

17<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## **Cloughmills Crochet Club Embarks on Inspiring Visit to Glenshane Country Farm through the Culturally Creative Communities Project**

Cloughmills Crochet Club recently enjoyed an inspiring and enriching visit to Glenshane Country Farm on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> June. This outing, part of the Culturally Creative Communities project, was a collaborative effort led by the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) in partnership with Age NI Living Well Moyle, Armstrong Storytelling Trust, and supported by the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

The “Glenshane Experience” was an immersive event facilitated by Glenshane Country Farm and Carolyn Faith from Woolly Wild Folk. As an integral part of the Culturally Creative Communities project, this initiative receives generous funding from the National Lottery, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and Tourism NI.

Dedicated to enriching the lives of older adults in the Causeway Coast and Glens area, the Culturally Creative Communities project offers engaging creative experiences designed to promote positive mental health and emotional well-being. Through hands-on workshops, music, and storytelling sessions, participants are encouraged to explore their creativity and celebrate local heritage, thus bridging generational gaps and strengthening community bonds.

During their visit, members of the Cloughmills Crochet Club enjoyed a variety of unique experiences at Glenshane Country Farm. These included sheepdogs at work, learning about a shepherd’s life, and exploring the journey “From Fleece to Fashion.” The day concluded with a captivating Wool Felting workshop led by Carolyn from Woolly Wild Folk.

Perched high in the Sperrin Mountains, Glenshane Country Farm offers breathtaking panoramic views of the countryside. Known for his exceptional standards and warm hospitality, James McCloy, a dedicated shepherd, sheep farmer, and respected local shearer, shared his lifelong passion for farming the fields he has cherished since childhood.

Denise Pemrick, Arts & Cultural Facilities Officer at Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre said “these collaborations are invaluable, enriching our cultural tapestry and fostering a sense of togetherness. By working hand in hand, we provide a platform for creativity, skill-sharing, and mutual support, which enhances the cultural experience for everyone involved. Such partnerships not only empower local artisans but also create a thriving community spirit, making the arts accessible and enjoyable for all.”

Tiérna Mullan, Project Officer at the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, also commented on the initiative’s impact: “Being involved in this project has been immensely rewarding. We’ve seen firsthand how creative activities can uplift and inspire participants, fostering a sense of community and preserving our rich cultural heritage.”

#ccght #thankstotionalotteryplayers #heritage

#glenshanecountryfarm #wellbeing #areaofoutstandingnaturabeauty #heritage #agewell #cloughmills #felting #heritagecrafts







