

The Glens and Dalriada u3a

Monthly Meeting

February 2024



The Glens and Dalriada u3a held their monthly meeting in Sheskburn Hall on Wednesday 14th February.

Adrian Steele, a sketch artist, with his wife Shelley assisting gave a fascinating talk showing his beautiful drawings of places and stone buildings which are found travelling along our Antrim Coast from Cushendall round to Portstewart, giving fascinating facts and the history of many beautiful places.

We began our journey at the Curfew Tower in Cushendall built by Frances Turner in 1821 as a "place of confinement for idlers and rioters".

On to Cushendun, modelled on a Cornish village. where we saw Maud Cottages built by William Clough Ellis, of Portmeirion fame and then on to Fairhead and Holy Trinity Church completed in 1756 by Hugh Boyd, entrepreneur extraordinaire!

Continuing on to Kenbane Castle, Castle of the White Head, built in 1547 by the brother of Sorley Boy McDonnell. Where nearby is to be found the Hollow of the English, the site where English soldiers were slaughtered by the Irish clans.

Next we stopped at the beautiful Ballintoy Church, built 1812 to 1813 which apparently at one time had a steeple, then on to the School House at the Giants Causeway, Palmers Mill in Bushmills and the very striking station at Portrush built by Berkeley Deane Wise in the 1890s.

After Portrush Playhouse and Portstewart Parish Church we completed our journey at the Coleraine Irish Society Building which is a brilliant example of what can be done to preserve old buildings and keep beautiful architecture instead of demolishing and sweeping it away to replace with the modern.

Photo: Adrian and Shelley Steele with the drawing of Portrush Station