



# about Binevenagh

The newsletter for the Binevenagh AONB

## CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

A busy summer has turned into a busy autumn for Binevenagh AONB.

In July, The National Association of AONBs held its annual conference in Northern Ireland for the first time at Coleraine. This provided an opportunity to showcase the landscape to colleagues from throughout the UK, Ireland and further afield. Whilst our approach to managing protected landscapes is relatively new it is clear from the conference and field trips that things are heading in the right direction.

The Heritage Trust continues to raise awareness of the special nature of Binevenagh AONB through practical means. A very successful Picture This! Competition engaged six local schools and has resulted in a fantastic library of images which the Trust can use to promote the AONB. A key element of this competition is that it was the children who took the photographs of things that were important to them. This will hopefully lay a foundation for a sense of pride and ownership in the landscape in which they live.

On behalf of the Binevenagh AONB management forum I would like to extend a word of thanks to all those involved particularly the pupils, teachers, staff & Art Ward for his professional guidance.

Not only does Binevenagh AONB have a diverse landscape but there is also a rich biodiversity within that landscape. Birds of Binevenagh is the latest in a series of guides produce by the Heritage Trust that raises awareness of the rich natural heritage that exists. This practical guide is a non exhaustive list that will hopefully allow anyone who enjoys the AONB to explore its rich variety of visiting and resident bird life.

Following extensive stakeholder and public consultation the Management Plan process continues to roll on with a draft plan now available for comment. This document considers the long term protection and enhancement of the landscape quality of the area for the benefit of both those who live there and for those visitors who come to enjoy it, over the next ten years. Please take the time to feed into this important consultation.

The Ulster Way was recently relaunched with new branding and signage, some of the best bits of which has been installed throughout the AONB. The trail provides a great opportunity to enjoy some the best bits of our landscape.

As always we're looking for new ways to promote and get people talking about the AONB, so coming soon the Binevenagh AONB Facebook page. If you're on Facebook add us as a friend.



**Richard Gillen**  
Countryside Recreation Officer  
Culture Arts Tourism  
Limavady Borough Council

**Chairman,**  
Binevenagh AONB  
Management Forum

## BIRDS OF BINEVENAGH

The Binevenagh AONB is a dramatic landscape of contrast and diversity which provides a haven of different habitats within the area for an abundant wild bird population.

The area is also sparsely populated with people and is on the outer fringes of the province and it is this fortunate coincidence that means it is favoured by some of the most abundant and at times rare displays of birdlife in the country.

This guide is a non exhaustive list of the birds that may appear throughout the Binevenagh AONB.

It is not an attempt to name every possible sighting, but a representative sample from the wide variety of species you may commonly come across along with some special rare but equally, important species that may hold particular significance to the regional heritage or the habitat in which they are found.



The birds are listed per habitat, but it is useful to bear in mind that they are mobile creatures and will often be found passing through various habitats or even occupying more than one of the habitats listed. There may also be variations in the male and



female of the species and often the young will have dissimilarities usually in the colour of their down before they grow a fully fledged feather coat, like the adult bird. However, for ease of use, the most common representation of the bird species has been presented in each case.



## HAPPY BIRD SPOTTING!



**Joanne Pollock CCGHT,**  
Student Placement

The Birds of Binevenagh guide is available at local Tourist Information Centres and libraries or alternatively contact CCGHT to receive your free copy.



**BINEVENAGH  
MANAGEMENT FORUM  
WHO'S WHO?**



**Cllr William King  
Coleraine BC**

Cllr William King has been a member of Coleraine Borough Council since 2001. He is involved with various committees and is interested in sport and agriculture. He is a retired farmer and lives in Macosquin which lies on the edge of the Binevenagh AONB. William received an MBE for services to agriculture in 2002.



**Cllr Cathal  
O hOisin  
Limavady BC**

Cathal, present Mayor of Limavady is currently a freelance producer and facilitator with Independent Television Company. He was elected to Limavady Borough Council in 2005 and represents the Council on Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, Binevenagh AONB Management Forum, the Causeway Coast and Glens Ltd, the Sperrins Tourism Ltd and the Western Health & Social Services Board Early Years Committee. Cathal has a keen interest in the promotion of the Irish language, hill walking and environmental issues.



**Ann McNickle  
Coleraine Rural  
& Urban Network**

Ann McNickle has been project Manager with Coleraine Rural & Urban Network for nearly 10 years. She lives in the Limavady council area and is very keen to highlight the natural beauty within the area and to underline any issues of concern that the local community should be made aware of.



