

THE

ISSUE THREE AUTUMN/WINTER 2014



GLENS OF ANTRIM

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE HEART OF THE GLENS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Heart of
the Glens



Landscape Partnership Scheme

In this
issue...

GETTING INVOLVED!
A SENSE OF THE GLENS
WILD ABOUT NATURE

Welcome to the third issue



Summer is almost over, hard to believe! We've been busy over the summer months getting our projects off the ground as well as coming up with new ideas, hosting exciting events and looking at innovative ways to enhance the already existing projects, which all aim to make a positive difference in The Glens.

Our website is almost ready to be launched, it'll be updated regularly with the latest news and events and will have a learning area, more information on our projects and of course lots of photographs of what we've been doing so far.

It's been vital to us to make positive connections and relationships with the local community and groups who already do such fantastic work on the ground. If we haven't already been in touch with you, or your group then please let us know-we're aiming to be inclusive of everyone in The Glens and we're here to help.

In this issue we'll fill you in on our projects so far and what we have planned in the coming year. We also have a great feature on the work of the Glens Red Squirrel Group as well as an interview with one of our volunteers to inspire you to get involved! We're focusing mainly on biodiversity in this issue but our projects cover much, much more.

We've recently welcomed Laura McAuley on board as part of the Heart of The Glens team, she'll be taking

over from Cathy who is now on maternity leave. Being born and bred in The Glens, Laura is keen to get stuck in and help us along with the local community to protect and promote this beautiful area.



Autumn Recipe



IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SOUPS, STEWS AND CASSEROLES, WHY NOT TRY THIS TASTY SNACK...

- 4 large field mushrooms-this delicious mushroom can be found growing in the wild in the Glens, as with any mushrooms make sure you have correctly identified it, see www.wildfooduk.com to be 100% sure!
- 100g gorgonzola or other blue cheese, crumbled
- 25g walnuts, toasted and roughly chopped
- 4 thyme sprigs
- knob butter, cut into small pieces
- rocket leaves, to serve

METHOD

1. Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Arrange the mushrooms on a baking tray. Scatter over the cheese, walnuts, thyme sprigs and butter.
2. Pop in the oven and cook for 10 minutes until the cheese is melted and the mushrooms are softened. Arrange some rocket leaves on plates and place the mushrooms on top.

Fishing for Resources

We've already brought Salmon into the classroom of 7 local schools in The Glens and now we're hoping to bring the story of our native salmon to the wider community. The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure are developing a project which we will be involved with and are keen to use art, drama, music and storytelling to bring the amazing story of salmon to life. Salmon are tied into the history and heritage of The Glens and can tell a story far more precious than just the science of the lifecycle; from myths and legend to the first settlers, to water quality and the industry of our ancestors. There's so much to tell! Keep an eye on our social media pages and website for updates.



A Sense of the Glens

Back in June we held a Symposium in the Marine Hotel, as many local groups and individuals involved in organising or potentially organising festivals and events were invited through direct email, our newsletter, posters, local newspapers and on our social media pages. There was a great turnout of groups from across The Glens who came together to discuss collaboration. Perhaps the most positive result of the symposium was the enthusiasm of the delegates to establish a joint approach to organising and promoting The Glens and events and festivals. It was unanimously agreed that the Heart of the Glens should aim to create a 'Sense of the Glens' toolkit for developing and marketing Glens activities, festivals and events; to create cooperation between each area and various organisations and allow destination planning and marketing to be improved in the future. This will allow locally driven initiatives to be strengthened and would ultimately support communities in sustaining and further developing exciting and interesting events. We are now working with NITB, Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism and Antrim Glens Tourism to plan a way forward.

Community Archaeology

We've already had very positive feedback on this project but now we have realised its full potential. We are looking at the possibility of 'teaching the teacher' training days to get local schools enthused about what's on their doorstep. We'll still follow these with volunteer days, school visits, training and excavations to ensure that the local community have a chance to become archaeologists!

Queens Centre for Archaeological Field Studies and the Glens of Antrim Historical Society have put together some fantastic ideas about potential sites and events. The next few years focus on archaeology is sure to make the past come alive in the Glens!



Getting Involved!

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I'm Sam, 22, from Moorfields near Ballymena. I graduated last year with a degree in Ecology from Cardiff University and have had a lifelong interest in wildlife and the environment, particularly bird watching.

