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Welcome

Dear Friends of HSC,

Spring is here and we have started back with our programme of events for all ages and interests. We have Art Classes, Talks on a range of subjects- History, Science and the Environment. A series of Morning Teas to launch each of our Garden Themes. Starting this week with Spring Flowers. For Summer we have Afternoon Tea at Church Hill House and the Architectural History of Killyleagh. As part of the village VE Day Celebration we are hosting some war time documentary films.

As always we need more volunteers to help staff the Centre and you can also apply to become a Trustee or take on a specific project for a short time. Something that is of interest to you that you can offer our community. We are always open to help and suggestions so that we can provide the broadest programme and provision for the people of Killyleagh and Shrigley, and far beyond.

For further information or to book any event:

- 1/ DM: Facebook or Instagram.
- 2/ Email: info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk
- 3/ Ring: 07896254153.
- 4/ Call in to the Centre.

If you would like to be on our mailing list then please email info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk.

Hans Sloane's 365th Birthday Celebration

To celebrate Hans Sloane's 365th birthday, the Centre will be offering FREE tea / coffee and chocolate treats from 10am to 2pm on Wednesday 16th April 2025.

There will also be FREE Curator Tours starting at 10.30am and noon.



Please do call in and help us celebrate 365 years since Hans Sloane's birth in Killyleagh!

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 10am-12pm & 2-4pm.

Wednesday 10am-4pm

Saturday

10am-12pm & (often) 2-4pm

The centre may be open outside these hours or on request.

Please tel 07896254153.

Opening hours are due to volunteer availability. We welcome more volunteers to join our staff rota.

April Events

Language Classes

The emphasis will be more on speaking the language rather than writing or grammar. **No previous knowledge of the language is required.**

French Classes continue on **Wednesdays** from 2.30 to 3.30pm (2, 16, 23 April).

Italian Classes continue on **Mondays** from 2.30 to 3.30pm (14, 28 April)

Cost? £7.50/class

How? Please DM on Facebook, email info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk or call into the Centre.



Book Club: Thursday 10th April

Our Thursday Night Book Club continues on **10th April from 7.30 to 8.30pm**. Our first book, "Foster" by Claire Keegan scored an average of 6.9 / 10 by our members.

Our book for April is "**Plainsong**" by **Kent Haruf**.



Shloer and wine will be available for a small donation.

ESL Conversation Class: 4,11 April



Informal lessons focusing on increasing vocabulary and improving conversational abilities.

When? Friday 4th & 11th April (12-1pm)

Cost? FREE

We look forward to meeting as many new people as possible – you will be most welcome. Please spread the word among any new residents.

Easter Egg Schools Competition

Given the connections between Sir Hans Sloane, chocolate and Killyleagh village, we have invited the children in Killyleagh Integrated and St Mary's Primary Schools to participate in our first "Design an Easter Egg Competition."



Each school will receive 5 Easter Eggs: 1st & 2nd in Key Stage 1 & 2 (decided by us!) plus 1 prize for "Best Effort" (decided by the teachers. All entries will be collected from the Schools on 9th April.

Cecelia has provided a template to the Schools and we look forward to judging the entries!

Patio Garden Opens for Spring

Our potted Botanic Garden opens **April 3rd** With our Spring Flowers display. There will be **Tea and Scones served from 10:30-12:00 (£2.50/person)**

This will be part of a series of botanic themed tea mornings. Next up for Summer will floral teas and our new exhibition 'A Garden in Provence' which features Mediterranean plants and cultivars of 18th and 19th century French heritage roses, as well as highly fragrant Damask and Gallica roses used in perfume making. Roses should be in bloom and at their best between late spring and early autumn.



Coming soon!

An Indian Forest: Tranquility Garden, an exhibition of rare Asian trees in our Botanic Garden. Expect Champak, Royal Poinciana, Banyan, Banana and Bodhi trees.

