

THE GLENS OF ANTRIM

ISSUE NINE SPRING 2016

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE HEART OF THE GLENS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Heart of
the Glens

Landscape Partnership Scheme

In this
issue...

OUTDOOR LEARNING ZONES FOR SCHOOLS
INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE GLENS
GLENARIFF BEACH FRONT PLANS
UPCOMING EVENTS



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Welcome to the Ninth issue



Spring is upon us and for many that will mean the start of the lambing, and more importantly the enjoyment of the longer evenings. Everyone loves to see the spring approaching so this year we are going to celebrate with an early morning spring walk in Breen Forest. We will be on the lookout for spring flowers, butterflies, newts and listening for birdsongs.

The Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) team have been continuing their efforts to help conserve and enhance the fantastic built, natural and cultural heritage of The Glens of Antrim over these last few months. I know we always say it, but this has been our busiest time to date!

Some of the projects that have progressed over the winter months were the Glenariff Beachfront Masterplan, Glens Green Woodlands, Heritage Tour Guiding, and the printing of the Festivals & Events brochure. One of our big projects during the winter was the Glendun 'For Community By Community' scheme, which engaged local community on local issues and opportunities for their area.

Our workshops with Naturally North Coast and Glens Artisan Market continued over the winter. This included training in willow weaving at the beginning of February, artisan pizza making at the end of February and the upcoming chocolate making event in March.

In this edition we have a feature on Glenariff Improvement Group who are one of the partners in our wildflower meadow schemes and the beachfront masterplan. You will also find information on our Live Here Love Here project with the local schools in Carnlough as well as our plans for outdoor learning zones at many other schools in The Glens. We will also tell you a bit about the latest farmer information evenings and training. We will be taking a short break in our events schedule to allow for the busy lambing season but will be back with training on dry stone walling in the summer months as well as building on the hedge laying with a more intensive training course this coming Autumn.

And finally we would like to wish all our readers and partners a Happy Easter!



Traditional Recipe



INGREDIENTS

- 700g/1lb 9oz cod or haddock
- 850ml/1.5pt milk
- 60g/2.25oz flour
- 60g/2.25oz butter
- 60g/2.25oz Kilmeaden Cheese
- 1 small onion peeled
- 3 small ripe tomatoes, skinned and chopped
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, shelled and chopped
- 2 tbsp finely chopped parsley
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

POTATO TOPPING:

- 700g/1lb 9oz potatoes, peeled weight
- 60g/2.25oz butter
- 60 ml/4tbsp cream
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD

SPRING FISH PIE

1. Remove the bones from the fish.
2. Put the fish, onion and milk in a saucepan and bring gently to boil over a low heat.
3. Simmer for 2-3 minutes, then remove the pan from the heat and allow to cool.
4. Strain off the milk from the fish through a sieve or colander and keep it for the sauce.
5. Flake the fish, removing any skin and bone.
6. Remove the onion.
7. Melt the butter in a saucepan and stir in the flour.
8. Cook for 2-3 minutes, then gradually pour in the strained-off milk, stirring well until the sauce comes to simmering point.
9. Add the cheese and cook for one minute, stir continuously until melted.
10. Remove the pan from the heat and add the fish, chopped tomatoes, hard-boiled egg, parsley, a pinch of salt and some freshly ground pepper.
11. Put the mixture into a pie dish.
12. Cut the potatoes in chunks and boil until tender.
13. Drain in a colander, return to pan and mash well.
14. Mash in butter and cream and season with salt and pepper to taste.
15. Cover the fish mixture with the mashed potatoes.
16. Bake in a preheated oven 180c/350f/gas mark 4 for 25 minutes until cooked through and browned.

Project Updates

FARMER INFORMATION EVENINGS & SKILLS TRAINING

We had another successful and well-attended series of farmer information evenings over the winter period. Talks included Gemma Daly's (of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) Farm Animal Health where she told us about the Herd Health Schemes in relation to BVD and Neospora as well as offering some advice in preparation and assistance with lambing and calving.

Graeme Campbell from CAFRE talked about the Nitrates Action Plan which focussed on improving the use of agricultural nutrients on the farm. He followed up this talk with another on Nutrient Management Planning where he offered advice on making the best use of fertiliser and manure in order to save money and the environment. If you are interested in attending the follow up computer class to this please contact Laura on 02820752100.

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.



