

Festivals & Events in The Glens of Antrim



Heart of
the Glens

Landscape Partnership Scheme



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST

Heart of
the Glens
Landscape Partnership Scheme



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BUCKNA

SLEMISH
MOUNTAIN

CARNALBANAGH

BALLYMENA

BROUGHSHANE

THE FAMOUS GLENS OF ANTRIM

The Glens of Antrim are well renowned for their outstanding natural beauty, but what many may not be aware of are the many festivals and events that occur all throughout the year. This booklet aims to provide both visitors and locals with the inside knowledge of all the happenings within The Glens. From workshops on learning local skills and crafts to the traditional Irish music sessions, The Glens has it all. A vast array of entertainment and traditions that make this area a unique destination for all to discover!

We have enclosed a flavour of some events that are available, just to get you started.

ABOUT THE AREA

The Glens of Antrim are situated in County Antrim in the north east corner of the island of Ireland. These magnificent Glens radiate out towards the Irish Sea from the remarkable Antrim Plateau. The exceptional landscape reflects its designation as the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Its dramatic coastline with headlands and harbours, its valleys with fast flowing rivers and its unique sense of light and space has given the area a special character that is appreciated by local people and by the many visitors who travel here every year.

The Glens have a long history of people, language, tradition, sport, story, music, creativity and 'The Craic'. How The Glens celebrate these attributes is what makes this area unique. The vast array of Festivals and Activities are indeed the events that punctuate the lives of local people. They provide The Glens people with a chance to come together as a community to celebrate their interests, traditions, skills, but ultimately to celebrate themselves and their own uniqueness.

In a world of standardisation, where every high street is homogenous, it is The Glens uniqueness that make them so special. The very fact that Glens folk live in small villages, in a relatively 'remote' location is the norm to them, but to most it is not. For many of the Glens folk the ancient Gaelic sport of hurling, sheep farming, turf cutting and fly fishing are ordinary to them, but extraordinary to others. The fact that we have a long history of rich language both our native Gaelic and Broad Scots, of traditional music, dance and traditional craft is something that visitors find unique and indeed special.

Heart of the Glens



Landscape Partnership Scheme

ABOUT THE HEART OF THE GLENS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

This is the first festivals and events brochure for The Glens of Antrim. It has been produced by the Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme in order to bring to the fore some of the many events which occur within this iconic landscape.

The Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme is made up of 21 exciting different projects over five years and covers a large area from Ballycastle to Glenarm. This Scheme is focused on and for the benefit of the communities and beautiful landscape of the Glens.

The main aims of this Scheme are:

- TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE BUILT, NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
- TO ENGAGE AND INSPIRE COMMUNITIES
- TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND LEARNING IN THE AREA
- TO OFFER HERITAGE SKILLS AND TRAINING

Even though this programme is only here for five years, the aim is to provide a long lasting legacy which will help to create a sustainable landscape. One way of doing this is to create resources to facilitate both locals and visitors to unearth the many opportunities that exist, to come together and enjoy this unique community.

SPRING

CUSHENDUN BIG ARTS WEEKEND MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND



LOCATION: Cushendun

Four days of music, drama, workshops and walks in one of the most beautiful villages in the Glens of Antrim. This festival usually takes place over the May Day Bank Holiday Weekend each year.

For further information please visit
www.cushendunbpt.org

ST PATRICK'S DAY PLOUGHING MATCH 17TH MARCH



Courtesy of Steven McAuley

LOCATION: Ballyvoy, Ballycastle

Ireland's only horse ploughing match. This annual traditional event takes place in Ballyvoy, just outside Ballycastle, every St Patrick's Day. It is a great way for locals to reminisce about the way they used to do things before tractors came about and a great experience and insight to life in The Glens for visitors to the area.

For further information please contact Ballycastle Visitor Centre on **028 2076 2024**

RATHLIN SOUND MARITIME FESTIVAL LAST WEEK IN MAY

LOCATION: Ballycastle & Rathlin Island

This festival brings together the strong link between Ballycastle and Rathlin Island. It is a celebration of the rich and diverse maritime culture in both locations. Attractions include the Sailing Regatta and races, food and craft markets, as well as many activities and guided walks for all the family to enjoy.

