

# 100

# BALLYMONEY

# SHOWS

THE BIGGEST ANNUAL  
EVENT IN NORTH ANTRIM'S  
AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR!



This summer, crowds will gather at the Showgrounds to celebrate the 100th Ballymoney Show. Today the Show is organised by the three Young Farmers' Clubs in the area - Finvoy, Kilraughts and Moycraig - who constitute the North Antrim Agricultural Association. The Show has gone from strength to strength since it began in 1903. It is a remarkable achievement and shows the dedication on the part of all those involved.



BALLYMONEY SHOWGROUNDS, 1961



PRIZE WINNERS' PARADE, 2000

The aims of the Show Committee have been the same in all its one hundred shows:

- \_ To provide a show case for the agricultural industry.
- \_ To introduce new breeds and new developments in agriculture.
- \_ To stage a wide programme of entertainment and other activities which will provide an enjoyable family day out for all.

The excellent facilities at the Showgrounds provide the setting for a wide variety of trade stands, livestock judging, home industries and special displays.

It is the spirit of co-operation, not to mention the hard work and careful planning of the Show Committee, which explains why the Ballymoney Show has continued to thrive until the present day.



# 100

## BALLYMONEY SHOWS

# TRIUMPHS & SETBACKS



BALLYMONEY SHOWGROUNDS 1909

Agricultural shows have been held in Ballymoney since the nineteenth century. These shows were organised by the Route Farming Society, and they had classes for livestock and crops. However it was not until the North Antrim Agricultural Association was established in 1903, that these shows became an annual event in the town.

The Show acquired a reputation for the quality of the livestock on display. Heavy horses in particular, gained recognition for excellence. Other events at these early shows included horse jumping and driving competitions.


In the early twentieth century the Shows were held in a field at the Model Farm. However in 1918, new showgrounds were acquired from the Earl of Antrim at a cost of £1,085.

The Show's appeal was also increased when arrangements were made with the local schools to allow pupils a half-day's holiday on Show Day. Exciting attractions were offered free of charge including a 40 foot slide, giant stride maypole, and pendulum see-saw.

The onset of World War Two, in 1939, proved to be a challenging time for the Committee, and the future of the Show looked bleak. Many believed there would never be a Show again in Ballymoney.



M.FREDLANDER TAKING PART IN AN EARLY DRIVING COMPETITION



### North Antrim Agricultural Association, Limited.

## TWENTY-SEVENTH BALLYMONEY SHOW

Of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Poultry, Pigeons, Rabbits, Butter, Eggs, Home Industries, Flowers, and DOGS,

### On Tuesday, 2nd July, 1929.

Horse-Jumping, Riding, and Driving Competitions.

Judging will commence at 10, a.m. (Summer Time).  
Horse-Jumping and Driving Competitions at 2, p.m.  
All Exhibits conveyed by rail are carried back free of charge on producing voucher from Secretary.  
Reduced Railway Fares from all Stations.  
Entries Close 22nd June, 1929.  
Entries for Horse-Jumping and Driving will be received up to 3, p.m., on Monday, 1st July.  
The Dogs during Show will be fed on Spratt's Patent Dog Cakes.  
The Poultry during Show will be fed on Spratt's Patent Poultry Meal.  
Dog and Rabbit Sections a special feature.

#### Bring the Children—

Children's Playing Field Apparatus : 40-foot Slide, Giant Stride Maypole, Plank Swing, Pendulum See-Saw, Ocean Wave, Joy Wheel, Children's Swings, Horizontal and Parallel Bars, will be open to all Children during Show Day FREE OF CHARGE.

**Admission to Grounds, 1/6.**  
Children, Half-price.

**A BAND WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.**

For Prize Schedule and Entry Forms, &c., apply to W. BECKETT, Secretary, Ballymoney.  
\*MASTER, PRINTER, BALLYMONEY

BALLYMONEY SHOW POSTER 1929

### THE COLERAINE CHRONICLE, JUNE 26

#### NORTH ANTRIM SHOW

##### SPLENDID DISPLAY

###### ANOTHER BALLYMONEY TRIUMPH.

In the annual Show held at Ballymoney on Tuesday the 26th inst. the Agricultural Association recorded another triumph. Ballymoney again being judged by a jury of the most experienced and expert judges to be the best of the route. The Association's success was due to the fact that the show was held in a new and improved building, which was the result of the efforts of the Association's Committee, who had been working for some time to secure a more permanent and comfortable home for the show. The Association's success was also due to the fact that the show was held in a new and improved building, which was the result of the efforts of the Association's Committee, who had been working for some time to secure a more permanent and comfortable home for the show.

