

**Welcome** to the first newsletter for the Drifting Apart Project!

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, based in Northern Ireland, will lead a three year project called Drifting Apart, part-funded through the European Regional Development Fund's Northern Peripheries and Arctic Region Programme, Drifting Apart aims to reconnect the geological heritage of six partner countries.

With seven partner organisations including; [Geopark Shetland](#) (Scotland), [Magma Geopark](#) (Norway), [Reykjanes Aspiring Geopark](#) (Iceland), [Stonehammer Global Geopark](#) (Canada), [Kenozero National Park](#) (Russia) and [Fermanagh and Omagh District Council \(Marble Arch Global Geopark\)](#), Northern Ireland) joining Lead Partner [Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust](#) this is a truly international project.

Over the next three years partners will deliver a series of projects to boost geotourism, education and business across the project area, whilst ensuring that the unique geological features are conserved .

The Project was officially launched in June 2015 in Northern Ireland. Newsletters will be bi-annual to keep you up-to-date on project progress, upcoming events and provide some information about the organisations involved with Drifting Apart.

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## Drifting Apart: Getting Together

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust hosted the first Project Steering Group meeting on the 8th and 9th June in Northern Ireland. Meetings were held at the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site, on Northern Ireland's breath-taking North Coast. Two days of intense meetings were held to discuss and confirm the overall scheme of work, individual projects as well as strategies and protocols.

The meeting offered the opportunity for Partners to get to know each other and learn more about each Partner's area and field of work.

CCGHT invited local Mayors, Board Members and associated partners to join the Steering Group to hear a bit more about the Project as well as share their own local knowledge of the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

Everyone got the opportunity to visit the World Heritage Site and learn a little more about the local geology as well as the myths and legends of our local giant Finn McCool.



**Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme**  
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## What's coming up in the next few months?

- ◆ Over the summer months Fermanagh and Omagh District Council representatives at Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark Northern Ireland will work alongside Dr. Kirstin Lemon of the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland to research and develop the geological story of the project area which spans from Canada in the west to Russia in the east.
- ◆ The project website is under construction but will soon be available at [www.driftingapart.eu](http://www.driftingapart.eu)
- ◆ Robina Barton from Geopark Shetland, Scotland, will be developing an education toolkit for all partner areas.
- ◆ The next Partner Steering Group meeting will be held in Saga Aspiring Geopark, Iceland, in December 2015.

## The Project Logo

The logo design reflects the geological heritage of the project area, specifically the magnetic reversal identified in rocks either side of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.



As the North American and the Eurasian Plates drift apart (at a rate of 2cm per year), hot magma rises and cools, forming new rock. This new rock contains minute magnetic minerals which record the direction of the Earth's magnetic field at the time of cooling. It is known that the Earth's magnetic poles reverse periodically. It is thought the last reversal happened .78 million years ago. Polar changes are recoded in the magnetic basalt and appear on a map like stripes on a barcode.

## Partner Profile: Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust was established in May 2002 as a partnership body with the responsibility of promoting and enhancing the unique qualities of the Causeway Coast and Glens area. Within the Trust's boundary, which encompasses an area of more than 3400 km<sup>2</sup>, there exists a wide variety of scenic landscapes, important wildlife resources and a rich cultural heritage as well as outstanding geological features including the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site.



For over ten years CCGHT has worked with local government, government agencies and the communities of the area to explore and document the wealth of resources in the area. Through the Drifting Apart Project CCGHT hope to raise awareness and understanding of the wonderful geology present locally and also in the wider northern periphery area.

People involved in the project:



Maxime Sizaret  
Chief Executive  
Maxime@ccght.org



Andrew Bratton  
Project Manager  
Andrew@ccght.org



Nikki Maguire  
Communication Officer  
Nikki@ccght.org



Carole O'Kane  
Finance Manager  
Carole@ccght.org

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Stonehammer Geopark  
and Kenozero National  
Park are 6100km apart



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