WHAT SORT OF WORK DO YOU DO FOR THE HEART OF THE GLENS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME?

So far I have been involved with the Biodiversity Enhancement Project which aims to increase the abundance of wildflower meadows by managing areas which are currently needlessly mown or left to their own devices. It's an idea that has been catching on across the country for a while now and the potential for large areas of roadside verges and amenity grassland to be managed for species diversity is now widely recognised.

For my part in the project I have undertaken vegetation surveys on potential sites across The Glens; this assesses sites for their suitability and allows us to measure improvements in future, as well as surveying roadside verges and other areas as potential sites for management. I've also helped in the production of a project plan and written content for information leaflets on the practical aspects of meadow management.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO VOLUNTEER?

A few reasons, the primary one being to gain experience working within a conservation framework, and as a boost to my CV. Volunteering generally is also great fun and if you're someone who's always been interested in wildlife or outdoor pursuits or whatever, being a volunteer gives you a new perspective on how relevant projects are managed and allows you to get stuck in!



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT VOLUNTEERING?

There's plenty to enjoy about it. Getting out and about surveying is something I really enjoy and I have always aimed for a career that allows me to get outdoors, my experiences here should help me achieve that in future.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO IS THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING?

I'd say go for it I would encourage potential volunteers to be proactive about getting involved in what they're interested in and really think about making the most of volunteering opportunities in terms of experience you can gain and of course it's fun too!

Opportunities for you to get involved

Sam wanted to focus on nature and wildlife in his volunteering but there are loads of other areas to get involved in, whether it be learning new skills such as stone wall building, hedge laying or tree planting



Project Updates

EAMON



As I move onto pastures new, my section of this month's newsletter is very much about reflection. It's been a great 8 months in the post, with a lot of plans in place and lots of stakeholders met and encouraged, there's a positive outlook for heritage and landscape-wide projects in The Glens as a result!

We started off by creating a series of events surrounding bio-diversity and wildlife, these have been simply fantastic! We have found a whole new group of people in The Glens who are interested in all kinds of wildlife, from birds to butterflies and moths to bees.



The National Moth Night event was the standout for me, it gave whole families the opportunity to get involved in moth surveying and we may have spotted a rare poplar kitten moth, one of only three recorded in the north (although the jury is still out on that one)!

Aside from events, I have been planning projects, projects, projects- Community Nature Reserves, woodland walks, permissive pathways and wildflower and woodland planting schemes, it's all in a day's work!

The great thing about the LPS is our ability to support landowners to open their land to the public in any way, shape or form. This involves working with the Councils to help create pathways which rejuvenate old rights of way to open access for walkers (or strollers!)



Above all else is the process of ensuring that areas of historic importance and natural beauty are preserved and improved. The Mass Rock in Cushendun and Priest's souterrain within Cregagh wood were places I barely knew existed until I came into the post so it's essential to make sure that these important pieces of history are both preserved and promoted and visitors to the area love to hear the stories surrounding these! As a result, we are working hard to create a heritage trail involving these and I can't wait to see the work taking place in early September.

My next move is a very long flight to Perth to begin my travels by working on a 16,000 Hectare farm in Western Australia, that's about a quarter of the size of our LPS on a single farm! Though with that said, I can't imagine it will have anywhere near the beauty The Glens have! I also leave the post in great hands and hope my replacement will be really enthusiastic when they see the projects that are in the pipeline for the next five years.

If I am allowed one parting request it is that you, the reader, get involved! The Scheme wouldn't be possible without the support of the community and the help of volunteers. Keep your eyes peeled on our website, Facebook and local newspapers for ways you can help out and make a contribution, sure it'll be good for you!

Good luck to the remaining Team!

Project Updates

RÉAMAÍ

MUSIC, WILDLIFE AND EMIGRATION

The Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) for me is less about the land and more about the people. So perhaps instead of Landscape Partnership it should be regarded as a 'People-scape Partnership'. I feel really strongly about this because the landscape, although inspiring in its beauty, is not an untouched wild environment. From boglands to farms, from villages to mountain tops, it has been shaped over thousands of years by The Glens Folk.

Understanding this, we know that The Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership will only have a positive impact because Glen's people will have contributed to it, to their community and landscape. The scheme is very small in terms of the huge area of The Glens, but we are keen to have positive impact.

