

# PULSE

The Newsletter for the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS  
HERITAGE TRUST

Heart of  
the Glens   
Landscape Partnership Scheme

Supported by Heritage Lottery

## Welcome to the First Issue!

I'm delighted to launch the 1st issue of the new Heart of the Glens Newsletter! Since I began this new role in April 2012, I have been overwhelmed by the amount of passion and pride local people have for their landscape. I've met with a large number of community groups, local businesses, interest groups and landowners over the last few months right across the Glens and I have no doubt that we have the opportunity to make this scheme an extremely successful one!

I've organised community workshops, held information sessions, and attended your festivals and events to understand your needs and aspirations for this region. It is my job to now take these needs, opportunities and strengths and transfer them into meaningful and sustainable projects that can be felt in the Glens for years to come.

I look forward to developing and implementing great projects with you!

### Sarah Irwin

LPS Manager for the  
Heart of the Glens LPS



## Lottery Bid for the Glens!



The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT) is delighted to announce that the renowned nine Glens of Antrim have been awarded the development phase grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS).

CCGHT is the delivery body responsible for developing projects in partnership with a range of stakeholders and groups in the Glens. During this development phase, the LPS Manager will be exploring projects that connect strongly to the aims of the Landscape Partnership Scheme.

The aim of the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme is to:

- Conserve and enhance our natural and built heritage features
- Reconnect local people to their landscape
- Create more opportunities to access and enjoy our outstanding landscape sustainably, and;
- Ensure that a high quality series of heritage skills and training opportunities are made available locally

CCGHT is currently working closely with a range of organisations, community groups, government bodies, farmers and businesses to develop a series of exciting projects over the next 5 years in the Glens of Antrim.

The Heart of the Glens LPS is one of many such schemes across the UK working together to understand, appreciate and conserve heritage landscapes.

### Interested in learning more?

If you would like to learn more about the scheme please contact us. You can call us on 028 2075 2100 or visit our website at [www.ccght.org](http://www.ccght.org). You can also email the LPS Manager via [sarah@ccght.org](mailto:sarah@ccght.org)



# So what's it all about?

A range of exciting projects and initiatives are being explored and developed as we speak. Some of the major themes include:

- Supporting sustainable upland management and farming practises
- Promoting our industrial, archaeological and cultural heritage
- Coordinating and enhancing heritage festivals and events
- Protecting and valuing our habitats and species
- Volunteering and training opportunities
- Enhancing our heritage gateways in the Glens
- Village enhancement

*And many many more!*



**WE NEED**  
  
**YOU!**  
**YES YOU!**

**CCGHT welcomes input from the local community, interest groups and organisations. In order to make this scheme truly successful, CCGHT needs to understand the needs, aspirations and project opportunities!**

Do you have project ideas that relate to any one of the above themes? Are you a landowner with an interest in getting involved? If you have ideas, opportunities or just fancy learning more about the scheme please contact us.

You can call us on 028 2075 2100 or visit our website at [www.ccght.org](http://www.ccght.org).

You can also email the LPS Manager via [sarah@ccght.org](mailto:sarah@ccght.org)

## Glens Heritage Festivals & Events Survey

Have you organised or put on a local heritage festival or event in the Glens? CCGHT would appreciate if you could spend 5 minutes filling in our online survey entitled 'Heritage Festivals and Events Survey' via the following link [www.surveymonkey.com/s/VM5PLWN](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VM5PLWN). If you don't have access to the internet, call our office on 028 2075 2100 and we'll happily send you out a paper copy.

CCGHT is keen to work in partnership to coordinate the range of heritage activities and festivals in the Glens and the more we know now about the range of events on offer, the issues and opportunities, the better this will be for project development.

*Thank you in advance for helping us!*







## What Captures Your Heart in the Glens?

CCGHT would like to find out what captures your heart in the Glens. Is it the stunning scenic beauty, the crackin' food and drink or the wonderful wildlife? However wacky or weird, we'd like to hear from you!

CCGHT is asking you to send in a photograph that captures what the Glens means to you. Winning photographs will be used as part of our raising awareness materials throughout the lifetime of the scheme. The budding photographers will also be invited to our launch event of the scheme next year. **Deadline for entries is Monday 14th January 2013.**

You can submit your entries by emailing them to [sarah@ccght.org](mailto:sarah@ccght.org) or alternatively you can post us a C.D. copy to the CCGHT offices. You'll find our details on the back of this newsletter. Don't forget to tell us your name, contact information and where the photograph was taken.

*Good Luck!*

# Heart of the Glens

Landscape Partnership Scheme



## Meet the Partnership!

A new Heart of the Glens LPS Steering Committee has been established and with each issue we produce, we'd like to introduce you to some of our members! Over 20 individuals from a range of organisations and groups sit on our partnership. This Issue, we would like to introduce you to...

### Ben Simon – Biodiversity Officer

For anyone with even a passing interest in the environment County Antrim is a marvellous place to work, and I was delighted when I was appointed Biodiversity Officer for the Larne, Ballymena and Carrickfergus Council areas. I started in this job in April, having previously been employed for many years within Belfast City Council, where I promoted urban forestry and community projects.

Before that I was manager of the Ulster Wildlife Trust for eight years. I know the region well, and every day I am discovering more about the wildlife. The Landscape Partnership Scheme provides a great opportunity for us to care for and enhance the Glens and coast, and I am keen to get involved.



