

## North Leitrim Women's Centre Stitching Stories – Cross Border Story Quilt

We hope you enjoy looking at our quilt, and finding the many stories, places and characters within.

Here are a few places from each area for you to look out for.

### Belcoo

#### Belcoo Sports and Festival

The arrival of the marquee on the Cottage meadow heralds Belcoo Sports & Festival, an annual event, founded in 1947 and centred around the main sports day on 15th August.



#### The Holy Well

The Holy Well, known as St Patrick's Well or 'Tub' and founded by St Sinnell of Cleenish. There are two streams exiting the well, each flowing in a different direction. This water is reputed to be the coldest in Ireland and is thought to have healing properties for nervous and paralytic disorders.



Close by is the Market Cross A market cross was of great significance in days gone by as a swearing object for finalising bargains between traders and even for sealing matchmaking agreements. This was done by the laying of hands upon the cross and swearing that the trade (or agreement) was true.



### Cashel

#### Cross-slab from the site of Kilcoo Monastery

This was designed to lie flat on top of the grave, and the Irish inscription suggests that the slab was made for an ecclesiastic named Maelcluchi. This cross-slab was donated by the landowner to the Enniskillen museum. Many of the cross slabs from the monastery did not survive but were used in the making of roads in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.



#### Cashel/Kiltyclogher Footbridge

This steel footbridge was the only physical link between the North and the South on this section of the Border when roads were closed between early 1970 until mid 1990s. The footbridge was re-erected beside Cashel Community Centre by Cashel Community Association. Straddling a small stream, it doesn't lead anywhere, but serves as a reminder of what life was like during the Troubles.



### Garrison

#### The Tree and the Bench

Surely one of the most photographed and painted views in the county – Garrison's famous tree and bench in the Rusheen, overlooking Lough Melvin.

#### Mrs Domoney's bicycle

Mrs Domoney was a teacher in Garrison, Co Fermanagh but lives in Kiltyclogher, Co Leitrim. When the cross-border roads were closed in the early 1970s, Mrs Domoney had no direct road access to her place of work. Her solution was to be left off at the closed road by car, carry her bicycle across the cratered area and cycle to work – and repeat the exercise in the evening, in all weather conditions. This she did until the mid 1990s when the roads were reopened. A former pupil remarked "And she was always first to school in the mornings."





## Glenfarne

### The Rainbow Ballroom of Romance

The Rainbow Ballroom in Glenfarne was built in 1934 by John McGivern, a native of Brockagh, Glenfarne, on his return from the USA. It was a popular venue for showbands for many years. Many romances started here. The writer William Trevor while passing through Glenfarne many years ago noticed the hall with the writing on the front wall "Ballroom of Romance" and wrote a short story of that name, which was later adapted into a film.



### Sculpture in Glenfarne Wood

The wood forms part of what was once the Tottenham Estate, that existed from 1780 to 1919. The "big house" known as Glenfarne Hall was built in the 1800s. The estate was later acquired as a hunting retreat for Sir Edward Harland, founder of the Harland and Wolfe shipyard in Belfast. A feature of the trails is the presence of a number of sculptures which form a section of the Lough Macnean sculpture trail. There are also a number of other features along or adjacent to the trails, notably, the Ladies Rest, Myles Big Stone and the Badgers' Well.



## Kinlough

### The Four Masters Memorial

This is a bronze memorial to the Four Masters at Mullinleck Bridge close to Kinlough

The Four Masters were responsible for compiling the Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland which are a chronicle of medieval Ireland. They were compiled between 1632 and 1636 in the Franciscan monastery in Donegal Town. The chief compiler was Micheal O Cleirigh, assisted by Peregrine O'Clery, Fergus O'Mulconry and Peregrine O'Duignan.



### Muriel Kerr

Muriel was one of our Stitching Stories ladies who sadly passed away in May this year. We decided to honour Muriel by including her in the Quilt. She was a very artistic and musical woman. We never left Kinlough without a smile and a laugh, having spent time with Muriel.



## Kiltyclogher

### Sean MacDairmuda's Cottage

Seán MacDiarmada was one of the leaders of the 1916 rising and signatory to the proclamation. His family cottage is only a few kilometres outside the village in Corranmore. The cottage is a designated National Monument owned and maintained in its original condition by the Office of Public Works. It is of considerable historic importance as it is a fine example of a traditional Irish cottage and gives an insight into what life may have been like 100 years ago.



### The Heritage Centre

Kiltyclogher was founded as a market town by Charles Henry Tottenham in 1828, near the place where his daughter Sarah was killed in a hunting accident. Tottenham had the wide streets laid and the first four corner houses built, including the fine Market House, which is now the Heritage Centre, with its inscription C.H.T. Sarahville 1831.



## Rossinver

### Ballagh Centre

New Ballagh Centre is an old Church of Ireland chapel, originally opened in 1851. The last service was some time in the early 1960's, and the chapel was closed. By the mid-1990's it had fallen into disrepair and was no more than four ivy clad walls with no roof, doors or windows, and in danger of collapse.

Rossinver Community Development Company restored the chapel as The New Ballagh Centre, a multi-purpose community resource centre. The stained glass windows were created by Sharon and Maureen Byrne.



### Fowley's Falls

Reputedly named after a one-time local landowner in the Rossinver area. As the Glenanniff river travels down from the mountain above, it has eroded the local blue limestone to form a deep river valley. Fowley's Falls cascades in a series of drops over the exposed bedrock to form a spectacular torrent of water rushing through the steep valley towards Lough Melvin.