For further information please contact Ballycastle Festival Office at the Visitor Information Centre, Portnagree House Harbour and Marina Visitor Centre on
028 2076 2024

For full programme please visit
www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com



Courtesy of Charles McQuillan

WALK THE GLENS FESTIVAL

EARLY JUNE

Courtesy of Walk The Glens Festival



LOCATION: Various throughout The Glens of Antrim

Weekend of walks ranging from a leisurely stroll to a higher paced hill climb around The Glens of Antrim with spectacular views to suit all levels. Walks include a heritage history walk, the three peaks, and a stroll around the Clachans in Cushendun followed by a BBQ and traditional music, and many more. PLEASE NOTE: WALKING BOOTS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL WALKS

For further information please contact:

07588 655 053 or email: craignagat@btinternet.com
/ tobberwine@btopenworld.com

OPEN FARM WEEKEND AT GLENARM ESTATE

MID JUNE



LOCATION: Glenarm Castle, Glenarm

Glenarm Castle Estate open their grounds to visitors for this annual Open Farm Weekend celebration. Guided tours around the farm by the Estate Manager will give an insight into the day to day running of one of Ireland's oldest Estates. It is a fantastic opportunity for farmers and their families to demonstrate the work they do behind the scenes to deliver fresh produce on to our plates and educate people on where their food comes from.

For Further information please visit
www.glenarmcastle.com

SUMMER

FEIS NA NGLEANN (FEIS OF THE GLENS)

VARIOUS DATES IN
JUNE & JULY



Courtesy of Feis na nGleann

LOCATION: Various
throughout The Glens of
Antrim

This festival is the most famous cultural event in The Glens of Antrim and has been running since 1904. It is a celebration of arts and crafts, field events, language, poetry, singing and dancing which takes place over various dates throughout June and July.

For further information and detailed programme please visit www.feisnangleann.com

BUILD A BEAR WORKSHOP

MID JUNE

LOCATION: Glenarm Estate, Glenarm



This party workshop for kids offers a whole host of entertainment including a train ride with Bearamy Bear; a magic show, face painting, balloon modelling, a mini-big top, animal touch centre, and free BBQ. You can bring your own picnic and enjoy the enchanting walled garden on Glenarm Castle grounds. There will be prizes on the day for the best party person and best dressed bears.

For further information please visit
www.glenarmcastle.com

GLENARIFF OISÍN'S MARQUEE WEEKEND

12TH JULY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND



Courtesy of Glenariff Oisins CLG

LOCATION: Glenariff GAA grounds

Organised by a local Gaelic Sports Club, this is a weekend of events for all the family. From tractor racing and sports for the kids to entertainment such as night at the races and popular music bands for the grown-ups.

For full programme please see
www.glenariffeoisins.com or

Oisín's Clg Facebook

CUSHENDUN FESTIVAL WEEK

STARTS 12TH JULY WEEKEND



LOCATION: Cushendun GAA Grounds

A week of family fun and amusement in the picturesque seaside village of Cushendun. Events include children's sports, quiz nights and music or comedy for entertainment late in the evenings. Join in on the flash mob dancing at the street party and visit many of the arts and crafts, drinks, and food stalls. Take part in the very successful Glens sportive which is suitable for everyone from leisure cyclists to club racers. Or take on the challenge of the ever popular 10k king of the ring and fun run.

For further information visit the
www.cushendungac.com or Cushendun Emmets facebook page

BALLYCASTLE GOLF OPEN WEEK

MID JULY



LOCATION: Ballycastle Golf Club

A week of ladies, gents and mixed tournaments on a stunning location just yards from the shoreline of the Causeway Coast. The golf course is one of the most scenic in the country and has a multitude of personalities from tame parkland holes to wild links.

For further information please visit
www.ballycastlegolfclub.com
or telephone 028 2076 2536

DALRIADA

FESTIVAL

MID JULY



LOCATION:
Glenarm Estate,
Glenarm

One of Ireland's biggest cultural and heritage festivals celebrating the unique sporting, food and music cultures of both Ireland and Scotland. The Dalriada Festival reflects this shared heritage right back to the ancient kingdom of Dál Riada and beyond. The Festival aims to share local traditions and talent and renew a passion and belief in our own local area, its people and cultural heritage. There is entertainment for all. From Fine foods, arts and crafts, open air concerts and live music to childrens entertainment, fun and games. Some of the major events include the Scotland and Ireland Rowing Regatta, Triathlon and the auld hirin' fair and fireworks grand finale.

