

Ode to the Town Trails

Many folk have walked this place,
Ancient man, Norman knight and warrior
Viking race.

Our Princess Taisie, great love of kings and men,
Stole Congal's heart and lived in peace, here
in her glen.

Here too McQuillan fought MacDonnell and
lost to them the land,
'Til 'Bloody' Shane O'Neill ran their blood
into the sand.

But 'Sorley Boy' survived the fight for his
Dunynie lair,
And Gatherings held so long ago led to our
Lammas Fair.

Hugh McNeil, first Constable, then civilised
this place,
With MacDonnell towers and market dues,
folk settled into peace.

A young Hugh Boyd, his grandchild's boy,
took on the mines, and quays.
Then built his port and industries, that the
gentry came to see.

More people came to work the mines, the
salt, the port and glass.
And masons, joiners, blacksmiths, bent
sweating to their tasks.

A Market House, a Court Room and then an
Inn or three.
A new Town church and 'Cary' road lined with
Sylvan trees.

The old Milltown was shadowed, by new
Castle Street above.
Soon followed Anne Street and the town that
we all love.

Harbour piers and little ships, came and
rusted gone.
A little railway brought more folks and
Ballycastle shone.

"Herrin-na herrin-na herrin-na" you'd often
hear the cry.
Or the scrape of an ancient fiddle, as a tinker
passed on by.

Then Dusty an' John Henry had pens with
much to say.
Telling tales of loves and lives, they passed
along the way.

The fairs brought folk to look for work, or
trade, or sing and dance.
And many's a couple married after Lammas
fair romance.

Now Dusty's gone and Waxey too and many
away have sailed.
But now they live a new life, on Ballycastle's
new Town Trail.

Danny McGill.



Around the Town with Princess Taisie and Dusty



We would like to introduce you to Princess Taisie and 'Dusty' Rhodes who will be your guides on the Ballycastle Heritage Trial.

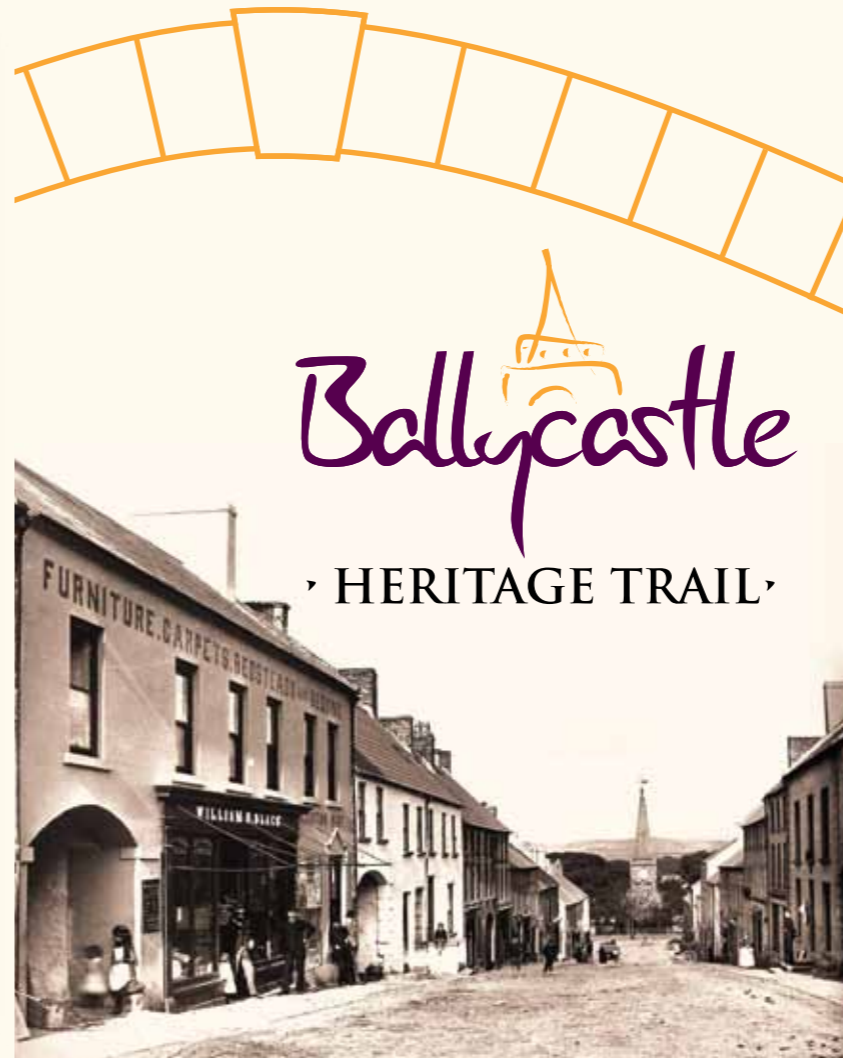
Princess Taisie lived near Ballycastle a thousand years ago and Dusty was a poet who travelled the world and then settled in Ballycastle. They will help you discover some of Ballycastle's secret places and tell you stories from our past.



