











Welcome to the Tenth issue

As we approach the summer months we look forward to the arrival of butterflies, bees, and a mass of wildflowers taking over The Glens. We have so much news to tell you that we ran out of room, so you will have to wait until our next edition of the newsletter to hear about our other upcoming projects.

Some of the projects that have progressed over the spring months included the access at Culfeightrin Church in Ballyvoy, the heritage tour guiding course was completed in April, and tree and meadow planting as part of the outdoor learning zones for the schools in the southern Glens.

Our volunteers continued their hard work with a tidy up along the Tow River path and the planting of a wildflower meadow in Ballycastle and a big beach clean at Glenarm. We will have many more opportunities for everyone to get involved over the coming months so keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages.

A lot of new programmes have been completed over the past few months such as the heritage work skills programme with BCW group in Ballycastle and the volunteer conservation work skills programme with University of Ulster students.

In this edition, we have a feature on Ballycastle Development Group who we have been working with on the development of the tow river path. This has included the planting of trees along the river, a big tidy up and the creation of a wildflower meadow. You will find more information on this and our interview with Paul Kerrigan on page 6.

We will also tell you a bit about the latest farmer training in dry stone walling. We will be offering more of these dry stone walling training days as well as further hedge laying training at local sites in The Glens later this year so keep in touch with us.

IRISH BAKED PASTA WITH CHEESE AND STOUT

Tracifical Recipe



INGREDIENTS

- 3 teaspoons Kerrygold Irish butter
- 2 teaspoons chopped shallots
- 3/4 cup Guinness
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 cup Kerrygold Irish Swiss cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup Kerrygold Vintage Cheddar cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup Dubliner cheese, grated
- 3 1/2 cups clover-shaped pasta (if available), cooked and cooled
- 3/4 cup plain bread crumbs

MFTHOD

- 1. Preheat oven to 175°C
- 2. Butter a 9x13-inch baking dish or six 6-ounce ramekins
- 3. Melt 1 teaspoon of butter over medium heat in a flat bottomed pan (skillet)
- 4. Add shallots and cook for approximately 3 minutes until soft, but not browned
- 5. Add the Guinness and cook for about 5 minutes until reduced by half then add the cream and cook for another 5 minutes
- 6. Let it cool to room temperature
- 7. Melt the remaining 2 teaspoons of butter
- 8. Put the cooked pasta, cheese, and cream mixture in a bowl
- 9. Pour into prepared pan or ramekins
- 10. Top with bread crumbs and spoon melted butter over the top
- 11. Bake for 30 minutes, until bread crumbs are lightly browned and sauce is bubbling

Project Updates

HERITAGE TOUR GUIDING COURSE IN THE GLENS



The aim of this project was to offer local people accredited and acknowledged tour guide training and development, thus giving them the opportunity to run their own tour guides of the landscape. The reason we wanted to offer this kind of training is to bring life to the stories of the local landscape, develop the capacity of local people, create a network of quality local guides for the area and provide income generating opportunities for local people and businesses.

The Glens of Antrim Heritage Tour Guiding Course commenced in January and was completed at the end of April this year. This training was accredited by OCN Level 2 and was fully booked with 12 people taking part. The training focused on aspects such as customer needs, scripting a tour, delivery, and dealing with different cultures etc. It was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Upon completion of this course it was decided that further progression onto Level 3 qualification would be beneficial so this is something we are currently looking into.

We also hope to run the same Level 2 course again in the next year so please get in touch with us to register your interest. The training will initially be offered to local Glens of Antrim residents, but if there is not enough interest to fill the course the training will be offered outside The Glens. Please register your interest by emailing laura@lps.ccght.org or give us a call on 028 2075 2100.

TRADITIONAL DRY STONE WALL TRAINING

On Friday 1st April a group of hardy Glens folk braved the dreadful weather to attend a dry stone walling course in Glenwherry Hill Farm. Despite the conditions we had full attendance at the



course and everyone had a fantastic time!

A dry stone wall, also known as a dry stone dyke, can be best described as a wall constructed from stones without the use of mortar to bind them together. These can be typically found in The Mourne Mountains, County Down and The Glens of Antrim. One of the main reasons we are offering these training courses is to maintain the structure, landscape patterns and biodiversity of field boundaries in the countryside. Dry stone walls provide excellent shelter for livestock, are a durable and attractive field boundary feature, and if maintained properly, will last for many years. They also provide habitats for small mammals, beetles, spiders and lichen, as well as nesting sites for many small birds.

