

Cultural Services - 'Sam Henry: connecting with the past, collecting for the future'	26th July 2016
To: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council For Information	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities.
Outcome	Stable and cohesive communities across the Borough.
Lead Officer	Julie Welsh – Head of Community and Culture
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report to inform Members about funding that has been awarded from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund to work with the Sam Henry Collection.

Members are advised that Council has been awarded £77,150 from The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund (EFCF) for a three year project to work with the Sam Henry collection held in Coleraine Museum.

The Sam Henry Project was one of 7 successful bids (the only one from Northern Ireland) out of 75 applications from across the UK. The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, administered by the Museums Association (MA), supports projects that enhance the use, understanding or appreciation of museum collections.

The project will fully reveal this significant collection and use it to inspire local communities to develop a new collection of cultural identity. Agreed actions include documentation, digital archiving, developing two travelling exhibitions co- curated with local community groups and the creation of new material for the collection.

Sam Henry 1878 - 1952 was a photographer, pioneer radio broadcaster, folklorist, Councillor, member of Belfast Naturalist Field Club and Fellow of Royal Society of Antiquarians, alongside his occupation as a customs and pensions collector. He recorded local folk songs and stories of the people across all communities in rural Ulster. The Collection is regarded by academics as one of the most significant undocumented literary and cultural archives in Northern Ireland. In 2010 Gordon Craig (Sam's grandson), on behalf of the family, donated this extraordinary collection of over 10,000 items to Coleraine Museum. Please refer to www.niarchive.org for the work completed to date by Coleraine Museum with the Sam Henry collection.