



The Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's programme to conserve and enhance some of the regions's most treasured landscapes.

For further details about the Ring of Gullion and the locality, please see www.ringofgullion.org or email info@ringofgullion.org

For further information on general touring, accommodation, short breaks and activity breaks please contact one of the following Visitor Information Centres or visit our website.

Newry Visitor Information Centre

Bagenal's Castle
Castle Street, Newry BT34 2BY
T: 028 3031 3170

Newcastle Visitor Information Centre

10-14 Central Promenade
Newcastle BT33 0AA
T: 028 4372 2222

Kilkeel Visitor Information Centre

Nautilus Centre, Rooney Road
Kilkeel BT34 4AG
T: 028 4176 2525

Banbridge Visitor Information Centre

The Old Town Hall, 1 Scarva Street
Banbridge BT32 3DA
T: 028 4062 0232

Visitor Information Point

Crossmaglen Community Centre
T: 028 3086 1949


Visitor Information Point

Slieve Gullion Courtyard
T: 028 3084 8109

Email: info@visitmournemountains.co.uk or visit www.visitmournemountains.co.uk

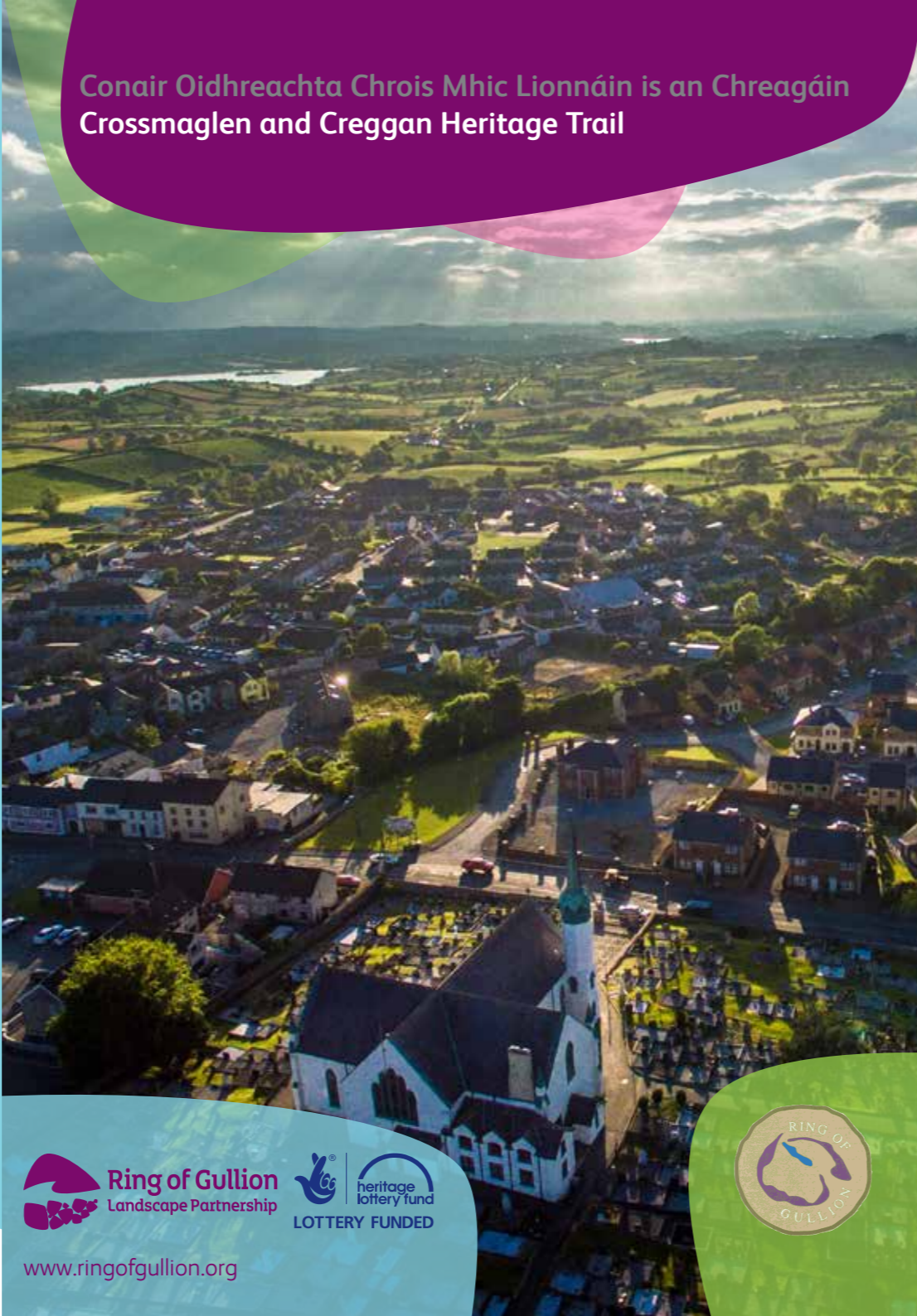
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 RingOfGullion