ORCHARD MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Graeme Cross, also from CAFRE, delivered a fantastic orchard management training day in Cushendun. He showed the local community the correct methods and timings for pruning and much more. Many thanks to John Delargy who kindly let us use his orchard.



HEDGE LAYING TRAINING



We delivered three hedge laying taster days this spring before the season ended. The first taster day was for BCW (a local training and employment organisation) in Ballycastle with the other two open to the public. The first open taster day took place on Thursday 18th February at Eamonn Robbin's fantastic GlenHaven holiday cottage on the Glen Road in Glenariff and the second took place on Saturday 27th February in Ballyvoy, with thanks to local man Brendan Butler. David Thompson from the Ards Peninsula gave a great demonstration on how to split the stem of the hedge using a simple chopping tool called a billhook and bend it over the old traditional way to stock proof your field for sheep or cattle. Hedge laying is a very skilled art. You need to ensure you slice the stem just enough to keep it alive for regrowth and leave it supple enough to become part of the laid hedge. He then demonstrated his own unique way of binding the hedge to prevent any disruption from strong winds. After lunch everyone was given the opportunity to have a go at slicing and binding the tree.



All training sessions were well attended with plenty of interest for a longer, more in depth course which we hope to run in the Autumn when the hedge laying season commences again. If you are interested in attending this course please register your interest now by emailing laura@lps.ccght.org or give us a call on 028 2075 2100.

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP

One of our major projects over the remaining years will focus on mapping invasive species in The Glens. In order to introduce this topic we organised a two day workshop on invasive species control at the start of February. On the first day we held a talk which was delivered by Maurice Turley (Mid & East Antrim Biodiversity Officer) at Glenlough Community Centre in Carnlough. We followed this up with an invasive species control demonstration at Gortin Quarry and scrub removal volunteer day at Cranny Falls the next day.



Maurice explained to us some of the problems invasive species pose on us. They threaten our native wildlife (for example the major decline in our red squirrel brought about by the introduction of the American grey squirrel), damage infrastructure, and can be very costly to eradicate once established. One of the species highlighted by Maurice was Japanese knotweed. This plant can cause homeowners all sorts of problems due to its incredible ability to grow up through seemingly impermeable surfaces such as concrete! As well as the physical damage to property, the presence of this plant on your land can render your house difficult to sell or mortgage, and make the development of sites un-economical.

We hope to have the survey carried out over the summer months and will then be able to get a greater understanding of the extent of the problem in the Glens so that we can all begin to tackle it effectively.

LIVE HERE LOVE HERE – LEARNING HABITATS

This project was developed with three local schools in Carnlough. The schools who took part in this were St Johns Primary School, Carnlough Integrated Primary School and St Killians College. The purpose of the project was to create and enhance a range of habitats within school grounds so that local wildlife and plants will flourish and children will be able to learn from them. Native habitats will include the creation of meadows, ponds, native hedging and tree planting, as well as bug hotels, bird boxes, and bat boxes erected in the school grounds. These new 'learning habitats' will facilitate the teaching of biodiversity and earth sciences within the school curriculum. By providing spaces for biodiversity, the schools will also be demonstrating the importance of schools grounds, gardens and community spaces for wildlife conservation.



OUTDOOR LEARNING ZONES FOR GLENS SCHOOLS

We will also be rolling this habitat project out to the other schools who registered their interest and took part in The OPAL biodiversity and science teacher training last September and October. Most schools have now received their school plans for the outdoor classrooms and work will be commencing over the next few months.



WILDLIFE GARDENING

If you are interested in helping out our native wildlife and getting to see and experience them up close, then your garden is a great place to start. In this talk we examined ways of making our gardens friendlier for wildlife. Simply by thinking about their needs - shelter, food, water and protection (much like ours) - and providing for them then they will come. By taking simple measures we can all do our bit; put up bird boxes & feeders, set aside some of your lawn & garden as wild spaces (long grass, wildflowers, nettles & other 'weeds'), plant some native trees and shrubs, put in a pond (if safe to do so), etc. We will continue to develop projects like the Garden Tree Giveaway in the coming months aimed at making the Glens Gardens great for wildlife.