### RULES

#### NORTH ANTRIM AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

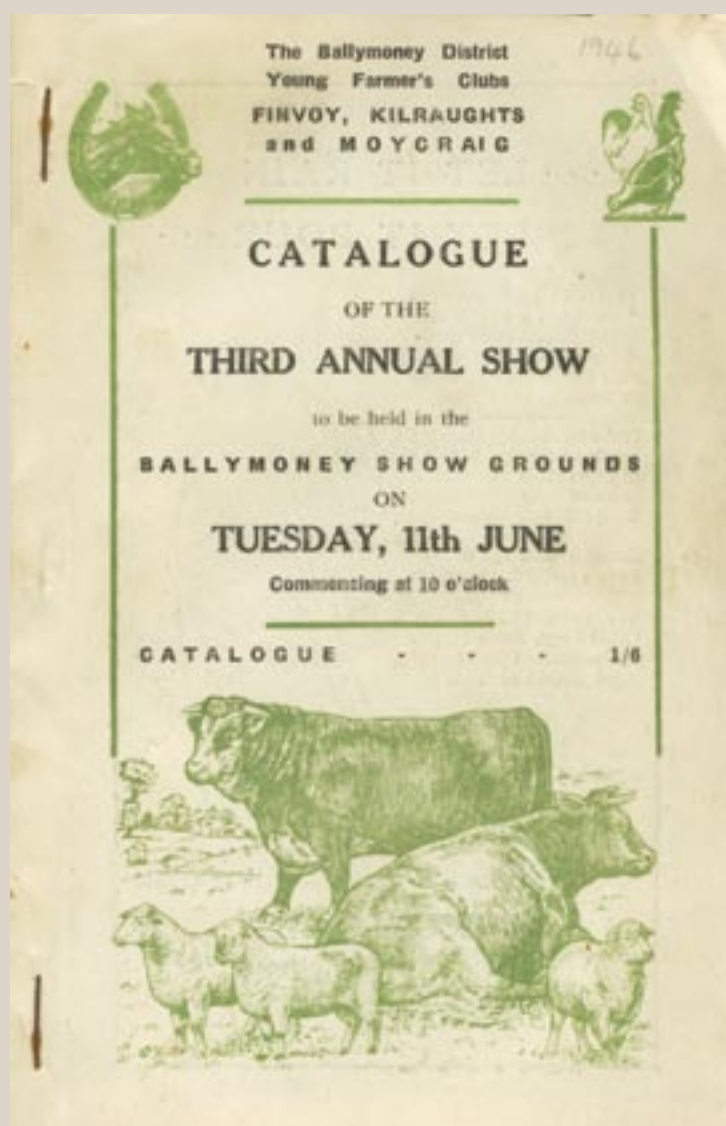
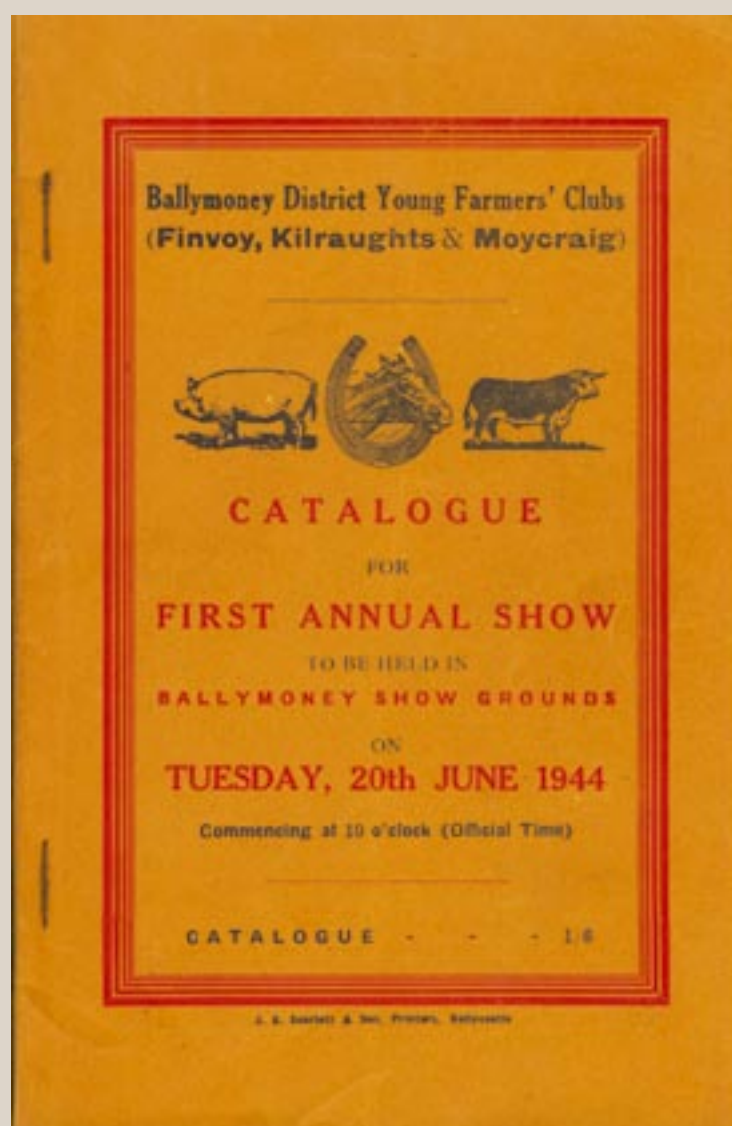
PRINTED BY FREDERICK & CO., 5, QUEEN STREET, BALLYMONEY.

