

Loughgall



a walking tour



© Image courtesy of Armagh Guided Tours

DISCOVER HERITAGE TALES & TRAILS IN BEAUTIFUL LOUGHGALL



Welcome to Loughgall

Loughgall Village Walking Tour can be joined at any point along the route. The tour takes in 66 points of local interest in its half mile course, all of which are marked by numbers on the map at the back of this booklet.

The village of Loughgall is situated in the heart of County Armagh's apple growing countryside and adjacent to the lake from which its name is derived. It is renowned for its attractive and pristine appearance which has won it many awards over the years. Indeed for a settlement of its size, just one long street, it has an impressively high proportion of fine buildings from both the Georgian and Regency periods. Over 20 of these buildings are officially listed by the NI Environment Agency as buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

Although it is often thought of as a Plantation Village, Loughgall actually has a much longer history. The Christian heritage of the village dates back to the Culdees who were originally members of Christian monastic communities of Ireland, Scotland and England in the Middle Ages.

There is considerable archeological evidence of an even earlier settlement. W. Reeves, the church historian, accepts that there was a church already established here in 1054.

In 1611 Sir Anthony Cope of Hanwell, Oxfordshire, purchased the Manor of Loughgall comprising some 3,000 acres. An old census return for 1659 shows that the population in the village area was 36 people, 29 of which were English or Scottish planters and only 7 native Irish. Over the years it evolved under the Cope family. There were two branches of the family, one based in the Manor of Loughgall and the other at nearby Drumilly. The two branches did not always see eye-to-eye and it is said that, at one time, a chain across the lake was used to mark the boundary between the two estates. It is possible that the Copes were responsible for introducing the mass cultivation of apples for which the area is now renowned.

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Loughgall has many historical connections. Famous visitors to the area, it would seem, included Oliver Cromwell in 1657 who found it a 'fit place for a school' but there was 'a great want of a schoolmaster' and William of Orange who passed through it on his way south to the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. One visitor, a guest of the Copes, who was much enthralled with the area in the early 18th century was the writer and satirist Dean Jonathan Swift of 'Gulliver's Travels' fame.

Later, in more turbulent times towards the end of the 18th century, it became the birthplace of the Orange Order and two of its Presbyterian ministers were said to have been United Irishmen. It has been reported that, over a century earlier, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, Oliver Plunkett, who was eventually hanged for treason, was given refuge by Captain Walter Cope while on the run. Other famous people connected with the area include the acclaimed Ulster poet and broadcaster, W.R. Rodgers and the military commander, Field Marshall Sir Gerald Templer, who served in both World Wars before becoming High Commissioner of Malaya and then Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837, reports 'The village, though small, is beautifully situated in a fertile valley in the midst of a richly cultivated and picturesque country; and consists of 60 houses, of which the greater number are large, well-built, and of handsome appearance. There is a large and handsome market-house, but the market, and also four fairs which were formerly held, have been discontinued. A constabulary police force is stationed here; and a manorial court is held monthly before the seneschal for the recovery of debts not exceeding 40s'.



Painting of the Dairy at Drumilly by Miss Cope (1882). The lady in the painting is Mrs Shephard who was the wife of the Land Steward. (Courtesy of Mrs Joy Valley)



1. Panoramic View



The view from here takes in the countryside from Kilylea, Benburb right round to the Sperrin Mountains. Snow on the Sperrins is clearly visible during winter. Just down to the left is an area known locally as 'Duck Island' in the townland of Eagralougher. Eagralougher means 'field of rushes' which might refer to marshy ground and hence the reference to ducks and water.

2. Old Milestone

About half a mile down Cloveneden Road is an old milestone believed to be one of the milestones referred to on Taylor & Skinner maps ca 1777. It is listed as number 66, indicating that it was 66 miles to Dublin on the Dublin/Dungannon/Derry coach route. This mileage is in the old Irish measurement, which means it predates the coming into force of the Act of Union (1800) after which English



miles were adopted as standard.

The original markings are now almost unreadable but it would appear that as well as indicating the distance to Dublin/Armagh on one side, on the other side it may read 'C bridge 1½ mile' possibly a reference to an old bridge over the Callan River (now referred to as Chambers' Bridge),



essential information required for those travelling on foot, on horseback or by coach. Coach route No 53 between Dublin and Charlemont found in Leigh's New Pocket Book of Ireland 1835 includes a reference to the Callan Bridge in this locality.



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3. Cloveneden Presbyterian Church



The Presbyterian Meeting House, known locally as Cloveneden, is situated just over a mile from Loughgall village on a beautiful raised setting.

