



Peace IV Understanding Our Area: People And Places



A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme,
managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



This project has been supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Front cover image: Reproduction of 1580 map of the North Coast of Antrim from the Calendar State Papers.

All images courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council unless indicated otherwise.

Foreword

As Chair of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Peace IV Partnership, it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to this “legacy piece”.

“Understanding Our Area” has epitomised “Building Positive Relations” in terms of the work and resources that have been produced, the workshops which have been participated in, the Heritage Audit that has been unveiled and the Community Forum which has emerged as an important feature of a harmonious community voice with a passion for local history and heritage.

This booklet concludes and summarises “Understanding Our Area” in full, not only highlighting its key aims and objectives but also providing an index to the treasure trove of local resources, not to mention the Digital Platform which will continue to be used and fascinate for decades to come, both of which were produced as a result of the Peace IV funding.

This resource not only provides a definitive inventory of what was achieved over the course of the two Year Programme, it demonstrates the depth, breadth and variety of stories, offerings, artefacts and places on our doorstep. It reinforces how beautiful creations can take place when lots of unrelated and individual people and groups come together and willingly work towards a common goal of sharing.

We cannot underestimate the power of co-operation and mutual respect; when those elements exist, wonderful things happen.

Whilst the participants and beneficiaries have been a vital mechanic of the programme, it would be remiss of me not to mention the huge amount of work and dedication afforded by Council’s Museum Services who helped bring the entire programme to life, and worked tirelessly with the groups and individuals, ensuring the quality that we are now presented with.

I would encourage anyone with additional interest or questions about this resource or additional information about the “Understanding Our Area” programme to contact Museum Services directly.

Moreover we are hugely grateful that this project was supported by the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Thank-you,

Cllr Orla Beattie

Chair – Peace IV Partnership – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Introduction

Peace IV Understanding Our Area programme, delivered by Museum Services under the Peace IV Local Area Action Plan, arose from community consultation at the end of Peace III. Local groups expressed a desire to work with Museum Services to share histories of their local area with others, including tourists.

The programme was designed so that Museum Services would facilitate groups to achieve their project goals. Museum Services would never have the resources to do it all for them, nor would we wish to. Local communities know their local history in a way no external 'expert' can, and the projects were designed to develop skills to carry forward into new projects should the groups wish. What Museum Services could do was offer skills and resources to assist with learning at a local level. Peace IV provided the funding.



Composite of group project graphic representations created during evaluation session.

"Discovered new history that was literally on our doorstep"

"It's important that you start out with a blank canvas and without preconceived ideas"

Using staff expertise alongside external consultants, groups from across the Causeway area gained heritage skills and developed publications, tours, displays and carried out archaeological investigations, as well as contributing, through their work, to the regional programme for Decade of Centenaries. The scale of voluntary effort by all these groups cannot be underestimated nor their outstanding commitment to sharing their local history. Crucially a network of contacts crystallised into the Community Forum which groups and Museum Services are keen to continue with.

During the project there were challenges to overcome, and towards the end of the project; COVID-19 presented us with the biggest challenge of all. Lockdown prevented a number of launches and finale events from occurring. However, the results are outstanding and throughout this publication you can share the progression and the achievements as well as get an insight into the lessons learnt by groups and Museum Services.

All of the projects and all of the outputs resulting from this wide-reaching programme are available on www.niarchive.org



"The larger project brought people together."

"Our project surpassed our expectations in a good way."

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“Learned about the diversity of our landscape and people”



Understanding Our Area programme launch with RNIB Coleraine, October 2017.

PEACE IV Understanding Our Area Programme Objectives

The Understanding Our Area programme set out to increase the understanding and expression of our culture and history, our people and places, through museum collections, historic sites and cultural heritage using interpretation, arts and multimedia to create a peace building legacy.

By engaging with communities and working with them to better understand their own and others' culture, history, community and place history, there would also be a legacy of increased capacity within groups to deliver future heritage-based projects.

- Increase awareness amongst local communities about their own heritage and cultural identity.
- Aim to dispel myths, break down barriers, and address pre-conceptions that people have about their area's history.
- Encourage joint working between groups and communities across the area.
- Develop a peace building legacy product for local people and tourists showcasing the range of successful interpretative projects that have developed as result of peace building.
- Engage with a wide range of historical groups, cultural groups, schools, faith organisations, older people's groups, ex-prisoner groups, victims' groups, ex-service personnel groups, youth groups amongst others.
- Contribute towards the way in which museums interact with communities.




Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund

PEACE IV Building Positive Relations
Understanding our Area August 2017 - September 2019

Understanding Our Area- People and Places, is a cross community project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). It will increase understanding and expression of our culture and history, our people and places through museum collections, historic sites and cultural heritage using interpretation, arts and multimedia to create a peace building legacy.

Groups can participate through a project they want to deliver about local people and places or through regional programmes designed to support engagement and contributions from a wide range of interests in our heritage. Taster events will be held during this Autumn.

Contact Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services if you have a project or if you would like to be on our mailing list to hear about all our events.

This project has been supported by the EU's Peace IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programme Body (SEUPB).

Email: cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk or contact Helen Perry, Museums Services Development Manager on 028 2766 0230.

“We have an increased knowledge of our heritage that we never expected.”



The programme would also allow for new relationships to be established across the borough and the development of cultural tourism products to provide a tangible way to positively promote the diverse cultural identities of the participating communities.

Between 2017 and 2020, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services supported a range of community-led projects, along with events, showcases and resources, including exhibitions and booklets, exploring the history of the Causeway area.

Under the agreed programme Museum Services were to develop and deliver programmes to mark key events in the Decade of Centenaries.

As the project was drawing to a close the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown impacted on groups who had not completed their project. Due to the restrictions in place several groups were unable to hold their project showcase events. The showcase exhibition celebrating the achievements of the groups, planned to open in Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre in Limavady, was cancelled due to the venue being closed as a result of the pandemic.



The final phase of the programme was the creation of a digital platform including an audit of existing community heritage resources.

Group Recruitment & Application Process

The recruitment of groups began through a series of PEACE IV taster events which were held across the borough. The Understanding Our Area programme was launched at an event with RNIB in Coleraine. Further recruitment continued with groups, explaining the UOA programme and application process followed.

Expressions of interest were submitted by groups. These were assessed by a panel, with groups scoring over 65% accepted onto the programme.

A closing date had been set for 31 March 2018, however, due to the high level of interest groups were contacted in early January 2018 advising them to submit expressions of interest as soon as possible due to anticipated over-subscription.

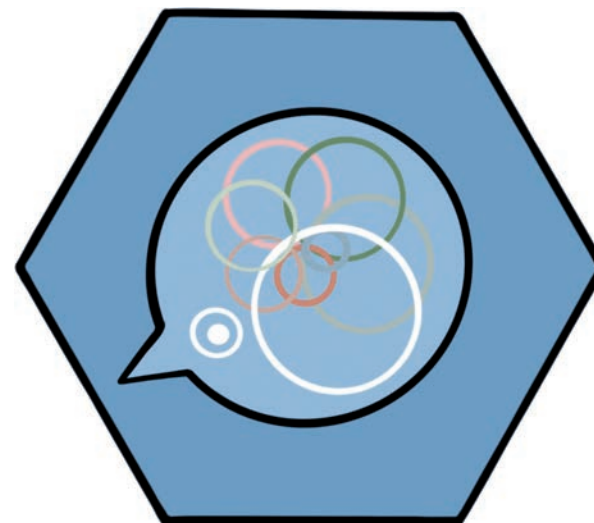
Available resources were allocated earlier than expected, leading to mechanisms being put in place to enable groups who did not secure a resource allocation to engage with the programme in other ways.

These groups were provided with support by Museum Services by being able to avail of training being offered, the loan of equipment and advice to support project development.

Early Group Engagement Process

The Peace IV Understanding Our Area Officer met all successful groups individually to review the outcomes of the proposed project and implement a project plan for delivery within the available timeframe and budget.

Skills gaps were identified, and training put in place to address this and enable the group to successfully deliver their project.



Understanding Our Area Group Projects

*“Learned a lot from other groups taking part
in the overall project”*

Accessible Heritage - Glenshane Care Association

This project, designed by **Glenshane Care Association**, who manage a day centre for adults with physical and/or learning disabilities, enabled members to learn about local heritage and history while gathering information relating to the accessibility of the sites they visited.



Dunluce Castle visit, September 2018.



Mussenden Temple visit, August 2018.



Bonamargy Friary visit facilitated by Fionntán McCarry, Carey Historical Society, July 2018.



Dungiven Priory visit, August 2018.

Their findings were brought together with those of the Accessible Heritage – RNIB Coleraine project in an Accessible Heritage Guide. The findings of both groups were also used to produce an accessibility report for the managers of heritage sites. In addition to outlining their experiences, the report also included suggestions of how accessibility might be improved.



Green Lane Museum visit, July 2018.



Downhill Demense visit, August 2018.

“For the duration of the project, our Members engaged with a wide variety of heritage groups and individuals across the Council Borough. We aim to capitalise on the legacy of this experience through further engagement with the groups and individuals that we have been fortunate enough to meet and work with during this project, and also to continue to work closely with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services Team to ensure that heritage is accessible for everyone, both within the Borough and beyond.”

Accessible Heritage - RNIB Coleraine

This Accessible Heritage project was a regional programme led by Museum Services in partnership with **RNIB Coleraine**. It was designed to allow people with visual impairment to gain hands-on access to different aspects of the Borough's past and highlight how they experience history in these places.

After visiting more than 20 heritage sites across the borough, the RNIB Coleraine group worked in partnership with Glenshane Care Association to produce an Accessible Heritage Guide which is aimed at increasing accessibility to the heritage of the Causeway Coast and Glens area and allowing people with additional needs and young families to make informed decisions about their visits. The group's findings also contributed to the accessibility report for heritage site managers produced together with Glenshane Care Association.



Accessible Heritage Guide launch with Glenshane Care Association at RVACC, July 2019.

Causeway Coast and Glens Accessible Heritage Guide



Peace
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Causeway Coast & Glens
Borough Council

RNIB
Northern
Ireland
See differently

Glenshane Care
Association

Coleraine & District
Talking News

A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme,
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Martello Tower visit, August 2018.



Pottery and basketry workshops, February 2020.



Mounsandel visit, March 2018.



Old Bushmills Distillery visit, December 2017.



Ballycastle Museum visit, May 2019.



Dunluce Castle visit, June 2018.

Antrim Gardens Discovery Project - Portrush Heritage Group

Portrush Heritage Group commissioned the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork at Queen's University to conduct a geophysical survey of Antrim Gardens, Portrush. The results have been used to build on the findings of the 2005 excavation to show the heritage of the site, its contribution in the history of Portrush and links to the wider area.



Geophysical survey of Antrim Gardens by QUB Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, May 2018.

PORT OF THE PROMONTORY




Excavation at Antrim Gardens in 2005 by Northern Archaeological Consultancy showing archaeological deposits. Courtesy of Northern Archaeological Consultancy.

Portrush, historically, had many different names such as *Portros*, *Portrosce* and *Portrosce*. The name Portrush comes from Port Rois [port rush] 'port of the promontory'. The headland that looks out across the Atlantic Ocean is called Ramore, which is derived from 'Rathmore', meaning Great Fort.

During Medieval times Portrush was an important landing place. In 1306 a church is listed in the Papal Taxation Record as *Eccle de Portrosce*.

Archaeological excavations in Antrim Gardens in 2005 produced evidence of a substantial settlement dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. The archaeologists uncovered many different features including foundations and a well. Indications that Portrush was thriving at this time included the many pieces of pottery uncovered, including pottery that was imported from Bristol and France.

The Antrim Gardens (Portrush) excavations produced a sherd of Roman Samian pottery, dating to the 1st or 2nd century AD. During the Medieval period sherds of Samian pottery were probably brought here as 'holy' relics.



Detail taken from a later reproduction copy of the 1580 Calendar State Paper Map showing the outer wall of the fort located overlooking the harbour. Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.



The fragment of Samian Ware recovered from the excavation at Antrim Gardens. Roman tableware pottery dating from the 1st to 3rd Century AD. Courtesy of Northern Archaeological Consultancy.



Antrim Gardens Discovery Project

The Portrush Heritage Group Peace IV Project is inspired by the geophysical survey that was undertaken by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University in 2018 as part of the Peace IV programme.





A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

THE FORT OF PORTRUSH

Coloured reproduction of the 1580 map of the peninsula of Portrush.

The shoreline along the North Coast retains many castles that were dotted along an important maritime route. Portrush has been an important landing place since Anglo-Norman times and continued to be used by trading and fishing vessels in the following centuries. 'Porto Rosso' is named on a Portolan map created in Venice in 1468 which helped to guide merchant ships around our rocky coast.



Detail showing the fort of Portrush with outer wall and entrance.



The 16th century map of Portrush depicts an enclosed area on top of a hill overlooking a natural harbour on the west side of the promontory. This hill was known as Crannagh Hill. The earliest written evidence for the fort of Portrush comes from the Lord Deputy Perrot, writing from Dunluce in 1584: 'I have taken Dunferrie, the ward being held likewise another pyle by Portrush', Dunferrie is now called Ballyreagh and lies to the south-west of Ramore headland.

In 1606, Sir Thomas Phillips writes in a letter to Lord Salisbury "under the fort itself there might be made a good harbour".

The natural harbour was adapted for use and the footprint of it can still be seen today in the area known as the Old Dock. It is a fine surviving element of the earlier harbour and today it is protected as a scheduled area.

In the 19th century the harbour was extended and developed to accommodate larger maritime vessels and Crannagh Hill was quarried out to supply the stone needed for the new harbour. With the salmon trade in the 19th century large fleets of smacks called into Portrush to restock for ice to maintain their precious cargo.

Antrim Gardens Discovery Project

A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

MARITIME TRADITION




Close up image taken from the 1580 map of the North Coast of Antrim. Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

The North Coast has witnessed many visiting seafarers. A great number of Viking hoards have been found on the Antrim coast. In 1813, a Viking burial was uncovered in Ballywillan townland, on the outskirts of Portrush.

A newspaper article records the finding of a clinker-built boat "in a mound c.40ft in diameter, composed of stones and clay...about 15 perches from the shore of the bog...it is over 6 or 8 feet in height". Finds from the mound and boat included bones and silver coins. The boat had no nails and was put together with pegs of wood. The *Ordnance Survey Memoirs* also record the keel of a ship found in Ballywillan bog.



Detail from the 1580 map of the peninsula of Portrush. The ship has sail and car capability. Gun ports are also visible. Flying the Cross of St. George flag. Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

Viking Influence

The Drontheim boat was the traditional wooden boat for the north and west coastal areas of Ireland and Scotland. It is a double ended clinker built boat whose origin stretch back in time to the Viking influence.



Traditional Drontheim under sail off the North Coast of Antrim. Image courtesy of Robin Ruddock, Drontheim and Yawl Society.

