



NI100: Reflections on the Causeway Coast and Glens



NI100: Reflections on the Causeway Coast and Glens

Joanne Honeyford

©2021 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services, Ballymoney. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without permission of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services.

Front cover image: Potato gatherers taking tea at Bellarena, October 1963. From left to right; John Doherty, Jimmy Begley, Davy McLaughlin, John Doherty, Emma Doherty, Charlie Doherty, Tommy Mullan, Bertie Moran and Francie Clyde. ©Chronicle and Constitution Archives, names courtesy Nelson McGonagle.

Rear cover image: 1960s travel poster published by the British Travel Holidays Association in association with the Northern Ireland Tourism Board. Courtesy Coleraine Museum.

Cover design and book layout by White Arc Design.
Printed in Northern Ireland.

ISBN 978-1-9161494-7-2

This book has received financial support from The Executive Office as part of the District Councils Good Relations Programme and supports the T:BUC strategy (Together Building a United Community)

NI100:
Reflections on the
Causeway Coast and Glens

Contents

Foreword and acknowledgements	vi
Introduction	viii
Chapter 1 The Causeway Coast and Glens Through the Decades	1
Partition and the first years of Northern Ireland	2
The post-war years	10
The Troubles	12
Power-sharing	21
Chapter 2 Developing our Communities	25
Local government	26
Town centre improvements	28
Hospitals	32
Schools	36
Ulster University	41
Infrastructure	43
The Royal British Legion	51
The Women's Institute	53
Corrymeela	54
Chapter 3 Agriculture, Maritime and Industry	56
Agriculture	57
Food and drink	65
Fisheries	70
The Royal National Lifeboat Institute and maritime rescues	72
Industries across the Causeway Coast and Glens	81
Chapter 4 Entertainment and Events	87
Entertainment	88
Drama	96

Annual Events	101
The Roe Valley	102
The Bann Valley and the Route	103
Ballycastle, Rathlin Island and the Glens	109
Royal Visits	111
Chapter 5 Culture, Arts and Heritage	115
Culture	116
Arts	126
Heritage	130
Chapter 6 The Impact of Global Conflicts on the Causeway Coast and Glens	140
The impact of World War One	141
World War Two and the Cold War	142
Remembering the fallen	155
Chapter 7 Sporting Achievements	158
Athletics	159
Bowling	162
Cricket	163
Football	163
Gaelic Athletic Association: football, hurling and camogie	171
Golf	175
Motorcycle racing	179
Rugby	184
Sailing and rowing	185
Swimming	188
Tennis	189
Tug-o-war	190
Other sporting achievements	191
Index	195

Foreword and acknowledgements

There can be no doubt that our history shapes the present day, and will greatly impact on our future. However, the act of writing a history, of putting down words and pictures to capture a sense of the past, is not as straightforward as it might seem at first. *N100: Reflections on the Causeway Coast and Glens* is an attempt to explore the history of the period 1921-2021 across the breadth of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough. It is therefore not only concerned with an extended chronological period – perhaps one of the most dynamic and rapidly changing periods in human history – but also with an extensive geographic area.

The process is further complicated by the concept that history is generally understood as a series of truths based on records and experiences, but truths can be subjective and where the same events are experienced in different ways, they can also create different historical truths. This volume recognises these difficulties, and the author has tried, as far as possible, to follow the guidelines laid down by the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme to always start from the historical facts, and to understand that different perceptions and interpretations of the same events exist.

It is my sincere hope that readers will appreciate the challenge of writing a history of this nature. The content of the book has been largely determined by the available information – often drawn from contemporary newspaper reports. While it has not always been possible due to the nature of the sources, the author has attempted to provide a balanced account of the borough since the creation of Northern Ireland in 1921.

This book was produced with financial support from The Executive Office as part of the District Councils Good Relations Programme and supports the T:BUC strategy (Together Building a United Community). T:BUC aims to demonstrate the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. This volume aims to support the creation of a community, which promotes mutual respect and understanding, that is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

On behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's NI100 Working Group, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Council's Good Relations and Museum Services officers, to NI100 Working Group historical advisor, Dr Andrew Charles, the Historic Advisory Panel, and to all the individuals and organisations who have assisted with the research and production of this book during its journey to completion including Billy Bones, Maurice Bradley, the late David Brewster, Derek Cauley, Mark Callaghan, Tommy Collins, Betty Ferguson, Mark Heaney, Narinda Kapur, Sue McBean, Mary McGoldrick, John McIlreavy, Jenny Morrison, Hannah Shields, Reggie Smith, Sindi Smith, Grant Watson, Graham Watton, Bushmills Distillery, Cyril Troy Media, the staff of Coleraine Library, Coleraine Printing Company, Glens of Antrim Comhaltas, Glor na Maoile, Dhun Geimhin and Leim an Mhadaidh, Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Castlerock Presbyterian Church, Midleton Distillery, the *Northern Constitution*, Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers, and the Scotti Rooms.

Councillor Michelle Knight-McQuillan

Chair

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

NI100 Working Group

Introduction

This book was written to mark the centenary of the formation of Northern Ireland, which took place on 3 May 1921. It follows the events that have shaped the area now covered by the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough and, going beyond a simple historic narrative, celebrates a century of achievements of the people who make up the borough's communities.

In the years following World War One, violence and war continued in many European countries, and it was into a world of political upheaval, economic crisis and massive social change that Northern Ireland was born. Throughout the 20th century, empires crumbled and new world powers emerged. Amid the turmoil, changes in society and advances in technology and medicine, especially in the period after the second World War, transformed people's lives; life expectancy for most people in 1921 was lower than 60, today it is around 80 years.

The partition of Ireland, which led to the formation of Northern Ireland 100 years ago, was viewed differently within communities across Ireland. A century later, this is still true, leading to different perspectives and interpretations of historical events.

Society has undergone monumental changes over the century, striving increasingly to become an inclusive, multi-cultural society of equals. However, it is important to recognise that the social and economic context within the borough has changed and developed over the last 100 years. Circumstances to fully participate and be recognised in the sphere of public life, within the timeframe of this book, may therefore not always have been as readily accessible to certain members of society in the way we understand and experience life today.

The press coverage of people and events for much of the twentieth century reflects this. Many of the details relating to events mentioned within this book were drawn from newspapers of the day and it should be noted that the language used, and the style of reporting may differ greatly from what would be considered acceptable today.

Chapter 1, *Causeway Coast and Glens Through the Decades*, explores how some of the social, economic and political changes affected communities in the borough over the years, as well as profiling some of the most politically influential people from the area.

In Chapter 2, *Developing our Communities*, we look at the changes in local government structure, the provision of hospitals and schools, improvements in infrastructure and the contribution made by some of the larger community organisations.

Chapter 3, *Agriculture, Maritime and Industry*, highlights the importance of agriculture in our largely rural borough as well as exploring the rich tradition of food and drink produced locally. Causeway Coast and Glens, with its extensive coastline, has long had a strong maritime connection and generations of local men have risked their lives in the rescue of others from the perils of the sea, and it is in this chapter that we highlight some of those heroic acts.

In Chapter 4, *Entertainment and Events*, we chart the changing trends in entertainment over the years and profile some of the local people who have become famous beyond these shores.

Chapter 5, *Culture, Arts and Heritage*, not only gives us the opportunity to explore the rich indigenous cultural traditions of Causeway Coast and Glens but to highlight the traditions

brought to the area by communities who have chosen to make the borough their home.

The impact of the two World Wars resonated through towns and villages across the borough and Chapter 6, *The Impact of the World Wars*, looks at how communities effected the remembrance of the sons and daughters they had lost. We also look at some of the organisations involved in the defence of the Causeway Coast and Glens over the years and some of the people who have served.

Our final chapter, *Sporting Achievements*, gives us an insight into the development of various sports across the borough and introduces a few of our sportsmen and women who have excelled in their chosen sport, bringing honour to themselves and Causeway Coast and Glens.



Chapter 1

The Causeway Coast and Glens through the decades

On 3 May 1921, Northern Ireland was born into a rapidly changing world – changes which were to affect many areas of everyday life. The devastating impact of World War One, and the sacrifice made by so many local men and women, was still being felt in towns and villages across the Causeway Coast and Glens area. This chapter charts the political and social development of Northern Ireland through its first ten decades.

Partition and the First Years of Northern Ireland

The 1920s was a decade of rising prices, falling wages, escalating unemployment, labour disputes, housing shortages, emigration, political division and civil unrest. There was violence across Ireland coming first in the form of the Irish War of Independence (1919-21), followed by the Irish Civil War (1922-23) and the sectarian violence which ensued after Partition.



© Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1929.

John Smyth and his family, formerly of Drumaquill, outside their new home – a farm secured under the Empire Settlement Act – at Belle River, Ontario. The Empire Settlement Act of 1922 helped many families across Britain and Northern Ireland take up the chance of a new life overseas. The Act was an agreement between the British government and several Commonwealth countries to provide financial assistance to people migrating to countries such as Canada and Australia.

The violence was also felt in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. In July 1921, Ballycastle Sinn Fein councillor and Justice of the Peace, Patrick McCarry, was shot and fatally wounded when he and the constable accompanying him were mistaken as raiders while entering the police barracks in Ballycastle. The murder of Ballintoy man William J. Twaddell, the MP for West Belfast, on 22 May 1922 was followed by a clampdown on the Irish Republican Army and 350 republicans were interned.

In response to the violence gripping the country the government introduced a piece of emergency legislation – the Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act (Northern Ireland) 1922. It allowed the Minister for Home Affairs, Sir Richard Dawson Bates, to “take all such steps and issue all such orders as may be necessary for preserving the peace and maintaining order.”

1 *Ballymena Observer*, 26 May 1922

In May 1922 the *Ballymena Observer* reported, “One hundred and fifty armed Sinn Feiners took possession of Cushendall village just before midnight, and here for four hours a terrific battle raged between the invaders and the police.”¹ The Northern Bank, Cushendall (pictured), which was set on fire after about £2,000 was seized during a raid. During the same disturbances, Glenmona Lodge, the residence of Ronald McNeill, MP, was also burned along with other property in Cushendun.



©*Derry & Antrim Year Book*, 1923.

Originally there were 35 regulations which allowed for many things including the banning of public meetings and parades, organisations and disloyal literature, the imposition of curfews,



©National Portrait Gallery, London.

The Ulster Cabinet, in 1920 showing Sir Richard Dawson Bates on left.

Sir Richard Dawson Bates (1876-1949), was born in Belfast and educated at Coleraine Academical Institution. Bates was the secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council from its formation in 1906 until he became Minister of Home Affairs in the new Northern Ireland Parliament in 1921. He had been one of the key figures behind the formation of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Larne gunrunning. His services during World War One were recognised with an OBE and, in 1921, a knighthood. Sir Richard was considered an astute appointment to the Ministry of Home Affairs, "assuming command at the height of a stormy period...".² He was created baronet of Magherabuoy in 1937, in recognition of his public service.

² *Belfast Telegraph*, 10 June 1949

and indefinite internment without trial. The Act was made permanent in 1933 and remained in place until 1973.

The elections to the new Northern Ireland Parliament in 1921 saw three Unionists, one Nationalist and one Sinn Fein member elected for County Londonderry, and six Unionists and one Nationalist in County Antrim. From within the Causeway Coast and Glens area, members elected included Limavady solicitor John Martin Mark (Unionist), Magilligan businessman George Leeke (Nationalist), Dehra Chichester (Unionist) who grew up in Kilrea, and Ballymoney solicitor Robert Dick Megaw (Unionist).

Coleraine born Patrick Joseph McGilligan had stood for Sinn Fein in the 1918 elections but failed to win his seat. He was called to the Dublin bar in 1921, and two years later, as a member of Cumann na nGaedheal, he was elected as the TD (Teachta Dála, a member of Dáil Éireann, the lower house of the Irish Parliament, Oireachtas) at the National University of Ireland by-election. Patrick was to serve as Minister for Industry and Commerce, Minister of External Affairs, Minister for Finance and Attorney General of Ireland. Patrick McGilligan was the last surviving member of the first Irish Free State government; he died on 15 November 1979.

During a stormy Dáil debate passing the 1925 agreement to ratify the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State, TD Patrick Baxter complained, "No young Nationalist in the North can go out to a neighbour's house to a ceilidh at night without being liable to be searched half a dozen times by his next-door neighbour with a revolver. Three or four Nationalists cannot stand at a cross-roads together at night without the B Specials coming along to deny them that right." Patrick McGilligan, who had signed the agreement to maintain the 1921 border, replied "I have brothers who do all these things without any of this happening."³

³ <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1925-12-09/12/> accessed 05/07/2021

Dame Dehra Parker (1882-1963) was an influential Unionist politician who served in the Northern Ireland Parliament for 35 years. Born in India, but growing up in Kilrea, she was elected to the Northern Ireland Parliament in 1921, as Dehra Chichester. During her long parliamentary career, Dehra, the only woman to sit in the Northern Ireland Cabinet, served as parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Education, Junior Minister for Agriculture, and as the Minister for Health and Local Government. She was made a DBE and appointed to the Privy Council of Northern Ireland in 1949. When Dame Dehra resigned her seat in 1960, it was won by her grandson, Major James Chichester Clarke, who served as Prime Minister from 1969 until 1971. Captain Terence O'Neill who had earlier served as Prime Minister (1963-1969), was also a grandson of Dame Dehra.



©IWM WWC D8-5-872.

The Wall Street Crash in 1929, followed by the Great Depression (a severe world-wide economic depression which began in the United States), affected much of the world throughout the 1930s. Despite this, the decade saw considerable investment in new schools, hospitals and civic buildings across Northern Ireland, including the Causeway Coast and Glens area.



©Coleraine Museum.

Daniel Hall Christie (1881-1965) became the first recipient of the Freedom of the Borough of Coleraine after borough status was reinstated in 1928. Daniel was the Chairman of the old Coleraine Urban Council and he topped the poll in the elections for the new council in 1929. He was the first Mayor of Coleraine Borough Council and served at Stormont as the MP for North Londonderry from 1933 to 1937. In 1934, he was made an honorary burgess of Coleraine (celebrated in the illuminated address pictured above). During a visit by Sir Alan John Cobham's Flying Circus in May 1935, Daniel and his wife were amongst the passengers. D.H. Christie Memorial School in Coleraine is named in his honour.

Northern Ireland's Parliament Buildings at Stormont were opened on 22 November 1932 by Edward, Prince of Wales and, in 1937, Eamon de Valera introduced a new constitution (Bunreacht na hÉireann) for the 26 counties of the Irish Free State, which established Éire as a sovereign state. The new constitution, while breaking further links with the United Kingdom, stopped short of declaring Éire a republic.

The actions of the German leader, Adolf Hitler, had been causing concern throughout the 1930s and, when he invaded

Poland in September 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany. On the outbreak of war, the Northern Irish Prime Minister, Sir James Craig, pledged Northern Ireland's support in the war effort. However, Craig's health was declining, and he died in office in November 1940. He was succeeded by James Miller Andrews who, faced with growing opposition from backbenchers, junior ministers and from within the Cabinet, resigned in April 1943 and was succeeded by Sir Basil Brooke.

Sir Norman Stronge (1894-1981) returned to his family home at Lizard Manor, Aghadowey, after service with the 10th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and 15th Royal Irish Rifles during World War One. He was the District Commander of the Ulster Special Constabulary for the Aghadowey and Garvagh areas. He was appointed High Sheriff of County Londonderry in 1934 and elected to the Northern Ireland Parliament in 1938. Sir Norman served as Speaker of the N.I. House of Commons from 1945 to 1969 and was appointed as the Northern Ireland Area President of the British Legion in 1949. In 1981, Sir Norman and his son James were shot by the Provisional IRA at their home, Tynan Abbey in Co. Armagh, which was burnt to the ground.

World War Two overshadowed life in the first half of the 1940s. Initially, there was some complacency in civil defence preparations as it was thought Northern Ireland was quite safe from the Luftwaffe. However, the fall of France in 1940 meant that the province was well within range of the German bombers and the programme of building air-raid shelters accelerated.

During World War Two, agricultural production in Northern Ireland increased – arable farming rose by around 60% and almost 20% of Britain's eggs were supplied from Northern Ireland. The production of flax went up six-fold as linen was used in the production of parachutes.



© Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) was formed in June 1922 to replace the disbanded Royal Irish Constabulary. From its creation until 1970, the RUC was supported in its role combatting armed republican groups by the Ulster Special Constabulary (USC). The USC was formed in 1920 in response to the violence gripping the country.

In 1930, a traffic branch was formed and a women's section, for a limited range of duties, was formed in 1943, and a Reserve Force was established in 1950. The role of women was expanded in the 1970s, with full equality being achieved in 1994. The RUC was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Coleraine in 1981 and the Freedom of the Borough of Ballymoney in 1983 (pictured above); the force was awarded the George Cross in 2000. The RUC became the Police Service of Northern Ireland in November 2001.

The Post-War Years

The latter half of the 1940s saw the introduction of the welfare state and the National Health Service, reforms in the provision of education and the increasing need for improved housing. Far reaching changes were introduced with the Education Act of 1947; it provided free secondary education for all children over the age of eleven and raised the school leaving age to 15. However, rationing, which had been introduced during the war to share limited resources fairly, continued for a considerable time, not ending for some items until 1954. The Cold War, with its threat of global nuclear warfare, led to widespread fear and civil defence measures continued.



1953-1954 ration book belonging to Isabella Connor, Ballycastle.

©Ballycastle Museum.

Having remained neutral throughout the war, in 1949 Éire severed the remaining political links with the United Kingdom, left the British Commonwealth, and officially became the Republic of Ireland.

Princess Elizabeth ascended to the throne on the death of her father, King George VI, in February 1952; the coronation service was held on 2 June 1953. The broadcast of the coronation was probably the event which saw television become a mainstream medium, with the number of people watching the service outnumbering those who listened on radio.



© Ballymoney
Museum.

A street party celebrating the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in Ballymoney, June 1953.

Telegrams of congratulation were sent from local councils on the Queen's coronation and souvenirs of the occasion, including medals, books and souvenir beakers were also distributed to children in many places. In Coleraine, the Borough Council also gave over 100 old-age pensioners a gift of ten shillings each.

Miss Jane Laverty, a rural postwoman in the Priestland area, Bushmills since July 1903, was awarded the BEM in the Queen's Coronation Honours List. *Coleraine Chronicle* reported that during her work she had "walked over 250,000 miles – the equivalent of seven times round the world."⁴

In the 1950s, steps were taken to address the housing problem in Northern Ireland as many houses were not fit for purpose. In rural areas, many houses did not have running water and the shortage of housing led to overcrowding. Councils began new housing schemes across the borough and this programme of building continued into the 1960s to meet demand.

Rising unemployment and the loss of jobs in traditional areas like farming and linen mills in the post-war period led the

⁴ *Coleraine Chronicle*, 6 June 1953

government to attempt to attract new industries. Financial incentives were offered to companies such as Michelin, Dupont, Goodyear and ICI to come to Northern Ireland but unemployment remained high despite the creation of jobs in the new factories.

Between 1956 and 1962, attacks carried out as part of the IRA Border Campaign resulted in the internment of republican suspects by the governments on both sides of the Irish border. In 1965, Terence O'Neill (Prime Minister of Northern Ireland since 1963) met with the Irish Taoiseach, Seán Lemass, to discuss the countries' common concerns. It was the first meeting between the heads of government of the neighbouring countries since 1925.

Following on from civil rights movements in the mid-1960s, inspired by the American Civil Rights Movement, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) was formed in 1967 to protest perceived discrimination against Northern Ireland's Catholic minority. The Civil Rights Movement called for a number of reforms including 'one man, one vote', the end to gerrymandering and the property franchise, the repeal of the Special Powers Act, the disbandment of the B Specials and an end of what was held to be unequal treatment in housing and public sector employment. There was distrust of NICRA within the Unionist community, compounding increased tensions stemming from the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising in 1966.

The Troubles

Violence between, and within, communities broke out in January 1969 and continued to escalate into what became known as the Troubles – a 29-year period of armed conflict which impacted on all aspects of people's lives. The escalating

violence saw measures put in place to minimise damage to people and property; they were to become an everyday part of life in Northern Ireland. Vehicle checkpoints were established to disrupt the movement of arms and bombs; access to town centres was restricted to stop car bombs; and bag searches were routine to prevent the planting of incendiary devices in shops.

Over the course of the conflict, attacks occurred in Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and many other towns across the area. A total of 81 people lost their lives during the Troubles in the Causeway Coast and Glens, and many more were injured. A further eight people have died in Troubles-related incidents since the signing of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in April 1998.

For more information on the Troubles, visit the University of Ulster's CAIN Archive, a collection of information and source material on 'the Troubles' and politics in Northern Ireland from 1968 to the present:

<https://cain.ulster.ac.uk>

Overleaf: photographs showing some of the the impact of the Troubles from across the Causeway Coast and Glens.

Clockwise from top left: Aftermath of Kilrea bomb, 1976; aftermath of 1981 Limavady bomb showing damage to Church of Christ the King; Coleraine war memorial following the 1992 bombing; Moores of Coleraine following the 1992 bomb; funeral procession for victims of the 1973 Railway Road bomb, Coleraine; the Foyle View Bar, Greysteel, following the 1993 shooting; aftermath of the 1982 Droppin' Well bombing, Ballykelly; aftermath of the bombing of Ballycastle Golf Club, 1985; Centre: wreckage following the car bomb attack on Ballymoney 1976.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services, and local family archives.



After the R...
Court



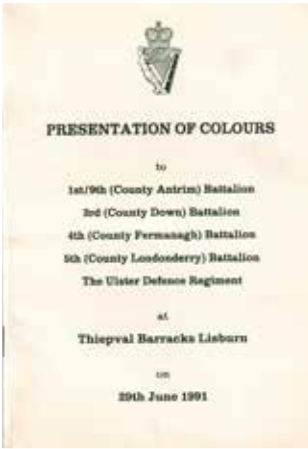


Damage to the Roman Catholic Church - Church of Christ the King on Scroggy Road, Dublin, following the 1981 bombing of the Northern Constitution



Ballymoggan bomb, 1976
Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle





©Ballymoney Museum.

Programme for the presentation of Ulster Defence Regiment Colours, 1991.

The Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) became operational in April 1970. The regiment was on continuous operational service for 22 years, a distinction held by no other regiment in the history of the British Army. It was the largest infantry regiment in the British Army and the first to fully incorporate women. In 1976, a new battalion headquarters was opened at Ballykelly. The UDR was amalgamated with the Royal Irish Rangers to form the Royal Irish Regiment in 1992.

Over 190 UDR soldiers were killed on active service, and another 61 were killed after they left the UDR. A Memorial Garden commemorating 27 soldiers of the 5th (Co. Londonderry) Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment and the Ulster Defence Regiment was opened by the Duke of York on 7 October 2000. The Memorial Garden was relocated to the grounds of Tamlaghtfinlagan Church in 2008. A memorial to the victims of the Droppin' Well bombing is also located in the Garden. A memorial to the men and women from the Borough of Coleraine who served in the UDR was unveiled on 15 September 2019.

The Freedom of the Borough of Coleraine was conferred on the Ulster Defence Regiment in April 1981. The Ulster Defence Regiment was retrospectively awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross in 2006.

In August 1969, the army was deployed at the request of the Northern Irish government to combat the increased threat from paramilitary activity, and to assist the RUC with internal security duties. Operation Banner lasted until 2007, and was to become the longest continuous deployment in British military history.

The escalating violence of the late 1960s and early 1970s saw several short-term bans on parades being introduced by the government. The continuing disturbances led to the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Loyal Orders suspending their traditional parades.

Political differences meant the 1970s was a decade of further change and upheaval. In 1972, the Northern Irish parliament was replaced by Direct Rule (where Northern Ireland was governed directly from Westminster). The 1973 Sunningdale Agreement saw an attempt to create a power-sharing executive which included representatives from unionist, nationalist and cross-community parties. However, in May 1974 the Ulster Workers' Council strike was organised in protest against the agreement. The strike lasted two weeks and the withdrawal of labour interrupted the supply of food, water, electricity, gas and transport to most people in Northern Ireland. The Sunningdale Agreement collapsed and was followed by the reintroduction of Direct Rule.

Throughout the 1970s labour strikes caused disruption across Britain and in 1978-79, during the so-called Winter of Discontent, widespread strikes for pay increases led to a landslide victory for Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party. Margaret Thatcher, met with the Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, in Dublin in December 1980 – the first visit official by a British Prime Minister since Irish independence.

A five-year protest in the Maze prison at the withdrawal of Special Category Status for paramilitary prisoners culminated



Ulster Workers' Council strikers in Limavady, May 1974.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Queuing for fuel during the 1974 Ulster Workers' Council strike.

in 1981 when republican prisoners staged a hunger strike. Ten prisoners starved themselves to death during the strike, including Dungiven man Kevin Lynch, a member of the Irish National Liberation Army.

In 1981, a successful case (*Dudgeon v United Kingdom*) was brought to the European Court of Human Rights arguing that the Northern Irish law which criminalised homosexual acts between consenting adults violated the European Convention on Human Rights. This led to legislation being introduced in 1982 which brought the law in Northern Ireland into line with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Mark Ashton (1960-1987) was a prominent gay rights campaigner who grew up in Portrush. A member of the Young Communist League, in 1984 he was one of the founders of Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) an organisation that campaigned in support of the year-long strike of the National Union of Mineworkers. The Mark Ashton Trust, to help individuals living with HIV, was set up in his memory.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland was signed by Garret Fitzgerald and Margaret Thatcher at Hillsborough Castle on 15 November 1985. It aimed to end the violence in Northern Ireland by working to set up a power-sharing arrangement. It confirmed that there would be no change in the constitutional position of Northern Ireland unless a majority of its citizens agreed. It gave the Irish government an advisory role in Northern Ireland's government. The signing of the agreement was followed by mass protest 'Ulster Says No' rallies in Belfast and other towns.



©Chronicle & Constitution
Archive.

An Anti-Anglo-Irish Agreement march in Coleraine,
January 1986.

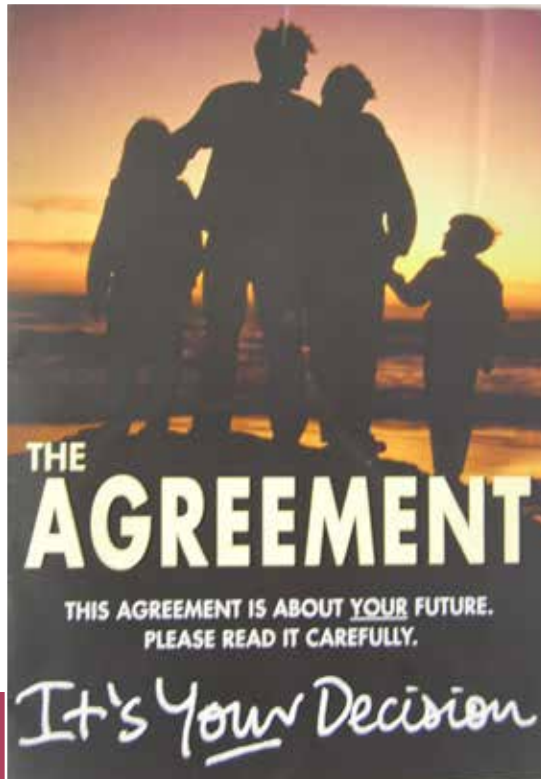


©Ballymoney Museum.

An Anti-Anglo-Irish Agreement poster outside
Ballymoney Town Hall.

Power-Sharing

The declaration of ceasefires by the Provisional IRA and Loyalist paramilitary groups was followed by all-party talks leading to the Belfast Agreement (also known as the Good Friday Agreement) in April 1998. It was signed by the British and Irish governments and all political parties except the Democratic Unionist Party, and endorsed by referendums held both north and south of the border. The new devolved Northern Ireland Assembly met for the first time on 1 July 1998.



