is ornamented by a small lake'. The canoe was subsequently donated to the University of Galway by the St. George's land agent, Edmund Lombard Hunt, and was repatriated to New Brunswick by the university in 2009 at the request of the Maliseet Nation.

It was also a huge pleasure to be in a position to connect the family with Matthew Skic, who is always so generous with his research and who in turn connected the Cartwrights with distant cousins that are descended from Sophie's sister, Fanny (1842-1918). The photo below, taken before 1863, shows Sophie reading a letter to her younger sister, Fanny, who is seated.

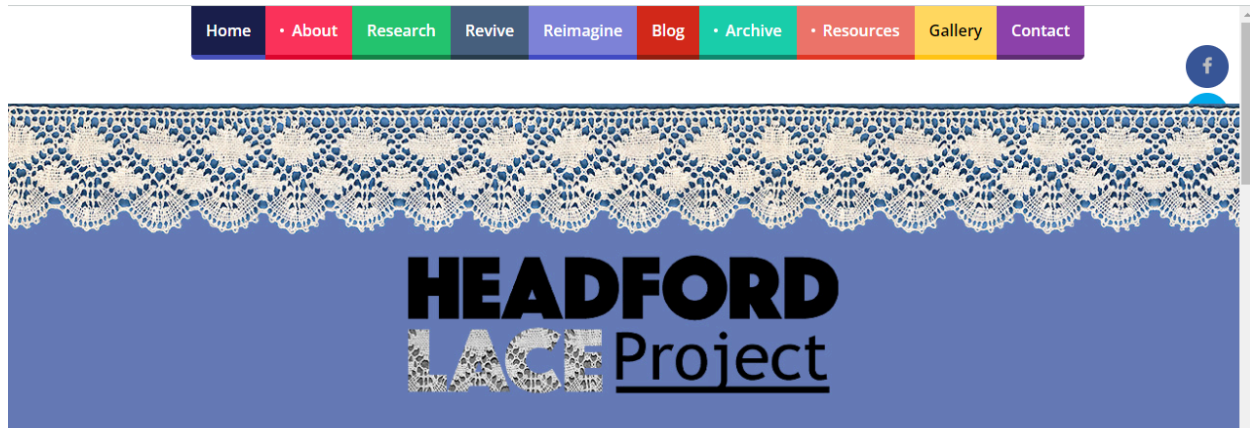
We are immensely grateful to the Cartwright family for sharing their family history with us, to Aengus McMahon for photographing the lace and family photos, to Matthew Skic for his ongoing support, and to DCCI for funding the research trip.



Pre-1863 photograph of Frances (Fanny) Jane Edith St. George (1842-1918), seated, and her sister, Sophie Grace St. George (1839-1918), standing.

Social Media and Website update

Our website (headfordlaceproject.ie) receives a monthly average of 3526 visits from 537 unique visitors. This year, the most popular pages with visitors are the photo gallery and our blog, as well as the contact page for initiating communication with us. The current version of the website was originally built in 2019 and a major update is forthcoming.



HEADFORD LACE PROJECT

Headford Lace Project is a voluntary community initiative established to research, revive, and reimagine the lacemaking heritage of Headford, County Galway, a town in the west of Ireland whose lace industry originated c.1766. We achieve our objectives through workshops, demonstrations, community collaborations, and events that inspire.

Is tionscnamh pobal dheonach í an Headford Lace Project a bhunaíodh chun taighde agus athbheocháin a chur chun cinn ar lásadóirachta eiteáin in Áth Cinn, Co. na Gaillimhe, baile in Iarthar Éireann ina bunaíodh tionscal lásadóirachta thart ar 1766. Cuirtear na cuspóirí sin chun cinn trí cheardlanna agus taispeántais a eagrú, comhoibriú pobal, agus imeachtaí eile spreagúil.

Facebook

Facebook continues to be our most popular social media platform with 2.6K followers. At present those followers are mainly based in Ireland, USA, UK, Australia, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Slovenia and Canada.

Instagram

Over on Instagram we have 1.2K followers and are regularly reaching over 300 accounts per month.

