

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Belturbet Town and Country Walks Guide. This is an initiative of Belturbet Walks and Heritage Group. The group had existed on an ad hoc basis for some time and was formalised in 1999 by a number of like-minded individuals. Their aim was to promote an appreciation of our heritage and history. This would be achieved through organising walks in the local area and further afield. The Guides purpose is also to complement the Heritage Plaques, Panels and Finger Posts which were recently erected at relevant sights in the local area. It is hoped that the booklet will provide additional information and guidance to the user.

The group has brought people of all ages and backgrounds together to enjoy the beauty of nature and the history and folklore of the Belturbet area. There is an abundance of rivers, lakes, forests and hills locally which create the perfect backdrop to a day's walking, while providing walkers with an introduction to the history of their surroundings.

THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

When walking in the countryside always remember that you are walking through someone else's workplace. Careless behaviour, such as leaving farm gates open, can cause great problems for farmers. Litter of any description can cause serious damage to livestock and wildlife alike. A little thought and common sense can ensure a good relationship between the farmer, the local community and the visitor. Respect the countryside by following the Countryside Code and show that you respect and care for the beautiful countryside of Belturbet.

- Park carefully – don't block exits.
- Keep all dogs under control. (If dogs defecate please clean up)



- Do not damage walls or fences.
- Be careful with fire.
- Dress sensibly.
- Take all your litter home.

It must be emphasised that those walking the trails in this booklet do so entirely at their own risk and that neither Cavan County Council, Belturbet Walking and Heritage Group nor landholders can under any circumstances be held responsible for accidents that might occur.



Photo: ANN McDONALD



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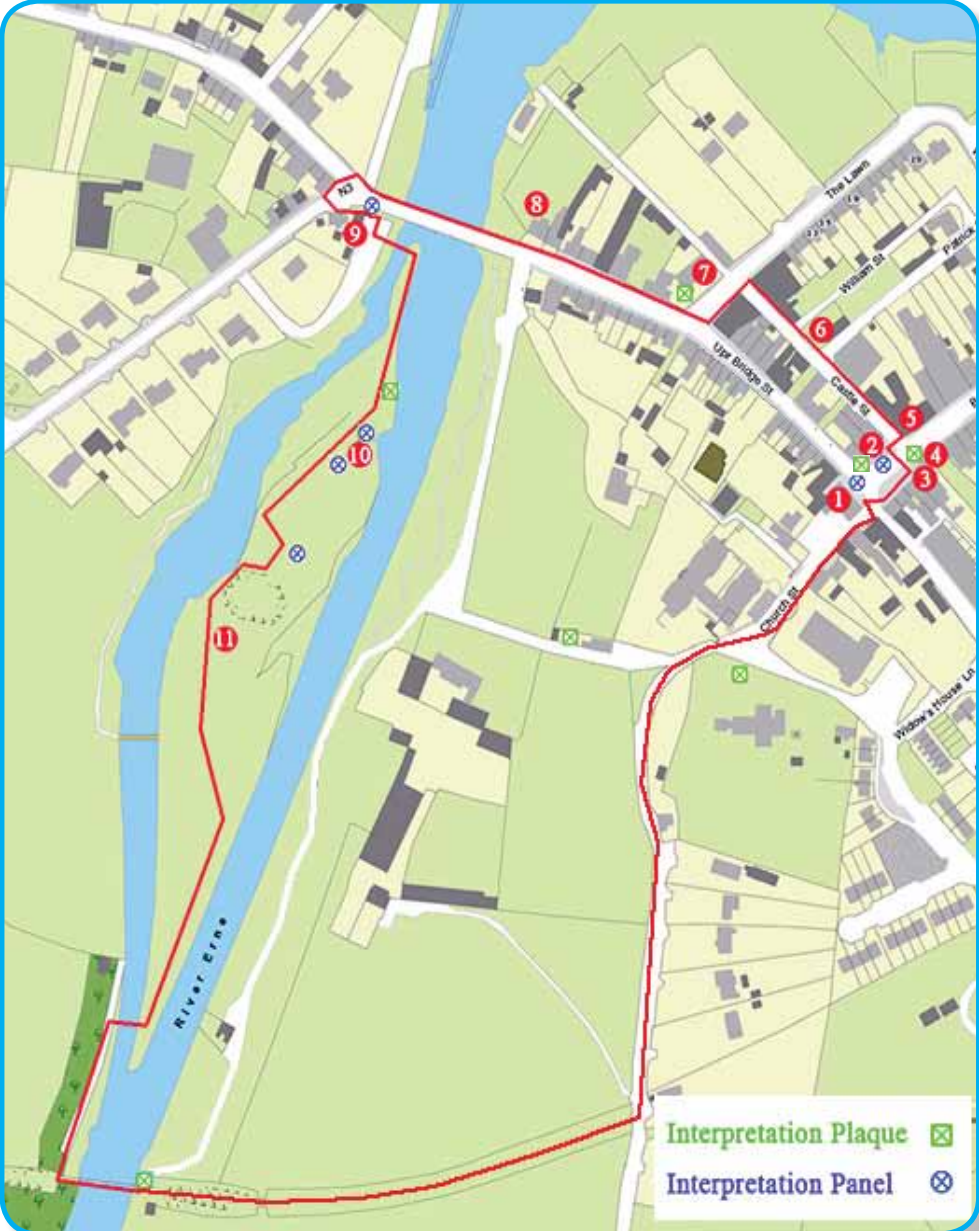
Photo: ANN McDONALD

