

## Picture This!

### The Antrim Coast & Glens AONB

As reported in the fifth issue of the Antrim Coast & Glens newsletter, the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust hosted a photography competition with 7 primary schools in the area as part of the Raising Awareness of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB programme.

The schools involved were St. Anne's Primary School Corkey, Ballymoney Model Primary School, Broughshane Primary School, Carnlough Integrated Primary School, Seaview Primary School Glenarm, Ballycastle Integrated

Primary School and Glenann Primary School Cushendall. Over 120 pupils took part in this very successful and popular competition visiting areas within the Antrim Coast & Glens such as Ballycastle town and harbour, Bonamargy Friary, Ballypatrick Forest, Glenarm town, forest and Estate, the waterfalls at Cranny Falls and Glenariff Forest Park, Ossians Grave, and Cushendun town and beach. The standard of photographs was so high that the Trust displayed the photographs over the summer months in various tourist information centres in the four council areas – Ballymoney, Ballymena, Larne and Moyle. A publication to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Antrim



Shannon McAlister with her winning entry & Amy Robinson

Coast & Glens AONB designation which illustrates over 50 of the children's photographs will be available throughout the region in schools, libraries and tourist information centres. Visit the Trust's website to view more of the photos. [www.ccght.org](http://www.ccght.org)

Amy Robinson, Miss NI Earth 2008, presented the winners with their certificates and prizes at the Glenarm Castle Estate in June.



**Back Row:** Highly Commended Ryan Delargy Glenann Primary School, Runner-up Kim Glass Broughshane Primary School, Highly Commended Aisling McGarry St Anne's Primary School Corkey, Highly Commended Evelyn McCormick Carnlough Integrated Primary School, Runner-up Kristin McAuley, St Anne's Primary School, Corkey, Highly Commended Antoinette McAllister Seaview Primary School, Highly Commended Courtney Mitchell Ballycastle Integrated Primary School.

**Front Row:** Trust Director's Favourite - Pascal McManus, Glenann Primary School, Cushendall, Winning entry Shannon McAlister, Ballycastle Integrated Primary School, Highly Commended - Adam Ruck, Broughshane Primary School,

**Absent:** Runner-up - Tom Kerr, Glenann Primary School, Cushendall, Highly Commended - Warren McCook, Model Primary School, Ballymoney.

## The Chairman's View



Ald Harry Connolly  
Chairman, Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Group

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Antrim Coast and Glens View. This special designated area is celebrating its twentieth birthday this year and what better way to celebrate than with a first new management plan, unique to the area and full of recommendations to improve and develop the area for the people who live, work and play in the area and also for the increasing number of visitors who are learning through various tourism and marketing strategies of the inspirational landscapes that make up the Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This plan has been the product of eighteen months of work by the Antrim Coast & Glens Management Group and Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust staff, with the help of Red Kite Consultants. We are confident that the plan will be seen by many as a mechanism to ensure real joined-up thinking and action to maximise the benefit to the area.

The plan was successfully launched within the spectacular grounds of the Glenarm Estate on Thursday 26 June. A truly superb venue! A special word of thanks to Lord and Lady Dunluce, the estate and tea room staff, the staff and pupils from the seven schools in the area who submitted photographs in the Picture This! competition and everyone who helped in any way with the launch. On behalf of the Trust and Management Group I would also like to thank Amy Robinson, Miss NI Earth 2008 who freely gave up her time to present the winners and runners up of the Picture This! schools photography competition with their awards. We all wish Amy success when she goes to the Philippines later this year to represent Northern Ireland in the finals of Miss Earth 2008. The Trust has used the winning photographs to produce bookmarks and postcards and in the management plan summary document.

Details of the Management Plan and of the winning Picture This! image can be found on Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust website: [www.ccght.org](http://www.ccght.org) or contact the office on (028)2075 2100

The Management Plan will be available as a hard copy or electronically. A summary document Your Place Your Plan will also be distributed widely throughout the entire area.

If you wish to be kept informed on progress with all the projects carried out by the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Group please contact the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust offices. I hope you will enjoy this issue of the Antrim Coast and Glens View.



## ... and counting

2008, Twentieth anniversary of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB



# MANAGEMENT PLAN LAUNCH

Graham Seymour said in his address to a delegation representing government agencies, the community sector, environment, tourism and farming sectors at the launch of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Plan and presentation of awards in the Picture This! schools photography competition on 26 June in Glenarm Castle Estate, "When I joined the Department of Environment in 1987 my first job was a member of the team responsible for designating and managing AONBs. After a spell working on the Mourne AONB my boss asked me to write a management plan for the Antrim Coast and Glens. To be honest I found all sorts of excuses not to do it. Looking back on it my reluctance wasn't entirely due to laziness or procrastination on my part but because it was becoming obvious to all of us in that team that writing a management plan from an office in Belfast was not the way to do it. In simple terms it wasn't going to work. What I really do regret is that it took another decade or so before the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust was formed and along with it new opportunities for management planning in the AONBs in this area.



Graham Seymour NI Environment Agency, Ald Harry Connolly Chairman, Dr David Erwin CCGHT Chairman

... 'Picture This!' is an inspired title for a photographic competition held in one of Northern Ireland's most varied areas of outstanding landscape. And it's not just my opinion that this area is outstanding. Within the last year I believe the Causeway Coastal Route has been declared one of the world's great scenic drives and the Lonely Planet Guide has encouraged travellers to visit Northern Ireland specifically for the quality of its landscape.

As the photos so clearly show, beauty is to be found throughout the Antrim Coast and Glens. The title 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' (or AONB) was awarded in 1988, officially recognising an area which contains among many other treasures:

- the dramatic basalt and limestone cliffs of the Antrim coastline;
- the famous nine glens of Antrim;
- the starkly beautiful Antrim plateau;
- the Braid Valley with its remarkable stone-walled landscape and Slemish Mountain and its association with St Patrick;
- and Rathlin Island with its internationally important population of seabirds and unique cultural heritage.

Indeed, especially on a day like today, it's not hard to enthuse about this area. The children who participated in this competition join a long line of people who have found inspiration in the landscapes of this area and who have expressed themselves through paintings, literature and more recently through photography.



Maxime Sizaret CCGHT, Andrew McClelland Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, John Anderson CNCC

*Each generation leaves its marks on the landscape – what will be the legacy of us adults in this room today – will it be one our children's children will be proud of – or will they scorn us for missing the opportunity to act when we could? Past generations have left us an outstandingly beautiful landscape here in this corner of Ireland. Will we leave it in as good a condition – or perhaps even better it?*

*"I urge you to find ways of carrying out your functions which are sensitive to the landscape, its wildlife and its heritage and which promote their appreciation and enjoyment."*

*Landscape is everyone's concern: you don't have to share a language or faith, to be a certain age or have a certain level of income. You don't have to be an expert on geology or wildlife – and no – you don't even have to be a landowner for the landscape to be meaningful to you and to want to have a stake in its future. A high quality, living landscape is something we can all agree on and work towards.*

*The Antrim Coast and Glens AONB was designated by the Department of the Environment but its subsequent management is a matter for not just one department, nor even for government alone. Many people have ownership or interest in the land and this management plan is conceived and drafted to*



Amy Robinson Miss NI Earth 2008, Helen Noble Trust Director CCGHT



reflect this multitude of interests. The vision it presents is relevant to all of us here today. It is an attempt to present a shared view — setting out clearly what is important and how we can work together to ensure that this high quality landscape is best conserved and developed. I use this word developed deliberately because no-one should mistakenly think the management plan is about preserving the present landscape as a museum piece.

The Heritage Trust is to be commended for taking the lead in securing funding to ensure that a wide range of voices have been heard in developing the plan. And I know they have been admirably helped by the Red Kite consultancy in shaping the consultation process to ensure all with an interest in the area have had an opportunity to contribute. Over the course of the last year and a half, many meetings have been held throughout the Antrim Coast and Glens area and I am confident that this document and the actions it proposes reflect what you in the area have said are the most important projects to take us to 2028.

To those who might see this as yet another imposition, another distraction to your main work, I can offer reassurance. This plan does not make any new rules or regulations, it adds no restrictions to the way we form communities or make our living. However, it does offer a common vision and some strong suggestions as to what we could and should do to keep this area special. I hope that those who have the funds and the powers will lend their support to driving this plan forward.

We are fortunate to be the custodians of a very special area of countryside in the Antrim Coast and Glens. Above all we need to ensure that there continues to be a thriving and sustainable population based in this area to continue to manage the land in a way that protects its value and enhances it.



*Kathleen McBride NITB, Graham Thompson and Max Bryant National Trust, Linda McCullough Larne BC*

Those who manage the land have a particular responsibility but they need the help and support of the wider society. For those who represent the statutory agencies or the local authorities, your decisions can have a profound and cumulative effect on the landscape. I urge you to find ways of carrying out your functions which are sensitive to the landscape, its wildlife and its heritage and which promote their appreciation and enjoyment.

I don't underestimate the scale of the task in implementing this plan. We need to find the will and the resources to make the projects in this plan come alive. I commend this plan to you, but not as something for someone else to realise. It's a proposal for action that all of us could start to take today.

The Management Plan and its Action Plan can be downloaded from the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust website ([www.ccght.org](http://www.ccght.org)) and summaries of the plan are also available online or at the Trust offices.

## Easy Rider On The Open Road

The North Coast is one of my favourite places to go when I am out for a ride on my motorbike.

The fresh sea air, stunning views, beautiful countryside and variety of beaches make it one of the best locations to visit and best places to go to relax.

I recently toured the coast with the House of Commons' Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, and my Parliamentary colleagues could not fail to be impressed by the breathtaking scenery and wildlife.

With the outstanding picturesque views it is little wonder the north coast is ranked among the top five scenic areas in the world. Considerable investment is required to ensure that the Antrim Coast and Glens continues to attract people and encourages them to stay and spend money in the area. As Environment Minister, I believe planning policy must reflect this to ease the ability of genuine farm Bed & Breakfasts, tea rooms and stop off points etc to prosper.

This area is somewhere that has outstanding tourism potential and an area that Northern Ireland can be proud of.

*Sammy Wilson MLA, NI Environment Minister*



*Sammy Wilson MLA,  
NI Environment Minister*

## 20th Anniversary of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB

The Antrim Coast & Glens was first designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) on 7th July 1988 under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order.

One of nine designated AONBs in Northern Ireland it has been recognised as a landscape of national importance. The aim of this designation is to protect and enhance the landscape quality of the Antrim Coast & Glens for the benefit of those who live and work in the area and for those visitors who come to enjoy it. In the 20 years since the designation there have been many changes to the landscape and to the management of the area. In 2004 Environment and Heritage Service invited the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust to assist with the management of the area.

Membership structure of the management group tries to reflect the different interest groups within the area and includes representatives from Ballymena, Ballymoney, Larne Borough Councils and Moyle District Council, North Antrim Community Network, the National Trust, RSPB, Ulster Farmers' Union, Regional Tourism Partnership, DOE Planning Service, NI Environment Agency, DRD Roads Service, DARD and NI Tourist Board.

On behalf of the management group the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is committed to raise awareness of the area through various publications and promotions. The main objective of the management group has been to produce a management plan for the area. This was finalised and launched in June 2008. For more information about the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB or AONB designation contact Maxime, the Natural Heritage Officer at the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust. [maxime@ccght.org](mailto:maxime@ccght.org)  
Tel: (028) 20752104





# The Fairy Hill



Tieveragh

'Far across yonder blue lies a true fairy land  
With the sea rippling over the shingle and sand  
Where the gay honeysuckle is luring the bee  
And the green glens of Antrim are calling to me'

**Green Glens of Antrim Kenneth North**

'Up the airy mountain  
Down the rushy glen,  
We daren't go a-hunting  
For fear of little men'

**The Fairies William Allingham**

Whether in song or poetry, Ireland and especially the Glens of Antrim is synonymous with fairies or little men, so do they really exist or are the glens folk just really credible storytellers? They will tell you that the main haunts of the 'wee folk' are Lurigethan Mountain and Tieveragh Hill. Mischievous creatures at the best of times, the fairies are said to take devastating revenge on anyone rash enough to cut down a skeogh fairy thorn.

## The Fairy Hill

Standing at the entrance to the Cottage Wood in Cushendall look to your left and you will see the top of a hill shaped like a camel's hump, this is Tieveragh. In geological terms it is the remains of a volcanic plug but in mythology it is something else! Tieveragh is known throughout north

Antrim as 'the fairy hill.' One side of the hill is pasture land for sheep while the other side is rough ground. It is said that the hill is inhabited by both good and bad fairies that live inside the hill. If you drive past Tieveragh, you will notice a 'fairy tree' halfway up the slope. No one would dare think about cutting it down for fear of something bad happening to them! According to local folklore, the fairies, or 'wee folk', from time to time, make an appearance around the hill and tree. It is also said that the bad fairies have been known to lure the unsuspecting visitor into the hill by playing enchanting music. Is it true? Well, it has not, as yet, been proven untrue!

Bernie Delargy  
CCGHT Director

## Competition

If you can correctly identify the author of the poem, Halloweve: a Glensman Speaks (see extract) you could be entered in a competition to win a framed copy of the winning photograph in the Picture This! School Photography Competition. Email your answer to [info@ccght.org](mailto:info@ccght.org) or post it to the CCGHT office before 30 December 2008.

*"As we came up the brae last night at twelve  
after a ceilidhe down at Ballybrack,  
a wild coarse night of storm with scuds of rain  
and a gale roaring over Tieveragh,  
I said in fun: 'A poor night for the fairies;  
they'll not stir far, for all it's Halloweve.'*

**Halloweve: a Glensman Speaks**



## Marie identifies Marconi!

The winner of the competition "a when o' things that used to be" featured in the fifth issue of the newsletter is Marie Harvey from Rathkenny in Ballymena. Marie correctly identified the famous Italian inventor who allegedly resided in the cottage in the photograph as Guglielmo Marconi.

Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust provides a secretariat service for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB. The Trust is grateful for support from the following organisations:



For more information on the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB please check the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust website.

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