

THE GLENS OF ANTRIM

ISSUE FIVE SPRING 2015

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE HEART OF THE GLENS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

In this
issue...

GREAT TREE GIVE AWAY
CARNLOUGH PLAY PARK
SPRING EVENTS

Heart of
the Glens

Landscape Partnership Scheme



HAPPY EASTER FROM HEART OF THE GLENS TEAM!



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST



LOTTERY FUNDED



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Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency

Welcome to the FIFTH issue

With the arrival of snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses we are surely getting a glimpse of a long awaited Spring! It's great to see the evenings getting longer, birds singing, thick 'slobbers' of frog spawn appearing in the old lint dams and the early lambs sheltering tight behind hedgerows. The past few months have been our busiest to date with a myriad of new projects being developed.

We at the Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme know that The Glens have a lot to offer and we aim to ensure that it receives the recognition it deserves and continues to thrive for many years to come. LEGACY is an important word that is at the centre of everything we do. Leaving a legacy is something that the LPS want to ensure transpires from this 5 year programme and the only way to do that is to make sure the projects we deliver now have long lasting impacts throughout all communities within The Glens of Antrim.

Sadly, we are not immune to negative aspects in life and a theft of 'way-marker' posts from our Cregagh Wood project was a low point of this quarter. But let's not dwell on negativity. As a wise older woman once said by way of metaphor 'Don't put your foot in dirt, you will only spread it'. So, taking that advice, that is the last we will speak of the Cregagh theft. There are too many great people in The Glens of Antrim to let one or two misguided folk ruin things for those of us who are proud of this unique community.

In this issue we'll fill you in on the progress we have made with our current projects, introduce some of our new projects (there are too many to fit in!) and tell you about the wide range of biodiversity, archaeology, history and heritage skills events we have coming up over the next few months. One of our very popular projects has been our '1000 Tree Give Away' in which all households could claim up to 4 trees for their gardens. We also have a great feature on The Woodland Trust, who we are working closely with in many of our projects, as well as a short piece on the mythology of The Glens and a wee brain teaser to stimulate the mind.

WINNER OF PHOTO COMPETITION

What a fabulous picture of Tiveragh Fairy Hill and Lurig Mountain in the middle of The Glens with a hint of Glenariffe and Glenballyeamon. Unfortunately we had to crop it slightly in order to fit on the front page. Here are some other photos we received.



Traditional Recipe



MAKES APPROXIMATELY 4 SODAS

SODA FARLS

(FROM GLENS OF ANTRIM TRADITIONAL BREADS PUBLISHED BY FEIS NA nGLEANN, 2005)

- 10oz / 300 g self raising flour
- ½ pint / 300ml buttermilk (approximately)

METHOD

1. Put griddle or electric skillet to medium-hot setting.
2. In a bowl, gradually mix the buttermilk into the flour until you have a firmish dough. Turn out on a floured board and flour, kneading the mixture until smooth.
3. Roll out to 10"/250mm diameter and approx. ½"/15mm thick. Cut into four farls (quarters). Put onto a medium-hot floured griddle (flour put on the griddle should turn medium brown quickly).
4. Leave for approximately 5 minutes. Farls should have risen slightly and began to form a skin on the top and before turning over. When ready, turn and bake for another 5 minutes.
5. Remove from the griddle and put on a cooler tray. Cover with a dry tea towel until the bread has cooled.

Project Updates

LAURA

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM



As part of our partnership scheme we are building great working relationships with the 14 primary schools in The Glens of Antrim. One of the projects we are funding is up and running again this year and involves children learning about the life cycle of Salmon and water quality. We call this programme 'Salmon in the Classroom' and have already delivered this programme to 7 schools. This year the remaining schools who wished to partake in the project are St Patricks in Glenariffe, St Marys in Cushendall, Glенаan Primary School, Barnish in Ballyvoy and Gaelscoil an Chaistil in Ballycastle.

Our Salmon project is a real educational experience not only for the school children but also for myself. Before the project began I had very little knowledge about salmon or indeed the fascinating journey they embark on throughout their lifetime. For example, the one piece of information I took from the set up and introduction session in the classroom was that salmon will travel thousands of miles out into the Atlantic Ocean but will almost always return to the same part of the river in which it was born.

The students will learn about the environmental and human impacts that can affect the salmon population in our local rivers. In this day and age we all know that salmon numbers have rapidly declined due to overfishing and other human actions, such as draining gravel from river beds and pollution.

