

'Threads And Stitches Of Our Changing Landscape', guided tour

ON Monday 7 August, members of the local community enjoyed a tour of a new free exhibition at Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre called 'Threads and Stitches of our Changing Landscape'.

The tour was led by Grace McAlister (Causeway Coast and Heritage Trust) and Roberta Bacic (Conflict Textiles). The exhibition explores the historic and current land use in the area, highlighting initiatives being implemented by the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme, through partnerships with local communities, farmers and organisations who help restore and improve the environment for future generations.

Some of these initiatives include wildflower seed collection and sowing with Magilligan Community Allotments; Peatland Restoration work at Afliskeeragh; native tree planting and stock fencing along the Curly Burn; and the setting up of a tree nursery at Magilligan Prison.

As well as information on these local initiatives, the exhibition

includes objects and artefacts, such as old farming tools, postcards and pamphlets from the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council museums' collections; as well as objects kindly on loan from members of the public.

Weaving together the exhibition are a selection of six curated arpilleras (brightly coloured patchwork pictures made predominantly by groups of women) and wall hangings from the Conflict Textiles collection.

These textiles offer an insight into how communities around the world respond to changes in the environment and landscape.

One of the textiles entitled 'Our Allotments, the pride of New Barns' depicts an abandoned urban area which has been transformed into community allotments.

Another piece entitled 'Life with and without Bees' invites viewers to think about what our world would look like without bees.

Also included in the exhibition is textile entitled 'Peace with the Earth' by Linavady artist Marlene Milner.

In the autumn, artist-led workshops will be held in Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre which will guide people to create their own textiles inspired by the exhibition and which reflect local environmental issues and the changing Binevenagh landscape. These new pieces will then be displayed in the Centre in 2024.

Grace McAlister (Historic Environment Project Officer with Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust) appealed to people to get involved: "We would love people to visit the exhibition or even join us for the next guided tour on the 24th August.

"In autumn, the artist-led workshops will be a chance for anyone young or old, male or female, of any sewing ability to get creative and create their own textiles which reflects the local area they know and love."

The exhibition is a collaboration between the Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership Scheme, Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Services and Conflict Textiles, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Binevenagh and Coastal Lowlands Landscape Partnership is a five year £3.4 million project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and coordinated by the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust.

The funding is used to implement outdoor recreation, natural heritage, and historic environment initiatives across the project area which stretches from Ardrilave to Ballykelly.

'Threads and Stitches of our Changing Landscape' will run until Saturday, 21 October 2023.



Grace McAlister, historic environment project officer, discussing exhibits with Willow Robertson, Isabel Riley and Frances Robertson enjoying their visit to the guided tour of the Threads And Stitches Of Our Changing Landscape. NC23332-44DL



Mary and Raymond Sturges and nephew Ryan, Benone, admiring exhibits during their visit to the guided tour of the Threads And Stitches Of Our Changing Landscape. NC23332-45DL



Roberta Bacic, curator with Conflict Textiles, discussing exhibits with Paul Harper, Ken, David and Gillian Brownlow, Limavady, and Christine Donaghy. NC23332-43DL