



The Stephenson family performed horse riding and dog acts with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus all over the world.

They had a son, Pat.

Family background

Evelyn Chipperfield of the famous Chipperfield's travelling circus married one of Europe's top wild animal trainers Francesco Trufelli of the Royal Italian Circus. They settled in Portrush and owned Barry's Amusements.

They had a daughter, Louise.

Pat Stephenson and Louise Trufelli met when Pat was travelling through Northern Ireland with Duffy's Circus.

Pat Stephenson and Louise Trufelli along with Pat's sister Lucy Stephenson and Louise's cousin Dick Chipperfield, opened The Causeway Safari Park in late August 1970.

It cost £60,000 to construct the Park set on 52 acres at Benvarden outside Ballymoney.