Please call down any time to see our lovely oasis in the middle of Killyleagh. Bring a book (or buy one of our second-hand ones!) and have a cup of tea or coffee while you relax.

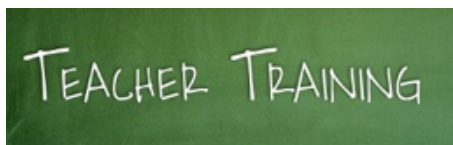
Easter Holiday Story Time and Science and Craft Workshops

We are delighted to announce that we are supporting a final year teacher in training from Stranmillis University College.

Hollie will be with us for storytelling sessions and science and

craft workshops in the week beginning Easter Tuesday. This will mean that children of primary school age can benefit from more enrichment activities here!

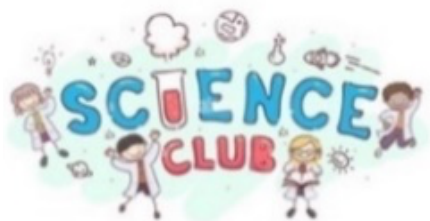
Activities will take place on Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th April. Please follow us on Facebook or keep checking our window for further information nearer the time.



Saturday Science Club: 12th April

Saturday Science Club for Key Stage 2 & 3 children (approx age 7 -14) will be on **12th April from 2-3.30 pm.**

Children will learn about Windmills – past and present. Learning about the power of wind and Renewable Energy, here in Co Down. We will make paper windmills.



Upcoming Events

Dogs & Cats Watercolour Painting Workshop: May/June

Taking you from total beginner or your own level of painting and drawing to produce a pleasing artwork of a dog or cat in your style! Dates and Prices for a 6 week course advertised soon.

Free Curator Tours: 16 & 23 April

As part of our 365 Programme of events, we are offering free guided curator tours at **10.30 am and noon** on Wednesday 16th April (Hans Sloane's 365th birthday) in addition to our scheduled tour on 23rd April. Depending on the weather and interest, these will take place in the Centre but can also include a village walk.

CURATOR TOURS

When? 11am -noon.

23 April; 7 May; 11 & 16 June;

7, 16, 21 & 30 July; 4 & 11 August.

Cost? **FREE** April & May.

£7.50 June, July & August (children **FREE**)



BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Call in to the Centre or Eventbrite:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393)

[37150444393](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393) (Google "Eventbrite Sir Hans Sloane")

Our Centre interprets the history of Killyleagh and Shrigley, its monuments, flora and fauna and houses a collection of fascinating items relating to 18th century life. Visitors can see a recreation of Sir Hans Sloane's study, herbal medicine chest and cabinet of curiosities.

A gallery of rare botanical prints highlights the work of female botanists with a connection to Sir Hans Sloane or County Down.

Our delightful botanic garden adds to the talk and explains the link with Chelsea Physic Garden

ChatGPT Workshop: 6th May

If you would like to learn about ChatGPT then why not enrol on our mini crash course? No prior knowledge needed – Complete Beginners

Cost? £10

When? 7pm on Tuesday 6th May 2015

How? Email admin@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk or Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393



CURIOUS ABOUT CHATGPT?
Get started with using ChatGPT with this mini-crash course!

- Set up an account
- Learn how to use ChatGPT for professional and personal tasks
- 6th of May, 7 PM
- Cost: £10 per person, proceeds go to the Sir Hans Sloane Centre community activities

BOOK NOW
admin@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk

All participants should bring a laptop or ipad to use during this interactive course.

Killyleagh Water Treatment Plant

NI Water have offered a tour of their Water Treatment plant Killyleagh.

This is part of our Royal Society of Chemistry project and Nature Week.

Date to be confirmed.

Expressions of Interest welcome.



Tea at Church Hill House: 12th May

Enjoy Morning Coffee, Tea and Scones at this Historic House for £15, or Afternoon Tea with a tour of the house and gardens for £20.

Our first event is on Monday 12th May.

Morning Coffee from 10 to 11.30am.

