

Antrim Coast & Glens View

The Newsletter for the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Issue Five

April 08



A Plan to Look after the Antrim Coast

Initiated in February 2007 the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Plan has now been completed and will be launched on June 08.

Over the last year, RedKite Environment consultants have gathered information, met with all the key stakeholders and the wider

community to produce a long term integrated Management Plan for the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB. Following the launch of the Management Plan the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Group will now work closely to insure the implementation of the 5 year Action Plan which includes actions to promote greater appreciation and enjoyment of the landscape, the wildlife and the historic environment of the AONB, actions to ensure the

preservation of the natural, built and cultural heritage, actions to enable vibrant communities to grow sustainably or actions to encourage and stimulate tourism.

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



Swim for Life 08

Twenty top, marathon swimmers from across the globe, racing across seven miles of the most treacherous and spectacular waters in Ireland, all in the name of climate change. Saturday 23rd August 2008, Rathlin Island.

Inspired by his solo and bare skin swim from Rathlin to Ballycastle last year Kenny Boyd is the driving force for this unique and groundbreaking extreme sporting spectacle. Swim for Life will celebrate the sport of sea swimming whilst raising awareness of the urgency to take action on climate change.

In partnership with the Causeway Coast Glens & Heritage Trust, the Rathlin Island Community & Development Association, Moyle District Council, the Irish Long Distance Swimming Association, Ballycastle Town Partnership, the National Trust and Action Renewables, Swim for Life will raise finance to enable people in Africa adapt to climate change.

It has the potential to become an annual event in the Irish sporting calendar asserting the North Antrim coast's position as a mecca for challenging, pioneering outdoor sports.

To get involved in Swim for Life contact **Kenny Boyd** on 07877309684 or boydkenny@hotmail.com

The Chairman's View



Welcome to the fifth issue of the Antrim Coast and Glens View. Since the last issue work has progressed on all our Antrim Coast and Glens AONB projects. The Antrim Coast & Glens AONB



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

Management Plan is in the final stages and we will launch the plan in June 2008. The management plan has brought together a wide range of interested organisations and individuals to assess what makes the Coast and Glens so special, and find out what needs to be done to make sure these features are protected while allowing communities to thrive and prosper.

Work is also progressing on our AONB raising awareness project with the very successful publication of a series of AONB postcards illustrating features which make the Antrim Coast and Glens a unique and splendid Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A series of evening talks was held over the winter months which looked at the Clachan Project, the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Plan and a design guide as a tool to achieve a high quality built environment. On behalf of the Trust and the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Group I would like to thank all the speakers who gave up their free time to prepare and deliver the presentations.

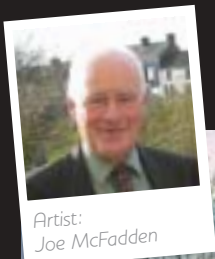
In the forthcoming months we will launch a photography competition with 7 primary schools in the boroughs/districts of Ballymoney, Ballymena, Larne & Moyle.

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.

Harry Connolly

World Ocean Day 8th June 2008

Get down to the seashore on Sunday 8th June to celebrate World Ocean Day!



Artist's impression

Artist:
Joe McFadden



Trying to write about my favourite view in the Glens of Antrim is a bit like a child being offered a large box of chocolates and told to pick one — and just as difficult.

Where do I start when all around are views which are amongst the most beautiful and evocative in Ireland and beyond?

Over the years I have found inspiration for my drawings and paintings throughout the middle glens. Cushleake, Cushendall, Cushendun, Glenanne, Glendun, Layde, Tievebullagh, the river Dun and Torr have all held my attention at different times but how does one choose a favourite? So many factors influence choice — my mood,

the time of day, the weather, etc, etc, etc, It's a bit like the child's dilemma when confronted with the box of chocolates.

I decided to have a break, clear my head and make a cup of tea. I stood at the kitchen window and instantly my problem was no more for there in front of me, all the time was my favourite scene. Our home stands a couple of hundred feet above Cushendun Bay facing the sea and as in John Glynn's popular hymn *I Watch the Sunrise* on many a morning. There is something magical on winter mornings seeing the sky slowly lighten, observe the red disk emerge over the horizon and colour transform the sea, sky and land. Nor is it ever the same — climatic conditions create endless variations of this daily occurrence. I cannot imagine my mornings without my familiar view; and not just the mornings for throughout the hours of daylight colour, light and tones draw attention to the islands, headlands, the pattern of fields, hedgerows, buildings and of course the sea.