In 1704 a lease was granted for the building of a Meeting House of mud and thatch which served the Loughgall Presbyterian congregation until 1791, when it was replaced by a stone building. In 2004 the church was refurbished for its Tercentenary celebrations.

Past ministers included the Rev.. Moses Hogg, who was regarded as having been an ardent supporter of the United Irishmen and was apparently taken into custody and held in an inn in Portadown for a fortnight during the 1798 Rebellion. He died in 1802 and was succeeded by his son, Rev.. Robert Hogg who combined his ministerial duties with being Assistant Astronomer at Armagh Observatory, a

post he held from 1799 until his death in 1830.

In more recent times another Loughgall minister who received recognition for his endeavours outside the church was the Rev.. W.R. Rodgers. He left the ministry in 1946 to take up a post as scriptwriter and producer with the BBC. He is remembered primarily as a highly regarded poet, but he was also a distinguished broadcaster and essayist. He died in the USA in 1969 and is buried at Cloveneden.

In August 2013 Cloveneden was the unlikely setting for a royal wedding. A Nigerian prince, Prince Mustapha Oniru of Lagos, wearing standard dress, tied the knot with local teacher,



Kirsty Crooks making her a princess. Mustapha's parents, the King and Queen of Lagos were there, along with over 100 Nigerian guests including other royalty. Many wore ceremonial



dress making for a very colourful day.

4. St Patrick's RC Church

Painting by Jim Fox-Parish Art Class



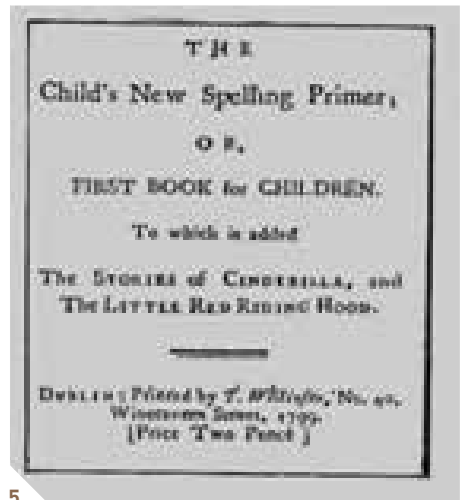
The earliest record of a Catholic church in the townland of Eagralougher goes back to 1787. It was described as being a 'plain stone building, roughcast, whitewashed and slated' with a 'very plain interior'. It was on the same road as a school and a pub which prompted a local wit to comment: 'We have education, salvation and damnation all in a row'.

When Rev.. Father Joseph Dunne became Parish Priest of St Patrick's in 1907 he realised that this old building was no longer fit for use and that it needed to be replaced. He and his parishioners raised funds over a period of five years through concerts, bazaars and other events to finance the building, which cost almost £4,000. Much of the labour was provided voluntarily and it took almost a year to build the new church which

was situated about 100 yards from the site of the old church. On Sunday 5th October 1913 the opening was marked by the Solemn Consecration of the new church bell by Cardinal Michael Logue. Renovations were carried out in 1992.

5. Hedge School

A hedge school is said to have been in existence in the area across the road from Hogg's Pub at the junction of Cloveneden Road and Eagralougher Road. Word of mouth is the only evidence of this.



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Title page from a book used in some hedge schools dated 1799

Hedge schools or 'pay schools' (the children were charged a fee) were schools set up all over Ireland in the



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18th and early 19th century.

Although some of these schools may have operated in hedges many were located in very basic barns and buildings.

Although the hedge school had been forbidden by law, no hedge teachers are known to have been prosecuted.

6. Estate Walls

This wall and others on the Cope estates were completed in 1845 just before the Great Famine took hold. The walls, still in remarkably good condition, surround both the Drumilly and the Manor House Estates.

There is an interesting article in the Armagh Guardian 1845. A woman who was fleeing after abducting a 'fine looking little 4 year old boy' in Charlemont had been appealing for assistance from stone cutters employed by R.W.C. Cope in Loughgall when she was apprehended by Sub-Constable Caffrey, the local policeman. She was committed to Armagh Gaol awaiting trial the outcome of which is unknown.

7. 'Cocky-Bendy' Murder

The older residents of the village recall that when they were young and up to mischief, their parents would threaten to get 'Cocky- Bendy' for them. Until recently there was no hard evidence of what exactly this character had done to make him the local bogey-

man. However the mystery has been uncovered and Reveals a notorious murder case which most probably happened in the house circled on this



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map (1864) the ruins of which still remain (see 8). Detailed newspaper reports in May 1824 reveal that a young man, who lived in Causnagh, a short distance away, had murdered a housekeeper and a four-year-old child using a sword, aided and abetted by two attractive young ladies of the village.

