

**Drumshanbo -  
A Walking/Cycling  
Guide**





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*An Illustrated  
Walking/Cycling Tour Guide  
to Drumshanbo and it's environs*



*"The Landscape has  
a secret and silent memory"*

*Anam Cara*

*John O'Donoghue, 1997*



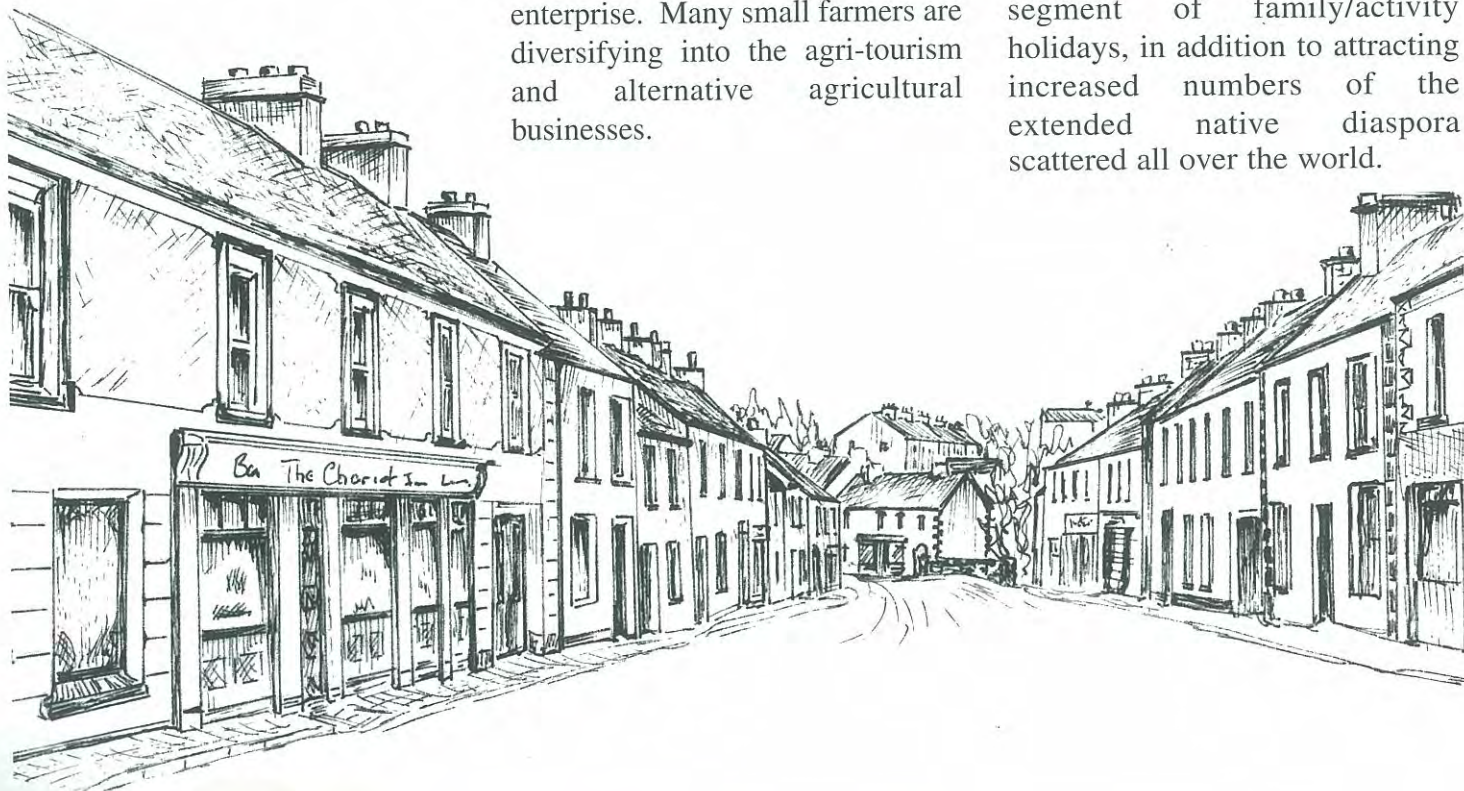
## INTRODUCTION TO DRUMSHANBO

Drumshanbo is centrally located in Leitrim, on the edge of Lough Allen, and bounded by Slieve an Iarainn and the Arigna Mountains. This setting gives witness to the ageless nature of the place.

The population of the town is approximately 700, and of the entire parish of Murhaun, 1,280. The area has suffered serious population decline like the rest of the Western seaboard since the 1860's.

The land is of poor quality and does not sustain intensive agricultural enterprise. Many small farmers are diversifying into the agri-tourism and alternative agricultural businesses.

Drumshanbo is within easy access of the Dublin/Sligo Rail-link. Three regional airports are less than one hour's drive away and, with the up-grading of the national road network, distance and journey by car is becoming easier, and hopefully will make this a more appealing holiday destination, aimed at the market segment of family/activity holidays, in addition to attracting increased numbers of the extended native diaspora scattered all over the world.





# INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDE

The Walking/Cycling Guide is a sign-posted tour through the most interesting parts of Drumshanbo and its hinterland.

There is some dispute about the meaning of Drumshanbo, or in Irish, Druimseanbhoth. According to local gaelic scholar Peadar O'Griofa, it may mean "Ridge of the Unbroken or Untilled Plain", but "Ridge of the Old Huts" is generally accepted. (Peadar O'Griofa died Dec. '97)

There is evidence of habitation here for several centuries. It has been established that the area, or parish of Murhaun, was in existence at the time of St. Patrick in the 5th Century, although up until the 18th Century, when parishes were re-organised, it was part of Kiltoghert Parish. (Murhaun means a small defensive fortification).

There is a wide variety of pleasant walks/cycling routes to be explored within a three mile radius, linking

up with the "Miner's Way", "Sli Liatroma" and Slieve an Iarainn Walks. For those who want to venture further, there are plenty of scenic routes which can be covered by bike or car.

I hope this guide will increase visitors, tourists and natives interest in the wealth of folklore and heritage that exists all around. I have provided, where relevant, notes on the flora and fauna of Drumshanbo, provided by Dr Don Cotton, Institute of Technology, Sligo. Drawings / sketches are provided by Sandra Vernon. The book will try to guide the user through the town and surrounding area.

The trails all start at the car park beside the library in the centre of the town. The first trail is the town itself, with maps and sign-posts for guidance. You should continue walking in the direction indicated by each sign-post until the next one is sighted. Map (centre pages) has a number indexed.

The length and approximate walking time will be listed at the

start of each route. Road numbers are also included. A list of useful telephone numbers and other contacts are included at the end of the text.

Please remember to respect the environment and don't remove any plants, flowers, shrubs or disturb the wildlife.





## TOWN TRAIL NO. 1

Approx. time 1½ hours

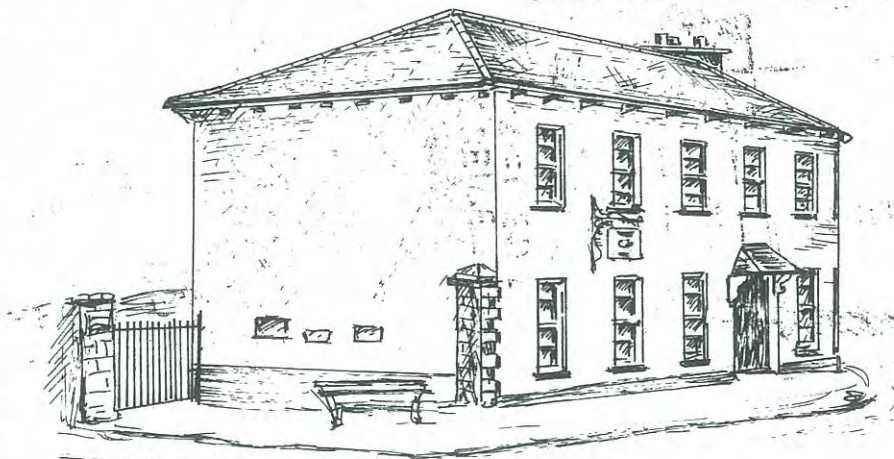
### STARTING POINT: CAR PARK IN TOWN CENTRE

Traditionally this area is known as "The Market Yard or Shambles", before being converted into a car park by Leitrim County Council. On Fridays, a market selling local produce was carried on here. There was a large weighing platform suspended from a tubular tripod which was used to weigh various articles or produce offered for sale. A blacksmith's forge was in operation here until the 1960's. St. Brigids Club met here and other groups used the clubrooms also. The original surrounding stone walls are still in place but the gates at the entrance were removed at the time of re-development. Several species of fern such as Maidenhair, Spleenwort and Wall-rue, as well as the purple flowers of ivy-leaved Toadflax and Buddleia, can be seen growing in the stone walls of the car park.

As you leave the car park, the Market House is on your left, built by the McKeon family. It now houses the local branch library and Slieve an Iarainn Visitors Centre. Both of these facilities are well worth a visit, and times of opening are displayed on the windows. On the wall of the Market House are two commemorative plaques, one to the late Joseph M. Mooney who represented Drumshanbo at many levels of political office. He had a great interest in local history and culture, and was a tireless worker for Drumshanbo and the surrounding region. (Note: Two

public telephones here as well as the "Discover Leitrim" Map.) The second plaque remembers Packie Duignan, a well-know flute player from Arigna who spent much time in Drumshanbo sharing his music and entertaining locals and visitors.