**Maxime Sizaret  
Heritage Manager  
CCGHT**

Maxime who started work with the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust in March 2004 as the Natural Heritage Officer is originally from Le Mans in France where he worked as an environment consultant. Maxime, who now lives in Belfast with his wife and son, was recently promoted to Heritage Manager. He is currently working with the local community and stakeholder organisations to produce a Binevenagh AONB Management Plan.



**MY BINEVENAGH!**

In 2006 the scenic area around Binevenagh was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by the Department of Environment (NI) in recognition of its special and unique character. Following the designation a Management Forum for the AONB was set up with the important role of looking at the long term protection and enhancement of the landscape quality of the area for the benefit of those who live there and for those visitors who come to enjoy it, through the preparation of a 10 year Management Plan.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, on behalf of the Binevenagh AONB Management Forum, has been preparing this Plan over the last few months. This has included public and stakeholder consultations and analysis of existing information.

At this stage we are looking for your views on the Plan, its content, the issues and opportunities highlighted, objectives and actions. The information within this document is not exhaustive, however

we would like to know if you feel that issues or opportunities and objectives or actions are missing or if you feel that some are not represented. You do not need to comment on the entire document but you can concentrate on what you feel is more relevant to you.

The Plan, along with other relevant documents, will be available on the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust website. Comments can be sent by post or email to Maxime Sizaret, [maxime@ccght.org](mailto:maxime@ccght.org) alternatively you can contact Maxime by phone.

Rachel Bain has been appointed as the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust AONB Officer. [Rachel@ccght.org](mailto:Rachel@ccght.org)

We would like to receive your comments by the 18th December, after this date comments will be compiled and analysed to produce the final version of the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan.

**PICTURE  
THIS!**

In spring 2009 the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust hosted a primary schools photography project in the Binevenagh AONB aimed at raising awareness of the natural, cultural and built heritage of this unique and beautiful landscape.

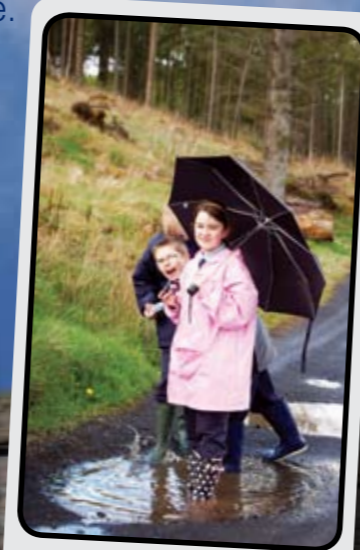
The theme of the project was 'Valuing the Environment'. Up to one hundred pupils from six primary schools were selected from across the boroughs of Coleraine and Limavady to take part in the project which involved an inschool workshop with Arthur Ward, photographer and CCGHT staff. The workshop introduced the pupils to the history of photography and the basic techniques of digital photography. The children were also given the opportunity to learn about protected area designations and the reasons why it is important to preserve and manage these landscapes. Following the workshops the pupils were given the opportunity to visit various sites within the AONB to experience and capture images of the environment. Binevenagh AONB hosts a wealth of biodiversity and this is evident in the assortment of images. Some pupils chose to capture the panoramic scenery from the heights of Binevenagh whilst others were keen to encapsulate the flora and fauna on the mudflats and in the forests.

**The schools involved were:**

- St Anthony's PS Aghantoo
- Bellarena PS
- St Aidan's PS, Magilligan
- Hezlett PS
- Ballyhackett PS
- Macosquin PS



**Winner. Aidan Gilfillan Bellarena PS**



**Bellarena PS Pupils in Binevenagh Forest**



**Ballyhackett PS Pupils  
in Downhill Demesne**



**Highly Commended. Chelsea Moore, Macosquin PS**



**Trust Director's Favourite. Adam Dallas, Hezlett PS**



**Runner-Up. Ryan McCracken, Bellarena PS**



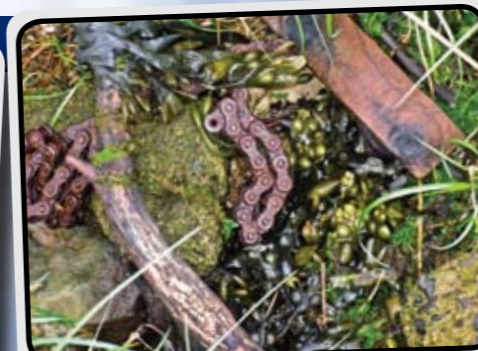
**Runner-Up. Ross Canning, Ballyhackett PS**



