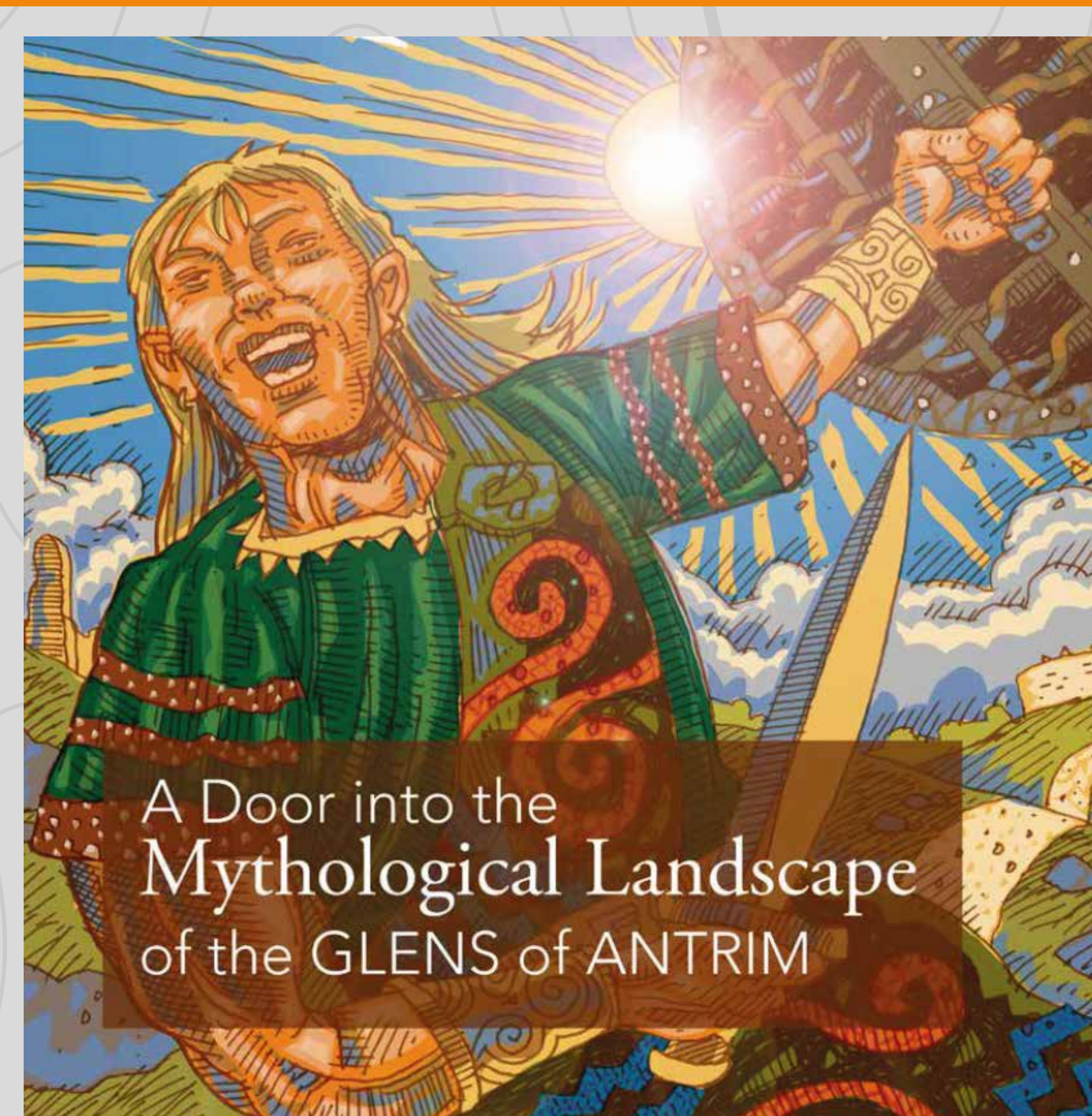


# A land of folklore and stories

The landscape of the Causeway Coast and wider area is steeped in a cultural heritage which includes myths, legends, stories, traditions, languages, music and more. Folklore and stories, poems and songs helped make sense of the unexplainable or unknown, taught morality, shared history and has encouraged pride of place and identity through the centuries.

## A GIANT TALE

Famously, the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site gets its name from folklore. Local communities used stories to explain the curious appearance of the Causeway Stones long before the site's geological origins were known. The most well-known story is that of Finn Mac Cool, first documented by Irish monks in the Medieval period but perhaps much older. Stories featuring Finn and other giants are also included in the folklore of other sites within the Causeway Coast and Glens area. For example, his son Oisín (or Ossian) is said to be buried at Glenann in the Glens of Antrim.

