



Clogher Valley Heritage Trail

Did you know?

Clogher Valley Railway

This narrow gauge railway line was first in use in 1887 and closed officially in 1942, although trains continued to run until 1944. It ran down the middle of the road in many of the large towns such as Fivemiletown, Augher and Caledon. The 37 mile journey took 3 hours as the train travelled at a maximum speed of 12 miles per hour.

Owl Buck Goat

The terror of the line was "Maggie Coeletter's owl buck goat, it often stood near the Faingreen, Fivemiletown and refused to budge till the fireman got down, taking his life in his hands, and threw a lump of coal at it. They say that Maggie was never short of coal!"

Changing Times

Aughnacloy was the line's principal station and the location of the Company's headquarters and workshops. The first car seen in Fivemiletown belonged to a 'Tank' staying at the Valley Hotel "It was a big brute of a thing; near the whole length of the town"

Augher Castle

Augher Castle or Spur Royal Castle, a typical plantation castle was built in 1615 by Lord Ridgeway on the site of an older fortress and was burnt in 1689 by the Jacobites as the Siege of Derry was underway. It was restored and extended in 1832

Sporting Heritage

Eugene McKenna, former Tyrone Gaelic Football Captain in the 1980's and joint manager from 1999 to 2002 was from Augher. He collected 3 Ulster Senior Championship medals as a player and represented his province in the Irish Interprovincial Railway Cup Tournament on several occasions.

Steeped in History

The famous Cairn of Queen Anya on the Hill of Knockmany outside Augher is reputed to be over 2000 years old.