School Principal Mr Francis Close from Glенаan Primary School, Cushendall said *"The salmon project is a very interesting and enjoyable project for our school. Firstly it gives the children the opportunity to study the development of salmon eggs in a classroom setting. They also realise the importance of a proper environment for the eggs to hatch out. The children take the temperature of the water each day and keep a record of the data. They also use the internet to find out about the life cycle of a salmon. Finally they will get first-hand experience of setting the young salmon free into the wild. As a result of this project children cover various aspects of the curriculum including Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and the World Around Us. I think it is an excellent project for all schools"*.

Farm Evenings in The Glens

Our second series of farmer information and training evenings has proved to be another great success. We continued our theme of practical training and advice which is designed to help with farm profitability. The evenings included 'Introduction to Aphis' and 'Soil Nutrient Management' computer sessions and a really entertaining and informative talk on 'Beef Shorthorn'. These talks have been well received with almost 200 individual farmers attending to date!

A new initiative that was instigated from January this year was providing local farmers with the tools to collect their own soil samples. We purchased a number of soil augers which farmers were able to borrow to collect their samples. I then took them to the DARD Office to be sent off for analysis.



The only cost to the farmer is for the actual analysis by Eurofins itself which is £10.44 per sample bag. This proved to be very successful with 16 farmers having availed of this service so far.

We are finished this service for this year, but if anyone wants to borrow the soil sampling auger during the year, they only have to contact me.

We hope to continue farmer training throughout the summer and into autumn but for now we will be taking a short break to allow for the lambing season. Training events we are looking at include, dry stone walling, creating and maintaining an orchard, woodland management and hedge laying among many others.



GREAT TREE GIVE AWAY

Did you know that 400 years ago the Glens of Antrim were one of the most wooded areas of Ulster? Today, however, we have one of the lowest percentages of native tree cover anywhere in Europe.

The Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership, in a unique partnership with the Woodland Trust and with generous funding from The NIEL Challenge Fund, held a 1000 native trees give away this Spring. When we say 1000, it was actually closer to 2000, such was the demand. These trees were to be planted in gardens throughout The Glens of Antrim. Gardens are important sanctuaries for wildlife. Flowering trees support pollinators, such as butterflies and bees and later in the year, their berries and nuts will provide a valuable source of food for many birds and mammals. By planting native trees, Glens Folk are creating much-needed habitat for many precious species of wildlife, while enhancing the beauty of their own homes and the broader area.

A great spin off from the Great Glens Tree Give Away is that it inspired some people to plant more than a few trees. If you have a larger area that you would like to plant up with trees please contact us!

INTERVIEW WITH GREGOR FULTON FROM THE WOODLAND TRUST

TELL US A BIT ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

As operations manager for the Woodland Trust I oversee the management of our estate, which comprises 50 woods scattered right throughout Northern Ireland. I also look for opportunities to protect and enhance our existing native woodland, and to create new woodland - be it working with private landowners or organisations such as councils and other environmental groups. And it's this aspect of my role that has brought about the Woodland Trust's partnership with the Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership.



WOODLAND TRUST



**WOODLAND
TRUST**

Established in 1972, the Woodland Trust is perhaps one of Europe's leading woodland conservation charities. They care for over 1,000 woods and have planted nearly 22 million trees to date. The aim of The Woodland Trust is to create, protect and restore native woodland throughout Northern Ireland, England and Wales. The Trust now cares for 50 woods throughout the north. With the woods varying in nature, from recently planted woodland to ancient woodland (that is woodland dating back as far as 1600 or earlier).

We live in one of the least wooded areas in Europe, with just 8 per cent woodland cover compared to the European average of 44 per cent. The Woodland Trust have an ambition to double our limited woodland resource, and are offering a number of incentives to help schools, community groups and landowners to make their mark.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I really enjoy my partnership work, in particular working with some of the landscape partnerships. Collective efforts really can change landscapes. This aspect gives me the opportunity to explore Northern Ireland's wonderful countryside, to meet new people on a daily basis, and to contribute towards the protection and enhancement of our natural landscape. No two days are ever the same!

WHY IS THE WOODLAND TRUST IMPORTANT?

We are the UK's leading woodland conservation charity and we give trees and woodland a voice. Northern Ireland has only 8 per cent woodland cover, making us one of the least wooded areas in the whole of Europe, with its 44 per cent woodland cover. Trees and woodland are so important: they provide homes for precious wildlife; improve the air we breathe; provide places for recreation - the list is endless. And it's therefore vital that we strive to both protect and enhance this fragile resource.

