

A Tribute to the late Frank Rogers
Sheskburn House
Ballycastle

“Poems and Songs of County Antrim”

● A tribute to the late Frank Rogers in Ballycastle

Contributed report
by organisers & hosts

On Tuesday March 14 in the Main Hall, Sheskburn Recreation Centre, Ballycastle, an event took place to honour the work of the late Frank Rogers and his contribution over many years to the life of the community in Ballycastle, and indeed much further afield.

The event was organised and hosted jointly by The Glens of Antrim Historical Society, Ballycastle and District Probus Club, and The Glens and Dalriada U3A, all of these being groups that Frank was very much involved with.

Frank had a tremendous interest in history, especially local history, and he shared this passion in the many talks which he gave to a range of groups. Although a native of County Fermanagh originally, Frank had a special interest in the history of his adopted county of Antrim.

Shortly before his passing in 2022, Frank prepared the script of a presentation consisting of a selection of poems, songs, slides and his commentary, which he hoped to deliver to local groups such as the three mentioned above.

Sadly, Frank never got to present this illustrated talk so it was decided that it should be completed and presented as a special tribute to Frank's work in the community.

It was hoped that as many as possible



Frank Rogers son, David, speaks to the audience prior to a tribute concert held in memory of his late father in Ballycastle on Tuesday. WK12-004CR

of Frank's friends and colleagues would attend this event, as a mark of the respect and esteem he had enjoyed in the community, and to honour his memory.

The organisers were not disappointed, as almost 150 people filled the hall on this special occasion.

The tribute presentation was entitled “Poems and Songs of County Antrim.”

The Glens and Dalriada U3A choir (conducted by Margaret Diamond and accompanied on keyboard by Mary Blaney) and the Palaver drama group performed the songs and the poems, with Iain Bradley, Frank's long-time colleague and close friend, providing

the commentary and the accompanying slides.

Frank's chosen songs ranged from the beautiful Irish song of exile, “Ard-ti-Chuan”, about the Cushendun area, to the well-known Belfast street song “I'll Tell Me Ma.”

The organisers were delighted to be joined on the day by Frank's wife Kathleen and five members of her family and, although it was to an extent a bitter-sweet occasion for them, they were able to enjoy Frank's last presentation.

Frank's son, David, spoke on behalf of the family to thank the Ballycastle community for the support given to the family around the time of his father's



Members of the Dalriada U3A Choir perform during a tribute concert to the late Frank Rogers, in the Sheskburn Centre on Tuesday. WK12-006CR And below, Narrator, Iain Bradley WK12-005CR

passing.

It was a special delight for the audience that, as a fitting finale to the event, Frank's grand-daughter, Chloe McVitty, sang a song which her grandfather had always loved hearing her sing - “Danny Boy.”

At the conclusion of the event, light refreshments were served, providing an opportunity for those attending to have a chat and remember the good times they shared with the late, great and much-missed Frank Rogers.

The organisers wish to thank absolutely everyone who was involved in this tribute presentation and also all those who attended, making it such a pleasant and memorable event.

