

JANUARY - MAY 2010

# BALLYMONEY TOWNHALL



## EVENTS etc

PERFORMANCES/MUSEUM/  
TALKS/EXHIBITIONS/COURSES/  
GROUPS/ROOMS FOR HIRE/  
TOURIST INFORMATION



BALLYMONEY  
TOWN HALL

ARTS, MUSEUM & TOURIST INFORMATION

## **WILLIE DRENNAN & HIS ULSTER SCOTS BAND**

Thursday 28 January, 8pm

Join Willie Drennan and his Ulster Scots Band for an informal evening of music, stories and song. The first part of the evening features a celebration of Robbie Burns and his connection with Ulster. The second part of the evening is an opportunity to explore the Ulster Scots heritage through local music and stories with an opportunity for audience participation and discussion.



This evening has been organised as part of the Peace III Cultural Fusions Programme which offers people across the North East area the opportunity to explore different traditions, cultures and art forms.

Admission is free



## **71st BALLYMONEY DRAMA FESTIVAL**

Thurs 4 – Sat 13 March, 8pm nightly, except Sunday

Featuring leading amateur drama groups from all over Ulster

Adjudicator: Marie O'Sullivan, Bristol

Tickets available from McCurdy Hamilton Travel Ltd, 17 Main Street, Ballymoney and from Ballymoney Town Hall during the Festival. Organised by Ballymoney Drama Festival Committee

## Moving on Music present **BUTTONS, BARRELS & BOWS**

Wednesday 24 March, 8pm

Caoimhín Ó'Raghallaigh (fiddle/hardanger fiddle)

Catherine McEvoy (flute & whistle)

Micheál Ó'Raghallaigh (concertina)



Paul McCarthy, courtesy of Music Network.

This tour brings together three of the finest Irish traditional players promising an evening of traditional yet inventive music making.

Dublin-born Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh plays traditional and contemporary folk music on fiddle, 5-string viola and hardanger fiddle. As a traditional fiddler, his *Kitty Lie Over* album with Dublin uilleann piper Mick O'Brien was described in the Irish Times as "niftier mood enhancer than any drug therapy". In 2007, he released *Where the One-Eyed Man is King*, an adventurous, self-produced EP.

Originally from Birmingham, UK, Catherine McEvoy is one of the finest contemporary exponents of the Sligo-Roscommon style of flute playing, both lyrical and driving. Catherine is a former member of Macalla, the first all female traditional group.

Concertina maestro, Micheál Ó'Raghallaigh has performed as both a soloist and as a member of the traditional group 'Providence' in the USA and throughout Europe. Following the unprecedented success of his debut album *The Nervous Man* in 2001 he surpasses all expectations with his second recording *Inside Out*.

*'Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh led this merry trio on a fleet-footed foray through vast meadows, indeed prairies of tunes, his fiddle often leading, sometimes following, and occasionally refraining from joining the melee...individually accomplished and collectively hugely engaged, they seemed to revel in the chance to test and taste of one another's music.'*

Siobhán Long, The Irish Times

Tickets £9, concessions £7 available from Ballymoney Town Hall.

For further information go to: [www.stateofchassis.com](http://www.stateofchassis.com)

## Vicarage Productions present

### **THE KNICKER LADY**

Thursday 15 April, 8pm



Rosemary Hawthorne, otherwise, and internationally, known as The Knicker Lady, returns to Ballymoney with her hilarious one-woman show which romps through the history of the humble knicker in an unforgettable way that's just too good to miss and leaves audiences, both male and female, spellbound and dying for more!

Rosemary is an actress, costume historian, best-selling author and a hugely enthralling entertainer whose performance has been described as "...having the style and timing of pure comic genius."

Surrounded by old suitcases, boxes and hat stands, she delves through two hundred and fifty years of bloomers, briefs and bustles and presents a myriad of colourful characters that wore them, in a unique and enigmatic style of her own.

With charismatic vivacity The Knicker Lady scrutinises, like never before, the liberty bodice, school knickers, the mighty Y-front and much, much more...there isn't a brief left unturned!

Tickets £8, concessions £6 available from Ballymoney Town Hall.



