

# CCGHT Activity Newsletter

(Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust)

CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS  
HERITAGE TRUST

Issue 7

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## HLF Heart of the Glens

**In August, the Heritage Lottery Fund announced that the Glens of Antrim were amongst 11 areas in the United Kingdom to have successfully passed the first round of Landscape Partnership Scheme application.**

Landscape Partnership Schemes aim to conserve, enhance and promote the natural heritage, historic environment and cultural heritage of unique landscapes in the UK.

Over the coming year £91,700 will be offered by HLF to the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust to develop the scheme which in turn will lead to a 5 year programme that will bring £1.5m of HLF funding to the area. The projects developed under the scheme will not only benefit the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust but all the other organisations involved in the scheme with benefits spreading wider than just the Landscape Partnership Scheme area.



Over the next few months, the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust will appoint a LPS Manager who will put together the series of projects, develop partnerships and funding packages and prepare the implementation of these projects. The projects to be developed will include a woodland management project, peatland conservation project, farm buildings and features project, food festival, interactive heritage trail, hospitality training project, heritage skills training project... These will involve and benefit a wide range of stakeholders from the private sector (tourism, farming...), schools, community groups, NGOs from within the LPS but also from the wider Northeast region.

It is anticipated that by the end of the 5 years, the scheme will not only have brought funding opportunities but job opportunities, enhanced visitor opportunities, improved working relationship between the different partners and better understanding of the Glens unique heritage.



## NIEA Marine Day



CCGHT took part in the Marine Day Event at the Coastal Zone Centre in Portrush in August to raise awareness of the unique heritage of the Causeway Coast and Glens area as well as to raise the profile of the Trust itself. The event was very well attended, particularly by families and young children.

## Trust Director's Report

Growing an organisation at any point to meet the demands placed on it is tough at the best of times. However to grow an organisation during recession is quite an achievement, but this is something that the Heritage Trust has done. This is especially satisfying when in March 2011 the Heritage Trust was not in a position to balance its budget for 2011/12. During the past two years the Heritage Trust has fundamentally changed its direction and honed its skills and expertise to deliver landscape management for and on behalf of its partners. By landscape management I mean looking after the unique and special qualities of the heritage of the North Coast and in particular, the three AONBs for the benefit of both visitors and local people.



Two years ago, Directors took a positive decision to engage two new officers to help deliver three AONB management plans and their associated projects. The two new officers augmented the existing team and together we are proud of our successes. Most of which you will read within the Activity Report, but noticeably – the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, the Landscape Partnership Scheme – Heart of the Glens project, delivery of the AONB management plans, Finns Gallery, Picture This! and many more.

We have ambitions and one of them is to have Geopark status for the area within five years. This will help support and look after the area, its communities and the rural economy by developing it sustainably. We are engaging with new partners, such as GSNI and looking at other governmental departments and agencies to help realise our aim. Further, the Heritage Trust wants to engage more with young people and support the future guardians of our beautiful landscapes – this vision is set out within the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

To achieve this we need resources and more importantly sustainable resources. This is something that the Working Group has been working towards. In particular, there are encouraging signs that the Councils may be able to work towards three year funding for the Heritage Trust, with letters of intent. This in turn will help the Trust to look for external sources of funding, especially project funding, through RDP and European monies. What is fundamental to this point is the recognition that the Heritage Trust delivers at a regional basis that benefits the whole area and all those who live, work and come to enjoy the area.

We have a clear vision, aims and objectives to achieve. We need to be brave and deliver within these uncertain times. So will we be here next year? Absolutely! Will we be looking at securing resources to deliver? Of course! We have proved our worth and effectiveness; we offer value for money and with the continued support of our partners our ambition to deliver the best landscape management for the North Coast will be realised.  
*Helen Noble, Trust Director*

## **National Trails Day**

Carol Kelly, AONB Officer organised two walks for this year's National Trails Day held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October.



The event which is in its fourth year and organised by CAAN is a celebration of Ireland's wonderful variety of trails and a chance for everyone to enjoy some of our most beautiful countryside, forests, mountains and lakes. In conjunction with the Lough Foyle Hill-Walking & Rambling Group, the CCGHT organised a walk in Binevenagh AONB, which took walkers through Binevenagh Forest which is home to a number of rare alpine plants and birds and onwards to Binevenagh Summit to enjoy panoramic views over Lough Foyle, Roe Valley and to Inishowen. In the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB, the CCGHT in partnership with the Red Squirrel Group led a walk through Glenariff Forest, stopping at viewing points where red squirrels are being attracted, and learning about the red squirrel and its conservation.

## **Leave No Trace**

**The Trust is delighted to announce that we have joined the partnership**



**Leave no Trace Ireland for a very small membership fee and are therefore entitled to the benefits of being associated with the network including use of the logo on our promotional literature, emails and website. CCGHT is committed to support the principles of Leave no Trace. For more info: [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)**

## **World Heritage Site**

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust has taken on the responsibility of reviewing and updating the current Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site Management Plan. Sarah Irwin has taken on the role of part-time World Heritage Site Officer in order to develop this new plan by April 2012. Responsibilities will include co-ordination of the WHS Management Group.

