

# Baltynanima Pure Mile



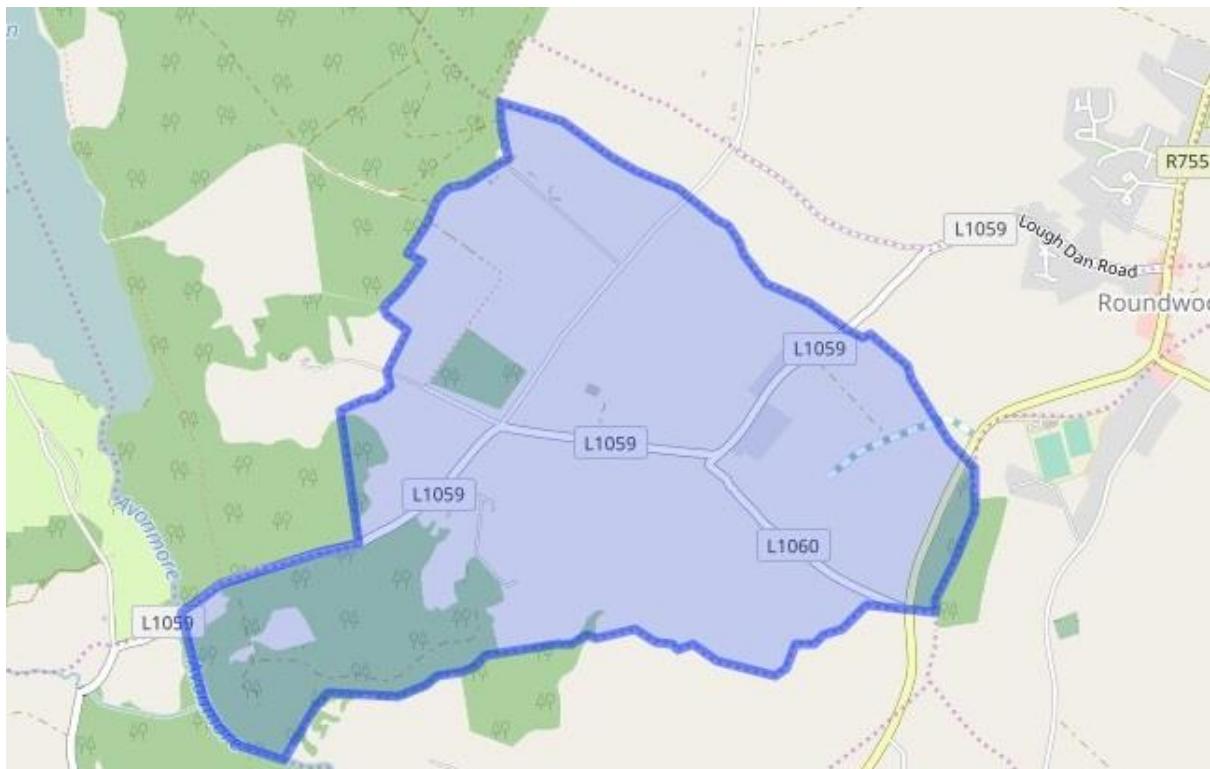
August 2018

## Introduction

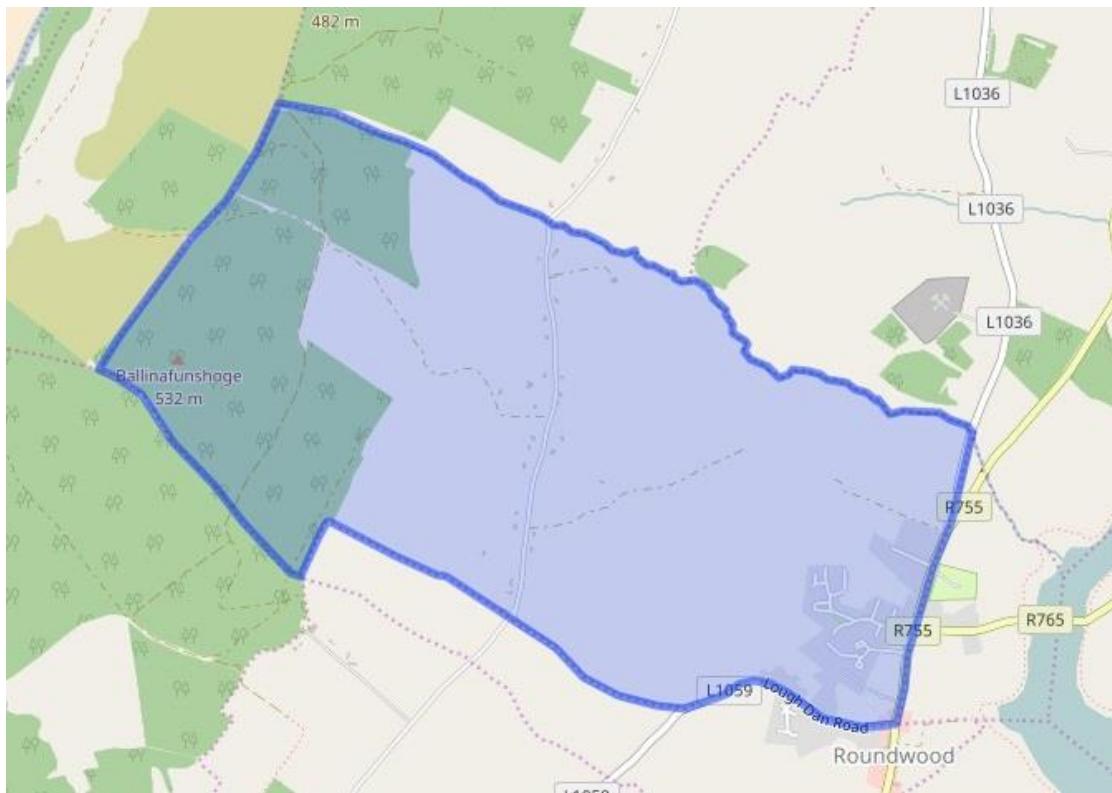
The Baltynanima Pure Mile encompasses over 3 miles forming a rectangular circuit which is a very popular walking route for residents of the area with two ‘dog legs’ off down Malone’s Lane and the Woodbank to Oldbridge. It actually runs through three townlands, Baltynanima, Ashtown Upper and Toghermore.

### Baltynanima (or Baltinanima)

It is believed Baltynanima was derived from Irish meaning the town of many souls. It is a small townland, located  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the village of Roundwood on the Lough Dan road. The land is mainly pasture, very rough and boggy. The area of bog has been greatly reduced over the years due to land reclamation. It is mainly used for grazing cattle and sheep and in years gone by, pigs. The Avonmore River runs along the townland boundary of Baltynanima after coming from Lough Dan.



The Ashtown townlands borders the Lough Dan Road and skirts the northern boundary of our two miles. The name is a direct translation from the Irish name of the area which is Ballinafunshoge – meaning the area of the ash trees.



Toghermore stretches down into the village of Roundwood refers to 'toger' meaning path or causeway over boggy land and 'more' meaning big or large.



Liam Price was a County Wicklow judge, historian and former president of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland who published work on historical topography and the history of placenames, especially for the county of Wicklow, where he was a district justice. His work on these areas has been published in journals and books and his contribution, totalling about 40 papers, was acknowledged in a special issue of the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in 1965 shortly before his death in 1967.

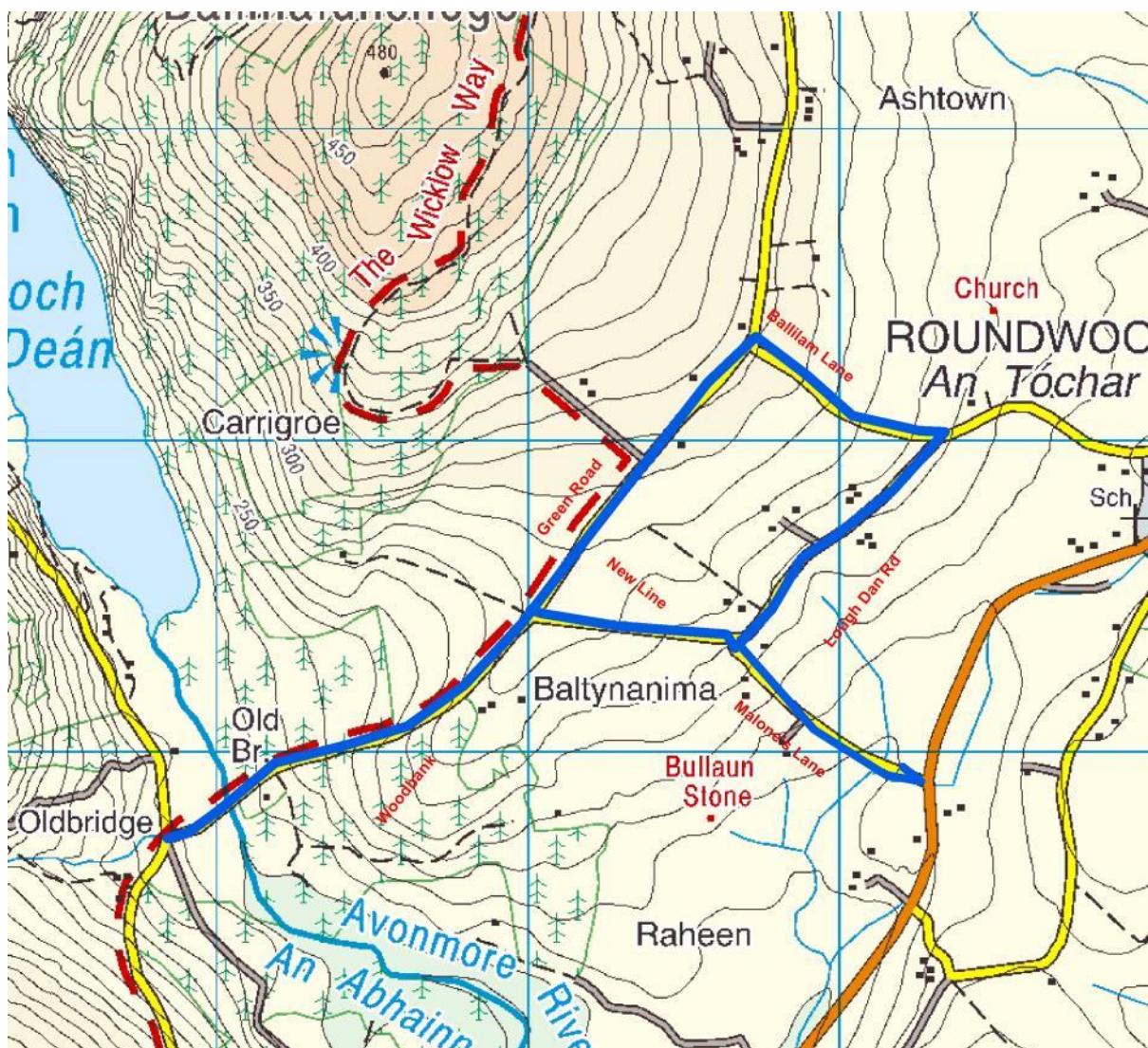
<http://www.christiaancorlett.com/blog/4564514201/Liam-Price-and-Wicklow/10374664>

After his court duties Mr Price would explore the country side, speak to the local people and record their pronunciation of townlands and local places. He tried to define where the names came from and their meaning where possible.

Liam Price refers to Baltynanima in his note books within his reference to Togher Beg and Toghermore. He states that 'the old highway was to the west, leading from Shraghmore through Ballinavalla to Baltynanima and Oldbridge, and this new road (the current main road through Roundwood village) effected a considerable shortening of the journey to Oldtown, Derralossary and Castlekevin. After it was built the village of Baltynanima, which previously stood at a crossroads, ceased to be of any importance and Roundwood (Togher) took its place'.

## These Boots are made for walking ...

This report will take the reader on a guided walk of our Pure Mile. Points of local interest are identified along the way with information posters which are greatly enjoyed by walkers in the area. Reference is also made to the Baltynanima web site [www.puremileroundwood.com](http://www.puremileroundwood.com) and [www.baltynanima.com](http://www.baltynanima.com) which contain further information on particular topics.