BELTURBET TOWN WALKS (ONE) 2km Approx.

1. Start at the Town Hall (1928) on The Diamond.
2. Butler's Castle – where the tolls were collected on Market Days. Castle Bar on left.
3. Opposite is red bricked building (1904) which served as a major Post Office for the region until 2006.
4. Next is Memorial to Geraldine O'Reilly and Patrick Stanley who lost their lives in a car bomb in Belturbet in December 1972.
5. From the steps of the Town Hall, Eirne and Gráinne have a commanding view of Butler Street and Holborn Hill.
6. Turn left down Castle Street with site of The Buttermarket on left.
7. On right is Patrick Street and William Street, once the homes of coachbuilders, linen weavers and thatchers.
8. Opposite the bottom of Castle Street is the former Methodist Church – now a private residence.
9. Turn left past the front of the Church and then turn right to Kilconny Bridge (1836). The red brick, former Bank of Ireland building, is now the residence of the parish priest.
10. Cross Kilconny Bridge and turn left opposite supermarket, into car park. As you cross footbridge to Turbet Island, look through the eye of the bridge and note the quay, which was built to moor the steamships SS Belturbet, The SS Knockninny and the SS Countess of Milan (a paddle steamer).
11. Across the river from Turbet Island can be seen the former Church of Ireland Rectory (1754) and further upstream is the site of former Distillery of Dickinson, Dunlop & Co. (1825 - 1885).
12. Remains of Turbet Island Motte & Bailey – a fortification built in 12th century by the Normans. Turbet Island is part of UNESCO Marble Arch Geopark counties Cavan and Fermanagh.

Follow the path over the Railway Bridge to T-junction and turn left to return to town.

ROUTE (ONE)



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BELTURBET TOWN WALKS (TWO) 2km Approx.

1. Start on the steps of the Town Hall (1928) on The Diamond.
2. Walk to end of Butler Street (Main Street). On right is former Ulster Bank building, now the Post Office. On left, behind the iron railings, is the former Presbyterian Church house (Manse) and site of Presbyterian Church.
3. Turn left down Water Lane, where water was sold. Patrick Street (Weavers Row) is on left and next is the site of Fitzpatrick's Coachbuilders Workshop. The building opposite was originally Green's Blacksmith Forge.
4. Next left are The Lawn houses, built in c.1800 for British army officers. Across the river is Riversdale House, the first army barracks (1714) built in Belturbet in the reign of Queen Anne. Along the river, to left of Ducking Stool Jetty, (see panel) is the Green Lawn, where linen was bleached.
5. Turn right at bottom of Water Lane along Willow Avenue, the sites of Stewart's Mills and a brewery.
6. At the further end of Willow Ave. is Morrissey Park, now a childrens playground and Public Park. This is the site of a British Military Barracks. Across the river is former Emerald Star Marina, on Europe's longest navigable waterway.
7. Walk through the park to the top of Barrack Hill and see the P.J. Morrissey Memorial. On the right of Barrack Lane is the former Erne Palais Dance Hall and Erne Cinema.
8. Turn left up Deanery Street past The Orange Hall (1874) on left. The houses with railings is the site of the Sisters of Mercy's first convent, (1868) which was a two-storied thatched residence.
9. Turn right down the Fair Green, where cattle and horse fairs were held from the 17th century until 1960. The first building on the left, now a private residence, was formerly the Catholic Church Parochial House (1904) and before then the site of an Erasmus Smith School (1812).