The Visitors Centre supplies souvenirs, local information and history. The audio-visual display takes visitors through sights and scenes highlighting the beauty of this land of legend and wonder. The Public Library has a fine selection of books including local history collection. Contact can be made from here with the Leitrim Genealogy Centre based in Ballinamore.



market house -



Just across the street you will notice another plaque to the memory of Eamon DeValera, former President and member of Government, who addressed a meeting here in 1933 during a General Election campaign

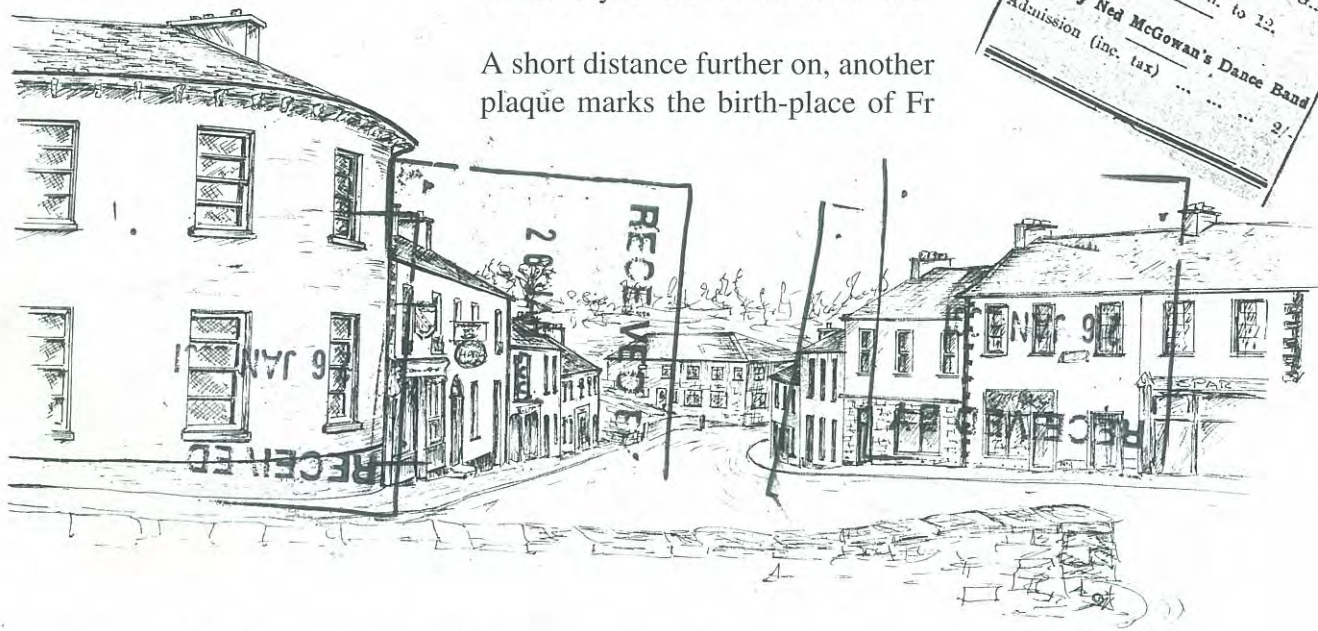
After the Market House is Conway's Pub, one of the oldest businesses in town. Since the 1800's many political and public meetings have taken place upstairs in this building.

Continue down Bridge Street, and in to Church Street, crossing the river which was used to turn the turbines at Laird's Mill. Mr Glover Laird used these turbines to supply electricity to the town in 1905. To the left is Leitrim Partnership Board Offices which were previously the offices of C.S. Laird, the jam-making firm.

The Gannon family home, which in previous years was a police barracks, is thought to be the first two storey house in Church Street.

A short distance further on, another plaque marks the birth-place of Fr

Canice Mooney, Franciscan Friar and Scholar, born here in 1911. The adjoining property was first Mooney's and later Doherty's Hall, opened as a dance hall in 1946 to the music of Ned McGowan's band of local fame.



View from High Street down to 'Laird's Office'.





Church of Ireland

Across the street from here can be seen St. John's Church of Ireland, which dates back to 1829. It is a gothic structure ornamented with tower and pinnacles. A local landlord, John William Lindsay Birchall lies buried in this churchyard.

Opposite the filling station is the former presbytery and Church of Ireland Manse. Both these buildings are now privately owned.

As you proceed along this road, your next stop will be the Mayflower Community Centre which opened as a Ballroom on the 30th of June 1960, to the music of Mick Delahunty and his band. It remained a mecca of social life throughout the swinging sixties and seventies when the Showband era came to an end. The Ballroom was then purchased by the local community and has proved to be a successful and comfortable venue for all kinds of entertainment, sporting and social events. An audio-visual display outlining the history, tradition and crafts in Co. Leitrim, in three languages, can be seen here in an upstairs interpretative centre.





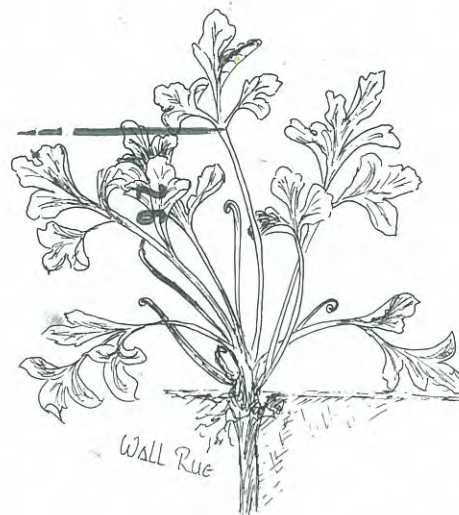


The next building on your left is Drumshanbo Vocational School and Commercial College, opened in 1964, and caters for the second level education needs of a wide area.

When you leave this College you are now on Furnace Hill where iron from Slieve an Iarainn (the Iron Mountain) was smelted up until about 1765, when timber for the charcoal ran out. The industry was revived some time later



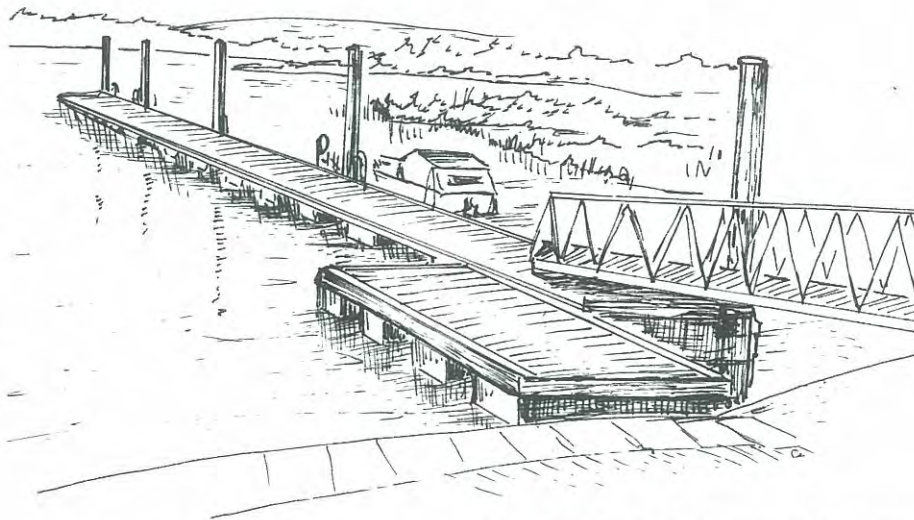
using coal for the furnace and Drumshanbo's "pig iron" became famous far and wide. All this area was covered by a massive ice sheet during the last ice age and glaciers carved out valleys such as that between Slieve an Iarainn and Arigna. The proof of this glacier is in the deposits of boulder clay, high sized heaps about 60-80m high, one of the many in the district being Furnace Hill. In the early 1800's, Lord Duncannon presided over this area. As you ramble on, pause at the seat situated at the bottom of the hill and enjoy the expansive views of Lough Allen, with the Arigna Mountains and Slieve an Iarainn in the background.