©Ballymoney Museum.

The Agreement, delivered to every household before the referendum on the Good Friday Agreement.

In 1998, the regulations which outlawed discrimination in employment on the grounds of religious belief and political opinion under the Fair Employment Acts of 1976 and 1989 were brought together in the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The new Phoenix Peace Fountain at Anderson Park, Coleraine.

On 4 July 2002, the Phoenix Peace Fountain was officially opened in Coleraine, a gift from communities of the United States to communities of Northern Ireland. The fountain is comprised of 26 causeway stones, representing the (then) 26 councils in Northern Ireland, and a phoenix arising from flames, made from melted down guns, to represent Northern Ireland arising from the ashes of past violence. Senator George Mitchell said "All across America people are rooting for Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland holds a warm spot in the hearts of Americans. People want to do something to express their care and concern

and their hopes for their fellow citizens in Northern Ireland.”⁵

The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in October 2002 when Unionists withdrew from the power-sharing arrangement in protest after allegations emerged that some Sinn Fein support staff were gathering intelligence on behalf of the IRA. The St Andrew’s Agreement, signed in October 2006 led to devolved government being restored in 2007 after a suspension of nearly five years.

In March 2012, the Northern Ireland Executive published a Programme for Government 2011-2015, which included a commitment to reduce the number of councils to eleven. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, formed on 1 April 2015, incorporated the existing Ballymoney, Coleraine and Limavady Borough Councils and Moyle District Council.

The start of the so-called Decade of Centenaries (2012-2022) marked a time of reflection across the island of Ireland, both north and south. Programmes of events including commemorations and the siting of new memorials were held to remember Ireland’s often contested past, as well as its shared history. In 2011 Queen Elizabeth was the first British monarch to visit Dublin since partition. She not only spoke in Irish during her speech, but also laid a wreath in Dublin’s Garden of Remembrance in memory of those who had died fighting for Irish independence. As part of the ongoing Decade of Centenaries programme, the Queen would return to Coleraine to lay a wreath at Coleraine War Memorial in 2014 in memory of Irishmen from all backgrounds who fought and died in World War One, and to Bushmills in 2016 to unveil a statue of Robert Quigg VC as part of commemorations of the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

The Assembly collapsed in 2017, following a scandal involving

⁵ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/yourplaceandmine/londonderry/A781120.shtml>

the Renewable Heat Incentive green energy scheme, disputes around legacy and language issues, and the resignation of the Deputy First Minister. The Assembly was restored in January 2020 after the New Decade, New Approach agreement received cross-party support.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in 'lockdown' conditions being imposed in many countries around the world in March 2020. Across Northern Ireland, schools, non-essential shops, places of worship, theatres and tourist attractions were closed, events were cancelled and people were told to work from home if possible. In response to the 'lockdown' many community groups across the borough responded by putting in place initiatives to support those worst affected.



©Joanne Honeyford.

Anderson Park play area, Coleraine,
April 2020.



Chapter 2

Developing our Communities

The enormous social, economic and cultural changes of the past century, and advances in health, education, the welfare state, working conditions, technology and transport, has led to many changes over the years. The provision of services and infrastructure has been improved to cater to our growing towns and villages, and deliver a better standard of living to residents.

Local Government

When Northern Ireland was formed in 1921, the structure for local government consisted of two county boroughs, Belfast and Londonderry, six county councils and a lower tier of urban and rural district councils. The area now within Causeway Coast and Glens was divided between Ballycastle Urban District, Ballycastle Rural District, Ballymoney Urban District, Ballymoney Rural District, Coleraine Rural District, Limavady Rural District, Limavady Urban District, Portrush Urban District, Portstewart Urban District and Coleraine Borough (a Municipal Charter of Incorporation was granted on 17 December 1928 forming Coleraine Borough Council).



Ceremonial chain presented by the Honourable The Irish Society in 1929 to commemorate the restoration of Coleraine's Charter. The chain remains in use by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Mayor.

©Coleraine Museum.

At a meeting of the steering committee for the development of the Coleraine-Portrush-Portstewart area in May 1965, the Ministry of Development representative said, "he hoped the three councils would give some thought to some form of union between them."⁶ A draft report for 'Triangle City' by Sir Robert Matthew was published in December 1966 – the plan was for what had been called "a 21st century community."⁷

A blueprint for the development of the Coleraine-Portrush-Portstewart area was published in September 1968, envisioning a new triangle community, home to 60,000 people. The report to the Steering Committee said, "The proposed increase in population will create a new scale of town within the region

⁶ *Belfast Telegraph*, 19 May 1965

⁷ *Belfast Telegraph*, 31 December 1966

which will support a wider range of social, cultural and service facilities." Proposals included seven residential zones, each consisting of approximately 5,000 people and a local centre with primary schools and shops. New restrictions on building in rural areas were intended to focus new developments in four designated villages: Castlerock, Articlave, Macosquin and Ballyrashane.

In the same year, a joint co-ordinating committee, made up of representatives from Coleraine Borough, Coleraine Rural, Portrush Urban and Portstewart Urban Councils, was to be set up to guide the triangle development until a "unified council" could be set up.⁸

However, it was announced in April 1969 that instead of merging, Coleraine, Portrush and Portstewart would join with a larger area taking in North Antrim and East Londonderry. It was felt this plan would fit better with the proposed reorganisation of local government.

The 1972 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) reformed local government, abolished the system of county councils, and brought in 26 local government districts with effect from 1 October 1973. Borough status allowed the council chairperson to be called the mayor, up to one quarter of councillors could be aldermen and the right to award the Freedom of the Borough was granted.

A proposed merger between Ballymoney Borough Council and Moyle District Council was rejected in 1992, when the Boundaries Commissioner, Sir Maurice Hayes told Secretary of State, Peter Brooke, that "it would not be in the best interests of the two councils to merge..."⁹ He had previously made the recommendation – vigorously opposed by Moyle District Council – that one council, Dalriada, based in Ballymoney should serve North Antrim.

8 *Belfast Telegraph*, 2 December 1968

9 *Sunday Life*, 16 February 1992

This 1972 structure remained unchanged until a commitment to streamline local government and reduce the number of councils to eleven was included in the Programme for Government published by the Northern Ireland Executive in 2012. The transition to the new councils came into effect on 1 May 2015; the old Ballymoney Borough, Coleraine Borough, Limavady Borough and Moyle District Councils were merged to form Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Town Centre Improvements



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

In 1963 the proposed reconstruction of Portstewart Promenade was approved when funding was made available from the Ministry of Commerce. The proposals included a 15ft footpath on the shops' side, two 24ft carriageways separated by an 8ft island and a 20ft seaward footpath. The proposed changes do not appear to have been carried out.

At a meeting of Coleraine Borough Council in January 1963, members were informed that the swimming pool scheme had been approved by the Ministry of Education. Housing in the town was discussed, including new developments at Killowen and Millburn, and the demolition of houses in Ferryquay Street and Baptist Lane which were described as being “in shocking condition and were a disgrace to humanity.”¹⁰

In June 1963, Ballycastle Urban Council also agreed to speed up their house building programme to help address the long waiting lists. The purchase of a site at Ramoan Road was approved to build houses and the Northern Ireland Housing Trust was asked to build more houses in the town. A survey in 1958 had described 134 houses in Ballycastle as “suitable only for demolition.”¹¹



©Chronicle & Constitution
Archive.

Coleraine Library opened in 1969. The building was designed with a circular saw-tooth configuration to make the most of the restricted sloping corner site at the junction of Queen Street and Circular Road. The Grade B2 listed building closed in 2017 for renovations before being reopened by Princess Anne in 2019.

¹⁰ *Coleraine Chronicle*, 12 January 1963

¹¹ *Coleraine Chronicle*, 15 June 1963

The County Hall in Coleraine was opened in 1970. The new building, intended to centralise all the departments of the Londonderry County Council including library headquarters and a health clinic, was constructed on the site of the old Manor House. There had been considerable controversy when the decision was taken by the Londonderry County Council to purchase the site in the 1950s as the owner was Daniel Hall Christie, the Council's chairman.

Portrush Town Hall, built around 1870, came under threat of demolition in the late 1990s despite its listed status. After a community outcry, the building was restored and extended. In 2007 it won several major awards recognising excellence in the built environment.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The Northern Ireland Fire Brigade received the Freedom of the Borough of Coleraine in May 1994.

In July 1993, the Dunluce Centre opened in Portrush. Attractions in the centre included a viewing tower, 'Myths & Legends' an audio-visual representation of the history of the North Coast and a simulator ride – the first of its kind in Europe.

New civic headquarters for Coleraine Borough Council were opened by Prince Andrew in November 2001, nearly ten years after a report had highlighted some of the significant shortcomings, including limited space and facilities, at the Council's old headquarters in the Cloonavin Hotel building on the Portstewart Road. Before Council moved to the Cloonavin site in the mid-1970s, it had met in Coleraine Town Hall.

The first purpose-built district police station for the PSNI was opened in Coleraine in January 2004, by the chairman of the Policing Board Professor Desmond Rea. The station was the first to be constructed in line with the recommendations laid out in the Patten Report. The Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland was established as part of the 1998 Belfast Agreement to make proposals for "... a new beginning to policing in Northern Ireland with a police service capable of attracting and sustaining support from the community as a whole."¹² The Commission, chaired by Chris Patten, had produced a report recommending changes including an emphasis on community policing and normalisation.

In 2012, Coleraine was one of 26 towns from across the UK to bid for city status as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Although the town was ultimately unsuccessful, a range of community and civic events were held across the borough. A new stained-glass window was installed in Coleraine Town Hall incorporating the Royal crest, and inset diamonds and flax flowers. The Jubilee celebrations in Ballymoney included an exhibition, a Jubilee pageant in the Mayor's show and commemorative coins which were presented to P7 pupils.

12 A New Beginning: Policing in Northern Ireland.

Hospitals

When Northern Ireland was formed in 1921, the powers governing health were transferred from the Department of Local Government in Dublin to the Ministry of Home Affairs in Belfast. The following year improvements started with the conversion of old workhouses to hospitals.

In Coleraine, there was an infirmary, a fever hospital and basic maternity services for the poor provided at Coleraine Union Workhouse. As the conversion of workhouses to hospitals continued, the infirmary was renamed Bannfield and the old fever hospital was converted to a nurses' home.



©Coleraine Museum.

In September 1921, an orthopaedic clinic for the treatment of disabled ex-servicemen was opened in Portrush Convalescent Hospital by the chairman of the County Londonderry War Pensions Committee, Dehra Chichester M.P. The former Golf Hotel (pictured) had been taken over by the Ministry of Pensions as a convalescent home for disabled ex-servicemen in September 1918.



©Sam Henry Collection,
Coleraine Museum.

In 1926, a new cottage hospital was opened at Ratheane, Coleraine, at a cost of nearly £10,000. Dr Ranken Lyle donated £1,500 personally to ensure the site of the old hospital was retained as a maternity and child welfare hospital in memory of his aunt, Miss Mary Ranken.

Hopefield Cottage Hospital in Portrush, was extended with the addition of a new entrance, a sun parlour, a modern X-ray room and a pathology lab in the 1930s. A new wing was built in 1951, but by the 1970s the hospital was needed for the care of elderly people. Hopefield closed in 1983 when patients were transferred to the new Geriatric Unit at Coleraine Hospital.

In 1932, Limavady Workhouse was converted into "a district, or cottage hospital..."¹³ Limavady District Hospital (later known as the Roe Valley Hospital) came under the National Health Service in 1948. The hospital closed when services were transferred to Altnagelvin in 1997.

¹³ *Belfast News-Letter*, 11 October 1932



© Limavady Postcard Collection,
Limavady Museum.

Dr Katherine O. Robertson (1892-1935) was responsible for converting Limavady Workhouse into a hospital. Born in Limavady, Dr Robertson graduated from Glasgow University before working at the Royal Free Hospital, London. On her return to Limavady, she took up general practice and was appointed as medical officer to the Union and District Hospital.

In 1933, the Robinson Memorial Hospital had opened as a gift to the people of Ballymoney from Cloughmills-born Samuel Robinson. Samuel had served his apprenticeship in Megaw's grocery business, Ballymoney before emigrating to America where he established the successful American Stores Company in 1917. However, he never forgot his humble beginnings and donated generously to charity. On a visit home in 1929, Samuel Robinson proposed that he would pay for a cottage hospital to be built in memory of his parents. Four years later, Ballymoney Union Infirmary was upgraded before being officially opened as the Route District Hospital in 1937.

A new health centre opened in 1970, on a site beside the Robinson Memorial Hospital. In addition to providing a base for Ballymoney GPs, services included ante-natal, post-natal, immunisation, child welfare, family planning and special care clinics.



1930s glass syringe from the Robinson Hospital.

©Ballymoney Museum.



©Ballymoney Museum.

Mr Samuel Robinson, and his wife, Minnie, pictured with nursing staff when on a visit to the Robinson Hospital.

Runkerry House near Bushmills was gifted to the Government of Northern Ireland by Sir Malcolm Macnaghten in 1950. After being handed over to the County Antrim Welfare Committee, it opened as a home for the elderly and infirm in September 1952, the first of its type in Northern Ireland.

The health care reforms which saw the creation of the National Health Service in 1948 also established the Northern Ireland Hospitals' Authority and Hospital Management Committees which took over the running of all hospitals in March 1949. A review of the provision of hospital services was undertaken in the 1970s and the subsequent report proposed 'acute' hospitals at Antrim and Coleraine. The hospital at Coleraine was to provide services for the Coleraine, Ballymoney and Moyle areas and, in the 1980s, a suggestion was made that a new hospital was necessary. The new Causeway Hospital was officially opened in April 2002, replacing the older Coleraine and Route Hospitals.

Schools

Like health, education also benefitted from investment under the newly created state and new schools were opened in Limavady, Ballyhome, Portstewart and Ballymoney during the 1930s.

Limavady Public Elementary (PE) School and Ballyhome PE School both opened their doors in 1931. In 1936, St Colum's School, Portstewart, moved into the present building which replaced earlier premises – a tin structure at the site of the original Catholic church in the town.

Portstewart Public Elementary and Technical School was opened in May 1938. The school was designed by Malcolm McQuigg (an architect, but also a winner of the 1929 North



©Limavady Postcard Collection,
Limavady Museum.

Limavady Public Elementary School.

West 200 motorcycle road race) and replaced the old Presbyterian school built in 1898. While presiding at the opening ceremony, Mr R. B. Lyttle, chairman of the Coleraine Regional Committee, said "They hoped in the course of the next five years to have all the elementary school buildings... in a fit condition for the education of the rising generation... that was the eighth new school in their area and another would be opened during the week at Ringsend..."¹⁴

In 1924 Ballymoney Intermediate School – founded by Rev. James B. Armour – was renamed Ballymoney High School. Following a move to a new building in 1937, it had another name change, becoming Dalriada School.

Coleraine Technical College (formerly the Municipal School of Science Art and Technical Instruction) moved to Union Street in 1930 from its previous location on Lodge Road. When it

¹⁴ *Belfast News-Letter*, 31 May 1938

was founded in 1905, it had been the first technical education site outside of Belfast. It was extended with the construction of a multi-storey building in 1969. Coleraine Technical College merged with the Ballymoney College in 1994, to form Causeway Institute of Further and Higher Education. In 2006, both colleges became campuses of Northern Regional College. Redevelopment of the Coleraine site began in 2020, with the



©Alex Blair collection,
Ballymoney Museum.

James B. Armour (1841-1928) was born in Ballymoney and served as minister of Second Ballymoney Presbyterian Church from 1869-1925. He was a leading figure of the Tenant Rights movement in North Antrim and a well-known supporter of Home Rule. In October 1913, he was one of the organisers of a meeting in Ballymoney Town Hall, the proceedings of which were published in the pamphlet *A Protestant Protest. An Alternative Ulster Covenant*, written by James along with Roger Casement, was launched at the Ballymoney meeting and was signed by 12,000 Protestants in support of Home Rule.

demolition of the 1930 and 1969 buildings to make way for new facilities due to be completed by September 2023.

Presiding at the official opening of a secondary school in Limavady in October 1939, Dehra Parker MP, congratulated the Londonderry and Limavady Regional Education Committee on the way they had planned and equipped Limavady as a centre of educational work. "One of the main needs of the day was to try and arrange that each child should follow the course of studies most suited to his development... That placing in close proximity of an elementary, a secondary, a technical and a domestic science school afforded an opportunity which, if fully understood and utilised, should have an important bearing upon future developments of educational administration and organization..."¹⁵



Coleraine Intermediate School, September 1956.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The 1947 Education Act led to the establishment of intermediate schools, with Coleraine County Intermediate School being opened in September 1948. The housing developments created to meet the post-war demands for homes also led to the creation of new primary schools such as Millburn in Coleraine, to support the growing communities.

St Joseph's Secondary School, Coleraine, was opened in December 1961 on a site adjacent to St Malachy's Church. The church itself had been opened in June 1937, replacing the older church on Long Commons. In Dungiven, St Patrick's Voluntary Intermediate School, was formally opened in June 1963.



St Malachy's Church, Coleraine, during construction.

© Derry & Antrim Year Book, 2007.

The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) was established as a co-ordinating body for integrated schools in 1987. Mill Strand Integrated Primary School opened in September that year. It was established by a group of families

who re-mortgaged their homes to fund it, and it ran on charitable donations for two years before integrated schools were given recognised status by the Department of Education.

North Coast Integrated College opened in Coleraine in 1996 and, in April 2021, the first sod was cut for a new Shared Education Campus in Limavady across the sites of St Mary's and Limavady High Schools. Planning permission was also granted in 2021 for a new Shared Education Campus for Ballycastle High School and Cross and Passion College.

Gaelcholaiste Dhoire, the second Irish medium post-primary school in Northern Ireland, opened in Dungiven Castle in September 2015.

Ulster University

In June 1967, the foundation stone of the New University of Ulster at Coleraine was unveiled and the Northern Irish Prime Minister, Terence O'Neill, officially opened the building in 1968. In 1969, Magee College was incorporated into the University and, in 1984, the university merged with the Ulster Polytech to become the University of Ulster. The university was initially spread over four campuses (Coleraine, Belfast, Magee and Jordanstown) - the university's School of Hotel, Leisure and Tourism operated in Portrush until 2008. The university's name was changed to Ulster University in 2014.

The Riverside Theatre was commissioned by the New University of Ulster in the early 1970s at a time when there were no purpose-built theatres outside of Belfast. The Riverside was to have a role in the provision of the university's English and Drama degrees, but it was also seen as way of bringing 'gown and town' together. The building was designed by architect

Peter Moro whose work won the prestigious Architect's Award for one of the UK's best public design features. It was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1977 during her Silver Jubilee visit. The theatre's programme includes drama, rock bands, opera, variety, pantomime and recordings for television and radio.



©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 2007.

Lord Erskine unveiled a commemorative stone on 23 June 1967 to mark the beginning of work on the New University of Ulster at Coleraine.

The Guy L. Wilson Daffodil Garden at the University of Ulster was officially opened in April 1974. The landscaped gardens, included on the Special Historic Interest register, were designed to display and conserve daffodils in beds named for the glens and hills of Antrim. It was established in memory of horticulturist Guy L. Wilson, "one of the leading daffodil hybridists of all time and the man who did most to develop daffodil breeding in Ireland."¹⁶

16 *The Guy L Wilson Daffodil Garden, The New University of Ulster (1974)*



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Over the years, the Riverside Theatre has hosted many well-known names including Liam Neeson, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Tony Robinson and Emma Thompson. It was at the Riverside, that a young James Nesbitt was 'discovered' playing the Artful Dodger, alongside Mark Carruthers as Oliver, in the theatre's 1978 Christmas production.

Infrastructure

Since the creation of Northern Ireland, technology has increased greatly. Some of the early advances saw new telephone facilities open in Post Offices at Armoy, Dervock and Ballintoy in the autumn of 1923. The cost of a three-minute call from Dervock to Ballymoney was 2d while calling Limavady cost 10d; from Armoy a three-minute call cost 4d to Ballycastle, 6d to Cloughmills and 10d to Portstewart. The introduction of a new computerised telephone exchange in Portstewart in 1991, meant that people had access to new services which the previous exchange could not support.

Radio broadcasting began in Northern Ireland in September 1924, with the first broadcasts from the Belfast station of the BBC. The first outdoor broadcast took place from the Ulster Grand Prix in 1927.



©1933 Derry & Antrim
Year Book.

The Bann Drainage Scheme, “in conception and magnitude, one of the boldest schemes of its kind ever undertaken in the British Isles...”,¹⁷ commenced in 1930, with the aim of preventing seasonal flooding along the River Bann. The ambitious scheme, along a thirty-mile stretch of the river from Toome to the Cutts, involved the installation of sluice gates at three locations including the Cutts (pictured above) and the dredging of nearly four million cubic metres of material from the riverbed. The scheme, which employed about 1,000 men, exceeded its estimated cost of £600,000 by approximately £200,000 and was completed in 1939.

The first hydro-electric power station in Ulster had been built by John Ritter in Limavady in 1896. Initially, he used it to light his own home, Roe Park House, but he soon realised if he installed a more efficient water turbine he could generate enough electricity to light up parts of Limavady. John died in 1901, but

¹⁷ *Belfast News-Letter*, 29 October 1931

his wife carried on the business. After the First World War an electricity company was formed to produce enough power for the whole town. The power station, which was nationalised and taken over by the Northern Ireland Electricity Board in 1946, remained in use until 1963.



©Limavady Museum.

Dials and controls at the Ritter hydro-electric power station.

The last journey of the Causeway Tram took place on 30 September 1949. The tramway, which had officially opened in 1883, was the first hydro-electric tramway in the world. In 1950, a campaign was launched by members of Portrush Ratepayers' Association for the restoration of the service, and they were hopeful it would be re-opened during the Festival of Britain celebrations. It was not to be, and the tracks were removed and assets sold in 1951. A new diesel light rail service currently operates along part of the original route. A new bus terminus opened in Portrush in July 1950.



Railway lamp from the Ballycastle Railway.

©Ballymoney Museum.

The closure of Ballycastle Railway in July 1950 followed the nationalisation of the railways network under the 1947 Transport Act. Opened in 1880, the narrow-gauge railway had run from Ballymoney to Ballycastle and was an important link to the rest of Ireland as it joined the broad-gauge line at Ballymoney. At its peak the line carried over 85,000 passengers a year but by the 1940s traffic on the railways was declining. The Derry Central Railway, carrying trains between Coleraine and Magherafelt closed in August 1950. In the 1930s there were three trains a day on the line, which served Aghadowey, Garvagh and Kilrea, including two that ran from Belfast to Coleraine via the line.



A new dam was built in 1963 creating Altnahinch Reservoir to augment the supply of water to rural districts of Ballymoney.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

In 1952, Ballinrees Reservoir was constructed to supply water to Coleraine and surrounding districts. Water shortages during the summer of 1968 saw the building of a pipeline to lift water from the River Bann to the reservoir and in September tenders were invited for the construction of "a 1.5 million gallon reinforced concrete service reservoir and valve house."¹⁸

©Chronicle & Constitution
Archive.

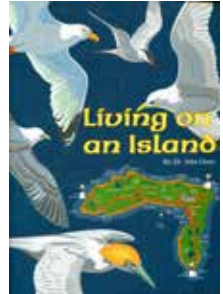
Originally used by salmon fishermen, Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge came into the care of the National Trust in 1967 and was officially opened to the public in 1970. In 1999 it was recommended that the bridge which spanned the 80-foot chasm be replaced with a new, stronger and heavier structure. However, the weight of the new bridge presented a problem when it came to putting it back in place in 2000. There were no commercial helicopters in Northern Ireland with the required lift capability and the RAF were required to help (pictured). The bridge, which is open all year round (subject to weather), attracts nearly 500,000 visitors annually. A small landslide in January 2020 caused the closure of the bridge for safety reasons not long before the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

In July 1977 it was announced that Rathlin Island was to get a new water scheme, allowing more than two-thirds of the island's residents to be supplied with piped water. After years of campaigning, the 120 residents of Rathlin Island finally got connected to a central electricity system in October 1992. The new system, comprised of wind turbines with a 'failsafe' back-

up system of three diesel generators and battery unit, was part funded by the European Union. The three giant wind turbines, named Conn, Aedh and Fiachra, were installed by Northern Ireland Electricity and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive subsidised the cost of connecting individual homes to the supply. Ian Paisley and John Hume were amongst guests who witnessed the moment when Rathlin was 'lit up'. The island now has an underwater electricity connection from the mainland.

1994 study of Rathlin Island by John Greer.

©Alex Blair collection, Ballymoney Museum.



Coleraine has been the most northerly crossing point across the River Bann for centuries, but with the growth of private car ownership and ever-increasing numbers of goods vehicles and lorries, a new traffic management system was needed. The proposed solution was 'the Ring Road' and a new

bridge to be known as Sandelford across the river at Mountsandel. The bridge opened in December 1974; Sammy Walker and Herbie McCann were the first people across. In 1977, work began on a road scheme to bypass Ballymoney and divert traffic from the town centre.

The train journey from Coleraine to Derry-Londonderry, once described by Michael Palin as “one of the most beautiful rail journeys in the world” hugs the coastline in places. The line runs between the basalt cliffs of Binevenagh and the golden sands of Benone Strand before entering the tunnel under the cliff top Mussenden Temple, Downhill. The cliffs can be unstable and in the 1990s major stabilisation work was needed to prevent the Mussenden Temple from falling into the sea. The Derry-Londonderry to Belfast train was derailed due to a rock fall at Downhill in June 2002.

A new ferry service linking Magilligan with Greencastle, County Donegal opened in June 2002. The ferry service offered a significant link in local tourism by replacing the option of a long road journey via Derry-Londonderry with a 20-minute journey across Lough Foyle. There had previously been a ferry service between Magilligan and Greencastle operating in the mid-19th century for goods and passengers.



©Coleraine Museum.

The Coleraine to Londonderry trainline passing below Mussenden Temple, Downhill.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Richard Branson's hot air balloon, *Virgin Atlantic Flyer*, set off from Maine on 2 July 1987, on what was to be the first successful transatlantic hot air balloon crossing. The balloon lost two fuel tanks when it hit the ground near Limavady, demolishing a dry-stone wall and narrowly missing a house. It regained height and travelled on towards Rathlin Island, before again losing height and bouncing along the sea. In an unsuccessful attempt to land, the balloon lost its flotation bags and the two pilots bailed out into the Atlantic. Richard Branson was rescued by Tommy Cecil from the sea near Bull Point, Rathlin, and Per Lindstrom was picked up by the Royal Navy a few hours later. Richard Branson presented a rescue boat named *Atlantic Saviour* to the island in thanks and later donated £25,000 towards the renovation of the tithe barn at the Manor House. Now known as the Branson Centre, the building is used as a community space and has become a hub of activity on the island.

The Royal British Legion

On their return to civilian life after World War One, ex-servicemen from both unionist and nationalist communities looked to fellow veterans for support and formed various local veterans organisations such as Posts of Comrades of the Great War. One of the earliest Posts formed was in Ballycastle in October 1918, with plans for a hut and War Memorial obelisk reported in 1927. Recreation rooms were opened in Coleraine in September 1921.

In May 1921, the Comrades of the Great War, the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers, and the Officers' Association, came together into one organisation, the British Legion. Local branches of the British Legion were actively involved in lobbying for preference to be given to ex-servicemen in employment, and for the provision of housing for the men and their families.