X

On Twitter - now X - we have over 1,100 followers. This account was run by our former committee member Ella Hasset and so has been less active of late - one to revitalise in 2024 perhaps!

HLP Archive, Lace Collection and Library Update

Our lace collection now comprises of 354 samples. This year saw the addition of a Carrickmacross cuff dated to the late 1800s and two pieces of very old tatting. All welcome additions from both an educational and historical perspective. A high point was the donation of replicas to the project by our tutor Jackie Magnin.(See below).These further enhance our knowledge on the type of bobbin lace that was made in Headford.

HLP items archive now numbers 43. The library comprises of 467 items, books, brochures, pamphlets etc. HLP was delighted to purchase 'Threads of Power, Lace from Textile Museum, St. Gallen' for our library.



Headford Lace Project: Five Year Strategy Working Document 2023-2027

Our Mission

Headford Lace Project works to Research, Revive and Reimagine the lacemaking heritage of our town. We achieve our objectives through workshops, demonstrations, community collaborations and events that inspire.

Our Vision

To foster pride in our local lace culture – to keep it in the heart in the town’s sense of itself.

To be a well-run voluntary organisation respected by our community, funding bodies and decision makers.

To advance our mission of researching, reviving and reimagining the lacemaking heritage of our town via a wide range of engagement opportunities within the heritage, lace making and arts communities locally, nationally and internationally.

Our Values

Inclusivity – We are open to including all who wish to join in our work and activities and we will proactively seek to include people from our local population who are not well represented in or engaged with us.

Respect – For each other, the craft, our foremothers, other lace makers and all feedback that we receive.

Collaboration – We will seek to maximise the implementation of this strategy by actively building relationships with individuals and organisations which assist us in any way.

Teamwork – All of the committee accept our shared responsibility towards achieving the strategy and we will work as a group with common cause to that end.

Kindness – We will treat ourselves and all with whom we come in contact with kindness.

Fun!

Our Key Themes 2023 - 2028

1. Headford – A Quality Visitor Experience

1.1 HLP will work to enhance the visitor experience in Headford relating to our lace heritage. This may include but will not be limited to:

self-guided tours, leaflets, brochures, signage and plaques, development of souvenirs, additional artworks (benches, murals, installations), working in tandem with local development agencies to ensure that lace becomes an integral part of the branding within the town. We will also promote the town online via virtual tours, films, StoryMap etc.

1.2 We will build on, and strengthen, existing relationships with regional development initiatives such as Corrib Beo and Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark Project.

2. Lace

- 2.1 HLP will continue to develop new Headford lacemakers and upskill existing makers.
- 2.2 We will actively encourage diversity among learners and will research and implement methods to achieve this. This diversity could include: gender, age, ethnicity, ability, economic circumstances and other.
- 2.3 We will expand our online learning options and seek feedback from users in order to enhance the learner experience.
- 2.4 We will provide training in a range of laces from Ireland and abroad.
- 2.5 We will organise an international festival of lacemaking.
- 2.6 We will provide innovative and playful opportunities to engage with Headford lacemaking locally with the aim of having every man, woman and child in Headford having a go!

3. Project

- 3.1 We will continue to actively explore and develop meaningful collaborations with artists and community groups in the Headford area and further afield (including internationally) to provide varied and exciting opportunities for the public to engage with the Headford Lace story.

Underpinning Principles:

Sustainability. In considering the energy of the group, the people in the group, our impact on the town and the world, the sustainability of the project should always be central.

Focus. While we strive to identify and acquire sufficient resources for all projects we will be strategy rather than funding led.