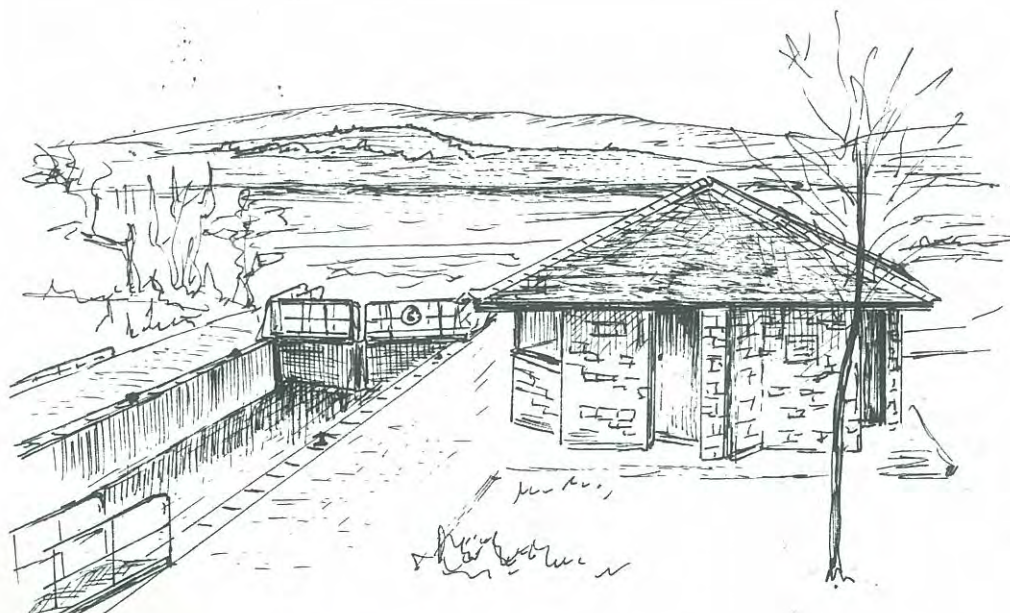
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The new lock at Blackrock which was officially opened in 1996, boasts a unique two-way lock immediately upstream of the bridge to cater for fluctuating levels in the lake. A services block comprising showers, toilets etc has been installed and the surrounding area landscaped. The Canal was first completed in 1812/22 at a cost of £1,500, through a parliamentary grant, but fell into disuse some years ago. A permanent lock-keeper is



on hand to facilitate efficient access through the Canal into Lough Allen, the first major lake on the Shannon system.



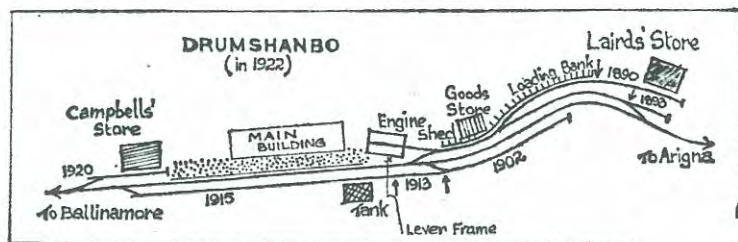
Crannog's (lake dwellings) can be seen near here when the lake levels are low. The Crannogs consist of stones arranged ovally and circularly in a raised formation off the shoreline, and are usually reached by a causeway or dugout canoe. Some canoes have been found, pictures of which are in the National Museum, Kildare Street, Dublin.



Returning to town, keep left on the main road. The old 3ft Cavan/Leitrim Narrow Gauge Railway crossed the road here at three points. Opposite the Mayflower, take a left turn. On this road you will find the Station House, platform and water tank which were all in use up to 1959 when the railway closed. The

many years it was filled by a windmill just to the left of it, which was replaced in 1918 by an oil-engined pump. These methods often gave trouble so a local mill owner Mr Laird supplied water until the town water supply came on stream. The last train left the station in April 1959. During a severe snow storm in February

1947 the "Narrow Gauge" was in the news, when the drivers with their engines coupled up, made a snow-plough on the front to clear the line, bringing a van-load of much needed bread to Drumshanbo.



Station House was originally one storey but in 1914 another storey was added at a cost of £70.00. The water tank which was 5,000 gallon capacity was purchased from the merchants "Cadle" of Dublin. For



Further along the Cattle Mart can be seen on the right which opened in March 1978. It replaced the Fair which was held on the Fair Green, and on the street. Moorlands Equestrian Centre is on your left, where there is a comprehensive range of facilities for all aspects of equitation.





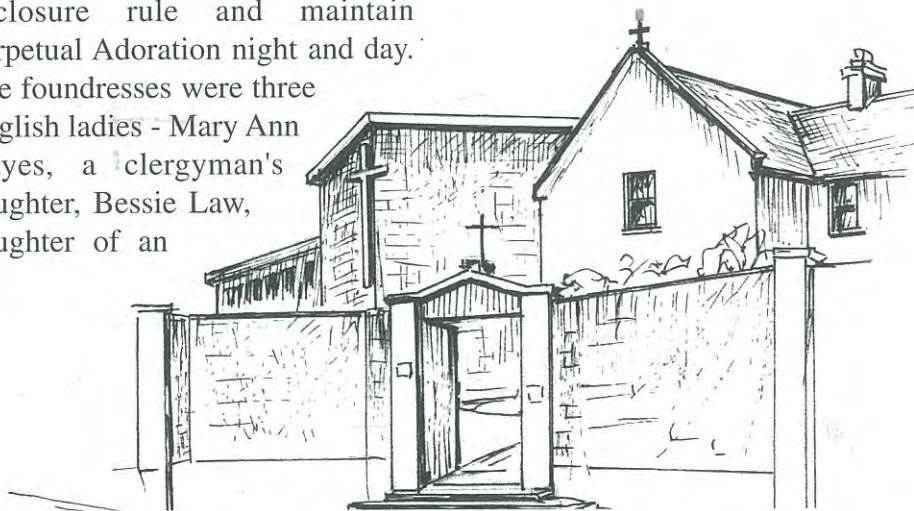
M.P., and Frances Horne, daughter of a British Army Officer. The convent bell rings out on the hour every day as it has done for the past 130 years.

Leaving this building it is worth your while to pause in the car park and admire the panoramic views all around - Slieve an Iarainn stands at 1,927ft and dominates the countryside is the legendary home of the Tuatha De Danainn, or the small dark people who inhabited the country before the Celts.

On reaching the Dowra Road, No. 207, turn right for town and at the junction with Convent Avenue, turn left to St. Patrick's Church and the Poor Clare Monastery.

St. Patrick's Church was built in 1845 during the pastorate of Rev. Michael Heslin (see plaque inside), and is dedicated to St. Patrick in memory of his passage through the district on his first crossing of the Shannon in the 5th Century. The Catholic Curate in 1704 was Charles Rodoghan. He was registered as living in Drumcroman.

The Poor Clare Monastery beside the Church was built in 1864. The nuns here observe the strict enclosure rule and maintain Perpetual Adoration night and day. The foundresses were three English ladies - Mary Ann Hayes, a clergyman's daughter, Bessie Law, daughter of an



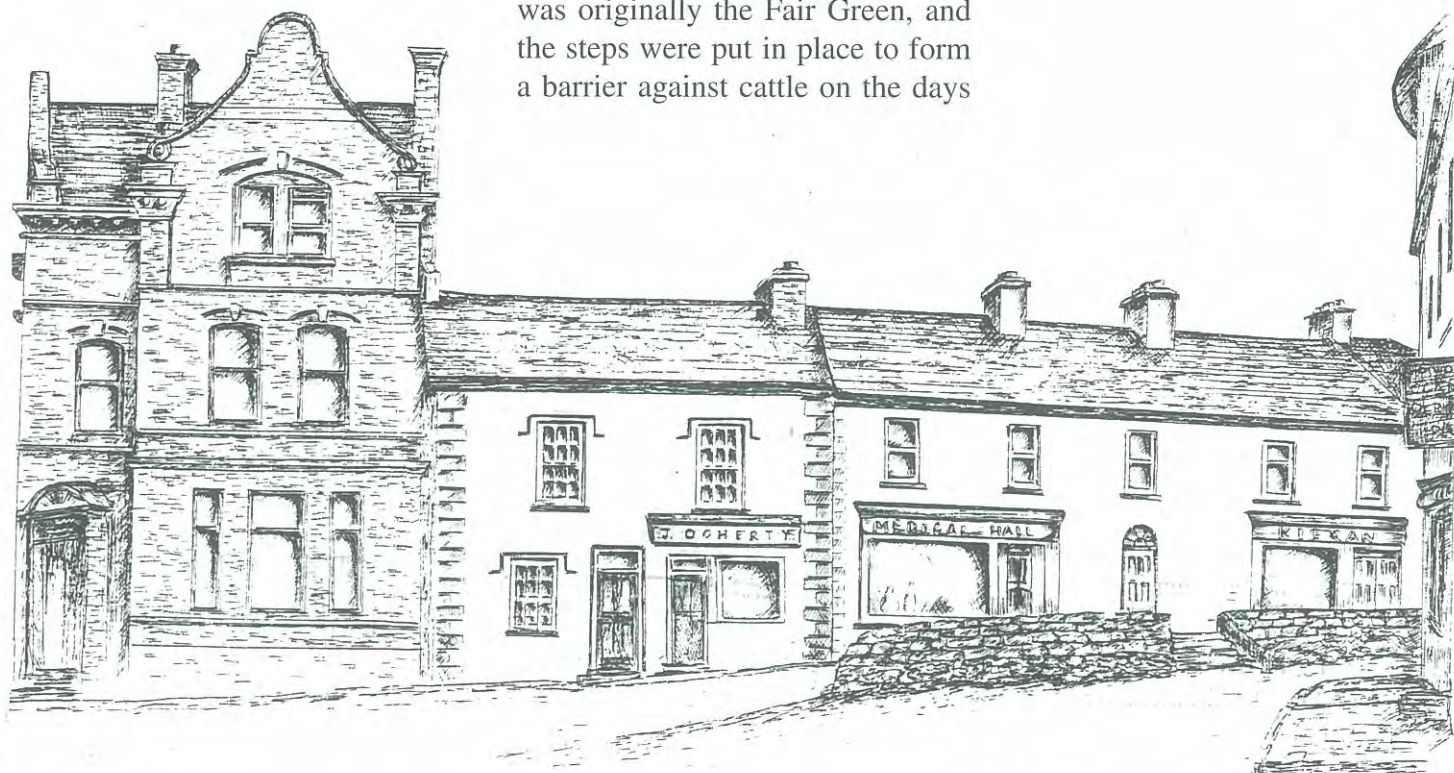


Returning down Convent Avenue just before the Bank building another plaque marks the house where Jerome O'Duignean, Harpist and Classic Scholar was born in 1910. The next building to note is the National Irish Bank, formerly known as the Northern Bank. It is unique red brick structure, and was built in 1903 - the cost of construction being £3,000.00.

