

Our Heritage Trail begins in the historic centre of the village, in the shadow of the **Round Tower**. We hope your experience of **Dromiskin** and its past is both informative and enjoyable.

The trek starts in the **old graveyard**, home to antiquities such as the **Celtic High Cross**, the "**Cloigtheach**" or **Round Tower**, the **medieval monastic ruins** and the **19th century Protestant church**.

Exit through the small gate at the south side of the graveyard, turn left and you will see the **Biodiversity Peace Garden**. Across the road are the grounds of **Dromiskin House** – an area steeped in the lore of our forefathers.

Turn back to the village crossroads, take a left towards Castlebellingham, and you pass the panel indicating the site of the old **village forge**. Sadly this, once, thriving hub of local activity is fast fading out of living memory.

Continue onward and you come to two of the more interesting properties in the village; **Cromeen** from the early 20th century and **Ardronan** dating from the 17th century.

Across the road is the, now empty, **AOH** or **Parish Hall**. Listen carefully and you will hear the echo of laughter, going back sixty or seventy years, at fondly remembered comedy sketches performed by local drama groups. Bear right, up Gartlan's or Doyle's Hill, and shortly you will reach the sign indicating **St. Ronan's Well**.

This takes us back to the Land of Saints and Scholars and recalls St. Patrick and his successors, our own St. Ronan included. Continue to the Watery Cross, turn right and proceed to **Crois na gCrann**, the **Bloody Crossroads**, site of an ancient pre-Christian battle.

Here, take another right and head towards the "**Model Farm**". Over one hundred and fifty years ago, on these properties, young Dromiskin farmers and labourers were taught the rudiments of good agricultural practice.

Onwards and we come to a panel indicating the site of the **Red Bog**. Archaeologists tell us that hidden in its murky depths is an ancient **Crannóg** or lake dwelling.

Close by is Dromiskin's "**Old Old**" **School** the home of education for local Catholic boys and girls since 1830. Prior to that, many were educated at unsophisticated Hedge Schools. Beside the **Old Old School** are the ruins of **St. Margaret's Chapel**. Named after one of our local patron saints, it closed its doors in 1925. The site is marked, now, by an impressive **Biblical Garden**, testament to the efforts of a proactive and imaginative local Gardening Club. To the left we see the "**Old**" **School** opened in 1927 and the alma mater of generations of local children until it closed, almost fifty years later, in 1976. The stone structure on the green beside the school is notable for its ancient **souterrain capstone**.

Continue back to the village and towering magnificently is the imposing granite structure of **St. Peter's Chapel**. Building started in 1923 and it was dedicated in 1926.

We return to the crossroads and on the left stood the premises of the **Dromiskin Co-Operative Society**. This harks back to the entrepreneurial spirit of local farmers who, in the early part of the 20th Century, were endeavouring to promote indigenous trade and commerce.

And so we complete our **Heritage Trail**, back where we started. However, on this occasion, the monument that holds our attention, the **Viking Ship**, is not an antiquity but built by Seamus Mc Ardle in the 21st Century. It is a fitting symbol of **Dromiskin's** connection to, and pride in, its local history. It is a heritage that we are only too willing to share with the welcome visitors to our village.

Go n-eirí an bother leat

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Dromiskin Heritage Trail



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Dromiskin Heritage Trail



- 1 Graveyard
Round Tower
Celtic Cross
St. Margaret's Church
Ruined Church/Monastery
- 2 Walled Garden
Dromiskin House
Primates' Palace
Dromiskin Box
Old Protestant School
- 3 Old Forge
- 4 Cromeen
Ardronan
Cnoc na Croiche
(Hangman's Hill)
Cnoc na Greadaigh
(Hill of the Grieving women)
- 5 Old AOH Hall
- 6 St Ronan's Well
- 7 Crois na gCrann
- 8 The "Model" Farm
- 9 Red Bog site of an ancient Crannóg
- 10 Old Old School (1830)
- 11 Old Chapel
- 12 Biblical Garden
- 13 Old School (1927) / Souterrain Cap
- 14 Present Chapel
- 15 Site of old Dromiskin Co-Op
- 16 Viking Ship

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