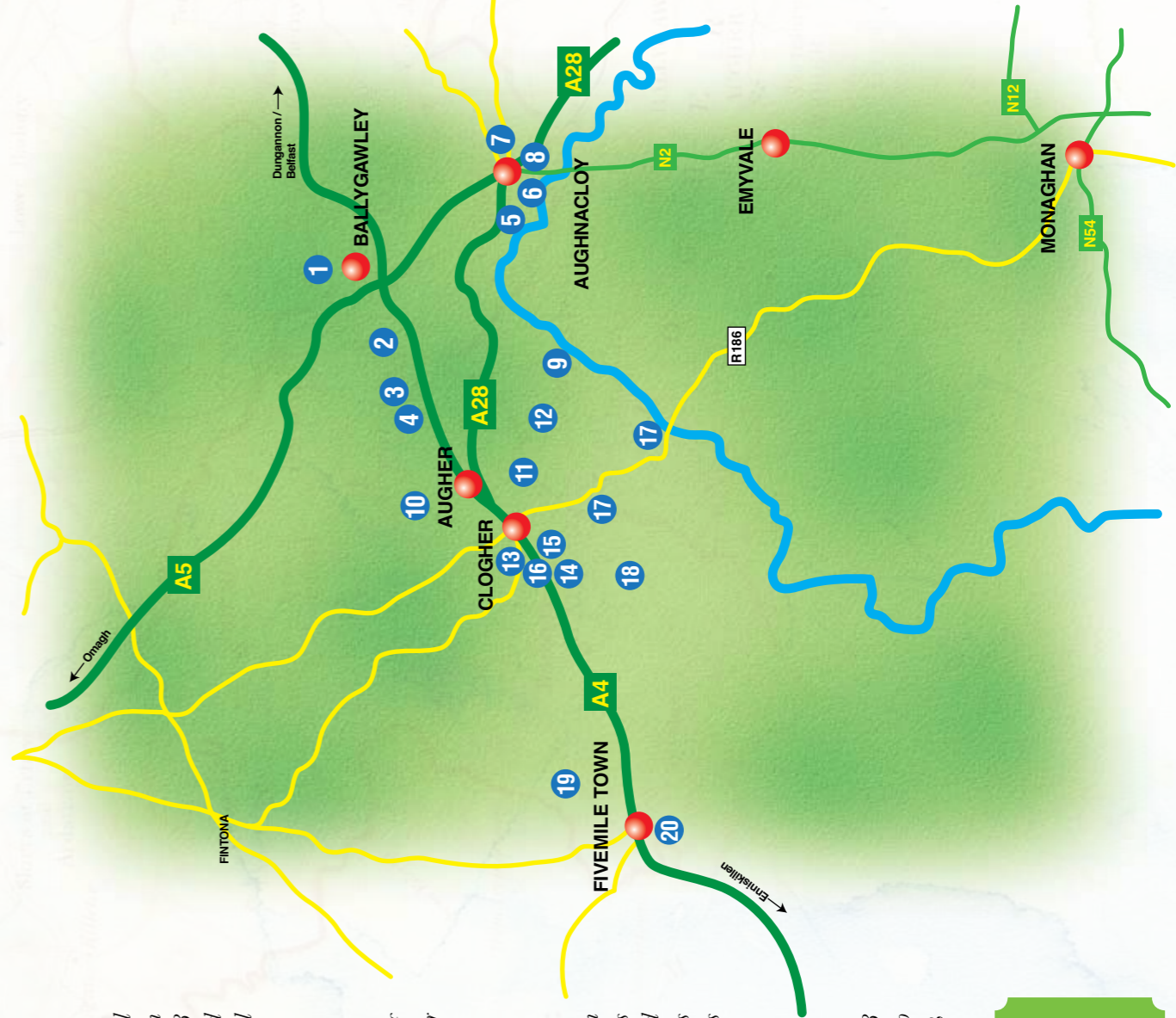
Inspiration

The Irish novelist William Carleton was born outside Clogher at Prohusk in 1794. He is famous for such novels as Fardorougha the Miser and The Convicts of Lisnamona. Carleton used his childhood memories and members of his family as inspiration for characters in his novels.

The 3 Wives

Three streets in Aughnacloy are named after the 3 wives of Acheson Moore, the local landlord who constructed the village in the 18th century. Sydney Lettice and Henrietta

Having enjoyed this trail, why not sample Dungannon Heritage Trail, www.dungannonlife.com & Torrent Valley Heritage Trail



Come find your way where others have gone for centuries before.
A warm welcome awaits as you sample the rich heritage & culture of Clogher Valley.



Killymaddy Tourist Information & Craft Centre

190 Ballygawley Road, Dungannon
Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland BT70 1TF
T: 028 8776 7259 F: 028 8776 0908
Killymaddy.reception@dungannon.gov.uk

OPENING HOURS
Monday to Sunday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Extended opening hours July, August and Bank Holidays daily to 6pm

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For more information on unique local Good Food Circle restaurants and superb NITB registered accommodation visit:

www.flavouroftyrone.com

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DIALLING CODES

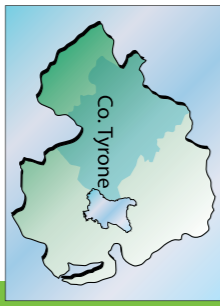
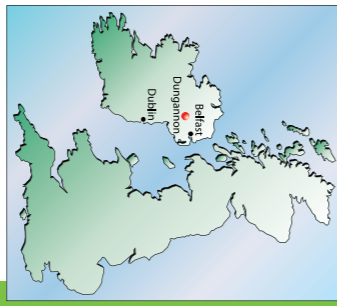
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Dialling Internationally

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1. Courthouse - Ballygawley

At the top of Main Street, the Court sat on the third Tuesday of each month, the last sitting in the 1970s. Originally the Courthouse was a "linen hall", built in 1812. It had a drive-in archway, now windowed, where carts unloaded in shelter. Against a wall is a plaque dated 1836. Grecian figures of victory commemorate twenty-five years of Stewart developments which include the 1815 bridge at the bottom of Main Street.



2. Ballinasaggart Church, Church of Ireland

A mile east of Arthur's Church, Con O'Neill established a Franciscan Friary circa 1490. It was closed in 1610 following the Ulster Earls' departure in 1608. Two churches - a mile apart - were closed within thirty-seven years; by authorities from both sides of the religious divide. The fine proportions of the present church, built in 1832, are attributed to William Warren. It replaced a 1622 church built to incorporate the Friary ruins. Stones from that church form the graveyard back wall. At its east end is the Moutray cenotaph - thought to be a Friary gable.



3. St Kerog, Errigal Graveyard

In "Ulsterheart" by Rev. Brett Ingram, we find that St. Kerog was born locally in 470 and, in 493, "built a place of retreat - an argel - on the western slopes of Clonully". Pilgrims came and eye-patients, especially, visited the local well. His name, "Curig", was "a pre-Gaelic name locally pronounced as Kerog". Parts of Ulster were, at the time, bilingual - Gaelic and pre-Gaelic. Both would avoid a name like "Kerogue", sourced from the Gaelic word for a beetle. Nevertheless it appears on maps. In Britain, St Kerog preached to his Celtic kinsmen in Wales and Cornwall. He is buried in Locquirec in Brittany.