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www.ringofgullion.org

Conair Oidhreachta Chrois Mhic Linnáin is an Chreagáin
Crossmaglen and Creggan Heritage Trail



Fáilte go Crois Mhic Linnáin is go dtí an Creagán
Welcome to Crossmaglen and Creggan

**Crois Mhic Linnáin
Crossmaglen**

Crossmaglen is a small picturesque town in South Armagh with a population of approximately one and a half thousand people. The Irish translation is Crois Mhic Linnáin, which literally means 'Lennon's Cross'. It is suggested that it is named after an Owen Lennon who lived here in the eighteenth century and who is famed as the owner of a shebeen, an illegal ale house.

The focal point of Crossmaglen is Cardinal O'Fiaich Square, named after a local priest who became Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. The square has an area of five acres and is said to be the largest square on the island of Ireland.

The large square plays host to a traditional country market on the first and last Friday of every month.

In the early part of the twentieth century most of the male population of Crossmaglen worked at buying and selling fowl, sheep, pigs and other livestock and were known as dalin' men (dealing men). This prompted someone to write a song called *The Dalin Men from Crossmaglen*, the chorus of which goes like this:

**"It wasn't the boys from Shercock,
Nor the lads from Ballybay,
But the Dalin' men from
Crossmaglen,
Put the whiskey in my tay."**



Crossmaglen Square

Creggan Church & Graveyard

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**Óstán Chearnóg na Croise
The Cross Square Hotel**

The Cross Square Hotel is a modern family run hotel which is owned and managed by the Carragher family. Built in 2006, it became the first hotel in Crossmaglen for over 100 years; incidentally, the previous hotel was owned by ancestors of the Carragher family.

**Séipéal Phádraig
St Patrick's Church**

St Patrick's was built to replace an old parish church located at Mobane crossroads on the Dundalk Road. One wall of the old church has been retained as part of the Mobane handball alley. The site for the new church was donated by local landlord Thomas Ball and work commenced in 1833. The new building was opened in 1835. Saint Patrick's Church is open each morning for 10.00am Mass but closes immediately afterwards, however it can be viewed by appointment by ringing 028 3086 1208.

**Club Peile Raonaithe na Croise
The Rangers Football Club**

Crossmaglen Rangers are a local Gaelic football team and was formed on 1st October 1887. They are the most successful team in Armagh and Ulster, having won 42 senior County Championship titles and 10 Ulster titles. They have also

been All-Ireland champions on 6 occasions. They have 3 football pitches, the main one having a stand with a 1200 seat capacity.

**Teach Tionóil na Modhach
Methodist Meeting House**

Crossmaglen was once a predominantly Protestant town. An 1839 map shows a Methodist Meeting House located at the top end of the square, close to where Mc Namee's bakery now stands. The site was last used as the local Technical College, but the building has now been demolished.

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Teach an Mhargaidh Market House

The first Market House was built by local landlord Thomas Ball in 1811 and was located where the Cross Square Hotel now stands. It was replaced in 1863 by a new Market House, which was built on the site of the present community centre. The ground floor had a weighbridge and was used to weigh poultry, grain, potatoes and other farm produce. The second floor acted as a courthouse which sat monthly on a Saturday. The bell from the old Market House is on display in the foyer of the community centre.

In 1944, a Belfast native Richard Hayward leased the upper floor as a cinema and on 19th March 1944 the first “talkie” film ever shown in Crossmaglen, “The Arabian Knights” was screened.

An Corlios – an lios féin

Corliss Fort

Forts were protective structures built around early farmsteads. This fort would have been constructed in the fourteenth century and occupies a prominent position on top of a hill with a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside. It is a single ringed fort about 40 metres in diameter with an open souterrain in the centre.

Eanach Már Annaghmare

Annaghmare court cairn is an ancient Neolithic burial tomb. It was discovered in 1963 during farm excavations. It consists of a horseshoe forecourt surrounded by several large stones and has three central chambers and two side chambers. During the excavations in

1963 remains of human bones, a javelin head and numerous pieces of pottery were found.

Lough Rois Lough Ross



This lough covers an area of 222 acres and is stocked with pike, perch and eel. The season runs all year with only fly and worm fishing permitted.

The lough is easily accessible with several car parking and picnic areas. Visit www.visitmournemountains.co.uk for more on angling in the area.