Objectives for 2024

- Re-lace Lace Matrix.
- Develop lace skills: Large scale plus another Irish lace
- A Meitheal for Molly
- Build relationships locally e.g. Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark, Corrib Beo and nationally e.g. Amazing Lace Symposium.
- Continue to promote Headford Lace Trail

Acknowledgements

Aengus McMahon
Amie Lawless
Cllr. Andrew Reddington
Anya Aseeva
Benjamin Thebaudeau, Joyce Country & Western Lakes Geopark
Breandán Ó Scanaill, Connemara Community Radio
Charlotte King
Cindy O'Connor
Colette Kelly
David Burke, Tuam Herald
David Cartwright
Denis Goggins, Corrib Beo.
Ed Coulson
Emma O'Grady
Fiona Harrington
Frank Heneghan and staff at Anglers Rest Hotel
Helena McElmeel
June Burke, Presentation College, Headford
Karen Murtagh, Connemara Community Radio.
Marcus Mac Conghail, Raidio na Gaeltachta
Margie McNamara
MEP Maria Walsh
Cllr. Mary Hoade
Mary L'Estrange
Mary Mc Hugh
Mary Ryan
Mary Whelan, DCCI
Matthew Skic
Melinda Coen Ryan, GRD
Michael Hegarty, Joyce Country & Western Lakes Geopark
Michelle Murphy, Architect
Pat Monaghan
Patria McWalter, Archivist Galway CoCo.
Rosie Finnegan Bell
Sarah Martin, Presentation College Headford
Sarah Trimble, Cultúr Éireann/Culture Ireland
Senan Turnbull
Sharon O'Grady, Galway County Arts Officer
Sheila Holland Fox, GRETB
Sophie Morrow
Steve Dolan
Teresa Eagleton

Headford Lace Project

Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Main address

St. Fursa's Hall
Church Road
Headford
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H91 YW5F

Committee members

Eilís Nic Dhonncha
Ester Kiely
Anne Quinn
Ger Henry Hassett
Giulliana Victor Harte
Norma Owens
Kathleen McMahon
Marina Postir

Chairperson
Treasurer
Education Officer
Librarian, Archivist
Social Media Coordinator
Research & Communications
Recording Secretary
Committee member

Tutor

Jackie Magnin

Bobbin Lace Tutor

Bankers

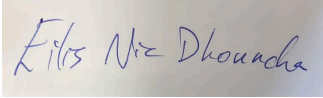
St. Jarlath's Credit Union, Unit 6, Church Road, Headford.

Governance and management

- The Headford Lace Project is a voluntary, not-for-profit, community-led organisation, managed by a committee that meets regularly and holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- The current committee was elected at the AGM on 4th March 2023. New committee nominations are accepted in advance of the next AGM on **XXX 2024** and roles are agreed at the first committee meeting following the AGM.
- Our Constitution was written in 2017 and changes agreed at our AGM.
- The Headford Lace project is registered with:
 - Revenue.ie
 - Galway County Public Participation Network
 - The Wheel
 - Design & Crafts Council of Ireland
 - Galway Rural Development

- Galway & Roscommon Education Training Board
- CAHG - Community Archives and Heritage Group.

Signed on behalf of the committee:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eilís Nic Dhonncha".

Eilís Nic Dhonncha,
Chairperson, Headford Lace Project

Date: 18/02/2024

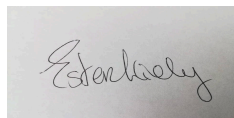
Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31st December, 2023

	€
Bank Balance & Cash on 1st January 2023	8812.66
 Income	
Grants	6297.45
Speaker Fees	2000.00
Class Fees	1770.00
Craft Sales	964.36
Other (return of €500 held for photo restoration and SJCUC dividends)	510.89
Materials fees	309.50
Contribution to refreshments	213.50
Sale of Catalogues	20.00
 Total income (incl opening balance)	 <u>20898.36</u>
 Expenditure	
Artist Fees	7353.10
Venue/Accommodation Hire	2998.12
Tutor Fees	2871.50
Travel	969.91
Refreshments	928.50
Class materials	381.19
Exhibition Fittings (polystyrene heads, fabric, stands)	378.17
Professional services	288.20
Printing	263.00
Membership fees (DCCI GANS, Zoom, GRD, Headford Online)	260.64
Equipment (storage boxes and trolley)	168.98
Donation (GBP100 to Lace Guild Museum UK)	117.03
Website maintenance	116.50
Post	44.50
Craft supplies (2 framed Carrickmacross to sell)	24.00
Office supplies	22.85
Other (SJCUC Dirt Tax)	3.59
 Total Expenditure	 <u>17189.78</u>
 Balance on 31st December 2023 (Income – Expenditure)	 <u>3708.58</u>
Bank & cash on 31st December 2023	
<i>With the following ring-fenced:</i>	<i>3000</i>
<i>Education Programme 2023</i>	<i>1500</i>
<i>Potential insurance independent of Solas</i>	<i>400</i>
<i>Possible relocation of bench</i>	<i>400</i>
 <i>Photo restoration</i>	 <i>700</i>

