

## **Binevenagh Site Visit Day**

The Binevenagh AONB Management Forum held its first Site Visit Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. The Management Forum visited Rural Generation Ltd, where John Gilliland, founder and chair of the company talked to the group about the sustainability of biomass as fuel. Rural Generation recycles organic waste into short rotation willow coppice plantations. The willow crop is fertilised by the nutrients contained in the organic waste and is then harvested for wood fuel energy. John led the group on a tour of his facility at Brook Hall Estate to see the harvested crop and the biomass boilers in action.



Lunch and refreshments were provided at the heart of Downhill Forest and thanks to Lesley and Jim at Pretty Crafty Studios for a great spread!

Tracy Platt, Site Manager Northern Region Nature Reserves, took the group on a tour of the Binevenagh Nature Reserve, where the group had the opportunity to learn more about the grazing scheme underway there. Exmoor ponies and Dexter Cattle graze the reserve at present and the animals were on show on the day. Despite scattered showers throughout the day, the sun did appear and the group was treated to breathtaking views across Lough Foyle, the Roe Valley and the coast.

Thanks to all the members of the Binevenagh AONB Management Forum for attending the Site Visit Day. Thanks also to Rural Generation Ltd, Pretty Crafty Studios and NIEA for hosting the group, the feedback has been very positive!

## **CCGHT Working Group**

At the request of the CCGHT Directors and the Councils it was agreed to establish a working group to discuss funding issues, the role and future of the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust. The group's members include: Bill Harpur, the new independent Chairman; Cllr Roy Craig, Lynne Bryce, Cllr Catherine McCambridge, Valerie Richmond, Peter Thompson and Sean Trainor. The group held its inaugural meeting on the 19th July and subsequently met again on the 7th September.

## **CCGHT Staff Site Visit Day**

Trust staff were invited to spend the afternoon with representatives from the Castlerock Community Association, exploring and learning about the history and current projects initiated in the town and also to experience the new Visitor and Community Information Centre. Further site visits have been planned within the entire CCGHT remit to familiarise all staff with the area and to enhance community and local authority relations with the Trust.



## **Art & the Environment!**

Elements Studio at Downhill hosted an Art & Environment Week for 6-11 year olds this July in the Peter Thompson Hall in Castlerock. Supported by Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, this scheme was based on the eco-systems of the beaches in the Binevenagh AONB and provided an exciting opportunity for kids to explore the beach environment and interpret learning through art!



## **Determining Environmental Priorities for the New Assembly: NIEL Annual Conference 2011: 22 June 2011**

The Trust Director attended the annual conference of NIEL, at La Mon Hotel, Belfast, on 22 June 2011. The conference gave members and delegates the opportunity to meet the new Environment Committee and raise issues and concerns about the environment. A series of 'café conversations' took place on the main work themes of Climate Change, Freshwater, Land Use, Marine, Planning, Transport and Waste. The Trust Director chaired the discussion on Land Use.

A full report of the proceedings of the day can be found on NIEL's website [www.nienvironmentlink.org](http://www.nienvironmentlink.org)

## **Draft Invasive Alien Species Strategy**

Maxime Sizaret sent comments on the draft Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Northern Ireland. He agreed in principle with most of the objectives and priority actions but also reiterated that, alongside a lead from central government, local connections should be ensured to raise awareness, control and prevent invasive alien species and that a partnership approach was core to the success of the strategy.

# CALLING ALL TOURISM ORGANISATIONS & BUSINESSES!

The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust has been awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas.

How can the European Charter work for you as a tourism body? What benefit will this have on your tourism business?

A CONFERENCE in the GALGORM RESORT & SPA on 26TH OCTOBER 2011 from 9.30am to 3.30pm will answer all these questions and more!



Guest speakers will include Jim Eastwood from the BBC's *The Apprentice*, representatives from the Forest of Bowland AONB, Mourne Heritage Trust, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment...



Contact the CCGHT Office on 028 2075 2100 or email [Tierna@ccght.org](mailto:Tierna@ccght.org) for more information