

Causeway COAST VIEW

The newsletter for the Causeway Coast AONB

Picture This!



Winning image in the Picture This! 20 years of the Causeway Coast AONB Project

Charlotte Rosborough,
Portrush Primary School "Making Tracks"

The Outdoor Classroom



Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Over one hundred and thirty local school children took part in an exciting outdoor photography project to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Causeway Coastal area's designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The 'Picture This! 20 years of the Causeway Coast AONB' project was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £17,400 and provided opportunities for the children to learn about the natural, cultural and built heritage of the area.

Children from Portrush PS, Bushmills PS, St Patrick's and St Brigid's PS, Dunseverick PS, Straidbilly PS and St Patrick's PS, Portrush took part in workshops to learn about the unique heritage of the area and the criteria for achieving AONB status. The pupils visited a range of local sites, including Portbradden, White Park Bay, Ballintoy Harbour and with help from biodiversity officers, recreation and tourism officers, and a professional photographer, took photographs under the theme of valuing the environment.

The photographs were submitted as part of the 'Picture This!' schools competition and the winner, Charlotte Rosborough from Portrush Primary School was announced at an awards ceremony during the Annual Conference of the National Association of AONBs, which was staged in Northern Ireland for the first time in July.

The children's images will be used in a variety of publications and promotional materials that will be available from Tourist Information Centres, schools and libraries throughout the region. An exhibition of the photographs will also be produced to tour sites including Coleraine Museum, Ballycastle Museum, Causeway School Museum, Bushmills Education Resource Centre and NIEA Coastal Zone Centre, Portrush.

Before the project commenced in May, Head of HLF Northern Ireland, Paul Mullan, said: "Picture This! is a fun and innovative project that will engage the children with the rich heritage of their area, from the diverse marine and plant life found in rock pools and on cliff tops, to historic monuments, buildings and local myths and legends. The project provides an opportunity to stimulate a lifelong interest in the conservation and protection of the natural environment, and the images captured by the children will enable us all to take a fresh look at our amazing local landscapes".

Commenting, Helen Noble, Trust Director of CCGHT, said: 'Picture This! really does embody what Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are all about. It's about engaging young people in their environment and instilling a real sense of belonging. Watching the children enjoying their surroundings and capturing it for all to see really does bring home the need to look after these precious landscapes and raise awareness of the diverse heritage. We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the designation of the Causeway Coast AONB this year and in only a few years time, it will be these children who will be the custodians of the AONB. What better way to see the Causeway Coast AONB afresh than through the eyes of children? It really does want to make you get out there to explore and have fun.'

Chairman's View

This special edition of the Causeway Coast View celebrates the 20th anniversary of the designation of the Causeway Coast as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As part of the celebrations six primary schools in the area participated in an exciting photography competition. The competition allowed for an enjoyable and creative approach to exploring and learning about the natural, cultural and built heritage of the area. The standard of entries was exceptionally high. On behalf of the Causeway Coast AONB management group I would like to extend a word of thanks to all the teachers and pupils who took part in the project, to the Heritage Lottery Fund for providing the funds to allow it to happen, to the judges and to the staff in the Heritage Trust for their organisation and support. By undertaking this project we hope to encourage young people to respect and have a sense of pride and ownership of the world on their doorstep. This project has left us with a plethora of stunning images which will be used on the website and in a variety of publications to raise awareness of the unique beauty and heritage of the Causeway Coast.



Graham Thompson,
National Trust

Chairman of the
Causeway Coast AONB
Management Group





Causeway Coast

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Picture This!

Art Ward, photographer; graduate students from Queens University and staff from the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, including the Trust Director, Helen Noble; Heritage Manager, Maxime Sizaret; Office/Communications Manager, Carole O'Kane and Administration Officer, Tiarna McAlister accompanied the schools to various sites within the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Portrush Primary School

Portrush Primary School explored and captured images in the conservation town of Bushmills and along the heritage railway to Bushfoot. Tourism and Marketing Officer with Coleraine Borough Council, Vicky Stevenson joined the group along the short circular walk, close to Bushfoot Golf Club, Portballintrae, which takes in stunning coastal scenery against the backdrop of the River Bush, Runkerry Strand and the Giant's Causeway & Bushmills Heritage Railway.

Dunseverick Primary School

Dunseverick Primary School has recently been appointed as a National Trust guardianship school for the Giant's Causeway and Dunseverick Castle. They chose to capture images and learn more about the cultural, natural and built heritage of these sites. James Milliken from the National Trust and Andy Griggs from EEF (Environmental Education Forum) accompanied the pupils along the walk to the Giant's Causeway. The Giant's Causeway experiences more than 700,000 visitors every year and is ranked as Northern Ireland's top attraction. The Giant's Causeway and the Causeway Coast was inscribed as a World Heritage Site (WHS) by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1986. The Site occupies approximately 70ha of land and encompasses a further 160ha of sea along the North Antrim Coast within an area of a spectacular dynamic coastal landscape of Atlantic waves, rugged cliffs, unparalleled geological formations, secluded bays and magnificent views.