Boat building was part of the town's history. The James Kelly boatyard in Portrush produced many fine examples of the Drontheim. Other well-known Portrush boat builders include master boat builders John Hopkins and William Gregg.

Antrim Gardens Discovery Project




A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

MARITIME TRADE




Coloured reproduction of the 1580 map of the North Coast of Antrim from the Calendar State Papers. Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

The excavations in Antrim Gardens uncovered many different artefacts associated with fishing, such as iron hooks and net weights. During the 14th century records show that Portrush did a healthy trade in fish with the Isles and with western Scotland.



Iron fishing hook recovered during the 2005 excavation at Antrim Gardens. Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

The 16th century map depicts the north coast in detail along with the Scottish coast and Isles. Sir Thomas Phillips remarked that the fishing was good at Portrush and that this was known to Breton fishermen who came to fish for dogfish and rays. The fish was then preserved and salted for export as far away as Spain.



Fish bones uncovered during the excavation at Antrim Gardens. Courtesy of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

The map depicts sea going vessels in fantastic detail. Look closely and you can see sailors standing on deck.

In 1630, a salmon fishing station is recorded at Portrush which was part of a thriving network of salmon fisheries along the north coast. The salmon trade continued into the 19th century with many ships calling into Portrush to restock for ice.

A large fleet of smacks carried salmon from Ballina and Ballyshannon finally ending up in Liverpool. There was a five pound prize for the first vessel to reach Liverpool which was generally won by a smack called the *Benbulbin Hawk*, which was manned by a Portrush crew.

With the arrival of steam passenger ships, Portrush was crowned as the Queen of Watering Places, with day trippers and seasonal workers lining the quay as they travelled back and forth across the water.

Antrim Gardens Discovery Project



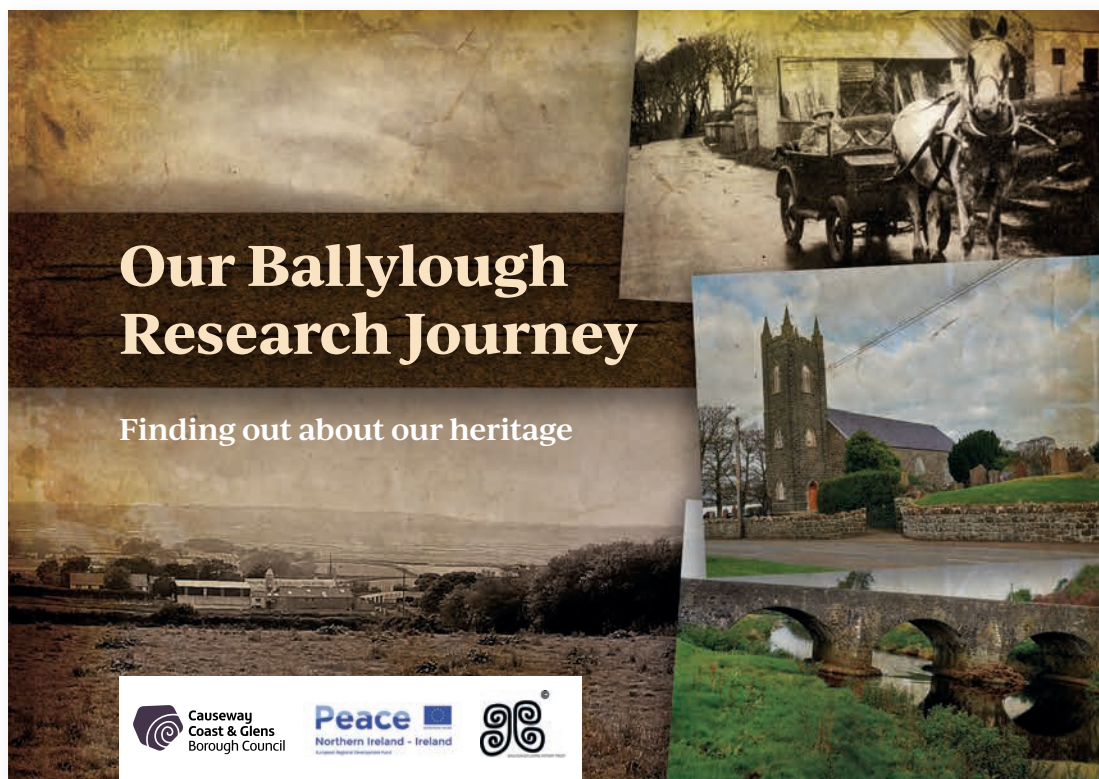

A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Four interpretative panels were produced to use at a range of community events and a handling box was developed to assist with interpretation of the history of the site. Four local primary schools were given young archaeologist packs.



Schools Day at Antrim Gardens, June 2019.

Discovering Ballylough - Ballylough Living History Trust



DNA workshop at Ballylough House, February 2019.

Ballylough Living History Trust co-ordinated a training programme exploring aspects of local history, archaeology, family history and built heritage. It covered various elements from genealogy and archiving practices, to archaeology and arts-based interpretation, in order to build capacity within the local community. As part of their project the group explored the genetic ancestry of the area through DNA testing. They also produced a book, *Our Ballylough Research Journey*, detailing their journey through the project. A set of panels drawn from the book will be installed on site.



St Columb's Rill, Ballylough.

Our Ballylough Research Journey: Finding out about our Heritage



St Columb's Rill as it emerges under the Ballylough Bridge where the road used to cross into Ballylough Estate. A large tree is growing out of the bridge and needs to be removed. The arch structure is in good order. The water comes from springs close by to the lower fields or lower bog, as farmers call it now.



High Bar's farm 1970s.

Different aspects of heritage training were provided through PEACE IV with COGBC Museum Services. At times we were joined on these workshops by representatives from other groups. Subjects covered included documentation, caring for archives, protecting material from pests, damp etc, storage advice and interpretation. COGBC Museum Services provided additional support and advice on many aspects of our project, such as writing and designing our booklets. Specialist training workshops were run on genealogy research and on DNA research. These took place in early 2010. We were also taken for a day's introduction visit to PRONI (Public Records Office of Northern Ireland).

Ballylough Area Details

The area that the group researched covered the following townlands:

- Ballylough
- Ballylough Beg
- Ballylough More
- Curamoney/Ballygiebe
- Castlecott
- Cavan

Members of the local community joined together to research the history of the people who lived here and to find out more about the area from the buildings, documents, photographs and artefacts that have been left behind. In late 2017 Ballylough Living History Trust secured funding from the PEACE IV Understanding Our Area Programme being delivered by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CCGBC) Museum Services.

This is a 19th century charcoal drawing of the castle ruins that were listed at the bottom of Ballylough Lake. Artist unknown.



Bar Family wedding photograph.



Various items from the Ballylough Collection. Reproduced with kind permission of Trust team.



Logos for Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, Peace IV, and COGBC.

Ballylough Timeline



Ballylough Castle - the ruins that are visible today are the remains of the MacQuillan Castle, from the 18th century.



We found this photograph in the Ballylough Collection with James Wilson (Macquillan) written on it in the back. On researching the 19th and 20th centuries we found out that James Wilson was the governor of Ballylough Estate at the time of the castle's construction. He was (John) MacQuillan, who owned the castle (1811) and in a photograph. In 1861 they were recorded as being seven children and in 1811 as having four children.

Late 1300s - Ballylough Castle probably built by Savage family (Anglo-Normans).

1400s - Ballylough Castle held by MacQuillans and likely to have been rebuilt by them. The ruins we see today are attributed to the MacQuillans (the ruins of the Savage castle are underneath these).

1500s - MacDonnells controlled area (based at Dunluce Castle).

1568 - Ballylough Castle recorded as empty (probably burned).

MacDonnell's land agent probably lived in Ballylough House (likely to have been former garrison house for castle).

1625 - MacDonnells granted Ballylough to Archibald Stewart (MacDonnells' land agent).

1789 - Trails bought Ballylough from Stewarts.


SAVAGE DIG

In 2009, Dr Colin Breen of the University of Ulster carried out the 'Savage Dig' for a week at Ballylough. We have drawn on information from his archaeological work.




MacQuillan and MacDonnell wedding re-enactment organised by Ballylough Living History Trust and performed by George Logan and his associates in the Battle of the Blue Boy.

Griffith's Valuation and General Valuation




This is a working document used by the group during their research. The Griffith's Valuation map covered from 1825 to 1864. The map was used to record changes in land ownership, house burning times, and their uses.




Extract from Griffith's Valuation Map for Ballylough More and Ballylough Beg.

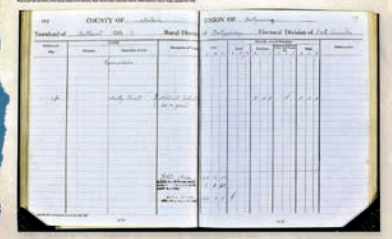
Griffith's Valuation is the name widely given to the Primary Valuation of Ireland, a property tax survey carried out in the mid-nineteenth century under the supervision of Sir Richard Griffith. The survey involved the detailed valuation of every taxable piece of agricultural or built property on the island of Ireland and was published county-by-county between the years 1847 and 1864 (source <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>). This continued to be the basis of the valuation into the 20th century and was used for the General Valuation of 1923.



Extract from General Valuation of 1923. Amendments and additions in blue (1925), pink (1926) and green (1924 and 1946).



This is the front cover of the 1923 General Valuation for Ballylough, No. 18, which has details of the Ballylough area. The house is listed as 1923.




General Valuation of Ballylough 1923.

“...whilst we found the processes challenging at times, the fundamental aim of the project to get people together to share stories, discover family history and artefacts was incredibly rewarding...”

“Connecting to the people in the area has been the single most enjoyable part of the project.”

Surnames in Censuses and School Records



Extract from Ballylough National School registers.

We researched surnames in the area from various sources including manuscripts, books, internet searches and local knowledge. We also researched the records for households in Ballylough for both the 1901 and the 1911 censuses. 1901 is the earliest surviving census for Ballylough. This listed 135 names for Ballylough and Ballylough Beg. There are 39 family names.

1901 Census shows 39 family names:

Atchison, Beverland, Cargill, Carnegie, Conway, Curry, Dallas, Douglas, Edgar, Hanney, Harding, Jameson, Macollum, McBride, McFadden, McGougan, McIvor, McKendry, McKenzie, McKeown, McKernan, McKenley, McMullan, McNaui, Mill, Murphy, Patterson, Rankin, Richmond, Stewart-Moore, Stirling, Taylor, Trail, Walker, Watters, Watton, Wilmot.

1911 listed 146 names— 34 family names: Atchison, Bennett, Bennett, Beverland, Callaghan, Campbell, Carragee, Carnegie, Devers, Douglas, Fleming, Galbraith, Jamison, McIvor, McBride, McCurdy, McKendry, McKenzie, McKeown, McMullan, McKivier, Mill, Neil, Patterson, Rankin, Richmond, Scally, Smith, Steele, Stirling, Taggart, Walker, Wilmot.

Part of 1901 census of 1901 for Ballylough.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

Household No.	Family Name	First Name	Age	Sex	Religion	Marital Status	Occupation	Place of Birth
1	Atchison	John	45	M	R	Married	Farmer	Ballylough
2	Bennett	Mary	35	F	R	Married	Housewife	Ballylough
3	Bennett	John	25	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough
4	Beverland	William	55	M	R	Married	Farmer	Ballylough
5	Callaghan	James	40	M	R	Married	Farmer	Ballylough
6	Campbell	Mary	30	F	R	Married	Housewife	Ballylough
7	Campbell	John	20	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough
8	Campbell	William	15	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough
9	Campbell	Mary	10	F	R	Single	Housewife	Ballylough
10	Campbell	John	5	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough
11	Campbell	Mary	4	F	R	Single	Housewife	Ballylough
12	Campbell	John	3	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough
13	Campbell	Mary	2	F	R	Single	Housewife	Ballylough
14	Campbell	John	1	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough
15	Campbell	Mary	0	F	R	Single	Housewife	Ballylough
16	Campbell	John	0	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough
17	Campbell	Mary	0	F	R	Single	Housewife	Ballylough
18	Campbell	John	0	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough
19	Campbell	Mary	0	F	R	Single	Housewife	Ballylough
20	Campbell	John	0	M	R	Single	Farmer	Ballylough

Built Heritage of Ballylough



Billy Parish Church. Ballylough National School.

We were interested in looking at the history of buildings in the area and identifying some stories about them. Billy Parish Church was a key place to start as it is a focal point of the area and many of us were aware that it was built on an early pagan site. Using Griffith's Valuation, we studied further local buildings, as Griffith's gave us a starting point to decide what to research.



Ballylough House. Bell Tower.

Confetti Memorial Hall on the day it was opened in November 1906.



Ballylough Archive



Document from James (Shill) Bishop of Down and Connor to Reverend Anthony Trail, enclosing the letter to the Archbishop in the Diocese of Down, 1782.

Example of newspaper cutting in collection, from Belfast Telegraph, January 1903.

Letter from Provost Trail to the Bishop of Down, 1882.

Map of Ballylough Estate based on Estate Operations Book.

The collection is made up of documents, letters, diaries, farm books, maps and images. We have set up a museum standard cataloguing system (using standard procedures and guidelines) following training provided by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services. This provides each item with its own unique reference number: items are scanned or photographed then logged onto the system using an Excel spreadsheet. With so much material, we have hardly scratched the surface. Information on the various buildings on and around the Ballylough Estate was the main thrust of our initial research. The earliest paperwork we have found at the property, so far, is from the 1600s.

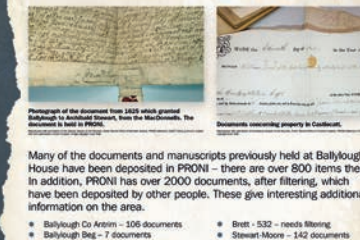
Front and back of card of 1794 signed by a Trail (card is 18th c. date).



Laurence Family.



PRONI Archive




Photograph of the document from 1818 which granted Ballylough to Anthony Trail, from the MacDonnells. The document is held in PRONI.

Documents concerning property in Causeway.

Many of the documents and manuscripts previously held at Ballylough House have been deposited in PRONI – there are over 800 items there. In addition, PRONI has over 2000 documents, after filtering, which have been deposited by other people. These give interesting additional information on the area.

