

HEADFORD LACE Project

Annual Report
2016/17

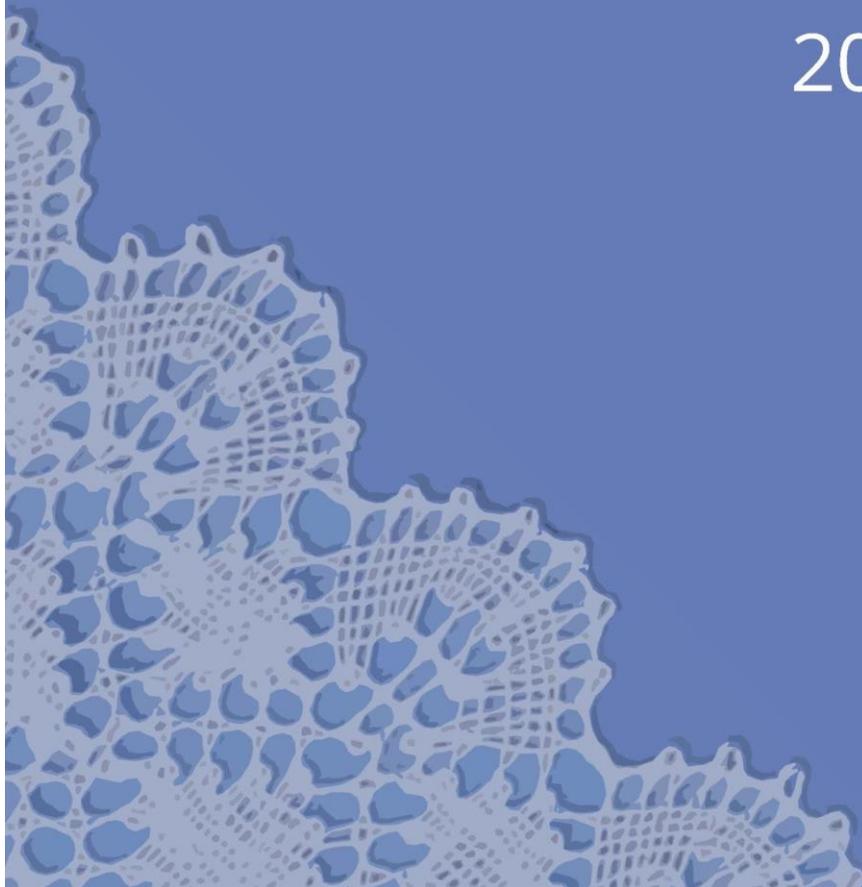


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Chairperson's Introduction

Welcome to the Headford Lace Project's first annual report. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by our voluntary committee members since the beginning of the project in September 2016. Without their creativity, enthusiasm and commitment, we would not have achieved all that we did in the past fifteen months.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • <i>Eilís Nic Dhonncha</i> | Vice Chair and Acting Secretary |
| • <i>Anne O'Hara Quinn</i> | Education Officer |
| • <i>Giulliana Victor Harte</i> | Social Media Officer |
| • <i>Ger Henry Hassett</i> | Librarian/Archivist |
| • <i>Selma Makela</i> | Research Officer |
| • <i>Ella Hassett</i> | Research Officer/Graphic Designer |
| • <i>Rusty Weise</i> | Committee Member |

We are also hugely indebted to our tutor, Jackie Magnin, who travels from Cork to share her skills with a new generation of Headford Lacemakers. We would also like to acknowledge the support of both the Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland and the Guild of Irish Lacemakers.

The Headford Lace Project has also been very kindly supported by the Headford community, with attendance at our talks, workshops and events, donations of lace, assistance with research and financial support through the purchase of our lace-inspired craft items.

We would especially like to thank the following funders (see financial statements from p.15)

- Galway Roscommon Education Training Board (GRETB) Community Education Fund
- Tidy Town's Heritage Award
- Galway County Council Facilities Scheme
- Galway County Council Community Support Scheme
- St. Jarlath's Credit Union Community Fund
- Ballycurrin Artists & Friends
- Galway County Council Culture Night

We hope to build on our success in 2018, with even more ambitious plans. We look forward to the continued support of our committee, followers, funders and workshop attendees.