Dry stone walls are an important aspect of Agri Environment Schemes. The course also covered different aspects of dry stone wall legislation. Some important points to note from the legislation is that it is illegal to remove dry stone walls without gaining permission from DARD (this can be done by completing a Field Boundary Removal form) and that all stone wall restoration has to follow the exact line and contours of the original field boundary. We were also surprised to find out that you can only use stones from your own farmland.

Learning a local heritage skill, such as dry stone walling, is an important tool to maintain the cultural traditions of The Glens. In the past, these traditional heritage skills were handed down from generation to generation but of late these traditions have started to die out. We hope that by facilitating these courses, we will enable these traditional crafts to thrive and be passed on to future generations.

More often than not the traditional way of doing things was more sustainable and environmentally friendly than modern techniques. Many believe that these skills will be in great demand in the future and so now is the time to master these crafts.

Provisional dates for the dry stone wall training are Tuesday 19th July and Saturday 6th August with the five day course on the 5th - 8th September.

If you are interested in attending any of these please email laura@lps.ccght.org or give us a call on 028 2075 2100.

CONSERVATION WORK SKILLS PROGRAMME WITH UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Over 40 students from the University of Ulster who were completing a module in ecosystem landscape conservation joined to gain some practical experience community landscape planning and management and ecological applications



and habitat restoration. We went to the University and gave a lecture on resilient landscapes and a few weeks later the students spent an afternoon planting wildflowers at Ballycastle Golf Club and another afternoon planting trees at Ballycastle GAA pitch. Simple, practical and effective work. Hopefully it was enjoyed by all.

CUSHENDUN BIG ARTS WEEKEND

DAWN CHORUS

This years' dawn chorus was another great success with an even greater turn out with 20 people in attendance. Even with the unfavourable weather the birds



were still out singing and a few even made an appearance. Our bird expert Richard from CCGHT led this walk stopping every so often to listen to the bird song and identify the different calls. It was definitely worth the 3.30am wake up! Here's hoping next year will be a dry and sunny one!

IT'S A BUGS WORLD ART WORKSHOPS

We partnered the Cushendun Arts Weekend on a series of three half day art workshops celebrating our local moths and butterflies. These workshops involved the creation of art sculptures by the Glens and



Cushendun youth clubs and helped to raise awareness of the importance of our local moths and butterflies for pollination. The art sculptures were then put on display in Cushendun Old Church over the duration of the weekend. All the kids and their families and friends were then able to come along to the old church and see the art installation and the selection of real moths we had on display at the moth safari on Sunday morning thus getting to engage with their own local biodiversity first hand.

HERITAGE WORK SKILLS PROGRAMME WITH BCW IN BALLYCASTLE

Local young adults **BCW** from Ballycastle took part in a work skills programme from January through to March this year. During these months they learned about their local heritage conservation. and



The programme kicked off with a heritage walk around Ballycastle town to encourage engagement with their local heritage.

The group then took part in more practical conservation exercises such as tree planting, litter picking and gained new skills in hedge laying by expert David Thompson. Overall the group enjoyed the litter picking the most and expressed their joy at doing their bit for the environment. Many thanks to Rachael Conway and Donna Rainey for taking the lead on the litter picking day at Ballycastle beach and for demonstrating the implications on local wildlife and tourism.

MOTH SAFARI

The Glens of Antrim Pollinator Group were delighted to be asked to showcase some of the different pollinator species to be found in the Glens. The Group focussed on



night-time pollinators, the varied and brilliantly patterned moths. The display proved to be a very popular part of the weekend festivities.

SPRING HERITAGE WALK AT GLENDUN

Damian Martin from Ardclinis Outdoor Adventure Centre and Réamaí Mathers from the Heart of Glens LPS took 28 keen walkers on a Spring walk at John McAuleys farm in Glendun. The area that was walked is



currently being developed for public access in the near future. Both the leaders provided walkers with information on the history, local Gaelic mythology and biodiversity of the area. Even the odd rain shower could not spoil this wonderful walk.