On a daily basis ferries and cargo vessels pass by, at weekends pleasure craft add to the variety and every time the tide turns I can observe the flow of river water take a different sweep around the bay. Friends and visitors have often said to me that if they had this they would just sit, do nothing but enjoy it.

The pleasure is not simply visual. When sitting drawing or making colour sketches one becomes acutely aware of the range of sounds both natural and manmade. The variety of birdsong and the buzzing of insects mix with the bleating of sheep and the bawling of cattle. Motor vehicles and farm machinery add to the orchestra of sounds and on occasions the high-pitched scream of a trials motorbike or jetski intrudes. The scent of wildflowers and newly cut grass adds to the overall experience.

There is also delight when something unexpected occurs. I well remember sitting drawing in the upper garden and out of the corner of my eye picking up a slight movement in a nearby mountain ash. I turned my head very slowly and there not ten feet away was a red squirrel watching me. A few minutes later a car passed and he was gone.

I continue to draw and paint in areas near to the house for images may be familiar yet change and offer new challenges. I remember well times I was offered the chocolates and told to pick one. Most times I ended up choosing the same type. The familiar is not always the worst choice!

Joe McFadden - Local Artist

Vice Chairman Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Group

Picture This! The Antrim Coast & Glens AONB



As part of the Raising Awareness of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB programme, Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is hosting a photography competition with 7 primary schools in the area.

St. Anne's Primary Corkey, Ballymoney Model Primary School, Broughshane Primary School, Carnlough Integrated Primary School, Seaview Primary School Glenarm, Ballycastle Integrated Primary School, Glenann Primary School Cushendall.

A photographer and CCGHT staff will accompany the children and teachers to sites within the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB where they will be given the opportunity to take photographs and ask questions about the AONB. Over 120 year 7 pupils will take part in the competition with the overall winner receiving a digital camera similar to the cameras donated to each of the schools.

The competition and prize-giving will coincide with the launch of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management plan in May. All of the photographs and the children's quotes will be illustrated in a special publication which will be available from Tourist Information Centres and Libraries in the area from late summer.



RSPB's Rathlin Island Seabird Centre

As you travel through the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB you can see a huge array of wildlife but a visit to the Rathlin Island Seabird Centre can be particularly memorable.



Rathlin is a place of international importance for seabirds and one of the largest mixed seabird colonies in Britain or Ireland. Friendly and helpful RSPB volunteers and staff are on hand to show the best views of the action.

The new facilities there are open until the end of August and from April thousands of birds return from a winter on the ocean in great, clamouring swathes to pick out the best nest sites on the rocky cliff faces and off-shore volcanic stacks. In June, the chicks begin to hatch and the feeding frenzy begins to get fluffy fledglings fit for flopping into the sea and swimming oceanwards by the end of July/early August. Every day RSPB have telescopes and binoculars on loan for everyone to share the excitement. Spotting seals, sharks and dolphins is always a possibility. Puffins, particularly, pose and parade to please the crowd watching from the main viewpoint outside the upside-down lighthouse.

...the chicks begin to hatch and the feeding frenzy begins to get fluffy fledglings fit for flopping into the sea ...



For the less agile, those not wishing to climb the steps down the cliff side, there are seats, a place to picnic and someone to point out the birds of the colony against the scenic backdrop of the Antrim coast, stretching on a clear day to Donegal and beyond. Any day in May is by far the best time to visit Rathlin for the freshest of orchid carpets appearing on hillsides and heights. Spring stays a little later on the island and primroses vie with roses along the roadsides into June. RSPB Northern Ireland is part of the RSPB, which speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment.

To contact RSPB on Rathlin call: 02820 763948

Snapshots of the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Commenting Maxime Sizaret, Natural Heritage Officer for the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust said the publication of these postcards is part of a three year project co-funded by the Environment & Heritage Service aimed at raising awareness of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB. The postcards represent some of the rich heritage we have on our doorstep!

Helen Noble, Trust Director of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust added AONB designation recognises landscapes of national importance. The Antrim Coast and Glens being one of them, it is vital to raise awareness of the special features of this outstanding landscape for the benefit of those who live there and those visitors who come to enjoy it .

