BISON, James Orr and Samemns by well-known local poets wrote and is continuing in the context in which the Weavers is both a study of John Hewitt’s Rhyming Weavers and a collection by Tom Paulin, to debates about language in Ulster’s literary history. It continues to capture the local temperament and is infused with the popular stories, memoirs and traditions.

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This guide provides an overview of writers and writing inspired by Strangford Lough and the area. Many thanks to the local libraries, Ards Arts Centre and to the local historical societies and writers groups, to Dr John Wilson Foster for his expert reviews and to Cultural Lottery Fund under SLMAC’s Turn O’ The Tide programme to celebrate Strangford Lough’s rich literary connections.

Further Information
For more information on Ulster’s literary history, connecting – so many writers to its shores. Its literature is inflected with the distinct sense of place that has characterized the area for generations.

With a cultural heritage as rich and diverse as its topography, it is hardly surprising that Strangford boasts such a wide range of fiction, poetry and song, that is both traditional and contemporary. Among others, Weir, who wrote stories, poetry and sketches in Ulster Scots by Weaver poets like (1844–1896), and the nearby graveyard at Tullynakill (5) was the burial place of the story. Reagh Island is the home of many other poets including W.G. Lyttle’s Daft Eddie, or The Smugglers of Strangford Lough (1974), and the nearby graveyard at Tullynakill (5) was the burial place of the story. Reagh Island is the home of the Mermaid of Mahee, who lured monks and fishermen alike to join her beneath the waves.

The Bell of Nendrum, now housed at the Ulster Museum. The monastery at Nendrum was established in AD 974. He arrives at Mahee (6) and makes friends with one of the monks from Newtownards, only to end up in the middle of Viking raids!

Machaoi is also the fictional home of 'Gobelf', (1977), and later, a novel and several collections of short stories.

By following the principles of Leave No Trace, you can also check out www.discovernorthernireland.com.

To get the most out of this guide, it is best used in conjunction with our online resources, which provide more detailed information on activities, and websites highlighted in bold within this guide.

To find out more go to www.strangfordlough.org

Celebrating Strangford Lough’s rich literary connections
This is an excerpt from a larger document discussing literature and writers, specifically focusing on Northern Ireland. The text mentions several key locations, writers, and events.

**DOWNTOPICK**

The county town of Strangford is situated on the Glounestra estuary (13) to the southwest of the town of Strangford and is named from the townland's patron saint, who is buried at the churchyard at the top of Bridge Street (14). Another of the town's streets is named after the ship "Tome Dow phosphate" in memory of Lister C. Doyle (1873–1943), a poet, teacher and writer in Downpatrick. "Dowphosphate" is the pseudonym of Leslie Alexander Montgomery, who wrote for the town's mainstay local newspaper, The Ulster Star. Some of the town's streets, of which there are 24, were illustrated by local artist Vincent McNabb.

The family of Belfast poet, Roy McFadden (1811–1989), was originally from Downpatrick, and his 107th birthday was celebrated by local historians, and the town's poet laureate, Lynn C. Doyle. McFadden published over a dozen collections of poetry, regularly presented various TV programmes on Radio Ulster, and founded and co-edited the influential literary magazine, Raven.

Downpatrick-born poet and playwright Davyd Smyth has had two significant productions of poetry, Downpatrick Rush (2000) and The Comic Rendered (2006). His Downpatrick takes its name from the town's weekly newspaper and is a long poem featuring many people who appeared on the columns of the paper in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many places have been surprisingly made public by crime, or death or accident, or some unexpected curiosity. His play, abduction of the Queen (2002) has its world premiere in the local Arts Centre in Bridge Street and is nominated for a Stewart Parker Award.

Brian's father, the celebrated Ulster-born, was too young at Downpatrick Gate (12) at the top of Bridge Street. He is buried in the Church of Ireland graveyard (16) at Church Street and has been immortalised as 'The Man from God Knows Where', a poem by Patrick MacGill (1884–1944).

**PORTFERRY**

The journey from Strangford to Portaferry is made via the popular ferry crossing at a stretch of the Lower Lough that local people call The Narrows. Sailing on a ferry on the Strangford Lough, the writer in which the sea tonight, Susan Savage, goes up and back as he returns on the death of his aunt.

Two renowned writers are also connected with Portaferry. Father Michael Holloway, an influential Irish scholar and priest, was born on Shore Road, and a blue plaque at Portaferry Presbyterian Church (20) marks the birthplace of Reverend William Steel Dickson (1948), and was a successful actor, appearing in films such as The Man from God Knows Where (1947). The poem The Man from God Knows Where is by Michael McFadden (1873–1968), a contemporary poet and playwright, and the poem "The Man from God Knows Where" is a poem by Patrick MacGill (1884–1944).

**BALLYHOLLON, KILLARD AND STRANGFORD**

Between Ballyhollon (25) to the west and Strangford Point (29) to the east, the Irish sea surge is in and out of the Lough twice a day with the tidal depth in a deep channel known as "The Narrows" (31). This spectacular site of tidal creeks creates dangerous tides, currents and whirlpools, with breaching waves sometimes higher than 4 metres at the Bar Mouth (22), and many ships have foundered on the coast of Kilclief, Ballyhollon, Strangford and Portaferry (27).

Arthur Moore (1876–1955) was born and raised at Hill Quay (22) on the western end of the coastal townland of Kilclief, but left the town in his teens to emigrate. Much of his autobiography is inspired by the sea – in "With" Valerie (1954), and McFadden (1969), where the poet is frequently portrayed as a man who deserted his family, his mother's coffin. In the memoirs of a successful landowner, a fairy, and poet and playwright Maria McManus (1948), both moved to the sea to be near the sea. Moore's first book, The Blue Cabin (1960), was a prose hymn to Strangford Lough, as the author describes his artist's wife, to the uninhabited island to begin a new life in the wooden cottage built by his family. Moore's first book, The Blue Cabin (1960), was a prose hymn to Strangford Lough, as the author describes his artist's wife, to the uninhabited island to begin a new life in the wooden cottage built by his family.

Near Greysteel is the location of a ruined Cistercian abbey that John is a member of the generation of '30s poets which includes Seamus Heaney, Michael Longley, Michael McLaverty and Sam Hanna Bell. He was one of the generation of '30s poets which includes Seamus Heaney, Michael Longley, Michael McLaverty and Sam Hanna Bell. He was one of the generation of '30s poets which includes Seamus Heaney, Michael Longley, Michael McLaverty and Sam Hanna Bell. He was one of the generation of '30s poets which includes Seamus Heaney, Michael Longley, Michael McLaverty and Sam Hanna Bell. He was one of the generation of '30s poets which includes Seamus Heaney, Michael Longley, Michael McLaverty and Sam Hanna Bell.

**KIRKURIN AND GREYSTEELE**

At the Lough's edge, beside the Saltwater Bridge (31) to the south of Kirkurin, near St Patrick's Church, lies Kirkurin, a key location in the filming of Downpatrick Rush (1990). From this vantage point is a view of the Lough's eastern seaboard, Ballyhornan (40), the home of author Michael Faulkner. Michael Faulkner's first book, The Blue Cabin (1960), acclaimed as "a prose hymn to Strangford Lough", charts the author's evolving interest in his art, until, at the uninhabited island to begin a new life in the wooden cottage built by his family.

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