Welcome to the Eighth issue

The snow has arrived on the hills in early November just to let us know that winter is here! Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (HOTGLPS) have been steadily making progress with our current projects and kicking off new projects such as Heritage Tour Guiding and Biodiversity Learning Zones for local schools.

One of our big projects during the autumn was the community archaeological dig at Dún Mór, Fair Head in Ballycastle. We had fantastic interest from the local communities and have been told by many parents that their children now want to become archaeologists following the excitement of taking part in the dig.

Our partnership with the fantastic Naturally North Coast and Glens Artisan Market is continuing to blossom with further Christmas themed workshops on Napkin Decoupage in November and Christmas Wreath making in December. We are keen to hear what workshops you would be interested in so we can organise our next series of events around you! The LPS would also like to upskill the people of The Glens through the learning of heritage skills such as basket weaving, Irish crochet, macramé, stone walling, and hedge laying to name but a few. Please visit our website to take part in our workshop survey.

In this edition we have a feature on The Glens of Antrim Historical Society whom we have partnered with on archaeological events including talks and community excavations. You will also find information on the many woodland grants and schemes as part of our partnership with The Woodland Trust and Forest Service.

Christmas Chocolate Yule Log with Guinness butter cream filling

Method

1. Sift the flour, cocoa & salt and set aside.
2. Whip the egg white till near peak stage and add tartar and keep whisking till peaked.
3. Place egg yolk, sugar & almond essence in a bowl and whisk well till light and pale.
4. Add flour mix to yolks and gently mix.
5. Fold in the egg whites and spoon onto a greaseproof lined swiss roll tray.
6. Bake at 180ºC for 15 mins.
7. For the butter cream, beat the butter, icing sugar, cocoa and Guinness till light and fluffy. Add extra Guinness if needed.
8. When sponge is cooked turn out onto a grease proof sheet (peel away the baked grease proof and roll the sponge with the sheet inside it and cool).
9. When sponge is cooled unroll the sponge and spread ½ the butter cream onto the sponge and roll.
10. Spread the rest of the around the rolled sponge and cool. Sprinkle with icing sugar and serve.

Ingredients

For the sponge:
- 2oz flour
- 2oz cocoa powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 6 large eggs separated
- ½ teaspoon of cream of tartar
- 8oz sugar

• 4 drops almond essence

For the Guinness butter cream filling:
- 7oz butter
- 10oz icing sugar
- 4oz cocoa powder
- 50-75ml Guinness

Traditional Recipe

For the Guinness butter cream filling:
- 7oz butter
- 10oz icing sugar
- 4oz cocoa powder
- 50-75ml Guinness
**Project Updates**

**Farmer Information evenings & Skills Training courses**

Our first Dry Stone Walling course was scheduled to take place in November at Glenwherry Hill farm but unfortunately had to be postponed due to bad weather leaving the site unsafe. This course has now been rescheduled for April 2016, so hopefully the weather will have improved by then.

We had a reasonable turnout at our talk about Woodland on Farms with Gregor Fulton from the Woodland Trust. There are several attractive grants and schemes that have recently been released which will benefit many farmers and landowners. More information on these can be found on page 5. Another of our talks focused on controlled heather burning with Mark Smyth from NIFRS and Colum McDaid from NIEA.

Upcoming information evenings will include Farm Animal Health specifically relating to beef cattle, Nitrates Action Plan which will cover dealing with farm waste, Farm Orchard Management as well as training in dry stone walling, hedge laying and invasive species control.

Once again we will be providing local farmers with the facility to borrow a soil auger to collect soil samples of their land and we will bring these to DARD to be sent off for analysis. The only cost to the farmer is for actual analysis itself which is £7 + VAT per sample bag. Please contact Laura for further information.

If you have any farming issues you would like to see addressed please get in touch with us and we will do our best to help.

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**Heritage Tour**

**Guiding in The Glens**

Iconic landscapes like The Glens of Antrim are attracting more and more tourists annually, but the big challenge is actually retaining them. Opportunities to stop and stay in the area are important, not just driving through on a whistle stop tour to the Giants Causeway. The Glens is a destination in its own right, but like all interesting people or places it needs a little time to uncover its true charm and character.