GLENDUN 'FOR COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY'

This January and February we held a series of Workshops with a wide range of interested persons from the community of Glendun to see how they can maximise the benefits they get from their landscape with the aim of making their community more sustainable. This included exploring opportunities and threats on a wide range of sectors such as farming, tourism, housing, planning, access, recreation, locally produced renewable energy, the environment, and much more. We aimed at all times to ensure that the Group itself drove the process and came up with ideas that they felt would improve the landscape for the whole community. We're really looking forward to working with this Group over the next few months to try and develop the actions identified.

WOODLAND CREATION 2015-2016

This season has proved another hugely successful one for our Woodland Creation in the Glens. Thanks to work with our partners - the Woodland Trust and One Million Trees in One Day - we are delighted to announce over 100,000 new trees will be planted in the Glens and surrounding areas in 2016! This includes our Garden Tree Giveaway where 400 tree packs consisting of 4 native trees each were handed out. In addition to the above planting, we have also had great interest in the new Forestry Woodland Grant, which could potentially see the creation of nearly 20 hectares of new mixed forestry this year. Happy planting to all those who have received trees through the different schemes and remember to look out for the new Woodland Schemes due out later in the year. Feel free to contact us on 028 2075 2100 to find out more.



Brain Teasers

CAN YOU FIND THE SPECIES OF GARDEN BIRD IN THE PICTURE AND THESE OTHER NATIVE SPECIES IN THE WORDSEARCH BELOW?



S	C	A	E	D	O	U	E	M	A	B	E	N	H	R	L	O	N	D
M	P	S	R	O	O	N	B	D	H	L	G	T	C	N	B	G	M	E
Z	A	A	V	M	C	V	U	O	C	R	W	A	N	S	O	R	E	S
O	H	D	R	E	T	Y	E	N	N	N	O	C	I	T	L	E	W	E
O	U	W	O	R	A	T	L	C	I	A	O	V	F	A	I	A	R	F
C	A	E	B	L	O	B	F	T	F	O	D	R	D	R	L	T	E	D
B	T	G	I	R	O	W	R	X	L	G	P	A	L	L	S	T	A	R
N	W	I	N	R	U	A	N	Q	L	A	I	T	O	I	M	I	A	I
O	R	A	T	O	M	M	H	G	U	K	G	W	G	N	G	T	Y	B
I	E	J	L	E	E	S	H	B	B	R	E	U	M	G	L	E	T	K
U	N	K	S	M	U	R	T	I	R	S	O	N	R	S	L	N	F	C
E	O	U	L	R	S	L	R	R	K	N	N	Q	Y	H	A	E	I	A
H	O	Q	H	B	T	T	B	T	O	V	N	O	J	E	W	E	W	L
H	U	T	L	H	O	U	S	E	M	A	W	T	R	N	S	U	S	B

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS GARDEN BIRD?

This common Irish garden bird has a colourful deep pink throat and breast with a jet black crown, wings and tail (male). It also has a white rump and wing bar. It will eat berries, fruit and emerging buds and can sometimes be seen feeding on the ground near bird feeders. Its song is a soft whistling chatter and its call a weak, soft weep.

SPARROW
BLUE TIT
ROBIN
WREN
STARLING

DOVE
SWALLOW
SWIFT
GOLDFINCH
THRUSH

BLACKBIRD
WOOD PIGEON
HOUSE MARTIN
GREAT TIT

FESTIVALS & EVENTS BROCHURE

Part of what we are trying to do at the HOTGLPS is to open up The Glens to the wider population and bring to the fore some of the many festivities that occur here every year. One way of doing this was to create a brochure highlighting the festivals and events that occur annually in The Glens. This is the first time all this information has ever been collated and made into a brochure for tourists to avail of. You can see a copy of this brochure on our website www.heartoftheglens.org.



DISAPPOINTING DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE MISSING LINK IN THE ULSTER WAY IN CARNLOUGH

Over the last few months we had been working hard with the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and the Ulster Farmers' Union to connect the only missing link on the Ulster Way, a short section over Garron Plateau leading into Carnlough. Unfortunately, even after our efforts to address the concerns of the landowners, we could not reach an agreement to complete this link. If completed this walk would be of great benefit to the local community and potentially draw more walking tourists to the village of Carnlough. If any other landowners in the area think they can help complete this walk we would love to hear from you and see how we can try accommodate your needs.

THE PLAY PARK IN CARNLOUGH

We are delighted to say that after a long delay the Play Park in Carnlough is finally back on track. The design has been amended to allow for necessary remediation works and we are looking forward to seeing works recommence on the ground.