Afternoon Tea from 2 to 4pm (includes tour).



BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

1/ DM on Facebook

2/ Email: info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk

3/ Ring: 07896254153.

4/ Call in to the Centre.

All funds go to the Sloane 365 Programme of Events for the community.

Little Hans Club

Little Hans will introduce science awareness activities for parents /guardians and 9 months to pre-school age children.

Little Hans is a small playgroup which will encourage young children to learn through child-led play in the outdoor environment – our patio area.

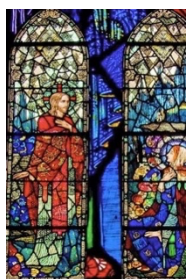


Following in the footsteps of the young Hans Sloane, the children's explorative play will have a strong input of the natural world around us. We will start with four **FREE** sessions - thanks to a generous donation from the Killyleagh Masonic Lodge no 30. Dates will be confirmed soon.

Historical Talk by Clive Scouler

Harry Clarke, the Irishman whose stained glass windows will blow your mind!

Until the start of the 20th century stained glass windows in Ireland were made and designed by continentals. However when Harry Clarke arrived with his magnificent designs, life changed and Harry's windows showed what should really be displayed - the real people on his colourful and beautiful windows - he proved to be the greatest stained glass designer of all time - and he was Irish.



Where? Sir Hans Sloane Centre, Killyleagh.

When? Wednesday 4th June from 7 – 8pm

Cost? £5

How? Email: info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk,
Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk /o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393) (Google "Eventbrite Sir Hans Sloane") or DM on Facebook.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

SEAG Club

Is your child moving into P7 in September?
Do they have lots of past papers and revision to do? Would they like some assistance?
Similar to last year, Donna will be running a SEAG Club throughout the Summer.
These sessions are FREE -
parents are welcome to have a cup of tea / coffee and wait in our outdoor patio area.

Northern Ireland transfer test
Northern Ireland transfer test
Northern Ireland transfer test
Northern Ireland transfer test
Northern Ireland transfer test

We have already had people asking if we are running a SEAG Revision Club again this year and so we are planning to start the sessions in June.
If you would like to be added to a SEAG WhatsApp group please contact the Centre and leave your name and phone number.

To register your interest: call in to the Centre, email info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk or DM on Facebook.

Wine Tasting: 20th June

Why not join us for an evening of fine wines and canapés at 7pm on 20th June 2025?

The evening will be hosted by Alex Johnson DipWSET, who has promised some unusual wines "from the left field" (or left vine I guess?).



BOOKING ESSENTIAL 1/ Email info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk, 2/ Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk /o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393) (Google "Eventbrite Sir Hans Sloane"), 3/ Call into the Centre.

Wine Tasting Evenings are always very popular so please book early to secure your place!

Hans Sloane Talks: July

Elizabeth will be running two bookable talks in July:

Talk 1 - ***Hans Sloane: A Modern-Day Scientist*** on
Wednesday 2nd July
from 3 – 4pm.



Talk 2 - ***Hans Sloane's Link to the British and Natural History Museums in London – our Collection*** on Wednesday
9th July from 3 – 4pm.



Cost? £5

How? Email: info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk,
Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk /o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393) (Google "Eventbrite Sir Hans Sloane") or DM on Facebook.

Ongoing Events

Botanic Patio Garden

Our patio area is now open, so please feel free to use it - just walk through the Centre to access!

We are often asked by visitors if we offer tea/coffee and so, your wish is our command!!

If you fancy a cup of tea or coffee, you are most

welcome to make it yourself - using our hot water jugs, tea, coffee etc on the tray!



We suggest a donation of £2 - £5, which can be left in our Donation Box at reception.

Internet Café

Due to funding from FIBRUS, we are delighted to offer FREE internet access.

Call down any time we are open and you can even make yourself a coffee while you work!

We can also offer use of laptops when trained staff are available to assist you get set up.