Ester Kiely, Chairperson



Reflection on a Year of Headford Lace Project

The Headford Lace Project began in September 2016 with the aim of researching and reviving Headford's lacemaking heritage. Since then, we have translated these aims into a series of activities with a focus on community engagement.

Our five Headford Lace Weekends have trained keen apprentices in the skills of bobbin lacemaking and bobbin making. We have also participated in a number of external events, including Heritage Week, Culture Night, Headfest, Galway Fringe Festival and International Lace Day. Members of our committee have undertaken a multitude of training initiatives to expand our collective knowledge and skills and we have grown our network of lace contacts internationally through our social media channels.

It has been a wonderful first year and we would like to thank everyone who supported the project thus far. This report, compiled by the committee and designed by Ella, will detail our activities and highlights to date, giving you a taste of what we have achieved and what is to come for 2018.

Headford Lace Project Committee

Our Highlights

- **National** Tidy Towns Heritage Award from the Heritage Council
- **International** links with other lacemakers in Slovenia and the US
- **Local** press coverage in Tuam Herald, Connacht Tribune, Galway Independent, Journal of the Old Tuam Society
- Almost **50 people** have attended our workshops.
- Presentations to the Guild of Irish Lacemakers, Renmore ICA, Galway Civic Trust, Galway City Museum and the Irish Patchwork Society
- Some of our members have joined Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland and the Guild of Irish Lacemakers
- **Articles** published about Headford Lace for the Guild of Irish Lacemakers newsletter and Making.ie
- **Headford Lace Project Archive** established including, a collection of our historical research documents, donated lace samples and library of books on lacemaking

Featured Highlight - Tidy Towns Heritage Award 2017



In 2017, Headford Lace Project was awarded the Tidy Towns Heritage Award. Committee members Eilís, Ger, Giulliana and Anne attended the prize giving ceremony on the 17th November 2017 in Westport, Co. Mayo. This was a huge success for the Headford Lace Project considering we are a

relatively new collaboration. It included a prize of €1,000 putting us in a stable financial situation for the coming year and allowing us to dream big for the future of the project.

Social Media

Social media has proven to be a key communications tool for our project. It brought us to the attention of the international lace community allowing us to connect, for example, with a similar lace project in Slovenia. Coordinated by Giulliana, our social media following has been steadily expanding over the past year, we have 421 Facebook likes and 81 followers on Instagram. Our email mailing list has over 160 names with over 60 waiting to attend our Beginners Bobbin Lace workshops. In the coming year, we will concentrate on gaining more Instagram followers and bringing a different audience to the project.

Communications and Graphic Design

Headford Lace Project launched its new logo in 2017, designed by Ella who has an interest in graphic design. The logo was created in both monochrome and colour and gives the group a strong and recognisable identity. Throughout the last year, Ella has designed posters for several of our events, which were distributed around the local area and posted on our social media outlets. A temporary wall mural of our logo was erected on the Main Street, Headford raising awareness within the community and internationally on International Lace Day, see photo below. She is also working with lace apprentice Norma Owens and

committee member Giulliana on a Headford Lace Project website, which will launch in 2018 and act as a key source of information about the project and our activities.



Headford Lace Weekends

Over the course of the year we held five Headford Lace Weekends, incorporating bobbin and mixed lace classes with public talks and events.

November 2016: Inaugural Headford Lace Weekend at the Anglers Rest Hotel included a free talk with approximately 50 attendees, a beginners bobbin lace workshop with our teacher Jackie Magnin for 8 participants and a walking history tour of Headford Lace Cottages and St. Georges Square.

January 2017: 2nd Headford Lace Weekend the Angler's Rest Hotel, including a free talk, beginners and improvers bobbin lace classes with Jackie, a walking tour of Headford Lace Cottages and St. George's Square and a video call with Slovenian lacemakers.

April 2017: 3rd Headford Lace Weekend at the Angler's Rest Hotel, including a Vintage Lace Tea Party, beginners and improvers bobbin lace classes with and a walking tour of Headford Lace Cottages and St. George's Square. The Vintage Lace Tea Party is featured below.

July 2017: 4th Headford Lace Weekend at the Galway City Museum as part of the Galway Fringe Festival including a public talk, free demonstrations, beginners and improvers workshops and research collaboration with the Museum's Education Officer.