**Headford Lace Project
Statement of assets and liabilities
At 31st December 2023**

	€
Cash assets	
SJCU Main/Flexi accounts	3486.07
Paypal Balance	10.53
Treasurer cash	191.98
Shop Float	20.00
Total cash assets	<u>3708.58</u>
Other assets (estimated values)	
GRETB funding approved for 2024	1500.00
Lace Collection (354 items @ avg. value €6 ea)	2124.00
Library (467 items @ avg. value €5 ea)	2335.00
Display (43 items @ avg. value €12 ea)	516.00
Materials (bobbins, threads, pins, etc.)	200.00
HLP Shop Stock (craft items, photos, etc.)	80.00
Laptop (purchased 2019)	150.00
Visualiser (purchased 2018)	25.00
Projector (purchased 2019)	50.00
Amplification system (purchased 2022)	100.00
Total other assets	<u>7080.00</u>
Total assets	<u>10788.58</u>
Liabilities	
Outstanding invoices:	0.00
Outstanding projects/ring-fenced budget	3000.00
Total liabilities	<u>3000.00</u>
Net Worth (assets - liabilities)	<u>7788.58</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the organisation and signed by:



Ester Kiely
Treasurer, Headford Lace Project

Date: 18/02/2024

Headford Lace Project Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

1. Income & Expenditure accounts

Income and Expenditure accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the organisation during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

Headford Lace Project is a not-for-profit, voluntary, community initiative and all funds are used for project activities managed by the committee.

2. Grants & Awards

Funding Body Down 2023	Drawn
1. Galway Co. Council Community Support Scheme (Arts Office): Headford Lace Audio Trail	2200.00
2. GRETB (community education programme)	2000.00
3. DCCI Network Support: UK Research Trip	1200.00
4. DCCI Craft Month: Interconnecting Threads Exhibition	500.00
5. Galway Co. Council Culture Night : Rosie Finnegan Bell Talk ‘Lace, Love and Forget-me-nots’	397.45
 Total grants and awards received	 <u>6297.45</u>

3. Committee members’ remuneration

- No committee member is remunerated for their time on the project. However, when a committee member uses their personal credit card, bank transfer or cash to pay for expenditure approved by the committee, they will be reimbursed.

Where Headford Lace Project receives a fee to attend, speak or demonstrate at an event, the representative/s attending on behalf of the group may be reimbursed for expenses incurred (eg.travel, food, accommodation) with approval of the committee.

Appendix A - New Headford Lace Patterns

Jackie Magnin

Bone lace, nowadays known as bobbin lace, is the oldest form of lace that we know. Where and when it first developed is lost in the mists of time, but the craft has spread over the world and the basic principles are very recognisable.

In different parts of the world, a great variety of styles have grown, but the manner of working is the same. Threads are wound on bobbins. A pattern in the form of lines and dots is placed on some form of pillow. The bobbins are usually worked in pairs. The threaded bobbins are crossed and twisted. Pins are placed to keep the threads in place.

Making lace is time consuming and, for centuries, was fashionable for showing off one's wealth. Lacemakers themselves were paid very little for their skilled work. Dealers would be the ones to make the money. That being said, if it wasn't for those scarce pennies, there wouldn't have been any income at all.

A lot has been (and still is) written about lace, but I'll zoom in on our very own Headford Lace.

Bobbin lace (or bone lace as it used to be known) was introduced in Headford in the 18th Century. Although after the famine times, from around 1850, lacemaking declined, lace was still made until the early 1900s. It was introduced by Mrs St George and promoted by the ladies of Headford Castle.

The type of lace being made is known as Torchon lace, not perhaps the most elaborate, but very popular for domestic use. A lot of it was made in long strips and was used for household items: decorating towels, sheets, pillows, tablecloths etc. but also for petticoats and bodices and even Christening gowns.