NEWSPAPER CUTTING FROM COLERAINE CHRONICLE JUNE 1920 AND RULES OF THE NAAA 1918



# 100 BALLYMONEY SHOWS

# THE YOUNG FARMERS



SHOW CATALOGUES FROM THE FIRST THREE YOUNG FARMERS' SHOWS

The revival of the Ballymoney Show came about thanks to the determination of one man, James Pollock of Castle Street, Ballymoney. He was a member of the Kilraughts Young Farmers' Club. In 1944, he decided to organise a show along with the Finvoy and Moycraig clubs. The North Antrim Agricultural Association was only too happy to let the Young Farmers use the Showgrounds for the day.

The Show was a resounding success, with large crowds and a great atmosphere. A new era of the Ballymoney Show had begun. The Young Farmers staged four Shows altogether (1944-1947) and each one was a well organised and enjoyable experience.

In 1948, members of the three Young Farmers' Clubs bought the shares of the North Antrim Agricultural Association Limited from the original shareholders. Thereafter, the Shows returned to their previous name and were called *North Antrim Agricultural Association Shows*, more commonly known as *Ballymoney Shows*. In 1949, Bushmills YFC joined the committee and their members helped organise the Show until they disbanded in 1975.

The input of the local Young Farmers' Clubs during the past sixty years has brought a youthful energy and drive to the Show. They are invaluable in all aspects of organisation, from preparing the grounds and stewarding the classes to running the entertaining programme.



VISIT OF LORD WAKEHURST 1961 (LEFT TO RIGHT: MR R B PRICE; MR & MRS EDWIN GETTY; MR & MRS SAM HENRY; LORD WAKEHURST; MR S B PEDEN; COL. A.J.H. CRAMSIE; MR JAMES MCILHATTON; MR TOM HOGG; MR JIM BARR).



TERENCE O'NEILL AND COL. A.J.H. CRAMSIE AT A SHOW, 1960S



COLERAINE CHRONICLE, JUNE 1949



COL. A.J.H. CRAMSIE, PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH ANTRIM AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION FROM 1950 TO 1987

The Young Farmers' movement was established in 1929, by Mr W S Armour. He had been inspired by similar movements abroad, and decided that Northern Ireland agriculture would benefit from a strong youth movement.

The clubs are controlled by the members themselves and are open to young people between 12 and 25 years old.

The aim of the movement has always been to combine agricultural education with opportunities for social activities.

