

The People of the Place

The special landscape of the Causeway Coast is inhabited and shaped by the communities that live within it, and by the many visitors that have fallen under the spell of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Uncharted Histories of the Causeway Coast project invited people to share their memories, reflections and cultural experiences of the Causeway Coast.

THE DONKEY DERBY OF LISNAGUNOGUE

Footage submitted to the project by local man Maurice McCurdy shows a day of fun at the village of Lisnagunogue in the 1980s. The famous Donkey Derby was an annual event at the time and attracted people from across the area, joining together for a day of family activities. The derby saw local young people riding donkeys around the designated field, hoping they could make it to the finish line! This footage provides a taste of the community spirit and events that help to shape rural life in the area.



Brian Bolt kindly shared a collection of photographs from his time at the Causeway Memorial School in the 1950s. Brian looks back on this time fondly and remembers his schoolmates well. Any familiar faces?

LOCAL MEMORIES

John Logan shared tales of growing up in Portrush in the 1950s. His detailed reminiscences explore boating, fishing, golfing and other diversions enjoyed in this era. Even then the town was popular with tourists and John describes how the Logans lived in 'the back house' while their main home was rented to tourists ('usually Belfast folk') for the Summer. Meanwhile in another anecdote, John describes how in 1932 his late father Jack Logan attempted heroically to save two friends from drowning when their canoe capsized at Curran Point. While these attempts were tragically unsuccessful, his deeds were recognised in Portrush and beyond.

*'we hear the clattering
boulders shift
with each tidal pull
each pulls us in'*

A line from a poem submitted by Geraldine Fitzgerald. Geraldine, originally from Belfast, finds inspiration for her writing in her many visits to the Causeway Coast.

The Causeway Coast is also a favourite for many photographers and artists both near and far. The photo below was taken by Richard Sloan, a Dorset photographer who takes inspiration from the shoreline, sea, geology, history and wildlife of this iconic coast.



The Curran Point, Portrush, with the Slieve in the background, where Robert and Reginald Lee, sons of Mr. Robert Lee, Main Street, Portrush, were drowned through the overturning of their canoe, 19th April, 1931. (Inset) Mr. Jack Logan, who made two heroic attempts to save the victims.