Only one single piece of Headford lace came to light in 2016. But in its heyday it was well known and appreciated. Mention of it turned up in exhibitions and we know that Queen Victoria ordered an amount in support of the struggle against poverty. But no descriptions or pictures of lace or patterns have surfaced since that one precious sample.

But if lace was made for at least 150 years, it is completely unbelievable that no more than this one pattern was ever used. The same style, yes but exactly the same lace, no.

Then on 10th January 2019 a group of us visited Collins Barracks Museum in Dublin where we were shown a beautiful and extensive collection of lace. The last item we were shown was a sheet with seven pieces of lace, donated in 1889, and made in Cong, Co. Mayo, only just up the road from Headford! It is Torchon lace using some more stitches than were used in our Headford piece, but well within the capabilities of any bobbin lacemaker.

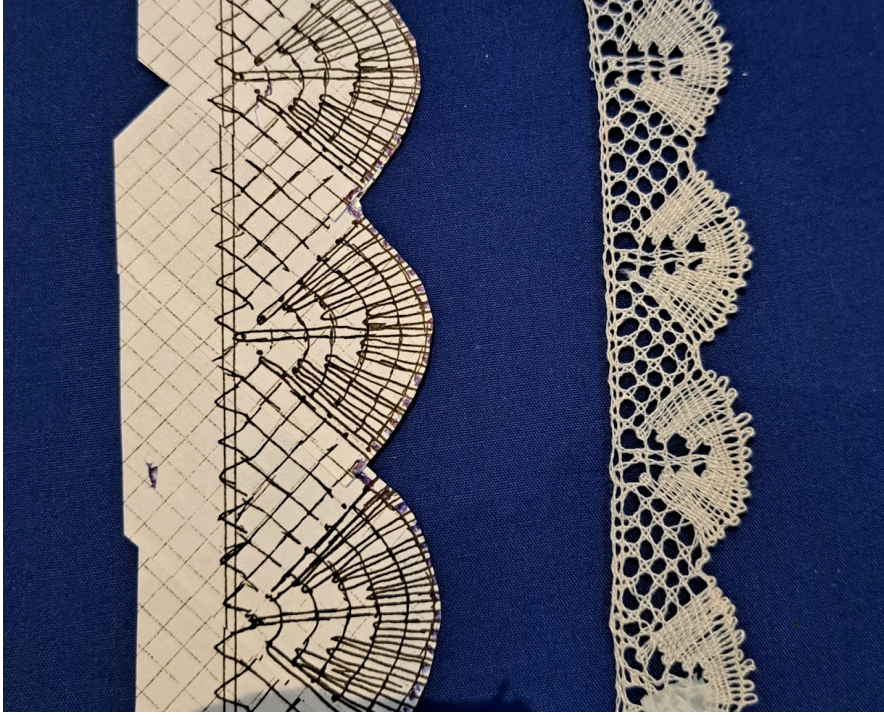
In 2023, we were contacted by another descendent of the St George family who lives in Wales. They too have a huge collection of lace, clothing with lace, strips of unused lace etc. They sent us a great number of pictures and it looked very exciting. We were invited to visit and did so in

July 2023. We spent the best part of a full day admiring their collection. Although there were more samples of bobbin lace, I cannot be sure of some and I left aside anything that is not Torchon lace. However, there are five pieces, some sewn into bodices or Christening gowns, some still just the strips. These show exactly the same stitches that we see in our own piece and I don't have any doubt whatsoever that this lace was made in Headford.

To conclude, in 2023 we went from having just one pattern for Headford Lace to having SIX different patterns to research, revive and reimagine!



Headford Lace Pattern No. 1. Headford Castle.



