

Headford Lace Project (HLP) is an award-winning voluntary community group that was established in 2016. Our aims are to research, revive, and reimagine the lacemaking heritage of Headford, County Galway, a heritage that was almost lost through time but which, we are proud to say, was added to the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2021.

Our **research** has led to the discovery of a remarkable historical record through the centuries. The records date back to the 1700s and can be found right up to the School's Folklore Collection (1937-1939). Particularly exciting examples include that Queen Victoria bought Headford lace during the famine and that a piece of Headford Lace was entered into the Royal Jubilee Exhibition in Manchester in 1887. We are delighted that the legacy of these women has been reinstated as an important part of the social history of Headford. Our research can be accessed on our website - <http://www.headfordlaceproject.ie/research/37-history-of-headford-lace>

In order to **revive** bobbin lacemaking we hold classes regularly. Online bobbin lace tutorials by our tutor Jackie Magnin can be found on our website under resources making them accessible remotely. <http://www.headfordlaceproject.ie/resources/bobbin-lace-tutorials> In addition, we facilitate classes and talks on other Irish laces.

HLP holds a community lace archive donated by members of the public both in Ireland and abroad. This comprises of some very fine examples of different lace types, contemporary and vintage, both machine and handmade. This archive is digitised on our website with a video explaining it's evolution. The lace archive is a valuable educational resource and holds a social history of 'women's work' which was so often disregarded.

In order to **reimagine** our unique lacemaking heritage we have engaged with creatives to explore lace in imaginative ways, through music, song, poetry, drumming, radio, film, textiles and visual artists. We held an International Lace Exhibition in 2020 and installed a permanent public artwork in 2021. These projects attract new intergenerational audiences and celebrate our lace heritage in many different ways that inspire. <http://www.headfordlaceproject.ie/reimagine>

We have embedded our lace making heritage into the fabric of the town with a lace heritage sign on New Street, two lace benches inspired by the pattern of the only surviving piece of Headford Lace and a bobbin lace sculpture 'Lace Matrix' in St George's Square. Headford Lace is now a tangible part of the identity of the town. Lace is at the heart of what we do!