There is a story told of how the banking company were sued by the occupants of the premises on the opposite side of the street for blocking the natural light from their house. The first Northern Bank in Drumshanbo was established in 1878, but the location of the original premises is not known.

You are now on High Street, an unusual feature being the steps leading down to Main Street, which was originally the Fair Green, and the steps were put in place to form a barrier against cattle on the days

when fairs were held. A replica of Drumshanbo High Street can be seen at the Railway Collection in Malahide Castle, Dublin. Continue along High Street where there are several pubs, one of the oldest being "Paddy Mac's", which was thatched up until recently, and remains in the ownership of the McManus family.





Keep left up Bakery Hill past Driftwood Furniture factory. The next building is Árás Phadraig, our Parish Centre, originally the Primary School, it was refurbished by Community Council and FAS in 1996, and is now used by a variety of groups catering for the young and old.

The next building known locally as the Boys Club has also been refurbished and is used by the Drama Group and Boxing Club. On passing the Parish Priest's House, you are now on the Ballinamore Road No.208.

A little further on are Grattan Avenue Houses, built by the ESB for their staff at the local power station in the 1960's. The new





Health Centre is located here also.

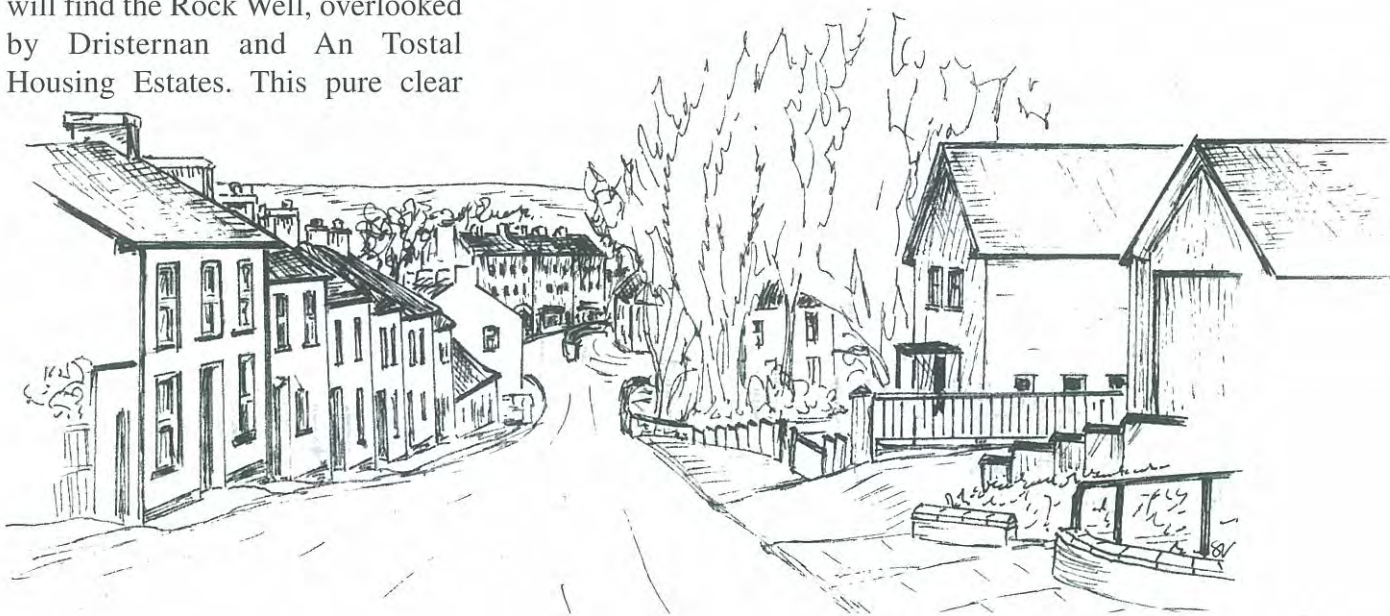
On your left you will see the National School which opened in 1974. Across the road the newly developed car park and reflection area provided by the Community Council.

The Allen Gaels local GAA Club have their home pitch, the Jim Vaugh Memorial Park, opened in 1978, it hosts many fine matches at various levels of Club and County.

On your return to town, keep left. Near the outskirts of the town you will find the Rock Well, overlooked by Dristernan and An Tostal Housing Estates. This pure clear

water comes from the rock and is much used locally as drinking water. It was officially opened in 1933 and got a face-lift and new bridge in 1994.

On reaching town again, turn left up Hilly Road. Here you cross one of the old bridges over the millrace. Rockwell Terrace is on your right, and the Courthouse and Fire Station on the left. Upon reaching the junction at the top of the hill, St. Vincent de Paul houses and Community Centre catering for the elderly can be seen on the right.





Retrace your steps back to the Carrick Road, passing the Garda Station on the left. On entering Carrick Road No. 207 you find the Tourist Office on the right, followed by the Methodist Church, Residence and Hall.

The present Methodist Church was built in 1860, but the first church stood farther back and was opened in 1830 by Gideon Ousley. When the present church was built, the former one was used as a school. John Laird and Mark Crawford were instrumental in having this church built. The Architect was George Latimer of Port, Leitrim and the official opening in 1861 was by Rev. Robert Wallace of Belfast. The Manse was completed in 1863 and according to a statement in the Irish Evangelist of March 1894, the Church and Manse together cost £1,000.00

The Organ: In 1895 the Church was completely renovated and it was decided to purchase a new organ. A handsome pipe

organ used in Donegal Square Church, Belfast was offered for sale. According to local tradition, the organ was played before Queen Victoria at an exhibition in Dublin. The organ was purchased and brought to Drumshanbo, but it was found that the ceiling was too low for the organ to fit in the church, and in consequence the present pitch pine ceiling was raised. This

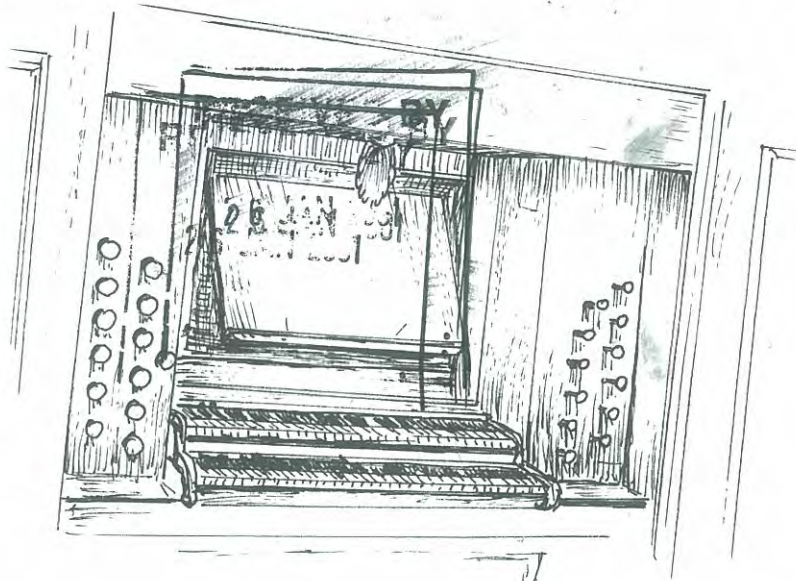
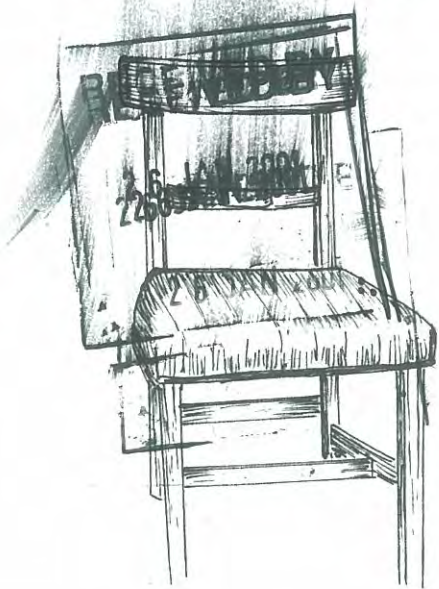
historic organ is no longer in use despite several improvements having been affected over the years, including new pedal boards with seven additional notes, new swell pedal, new soft pedal stop and an electric blower. A historic chair in the Sheraton design remains in the church and a brass plate on it reads, "Gideon Ousley sat on this chair".