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

The Heart of the Glens project is a fantastic opportunity for the Trust to work in partnership, and on a landscape scale, with a really well-established local group. We want to preserve the existing woodland within this famously beautiful area. And we want to work with local landowners and farmers to encourage them to plant more woodland. Reasons for planting will vary. New planting will offer shelter and shade for livestock; an extended habitat for wildlife, including the endangered red squirrel; and a sustainable supply of firewood. And, with careful planting, trees can help to stabilise river banks and prevent erosion. It is early days and already the local response has been amazing.



BRIAN

Project Updates

LIVE HERE LOVE HERE

In November 2014 we were successful in our application for the 'Live Here Love Here' small grants scheme to help improve woodland and wildflower meadow habitats in Glenarm, Carnlough and Garron Point. Working closely with Larne Borough Council we appointed MGS Landscaping Ltd to carry out the works in January. These projects fall under our themes of Glens Great Grasslands and Glens Green Woodland.



In Glenarm we have created 1.5 acres of new woodland to add to the existing mature trees on the park grounds on Straidkilly Road. We have agreed with Larne Borough Council for them to manage an area to the front of this new woodland for native wildflower meadow. A new fence and timber gate were also erected along the boundary of the site which replaces the old broken fence. At Garron Point we have carried out ground works to the area of rough grass beside the car park so that this can be managed for coastal wildflower meadow. In Carnlough, we have created a 1 acre belt of trees leading up to Cranny Falls Nature Reserve as well as carrying out the ground works for a 1.15 acre wildflower meadow. We have retained some of the trees so that we can carry out a tree planting morning in the coming weeks with Carnlough Community Association and the local schools. In addition to all this, we will be engaging with local schools and community groups to help put up bird and bat boxes in Glenarm and Carnlough.

Overall, this scheme has been a great success to date helping us form new partnerships, create new habitats for wildlife and add greatly to the visual and amenity value of the area. It has also led on to some other exciting projects including the proposed new Natural Play Park in Carnlough.

CARNLOUGH PLAY PARK

It is amazing how opportunities come up! We started working on meadow and woodland projects and by engaging with communities we were able to develop a partnership with the Carnlough Community and Larne Borough Council on a new Natural Play Park. The Natural Play Park is a move away from what has become the standard playground around the country - a fenced area with brightly coloured steel and plastic frame structures. Instead it has incorporated traditional play equipment into a natural landscape that is fun to play in, is visually attractive and is great for biodiversity. A win-win if there was ever one!

Before the Christmas period, Austen Associates Landscape Architects won the tender process to carry out the design of the park. They presented their initial concept plans to the community on the 11th February. It's fair to say



that everybody present was left with a great feeling of excitement for the proposed project. It included a securely enclosed park with slides, basket swings, balancing beams, a brightly coloured fairy house, multi-purpose tower structure, trees, wildflowers, grass mounds, boardwalks, seating, sunken outdoor classroom, toddler area and much much more.

We have been very lucky to work with some great people on this project including Catherine Black and Ben Simon from Larne Borough Council, Carnlough Community Association and the driving force behind it all, local Cllr James McKeown.

Project Updates

RÉAMAÍ

THE
CHALLENGE
FUND

NGO CHALLENGE FUND SUCCESS

Success in Challenge Fund projects sees a windfall for The Glens of Antrim

The Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership is just that, a partnership between local people and organisations in order to enhance and promote this beautiful landscape and its communities. To this end, four applications were submitted to the NI Environment Link Challenge Fund, which receives its money from the plastic bag levy. This money has, up until now, been set aside to facilitate communities to invest in their local environment. The competition was fierce, with over £9 million worth of applications for £1.2 million of projects.

The good news was that the Heart of The Glens LPS, in co-operation with partners such as The Woodland Trust, Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Moyle District Council, Glenariff Improvement Group and Glens Red Squirrel Group, have successfully drawn in almost £50,000 of funding to work on some exciting projects. These projects include an access and conservation grazing project at Glenariff Beach, a project to save endangered Swifts in Ballycastle and a project that will see the creation of 25 acres of woodland and 3.5 kilometres of new hedgerows throughout The Glens.

ALL PROJECTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY!

ALTARICHARD: A 'GLENS GATEWAY' SITE UNDER REDEVELOPMENT

Before the coast road was built, The Glens of Antrim could only be accessed by narrow country tracks across the hills. One of these tracks is now known as Altarichard Road, which twists between Croaghan (from the Gaelic Crocán for 'little hill') and the more famous Slieve an Orra.

