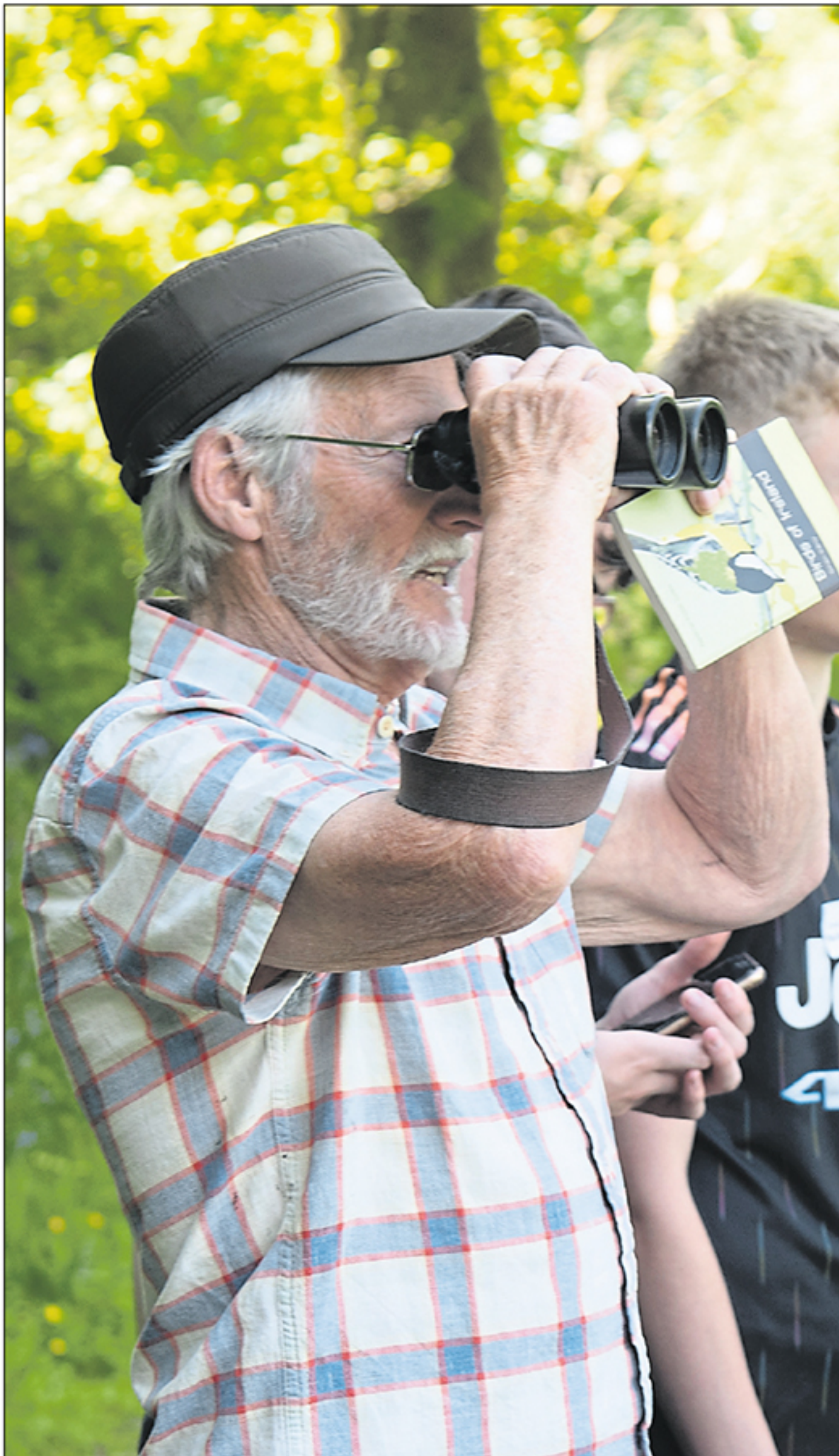




Pushkin Trust environmentalist, Lynn Greer, leads her students around Baronscourt Estate.

JasMc3



Gordon D'Arcy spots a heron in the distance.

JasMc10

'Hitching the sails'

Pushkin Trust hosts environmental workshop for students at Baronscourt

EXPLORING the element of air and finding inner confidence from creativity and the whispers in the breeze was the aim of a very special environmental workshop for students that took place recently at Baronscourt Estate.

The Pushkin Trust's Pathways Programme this year featured the theme, 'Hitch the Sails!', and taking part were pupils from local schools, including Omagh CBS and Omagh High School.

The event was designed to bring freedom and individuality within

learning, as well as curiosity and wonder – encouraging the students to delve into their own, authentic inner voice.

The Trust has been encouraging pupils and teachers in schools in the North and South of Ireland to discover their inspiration, imagination and integration for more than three decades.

It is a cross-curricular, cross-community and cross-border project that, over the years, involves primary, secondary, Irish medium and special

needs schools.

The initiative retains creative writing as the central core of the activity, melded with other creative art forms, while using the environment as the heart of its inspiration.

Established in 1987 by Her Grace, the late Duchess of Abercorn, the Trust has been a beacon of creative learning ever since.

This week, students from Omagh CBS and Omagh High School, as well as schools beyond the border of Tyrone, were given the opportunity to let their imaginations soar as they toured the picturesque Baronscourt, a beautiful estate nestled in a sheltered valley in the foothills of the Sperrin mountains.



Luke Porter from the Nerve Centre, Derry, leads the stop motion animation workshop.

JasMc5



Pushkin Trust director, Denise Mullan (centre), with retired Pushkin Trust environmentalist, Jess Webb, Pushkin Trust naturalist, Gordon D'Arcy, and Pushkin Trust environmentalist, Lynn Greer. JasMc8



Naturalist Gordon D'Arcy explains the virtues of a ground beetle. JasMc7



Students from the two Omagh schools get to know each other. JasMc11



Pupils from Omagh CBS and Omagh High School are joined by naturalist Gordon D'Arcy after he pointed out the McHugh crannog which was built in the lough around the time of the O'Neills. JasMc6