The exhibition War Torn Children was open to the public from 5th September – 29th November, 2018. Key elements of the exhibition programme included workshops with five schools within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough.

Workshops with Schools

Over four days, Museum staff welcomed 195 P6 & P7 pupils from Castleroe, Drumachose, Limavady Central and Roe Valley Central Primary Schools for a morning of activities, led by Conflict Textiles Curator, Roberta Bacic. Pupils enjoyed exploring the exhibition and learning more about the devastating impact that war can have on children as young as themselves. Both teachers and pupils were moved by the stories within the textiles and photographs on display, with one pupil asking “why would someone do that to them?” in response to the photographs of refugee children.

Pupils also explored the life of Anne Frank through two arperillas, and images from the book ‘Anne-An imagining of the life of Anne Frank’ by Marjorie Agosin, illustrated by Francisca Yanez which were also on display. Roberta also read an extract from the book to the pupils. Their engagement in Anne’s life story led them in to fully enjoying a workshop creating ‘a friend for Anne Frank’ out of materials, wool and their own great designer imagination. The results were all unique and each doll was given a name by the pupil.

A pupil starts cutting material for the shirt for his doll.
Some pupils also wrote messages on the back and each wrote who the doll was made by.

A doll called Sam.

A selection of dolls created by the various schools.
A selection of dolls created by pupils during remembrance week which include some that pupils decided to add poppy's to.

Pupils also had the opportunity to complete an invitation to take home and invite their parents, siblings, grandparents or friends to come and see their doll within the exhibition. One school even wrote an invitation to invite their Principal to see the work the class had done.

An Example of the invitation to be completed by the pupils.
Finally the dolls were added to a willow tree within the Anne Frank display and with such large numbers overreaching the 90 dolls anticipated, dolls were also added to the surrounding bannisters of the gallery space.

Each workshop was greatly enjoyed and very well attended by schools which represented the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

The willow tree display within the exhibition at the Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre.

Mrs Jamie Austin, Museum Officer
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CCGBC)
December 2018