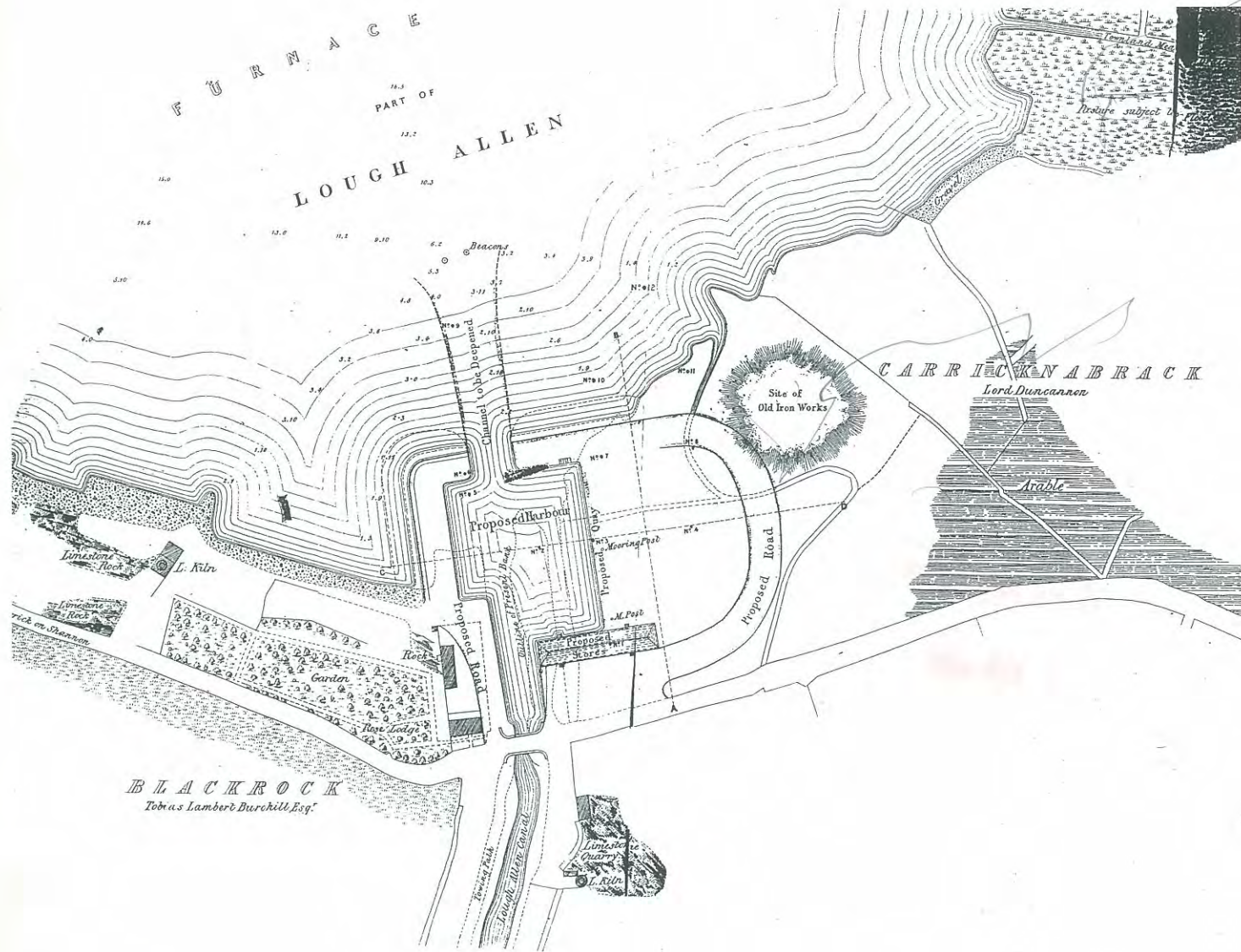




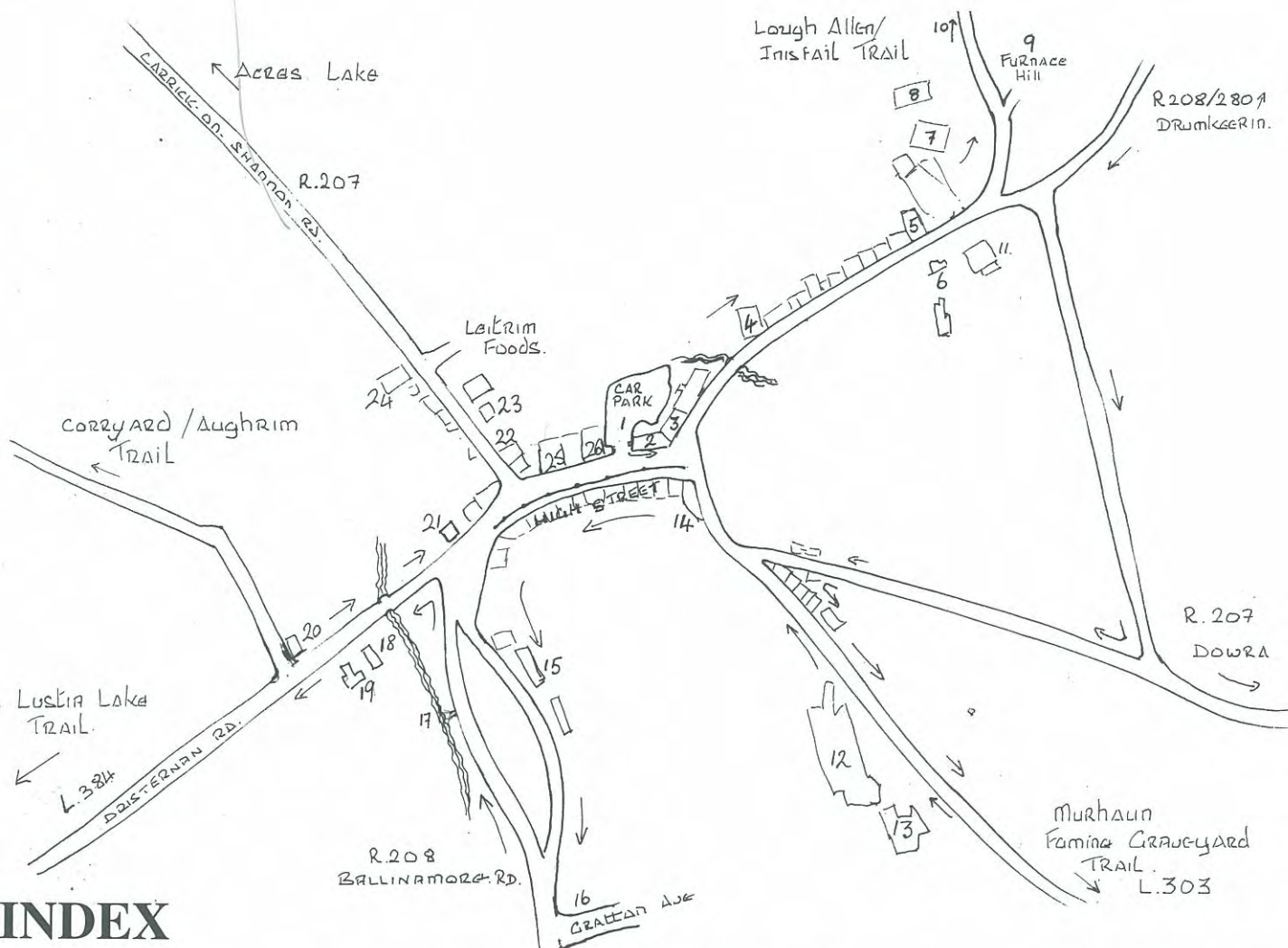
Surely the Lord is here  
 How Dreadful is this  
 place than any other  
 than the House of God  
 and this is the Gate of  
 Heaven  
 1743











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Continuing on this road we come to the entrance of Leitrim Foods. This food company has replaced Laird's Jam Factory which opened in 1935. The trademark at start of business was Breffni Blossom, later Bo-Peep. The wages at this time would be about six shillings per week.

Opposite Leitrim Foods, the Knitella Factory is situated in the premises which was first used as a cinema known as "The Roxy". It opened on Easter Sunday 1953 showing "Where the River Bends",

and closed in 1967 when TV became popular.

At the back of Leitrim Foods is Moneynure Hill, well known for the fact that on the 7th of September 1798, General Humbert with his French and Irish forces rested here for an hour after crossing the Shannon at Ballintra, on his way from Collooney to Cloone. He was joined here by about 200 men from Drumshanbo - Kilbrides, Rocks, MacRaghnaills and Murrays. From Cloone,

Humbert travelled to Ballinamuck where five of the Drumshanbo recruits were killed by the Yeomen. Twelve others were killed on their return journey.

Following on the Carrick Road on the right you will see a row of houses built in 1932, known as "Congress Terrace", named after the Eucharistic Congress held that year. A Creamery operated near the entrance to Corryard House for some years, however nothing remains.





On returning to Drumshanbo turn left at Carrick Road Junction, passing three Georgian houses, the last being the Bank of Ireland. John George Brabazon, Earl of Bessborough owned these buildings in 1856. They were later purchased by John Laird and John



Crawford. T.J. McManus purchased his present premises from Caleb Laird in 1929. The Bank of Ireland opened for business in 1921. Lynn's General Store previously occupied this premises.



## Lough Allen / Inisfail Trail (5km)

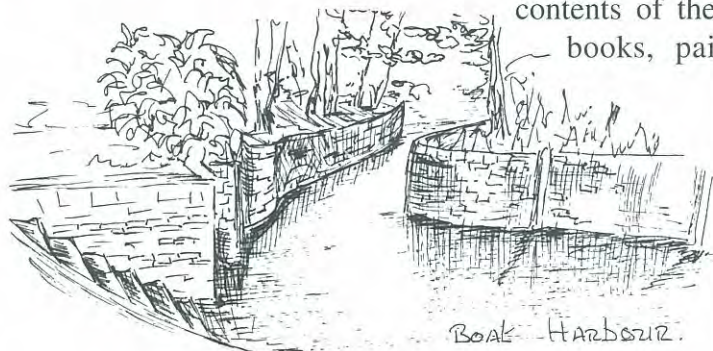
Approx. Time 1½ hours

Leaving the car park turn left, advance down town, past the Mayflower Community Centre, over Furnace Hill. Here you reach the new lock at Drumshanbo Bridge which gives access to cruiser traffic into Lough Allen.

Standing on this bridge, facing north, there is a good view of O'Connor's Island. Depending on the age of map this may be listed as "O'Reilly's" or earlier "Inisfail". Major O'Connor inherited this property from a wealthy Anglo/Irish family named Dunne, about 1900. During prolonged

periods of dry weather it is possible to walk on to the Island on the Ballintra side. The O'Connor's used their pony and trap at these times. The residence on the Island which is now derelict, was a Georgian type house comprising 15 rooms, one half of the roof thatched, the other slated. A small chapel was built for worship and the priest from Drumshanbo regularly crossed by boat to officiate. The family were mainly self-supporting and gave seasonal employment to men from the "mainland". The work would consist of building and repairs, and grass-cutting. Some cattle were raised here on the section called "Turkeen" and sold at Drumshanbo fair. The Estate passed to Major O'Connor's nephew, Fr. O'Connor Dunne, a Jesuit priest. In 1940 the contents of the Estate; furniture, books, paintings etc. were

auctioned. On the night of Good Friday, April 3rd 1831, a tragic accident occurred during a storm on the lake, when a boatload of people from the Northern Shore of the lake were returning from Drumshanbo with food supplies, potatoes and grain for Spring sowing. Fourteen lives were lost. The victims are buried in Kilbride Cemetery near Drumkeeran.



Boat Harbour.



Workshop.

Sketches based on photos taken in 1902 on O'Connor's Island.



O'Connor's Cottage



Rose Lodge, one of the oldest houses in the district is situated beside the canal on the right. A small harbour adjacent to here was used to off-load foodstuffs, Guinness and Beer, for use in Drumshanbo.

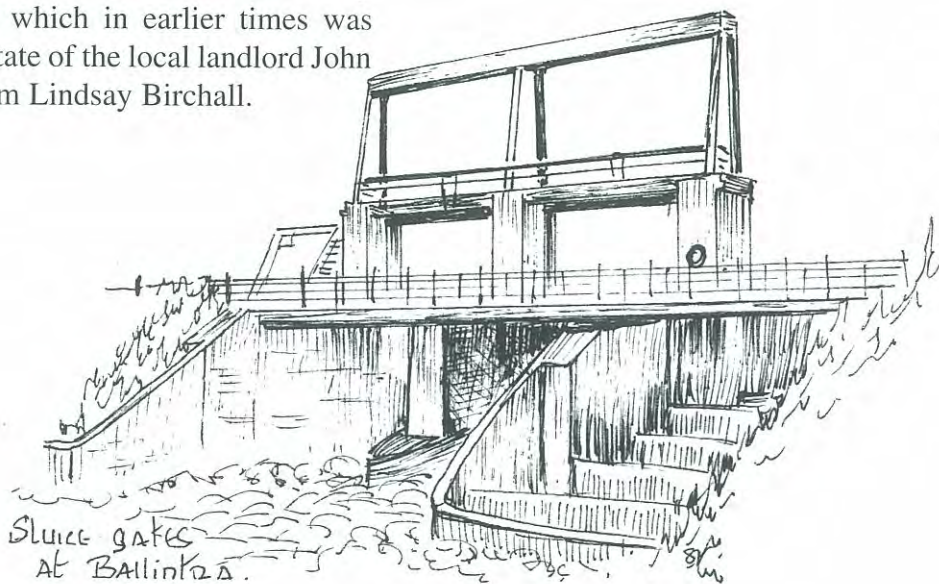
Just past here, still on the right, can be seen the remains of a lime kiln, one of several in the area. Colm (coal dust) from the neighbouring Arigna Collieries was commonly used in burning the lime. It was conveyed up the lake in boats.

On the left is the Earley family home, which in earlier times was the Estate of the local landlord John William Lindsay Birchall.

A ½ km further on takes you to a cross-roads (Miner's Way walk starts here). Take the road to the right and after about 1km you arrive at Ballintra Bridge, and sluices (Ballintra means Ford (mouth) of the Swimming). These sluices were erected in 1937 to control the level of Lough Allen and retain it as a reservoir for the electrical Power Station at Ardnacrusha, near Limerick. Included was a new kind of fish pass designed by Mr Hassard. This is a renowned fishing area for trout, rudd and bream.



Marsh  
Yellow  
CRESS



Sluice gates  
at Ballintra.

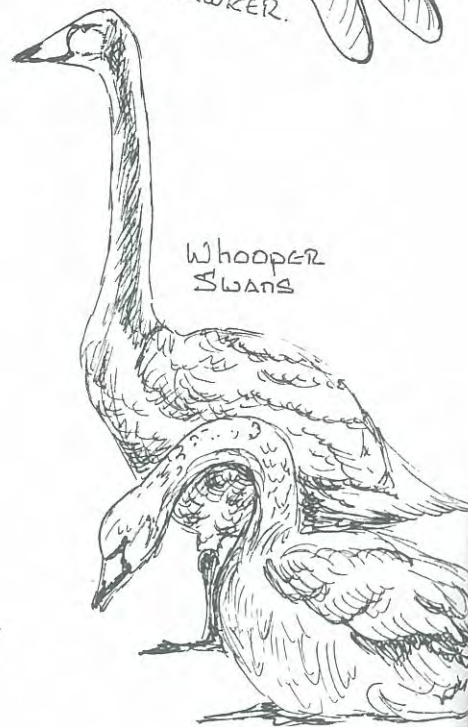


Mallard





At the very Southern end, between where the River Shannon leaves and the Canal mouth, there is a lightly wooded headland called "Holly Island", and two marsh bays of great ecological interest, one of which has been given National Heritage Area status. According to Dr Don Cotton, wildfowl are plentiful here with Great Crested Grebe, Mallard, Teal, Mute Swan, Moorhen, Snipe and Lapwing, as examples. In the Winter time, Whooper Swans from Iceland visit this corner of the lake. Wildflower specialities like the Greater Spearwort, Corn Spurry, Water Dock, Marsh Yellow Cress, Creeping Cress, Creeping Yellow Jenny, Yellow Loosestrife, Lesser Marshwort, Cowbane (this plant is very poisonous), Cornmint, Marsh Speedwell and others are to be found in the company of an array of more common marsh plants. There are also some uncommon insects including the Hieroglyphic Ladybird and the Ruddy Darter (dragonfly). It is good to know that such places still exist out of harms way, and we hope that as you pass this way you will respect the uniqueness of the area.





All around here are beautiful views of Slieve an Iarainn and the Arigna Mountains. The French passed this way in 1798 under the command of General Humbert. When you cross the bridge and sluices, continue for 1km reaching the main Drumshanbo/Drumkeeran Road No. 280.

Turn left here, crossing the Galley Bridge, opened to traffic in 1937. A little further on in Mahanagh, the stone built house on the right was the gatehouse for the Narrow Gauge Railway, and here also was a gated level crossing for the train on its way to Arigna. Mahanagh means "Place where oak sieves were made".





## Canal Banks Opposite New Lock (1km)

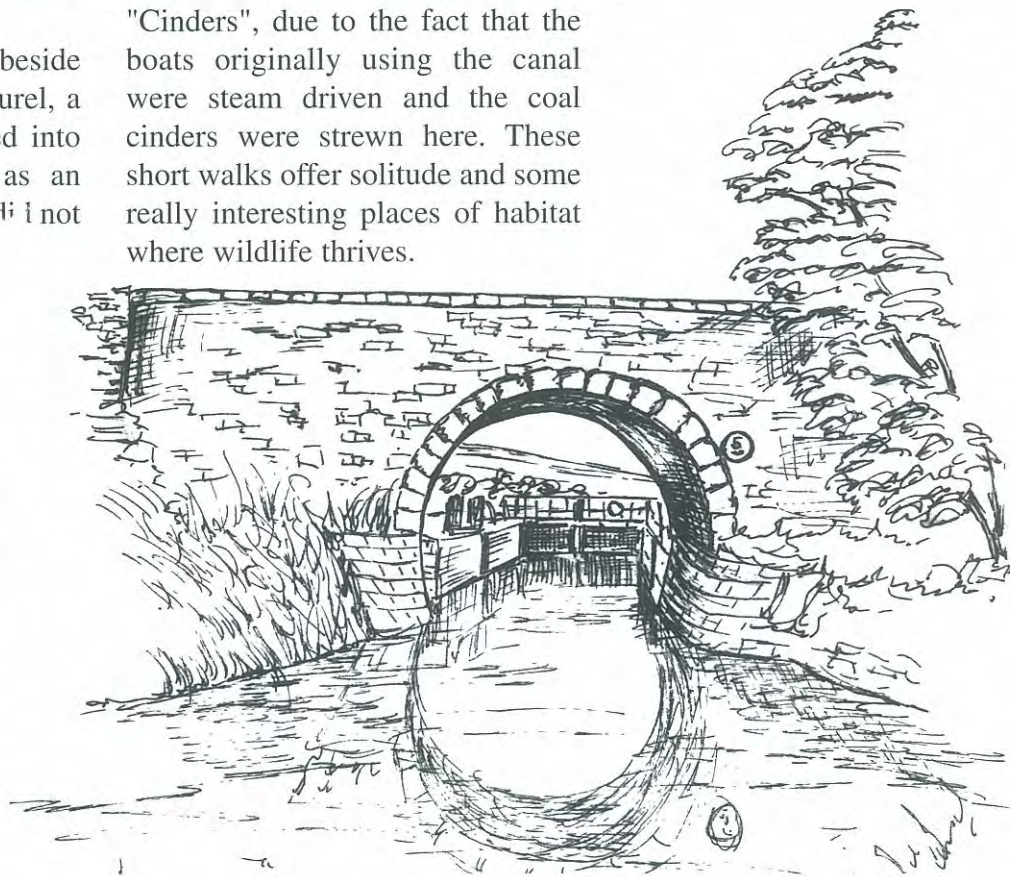
Approx. Time 30 mins

These are very pleasant short walks linking Lough Allen to Acres Lake. On the left you may go down the steps to pass along the Canal, on the walk known as "Lover's Lane".