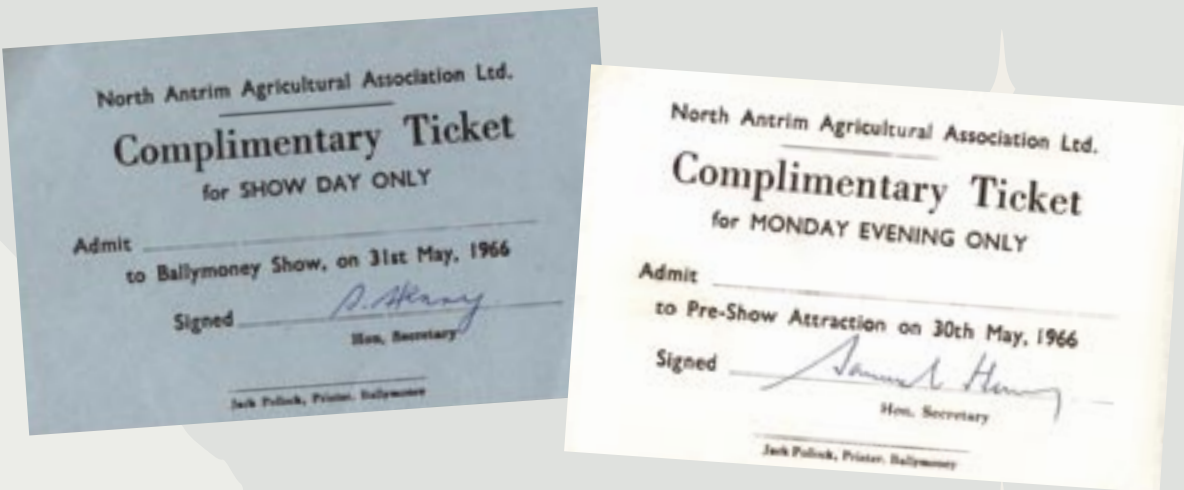


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BALLYMONEY  
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## WHERE WOULD YOU GET ATMOSPHERE & COLOUR LIKE THAT?

EILEEN O'BRIEN, JOURNALIST IRISH TIMES



NEWSPAPER CUTTING FROM JUNE 1963. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME A PRE-SHOW EVENT WAS STAGED

The Ballymoney Show has a wide range of classes for horses, cattle, sheep, goats and poultry. However, the appeal of the Show is much wider than livestock judging. Since its inception, it has catered for other interests. Traditionally, the Home Industries section has always been a strong category, giving farmers' wives the opportunity to display fine quality home baking and craftwork. There are many other types of stands to be explored including traditional craft demonstrations and agricultural trade displays.



THE CHICKEN DERBY, 2002



TOSSING THE SHEAF, 1963



GYMNASTIC DISPLAY BY BOYS OF BALLYMONEY SECONDARY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, 1963



TUG-OF-WAR COMPETITION, 1963



From 1963 onwards, a pre-Show attraction has been staged on the evening before Show Day. Over the years, spectators have been treated to a wide variety of entertainment including, equestrian events, football, tug-o-war, pet shows and gymkhana games. Many such competitions encourage a friendly rivalry between the entrants, particularly the hotly contested Chicken Derby!

**“SHOW DAY IS LOOKED UPON BY THE PEOPLE OF TWO COUNTIES AS THE CHIEF EVENT OF THE YEAR. IT IS A GREAT SOCIAL OCCASION, ON WHICH OLD ACQUAINTANCES ARE RENEWED AND NEW FRIENDSHIPS FORMED.”**

COLERAINE CHRONICLE 26TH JUNE 1920

The modern day Show has seen the traditional Friday night dance give way to a disco, and this social event remains almost as popular as the main Show itself.



# 100 BALLYMONEY SHOWS

# CHANGING TIMES



GEORGE WILSON DRIVING A CLYDESDALE, 1979



MASSEY FERGUSON TE 20

In the century that has passed, the Show has witnessed many changes. Gone are the days of the horse-drawn plough, which some older farmers regret:

**“IT IS MORE HEARTSOME. YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SPEAK TO. YOU HAVE NOTHING IN THE TRACTOR ONLY NOISE...THEY TOOK THREE TIMES AS LONG AS A TRACTOR, BUT THEY DID A BETTER JOB.”**