BIODIVERSITY TRAINING COURSES

Following on from the success of last year's training courses, where the Glens of Antrim Pollinator Group was formed, we will be organising a further two 2-day courses in June and July. The first course in mid-June will be an



introduction to Irish pollinators including butterflies, bees, moths, bumblebees and hoverflies. We will also be looking at some of the general information on their habitats, how to record them online and what the new All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is all about! The second course is an introduction to Irish wildflowers, including how to identify the most common species in a wildflower meadow and how to create (and manage) a meadow in your own garden. See below for full itineraries.

Both courses are suitable for beginners. Booking is required and spaces are limited. Please contact Brian: brian@lps.ccght.org or 028 2075 2100.

GLENS OF ANTRIM POLLINATOR GROUP



The Glens of Antrim Pollinator Group have just designed a new logo for themselves. Key member, local wildlife enthusiast and graphic designer, Rodney Boyd, designed it in time for the upcoming year. Feel free to contact the Group (brian@lps.ccght.org or 07834 542 071) if you have an interest in pollinator species (bees, butterflies, moths, bumblebees, hoverflies, etc.) and would like to join.



BIODIVERSITY TRAINING PROGRAMMES





VOLUNTEER PLUG PLANTING & LITTER PICK AT BALLYCASTLE TOW RIVER PATH

We are delighted to partner Ballycastle Development Group (BDG) on their new wildflower meadow along the Tow River path. This meadow will be an added attraction along this short town walk and will include mown paths which will enable the public to wander through it. Wildflower meadows like this are also great for wildlife including some of our endangered pollinator species. To help increase the diversity in the meadow this year we, in partnership with BDG, held a volunteer plug planting day in April with close to 20 people helping out. We planted wildflower plugs, which were harvested and grown locally, and native trees, and



carried out a litter pick-up. It was a great day and with the eventful soccer match going on beside us it had something for everybody! It will take a few years before this meadow is properly established but with the continuing support of the local community it will be well worth it.

If you would like to get involved in our volunteer events contact our Outreach & Volunteer Officer Laura by emailing laura@lps.ccght.org or call 028 2075 2100.

INTERVIEW WITH PAUL KERRIGAN BALLYCASTLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN THE BALLYCASTLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

I am honoured to have served as chair of the group for the past four years. We are a small collective who meet on a regular basis to discuss ways to bring various projects to fruition to help build on the great community spirit found within Ballycastle. Our aim is to promote Ballycastle by improving the quality of life for residents and by making it a welcoming place for visitors. My individual role is exciting and varies greatly from day to day, one day I could be planting trees at the community garden and the next I could be meeting representatives from statutory agencies to discuss ways of overcoming issues or problems which are occurring within the town.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT BEING A PART OF THIS GROUP?

I really enjoy meeting new people who have similar aims and objectives, and being able to discuss ways of addressing common issues which we all have to face. I have been very lucky to have met many great inspirational people over the past few years who have all given me the drive and inspiration to continue to work for the betterment of my community. I really enjoy the enthusiasm of the group members. Their willingness and commitment to work, sometimes under great pressure to meet deadlines and the welcoming cooperative nature of all the other groups within Ballycastle. I have met some great people who I would now consider to be great friends.

WHY IS THE BALLYCASTLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP IMPORTANT?

Through a partnership approach we act as a group to ensure that Ballycastle is not overlooked and continues to be heard on the local political agenda, this statement from our former local councillor Donal Cunningham sums up what we as a group believe...'The need for a strong and vocal community voice'.



"Ballycastle community has a large and untapped pool of people (particularly the young) who have different skill sets which we need to get involved and have a real say in the decision making as to what happens in their area.".

The benefits of having strong networks embedded within communities include better health outcomes, lower levels of reported crime and anti-social behaviour. The more we strengthen local assets - and people here are key - the more we will equip our communities to self-organise, help young people find opportunities, and bridge the vast gaps left by Government spending cuts.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE WORK YOU ARE DOING WITH THE HEART OF THE GLENS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Ballycastle Community Development Group secured funding from Grow Wild to rejuvenate a long exhausted piece of land that sits alongside the river tow in Ballycastle. Our plan is to include various community groups along with individual members of the public to help reshape our landscape by taking the invasive species out and putting the native species back. We are focused on biodiversity, in what has become an urban area.