**Causeway Coast AONB**—Work has started on the review of the Causeway Coast AONB Management Plan in parallel with the review of the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site Management Plan. Over the next 3 months the AONB Officer and Heritage Manager will meet local community groups within the AONB to exchange on the issues and opportunities of the designation. A workshop will also take place at the next Causeway Coast AONB Management Group to gather views on the AONB Management Plan.

# Staff Update

Carol Kelly joined the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, as AONB Officer in June 2011. Carol graduated from Queens University Belfast with a Masters Degree in Town & Country Planning in 2005. Since then she has worked as a Planning Consultant in both Northern Ireland & the Republic of Ireland. A career break in 2009 allowed Carol to travel extensively, visiting some of the most stunning landscapes in the world. Her experiences during this time inspired her to pursue a career in protected landscapes management and she is delighted of the opportunity to take up this position in the beautiful north coast of Northern Ireland. Her responsibilities in the role of AONB Officer will include co-ordinating and promoting the implementation & review of the Management Plans for the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB, the Causeway Coast AONB and Binevenagh AONB. Carol will be working on a range of initiatives and projects which promote best practice environmental management across the area. A key area of her work will entail raising the profile of the AONB's in national & regional policy.



**CAAN Study Trip**—Carol Kelly, AONB Officer with the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust attended the Countryside Access & Activities Network Study Trip to Devon in September. The study trip provided the opportunity to visit Stover Country Park to learn about a Countryside Mobility Scheme, which aims to improve access to the countryside for people with limited mobility. A visit to Dartmoor provided the opportunity to see the work being carried out in the National Park including various initiatives with the local villages and farming community in the areas of recreation and sustainable tourism. Robert Steemson, Head of Ranger & Volunteer Services provided an insight into the operation of the National Park Authority, its departmental structure and management, issues currently very topical to Northern Ireland. A highlight of the Study Trip was a visit to the Eden Project in Cornwall, where a disused clay mine has been transformed into a rich, global garden featuring a rainforest and a Mediterranean biodome, showcasing various plants and vegetation displays from around the world. Walk & Talk sessions facilitated by staff from the Eden Project & the Sensory Trust informed the group about visitor management, including interpretation and accessibility at the site. An off-road trail building workshop at Haldon Forest, provided by the Forestry Commission in conjunction with Architrails, a professional trail design and build company, rounded off Day 4 before the weary group made it's way to Bristol Airport for the return journey home. The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at CAAN for organising the Study Trip!



Maxime Sizaret attended a series of meetings over the last few months including a Northern Ireland Protected Area Network meeting where the review of NI biodiversity strategy and the White Paper on the enabling legislation for National Parks were discussed. Maxime Sizaret also attended a Coleraine/Limavady/Ballymoney biodiversity steering group where links between the Councils' biodiversity activities and the Trust AONB activities were discussed and common opportunities investigated. Maxime Sizaret also attended consultation meeting on NIEA's Nature Reserve Policy Position Statement where he advised that Nature Reserves should not only be sites of nature conservation but also offer learning and understanding opportunities for local residents and visitors.

### **National Park White Paper**

In March 2011, the Department of Environment published a White Paper as a first step towards bringing forward enabling legislation to allow for the creation of National Parks in Northern Ireland. The CCGHT is currently formulating a response to the White Paper which will be submitted to the Department before the end of October 2011.

### **Meetings with the Local authorities:**

CCGHT has set up a series of meetings over the last month with each of the 5 local authorities. The meetings were organised to look at the implementation of the AONB Management Plans and improve working relationship by ensuring that both local authorities and CCGHT's objectives (and more specifically AONB objectives) are met. These meetings have allowed the Trust and the local authorities to share issues and opportunities. Some project ideas have arose from these and will be taken forward this coming year. Feedback from local authorities was that these meeting have been very useful as they were giving more opportunities for discussion than normal board and AONB Management Group meetings. The Trust will therefore organise similar meetings more often with local authorities and will also replicate these with the other members of the AONB Management Groups

### **Public Examination – Northern Area Plan**

A Public Examination into the draft Northern Area Plan, which covers the districts of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Lismavady & Moyle is currently underway with the Planning Appeals Commission. The CCGHT has made a number of submissions to the Commission in respect of the Plan and a representative from the CCGHT will be taking part in the Examination, Stage 1 of which is being heard late September/early October.

### **Castlerock Community and Visitor Information Centre launch:**

After months of work by Castle-rock Community Association in association with partners including the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, the Castlerock Community and Visitor Information Centre was officially opened by James Nesbitt



on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. CCGHT has been supporting the effort of the Association along the process and has also provided some help since by manning the centre on regular basis. The Trust can help other community groups which deliver projects that meet the Trust and AONB management plans objectives.

### **Woodland Trust – Free Tree Packs on Offer!**

CCGHT has contacted primary schools across the 3 AONB's to inform them of the free tree packs on offer with the Woodland Trust. Schools can apply now to the Woodland Trust to receive a free tree planting pack for delivery in February, March 2012. The Copse Pack contains 60 native trees which are suitable for planting as a small wooded area or 'copse' and includes Birch, Rowan, Cherry and a Royal Oak sapling. The hedgerow pack contains 60 plants with various species including hawthorn and hazel among others which can be planted as a traditional hedgerow and provide an excellent habitat for wildlife.



### **CCGHT Annual General Meeting and 60th Board Meeting**

The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust held its 9th Annual General Meeting and 60th Board meeting on the 21st June 2011 at Carnfunnock Country Park in Larne. Dr David Erwin resigned as Chairman of the Board after 9 years of service and dedication. He was succeeded by independent Board member, Bill Harpur. The staff and Directors of the Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank David for all his support over the last nine years and wish Bill every success in his future role as Chairman of the Trust.



### **Ulster in Bloom**

One CCGHT staff member attended the launch of Ulster in Bloom at the Burrendale Hotel in Newcastle. Congratulations to Coleraine, Larne, Ahoghill and Broughshane which all received awards in this year's competition.

### **Water for Life Event**

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, CCGHT hosted a Water For Life Event at the Portballintrae Village Hall. This event formed part of the overall Water Environment Community Award that was awarded to the Trust by NIEA. The event brought together organisations and businesses who are passionate about water and the surrounding environment. Organisations included the National Trust, Surfers Against Sewage, Causeway Surf Club, Coleraine Borough Council, NIEA, the Bushmills Salmon Station and SurfsUP NI. The children from Armoy Primary School who took part in the journey of the River Bush carried out a beach clean at the harbour in Portballintrae, facilitated by Jim Allen, Environment Officer for Coleraine Borough Council. One of the pupils told the audience about her experiences along the River Bush and Claire Vincent, the head of Water Management in NIEA, closed the event and presented the children with their certificates for being involved in the project.



# Any Other Business

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## Acknowledgement

The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank NIEA, NITB, Ballymena BC, Coleraine BC, Larne BC, Limavady BC and Moyle DC for their support and funding over the last financial year. We are also delighted to announce that we have secured core and project funding for the incoming financial year as follows:

Ballymena Borough Council - £3,000  
Coleraine Borough Council—£11,000  
Larne Borough Council—£11,000  
Limavady Borough Council—£11,000  
Moyle District Council—£11,000  
NIEA Core Funding—£113,542  
NIEA Raising Awareness—£11,000  
NIEA Implementation of Management Plans—  
£28,255.00  
NIEA World Heritage Officer— £26,180 (tbc)  
NITB Service Level Agreement—£25,000  
RDP—Sustainable Tourism Charter—£5,000  
Économusée—£29,784

## Annual EUROPARC Conference – Bad Urach, Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve, Germany, 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September

The annual EUROPARC Conference was held from 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September in Bad Urach Swabian Alb Biosphere Reserve, near Stuttgart in Germany. Adopting the title 'Quality Counts – Benefits for Nature and People' the conference provided an opportunity for a thorough analysis of how natural and cultural assets are managed in order to ensure sustainable, living landscapes. The conference saw international keynote speeches, focused investigative field trips and in-depth workshops. It was at this conference that the region of the Causeway Coast and Glens was awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. Bill Harpur, Chairman of the CCGHT, Sarah Irwin, Sustainable Development Officer and Helen Noble, Trust Director, travelled to Germany to receive this prestigious award for the entire Causeway Coast and Glens destination. Ruth Morgan from NITB also attended the conference to learn more about the EUROPARC Federation and the importance of sustainable tourism within our protected landscapes.



## EU Charter Network Meeting, Djerdap National Park, Serbia

From 28<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July, over 200 protected area practitioners from 21 countries gathered in Djerdap National Park in Serbia to listen to speeches, attend workshops and network on the topic of sustainable tourism. The conference 'Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas, Building Bridges – Seeking Solutions' took place in Donji Milanovac in Djerdap National Park. It was the celebration of the 7<sup>th</sup> Charter Network Meeting, attended by the Sustainable Development Officer and the Trust Director. This conference proved very valuable as it gave the CCGHT the opportunity to learn how best to progress with the recently awarded EU Charter for sustainable tourism, networking with other protected areas where the Charter has worked successfully for them.



## STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Over the summer, Áine Scullion, a student at Queens University Belfast, originally from Loughgiel has assisted the Trust and more specifically the Sustainable Development (Tourism) Officer in the development of sustainable tourism projects. Áine undertook a survey on sustainable tourism awareness in the AONBs, investigate a 'Hidden Gems' project looking at the special features known to local people but not publicised to visitors and assisted on the preparation of the coming Sustainable Tourism Conference in October. Áine also published information on designated areas circulated on a weekly basis on the Trust's website and social network.

Neil Dickson a Masters Degree student spent the summer preparing his final dissertation. Neil looked at a scoping

feasibility study regarding the creation of a Geopark across the Antrim Coast and Glens, Causeway Coast and Binevenagh Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In his work Neil looked at the importance of geology on the Causeway Coast and Glens and its links with natural and cultural heritage, and the opportunities to link geology with tourism, education and conservation.

### Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is grateful for support from:

