

EHOD Openers in Mid and East Antrim Council Area

Shiels Houses

48 Larne Road, Carrickfergus, BT37 7EA

In 1868 Shiels Houses were built through the bequest of Charles Shiels, a wealthy philanthropist who died in 1861. He left £90,000 to provide homes for the needy. The original 21 houses were built by Sir Charles Lanyon. Shiels Wardens House with clock tower which has ornamental wooden pentices, chamfers, gables and downspouts. The houses, although originally red brick, are stuccoed, roofs are covered in bands of plain and fish scale slates.

Opening Times:

Sat: 14:00-16:00

St Nicholas Parish Church

Market Place, Carrickfergus, BT38 7AW

Begun about 1180, probably by John de Courcy, as a pro-cathedral in the centre of Carrickfergus this cruciform church was extended in 1306. The steeple dates from 1787. Internal features include early columns and arches, a Piscina, stained glass windows and various memorials, notably the impressive Chichester Memorial.

Opening Times:

Sat: 11:00-16:00

Sun: 14:00-16:00

Carrickfergus Town Walls

Joymount, Carrickfergus, BT38 7BG

Lord Deputy Sir Arthur Chichester enclosed Carrickfergus with stone walls from 1611 onwards and more than half the circuit is still visible, often to its full height of 4 metres to the wall walk. By 1615, the completed stone walls were 1159 metres long with four gates: Irish Gate and North Gate – both of which had moats and drawbridges - Quay Gate and the smaller Water Gate.

Opening Times:

Sat: 09:00-18:00

Sun: 09:00-18:00

Carrickfergus Castle

Marine Highway, Carrickfergus, BT38 7BG

Carrickfergus Castle is a Norman castle situated on the northern shore of Belfast Lough. Besieged in turn by the Scots, Irish, English and French, the castle played an important military role until 1928 and remains one of the best preserved medieval structures in Ireland. For more than 800 years, Carrickfergus Castle has been an imposing monument and it now houses historical displays as well as cannons from the 17th to the 19th centuries.

Opening Times:

Sat: 10:00-16:00

Sun: 10:00-16:00

Tours available throughout both days.

Carrickfergus Museum

Museum and Civic Centre, 11 Antrim Street, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DG

Carrickfergus Museum interprets the long and distinguished history of the town and surrounding district from earliest times to the present day. In the museum there are several 'Hands On' interactive facilities. Join Dr Ruairi O'Baoill on tour of carrickfergus town walls, tour commences at 1pm and lasts approximately 2 hours.

Opening Times:

Sat: 10:00-16:00, Tour with Dr Ruairi O'Baoill commences at 1pm, Tour lasts 2 hours.

Carrickfergus Town Hall**Joymount, Carrickfergus, BT38 7DL**

Built in 1779 as the County Courthouse to the design of Richard Drew. A wing was added in 1792 and further extensions were completed in 1819. Adjoining building saw service as a prison and later militia barracks.

Opening Times:

Sat: 15:00-16:00, Tour commences at 3pm, Tour lasts 1 hour

Andrew Jackson Cottage and US Rangers Centre**2 Boneybefore, Carrickfergus, BT38 7EQ**

An 18th Century thatched stone cottage restored as a tribute to Andrew Jackson, 7th President of the USA whose parents lived nearby. A museum of the US Rangers formed in Carrickfergus in 1942 is housed in the grounds.

Opening Times:

Sat: 11:00-17:00 with Griddle Baking from 13:00-16:00

Sun: 13:00-17:00 with Griddle Baking from 13:00-16:00

Carrickfergus Congregational Church**32a Albert Road, Carrickfergus, BT38 8AE**

Grade B2 listed building. Built in 1879, known for its stained glass windows. The church has a fine Evans & Barr early 20th century organ with World War One commemoration. There are artefacts and records dating from 1816 from the former church located beside the castle.

Opening Times:

Sat: 10:00-16:00

Flame Gasworks Museum**44 Irish Quarter West, Carrickfergus, BT38 8AT**

Carrickfergus boasts Ireland's sole surviving coal gas works. Opening in 1855 it supplied the town with gas for over 100 years. See Europe's largest set of retorts, the view from the top of the Gasholder and many gas appliances. Visit www.flamegasworks.co.uk for more information.