The lady who lived where the ruins now stand (see 8) with her young son and a housekeeper, was separated from her husband. Her husband, who had been left a substantial inheritance by his father, lived with his two sisters in the village. It would appear that, as he was not capable of managing his own affairs, his sisters plotted to get rid of both his wife and child to protect the family assets. It seems the young man had agreed to carry out the dastardly



deed on a promise of marriage to one of the attractive sisters.

Things did not exactly go to plan as he killed the housekeeper and the child instead of the lady of the house, who escaped and raised the alarm. The young man was apprehended, found guilty of murder and sentenced to hang.

The Belfast Newsletter reported his execution in August 1824 in gory detail. It was stated that 'After hanging the regular time his body was conveyed in a shell to the county Infirmary and given to the surgeons for dissection. That operation was performed yesterday and the public were admitted into the Infirmary on the occasion'.

A written record, made in 1923 by an 88 year old man who lived in the vicinity, recalls what he had heard about the incident. He said the name 'Cocky-Bendy' was given to this character as 'he went so well tailored and conceaty (sic) and being of small stature and was in favour among the girls at the time. He also made himself useful in Church and Sunday School a head singer in the choir'.

He also recorded 'the house was burned and left bare for many years'

8 Old Fever Hospital

During 1817/8 Loughgall parish suffered badly from typhus, a highly contagious illness carried by lice.

It was reported at the time that of a 'population of 8000, 1009 had been ill and of those one in ten had died'. Doctors did not know at that time that the condition was carried by lice so deaths were attributed to a



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variety of causes; want of food, cold and wet weather, want of fuel, want of cleanliness, insufficient ventilation from stopping up windows, depression of mind from want of employment and no fever hospital.

Later, during the Great Famine of 1845-47 when the Armagh Workhouse became increasingly overcrowded, temporary fever hospitals were established in outlying areas, to help control the spread of disease and fever. In 1923 a local man recounts that, when he was a ten year old boy in 1847, one of these was created at Loughgall by converting the house where the murder took place (See 7). He records that the house was



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reroofed, repaired and furnished with temporary wooden beds. In 1847 official records state that there were 15 patients at Loughgall costing on average 5s 2¾d (approx 26p) each per week. The Loughgall area fared much better than most during the famine as an article in the Dublin Evening Mail dated June 1849 records 'I am happy to state that from the exertions of Captain Cope to give employment, the relieving officer has very little trouble with paupers on Cope property'.

9. Drumilly Estate

Painting by Evelyn McConville-Parish Art Class



This opening in the wall was one of many entrances to the Drumilly Estate. There is no longer any physical evidence of the Copes at Drumilly. Part of the estate is now Loughgall Country Park and the Cope's magnificent residence, Drumilly House, approximately a quarter of a mile from here, was demolished in 1966. The origins of this house date

back to the 17th century. It must have been shortly after it was built that Oliver Plunkett was apparently given refuge by Walter Cope. It was Walter's great grandson, another Walter Cope, who was said to have been known as 'the proud curate' due to his practice of driving out in a coach pulled by four black horses when he was curate at Loughgilly. He went on to



become Bishop of Ferns, even though Archbishop Robinson was reported to have said that he would remain a curate as long as he, the good archbishop, remained in office.

An interesting article found in old newspaper archives clearly shows how up until the late 19th century married women were their husband's property. In the early 1840s, a former Miss Cope of Drumilly took her husband to court to challenge a decision by a lower court to reinstate his conjugal rights after she left him for ill treating her and apparently being a naughty



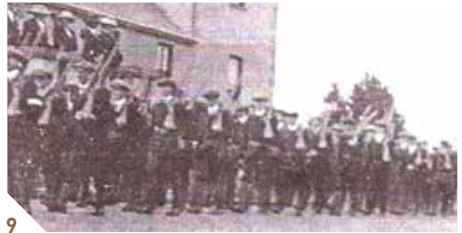
boy with 'ladies of the night'. A very detailed account of the proceedings is given, and unfortunately the court decided to affirm the decision of the lower court. What happened after that we will probably never know!

One member of the Drumilly Copes who has generally been overlooked by historians of the family is Mary Edith, second wife of John Garland Cope, who was prominent in women's suffrage circles in the early 20th century. As well as being the driving force in the Armagh Suffrage Society, she became a vice-president of the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, an umbrella body representing suffrage societies throughout the island.