- Ballylough Co. Antrim - 106 documents
- Ballylough Beg - 7 documents
- Trail - 370 documents
- Ballylough Trail estate papers collection - c. 650 documents and 2 volumes - D4081
- Casdecott - 12 documents Casdecott - 47 documents
- Cone (the latter c. 1900) - 47 documents
- Ballylough School - 8 documents
- Anderson - some 2000 documents - needs filtering
- Peacock - 28 documents Peacock - 109 documents
- Hamilton made over 13,000 documents
- Trail named into Hamiltons of Killyleagh and Candlish Estate - >2000+ docs - a project in itself
- Pin - 153 documents Pin - 3 documents
- Fisquet - 23 documents Fisquet - 3 documents
- Young - returned over 1500 records
- Allen - 2877 documents/records
- Barker - 255 documents
- Pelly - 6 records
- Brett - 532 - needs filtering
- Stewart-Moore - 142 documents
- French/French - 8 documents
- O'Brien - 155 documents
- Watts Gayer - 6 documents Gayer - 49 documents
- Jones - 2082 documents - needs filtering
- Crutch - 1 document
- Adams - 1084 documents
- Miler - 1467 documents
- Mulkeny - 58 documents
- McCurry - 157 documents
- Park is tricky as it also picks up the word park - over 10000 results
- Richmond - 2466 documents
- Thompson - 3861 documents Thompson + Ballylough - 15 documents
- Stewart + Ballylough - 78 documents
- Ballyloughmore - 47 documents
- Ballyloughmagg - 7 documents Ballyloughmagg - 7 documents
- Billy - 407 documents Billy Parish - 10 documents including 1655 Molesworth maps

Two Farm Grants.



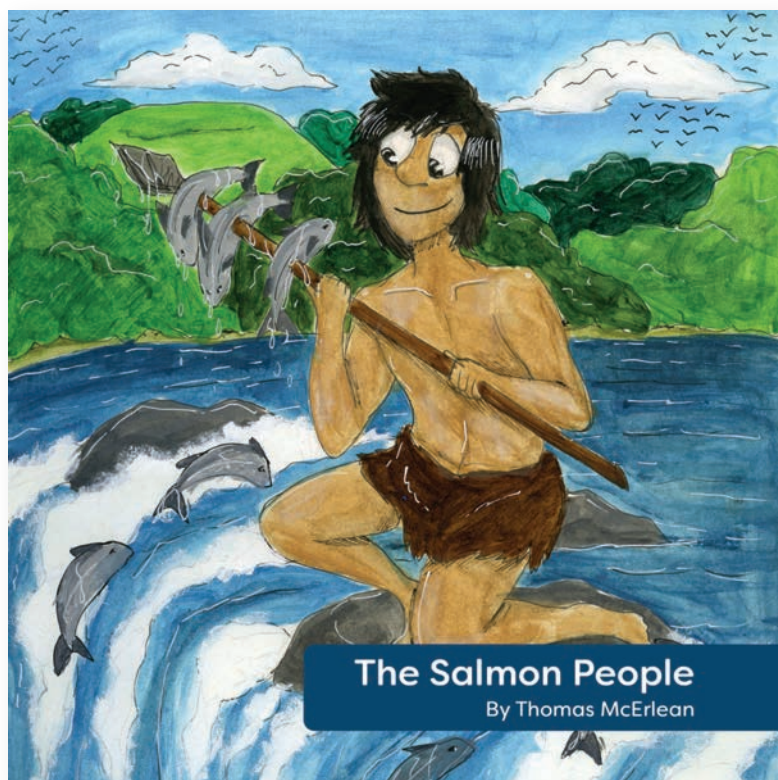
Public Record Office Northern Ireland.

Interpretative panels produced as part of Discovering Ballylough.

Discover Mountsandel - Mountsandel Discovery & Heritage Group

Mountsandel Discovery & Heritage Group have produced an illustrated book, *The Salmon People*, inspired by what life may have been like at the Mesolithic Mountsandel site.

They also produced exhibition panels for use at community events to raise awareness and understanding of this significant prehistoric site. As part of their project the group worked with students at Northern Regional College to produce a short promotional film.



The Salmon People book launch, August 2019.



Rachael Garrett and Thomas McErlean receiving Tour Guiding certificates from Patricia Crossley, vice-chair of CCGBC Peace IV Partnership, August 2019.

“The tangible legacy of our year in Peace IV UOA is enhanced public awareness of Mountsandel, an illustrated book, a video made by NRC students, tour guides in our group, display boards and pull ups for use at events, voice recordings of an historian, however the lasting memory will be the fun of working with 20 other diverse groups under the tireless commitment of the Causeway Museum Services Team.”

Discover Dungiven - Glór Dhún Geimhin

Glór Dhún Geimhin developed a heritage trail in Dungiven, accompanied by a brochure giving details on the sites.



No 187- Dungiven Priory Church.

The words were written by James Maxwell, native of Armagh, who taught school at Dungiven. He married Miss Sarah Anne Scott, of Tírmeil, Dungiven..

The air is the old Ulster form of "Savourneen Deelish". It was noted from the fiddling of a blind man named McKinley, a native of Swateragh, and sent by M.B. of Antrim. The words were supplied by James Harper of the Castle, Dungiven (sexton of the Episcopal Church) and by James McGilligan, Cluntygeragh, Dungiven.

Key B flat.

: s | d, r : m, r | d : t, s | l, t : d, l | s, f : m, }
 : d | s, f : m, r | d : m, s | l : d, r | d : }
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One fine summer's evening as Flora was flinging
 Her beautiful gems o'er the face of the ground,
 Delighted I wandered to hear the birds singing,
 And gaze on the beauties of nature around.
 I strayed to the old church not far from Dungiven,
 Where beautifully grand the red river doth flow;
 Possessed by the muses, 'mong tombs I was driven;
 I stood on a grave and looked down on the Roe.

I gazed round in silence, confounded by grandeur;
 Words cannot express the delight of my heart;

Above: Dungiven Priory Church song.

Top Right: Cooey-Na-Gall's tomb, Dungiven Priory Church.

Bottom Right: Dungiven Castle.

Images courtesy of the Sam Henry Collection, Coleraine Museum.





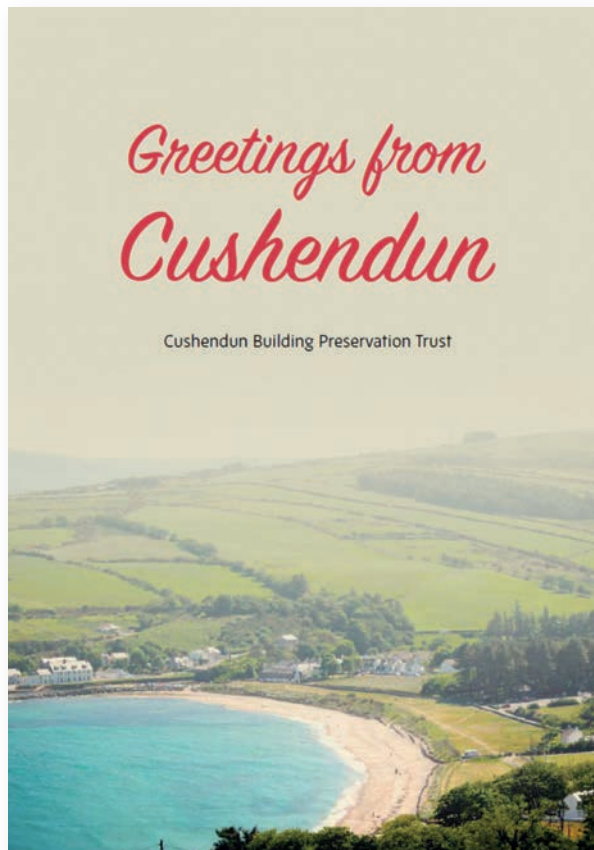
Interior of Dungiven Priory Church.

As part of their project they also developed the script and media content for a future audio-visual presentation which will allow the stories of the sites on the heritage trail to be shared with a wider audience.



Heritage trail pilot walk, June 2019.

Greetings From Cushendun
- Cushendun Building
Preservation Trust



Cushendun Building Preservation Trust investigated the history of Cushendun as a visitor destination from its first development as a bathing resort in the 19th century.

Using postcards, photographs, hotel visitor books, and oral reminiscences, they painted a picture of local life and tourism in the village, which was shared through an exhibition and accompanying booklet.



Launch of *Greetings from Cushendun* booklet, September 2019.

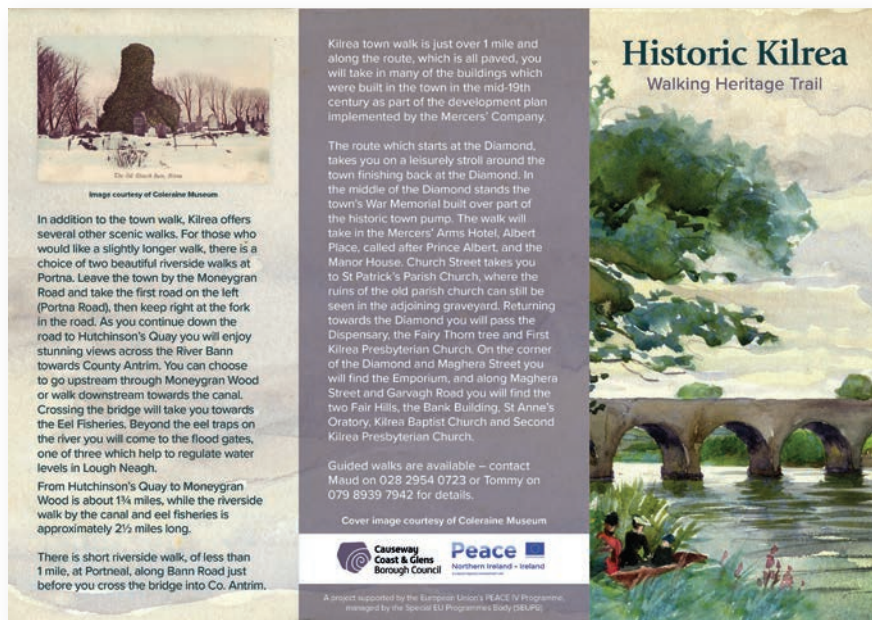


Opening of Greetings from Cushendun exhibition in Cushendun Old Church, July 2019.

Historic Kilrea - Kilrea Development Committee

Kilrea Development Committee created a walking tour of Kilrea which includes the five local churches and other historic buildings, accompanied by a brochure giving details for each site.

As part of their project they equipped group members with the necessary skills to guide visitors around the sites, and to assist with genealogical research. Their project will encourage visitors to come to Kilrea and to stay in the area longer, therefore bringing economic benefit to the town.



Launch of Historic Kilrea heritage trail, June 2019.



Linda Steele, Kilrea Development Committee, who successfully completed Tour Guide training, conducting a guided tour of Kilrea, June 2019.



The Bann Bridge at Kilrea. Watercolour by Hugh Thomson. Purchased as part of a larger collection with grant aid from Art Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Northern Ireland Museums Council. Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

1 Mercers' Arms Hotel ◀ Built about 1835, the hotel replaced the original residence of the Mercers' Company Agent. It was used as a barracks during the 1798 Rebellion. Griffith's Valuation noted "Only hotel in the town – it is clean and comfortable ..."

2 Albert Place ▶ Built in the mid-19th century, Griffith's Valuation shows one of the properties as a house and drapery shop, while the other was listed as a house, grocery and hardware shop.

3 Manor House ▶ Built in 1835, as the new residence of the Mercers' Company Agent. Described as 'a palatial palace' it was built at a cost of £4000, to designs by William Barnes, overlooking a lake, named on the Ordnance Survey map as the 'Washing Lough'. Griffith's Valuation noted "This is a very elegant mansion, well built and furnished and beautifully situated near a lake."

4 War Memorial and Town Pump ▶ Unveiled on the 1st July 1925, the obelisk, built of Newry granite, stands in remembrance of the men from the town and district who served in the Great War. The memorial was constructed over a cast iron water pump, installed by the Mercers' Company to replace the well which had previously served the town - part of which can still be seen in the base.

5 St Patrick's Parish Church ▶ The church, built in 1841-42, replaced the old parish church which pre-dated 1622. The town clock was built into the church tower and the smaller bell in the tower, from the old church, bears the inscription "GOD SAVE THE KING 1660". On the front wall is a brass Bench mark, with a value of 49.53 metres above sea level.

6 The Dispensary ▶ Built as a new office for the Mercers' Company in 1843, the building also included a dispensary. In 1832, the Company had established a dispensary "for the benefit of the poor" as part of their efforts to improve the general condition of the estate.

7 The Fairy Thorn ▶ Originally known locally as 'the Beggarman's Bush', the Fairy Thorn tree has stood on this site for over 200 years. The old tree was blown down during a storm in 1999, fortunately, one local person had the foresight to gather some of its haws and cultivate its successor.

8 First Kilrea Presbyterian ▶ The present church opened on the 21st April 1839, replacing an earlier 18th century Presbyterian Meeting House on the site. Built to the designs of William Barnes, the church, funded by the Mercers' Company, the Irish Society and subscriptions from the congregation, cost about £2300. The spire, which is 90 feet high, houses a bell presented to the church by William Barnes.

9 The Emporium ▶ The Emporium, an impressive three-storey building with a clock on top, was one of two establishments owned by the Bamford family. The Emporium was primarily a drapery shop, however, the family business interests were many and varied.

10 Cow Fair Hill & Horse Fair Hill ▶ The Mercers' Company provided Kilrea with two Fair Hills. In the 19th century, Maghera Street would have been lined with stall holders selling their wares on market day.

11 Northern Bank ▶ Built about 1885, for the Northern Banking Company, the bank occupies an excellent site close to the old railway station and the two markets. Design of the building is credited to Thomas Turner, who also designed Coleraine Town Hall.

12 St Anne's Oratory ▶ St Anne's Church was built in 1983. Previous to this the congregation worshipped in the Oratory at the Manor House, which had been purchased for the Mercy Order of Nuns, by Rev D MacCrea, P.P. in 1924. The nuns ran a school for girls called St Anne's Mercy Convent.

13 Kilrea Baptist Church ▶ Kilrea Baptist Church was formed in 1925. The congregation met in a loft until a building was erected on the Moneygran Road in 1927, before moving to this site when the new church opened on the 1st August 1959.

14 Second Kilrea Presbyterian Church ▶ Prior to the church being built in 1838, a 'seceding' congregation was meeting in a linen-cloth sealing room in Bridge Street. The Secession Church was a branch of Presbyterianism that emerged from a split in the Church of Scotland in 1712. It gained a foothold in Ulster with the "Plantation" of Scottish immigrants. The painted panel to the centre of the gable reads KILREA PRESBYTERIAN SECEDING CHURCH ERECTED AD DCCCXXXVIII.

15 Kilrea Baptist Church ▶ Kilrea Baptist Church was formed in 1925. The congregation met in a loft until a building was erected on the Moneygran Road in 1927, before moving to this site when the new church opened on the 1st August 1959.