For further information please visit
www.dalriadafestival.co.uk

HIGHLAND GAMES

MID JULY



LOCATION: Glenarm Estate, Glenarm

The Highland Games is the main highlight of the Dalriada Festival and offers fun and entertainment for all the family. The recent introduction of the County Antrim Pipe Band Championships will give visitors the opportunity to enjoy some of Ireland's and Scotland's top Pipe Bands as well as all the action from the exciting Highland Games and Local Strongman events. In addition to this there will be a wide range of activities including traditional and modern music, a large craft village, a greater variety of food including a popup restaurant, live wrestling, helicopter pleasure flights and the popular worlds only sheep fashion show. There is usually an evening concert which has featured entertainment from the legendary BAY CITY ROLLERS, BAGATELLE and NATHAN CARTER to date.

For further information please visit
www.dalriadafestival.co.uk

CARNLOUGH CARNIVAL

LAST WEEKEND OF JULY



LOCATION: Carnlough

The Antrim Coast Lions Club co-ordinate a ten day Carnival of events from the last weekend in July through to the first weekend in August. The Carnival comprises over one hundred events under the themes of sport, entertainment, family events, arts and crafts etc. The Carnival caters for all age groups and events fall broadly into three categories, morning and afternoon events for children, early evening family orientated events and evening events for adults. There's sure to be something for everyone.

For further information please visit The Antrim Coast Lions Facebook page

BALLYCASTLE JUNIOR & SENIOR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

AUGUST



Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

LOCATION: Mary Street, Ballycastle

These annual Tennis Ireland circuit events take place on Ballycastle Tennis Court. This tournament is open to anyone. The junior competition is for under 18's and the senior tournament is for over 18's or anyone under age who is capable of playing at senior level.

For further information please visit
www.moyle-council.org or telephone
Shesburn Recreation Centre on 028 2076 3300

MARCONI FESTIVAL

BEGINNING OF AUGUST



Courtesy of Steven McAuley

LOCATION: Ballycastle seafront

This annual event takes place at the beginning of August and is organised by the Marconi Radio Group. Entertainment includes live music, car boot sale, dog show, sand castle competition, teddy bears picnic and displays.

For further information please contact Ballycastle Visitor Centre on 028 2076 2024 or visit
www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com

HEART OF THE GLENS FESTIVAL

STARTS FIRST WEEKEND IN AUGUST



Courtesy of Heart of The Glens Festival Committee

LOCATION: Cushendall

The Heart of The Glens Festival is an extremely successful community festival which has been running since 1990. It is held at the beginning of August every year in and around the village of Cushendall with many locals and visitors alike making it their annual holiday. The nine day festival covers a wide range of events for all age groups and promises to provide enjoyment and entertainment for all the family. Some of the main events include the RNLI Open Day, opening float and lorry parade, food festival evening, craft fair, Lurig Challenge Run, Glens vintage day, and the grand finale street ceili with the 'Largest Waves of Tory' in Cushendall village.

For further information contact the festival committee on **028 2177 1378** or cushendall@nacn.org

GLENRAVEL FESTIVAL

LAST WEEK OF AUGUST



Courtesy of Glenravel Festival Committee

LOCATION: Cargan & Martinstown

Glenravel has just celebrated its 20th anniversary of this annual community festival that usually takes place during the last week of August. Over the years they have introduced an even wider variety of events for all ages such as the new Sheep Dog Trials. From family days out to various sports events including the kids easy cycle and the tug of war back by popular demand. With late night entertainment from musicians such as Ritchie Remo and The Untouchables, and the fantastic firework grand finale display, there's sure to be something for everyone.

For further information please visit the Glenravel Festival Facebook page.