An important way of bringing The Glens to the visitor is through tour guiding, providing local people the opportunity to tell their own stories and the stories of the Glens. As we have said in a previous article, Glens folk often see themselves as just ordinary folk. That is true, but what might seem ordinary to them, is something extraordinary to a visitor. The people can be the greatest resource in unlocking the tourist potential of this outstanding area.

We are about to embark on a tour guide training programme which will focus on upskilling local people in the Glens of Antrim and Causeway Coast. The programme, which is being developed and delivered through the Heritage Lottery backed Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and the European funded - Drifting Apart Project, is seeking to deliver a practical yet innovative course. We know from the research that tourists who come to the Glens and Causeway Coast want an authentic experience and to hear the stories of this iconic landscape from its own people. Therefore, we wish to facilitate local people to build their own bespoke tour guiding programme and inspire them to develop this part of our growing tourist industry. The Course which is accredited at OCN level 2, will cost £50 and will be delivered within the Glens of Antrim early in 2016. The first course is full but due to high demand we may well run another one in the near future.

If you are interested please send your expression of interest to Laura McAuley laura@lps.ccght.org or call 028 2075 2100.
This year’s community excavation of Dún Mór at Fair Head had the biggest turnout at our excavations to date. We were delighted to have Primary 6 and 7 pupils from all 14 primary schools taking in Glenarm, Carnalbanagh, Carnlough, Waterfoot, Cushendall, Cushendun, Ballyvoy and Ballycastle. Our open days were a resounding success with people of all ages coming along to get stuck into digging up the past! In total we had over 500 members of the local community visiting the site, learning about the history of the site and actually taking part in the excavation itself.

A number of archaeological findings were made including a cobbled pavement. Cormac McSparron from Queens Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork who led the excavation will be delivering a presentation on the findings at the site on Tuesday 19th January 2016 at Hunters Bar in Ballyvoy. Register your place with laura@lps.ccght.org.

Celebration for one of our partners, as Glens of Antrim Historical Society celebrates their 50th anniversary

Written by Dominic O’Loan


The Chairman, Frank Rogers warmly welcomed our guest speakers Rev. Dr. John Dunlop and The Rt. Hon. Hector McDonnell and also the lady Mayor Michelle McKnight-McQuillan of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. He welcomed the large number of members and friends who through their support and encouragement over the past 50 years have established the society’s reputation throughout Ireland and has achieved international recognition.

It is very appropriate that, in this our golden jubilee year, we are involved with Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and Queen’s University archaeologists in an archaeological dig at Doonmore Fort.

Over 50 years the Society has had lectures on almost every historical topic you can think of. Books have been published frequently, projects undertaken (e.g. Clachan project) and visits organised to various archaeological sites but it was only last year for the first time that we were part of an archaeological dig at Cushendun. The second dig in a series of four took place at Doonmore (Fairhead).

Early consultation established that the major focus be aimed at the schools with access for the public on open days. The Landscape Partnership Scheme organised 14 schools to visit the site and the Queen’s archaeologists provided the expertise and educational input. One trench was reserved for the pupils and they showed me some stones that might possibly have been tools and also some worms which were hardly of archaeological interest but they provided some fun.

The archaeological findings were an education, able and willing to answer any question fired at them. Cormac McSparron said that they had established two distinct soil layers. This may reveal two periods of settlement pattern at Doonmore but it will be sometime before everything is analysed and a report prepared. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of the report with the schools and wider public through The Landscape Partnership Scheme and our own lectures and web-site.

The anniversary book ‘Green Glens and Golden Memories’ describes the incredible changes in all aspects of Glens’ life over the fifty years since the founding of the society. The hardback, fully illustrated book has already received much praise and is available from the Society’s office in Mill Street, Cushendall. Phone 028 2177 1180 e mail antrimhistory@gmail.com (priced £15).