In partnering with the Landscape Partnership we were able to avail of their in-house knowledge and expertise in terms of design concept, management plan, tree planting and species choice and are delighted to be included on the Great Glens Grassland Trail. As a group we would have struggled to complete this project as professionally and as quickly without the much appreciated support and assistance from the Partnership and we would like to extend our thanks to all the staff.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE FOLLOWING POLLINATORS THAT CAN BE FOUND IN THE GLENS?

















TREE & MEADOW PLANTING WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS

Further progress has been made with the outdoor learning zones in the local schools. Following on from the bird and bat box installation, planting tubs and bird feeding stations at the three schools



in Carnlough, we have also planted trees and wildflowers along with the school children.

The school kids got to take part in planting their own trees and wildflowers which enabled them to engage with their local landscape and the great outdoors!

We have already received positive feedback from the teachers who have told us of how they are going to integrate the planting of wildflowers into the curriculum when teaching the kids about growing and life cycles. Being able to be part of the growing process and see it first-hand will have a longer lasting impact than just reading about it in a book.

HERITAGE SKILLS AUDIT

Our upcoming projects will focus on helping local Glens people to develop useful skills and further their professional and personal development. In order to ensure that local traditional heritage skills are continued in The Glens we would like to map existing heritage skills that already exist in the area. If you are skilled in areas such as stone masonry, hedge laying, dry stone walling, woodcraft, growing and harvesting wild food, trail construction and maintenance, landscape mapping, or any other local heritage skill that you know of please get in touch with us. We would also encourage you to take part in our online survey which you will find on our website www.heartoftheglens.org.

CULFEIGHTRIN OLD CHURCH OPEN TO PUBLIC

Works have recently been finished on the access to the ruins of Culfeightrin Old Church in Carey. The site is indeed ancient with a history which is likely much older even than the current ruin. The site is



associated with St Patrick and St Fiachra and legend says it was built by Gobán Saor, the mythological craftsman of ancient Ireland. This is a short walk from the road, across two fields to the ruins. The site has some spectacular views of across Ballycastle and Rathlin. Special thanks to Patrick and Anne Casement for allowing access across their land and to Michael McConaghy at Causeway Coast and Glens Borough council for arranging the permitted access and finger post.

CORRYMEELA

Our partnership with The Corrymeela Community is going from strength to strength. The most recent work has seen us work together to develop their grounds with almost 2 acres of wildflower meadows, including



roof meadows. We have also planted trees, a traditional orchard and put up nesting boxes for endangered swifts and bats. We are also just finishing off a wildlife pond and an outdoor classroom. Corrymeela are committed to building environmental learning into their work. They are also working on a sustainable food project growing food for their own kitchen. They are also partnering us on our pollinator and biodiversity training.

OUR EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE! TO ENSURE WE HAVE ENOUGH REFRESHMENTS AND EQUIPMENT PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING. REGISTER WITH LAURA@LPS.CCGHT.ORG OR 028 2075 2100. YOU CAN ALSO GET IN TOUCH THROUGH FACEBOOK AND TWITTER KEEP AN EYE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES AND ALSO OUR NEW WEBSITE HEARTOFTHEGLENS. ORG FOR FURTHER UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

Archaeological (free Events)

SATURDAY 18TH JUNE 2016 UPPER MURLOUGH CAR PARK, BALLYCASTLE - 11AM

UPPER MURLOUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALK

Join Archaeologist Thomas McErlean from University of Ulster on a journey back in time to the upper stretch of Murlough Bay known locally as Goodlands.

SATURDAY 13TH AUGUST CARNLOUGH HARBOUR - 12 NOON

THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

INFORMATION CENTRE - 7PM

GLENARM VISITOR

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN THE GLENS

Join us as we take a walk in Carnlough towards Gortin limestone quarry and Cranny Waterfalls where you will discover the historic significance of the harbour, the old mineral railway, and the lime kilns along the way.

SURVEYING HERITAGE IN THE GLENS

Join Professor Keith Lilley, from the School of Geography, Archaeology & Palaeoecology of Queen's University Belfast, who will give an illustrated talk on how the Ordnance Survey in Ireland shaped the landscape on the ground, and how we can find in today's landscape surviving but often forgotten and overlooked monuments and legacies left by the surveyors who mapped Ireland.