September 2017: 5th Headford Lace Weekend at Anglers Rest Hotel, including a mixed lace class (Mountmellick, Carrickmacross and Limerick laces) with Veronica Stuart of Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland, beginners and improvers bobbin lace classes with Jackie, talk and display of antique lace items by Veronica and her assistant Eleanor Power, a display of Irish Crochet items locally made from the early 1900s loaned by Mary O' Grady, Cong. This weekend coincided with Culture Night, featured below.



We also hosted some informal gatherings during the year for lacemaking apprentices to come together and practice their new skills including celebration of Nollaig na mBan, International Lace Day and St. Catherine's Day (the patron saint of lacemakers).

Learning Bobbin Lace by Rusty Weise

“On the first day of the Headford Lace weekend, what struck me the most was the huge variety of backgrounds, ages, and reasons to attend the course. It was obvious that the committee has gone out of their way to attract the breadth of the Galway community to their project. After introductions, the instructor for the weekend Jackie Magnin, introduced herself and glossed over her extensive background with lacemaking and her work in textiles in general. It quickly became clear that she is a world-class craftsperson in the art and the weekend was going to be lead by a master of the bobbin lacemaking community. She also told us of the history of Headford Lace, which whetted our appetite for the historical, cultural reason for preserving the art and giving us additional motivation for spending the weekend learning. Additionally, if possible we would have a conference call with a Slovenian lace community at the end of the weekend, though technical limitations got in our way.

The course work was extremely organized with all required materials provided, and even available to purchase for very low cost if we so desired. Initially I decided to make my own, but did not find the time, so I ended up purchasing the materials for myself. The notable highlights of the weekend are that: there is plenty of time, tea, and biscuits provided by the venue, Jackie is a brilliant instructor, well able to proceed at a rate which everyone is able to keep up with, challenge those who are getting ahead, and patient to spend time with those wanting more assistance, and the duration was perfect. Any longer and it would be too much of a commitment and too much shorter and we would be rushed for time. The basic material was interesting enough to produce a piece I was proud to make, and yet the more complex patterns provided a glimpse at what was possible and even encouragement to make more. I look forward to refresher courses, and even more advanced lacemaking opportunities in the future! Thank you so much Headford Lace Project!”



Featured Event - Culture Night 2017

Culture Night, 22 September 2017, was a celebration of Headford’s lace heritage and involved several different events. With the permission of local businesses, we curated ‘Intertwined’, a week long lace themed exhibition in 17 shop windows along the Main Street of Headford and into St. George’s Square. We collaborated with Headford Camera Club resulting in a lace themed photo exhibition held in Keadys on St. George’s Square. On the Main Street, we commissioned a lace themed ‘Selfie Station’ created by local artists, Carrot Puppet Theatre. These events were brought together during “The Lacemaker’s Shoes”, a walking tour through the town on Culture Night. The tour recounted the history of Headford Lace stopping at the lacemakers cottage where our teacher Jackie Magnin re-enacted how bobbin lace-makers of the past would sit outside their dark cottages to work in daylight. The tour ended with a public talk by Veronica Stuart, assisted by Eleanor Power, from the Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland at the Angler’s Rest Hotel. This talk showcased very fine examples of antique lace and served to place Headford Lace in context within the history of Irish lacemaking. There was also a display of exquisite Irish Crochet items locally made from the early 1900s loaned by Mary O’ Grady, Cong. The exhibition was further brought to life after dark (8pm-8am) with a large-scale slideshow of photographs from the project projected onto the side of a building on Main Street.

Featured Event - Vintage Lace Tea Party 2017

Committee member Selma developed the idea of a Vintage Lace Tea Party as a way to create a socially inclusive event for the community in Headford through which we could share stories, collect history and spread the work of the Headford Lace project. The tea party also included an exhibition of lace and the history documentation collected so far. Committee members developed Headford Town Hall into a vintage setting with giant gramophone outdoors, vintage decor, tablecloths, china cups and an old-fashioned soundtrack. Tea, sandwiches and fancy cakes were also provided. The event allowed attendees to sit and chat and to also discover more about the work of the Headford Lace Project and learn of ways to get involved. It is intended for this to become a yearly event on the Headford social diary.