The Glens of Antrim Historical Society
Forest Service Schemes

Forest Expansion Scheme (FES)
- We will support you in the creation of native woodland
- You will RETAIN YOUR BASIC FARM PAYMENT (formerly the Single Farm Payment) for 30 years
- You will receive 10 years of Woodland Payments
- 100% OF ESTABLISHMENT COSTS including trees, planting, fencing, ALSO maintenance of new woodland for a number of years during establishment period e.g. replacement of trees etc.
- The minimum area is 5ha in one single block of broadleaf and coniferous trees

Native Woodland Tree Planting Grant (due to open 2016-2017)
- Aims to support landowners in the creation of native woodland between 0.15 - 5ha
- This will be a standard grant payment and should come into practice in 2016-17 planting season, details to be confirmed

Woodland Investment Grant (WIG)
- For improving woodland resilience and environmental value (restocking, restructuring, invasive species control and public amenity access)

Woodland Trust Schemes - Trees for Farms
- Free support for farmers interested in creating farm shelter belts, riparian strips, pasture trees, agro forestry schemes
- Up to 100% funding available

Glens Green Woodland Schemes

One Million Trees Giveaway Scheme 2015-16 (free tree giveaway for landowners)
- FREE NATIVE TREES AND HEDGING FOR SELF-PLANTING (minimum order of 15 trees)
- This scheme is ideal for landowners who:
  - Have small areas of land they would like to plant or who just want to plant a small number of trees scattered around their land
  - Want to under plant or extend existing woodland
  - Improve the resilience of their lands for future generations (i.e. help strengthen riverside banks, provide shelter for livestock and buildings, timber for firewood, water retention and improved grass growth)
  - Want to create a small orchard
  - Want to improve the wildlife value of their lands

Resilient Landscapes Scheme (future proofing)
- Ash Dieback, which is likely to spread across the island, has the potential to kill over 95% of our Ash trees with the result that approx. 50% of our hedgerow trees may disappear. This scheme will provide free trees and tree guards for landowners to plant into their hedgerows. This project seeks to reduce negative visual, shelter and biodiversity impacts of potentially losing so many of our trees in the future.
- FREE TREES and GUARDS, numbers limited.

Glens Garden Tree Giveaway 2015-16
- FREE TREE PACKS consisting of 4 native trees suitable for gardens
- Pick up points will be organised at selected locations in the Glens in early March 2016 (venue and date to be confirmed, please contact the Heart of the Glens LPS closer to the time)
- Register by contacting Brian in the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme on (028) 2075 2100.

Anagrams in the glens - Clachans

A Clachan is a cluster of houses with no church, shop or school. Within these Clachans there was often considerable ties of kinship between the different families. They were essentially farming communities with the land around them being held under a system of land tenure referred to as the Rundale System. Each farmer had a share of the mountain which was held in common which was allocated in soums related to how much land they held in the lower ground.
Volunteer opportunities

The LPS Scheme is based in a truly special and distinctive landscape - its character is shaped by its steep green glens, moorlands, rushing rivers, ancient woodlands, bays and stunning coastlines. It has been moulded through time by volcanic activity to incredible engineering and fragile ecosystems. It is also shaped by the intangible elements of its past through music and literature, storytelling, myths and legends, and more recently Game of Thrones!

This diversity presents an opportunity to nurture respect and understanding of this irreplaceable landscape and heritage. We hope to enable the communities that live here to manage this precious place with a sense of pride, whilst learning the skills and acquiring the knowledge that will help safeguard the future.

By giving up your time and sharing your knowledge and expertise you are the image of what this Scheme represents. We’re excited about working with you, we don’t mind if you don’t have experience or if you don’t have a lot of time to commit, we’re happy that you’re keen to get to know us, help out and inevitably inspire.

We have had a number of volunteers over the past two years. Volunteers have been taking part in activities such as planting wildflowers, planting native trees, carrying out research projects, completing surveys, and litter picking to name a few. The opportunities are endless! Whatever your interests are you are sure to find them with us.