Runner-Up
Photographed by: Jonathan McIntyre, Dunseverick PS
Flowers in the rock



Highly Commended
Photographed by: Lewis Dobbin, Portrush PS
The Bridge over the Bush



Runner-Up
Photographed by: Jamie Duggan, St Patrick's PS Portrush
Surfers' paradise!



"the house looks very old"
Highly Commended
Photographed by: Niamh Doherty, St Patrick's & St Brigid's PS, Down at Kinbane



"I thought it was unusual to see such a big rock shaped like a heart..I could even stand on it."
Best Black & White image
Photographed by: Charlotte Knox, Bushmills PS
The stone heart



Highly Commended
Photographed by: Karri Galway, St Patrick's PS Portrush
Looking through the hole



"What a lovely, lovely stone!"
Trust Director's Favourite
Photographed by: Claire Patton, Bushmills PS
My Heart Shape Stone



"When the rain was over at Portrush we all went to a little beach. It was really rocky and there was a lot of seaweed on top of the rocks. This made a lovely colour."
Highly Commended
Photographed by: Tristan Burke, Straidbilly PS
Seaweed and Rocks



"The church was so small only two people at a time were allowed in"
Highly Commended
Photographed by: Thomas Buick, Bushmills PS
St Gobban's Church

Straidbilly Primary School

Portrush Nature Reserve and the Coastal Zone centre in Portrush hosted the pupils from Straidbilly Primary School on a wet and wild exploration of the marine and coastal heritage of the Causeway Coast. The Mayor of Coleraine, Cllr Sandy Gilkinson welcomed the children to the reserve. Tourism officers from Coleraine Borough and Moyle District Councils also attended on the day.

Bushmills Primary School

Bushmills Primary School visited the picturesque fishing village of Portbradden. The name means 'port of the Salmon' and the Salmon fishery still exists. The church dedicated to St. Gobban is said to be the smallest in Ireland. Pupils then made their way along the spectacular sweep of sandy beach at White Park Bay which looks out over the Atlantic Ocean, forming a white arc between two headlands on the North Antrim Coast. They learnt about the geology and flora of the area whilst enjoying the trek to Ballintoy Harbour.

St Patrick's & St Brigid's Primary School

Pupils from St Patrick's & St Brigid's Primary School, Ballycastle managed the steep decline to explore Kinbane Castle which is a little-known jewel in the North Coast of County Antrim. A secluded ruin at the bottom of a steep cliff face, the castle commands excellent views of the surrounding coastline with Fair Head to the East and Rathlin Island to the North.



Runner-Up
Photographed by: Joshua Kane, Bushmills PS
The red chair



"Very still picture, reminds me of a nice day!"
Highly Commended
Photographed by: Mark McConaghie, Dunseverick PS
Yellow Flower

St Patrick's Primary School

St Patrick's Primary School, Portrush enjoyed the views from Magheracross viewing point before they were set free in the grounds of the spectacular Dunluce Castle. The castle is sited dramatically close to the edge of a headland, in the Causeway Coast AONB. Surrounded by jaw dropping coastal scenery, the medieval castle stands where an early Irish fort was once built and where its history can be traced back to early Christians and Vikings. Leaving the castle, but not quite ready to return to school, the pupils stopped off at Whiterocks beach where they captured some breathtaking coastal and water-based activity images.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Davidson from Broughshane who correctly identified Dunseverick as the location in the competition in issue 7 of the Causeway Coast View. Margaret has won a £20 gift voucher for Craft Connections in Ballycastle.

Acknowledgements

Teachers and pupils from the 6 primary schools, Heritage Lottery Fund, judging panel Joe McFadden and Kevin McGarry, staff from Moyle District Council and Coleraine Borough Council, James Milliken and staff at Larrybane National Trust; Andy Griggs EEF, NIEA staff at Dunluce Castle and Coastal Zone, Mayor of Coleraine Sandy Gilkinson and Chairman of Moyle William Graham.

Special word of thanks

A very special word of thanks to Art Ward for his time, expertise and support during this project.



A word from the Teachers

"This was a brilliant project – well planned from beginning to end. The children really enjoyed the whole process and were motivated throughout."

Jane McNeill, Portrush PS

"Both my class and myself really enjoyed being a part of this project, and it was very educational. It actually inspired me to try to find a suitable night class to offer me an introduction to photography. A great project!"

Valerie McIntosh, Principal, Straidbilly Primary School

Competition

Where in the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty would you find this Castle which was built in 1546-7 by Colla MacDonnell, younger brother of the notorious Sorley Boy MacDonnell?

The castle is well worth a visit but a word of warning to get to the castle, there's a fairly steep descent by way of a winding stairway down the cliff face. Send your answer to the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust or email your answer to info@ccght.org before 31st December 2009.

Image: Caitlin Kelly, St Patrick's & St Brigid's PS Ballycastle



Causeway Coast AONB Fact File:

Date Of Designation
22 March 1989

Area
4200ha



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS HERITAGE TRUST

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

www.ccght.org

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