Community Development

Eilís focuses on the community development aspect of the committee's work. From the outset it was clear that the Headford Lace Project would encompass more than simply the revival of lacemaking. The visionary approach involves integrating as much of the Headford community as possible as well as developing Headford Town itself as a thriving place to live and work. Careful positioning of lacemaking in context forms the heart of this work e.g. the 'Intertwined' exhibition and walking tour promoted footfall on the Main Street and the collaboration with other groups ensured a buzz about the town for Galway Culture Night. The work with Headford Environment group to establish a Lace Garden within the community orchard not only adds to the visibility of the Lace Project but also provides a pleasant place for recreation in the town. Work with Cairde Áth Cinn, the Men's Shed and other groups promotes greater networking and collaboration between various groups in Headford which develops community spirit. In the above image, Eilís is learning how to woodturn bobbins in collaboration with the Men's Shed and Cregboy-based master woodturners, Bríd and Ambrose O'Halloran.



Participation in Events

Throughout the past year, we were involved with several events which show engagement with the local Headford community and groups further afield.

- 17th March 2017, **St. Patrick's Day** - Lacemaking demonstration, display and historical information at a stand in St. George's Square, Headford.
- 29 April 2017, **Kilconly Food & Craft Fair** - Lacemaking demonstration, display and historical information.
- 28 May 2017, **Athenry Agricultural Show** - Lacemaking demonstration, display and historical information.
- 17 June 2017, **Headfest** – Lacemaking demonstration, display and historical information with Headford Cottage Market.
- 1 July 2017, **Ballinrobe Heritage Day & Market** - Lacemaking demonstration.
- 28-30 July 2017, **Galway Fringe Festival** - Headford Lace Weekend held at the Galway City Museum as part of the festival.
- 22 August 2017, **Heritage Week** - Lacemaking demonstration at the Galway Civic Trust.



Visits

- 20 Sep 2016, **Traditional Lacemakers' Gathering at Turlough House, Museum of Country Life, National Museum of Ireland** – attended by Ester, Selma and Anne.
- 23 Sep 2016, **Hybrid Conference, Limerick** – attended by Ester and Anne.
- 26 May 2017, **Library visit with focus on Headford lace, NUIG Special Collections** – visited by Ger, Anne and Ella, assisted by Geraldine Curtin
- September 2017, **'Loret de Mar' Bobbin Lace Festival, Spain** – attended by Anne.
- 5 August 2017, **Sheelin Lace Museum and Shop, Co. Fermanagh** – visited by Ger.
- 20 September 2017, **Banada Lace Museum, Co. Sligo** – visited by Anne.
- 8 November 2017, **Turlough House, Museum of Country Life, National Museum of Ireland, Co. Mayo** – attended by Anne.

- 21 November 2017, **Visit to Fashion Museum, Bath** for *Lace in Fashion* exhibition – visited by Ger and Anne.
- 1 December 2017, **Library visit with focus on Congested Districts Boards**, NUIG Special Collections – visited by Anne and Ger, assisted by Marie Boran.
- 10 December 2017, **Visit to Mountmellick Embroidery Museum**, Co. Laois – visited by Ger.

Education

For Education Officer, Anne, the skill of lacemaking is her principal focus. The project has been fortunate to have the commitment of tutor, Jackie Magnin of the Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland. She delivers a weekend bobbin lace workshop every three months.



She confirmed the 1904 sample of Headford Lace was bobbin/torchon lace and to our amazement, replicated it (as you can see on the left). A skill takes practice - “Namhaid an cheird gan í a chleachtadh”. So, as a follow-up to our weekend bobbin workshops, we endeavour to meet once a month to practice and share skills and ideas. For our first workshop of 2018, we will invite our apprentices for a ‘refresher’ session, as we aim to invest in developing our bobbin lacemaking skills further. Training is a key component of passing on a

skill and our committee members attend relevant training. Anne and Ger have just completed their ‘Train the Trainer’ under the Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, a qualification also held by Ester. Highlights of the year for Anne were a trip to the ‘Loret de Mar’ bobbin lace festival in Spain in September 2017, followed by another trip the same month to the Bath Museum of Fashion to view the highly acclaimed ‘Lace in Fashion’ exhibition.