## **50th BALLYMONEY IRISH DANCING FESTIVAL**

Tues 20 – Sat 24 April  
9am, 2pm & 7pm

Admission: Session Ticket £2, Daily Ticket £5

Organised by the Ballymoney Irish Dancing Festival Committee.

For further details contact Joan McLean 028 2074 2960.

### LIFE IN NORTH ANTRIM DOWN THE CENTURIES

Local historian, S Alex Blair begins a new series of talks featuring the everyday life of the people of North Antrim and the changes that have occurred down the years. So often history only deals with the important people and what they did and said, but this series aims to look at those who have gone largely unmentioned but whose daily toil and experiences are most relevant to the lives of all of us today. Without them, society would not have developed as it has and their story is just as fascinating as that of the 'movers and shakers'.

### WORK Wednesday 3 February



The Scottish Planters were said to have 'the work ethic' and hard work on the land was the commitment of their lives. Ballymoney was the town which marketed their produce and supplied them with the necessities of life. Known as 'cow town' because of the huge cattle market, its linen hall sold high quality linen and there were cottage industries in many houses in Ballymoney. There were also weavers throughout the countryside and Balnamore developed as an industrial village. Hard work, long hours and poor conditions affected everyone. While workers took pride in what they did, they always hoped for better days ahead.

The diversity of their occupations, the challenges they faced and the quality of their work will be reviewed in this wide-ranging talk, which is a fine curtain raiser for this new series.

### RECREATION Thursday 25 February

When the work of the day was over, "ceildhing" was the main pleasure of country people. Every district had its ceildhe houses where people gathered. The 'craic' was mighty and the fun and laughter was enjoyed by all. Another favourite recreation was dancing, which took place in cottage kitchens or barns of farmsteads. Some people could play violins and others the flute or the fife and drum and their music added to the night, as did those who could sing, regaling their audiences with ballads of the countryside.

In more recent years these became more organised with sporting and cultural activities taking over. North Antrim had a rich variety of these and they too were engaged in with enthusiasm and relish.

Mr Blair's talk will include all this and much more. He will highlight a great variety of leisure time enjoyments which have added that additional sparkle to peoples' lives down the generations.



Ballymoney Museum is a partner in the Causeway Museum Service which comprises Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle Councils.

### CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS Tuesday 30 March

The Scottish settlers of the seventeenth century were just as superstitious as those who were already resident in North Antrim. They all feared 'the black art', the power of the devil and would not remove 'fairy thorns' or anything else which might upset the 'wee folk'.

They believed in folk medicine, charms and many other superstitious manifestations. The traditions of the changing seasons were observed and events like birth, marriage and death were of special consequence. People had a traditional way of dealing with all the eventualities of life and this gave confidence to all. They knew what to do, for generations before them had done just the same.

Mr Blair's talk will highlight the rich pattern of our customs and traditions and give us an amazing insight into the innermost mind of our ancestors.

**All talks begin at 8pm in Ballymoney Town Hall.**  
**Admission £2 includes refreshments.**



### EXHIBITIONS

#### WORKING THE CAUSEWAY LANDSCAPE Mon 4 – Sat 30 January



In the early 20th century, life in the Causeway was being recorded by early photographers for the Irish railway companies to attract passengers. Today these iconic images are still used throughout the world in the presentation of Ireland.

This new exhibition by the Causeway Museum Service featuring objects, photographs and archives from the Causeway Museum Service Collections, alongside iconic images of the Causeway Region, explores the reality of 'working the Causeway landscape'.

**COLLECTION: RECOLLECTION  
BALLYMONEY MUSEUM 150<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION**  
Mon 8 February - Fri 23 April

Ballymoney Museum was established in 1860. This exhibition tells the colourful history of its remarkable collection and some of the spectacular objects discovered in this area.



**ROAD RACING NATION**  
Mon 3 May - Sat 28 August

A celebration of motorcycle road racing with bikes, memorabilia and photographs. This exhibition tells the story of the famous riders and races, past and present, and the excitement and thrills of this spectacular sport.



Photograph courtesy of Clifford McLean

**MORE TUESDAY'S THREADS**  
Fri 7 - Thurs 27 May  
Auditorium

This beautiful patchwork exhibition features an exquisite selection of work from local ladies who have been attending patchwork courses in Ballymoney on Tuesday nights for a number of years under the expert guidance of tutor Susan Taylor.

This exhibition is a sequel to their highly successful Tuesday's Threads Exhibition which was held in Ballymoney Museum in 2008.

Admission to all exhibitions is free.

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday  
& Saturday 9am-5pm & Friday  
9am-4.30pm.



**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**FAMILY HISTORY FESTIVAL**  
Fri 1 - Sat 2 October

The Route Back Home 2010 is a family history festival focusing on the genealogy of Ballymoney and district, the region traditionally known as 'the Route'.

To discover more, go online to:  
[www.visitballymoney.com/the\\_route\\_back\\_home\\_2010.aspx](http://www.visitballymoney.com/the_route_back_home_2010.aspx)

Or contact Ballymoney Museum.  
Tel: 028 2766 0230.

Email: [keith.beattie@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:keith.beattie@ballymoney.gov.uk)

**CALLIGRAPHY**

10 weeks, 2pm-4pm  
Beginning: Mon 25 January  
Maximum No: 12

Tutor: Betty Ward  
Cost: £40, concessions £30

Beautiful handwriting is within your reach! Over the course duration, Betty will cover a range of topics suitable for both beginners and those at a more advanced level. These include first basic strokes through to letter grouping, inscribed stationery for every occasion, page layout, planning verse lines, space fillers and simple borders, different styles (italic, roundhand and gothic) and capital letters.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO  
THE TECHNIQUES OF  
CREATIVE WRITING**

8 weeks, 7.30pm-9.30pm  
Beginning: Mon 25 January  
Maximum No: 10

Tutor: Teresa Godfrey  
Cost: £40, concessions £30

This 8-week course will teach students the basics of:

1. Short Story Writing, including how to properly structure a story, how to create and develop characters, plot and setting and how to write good dialogue.
2. Poetry, including how to craft a poem using rhythm, imagery and metaphor. The course is aimed at writers with little or no experience of the craft of writing creatively. Class exercises and homework tasks will help students develop their skills in a supportive and encouraging environment.

**ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING**

10 weeks, 7.30pm-9.30pm  
Beginning: Tue 26 January  
Maximum No: 8

Tutor: Teresa Godfrey  
Cost: £40, concessions £30

This 10-week course is aimed at developing the skills of writers already engaged in writing short stories, poems, script writing etc. Students will work on their own projects and receive peer-led feedback and support under the guidance of the facilitator.

**BEGINNERS PAINTING 1**

10 weeks, 10.30am-12.30pm  
Beginning: Wed 27 January  
Maximum No: 12

Tutor: Freda McKeown  
Cost: £40, concessions £30

**BEGINNERS PAINTING 2**

10 weeks, 7.30pm-9.30pm  
Beginning: Wed 27 January  
Maximum No: 12

Tutor: Freda McKeown  
Cost: £40, concessions £30

Both these Beginners Painting classes offer participants the opportunity to try out various mediums in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. Advice on materials to bring is available from Freda.



## DRAMA & DANCE COURSE 8-11 YEAR OLDS

10 weeks, 4.00pm-5.30pm  
Beginning: Mon 25 January  
Maximum No: 15

Tutor: Eimear Hughes  
Cost: £25

## DRAMA & DANCE COURSE 5-7 YEAR OLDS

10 weeks, 4.00pm-5.30pm  
Beginning: Tue 26 January  
Maximum No: 15

Tutor: Eimear Hughes  
Cost: £25

A great opportunity to learn about acting and dancing in a fun environment with Ballymoney actress and dancer, Eimear Hughes, who will teach a combination of hip hop and street dance alongside fun sketches and short plays. No experience necessary!



## ENROLMENT

Enrolment for all classes takes place on Thursday 14 January from 9am in Ballymoney Town Hall and places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Bookings cannot be taken before that date and all places must be paid for prior to attendance at the first class. Postal and telephone bookings from Friday 15 January. If a class does not attract enough students it will not run and refunds will be made.

## MATERIALS

Participants should bring their own materials. If you need assistance or recommendations of what and where to purchase items, the tutor will advise you at the first class.

## LOCAL GROUPS

Many local community and cultural groups meet in Ballymoney Town Hall on a regular basis. New members are always welcome.

**North Antrim Horticultural Society**  
Meets the last Monday in the month. For further details contact Kenneth Bacon, Hon Secretary 028 2766 6925.

**Ballymoney Photographic Society**  
Fortnightly meetings on Mondays. For further details contact Leonard Ferguson 028 7083 6943 or Zillah McCaughan 028 2074 1233.

**Ballymoney Women's Institute**  
Meets second Thursday in the month. For further details contact Audrey Shiels 028 2766 7022.

**Helen O'Grady Drama Academy**  
Weekly drama classes on Wednesdays. For further details contact Lisa Semple (Principal) 028 9146 4337.  
ni@helenogrady.co.uk, helenogrady.com

## DIARY AT A GLANCE

Exhibition  
**WORKING THE CAUSEWAY  
LANDSCAPE**  
Monday 4 – Saturday 30 January

**DRAMA & DANCE**  
10-week course for 8-11 years  
Monday 25 January

**CALLIGRAPHY COURSE**  
10-week course  
Monday 25 January

**AN INTRODUCTION TO  
THE TECHNIQUES OF  
CREATIVE WRITING**  
8-week course  
Monday 25 January

**DRAMA & DANCE**  
10-week course for 5-7 years  
Tuesday 26 January

**ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING**  
10-week course  
Tuesday 26 January

**BEGINNERS PAINTING 1**  
10-week course  
Wednesday 27 January

**BEGINNERS PAINTING 2**  
10-week course  
Wednesday 27 January

**WILLIE DRENNAN & HIS  
ULSTER SCOTS BAND**  
Thursday 28 January, 8pm

**LIFE IN NORTH ANTRIM DOWN  
THE CENTURIES – WORK**  
Talk by S A Blair  
Wednesday 3 February, 8pm

Exhibition  
**COLLECTION: RECOLLECTION**  
Ballymoney Museum 150th Anniversary  
Monday 8 February – Friday 23 April

**LIFE IN NORTH ANTRIM DOWN  
THE CENTURIES – RECREATION**  
Talk by S A Blair  
Thursday 25 February, 8pm

**71st BALLYMONEY  
DRAMA FESTIVAL**  
Thurs 4 – Sat 13 March, 8pm

Moving on Music present  
**BUTTONS, BARRELS & BOWS**  
Wednesday 24 March, 8pm

**LIFE IN NORTH ANTRIM DOWN  
THE CENTURIES – CUSTOMS  
& TRADITIONS**  
Talk by S A Blair  
Tuesday 30 March, 8pm

Vicarage Productions present  
**THE KNICKER LADY**  
Thursday 15 April, 8pm

**50th BALLYMONEY IRISH  
DANCING FESTIVAL**  
Tuesday 20 – Saturday 24 April

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**ROAD RACING NATION**  
Monday 3 May – Saturday 28 August

Exhibition  
**MORE TUESDAY'S THREADS**  
Friday 7 – Thursday 27 May

**TOURIST INFORMATION**

Ballymoney Tourist Information Centre is located in Ballymoney Town Hall and provides an excellent source of information both for tourists and the local community.

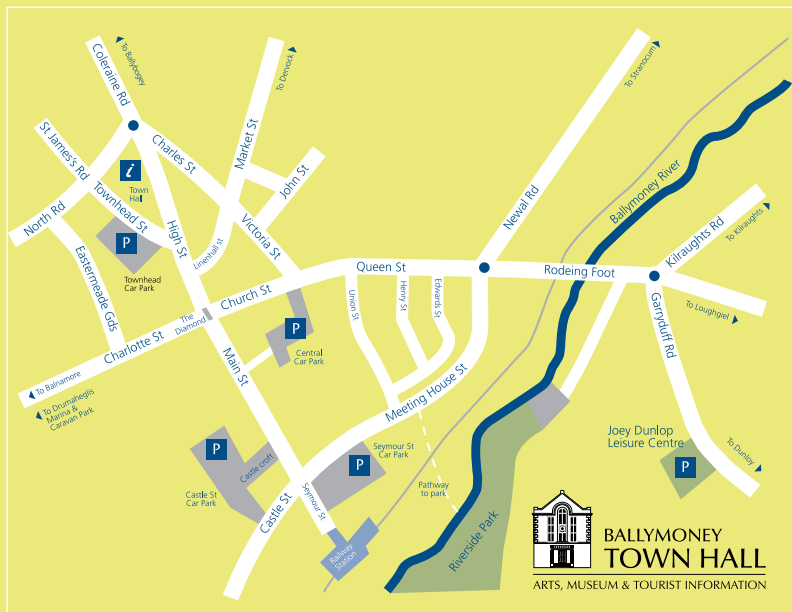
We are pleased to provide the following services:

- Local and national tourist information
- All-Ireland accommodation booking service
- Ticket sales for bus tours etc
- Souvenir gifts, local crafts, maps, books, etc
- Box Office for Town Hall events
- Photocopying & laminating service

**Opening Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday & Saturday: 9am-5pm  
Friday: 9am-4.30pm

Tourist Information Centre  
Ballymoney Town Hall  
1 Townhead Street  
Ballymoney BT53 6BE

T: 028 2766 0230  
E: touristinfo@ballymoney.gov.uk  
www.visitballymoney.com  
www.ballymoney.gov.uk  
www.ballymoneyancestry.com



**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**TICKET SALES**

Tickets can be purchased from Ballymoney Town Hall either in person or by telephone.

**OPENING HOURS**

Monday-Thurs & Sat 9am-5pm  
Fri 9am-4.30pm, Tel 028 2766 0230

**PAYMENT METHOD**

Tickets can be purchased using cash, cheque (guarantee card required), and any major credit card/debit card. There will be no credit card surcharge on telephone ticket purchases.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

Ballymoney Town Hall facilities include disabled lifts, accessible toilets and an Induction Loop System for those with hearing impairments. The ground floor, galleries and auditorium are accessible for wheelchair users. Wheelchair spaces are available in the Auditorium - please advise staff when booking your ticket.

**LATECOMERS**

Latecomers are admitted at the discretion of the Front of House staff and will not be seated until a suitable break in the performance.

**GROUP BOOKINGS**

A discount of 10% is offered for group bookings of 10 people and over. Seats can be reserved for groups of this size.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

Tickets are non-refundable.

**CAR PARKING**

There is a free car park on Townhead Street opposite the entrance to the Town Hall.

**ROOMS FOR HIRE**

Ballymoney Town Hall houses a multi-purpose auditorium and a number of meeting rooms of varying sizes which are available for hire.

For details on hiring a room and a list of current charges, please contact Borough Services Directorate 028 2766 0227.

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH ARTS COMMITTEE GRANT SCHEME**

Ballymoney Borough Arts Committee operate a small grants scheme to support local organisations and individuals in the development and promotion of the arts. Further details and application forms are available from Ballymoney Town Hall.

This programme is subject to revision, addition or cancellation without notice should unforeseen circumstances arise.

**FREE MAILING LIST**

If you would like to receive information about forthcoming events from us on a regular basis, please contact Ballymoney Town Hall 028 2766 0230 and we will add your details to our database. There is no charge for this service.

**Arts Mailing List**

Please complete using block capitals

Name:

Address:

Postcode:



**BALLYMONEY**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Ballymoney**  
Museum

CAUSEWAY  
MUSEUM SERVICE



**BALLYMONEY**  
**TOWN HALL**  
ARTS, MUSEUM & TOURIST INFORMATION



LOTTERY FUNDED



BALLYMONEY  
BOROUGH  
**ARTS**  
COMMITTEE

**For further information contact:**

Arts, Museum and  
Tourist Information  
Ballymoney Town Hall  
Townhead Street  
Ballymoney BT53 6BE

T: 028 2766 0230  
E: [townhall@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@ballymoney.gov.uk)  
W: [www.ballymoney.gov.uk](http://www.ballymoney.gov.uk)

**Ballymoney Town Hall has access facilities for the disabled.**

Information compiled by Cultural Services, Ballymoney Borough Council.  
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notice should unforeseen circumstances arise.