Further down on the right is a cattle loading ramp and to the left is St. Bricin's College (1937).

This is the area originally known as 'The Pleasure Gardens' where the

marquees for the carnival dances and circuses were erected.

10. Turn right to return to The Diamond.

ROUTE (TWO)



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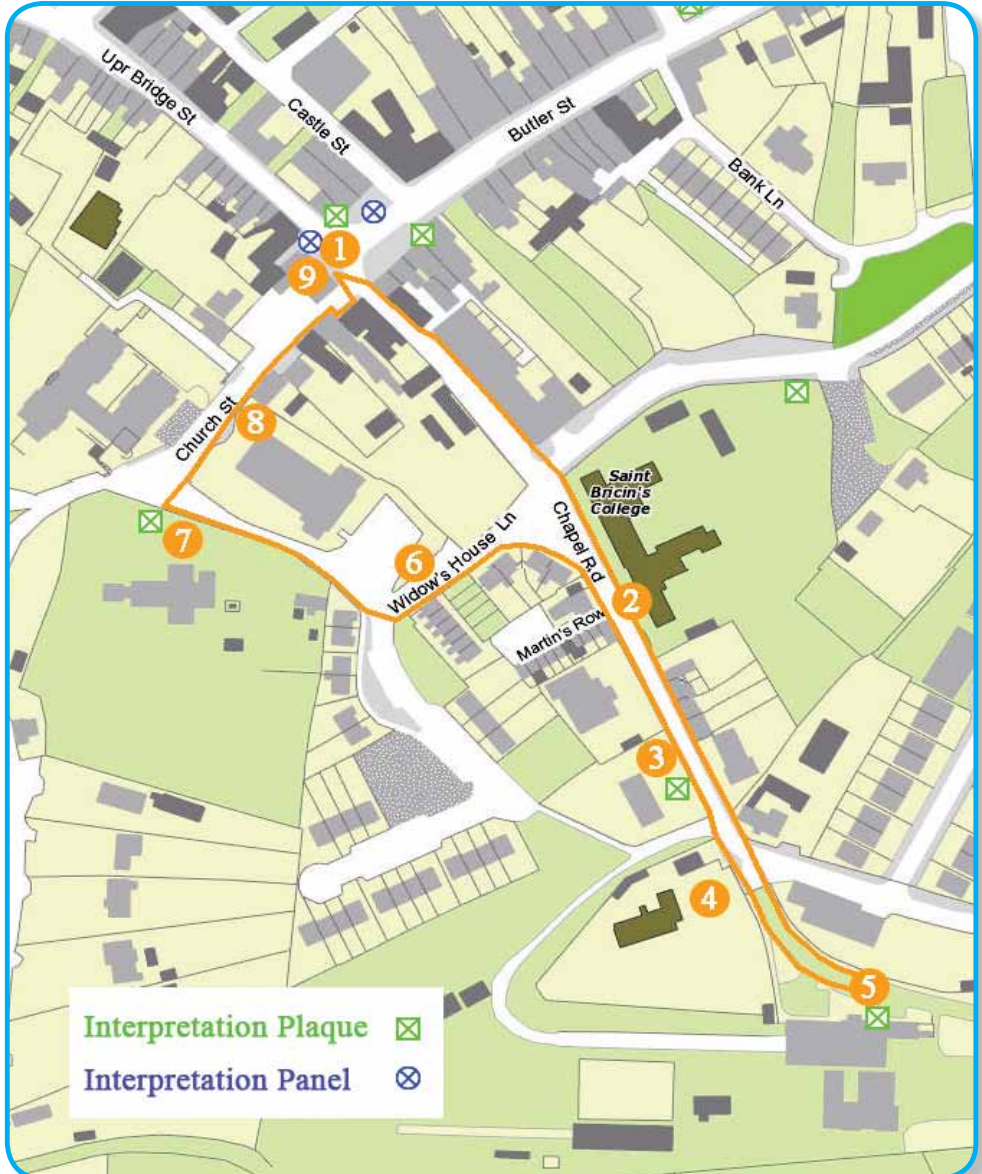
BELTURBET TOWNWALKS (THREE) 1km Approx.