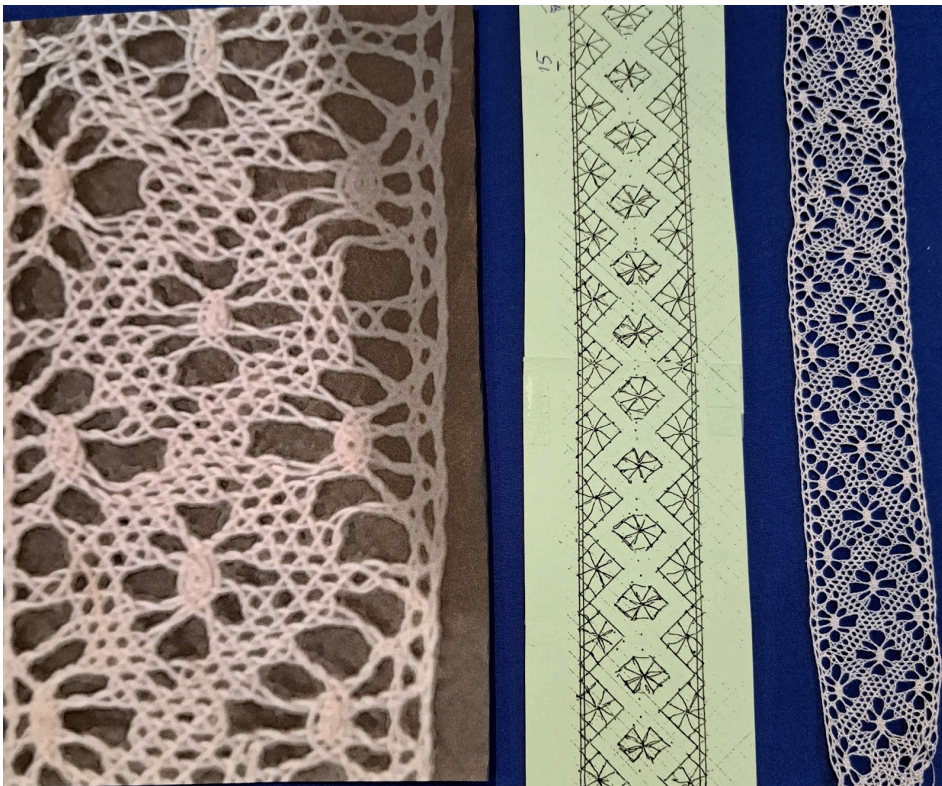
Headford Lace Pattern
No. 3. Cartwright
Collection.



Headford Lace Pattern
No 4. Cartwright
Collection.



Headford Lace Pattern
No. 5. Cartwright
collection.



Headford Lace Pattern
No 6. Cartwright
Collection.

Same pattern as No. 7
adapted for
within-garment use
(two straight edges).



Headford Lace
Pattern No. 7.
Cartwright Collection.

Same pattern as No. 6 adapted for edging use (1 straight edge and 1 with fans).

Original piece (left) is part of a St George Family Christening robe.

Appendix B - Events, Visits and Training by month

January

11: Committee meeting

12: The shortened version of Ed Coulson's radio documentary "Toss the Bobbin, the story of Headford Lace" is aired on our national broadcasting station RTE1



23 DCCI/GANS Showcase, RDS, Dublin. DCCI lunch. AO'HQ

25: Smart Villages meeting. Attended by END, GHH & KMCM.

February

10: Kathleen, Giulliana on Galway Bay FM.

16 Committee meeting

19: Strategy Day following on from a workshop with Senan Turnbull. Attended by all committee.



March

Our first weekend of classes, March 4-5. Beginners Bobbin Lace and Improvers Bobbin Lace. Well attended and our newly purchased spinning wheel was adjusted by Liz O'Connor

5: 2022 Annual General Meeting including launch of 5 year strategy.

16: Committee meeting

27: US Craft Tour talk and demo

April

4: US Craft Tour talk and demo

20: Committee meeting

May

7: US Craft Tour talk and demo

8: US Craft Tour talk and demo

11. US Craft Tour talk and demo

10: Participated in DCCI Textile Roundtable Discussion in Kilkenny.

16 DCCI/GANS meeting.Kilkenny. Tour of Jewellery Training Centre, Session House, Thomastown

18 Committee meeting

24: Ballinrobe Writers' Group meeting about Bonnet Project GHH

27: Corrib Beo Event attended by GHH

28: US Craft Tour talk and demo

28: Meet Ed Coulson in Anglers Rest.