Training

SATURDAY 18TH & SUNDAY 19TH TUNF

INTRODUCTION TO POLLINATORS

SATURDAY 9TH & SUNDAY 10TH JULY

INTRODUCTION TO WILDFLOWERS

PROVISIONAL DATES TUESDAY 19TH JULY, SATURDAY 6TH DRY STONE WALLEN AUGUST AND 5TH - 8TH SEPTEMBER

VISIT HEARTOFTHEGLENS.ORG TEL: 028 2075 2100 EMAIL: LAURA@LPS.CCGHT.ORG THE OLD BANK, 27 MAIN STREET, ARMOY, CO. ANTRIM, BT53 8SL FIND US ON: FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR OTHER EVENTS THIS SUMMER PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES.

ANSWER TO BRAIN TEASER HOVERFLY, COMMON CARDER BEE, COMMON BLUE BUTTERFLY, SOLITARY BEE, HONEYBEE, SIX-SPOT BURNET, GREEN-VEINED WHITE, ORANGE TIP BUTTERFLY Biodiversity

THURSDAY 30TH JUNE **CRAIGDUN CASTLE GROUNDS**

-7.30PM

FRIDAY 1ST TULY

GLENARM STRAND - 2PM

WORLD OF THE HONEYBEE OPEN NIGHT

Join the oldest Beekeeping Association in Ulster who are celebrating their 75th anniversary this year, to have a look around their apiary of bee hives within the grounds of Craigdun Castle in Cullybackey. You will have the opportunity to see inside a hive, and find out about the different aspects of the colony, and possibly even catch a glimpse of the Queen if she doesn't hide too much! There will also be an opportunity for the more adventurous and brave to put on specialised suits and get up close to the hive. You may even get a drone bee to take home as a pet, they are the boys which don't sting!!

SEASHORE SCAVENGE

Join Ulster Wildlife's Living Seas Team for a seashore exploring adventure as we hunt for fascinating animals, unusual rocks and even pre-historic arrowheads on the strand at Glenarm. This is a great site for finding crabs, seaweeds and anemones and also a great spot to see birds such as black guillemots and diver species. Hunt for seashells and beautiful rocks and pebbles along the shore. Ancient flint arrowheads have also been found at this location! Please note: Family Friendly event. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult due to the slippy underfoot conditions.

CREGAGH WOOD, CUSHENDUN -1.30PM

SATURDAY 9TH TULY

WILD LOOKERY

In partnership with Cushendun Community festival. Come and explore this beautiful woodland in the company of forager Rachel Craig. Birds will be in song and the woodland flora will be reaching its peak. You can find out about edible plants, what's safe to eat and what's not. Discover a multitude of edible goodies and learn how to make wild garlic pesto, nettle soup and a whole variety of wild salad and greens - all this and nature too. Please note children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-booking is essential. Take a basket and learn how to source and identify all the natural edible treats that flourish throughout.

THURSDAY 28TH TULY RED BAY AMENITY SITE. GLENARIFF - 11AM

SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST

CUSHENDALL BEACH - 1PM

SNORKEL SAFARI Join Ulster Wildlife's Living Seas team for a snorkelling safari at Red Bay. Snorkel in the company of our team of BSAC trained Snorkel Instructors and look beneath the surface to see Red Bay's beautiful seagrass beds and the sea creatures who live there. Wetsuits, masks, snorkels & fins provided but bring your own gear if you have it. Suitable for Age 8+. Under 16s must be accompanied by responsible adult (but adults don't have to get wet!). Booking is essential.

KOCKPOOL KAMBLE Come and meet Ulster Wildlife's Living Seas Team and join us for a rock-pool exploring adventure. This is a great site for family rockpooling with dozens of different seaweeds, beautiful beadlet anemones and plenty of opportunity to find crabs, fish, sea slugs and other marine life hiding between the rocks. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please note surfaces may be rocky and slippy.

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER CUSHENDALL BEACH - 11AM

E. LAURA@LPS.CCGHT.ORG

COASTAL FORAGING

Join Dermot Hughes from Forage Ireland, and Ulster Wildlife's Living Seas Team who will be conducting a coastal foraging walk along the Cushendall coast. Find out what's good to eat... and what isn't! Under 16s must be accompanied by responsible adult. Check forecast beforehand and dress suitably. Cost £10pp payable to Ulster Wildlife.

About the Heart of the Glens

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

 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

THE OLD BANK, 27 MAIN STREET, ARMOY, BALLYMONEY BT53 &SI WWW.HEARTOFTHEGLENS.ORG T. 028 2075 2100