4. Errigal Keerogue Cross

Here is an interesting, possibly very early, stone cross and a 'bullaun' stone (a boulder with a hollow in). These are all that remain of a beautifully situated Early Christian ecclesiastical site that might have replaced an earlier pagan sanctuary. The present ruined church, much later, is not of any architectural interest.



5. The Jackson Almshouse

Dr. Alexander Jackson, a distinguished physician and native of Aughnacloy, left a bequest in his will for the provision of an Almshouse, in or near, the town. The Almshouse was for the residence, support and maintenance of a number not exceeding seven well conducted aged men and seven well conducted aged women, natives of the said town and neighbourhood who shall have become reduced in their circumstances. The bequest was duly undertaken and the Almshouse was built on a very commanding site, over looking the Blackwater valley. Its solid Victorian design and structure bears witness to the workmanship and skills of the craftsmen involved. It was opened in 1854 and for over a century was a refuge for many aged men and women who had fallen on hard times. Recently, it has been given a new lease of life when its role and name changed to become Copperfields Private Nursing, preserving its culture and character.



6. St. Mary's Church.

The foundation stone for St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church was laid on 28th February 1904 and its construction was in response to the growth of Aughnacloy, towards the end of the 19th Century, when the population reached over 1800. St. Mary's replaced the old barn Chapel at Dernabane, known as the quarry Chapel and serves the ancient parish of Aghaloo. It is an imposing building with many interesting architectural features. The Church is approached through a magnificent gateway procured from St Macartan's Cathedral, Monaghan in 1948.



7. The Market House

The growth of the linen industry led Acheson Moore to take out a patent for a weekly market in Aughnacloy. Originally, the market was held on a Thursday but changed to Wednesday, taking effect from the summer of 1762. The tradition still exists in Aughnacloy, with the monthly street market held on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The linen trade was carefully regulated, with the webs of brown linen which were woven in the farmers cottages, being measured and sealed by a Sealmaster. The Market House was built to control the market, which began with the ringing of the Market Bell in the bell Tower. Market practices were subject to inspection and offenders were brought before the Courts. In addition to the thriving linen market, there were markets for pork, butter and corn.



8. St James Parish Church

The ancient parish church of Carnteel was burnt down during the 1641 rebellion. It was rebuilt at Rouskey, near Ballygawley, but when Acheson Moore was building Aughnacloy, he decided that it would be fitting to have the parish church in a central position. Thus we read in the vestry minutes, "Every townland in his parish is to send their horses and cars to carry away the flags (stones) of this present church (Rouskey) at Aughnacloy on Monday 10th May next". This was the year of 1736 and the church became known as St James. Acheson Moore's daughter, Madame Malone, added the spire in 1796. St. James has had a distinguished history over the past 250 years, particularly as the rector of the parish was formerly the Archdeacon of Armagh. The church is an imposing land-mark in the Aughnacloy district. Its architecture, stained glass windows and organ are worthy of note by the visitor.



9. St Patrick's Chair & Well

Also known as the Druids Chair and Well or St Brigid's Well, Perched on the hillside in Altedaven Glen, this large 'chair' of sandstone is believed to have healing properties and local folklore says that if you sit and make a wish within days it will come true! The chair is a huge 2m high stone block, shaped like a throne. The Well which is said to never run dry is another rock. It has a depression in it and is filled with natural water. According to folklore the water within such depressions or bullauns has healing powers and this well is supposed to be good at healing warts.



10. Knockmany Passage Tomb

On the top of this prominent hill on the southern limit of the Sperrin Mountains, overlooking the Clogher Valley, is an interesting Neolithic tomb (about 3000 BC) with large decorated upright stone slabs forming the central chamber in a mound originally about 50m. in diameter. A modern shelter now protects these stones, but a key is necessary to enter it.



11. Porth Chapel

Also known as St MacCartan's Church.