Opening Times:

Sat: 14:00-17:00

Sun: 14:00-17:00

Guided tours throughout both afternoons.

Rocklands House - NEW**1 Wesley Court, Belfast Road, Carrickfergus, BT38 8HS**

Built in the 1820s for the Inspecting Commander of the Coastguards, Rocklands House is now owned by the older people's charity Abbeyfield & Wesley. With its elegant and distinctive façade, it is a familiar Carrickfergus landmark for daily commuters and local residents. A unique opportunity to see inside the ground floor of this Georgian building, find out a little of its history and its use today. Homebaking and refreshments will be available.

Opening Times:

Sat: 10:00-14:00.

Open day at Blackhead Lightkeepers' Houses

Blackhead Lightkeepers' Houses, McCrae's Brae, Whitehead, BT38 9NZ

Visitors have the opportunity to see the conservation work of Irish Landmark in a self-guided tour of these restored lighthouse keepers' houses. Built during the glory days of Belfast's shipping era, the houses provide stunning views of Belfast Lough and beyond and would have been seen by the Titanic as she left port. They have changed little since they were built and retain many of their original features with elegant detailing such as high ceilings and long sash windows.

Opening Times:

Sun: 10:00-16:00

Tours of an Edwardian House

19 Cable Road, Whitehead, Carrickfergus, BT38 9PY

Formerly No. 1 Fairfield Terrace. This terrace house in the conservation area of Whitehead retains all its original period features. The Gallery Whitehead is housed here showing contemporary art on the ground floor. For further details visit www.thegallerywhitehead.co.uk/

Opening Times:

Sat: 10:00-17:00

Sun: 10:00-17:00

Tours both days every hour - last tour 5pm.

Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre

47 Glenarm Road, Larne, BT40 1DT

An impressive example of a Victorian Country House, retaining the grandeur of its original setting with fine interior notably the inlaid woodwork and stained glass.

Opening Times:

Sat: 12:00-16:00

Tours on an ongoing basis throughout afternoon.

Olderfleet Castle - NEW

Coastguard Road, Larne, BT40 1AU

The ruins are of a tower house, built in the 1500s. The site was used before and it is thought that the Scottish Bissett family, who settled in Glenarm built a castle here in the 1250s. There might have been a Viking settlement near here; Olderfleet was once known as Ulfried's Fjord.

Opening Times:

Sat: 09:00-18:00

Sun: 09:00-18:00

Larne Market Yard

Station Road, Larne, BT40 3AA

Open Day with traditional crafts, living history characters, interactive workshops, talks and tours about history of Larne Market Yard and its recent refurbishment.

Opening Times:

Sat: 11:00-15:00, Tours approx every hour

Gracehill Old School

19A Church Road, Gracehill, Ballymena, BT42 2NL

One of the original settlement buildings dating from 1765 it has been restored by Gracehill Old School Trust and is now home to a visitor facility, restaurant, after school club, business units and a restored 1820's classroom. Films shown here throughout the day.

Opening Times:

Sat: 12:30-17:00, Film showings every half hour.

Single Brethren House - NEW**8 Montgomery Street, Gracehill, Ballymena, BT42 2NN**

This five bay, four storey house of squared basalt was built in 1819 on the site of a previous dwelling. It provided accommodation for the single men as well as for a school and a bank. Once community housing for the settlement, it is now in private ownership.

Opening Times:

Sat: 12:30-17:00, Free to walk around. Guides on each floor.

Gracehill Moravian Church**35 Church Road, Gracehill, Ballymena, BT42 2NN**

The church at the heart of this beautiful Moravian settlement was completed in 1765. It is flanked by the minister's and warden's houses. Inside, hear more of the history or walk up the laneways either side which lead to the unusual burial ground.

Opening Times:

Sat: 12:30-17:00, Talks approx. every half hour.

Gracehill Conservation Area**Church Road, Gracehill, Ballymena, BT42 2NN**

Visit this fascinating 18th century village. Guided tours available half hourly. Afternoon tea, crafts and produce by the Country Market in the Church Hall. Walk around the restored village square and visit the Old Shop. Further details see www.gracehillvillage.org

Opening Times:

Sat: 12:30-17:00, Half hourly from the Church.