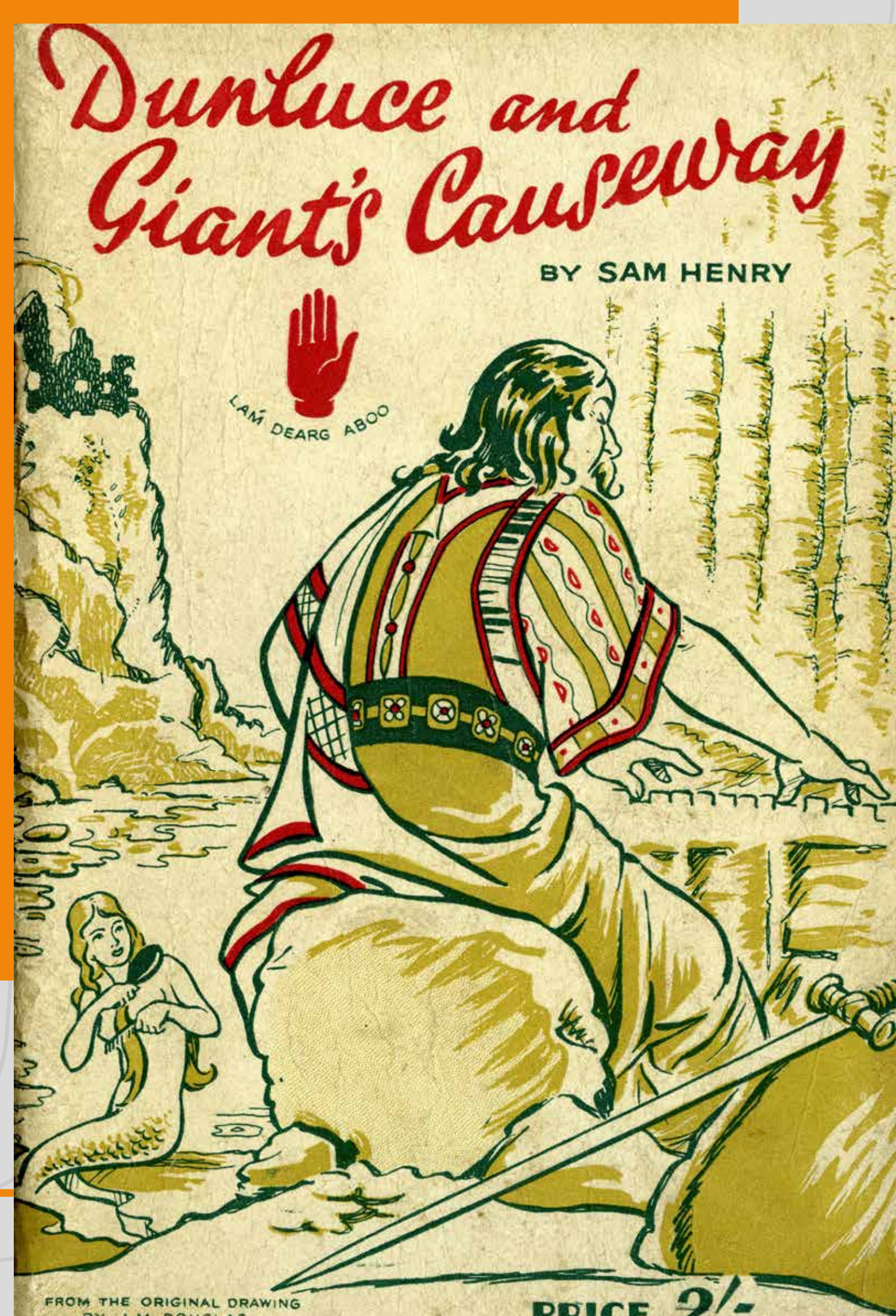


Ossian's Grave, Glenann. This monument is classified by archaeologists as a Neolithic megalithic tomb.

## SAM HENRY

Sam Henry, born in Coleraine in 1878, was a prominent folklorist recognised for his 'Songs of the People' collection that was first published in the Northern Constitution newspaper, 1923-1939. Sam worked as an Excise and Pensions Officer, visiting many elderly people. He combined his work with a passion for stories and folk music collected from rural residents, and in so doing preserved local cultural traditions that might otherwise have been lost.

In 2011, the Sam Henry Collection was donated to Coleraine Museum. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council continue to celebrate and share this vast collection within the local community and further afield.



Scan the QR code for more information and to download the free booklet 'A Door into the Mythological Landscape of the Glens of Antrim'.

## STORYTELLING

In recent years storytelling has been growing in popularity once more across the Causeway Coast and Glens area. Trained storytellers and storytelling networks are sharing traditional stories and breathing new life into this important tradition, offering experiences for locals and visitors to the area. This is reflected in the highly successful Glens Storytelling Festival which takes place in Autumn each year.



The story of the Children of Lir is entwined with the Causeway Coast. It is said that the four children, when turned to swans by their wicked stepmother Aoife, were banished to spend 300 years on the Sea of Moyle. This sculpture in Ballycastle harbour commemorates the famous tale.



Scan QR code to download a free copy of Sam Henry's 1944 book 'Dunluce and the Giant's Causeway'.

**DID YOU KNOW...** While many believe that 'Dunluce' means strong fort, or Fort of the Liss, Sam Henry explains that in 1154AD Dunluce is recorded as 'Dun-libshi' or 'the dun of the mermaid'. This mermaid, Liban, was a family legend of the O'Neills and is said to have been caught in a net at Larne by St. Beoan and restored to human form. Interestingly, a large cave located under Dunluce Castle is known locally as the Mermaid's Cave.