Currently the LPS Team have been busy sorting through the myriad of potential projects and meeting with lots of people and groups. It has been certainly challenging; Ciara, Cathy and Eamon have had to hit the ground running, but we've made a great start, with several of the year 1 projects up and running and more on the way.

In this little piece I want to tell you about a few things that have been happening...

ENVIRONMENT

WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

Biodiversity (a fancy word for wildlife) Enhancement is one of our projects already up and running. We are developing a project looking at protection and enhancement of public areas as native wildflower meadows, now one of Ireland's

most endangered habitats! In the months and years ahead we hope to be working with Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle Golf Club, National Trust, Cairns Residents Group, Gleann Airimh Improvement Group, GAA, Larne Borough Council, Moyle District Council, Forest Service, Glenarm Wildlife Group, NI Water Service, Ulster Wildlife and others to enhance and maintain this rare part of our heritage. We are also keen to explore a tourist element of this project as another attraction to The Glens.

LANDOWNERS AND FARMERS

DO YOU WANT NATIVE TREES ON YOUR LAND?

Did you know that prior to the plantation The Glens was one of the most wooded parts of Ireland with great forests of Oak, Ash, Elm Hazel and Birch. These trees remained because Gaelic Society had the Brehon Laws which had specific sub-laws known as the 'Fiodhbhreitheanna' or Tree Laws, some of the oldest conservation laws in the world. Trees provided timber for building, fuel, food, tools, weapons and fodder for animals. With the conquest and decline of Gaelic society the value in trees changed from a living resource to a commodity. Trees were felled and timber exported leaving The Glens bare, over the years some small attempts have been made to increase the tree cover, but it is still very low. The LPS Scheme, along with The Woodland Trust are working on a new scheme to support farmers and landowners, schools, clubs and societies to plant trees for fuel, wildlife and for their broader landscape value. We already have several farmers, landowners and groups on board for this year. However, if you are interested in re-wooding your area of The Glens please contact me- reamai@lps.ccght.org.

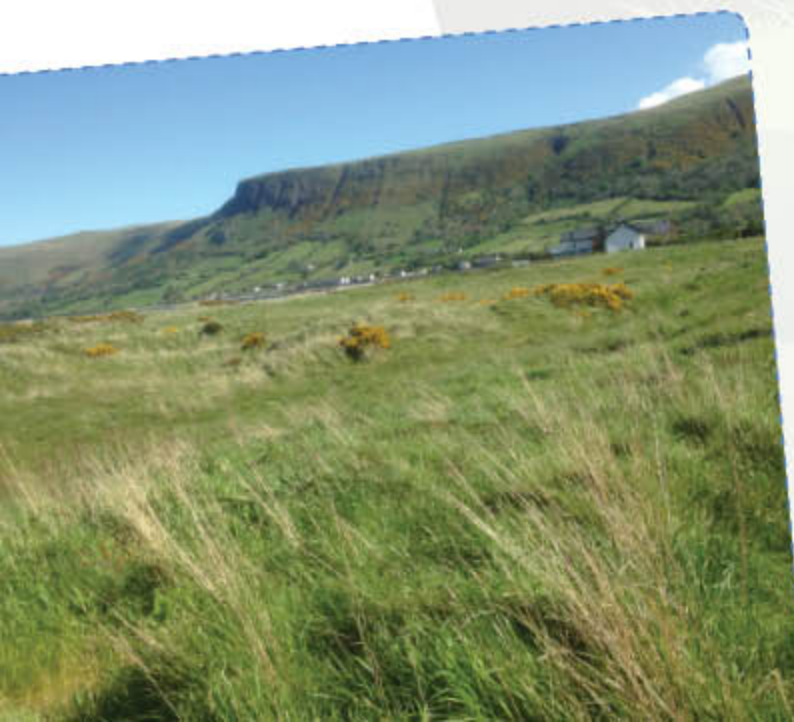
THE MUSIC OF WHAT HAPPENS

After discussions with the N.I. Tourist Board and Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism we are keen to help bring a focus on the great things The Glens can offer. One of the areas we hope to work on is around traditional music; many people come to the area to hear the tunes and enjoy the craic but sadly, due to their lack of local knowledge, can't find the sessions! In the weeks ahead we will be meeting Comhaltas Ceolteoirí na hÉireann and other traditional groups to work on improving how tourists can find out where the music is, so that they can enjoy the craic and with The Glens greatest resource, its people!

Baby Boom and emigration in Landscape Partnership Team.