Origami House**14 Whappstown Road, Kells, Ballymena, BT42 3NX**

Award winning Architect, Jane Burnside, and author of Contemporary Design Secrets: The Art of Building a House in the Countryside welcomes you to her home and studio, The Origami House. As seen on BBC House of the Year, winner of Co Antrim, the Origami House is an extraordinary contemporary white and glass house, set in beautiful landscaped gardens on the edge of the Glens of Antrim.

Opening Times:

Sat: 11:00-13:00, talk and group tour with architect Jane Burnside starting at 11am and lasting around an hour followed by tea and coffee. Minimum group booking 2 people due to parking availability.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL Tel: 028 9082 3238

Harryville Motte & Bailey - NEW**Moat Road, Harryville - Ballykeel, Ballymena, BT42 4AB**

The Harryville Motte & Bailey is one of the best preserved structures from the 12th century. The man made structure stands above the River Braid. The Motte would have been surrounded by a strong wooden palisade. The history of the Motte covers hanging, wars and rebellion.

Opening Times:

Sat: 10:00-15:00

Sun: 11:00-15:00

Craigs Parish Church

Hillmount Road, Cullybackey, Ballymena, BT421NZ

Small rural church designed by Sir Charles Lanyon and consecrated in 1841.

Opening Times:

Sat: 10:00-14:00

Sun: 11:00-13:00

The Braid, Ballymena Town Hall & Museum

1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ

Guided, behind the scenes, tour of Ballymena Town Hall and Mid-Antrim Museum. Includes visit to the Mayor's Parlour, Council Chamber, Collection Store and Conservation Workshop.

Opening Times:

Sat: 11:00-12:00

Open day at The Barbican

Glenarm Estate, Castle Street, Glenarm, BT44 0BQ

Visitors have the opportunity to see the conservation work of Irish Landmark in this self-guided tour of the restored gatelodge. Built in 1825 this property is now available as holiday accommodation sleeping two people in a romantic miniature castle with turrets and battlements overlooking the Glenarm estate. The Barbican is approached via a bridge over the river and is of such historic and architectural significance that it is listed as a Grade 'A' building.

Opening Times:

Sun: 10:00-16:00

Carnlough Town Hall - NEW

32 Harbour Road, Carnlough, BT44 0EU

Carnlough Town Hall was built in 1856 at a cost of £320. The ground floor housed a kelp store and quarry office and the first floor provided space for functions. This building remained a focal point of village life over the next hundred years and hosted many civic, educational and community events. The building was recently refurbished in 2015 and the ground floor became Carnlough Library.

Opening Times:

Sat: 14:00-16:00

Walking Tours - Carnlough Town Hall - NEW

32 Harbour Road, Carnlough, BT44 0EU

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Opening Times:

Sat: 14:00-16:00

Short walking tours at 2pm & 3pm. tour last 1 hour max

BOOKING ESSENTIAL Tel 028 2888 6188

Layd Church - NEW

Cushendall, Ballymena, BT44 0NH

Located one mile from Cushendall are the delightful ruins of a 13th century Franciscan foundation. Chief burial place of the MacDonnell's after Bonamargy which has been built at least three times and served as a parish church from 1306 to the end of the 18th century. Fine stones in the graveyard

include a cross in memory of Doctor James MacDonnell, pioneer in the use of chloroform for surgical operations.

Opening Times:

Sat: 09:00-18:00

Sun: 09:00-18:00

Cushendun Old Church

33 Bay Road, Cushendun, Ballymena, BT44 0PS

This picturesque former Church of Ireland church was built in 1838, is a fine example of rural ecclesiastical architecture (B1 listed). Beautifully situated in the Antrim coast village of Cushendun, much of which was designed by Clough William Ellis. The old church is worth a visit. This year Cushendun Building Preservation Trust will once again be hosting the Cushendun vintage 2nd hand book sale to raise funds for the restoration of the building.

Opening Times:

Sat: 11:00-16:00

Sun: 11:00-16:00

Our Lady of Bethlehem Abbey

11 Ballymena Road, Portglenone, Ballymena, BT44 8BL

Bethlehem Abbey, built in the late 1960's is home to a community of monks of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance. The buildings, though modern in concept and material, epitomize the austerity and simplicity of the Cisterian vocation to make space for God.

Opening Times:

Sat: Tours at 11:00 and 15.30, tour lasts 1 hour. Please note Church only opened during tour times.