



# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

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## North Coast Writers - spinning yarns and weaving words

by Julie Magee

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**THE Royal Court Hotel, Portrush, provided the setting for the launch of North Coast Writers' second Anthology 'Spun Tales and Woven Words.'**

Guest speaker Steve Cawte, the Editor of Impsired Press,

Lincoln, who published the book, flew over from England to attend the event on Wednesday (April 26) which was officially hosted by Causeway u3a.

In this Anthology, a wide variety of writers from all along the North Coast, from Ballykelly to Ballycastle, delighted

in different styles to 'spin their tales' and 'weave their words' in their own individual voices, as the title suggests.

Fourteen of the 17 contributors, who were able to attend, read a piece of their work to an enthusiastic audience.

North Coast Writers met for the first time on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, in Agherton Church

Portstewart.

Meeting weekly since then, initially face-to-face and more recently on Zoom, the group has been going from strength to strength.

The writers involved proved to be so talented, prolific and enthusiastic that, last year, the publication of an Annual Anthology was suggested.

Seven individual Collections written by

group members have already been published and six more are in the planning stages.

This second Anthology is for sale at No 6 Queen Street, Coleraine and can also be purchased online from Amazon.

Portstewart grandmother Mary Farrell, who edited 'Spun Tales and Woven Words,' said: "The Group wishes to thank everyone in the North

Coast community for their continued encouragement and assistance.

In particular, Causeway u3a are a constant source of support.

"It is especially encouraging that the Group are already collating pieces for their Third Anthology to be published on May 19 next year, with another Launch at the Royal Court Hotel on May 22 2024."

**Spun Yarns**

AND

**Woven Words**

North Coast Writers



The book cover.



Steve Cawte, and Mary Farrell, with the Second Anthology of North Coast Writers, Spun Tales and Woven Words. WK19-21TM



Contributors with Mary Farrell pictured during the launch of the Second Anthology of North Coast Writers, Spun Tales and Woven Words held at the Royal Court Hotel. WK19-20TM

## 'Ahoy there' – return of Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival

**RATHLIN Sound Maritime Festival is set to make a splash when it returns from May 26th - June 4th, with 10 days of exciting seafaring fun to look forward to.**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is working with Ballycastle Community Development Group and Rathlin Development and Community Association to bring you this hugely popular celebration, with a packed programme of activities on both dry land and at sea, inspired by the Rathlin Sound – the body of water between Rathlin Island and the mainland in Ballycastle.

Visitors can look forward to live music performances, dance displays, have-a-go activities, crafts, walks, talks, cookery demonstrations and lots of artisan produce at the Naturally North Coast and Glens Market, all of which celebrate the area's rich local history, culture, music and food.

Wes Forsythe from Ulster University will be presenting the Madill Archive Project, which is focused on traditional boats from around the Ulster Coast and beyond.

An archive of line drawings, photographs, interviews and reports

donated to the University by Harry Madill, a retired engineer from Portstewart.

There will also be a demonstration of traditional coracle boat building by Valkyrie Crafts, exhibition of Old-Style Rope making by Traditional Rope Makers NI and Songs, Stories and Recitations of the Antrim Coast from Colin Urwin.

In addition, thanks to Causeway Coast Maritime Heritage Group, you'll get to see traditional fishing boats like drontheims and currachs take to the water, including the Colmcille, one of the largest vessels of its type in Northern Ireland.

In other programme highlights, look out for the blessing of the boats, traditional rope making, maritime themed children's crafts, colourful kite display, sand sculpture demonstration and a children's sandcastle competition on Ballycastle Beach.

Looking ahead to the festival, Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Ivor Wallace, said: "Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival is a celebration of Ballycastle and Rathlin Island's shared nautical heritage and serves as a fantastic showcase of the area's unrivalled tourism offering.

"This popular festival first began 10

years ago and has become one of highlights of our Borough's events calendar, being enjoyed by thousands of visitors over the past decade.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank the local community volunteers who play a central role in this festival's ongoing success. I look forward to seeing you all there for some nautical-themed fun!"

The full programme will be published on the festival's website soon so please visit [www.rathlinsoundmaritimefestival.com](http://www.rathlinsoundmaritimefestival.com) for the latest updates or contact Ballycastle Visitor Information Centre by ringing 028 2076 2024.

Please note, details are subject to change due to tides and weather conditions, so visitors are

advised to follow the Facebook (@RathlinSound MaritimeFestival) and

Festival's (@RathlinSoundMF) channels for the most up-to-date announcements.

Twitter



Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Ivor Wallace with Riley Morris and Maia Kinney, Head Boy and Head Girl of Rathlin Sound Maritime Festival 2023.