Computer or laptop problems! You need some homework, coursework or work preparation completed then please DM us on Facebook to arrange a time or call in to the Centre and we will do our best to accommodate you.



Neil Shawcross Raffle

We are very fortunate to have a painting donated by Neil Shawcross MBE RHA RUA to help us raise funds. Neil's work has exhibited worldwide and sells in the order of £900 - £9000! His work is highly collectable and so this is a rare opportunity to acquire one of his drawings.



The Centre is running a year-long raffle for his painting:

Malbec.

Our grateful thanks to Neil for supporting the Centre with this generous gift. A raffle will be held at our final event in December – what a super Xmas present for any Malbec lover! (Size = 33 cm x 46 cm)

1 ticket = £2.50 or 5 tickets = £10

To purchase a ticket:

- 1/ Call into the Centre anytime we are open, or
- 2/ Attend any of our events throughout the year.

Workshops to support the Curriculum or for Science Awards.

We offer Science Workshops to Schools and Youth Groups, Scouts, GB, BB etc – if interested email info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk, ring 07896254153 or DM us on Facebook.

Workshop Examples

- 1/ Science of Butterflies
- 2/ DNA Extraction from Fruit
- 3/ Science of Bubbles
- 4/ Cells
- 5/ Solar System
- 5/ Hans Sloane: the Scientist and Chocolate Connection.



All Science Workshops are devised and delivered by a research scientist, Dr Elizabeth Crilly, and a research engineer, Dr Donna Hall.

Hans Sloane Centre Talks

Group Talks cost £100 and can be arranged at your convenience and include:

- 1/ Scientists of Ireland - from Hans Sloane to present day.
- 2/ Hans Sloane: A Modern Day Scientist?
- 3/ Hans Sloane: An Early Nutritionist?
- 4/ Hans Sloane's link to The British and Natural History Museums in London – Our Collection.
- 5/ London's Chelsea Physic Garden and A Botanic Garden in Killyleagh.

Tea/ coffee can also be provided if required.

For further information or to book: call in to the Centre, email info@sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk or DM on Facebook.

Curator Tours:

As part of our 365 Programme of events, we are offering Curator Tours from April to September. These can be booked using Eventbrite or by contacting the Centre.

CURATOR TOURS

When? 11am -noon.

23 April; 7 May; 11 & 16 June;

7, 16, 21 & 30 July; 4 & 11 August.

Cost? FREE April & May.

£7.50 June, July & August (children FREE)



BOOKING ESSENTIAL

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www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/sir-hans-sloane-centre-37150444393 (Google "Eventbrite Sir Hans Sloane")

Object of the Month

Title page of a German re-edition of Elizabeth Blackwell's **A Curious Herbal** (1737-1739) in Latin and German c 1750.

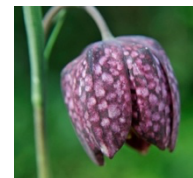


Blackwell was truly a pioneer in every way, as Herbals were very rare at the time. She recognized the need for a definitive herbal and with the encouragement of Sir Hans Sloane, began working close to the Chelsea Physic Garden, with its abundant gardens full of beautiful flowers and herbs.

Unusual for the time, she also engraved and hand-coloured her own prints single handedly instead of using the three separate craftsmen - a botanical illustrator, an engraver and a painter. You can see examples of Blackwell's botanical art in our gallery.

Plant of the Month

Snake's Head Fritillary (*fritillaria meleagris*). The exotic looking flowers of this member of the lily family bloom in our botanic garden in April.



Gift Shop

Our gift shop includes a variety of cards, t-shirts, prints of Killyleagh Castle, cushions, jewellery, soaps, glassware, wooden clocks & tea light holders, paintings and prints.

Call in anytime to browse our complete range. All profits from our gift shop go directly to our charity work.



Pre-Loved Book Sale



We still have a variety of paperback and hardback books for sale from 50p to £3.