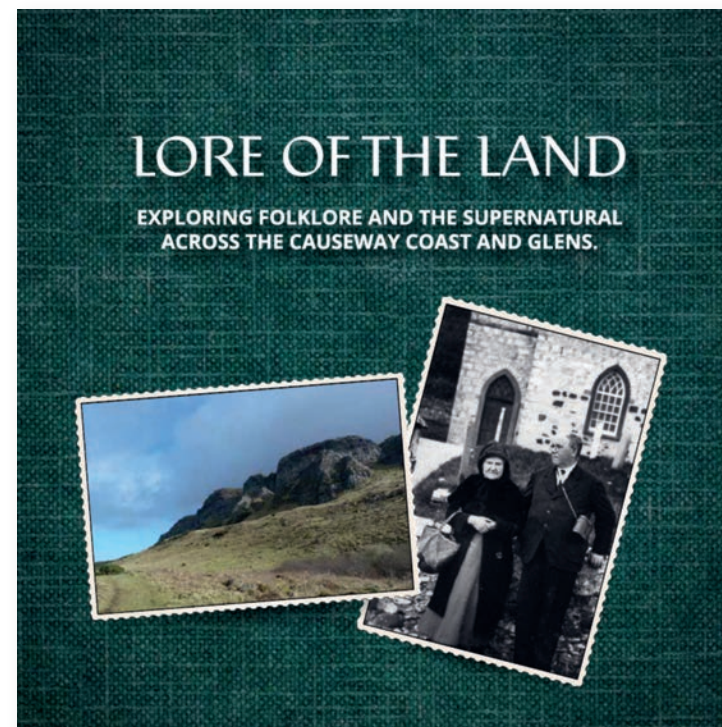
"The project gave a deeper insight into the history and lives in the foundation of our town."

Lore of the Land - Clanmil Housing Association

The Lore of the Land regional project, in partnership with **Clanmil Housing Association**, engaged with older residents from four housing schemes (Abercorn Court & Mews, Cramsie Court, Glenshesk Court and Hezlet Court) to stimulate reminiscence and discussion of local folklore.



Reminiscence session, May 2018.





Launch of *Lore of the Land* book, August 2019.



Above: Art workshop to produce book images, January 2019.

Top left: Dungiven Priory visit, June 2018.

Bottom left: Bonamargy Friary visit, June 2018.

Participants took part in loosely themed story-telling and reminiscence workshops, an art workshop, and folklore tours of sites across the Borough: Bonamargy Friary and Dunluce Castle in Co. Antrim, and Slaghtaverty and Dungiven Priory in Co. Londonderry. The stories explored through the workshops and tours formed the basis of a book exploring and sharing cultural heritage through the folklore of Causeway communities. Members of Carey Historical Society, Hervey Heritage Group, and Rathlin Development and Community Association also contributed material to the Lore of the Land project.

**Memories of Ballintoy
and Dunseverick
- Ballintoy Archaeological
& Historical Society**

By training up their volunteers, **Ballintoy Archaeological and Historical Society** created an oral history archive of local people telling their stories about everyday life in the Ballintoy and Dunseverick area. The group received oral history training and conducted a range of oral history interviews which were transcribed, producing a valuable resource for the future.



Left: Old postcard of Ballintoy village, looking towards the Giant's Causeway.
Above: Old postcard of Ballintoy village, looking towards Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge.
Opposite: Templastragh Church, near Ballintoy.
Images courtesy of Ballintoy Archaeological & Historical Society.

“We benefitted from the specialist training and assistance we received on how to undertake, document and archive the recordings of local stories told by local people. This ensured these normally unheard voices were, and will continue to be, heard and that their valuable everyday experiences are preserved and accessible to others.”





Community Forum at Lissanoure Castle, June 2019.

Visit to Hillhead Museum, Drogheda, February 2020.



**‘Our History - For Keeps’
- Rathlin Development &
Community Association**

'Our history – for keeps' was a training programme developed by **Rathlin Development and Community Association**.

Open to all Rathlin residents, the aim of the project was to build capacity amongst islanders and leave a heritage skills legacy on the island. Including training programmes on oral histories, genealogy, the exploration of genetic ancestry through DNA, and an accredited tour guiding programme, the programme focused on the creation of archives, and their preservation so the knowledge is available for future generations.



Above: 'Our history - for keeps' project finale, May 2019.
Top left: Presentation of Tour Guiding certificates, May 2019.
Middle left: Tour Guide training, March 2019.
Bottom left: Tour Guide training, March 2019.

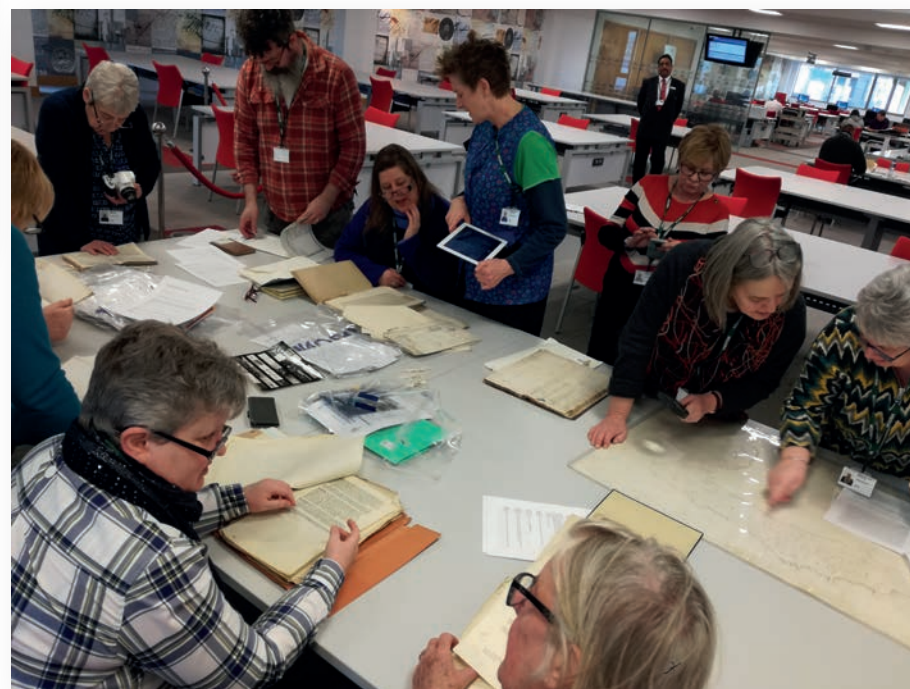




Tour Guide training, March 2019.

“I enjoyed listening to and learning from others in the group and sharing their enthusiasm.”

“I enjoyed the good facilitation and access to a wealth of information, and the community involvement and inspiration.”



Visit to PRONI, January 2019.



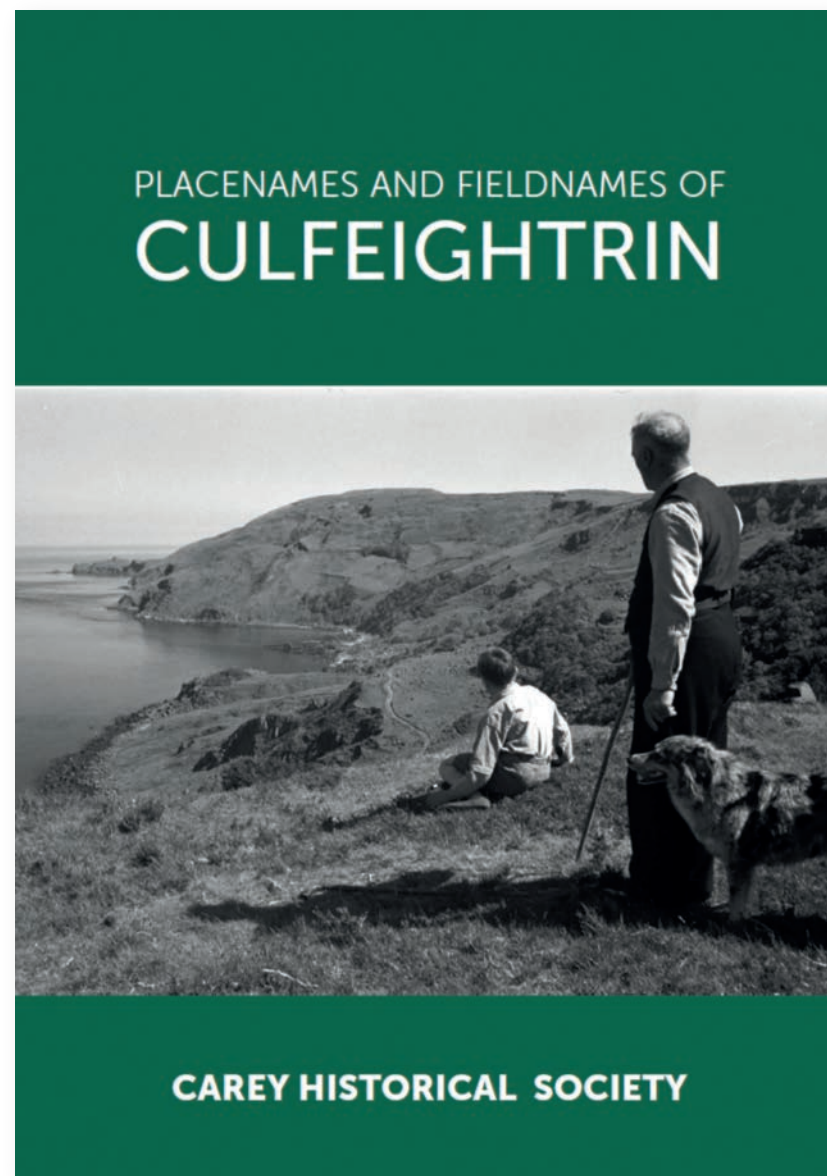
Tour Guide training, April 2019.

Placenames and Fieldnames of Culfeightrin - Carey Historical Society

Carey Historical Society developed a fieldnames project for the parish of Culfeightrin, near Ballycastle. The project was developed to build on earlier work under the Heart of the Glens Partnership Scheme, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust.



Launch of *Placenames and Fieldnames of Culfeightrin* book, January 2020.





“Our project, Fieldnames & Placenames of Culfeightrin, was an attempt to take a snapshot in time of the history held in our local landscape, a gift from this generation to future generations. Without participation in Peace IV we couldn’t have realised the full potential of our initial idea, with the training programmes and opportunity to meet other like-minded groups affording us new skills and ideas we would’ve otherwise missed out on.”



Above: Book launch, January 2020.
Below: Fieldname mapping event, September 2018.





By holding a series of mapping days and interviewing local people, along with extensive archival research, the group produced a detailed volume recording and publishing the historic names of the area and their backgrounds. They also mapped the families who lived in the parish over the years.



Group visit to Ballyverdagh National School at the Ulster Folk Museum, Cultra, October 2019.

The Earl Bishop Heritage Trail - Hervey Heritage Group

Hervey Heritage Group developed a heritage trail identifying sites associated with the Earl Bishop, Frederick Augustus Hervey. To accompany the trail they produced a brochure detailing the connection to the Bishop of each of the ten sites along the trail.



Interpretative panel sited at Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church, Ballykelly, May 2019.





Launch of The Earl Bishop Trail, June 2019.



The group developed two interpretive information panels which were installed at Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church, Ballykelly, and St Aidan's Church, Magilligan. Their research has provided an opportunity for people, locals and visitors alike, to learn about this colourful eighteenth-century character.

Interpretative panels, developed by Hervey Heritage Group, sited at St Aidan's Church, Magilligan, and Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church, Ballykelly.

THE EARL BISHOP TRAIL

Charismatic Cleric

St Aidan's Chapel Tamlaghtard

Frederick Augustus Hervey (1730-1803)

Frederick Augustus Hervey (1730-1803), Bishop of Derry and 4th Earl of Bristol (hence, the Earl Bishop) was one of the most charismatic individuals to have lived in the North West of Ireland. He was not only a bishop but a scientist, geologist, politician, builder, art collector, traveller and a powerful proponent of religious equality.

The Earl Bishop (Earl of Bristol) had an unusual given name which was Frederick Augustus Hervey.

St Columcille founded a church at Tamlaghtard in the 6th century. No trace of the original church exists but a church, new to its ruins, was built on its foundations in medieval times. The Protestant community was whistlinging here when the Earl Bishop arrived in 1768 but he erected a new church, St Caden's, in 1773 for his parishioners and bequeathed the medieval church to the Roman Catholic community. The Roman Catholics made use of it until 1826, when the present Church of St Aidan was built alongside it.

Remains of medieval church at Tamlaghtard

St Columcille's Church, Tamlaghtard

St Aidan's grave

St Columcille's grave

Tradition connects St Aidan, some say St Caden, with St Columcille's original church. The graves of St Aidan and of Denis O'Spenser (1689-1807) stand alongside the ruins of the medieval church. Denis was one of Ireland's most distinguished harpers. The Earl Bishop was his patron and gave him land free of rent and tithes to build his cottage.

Portrait of Denis O'Spenser

Gravestone of Denis O'Spenser

O'Kempsey's harp bears the inscription: *In the time of Noah I was green, Since his flood I had not been seen, Their Seventeen hundred and two I was found By Cormac O'Kelly underground: He raised me up to that degree "That Queen of Music you may call me."*

Gravestone of Denis O'Spenser

The cemetery also has an interesting 17th century grave of the Allison's, an early Planter family. Joseph Allison set off for America in 1769: the family prospered and his grandson Charles became a rich banker and founded Mount Allison University, the first university in Canada. Near the church is a holy well, dedicated to St Aidan, which has its origins in pagan times.

THE EARL BISHOP TRAIL
inspired from the County's Linking to Derry's Countylinking
Linking up again associated with the Bishop.

Places of interest in the area

McPeck's Harp

Bishop's Road

Bishop's Road

Places of interest nearby and visible from the road include McPeck's Harp's thatched cottage where the Earl Bishop is alleged to have listened to Irish music; the Bishop's Road from Downhill to Limavady; and the site of Downhill Abbey established around AD 450 by St Patrick.

In 1826, Thomas Colby selected the East Eastern shore of Lough Foyle to establish a baseline for the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. A series of Base Line Towers were established, including Maginigan and Ballycally, and using a process of triangulation the first large-scale mapping of an entire country was completed by 1846.

Thomas Colby

Base Line Tower

www.earlbishoptrail.com

Cavanagh Coast & Glens Borough Council

Peace



THE EARL BISHOP TRAIL

Charismatic Cleric

Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church, Ballykelly



Frederick Augustus Hervey (1730-1803)

Frederick Augustus Hervey (1730-1803), Bishop of Derry and 4th Earl of Bristol (hence, the Earl Bishop), was one of the most charismatic individuals to have ever lived in the North West of Ireland. He was not only a bishop but a scientist, geologist, politician, builder, art collector, traveller and a powerful proponent of religious equality.



The Garrisonian Company in 1828

Tamlaghtfinlagan Church is regarded as the best of all the churches for which the Earl Bishop was responsible. It was built in 1791-1795 at the joint expense of the Bishop and a landlord, John Benbow, to replace the Garrison Church constructed by the Fishmongers' Company in 1629. The interior contains a number of monuments – the most renowned being that of Jane Hamilton, wife of a local landlord. Frederick is also remembered: the sundials on the window nearest the Chancel are those of the Earl Bishop.



The Bishop's Coat of Arms

The churchyard contains the grave of Tom Mitchell, a ploughman who discovered the Broughshane Gold Hoard in 1894. Nearby is the grave of Jimmy McCurry, a blind fiddler, who played a melody, later known as the Londonderry Air, which then became famous as the tune for Danny Boy. Jane Ryan, a local music teacher, noted down the tune one market day in Limerick in 1851.



The Garrisonian Company in 1828

There is also the grave of the Hamilton family, who were the ancestors on the maternal side of Nobel Prize winner for literature, John Steinbeck.



The Broughshane Gold Hoard

The churchyard contains the grave of Tom Mitchell, a ploughman who discovered the Broughshane Gold Hoard in 1894. Nearby is the grave of Jimmy McCurry, a blind fiddler, who played a melody, later known as the Londonderry Air, which then became famous as the tune for Danny Boy. Jane Ryan, a local music teacher, noted down the tune one market day in Limerick in 1851.



The Garrisonian Company in 1828

There is also the grave of the Hamilton family, who were the ancestors on the maternal side of Nobel Prize winner for literature, John Steinbeck.



Map of the Earl Bishop Trail

Places of interest in the area:

Nearby is the 17th century Plantation village of Ballykelly, where The Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, London, constructed a number of fine buildings including the Presbyterian Church, the Model Farm and the Agent's House, near the Drummond House, where the Fishmongers' Coat of Arms appears at the entrance. Two miles to the North is the Blue Park Estate, Limerick, the site of the Corporation of Dismounted 38th 1895, where St Columba's increased successfully on behalf of the lands of Ireland, who were threatened with eviction from Ireland.



The Fishmongers' Company in 1828

The Fishmongers' Company in 1828

www.earlbishoptrail.com

Curlew Coast & Glens Borough Council

Peace Northern Ireland - Ireland

The History of Ballymoney Royal British Legion – RBL Ballymoney Branch

The Royal British Legion, Ballymoney Branch, developed a history of their branch, since its formation in 1923, through the stories of its people and the site to produce a book. The project explores how the Royal British Legion has supported ex-Service personnel and their families locally, and provides visitors and other readers with an insight into the history of that interaction and support.



Book launch, September 2019.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Ballymoney Branch



John Pinkerton, President of Ballymony Branch,
September 2019.

“The work done in the research of the book and the history that it has unearthed will stand well in the life of the branch for years to come and a great asset to pass on.”



Ballymoney Branch Standard laid up in First
Ballymoney Presbyterian Church.



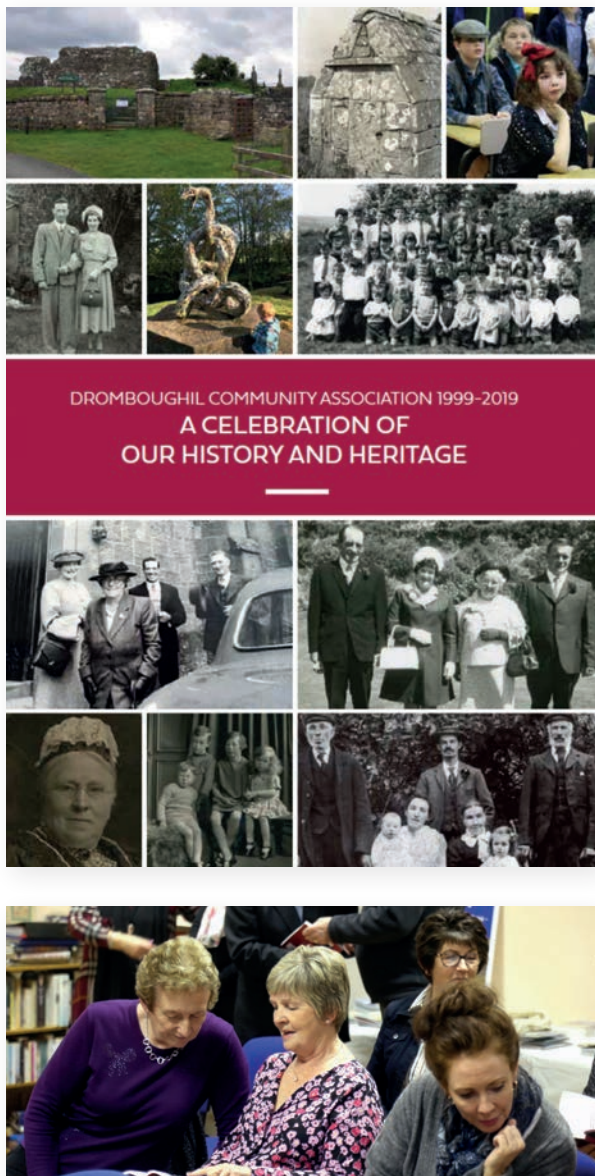
Dipping the Standard demonstration.



World War Two commemorative window in First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church.

A presentation sharing the history of the branch was also developed for use with local schools and other community organisations.

**Dromboughil Community
Association: A Celebration
of our History & Heritage
– Dromboughil Community
Association**



Dromboughil Community Association explored the heritage of the local area by engaging with the local community to record oral stories – including memories from some of the local schools in the area which are now closed – and archive old photographs.

They shared their work by producing a book to mark the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Community Association. They also held a community event at which the photographs and local historical artefacts were displayed.



Book launch in Dromboughil Community Centre, September 2019.



Rallagh National School, 1918. Image courtesy of M Buchanan.

“...It’s been amazing how these old photographs have elicited vivid memories and we have been gratified by the responses to our publication from near and far. Already one of the senior residents of the area whom we interviewed has passed away, and we feel proud to have recorded these memories for future generations.”



From left: Book launch, September 2019. Oral History training, April 2018. Schools Day, June 2019.



Schools Day at Dromboughil, June 2019.



Painting of "old Dromboughil School" by K Canning.
Image courtesy of Dromboughil Community Association.

The Story of 1718

- Coleraine Ulster Scots Regeneration Group

Coleraine Ulster Scots Regeneration Group explored the story of the 1718 migration, principally of people from the Bann Valley, to northeast America.

SOME OF THE NAMES FROM 1718

Settled in Londonderry, New Hampshire

Robert Gilmore and his wife, Mary Ann Kennedy, from Coleraine, with their children William, Robert, John and James.

Abraham Blair, from Aghadowey, a veteran of the Siege of Derry, and his children David, Hannah, Sarah, Lydia, Janet and Mary.

James McKeen, from Ballymoney, and his family. Janet McKeen, the widow of John McKeen, his brother, with her children John, Robert, Samuel and Mary.

James Gregg with his wife, Janet Cargill, and children William, John, Samuel, Thomas and Elizabeth.

John Dinsmore from Ballywattick, near Ballymoney, a mason by trade.

John Morrison from Aghadowey, who was reputedly 108 years old when he died in 1736, with his wife, Janet Steele, and children James, John, Halbut, Martha, Samuel, Mary, Joseph and Hannah.

Settled in Massachusetts

Matthew Watson and his wife, Mary Orr, from Coleraine, settled in Leicester, with their children Matthew, Samuel, Patrick, Robert, Elizabeth, Margarette, John and Oliver. Oliver was born on the voyage to America.

Robert Blair and his wife Isabella Rankin, in Worcester, with their children Matthew, David, John, Sarah, Dolly, William, James, Robert, Elizabeth and Joseph. Robert was the nephew of Abraham Blair. Robert's older brother, William, and his wife, Mary Gray, also travelled to America. William Gray, Mary Blair's brother.

Map of Nutfield 1723
Courtesy of Sam Henry Collection, Coleraine Museum

Front image courtesy of American Antiquarian Society

Acknowledgements

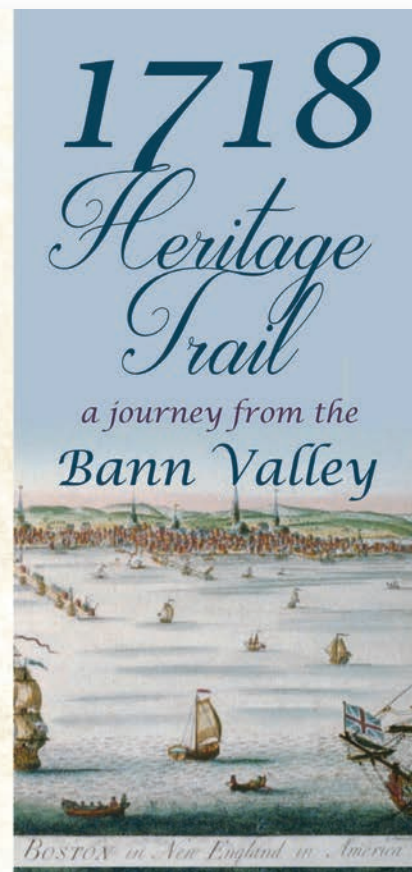
This leaflet was compiled by Coleraine Ulster Scots Regeneration Group under Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Peace IV Understanding Our Area Programme.

For further information contact cullrathinlhc@gmail.com

Peace
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).



By setting out to investigate who the migrants were, why they went, where they went and the contribution they made in the New World, they produced a heritage trail of sites connected to 1718.



Above: Launch of 1718 Heritage Trail, May 2018.
Top left: Launch of *The 1718 Story* booklet at Ulster University Coleraine, June 2019.
Bottom left: Schools art workshop with Interactive Media students at Ulster University Coleraine.

“Participating in Understanding Our Area not only gave our group new skills but also greatly boosted the confidence of group members. The completion of the project also meant that the group felt that it had contributed to the rich history of our area through the medium of the project and it is further hoped others may be inspired to delve into the history of the area.”



Working with two local primary schools, Ballyhackett and Bellarena, and the Media School of Ulster University Coleraine, they also produced a school resource, *The Story of 1718 - A Journey to America*..

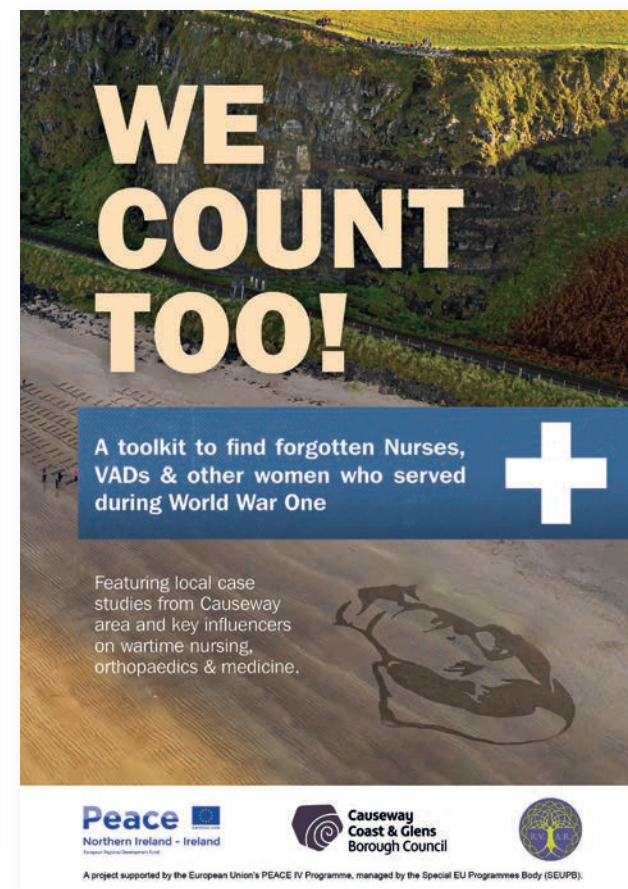
We Count Too!
– Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers

Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers produced a book highlighting the often-overlooked contribution of women during World War One by sharing the contribution of some local women.

Their book *We Count Too!* also gives an insight into some of the key influencers of the development of nursing. The group were keen to be able to provide a toolkit to support their own members and other groups undertaking research into World War One nurses.



Launch of *We Count Too!* book at RVACC, February 2020.





Above: Book launch, February 2020.
Below: Molly's Story event in RVACC, May 2018.





St John Ambulance Brigade helmet at Museum of St John, Clerkenwell, London.

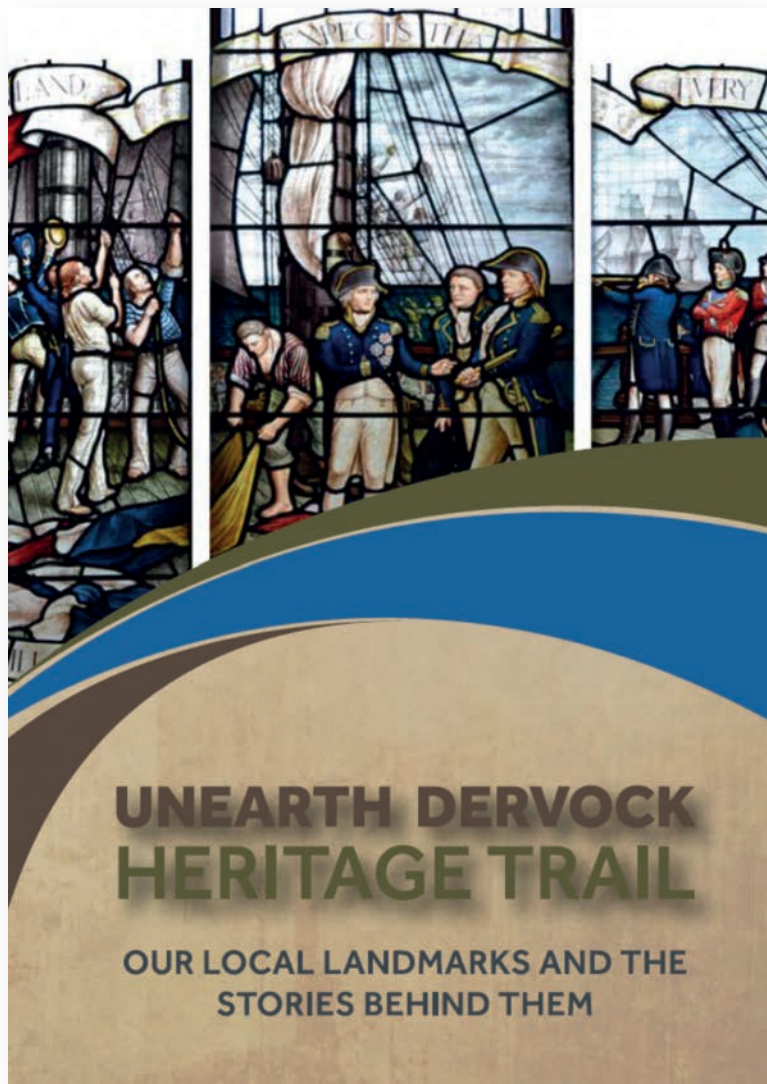


Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers group members at the opening of 1918 Local Voices exhibition, Ballymoney Museum, November 2018.

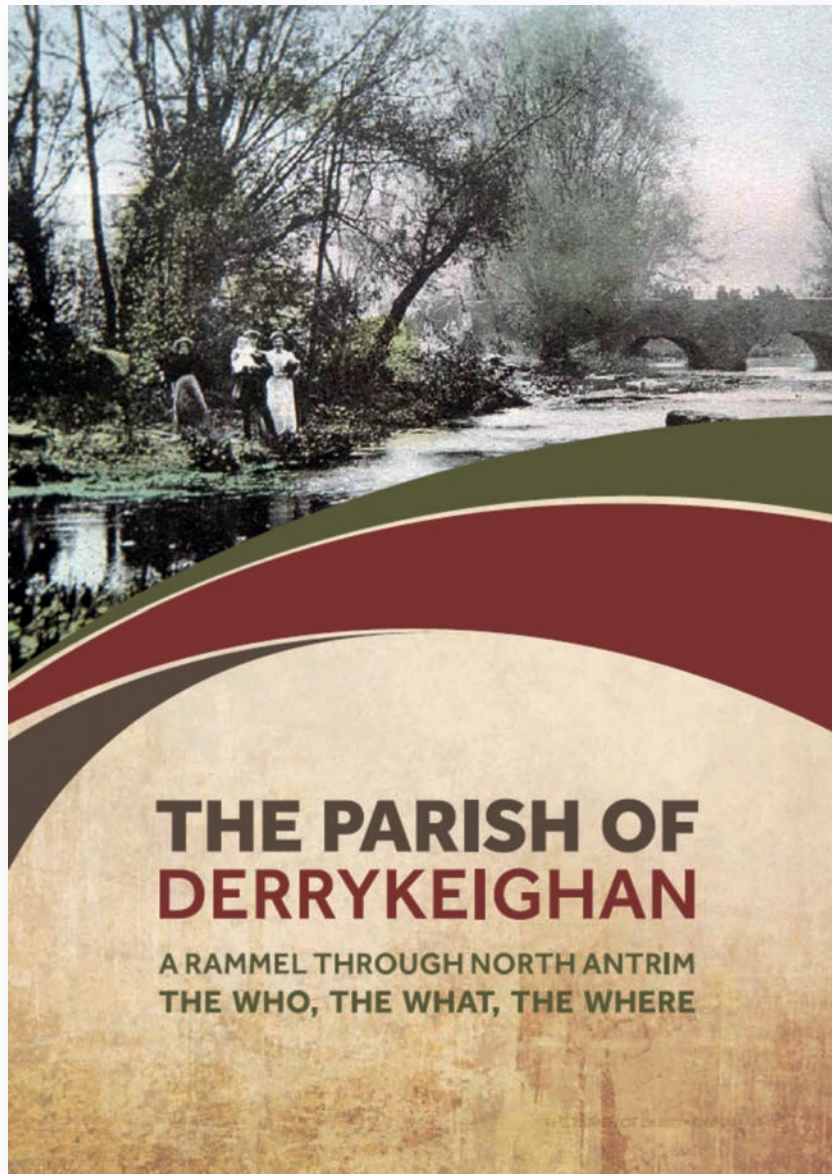
“...Everyone was a ‘Researcher’ but gained greatly in knowledge from the expertise of Museum Services in copyright law, design and publication editing - all of which just might give us the courage to keep on publishing.”

Unearth Dervock
– Dervock & District
Community Association

Dervock & District Community Association developed a heritage trail taking in key sites in the story of the village.



Launch of Unearth Dervock Heritage Trail, August 2019.



The group also produced a book detailing the townland names in the parish of Derrykeighan and collating family names connected with the area over the years. Their book, which brings names connected to the area from a variety of sources together, will prove a useful tool for anyone connected to or interested in the parish.



The Parish of Derrykeighan book launch, February 2020.

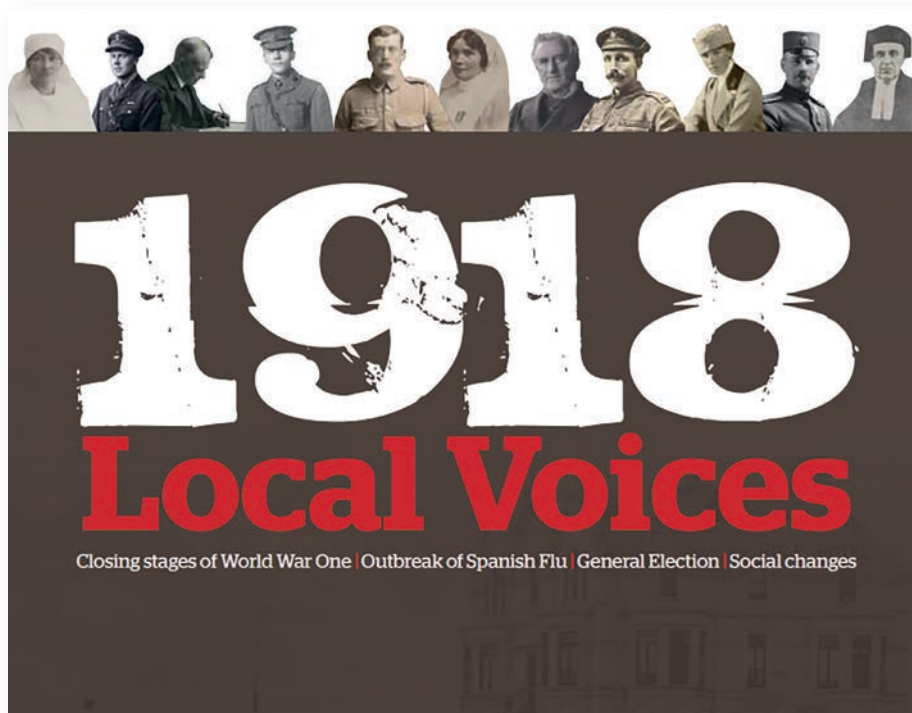


The Parish of Derrykeighan book launch, February 2020.

Decade of Anniversaries Regional Project

The Decade of Anniversaries regional project built on the legacy of previous projects delivered by Causeway Museum Services (now Council's Museum Services) including PEACE III On the Brink 1912-13, followed by the HLF funded On the Brink programme 1914 – 1916, delivered in partnership with Mid Antrim Museums Service.

During the PEACE IV Understanding Our Area programme 2017 – 2020 a number of elements were delivered to support understanding of local connections with key and, at times, contentious events that occurred 100 years ago.



Launch of 1918 Local Voices exhibition at Ballymoney Museum, November 2018.



- The 1918: Local Voices exhibition opened in Ballymoney Museum in November 2018 and allowed visitors to explore the effects of the end of World War One across the Causeway Coast and Glens area. This exhibition then toured to Coleraine and Limavady.
- There were two performances of *Meeke & the Major*, a play telling the World War One story of Private John Meeke and Major Willie Redmond, in Portstewart on the 10th November 2018 and in Cushendall on the 16th November 2018. The performances allowed people to reflect on this period of shared history, encouraging and developing mutual understanding.
- *The Search for Molly: An Irishwoman in the Great War*, tells the story of Molly McGinnis, a St John Ambulance nurse from Legahoire, near Ballykelly. Sister McGinnis was awarded the Military Medal for her actions when the St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital in Etaples was bombed on the night of 31st May 1918.
- A visit to The Troubles and Beyond exhibition in the Ulster Museum allowed participants to view works produced by local people as part of Stitching and Unstitching the Troubles under the Peace III Cultural Fusions project in 2011-2013.
- 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day exhibition considered local events as the news of peace was celebrated across the Causeway area.



Military Medal presented to Sister Molly McGinnis.
Image by kind permission of R Henderson.



Sister Molly McGinnis wearing her Military Medal, 1919. Image courtesy of R Henderson.



Visit to The Troubles and Beyond exhibition at the Ulster Museum, February 2019.



Mrs McCausland, holding a copy of the *Irish Daily Telegraph*, carrying the headlines "Germany Surrenders Unconditionally", May 1945.
Courtesy of Ballymoney Museum.



- Partition in Ireland/Partition of Ulster exhibition and booklet explores local events and local connections to pivotal events that led to the formation of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The material draws on key figures from the Causeway area who shaped events in London, Belfast and Dublin, along with extensive newspaper reporting on local events responding to wider conflicts occurring across Ireland at this time. All content is available online and the planned touring programme will be rescheduled for 2021.



Dance Halls Regional Project

As part of a review in Autumn 2018 it was clear that 24 groups had engaged with and benefitted from the PEACE IV Understanding Our Area programme. An opportunity arose, through access to a substantial private collection and discussion within the Community Planning Subgroup for Arts and Culture, to develop an intergenerational and cross-community programme for the history of Dance Halls in the Causeway area. An initial research project into the collection was completed by Museum Services and a subsequent three phase community engagement programme commenced in late 2019, engaging a further six groups as well as existing groups. The impact of COVID-19 lockdown resulted in the cancelling of the final phase of the community engagement programme.

The dancehalls exhibition seeks to remember these once popular establishments through the Bobby Platt Collection. Bobby organised showband performances during the 1950s and 60s at venues in Coleraine, Portstewart and Limavady. Photographs from



Fred Hanna Band at the Strand Ballroom, July 1963.
Image courtesy of *Coleraine Chronicle*.



Bobby Platt with Roy Orbison, July 1965.
Image courtesy of *Coleraine Chronicle*.



Left: The Plattermen at Quay Road Hall, Ballycastle, February 1966.

Image courtesy of *Coleraine Chronicle*.

Above: Postcard showing the Arcadia Ballroom, Portrush.

Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

the Chronicle and Constitution archives feature along with local memories of the dancehalls which have been recorded. The exhibition will feature online at www.niarchive.org and the planned touring exhibition will be rescheduled for 2021.

Dance Hall Venues Across the Causeway

1. MAGILLIGAN

- Golden Slipper



Artistic impression of the Golden Slipper Inn, Magilligan.

2. BALLYKELLY

- Ballykelly Orange Hall

3. LIMAVADY

- Limagh Agricultural Hall
- Gluck A.D.H. Hall
- Limavady Town Hall
- Edenmore Orange Hall



Limavady Town Hall, Limavady.

4. DRUMSURN

- O'Connor's Bar

5. DUNGIVEN

- Dungiven Castle
- Finnis Arms Hotel
- Castle Social Club
- Brown's Orange Hall



Dungiven Castle, Dungiven.

6. KILREA

- Mullan Hall
- Kilrea Town Hall
- Kilgaffin Orange Hall
- Kilrea Orange Hall
- Castleside Orange Hall

7. GARVAGH

- Imperial Hotel

8. AGHADOWEY

- The Brown Trout Inn
- Carnegie Orange Hall
- Glenties Orange Hall

9. MACOSQUIN

- Macosquin Orange Hall

10. COLERAINE

- Boathouse
- Clonacloy Hotel
- Horan's Lounge
- Coleraine Rugby Football Club
- Coleraine Town Hall
- Ballyshannon Orange Hall
- Blough Orange Hall
- Castleside Orange Hall
- Coleraine Orange Hall
- Earl Marston Memorial Orange Hall



Coleraine Town Hall, Coleraine.

11. ARTICLAVE

- Articlave Orange Hall

12. CASTLEROCK

- The Downhill Hotel
- Castlerock Orange Hall



Castlerock Orange Hall, Castlerock.

13. PORTSTEWART

- Palace de Danco / Top Hat / Strand Ballroom
- Montague Arms Hotel
- The Strand Hotel
- York Hotel
- Portstewart Town Hall



Portstewart Town Hall, Portstewart.

14. PORTRUSH

- Arcaida Ballroom
- Berry's Ballroom
- Northern Counties Hotel
- Arcaida Ballroom
- The Trucadero
- Forest's Hotel
- Hotel Lismore
- The Golf Links Hotel / The White Pheasant
- Loughmilly Hotel
- Ballywillan Orange Hall



Arcaida Ballroom, Portrush.

15. PORTBALLINTRAIE

- Beech Hotel

16. BUSHMILLS

- Cashmore Hotel
- The Old Mill
- Bushmills Orange Hall

17. ARDENLEE

- Ballylister Orange Hall

18. BALLYMONEY

- Manor Hotel
- The Angel's Rest
- St. Bernard's Hall
- Ballymoney Town Hall
- Lack Orange Hall



Ballymoney Town Hall, Ballymoney.

19. DUNLOY

- The Bridge Lounge
- St. Joseph's Hall

20. CLOUGHMILLS

- Cloughmills Orange Hall

21. LOUGHGUILLE

- Magheramoney Hall

22. STRANOCUM

- Stranocum Independent Orange Hall

23. ARMOY

- Bushside Orange Hall
- Kerr Smiley Orange Hall

24. MOSSIDE

- Ballynagh Orange Hall

25. BALLINTOY

- Ballintoy Parish Hall

26. BALLYCASTLE

- Quay Road Hall
- The Royal Hotel
- Clonacloy Inn
- The Ancestral
- Corry Hall
- Shelburne Hall
- Moylegate Orange Hall

27. CUSHENDUN

- Castle Green Dance Hall

28. CUSHENDALL

- Cushendall Hall

KEY

- COMMUNITY HALLS & SPACES
- DANCE HALLS
- MOYLES
- LOUNGES & BARS
- ORANGE HALLS
- TOWN HALLS

Let Me Introduce You... A History of Dance Halls in the Causeway Area

Across the Causeway area after World War Two, local dance halls and, at times, transformed community halls and other public buildings, were at the heart of the social life in our communities. Some had been venues for dancing since Victorian times, others were adapted or built for purpose. For many it is where they, their parents and/or grandparents met. These historic places are fast disappearing, if not already demolished or re-purposed. For so many in our communities, memories of the local dance halls and the music, transcend boundaries of class, education and religion.



Dance hall, Causeway area.

During the post-war period, following a baby boom, teenagers became a recognised phenomenon with their own culture and expectations of a better life than previous generations. Sexual liberation, economic independence, and music and culture brought directly into homes through new developments in radio and television, led to an explosion of energy amongst young people. For many it became a rebellion against the Establishment - Vietnam War, Civil Rights, Black Rights, Paris Commune, women's liberation. Here in Northern Ireland this was in the context of increasing societal tensions that resulted in The Troubles, yet young people used fashion, dancing and the new jazz records of their favourite bands to forget about work and the realities of daily life.



Elvis Presley on stage, 'The King' sings, 'Hound Dog'.

- 1933 King George VI dies
- 1953 Queen Elizabeth II takes the throne
- 1954 RCA introduces first colour TV
- 1955 Rose Parks is arrested and the American Civil Rights Movement mobilises
- 1956 Elvis Presley releases his first hit single 'Heartbreak Hotel'
- 1957 Fidel Castro successfully leads the Cuban Revolution
- 1960 John F. Kennedy elected President
- 1960 The Pill is approved
- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1963 Mary Quant introduces the mini skirt
- 1967 Protesters march to the Pentagon against US involvement in the Vietnam War
- 1967 Model Twiggy named 'Face of 1967'
- 1968 Martin Luther King assassinated
- 1969 Northern Ireland's first Civil Rights march from Coalisland to Dungannon takes place
- 1969 Protests against Miss America pageant lead to 'Women's Liberation' movement
- 1969 Beginning of the Troubles



Peace
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

[illegible][illegible]

Panels produced for Dance Halls exhibition.

Digital Platform



The Understanding Our Area programme required a digital platform to allow groups and Museum Services to host and share resources and document projects in their various stages. With this aim, the existing Northern Ireland Community Archive (www.niarchive.org) was enhanced, with a dedicated area created to provide an overview of the Understanding Our Area programme (www.niarchive.org/trails/peaceiv). Project participants were then trained in how to use the website and given their own linked identity within it for groups to use to document current and future projects.

“The project [Understanding Our Area] was a fantastic learning experience.”

**Northern Ireland
COMMUNITY ARCHIVE**


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Resources

Filter by **Date (Oldest)** Per page 1 2 >>

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Search our Resources



1718 Heritage Trail

Project: PEACEIVStory of 1718
Owner: Coleraine Ulster Scots Regeneration Group [View PDF](#)



Earl Bishop Hervey Heritage Trail

Project: Hervey Heritage TrailPEACEIV
Owner: Hervey Heritage Group [View PDF](#)



Causeway Coast and Glens Accessible Heritage Guide

Project: Accessible Heritage - Glenshane Care AssociationAccessible Heritage - RNIBPEACEIV
Owner: CCGBC Museum Services

Project

PEACEIV (19)

Owner

All Owners


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Projects

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Causeway Coast and Glens Local Heritage Audit

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services commissioned (under the PEACE IV Understanding Our Area programme), an audit of local community-based heritage resources (such as [...])

Project: PEACEIV Owner: CCGBC Museum Services [Read more](#)



The Salmon People Illustrations

As part of their Peace IV Understanding Our Area project Mountsandel Discovery & Heritage Group published The Salmon People, which can be downloaded from the Resources [...]

Project

PEACEIV (25)

Owner

All Owners

Heritage Audit



PEACE IV UNDERSTANDING OUR AREA: LOCAL HERITAGE AUDIT

**PROJECT REPORT
PRODUCED FOR CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL**

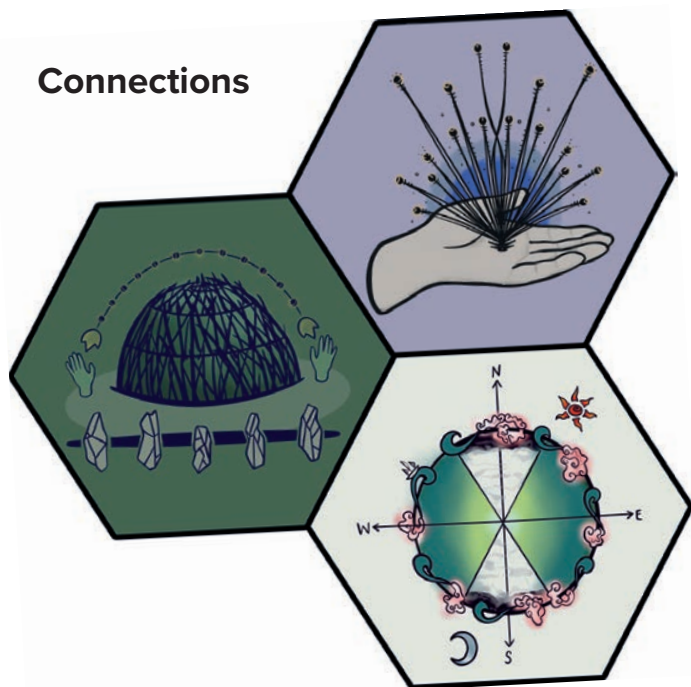
APRIL 2020



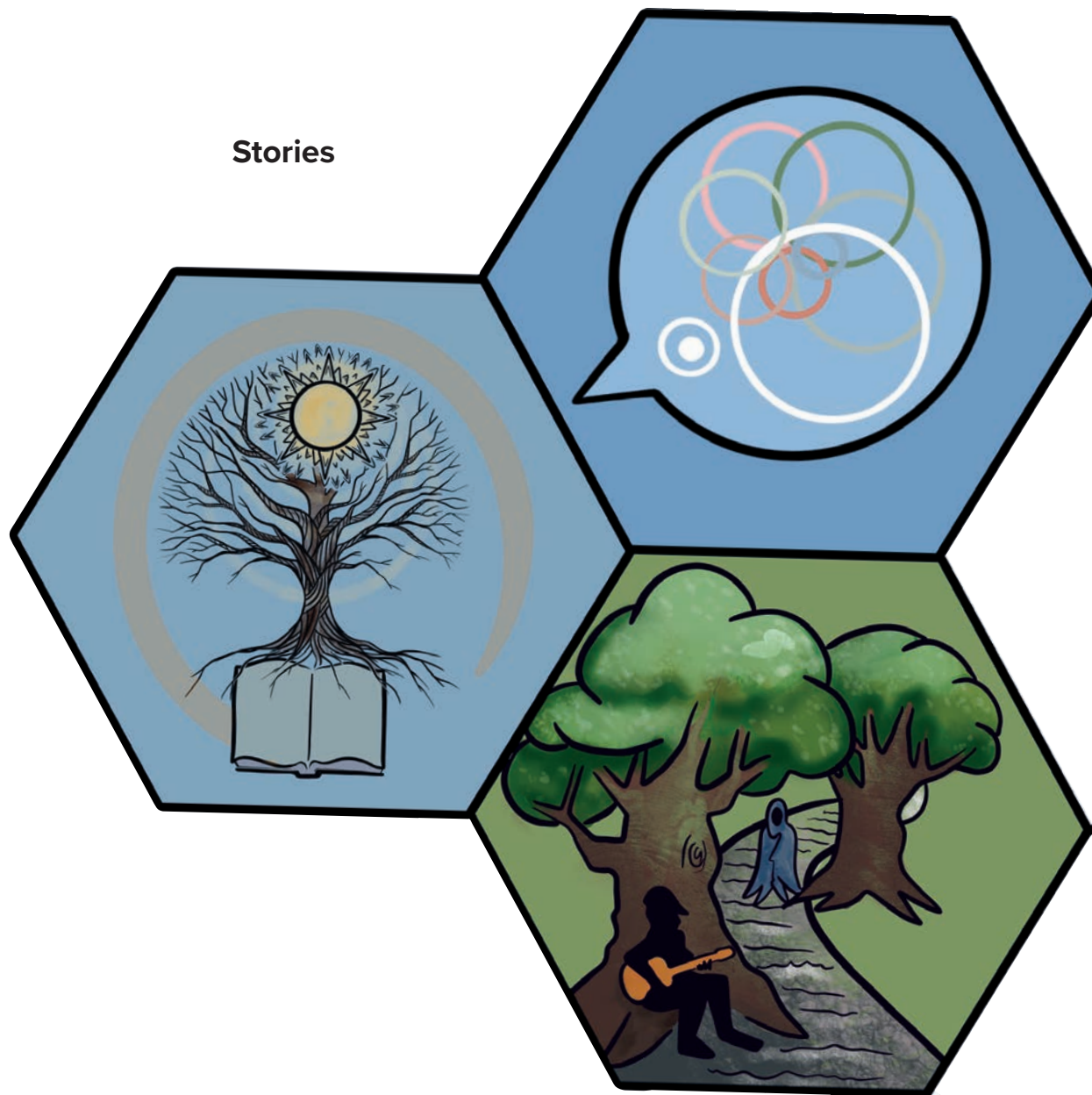
Many of our community groups and other public sector organisations, including those not participating in the PEACE IV programme, have developed heritage trails, operate heritage centres and have trained up local people as visitor guides. Groups, partnerships such as Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and local public authorities have also produced a number of publications that are only available locally and not widely available to researchers and visitors. In order to create a comprehensive accessible list of these resources, Museum Services commissioned Abarta Heritage to conduct a community heritage audit which included a detailed report and online mapping (<https://niarchive.org/project/items/causeway-coast-and-glens-local-heritage-audit/>).

Connecting Themes

Connections



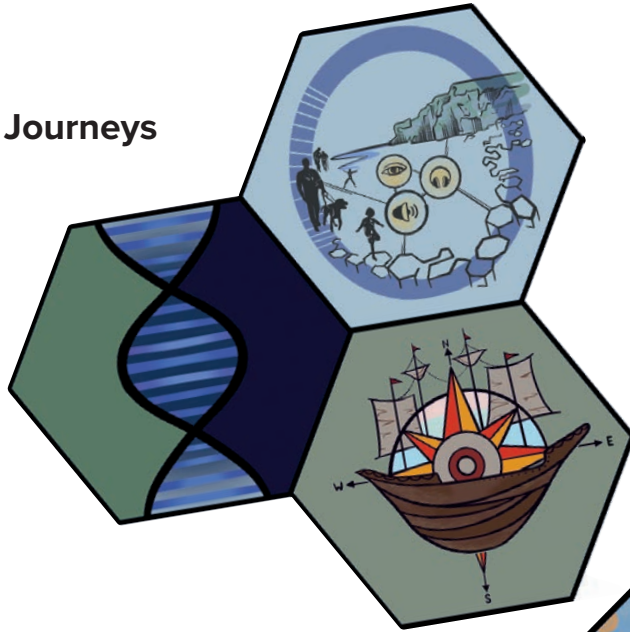
Stories



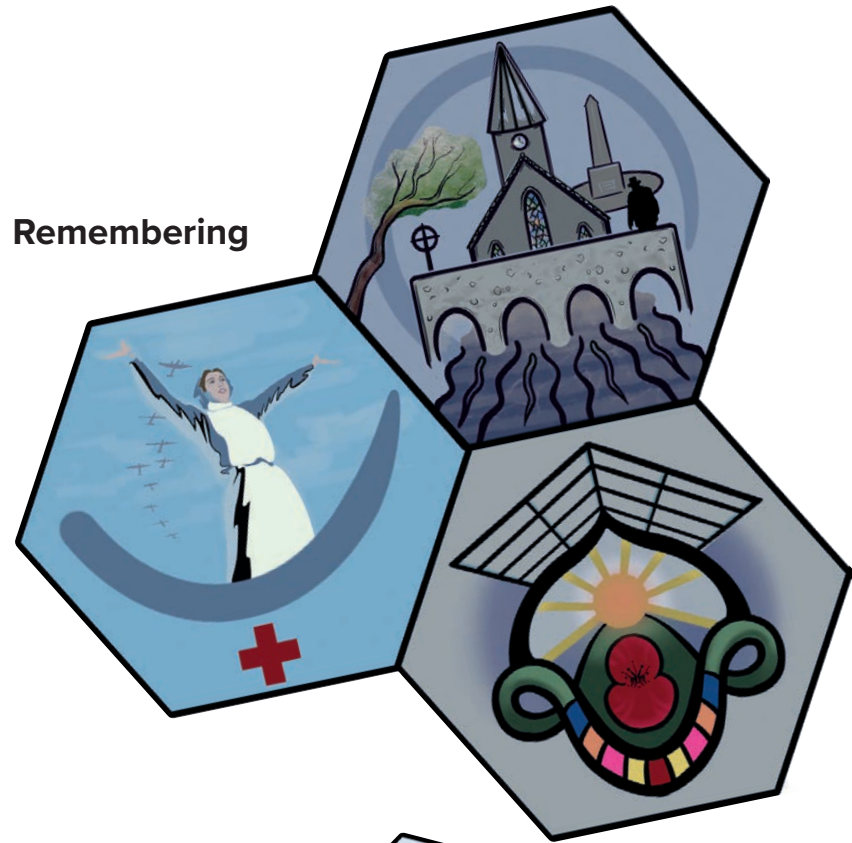
As part of the evaluation process groups worked with artists to develop a graphic representation of their project. There were recurring themes across all of the group projects.

- Connections
- Stories
- Journeys
- Places
- Remembering
- Aspirations

Journeys



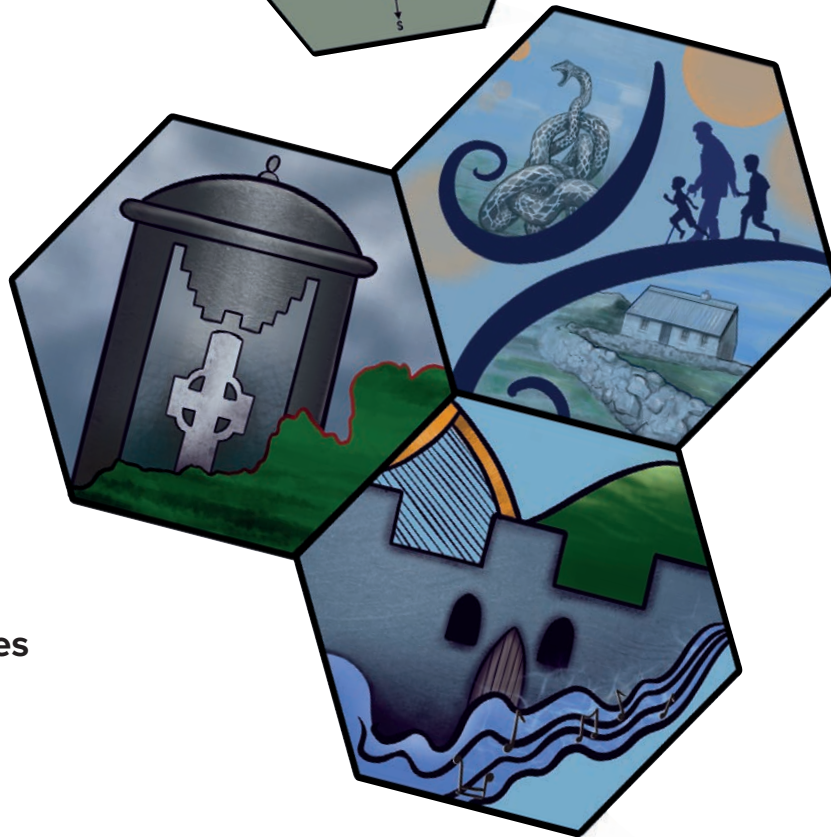
Remembering



Aspirations



Places



Community Forum

The meetings of the Community Forum were highly valued by the groups as opportunities to network and establish new links, share best practice, ideas and knowledge.



Community Forum visit to Cavan County Museum, April 2018.



21 April 2018 – Trip to Cavan County Museum and its World War One Trench Experience exhibition with 32 participants. Groups shared their ambitions for their projects during a focus session.



21 June 2018 – Follow-up session in Ballymoney Town Hall.



13 October 2018 – Second full meeting of forum held in Roe Park Hotel, Limavady. Groups delivered a short presentation on their project detailing progress and learning to date.



30 March 2019 – At a meeting in the Manor Hotel, Kilrea, Abarta Heritage delivered a presentation on the PEACE IV Community Heritage Audit being undertaken. An update on the redesign of the Northern Ireland Community Archive website and the benefits for groups was delivered by Museum Services.



22 June 2019 – Held in Lissanoure Castle, Loughguile, this meeting was dedicated to evaluation of the Understanding Our Area programme. Evaluation took two forms:

- an oral evaluation session facilitated by Jamie Curran, CIAR.
- an artist facilitated session to enable groups to develop a graphic response to their projects.





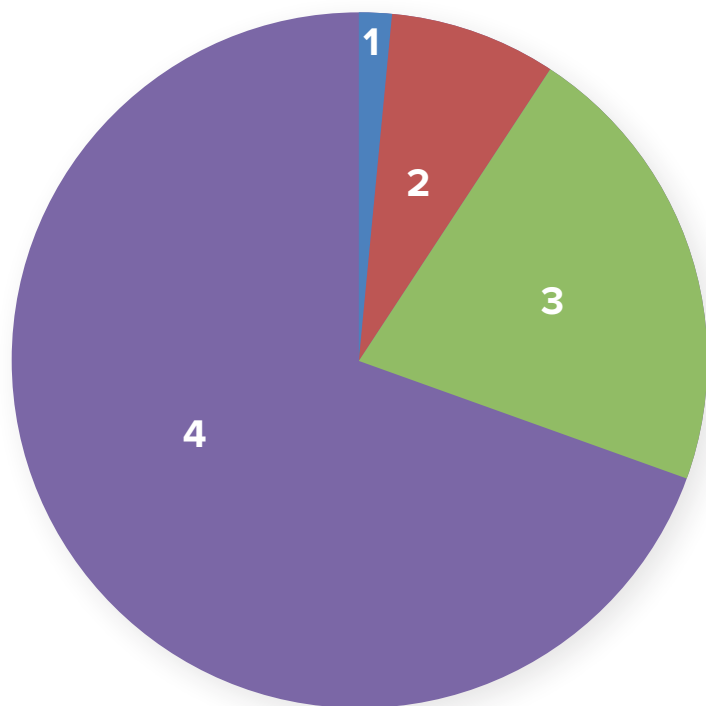
22 February 2020 - The final meeting of the Community Forum under the PEACE IV Understanding Our Area programme saw 24 group representatives travel to Drogheda to visit the community run Millmount Museum. The visit included a guided tour of the museum and Martello Tower, and a presentation by the Old Drogheda Society who manage the museum.



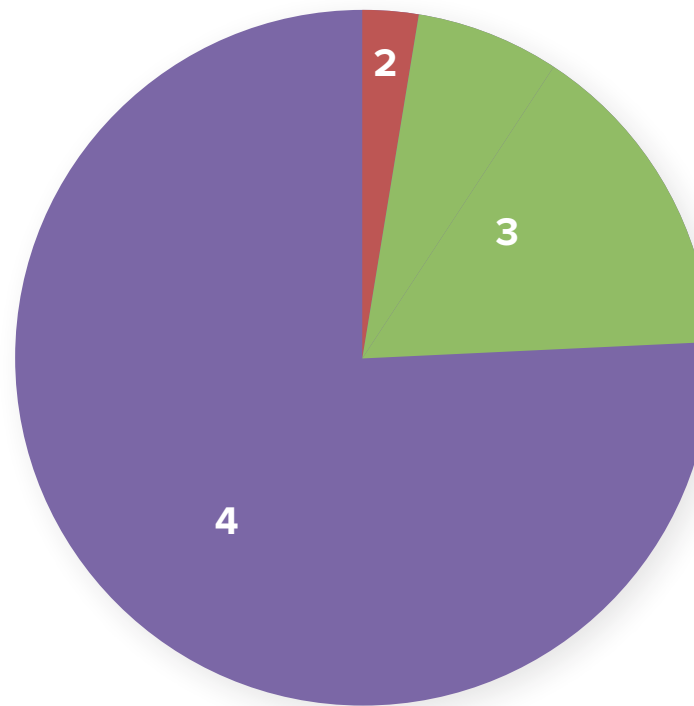
After each visit groups were asked to complete evaluation forms.

The value of the Community Forum came across strongly in the end of programme evaluation. Participants said that in addition to offering opportunities for networking and creating new relationships, it allowed for the sharing of best practice, knowledge and ideas. Group members felt its potential should be developed for future benefit including giving groups a 'voice' for heritage at grass roots level.

Do you feel the Community Forum is useful to your group?



Did you find the opportunity to network with other groups useful?



Respondents were asked to rate the level of their agreement with the statements on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest)

Training Sessions

“Copyright issues are a lot more difficult than we thought.”

Introduction to Museum Services Collections and Resources

All groups were given the opportunity to explore the Museum Services' collection stores and learn about the resources available. Most of those attending rated their knowledge about the collections and resources as low or quite low, but by the end of the evening everyone had a much better awareness, and many felt the new knowledge would be of benefit to their group.

Visit to the Public Record Office for Northern Ireland (PRONI), Belfast

This was the first visit to PRONI for many of the participants and most of them had little or no prior knowledge about using the records available. Everyone came away feeling a lot more confident with some group members planning a follow-up visit.

Oral History Recording

All groups were offered the opportunity to avail of basic training in oral history recording at a session delivered by Museum Services in Ballymoney Town Hall. Digital recorders were made available to loan, and instruction was given in their use. The training was attended by representatives of Ballylough Living History Trust, Dervock & District Community Association, Mountsandel Discovery and Heritage Group, and Rasharkin Community Association. The same session was later delivered to Dromboughil Community Association to enable the group to conduct interviews with local people as part of their project.

Bespoke in-depth oral history recording courses were also delivered to members of Ballintoy Archaeological & Historical Society and Coleraine Ulster Scots Regeneration Group by Jonathan Hamill, and to participants of the Rathlin Development & Community



Above: Introduction to MS Collections and Resources, April 2018.

Below: Visit to PRONI, June 2018.



Association by Prof. Arthur McIvor and Purple TV, to provide them with the necessary skills to undertake oral history recording projects with confidence, and upskill volunteers for future heritage projects.

Copyright Basics

Museum Services made copyright training available to all participating groups as multiple groups had raised concerns about how to approach issues of copyright early in the programme. Most of the participants who attended the training delivered by Robert Heslip had little prior knowledge of copyright issues. After the session, all rated their understanding much higher and felt it was very valuable to their group, particularly appreciating the 'lived examples' used to illustrate the session.

Tour Guide Training

Tour guide training was part of the project plan for two groups - Kilrea Development Committee and Rathlin Development & Community Association. Further training was made available to members of all other groups participating in the Understanding Our Area programme and delivered between Coleraine and Dungiven.

Participants undertook an accredited OCN NI Level 2 Award in Tour Guiding, delivered by Travel & Tourism Associates. All participants rated the course highly in all areas covered – General Tourism Overview; Presenting a Commentary; Practical/Leading a Group; H&S on Tours; Practical delivery & Feedback.

Genealogy Training

Genealogy training was built into the project plan for three groups, Kilrea Development Committee, Rathlin Development & Community Association and Ballylough Living



Above: Presentation of Tour Guiding certificate to Stephanie Hilditch, Glenshane Care Association, July 2019.
Below: Tour Guide training, January 2019.





Above: Tour Guide training, January 2019.
Below: DNA workshop, February 2019.



History Trust. Three bespoke workshops were delivered by Dr William Roulston of the Ulster Historical Foundation to each group, followed by a facilitated visit to PRONI. Everyone rated the training highly and felt it was of great value to their group.

Principles of Design

Members of Hervey Heritage Group attended a workshop delivered by G2 Design to raise their awareness of design considerations as part of their project. Everyone agreed their understanding of the design process was much higher after the workshop and the new knowledge gave the group the necessary skills to progress work on the installation of additional interpretative panels on their heritage trail.

Heritage Craft Workshops

Members of the RNIB Accessible Heritage project attended a series of pottery workshops delivered by Adam Frew, and willow basketry workshops delivered by Sabine Wolniczak as part of their project. While some of the participants found aspects of the workshops quite challenging, especially the basketry, everyone enjoyed them and learned something new about traditional crafts.

DNA

All groups were offered the opportunity to take part in a series of workshops exploring the question of ‘who do we think we are?’ by looking at genetic ancestry. A total of forty participants from across the Understanding our Area programme volunteered to provide DNA samples for testing, providing a snapshot of genetic background the population of the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

NI Archive training

Training sessions on the use of the Northern Ireland Community Archive website were open to all groups. Members of Coleraine Ulster Scots Regeneration Group, Dromboughil Community Association, Hervey Heritage Group, Mountsandel Discovery and Heritage Group, Portrush Heritage Group and the Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers participated in training and received login details to enable their groups to contribute directly to the website and manage their own archives.

Rasharkin Community Association and Coleraine Rugby Club also availed of training provided under the Understanding Our Area programme.



Above: Visit to PRONI, June 2018.
Left: Presentation of Tour Guiding certificates to Kilrea Development Committee, June 2019.

Evaluation



SEUPB Mid-Project Impact Evaluation

Two groups, Glenshane Care Association and Mountsandel Discovery & Heritage Group, took part in a mid-project impact evaluation commissioned by SEUPB. Consultation was undertaken with group representatives and it was concluded that the Understanding Our Area programme was having a positive impact on peace and reconciliation in Causeway Coast and Glens area by enabling communities to engage and interact on a cross community basis with local history, heritage and culture.



Programme Evaluation

The Community Forum in June 2019 at Lissanoure Castle, Loughguile, was dedicated to project evaluation. Evaluation comprised two strands – 1. Group members worked with an artist to produce an illustration representative of the group project; 2. Oral evaluation session with Jamie Curran of CIAR.



Evaluation session at Lissanoure Castle, June 2019.

Four follow-up oral evaluation sessions with Jamie were held – three for community groups, to allow group members who had been unable to attend the Community Forum to contribute, thereby capturing a wider range of feedback, and one for Peace IV and Museum Services' staff. The staff session was held in Ballymoney Town Hall on 4th September and the three community sessions were held on 4th September in Ballymoney Town Hall, 11th September in Sheskburn House, Ballycastle, and the final session was held in Glor, Dungiven, on 2nd October. Discussion at the community evaluation sessions covered five broad topics:

- Lessons learned
- What had been done well
- What could have been done better



*“It truly was a learning experience
regarding project management.”*

*“The project helped to build self confidence
amongst group members.”*



- Ways forward
- Which groups have helped you and which have you helped.

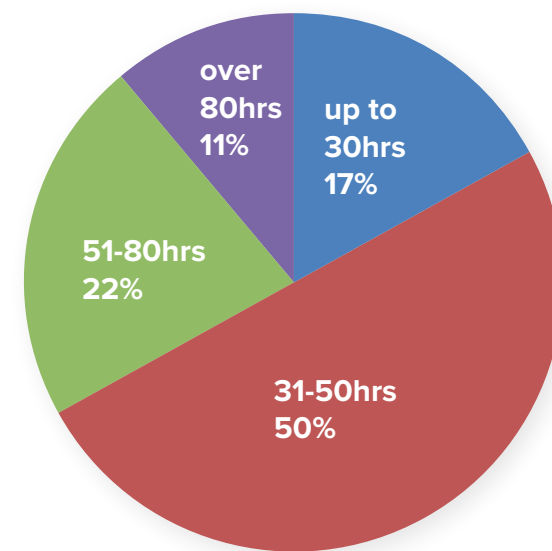
The staff evaluation session differed slightly, focussing on four key points:

- What had been done well
- What could have been done better
- Group working
- Ways forward and next steps.

Overall groups found participation in the Understanding Our Area programme a positive and enjoyable experience, with the opportunities offered benefitting groups in various ways such as confidence and skills development. There was a recognition by groups that some projects were overly ambitious within the available timeframe, however, completion of projects left groups with great pride in high quality, professional outputs.

Group commitment to 26 hours cross-community engagement was far exceeded by many of the groups and new relationships were formed across the borough over the course of the programme.

Cross-Community Hours



“Showcase events assisted by CMS staff were fantastic, rewarding and receiving positive feedback from others was very motivational.”

Lessons Learned

“Things always take longer than expected.”

“Good to be adaptable.”

“Capacity of group was seriously underestimated at the beginning by ourselves.”

Some of the lessons learned included:

Assessment of group capacity – self assessment of group capacity was overestimated at times.

Skilling up volunteers with the necessary skills – skill gaps need identified early and a programme of training implemented to equip volunteers with the skills to deliver their project. A suggestion was made that training should be compulsory before and during projects.

Over dependence on key people within groups – project plans need to ensure there are enough people with the necessary knowledge and skills to carry forward projects.

Timeframe allowed for project delivery – this needs to be long enough to allow groups to understand their commitments, equip members with the necessary skills and allow the necessary time for all elements of projects including approvals required.

Peer support – early opportunities for groups to meet and share learning and resources. A suggestion was put forward that groups could be ‘twinning’. The participating groups are now in a position to act as mentors to other groups wishing to do similar projects.

Good practice training - all terms of reference issued to consultants to include provision of a training session to community groups on good practice in their service area.

Next Steps



Community Forum meeting, Roe Park Hotel, Limavady, October 2018.



Tour Guide training, February 2019.

“Enthusiasm gained for things we wouldn’t ordinarily have been interested in.”

Keeping in Contact

The enthusiasm within the community for local history and heritage, and the desire to share it with others, has been demonstrated throughout the Understanding Our Area programme. Participating groups have clearly shown they are keen to avail of support which will allow them to continue engaging with each other, the wider public and visitors to the area.

Community Forum

The groups and Museum Services were keen to see this continue beyond the life of the Peace IV Understanding Our Area programme. The COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown meant postponing further meetings. The Museum Services Annual Business Plan now includes Community Forum support and meetings as a target.

Work with Community Forum

A need has been identified to work with members of the Community Forum to draw up guidance for groups and staff on health and safety, copyright and acknowledging sources, access and project planning.

Ongoing Advice and Support

Museum Services can continue to provide advice, equipment and training to groups as they progress.

History Book Bags

As the impact of COVID-19 deepened the final phase had to be adapted. To support vulnerable and isolated citizens and raise awareness of how much participating groups have achieved, Museum Services have begun to distribute History Book Bags brimming with all our publications.

New Projects

Where funding and opportunities arise Museum Services will continue to work with groups and organisations on exploring and sharing the unique heritage of the Causeway Coast and Glens area.



PRONI visit, June 2018.