INTERVIEW WITH MAIREAD McMULLAN FROM GLENARIFF IMPROVEMENT GROUP

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN THE GLENARIFF IMPROVEMENT GROUP

I am a member of a local working group called Glenariff Improvement Group. Our group is a small, informal collective one where opinions are welcomed, discussed and valued. Our aim is to promote Glenariff by improving the quality of life for residents and by making it a welcoming place for visitors. While our members possess a range of experience and expertise we value the assistance, guidance and encouragement of the statutory bodies especially the former Moyle Council.

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

I enjoy the enthusiasm of our members and the cooperative nature of the meetings as well as the willingness to work, sometimes under great pressure to meet deadlines. Monday is usually a very busy but rewarding day when residents and some neighbouring friends meet in the Mariners function room to enjoy a healthy, three course lunch, lively conversation, musical entertainment/therapy and also to learn new skills/crafts.

WHY IS THE GLENARIFF IMPROVEMENT GROUP IMPORTANT?

It acts as a pressure group ensuring that Glenariff is not ignored; strives to raise awareness as to the outstanding natural beauty of the locality and its rich cultural heritage.

GIG Members, "Know every stone and recall every tree" and so are ideally placed to represent the needs of the residents and the environmental improvements which should be carried out so that it can truly be "Heaven to us"

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

Glenariff Improvement Group welcomes the projects already undertaken by Heart of the Glens LPS and was excited to see the plans for the entire beach front or "The Common" as it is called locally. Glenariff Improvement Group values the expertise of the Landscape Partnership and also appreciates the work involved in securing the funding to complete the scheme. Waterfoot Beach is already a very fine one but with the boardwalks, pathways, meadow flowers, and play spaces this will make it even more beautiful.

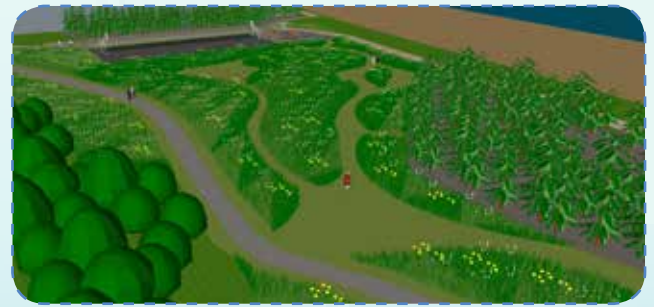
GLENARIFF BEACH FRONT MASTERPLAN

Set at the foot of 'The Queen of the Glens' the 1.5km beachfront of Glenariff is getting a facelift in keeping with its dramatic backdrop. Over 3ha of grassland (making up nearly half of the overall green space), previously consisting of either rank or mown areas of grass are being restored to species rich grassland that should bring lots of colour, wildlife and adventure for the local community. Mown paths will be maintained through the meadows to invite users into them. In places these paths will open out as areas for outdoor classrooms, picnics, and a range of other outdoor activities. Ample areas of amenity lawn will still be maintained for ball sports and other activities where the community identified.



The other features included are:

- improved connectivity between the different green spaces in the form of new boardwalk and steps behind the Beach Café
- a gym trail area
- natural play features
- new and reworked boundary fencing around the playground
- new tree planting at selected places throughout
- new site furniture and interpretation signage



These proposals, if they successfully pass through Council, are expected to have multiple benefits for the local community, and for Council. These include increased tourism potential for the village (visitors don't come to our wild and wonderful landscape to see endless areas of neatly cut mown grass), new recreational activities for locals, greatly reduced maintenance costs for Council, new habitat for many of our endangered native species, and much, much more!

The plans were based on the ideas and feedback from local community. We held a series of consultations from the start including; 2 open public presentations in Mariners Bar; a meeting with the p5, 6 & 7's to hear their ideas; a meeting with the GAA club after a training session in September; and, other meetings with local stakeholder groups.

Have a look and see what you think. If you think your local public green spaces should be doing more for community and wildlife then please give us a call. We would love to hear your ideas and see what we can do together to make our communities more sustainable and interesting for all.



BALLYCASTLE TOW RIVER MEADOW

We are delighted to partner with the Ballycastle Development Group on the most recent addition to the Glens Great Grassland Trail. This is an area of rank grass along the Tow River path that will now be converted to a species rich wildflower meadow. Have a look out for this over the coming months!