1. Start at The Diamond and turn right down Chapel Road.
2. Opposite St. Brinin's College is Martin's Row, houses built by a wealthy local business family for their employees. Next is the Church of Ireland National School (1932).
3. The bungalow next is on the site of the old Catholic Church (1836-1956). The surrounding wall contains some of the Church's original stone. These stones were from the bridge demolished before Kilconny Bridge was built (1836) and were carried on the backs of local people, up Bridge Street (Strahaglan Street) to this site to build the church.
4. The St. Mary's Boys National School (1956) next on the right. Opposite this is the building that was the Boys Old National School. (1853).
5. Ahead is The Great Northern Railway Station (1885-1959) and the Cavan and Leitrim Narrow Gauge Railway (1887-1959). The restored railway buildings are now owned by Belturbet Community Development Association and are run as a Heritage Tourism Centre on a voluntary basis. Guided tours are available.
6. Retrace our steps up Railway Road. On right hand side are a number of Artisan cottages c.1800. Turn left up Church Lane; Widow's Row, single storied old houses on left, were built for Church of Ireland war widows with a legacy from Mary Maunsell (1723). The two-storied house on the left was the Church of Ireland sextons residence. Here was born James Somers, the first Cavan man to be awarded the Victoria Cross in World War I.
7. The Church of Ireland (1828) is on the left. The remains of a Star Fort, an earthen fortification, is at the rear of the graveyard.
8. The Catholic Church (1956) is on the right. Next is the Masonic Hall (1901). Opposite is Oriel Lodge, which replaced the convent of the Sisters of Mercy (1898-2001).

9. The Town Hall (1928) on The Diamond, with statues of Eirne and Gráinne, two ancient Irish Mythical Queens, has been refurbished

(2014). Butler's Castle (1720) was on the left where The Castle public house is situated.

ROUTE (THREE)



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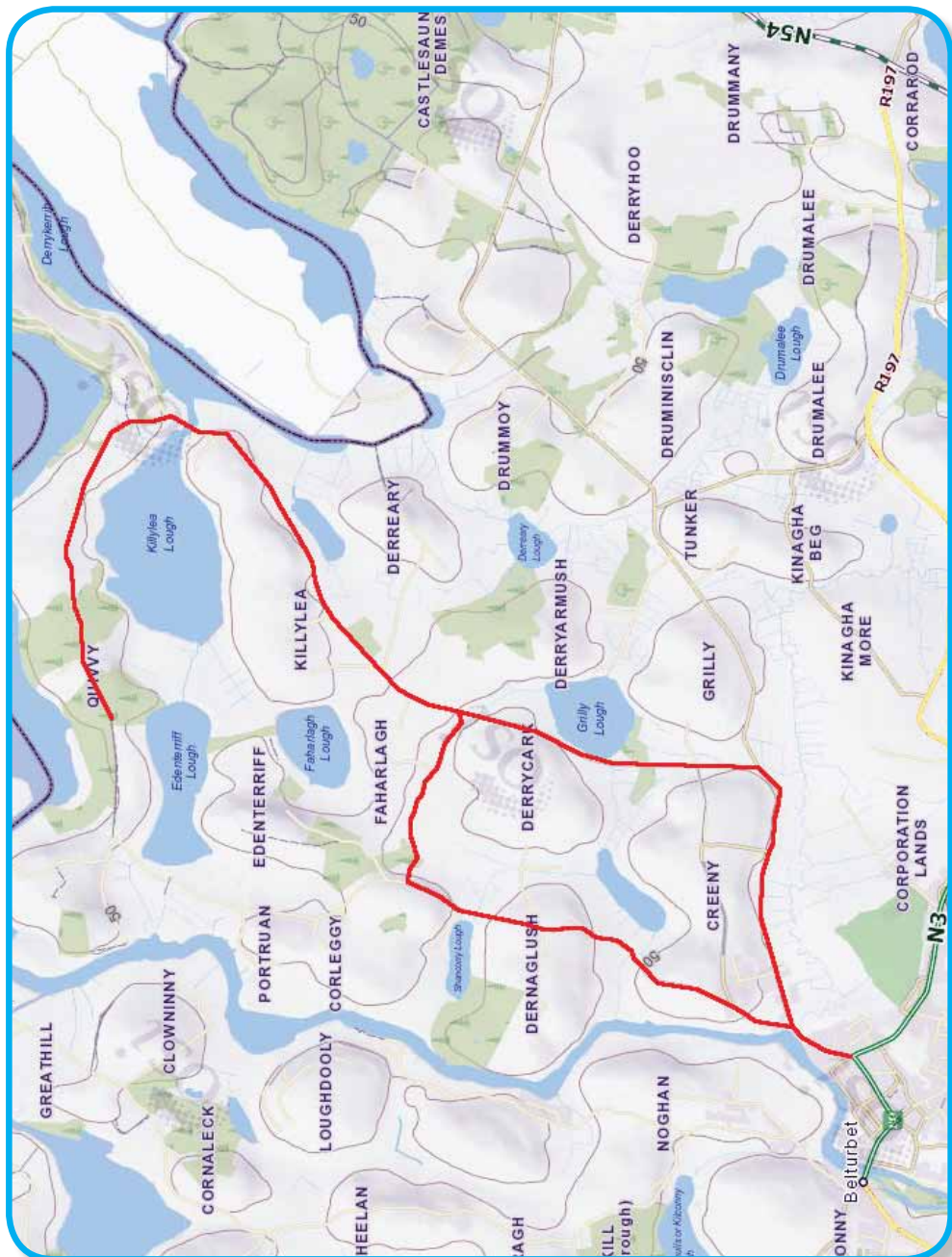
QUIVVY COUNTRY LANE WALK, BELTURBET