Training Courses Undertaken by Committee Members

- 3 April 2017, **Social Media and PR skills**, NUIG Ballybane - Workshop/seminar attended by Ger and Anne.
- 1 March 2017, **Youth and Community Leadership Skills**, GRETB Tuam – Course of 3hr sessions over 6 week period attended by Ger, Ester and Giulliana.

- 6-8 March 2017, **Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland Annual Lace Workshop**, Kinsale – Workshop attended by Anne.
- 6 April 2017, **Outside the Walls - Library Seminar**, NUIG - Seminar attended by Ger and Anne.
- 15 May 2017, **Resources in Special Collections NUIG** - Seminar attended by Ger.
- 15 May 2017, **Archival Practice and Publishing**, Old Tuam Society – Course of 3hr sessions over 5 weeks attended by Ger and Ester.
- 31 May 2017, **First Aid Certificate** – 2 day course, attended by Ester.
- 20 June 2017, **Communicating the cause to build support**, GRD, Athenry - Seminar attended by Ger.
- 28 June 2017, **Disability Awareness and Equality workshop**, GRD, Athenry - Seminar attended by Ger.
- 28 September 2017, **Train the Trainer**, GRET B-Dunmore - QQI Qualification Training by Ger and Anne.
- 27 November 2017, **Keeping the Community Informed**, GRD, Claregalway - Seminar attended by Ester, Anne and Ger.
- 27 September 2017, **Financial Policy and Practice for Community Groups** Seminar attended by Ester.

Headford Lace Project Archive and Library

In 2017, Ger established the Headford Lace Project Archive using knowledge gained from the Archival Practice and Publishing course she attended. The archive includes 53 lace pieces, both hand and machine made. These pieces are used for display purposes at our events and teaching aids during our classes. The pieces were donated by the community. The archive was organised using the General International Standard Archival Description ISAD(G).

The Headford Lace project has a fine historical record of papers tracing the history of Headford Lace back to the late 1700s up to 1917. This historical record was initially started by committee member Selma during the Nesting Lark Project of 2016 when she discovered Headford's lacemaking heritage. This research was continued by Selma and Ella with hopes to visit international archives in the coming year for further historical documentation, such as the archives of the Kensington Museum of Art and the Northampton Lace History Archive.

From the beginning of the Headford Lace Project, we also began to gather a small collection of books on the topic of lacemaking and its history. Some of these were donated by the National Museum of Country Life and members of the Headford community. This library now consists of 13 titles covering many aspects of bobbin and needlepoint lace. These items can be loaned from us by interested apprentices or members of the community. We plan to further expand our library in the coming year and develop it into a key lacemaking resource including digital copies of antique books available online.

Objectives for 2018

- ❖ Deliver four Headford Lace Weekends, including one in collaboration with the National Museum, Castlebar, one to coincide with Culture Night and one to include a Vintage Tea Party.
- ❖ Train 40 new apprentices in lacemaking techniques.
- ❖ Expand the range of lace techniques for both beginners and improvers.
- ❖ Train additional trainers in delivering beginners workshops to assist tutor, Jackie.
- ❖ Continue to participate in Bealtaine, Heritage Week, Headfest and Culture Night.
- ❖ Develop project ideas to build annually with the aim of a major project implementation in Galway European Capital of Culture 2020.
- ❖ Commission and install a lace-inspired public bench in the Headford Community Orchard.
- ❖ Consolidate our archive and create a digital resource to allow us to share our information easily.
- ❖ Increase wood-turned bobbin-making skills.
- ❖ Expand collaborations with other community groups.
- ❖ Develop youth programme.

Acknowledgements

The Headford Lace Project is grateful to the following individuals and groups who have helped us over the past year -

- Jackie Magnin of the Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland, our ever patient teacher!
- Veronica Stuart and Eleanor Power from the Traditional Lacemakers of Ireland
- Ann Keller from the Guild of Irish Lacemakers.
- The Men's Shed for making our wooden display stands and for participating in the bobbin woodturning class with Master Woodturner Ambrose O'Halloran.
- Margie McNamara, Anne Greaney and Mary O'Connor for their help with the historical research and Nicola Gray for her archival expertise during the organising of our lace archive.
- Seán Hassett for designing and donating a branded pop up banner.
- Michael Kelly for presenting the project with a gift of a pair of African Blackwood bobbins.
- Tom Doyle at Turlough House for the donation of a vintage cushion and bobbin collection.
- Norma Owens for her technical expertise in developing our website.