A large tree growing here beside the steps is a Portuguese Laurel, a non-native species introduced into the British Isles in 1648 as an ornamental plant, but which did not become naturalised.



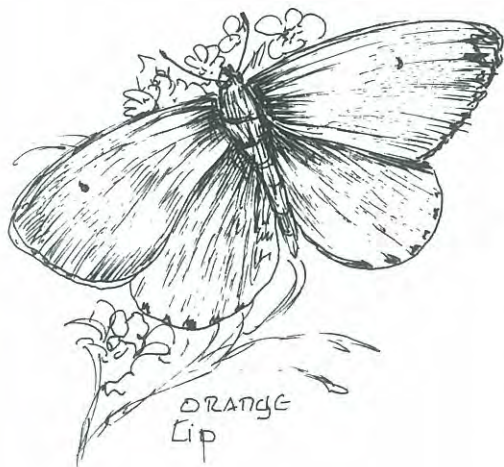
The competition from rail transport made canals uneconomic and in turn, road transport replaced rail transport. On the opposite bank there is a pleasant walk developed by the Office of Public Works. This area is known locally as the "Cinders", due to the fact that the boats originally using the canal were steam driven and the coal cinders were strewn here. These short walks offer solitude and some really interesting places of habitat where wildlife thrives.







white thorn



ORANGE  
Tip

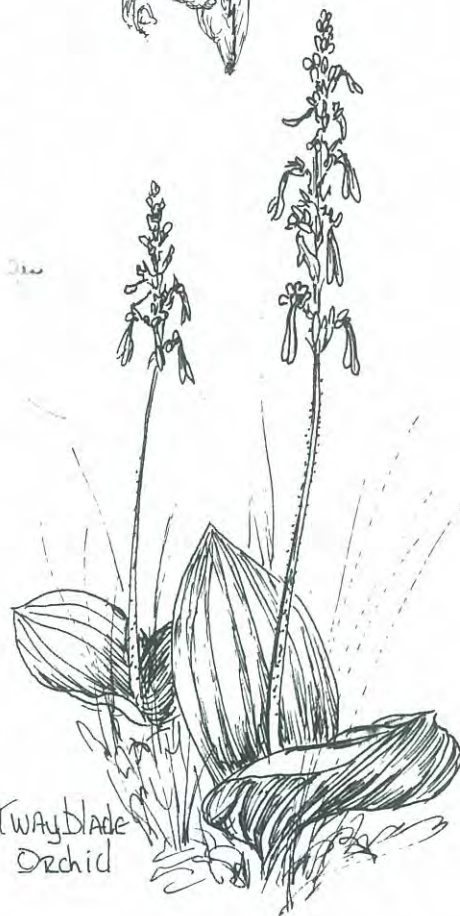


TUTSAN

Both sides of the canal are good places to see common woodland herbs with exotic names such as Lesser Celandine, Primrose, Wood Avens, Wild Strawberry, Bush Vetch, Germander Speedwell and Wood Sanicle, Pignut and Common Dog-Violet. Also those less common such as Tutsan, Trailing Tormentil and Twayblade Orchid. This area is a source of Mayflowers which, in accordance with old Celtic tradition, are placed on doorsteps on May Eve. There is a selection of woodland birds here, and you may catch a bright blue flash of the Kingfisher as it skims over the water. Where there are flowers there are also insects and butterflies, like Speckled Wood, Peacock, Green-Veined White, and Orange Tip, are also found in this wooded area.



kingfisher



TWAYBLADE  
Orchid



## Corryyard/Aughriman Trail (Approx. 4km)

Time : 1½ hours

**Corryyard** - *"High Weir"*

**Aughriman** - *"Ridge of the Horses"*

As with the other walks, start at the car park in the town centre. Turning right, proceed along Main Street and follow right up Hilly Road. First junction at the top of the hill, turn right past the St. Vincent de Paul houses. The next building on your right, now the Flood family home, was once a schoolhouse.

Continuing on you pass on your right the residence where the Laird family, whose name was synonymous with jam-making, lived in the town for over a Century. This house was built in 1912. There is an abundance of wildlife, trees, shrubs and flowers to be seen on this walk. After Laird's you pass through typical Drumlin countryside. This walk can be very relaxing as there is very little traffic. About 1km on, notice a sign

at Aughriman which takes you on to the main Drumshanbo/Carrick Road No. 207.

Turn right here heading towards Drumshanbo. Derrynahoo or Price's Lake is on your right; a very good lake for fishing which continues to attract large numbers of anglers. Further on you pass a group of holiday cottages and restaurant, owned by the McGuire family.

You are now approaching Acres Amenity Area and Acres Lake. This Amenity Area, 1km from town, has a heated outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts and children's playground. The "Teach Ceoil", or music house, is situated here as well, providing occasional sessions of music, song and dance. A number of trees have been planted here to commemorate various events and visitors to the

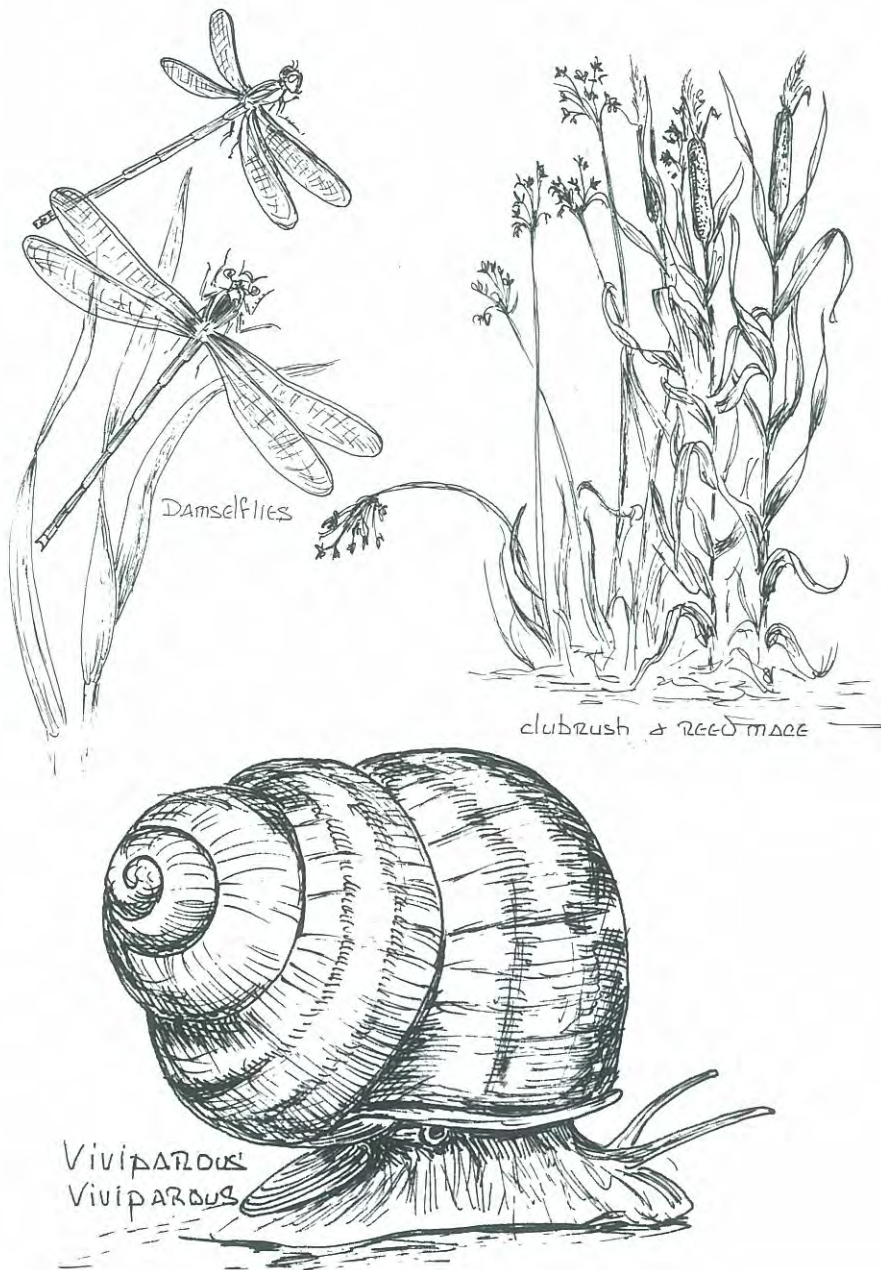
town. (See plaques for details) The cruiser jetty facilitates cruise traffic using Acres Lake. A further short trip ½ km by canal leads to Lough Allen, the first major lake on the Shannon.