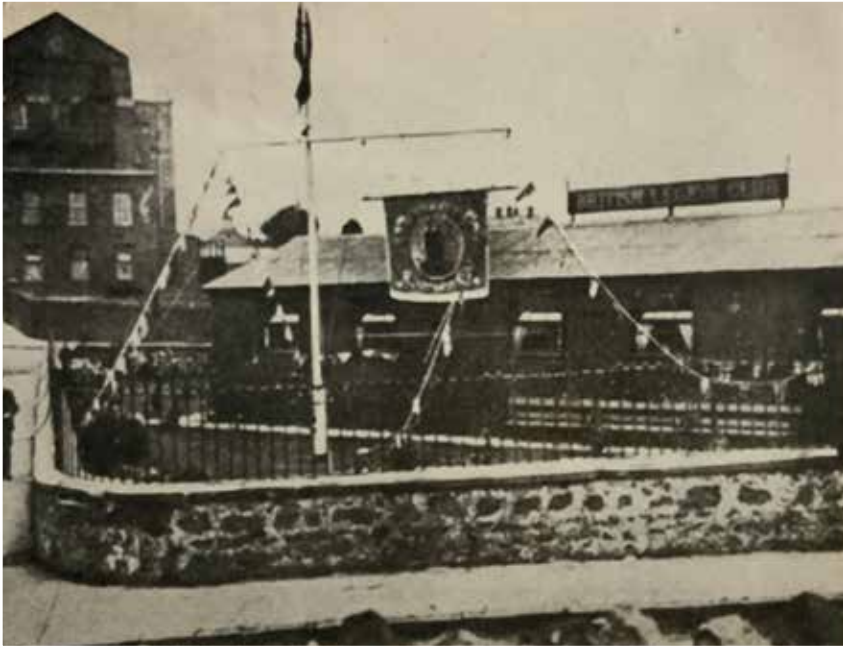


One initiative for returning veterans saw the opening of the Ex-Servicemen's Boat-building Centre at Coleraine in 1922. "Thirty-

nine ex-servicemen from various parts of Ulster have entered upon a course of instruction... At the end of the course those who have attained efficiency in the work will be provided with a complete set of tools, thus enabling them to make a good start in the direction of earning a living."¹⁹ Among other vessels, the centre built the pilot boat for Coleraine Harbour Commissioners in 1925 (pictured).

©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1926.

¹⁹ Ballymoney Free Press, 19 October 1922



©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1923.

Coleraine British Legion Clubhouse and the banner presented by Captain C.E. Stronge DL in 1922.

The end of World War Two led to a new generation of ex-servicemen and the British Legion continued to expand and provide support services. In 1943, Group 10 was formed, comprising branches from North Antrim and North Londonderry.

In 1971, the British Legion was granted a Royal Charter making it the Royal British Legion on the 50th anniversary of its formation. Originally formed to support ex-servicemen from all communities and their families, membership was extended to include serving members of the Armed Forces in 1981.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The Freedom of the Borough of Coleraine was conferred on the Royal British Legion on the occasion of its 75th anniversary in June 1996. Replying to a vote of thanks, Deputy Mayor Alderman John Dallat, said "In such changing times, it is all the more important that there is support and help for those in all types of need in our community and the Royal British Legion has set a splendid example of consistent caring in this regard."²⁰

The Women's Institute

The first Women's Institute (WI) in Northern Ireland was formed in Garvagh in 1932, by Dorothea Macausland. Garvagh Women's Institute opened with a membership of 40, with the aim to "improve the conditions and amenities of rural life."²¹

Dorothea, who had trained as a nurse during World War One, returned to train as a health visitor in England after the war and it was there that she joined the WI. Recognising the benefits to

²⁰ *Coleraine Chronicle*, 29 June 1996

²¹ *Belfast Telegraph*, 4 October 1932

rural women, she established the Garvagh WI on her return to Northern Ireland and travelled across the country encouraging and assisting the formation of other Institutes. Dorothea Macausland was honoured with an Ulster History Circle blue plaque in March 2020.



Dorothea Macausland formed the first Women's Institute (WI) in Northern Ireland in Garvagh in 1932.

©Limavady Museum.

Corrymeela

Founded by Rev. Ray Davey, Corrymeela officially opened in October 1965. Concerned at the increasing sectarian tensions in Northern Ireland during the 1960s, Rev. Davey joined with some of his students at Queen's University Belfast to purchase the site outside Ballycastle and establish an "open village where all people of good will"²² could come together.

The centre has hosted visits of numerous figures concerned

²² www.corrymeela.org

with the ongoing peace process including Prince Charles, former President of Ireland, Dr Mary McAleese, and the Dalai Lama. As part of Corrymeela's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2015, Prince Charles, accompanied by the Duchess of Cornwall, returned to Ballycastle where he praised "the patient and painful work" being done at the centre to heal divisions.²³



©Chronicle & Constitution
Archive.

Portballintrae woman, Dr Hylda Armstrong (1916-2010) helped found Coleraine Inner Wheel, a ladies club providing support and friendship, in 1949. In 1972 she was the first Irish woman elected president of the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs of GB and NI. The following year her son Sean, a youth worker with Voluntary Services International, was shot by loyalist paramilitaries in Belfast. The Sean Armstrong play area at Corrymeela is named in memory of his peace-building work. Dr Armstrong was awarded an international peace award by the Norwegian Red Cross in 1977, an OBE in 1979 and an honorary doctorate from the University of Ulster. She was also involved with establishing Mill Strand Integrated Primary School, Portrush (pictured above), to further honour the work of her son Sean.



Chapter 3

Agriculture, Maritime, and Industry

Farming has always been an important industry in the largely rural Causeway Coast and Glens area. The area has a justifiable reputation for exceptional dairy products and award-winning potatoes, in addition to more recent products such as rapeseed oil. As well as the business of farming there was an intense pride in the quality of stock and produce and the Agricultural Shows were a highlight of the year for the farming community. The long coastline and well-stocked rivers have also meant that the fishing industry has been a traditional way of life for many people. Newer industries, such as textiles and engineering, arrived in the middle of the twentieth century and served as major employers across the borough.

Main beam of a wooden plough, thought to be the oldest found in Ireland, dating to AD 1050-1230. It was discovered in 1957 by James Taylor of Drumlee and is on permanent display in Ballymoney Museum.



©Ballymoney Museum.

Agriculture

Ballyrashane Co-operative Creamery, Ulster's first creamery, was opened in 1896. The bulk collection of milk was pioneered by the creamery and the high-quality butter produced there has won many prizes and awards over the years. It was awarded a silver medal for best butter at the Royal Dublin Society's 1980 Winter Fair and Food Exhibition. In 2015, Ballyrashane Creamery, Northern Ireland's largest milk processor, merged with the Town of Monaghan Co-op to form LacPatrick. The creamery supplies national and international blue-chip companies with milk, cream, buttermilk and cheese under their renowned Ballyrashane label.



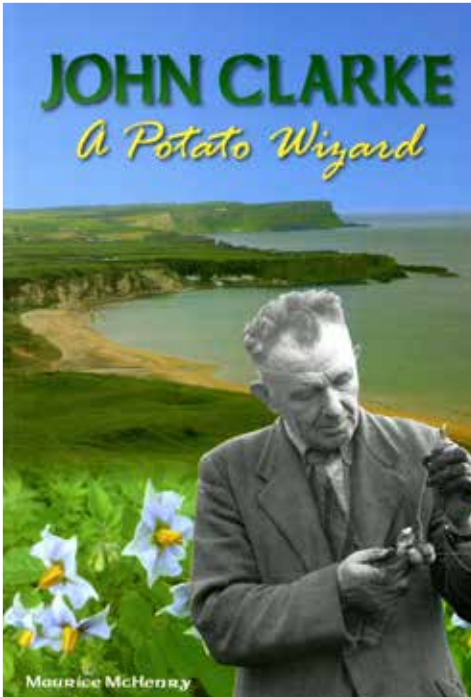
©Chronicle & Constitution
Archive.

Workers at Ballyrashane Creamery, February 1963.

Aghadowey Creamery, operated by Aghadowey Co-operative Agricultural and Dairy Society, was established in 1899. After the closure of the co-operative society, the creamery was taken over by Irish Butter and Egg Exporters, followed by John Kirkpatrick & Co. In 1938 it was taken over by W. D. Torrens who had worked at the creamery since its early years. By the 1960s Aghadowey Creamery was an agent for Fison's cheese and Kraft cheeses.

In 1920, Alexander Aloysius McGuckian (1895-1952) was secretary of Cloughmills Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) and supported the UFU's non-sectarian and non-political role. Although he was not politically active, he was interned for nearly two years under the Special Powers Act in August 1922 because of his known nationalist sympathies. During his period of internment, Alexander continued his agricultural research and, on release, built new piggeries at Cloughmills. By 1939, his piggery housed 10,000 pigs making it was one of the largest in the world. Over his lifetime, Alexander continued to work to reduce the high rates of pig mortality in the industry. In April 1943 he served on a government committee set up to explore possible futures for Ulster agriculture. Two years later he chaired the committee that produced the first survey of Ulster rural life.

Rev. Robert McIlmoyle (1875-1965) was a highly respected sheep breeder who won hundreds of prizes with his Border Leicester sheep. Born in Limavady, Rev McIlmoyle was the minister of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Dervock from 1904 until 1964. A founder member of the Ulster Farmers' Union, he was awarded the MBE in 1961.



John Clarke (1880-1980), one of Ireland's foremost experts on potato breeding, and the humble 'Spud', a culinary favourite in Northern Ireland, are celebrated in the Northern Ireland Potato Festival. John Clarke, born in Ballintoy, had 33 varieties of potatoes certified by the Ministry of Agriculture. He won the 1957 *Belfast Telegraph* Cup for Outstanding Achievements in Agriculture. The Maris

Piper is a 'grandson' of one of his varieties, Ulster Knight. The Potato Festival includes music, talks, farm visits, storytelling, arts and crafts, cookery demonstrations and a farmer's market.

Image shows the cover of Maurice McHenry's *John Clarke: A Potato Wizard* (2012), courtesy the Alex Blair collection, Ballymoney Museum.

The first Young Farmers' Club (YFC) in Ulster was established in Limavady in January 1930. The clubs ran a varied programme of activities including debating, quizzes, excursions, courses, talks and drama. Some clubs held agricultural shows and by the 1960s the Young Farmers' movement was the largest youth organisation in Ulster. Writing for the 50th anniversary of the

foundation of the YFC, G. B. Newe noted that “no movement has contributed more to the dignity, status, education and pleasure of the rural community...”²⁴

Gerard Benedict 'G.B.' Newe (1907-1982) was born in Cushendall. Childhood tuberculosis impacted on his schooling and led him to abandon his hopes of a religious career. He took up journalism and edited *The Ulster Farmer* from 1931 to 1967, and produced a local publication *The Glensman* during the 1930s. G.B. was involved with the Northern Ireland Council of Social Service from its formation in 1938 and was secretary from 1954 to 1972. He was the first Roman Catholic to serve as a member of a Northern Ireland Government when he was invited by Brian Faulkner to serve as Minister of State in 1972. He was appointed OBE in 1961 and CBE in 1977.

Agricultural shows have taken place in Ballymoney since the mid-19th century, first under the auspices of Ballymoney Farming Society and then the North Antrim Agricultural Association. In 1918, the Association purchased land from the Earl of Antrim and the show has been held there ever since. In the 1920s school children were given a half-day holiday on show day. In June 1944, the Ballymoney Show was organised by Kilraughts, Finvoy and Moycraig Young Farmers' Clubs for the first time. The show, like many other events, was suspended during World War Two and a special Victory Show was held in 1945 to celebrate the end of the war.

The Ballymoney Show was cancelled in 1952 to try to contain the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease, and a Fowl Pest scare caused the cancellation of the show in 1965. In 2020, the show had to be cancelled for the third time due to the coronavirus

pandemic. Ongoing restrictions and uncertainty relating to the continuing pandemic saw the organisers put arrangements in place to hold a 'Virtual Show' in 2021.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Ballymoney Show, 1963.

Coleraine's Agricultural Show is one of the oldest shows in Ireland. In the early 20th century, the show was held in the market yard and in the Irish Society's Schools. The 1930 show was the first to run at a financial loss and complaints of lack of interest meant the future of the show was called into question. However, the worries were short-lived and the show attracted record entries in 1931. The show was held under the auspice of Coleraine Young Farmers' Club for the first time in 1946.

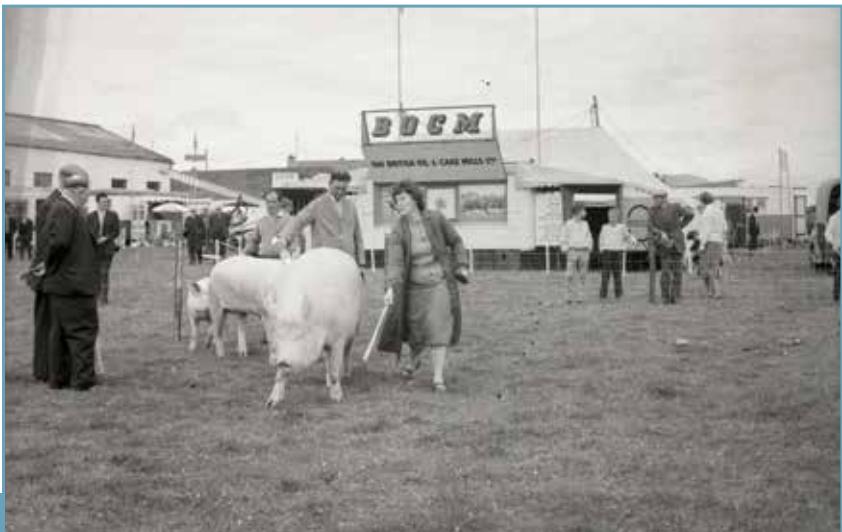
As in Ballymoney, the 1952 Coleraine show was limited: "Owing to the ban imposed by the Ministry of Agriculture on the exhibition of Cattle, Sheep and Pigs, the Coleraine Young Farmers' Club has regretfully decided to cancel the exhibition of all Livestock, Home Industries and Children's Classes..."²⁵ In

25 *Northern Whig*, 21 May 1952



Poster advertising the 1930 Ballymoney Show.

©Ballymoney Museum.



Limavady Show, 1963.



© Coleraine Museum.

President's prize medal awarded at the 1935 Coleraine Show for the best York sow.

1960, a man was badly injured when a bull ran loose. He was "thrown to the ground and trampled on as the bull ran amok on its way through a crowded arena after the judging of the cattle exhibits..."²⁶

Agricultural shows were held in Limavady as far back as the middle of the nineteenth century, but it was not until 1938 that livestock came to the fore. A decision was made to lease land in 1944, and a hall was erected on the new Show Grounds. In 1957, an Agricultural Society was formed in association with the Young Farmers' Club.

Ploughing matches have long been part of life in the Causeway Coast and Glens area, with competitions being held as far back as the 1830s. Ballycastle's ploughing match was said to be one of the oldest in Ulster. The Northern Ireland Ploughing Association's first international championship was held in Limavady in 1938. The World Ploughing Championships – the Golden Plough – were first held in Canada in 1953. In 1959 they were run in Northern Ireland for the first time, at Armoy. Limavady has hosted the World Ploughing Championships three times, in 1979, 1991 and 2004.

26 *Belfast Telegraph*, 11 June 1960

Aghadowey man, Hugh Barr, won the 1954 World Ploughing Championships in Killarney; he went on to win the Golden Plough again in Sweden in 1955 and in England in 1956. "I was only 15 when I first started the ploughing and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It seemed I was able to make a decent job of it so I continued on entering the various local competitions and then the world contests..."²⁷ He retired from competitions when he was 30 to work on the family farm. Hugh, the only man in the world to win the World Championships three times, was awarded the MBE in 2015.

Two other Causeway Coast and Glens men, Des Wright and Thomas Cochrane, have also won the World Ploughing Championships. Des Wright, from Coleraine, won the World Ploughing Championships twice, in England in 1984 and Canada in 1986. His nephew, David (from Magherafelt), won the 2003 World Championship.

Thomas Cochrane, from Macosquin, won the World Ploughing Championships in Australia in 1997, to bring the Golden Plough back to the borough for the sixth time. Tom said he owed a lot of his success to Des Wright: "I have watched Dessie and learned from him. During the championships we talked over the plots together and worked and helped each other..."²⁸



Jack Barr, from Aghadowey, representing Northern Ireland at the World Ploughing Championships at Armoy, October 1959.

©Ballymoney Museum.

²⁷ www.farminguk.com

²⁸ *Derry & Antrim Yearbook*, 1998

Food and Drink

Peter Morelli opened a fish and chip shop in Coleraine in 1911, also selling Italian ice cream, confectionary and tobacco. In 1925, Angelo Morelli, arrived from Italy and began working in the family business. Three years later, he bought the Portstewart shop which has been a feature of the Portstewart seafront ever since. During World War Two, Angelo, as an Italian, was interned, and when he retired, he returned to Italy leaving the business to his sons.



Morelli's café, Stone Row, Coleraine, was renowned for its fish and chips. Peter Morelli sold his ice cream, made to a recipe passed down by his father, from his ice cream cart which he pushed to the nearby resorts of Portrush, Portstewart and Castlerock.

©Maurice Bradley.

Morelli's ice-cream won its first major award at the National Ice Cream competitions in 1992. By the late 1990s, they were supplying hotels, restaurants and retail outlets across Northern Ireland and in 2005, their ice-cream was selected by Harrods to be sold in their food hall as part of a promotion highlighting the best foods from around the British Isles. The following year they won two first prizes in the National Ice Cream competitions and in 2012, Morelli's ice-cream was awarded 'Champion

of Champions' for the best vanilla ice cream in the UK and Ireland. Their ice-cream won a total of five Gold Stars at the Great Taste Awards run by the Guild of Fine Food in 2015, and it was crowned National Champion at the National Ice Cream Competition in 2019. Morelli's make over fifty flavours of ice cream, sorbet and frozen yoghurt at their production plant in Coleraine, using dairy ingredients from Ballyrashane Creamery, for distribution across Ireland. One of the flavours produced by Morelli's is Irish Black Butter – a traditional Irish recipe made using Armagh Bramley Apples, local cider, brandy and spices launched in 2017. Irish Black Butter featured on BBC television's Dragons Den in 2019. It has won various awards including the 2018 Blas na hEireann Irish Food Awards and *Farming Life's* Artisan Producer of the Year award in 2019.

Other recent specialist producers within the borough include Glens of Antrim Potatoes whose award-winning crisps are cooked in small batches at the company's state of the art factory in Cushendall. There are also four food producing Économusées – working museums – in the area. Brighter Gold Rapeseed Oil is produced near Limavady on the land where the Iron Age Brighter Gold Hoard was found in 1896. Across in Ballycastle, Broughgammon Farm specialises in free range veal and seasonal wild game; Ursa Minor is an artisan bakery; while the North Coast Smokehouse produces traditional smoked salmon.

Naturally North Coast and Glens Artisan Market won the UK's Best Community Market of the Year in 2018 and 2020. The markets are held in various towns across the Causeway Coast and Glens area, including Coleraine and Ballycastle, and are a showcase of local food, art, crafts and produce. The success of the markets has grown with pop-up farm shops now a regular feature at the market. Limavady, a traditional market town, now has its own Roe Valley Speciality Market.



© Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Paula McIntyre was brought up in Aghadowey where, like many local farming communities, there was a big tradition of baking and jam-making. Training and working in England and the United States, she returned to Northern Ireland in 1998 and, since appearing on *Ready, Steady, Cook* (beating Paul Rankin on her second appearance), she has featured regularly on local television and radio. Paula is a champion of local produce a member of the Craft Guild of Chefs and the Irish Food Writers Guild and won the 2015 *Farming Life* Champion Award. In 2021, Paula was inaugurated as High Sheriff of County Londonderry (pictured above with outgoing High Sheriff, Ross Wilson, in January 2021. Also pictured are the Lord Lieutenant of County Londonderry, Mrs Alison Millar, and the Mayor of CCGBC, Councillor Mark Fielding). "There's been a food revolution here... with farmers diversifying all the time. Our meat, our breads, our ciders and our butter are all award winners and are in demand from the top restaurants and supermarkets in England."²⁹

29 *Belfast Telegraph* website (19/08/2013), <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/food-drink/paula-mcintyre-cookery-is-myreal-love-29505548.html>

Old Bushmills Distillery, the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery, has held a licence to distil whiskey since the 17th century and celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2008. The Old Bushmills Distillery Company was established in 1784 and changed hands several times before being bought by Isaac Wolfson soon after World War Two. In December 1953, thieves broke through the 21-inch-thick walls of a bond store at the distillery and made off with about eight gallons of whiskey.



Tom Pollock at the entrance to the duty-free warehouse with an Old Bushmills Distillery whiskey barrel dated 1924.

©Sam Henry Collection, Coleraine Museum.

The distillery was bought by Diageo in 2005 who began a programme of investment including the installation of a new mash tun (a large mixing vessel used in the first part of the distillation and whiskey making process). By 2007 the distillery was producing 450,000 cases annually, with 75% of it being exported mainly to USA, France, Germany and Spain. Bushmills whiskey has won many awards over the years, including Best Irish Whiskey in the World in 2010. The Old Bushmills Distillery is high on the list of tourist attractions on the North Coast with over 100,000 visitors from all over the world taking the tour of the famous distillery every year.

Pink whiskey jug from Bushmills.

©Ballymoney Museum.



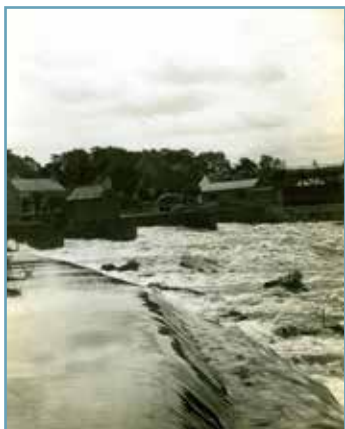
Coleraine Distillery was founded in 1825 and it quickly gained a high reputation. Coleraine Whisky (without an e) was considered one of the finest in Ireland and by 1845 it was being delivered to the House of Commons – hence 'HC' on the label. The distillery was bought by Robert Taylor in 1869, and on his death in 1902 it passed to Andrew Clarke. Boyd's of Bushmills Distillery purchased it in the 1930s. Although the production of the famous Coleraine Ten-Year-Old Malt ceased in the 1960s, a blended

version remained in production until the distillery closed in 1978.

©Coleraine Museum.

Fisheries

The River Bann is regarded as a good salmon river but it is the humble eel which is the Bann's claim to fame. Eels have been fished on the Bann since man first made his home at Mountsandel nearly 10,000 years ago, and during the Plantation of Ulster fisheries were established at Portna and Movanager. The number of eels in the river has plummeted since the 1960s and proposals have been put forward to limit fishing, ensuring at least 40% of adult eels escape to the sea to maintain sustainable levels.



The Salmon Leap at the Cutts, Coleraine.

©Sam Henry Collection,
Coleraine Museum.

Salmon were also once much more plentiful in the Bann than they now are; the fishing station established at the Cutts in the 17th century only ceased operating in the 1970s. There was a salmon net across the river at the Cranagh and a hatchery was set up at Portna in the early 20th century, with salmon being brought from other rivers like the Moyola and the Agivey for spawning. In the 1960s fish farming was re-established on the river at Movanager to supplement the natural stocks of trout for anglers on rivers across Northern Ireland. By the 1980s, increased sea fishing led to a decline of wild stock, this combined with the increasing supply of cheap salmon from fish

farming, led to the end of all commercial salmon fishing on the Bann in 1990.

There was also a long history of commercial fishing on the River Bush until the 1960s. Records for catches on the river show that in 1962, 256 salmon were caught in spring and 5963 in summer. In 2011, numbers recorded at the Bushmills salmon station had reduced to just 649 – the lowest since systematic recording began in 1975. Today, many tourists are attracted to fish the salmon pools of the river.



©Coleraine Museum.

The rope bridge at Carrick-a-Rede was first erected by salmon fishermen in 1755 and was traditionally taken down in the winter and re-erected in the spring. The last salmon was caught at Carrick-a-Rede in 2002 when Alex Colgan retired. He had worked there for over 30 years and recalled that in the 1960s they would regularly catch over 300 salmon in a day but in the last season they only caught 250 from spring to autumn.

Today, North Coast Smokehouse, based in Ballycastle, cure locally produced organic salmon from Glenarm in a special blend of pure sea salts and raw sugars before it is smoked and roasted over beech wood. They also produce smoked sea salt and black pepper and smoked dulse seaweed.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute and Maritime Rescues

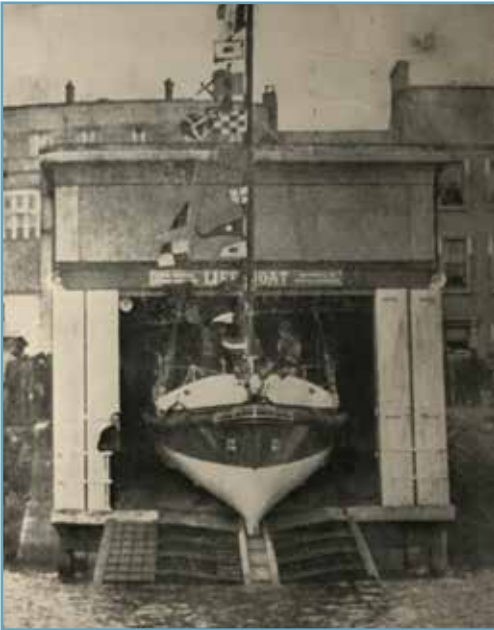
The sea has long been a source of life, and death. Communities in Causeway Coast and Glens, with its 125 miles of coastline and strong maritime heritage, have often faced the dangers of the sea over the years. The development of many of the borough's coastal villages began with the fishing industry and have developed as tourism destinations. The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) maintains lifeboat stations at Portrush and Red Bay and also provide seasonal lifeguard coverage on some of the area's beaches which attract thousands of visitors annually.

Difficulties accessing the port of Coleraine due to the silting problems at the Barmouth led to the development of Portrush as an alternative port. In November 1971, the German coaster *Osteland* became the largest ship ever to drop anchor in Portrush Harbour. "Captain Hans Koch literally inched the ship into its quayside berth – 206 ft. is reckoned to be the maximum length of ship which can enter the harbour safely and the *Osteland* is 205 ft. 10 in. long."³⁰ The tricky navigation of the Bann has meant local pilots are required to bring vessels over the Bar and upstream to Coleraine.

Tragedy struck at Portstewart just before dawn on Saturday

³⁰ *Belfast Telegraph*, 5 November 1971

6 January 1923, when the pilot boat, going to the steamer *Silversprings* bound for Coleraine, overturned in heavy seas. It was "surmised that the little row-boat used by them was overturned ... three well-known men, who were highly esteemed in the district, had lost their lives in discharging their duties."³¹ Alexander Miller and James Doherty, pilots employed by Coleraine Harbour Commissioners, and 18-year-old Harry Doherty, all drowned.



The Duchess of Abercorn officially names the *Thornton, Bartlett, Broustead and Hooper* (commonly known as *T.B.B.H.*), the first engine-driven lifeboat in Portrush, and opens the new RLNI boathouse at Portrush Harbour, 1928.

©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1929.

In March 1930, the fishing trawler *Shackleton* ran aground on rocks off Rathlin Island, leading to a heroic rescue of the 14-man crew. A memorial tablet, on behalf of the owners of the *Shackleton*, was unveiled on the island in September that year, and the Board of Trade made "a special money award... to show appreciation of heroic deeds performed by those men who went down the cliffs two hundred feet."³²

³¹ *Northern Whig*, 8 January 1923

³² *Belfast Telegraph*, 1 September 1930



© Northern Whig.