March Events Gallery

An Evening with Caleb Hardy (Mason)

Caleb returned to the Hans Sloane Centre with



Odhran on guitar and what a return it was!! He sang covers from artists including The Fontaines D.C., Pearl Jam, Oasis, and Jeff Buckley, and also introduced some of his own unreleased songs.



Saturday Science Club

The children painted "stone elements" and made an electrical circuit and a St John's Point light House with flashing LED!



Periodic Table Talk

We were delighted to welcome our two local primary schools, Killyleagh Integrated PS and St Mary's PS to the Centre for a final "Periodic Table Workshop".



Mrs Janice Adgey led the session and her presentation was amazing! The children were tasked to sort their own coloured shapes as



Mendelev did with the initial elements - this brought the theory to life! The children then learnt about



elections and their position in shells around the nucleus - not bad for P7 pupils!

The workshop ended when the children placed their painted "stone elements" on to our Periodic Table mat - these will shortly be displayed in our garden.

We would like to thank Janice for all of the work she put in to preparing and presenting such a difficult topic and the children (and staff) for painting such lovely stones.

All of our Periodic Table workshops have been possible thanks to a grant from the Royal Society of Chemistry and we are most grateful for this funding.

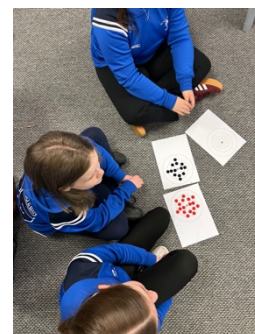
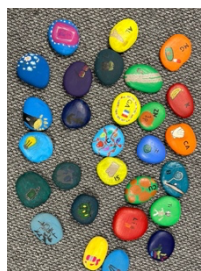
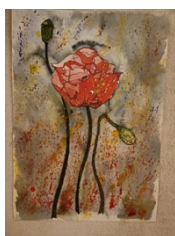
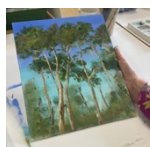


Illustration Station

Down Arts Centre's Artist in Residence, Kieron Black led 2 art sessions. His patience, guidance & encouragement was appreciated by all who attended.



Volunteering at HSC

Can you spare a few hours/week to be in the Centre to allow visitors to see our displays and view our gift shop?



Book Club

Fifteen attended our inaugural Thursday Night Book Club and, thanks to Margaret's relaxed approach, it was not only most informative but extremely enjoyable as well!



Foster averaged 6.9 / 10 with individual scores ranging from 1 to 9 so we definitely have a good mix of people and opinions!

Room Hire

1/ Meeting Room

Cost? £25 for first hr and £20/hr after.

Accommodates? 12

Includes? wifi, kitchen & toilet facilities, heating, projector, chairs, desks, staff in attendance.



2/ Office

Cost? For 1 day/week = £45/month

Accommodates? 2

Includes? wifi, kitchen & toilet facilities, chairs & desks, secure lock.



3/ Training / Workshop Room

Cost? £25 for first hour and £20/hr after that.

Accommodates? 20 with desks or 30 seated.

Suitable for? Art/Craft classes, seminars, talks etc

Includes? wifi, kitchen & toilet facilities, heating, projector, chairs, desks, staff in attendance.



Facebook & Instagram

All activities are advertised on our facebook and Instagram pages:

www.facebook.com/sirhanssloanecentre

www.instagram.com/sloanecentre/?hl=en

Websites

(1) Discover Northern Ireland

This is the official NI tourism website.

(2) Trip Advisor

Why not give us a review if you've been to the Centre or attended any events?

(3) Sir Hans Sloane Centre

Our website is currently being updated and improved but ALL activities are now advertised under the "News" section.

<https://sirhanssloanecentre.co.uk/>

CEO & Founder

Dr Elizabeth Crilly MSc. PGCE, MInstP.

Trustees

Lorraine Lawson, Richard Cushnie, Martin Craigs
& Thomas Anton Ierubino

Company Number: NI666507
Charity Number: NIC107724