IRISH TIMES 5 JUNE 1978

Agricultural trade displays have always been a popular aspect of the Show. However the advent of farm mechanisation has meant that the items on display have changed considerably over the years. Modern farming equipment, such as the seed drill have replaced the harrows and drill ploughs of the early shows.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT, FIRST ROW:

PRIZEWINNING CHAROLAIS

ANN MORRISON AND SYLVIA MCATEER WITH THE SUPREME CHAMPION HUNTER, 2006

WANDA MCILWAINE WITH THE RIDDEN HUNTER CHAMPION, 2006

BELGIAN BLUE OVERALL BEEF CHAMPION, 2005 WITH VICTOR CHESTNUTT, MRS. M.J. HOLMES O.B.E. J.P. AND VICE PRESIDENT WILLIAM PEDEN

IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT, SECOND ROW:

PRIZEWINNING BELTEX

YOUNG HANDLERS WITH THEIR BLACK FACE SHEEP

KEITH LOUGHLIN WITH HIS SOUTHDOWN RAM

LIMOUSIN-SUPREME CATTLE CHAMPION OF THE SHOW 2006, WITH TREVOR ROBINSON AND MRS. D. BLACK

The breeds on display have also changed. Shorthorn cattle were once the leading breed in North Antrim. However, the Ayrshire and then the Friesian breeds were introduced to boost milk production. Today the Holstein is the predominant dairy cow.

The enormous improvement in livestock at the Show in recent years has been widely acknowledged. This is particularly noted since the advent of the Continental cattle. Reflecting on the changing times, Robert McConaghy of Kilraughts YFC once noted, ‘even the colour of the cows has changed from red to black and white’.\* Recent Shows have seen the promotion of other breeds such as the Luing, Fleckvieh and Parthenaise cattle.

\* S.A. BLAIR, (ED.) KILRAUGHTS Y.F.C. THE SILVER JUBILEE BOOK, 1967

IMAGE IN BACKGROUND: DES GIBSON, WITH THE SUPREME CHAMPION HUNTER 2003



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## MODERNISATION & REVITALISATION

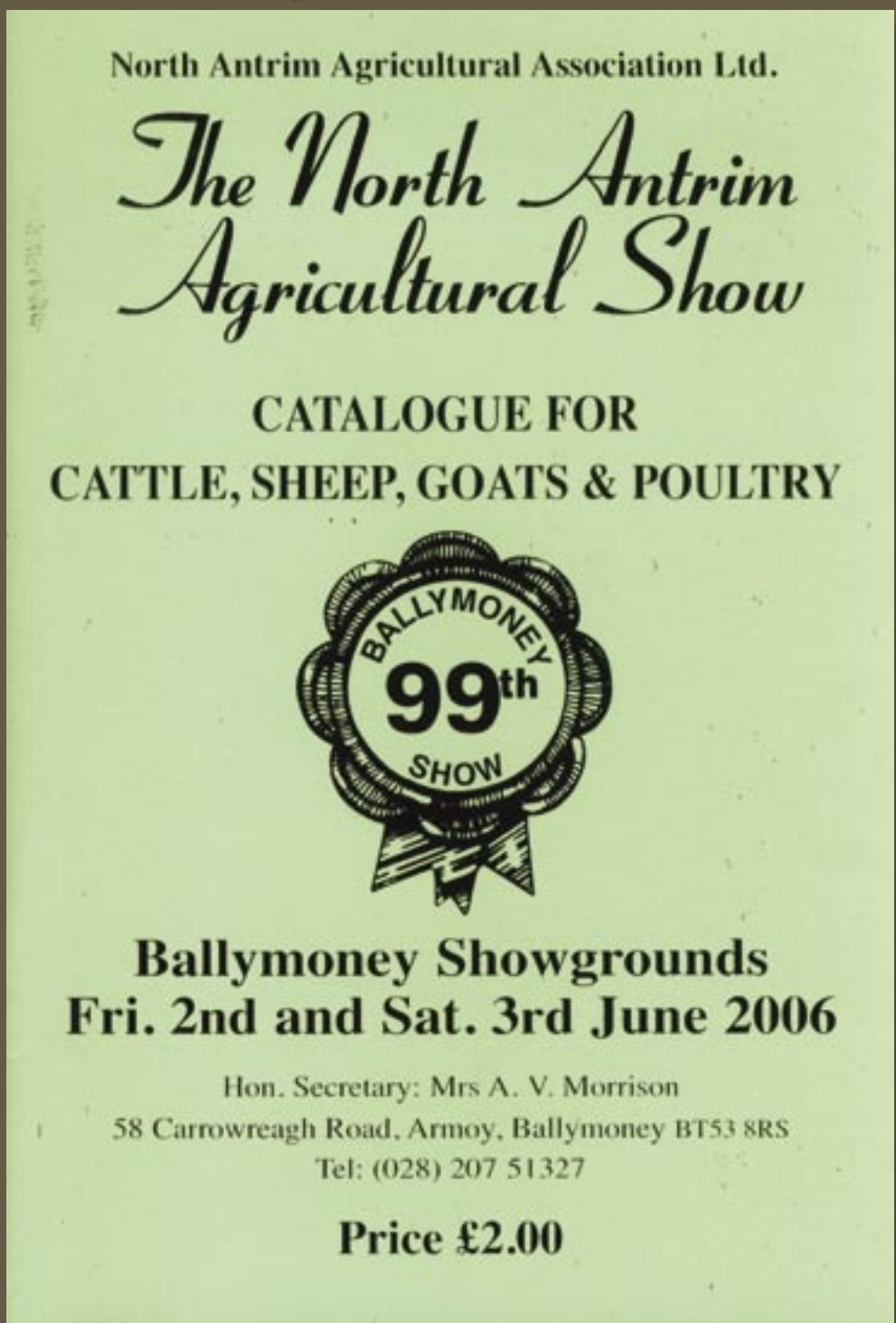
The North Antrim Agricultural Association has always looked to the future to ensure the continuation of the Show. Many improvements have been made over the years to enhance the Showgrounds. In 1990, Ballymoney United Football Club leased the grounds for their matches, and in 1997, a new Pavilion was built.