Teampall is Reilig an Chreagáin Creggan Church and Graveyard

In the fifteenth century the O'Neill clan of Tyrone invaded South Armagh, took over a large area of land - which included the townland of Creggan - and in 1490 built a chapel there. The Catholic population worshipped there until the sixteenth century when it was taken over by the newly established Church of Ireland during the Reformation. Consequently, the attached graveyard has people of both religions buried there. After the reformation Catholics would have worshipped at the local Mass rocks of Carnally and Carrive. The existing church was built in 1758.

The graveyard holds the graves of the famous South-East Ulster Gaelic poets Seamus Mór Mac Murphy, Padraig Mac Aliondain and the most famous of them all, Art Mac Cooley. Mc Cooley's best known work is ‘*Úirchill an Chreagáin*’, of which the last two lines translate as: “Should I die in some far off Country, in our wanderings East and West. In the fragrant clay of Creggan let my weary heart have rest”

Another famous man buried there is Sir Thomas Jackson who was born in Urker near Crossmaglen in 1841. He worked for Bank of Ireland before going to Hong Kong and making his name in financial circles. He founded the Hong Kong and Shangai Bank in 1856, was knighted in 1899 and made a baronet in 1902.

In 1903, he erected a clock on Crossmaglen Market House to replace a “dummy clock” which had been donated by the local landlord Thomas Ball, an event which gave rise to a ballad beginning:

**“We talk of great physicians and Dr Williams pills,
And mother regal syrup as a remedy for ills,
But long live Sir Thomas Jackson great laurels for to win,
He gave speech unto a dummy clock in the town of Crossmaglin.”**

Another impressive feature of the graveyard is an underground tomb containing preserved bones and over 70 skulls. It is the burial tomb of the O'Neills who built the original church there.

This tomb was accidentally re-discovered in 1971.

Gleann agus Conairí na bhFili Poets' Glen and trails

At the rear of Creggan Church you will find steps leading down to a bridge over the Creggan River which will take you into the Poets' Glen, a picturesque riverside walk and walled garden. The walled garden was originally part of the rectory built in 1770 and home to the rector of Creggan Church of Ireland. The rectory was demolished in 1981.

One of the Poets' Trails, stretching a distance of 8 miles, begins at Creggan Church and goes through the townlands of Glassdrummond and Mounthill.

Creggan Church is open every Sunday at 9.30am for morning service.

An Séipéal agus an Loch ar an Ghlasdromainn Glassdrummond Church and lake



St Brigid's Church is a magnificent building constructed in 1932 under the guidance of the parish priest Canon Peter Sheerin. The site was donated by John Quinn of Lurgan Road and the stone came from the ruins of Ravensdale Castle which was burned down in 1922. John

Mc Guinness of Dundalk was awarded the contract at a sum of €18,500. It took ten years to complete. The twelve red granite columns came from Aberdeen and the altars were supplied by Favilla of Italy. Glassdrummond Church is open to the public from 11.00 – 18:00 every day except Wednesdays.

Baile Mhic Cullach Cullaville

The townland of Cullaville is actually in County Monaghan and is home to a disused railway station which was a stop on the old Dundalk to Enniskillen line, which closed in 1957. The village displays artefacts from the last century including a blacksmith's anvil, wheels from the local scutch (flax) mill, and a portion of the railway line. The main road from Castleblayney to Dundalk runs through Cullaville. It is known as “concession road”; the Stormont Government allowed southern motorists to travel on the section that passes through County Armagh, provided they did not stop on it or turn off it, hence the name “concession road”. The restriction on stopping and turning off were intended to prevent smuggling, and in theory this practice continued up until about ten years ago. In practice, this was ineffective since the start of The Troubles when the alternative crossing points (Custom Posts) were targeted in the early seventies and not replaced.

Coilleach Eanach agus Áras an Chairdinéil Ó Fiaich Cullyhanna and the Cardinal O'Fiaich Centre