31: Smart Villages Meeting. Attended by END, GHH, KMCM.

June

- 6: US Craft Tour Talk and demo
- 9: Tuam Babies Conference in Menlo Hotel Galway. GHH, AO'HQ
- 10-11: HLP weekend. Improvers Bobbin Lace and Kenmare Lace with Fiona Harrington. Yoga.
- 12: US Craft Tour Talk and demo
- 15: Committee meeting
- 21 DCCI AGM, Trinity College Dublin
- 25: International Lace Day. Several members took part.

July

- 1: Aras an Uachtarán
- 5-6 Visit to conservator Susan Newman to start work on photo of lacemaker Honor Malie GHH, NO
- 13 Events Headford Lace Project was delighted to support the Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark Project application during the final assessment at the Community showcase in Comharchumann Dúiche Seoighe. The assessors showed great interest in our local, national and international projects and, in particular, Headford lacemaking achieving Intangible Cultural Heritage status in 2021.
- 18: Meeting with Denise Mahon Abù GHH &
- 18 Meeting with Ed Coulson
- 19: Commendation for Headford Lace Project at Community Archives and Heritage Group Awards in London.
- 26-29: Research trip to Presteigne, Wales to meet descendants of the St George family. We were invited to view their extensive collection of lace and clothing. And new patterns of Headford Lace were discovered.

August

- 12 Corrib Beo, Galway City Museum, exhibition Corrib Shores: *'These are our People'*. GHH
- 13 Meeting - Prep for Heritage week event GHH. GVH, KMM & EK
- 19: Exhibition for Craft Month - Interconnecting Threads

September

- 7: Committee meeting
- 22: Culture Night with Rosie Finnegan Bell.
Launch of Headford Lace Trail.
- 23-24 Carrickmacross Lacemaking & Improvers Bobbin Lacemaking.
- 26: Dyehouse Films recorded GNB for inclusion in This is Art! On RTÉ Junior in Spring 2024.

October

- 2: Demonstration to Presentation College Headford students for their Architecture on the Edge Project as part of the *Something in the Water* Arts Festival.



- 8: Flax Festival
- 12: Committee meeting
- 17/18: Trip to MGS Geopark by JCWL Geopark
- 21 Corrib Beo Trip

November

- 9: Eilís radio interview with Connemara Community Radio.
- 11-12: HLP Weekend. Beginners and improvers Bobbin Lacemaking. Launch of leaflet for Headford Lace Trail.
- 13/20 Geopark Ambassador training for the Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geopark designation. Field trip to follow in the spring. GHH & KMM
- 16: Committee meeting
- 17: Irish Design Week Exhibition 'Illuminations' by Holger Strom, National Gallery Kilkenny. AO'HQ
- 21: Corrib Beo Trip/Meeting GHH



Anne O'Hara Quinn (HLP) and Mary Whelan (DCCI) at 'Illuminations' Exhibition

21: Reciprocal visit by MGS Geopark to Headford.

23: Brazilian Irish Lace Event at The Mansion House. GHH & GVH

December

2: Ox Mountain Heritage Group visited to learn about flax glowing, processing and lace making.
KMCM & END

13. DCCI Webinar for GANS. 'Sharing DCCI future supportive plans'. AO'HQ

30: Christmas lunch!

Appendix C - Articles

March

die Spritze Lace Magazine article - Headford Lace Project

July

12 Tuam Herald HLP at Áras an Uachtaráin Garden Party

16 Tuam Herald Interconnecting Threads Exhibition for Craft Month 2023

19 Tuam Herald Bid for Geopark status event

20 Tuam Herald Headford lace Soundwalk Trail and Culture Night event.

October

23 Tuam Herald Interconnecting Threads Acknowledgement and photos for Craft Month

September

26 Tuam Herald HLP highly commended by Community, Archives and Heritage Group

August

November

8 Tuam Herald Innovative Audio Headford Lace Trail Launches this Weekend.

22 Tuam Herald Lace Walk on Awards Shortlist

29 Tuam Herald Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark Visit to Headford.

December