OTHER MEADOWS IN THE GLENS GREAT GRASSLAND TRAIL INCLUDE

AGNEWS FIELD

CAIRNS ALLOTMENT GARDENS
(BOTH OUTSIDE CUSHENDALL)

THE OLD SOCCER PITCH IN GLENARM

THE HURRY LANE IN CARNLOUGH

GARRON POINT

'THE WARREN' IN CUSHENDUN

BALLYCASTLE GOLF CLUB.

VOLUNTEER WITH US



Upcoming Events...



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](mailto: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 [HEARTOFTHEGLEN.S.ORG](http://heartoftheglens.org) FOR FURTHER UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

VOLUNTEER BIRD BOX INSTALLATION & LITTER PICK AT CREGAGH

A fantastic day was had by all at the big conservation task at Cregagh Wood in Cushendun on Saturday 13th February. Forty bird boxes were installed in no time at all thanks to our hard working volunteers! We even had time to do a litter pick at the top section of the woods as the weather was so lovely no-one wanted to leave!

The aim of the nest box scheme is to provide ideal nesting locations for woodland passerines, with the main hope of attracting Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers, to once again breed in this area. Both species breed just across the water in the forests of Dumfries and Galloway and pass along the east coast of Ireland each spring. It is commonly thought that the lack of woodpeckers in Ireland (until 2007) has meant a much reduced availability of nesting holes in Irish woods, thus greatly reducing the chances of the target species colonising Ireland. By providing ideal nest holes in suitable habitat it is hoped that the two species will take up residence in Cregagh Wood. The added bonus is that the boxes will provide safe homes to breeding Blue Tits and Great Tits and may attract Coal Tits, Robins, Spotted Flycatchers, Treecreepers and Wrens.

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.

Biodiversity (Free Events)

SATURDAY 16TH APRIL
BREEN WOOD - 9AM

SPRING WOODLAND WALK

Join us for a spring woodland walk at Breen Forest on Glenshesk Road, where you will learn about spring flowers, bird song, butterflies, newts and anything else that comes along. You might also get to see a selection of moths depending on the weather.

SUNDAY 1ST MAY
CREGAGH WOOD,
CUSHENDUN - 5AM

DAWN CHORUS

International Dawn Chorus Day is a worldwide celebration of nature's daily miracle. Why not start your day with nature and join us for a chance to hear the wondrous bird songs on a dawn chorus walk around the fantastic Cregagh Wood in Cushendun. In partnership with Cushendun Arts Weekend.

SUNDAY 1ST MAY
CUSHENDUN OLD CHURCH
- FROM 11AM

IT'S A BUGS WORLD

Come along and see the art installation celebrating our moths and butterflies created by The Glens and Cushendun Youth Club groups. We will also have a butterfly and moth pollination display and information session.

MONDAY 2ND MAY
CUSHENDUN OLD CHURCH

SPRING HERITAGE WALK

In partnership with Cushendun Big Arts Weekend and Ardclinis Outdoor Adventure. Details to be confirmed.

Volunteer Events

FRIDAY 6TH MAY
GLENARM BEACH
- 4-6PM

GLENARM BIG BEACH CLEAN

Join Glenarm Wildlife Group for a big clean up of the beach and harbour area. Minimum age of 16 years. Meet at the car park opposite Seaview Primary School office (postcode BT44 0AJ)

Archaeological (Free Events)

SATURDAY 18TH JUNE 2016
UPPER MURLOUGH CAR PARK,
BALLYCASTLE - 10AM

UPPER MURLOUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALK

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

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

Naturally North Coast & Glens Artisan Market Workshops



SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2016
THE ROOM DALRIADA HOUSE
BALLYCASTLE - 10.30AM - 4 PM

CHOCOLATE MAKING WORKSHOP

A fun and yummy workshop with Geri of The Chocolate Manor. On this hands on one day workshop you will be introduced to working with couverture chocolate and will pick up lots of tips for home chocolate making. Each participant will take home the goodies they make along with instructions and recipes to follow at home. Fee: £40 per person to include all ingredients required, a light lunch and refreshments. Booking is essential. Contact info@naturallynorthcoastandglens.co.uk to book your place. Tel: 07723622008



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE CONTACT
INFO@NATURALLYNORTHCOASTANDGLEN.S.CO.UK

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 and beautiful landscape of the Glens.

- 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



ANSWER TO BRAIN TEASER
BULLFINCH

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