Acres Lake is a very accessible site with interesting marsh flora and several uncommon animals as well. A wide range of birds can be seen here including tame Mallard Duck that often beg for food, whilst out in deeper water Tufted Duck sometimes put in an appearance in Winter. Water Rail can be heard squealing in the rushes and reeds. These birds are closely related to the Corncrake. Other birds include Pied Wagtail, Moorhen, and of course, Swans.

In Summer, Damselflies and Dragon Flies can be seen around the marsh and reeds, and an uncommon species found here is the Ruddy Darter, as well as Ireland's largest insect, the Brown Hawker (*Aeschna Grandis*), which is quite common here. Acres Lake now has a claim to fame as it is the only place in Ireland for a very large freshwater snail (*Viviparus Viviparus*), which is thriving on stones right beside the pontoon. How it got there is a matter for scientific debate. The marshy corner South of the pontoon hosts a wide variety of plants, with a clear





transition from marsh to shallow water, to deeper water forms. For example, the marsh is backed by trees, including the White Willow. Then there is a Meadow Sweet, Watermint, Gypswort, Marsh Woundwort, Water Forget-Me-Not and Great Willow Herb. Uncommon plants found in the marsh around this lake include Nodding Bur, Marigold and Cowbane, which is deadly poisonous if eaten. Tall plants that live in the water, but stand out far above it include, Common Clubrush, Reed Mace, with it's distinctive brown heads, Branched Bur Reed, with it's spiky conkerlike

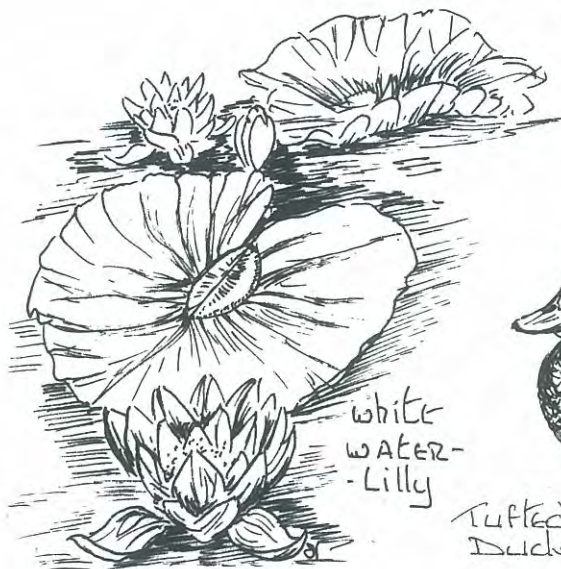
heads, and Water Horsetail. Floating on the water surface in deeper water are both of the Water Lilies; White Water Lily and Yellow Water Lily. The tiny green leaves of Common Duckweed are also floating, but amongst them there are slightly larger and rarer Greater Duckweed, and these can get blown right in to the shore amongst the marsh plants. Another uncommon plant of deeper water is the Floating Bur Reed, which can only be seen from a canoe or boat. The rest of your journey back to town (1km) is through a very pleasant residential area.



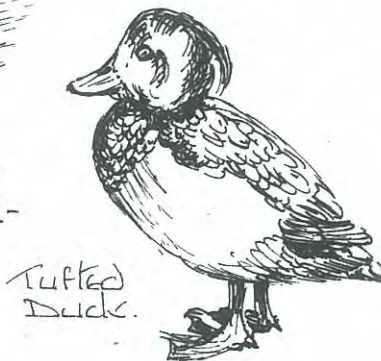
water  
forget-me-not



yellow  
water-  
lilly



white  
water-  
lilly



Tufted  
Duck.





## Lustia Lake Route (L.384) Approx. 5km

Time : 1 ½ hours

Starting from the car park, bear right past the Bank of Ireland, Carrick Road junction and right again, heading up hill signposted "Hilly Road". Dristernan, a large residential area, is on your left and McGowan's Garage and coach hire is on the right. As the name implies, this road combines hills and valleys. You now pass through the townlands of Druncoura (meaning "Sweet or Fragrant ridge", so called from the many sweetly smelling herbs it produces), and Aughnagollop (meaning "Field of the Horses").

There was a "Smith's Forge" here. A Ringfort, shown on the map, can be seen near here at the rear of Hyland's House. Ringforts, be they of earth or stone, originated during the Iron Age, but continued in use up until the 17th Century. They are small circular areas protected by an earthen or stone wall, with a ditch outside, usually situated on level ground. There must have been one or more round or rectangular houses of stone or wood inside these Ringforts, and their isolated position in the landscape corresponds closely with the country cottages of the early part of this Century. They were not military fortifications, but normal homesteads sheltered by a wall to keep the cattle and sheep in at night, and the preying animals out. Some forts have underground stone-built passages called "Souterrains",



which could have been used for storage, though some acted as living quarters, or protection from raids.

Turn right at signpost marked "Lustia Lake". From this point, Cairn-topped "Sheemore" and it's cross can be clearly seen. From these cairns there is a panoramic view of over thirty lakes. Sheemore, together with it's sister hill, Sheebeg provided O'Carolan, the 17th Century blind harpist, with the title for a haunting Irish air. People walking this route will see the typical Leitrim Drumlin landscape of little hills all around - basket of eggs topography.

Continue straight on this road, taking one right turn, until you come out at Ballinaboy T-junction, where you re-join Drumshanbo/Carrick Road No. 207.

Right turn here leads back to Drumshanbo town.



## Murhaun/Famine Graveyard - Trail No.2

Leaving the car park, turn left and then right past the National Irish Bank. Continue on, passing St. Patrick's Church and the Poor Clare Monastery. After the locally known "Tram Bridge", over the old Narrow Gauge Railway, turn left (L303), and follow pointers highlighting "Sli Liatroma", a nationally known walking route. A short distance down this road lies the Famine Graveyard, where many victims of the 1845/6 Famine, thought to number about 500, are buried.

In 1994 the Co. Leitrim Society of New York erected a plaque here to commemorate all those who perished in the Great Famine. A plaque to the memory of Jack the Piper, born in Derrylahan, Co. Roscommon in 1863, and died in Drumshanbo in 1917, can also be seen here. The graveyard has some flat tombstones with clear inscriptions, including the tomb of a Curate of the Parish, John Reynolds. He is long remembered

for his devotion to the people of the Parish during an outbreak of Cholera, of which he died on the 23rd January 1833. Also one to the memory of the Gilroy family, some of whom were poets.

In more recent times, the father and grandfather of the late Thomas Mulvey, High Street, was interred here, and a headstone marks their resting place.



gate to old waterford -  
Famine GRAVEYARD.



As you continue further on you may find where the old thatched chapel stood under the shadow of Slieve an Iarainn, where Brian Murta O'Rourke (Brian of the Ramparts (Name "Murhaun" comes from this) retreated with his people in the 16th Century to escape the English.

When you come to the four cross-roads, a left turn takes you on to the main Drumshanbo/Dowra Road No. 207. As you proceed, you pass the gates of the old Quaile residence on your right. There is a fine view of Lough Allen and the Arigna Mountains from this point. Coal mining ceased in the Arigna Mountains in the late 1980's, leaving much unemployment. Arigna Power Station, which is no longer in use,

can be seen across the lake. This has partly been replaced by windmills for the provision of electricity.

Nearer town you pass the "former Shoe Factory", and the entrance to Moorlands Equestrian Centre on your right. All along this route, note the irregular hedgerows of Whitethorn, Ash, Holm Oak, Holly, Sloe and Sycamore giving this walk a restful ambience.



Holm  
(Green) Oak



Blackthorn  
(Sloe)



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- Ms. Cora McMorrow, O.P.W., Dublin.
- Ms. Betty Duignan, Leitrim Partnership Board.
- Leitrim County Library Staff.
- Drumshanbo Branch Library.
- Miner's Way Route Map.
- Sli Liatroma Route Map.
- Shannon/Erne Waterway Guide.
- Leitrim Guardian (Various).



## Useful Telephone Numbers about Facilities/Activities and Adjoining Walks

- Sliabh an Iarainn Visitors Centre 078 - 41522
- Tourist Office - Swimming/Tennis 078 - 41013
- Kevin Currid Outdoor Pursuits Hill walking, boating and sailing 078 - 43292
- Moorlands Equestrian Centre 078 - 41500
- Public Library, Drumshanbo 078 - 41258
- Bicycles for Hire 078 - 41043
- Information Bus/Train 078 - 41128
- Coach and Minibus Hire 078 - 41059
- Miner's Walk 078 - 47229
- Arigna Leader Co. Office 078 - 46186
- Sli Liatroma, Leitrim County Council, 078 - 20005  
*Leitrim County Council, Carrick on Shannon*
- Sliabh an Iarainn Walks 078 - 41569  
*Jack Lee, Aghacashel*
- Kingfisher Trail 078 - 20450  
*Dorothy Clarke, Leitrim Co. Enterprise Board, Carrick on Shannon*



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