On behalf of the Headford Lace Project we would like to thank everyone who supported us in any way over the past year.

Headford Lace Project in Pictures



Headford Lace Project Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2017

Main address

St. Fursa's Hall
Church Road
Headford
Co. Galway

Committee members

Eilís Nic Dhonncha

Anne O'Hara Quinn

Giulliana Victor Harte

Ger Henry Hassett

Selma Makela

Ella Hassett

Rusty Weise

Vice Chair and Acting Secretary

Education Officer

Social Media Officer

Librarian/Archivist

Research Officer

Research Officer/Graphic Designer

Committee Member

Bankers

St. Jarlath's Credit Union, Main Street, Headford, Co. Galway

Governance and management

The Headford Lace Project is a voluntary, community-led initiative managed by a committee that meets regularly (min eight times a year) with an AGM in January. The committee was elected and roles agreed at the first AGM on 9th January 2017. The Constitution was agreed on 19th February 2017. New committee nominations are accepted in advance of the AGM in January and roles are agreed at the first committee meeting after the AGM annually.

Signed on behalf of the committee:

Signed
Name,



Date 3-2-2018

Chairperson

Headford Lace Project Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31st December, 2017

	€
Income	
<i>Grants</i>	2578.73
<i>Awards</i>	1000.00
<i>Donations</i>	706.00
<i>Class Fees</i>	2146.07
<i>Materials Fees</i>	650.50
<i>Sale of Craft Items</i>	917.32
<i>Refreshments</i>	<u>187.20</u>
Total income	<u>8185.82</u>
Expenditure	
<i>Class Fees</i>	1119.84
<i>Craft Supplies</i>	78.96
<i>Office Supplies</i>	205.38
<i>Other (FB ads, library book, etc)</i>	133.99
<i>Artist Fees</i>	212.40
<i>Post</i>	45.25
<i>Refreshments</i>	353.26
<i>Travel Expenses</i>	207.50
<i>Tutor Fees</i>	2080.00
<i>Venue/Equipment Hire</i>	1205.90
Total Expenditure	<u>5642.48</u>
Net Income/(expenditure)	<u>2543.34</u>
Bank and cash at the start of the period	0
Bank and cash at the end of the period	<u>2543.34</u>

Headford Lace Project Statement of assets and liabilities At 31st December 2017

	€
Cash assets	
<i>Current account</i>	2504.73
<i>Petty cash</i>	<u>38.61</u>
Total cash assets	<u>2543.34</u>
Other assets	
<i>Library Books estimated value</i>	€150
<i>Vintage Lace Pillow, Bobbins est. value</i>	€150
<i>Collection of Lace Samples est. value</i>	€200
<i>Craft Supplies est. value</i>	€100

Liabilities

No outstanding invoices.

However the Galway Co. Council Facilities Scheme Grant of €500 is held in reserve to commission a public bench for the Community Orchard & Lace Garden which must be completed and reported by March 2018 to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the grant.

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

Signed
Name,

Dated 3-2-2018



Treasurer

Headford Lace Project Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017

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.

2. Grants & Awards

	€
Grants & Awards	
<i>Galway Co. Council Community Support Grant</i>	400.00
<i>Galway Co. Council Culture Night Grant</i>	330.00
<i>GRETB Community Education Grant (less fee)</i>	998.73
<i>St. Jarlath's Credit Union Community Grant</i>	350.00
<i>Galway Co. Council Facilities Scheme</i>	500.00
<i>Tidy Towns Heritage Award</i>	1000.00
Total grants and awards	<u>3578.73</u>

3. Committee members' remuneration

No committee member is remunerated for their time on the project. However, where a committee member uses their personal credit card or bank transfer on behalf of the group (eg. Giulliana paid for Facebook Advertising by credit card and Ester paid for bobbins online via bank transfer) they will be reimbursed in cash. When a committee member travels to present, talk or demonstrate on behalf of the project and the organiser pays the project, the committee member will be reimbursed for travel expenses or other associated costs.