The postcards have been distributed widely throughout the AONB area and the Trust intends to reprint copies which will be available in libraries, schools, tourist information centres and from the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust offices. For further information on the postcards or on the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB please contact the natural heritage officer Maxime Sizaret on 028 20875 2100 or maxime@ccght.org.

Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust launched on 27th November in the Millennium Centre in Loughgiel a series of postcards highlighting the unique natural, cultural and built heritage of one of Northern Ireland's treasured landscapes, the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Representatives from Ballymoney, Ballymena, Moyle and Larne Borough and District Councils, alongside representatives from Environment and Heritage Service, NI Tourist Board, DOE Planning Service, National Trust, St Patrick's and St. Anne's Primary Schools and many community organisations and village committees attended the launch.

Our Heritage

Oul' Lammas Fair



The Oul' Lammas Fair

The Oul' Lammas Fair takes place on the last Monday and Tuesday in August and is famed for having an 'unbroken history', for the past 300 years. The name of Lammas originated from the 'Feast of Lughnasadh' or Lugh (Lu) and comes from one of the legends of Ireland - Lugh was a Sun God who had a mortal foster mother called Tailtiu. Tailtiu was forced to clear a large area of woodland for the planting of grain and she died of exhaustion in the process. She was buried under a great mound which was called the Hill of Tailtiu and Lugh instructed that each year a festival be held to commemorate his foster mother's death, where there should be games and feasting on the first fruits of the harvest. With the arrival of Christianity to Ireland we find the festival of Lugh changing and adopting more Christian symbolism, loaves of bread baked from the first harvest grain are placed on the church altar.



The Christianised name for the festival of Lugh becomes Lammas which means loaf mass. Today's Lammas is a time of stalls, buying and selling, traditional music and horse trading, a local tradition exists of eating yellow candy called Yellow Man and eating Dulse, a reddish sea weed of the variety *Palmaria palmata* which has been eaten and used in medicine for centuries in Ireland. The Oul Lammas Fair attracts people in their thousands from all over the world and is well worth a visit if you're in the vicinity. www.northerntrim.com



The Clachan Project



Throughout the Glens of Antrim, there are many abandoned and derelict dwellings. The members of the Glens of Antrim Historical Society decided to look specifically at the clusters of houses found throughout the Glens and Rathlin, which are sometimes called Clachans .

Many of these small settlements are in decline or no longer inhabited, a few have been sympathetically restored while others have been developed beyond recognition. The Society was delighted to secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which enabled us to document and record photographically the settlements as they are today and to compile a social history of past inhabitants.

Having collated a vast archive of information in our research, they were able to make it accessible through the creation of a very extensive website www.antrimhistory.net.

The society has, as part of the project, launched a book entitled *A When O Things That Used To Be*. The contents encapsulate the many different facets of life in the Glens of Antrim and offer the reader an in-depth look at a fascinating social history, exploring aspects of the life and work of the people of the Glens of Antrim from around 1800 to 1950. The text is beautifully complimented by many unpublished photographs and specially commissioned drawings by local artist Joe McFadden, who skilfully captures the lives of the people. Many of the occupations would be unfamiliar today e.g. thatchers, nailers, mantua makers,

flax dressers, coopers and wheelwrights. Occupations associated with the sea also played a very important role in the lives of Glens people in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The book stresses the important role played by women of the time and gives a glimpse of the superstitions prevalent in the Glens.

The Society has, since the summer term of 2004, been working with 15 schools in the Glens, covering a geographical area from Glenarm to Armoyn and including Rathlin. A summary of work, which will be a permanent record of the Schools Project, is now published in book form. The title *How It Used To Be* reflects what children were researching - their area in the past. The book is fully illustrated with photographs of schools on site visits and at Cultra Folk Museum, performing at local festivals, at craft and drama workshops and storytelling sessions. Photographs of clachan-models and art work are included also.

Books can be purchased through the Glens of Antrim Historical Society bookshop by emailing: antrimhistory@utvinternet.com or telephoning the office (Tues- Sat. 10:00am — 1:00pm) 028 2177 1180.

Competition



win a copy of *A When O Things That Used To Be*

If you can identify the famous Italian inventor, born in Bologna, Italy on April 25th 1874 to an Italian father and an Irish mother - his mother was Annie Jameson whose family owned the Jameson Whiskey Distillery in County Wexford, who allegedly resided in this cottage in

1898 you will be entered in a competition to win a copy of the book entitled *A When O Things That Used To Be*. Competition entries must be returned to Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust office before 31 July 2008.

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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