The landscape around Altarichard is primarily blanket bogland. Big deal you may say, but bogland of this kind is now fairly rare and home to some of our rarest species. Indeed so special is this area that it has not one but three conservation designations. It is here in the hills that the out-going Ballymoney Borough Council have their only upland amenity site. Over the years this site has fallen into disrepair. In a bid to reshape and reimagine the site, a partnership between The Heart of The Glens LPS and Ballymoney Borough Council has developed to upgrade and redevelop the amenity area. The project will see the paths and picnic areas upgraded, as well as new interpretation of the natural history of the surrounding bogland. Council officers, Rachel Bain (Biodiversity) and Sonya Crawford (Access) are key contributors and managers of this work.



PARTNERSHIP WITH LARNE BOROUGH COUNCIL TO SAVE 'BACHELORS WALK', GLENARM

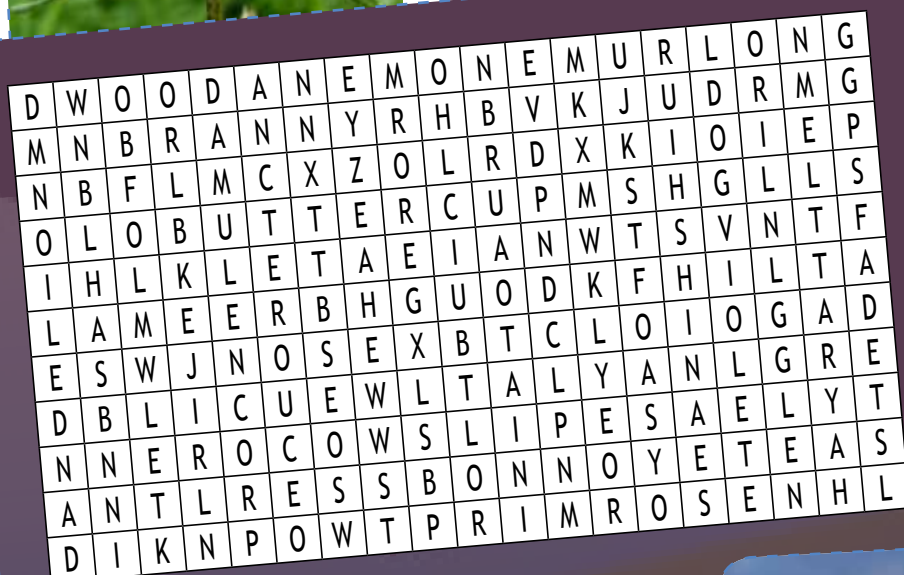
Bachelors Walk is a small piece of hillside just north of Glenarm. Smothered in hazel scrub, a narrow winding pathway has been maintained for many a year to allow the good folk of Glenarm to access the Straidkilly Road from the Coast Road below. The Heart of The Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme is in the early stages of a partnership with Larne Borough Council to purchase this historical site and create a long term access, amenity and biodiversity plan for the area. We will be further developing this throughout 2015.



Brain Teasers!

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PLANT?

It was once very common throughout grasslands in The Glens of Antrim. Its name in both Gaelic and English is similar to a toy that a baby may play with. Some folk call this plant 'The meadow maker' as its semi-parasitic habitat means it reduces vigorous growth in couch grass. By reducing the vigour of surrounding grass it allows a wide range of other flowering plants species to grow in grasslands, helping create the flower rich meadows so important for pollinators.



Word Search

1. Bluebell
2. Primrose
3. Dandelion
4. Blackthorn
5. Dog Violet
6. Wood Anemone
7. Buttercup
8. Cowslip

MYTHOLOGY OF THE GLENS

The Sea of Moyle, or in its original Gaelic form 'Sruth na Maoile', is the stretch of water that lies between North Antrim and Scotland. This area is associated with many legends which include the story of the 'Clann Lir', or Children of Lir (pronounced 'lur' rather than 'leer'). This story comes from a group of legends known as the Gaelic Mythological Cycle, which speaks of the 5 ancestral peoples of Ireland. Many of the people described are probably ancient pre-Christian gods who were demoted to mortality in the writings of early Christian monks.

The story tells of four children who were turned into swans by their evil step-mother. The swans had to spend 300 years on Loch Dairbhreach (Lough Derravaragh) near Mullingar, 300 years on the cold, rough Sea of Moyle, and 300 years on the waters of Inis Gluaire (Inishglora Island) on the west coast. One story says that on returning to human form the swans were baptised into Christianity by Saint Brendan the Navigator but as they were now 900 years old they quickly died of old age.