The administration of North Antrim Agricultural Association has also undergone substantial changes. A Board of Directors has been established, the Articles of Association amended and the Rules of the Show have been revised.

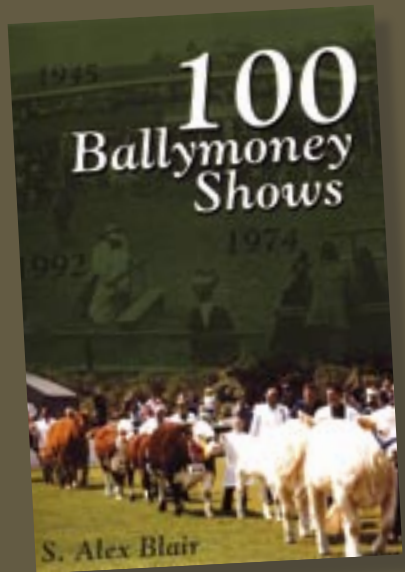
The Show Committee greatly appreciates the numerous subscriptions given annually by the North Antrim community and also the generous sponsorship provided by business firms and individuals. These contributions lend prestige to the Show, as does the high calibre of the judges, who come each year from all over the British Isles.



THE SHOW COMMITTEE, 2007



CATATLOGUE, 2006



LOCAL HISTORIAN, ALEX BLAIR HAS WRITTEN A BOOK CELEBRATING THE BALLYMONEY SHOW'S 100TH YEAR. BALLYMONEY MUSEUM WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALEX BLAIR FOR PERMISSION TO ADAPT THE TEXT OF HIS BOOK FOR OUR EXHIBITION.



CATTLE JUDGING, 1990

Mr John Mulvenna, President of the Ulster Farmers' Union summed up the significance of the Ballymoney Show in 1991;

**“HERE WE SEE THE REAL FACE OF ULSTER AGRICULTURE – QUALITY STOCK IN A TREMENDOUS SETTING.”**

Over the last few years the Association has been working with a number of affiliated groups to help bring benefits to the farming community in North Antrim. These include:

- Finvoy Young Farmers' Club
- Kilraughts Young Farmers' Club
- Moycraig Young Farmers' Club
- The Causeway Coast Quality Lamb Group
- The Loughgiel Farmers Development Group
- The Green Glens Marketing Group
- The Causeway Dairy Development Group
- The Finvoy Rural Development Group
- North Antrim Environmental Systems Limited
- The North Antrim Dairy Development Group Limited.