We are keen to help upskill the people of The Glens and give them those extra skills to boost their CV. As well as learning new skills, we are keen to provide you with accredited training courses such as REC First Aid, Navigation and hill walking, as well as biodiversity training in tree, plant, moth and butterfly identification and surveying to name a few. We are currently looking for budding photographers to take photographs at our events as well as people who can assist with the running of events and possibly even to run them themselves. We also have a number of biodiversity, heritage and archaeological research projects coming up for which we will require volunteers.

There is a myriad of different projects that you’ll be able to join in on, or even lead! Activities might include wildlife surveying, tour guiding, practical conservation, habitat management, heritage building skills, community art, blogging, photography and helping out at events.

We know that we’ll benefit from your skills, experience and enthusiasm and we think that volunteers should benefit too! If you are especially interested in something or would like to develop skills in a particular area then let us know.

Contact laura@lps.ccght.org for further information on volunteering.

Christmas wishes from the Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme

All the staff at The Heart of The Glens LPS would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!!
For Community by Community - Glendun

Earlier this year we engaged with a selection of local residents, landowners and community groups on the different issues affecting them and the community of Glendun. Based on the results of this initial work we are facilitating a series of Workshops to further explore these issues and how best to maximise the benefits from the landscape for local individuals and the community.

We are inviting people who live in, own land or whose work impacts Glendun (see map) to express an interest in participating in this consultation. The process aims to facilitate the community in developing your own set of locally agreed actions based on the opportunities, threats and desires of the community that will make the Glen sustainable for its people to live and work in.

Please contact Brian (brian@lps.ccght.org) to express an interest or find out more.

Volunteer Testimonial - Donna Rainey

Volunteer Donna Rainey, originally from Loughgiel, who took part in the planting of thousands of native and locally grown meadow wildflowers at the Warren Cushendun and Agnews Field, Cushendall.

On Saturday November 21st I left home in Garvagh at 9am to go on a volunteering day with CCAG LPS. I travelled over the beautiful Orra mountain, where recent snow fall made the journey tricky and I really began to wonder about the idea of planting native wildflower plug plants in such wintery conditions. As I reached the viaduct near Cushendun and the sea view opened up, I realised I’d come to a very different climate.

I met with the team of volunteers at the sea front and we commenced planting. There were many distractions, including the ocean, the waxcap fungi and the sea birds. The sun shone for most of the time. It was lovely to work in such conditions and the area was virtually litter free. This is down to the efforts of a local man who I meet almost every time I visit Cushendun. Job done in 2 hours and a kind volunteer brought us back to her house for tea and toasted soda! What a pleasure that was. Her husband gave us some home grown Kale to steam later for our tea. Lovely people!

Refreshe, we proceeded to Cushendall for more breath taking views and a chance to plant a wetter area with my favourite wildflower, Ragged robin, amongst other beauties. Again there were many distractions. Oyster catchers, once very common on the shores of our island, now on a list of birds in serious decline! I find this so hard to comprehend! Their call is evocative of seashore life and takes me back to childhood. A pair of redshank and gulls provided more lovely background sounds, with 2 geese flying overhead.

In the end we planted over 2000 plants to provide nectar and pollen for the new season of pollinators, bumblebees, hoverflies, butterflies and moths. These will be well provided for in the years to come if all our plants grow on successfully.

Finally, we carried out a litter pick of the area which included recent rubbish strewn about the site, despite it being well served with bins, and historic rubbish from the beach. I filled a bag with reams of discarded black plastic, so harmful to our oceans and their wildlife. Perhaps if we took better care of our land and seas we would not be seeing the 50% reduction in our wildlife numbers that has occurred in the past 40 years!

I would like to encourage anyone thinking of volunteering to get involved. There are so many learning opportunities. If you have an interest in nature or the outdoors, give it a try. I promise you, you will feel much better for it. Giving something back to nature and the environment, rewards you with a great sense of well-being and of a job well done, as well as increasing our understanding.

Answers to the Anagrams

Knockans  Careymill  Craigmill  Drumnakeel  Sleevepin  Coolnamoppoge  East Torr  Drumfresky  Calisnagh  Dundurgan  Cortaghragan  Mullarisy  Tromra  Straid  Carnahagh  Knockban  Mullinaskeagh  Galbally  Stradkilly  Festeown
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