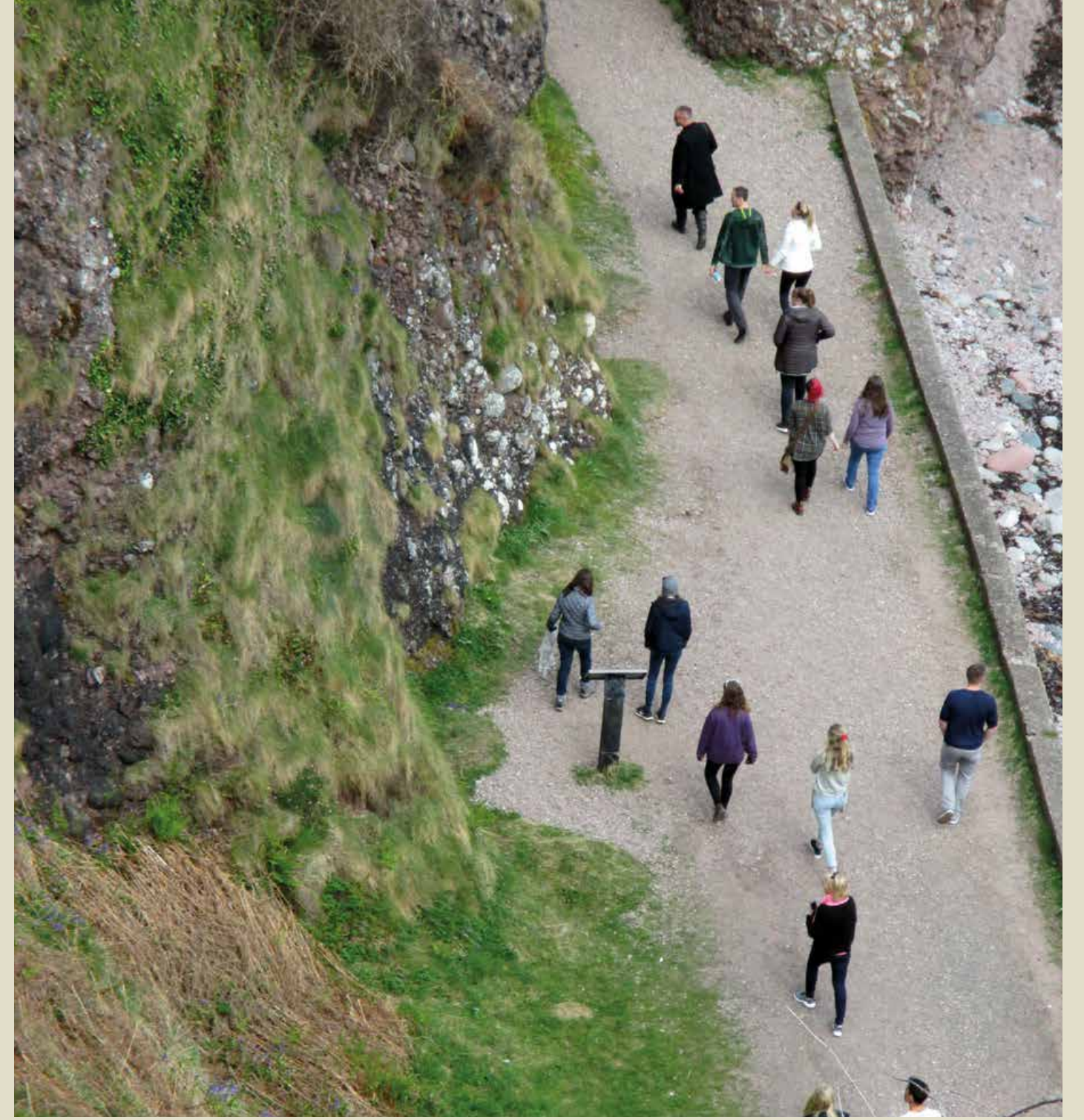


DECLINE & REGENERATION

“The Troubles”, from 1969 on, had a negative impact on the tourist industry. Discouraged by regular news footage, people outside Northern Ireland were disinclined to holiday there. While Cushendun was not significantly impacted, the bombing of two hotels in Cushendall and one in Ballycastle did little to dispel the grim picture being enacted nightly on the news.

Not for the first time, Cushendun provided a safe haven for Belfast residents who continued to come to Cushendun, either renting locally or staying in the Caravan Park of which generations of families have fond memories.

Local businesses worked hard during this period to maintain social events for both locals and visitors alike. The Bay Hotel catered for weddings and other family events, and ran social functions including exhibitions, to provide entertainment. In those days, prior to the smoking ban, and long before social media, people actually went out to meet each other and catch up with gossip and news.



Courtesy of J. Delargy



Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council



Courtesy of J. Delargy

Today, with tourism once more on an upward trajectory, Cushendun again attracts visitors from all over the world who wish to visit the famous caves featured in the iconic *Game of Thrones* television series where Melisandre birthed her shadow baby. Daily tour buses from Belfast bring visitors from the cruise ships docked at Belfast to experience the beauty of the Antrim Coast and the *Game of Thrones* sites.



Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council