Our walk starts at Oldbridge just outside the Baltynanima Townland at its junction with the townlands of Carrigeenshinnagh and Drummin. The beautiful granite Gate Lodge at this junction was part of the Glendalough Estate and marks the back entrance to Glendalough House. The Gate Lodge was once a school, opened by the benevolent Barton family who believed that the children of the estate workers should be educated. Two of the Barton sisters taught in this school. In later years part of the gate lodge was used as the laundry for the ‘Big House’.



Glendalough House is associated over the centuries with events connected with both sides in the struggle for Irish freedom. The house and its estate was known by the townland name of Drummin or Drumeen, and was in the hands of the Hugo family during the second half of the eighteenth century. Thomas Hugo inherited the lands from his uncle Thomas Byrne in or around 1750. He built a house, shown and named on Jacob Nevill's Wicklow map of 1760. A late-eighteenth-century painting gives a glimpse of it as apparently a modest two-storey, perhaps three-bay building. Thomas Hugo was a former high sheriff of Wicklow, a magistrate and firm government supporter during the 1798 Rebellion. Hugo was notorious for his role in repressing the rebellion in Wicklow, with the rebel leader Joseph Holt describing him as ‘a cruel and inhuman tyrant’. A tree to the front of the house was referred to by locals as ‘Hugo’s hanging tree’. If you were not hung, alleged Hugo was also known to have his enemies tied to the oak trees on the estate before been shot. In later years bullets were found in some of the oak trees felled on the estate. In revenge, the house was burnt by the rebels on 14 June 1798. Government compensation presumably funded the construction of the long, low, two-storeyed replacement house, now the north wing. One of the dining room was altered

in Hugo's time so its window-sill was at a high level so that the Hugo's could dine without fear of a rebel's bullet. This window is visible today and in the photograph below (second window from the right).



The property was purchased in 1838 by Thomas Johnston Barton, a member of the Bordeaux wine family. Thomas Johnston Barton and his sister married a Childers brother and sister bringing Glendalough House and its inhabitant's central stage in Ireland's political history.

In c. 1840 he built a new east-facing front wing in Tudor Revival style at right angles to the older house. This impressive wing has been attributed to the architect Daniel Robertson (d. 1849), who undertook a number of country-house commissions in south-eastern Ireland in the 1830s and '40s. The Tudor Revival wing had a symmetrical east front with an overhanging oriel on the left, dormer gables and a battlemented three-sided central bow. The house was extended further by a west wing added c. 1880 joining the house to a stable range. The pinnacled *porte-cochère* shown in early twentieth-century photographs (see below) was a later addition. It is likely that it was this house that was first given the more impressive name of "Glendalough House".



This additional accommodation was needed when the family was suddenly expanded in size by the addition of five Childers children, double first cousins of the Barton's, when their parents died with eight years of each other of tuberculosis.

Glendalough House—referred to as ‘Glan’ to the family—played a historical role as background to events in the early twentieth century, hosting and sheltering many famous Irishmen including Eamon De Valera, Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Collins.

The House is also the location at which Robert Erskine Childers (1870–1922), (double first cousin and close friend of soldier and statesman, Robert Childers Barton) wrote the 1903 classic “The Riddle of the Sands”. The book was based on sailing trips with his brother Henry along the German coast, it predicted war with Germany and called for British preparedness. The book is regarded as the first ever 'spy thriller' and is still in print today. *The Observer* included it in its list of “The 100 Greatest Novels of All Time”.

As well as a writer Robert Erskine Childers was an accomplished yachtsman. In June 1914 Childers used his a 28-ton yacht the *Asgard*, a wedding gift from his in-laws, to smuggle a cargo of 900 Mauser Rifles and 29,000 rounds of ammunition, bought from Germany, to the Irish Volunteers movement to Howth. The cargo of the *Asgard* has been described as crucial to the Easter Rising. In

the belief that the Allies would support the claims of Irish Nationality, Childers joined the British Navy on the outbreak of World War 1 and won the Distinguished Service Cross for his efforts but the violent reaction to the Easter Rising had dismayed Childers and a Westminster bill to extend military conscription to Ireland angered him further. In March 1919, after a severe attack of influenza, his doctors ordered rest in the country. Glendalough was the obvious choice and he joined his cousin Robert Barton there. Barton, however, had thrown in his lot with Sinn Fein and he introduced Childers to Michael Collins, who in turn introduced him to Éamon de Valera. Influenced by these figures, and other nationalists who regularly stayed at Glendalough, his earlier Home Rule sympathies hardened into full support for an Irish Republic.

Along with his wife and family, Childers settled in Dublin in 1919 and was elected to the Dáil in 1921 as a member for Wicklow. He was appointed Minister for Propaganda and was secretary to the Irish delegation during the negotiations for a Treaty with Britain in 1921.

Despite attending the negotiations for the Treaty, Childers disagreed with its signing as it agreed to giving Ireland dominion status in the Commonwealth, included an oath of allegiance to the King, and partitioned six of the counties in Ulster, which would remain under British rule. During the subsequent Civil War, Erskine Childers was arrested at Glendalough House for carrying a gun, allegedly given to him by Michael Collins. Carrying a prohibited weapon was a capital offence. Although an extremely athletic person, Childers did not have time to escape through the tunnel built from a wardrobe in the house to the front garden of the House.

Childers was sentenced to death and was executed at Beggars Bush Barracks on November 24<sup>th</sup> 1922 having first shaken hands with each member of the firing squad. He also obtained a promise from his then 16-year-old son, the future President Erskine Hamilton Childers, to seek out and shake the hand of every man who had signed his death sentence. His final words, spoken to the firing squad, were: "Take a step or two forward, lads, it will be easier that way." Childers' body was buried at Beggars Bush Barracks until 1923, when it was exhumed and reburied in the Republican plot in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Erskine Hamilton Childers, overcame the trauma of his father's execution to become the 4th President of Ireland in 1973. After living in England and France he came to Dublin in 1931 to become Advertisement Manager of the newly launched Irish Press newspaper. From 1936 – 44 he was Secretary of the Federation of Irish Manufacturers. He was elected to Dáil Éireann in 1938. From 1944 – 48 he served as a Junior Minister and from 1951 – 54 and 1957 – 73 he held successive ministerial appointments in a number of government departments. He also served as Tánaiste from

1969 – 73. President Childers died in office on 17 November, 1974. He is buried in the Barton Childers Family plot at Derralossary [http://derralossary.com/?page\\_id=6](http://derralossary.com/?page_id=6) . His daughter Neasa Childers is a current serving MEP.

Robert Erskine Childers' first cousin and close friend Robert Childers Barton (1881–1975), who later inherited the estate, was also a prominent republican. After the Easter Rising, he was elected Sinn Féin MP for West Wicklow in 1918. In February 1919, Robert was arrested for making seditious speeches and imprisoned at Mountjoy. Michael Collins helped him escape on 16 March. Robert left a note for the Governor explaining that he could no longer stay as the service was dissatisfactory. Moreover, he wondered, would they mind looking after his luggage until he sent for it? He was re-arrested in 1920 and sentenced to three years in England's Portland Gaol. Barton was released under a general amnesty in 1921. Barton was one of the Irish delegates, along with his cousin, to travel to London for the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations. He reluctantly signed the Treaty on 6 December 1921, defending it "as the lesser of two outrages forced upon me and between which I had to choose." He nevertheless was firmly committed to the Irish Republic and despite signing the Treaty rejected it. After Erskine's execution in 1922, Robert Barton continued to support Éamon de Valera. He was elected to the Dáil in June 1922. He subsequently became Chairman of Wicklow Co Council, Minister for Agriculture and then for Economic Affairs. After being defeated at the 1923 general election, he retired from politics for the law, practicing as a barrister. He later became a judge. He was chairman of the Agricultural Credit Corporation from 1934–1954. He died peacefully in Glendalough House on 8 August 1975, aged 95 and is buried in the grounds of Derralossary Church near Roundwood. He was the last surviving signatory of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Éamon de Valera died only nineteen days later, on 29 August 1975.

## Working Life on the Glendalough Estate

Robert Barton farmed the estate benevolently during his long life. He was well respected by his employees and he held them in high regard also.

The bell in the farm yard rang three times every day at 7am, 12 noon and 5pm to herald the start and end of work time. It could be heard in the neighbouring townlands and was often the only timekeeping the locals had! The bell is still in situ today.



Many travelled to work on the estate and their descendants still live in the area. An account by one of the Barton Childers family called Annamoe Recollections 1888 – 1900 recalls some of the workers and people who impacted upon the author in his time in Glendalough Estate, some of them do not fare to well in his accounts

[www.derralossary.com/wp-nisight  
incontent/uploads/2010/06/Annamoe-1888-1900.pdf](http://www.derralossary.com/wp-nisight/incontent/uploads/2010/06/Annamoe-1888-1900.pdf)

It gives a great insight into life at that period. One employee was responsible for maintaining the furnace to heat the green houses where grapes and peaches were grown. It outlines the decline of the mill in Annamoe due to the arrival of ‘Newcastle coal and Liverpool flour’ which ‘silenced the Annamoe Mill.’

The garden were very well maintained at that time with a fine vegetation garden to provide for the house and a water garden. Decorative archways and terraces featured also. Specimen trees from all over the world still grow there in the woodland including redwoods, monkey puzzles and rare varieties of rhododendron.



Local women worked in the house as housekeepers and also in the laundry and the dairy. Men worked as herders, shepherds, carpenters, electricians, gardeners and farmhands throughout the near 2000 acre estate.

The Barton's organised parties for the children of the workers every year. It was a magical event with candles leading the children to the party room where they were treated to sweets and party games.

### [Glendalough House Today](#)

The Barton and Childers names continues to play an important role in both Irish and international politics. Before his death in 1975 Robert Barton made over the Glendalough Estate to Robert Alden (Bobby) Childers, Erskine Childers's younger son and brother of Erskine Hamilton Childers, President of Ireland.

The Tudor Revival front of the house was demolished in 1977, said to have been little used after Erskine Childers's arrest and suffering from dry rot. By then the remaining house had been divided

in two under the direction of architect Michael Fewer to accommodate both Robert Barton and Robert and Christabel Childers. The house and estate were sold shortly afterwards.

The estate is now privately owned and is used regularly as a location for many blockbuster movies. The Crook's Wood is a favourite of location scouts as it set the scene for much of John Boorman's Excalibur, the family adventure, Ella Enchanted, Michael Collins and TV Series such as The Vikings.

Glendalough House today consists of the two surviving wings; the north wing finished in painted roughcast and the west wing in rubble; both have granite quoins and dressings. The one-time stables are now divided into apartments.

The stone walls of Glendalough House are some of the best examples in the county and surround the entire estate. They were constructed by a number of different stone masons which is obvious to the trained eye as each mason had a distinctive style. Many are now very overgrown, have fallen in to disrepair and their beauty is hidden.

## The Gaelic Hall

The Gaelic League was founded in 1893 by Eoin McNeill and others with Douglas Hyde as first President. It aimed at the revival of Irish as a spoken and literary language and to that end ran Irish language classes and social gatherings. Founded as an inclusive, non-political organisation, it attracted a wide membership at first, including nationalists, unionists, Protestants and lower middle class members. Although many members had traditional attitudes to women, the Gaelic League was the first cultural organisation in Ireland to admit women to membership on the same terms as men. Close by to the Gate Lodge at Oldbridge the Gaelic League established a Gaelic Hall where dances and classes were held on a regular basis. The dances ceased at the hall as the young people wanted to dance to more modern music which was against the rules! The hall is no longer standing.

## Great Wall of Oldbridge

Philip Guiney undertook to rebuild a very badly damaged boundary wall from the Gate Lodge to Lough Dan Bridge a distance of over 200 hundred metres. In parts the entire wall was collapsed and needed serious work, and was tidied and cleaned in part by Paul Brady. The safety aspect of this structure is now intact, and has left it safe for traffic and has created a new and pleasant vista. The style of part of this wall is referred to as the 'cock and hen'.



Before photos





## Oldbridge

Oldbridge is the local name for this area. The ‘old bridge’ is most likely the small bridge over the Shinnagh Brook at the T-junction. The bigger bridge spanning the Avonmore River is dated 1823 is referred to as Lough Dan Bridge.



The rebels in 1916 considered blowing up Lough Dan Bridge to thwart the Free State Army in capturing political activists visiting and residing in Glendalough House. The bridge was marked with drill holes at either side of the bridge thought to be for the sticks of dynamite.