Terrain: A country lane walk **Time:** 2 hrs Approx.

Park at Morrissey Park or Belturbet Marina. Cross footbridge along River Erne. Turn left at the end of Creeny Bridge. Walk along a country lane, climb to the top of the hill and go down a steep hill. Cross the 'Running Bridge' and another small hill with Shancorry Lough on the left. Take next right turn and continue for 2 km. At the T junction turn left on the Quivvy road and walk to Quivvy Bridge (1853) with the beautiful Killylea Lough on left. Cross the bridge and at right is the former gatehouse for Lanesboro Lodge, now a private residence. Continue up the hill and on right is Quivvy Church (1857) now a recording studio. Next right is Quivvy Marina on the large expanse of Quivvy Waters. Return to Quivvy Bridge and on left is Derrykerrib Lough and then Lough Naroosk. Continue walking and you will come to Grilly Lough on your left and cross the 'Black Bridge' 1852 (see panel on bridge). At the T junction turn right on to the main road to take you back into Belturbet.

Belturbet	Beal Tairbirt	- Mouth of the isthmus or crossing point.
River Erne	Abhain Eirne	
Creeny	Crionach	- Withered place – brushwood
Shancorry	Seanchora	- old weir
Quivvy	Ciabhaigh	- a marshy place
Derrykerrib	Doirecerrib	- oak wood of the riots
Lough Naroosk	Loch an Riasc	- Lake of the marsh
Grilly	Greallach	- a miry place – marshy ground.

ROUTE: QUINCY



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PUTIAGHAN COUNTRY WALK, BELTURBET

NOTE. **THIS WALK CROSSES A MAIN ROAD TWICE.**
PLEASE TAKE EXTREME CARE.

Terrain: A hilly rural loop walk. Minimum traffic. **Time:** 2 Hours Approx.

Start at rear of Town Hall. Pass Catholic Church and continue to the right of Church of Ireland. (Not down Mill Hill) Continue over old Railway crossing, with view of Station Lake (Dawson's Lough) to left. Continue to road sign L55281 and bear right to Main Road. Cross main road to sign L5527 and proceed uphill to Putiaghan Lower, with view of River Erne to right. Climb up steep hill to road junction and cross the Main Road. Climb embankment straight ahead. Go through the wooden gate and then up steep hill and down to the next junction. Turn left and continue to the next road junction and turn left again on to the Old Cavan/Belturbet road. Return to town on footpath from Oak View Nursing Home.

PUTIAGHAN – Puiteachán – a little pool or well.



Photo: ANN McDONALD

ROUTE: PUTIAGHAN WALK



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Photo: ANW McDONALD

STAGHALL CHURCH TO KILLINAHAR COUNTRY WALK.

Terrain: Hilly, minimum traffic **Time:** 1 hr 30 mins Approx.

Start at Staghall Church. Facing the church turn right onto footpath to signpost for Ballynamannan. Turn left and proceed up Pound Hill, where cattle were impounded when land rent was unpaid. Continue to crossroads. Cross the main road and proceed on L5202 for approx. 2 km. At crossroad, with Drumlane Church of Ireland Parish Church, St. Columba's, on opposite side of road. Retrace same route to Staghall Church.

Killynaher	Coill an Athar	- the wood of the father
Ballynamannan	Baile Atha na Meannàn	- the ford-mouth of the kid-goats
Staghall	– Stackhall 1829.	



