

## Secretary's Report

September 2024.- June 2025

The Society's year began with our Annual General Meeting in September, Dr Shannon, President presided over the meeting as the Chair, Margot Groves was on holiday. After the business was concluded the Treasurer, George James, showed some photos of old buildings in Rathfriland and how they look today if still around.

October meeting unfortunately was cancelled due to the speaker being unwell and a replacement was unable to be found in time.

In November Uel Wright gave a very in depth talk about the Bronte Family.

January brought inclement weather but as our annual meal this year was organised for a local restaurant we did not have too far to travel. The meal was excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

In February, our speaker was Margaret McKee who had worked in the Houses of Parliament. She was a humours, delightful speaker and had many anecdotes to impart.

March's speaker was Eoin Halpin. His more serious but equally enthralling topic covered the geology and archaeology of the Mournes.

April's speaker was Mary Savage from Hilltown. She had been with us on a previous occasion and we were delighted she was able to come again. She brought with her many of the albums, newspaper cuttings and photographs of local people that she has collected over the years plus some more memobralia about Dr McPolin, our first Chairman of the Society, These books etc all proved to be of interest to members and it was great that they have been preserved for the future. Mary hopes she will be able to get some of Dr McPolin's writings turned into book form and published.

Our annual outing in May to the Linen Green, Ranfurley House followed by a fabulous meal and tour at Killymoon Castle was a highlight of the year.

My thanks to Husband, George for keeping our finances in good order and to Margot and all other members of the team for their help and support during this past year which was a difficult one for me. Lastly to the caretaker Marie for all her work.

Signed *M. Croves*

:Date: 30/9/2025.