

The Ulster New Zealand Trust

# The Ballance House

LISBURN



## Visit our family friendly 19th century heritage experience

The restored Ballance House is situated in scenic County Antrim countryside with distant views of Lough Neagh. With its original features, historic artefacts and colourful heritage exhibitions, there is something for everyone to enjoy as links, past and present, between Ulster and NZ are explored.

**Come and see what it's all about!**



## Visitor Information, Admission & Booking

Further detail on [www.theballancehouse.com](http://www.theballancehouse.com)

### Public Opening Hours

Sunday and Public Holiday afternoons, (excl 12 July)

2–5 pm, April to September.

Pre-booking available [www.theballancehouse.com](http://www.theballancehouse.com)

### Private Hire, Group Bookings & School Workshops

Available all year.

Email us at [info@theballancehouse.com](mailto:info@theballancehouse.com) to book and discuss your specific requirements.

### How to find us

15 mins from Lisburn, the M1 and A1. 5 mins from Glenavy on A30 to Lisburn, 30 mins from Belfast and both Belfast Airports.

The Ballance House, 118a Lisburn Road,

Glenavy, Co Antrim, BT29 4NY

T: 028 9264 8492

E: [info@theballancehouse.com](mailto:info@theballancehouse.com) W: [www.theballancehouse.com](http://www.theballancehouse.com)

Supported by

**LCCC**  
Lisburn &  
Castlereagh  
City Council



**The Ballance House** is the birthplace of John Ballance (1839-93) the highly regarded Premier of New Zealand who founded NZ's great reforming Liberal party and ensured that women could vote, a world first, 25 years before the UK.

Known as a friend of the Maori, Ballance played a pivotal constitutional role in the evolution of NZ and, through spectacularly successful economic policies, gave NZ the self-confidence to believe in its future as a nation.



## 'Half a World Away from Here, Our New Zealand Story' exhibition

Explore the special relationships that exist between Northern Ireland and New Zealand.

- Find out about the extraordinary contributions many Ulster people made to NZ, such as prime minister Bill Massey, school founder John Dilworth, and business-women Mary Jane Milne and Marianne Smith.
- View unusual carved Maori artefacts including tools, weapons and jewellery, and images of the first people to discover and live in Aotearoa (NZ).
- Go back in time as you step into the Victorian Parlour, the 'good room' of our great grandparents in rural Ulster.
- View the outdoor collection of preserved Victorian farm machinery once used on local farms.



## Private Hire

The Ballance House will add quirky charm to any occasion. Fully equipped catering and meeting facilities with seating for 60 are available. These facilities can be hired for your sole use, together or separately. A self-catering option is also available.

Suitable for:

- Special family occasions: graduation meals, christening and baby-naming ceremonies, small birthday/anniversary parties etc
- Weddings and Ceremonies
- Photography on the lawn
- Business meetings and away days
- Classes, training sessions, workshops
- Exhibition space for art and photography
- Filming location

More information on our rooms and rates can be found at [www.theballancehouse.com/venue-hire](http://www.theballancehouse.com/venue-hire)

## Group Bookings

Our restored 19th century Parlour is most atmospheric if you are looking for character and a genuine historical reference. Book a visit of the House & Exhibition and refreshments for your club, community and society outings.

Booking for Private Hire & Groups is available all year.

## Educational Visits

We run half day workshop programmes, suitable for primary and secondary school groups. Themes are tailored to the curriculum.

## Events at The Ballance House

We host New Zealand celebration days and annual family fun events, including a visit from Santa!

Our Facilities:

- Heritage Exhibitions
- Hospitality centre
- Conference facilities
- Disabled access
- Toilets and baby changing
- Car parking
- Card payment
- Groups welcomed by arrangement
- Dogs on leads permitted in the grounds on event days



# Looking for a new Experience, what about Volunteering in a Heritage & Hospitality visitor attraction?

Enjoy a busy, welcoming and fun environment where you can make friends and meet new people, acquire useful skills, involve yourself in the community, or just enjoy being part of a friendly group of people.

Volunteering is flexible to suit you and training is provided.

- Meet visiting social groups
- Join the hospitality team
- Storytell about the links between Ulster & New Zealand
- Assist with family fun day events
- Get creative with organising children's activities
- Do hands on tasks around the House and grounds



## Become a Member of the Ulster New Zealand Trust

The Trust is an independent charity which relies on the support of visitors, members, donors, sponsorship and fund-raising. It is dedicated to

preserving historical and cultural links between Northern Ireland and New Zealand and promoting educational and community opportunities.

For a modest annual subscription you are helping to keep The Ballance House open for visitors and protecting this unique piece of local heritage.

Contact [info@theballancehouse.com](mailto:info@theballancehouse.com) for more information, or visit [www.theballancehouse.com/membership](http://www.theballancehouse.com/membership).

Charity No: 10033