As a final note, I would like to wish our team members Cathy and Ciara all the best, both ladies are going on maternity leave. Eamon, our Landscape Projects Officer, has been offered a job in Australia. I would like take this opportunity to wish the team all the best in their respective journeys.

I would also like to welcome Laura McAuley from Glengaan who has come on board to cover the maternity period.



Red Squirrels in the Glens

The well-known Glens Red Squirrel Group is made up of a dedicated team of volunteers, they spend their spare time doing what they can to protect, promote and conserve the Red Squirrels in the Glens.

This enthusiastic group already do a great deal of engagement with the local community to increase awareness of how lucky we are to have these beautiful animals right on our doorstep!



Ensuring the population of Red Squirrels are not only sustained but also thriving means a huge amount of effort from this committed team- from feeder filling and maintenance to leading guided walks. They are on the lookout for people to join them and make the Glens a true stronghold of the Red Squirrel. Not only will this mean a positive result for the native squirrel population but it will encourage more visitors into The Glens, on the trail of nature tourism! Get in touch with the group to find out more about volunteering or about upcoming events by visiting www.glensredsquirrelgroup.com. Catch up with the group on 21st September at Glenariff for Get Outdoors Weekend and at 28th September at Autumnfest at Carnfunnock.

Keep your eyes peeled for Red Squirrels in The Glens- if you see one (or even a grey) please report it 0871 315 7376

BALLYCASTLE FOREST
BREEN WOOD
CRAIGAGH WOOD

BALLYPATRICK FOREST
GLENARIFF
COTTAGE WOOD

Word Search



Clues



1. Glen of the Slaughtered
2. Haunting Ground of the Black Nun
3. Built the Curfew Tower in Cushendall
4. Daughter of King Lir
5. The Fairy Hill, said to be an entrance to Tir Na nóg
6. Jewellers in Glenarm
7. Family of Glenarm Estate
8. Carnlough's waterfall
9. The Vanishing Lake
10. The Sedgy Glen
11. The 10th Glen- an important centre for iron ore mining in the 1800's
12. Nature reserve between Carnlough and Glenarm
13. Cashel on Torr Head
14. A local beauty spot with Petrified Forest and where Roger Casement wanted to be buried



RED SQUIRREL FACTS

- They have four fingers and five toes.
- They can be right or left-handed when eating a pine cone.
- They can swim.
- They moult their ear tufts once a year, in late autumn.

Upcoming Events...

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE! TO MAKE SURE WE'VE GOT ENOUGH BISCUITS/TEA/EQUIPMENT PLEASE LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING. REGISTER WITH LAURA@LPS.CCGHT.ORG. YOU CAN ALSO GET IN TOUCH THROUGH FACEBOOK  /HEARTOFTHEGLENS OR TWITTER  @HEARTOFTHEGLENS.

A BRIEF PREHISTORY OF THE GLENS OF ANTRIM

17 SEPTEMBER 7.30PM-8.30PM
Glenlough community Centre, Carnlough
In Partnership with The Glens of Antrim
Historical Society and QUB

AN INTERESTING TALK ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF OUR MAGNIFICENT GLENS LED BY DR CORMAC MCSPARRON FROM QUEENS UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDSTUDIES.

SPIRIT OF THE GLENS

16 OCTOBER 7:30PM - 9:30PM
Glenmona House Cushendun

A STORYTELLING WORKSHOP WITH THE FABULOUS LIZ WEIR, PART OF THE GHOSTS IN THE GLENS FESTIVAL, WITH INFORMAL STORYTELLING IN MARY MCBRIDES PUB AFTERWARDS

ANTRIM AND SCOTLAND IN PREHISTORY, AN OSCILLATING RELATIONSHIP

13 NOVEMBER 6.30PM-7.30PM
Ballycastle Library
In Partnership with The Glens of Antrim
Historical Society and QUB.

A FASCINATING INSIGHT INTO DALRIADA LED BY DR CORMAC MCSPARRON FROM QUEENS UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDSTUDIES.

WE'LL BE CONFIRMING MORE EVENTS IN THE COMING WEEKS,
KEEP AN EYE ON OUR FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

1. Glencorp
2. Bonamargy
3. Francis Turnly
4. Fionnuala
5. Tieveragh
6. Steensons
7. McDonnells

8. Cranny
9. Loughareema
10. Glenshesk
11. Glenravel
12. Straidkilly
13. Altagore
14. Murlough