*Ben Simon – Biodiversity Officer  
for Carrickfergus, Ballymena  
and Larne Council areas*

### Donnell O'Loan – Antrim Glens Tourism Group

Donnell is currently the chairman of the Antrim Glens Tourism Group, which formed in 2002. This group is made up of around 50 local tourism providers across the Glens who have a strong interest in becoming involved in tourism promotion across the Glens.

Prior to his chairmanship in the Antrim Glens Tourism Group, Donnell was Secretary of the Glenariff Development Group and proprietor of a local B&B in Glenariff. Donnell has a keen interest in local history, nature and wildlife observation.



*Donnell O'Loan –  
Antrim Glens Tourism Group*

**Donnell has recently been appointed as Vice Chair  
of the Heart of the Glens LPS Steering Committee.**



# Promoting our Industrial Heritage!

**As part of the development phase, CCGHT coordinated a site visit for the Heart of the Glens LPS Steering Group in September 2012. The theme of the day was 'Industrial Heritage'**

Colm Donnelly, an industrial archaeologist from Queen's University led the morning visit in Ballycastle. The group learned of the entrepreneurial spirit of Col. Hugh Boyd and the transformation of Ballycastle during the 18th century from a small fishing port and market village into a vibrant industrial centre, within just a generation. From Ballycastle, the group travelled the Glens with Donnell O'Loan of the Antrim Glens Tourism Group telling the story of our industrial railway and mining past.

The Glenravel mining, Ballymena Retreat Railway and the Glenariff mining and railway industries were mentioned, with a visit to Parkmore Station near Cargan. From Glenariff, the group travelled to Glenarm Estate to meet with Larne Borough Council and the Prince's Foundation, promoting the newly developed Glenarm Heritage Trail. Carnlough was the final stop of the day. Though a limestone industry existed in Glencloy and shipments of

limestone were exported out through Carnlough harbour prior to the stewardship of Marchioness of Londonderry, it was chiefly through her influence that the industry developed and provided much needed employment in the area. The group walked the mineral path before heading back to Ballycastle to end the visit.

Industrial heritage is perhaps the most under estimated factor in the shaping of the Glens of Antrim's historic landscape and CCGHT feels that there is a need to share this amongst local people and visitors in the Glens. Please get in touch if you'd like to become involved in industrial heritage projects!



Switching gear for Limestone Railway, Carnlough.



**Did you know?**

**The Antrim Coast Road, once known as the Grand Military Way, was complete in 1842, costing a modest £37,140. This fantastic scenic Road now forms part of the Causeway Coastal Route and extends from Ballycastle to Larne.**



# From Glen to Glen...

*...catch up on what's been happening!*

## For Peat's Sake!

CCGHT is keen to support upland management projects under the Heart of the Glens LPS. Currently, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) have embarked on a new partnership with Northern Ireland Water and the Department of Agriculture (DARD) to produce a management plan to restore 2,000ha of peat bog on the Garron Plateau. The Garron Plateau holds one of the best examples of blanket bog in Ireland, but activities such as over grazing and drainage have brought about bare peat (peat that has little or no vegetation cover) which affects the water quality in the area. This project will help to ensure that the long term cost of providing clean, clear drinking water can be reduced!



## Red Squirrel Tales

Protecting our habitats and species will be a key strand of the Heart of the Glens LPS and over the past few months the Glens Red Squirrel Group have been very busy on all fronts. They now have an active sub group in Glenarm with four Feeders in place and plans for a camera observation site. A total of five Red Squirrel walks were conducted for National Trails Day on 7th October in Glenarm, Glenariff and Ballycastle with almost 100 people attending. This was a great opportunity to explain the work and make people aware of the HOTLINE 0871 315 7376 where any sightings of Reds or Greys can be reported.



The Glens is a fantastic place to get involved in local festivals and events. Through the Heart of the Glens LPS, CCGHT hopes to assist in coordinating and implementing heritage festivals and activities. A recent local example includes The Ghost in the Glens Festival, held from Friday 26th - Sunday 28th October. A weekend of storytelling and music in the heart of the Glens was met with great success. Commenting on the festival, Liz Weir, Festival Director, said 'Despite the small budget available, the Ghost in the Glens Festival had a huge impact locally and there is now a firm foundation upon which to build and create a lively annual event, attracting visitors to an area which is rich in folklore and thus lends itself to such an event. This is only the beginning.' CCGHT would like to congratulate Liz Weir and the Festival team on a great success this year.

## Guided Walks Programme 2012

CCGHT worked in partnership with a range of stakeholders to coordinate a very successful Guided Walks Programme 2012. A total of 17 walks were organised right across the Causeway Coast and Glens, leading up to National Trails Day on Sunday 7th October. Historic village walks, Forest Park walks, geology trails and bird watching were some of the many events on offer! CCGHT would like to thank all those involved in making the 1st Guided Walks Programme a huge success! Until next year!



The mission of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust is to raise awareness of the special qualities of the natural, built and cultural heritage of the Causeway Coast and Glens area including the Antrim Coast and Glens, Binevenagh and Causeway Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; promoting environmental management and sustainable development that aims to conserve and enhance the unique heritage of the area for the benefit of all.

**For more information on the  
Causeway Coast and Glens  
Heritage Trust, please contact;**

**website** | [www.ccght.org](http://www.ccght.org)  
**Tel** | 028 2075 2100  
**Email** | [sarah@ccght.org](mailto:sarah@ccght.org)

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## Supporters of the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme:



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Landscape Partnership Scheme



Area of Outstanding  
Natural Beauty



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