OULD LAMMAS FAIR

LAST MONDAY & TUESDAY IN AUGUST

LOCATION: Ballycastle

One of the oldest fairs in Ireland. This fair truly is ancient, perhaps going back a thousand years. In days gone by people rowed to the fair from as far away as the Hebrides. It is an annual two day fair of trading, busking and bargaining with many amusements, stalls, street entertainment, competitions and traditional music sessions in the local pubs in the beautiful seaside town of Ballycastle. It marks the end of the summer and the beginning of harvest and still attracts thousands of people to the area and always takes place on the last Monday and Tuesday in August.

For further information contact Ballycastle Visitor Information Centre on **028 2076 2024**



© Tourism NI

GIANTS CAUSEWAY COAST SPORTIVE

EARLY SEPTEMBER



© Giants Causeway Coast Sportive

LOCATION: Starting point in Ballycastle

This cycling event usually takes place on a Saturday at the beginning of September and brings locals and visitors together on the unique north coast and Glens of Antrim offering a remarkable journey through some of the most breath taking landscape of The Glens of Antrim. There are three different routes, with Ballycastle as the starting point for all.

For further information please visit
www.giantscausewaycoastsportive.com

GLENS RED SQUIRREL GROUP, A SERIES OF WALKS



Courtesy of Kelly Watterson

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

LOCATION: Various throughout The Glens

Join the Red Squirrel Group for a range of walks across The Glens, from Ballycastle to Glenarm. Take your camera as you may get the chance of snapping a squirrel at one of the feeders at this lively time of the year. The Red Squirrel Group also host a range of other events throughout the year.

For further information please visit
glensredsquirrelgroup.com or contact
chair@glensredsquirrelgroup.com

AUTUMN

HERITAGE HUNT AROUND GLENARM

SEPTEMBER

LOCATION: Glenarm

Heritage Hunt on Foot around Glenarm to celebrate European Heritage weekend. This event is organised by Glenarm Buildings Preservation Trust and can be completed individually or as a fun team activity. Maximum three people per team. Prizes to be won.

For further information please contact
info@glenarmtourism.org



UILLEANN PIPING WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER

LOCATION:
Cushendall

The Glens of Antrim Pipers piping weekend is an annual gathering of Uilleann pipers held in Cushendall. It brings pipers from all over Ireland to Cushendall to celebrate the tradition of piping in The Glens. Entertainment includes talks on "The Gaelic League, the Feis Ceoil, and the Pipers", and piping stories in the library with Liz Weir; interspersed with solo piping by professional pipers. There are usually free workshops for pipers on ornamentation and piping sessions every evening.

For further information contact Peter Lyons at
gaffer.lyons@btinternet.com



THE HAUNTED HOUSE

31ST OCTOBER



Courtesy of Cathal McNaughton

LOCATION: Cairns Allotments, Cushendall

Join Cairns Residents Group for the fright of your life! Tiptoe through the House of horrors, take a sail on the trail of terror and enjoy a haunted hot dog or two.

For further information please contact Margaret Anne McKillop at margaretannemckillop@hotmail.co.uk or telephone **07850 883 716**

HALLOWEEN HARVEST

31ST OCTOBER



LOCATION: Glenarm Estate

Join in on the spooky fun for all the family. Activities include trick or treating, live entertainment, pumpkin carving and painting, ghostly storytelling by the castle butler as well as refreshments and much more.

For further information please visit www.glenarmcastle.com

GHOSTS IN THE GLENS

LATE OCTOBER



LOCATION: Various throughout The Glens

This storytelling festival celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Glens of Antrim and is usually based in Cushendall. Story tellers and musicians from The Glens and further afield such as southern Ireland and Scotland come together to strengthen the cultural links and celebrate the diversity of the population living within The Glens today.

For further information please visit www.ghostsintheglens.com

HALLOWEEN PARADE & FIREWORKS

31ST OCTOBER



LOCATION: Ballycastle

Fancy dress parade through Ballycastle town, with entertainment and fun for all the family to enjoy, followed by a spectacular fireworks display illuminating the skies of Ballycastle.

For further information please contact Ballycastle Visitor centre on **028 2076 2024**

WINTER

GLENARM CASTLE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

EARLY DECEMBER

LOCATION: Glenarm Castle

This traditional and festive occasion is celebrated each year and offers a wide range of attractions for all the family. Activities include story telling with Mrs Clause, a charming nativity scene with real animals and the popular Polar Express train adventure. There will be a few surprises, with the arrival of Father Christmas and his elves ready to welcome all the children into their busy workshops as they prepare for their busiest time of year.