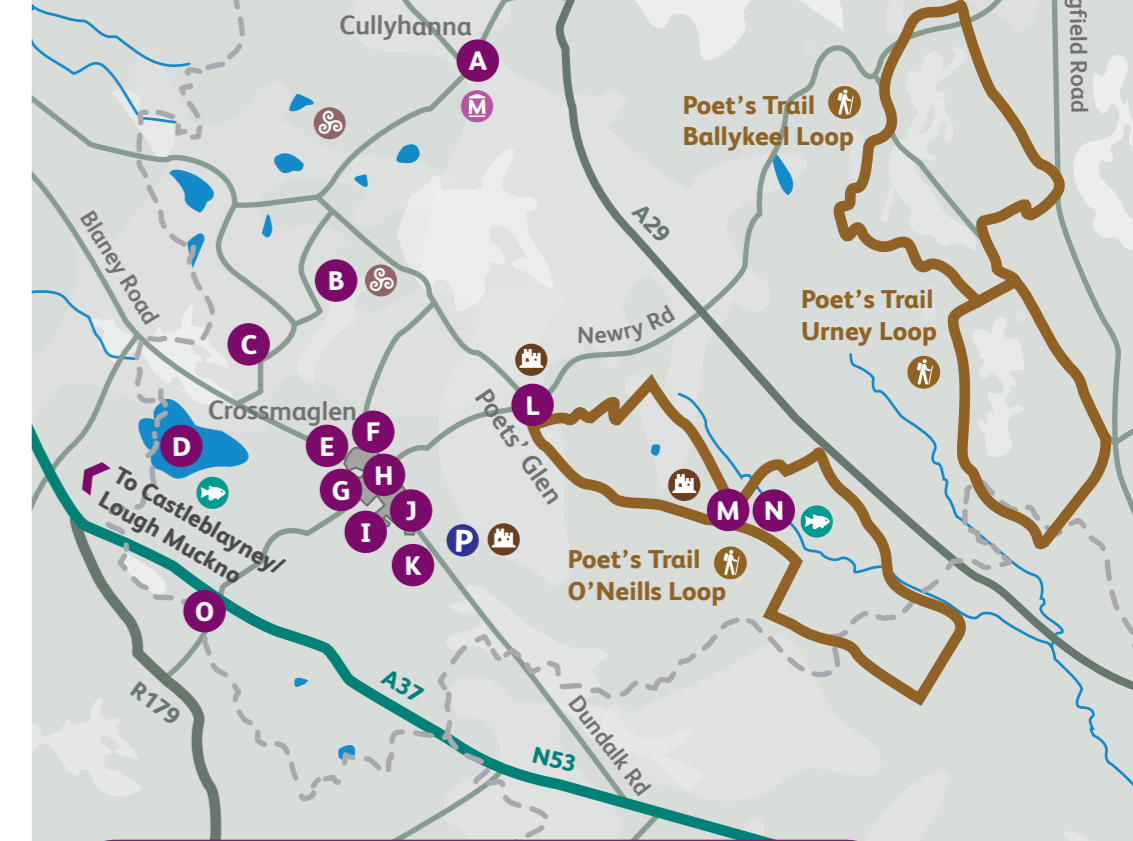
Tomás Ó Fiaich was born in Anamar, near Crossmaglen in November 1923.

He was educated at Cregganduff Primary School (1928 - 1936), St. Patrick's College Armagh, St. Patrick's College Maynooth and St. Peter's College, Wexford. He was ordained a priest on 6th June 1948. After studying in University College Dublin, St. Anthony's College Louvain and a short time as curate in the Parish of Clonfeacle, Tomás returned to St. Patrick's Maynooth College to lecture in modern history. He rose from lecturer to professor in 1959, to vice-president and finally to president in 1974. On 22nd August 1977, Tomás Ó Fiaich was appointed Archbishop of Armagh. In June 1979 he was elevated to cardinal and in the same year he welcomed Pope John Paul II, the first pope to visit Ireland. Tomás Ó Fiaich died on 8th May 1990 while leading a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. He was buried in Armagh amid scenes of national grief.

In view of the cardinal's deep interest in history and folklore the local historical society decided to open an interpretive centre in his memory. Situated in the heart of Cullyhanna village, the centre is an impressive building. The location is very appropriate because it was the site of an old church from the 1750's until 1892, and then Cullyhanna National School from 1894 until 1972. The building comprises an exhibition hall, reception area and a restaurant. Models of ancient monuments and old townland maps of the South Armagh area are on display. The Cardinal O'Fiaich Centre is open by appointment, call Martin McShane on 028 308 61817 to book.

Points of Interest

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|--|---|-----------------------------|
| A Cullyhanna and the Cardinal O'Fiaich Centre | G Murphy's Chemist* | M Glasdrumand Church |
| B Annaghmare Court Tomb | H Market House / Community Centre* | N Glasdrumand Lake |
| C Corliss Fort | I Mc Namee's Bakery* | O Cullaville |
| D Lough Ross | J Superbites Restaurant* | |
| E Cross Square Hotel* | K The Rangers Football Club | |
| F St Patrick's Church | L Creggan Church and Graveyard | * In Crossmaglen Square |



Key

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|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Hiking Access | Museums & Cultural Centres | Historic Building |
| Fishing | Ancient Monument | Car Parking |