Virtual Trail Guide

If you have a Smartphone like an iPhone, BlackBerry, or even an Android phone, download a FREE version of QR reader from your app store and you're ready to enjoy the additional audio tours we've created of the Ballycastle Heritage Trail.

<http://tinyurl.com/8xbnwms>



Ballycastle's key strengths lie in its rich, diverse heritage and culture mixed with the friendliness of its people and its location straddled between two of Northern Ireland's best known Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Causeway Coast and the Antrim Coast and Glens. It is a popular seaside town, especially at the end of August when thousands flock to the oldest fair in Ireland - the 'Ould Lammas Fair'.

The Gateway sculptures at the

entrances to the town were the Ballycastle Town Partnership's first project designed to welcome you to our town with a work of art. They incorporate designs which will introduce you to aspects of our culture and heritage; historic buildings, music and legends, as well as our industrial and maritime heritage.

The Ballycastle Heritage Trail was designed as an extension to the Gateways by presenting images and telling the stories relative to the location of the individual panels. We hope the trail will help you understand what has made Ballycastle unique and encourage you to explore and discover more for yourself.

We hope you enjoy walking the Trail.

The Ballycastle Town Partnership.



Marine Corner 1

Ballycastle's story starts here where the sea brought invaders and traders from the stone-age to now.

Mary Street 2

300 years ago the river was dug out to make a harbour, now filled in and used as a bowling green and tennis court.

Strand Cottages 3

This is the start of Princess Taisie's quiet nature riverside walk. Just follow the path which is lit at night.

Tow River Path 4

This is part of the riverside walk taking you from the seafront into the start of Princess Taisie's glen.

Tow River Path 5

The middle of the riverside walk, this is where you can go one of three ways, to the seafront, west towards the railway viaduct or north to join the trail into the centre of Ballycastle.

Quay Road 6

Here you are facing the Victorian villas which were the first 'retirement' homes built after the railway arrived.



1 Marine Corner

2 Mary Street

3 Strand Cottages

4 Tow River Path

5 Tow River Path

6 Quay Road

7 Ann Street

8 Bank Corner

9 The Diamond

10 Ballycastle Museum

11 Castle Street

12 Leyland Road

Ann Street 7

Now, getting into the town we start to meet some of Ballycastle's defining characters.

Bank Corner 8

This was the edge of town until Hugh Boyd built the straight road to the sea in the 1740's.

The Diamond 9

The heart of Ballycastle. The Oul' Lammas Fair still fills the Diamond with people every year, looking for dulse and yellow man. Take a stroll down Fairhill Street before you move on.

Ballycastle Museum 10

The old heart of Ballycastle, the 'Margie More' or the 'Great Market'. At the back of the museum stand the remains of a 1620's Tower House.

Castle Street 11

Castle Street was the Georgian merchant's street. The houses on the north side sheltered lanes of older worker's cottages.

Leyland Road 12

This may be the last panel, but not the last of Ballycastle. There are old graveyards and the lanes of Glentaisie to explore, more hidden corners to find. Enjoy!