Photo: ANN McDONALD

ROUTE: STAGHALL



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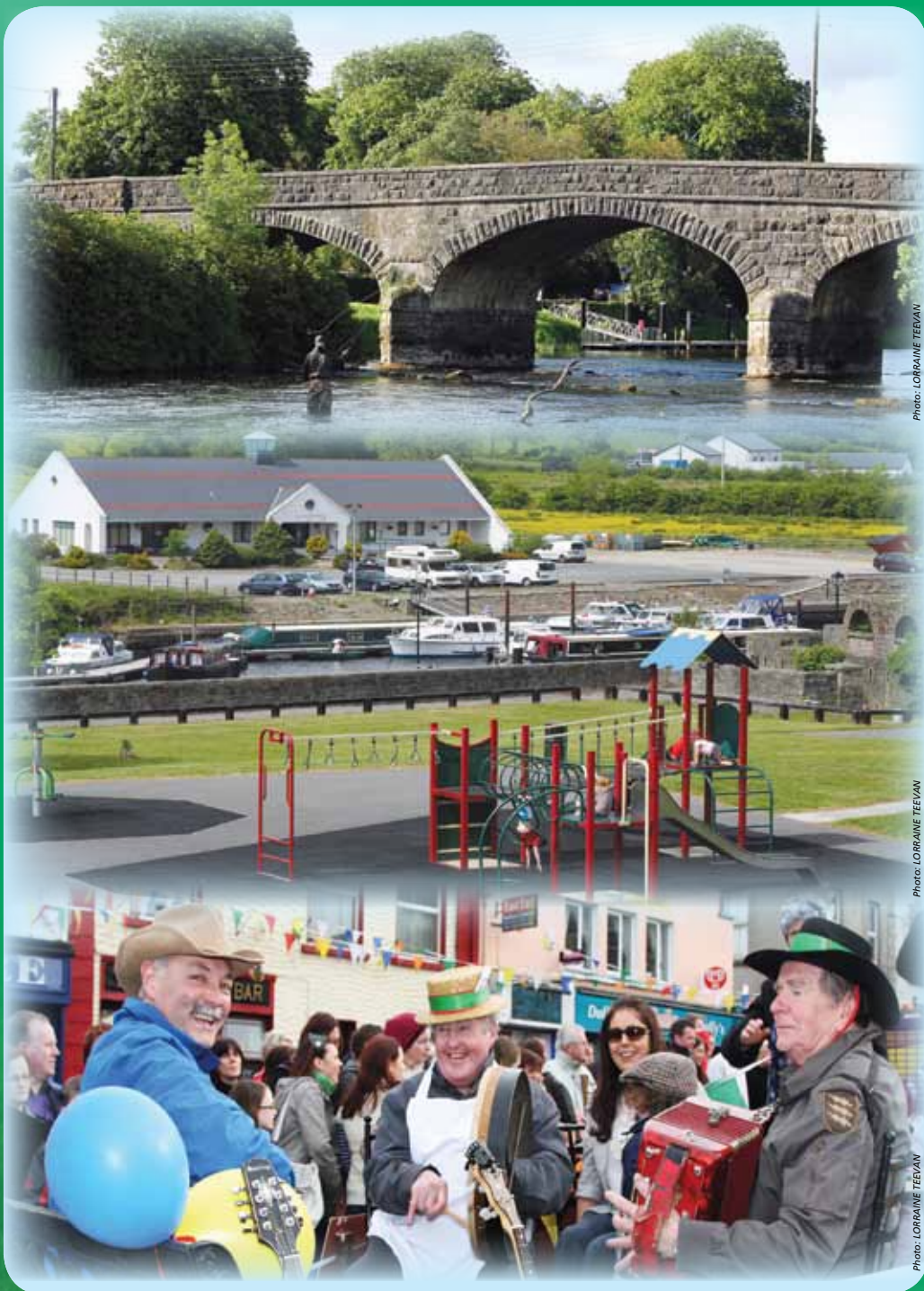


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EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS 999 or 112.

Belturbet Garda Station	049/9522122
Cavan General Hospital	049/4361399
'Doc on Call'	1850 777 911

ACCOMMODATION CONTACTS LOCALLY

The Seven Horseshoes Hotel	049/9522166
Church View Guest House	049/9522358

WEBSITES / E-MAIL ADDRESSES

www.discoverbelturbet.ie
www.cavanlibrary.ie
www.census.nationalarchives.ie/
www.nli.griffithsvaluations.ie/.aspx.
<https://www.facebook.com/CavanLibrary>

BELTURBET – A Chequered History by George E. Morrissey
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Notes: