

Holocaust Memorial Programme, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (CCGBE), Ballymoney Museum, 2018

The exhibition “**Remembering the Holocaust**” was open to the public from 8th – 27th January, 2018. Key elements of the exhibition programme included workshops with three local schools and a successful book launch.

Workshops with schools

Over several days, Museum staff welcomed pupils from Ballymoney Model, Landhead and Bush Valley Primary Schools for a morning of activities, led by Conflict Textiles curator, Roberta Bacic. Pupils enjoyed exploring the exhibition and learning more about the life of Anne Frank. They also enjoyed crafting 'a friend for Anne Frank' and creating their very own craft diary in her memory, which they titled “The Power of Words: The Power of Friendship”.



Children engrossed in their activities during the school's workshop, 25th January 2018.



The completed craft diaries titled “The Power of Words: The Power of Friendship”.

Book launch

On Thursday 25th January, Museum Staff were also joined by Leslie and Robert Gray from Solis Press Publishers to launch their new publication- *Anne: An imagining of the life of Anne Frank* by Marjorie Agosín, illustrated by Francisca Yáñez. Aimed primarily at young adults, this book uses poetry and illustrations to poignantly imagine the life and voice of Anne Frank as she hid from Nazi persecution during World War II.

Rachael Garrett (CCGBC Acting Museum Officer) welcomed attendees and introduced speakers.

Councillor Darryl Wilson, attending on behalf of CCGBC Mayor Cllr Joan Baird, gave a brief overview on behalf of the Council and emphasised the power and permanence of words and their contribution to remembering:

“Books such as ‘Anne: An imagining of the life of Anne Frank’ are incredibly important as they help make sure that Anne’s story will never be forgotten and that her voice will keep being heard.”



Councillor Darryl Wilson in conversation with textile artist Heidi Drahota (left) and curator Roberta Bacic (right).

Julie Welsh, Head of Service for Community and Culture, spoke from her personal experience of visiting Auschwitz several times. In response to her time there, having no words to express what she saw and experienced, painting became her response. Two of her paintings are part of this exhibition.

Publishers **Leslie and Robert Gray** gave a brief input and read an extract from Marjorie's book. **Roberta Bacic** read a personal message from the author, who was unable to attend.



Leslie and Robert Gray from Solis Press Publishers, reading an extract from the book.

Roberta then led a guided tour of the “Remembering the Holocaust” exhibition. Textile artist **Heidi Drahota**, who created several of the textiles on display, gave an overview of her pieces. Heidi travelled especially from Nuremberg, Germany to be present at the event.



Museum Officer Sarah Carson and curator Roberta Bacic view the finished craft diaries.

The event was extremely well attended, both by locals and people from further afield, representing various sections of the community.

Breege Doherty

29th January 2018

(Material for this report is drawn from a press release “Holocaust Memorial Programme continues at Ballymoney Museum”, by Rachael Garrett, Acting Museum Officer CCGBC. All photos are courtesy of Ballymoney museum).