

Saturday 14 March

Vintage Toys Reminiscence Session

11:00am - 12 noon

Rediscover the toys that shaped childhoods.

This relaxed, family-friendly session invites you to step back in time and explore a fascinating collection of vintage toys from years gone by. From well-loved classics to forgotten favourites, these objects spark memories, stories and conversation across generations.

Parents and grandparents can share their own childhood experiences, while younger visitors discover how play has changed, and what has stayed the same. A wonderful opportunity to connect through nostalgia, storytelling and shared history.

Suitable for children and accompanying adults.

Booking essential.

Sand Art Workshops with Nataly at 2:30pm, 3:00pm and 3:30pm

Step into a world of colour, light and imagination.

In these dynamic, hands-on workshops, children aged 5+ will create stunning sand art using illuminated lightboxes, specialist tools and vibrant coloured sands. Guided by Nataly, young artists will experiment with texture, layering and design to produce eye-catching creations that glow with colour.

This is more than crafting — it's a sensory, creative experience where imagination takes centre stage and every child leaves with something uniquely their own.

Fun, engaging and full of energy.

Booking essential.

All Week Exhibition

Travelling Through Time: Railway History of Ballycastle and Capecastle

By Karenann Hurst

Journey back to the era of steam, seaside excursions and bustling platforms.

In this evocative photographic exhibition, Karenann Hurst captures the railway history that once connected Ballycastle to the wider world. Through carefully curated images, the exhibition explores how the railway shaped trade, tourism and everyday life, transforming the town's landscape and linking local communities to new opportunities.

From the engineering feats behind the line to the personal stories of passengers and workers, Travelling Through Time preserves moments of movement, industry and connection that defined a generation.

A nostalgic and fascinating glimpse into a chapter of Ballycastle's past.

On display throughout the week during library opening hours.

All events are FREE and open to everyone.

For more information or to book a place at any of the events please telephone Ballycastle Library 028 2076 2566 or email ballycastle.library@librariesni.org.uk

Tides of Time

Ballycastle Library
Cultural Heritage
Festival



Tides of Time, the inaugural Ballycastle Library Cultural Heritage Festival, celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Ballycastle and the Causeway Coast, a place shaped by story, song, activism and community.

Across the festival, historians, musicians, storytellers and heritage specialists explore the people and traditions that have defined this coastline for generations. From poetry and political history to music, museums and family memory, the programme reveals the many currents that continue to shape Ballycastle today.

Through expert talks, live performance, exhibitions and family activities, the festival connects past and present, inviting you to discover, reflect and take part.

Join us as we trace the tides of time and celebrate the heritage that still shapes our community.

All events are free to attend.



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Monday 9 March

Local Tunes, Culture Tales: Local Belonging and Heritage in the Causeway Coast and Glens

2:15pm - 3:00pm

Discover how song shapes identity and place.

Dr Gráinne Milner-McLoone, Early Career Researcher with a PhD in English Literature, explores the cultural geography of renowned ballad collector Sam Henry. Her interdisciplinary research examines how Henry's Songs of the People collection mapped music, memory and belonging across the Causeway Coast and Glens.

This engaging talk reveals how traditional song connects landscape, community and cultural heritage — and why these collected voices still resonate today.

Booking essential.

Harping Back to 1792

3:00pm - 3:30pm

Step back to one of the most important moments in Ireland's musical history — the Belfast Harp Festival of 1792.

In this evocative live performance, harpist Katy Bustard recreates the spirit of the gathering that brought together the last of the great Irish harpers, preserving melodies that might otherwise have been lost. Through music drawn from this remarkable event, she celebrates the resilience, beauty and enduring legacy of the Irish harp tradition.

Set against the backdrop of Tides of Time, this performance offers a rare opportunity to hear history come alive — an intimate and atmospheric experience that connects past and present through sound.

An uplifting celebration of Ireland's musical heritage.

Booking essential.

Thursday 12 March

Poets of Coast and Glen: The North Antrim Poetry Tradition

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Discover the literary voices inspired by the landscape of North Antrim.

Dr Frank Ferguson, Director of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies at Ulster University, brings over fifteen years' expertise in literary research and teaching to this exploration of the region's poetic heritage. Drawing on his work in Irish and Ulster-Scots studies, he examines the writers shaped by this coastline and the cultural traditions that continue to influence their work.

An engaging and insightful celebration of poetry rooted in place.

Booking essential.

Rebel Women: Cumann na mBan in the Glens of Antrim 1914–1924

6:30pm - 7:30pm

Hear from one of Ireland's leading historians on women's political activism.

Dr Margaret Ward, acclaimed author and researcher in Irish women's history, examines the role of Cumann na mBan in the Glens of Antrim during a transformative decade in Irish political life. Drawing on extensive scholarship and archival research, she brings to light the courage, organisation and influence of local women whose contributions have often been overlooked.

An authoritative and compelling exploration of activism, identity and historical change.

Booking essential.

Storytelling with Stephen O'Hara

2:15pm - 3:15pm

Be transported by the power of story.

Stephen O'Hara of the Armstrong Storytelling Trust draws on Irish folklore and oral tradition to breathe life into ancient heroes, mythical creatures and local legends. Expect humour, drama and tales that connect past and present.

A captivating live performance for adults.

Booking essential.

Family History: 1901 and 1911 Census for Beginners

11:00am - 12 noon

Ever wondered who lived in your family home a century ago?

This practical, beginner-friendly session will show you how to unlock the 1901 and 1911 Irish Census records and begin your own family history journey.

Start discovering the stories hidden in your surname.

Booking essential.

Ballycastle Museum Restoration Project

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Go behind the scenes of Ballycastle Museum's transformation.

Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Services share the vision, challenges and progress behind restoring this historic 18th-century courthouse and market building, and what the future holds for its collections.

An inside look at heritage in action.

Booking essential.

Artifact Handling and Information Session

2:30pm - 4:00pm

Hold history in your hands.

Join Museum Services for an exclusive, hands-on session exploring objects from the Ballycastle Museum collection. From archaeological finds to local heritage artefacts, this is a rare opportunity to get closer than usual to the materials that tell Ballycastle's story.

An immersive and unforgettable experience for anyone interested in local history — not to be missed.

Booking essential.

Tuesday 10 March

Wednesday 11 March

Friday 13 March