For further information please visit
www.glenarmcastle.com



EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

NATURALLY NORTH COAST & GLENS ARTISAN MARKET

VARIOUS DATES

LOCATION: Various throughout The Glens

This Artisan Market offers a stage for exceptional local produce and handcrafted items. With a great selection of produce, and a variety of knowledgeable, friendly artisan traders, you'll be amazed at the quality of our local produce and handcrafted goods you can find for sale at the market. They also host a range of Weekend Craft and Heritage workshops focusing on a wide range of skills taught by highly respected crafts people. These workshops are thoroughly enjoyable and skill building activity weekends.

For further information and to find out the market dates please visit
www.naturallynorthcoastandglens.co.uk or email
naturallynorthcoastandglens.co.uk



TRADITIONAL MUSIC, DANCE AND 'THE CRAIC' IN THE GLENS OF ANTRIM

The Glens of Antrim have a wealth of traditional music and dance. The music has been passed down from generation to generation nurturing a living tradition that is rooted in the landscape and its people.



The Glens unique geographic location on the sod that is Ireland, but within a breath of Scotland, is reflected in a music that has its own unique dialect.

The pubs and community hubs in The Glens of Antrim are alive with music and 'the craic'. Here are but a 'wean' (a few) places you will be able to hear the magical sounds.

LOCATION: Ballycastle

Sunday (during the Summer) 7.00pm until 9.00pm, Marine Hotel Bar

Wednesday from 9.30pm until late, The Harbour Bar

Thursday from 9.30pm until late, O' Connors Bar

Friday from 10.00pm until late The House of McDonnell (known by the locals as 'Wee Toms')

Second Saturday in every month, Open Session, 9pm until late, The House of McDonnell (Also known as 'Wee Toms') Ballycastle. They come in from far and wide to this one!

LOCATION: Cushendall

Sunday (October to May) in The Old School House, 'have a go session' for people of all ages who are learning from 6pm until 7.30pm.

Sunday (October to May) The House of McCollum (known locally as Johnny-Joe's) from 7.30pm until 9pm.

Friday The House of McCollum from 9.00 until late.

Last Friday in every month, (Oct to Easter) The Boat Club, 'Music and song around the fire' 8pm to 11pm. Plenty of singing at this one! Admission £2.00.

Saturday, Ballyeamon Camping Barn, 8.00 until late. Usually you will get a story or two thrown in too.

WHAT ABOUT A TRADITIONAL DANCE? SET DANCING IN CUSHENDALL

Tuesday Night Set Dancing in the Glens Hotel from September until May.

GREAT NIGHTS TO BE REMEMBERED WITH THE CRAIC AGUS CEOL!

If you are visiting The Glens of Antrim and want some friendly guidance as to where the music is there is always a friendly local who can point you in the right direction

Micheál (Ballycastle and northern Glens of Antrim)
+44 7871 744 110

Kieran (Cushendall and southern Glens of Antrim)
+44 28 2177 1690

BEIDH FÁILTE MHÓR ROMHAT -
YOU WILL BE WARMLY WELCOMED

ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

The Glens of Antrim have an abundance of quality cosy accommodation to suit all needs. To find a comfortable place to put your head down visit:

www.visitcausewaycoastandglens.com or contact:
Ballycastle Visitor Information Centre on **028 2076 2024**
or tourism@moyle-council.org

Cushendall Local Information Centre on **028 2177 1180**
or antrimhistory@gmail.com

Glenarm Visitor Centre on **028 2884 1087** or
info@glenarmtourism.org

Alternatively please visit:

www.discovernorthernireland.com for further
information about The Glens of Antrim.

**Heart of
the Glens** 
Landscape Partnership Scheme

THE OLD BANK, 27 MAIN STREET,
ARMOY, BALLYMONEY BT53 8SL
T. 028 2075 2100

E. LAURA@LPS.CCGHT.ORG

WWW.HEARTOFTHEGLEN.S.ORG



You can follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out about our free events and projects we are working on throughout The Glens of Antrim