MANNANÁN MAC LIR

Lir is the genitive variation of the name Lear, which is a Gaelic word for the sea. The Sea God, Mannanán 'Mac Lir' ('son of the sea') is closely associated with Ballycastle from which you can see the white wave breaking over rock, or Carraig Mhannanáin, which lies just beneath the water between Rathlin and Kinbane. Mannanán also gives his name to the Isle of Mann (Island of Mannanán) and under his other name of Oirbsean he gives the famous trout lake of Lough Corrib (Loch Oirbseáin) its title.

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 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 FOR FURTHER UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

Craft & Heritage Skills

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL
11^{AM} – 1^{PM}
CUSHENDALL PARISH HALL

GLENS OF ANTRIM TRADITIONAL BAKING DEMONSTRATION FREE EVENT

A classic Glens demonstration by Memie McKeegan of the traditional way to bake wheaten, soda bread and pancakes

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL
10^{AM} – 4^{PM}
BALLYCASTLE

BEGINNERS PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Multi award winner John O'Neill will mentor participants with a mixture of talks and practical hands on experience. You will learn how to use your digital SLR camera under John's guidance. Cost is £15. Own camera required. Please contact ballycastlemarket@gmail.com for more information about each workshop and to book a place.

11TH & 12TH APRIL
BALLYCASTLE

ARTISAN CHOCOLATE MAKING SKILLS WORKSHOP

A fun and yummy 2 day hands on workshop with Geri Martin of The Chocolate Manor. Cost is £50 and this includes all materials. Please contact ballycastlemarket@gmail.com for more information about each workshop and to book a place.

9TH & 10TH MAY
BALLYCASTLE

NEEDLE FELTING WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Learn techniques for dry felting from the experienced needle felter Pat Perritt. Covers the basics of needle felting and how to use the material to create different shapes and patterns, pictures and 3D creations. Cost is £50 and this includes all materials. Please contact ballycastlemarket@gmail.com for more information about each workshop and to book a place.

6TH & 7TH JUNE
BALLYCASTLE

PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Day one - Wildlife & Nature Photography - Tuition by Tom McDonnell of North Coast Nature along with Northern Ireland School of Falconry will provide a range of birds to photograph on the day. Day Two - Mentoring from John O'Neill of Sperrins Photography on aspects of landscape photography. Cost is £50 and this includes all materials. Please contact ballycastlemarket@gmail.com for more information about each workshop and to book a place.

DID YOU IDENTIFY THE
PLANT CORRECTLY?
HAYRATTLE



Biodiversity FREE Events

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH
12^{NOON} – 3^{PM}

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, CUSHENDALL &
CAIRNS ALLOTMENTS

ORCHARD WORKSHOP

Join us at the Old School House for some theory on how to grow and maintain your own orchard and then onto Cairns Allotments for some practical outdoor experience

THURSDAY 23RD APRIL 7^{PM}

GAELSCOIL AND CHAISTIL,
BALLYCASTLE

SWIFT TALK With Brian Cahalane from NI Swift Group

SUNDAY 3RD MAY
5^{AM} – 7^{AM}

CREGAGH WOOD, CUSHENDUN

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.

MONDAY 4TH MAY
10.30^{AM}

WALK FROM CUSHENDUN TO CUSHENDALL

(details to be confirmed). In partnership with Cushendun Arts Weekend.

16TH TO 19TH MAY

SPRING MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES AND OTHER INSECTS

(Four day programme). This is an intensive course of training for those who would like to begin their journey to perhaps becoming a surveyor of Lepidoptera. This course will be held at various locations throughout the Glens. If you require information on local accommodation please contact us. YOU MUST BOOK THIS COURSE IN ADVANCE!

Archaeology FREE Events

MONDAY 30TH MARCH
7.30^{PM}

HUNTERS BAR, BALLYVOY

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BALLYCASTLE COLLIERIES,

With Archaeologist Thomas McErlean from University Of Ulster. A talk on Ireland's oldest Coal Fields

TUESDAY 21ST APRIL

7.30^{PM}

THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE,
CUSHENDALL

EARLY MEDIEVAL ROYAL SITES ON THE NORTH COAST

With Archaeologist Thomas McErlean from University Of Ulster.

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE
11.00^{AM}

KNOCKAYDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MOUNTAIN WALK

Join Archaeologist Thomas McErlean of the University of Ulster on a guided walk to the top of Knockayde, which towers above Ballycastle and can be seen for miles round all sides. Find out more about the prehistoric burial cairns, myths and legends, the boolies (Summer milking places), blanket peat and many other topics.

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



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