A small picnic area is being developed where the Shinnagh Brook runs parallel to the road. A rock is in place which will be engraved with ‘Oldbridge’. Working with Wicklow Co Council local residents have improved the parking area here which will allow for safer parking. Kayakers put in at the side of Lough Dan Bridge which gets very overgrown and muddy. The Council are tarring the road in the near future and have agreed to improve the surface here also.



## Lough Dan School

Sean Byrne, in his interview for this project <http://baltynanima.com/page20.html> reports that Lake Park was owned by the Heatly family (sometimes spelt Heatley) who owned the Heatly Estate – a very large tract of land in Baltynanima, Carrigroe and Carrigeenshinnagh. Although, a Church of Ireland family they agreed to a request by the local Parish Priest, Rev Fr Clarke to donate land near Oldbridge for a school here. The school was built in 1869. The first boy registered was Richard Fennelly from Oldbridge and the first girl Maureen Byrne. There are few records of attendance at the school. However at one point on the 1800's there were 88 boys and 80 girls registered. There are some reports on the school are available on the Schools' Collections at <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/5044730>. It operated as a two classroom school until 1967 when it closed and the children were transported by bus to Roundwood National School. The school is now a private residence.

There are wonderful examples of traditional wrought iron gates and traditional pillars on this section of road.



## The Woodbank

This is a local name given to the road through the woodland from Lough Dan bridge to the Lake Park junction. The oakwoods here are semi natural and are one of the best examples of their kind in Co Wicklow and are considered priority habitat. The old oakwood (*Blechno-Quercetum petraeae* type) occur here with native Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) trees, many of which are 100-120 years old. On wetter areas near the Avonmore River, wet broadleaved semi-natural woodlands occur which are dominated by Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*). There is evidence of the traditional method of coppicing throughout the woodlands with many multi stemmed trees. The woodlands in the area are managed through the Native Woodland Scheme which explains the high fences. This protects the young oak saplings from the resident sika hybrid deer who cause untold damage to the young shoots.



Other tree and shrub species occur in the lower canopy, especially downy birch, silver birch, rowan, hazel and holly. The field layer is rich and dominated by grass species, bilberry or fraughan and large bryophytes. Small herbs, bryophytes and ferns, including bracken, are very common, and on rocks, banks, trees and shrubs in the west there can be a rich flora of mosses, bryophytes and fungi.

The 2 interpretive boards will be erected which are funded by local contributions and the Creative



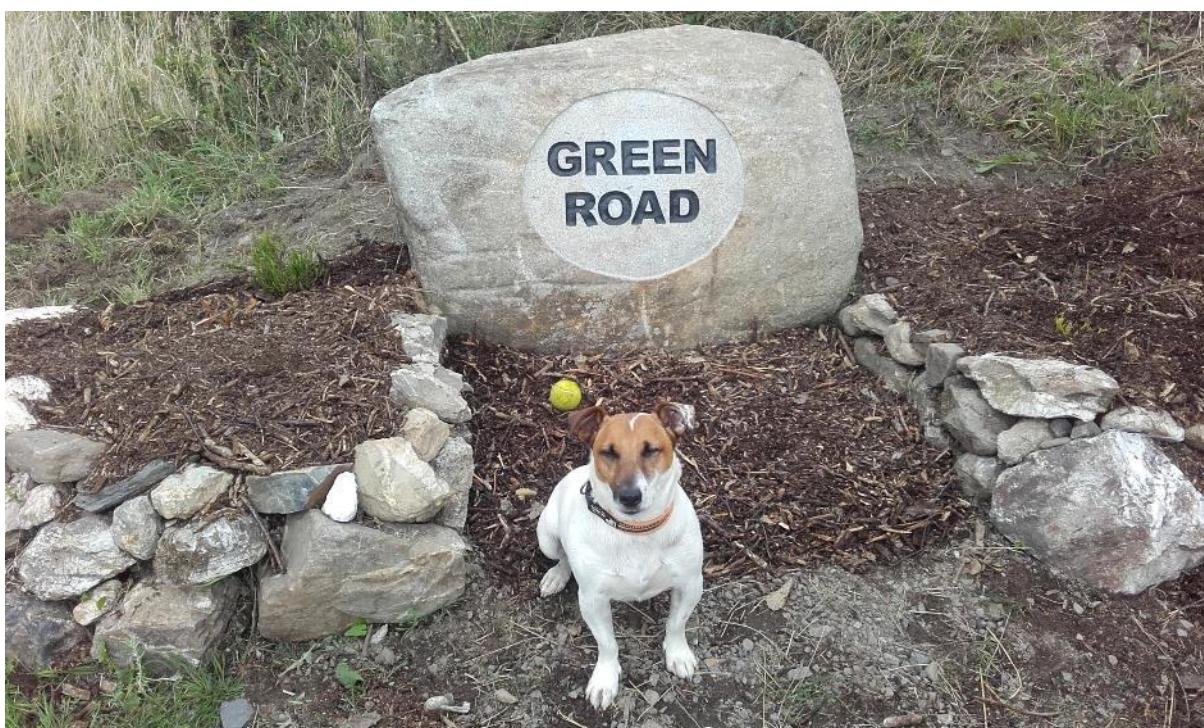
Wicklow grant received through Wicklow Co Council.

1. At the entrance to Kinlan's Wood, with a seating unit titled Lough Dan Bridge and Woodbank. It will highlight the flora and fauna of this immediate area and feature short snippets of historical information on Lough Dan School, the Woodbank Oakwood, the last eagle on Lough Dan and the great spotted woodpecker.
2. Close to the T junction beside the Shinnagh Brook and is titled Old bridge and Avonmore River. It will highlight the Pilgrims Way, the Gaelic Hall, Drummin pipe band, Barton Estate boundary with a surround of local flora and fauna.



There is plenty of standing deadwood which ensures a rich insect life which provides a great source of food for birds especially the Great Spotted Woodpecker which nests in the woodlands here.

From the Woodbank we join the Green Road at its junction with the Wicklow Way at Lake Par. At this point a car park area was developed in conjunction with the Pure Mile residents, the landowner and Wicklow Co Council. As this point is one of the main access points to the Wicklow Way it is a very popular parking spot. However the cars were regularly parked dangerously. The small area of parking developed has greatly improved the safety in the area and discourages walkers from parking dangerously on the junction. It is used extensively by walkers and maintained by a local resident family





*Happy walkers parking at the Pure Mile developed parking area on the Green Road*

From the bottom and along the Green Road there are fabulous views of the Wicklow Mountains with Scarr Mountain 641m dominating the skyline. Other mountains visible from this area include Dunran Hill 342m, Carricknamuck 295m, Tomacoyle Lower 297m, Ballycurry 301m, Ballinacor Beg 336m, Moneystown Hill 380m, Castlekevin 280m, Trooperstown 430m, Croghan 606m, Kirakee 474m, Ballinacor Mountain 531m, Croghannamoira 664m, Croghannamoira North Top 575m, Cullentra 510m, Cloghernash 800m, Corrigaluggan 794m, Drummin 366m and last but not least, Lugnaquilla 925m.

The unpaved lane here now forms part of the Wicklow Way. It leads to the privately owned Lake Park House which was built in 1835 as a hunting lodge near Lough Dan. It was part of the Shelton Abbey estate, one of three important lake-houses in the Wicklow area. The others are being Luggala by Lough Tay and Bray House at Lough Bray.

Notable literary figures are numbered amongst the previous owners of Lake Park House with some leaving accounts of their times there. The renowned poet, Richard Murphy lived and is said to have done some of his best work at Lake Park. Carlo Gebler, in an excellent memoir 'My father and I' relates how his father, Ernest Gebler bought the house in 1950 on the strength of 'thousands of dollars tied up in a handkerchief' brought back from the US where his novel 'The Plymouth Adventure' was made into a major film starring Spencer Tracy. Carlo's mother is the great Edna

O'Brien whose sojourn at Lake Park was just five years or so but not uneventful. More information on Edna's time in Lake Park can be found here <http://baltynanima.com/page17.html>



A short sojourn off the Wicklow Way will bring you to the deserted village. This former homestead is an oasis on the edge of a forestry plantation.

Kit Murphy from Slemaine is very familiar with the deserted village and the Kidrocks although he is too young to remember anyone living there. Kit worked for the Forestry (now Coillte) and used herd sheep in this area. He often cleaned the slim off the well situated there.

The water was always crystal clear and was good to drink. The well is there today looking crystal clear still. According to Kit, Quinn's were the last family to live in the deserted village. A Quinn lady married Andy White, Jimmy White's father. The White family then sold the land to the forestry.



*Deserted Village*



*The Kidrocks*

Walking through the deserted village and descending into the forest you can look into the Luggala and Inchavore Valleys and in to the area referred to as the Kidrocks. There is no public access to this area but the views from the Coillte property into the valleys are worth the short walk. Paddy Brady, who lives with his wife Rosie and family on our Pure Mile – his father Tommy, was born in one of the houses in the area known as the Kidrocks. This branch of the Brady family is still referred to as the Brady's of the Kidrocks.

All the houses in the Kidrocks were owned by the Archer's – the owners of the Ballinarush Estate. Another couple called Summers lived below the Kidrocks in another house belonging to the estate. There are great stories of Mrs Summer walking through snow drifts to get to Roundwood for cigarettes. People also recall Sam Summers rowing down Lough Dan to get to the shops in Roundwood. The Summers moved buying land then at the Woodbank where Padraig Fanning and

family now live. When Mrs Summers died, Sam Summers married again and moved to Enniskerry. Kit mentioned that the house with the red tin roof which can be seen on the hill in the valley on the Ballinarush Estate is still inhabited.

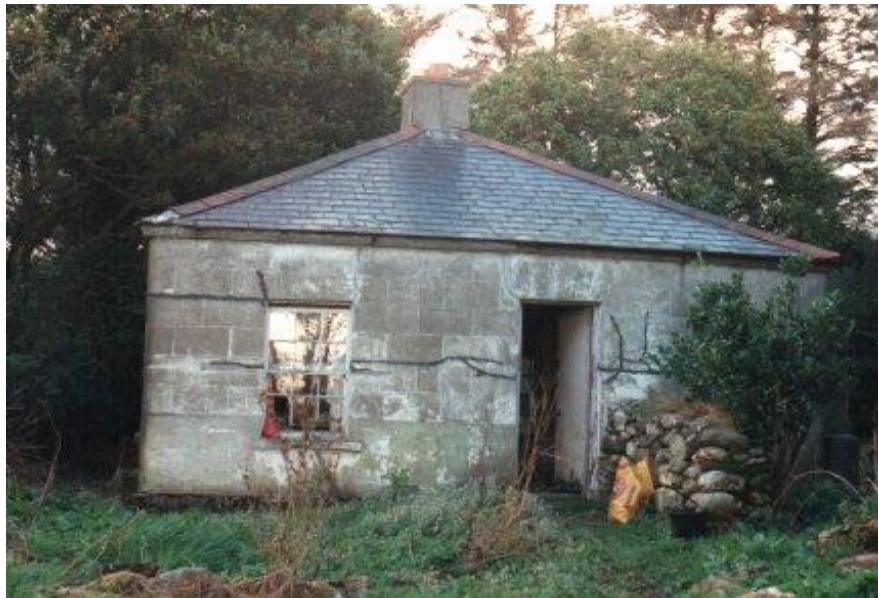
*View to Lough Tay & Luggala*



The Kidrocks and Ballinarush Estate is private property and should not be entered without permission.

Chris Corlett's article entitled 'The Ruined Farmhouses of the Cloghoge and Inchavore Valleys' outlines the extent of the ruins in this area and is a fascinating read. It is published in the Roundwood & District Historical & Folklore Journal No. 21.

## The Green Road



Back on the Green Road which is so called as it was the last road in the area to be tarred. Two stones will be engraved with the road name at each end of the road. The first house on the road is on the site of the older house (pictured left) which would have been one of the first residents on the road, the Smyth's.

William and Violet Smyth were among the first people to live on the Green Road in Baltynanima. William worked locally in Lake Park Estate, where at one time they cultivated and exported onions, daffodils and other flowers bulbs. They also grew daffodils in the fields referred to locally as Grumley's, off the Ballilam Lane (Grumley's, being former landowners). It was a fantastic sight when they were all in bloom.

Violet Smyth was an avid story teller and this is how she came to know Peter Cunningham Grattan, the Roving Bard. He would stay over the years in many out-houses around the area and was welcomed in by many families that he would call to. On his visits he would tell stories and write poems and ballads. One of which is written about William and Violets daughter, Margaret, 'The Lily of Baltinanima'. Another is written about Sean Brady from the Roundwood Village, 'Sean the Painter Boy'

### **The Lily of Baltinanima**

Like a marriage on the desert  
Stands that land of lakes and bells  
Enshrined by ancient towers  
Fairy-rath and wishing wells  
With the little whitewashed cabins  
Nestling neath the silent hills  
And the more I gaze upon it  
The more my heart with rapture fill

### **Chorus**

Then here's to Vartry waters  
The gem of Ireland's Garden fair  
And those lovely charming daughters  
There's none on earth can them compare,  
They may sing about their roses  
That blooms across the ocean wide  
But the lass of Baltinanima  
Is the Lily of the mountainside

Tho' she's but a peasant's daughter  
In no queenly robes arrayed  
Yet by Vartry's shimmering water  
Dwells no other Irish maid

Nor no debout of the banquet

In her silk and satin sheen

Could compare this Irish colleen

Tripping down the old green

Sure there's not a gem shines brighter

Than the flashing of her eyes

And her step is soft and lighter

Than snowflakes from out the skies

And her voice more sweet and tender

Than the rippling of the hills

And her smile like to the Summers Sun

That dances on the hills

**With compliments to Miss Margaret Smyth, Baltinanima**

**From the author P.C. Grattan**

Descendants of the Smyth's still reside here. Nearby is Smyth's well which would have supplied water to the household and other residents of the road. The well itself is gone however the water still rises on the road at times.

The 6" map of the area identified two benchmarks on the Green Road. These height benchmarks or 'crow's feet' date back to the 1830's when the Ordnance Survey set about mapping Ireland. The crow's feet were etched into stone and the height of the line on top was measured and recorded for any mapping that may take place in the future in this area. Benchmarks were installed every few hundred metres. The benchmarks are not maintained anymore, GPS has replaced their usefulness. Efforts to find the benchmarks were abandoned as it necessitated the removal of vast amounts of vegetation. A further search will take place in autumn when the vegetation dies back and outside the bird nesting season.

*Searching for benchmarks on the Green Road on a miserable day!*



The fields on the left hand side are owed by various farmers and referred to locally as 'The Squares' due to their shape although they are actually rectangular! They provide a great location for the annual Roundwood Sheep Dog Trials Competition.

*Sheep Dog Trials*

This is sheep farming country with excellent example of Wicklow Cheviot sheep to be seen. The breed possesses a number of valuable characteristics such as extreme hardiness and freedom from

foot rot and other diseases to which sheep are generally subject; and the ewes, as well as being prolific, are particularly good nurses. The breed are well suited to the harsh conditions often experienced in the Wicklow Uplands.



The bulb farm is associated with Murphy, Grumley and Brout families. Many local people were employed there in connection with the harvesting of the bulbs including from left to right William (Bill) Smyth, Mary Ryan, and Jim Doyle pictured below.

Sean Byrne's interview with Bernadette Cullen outlines the residents of the area as Sean remembers them <http://baltynanima.com/page20.html>.



Two houses were built by the Council for local families 1950's. The Council handed the two families the keys and their house was the one the key opened. There are many new houses on the road now some of which exhibit renewable energy technology.

The old walls of a house referred to as Pierce's is still visible left behind the old wrought iron gate (recently painted) Lucy Pierce and her nephew Jack are recorded a living here in the 1901 & 1911 census. Jack went on to marry Jane McDonald who lived down the road in Oldbridge. Jack sold the land at Baltynanima to buy another plot of land beside a farm he had inherited from his godfather in Raheen.

The Pierces settled in Raheen, having 13 children and their descendants still reside there today. Their daughter Patricia remembers her father Jack ploughing on contract in the fields referred to as Grumley's when it was no longer a daffodil farm. He had a sack on the plough in which collected the daffodils bulbs he uncovered. He planted the bulbs along the car road into his home place in Raheen.



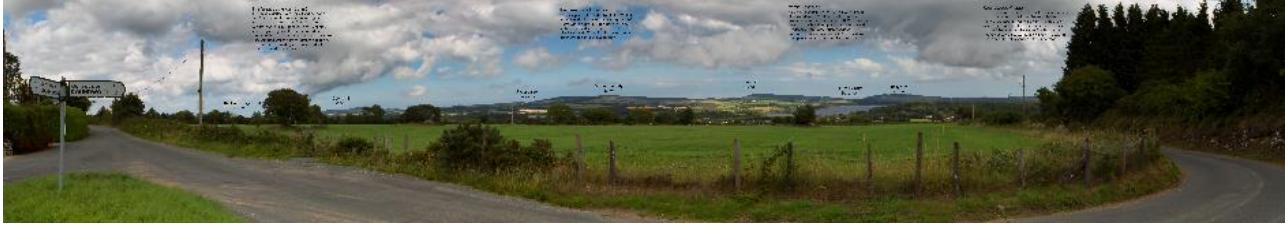
The Roving Bard Peter Grattan Cunningham was a regular visitor to the area. During the summer he regularly used to reside in the walls of the old house here. He visited the homes in the area writing poems and songs about the local people as outlined previously.

Vegetation obscuring the signs along our mile were cleared back and also cleaned



The triangle at the junction was adopted by a local resident who is maintaining the area. A rock with the name Green Road was installed.





At the junction of the Green Road with Ballilam Lane there are excellent views over Roundwood village, towards the Great Sugarloaf and out to the Irish Sea.

A permanent sign, similar to the photo above will be erected at the wooden bench here. It identifies the points of interest from this viewpoint.

As you walk down Ballilam Lane views of the Roundwood Reservoir unfold and on a fine day the hills of Wales are visible.

In the field on your left there are a number of lone ‘sceach’ or hawthorn trees surrounded by stones. The tree has a long associations with Celtic myth and beyond. It was thought that fairy spirits inhabit these lone trees and it is bad luck to cut them down. Farmers were known to hang twigs of the hawthorn in their milking parlour to get the best from their milking cows and to hang the afterbirth of premature calf from the hawthorn tree to help the calf survive.



Like many uninhabited roads in the county he Ballilam Lane was blocked for two weeks during the ‘Beast of the East’ snow storm in 2018. The drifts were the full of the road. One Pure Mile resident got stuck in a snow drift and had to be dung out by her walking friend.



On the ditch nearby the stone here is known locally as the Cobbler’s Stone. The exact origin of the name is unknown but it is reported that fairies live and make shoes at the cobbler stone. It is situated just below a ‘sceach’ tree – also associated with fairies! Years ago people walking down Ballilam lane at night time were afraid to pass the stone. They reportedly heard noises coming from it and thought it was the fairies. No one has ever moved it.



A rock with the name of Ballilam Lane was be placed at the bottom of the road. There is much debate as to how to spell Ballilam and also the original of the name. Richie Pierce (RIP December 2017) from Slemaine reported that at one time the rectangle of land was owned by a Phil Pierce and the name came from a translation of Phil's Island.



At the bottom of Ballilam Lane is the Wicklow County Council/Irish Water tank. The tank stores water pumped from Raheen Quarry to service the needs of Roundwood village. There are plans to upgrade the system which will involve pumping water from the Vartry Reservoir to this point. The group approached the relevant officials in Irish Water/Wicklow Co Council to point out that the building and signage were looking unsightly. They kindly organised to have the building repainted and are replacing some of the jaded signage. Many thanks to Myles Byrne for his assistance.



The wildflower areas at the junction is looking really and has come on greatly with the recent rain.

The group continue to monitor the signage in the area to ensure that walkers of the Wicklow Way are clear on their walking route. The bench provides a welcome lunch spot for walkers.



As you walk back towards Lough Dan, the grounds of Aras an Tochar are visible as are the woodlands attached to Roundwood Park, former home to Irish President Sean T O'Kelly. On the side of Ballinacor Hill the roofless Derralossary church can also be seen. President Erskine Childers is buried in the adjoining graveyard.



There are many good examples of traditional granite gate posts in this area which has been exposed.

Farm gates along the Pure Mile were painted



Gannon's Spout, as referred to by Sean Byrne is still present but it is now piped under the road.

Local residents take pride in their homes and property. Some have landscaped their entrances as part of the Pure Mile



*Stone walls & daffodils*

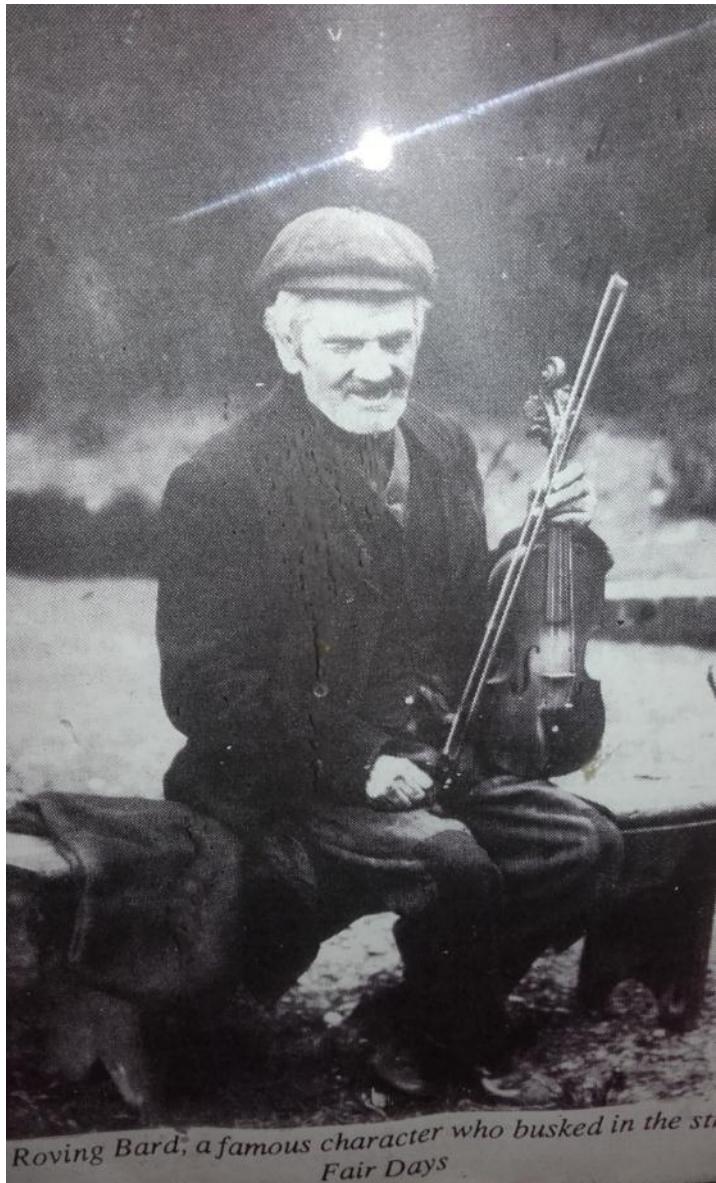


Summer & winter at 'Grattan's Hollow'



'Grattan's Hollow' is situated on the Pure Mile. The Poet the Roving Bard would frequent this location after the Fair Roundwood, seeking out food and a bed for the night, he spent a lot of time in this area as many of the locals would feed him and offer him a warm bed in the hay shed. Peter was an enigmatic songwriter/poet and musician. Peter Cunningham-Grattan who was born, in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Northern England around 1884. He was a prolific songwriter who signed his works "The Roving Bard". He travelled in Ireland but spent most of his time in Co Wicklow between

about 1920 and 1956 when he died in St Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum. He would stay the winter months in the county home and for the summer months he would travel from village to village from fair to fair, to entertain the fair goers.



*Roving Bard, a famous character who busked in the  
Fair Days*

Father Padraig McCarthy was a curate in St Mary and St Michaels Parish in Rathdrum in the early 2000, with the help of some Roundwood locals, he gathered many a verse written by Peter Cunningham Grattan. The poems and songs were about people that the Bard met in the area with former residents of the Pure Mile often being the subject of same as outlined above.

For further information in the Roving Bard please click here

<http://baltynanima.com/page19.html>



The beautiful traditional white wrought iron gates are original and mark the entrance to Heatly's farm and the site one of the oldest farm houses on the Pure Mile. Heatly's came to Baltynanima in the 1700's and were from a Church of Ireland background. One of the Heatly's was on the Famine Relief Board for the County Home. There was an original house built on this lane and it became derelict and then they renovated a shed to a liveable house around 250 years ago. This house was known as the Coach House. The original house was a thatched roof and then covered with corrugated iron sheets.



At the junction of Malone's Lane with the Lough Dan directional signage was erected.

Malone's Lane is also included in our Pure Mile this year. It links to the now main road from Roundwood to Glendalough, the R755. At one point in time it was not a through road. It is a leafy windy narrow road with some traditional farm houses and modern bungalows. A wonderful pop up coffee shop, called the Dome opens every weekend from Easter to October. As well as delicious coffee, soup and homemade cakes, the Dome also sells free range eggs, plants, fruit and vegetable in season. Great farm fresh produce with very little the food miles!



The Dome also plays hosts to a healthy colony of house martens as evidenced in this video from their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/conchita.stanley/videos/10216573901087950/>

Malone's Lane has a rich archeological history as noted by Liam Price.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 1932, Liam Price mentioned that he had recorded ballaun stones in Baltynanima and recorded his conversation with a Mr John Malone – a grandfather of Pat Malone, farmer and landowner on our Pure Mile

*The Price notebooks*

Visited Mr John Malone of Baltynanima. There is a bullaun stone on his land [Fig. 54].

Some distance SE of his house, in the bog, is what looks like the remains of a raheen, some large stones forming a roughly circular bank with a ditch around it. About 20yds diameter. There are a lot of large boulders inside it also. The field belongs to Healy. Malone said it was *not* a raheen; and it may not be.

Malone is aged about 70, his father lived in Roundwood, his house is now covered by the reservoir. He is 56 years in Baltynanima.

The bullaun is in a field which he called 'the nine acres field' or 'the big meadow'. It is a block of granite with two holes in it. He calls it 'the hole stone'. It is in the townland of Baltynanima.

[One of the holes is] 7–7½in. deep, 15in. in diameter; [the other is] 5½in. deep, 12½–13in. long x 10½–11in. wide — slightly oval in shape. The space between the two holes is about 7½in. The field is about ¼ mile W of Derrylossary Church.

Malone says there was a mill once at his house and the mill-race led from Lake Dan.

There is a round font of oolite (a yellowish shell limestone) in the garden of Iver's house at Castlekevin — about 2 or 3ft in diameter — said to have come from Derrylossary Church. Authority, R. Barton.

—. Bullaun stone  
ie 's,  
in na.



The Liam Price notebooks: The placenames, antiquities and topography of County Wicklow, edited by Christiaan Corlett & Mairead Weaver. Published by the Department of the Environment, Dublin, 2002.  
Volume 1, Page 152

Price also photographed an outhouse on Malone's farm at Baltynanima and refers to some local placenames.

*The Price notebooks*



*Fig. 55—Malone's outhouse, Baltynanima.*

[Local names:]

'Brady's of the Big Stone' (in Baltynanima?)  
'Kane's of the Charter' (i.e. Charter School lands).

The road from here towards Lough Dan is referred to as the New Line. From research it is unknown when it was constructed but it is thought it was built during the relief period established by the Poor Law Union. The country was to be divided into Poor Law Unions based on the Irish electoral divisions. The electoral divisions were made up of townlands. Each Union was obliged to provide a workhouse for their destitute poor. A Board of Guardians was elected in each union to administer the Poor Law. These local committees were voluntary bodies comprised of large farmers, landlords, merchants and clergy. Their contribution was to mediate purchasing and re-selling Indian corn imported by the government from America, so that the government wasn't directly involved; and to oversee employment on small works. They were funded through voluntary subscriptions and a government grant. One of the Heatly's was a member of board for the Rathdrum Poor Law Union in this area. It is believed that he was probably responsible for the construction of this road as part of the locally funded work schemes which, at their peak, employed around 140,000 people. Although the salaries they paid were very low these measures sustained 700,000 people nationwide.

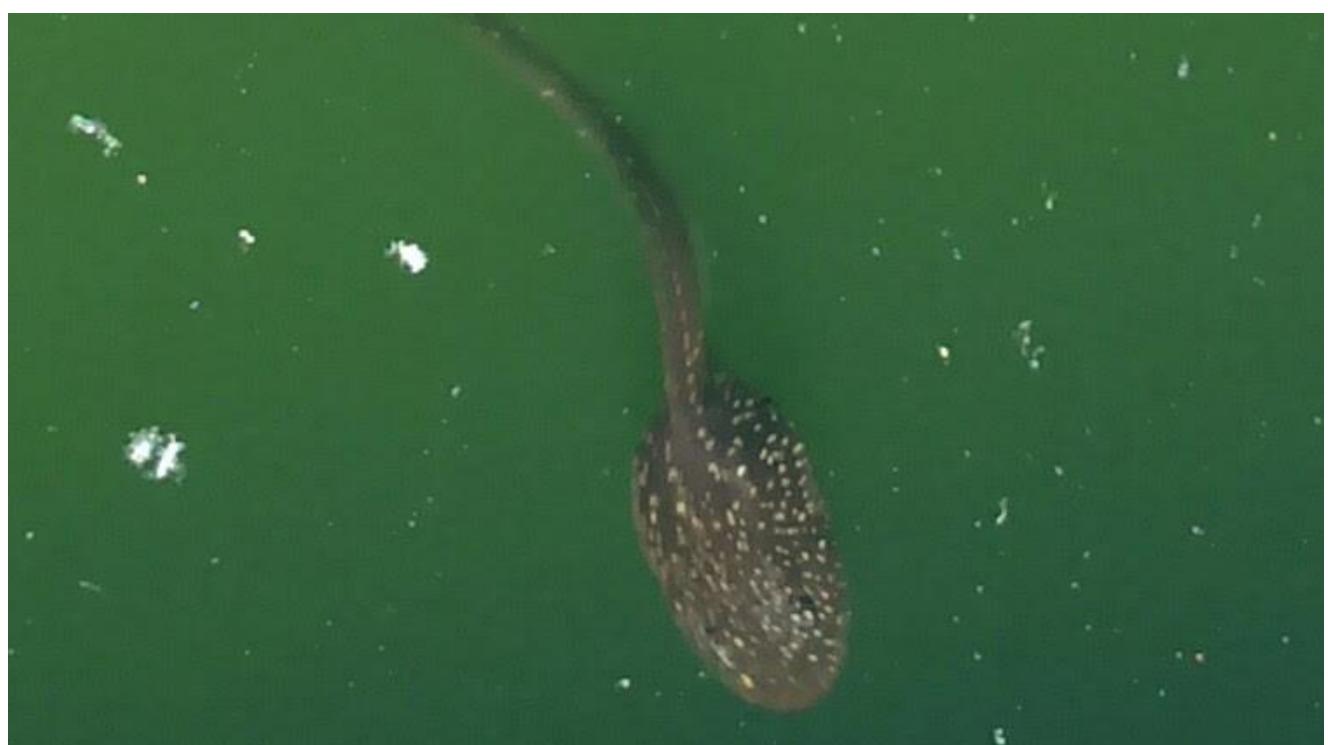


*Ballinacor Hill from the New Line*

The birch woodland on both sides of the road here are a great wildlife haven. Birch woodland thrives on acid soils. Birch woods provide valuable habitat for flora and fauna. The wood itself rots quickly and provides valuable deadwood habitat for fungi, beetles and hole-nesting birds. Its seeds are popular with small seed-eating birds such as siskin and redpoll and also habitat for mallard duck,

wood warbler and redstarts. In early times ‘toghers’ or walkways across bog land were made from birch. Badgers, foxes, bats and deer are regularly spotted in this area.

In spring this year these woodland areas had a large amount of frog spawn and tadpoles as captured by local children and highlighted on the website. <http://baltynanima.com/page8.html>



Bat and bird boxes were kindly donated by a company who operate from our Pure Mile. These were erected at various suitable locations throughout the area. Bat boxes were erected on suitable trees along our Pure Mile in early spring. Bats are social animals and often congregate in large numbers. Providing bat boxes offers bats additional roosting areas, or can often help to replace lost or degraded roosting sites once sited correctly. They are particularly suitable for providing artificial roosting sites in areas such as coniferous plantations where there is a shortage of natural sites. Bat box schemes are also a great education tool and allow communities and schools to get involved in bat conservation.



This stone, which is a recorded monument **S.M.R. No.: WI018-036**, was originally located in a field to the south of here. It was moved and to a location at Toghermore just outside Roundwood Village. The stone is over a metre in length and also over 1/2 a metre wide, the upper surface bears at least fifteen cup-marks, some of which are quite deep. One of the cups is surrounded by a ring and next to it is a pair of cups encircled with two joined rings forming a figure eight. To the narrow end of the boulder is a row of three cup-marks of which two are also surround by another eight shaped ring. There may have been more rings on this stone that have weathered.



This stones and others were recorded in their original location by Liam Price in his notebooks.

The New Line leads us back to the junction with the Green Road and Lake Park where our walk started. We hope you enjoyed it and the information notices displayed along the way.

The following pages include additional information relevant to the Baltynanima Pure Mile.

All the landowners and residents of the area researched the fieldnames which are outlined below and overleaf.



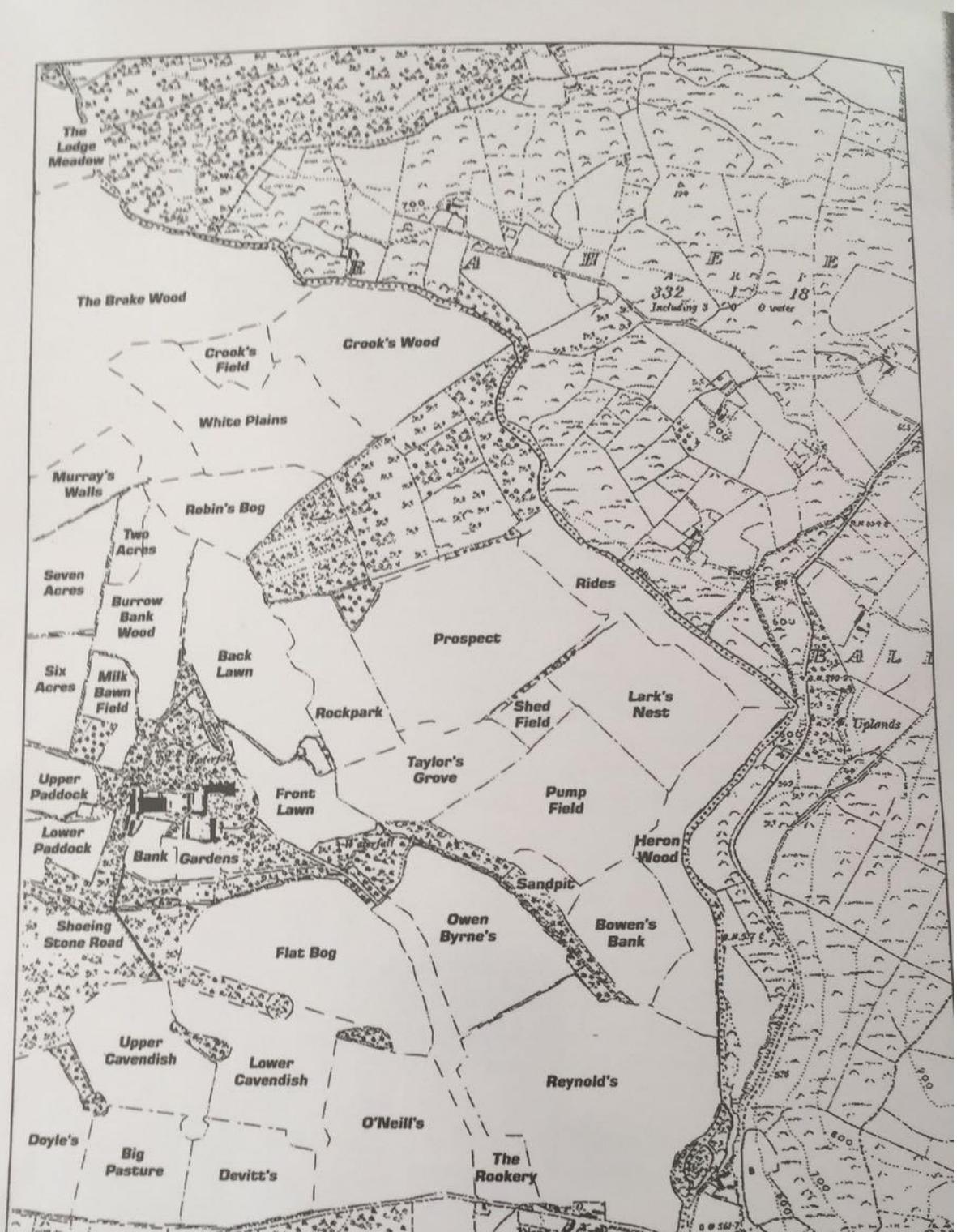
Natural  
slates were  
used to  
name some  
of the fields  
and points  
of interest.

## **Field names as per map**

- 1 Three Corner Field
- 2 Bog
- 3 Kitty's Field
- 4 Bank Field
- 5 Kelly's Park
- 6 The Haggart
- 7 Field Under the door
- 8 Pea field
- 9 Flat Field
- 10 Middle Field
- 11 White Field
- 12 Pasture
- 13 12 acres/Field under Fanning's
- 14 Grumley's
- 15 Barrett's Field
- 16 The Bank Field
- 17 The Lawn
- 18 The Slang
- 19 Silage Field
- 20 White Field
- 21 Cherry Hedge Field
- 22 Tommy Brady's Field
- 23 Dog Trail Field
- 24 The Break
- 25 Long Meadow
- 26 Back of the House Field
- 27 The Squares Bog
- 28 Hennessy Corner
- 29 The Brakes
- 30 The Right Hand Side
- 31 Fort William
- 32 Lake Park
- 33 Shinnagh Man's Field
- 34 The Skunch
- 35 The Dog Trail Field
- 36 The Slang

Compiled by Pauline Heatly

The fieldnames in the Glendalough Estate were identified and recorded in an article by former workers of the estate and residents of the area in the Roundwood & District Historical and Folklore Society Journal no 12 as outlined over leaf.



*Field names on the Barton Estate identified by Larry Smith, Mauny Timmons, Danny Rochford, Tom Gaffney, Kevin Gaffney and Liam Brady.*

## [Local community involvement/effort/improvements](#)

Residents got behind the initiative by improving the aesthetics of the area and their properties by painting fences, gates, improving the visibility and washing road signs, etc. as outlined and evidenced along the route.

Businesses who operated along the mile also gave great support by donating bat and bird boxes. Local business have also agreed to make donations towards the costs of the permanent signs to be erected. The group applied to the Wicklow Co Council under the Creative Wicklow and secured a grant of €1000 towards the signage also. These signs are in production and will hopefully be in place by the end of August.

## [Litter Control](#)

Fly tipping is not a major issue on this stretch of road. However there is a constant flow of coffee cups and other litter discarded on a regular basis. Weekly litter picking takes place. There was some household items including a lawn mower thrown over Lough Dan Bridge which was cleared by local residents.



<http://www.roundwood.ie/2018/05/dumping-on-the-pure-mile/>

Residents were requested to secure their refuse bins as there was a noticeable increase in litter on recycling bin collection days.



On bank holiday Monday in May a gang of our PURE Mile members got out and about to clean up the seating area at the foot of Ballilam Lane. The day before some friendly helpers went out into the burning sun to rotovate the ground. Armed with spades, rakes, buckets and gloves the volunteers went to work. First, they made a bed of stones around the fantastic tree trunk bench that was placed there last year. This keeps the bench steady in its place and is great for drainage of rainwater, so people who sit here will keep their feet dry. With wood chips they created a path from the road up to the bench and made a small recreation area. To finish it off they planted wildflower seeds which despite a very slow start flourished well this summer. The result looks great.



## Wildflower Area



Planting native wildflowers and wild bird cover seeds at this location provides habitat for threatened pollinator species and birds. The area will be mown and managed by the recommended guidelines when the seed heads have all fallen. It will improve every year and will be enjoyed by the people taking a rest at seat.

### Resource management

Residents were encouraged to install water butts to conserve water

<http://baltynanima.com/page11.html>. Although all residents have their own wells some installed water butts for use in their gardens and for car washing. The group continues to work in conjunction with the Roundwood Tidy Towns Group, Wicklow Co Council Agenda 21 Scheme, Roundwood National School, An Tochar GAA Club & Roundwood Active Retirement Group & Men's Shed volunteers to install these units to residents of the area who were unable to do so themselves.

### Erection of direction signage

The monitoring and erection of the signage in cooperation with the Rural Recreation Officer and Wicklow Co Council helped to develop a great working relationship with these organisations and the

Pure Mile group. The establishment of this channel of communication with other community organisations and state bodies is fantastic and will continue into the future and is a huge benefit to both the area and the organisations involved. Local resident have already repaired a sign that was damaged.

### **Creation of parking on the Green Road**

Parking at the Green Ro ad - Lake Park junction was a big issue and was highlighted at our very first meeting. The landowners, the Malone's agreed immediately to the establishment of the lay by parking. The local Wicklow Co Council overseer, Seamus Timmons agreed to help with the construction of same. Local residents continue to maintain the area and particularly at the Green Road stone.



## Involvement of local children

Children were encouraged to interview their elderly relatives and neighbours to record some of their family history and local folklore

### Interview with Pat Malone 14/08/2017 by Ella Davis

**Baltnanima**

**Roundwood**

**County Wicklow**

#### **Have you always lived here in Baltnanima?**

Yes was born here in 1940.

#### **Did your Parents live here?**

My father Joe was born here in 1900 and my mother Julia Magee from Calary. When I got married I built a house next to my parents' farm in Baltnanima.

#### **What is the earliest things you remember about living here?**

The 1947 snow. I remember Ned Brady coming down from the top of Shanna Lane, to get hay for his cows and my brother Sean and myself dragged the hay to the cross roads. We were only seven and eight. He then he put it on his back and walked through the field to his farm on top of Shinnagh Lane.

#### **How did you get to School?**

I started school in Lough Dan School at the age of five. I walked with my older brother Sean and Johnny Hennessey, who lived at the top of the road in the house which Ann Gaffney now lives in. It took up to half hour to walk to school. After a couple of years my two sisters Ronnie and Sheila joined us on the walk to school.

#### **Did you have jobs to do as a child?**

I had to look after ewes during lambing season before I went to school and do chores on the farm, feeding lambs, and gathering Potatoes, thinning turnips.

#### **What did you play with or what were your Hobbies?**

My favourite toy was a tin monkey on a string and from the age of ten I joined the athletics club at Keenan's Pavilion, Roundwood (in what is now the Coach House car park). It was run by Christy Brennan and Mick Rourke. As I got older I competed in walking races and the high jump - they were my favourite.

**Have you a funny story or a great memory of living here-**

Was out picking potatoes with my Dad and brother Sean, when I decided I had enough of farming and went home, told my Mum I wanted to be a school teacher. She listened to me, said have a cup of tea and go back out and finish the potatoes, we will talk about it later. Here I am 78 years old still farming!

I remember in the 50's picking stones in the field to repair the holes in the lane, which was a dirt track then and has always known as Malone's lane.

This is all Pat could remember about the Poem about Brout's bulb farm.

***Brout's by Bill Hennessy***

**I met with Napper Tandy**

**He took me by the hand**

**He asked me where Brout's onions were**

**And I told him in Lough Dan**

Bill Hennessy was an army man in the First World War. He lived in Ann Gaffney's House. He had a family of five, Francis, Billy, Paddy, Matty and Johnny. Johnny is the only one still alive and lives in England. Francis is buried in Roundwood Cemetery and was married to John Shanley.



*Pat Malone*

Local children undertook a scavenger hunt (pictured below) on the walk to the Deserted Village & the Kidrocks. They also researched the natural history of the miles and their work is outlined in this section to follow.



Rian Butler, a resident of Oldbridge made a wonderful wildlife video of his camera footage taken in Kinlan's Wood. It is excellent and we are excited to think that we may have the next Irish wildlife broadcaster in our midst. [www.facebook.com/rteradio1/videos/a-while-back-countrywide-was-contacted-by-st-laurence-otoole-ns-in-roundwood-wic/1521225214601843/](https://www.facebook.com/rteradio1/videos/a-while-back-countrywide-was-contacted-by-st-laurence-otoole-ns-in-roundwood-wic/1521225214601843/)

The children of the Pure Mile teamed up with our neighbouring Pure Mile at the Lough Dan Scout Centre to take part in a Darwin Day. The children were brought to Charles Darwin Eco-Base which

is a replica of Darwin's cabin on board HMS Beagle. Here they made bird and bat boxes and insect hotels which they brought home to hang up in their gardens. They were brought on a guided walk where they participated in a range of environmental awareness activities.



## Events & Community Involvement

Many people attended our meetings as outlined in the notes posted on the website. The notes of the meetings and newsletters were delivered to all the houses along the miles. Some weren't for attending meetings but helped with gate painting, getting the rocks into place, litter picking, etc. The following events were organised as part of the Pure Mile 2018. These events were advertised to the whole community and were well attended by both Pure Mile residents, general public with lots of children.

### Spring Clean Litter Pick

This took place on the Pure Mile and throughout the Roundwood area on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April. Mick in the Pure Mile truck collected the bags from all collection points, thanks Mick.



## Historical walk to the deserted village & the Kidrocks 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2018

The deserted village and the Kidrocks are about 2km off our Pure Mile just off the Wicklow way but are little known and are a hidden treasure. It has an interesting history as outlined earlier and the views en route are amazing. The Baltynanima Pure Mile Walk to the Deserted Village in Carrigroe was a resounding success on Sunday the 1st of July. The 30 and more energetic souls that travelled from Roundwood, Dublin, France and Baltynanima – of course – could not have asked for a better day. There were fantastic views over Lough Dan and the cool green oasis of the ruins with its little well was a welcome sight for everyone especially one wee dog! The group were met by Sean Byrne and along with the Heatly Brothers, Tom & Bob and Jack Byrne, the Postman, the group were regaled with great local folklore and history. The children walked without complaint and completed a nature scavenger hunt along the way. To enable those who were unable for the long walk to join



the walkers at the old ruins, the forest gate was opened to allow temporary vehicle access. On the forest boundary the group were treated to the vistas of the Lough Dan and Luggala Valleys with their ruins of former houses and lazy beds hidden in the ferns. What a wonderful area, steeped in history.

Thanks to the Kennedy & Malone families for allowing parking in their field.

Some local people were invited along who had considerable knowledge of the areas with regard to the former residents, mining in the Lough Dan area, Luggala Estate, a landslide to name but a few. This walk and the history of the area was such a hit in 2017 it featured in Tracks & Trials TV walking programme on RTE in Spring 2018.



*View of Lough Dan on the Historical Walk to the Deserted Village*



*Fraughan picking on the walk*

## An Afternoon with Mary Davies

What a wonderful afternoon in Roundwood Parish Hall on Saturday the 21st of July, when Mary Davies of the Irish Garden magazine recalled her time living in Oldbridge and read from a wide range of her 'Weekender' columns which appeared in the magazine over the years.



Mary was helped out by her friend Jane Powers, garden and wildlife columnist with the Sunday Times and by Roundwood local historian, John Medlycott.



The Baltynanima PURE Milers and other interested locals turned out in force and at times there was not a dry eye in the Hall. We hope that this event will encourage Mary to publish that book of her 'Weekender' pieces. For more information on Mary Davies and photos please check out our website [www.puremileroundwood.com/kopie-van-wildflowers-1](http://www.puremileroundwood.com/kopie-van-wildflowers-1)

## Great Spotted Woodpecker Talk - Thursday 26th of July



Annamoe resident, Declan Murphy gave an illustrated talk on the Great Spotted Woodpecker in Roundwood Parish Hall in July. Declan has followed and studied this woodpecker species at great length in the local woodlands which forms the basis for his sell out book 'A Life in the Trees'. The talk was very informative and relevant to the Baltynanima Pure Mile as many of the pairs of woodpeckers he studied were residents of the oakwoods at Oldbridge. Declan's photographs of the birds were just amazing. The 20 people who attended the talk were not surprised to hear that Declan's book is sold out. A paperback reprint will be in print in October 2018.



## Walk and Talk in the Glendalough Estate – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of August

By kind permission of the owners, Paul Brady, John Medlycott and Derek Neilson brought 30 enthusiastic explorers on a very informative 3 mile walk into Glendalough House and through the woodlands. What was very evident was that the Glendalough Estate was an important source of local employment. Workers were proud to be employed in Barton's as they called it and Mr Barton (as they called him) appreciated his workforce. The estate was self-sufficient with its own saw mill, farm – sheep and dairy, green houses and vegetable gardens. The large ornamental gardens, now sadly overgrown were tended to with great pride. John and Derek did a great job at imparting the fascinating political history of the area, a small portion of which is outlined above. We were regaled with great stories of children's Christmas parties, fruit robbing fruit from the green houses and great characters as we walked and talked. Little did we know that we had an actor from John Boorman's 'Excalibur' in our company. Unfortunately, George Lawless (Junior) declined to re-enact his age 10, one line streak across the estate proclaiming that the sword was removed from the stone!



These events, as well as being informative, give local people and neighbours the opportunity to meet up, have a cuppa and chat. All too often now we only see our neighbours as we drive by in our cars.

They also provide a great opportunity for new residents to meet their new neighbours and make friends.

Check out our website for more photos of these events [www.puremileroundwood.com/news](http://www.puremileroundwood.com/news)

Two more events are planned – a bat walk in early September and an exhibition of some of the information gathered in late September.

## Plants on the Pure Mile

Cathelijne also compiled the following information on the August flowers and plants encountered along our Pure Mile

	<b>Fraughan or Bilberry</b>  Needs acid soil  Edible fruit is ripe at the end of summer		<b>Bird's-foot-trefoil</b>  Named after their fruits which are in long brown pods arranged like a bird's foot
	<b>Burdock</b>  In Japan the roots are being sold as vegetables		<b>Clover</b>  Seen on our Pure Mile in red and white  Has the ability to fix nitrogen
	<b>Dock</b>  The leaves are being used to soothe burns, blisters, and nettle stings		<b>Foxglove</b>  Also known as Lady's fingers  They are toxic

	<b>Gorse</b>  Flowers have strong coconut scent		<b>Hawthorn</b>  Fruit is edible but mealy  Flowers are unpleasantly scented
	<b>Heather</b>  Needs acid soil		<b>Common Hogweed</b>  Common hogweed or cow parsnip. Often confused with its carrot family relative, the Giant Hogweed!
	<b>Holly</b>  Evergreen stiff glossy leaves  Gets bright scarlet berries		<b>Honeysuckle</b>  Also known as Woodbine  Has a nice scent
	<b>Montbretia</b>  Garden escape  Classed as potentially invasive		<b>Ragwort</b>  Flowers from June until November  Dangerous to animals

	<b>Rape Seed</b> Crop frequently escapes to roadsides		<b>Raspberries</b> Grow naturally in Ireland as they thrive in cool, moist climates but come originally from Asia
	<b>Redshank</b> Also known as Spotted Persicaria and Lady's Thumb		<b>Sheep's-bit</b> More common in coastal counties
	<b>Silverweed</b> Has yellow flowers in summer  This edible plant is very nutritious		<b>Spear Thistle</b> Is edible, can be used medicinally and parts of the plant can be made into paper
	<b>Tufted Vetch</b> Climbs towards the light by leaning and supporting itself on other vegetation		<b>Willowherb</b> Colonises ground where there's been fire and is often seen on the hills after a gorse fire

	<b>Wood Sage</b>  Leaves are aromatic and can be used as medicine for stomach, airway and liver problems		<b>Yarrow</b>  Has fern-like foliage  Has long been associated with magic & divination
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Other typical species that can be found include Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Rowan, Mountain ash, Birch Willows, Elder, Broom, Privet & Bramble

Garden & boundary trees: Leylandii, Beech & a host of ornamental varieties



Ground flora includes:

Ivy, Stitchwort, Ferns, Bracken, Primrose, Rush, Dandelion, Broom, Cowslips, Lesser celandine, Nettle, Bramble, Knapweed, Dog violet, Marsh orchids, Bramble, Navelwort, Pennywort, Cock's-foot grass and various grasses.

## Bats on the Pure Mile

Due to the success of the Bat walk last year another is planned for early September. The residents report increased bat activity in the areas as they are now aware of to look out for. There are Daubenton's bat on the Avonmore River at Lough Dan Bridge and the oak woodlands are provide perfect feeding habitat and roosting sites for various species. The residents of Oldbridge erected a

large bat maternity box near the Gate Lodge which is visible from the main road. The Gaffney family have undertaken to monitor the flight patterns of the Pipistrelle bats to and from Oldbridge and the river. It was decided to erect the unit in this quite area where insect life was prolific. It is hoped that this unit will alleviate pressure on other sites that might be unsuitable or under threat. After 4 days bats have been seen roosting in this unit which has a capacity for up to 400 pipistrelles. The photos below of Kevin and Marinus Gaffney with unit before erection and, overleaf photos of Liam

Brady and  
also Paul  
Brady with  
Kevin  
Gaffney  
after  
putting the  
box in  
place.



A number of houses along the Mile have reported visits from bats to their homes. Hopefully they will be more welcome as visitors from now on!

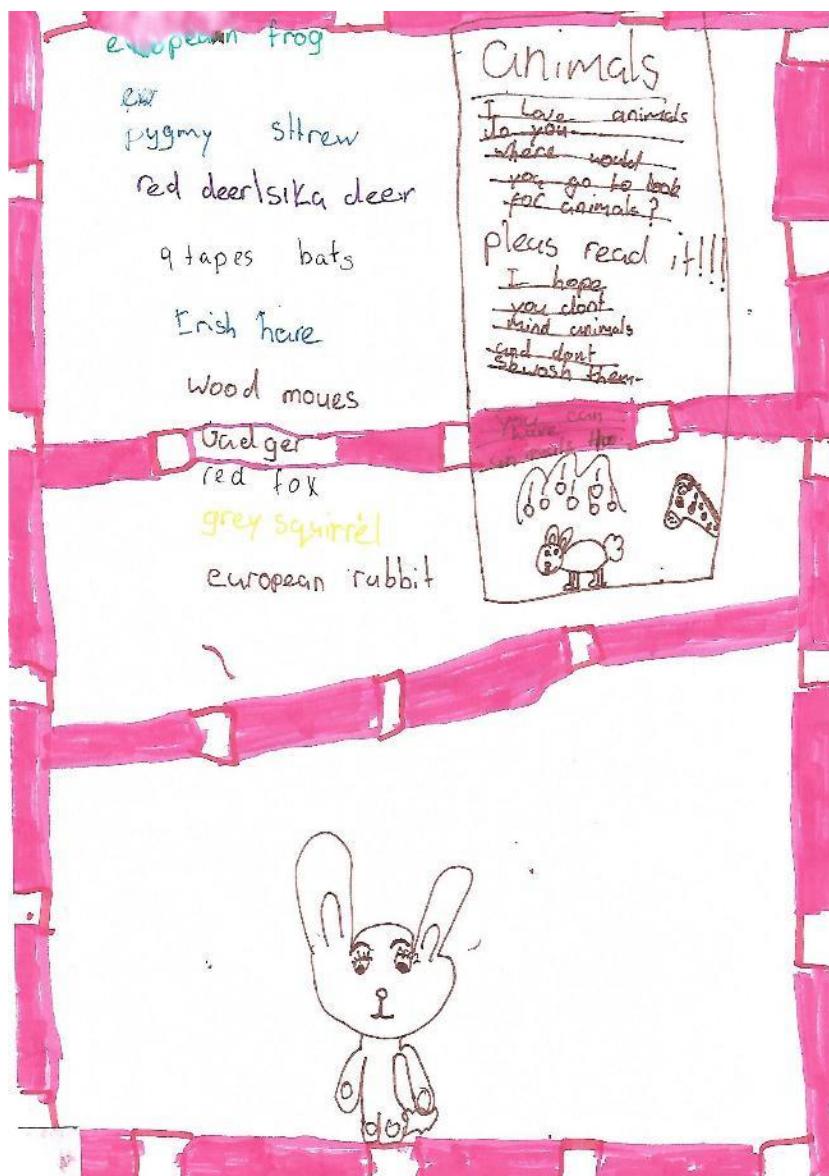


## Natural Heritage

A number of events as outlined above were organised to highlight the natural and cultural heritage.

The following information was gathered on the plants and animals. Some of the lists and information was gathered by children who live on the Baltynanima Pure Mile.

### Animals



Animal research by Chiam Pure Mile Kids

### Badger

There are many badger setts in the area. They are regularly sighted on the roads at night time and there is evidence of their digging in areas particularly in the woodlands.

## **Otter**

Otters are an elusive animal but their spraint were found near Lough Dan Bridge. Otters are not as widespread in Ireland as before and are actually extinct in some European countries.

## **Bats**

Bats inhabit the area and are observed regularly. Their flight paths have been noted along the tree lines. The erection of bat boxes as outlined above will encourage continued habitation by the various species. Bat boxes are also a great aid to raise awareness of bat species.

## **Rabbits**

These are frequently seen and their burrows are to be found in field boundaries and earthen banks.

## **Squirrels**

Both red and grey squirrels are present in the area but mainly in the adjoining Coillte plantations and in the woodlands.

## **Pine Marten**

The Pine Marten is known to have been present with a road kill spotted in the area. They are hard to spot due to its shy nocturnal nature.

## **Irish Hare**

This species is local to the area and often spotted in fields referred to as the Squares

## **Hedgehog**

Are regularly spotted in the area and all too frequently found dead on the road

## **Wood Mouse**

Has been occasionally sighted along the roads particularly in the early autumn

## Pygmy Shrew

Often spotted when caught by the local cats as photographed above and researched by Katie Chiam below

### Pygmy Shrew

Relands smallest mammal with maximum weight of 6 grams. Found in hedgerows, grasslands, wood lands + peat lands. They use other animals burrows and eat beetles, spiders, bugs + woodlice and rat 1.25 times its body weight each day. It can die if it doesn't eat for more than two hours. They have poor eyesight. The Irish name is Dallóig fhraoigh blind animal of the heather? They use their snout to feel + smell out food. The female pygmy shrew gives birth to 4-6 babies after 22-5 days. Shrews are solitary



**Rats** Seen crossing the roads and in around the farm yards on occasion.

**Fox** Regularly spotted at night time throughout the area.

## Amphibians and Reptiles

### Common Frog

#### The Common Frog

The common frog is the only species of frog in Ireland and is a plated species. Frog are ~~amphibians~~ amphibians meaning they can survive in water and on land. Underwater they can breath through their skins. They come in a wide variety of colours from green to grey to yellow to brown. A frog can also make its skin darker over a two hour period for camouflage. Frogs feed on slugs, insects, worms and spiders. They breed in February and produce spawn in March. A female can produce 2000 eggs. In April to May 10-21 days later a tadpole is formed. Tadpoles change into froglets and leave the pond in June-July. Only a handful eggs will make it to adult frogs (1-5%).

Frog Facts ~ compiled by Anna Chiam- a Pure Mile kid!



Common Lizard – spotted basking in the sun on a wall by Cathelijne



Lizard Facts compiled by Anna Chiam – Pure Mile kid!

### Common Lizard

Ireland's only reptile They can be found on dry stone walls, rocks or logs and live in woodland, heath, moors and bogs. Lizards are 10-16 cm long and come in a variety of colours. Males have orange-yellow bellies with black spots and females have creamy white bellies without spots. They eat insects, spiders, slugs, snails + earth worms and swallow them whole. Lizards give birth to 2-12 babies during June to September. If caught by the tail the lizard will shed it and grow a new one. Common Lizard are not currently endangered.

Newts – can be found in a garden pond on our Mile

## Birds

*Swallows nesting pictured by the Chiam Family*

Blackbird

Pheasant

Robin

Magpie

Chaffinch

Blue tit

Coal tit

Great tit

Siskin

Rooks

Raven

Meadow pipet

Mistle thrush

Song thrush

Redwing

Goldcrest

Goldfinch

Jackdaw

Greybacked crow

House sparrow

Kestrel – two kestrel boxes will be erected

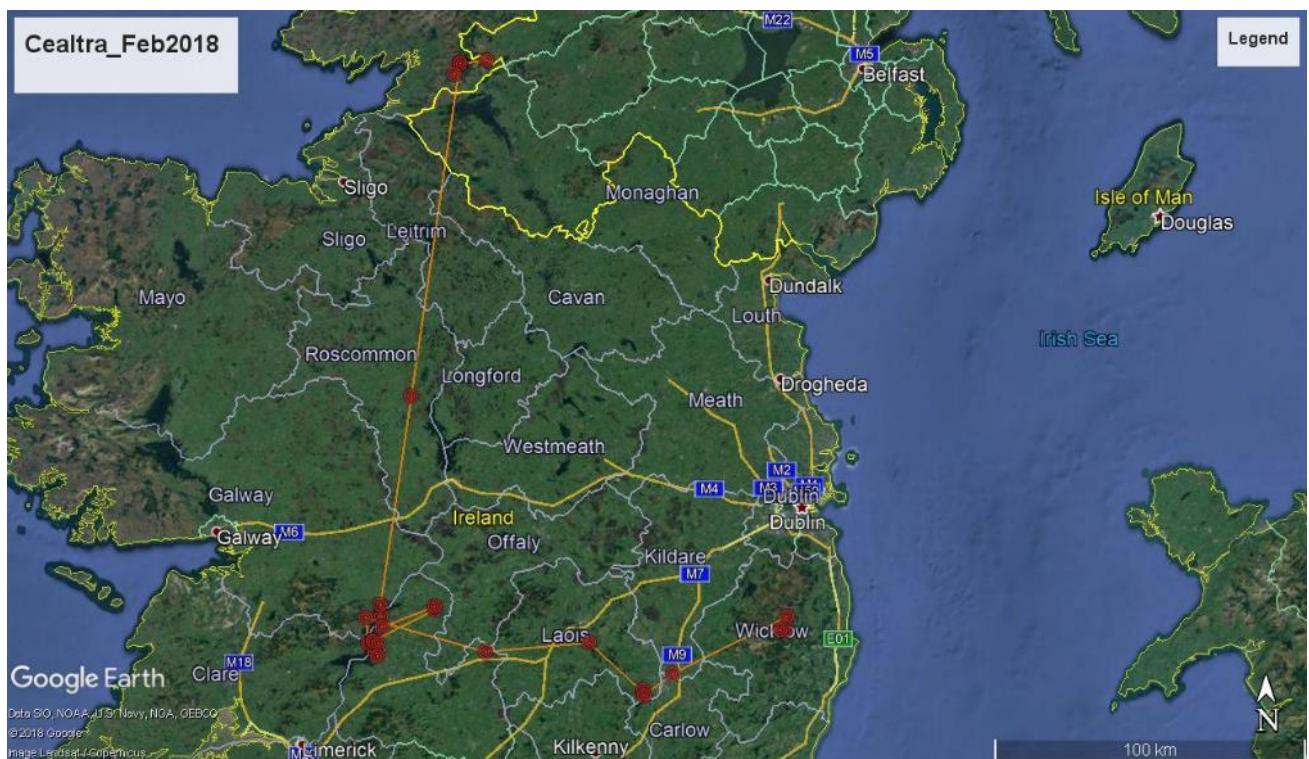
Sparowhawk



Redkite – comes to feed from Betty Cullen's cat food dish especially after a trip to Terry's Butchers! They are regularly spotted flying overhead or perched in the Leylandii tree waiting to swoop down. Efforts to get a photo at the cat's dish have failed but Cathelijne took this picture of a kite in the area.



A white tailed eagle, named Star roosted in the Oldbridge area in 2017. Its path through the area was tracked by satellite tag by the Golden Eagle Trust who are the organisation responsible for the reintroduction of the species to Ireland. <https://greennews.ie/map-irish-white-tailed-sea-eagle-is-tracked-as-he-crosses-the-country/>. Another, named Cealtra was also in the area in February 2018 as shown in the satellite map below.



Goosanders are a breed of duck which nest along the Avonmore River at Oldbridge and are often spotted swimming on Lough Dan Lake. They are on the Amber- list of threatened species in Ireland due to its small breeding population.



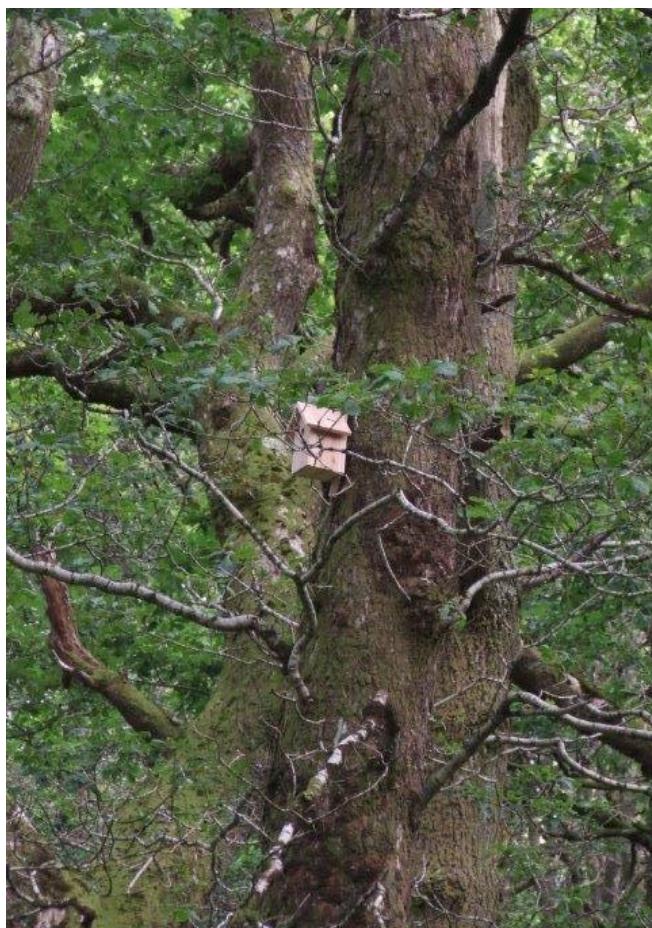
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## Bird and bat boxes

Kids from Oldbridge, Siofra and Conal Brady along with their Mum Aoife were instrumental in identifying the local small bird species on the Woodbank and Oldbridge stretches. Over 30 nest boxes and bat roost boxes were erected for different species including Tree-Creeper, Pied Wagtail, Robin, Pipistrelle Roost Box, Blue tit and Robin. All the boxes are to BSC 2004 standard and Glás Scheme approved, but more importantly their locations are to encourage birdlife.

All the boxes are erected at the correct heights and are facing out of a southerly direction. Conal is holding a bumble bee box which he erected close to stone walls near the Shinnagh Brook.





## Hedgerows



The hedgerows along the route are well managed as many of the farmers were participants in the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme and although the scheme is no longer operation the approved hedge management continues. Some hedge cutting is planned for early September but we have requested that just the emergent vegetation be cut back particularly on the Ballilam Lane and other locations where vegetation is impeding sightlines for traffic.

Historically, many of our hedgerows would have been planted from the 18th century onwards, following the enactment of legislation requiring landowners to enclose their land. They have enormous aesthetic value in rural landscapes. They help to form local and regional landscape character and are part of our historical and cultural heritage. As marginal land is reclaimed for farmland our hedgerows have become a vital refuge for our native bird and animal species. As outlined by Wendy Nairn on the Pure Mile Plant Walk in June 2017

<http://baltynanima.com/page4.html> there is little native forest in Ireland so hedgerows are an important substitute for woodland edge habitat. They host a wide range of insect, bird and mammal species and provide networks within which animals can move in safety from one habitat to another. Hedgerows are chosen by a sizeable number of common bird species for nesting and roosting: 55 of

the 110 bird species recorded regularly in Birdwatch Ireland's Countryside Bird Survey use them during the breeding season. These include the linnet and yellowhammer, two species which have declined in Ireland. The base of the hedgerow, with its leaf litter and dead branches and twigs contains invertebrates, and the birds and mammals that feed on them, such as wrens and hedgehogs. The under-storey of the hedgerow provides nesting sites for birds, such as robins and yellowhammers, as well as seeds and berries. The trees provide another niche for invertebrates, as well as nesting sites and song posts for birds and a further supply of food. The associated ditches, banks and verges provide shelter and food for a still wider range of animals. Many mammals avoid open country and use hedgerows as links between burrows and feeding sites or feed in close proximity to hedgerows. Birds show reluctance to cross open fields, or, in the case of the kestrel and the barn owl, hunt along the verges of the hedgerows.

A wide variety of mosses and fungi can be found along the road and in the woodland areas. Ditches and verges provide an excellent habitat for liverworts and mosses while the older trees along the road exhibit a diverse variety of lichens.

## Family Names on the Pure Mile

The Tithe Appplotment Books are a vital source for genealogical research for the pre-Famine period, given the loss of the 1821-51 Census records. They were compiled between 1823 and 1837 in order to determine the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings over one acre should pay in tithes to the Church of Ireland (the main Protestant church and the church established by the State until its dis-establishment in 1871).

There is a manuscript book for almost every civil (Church of Ireland) parish in the country giving the names of occupiers of each townland, the amount of land held and the sums to be paid in tithes.

Because the tithes were levied on agricultural land, urban areas are not included. Unfortunately, the books provide only the names of heads of family, not other family members.

The books have been digitally imaged, and a database giving surname, forename, county, parish and townland created. All of these fields can be searched, and there is also a browse facility, which allows users to survey entire parishes and townlands.

The population of Ireland was recorded in 1841 as 8.2 million. It would have been somewhat less than this during the 1820s and 1830s, when the Tithe Appplotment Books were compiled.

There was never a church or shop every recorded in the records for Baltynanima, there was a two teacher school (built in 1869 and closed on 1st July 1966) and a few farm houses.

Baltynanima is in the Electoral Division of Togher, in Civil Parish of Derralossary, in the Barony of Ballinacor North, in the County of Wicklow. Baltynanima, Bailte na nAnama, the farmsteads of the “souls” (of many people).

Baltynanima has an area of

- ❖ 2,547,021 m<sup>2</sup> / 254.70 hectares / 2.5470km<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ 0.98 square miles
- ❖ 629.38 acres / 629 acres, 1 rood, 21 perches

In the Tithe allotments (1823-1837) on the Tenement Valuation there was a yearly Rent of £184 per year.

In the Griffith Valuation of the 1852-54 there were 18 houses recorded for the townland. The Heatley's were the largest land owners, owing 356 acres out of the total, at this time and their descendants are still resident in Baltynanima now.

## **CENSUS 1911/1901**

In the 1911 Census, there was 46 residents listed living in the townland a decrease of 5 from 51 people in the 1901 census.

The following family names were associated with Baltynanima in 1911.

- ❖ Farrell
- ❖ Hopkins
- ❖ Langrell
- ❖ Heatly (name still in Baltynanima)
- ❖ Carr
- ❖ Murphy
- ❖ Malone (name still in Baltynanima)
- ❖ Smyth (descendants still live in Baltynanima)
- ❖ Healy
- ❖ Porter
- ❖ Pierce (Descendants now live in the neighbouring townland of Raheen)
- ❖ Healy

Compiled by Pauline Heatly

## Conclusion

The Pure Mile is a wonderful initiative which captures the imagination of young and not so young. It provides an excellent opportunity to record all aspects of our heritage.



This Mile is an extension of our 2017 mile. Cathelijne de Wit-Peijns, who operates a walking holiday business from her home in Baltynanima where she lives with her husband Remco, captures it all in this piece she wrote last year.

### **Getting to know your neighbours**

by Cathelijne de Wit-Peijns

'We moved to the Baltynanima area in January 2017. A couple of weeks after we moved in we received information about the Pure Mile project and thought this would be a good opportunity to get to know some of our new neighbours. More than six months later we can honestly say that this was a great decision. We got to know a lot of people from the Baltynanima area and learned so much about the history of our new home.'

Baltynanima is a wonderful place to live. We are surrounded by beautiful nature and great walking opportunities. We have all the peace and quiet you can ask for, but with friendly neighbours nearby you never have to feel alone. It is so nice when you walk the dog or drive your car to see familiar faces on the road and stop for a chat.

This project has been a wonderful opportunity for us to integrate very quickly in our new neighbourhood, get to know the neighbours and learn something about the area.'

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this report, to those who attended the events and those who worked on all the various aspects on the Baltynanima Pure Mile.