In January 1931, it was announced that “the Board of Trade awarded the silver shield for the finest service during 1930 to the Rathlin Island Live-Saving Company for work rendered on the occasion of the wreck of the *Shackelton*.”³³ The photograph shows the assembled islanders who were awarded the Board of Trade Shield.

The National Life-Saving Shield was also awarded to Rathlin Island Life-Saving Company for the rescue of eleven crew members from the trawler *Pintail* in February 1940. “In a fierce gale they trekked six miles across the island, descended a cliff in complete darkness and effected the rescue by means of a breeches buoy... Portrush lifeboat did a good job in getting as close to the *Pintail* as it possibly could, and remaining in attendance there. It could not have done any more than that, however, for the trawler was on the rocks.”³⁴

The loss of the Stranraer to Larne car ferry, *MV Princess Victoria*, in January 1953 sent shock waves across the province. There was no official passenger list, but it is now believed more than 130 people were lost when the vessel sank in a storm off the County Down coast. Nine people from the borough lost their lives that night, including Mrs J Mooney and her two sons, John

³³ *Northern Whig*, 26 January 1931

³⁴ *Ballymena Weekly Telegraph*, 15 July 1949

and Kevin, from Ballycastle, Nancy Bryson from Castlerock, John Wilton from Portstewart, Rosemary Mullan from Garvagh, Patrick Shields from Ballymoney and Francis Mullan from Limavady. Elizabeth Crawford, who grew up in Bushmills, perished but her brother, Robert McLean, survived the disaster. Another survivor was Lance-Corporal Albert Dickie (returning home on leave to Aghadowey) who was eventually picked up by Donaghadee lifeboat.



Water damaged letter addressed to Ms J. Pollock and Son, Ballymoney, saved from the MV *Princess Victoria* in 1953.

©Ballymoney Museum.



The Countess of Antrim naming the new RNLi lifeboat *Lady Scott* in 1949.

©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1950.



©Derry & Antrim Yearbook, 1962.

Members of Portrush Lifeboat crew with certificates on vellum presented by RNLI.

Coxswain Samuel Cunningham was awarded a Silver Medal, Second Coxswain Robert McMullan received a Bronze Medal and the rest of the crew were awarded The Thanks of the Institution inscribed on Vellum for their rescue of the crew of the *MV Argo Delos*, which ran aground on Tor Beg in rough seas in October 1960. The crew were also presented with inscribed silver tankards by the officers of *HMS Leopard*, which had been standing by at the scene. The commanding officer of the *Leopard* paid the following tribute, "The handling skill and bravery of the lifeboat crew were of the highest order and earned the admiration of all on board."³⁵

The members of the Portrush lifeboat crew were again presented with thanks on vellum in 1965 when they launched the lifeboat in very rough seas to rescue five men who had been lost overboard from the Norwegian destroyer HNoMS *Bergen*. The crew described the mission as “the most gruelling they had ever experienced... The waves at times were 30 feet high...”³⁶

In 1972, a lifeboat was placed at Red Bay for evaluation, followed by the establishment of a permanent inshore lifeboat station the following year. A new boathouse was built in 1995, and a new lifeboat *Dorothy May* came into service in 1996. The *Geoffrey Charles* was placed in service in July 2010, when the *Dorothy May* was withdrawn.

In the early hours of 18 October 1990, Ballycastle was badly flooded with water in places up to 8 feet deep. When the fire brigade asked for help to evacuated people, Portrush lifeboat *Richard Evans* was dispatched. Using the lifeboat’s inflatable dingy, two crew members ferried 22 people to safety. There was similar flooding in Cushendall and the lifeboat crew at Red Bay borrowed two small open boats for the operation as submerged obstacles made using the inshore lifeboat too difficult. The crews worked for hours checking houses and cars and rescuing people and livestock cut off by the floods before the emergency was finally declared over in late afternoon. The Red Bay crew and the two crewmen from Portrush were awarded framed letters of thanks from the RNLI’s Chairman for their actions.



Seventeen-year-old Kelly Allen was the first female lifeboat crew member to join the Portrush station in 1994. She began training on the D-class lifeboat *Richard Evans* with the crew members of Portrush RLNI; John Scott, the Honorary Secretary of Portrush RLNI, described Kelly as having proved she had the “guts and the ability”³⁷ to be a very good crew woman. In the same year, Portrush also got a new D-class inflatable lifeboat, the *Jonathon Simpson*.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.



The lifeboat *Richard Evans* responded to one of Portrush lifeboat's most dangerous callouts ever in February 1989, when the crew launched in mountainous seas to go to the rescue of two Spanish trawlers in difficulty off the coast of Donegal. The crew was stood down just after leaving the harbour, when they were informed the trawlers were safe, but the sea conditions made a return to Portrush impossible. For over three hours, the lifeboat battled on to Greencastle where she took shelter overnight until able to return to base.

©Ian Watson, courtesy Grant Watson.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

In May 2000, a new lifeboat, the *Katie Hannan* (pictured above), arrived in Portrush – the first Severn Class lifeboat in Northern Ireland. She replaced the *Richard Evans* which had served Portrush since 1981. On 29 January 2008, the *Katie Hannan* was tasked to the rescue of a fishing boat off Rathlin Island. During the operation an exceptionally large wave swept the lifeboat onto rocks. Efforts to re-float her failed and poor weather prevented further attempts so she remained on the rocks for 18 days before finally being recovered. A temporary lifeboat was stationed in Portrush until the *Katie Hannan's* replacement the *William Gordon Burr* was delivered.

Industries across The Causeway Coast And Glens

In the aftermath of World War Two, financial incentives were offered to companies to come to Northern Ireland in an attempt to attract new industries.



©Green Lane Museum.

Flax growing and linen manufacture was a prominent industry across Northern Ireland but declined in the second half of the 20th century due to the rise in popularity of cotton and easy-care synthetic fibres. This flax breaker was manufactured in the 1930s by Kennedy's Foundry, Coleraine, for Ross's (later Turner's) Mill.

In 1948, Bengers took over a disused potato factory at Coleraine for the production of butter, milk powder, sterilised cream and other products. The plant was expanded in 1951, to produce Coleraine Cheddar cheese, before being taken over by Fisons Milk Products in the 1960s. The factory was later taken over by Dairy Produce Packers, part of the Kerry Group, and Coleraine Cheddar is still available, although it is no longer made in Coleraine.

The Dainty Fit Brassiere Company opened in Limavady in 1953, making ladies underwear for Marks and Spencers. In the late 1980s, the company was relaunched and renamed Courtaulds



Isa Allen working in the Dainty Fit factory c.1975.

©Betty Ferguson.

Lingerie with another name change to Sara Lee (Courtaulds was owned by Sara Lee) about ten years later. A major employer in the town, the closure of the Limavady factory was announced in May 2003.

In 1956, the first sod was cut for the Chemstrand factory, designed for the manufacture of acrilan acrylic fabric used to make carpets and blankets. The company laid on buses to take local people to the site where a local band played well-known American marches and “they were provided with refreshments, including beer, soft drinks, hot dogs and ice lollipops.”³⁸ The factory had a specially built jetty on the River Bann for the import of raw materials and its own fire-fighting team. At the height of production, approximately 1,000 people were employed on the site. Production began in 1957 and ceased at the factory in 1986.



The Chemstrand Fire Fighting squad, 1965.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

January 1959 saw the camera manufacturer K.G. Corfield move from Wolverhampton to Ballymoney, becoming the only camera manufacturers on the island of Ireland. The first camera designed at the Ballymoney factory, the Periflex 3a, went on sale in the summer of 1959 and, within months, similar designs were being produced by German and Japanese camera makers. The company was taken over by Guinness in the early 1960s and closed in July 1971.



Aerial photograph showing the Corfield Factory in Ballymoney.

©Ballymoney Museum.



First sold in 1959, the Corfield Periflex 3a camera was the first camera to be designed by Corfield at their factory in Ballymoney.

©Ballymoney Museum.

The Ulster Chipboard Company's factory at Castleroe began production in 1959. The Coleraine location was chosen for its central position near major forests. Within six months it was announced that production was to be doubled. The factory was

sold in 1973 and the name changed to Spanboard. Ownership changed again in 1989, when Sonae took over Spanboard. In 2012, the decision was finally taken to cease operations and the site closed.



©Coleraine Museum.

R.H. & S. Rogers' Shirt and Collar Factory in Coleraine closed at the end of February 1959. The company had been in Coleraine since the middle of the nineteenth century – the landmark

five-storey building in Beresford Road was built in 1894. Some of the younger employees found work at the town's new Ballantyne's knitwear factory which opened in May 1959. In preparation for the opening of the factory, Ballantyne's had local people trained at their existing factory in Scotland. The factory closed in 1978.

In 1965, Survey Technical Services, photogrammetric and consultant surveyors (an associate company of BKS Air Survey Ltd), opened a new factory in Coleraine specialising in aerial survey work. The following year, Ballycastle got its first new factory for 100 years when North Antrim Co-operative Enterprises opened a factory to manufacture shirts and pyjamas.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visiting BKS in September 1988.

Farbwerke Hoechst began the production of Trevira polyester fibre at their new factory at Aghanloo in late 1969. The Northern Irish Minister of Commerce, Brian Faulkner, said "Northern Ireland is already a major United Kingdom centre of man-made fibre production. The addition of a major industrial firm of Hoechst's standing will further increase our stake in this rapidly growing industry."³⁹ However, leading up to the opening of the factory, calls were made for the local council to deliver new housing that had been promised for the workers but had not yet been delivered.

AVX, the United States' largest manufacturer of ceramic capacitors, opened a factory in Coleraine in 1979. The workforce at the company's Coleraine plant grew quickly and

³⁹ *Belfast Telegraph*, 23 February 1968

in November 1983 they announced a major expansion at the factory and the creation of another 250 jobs.



©Chronicle & Constitution
Archive.

The Duchess of Kent visiting AVX, April 1984.

Seagate Technology opened their plant in Limavady in the late 1990s. The factory, which employed nearly 800 people, manufactured parts for use in hard drives, closed in 2008.

The Lovell and Christmas pig processing factory was a major employer in the Ballymoney area employing more than 400 people and processing around 40% of Northern Ireland's pork. The factory was destroyed in a fire in June 1998. In the House of Commons in Westminster, Rev. Ian Paisley MP noted the "terrible tragedy" and the impact of the fire, noting the "feelings of the workers as they stood outside the plant on Saturday, watching their future go up in flames."⁴⁰

40 HC Deb 22 June 1998 vol 314 cc701-3, accessed <https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/commons/1998/jun/22/factory-fire-ballymoney>.



Chapter 4

Entertainment and Events

Recreational activity has always been important to communities and the people of the Causeway Coast and Glens have enjoyed a wide range of entertainment over the years – social outings, dances, cèilidhs, music and drama to name just a few.

Entertainment

In response to the violence gripping the country following partition, the Northern Ireland Government introduced a curfew with effect from 31 May 1922. This required everyone to remain indoors between 11 pm and 5 am, unless they possessed a permit from the police. That November, it was noted at a meeting of Portrush Urban Council that there had been a relaxation of curfew hours in Bangor, Holywood and other places, and that Portrush should have the same privilege, even though an earlier application had been turned down. It was agreed to forward a protest to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Curfew hours were amended to 12 midnight to 5 am in legislation introduced by Richard Dawson Bates in April 1923. The curfew restricted many areas of everyday life leading to many falling foul of the law and the newspapers of the time were full of Curfew Court reports. In November 1922, three young men who attended a dance in Ballintemple found themselves in front of the magistrates at Coleraine Curfew Court where they were fined after being found 200 yards from the hall at 12.30 am. Curfew Dances, held in many halls across the country, became a popular social feature of the time. A licence could be obtained to allow dancing to continue throughout the night. Attendees had to remain in the hall until the end of curfew at 5am.

After the Second World War, dances were held in hotels, bars, town halls and community owned halls across the borough and people from both Protestant and Catholic communities mixed freely regardless of the venue. The 1950s ended with Rock'n'Roll and Teddy Boys, and the rise of the Showband era. By the 1960s the 'dance hall' era was in full swing. Promoters brought chart-topping international stars such as Roy Orbison, Dusty Springfield, Lulu, Eric Clapton and The Who, to local dance halls. In the late 1960s, lounge bars started to open in

many local hotels, offering modern facilities the dance halls found it difficult to compete with. Kelly's opened in Portrush in 1968, combining lounge bars with custom built performance space for bands. With the increasing popularity of the discotheque, the showband era was drawing to a close.



Courtesy
Coleraine
Museum.

Jimmy Kennedy (1902-1984) was born in County Tyrone but grew up in Portstewart. Jimmy co-wrote *Red Sails in the Sunset* in 1935, supposedly inspired by a yacht he saw in the bay on a visit home to Portstewart. In 1937, he wrote *The Coronation Waltz*, played at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the coronation of George VI. Jimmy served in the RAF during World War Two and his popular 1939 song, *We're Going to Hang out the Washing on the Siegfried Line*, was used to boost public morale during the war. Jimmy Kennedy was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by the New University of Ulster in 1978.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Bobby Platt (c.1921-2016) was a well-known dance hall promoter responsible for bringing many of the top names to the borough (including Roy Orbison, pictured here with Bobby). However, he was also well

known for his services to rowing. Bobby was involved with the Bann Rowing Club from the 1940s, first as an oarsman and then as a coach. He captained the club in 1959/60 and then again for 10 years from 1972. It was as a coach that Bobby excelled, he was described as inspirational. He coached thousands of young rowers including the Olympians Richard Archibald, Alan Campbell and Richard Chambers and was awarded an MBE in 2006.



Arcadia Ballroom in Portrush, c.1960s.

©Coleraine Museum.



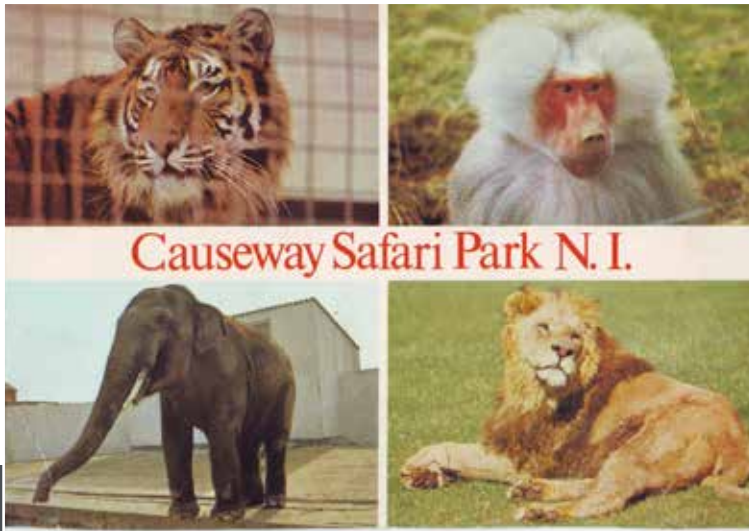
©Chronicle &
Constitution Archive.

Guitarist, singer and songwriter, Henry McCullough (1943-2016) was born in Portstewart. Henry played with local showbands in the 1960s and joined The People before moving to London where they toured with groups like Pink Floyd, The Move, and The Jimi Hendrix Experience. Henry worked with Joe Crocker as a member of his backing band, playing at the Woodstock Festival in 1969. In 1971, Paul McCartney asked Henry to join his new band, Wings. Henry McCullough left Wings after

only two years before joining the Frankie Miller Band and then playing as a session musician with performers such as Roy Harper, Marianne Faithfull and Donovan. After moving back to Northern Ireland in the early 1980s, Henry continued to record and perform until 2012.

Cliff Ledger (1934-2015) was born in Ballymoney. He worked with many of Ireland's most popular showbands during the 1950s and The Cliff Ledger Trio played twice weekly throughout the 1966 summer season in the Ramore Bar, Portrush. He went on to find fame in the UK and America after forming his own group, Cliff Ledger and the Country Boys. His first album *Kentucky in the Morning* was awarded a gold disc in 1977.

In August 1970, 22 lions were released to 'roam the range' in Causeway Coast Lion Park, Benvardin. By the summer of 1971, thousands of people were visiting to see the park's animals which included elephants, monkeys and zebras, before driving through the enclosures that were home to three prides of lions. Wardens patrolled to ensure strict safety measures were adhered to. Pat Stephenson, one of the owners, said, "Trying to stop some of the public doing silly and dangerous things is a full-time job in the Reserve... A plea to window-winders: Please do not make our job more difficult and dangerous than it is."⁴¹



© Ballymoney Museum.

Postcard from the Causeway Safari Park, Benvardin.

41 *Belfast Telegraph*, 17 September 1973

Coleraine's first 'picture house' was in the Orange Hall in Union Street, and the first proper cinema, The Picture Palace, opened on Railway Road on Saturday 7 September 1912. It was remodelled in 1937 and went through several name changes before the building was destroyed in a fire in 1970. The Palladium Cinema, which opened in Society Street in 1934, was completely destroyed in a fire in September 1936 but was rebuilt almost immediately. In April 1937, the management of the cinema withdrew the showing of *Green Pastures* following representations from Coleraine Ministers' Council, and an earlier Council decision allowing the showing was rescinded. When the Jet Centre opened in August 1990 it gave Coleraine its first multi-screen cinema; the Palladium Cinema closed just one week later.



The Jet Centre, Coleraine.



1920s Gaumont cinema projector used for playing black and white, silent films in St Patrick's Hall, Castle Street, Ballymoney.

©Charlie McAfee collection, Ballymoney Museum.



The Palladium Cinema in Portstewart opened in the early 1930s. In 1940 it was listed as having 700 seats but it had closed by the late 1960s.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The Picture House in Portrush opened about 1912, and by the 1930s was advertised as the "most up-to-date and comfortable provincial cinema in Ulster."⁴² The growth of television in the 1960s heralded the end of many cinemas. The Picture House changed owners several times before being re-developed as an amusement arcade. The building was destroyed in an incendiary attack in August 1976.

42 Northern Whig, 28 June 1932

The Portrush Majestic Cinema opened in April 1939, with seating for 400 in the stalls and nearly 400 in the balcony. It was taken over by the Rank Organisation in the 1950s and closed in 1970. The building was reopened in 1977 as the Playhouse Cinema, with a reduced seating capacity, but closed just three years later. It reopened briefly several times over the next 30 years.

Portrush Film Theatre, based in the Majestic, launched in 2015, when a group of enthusiasts formed a non-profit, community-based film society to present regular screenings.



©Ballycastle Museum.

A purpose-built cinema opened in Ballycastle (pictured) in the 1930s and was listed as having 500 seats in 1940. Soon after the cinema opened the consequent congestion led to the police calling for parking to be banned on that part of the street. During World War Two 'Back Stall' seats cost 1s 3d while seats in the 'Pits' were 6d. The Ballycastle Cinema had closed by 1980. Cushendall Cinema opened in 1936, and was used for other events as well such as talks, talent shows and children's Christmas parties, which were still being held in 1959.

Drama

Amateur dramatics has a long history in the borough and many local stars have gone on to find international success. In February 1934, a freshly remodelled Ballymoney Town Hall hosted the first Ballymoney Drama Festival – the oldest of its kind in Ireland. Fifteen societies entered the competitions: Ballymoney Literary and Debating Society presented *Riders to the Sea*, Portrush Amateur Dramatic Society put on *The Helping Hands*, while Dungiven Amateur Players presented *Professor Tim*. George Shiels' comedy, *Mountain Dew*, was presented by the Maghera Players under the auspice of the Drama Festival in April 1934. The festival continued to grow throughout the 1930s but was suspended during the war years. It resumed in 1947 and, in 1953, was extended by three days due to the large number of entries. A special Festival of Britain Trophy was awarded to the Portrush Players for their performance of *Friends and Relations* in the Drama Festival of 1951.



© Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1938.

Portrush Players in the comedy *Yellow Sands*, 1937.

George Shiels (1881-1949) was born in Ballymoney but emigrated to Canada as a young man.



While working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, he was seriously injured in an accident which left him in a wheelchair. Returning to Ballymoney in 1908, he began writing poems and short stories which were published in local newspapers and magazines. He soon moved on to plays, writing for the Ulster Literary Theatre. His plays were accepted by the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and in 1940, a production of *The Rugged Path* set a

theatre record when it played to over 25,000 people over an eight-week period. After a local drama group spiced up one of his scripts with swear words, Shiels banned productions of his plays in Ballymoney – the ban was not lifted until 1950, shortly after his death. The 1958 film, *The Poacher's Daughter* starring Julie Harris was based on Shiels' play *The New Gossoon*.

Coleraine Drama Club, formed in November 1944, staged their first public production in the Town Hall a year later. They took part in Ballymoney Drama Festival for the first time in 1947. The club grew quickly and opened clubrooms in 1949. Ballywillan Drama Group was formed in 1952 and put on their first production in December that year. They staged a mix of pantomimes, plays and musicals in Portrush Town Hall up until 1990. From 1991 to 2001 they staged their performances in Waterworld, then the Riverside Theatre, before they moved back into the refurbished Town Hall.

Flowerfield Arts Centre, in Portstewart, was the first of its kind in Northern Ireland when it opened in 1980. The Arts Centre was extended in 2004 to include a purpose-built 105-seater auditorium, and it now offers performances, exhibitions, and a creative learning centre.

Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre opened in October 2010. Behind the façade of the former Limavady Town Hall, the versatile civic building incorporates a multi-purpose hall, workshop, exhibition and gallery space, and is home to the information centre and Limavady Museum. A full programme of activities including theatre, music, visual arts and heritage exhibitions, film and creative learning opportunities are delivered throughout the year in the centre.

The filming of HBO's 2011–2019 *Game of Thrones* series in Northern Ireland highlighted local acting talent such as Michelle Fairley from Coleraine and Ballycastle's Conleth Hill, as well as creating a whole new tourist trail attracting fans from across the world. Filming locations across Causeway Coast and Glens area include Binevenagh, Downhill Beach, Portstewart Strand, The Dark Hedges, Ballintoy, Larrybane, Fair Head, Murlough Bay and the Cushendun Caves.



Cushendun caves, made world famous in seasons 2 and 8 of HBO's *Game of Thrones*.

©Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services.

Michelle Fairley was born in Coleraine in 1964 and attended the Ulster Youth Theatre as a teenager. Starting her acting career in theatre, she moved to television in the 1990s where she mostly appeared in single episodes of series such as *Casualty*, *Lovejoy*, *The Bill* and *Inspector Morse*. In 2010, Michelle played Hermione Granger's mother in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1*. The following year she appeared in HBO's *Game of Thrones* as Lady Catelyn Stark and was nominated for several awards for her performance. She won the Irish Film and Television Award in 2013. Since her character in *Game of Thrones* was killed off in 2013, Michelle has continued to work in theatre and appear in popular TV series including *Suits*.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

James Nesbitt was born in 1965 and moved to Coleraine in 1976, where he attended Coleraine Academical Institution (CAI). He was a member of CAI's Dramatic Society and became involved with youth drama groups at the Riverside Theatre. James' breakthrough television role came in 1997, when he played Adam Williams in *Cold Feet* (pictured above in 2000). The following year brought his first significant film role in *Waking Ned*, with the cast being nominated for a Screen Actors Guild Award. James played local dentist, Colin Howell, in the mini-series *The Secret*, broadcast in 2016, which dramatised the murder of Leslie Howell and Trevor Buchanan by Colin Howell and Hazel Buchanan. He was awarded an honorary degree of Doctorate of Letters from the University of Ulster in 2003 and was installed as Chancellor of the University in June 2010. James was awarded the OBE in 2016.

Ballycastle born Conleth Hill is best known for his role as Varys in *Game of Thrones*. Conleth's many other television appearances include *Casualty*, *The Bill*, *Suits*, *Foyle's War* and *Doc Martin*. Jayne Wisener was born in Ballymoney and grew up in Coleraine. She played Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* and has appeared in *The Inbetweeners*, *Minders*, *Casualty* and *Doctors*. Bronagh Waugh, from Coleraine, played Cheryl Brady in *Hollyoaks* from 2009 to 2013 and appeared as Kathy Maguire in *Derry Girls*. She starred in the drama series *The Fall* alongside Jamie Dornan. Marcus Hutton, from Limavady, played Nathan Cuddington in *Brookside* from 1998 to 2000. He has also appeared in *Doctor Who*, *Hollyoaks*, *Holby City*, *Made in Dagenham* and more recently *Saint Maud*.

Annual Events

A large number of annual events are held in towns and villages across the Causeway Coast and Glens. Traditionally, many festivals and shows were organised around the agricultural calendar, even the school year fitted with the needs of the farming community in the largely rural borough. More recently they have linked in with the summer tourist season and many now involve local communities in the planning and delivery. This chapter explores many of the borough's events, progressing across the borough from west to east and finishing with visits by Queen Elizabeth II. However, other events can be found elsewhere throughout the book, such as the agricultural shows in Chapter 3, the Lammas Fair – covered in Chapter 5 – and the North West 200, found in Chapter 7.

The Roe Valley

The Danny Boy Jazz and Blues Festival has been a favourite with music lovers since it began in 1997. Top quality local, national and international Jazz and Blues acts perform in a variety of venues around the town centre.



The Stendhal Festival, first held in 2011, is an annual celebration of culture and arts. The festival features a varied programme of music and arts, comedy, painting, sculpture, crafts, and a local food experience, developing opportunities for people to engage with the community and enhance their creative capacity. The festival has continued to grow over the years and is now the largest festival promoter of Northern Ireland's musicians and artists. The organisers also work with many local community groups and schools delivering a range of workshops and activities.

The Bann Valley and The Route

The Festival of Britain was organised in 1951 to promote a feeling of recovery across the United Kingdom in the aftermath of World War Two. Projects and events were run across Northern Ireland; Ulster Transport introduced a new train, *The Festival*, which came into service in May 1951, running between Belfast and Derry-Londonderry.



Commemorative Festival of Britain Teapot.

©Ballymoney Museum.

Ballymoney was reported to have "given a vigorous lead to Northern Ireland provincial towns..."⁴³ when the plans were revealed for an extensive Festival Week programme of events. On 26 June 1951, Ballymoney Rural District Council opened Riada House, the new administrative offices in Charles Street on the site of the former Unitarian Church.

Coleraine's Festival plans, which included the opening of an ornamental rose garden and new playing fields, led to complaints from some councillors that the town "was lagging behind... Ballymoney, Portrush and Portstewart..."⁴⁴

Festival Week in Portstewart included a visit by the frigate HMS *Loch Veyatie* while, in Portrush, the extensive week-long

43 *Ballymena Observer*, 22 September 1950

44 *Londonderry Sentinel*, 3 July 1951

programme of events included drama, sport tournaments, a yacht race, displays by the Portrush Life-Saving Company and the Northern Ireland Fire Authority – all of which was viewed as “a curtain-raiser for the British Open Golf Championship.”⁴⁵



©Derry & Antrim Year
Book, 1952.

As part of the Portrush Festival of Britain celebrations, Parker Avenue was officially opened by Dame Dehra Parker, Minister of Health and Local Government. Also pictured are Mr W. R. Knox, Chairman of Portrush Urban Council and Mr G. McMullan, Vice-Chairman.

More recently, Coleraine Twelfth Festival, a showcase of music, dance, language and drama sharing the heritage and culture of Ulster Scots and the Orange Order with the wider community, was first held in July 2006. The programme of events, many of which are staged in the town centre, include family events and talks and walks highlighting the rich history of Coleraine and the surrounding area.

45 *Belfast News-Letter*, 26 June 1951

River Fest, first held in 2007, brought together a range of water sport activities on the Lower Bann in Coleraine, encouraging people to become involved in waterway recreation. Events include jet skiing, sailing, rowing and wakeboarding, and the event hosted the European and African Wakeboard Championships in 2016.



©Tommy Collins.

Kilrea's annual Fairy Thorn Festival was a family favourite of the 1990s stirring memories of 5p ice-creams in the summer sun. The festival was named after the town's Fairy Thorn tree which stands just outside the front wall of First Kilrea Presbyterian Church.

Portrush staged a varied annual programme of entertainment from the 1920s to the 1960s, including firework displays and concerts. In 1954, seventeen bands took part in the North of Ireland Bands Association's open-air championships when they were held on Ramore Head for the first time.



The Portrush Raft Race was held in West Bay for the first time in May 1982 as a fund-raising event for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RLNI). There were 39 rafts that first year and the event raised over £3,000. The Raft Race continued to grow over the years and is now a weekend event which includes a junior raft race, kayaking, music, games and stalls.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The first Portrush airshow was organised in 2002 as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee year. The show that year included RAF and Irish Air Corps aircraft including a Tornado, a Nimrod, Falcons and a Dauphin. The following year the event was extended over two days - called the Northern Ireland Air Spectacular, it included a flypast by the Red Arrows, who were to become annual visitors. Another name change followed in 2004 when it became the Northern Ireland International Airshow.



The RAF Red Arrows at Airwaves Portrush in 2015.

©Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

The 2013 airshow was the last to be held on West Strand and, in 2014, moved to the new venue on East Strand under the new name, Airwaves Portrush. In addition to hosting international display teams over the years, the airshow has also included wing-walkers, search and rescue displays, glider acrobatic displays and parachute display teams. The event has also featured the final flights of several iconic aircraft in Northern Ireland including the Avro Vulcan in 2015 and the RAF Tucano in 2016.



The poppy drop and Royal British Legion WWI Commemoration at Airwaves Portrush in 2014. An Act of Remembrance and poppy drop organised by the Royal British Legion's Group 10 were first introduced in 2011.

©Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

The airshow was cancelled in 2020 due to funding issues, however, a proposal has been put forward to "develop a new International Causeway Airshow"⁴⁶ to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

46 <http://thisisflight.net/2021/01/05/council-to-vote-on-reviving-portrush-airshow-in-2022-to-mark-queens-platinum-jubilee/>

First held in 2013, Pirates Off Portrush has grown to become a two-day festival with events including dance, drama, a heritage fair and artisan market. The festival re-enacts the legends of Scottish pirate, Tavish Dhu, who wreaked havoc in the Irish Sea during the 14th century, and whose treasure is said to be buried on the Skerries.

The annual Chaghera Sunday event in Portstewart had evolved from a fair said to rival Ballycastle's Oul Lammas Fair. Held on the last Sunday in September, it marked the end of the harvest and the summer season. Thousands of visitors descended on the town. Many people from the rural areas of South Londonderry travelled to the event in special trains that were put on for the occasion. The closure of the Derry Central Railway in August 1951 was said to have heralded the decline of Chaghera Sunday.

Portstewart Carnival, first held in 1968, was taken over by Portstewart Community Association in 1972. "Thousands of holiday-makers lined the promenade in Portstewart... to watch the fancy dress parade which marked the opening of a month long carnival and festival."⁴⁷ That first year included big-name showbands, the Ulster Orchestra and poetry reading by Seamus Heaney, in the wide ranging programme of events. Twenty years later, in 1992, Portstewart's first fireworks display in 40 years was held as part of the carnival. The carnival was rebranded as Red Sails Festival in 2000, and the week-long programme of events attracts thousands of visitors to 'the Port'.

Truckfest, was first held in 2015, in the North West 200 pits area between Portrush and Portstewart. The truck convoy around the NW200 circuit attracts hundreds of trucks from across Northern Ireland each year.

Named for the Armada shipwreck recovered off the nearby Lacada Point, the Girona Maritime Festival was first held in July

2019 and delivered a varied programme of events celebrating the maritime heritage of Portballintrae. Events include music, boating activities, water sports, a swimming relay race, a sea safari, pavement art, crab fishing, crafts, historical talks and a walking tour to Lacada point.

Ballycastle, Rathlin and The Glens

Ballycastle's most famous festival – the Lammas Fair – is dealt with in more detail in Chapter 5. First organised in 2001, the Marconi Festival is held on the seafront near the monument which marks Marconi's experiments establishing the first commercial radio signal sent from Ballycastle to Rathlin Island in 1898. The annual festival includes events such as music, dance, a vintage car and tractor display, tug-o-war, and an artisan market featuring local food and drink.

Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival is an annual celebration of the local maritime history of the North Antrim Coast, in particular Rathlin Sound – the body of water between Ballycastle and Rathlin Island. The festival was first held in 2013 and its events, spread between Rathlin and Ballycastle, include a sailing regatta, music, walks, talks, sports and a local food event.



Paddy Bloomer's mobile bandstand in Church Bay during the 2018 Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival.

©Sue McBean.

Cushendun Big Arts Weekend began in 2013. Held at the beginning of May, over the years the four-day event has included music, art, poetry, drama, history, talks, walks, exhibitions and family fun. Many of the events are now held in the Old Church Centre which opened in 2019. Cushendun Old Church, built in 1840 for the Church of Ireland, was deconsecrated in 2003, and has been restored for use as an arts, heritage and community centre.



Inspired by the Feis na nGleann the Heart of the Glens Festival was established in Cushendall in 1990 with musical, cultural and sporting events including a street ceilidh and the 3.5 mile run to the top of Lurigethan. One of the most popular events of the 1993 festival was the record-breaking longest Waves of Tory with 3,140 participants. The festival has grown over the years to become one of the largest community festivals in Northern Ireland.

Royal Visits

The Queen and Prince Philip visited Northern Ireland in July 1953 where they undertook a whistle stop train journey across the country. The royal train was driven by Ballymoney man Joseph Shiels. On arrival in Ballymoney the Queen was presented with "a bound volume containing the greetings of the people of Ballymoney and a History of the Descent of Her Majesty from the Kings of Dalriada."⁴⁸ In Coleraine, the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were greeted by a crowd of 8,000 people, including 1,800 school children. She also met with disabled ex-servicemen including Bushmills man, Robert Quigg VC, whose gallantry during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 had made him a national hero.



© Ballymoney Museum.

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip at Ballymoney train station, 1953.

As the royal train continued on its journey to Derry-Londonderry, it stopped at Downhill where lunch was served before a formal welcome at R.A.F. *Ballykelly* by service personnel. As the train left Ballykelly, "the last of the smart Air Force men had scarcely been passed when a tractor dashed across a field cheekily. It bore a Union Jack and... raced the train for quite a few yards before the driver gave up the unequal struggle with a cheery wave of the hand."⁴⁹

Coleraine Borough Council also staged a full programme of events in June 1977 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Events were held in Coleraine, Portstewart, Portrush, Portballintrae, Castlerock and Kilrea. Communities across Causeway Coast and Glens area organised street parties and a "Fire of Friendship" at Dunluce Castle, was beamed live by the BBC to the grounds of Windsor Castle where it was watched by the Queen and members of the Royal Family.



Residents from Kylemore Road, Coleraine, celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

In August that year, the Queen visited the New University of Ulster as part of her Jubilee tour and officially opened the Riverside Theatre. That evening the Queen hosted a reception on board the Royal Yacht *Britannia* anchored off Portrush.

49 *Northern Whig*, 4 July 1953.

Accompanied by the Duke of York, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, she met invited guests including Dr Ray Davey, the founder of Corrymeela. Heavy security surrounded the Royal Visit, ships and a submarine were deployed offshore, while the RUC, UDR and army conducted a major land operation. As the royal yacht was leaving Portrush, a bomb exploded in the grounds of the New University of Ulster but caused little damage.



©Maurice Bradley.

In June 2007, the Queen and Prince Philip attended a garden party at the University of Ulster in Coleraine, hosted by the Secretary of State Peter Hain, in recognition of the work of the community and voluntary sector (pictured above). A last-minute replacement posy of roses, supplied by Jim Bell Florists, was presented to the Queen by 10-year-old Robyn McNutt. Leslie Cole, a volunteer with Riding for the Disabled, who was attending the garden party, recalled an incident from the 1977 Silver Jubilee visit "...some of the garden party guests had taken ill and there was a worry that they'd been poisoned. It turned out the sandwiches had been left out in the heat too long..."⁵⁰

In 2014, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip returned to Coleraine where they met members of the Royal British Legion and laid a wreath at the war memorial in memory of Irish soldiers who died during World War One. Two years later, in 2016, after visiting the Giant's Causeway, the Queen unveiled a statue of the World War One soldier, Robert Quigg VC, in Bushmills. Repeating part of her 1953 journey, the Queen travelled by steam train from Coleraine to Bellarena, where she officially opened the new railway station.



©Maurice Bradley.

Queen Elizabeth II laying a wreath at the Coleraine war memorial, 2014.



Chapter 5

Culture, Arts and Heritage

Home to the oldest known settlement on the island of Ireland, and with strong cultural links to the southwest of Scotland, the Causeway Coast and Glens is steeped in tradition and renowned for its long history.

Culture

Claiming to be the oldest continually running event on the island, Ballycastle's Lamma Fair has been celebrated since Medieval times to mark the beginning of a new season of harvests. The origins of the fair are unclear but it seems to have already been in place before the occupation of the Glens of Antrim and the Route by the Scottish MacDonnells in the 16th century.

In the late nineteenth century, inhabitants of the Hebrides rowed over in shallops (small fishing boats mainly used in coastal waters) with packs of dried cod and ling. "Gaelic was commonly spoken at the time, and the speech of the men of Islay was easily understood."⁵¹ By 1923, the week-long festival had been reduced to just two days, but attractions included swing-boats, shooting galleries and fancy wares; it was reported that the roulette tables did a roaring business.⁵²



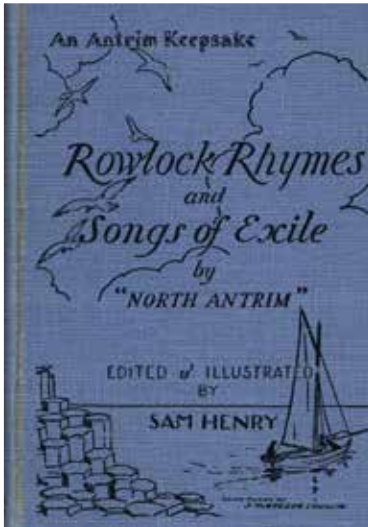
©Ballycastle Museum.

A postcard depicting stalls and people at the Aul Lamma Fair, Ballycastle, c.1930s.

⁵¹ *Belfast News-Letter*, 25 August 1931

⁵² *Ballymoney Free Press*, 6 September 1923

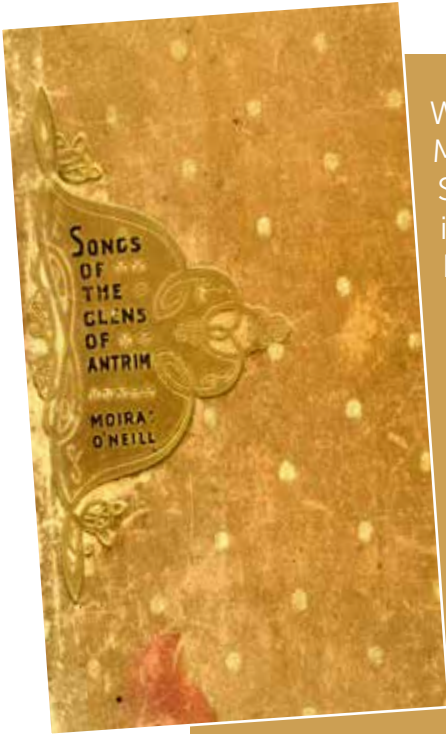
In 1947, the water supply to Ballycastle was suddenly cut off during the Lamma Fair. "The water stoppage, apparently a precautionary measure inspired by the long drought, sent hundreds of caterers and all the town's public-houses into a panic when their taps suddenly went dry."⁵³ The Lamma Fair, which continues to attract thousands of visitors every year, was cancelled for the first time in its recorded history in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.



©Courtesy The Scotti Rooms.

There is a tradition of Ulster Scots poetry and prose dating back to at least the 18th century with Elizabeth Elder, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister at Aghadowey, being one of the few women poets whose work has survived. Many poems and songs from the Ulster Scots tradition have been preserved in Sam Henry's *Songs of the People* collection, as well as other

publications such as the 1933 *Rowlock Rhymes* (pictured). A recent revival in the writing of vernacular prose led local poets like Wilson Burgess from Aghadowey, Charlie Gillen from Dervock, Charlie Reynolds from Benvarden, and Liam Logan from Ballymoney, to publish many poems in their native tongue. Often they have used the language also to preserve the traditions they experienced while growing up in an Ulster Scots speaking heartland.



Writing under the pen name of Moira O'Neill, Agnes Higginson Skrine (1864-1955), was born in Mauritius but spent most of her life between Canada and Cushendun where she wrote ballads and other poetry. Her *Songs of the Glens of Antrim* (pictured) was published in 1900, followed by *More Songs of the Glens of Antrim* in 1921, and *Collected Poems* in 1933.

Author and poet Damian Gorman, who lived in the Glens, has been honoured

with many awards for his work. Damian was appointed the fourth and final national/international resident artist of the Theatre Peacebuilding Academy in Northern Ireland. He was commissioned to write a poem on the 20th anniversary of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in 2018, and the following year he was invited to write a poem marking 50 years since the start of the Troubles. Damian was awarded the MBE in 1998 for his services to the Arts as a playwright and poet. He has a love for the Irish language, and his interest in the Ulster Scots language was reflected in his BBC documentary *A Quare Tongue*.

The Feis na nGleann, also known as the Glens Feis, was originally founded in 1904 but, after a short lapse, was revived in 1928. Held in Cushendall, the 1928 festival included a series of cultural events including music, dance, traditional arts, storytelling and athletics; over 700 competitors took part. The 1928 champion challenge hurling match between North and South Antrim was held as part of the Glens Feis and drew a large crowd. The 2004 centenary celebrations of the Feis na nGleann in Glenariff saw over two thousand visitors to the Arts and Crafts section alone and the festival continues as an annual highlight of the Glens calendar.



Poster for the 1940 Feis na nGleann.

©Ballycastle Museum.

The Fleadh Cheoil (festival of music) is an All-Ireland festival run by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann with qualification events being run at a county level. Ballycastle, Rasharkin and Dunloy have hosted the Antrim Fleadh and Limavady and Dungiven have both hosted the Fleadh Cheoil Dhoire; the 2011 Ulster Fleadh was also held at Dungiven.

In August 1966, the All-Ulster championship of the Royal Scottish Pipe Bands Association (RSPBA) was held for the first time in Portrush. The *Belfast Telegraph* reported a record number of entries. Despite being cancelled in 1969 due to security concerns, the popularity of the pipe band championships endured and grew, attracting thousands of visitors to the annual event.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The Royal Scottish Pipe Bands Association All-Ulster championship in Portrush, 1966.

At the 1980 RSPBA event, Mr E. Morelli offered a special prize of £100 for the best marching band through the town. Almost 1,200 bandsmen, marched in a long line of 55 bands, drawn from all over the province, which nearly encircled the town; the pipe band of the RUC won the Morelli prize.

An appeal was made to the RSPBA to return to Portrush in 1981 as "the event was proving one of the best attractions to visitors."⁵⁴ The annual event continued to attract thousands to Portrush on what had become one of the highlights of the town's calendar.

The latter part of the 20th century saw renewed efforts to preserve and promote Irish traditions in the area. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (Society of the Musicians of Ireland), founded in 1951, is dedicated to the promotion of traditional Irish music, song, dance, as well as language. Local branches have been

54 *Belfast Telegraph*, 4 August 1980

established in Dungiven, the Roe Valley, Ballycastle, Dunloy, Rasharkin, and the Glens of Antrim, and play an active role in preserving traditional music, language and dance in the region.

Glór na nGael (Voice of the Gaels) was established in 1961 to promote the Irish language within families and through community development and business across the island of Ireland. Local branches have been established in Ballycastle (Glór na Maoile), Dungiven (Glór Dhún Geimhin), and Limavady (Glór Leím an Mhadaidh) to encourage the knowledge and use of Irish through language classes, ceilidhs, concerts and youth events.



Tommy McGoldrick (1930-2019) was born near Rasharkin. He was an accomplished musician who taught fiddle through Dunloy Comhaltas and won the All-Ireland Fiddle Championship in 1981. Tommy was also a self-taught artist whose exceptional Irish landscapes are housed in private and public collections in Canada, the Middle East, USA, Australia and many parts of Europe.

The strong Scottish connection within communities across the borough has always been evident in music and dance activity in the area. There have been branches of the Scottish Country Dance Society in the borough since the 1950s and, over the years, the interest in Ulster Scots heritage has continued to grow. Community radio station, fUSE FM (For Ulster Scots Enthusiasts), based in Ballymoney, broadcasts to a worldwide audience online. The Ulster-Scots Community Network (USCN) was established in 1995 as an umbrella organisation to promote awareness and understanding of the Ulster Scots tradition in history, language and culture.



©Maurice Bradley.

The mass pipe band which led the 2017 Cancer Research parade in Garvagh. The annual Cancer Research fund-raising parade, first held in the early 1960s, attracts large crowds every year and raises thousands of pounds annually.



©Sam Henry collection,
Coleraine Museum.

Pensions and Excise Officer, Sam Henry (1878-1952), published a popular column, *Songs of the People*, in the *Northern Constitution* from 1923 to 1939. As Sam travelled around the country in his work, he collected folk songs in English, Ulster Scots and Irish from the people he met (including Cloyfin woman Mrs Brownlow, pictured here with Sam in the 1930s). Although possibly best known as a folklorist, Sam was also a talented photographer, lecturer, broadcaster, antiquarian, genealogist and author.

Under the terms of the 1998 Belfast Agreement, the Ulster Scots Agency was established as part of the North/South Language Body to promote the conservation and use of Ulster Scots as a living language, to develop the full range of its attendant culture and to promote an understanding of the history of the Ulster Scots.

Cuil Rathain Historical and Cultural Centre in Coleraine opened in 2010. The centre has extensive Ulster Scots material available including research facilities and a reference library, as well as a permanent exhibition of items relating to World War One, more recent conflicts, Royal memorabilia and the Loyal Orders.



Dr William Forbes Marshall (1888-1959) was the minister of Castlerock Presbyterian Church from 1928 until his retirement in December 1954. A pioneer in the study of Ulster's language and dialect, he was widely known as a scholar, poet, playwright, novelist and broadcaster. In 1943, he published *Ulster Sails West*, the story of the 18th century emigration from Ulster to America and outlined the part played by Ulstermen in the development of the United States.

Stained glass window courtesy Castlerock Presbyterian Church.

For many decades, the unsettled political situation in Northern Ireland meant that the country was relatively unaffected by the larger patterns of immigration into Britain and the Republic of Ireland in the second half of the 20th century. Until the 1990s, the numbers of people leaving Northern Ireland far exceeded the numbers who came to live here.



An Indian bridegroom and his neighbours preparing for a wedding in Coleraine in 1996.

©Narinder Kapur.

Despite the Troubles, historic links with India through the British colonial administration, and later through the Commonwealth, have meant that small communities from south Asia have long been established within the borough. Small-scale immigration from China began in the early 1960s, principally from the hinterland around Hong Kong.

More recently, and following the enlargement of the European Union in 2004, larger numbers of eastern Europeans moved to Northern Ireland. The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), launched in 2014, has seen small numbers of refugees, fleeing war and persecution, settled within the borough and warmly welcomed by the local residents.

The opening up of Northern Ireland to a multicultural society has added richly to the layers of culture and identity within the borough.

Arts

There are strong traditions of performing and creative arts across the Causeway Coast and Glens. The area is home to artists working in a range of mediums and the landscape has long been inspiration for artists, poets and writers.

Working in plaster, exhibits by Mrs Pleasance Moore-Brown, of Portstewart, featured in the Royal Society of Arts exhibition in London in May 1923, with two of her exhibits being purchased by Queen Mary. Pleasance also worked on the detailing of war memorials which “evoked commendation... from the highest authorities.” The same newspaper report continued “It is, perhaps, her work in bas-relief portraiture... gives beautiful expression to that art which is the visible demonstration of genius.”⁵⁵

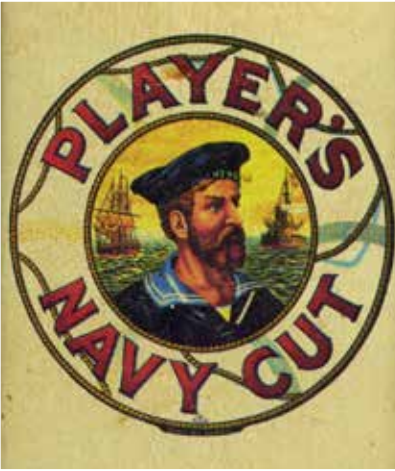
In October 1948, Coleraine Art Society was formed, and they held their first exhibition in Coleraine Town Hall just a month later. By 1954, over 90% of the exhibits in the Society's exhibition were by local artists.



© Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1952.

Lady Brooke at the opening of the annual exhibition of Coleraine Art Society in 1951.

55 Northern Whig, 26 May 1923



©Coleraine Museum.

Born in Coleraine, Arthur David McCormick (1860-1943) was a notable illustrator and painter. A fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, he worked in many parts of the world, including Africa, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and India. In 1927, McCormick was commissioned

by John Player & Sons to paint the famous 'Head of a Sailor' for use on their cigarette packets.



©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1923.

Coleraine Shirt and Collar Factory Choir, 1922, Cup winners at Coleraine and Ballymena Music Festivals.

Throughout the 1920s, membership of choirs was a common pastime and a local highlight. Many workplaces formed choirs, including Gribbon's factory, the Shirt and Collar factory and Stanleigh's factory in Coleraine. The annual concert held by Coleraine Orchestral Society was one of the social highlights of the year and, by 1921, increasing numbers of entries led to Coleraine Music Festival (first held in 1909) being extended over two days. The festival continued to grow and by 1929 it had become a four-day event.



©Coleraine Museum.

Killowen Male Voice Choir (pictured here in 1929), formed in 1922, competed in local festivals and further afield, including Dublin and Glasgow, with great success. The choir's first conductor was Freeman Wills Crofts, the acclaimed mystery author, best remembered for his character Inspector Joseph French who first appeared in Croft's fifth book, *Inspector French's Greatest Case*, in 1924.

Irish dancing is popular across the borough with classes being held in many towns and villages. Ballymoney, Coleraine, Portstewart and Portrush all held Irish Dancing Festivals. In 1934 three sessions at Coleraine Music Festival were devoted to folk-dancing, with various classes including Jigs, Reels and Hornpipes. In 1993, The Gillian School of Irish Dancing (Dunloy and Belfast) carried off the An Coimisiún All-Ireland Senior Figure Dancing Championship, while the Portstewart based Innova Irish Dance Company were semi-finalists in ITV's *Britain's Got Talent* in 2014.

1960s Irish dancing dress belonging to Jean Tennant (nee Graham). Jean set up the Graham School of Dancing and started the Ballymoney Irish Dancing Festival in 1960.

©Ballymoney Museum.



Samuel and Diane Greer from Bushmills in 1991 with some of the Irish Dancing trophies and medals they won.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Karen McCamphill from Dunloy won the Senior Ladies class to become the 1993 British National Champion in Irish Dancing in Manchester (pictured). Karen was in the original troupe of Michael Flatley's 1996 *Lord of the Dance* show. She joined the other dancers to recreate one of the production's most iconic routines from their homes during the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, dedicating it to medical personnel and essential front-line services.

Heritage

Significant archaeological discoveries have been made across the Causeway Coast and Glens over the last 100 years, many as unintended consequences of ongoing farming activity and building developments. These recent discoveries have allowed us a much better understanding of the area's more distant past.

In April 1956, remnants of clothing were found during peat cutting on the Dungiven farm of William Dickson. Dating to the early 17th century, the clothing included a large semi-circular woollen cloak, a woollen jacket, fragments of a pair of tartan trews and pieces of a leather belt and shoes. The so-called Dungiven Costume offers a rare glimpse of the clothing worn 400 years ago and shows a mixture of Irish, English and Scottish influences.



The Bann Drainage Scheme commenced in 1930, with the aim of preventing seasonal flooding along the River Bann. The so-called Bann Disc, a decorative disc of bronze, was discovered during the ongoing dredging works in 1939 near the Loughan Island. It is now recognised as one of the most outstanding pieces of metalwork surviving from the Iron Age (dating to between 100 BC - AD 100).

© National Museums NI, Ulster Museum Collection (BELUM.A5008).



Andrew Dooley (1870-1943) was a Ballymoney councillor, a prominent Irish language scholar and involved in the foundation of the first Feis na nGleann. In 1935 he allowed archaeologists from Queen's University, Belfast, to excavate a prehistoric burial monument on his land at Ballymacaldrick near Dunloy. Commonly known as Dooley's Cairn, the monument (pictured) is the best preserved Neolithic court tomb in the Causeway Coast and Glens. Dating to the period 3800-2500 BC, it was used as the burial place of at least five individuals.

©Causeway Museum Service.

When the Belgian maritime archaeologist Robert Sténuît found a lead ingot on the seabed off Port-na-Spania near Portballintrae in June 1967, he recognised it as evidence for a shipwreck dating to the time of the Spanish Armada. Believing he had found the wreck site of the galleass *La Girona*, he organised a salvage expedition the following year.

The salvage operation was completed in 1970 and a court decided that the finds valued at £132,000 should stay in Northern Ireland, where they remain as a key part of the Ulster Museum's exhibitions. One of the most noteworthy pieces recovered from the *Girona* was a gold salamander set with rubies. The *La Girona*, sank in October 1588 with 1300 people on board; only nine men survived. An estimated 260 sailors are buried in an unmarked grave at St Cuthbert's Church, Dunluce. A memorial stone, featuring a salamander, was unveiled at the graveyard in 2017.



©National Museums NI, Ulster Museum Collection (BELUM.BGR.1).

The 16th century gold salamander pendant set with rubies recovered from the wreck of the *La Girona*.

In 1973, an archaeological dig on the site of a housing development at Mountsandel revealed evidence of an early settlement. Dating back almost 10,000 years to the early Mesolithic period (around 7,800 BC), the Mountsandel site is the earliest known settlement in Ireland. Small flint tools had been found in the area previously, but the excavations led by Peter Woodman uncovered a wealth of information providing an insight into what Mesolithic man's life was like – the houses he lived in and the food he ate. The location of the settlement was ideal with the surrounding forests and nearby river providing a bountiful supply of food. Peter Woodman also uncovered evidence of early Mesolithic occupation at nearby Castleroe, while a large number of flints were found during the construction of Drumaheglis marina, indicating a slightly later Mesolithic settlement.



©Coleraine Museum.

Peter Woodman's excavations at Mountsandel.



The Derrykeighan Stone, dating from the Iron Age (300 BC – AD 400), was discovered in 1977. The beautifully carved stone was found during renovation work at Derrykeighan's 17th century church. It was replaced with a replica and the original sent to the Ulster Museum for further study. Richard Warner, Assistant Keeper of Antiquities at the Ulster Museum at the time, said the stone must have been brought from somewhere nearby and re-used as building material when the Derrykeighan Old Church was being renovated. The only

La Tène style carved stone in Northern Ireland, and one of only five in the whole of the island, the Derrykeighan Stone is part of the permanent exhibition at Ballymoney Museum.



© Ballycastle Museum.

Mrs Frances Riddel, from Belfast, set up a toy making industry in Ballycastle. The workshop was closed by the outbreak of World War One but the shop, An Tuirne Beag (The Little Spinning Wheel) remained open. In 1983 the Kelly sisters, nieces of Stephen Clarke (one of the managers and wood carving tutors), retired and the contents of the shop, rescued by the efforts of Cathal Dallat among others, was donated to Moyle District Council and accessioned into Ballycastle Museum's

Collection. The Irish Home Industries Collection contains the magnificent Taisie Banner from the first Feis na nGleann in 1904, as well as a Chinese Puzzle (pictured), attributed to Stephen Clarke, a model spinning wheel, a model dresser, among other interesting objects.

The UK joined the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) scheme in 1986, the same year the Giant's Causeway was announced as a World Heritage Site. Described by UNESCO as "a spectacle of exceptional beauty",⁵⁶ the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site takes in a 30 mile stretch of the North Antrim coastline. The National Trust had taken over the care of the Giant's Causeway site in the early 1960s, and officially opened the site in 1963. A new state of the art visitor's centre was opened in July 2012,

⁵⁶ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/369/>

replacing the original centre which was destroyed in a fire in 2000. Walks and trails were upgraded, and an accessible cliff-top walk was added as part of the work. Almost one million people from all over the world visit the Giant's Causeway every year.



Courtesy Aaron Callan.

The National Trust extended into Northern Ireland in 1936. Maurice Marcus McCausland (1872-1938), Ulster's representative on the National Trust Council, was appointed chairman of the advisory committee. The first site in Northern Ireland acquired by the National Trust was Rough Fort, the site of a rath (or ringfort) just outside Limavady, which was gifted to them by Mr McCausland in 1937.

In 2002, in preparation for a new housing development along Hopefield Road, Portrush, archaeological excavations uncovered evidence of an extensive prehistoric settlement. In what has been described as "a truly ground-breaking archaeological discovery",⁵⁷ evidence was found for over 70 houses linked by cobbled paths, forming the largest Middle Bronze Age settlement known in Ireland or Britain. Known as the Corrstown settlement, the houses, dating to around 1500 BC, may be part of an even larger settlement. Evidence was also found for Medieval occupation at the same site.

57 Coleraine Times website (12/03/2015), <https://www.colerainetimes.co.uk/news/anger-over-bronze-age-village-2594575>



Through the support of Heritage Lottery Fund, National Art Collections Fund and Northern Ireland Museums Council, Coleraine Museum acquired a definitive collection of Hugh Thomson's artworks and books in 2005.

Born in Coleraine, Hugh Thomson (1860-1920) is considered to be one of the best illustrators of his time. He illustrated books written by Charles Dickens, J.M. Barrie, William Shakespeare and Jane Austen. The image above is a Hugh Thomson watercolour study for Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

The 400th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charters for Limavady (March 1613) and Coleraine (June 1613) was marked by a series of events in 2013. In Limavady the programme included sporting events, a photographic exhibition by Desmond Loughery, and a world record attempt when the pupils of St Mary's High School brought 400 voices into the Square to sing Danny Boy.

The Brighter Gold, an Iron Age treasure found in a field near Limavady in 1896, now on permanent display in the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, was exhibited in the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre in November 2013. Events in Coleraine included an exhibition, historical town tours and the launch of a new heritage trail.



© Limavady Museum.

The gold torc from the Brighter Hoard being installed as part of the Brighter exhibition at the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre in 2013.

A Museum of Celtic Antiquities had opened in Ballymoney's old town hall (now the Masonic Hall) in 1860. In 1992, the museum moved to 33 Charlotte Street and then, as part of the refurbishment and extension of Ballymoney Town Hall, to its present location in March 2006. As well as local resources

and temporary exhibits, the museum's permanent exhibition tells the story of the area including local prehistory, the 1798 Rebellion, local involvement in two World Wars, the Corfield Camera factory and the history of Road Racing in Ireland. After nearly 150 years, it is one of the best provincial museums in Ireland and holds a wonderful collection of artefacts, film and photographs, some of which have been recognised as of national importance.

Four other Council-run museums are located across the Borough. Ballycastle Museum (in the listed 18th century courthouse and market building on Castle Street) explores the fascinating history of the Irish Home Industries workshop, its role in the 1904 St Louis World Fair and the Arts and Crafts Revival in Ireland, as well as Bronze Age archaeology, Ballycastle's 18th century industrial history; the collection also includes the magnificent Taise Banner from the 1904 Feis na nGleann. The collection of Green Lane Museum, in the Roe Valley Country Park, focuses on 19th and 20th century life in the Roe Valley, while Limavady Museum (in the Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre) encourages visitors to explore different aspects of the history of Limavady and the local area. Coleraine Museum stages exhibitions in Coleraine Town Hall where visitors can learn about the story of Mountsandel, the history of Coleraine as the first Planted town 400 years ago, as well as collections focused on Hugh Thomson, Sam Henry, the Coleraine Battery and more. With an extensive collection supporting a rich and important history, different themes from the collection are explored through a range of temporary exhibitions.

Garvagh Museum and Heritage Centre, home to the largest permanently displayed museum collection in the borough, includes exhibits covering many aspects of bygone rural and domestic life. The growing community interest in heritage is reflected in local collections such as the Rathlin Boat House, the World War One reflection room in Ballymaconnelly Orange Hall and Limavady Orange Heritage Centre.



Chapter 6

The Impact of Global Conflicts on the Causeway Coast and Glens

In the 1920s the impact of the Great War continued to be felt across the borough. Nearly 700 men, both Protestant and Catholic, lost their lives and the huge loss suffered was marked with the unveiling of war memorials in many villages and towns, as well as memorial scrolls and windows in schools, churches and factories.

The Impact of World War One

Memorials were unveiled in Bushmills and Aghadowey in November 1921, and representatives from Limavady attended the dedication of the Ulster Memorial Tower at Thiepval later that month.

In March 1922, Limavady War Memorial Institute was opened by Major General Sir Oliver Nugent (commander of the 36th Ulster Division from 1915 to 1918), with another War Memorial Institute opened in Dervock that same year. A war memorial tablet at Coleraine Academical Institution was unveiled in 1922, listing the names of past pupils and staff who had volunteered during World War One; 64 of whom were killed. Over the following years, war memorials were unveiled in other towns and villages, including Coleraine, Portrush, Garvagh, Portstewart, Kilrea and Ballycastle.



©Coleraine Museum.

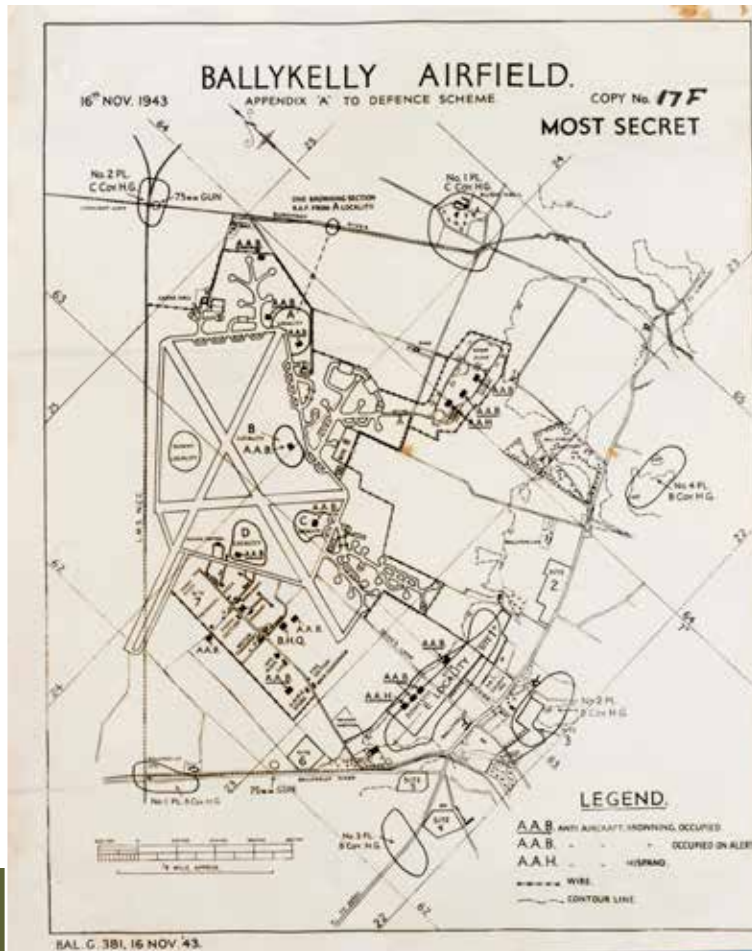
The unveiling of Portstewart War Memorial, 1925.

World War Two and The Cold War

With the outbreak of World War Two in 1939, men and women from across the borough, including veterans of the First World War, volunteered for service in all branches of the armed forces. The area played a key role in the Battle of the Atlantic (the longest continuous military campaign of World War Two) and airfields were opened at Limavady, Ballykelly and Aghadowey. RAF *Limavady* was the first RAF Coastal Command airfield to be constructed on the north coast. The airfield at Aghanloo, opened in 1940, and was used by aircraft on U-boat patrols. Operational flying ceased in 1942 and it was used as a pilot training centre for several years before anti-submarine patrols resumed in 1944. The airfield, which closed in 1945, had a high accident rate, contributed to by bad weather and the proximity of Binevenagh Mountain.

RAF *Ballykelly* opened in June 1941 as a base for RAF Coastal Command, flying U-boat patrols and escort flights for North Atlantic convoys. In 1943 the main runway was extended across the railway line and rules were put in place giving trains the right of way over landing aircraft. RAF marine craft were first stationed in Northern Ireland during the war. A unit from RAF *Ballykelly* was based at Portrush to train air crews specifically for marine aircraft and maritime operations. RAF *Ballykelly* was closed at the end of World War Two but was reopened in 1947 as the home of the Joint Anti-Submarine School. The base was used by aircraft including Lancasters and Shackletons for anti-submarine patrols.

RAF *Mullaghmore*, Aghadowey, opened in 1941-42 as an RAF training station before being taken over by the US Army Air Force as a combat crew replacement centre. Mullaghmore played a vital role in preparations for D-Day and, in December



©Limavady Museum.

1942 plan of Ballykelly airfield marked 'Most Secret'.

1943, a huge hangar was used to dry water-logged parachutes which were urgently needed for the planned Normandy invasion. The airfield was returned to the RAF when the American bombers and transport aircraft left just before D-Day and, like Limavady and Ballykelly, became a Coastal Command base before its closure in 1946.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

In 1971, operational flying came to an official end at RAF *Ballykelly*. The RAF's 30-year association with the base ended at a ceremony to mark the closure on 2 June, when the RAF Ensign was lowered while two trumpeters played the Retreat. Pictured is Air Marshal Sir Robert Craven, Officer Commanding Maritime Air Forces, inspecting members of 204 Squadron at the ceremony marking the end of operational flying at RAF *Ballykelly* on 31 March 1971. The site was handed over to the Army as Shackleton Barracks.

Six Beamish siblings from Coleraine: Victor, George, Charles, Cecil, Eileen and Kathleen all served in the Royal Air Force during World War Two, setting a record in the RAF and earning them the nickname 'The Flying Beamishes'.

Group Captain Charles Beamish was an outstanding fighter pilot during the war and played rugby for Ireland several times. Air Vice-Marshal Cecil Howard Beamish went on to become Honorary Dental Surgeon to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from 1969 to 1973. Eileen and Kathleen Beamish both attained the rank of Flight Lieutenant.



©IWM CH 12942

Flight Lieutenant
Kathleen Beamish.



©IWM CH 12943

Flight Lieutenant
Eileen Beamish.

Group Captain Francis Victor Beamish joined the RAF in 1921. He was invalided out in the early 1930s, suffering from tuberculosis but fought his way back to fitness, re-joining the RAF before the outbreak of World War Two. Victor, who served as station commander at North Weald, flew 126 sorties during the Battle of Britain in 1940 and was decorated three times for his courage. He insisted on flying operationally saying, "I cannot send these boys to do anything I wouldn't do myself." He was killed in action over the English Channel in March 1942.



Air-Marshal Sir George Beamish (1905-1967), saw action in the Battle of Crete, the Desert War and the Sicily Campaign before

becoming Air ADC to King George VI. George was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1955. Like his brothers, he was a keen sportsman; he played rugby for Ireland 25 times and captained the British and Irish team in 1958. Sir George was High Sheriff of County Londonderry in 1962.



© IWM CH 1871.

Wing Commander Anthony Lovell (1919-1945) from Portrush (pictured second from the left) joined the RAF in 1937 and trained as a pilot. Tony, who was shot down twice during the Battle of Britain, achieved 'Ace' status and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) twice. His 1942 citation read: "This officer is a fearless and skilful fighter pilot. His keenness to engage the enemy, combined with fine leadership, both in the air and on the ground, have set an inspiring example." Tony was also twice awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and the American DFC. He returned to England as a flight instructor and was killed in August 1945 when his Spitfire crashed whilst doing acrobatics. Tony's older brother, Flight Lieutenant Stuart Lovell, had been killed in action in France the previous year.



©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1954.

William Harbison (1922-2018) spent his childhood in Garvagh and Kilrea. He joined the Royal Air Force shortly after the Battle of Britain in 1941 and saw service in World War Two and the Korean War. He was one of eleven RAF officers conferred with U.S. decorations for services in Korea by President Eisenhower in 1953. Promoted to Air Commodore in 1969, he served as director of operations of the National Air Traffic Services, before going to the United States in 1972 as air attache at the British Embassy in Washington D.C. He was promoted to Air Vice-Marshal in 1975 before being appointed commander of No. 11 Group RAF, responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom. After he retired from the RAF in 1977, he joined British Aerospace and returned to the U.S. as vice president of their Government Programs Office.



© Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1931.

George Brockerton (1898-1965) grew up in Coleraine and volunteered as a despatch rider during World War One. He began his motorcycle racing career in the 1920s and was one of the organisers and a competitor at the first North West 200 in 1929. In the 1930s George took over Jack Delino's Wall of Death at Barry's Amusements. On the outbreak of World War Two he joined up again, serving as an instructor to the transport section of the Antrim Searchlight Regiment (nicknamed Brockerton's Circus). A local newspaper told how George rescued 81 men buried in a cellar during the evacuation of Dunkirk. When they tried to thank him afterwards George wouldn't give them his name saying, "That's my hobby, risking my life and stepping on the edge of things. I get a kick out of life that way."⁵⁸ George's heroic act only came to light after they found his wallet in a pocket of his burnt coat and wrote to a London newspaper asking for help in identifying him. After the war, George travelled local towns and villages with a mobile cinema before taking up racing again at the age of 50.

58 *Ballymena Observer*, 14 June 1940



Coleraine Battery, the 6th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery Royal Artillery (Supplementary Reserve), was mobilised on 2 September

1939. The Battery volunteers went on to fight in many theatres of war including Egypt, Libya, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Over the course of the war, 318 men served with the Battery; 14 were killed and never returned home. After the war, the Battery formed an Old Comrades Association which met for the last time in June 1996, when they held their 50th Anniversary dinner. The Freedom of the Borough of Coleraine was awarded to the Old Comrades Association of the Battery by the Council in 1989.

©Coleraine Battery collection, Coleraine Museum.

The Local Defence Volunteer Service (LDV) was formed in the wake of the Dunkirk evacuation, due to the threat of an enemy invasion. When the scheme was expanded to include Northern Ireland, the organisation of the LDV came under the Ulster Special Constabulary. After reorganisation in March 1942, the Local Defence Volunteers became the Ulster Home Guard. Robert S. Knox who had been appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in the County Antrim Territorial Army and Air Force

Association was actively involved in setting up the local units, including Coleraine. In April 1941, the Luftwaffe bombed Belfast killing about 1,000 people including a Coleraine man and four members of the Elkin family who had connections to Portrush.



©Coleraine Museum.

Sir Arthur Hezlet (1914-2007) joined the Royal Navy in 1928, at just 13 years of age. He went on to become the Navy's youngest Captain at the age of 36 and the youngest Admiral at 45. Arthur served as a submariner during World War Two and was in command of HMS *Trenchant*

in June 1945, when it sank the Japanese heavy cruiser *Ashigara*. After the war, he was one of a small group of UK personnel who observed the United States' nuclear bomb trials at Bikini Atoll, and his final tour of duty was as Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland. He was appointed KBE (Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire) before he retired from the Royal Navy in 1964. Sir Arthur also served with the RNLi as a Vice-President of the Institution and the member for Northern Ireland on the Executive Committee. He was High Sheriff of County Londonderry for 1968, and served as the N.I. President of the Royal British Legion for 25 years.

Robert Sinclair Knox
©The Scotti Rooms,
Coleraine.



Ivy Knox
©Derry & Antrim Year
Book, 1945.



Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Sinclair Knox (1881-1963) was born near Ballymoney. He had served with the 36th Ulster Division in World War One. He was one of only seven men to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and three bars. After the war he was actively involved with the welfare of ex-servicemen, holding office in the British Legion. He was the Deputy Lieutenant for County Londonderry in 1938. His wife, Ivy, was also active in the British Legion and was the Superintendent of the Civil Defence first-aid post in Coleraine. Ivy was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1944 for her role in Civil Defence.



Stanocum Home Guard badge.

©Ballymoney Museum.



©Joanne Honeyford.

Coleraine Mobile Reserve Company of the Ulster Home Guard at the "stand-down" parade, 3 December 1944.

Thousands of American troops arrived in Northern Ireland in the spring of 1942, to prepare for the Normandy Landings. Americans were billeted across the area including Bellarena, Portstewart, Portrush, Aghadowey, Garvagh, Kilrea and Rasharkin. The beaches at Portstewart and Portrush and the mountainous terrain around Benbradagh and the Glens of Antrim provided excellent training grounds.

The Royal Observer Corps was a civil defence organisation initially formed in 1925 to detect, identify, track and report aircraft over Great Britain. After World War Two, the role was expanded to include defence against possible nuclear attack. The Northern Ireland Group of Royal Observers Corps was formed in April 1954. Nuclear monitoring posts, incorporated into the United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation (UKWMO) were located across the borough, including Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Bushmills, Cloughmills, Coleraine, Cushendall, Dungiven and Kilrea. ROC Coleraine, on Cranagh

Hill, opened in 1957, originally as a hilltop observation post which was later replaced with an underground monitoring post. The posts at Ballymoney and Bushmills closed in 1968, and all others closed in 1991, when the main field force of the Royal Observer Corps was stood down following the end of the Cold War.

©Minnesota Military Museum.



The first American shell fired in Europe is said to have been fired during a training exercise in the Sperrins by the 151st Field Artillery Battalion, based at Bellarena. The commanding officer of B Battery, Captain E. Surdyk had the names of the men and officers of B Battery engraved on the shell before giving it to the Mayor of

Coleraine, Daniel H. Christie for safe keeping. Alderman Christie returned the shell case, along with a bottle of Coleraine Whisky, in 1946. The shell casing, bottle of whisky and the battery's guidon flag were donated to the Minnesota Military Museum in 2007.



Portrush Civil Defence,
September 1965.

©Chronicle & Constitution
Archive.

Remembering The Fallen

In more recent times, significant anniversaries of past conflicts have been marked in a variety of ways. At the 1995 commemorations of the 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe, Prince Andrew visited the T S Duke of York Sea Cadets Corps in Portrush as well as attending events in Coleraine and Limavady where a Book of Remembrance was dedicated.



A War Memorial Sports Pavilion in Coleraine was opened in 1953, in memory of past pupils of Coleraine Academical Institution who died in both of the World Wars. A bronze plaque naming those who lost their lives in the Second World War was unveiled in the pavilion in June 1957 by Mrs McGrath, whose two sons are among the names.

©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1955.

Dunboe/Castlerock Royal British Legion unveiled a war memorial on 24 August 2002, during the Queen's Golden Jubilee year. His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, K.G., unveiled the memorial dedicated "To the glory of God and in grateful remembrance of all those from this district who gave their lives and who served in the two World Wars & subsequent conflicts."

Ranger Aaron McCormick, Royal Irish Regiment, was killed in action while serving in Helmand province, Afghanistan on 14 November 2010 (Remembrance Sunday). Aaron, from Macosquin, volunteered as lead Vallon (mine detection) man and was investigating a suspicious device when it exploded. Aaron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Colin Weir said, "Ranger Aaron McCormick was the epitome of the Irish infantry soldier – tough, selfless, good-humoured and full of compassion."⁵⁹ Ranger McCormick is interred in St Mary's Church, Macosquin, and his name is inscribed on Coleraine War Memorial.

The programme of events around the Decade of Centenaries (2012-2022) included the attendance of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip who laid a wreath at Coleraine War Memorial in 2014 in memory of Irish soldiers who died in World War One, and the unveiling of the statue of Robert Quigg VC in Bushmills on the centenary of the Battle of the Somme in 2016. Across the borough, events included military displays, historical re-enactments, exhibitions and a memorial service.



In 2018, the centenary of the end of The Great War was marked by the lighting of Beacons of Light in Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Rathlin Island (pictured).

©Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



Robert Quigg (1885-1955) was born near Bushmills and worked on the Macnaghten estate. On the outbreak of World War One, he volunteered and served with the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. Private Quigg was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme when he went out into no-man's-land seven times looking for his platoon officer, Sir Edward Macnaghten. Robert was given a full military funeral in 1955 and is buried in the graveyard of Billy Parish Church.

©Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Chapter 7

Sporting Achievements

One of the benefits of the social and economic changes of the 1920s and 30s was that people had more leisure time. This contributed to the formation of new rugby, cricket and football clubs across the borough. Participation in a wide range of sports has continued to grow through the decades and the borough can be justly proud of the many local sportsmen and women who have brought honour to themselves and their neighbours.

Athletics



The Kennedy Kane McArthur Festival of Running was first held in 1984 in Dervock. The event is named after the Dervock-

born marathon runner K.K. McArthur who won gold, running for South Africa, in the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games. As McArthur reached the finish line, he was suffering badly from fatigue. Almost collapsing, he heard a voice from the crowd urging him on in a familiar accent: "Come on Antrim, come on ye boy ye!" It was enough to give McArthur the boost he needed to win first place.

Dervock's Festival of Running continued to grow over the years and welcomed runners from all over the world. The photo shows runners in the 1984 marathon. The future of the festival was thrown into doubt after the introduction of legislation around traffic management which came into effect in 2017. The festival, like all events across the borough, was cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Badge from the Dervock McArthur Memorial Marathon. ©Ballymoney Museum.



In 1993, Anne Paul, a member of the Triangle Triathlon Club, was a silver medallist at the World Triathlon Championships in Manchester. In 1996, Anne set an Irish record when she won the Irish Triathlon Championships for the fourth consecutive year before going on to win the ladies race at the Glens of Antrim Triathlon. Fellow club members, Mark Tosh won the Ireland Under 21 Championship, and John Madden won the men's Ulster Championship at the Glens of Antrim Triathlon for the second consecutive year.



Anne Paul with her silver medal, 1993.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

In 2007, Portstewart man, Peter Bell, completed two North Pole marathons, one on foot and the other on a bike. Peter, who came fifth in the foot race, completed the run in 4 hours and 24 minutes in -40°C temperatures; he started the bike marathon about two hours later.

Danny McKay from Ballymoney won gold in the pentathlon at the 1990 European Special Olympics in Glasgow, where he also lifted a silver medal with the Irish relay team.

Josephine McGlinchey, from Castlerock, won gold in the shot putt event at the 1995 World Special Olympics. The following year, among the thirteen medals brought home by athletes from Millbrook Adult Centre in Ballymoney were six golds - Jerome McNicholl in the 50 metres and 100 metres, Billy Murphy in the men's shot-putt and soft ball throwing, Trevor Purdon in the men's single bowling and Earl Graham in the men's standing long jump. Billy Murphy had the honour of carrying the Northern Ireland Olympic flag at the Games and his double gold win brought his tally to 22 gold medals. Five athletes from Mountfern Adult Centre, Coleraine, also competed at these games. The Special Olympics Torch visited Coleraine in June 1996 prior to the start of the games in Dublin.



The Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Councillor Brenda Chivers, hosted a civic reception for the athletes from Causeway Coast Special Olympics Club, Coleraine Cougars, Ballymoney Special Olympics Club and Owls Special Olympics Club, who took part in the 2018 Special Olympics in Dublin.

Bowling

The Causeway Coast and Glens has been well represented in outdoor and indoor bowls at both national and international levels.

Coleraine Bowling Club was formed in 1903 by Daniel McLaughlin, a man who was also involved in the foundation of the Irish Bowling Association. They won the Irish Cup for the first time in 1921. In 1985, Coleraine Bowling Club won both the NI Railways Inter-Association Club Championships and the Senior League. In 2013, the club won the Irish Cup for the second time.

Coleraine player Roy Fulton won the British Isles Singles in 1967 and the Irish Bowling Association Singles seven times between 1956 and 1971. Roy also won the Northern Ireland Provincial Bowling Association Singles seven times during the same time.

Dunluce bowler, Barry Kane, won the World Junior Cup and the U25 world indoor title in 2007, and the Irish Singles title in 2016.

Arguably the greatest women's player of all-time is Ballymoney's Margaret Johnston who has won six golds, two silvers and a bronze at World Outdoor Bowls Championships. In 1988, Margaret won gold in the pairs with Phillis Nolan, silver in the singles, and bronze in the team event. She won gold in the singles in 1992, 2000 and 2004. Margaret also won gold in the World Indoor Bowls Championships in 1988 and won the British Isles singles championships four times, in 1985, 1996, 1997 and 1999. Margaret, who was awarded the MBE in 1991, won the Champion of Championship Singles title in 2004.

Three bowlers from the borough, Jeremy Henry, Ian McClure, and Margaret Johnston, were named for the Irish team for the

2007 World Cup in Australia. Henry, a former world outdoor champion, was beaten in the final, but went on to win six times (2012-14 and 2015-18).

Cricket

Cricket in the Causeway Coast and Glens dates back to the foundation of Limavady Cricket Club in 1865. They were promoted to Senior League cricket in 1959 and won the North West Senior Cup in 1965. The club amalgamated with Limavady Rugby Club in September 1968.

Coleraine Cricket Club was originally founded as a cricket section of Coleraine Rugby Club in 1921, before being dissolved and reformed in 1958. The club later merged with the team at the University of Ulster. In 1986 they won the North West Senior Cup after beating Strabane. The following year the club hosted an international match when Ireland played Scotland. Their next major success came in 2013 when they were North West Senior League champions.

Football

Football was probably the sport which was most accessible to the working classes during the 1920s, with nearly every town and village fielding at least one team.

In March 1922, shots fired at Coleraine footballers returning from a North West Cup match against the Special Constabulary at Magherafelt "created something of a sensation in town."⁶⁰ The char-a-banc they were travelling in was shot at by members of the B Specials at Killure, about four miles from home "...several bullets passed through the hood, and the occupants had an exceedingly narrow escape... The Specials averred that they had called on the driver to stop... The driver

⁶⁰ Londonderry Sentinel, 7 March 1922

and members of the char-a-banc party were positive that no signal to stop had been given, and if so they had never heard it."⁶¹

It was a sensation of a different type which gripped the town a few years later when Coleraine Olympic FC won the Junior Irish Cup in 1926/27, and Coleraine Rangers FC followed up their success by lifting the title the following year. Coleraine Olympic FC and Coleraine Alexandra FC merged in 1927 to form Coleraine Football Club.

Coleraine Football Club's first success came in December 1931 when they beat Ballymena 3-0 at Solitude to lift the Gold Cup. The previous year, Peter Doherty appeared for Coleraine in a trial game before going on to play for Glentoran, and then Blackpool in 1933. Coleraine player, Tommy Priestley, was capped for Ireland in 1932 and it was over twenty years before another Coleraine player won a place in the Ireland team when Frank 'Bunty' Montgomery was capped in 1954.



©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1992.

Coleraine Football Club, winners of the Gold Cup, 1931-32.

61 Londonderry Sentinel, 7 March 1922



© Derry & Antrim Year Book,
1951.

Peter Doherty (1913-1990) was educated at St Malachy's Public Elementary School, Coleraine, in the 1920s. He won the first of his 16 international caps in 1935 and was the manager of the

Northern Ireland team from 1951 to 1962; he led the team to the finals of the World Cup in 1958. Known as 'Peter the Great', he was among the first 22 players to be inducted into the Football Association's Hall of Fame. Peter is shown above enjoying a ride on a jaunting car at Portrush in 1950.

On 6 February 1958, an aircraft carrying the Manchester United football team crashed while attempting to take off from Munich Airport. Twenty-three people were killed and the footballing world was left in shock. One of the survivors, the goalie Harry Gregg, dragged a number of people to safety from the burning wreckage.

Coleraine Football Club enjoyed considerable success in the 1960s under the management of Bertie Peacock. In April 1965, the club won the Irish Cup when they beat Glenavon in the final at Windsor Park, and just two weeks later they lifted the North West Cup at home to Derry City. They also won the Ulster Cup and the Irish Intermediate Cup that year. The team's Irish Cup win qualified them for the European Cup Winners' Cup where

they met Dynamo Kiev; the Coleraine side was the first UK team to cross the Iron Curtain and play in the Soviet Union. With the decade drawing to a close the club enjoyed another successful season when they won the Blaxnit All-Ireland Cup, the Ulster Cup, the City Cup, the Irish Intermediate Cup and the Gold Cup, in 1969.



Harry Gregg (1932-2020) grew up in Coleraine and started his sporting career as a boxer. After trying gymnastics, he turned to school football where he was deemed to be too rough for the game and was put in goal. He went on to play professionally for Linfield, Coleraine and Doncaster Rovers (under Peter Doherty), before transferring to Manchester United in 1957. Harry won 25 caps for Northern

Ireland between 1954 and 1963, being voted best goalkeeper of the 1958 World Cup (when Northern Ireland reached the quarterfinals). Harry was awarded the MBE in 1995 and the OBE in 2019 for services to football. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Ulster and won the Pride of Britain award in 2008. The Harry Gregg Foundation was set up in 2015 to encourage youth football and make the game accessible to all.



© Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1998.

Bertie Peacock, Davy McGrotty, Eddie O'Kane and Jack Doherty with the array of trophies won by Coleraine Football Club in 1965.

Bertie Peacock was born in Coleraine on 28 September 1928, the year after Coleraine Football Club was formed. He made his debut for Coleraine in 1947, but soon left to play for Glentoran. He moved to Celtic Football Club in 1949, where he earned the nickname of 'The Little Ant' in his 12-year career. Bertie won 31 caps for Northern Ireland, taking over from Peter Doherty as manager of the Northern Ireland team in 1961. Bertie gave George Best his first game for Northern Ireland in 1964, when Best was only 17. He was a supporter of youth football and was one of the founders of the Milk Cup. Bertie was awarded the MBE in 1986, and he died in 2004. A statue of him was unveiled in Coleraine by Pat Jennings at the opening of the 25th Milk Cup in 2007.

Jack Doherty was the chairman of Coleraine Football Club throughout the Peacock era. Known as Coleraine's 'Mr Football' he played a key role in the development of the club, becoming a director in 1950, then club secretary for seven years from 1952, before becoming the chairman .

After serving as vice-president of the Irish Football Association (IFA) for 27 years, Sammy Walker was appointed as President of the IFA in 1995. Sammy was the secretary of Coleraine Football Club in the 1940s and served on Coleraine Borough Council.



Visit of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, May 1963. Included are the Mayor, D. J. Christie, S. J. Henry, J. Murphy, Sammy Walker, Mrs Stanleigh and A. Dalzell

Ballymoney man Jim Platt was part of the 1982 Northern Ireland World Cup squad. Born in 1952, Jim played for Middlesborough for the most of his career. He was capped 23 times for Northern Ireland and managed Coleraine Football Club from 1985 until 1991.

In their first Cup final appearance in 17 years, Coleraine Football Club won the Irish Cup on 3 May 2003 when they beat Glentoran 1-0 (they were defeated 2-1 by Glentoran in 1986). It was another 15 years before they lifted the Cup again.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

The first Milk Cup tournament (played on grounds across the Causeway area) was played between 16 teams in 1983; it has continued to grow over the years with an Elite (Under 19) category introduced in 1995. Many famous names in football, including David Beckham, Ryan Giggs and Wayne Rooney, played in the tournament. The Milk Cup was renamed the Super Cup NI in 2015.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

Martin O'Neill captained the Northern Ireland team in the 1982 FIFA World Cup team. Martin was born in Kilrea and his father was a founding member of Pádraig Pearse's GAC in Kilrea. Martin played for the club at underage level and continued playing Gaelic football throughout his school-days. He went on to play for Lisburn Distillery Football Club, scoring two of the goals in their 3-0 win in the 1971 Irish Cup. He signed for Nottingham Forest in 1971 and went on to play for Norwich City, Manchester City and Notts County. Between 1971 and 1984, Martin was capped 64 times for Northern Ireland. After his playing career ended Martin managed teams including Glasgow Celtic and Aston Villa, before going on to become manager of the Republic of Ireland team in 2013. Martin was awarded an OBE for services to sport in 2004.

Gaelic Athletic Association:- Football, Hurling and Camogie

The *Ordnance Survey Memoirs* of the 1830s recorded an early form of hurling being played at various places across the borough, including Aghanloo, Ballyrashane, Killowen, Desertoghill (Garvagh), Castlerock, Magilligan, Dungiven, Finvoy, Ballymoney and Loughgiel. The Gaelic Athletic Association was formed in 1884, but the opposition of the Catholic Church to the playing of games on a Sunday hampered the early growth of hurling and Gaelic football before its revival in the 1900s. Many Gaelic Athletic Clubs were formed in the borough during the 20th century. St Mary's GAC, Faughanvale, was formed in 1933 and went on to win the North Derry Senior Football Championship in 1943.

St Aidan's GAC in Magilligan was formed in 1938. The club enjoyed success in 1944, when they won both the Neal Carlin Cup and the North Derry League. Their first county win was in 1988, when they won the Derry Junior Football Championship, a feat they repeated in 2016. Kevin Doherty, the brother of legendary Northern Ireland football manager Peter Doherty, played for the club.

O'Cahan's GAC, Kilrea, and St Mary's GAC in Rasharkin, were both formed in 1943. Although St Mary's initially focused on hurling, Gaelic football was soon introduced and early success saw it becoming an area of focus for the club.

Eoghan Rua GAC (originally Owen Roe GFC) was established in 1958, playing at St Malachy's in Coleraine. Many of the players had previously been involved with Coleraine Shamrocks, based in Killowen. It is thought there may have been a team in the town in the 1930s, as when St Aidan's GAC, Magilligan, opened

in 1938, over half of the players came from Coleraine.

Eoghan Rua's first major success came in 1997 when they won the Derry Junior Football Championships. Councillor William King, the Mayor of Coleraine, hosted a civic reception for the club in April 2007 in recognition of their Derry and Ulster successes. Eoghan Rua's new grounds and facilities, between Coleraine and Portstewart, were officially opened in 2009. The following year the club enjoyed success in the Derry Senior Football Championships and the Ulster Senior Camogie Championships; the camogie team retained their title in 2011, but it was 2018 before the club won the Derry Senior Football Championships again.

Katie Mullan, from Coleraine, played camogie for Eoghan Rua. She was part of the teams who won the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Camogie Championship in 2010, and the Derry Senior Camogie Championships in 2013 and 2014. Katie has also played hockey for Ireland at senior level since 2012. She captained the Ireland team to the 2018 Women's Hockey World Cup final and at the Tokyo Olympic Games in July 2021.

The County Derry GAA team won the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship in 1993, beating Dublin to win the Sam Maguire Cup for the first time in the county's history. Dungiven men, Brian McGilligan and Joe Brolly both scored, helping their team to victory. The only other time the county team reached the final of the cup was in 1958, when they were beaten by Dublin.

Cushendall's Ruairi Og GAC hold the record for wins of the Ulster Senior Hurling Championship, having won it 11 times between 1981 and 2018. They have also been Antrim Senior Hurling Champions 14 times.



©Derry & Antrim Yearbook, 1947.

When John Mitchel's Hurling Club was formed in Coleraine in 1944 they faced a shortage of equipment but, undaunted, they got a permit to import hurley sticks from Cork. The club made their debut at the 1944 County Derry Hurling Championships and were crowned county champions in 1948.

Derry and Dungiven's "Will-o-the-Wisp" Joe Brolly was the supporter's choice for Man of the Match in the 1993 All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Joe played Gaelic football for County Derry throughout the 1990s and early 2000s and was part of their first ever All-Ireland Senior Football Championship winning side in 1993. Joe won two Ulster Senior Football Championships, four National League titles and two All Star Awards during his career. He played club football for St Canice's, Dungiven, for most of his career, before transferring to St Brigid's GAC in Belfast. He won two Derry Senior Football Championships and one Ulster Senior Club Football Championship with Dungiven.

Loughgiel Shamrocks were the first Ulster team to win the All-Ireland Senior Club Hurling Championships when they won in 1983. They repeated the feat again when they won the Championships in 1989 and 2012. The Shamrocks senior camogie team have won six successive championships (2014-2019).

Scullion Hurls, based in Loughgiel, began in 1979 as a hobby project making hurls for members of the Shamrocks. It is now an Économusée or 'Working Museum', showcasing the traditional craft.



©Causeway Coast and Glens
Borough Council.

The Derry Minor Football team won the All-Ireland Minor Football Championship against Kerry in 2021. The winning team were welcomed by the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Councillor Richard Holmes to a special reception at Cloonavin.

Golf

Golf has always been popular within the borough with clubs formed across the region including Portrush, Ballycastle, Bushfoot, Portstewart, Castlerock, Kilrea and Limavady. The club in Limavady was a private club formed in 1922 by a group of golf enthusiasts, with an initial membership of fifty. It was called Mullagh Golf Club as "...Permission has been granted by Mr A.M. Ritter to play in Roepark at the Mullagh Hill, the venue of St Columbkil's great convention in bygone days."⁶²

During a visit to north Antrim, the Duke of Abercorn opened an extension to Ballycastle golf course in August 1926. In Ballycastle, Sunday play was allowed on some holes by 1927, and by 1929 it was permitted on all holes.

Portstewart Golf Club hosted the Irish Professional Championship in July 1931, just a month after they opened a new clubhouse on the Old Course. Sunday play was not permitted on Portstewart golf course on religious grounds until 1951.

Royal Portrush Golf Club hosted three golf championships in 1922, the Irish Close Championship, the Irish Professional Championship and the Irish Open Amateur Championship. A new championship course was opened in July 1933, and in 1937 the club again hosted the Irish Open. J. Fitzsimmons of Bushfoot, a steward at Royal Portrush, won the Irish Amateur Golf Championship that same year.

Royal Portrush hosted the 80th British Open Championship in July 1951 – the first time the competition was played outside of Great Britain. Plans were put in place to install 50 additional telephone lines connecting the course with

62 *Londonderry Sentinel*, 9 November 1922

London, Manchester and Glasgow. It was the first time in any Open Championship that a radio audience could hear direct commentaries on the play from three different points on the course. Max Faulkner won the competition and Portrush man, Fred Daly, tied for fourth place.



In 1947, Fred Daly (1911-1990) became the first Irishman to win the British Open. Fred was born in Portrush in 1911 and worked as a caddy on the Dunluce Links. He won the Irish Open in 1946, was British Matchplay Champion three times

and Ulster Championship winner 11 times. Fred Daly was awarded the MBE in 1984 for services to golf.

Portrush again hosted the Irish Amateur Golf Championship in 1958, when Ian Bamford won on his home course.

Royal Portrush Golf Club hosted the Senior British Open Championship from 1995 until 1999 and again in 2004, and the Irish Open in 2012. The club hosted the 148th Open Championships in July 2019, with preparation work beginning in 2015 - changes to the course included lengthening it by 201 yards. Darren Clarke and Graeme McDowell competed, with Clarke being given the honour of the opening tee shot, at the sell-out weeklong event which attracted crowds of over 230,000. Irishman Shane Lowry won his first major event when he lifted the Claret Jug. Following on the success of the 2019 event, the Open will return to Royal Portrush in 2025.



©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

1995 Senior British Open Championship at Royal Portrush.



As a teenager, Darren Clarke travelled to play on the Portrush links and adopted Royal Portrush as his home club. Clarke turned professional in 1990 and gained his first professional title at the Ulster Professional Championships in 1992. The following year he enjoyed his first European Tour victory at the Alfred Dunhill Open. He made his Ryder Cup debut in 1997 and, in 2000, became the

first European to win a World Golf Championship when he beat Tiger Woods in the final of the WGC-Accenture Match Play. In 2001, he won the European Open and in 2003 he became only the second player to win multiple WGC titles when he won the WGC-Bridgeston Invitational. In 2011, Darren fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming Champion Golfer of the Year when he won the coveted Claret Jug at the 140th Open at Royal St George's. Clarke was the first Northern Ireland man to win the Open since Fred Daly's 1947 win. Darren featured on an Irish stamp in 2005 and was awarded the OBE in 2012. He qualified for the 2019 Open Championship which was played at Royal Portrush.

Portrush golfer, Graeme McDowell, won the Ulster Boys Championship in 1996, followed three years later by the Irish Youths Championship. In 2000, Graeme won the Irish Close Amateur Championship, the Irish Youths Championship, the World Universities Championship and the South of Ireland Championship. He turned professional in 2002; after winning that season's Volvo Scandinavian Masters he was given honorary life membership of Royal Portrush Golf Club. In 2010, Graeme became the first player from Northern Ireland to win a major since 1947 when he won the US Open. He also enjoyed Ryder Cup success and beat Tiger Woods to win the Chevron World Challenge in the same year. McDowell qualified for the 2019 Open Championship which was played on his home course – Royal Portrush. In 2020, he won the Saudi International, giving him his first win on the European Tour since 2014.

Motorcycle Racing

Motorcycle racing has long been part of the sporting history of Causeway Coast and Glens area with time trials first being held on Magilligan Strand in 1911. Sand races were hugely popular during the 1920s, attracting competitors from across the British Isles with races being held at both Portstewart and Magilligan. The popularity of sand racing declined in the 1930s due to an increasing number of road circuits.

The first North West 200 was held in April 1929 over an 11-mile triangular circuit starting at Magherabuoy. Only eight of the 31 bikes that started the race finished as the 200-mile, 18 lap race took its toll. Special excursion buses from Belfast were put

on and grandstand seats could be booked for 7s 6d each. The overall winner of the first race was W. J. McCracken, a Belfast rider, while Malcolm McQuigg, an architect from Coleraine, finished in second place overall, winning the 250cc class. The following year the start and finishing point for the race was moved from Magherabuoy to Portstewart.

The 1972 North West 200 was cancelled due to the Troubles and in 1973 the starting point was moved to the Pits area between Portstewart and Portrush. The 50th anniversary of the first race in 1979, when Joey Dunlop won his first race on the Triangle circuit, was also the darkest day in its history; crashes claimed the lives of three riders, Tom Herron, Brian Hamilton and Frank Kennedy.



Championship Motor-Cycling on Portstewart Strand, 3 August 1931 – start of 75 Miles Championship of Ireland and Ulster.

©*Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1932.*

A group of local riders – Frank Kennedy, Mervyn Robinson, Joey Dunlop and Jim Dunlop – came together in 1977 and became known as the Armoy Armada. Although they only raced together for three seasons, they were known for their dedication, camaraderie and talent. Mervyn Robinson was killed when he crashed at the 1980 North West 200.



North West 200,
May 1980.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.



Armoyn-born Joey Dunlop (1952-2000) enjoyed his first Isle of Man TT win in 1977, followed by a victory in the North West 200 superbike race in 1979. More wins followed in the 1980s, including three TT hat tricks in 1985, 1988 and 2000, and a hat trick at the 1987 North West 200. Joey's record included 24 wins at the Ulster Grand Prix, 26 TT wins and 13 at the North West 200. He was awarded the MBE in 1986 for

his services to motorcycling and was granted the Freedom of the Borough of Ballymoney in 1993. In 1996, he was awarded the OBE for his humanitarian work with orphanages in Romania, Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Joey died in an accident during a race in Estonia on 2 July 2000.

©Ballymoney Museum.



©Ballymoney Museum.

Robert Dunlop (1960-2008) was born in Ballymoney and won his first professional motorcycle race at Aghadowey in 1981. Robert's first North West 200 victory

came in 1986 and he went on to win the first of his four North West 200 hat tricks at the 1990 race. He was the first person elected to the *Irish Racer Magazine* Hall of Fame in 2005. Robert won his 15th and final North West 200 in 2006. Robert and his brother Joey were awarded honorary degrees from the University of Ulster in 2000 for their achievements in motorcycle racing and in 2006, the brothers were featured on an Irish stamp. Like his brother Joey, Robert was honoured with the Freedom of the Borough of Ballymoney at a ceremony on 23 April 2007. Robert Dunlop was killed during a qualifying session for the North West 200 on 15 May 2008.



The memorial gardens in Ballymoney are a fitting memorial to the Dunlop brothers. The Joey Dunlop Memorial Garden was opened in May 2001 and the Robert Dunlop Memorial Garden in May 2010.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

In 1997, Owen McNally won the NI Tourist Board Junior 250cc race at the North West 200, the first Coleraine man to achieve a win since Malcolm McQuigg in 1929. Owen, who was tipped to be the next Joey Dunlop, died after an accident in the final 250cc race at the 1999 Ulster Grand Prix. He was inducted into the Irish Motorcycling Hall of Fame in 2016.

Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club was formed in 2007 to run a tribute race to the Legends of Road Racing – the Armoy Armada. A sculpture by Mark Anthony was unveiled in Riverside Park, Armoy, in early 2008, to commemorate the achievements of the legendary Armada. The first Armoy Road Race – Race of Legends was run in July 2009, and the races have continued to grow with competitors and spectators travelling from England, Scotland and all over Ireland.

The legacy of the legendary Dunlop road-racing family continued with Robert's sons, William and Michael. William (1985-2019) started racing in 2000, when he competed in Aghadowey aged just fifteen. He went on to win seven times at the Ulster Grand Prix and to claim four North West 200 wins. He raced in his first Isle of Man TT in 2006, where he enjoyed four third places and a second place. William was killed in an accident during a practice race at the Skerries 100 in 2018. He was posthumously inducted to the Irish Motorcycling Hall of Fame in 2019, joining his father Robert and uncle Joey. A proposal to place a memorial tablet for William in the garden commemorating his father Robert, was agreed by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in September 2019. Work continues to fulfil the family's wish that William be remembered with a statue and it is hoped this will be sited before the end of 2021.

William's younger brother, Michael, made his Isle of Man TT debut in 2007, and his first win followed in 2009 – he now counts 19 TT wins amongst his 106 race wins and was the

first rider to lap the TT course in under 17 minutes. Despite the death of his father Robert, in a practice race at the 2008 North West 200, Michael went on to win the 250cc race, the first of his five North West 200 wins. Like his father and uncle Joey, Michael Dunlop was conferred with the Freedom of the Borough of Ballymoney in 2014.

Rugby

Coleraine Rugby Club was formed in 1921 by past members of the Coleraine Academical Institute School's Cup team. The club played their first match in October that year and continued to play at Coleraine Academical Institute and other fields. Rugby began in Limavady the following year, when a friendly match was played at Carse Hall, the Drennan family home. A club was formally organised in 1923 but lapsed a few years later before being revived in the early 1930s.

The four Beamish brothers who served in the RAF during World War Two, referred to in Chapter 6, were all accomplished sportsmen – George and Charles played international rugby for Ireland. In the 1920s three McVicker brothers from Ballymoney played for Ireland – James won 20 caps between 1923 and 1930, Hugh was capped five times between 1926 and 1928 and Samuel was capped four times in 1921-22. Andrew Trimble from Coleraine made his international debut for Ireland in 2005, going on to win 70 caps before he retired at the end of the 2017-18 season. Ballymoney born Stewart Moore represented Ireland at the 2019 World Rugby Championships in Argentina. Stewart made his first senior appearance for Ulster in December 2019.

Sailing and Rowing

Sailing and rowing regattas, sometimes combined with other sporting events, were traditionally held in many of the borough's coastal towns including Portstewart, Portrush, Portballintrae, Ballintoy, Ballycastle, Cushendun and Cushendall. The regatta in Portrush was revived in 1924 after a period of seventeen years and, in 1927, Rathlin's regatta was held "after a long lapse."⁶³ In Coleraine, the annual Regatta on the Bann, organised by the Bann Rowing Club and first held in the 1860s, continued to grow in popularity throughout the 1920s. The present clubhouse on Hanover Gardens was donated to the Bann Rowing Club in 1921 by the Honourable The Irish Society to replace an earlier clubhouse.

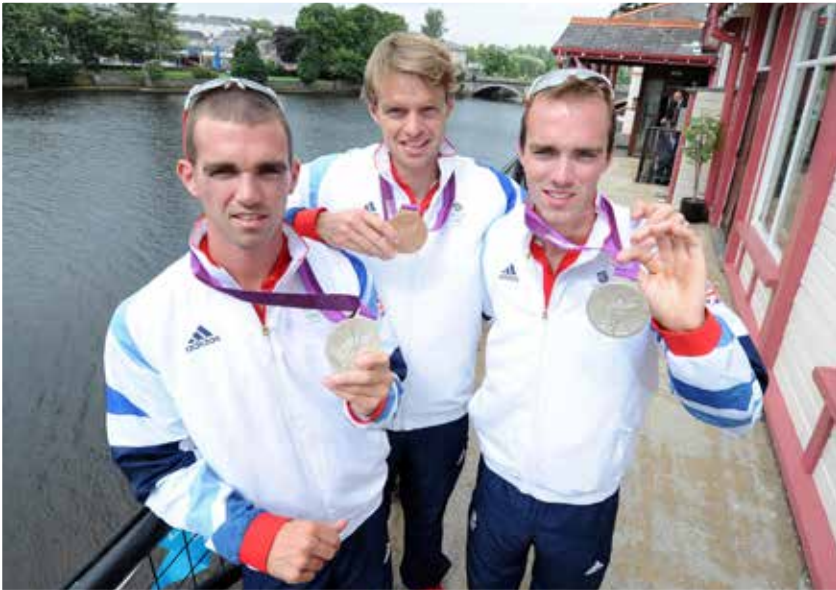


© Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1929.

The Greasy Pole at Portstewart Regatta Day, 1928.

In 1928, a new sport was introduced to Northern Ireland when hydroplane racing was held on the River Bann at Coleraine. The hundred miles race, known as the Bann 100, had the use of the Bann Rowing Club's premises and drew large crowds of spectators.

Richard Archibald, from Coleraine, rowed for Coleraine Academical Institution and went on to represent Ireland at the 2004 Olympics in Athens. He won silver in 2005 and bronze in 2006 in the World Championships. Three Bann Rowing Club rowers competed in the 2012 London Olympic games – Alan Campbell and brothers, Richard and Peter Chambers. Alan Campbell became Britain's first Olympic medallist in the men's single scull since 1928 when he won bronze in 2012, while Richard and Peter won silver in the lightweight men's four.



©Causeway Coast and Glens
Borough Council.

Olympian rowers, Richard and Peter Chambers and Alan Campbell

In November 2016, the three Olympian rowers, Richard and Peter Chambers and Alan Campbell, were the first recipients of the Freedom of the Borough of Causeway Coast and Glens.

Alan Campbell started rowing for Coleraine Academical Institution (CAI) before joining the Bann Rowing Club. He won silver in the World Championships in 2009, and lifted bronze in 2010 and 2011. Alan first competed in the Olympics in 2004 and was the first sportsman from Northern Ireland to compete at four Olympic Games when he raced at Rio in 2016.

Ballymoney man Richard Chambers also began rowing when he was at CAI and went on to join the Bann Rowing Club. He represented Ireland in the junior pair at the 2003 Home Internationals in Cork, going on to win silver at the World Under-23 Rowing Championships in the lightweight men's quadruple scull. He has been a medallist at six World Championships, including winning gold in 2007 and 2010. Richard has competed in the Olympic Games three times, in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

Richard's younger brother, Peter Chambers, began rowing at the Bann Rowing Club. He won gold in the men's lightweight double sculls at the Under-23 World Championships in 2011, and in 2015 he won the European Championships. Peter's second Olympic Games was in 2016 in Rio.

Ballymoney man, Joel Cassells began rowing at the Bann Rowing Club and went on to win gold in the lightweight coxless pair at the 2015 European Championships. He also won gold in the 2015 World Championships and, in 2016, won gold at the European Championships and bronze in the World Championships.

The Bann Rowing Club's Hannah Scott won a silver medal in the quadruple sculls at the 2021 European Championships and competed at the summer Olympics in Tokyo.

A new clubhouse for Portrush Yacht Club was opened in 1971. The club organised the regatta at Portrush for many years and the harbour area often featured in the programme of entertainment arranged in Portrush every summer. In 1979, Coleraine Yacht Club were "jubilant over the success of their first ever cruiser regatta sailed out of Portrush Harbour."⁶⁴

Swimming

Tommy Bradley and Richard Timms completed the first ever swim between Portstewart and Portrush harbour in September 2000, as a charity event raising funds for the RNLI. The distance between the two harbours is just over three miles, but the rocky coastline made for a difficult swim and the RNLI provided safety cover for the two men.

In 2016, Heather Clatworthy, a Portstewart native, completed a swim from Moville lighthouse to Portstewart. Heather, only the second person to complete the swim, finished in 4 hours 15 minutes compared to the 7 hours set by English endurance swimmer Mercedes Gleitz in 1929.

Professional swimmer Mercedes Glitz had been invited to complete a swim between Portstewart and Donegal to help

promote tourism in the area. An advertisement in the *Northern Whig* stated "The event of the season... Miss Gleitze will swim to the Free State and back across the most beautiful bay in all Ireland."⁶⁵ After successfully completing the 12 mile swim from Greencastle to Portstewart in just under eight hours, Mercedes refused her 30 guineas fee until she had accomplished the return swim from Portstewart to Moville. On 20 August, she set out for Donegal, from Portstewart, to the accompaniment of gramophone music and singing. She was met by a boat from Moville with a band on board and arrived at White Bay, near Greencastle, in seven hours.

Tennis

Tennis tournaments were played in Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Limavady and Portrush. Ballycastle was the venue for the Antrim Championships in 1926 and the County Londonderry Open Tennis Championships were played in Limavady in 1929. In Coleraine, St Malachy's Tennis Club featured prominently in local newspaper reports in the 1920s and 30s.



©Ballycastle Museum.

Tennis at Ballycastle.



Fourteen-year-old Kate McNulty, from Limavady, became Ulster's youngest tennis champion when she won the Evian Ulster Championship Ladies' singles title in 2000.

© *Derry & Antrim Year Book*, 2001.

Tug-o-War

The ancient sport of Tug-o-War has been prominent in Ireland for at least 200 years and continued to be popular in Northern Ireland after partition. The Aghadowey team are the only team from Northern Ireland to have won an outdoor gold medal at World or European Championship level. In the 1950s it was built around the ploughing champion Hugh Barr and his brothers; at one time there were five Barr brothers on the team. Aghadowey represented Northern Ireland at the first ever European Championships in 1965 and went on to win the 1970 Northern Ireland Championships, then the European Championship at Crystal Palace in 1970.

The Aghadowey team stopped competing after their run of successes. By 1971, it no longer existed although some members continued to compete with other local teams. A new team was formed in Garvagh in 1971, coached by Jim Watt. In their first year the team won the Northern Ireland Championship and went on to represent Northern Ireland at the European Championships in Sweden, where they lifted

silver. After their initial success, the team continued to compete successfully and represented Northern Ireland on many occasions at European and World events.



©Derry & Antrim Year Book, 1971.

Aghadowey tug-o-war team, 1970.

Other Sporting Achievements

In 1961, Corrado Morelli, from Portrush, established himself as a world class driver when he took part in the Kart Racing World Championships at Banbury, in Oxfordshire. Corrado surprised the international field when he chased the reigning champion, Bobby Allan from the United States, for 41 of the 50 laps.

Coleraine woman Angela Platt was a member of the Ballymoney field hockey team that won the Irish Senior Cup in 2000/01, and represented Ireland internationally. Between 2000 and 2006, Angela made 75 senior appearances as goalkeeper for Ireland. She also played football, playing for the Northern Ireland women's national team from 2006 to 2008.



Jenna McCorkell, from Coleraine, competed three times in the World Junior Figure Skating Championships before making her senior European and World Championship debut in 2003. She won the first of eleven British Figure Skating Championships in December 2003. When Dame Mary Peters presented Jenna with the Dromona Sports

Award at a ceremony in May 2007, she tipped Jenna as a future Olympian. Jenna, overcame injury to become British number one, represented Great Britain at the 2010 and 2014 Olympics. She has also won the Ulster Sports Trust Outstanding Sportsperson Award.



Valerie Taggart has won the Northern Ireland Specials Ladies Pool Championship 17 times since her first win in 1994. She captained the Northern Ireland team to victory in the World Pool Championships in 2000 and was the Individual World Champion seven times in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Valerie was also the Individual European Champion in 2008 and 2010.

©Chronicle & Constitution Archive.

At the 2007 World Special Pool Championships, held in Bridlington, Valerie Taggart, from Portrush, became the woman's Champion for the fourth time in five years, and Ballycastle's Paddy Reid, won the men's World Championship for the fifth time.



In 2004, Hannah Shields, from Kilrea, was the first Irish woman to reach the North Pole. In May 2007, she became the first Ulster woman to conquer Mount Everest. Part of a 23-strong team of international climbers, Hannah reached the summit six weeks after setting out.

©Hannah Shields.

In June 2012, the Olympic Flame visited some of the most iconic places in Causeway Coast and Glens as it was carried across the borough by local people as part of its UK tour. The Flame arrived in Cushendall, before travelling to Ballycastle, through Dervock, the birthplace of Olympian Kennedy Kane McArthur, and then on to Bushmills. The overnight stop was in Portrush where a concert was held for the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron. The next morning the Flame visited Dunluce Castle and the most northerly point at the Giant's Causeway before being carried across Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge. The flame travelled across the River Bann at Coleraine in an eight-man rowing boat before travelling on through Articlave, Castlerock, Bellarena and Limavady. Over the two days, events including equestrian, live music, art competitions and more were held across the borough.



As part of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's NI100 programme 30 local Primary Schools took part in a Heritage Games initiative which brought games enjoyed by children in bygone days back into school playgrounds. A Centenary Games Interschools Competition in honour of sporting icon Mary Peters is planned for 10 Secondary Schools in the borough.

Index

10th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	8
12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles	157
151st Field Artillery Battalion	154
15th Royal Irish Rifles	8
Abercorn, Duchess of	73
Abercorn, Duke of	155, 175
Afghanistan	156
Aghadowey	8, 46, 58, 64, 67, 75, 117, 141, 142, 153, 182, 183, 190
Aghanloo	85, 142, 171
Agricultural Shows	56, 59, 60, 63, 101
Airshow	106, 107
Albania	181
Allan, Bobby	191
Allen, Isa	82
Allen, Kelly	78
Altnahinch	46
America, see United States of America	
Ancient Order of Hibernians	17
Andrew, Prince (Duke of York)	31, 113, 155
Andrews, James Miller	8,
Anglo-Irish Agreement	19, 20,
Anthony, Mark	183
Antrim	36, 42, 119, 149, 159, 172, 189
Antrim, Countess of	75
Antrim, County	5
Antrim, Earl of	60
Antrim, North	27, 38, 52, 109, 135, 175
Archibald, Richard	90, 186
Armagh, County	8
Armour, Rev James B.	37, 38
Armoy	43, 63, 64, 180, 183
Armstrong, Dr Hylde	55
Armstrong, Sean	55
Art	66, 109, 110, 126, 135, 136, 194
Articlave	27, 194
Ashton, Mark	19

Association of Inner Wheel Clubs of GB and NI	55
Athletics	119, 159
Australia	2, 64, 121, 163
B Specials	5, 12, 163
Ballinrees	46
Ballintemple	88
Ballintoy	3, 43, 59, 98, 185
Ballycastle	3, 10, 13, 29, 41, 43, 45, 46, 51, 54, 55, 63, 66, 72, 75, 77, 84, 95, 98, 101, 108, 109, 116, 117, 119, 121, 135, 139, 141, 153, 156, 175, 185, 189, 193, 194
Ballycastle Rural District Council	26
Ballycastle Urban District Council	26, 29
Ballyhome	36
Ballykelly	13, 16, 112, 142, 143, 144
Ballymacaldrick	131
Ballymaconnelly	139
Ballymoney	5, 9, 11, 13, 20, 23, 27, 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 46, 48, 57, 60, 61, 62, 75, 83, 86, 91, 94, 96, 97, 98, 101, 103, 111, 117, 122, 129, 131, 134, 138, 152, 153, 154, 156, 160, 161, 162, 169, 171, 182, 184, 187, 188, 189, 192
Ballymoney Borough Council	27, 28,
Ballymoney Farming Society	60
Ballymoney Literary and Debating Society	96
Ballymoney Rural District Council	26, 103
Ballymoney Urban District Council	26,
Ballyrashane	27, 57, 66, 171
Ballywillan Drama Group	98
Bamford, Ian	177
Banbury	191
Bangor	88
Bann, River	44, 46, 48, 70, 82, 131, 186, 194
Barr, Hugh	64, 190
Barr, Jack	64
Bates, Sir Richard Dawson	3, 4, 88

Battle of the Somme	12, 23, 111, 156, 157
Baxter, Patrick	5
Beamish, Cecil Howard	145
Beamish, Charles	145, 184
Beamish, Eileen	145
Beamish, Francis Victor	146
Beamish, George	147, 184
Beamish, Kathleen	145
Beckham, David	169
Belfast	4, 19, 26, 32, 38, 41, 44, 46, 49, 55, 103, 129, 131, 135, 151, 173, 179, 180
Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement	13, 21, 31, 118, 123,
Belfast, West	3
Bell, Peter	160
Bellarena	114, 153, 154, 194
Belle River, Ontario	2
Benone	49
Best, George	167
Bikini Atoll	151
Billy	157
Binevenagh	49, 98, 142
Bloomer, Paddy	109
Bosnia-Herzegovina	181
Bowling	161, 162,
Bradley, Tommy	188
Branson, Richard	50
Britain (Great)	2, 8, 17, 124, 136, 153, 166, 175, 192
British Army	16
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)	44, 66, 112, 118
British Commonwealth	2, 10, 125
British Isles	44, 65, 162, 179
British Legion	8, 51, 52, 152
Brockerton, George	149
Brolly, Joe	172, 173
Brooke, Lady	126
Brooke, Sir Basil	8
Brownlow, Mrs	123

Bryson, Nancy	75
Burgess, Wilson	117
Bush, River	71
Bushfoot	175
Bushmills	11, 23, 36, 68, 69, 71, 75, 111, 114, 129, 141, 153, 154, 156, 157, 194
Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall	55
Camogie	171, 172, 174
Campbell, Alan	90, 186, 187
Canada	2, 63, 64, 97, 118, 121
Carrick-a-Rede	47, 71, 194
Carruthers, Mark	43
Casement, Roger	38
Cassells, Joel	188
Castlerock	27, 65, 75, 112, 124, 155, 161, 171, 175, 194
Castleroe	83, 133
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	23, 26, 161, 174, 183, 194
Cecil, Tommy	50
Chambers, Peter	186, 187
Chambers, Richard	186, 187
Charles, Prince (of Wales)	55
Chichester, Dehra	5, 6, 32
China	125
Chivers, Brenda	161
Christie, D. J.	168
Christie, Daniel Hall	7, 30, 154
Cinema	93, 94, 95, 149
Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act (Northern Ireland) 1922	3
Civil Defence	8, 10, 152, 153, 154
Civil Rights	12
Clapton, Eric	88
Clarke, Andrew	69
Clarke, Darren	177, 178
Clarke, John	59
Clarke, Major James Chichester	6
Clatworthy, Heather	188

Cloughmills	34, 43, 58, 153
Cloyfin	123
Cobham, Sir Alan John	7
Cochrane, Thomas	64
Cold War	10, 142, 154
Cole, Leslie	113
Coleraine	5, 7, 11, 13, 16, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 48, 49, 51, 52, 55, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 69, 70, 72, 81, 83, 84, 85, 88, 93, 98, 99, 101, 103, 104, 105, 111, 113, 114, 124, 127, 129, 137, 138, 139, 145, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 171, 172, 173, 180, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 192, 194
Coleraine Academical Institution	4, 100, 141, 155, 184
Coleraine Art Society	126
Coleraine Borough Council	7, 26, 27, 28, 29, 112,
Coleraine Drama Club	98
Coleraine Harbour Commissioners	73
Coleraine Mobile Reserve Company	153
Coleraine Orchestral Society	128
Coleraine Regional Committee	37
Coleraine Rural District Council	26, 27
Coleraine Urban Council	7
Coleraine Young Farmers' Club	61
Colgan, Alex	71
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (Society of the Musicians of Ireland)	119, 120, 121
Comrades of the Great War	51
Conservative Party	17
Conspicuous Gallantry Cross	16
Coronation, The Queen's	10, 11
Corrymeela	54, 55, 113
County Antrim Territorial Army and Air Force Association	150
County Antrim Welfare Committee	36
COVID-19	24, 47, 130,
Craig, Sir James	8
Cranagh	70, 154

Craven, Air Marshal Sir Robert	144
Crawford, Elizabeth	75
Cricket	158, 163
Crocker, Joe	91
Crofts, Freeman Wills	128
Cumann na nGaedheal	5
Cunningham, Samuel	76
Curfew	4, 88
Cushendall	3, 60, 66, 77, 95, 110, 119, 153, 185, 194
Cushendun	3, 98, 99, 110, 118, 185
Cutts, The	44, 70
Dáil Éireann	5
Dalai Lama	55
Dallat, John	53
Daly, Fred	176
Dalzell, A.	168
Dancing	88, 129, 130
Dark Hedges	98
Davey, Rev Ray	54, 113
de Valera, Eamon	7
Decade of Centenaries	23, 156
Democratic Unionist Party	21
Derry-Londonderry	49, 103, 112
Derrykeighan	134
Dervock	43, 58, 117, 141, 159, 194
Desertoghill	171
Dickie, Albert	75
Dickson, William	130
Direct Rule	17
Doherty, Harry	73
Doherty, Jack	167, 168
Doherty, James	73
Doherty, Kevin	171
Doherty, Peter	164, 165, 166, 167, 171
Donaghadee	75
Donegal, County	49, 79, 188, 189
Donovan	91

Dooley, Andrew	131
Dornan, Jamie	101
Downhill	49, 98, 112
Drama	41, 42, 59, 87, 96, 97, 98, 100, 101, 104, 108, 110
Drumaheglis	133
Drumaquill	2
Dublin	5, 17, 23, 32, 57, 97, 128, 138, 161, 172
Dunboe	155
Dungiven (Dhún Geimhin)	19, 40, 41, 119, 121, 130, 153, 171, 172, 173
Dungiven Amateur Players	96
Dunkirk	149, 150
Dunlop, Jim	180
Dunlop, Joey	180, 181, 182, 183
Dunlop, Michael	183
Dunlop, Robert	182
Dunlop, William	183, 184
Dunloy	119, 121, 129, 130, 131
Easter Rising	12
Education (Schools, University)	5, 7, 10, 13, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 54, 55, 89, 100, 112, 113, 131, 138, 165,
Education Act of 1947	10, 40
Edward, Prince	113
Edward, Prince of Wales	7
Éire	7, 10
Eisenhower, General Dwight C.	148
Elder, Elizabeth	117
Elizabeth, Princess	10
Elizabeth, Queen	11, 23, 42, 101, 111, 114, 145, 156
Elkin, family	151
Empire Settlement Act	2
England	53, 64, 67, 147, 183
Erskine, Lord	42
Estonia	181
Europe	31, 121, 154, 155
European Convention on Human Rights	19

European Court of Human Rights	19
Fair Employment Acts	22
Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order	22
Fair Head	98
Fairley, Michelle	98, 99
Faithfull, Marianne	91
Farming	8, 11, 56, 67, 70, 130
Faughanvale	171
Faulkner, Brian	60, 85
Faulkner, Max	176
Feis na nGleann	110, 119, 131, 135, 139
Festival of Britain	45, 96, 103, 104
Festivals	59, 91, 96, 98, 103, 104, 105, 108, 109, 110, 116, 119, 128, 129, 159
Fielding, Mark	67
Finvoy	171
Finvoy Young Farmers' Club	60
Fishing	56, 70, 71, 72, 73, 80, 109, 116
Fitzgerald, Garret	19
Fitzsimmons, J.	175
Fleadh Cheoil (Festival of Music)	119
Football	158, 163, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 192
France	8, 68, 147, 150
Freedom of Borough of Ballymoney	9, 181, 182, 183
Freedom of Borough of Causeway Coast and Glens	187
Freedom of Borough of Coleraine	7, 9, 16, 30, 53, 150,
Fry, Stephen	43
Fulton, Roy	162
Gaelic	116
Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)	171,
Gaelic Football	170, 171, 172, 173, 174
Garvagh	8, 46, 53, 54, 75, 122, 139, 141, 148, 153, 171, 190
George Cross	9
George VI, King	10, 89, 146
Germany	8, 68, 150
Giggs, Ryan	169
Gillen, Charlie	117

Girona	108, 132
Glasgow	34, 128, 160, 170, 176
Glenmona House	3
Glens of Antrim	66, 116, 118, 121, 153, 160
Glitz, Mercedes	188
Glór na nGael (Voice of the Gaels)	121
Golf	104, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179
Gorman, Damian	118
Graham, Earl	161
Great Depression	6
Greencastle	49, 79, 189
Greer, Diane	129
Greer, John	48
Greer, Samuel	129
Gregg, Harry	165, 166
Group 10 (British Legion)	52, 107
Hain, Peter	113
Hamilton, Brian	180
Harbison, William	148
Harper, Roy	91
Harris, Julie	97
Haughey, Charles	17
Heaney, Seamus	108
Hebrides	116
Henry, Jeremy	162
Henry, S. J.	168
Henry, Sam	117, 123, 139
Herron, Tom	180
Hezlet, Sir Arthur	151
High Sheriff of County Londonderry	8, 67, 146, 151
Hill, Conleth	98, 101
Hillsborough, Castle	119
Hitler, Adolf	7
Hockey	172, 192
Hollywood	88
Home Rule	38
Hong Kong	125

House of Commons	8, 69, 86
Hume, John	48
Hurling	119, 171, 172, 173
Hutton, Marcus	101
Hydroplane racing	186
Immigration	124, 125
India	6, 125, 127
IRA Border Campaign	12
Irish Air Corps	106
Irish Civil War	2
Irish dancing	129, 130
Irish Free State	5, 7, 189
Irish National Liberation Army	19
Irish Republican Army (IRA)	3, 8, 12, 21, 23
Irish Sea	108
Irish War of Independence	2
Islay	116
Italy	65
Jennings, Pat	167
Johnston, Margaret	162
Jordanstown	41
Jubilee	31, 42, 106, 107, 112, 113, 155
Kane, Barry	162
Kart racing	191
Kennedy, Frank	180
Kennedy, Jimmy	89
Kent, Duchess of	86
Killowen	29, 128, 171
Killure	163
Kilraughts	60
Kilrea	5, 6, 13, 14, 46, 105, 112, 141, 148, 153, 170, 171, 175, 193
King, William	172
Knox, Ivy	152
Knox, Robert S.	150, 152
Knox, W.R.	104
Koch, Hans	72

Lammas Fair	101, 108, 109, 116, 117
Larne	4, 74
Larrybane	98
Laurie, Hugh	43
Laverty, Jane	11
Ledger, Cliff	91
Leeke, George	5
Lemass, Seán	12
Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners	19
Lifeboat	72-80, 106,
Limavady (Leim an Mhadaidh),	5, 13,14, 18, 23, 26, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45, 50, 58, 59, 62, 63, 66, 75, 81, 82, 86, 98, 101, 119, 121, 136, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 155, 156, 163, 175, 184, 189, 190, 194
Limavady Borough Council	23, 28
Limavady Rural District Council	26
Limavady Urban District Council	26
Lindstrom, Per	50
Local Defence Volunteer Service (LDV)	150
Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972	27
Logan, Liam	117
London	34, 91, 126, 149, 176, 186
Londonderry and Limavady Regional Education Committee	39
Londonderry County Council	26, 30
Londonderry, County	5, 8, 16, 27, 32, 67, 108, 146, 151, 152, 189
Londonderry, North	7, 52
Long Jump	161
Lord Lieutenant of County Londonderry	67
Loughan	131
Loughgiel	171, 174
Lovell, Anthony	147
Lovell, Stuart	147
Lovell and Christmas	86
Lowry, Shane	177
Loyal Orders	17, 124

Luftwaffe	8, 151
Lulu	88
Lurigethan	110
Lyle, Dr Ranken	33
Lynch, Kevin	19
Lyttle, R. B.	37
Macausland, Dorothea	53, 54
Macnaghten, Sir Edward	157
Macnaghten, Sir Malcolm	36
Macosquin	27, 64, 156
Madden, John	160
Magherabuoy	4, 179, 180
Magherafelt	46, 64, 163
Magilligan	5, 49, 171, 179
Manchester	130, 160, 165, 166, 170, 176
Marathon	159, 160
Margaret, Princess	168
Mark Ashton Trust	19
Mark, John Martin	5
Marshall, William Forbes	124
Mary, Queen	126
Matthew, Sir Robert	26
Maze	17
McAleese, Dr Mary	55
McArthur, Kennedy Kane	159, 194
McCamphill, Karen	130
McCann, Herbie	48
McCarry, Patrick	3
McCartney, Paul	91
McCausland, Maurice Marcus	136
McClure, Ian	162
McCorkell, Jenna	192
McCormick, Aaron	156
McCormick, Arthur David	127
McCracken, W. J.	180
McCullough, Henry	91
McDowell, Graeme	177, 179

McGilligan, Brian	172
McGilligan, Patrick Joseph	5
McGlinchey, Josephine	161
McGoldrick, Tommy	121
McGrath, Mrs	55
McGrotty, Davy	167
McGuckian, Alexander Aloysius	58
McIlmoyle, Rev Robert	58
McIntyre, Paula	67
McKay, Danny	160
McLaughlin, Daniel	162
McLean, Robert	75
McMullan, G.	104
McMullan, Robert	76
McNally, Owen	183
McNicholl, Jerome	161
McNulty, Kate	190
McNutt, Robyn	113
McQuigg, Malcolm	36, 180, 183
McVicker, Hugh	184
McVicker, James	184
McVicker, Samuel	184
Megaw, Robert Dick	5
Milk Cup	167, 169
Millstrand Integrated Primary School	55
Millar, Alison	67
Millburn	29, 40
Miller, Alexander	73
Minnesota	154
Mitchell, Senator George	22
Montgomery, Frank 'Bunty'	164
Mooney, J.	74
Mooney, John	74
Mooney, Kevin	75
Moore, Stewart	184
Moore-Brown, Pleasance	126
Morelli, Angelo	65

Morelli, Corrado	191
Morelli, E.	120
Morelli, Peter	65
Moro, Peter	42
Motorcycle racing	37, 149, 179-84
Mount Everest	193
Mountsandel	48, 70, 133, 139
Movanagher	70
Moville	188, 189
Moycraig	60
Moycraig Young Farmers' Club	60
Moyle District Council	23, 27, 28, 135
Mullan, Francis	75
Mullan, Katie	172
Mullan, Rosemary	75
Murlough Bay	98
Murphy, Billy	161
Murphy, J.	168
Music festival	127, 128, 129
National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers	51
National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers	51
National Health Service	10, 33, 36
National Trust	47, 135, 136
National Union of Mineworkers	19
Neeson, Liam	43
Nesbitt, James	43, 100
New Decade, New Approach agreement	24
Newe, Gerard Benedict	60
Nolan, Phillis	162
North Antrim Agricultural Association	60
North of Ireland Bands Association	105
North Pole	160, 193
North West 200	101, 108, 149, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184
Northern Ireland Assembly	21, 23
Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA)	12
Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE)	40

Northern Ireland Electricity Board	45, 48,
Northern Ireland Executive	23, 28
Northern Ireland Fire Brigade	30, 77
Northern Ireland Hospitals' Authority and Hospital Management Committees	36
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	48
Northern Ireland Housing Trust	29
Northern Ireland Parliament	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17
Norwegian Red Cross	55
Nugent, Major General Sir Oliver	141
Officers' Association	51
O'Kane, Eddie	167
Olympics	159, 160, 161, 164, 172, 186, 187, 188, 192, 194
O'Neill, Martin	170
O'Neill, Moira	118
O'Neill, Sir Terence	6, 12, 41
Operation Banner	17
Orbison, Roy	88, 90
Paisley, Rev. Ian	48, 86
Palin, Michael	49
Parker, Dame Dehra	5, 6, 32, 39, 104
Patten Report	31
Patten, Chris	31
Paul, Anne	160
Peacock, Bertie	165, 167
Pentathlon	160
Peters, Dame Mary	192, 194
Philip, Prince (Duke of Edinburgh)	111, 113, 114, 156
Plantation of Ulster	70
Platt, Angela	192
Platt, Bobby	90
Platt, Jim	169
Ploughing	57, 63-4, 190
Poland	8
Police Service of Northern Ireland	9
Pollock, J.	75
Pollock, Tom	68

Pool	193
Portballintrae	55, 109, 112, 132, 185
Portna	70
Port-na-Spania	132
Portrush	19, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 41, 45, 65, 72, 73, 74, 77, 78, 79, 80, 88, 89, 90, 91, 94, 95, 98, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 119, 120, 129, 136, 141, 142, 147, 151, 153, 155, 165, 175, 176, 177, 179, 180, 185, 188, 189, 191, 193
Portrush Amateur Dramatic Society	96
Portrush Civil Defence	154
Portrush Life-Saving Company	104
Portrush Players	96
Portrush Ratepayers' Association	45
Portrush Urban District Council	26, 27, 88, 104
Portstewart	26, 27, 28, 36, 43, 65, 72, 75, 89, 91, 94, 98, 103, 108, 112, 126, 129, 141, 153, 160, 172, 175, 179, 180, 185, 188, 189,
Portstewart Community Association	108
Portstewart Urban District Council	26, 27
Priestland	11
Priestley, Tommy	164
Privy Council of Northern Ireland	6
Programme for Government 2011-2015	23, 28
Provisional IRA	8, 21
Purdon, Trevor	161
Quigg, Robert	23, 111, 114, 156, 157
Ranken, Mary	33
Rankin, Paul	67
Rasharkin	119, 121, 153, 171
Rathlin Island	47, 48, 50, 73, 74, 80, 109, 139, 156, 185
Rathlin Island Live-Saving Company	74
Rea, Professor Desmond	31
Red Bay	72, 77
Republic of Ireland	10, 19, 124, 170

Reynolds, Charlie	117
Ringsend	37
Ritter, A. M.	175
Ritter, John	44-5
Riverside Theatre	41, 43, 98, 100, 112
Robertson, Katherine O.	34
Robinson, Mervyn	180
Robinson, Minnie	35
Robinson, Samuel	34, 35
Robinson, Tony	43
Robinson Memorial Hospital	34-5
Roe Park	44
Romania	181
Rooney, Wayne	169
Rowing	185-8
Royal Air Force (RAF)	47, 89, 106, 107, 142-3, 144, 145-6, 147, 148, 184
Royal British Legion	51-3, 107, 114, 151, 155
Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC)	9
Royal Irish Rangers	16
Royal Irish Regiment	16, 156
Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI)	72-80, 78, 106
Royal Navy	50, 151
Royal Observer Corps	153-4
Royal Scottish Pipe Bands Association (RSPBA)	119-20
Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC)	9
Rugby	145, 146, 158, 163, 184
Running	159
Sailing	105, 109, 185
Salmon	47, 66, 70-2
Scotland	84, 115, 151, 163, 183
Scott, Hannah	188
Scott, John	78
Scottish Country Dance Society	122
Shields, Hannah	193
Shields, Patrick	75
Shiels, George	96, 97

Shiels, Joseph	111
Shot putt	161
Sinn Fein	3, 5, 23
Skerries	108, 183
Skrine, Agnes Higginson	118
Smyth, John	2
Snowdon, Lord	168
South Africa	159
Soviet Union	166
Spain	68
Special Category Status	17
Springfield, Dusty	88
St Andrew's Agreement	23
Stanleigh, Mrs	168
Sténuít, Robert	132
Stephenson, Pat	92
Stockholm	159
Stormont	7
Stranraer	74
Stronge, Captain Charles E.	52
Stronge, James	8
Stronge, Sir Norman	8
Sunningdale Agreement	17
Surdyk, E.	154
Sweden	64, 190
Swimming	29, 109, 188-9
T S Duke of York Sea Cadets Corps	155
Taggart, Valerie	193
Tavish Dhu	108
Taylor, Robert	69
Tenant Rights	38
Tennant, Jean (nee Graham)	129
Tennis	189-90
Thatcher, Margaret	17, 19, 85
Thiepval	141
Thompson, Emma	43
Timms, Richard	188

Tokyo	172, 188
Torrens, W.D.	58
Tosh, Mark	160
Transport Act, 1947	46
Triathlon	160
Trimble, Andrew	184
Troubles, The	12-20, 118, 119, 125, 180
Tug-o-War	190-1
Twaddell, William J.	3
Tynan Abbey	8
Tyrone, County	89
Ullans (Ulster Scots language)	104, 117, 118, 122, 123, 124
Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR)	16
Ulster Farmers' Union	58
Ulster History Circle	54
Ulster Home Guard	150, 152, 153
Ulster Scots (community)	104, 117, 122, 123, 124
Ulster Scots Agency	123
Ulster Scots Community Network (USCN)	122
Ulster Special Constabulary	8, 9, 150
Ulster Unionist Council	4
Ulster Volunteer Force	4
Ulster Workers' Council	17, 18
United Kingdom	7, 10, 19, 85, 103, 148
United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation (UKWMO)	153
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	135
United States of America	6, 12, 22, 34, 67, 82, 85, 91, 124, 143, 147, 148, 151, 153, 154, 191
Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS)	125
Walker, Sammy	48, 168
Wall Street Crash	6
Warner, Richard	134
Watt, Jim	190
Waugh, Bronagh	101
Weir, Colin	156

Westminster	17, 86
Whiskey (Whisky)	68, 69, 154,
White Bay	189
Wilson, Guy L.	42
Wilson, Ross	67
Wilton, John	75
Winter of Discontent	17
Wisener, Jayne	101
Wolfson, Isaac	68
Women's Institute (WI)	53-4
Woodman, Peter	133
Woods, Tiger	178, 179
World War One	1, 4, 8, 23, 45, 51, 53, 114, 124, 135, 139, 141, 149, 152, 156, 157
World War Two	8, 52, 60, 65, 68, 81, 88, 89, 95, 103, 139, 142-154, 155, 184
Wright, Des	64
Young Communist League	19
Young Farmers' Club (YFC)	59, 60, 61, 63



Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council

NI 100

GLANCE BACK LOOK FORWARD

T:bucTM
Changing for the better, together



The
Executive Office