

## Project overview

**Title:** **The Workhouse Through the Times**

**Commission** Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership

**Dates** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - September 2024 (estimated)

**Venue** Limavady  
Community  
Development  
Initiative (LCDI)

**Address** Irish Green St,  
Limavady BT49  
9EU

**Curator** Conflict Textiles  
Team



**Facilitator** Grace McAlister (Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme)

**Event type** Workshops which engage a range of local community initiatives who regularly use the Limavady Workhouse building. The work produced will contribute to an exhibition which explores the history and use of the workhouse building.

**Description** ‘**The Workhouse Through the Times**’ aims to provide additional engagement in, and awareness of, the Limavady Workhouse. The workhouse was opened in 1839, closing in 1930. Residents of the workhouse came from across the Binevenagh area, and many families from the wider Binevenagh area have family members of previous generations who resided in the workhouse. From 1932 - 1998 the building was the local district hospital (Roe Valley Hospital) and as such the local community have strong memories and connections to this era of the building. It is currently the home of Limavady Community Development Initiative (LCDI) and Limavady Volunteer Centre and is used extensively by the local community.

Initial workshops engaged LCDI Hen Shed to create small textiles which reflect how the former workhouse is used by the community in the 21st century. Conflict Textiles curator Roberta Bacic and Conflict Textiles Fabric Artist Deborah Stockdale facilitated these workshops. Through these workshops the group of women reflected how the workhouse is used today. Deborah will bring together the different textile elements created by the women during the workshops into a final textile art piece which will be unveiled in Limavady Community Development Initiative in 2022. Subsequent workhouse scheduled for 2022 will engage other groups with the earlier history of the building - the Roe Valley Hospital era and the 19th century workhouse history.

The Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership (BCLLP) who commissioned this project is a National Lottery Heritage Funded Project based in the north-west of Northern Ireland with the vision to “*Celebrate and connect local people with their unique landscape and heritage to build sustainable and resilient communities.*”

In order to achieve the vision outlined above the Landscape Partnership has three core aims:

- 1) Improve management and resilience of the special landscape, habitats and species of the project area.
- 2) Highlight and promote the vital role the landscape has played and continues to play in defence heritage on a global and national stage from the Napoleonic Period, through WWI, WWII, the Cold War to the present day.
- 3) Establish the area as a top destination in the UK and Ireland to participate in inclusive and sustainable land, sea and air based outdoor activities which complement and add value to the area's unique heritage assets and local community.
- 4) Support and deliver community led heritage initiatives which provide education and training opportunities, and which enhance access to, and interpretation of the area's natural, built and cultural heritage.

<https://binevenaghaonb.ccght.org/>

The project is also supported by Ashleen Schenning (Volunteer Manager at Limavady Community Development Initiative) and Sarah Carson (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Service)

**Associated activities**

- Textile pieces produced by community groups will be exhibited in LCDI.
- The workhouse archives will be reviewed by the Museum Service and digitised and documented with the assistance of local historical societies.
- Community volunteers will receive tour guide training.
- Improved physical interpretation of the workhouse history.