**Highly Commended. Caleb Ewart, Hezlett PS**



**Highly Commended. Kevin Moran, St Anthony's PS**



**Highly Commended. Leah Gilfillan, Bellarena PS**



**Highly Commended. Liam McIlhinney, St Aidan's PS**



**Runner-Up. Ciara McCormack, St Anthony's PS**



**Highly Commended. Conor O'Kane, Ballyhackett PS**

In total more than seven thousand photographs were taken during the site visits. CCGHT staff sifted through the images which were of an outstanding quality, categorising and shortlisting them for the judging panel, Patrick Lennon from Tourism Ireland, Richard Gillen from Limavady Borough Council and Chairman of the Binevenagh AONB Management Forum and Joe McFadden Chairman of the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Group. The judges had the very difficult task of selecting the prizewinners as there were so many images worthy of winning. The judges also pointed out that a number of pupils exhibited a creativity and talent for photography. They especially encouraged Aidan Gilfillan, Bellarena PS and Conor O'Kane from Ballyhackett PS to progress with their interest in photography.



## Valuing our Environment

AONBS - Diamonds In The Landscape

The NAAONB and the host AONBs, Antrim Coast and Glens, Binevenagh, Causeway Coast, Lagan Valley, Mourne, Ring of Gullion, Sperrins and Strangford Lough welcomed over 180 delegates to Northern Ireland and the University of Ulster, Coleraine Campus for the NAAONB 11th Annual Conference in July 2009. Entitled 'Valuing our Environment: Diamonds in the Landscape', the conference looked at the different ways of valuing and getting value from our AONBs. We also took this opportunity to celebrate both the 60th Anniversary of the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act and the 20th Anniversary of the Causeway Coast AONB and the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site.

The theme of the conference was investigated and discussed over three days with presentations from speakers including:

- Edwin Poots MP MLA**, Minister of the Environment, Northern Ireland
- Huw Irranca-Davies MP**, Minister for Marine, Landscape and Rural Affairs
- Graham Seymour**, Director of Natural Heritage, Northern Ireland Environment Agency



- Helen Phillips**, CEO, Natural England
  - Roger Thomas**, CEO, The Countryside Council for Wales
  - Alan Clarke**, CEO, Northern Ireland Tourist Board
  - Fiona Reynolds**, CEO, National Trust
  - Michael Starrett**, CEO, The Heritage Council
  - Paul Mullan**, Northern Ireland Director, Heritage Lottery Fund
  - Hans Schiphorst**, WeerribbenWieden National Park
  - Graham Thompson**, National Trust Project Director for the Giant's Causeway
  - Joe Breen**, Senior Scientific Officer, Northern Ireland Environment Agency
  - Arlene Foster MLA**, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland
- In addition there was a series of practically focused field trips to the host AONBs to see examples of how local AONBs are dealing with the challenges and opportunities set before them. To download speaker presentations or for more information visit: [www.aonb.org.uk](http://www.aonb.org.uk)

## COMPETITION



If you can identify this bird, which is featured in our Birds of Binevenagh guide you could win a framed copy of Aidan Gilfillan's winning image of a view from Binevenagh.

Competition entries must be submitted by post or by email ([info@ccght.org](mailto:info@ccght.org)) to Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust office before 31 January 2010. If you haven't got a copy of the Birds of Binevenagh guide you can pick one up at your local Tourist Information Centre or library.

**Congratulations!** to Patricia Craig, Ballycarton House, Limavady who correctly identified Aghanloo Parish Church in issue 3 of About Binevenagh. Patricia has won a framed copy of one of our very popular Binevenagh AONB posters. Thanks to everyone who entered the competition and better luck next time. If you have any comments about our newsletters or any interesting and relevant articles please contact Carole at the CCGHT office.



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS  
HERITAGE TRUST

For more information on the Binevenagh AONB please check the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust website: [www.ccght.org](http://www.ccght.org)

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- Trust Director Helen Noble
- Heritage Manager Maxime Sizaret
- Sustainable Development Officer Grainne O'Connor
- AONB Officer Rachel Bain
- Office/Communications Manager Carole O'Kane
- Administration Officer Tierna McAlister

### Binevenagh AONB Fact File:

- Designated:** 2006 (Formerly North Derry AONB designated in 1966)
- Area:** 14100 ha
- Population:** 5706 (Estimate based on 2001 census)



A very special thanks to Art Ward for his support in the Picture This! Binevenagh AONB photography project. His input and expertise were invaluable to the project. CCGHT looks forward to working with Art on similar projects in the future.

**Photographic credits: CCGHT Picture This!**

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