St MacCartan, one of St Patrick's followers, established a church in the town of Clogher in the 5th century. St MacCartan's Church, the Porth Chapel was opened on the site of an open air congregation in 1846. It remained the Bishop's Mensal Parish, Pro-Cathedral, until the 1860's in the time of Bishop Charles McNally who laid the cornerstone for the new Cathedral of St MacCartan's which was not completed until 1892. There is a stained glass window dedicated to Rose Kavanagh, the author, and also her sister Mrs Campbell. Their mother was a cousin of John Joseph Hughes the first Catholic Archbishop of New York who also has a stained glass window dedicated to him. The farmhouse he grew up in and left in 1817 to go to America has been carefully rebuilt in The Ulster American Folk Park



12. Carleton's Cottage

William Carleton (1794 - 1869) the writer and novelist lived here in the years before his departure to Dublin. The cottage at Springtown, Augher was restored by the Carleton Society and the plaque unveiled in 1964. The William Carleton Summer School meets annually in the Valley in August.



13. Clogher Union Workhouse

The workhouse was built by the Clogher Board of Guardians in 1843. It was filled to capacity with 900 paupers at the height of the Great Famine (1847-48) and continued to operate as a poorhouse until 1918. Its cemetery known as Bully's Acre is next to Ballymagowan bridge on the road into Clogher. The workhouse was later a factory. The infirmary block is today the nucleus of the Clogher Valley Nursing Home.



14. Clogher Ancient Fortress

On a drumlin south of Clogher village are a number of well-preserved earthworks. An outer bank represents a hillfort of about the 1st century AD (Iron Age), with a small burial mound in one corner. Sited prominently inside this outer earthwork is a strong ringfort - which was the capital of the kings of a powerful mid-Ulster kingdom between the 4th and the 9th centuries AD (Early Christian period). There is a mound next to the ringfort that was used for royal rituals and inauguration. Excavations here by the Ulster Museum produced much information about these times.



15. Clogher Crosses

These two (perhaps originally parts of three) Early Christian decorated 'high' crosses (10th century) bear witness to the fact that this was the site of a very important monastery, reputedly founded by St Patrick. In the cathedral is a very interesting sun-dial, also of Early Christian date, bearing a carved human face and a very lifelike fish. The close juxtaposition of the important monastery and the royal ringfort on the nearby hill is a comment upon the close relationship of church and state in early Irish politics.

16. St Macartan's Cathedral

Clogher cathedral stands on a very ancient site with the first church recorded there dating from the fifth century. This is probably the fifth building on this site and dates from 1740-44. The cathedral was built largely at the expense of the bishop of the day, Dr John Stearne. It was remodelled in 1818 when two extra galleries were provided over the transepts. The church has several fine stained glass windows and a good collection of bishop's portraits.



17. Carnfadrig-Carnagat Tombs

These two well-preserved Neolithic tombs are close to one another, and are partly buried in the bog. Carnfadrig is a 'portal tomb', which is a chamber with two very large upright stones at its entrance. It was built in around 3000 BC and was once covered by a cairn of stones. Carnagat (maybe 500 years older) is a 'double court tomb', which has a semi-circular settings of large upright stones at each end with four burial chambers between. Again the cairn that once covered it is gone. Both were plundered in the 19th century.



18. Brackenridge's Folly

This telescope-style tower was built on the summit of Ballysally in 1847 by the eccentric George Brackenridge alias Trimble. Trimble wanted local people to respect him and built this tower to force people to look up to him as he planned to be buried there. It was however 30 years before he got his wish as he did not die until 1879. Brackenridge who was a magistrate and as a minor lived in nearby Ashfield Park.



19. Aughtentaine Castle

These still impressive ruins are of a castle built by Sir William Stewart in 1618 and abandoned in 1642. Architecturally it is interesting in that such a short span of time is represented by the remains. There are three main storeys (and a fourth in the west gable), and the angle turrets are corbelled in the Scottish fashion. Carved fireplaces can be seen in each story. One wall fell in 1935, and the ruins are now dangerous.



20. Blessingbourne

This mock-Elizabethan manor house was built in 1874 for the Montgomery family. The architect was Pepys Cockerell. The Montgomery family did much to develop Fivemiletown and provided a site and plans for the local Catholic church. Fivemiletown old school was also provided by the family. Now the family home of the Lowry's, Blessingbourne Estate welcomes visitors to their luxury apartment accommodation and a chance to relax and enjoy the country retreat experience.