Drumilly was used as a military base for British and/or American soldiers during both World Wars. Following WWII Diana (née Cope) and her husband ran a guest house. The following advert appeared in the

'Country Holiday, - Paying Guests, modernised large country house, grounds with lake, coarse fishing, bathing, tennis, lawn golf; good food; h (heat) and e (electricity). From Renfrew by plane and train in about three hours, £4 return'

The property was passed to the



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Ulster Volunteer Force Soldiers marching past Drumilly House before WW1

State in lieu of death duties in the early 1960s at which time the family moved to Summerisland, the Cowdy family home. It was then passed to the Ministry of Agriculture who expanded their operations at Loughgall.



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Mrs Diana Cowdy née Cope, the last of the Cope family to live in Drumilly.

Aberdeen Journal in July 1949.

10. Ministry Cottages

In the late 1950s, after it had taken over the Copes' estates, the Ministry of Agriculture built these little detached cottages for employees to rent. The first couple to move in were newly-weds Tommy and Agnes Elliott, who had got married on New Year's Day 1958. Over a matter of months the other three were occupied by Tom Rowntree, William John Graham and



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10 Bertie Miller. The tenancy of these cottages changed over the years as estate workers had to move out when their work contracts with the Ministry ceased.

They are all now privately owned having been purchased outright from the Ministry in the 1980s.

11. Loughgall Football Club

Loughgall Football Club dates back to the late 1880s. We are told by G. H. Bassett in his book 'County Armagh' that in 1888 a football club had already been established for three years, had thirty members and



11 'flourishes upon a subscription of two shillings per member'. Mr S. H. Orr was

the captain.

The club has flourished over the years, with their highest accolades being achieved in the 2003/04 season when they were promoted to the Premier League. Although this success was short lived and in the succeeding years the club experienced tragedy and disappointment, Loughgall still has a loyal core of supporters, none more so than its oldest and longest serving supporter, Hilbert Willis.

By 2013, Hilbert, almost 90 and pictured here on the pitch with his son, had missed no more than five or six games, home or away, in over 40 years.



11 During all of that time he devoted time and energy to the cultivation of the Lakeview Park playing surface. When he started, the place was little more than a field and a set of posts. Hilbert has been awarded honorary life membership of the club, the first person to be given this honour.

He considers his commitment to the club as a small payment in return for the hours of enjoyment provided by



the 'Villagers' as the team is locally referred to.

Hilbert's son Leslie has now taken over the reins under the 'very watchful' eye of his father, and has obviously been trained well as he was awarded the Championship Groundsman of the Year in 2013, an award won by his father on two occasions.

An amusing tale from the 1970s, but perhaps not considered amusing at the time, was the 'cow pat' saga. The club had been using the field during the football season for generations in partnership with first the Copes and later the Ministry of Agriculture who both used it for grazing out of season. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Agriculture, who disputed ownership, did not take the cattle off in time for the football season. It brought a whole new meaning to 'a sliding tackle', and troubled waters were only calmed when the Minister of Agriculture, Harry West, himself came down from Stormont. It was later determined that the ground had been gifted by the Copes and thus belonged to the village.

12. Old Creamery & Co-operative Society

A number of modern townhouses (called Loughgall Mews) now occupy the site of the old creamery. Lennon & Wylie record in 1901 that a very promising co-operative creamery had



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A typical creamery scene in the 1920s

recently been started in Loughgall.

The establishment of a co-operative creamery represented a significant development as dairying technology became available to farmers, and creameries quickly became a site of social interaction, an area where local news and gossip were exchanged. Rev.. Moeran, the rector of the time, recalls fondly the gift of £60 which farmers from all sides of the community gave to him as a thank you for the tremendous part he played in getting the creamery up and running. They knew that he had a great desire to go to the Holy Land and wanted the money to go towards his trip. The end of the 1920s saw a disastrous slump in Ireland, with co-op societies badly affected. Stocks were devalued to almost a third of their cost. In the prosperous years some co-ops extended almost unlimited credit and now found they had difficulty in recovering their debts. Loughgall seems to have survived until the late



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1920s.

The buildings eventually housed a workshop for Alfred Briggs, one of eight children, who set up what was, by 2013, the longest established kitchen manufacturer in Ireland. Around 1933, Alfred took time off from his job as a Cabinet Maker in a furniture factory in Burnley to attend his sister's wedding in his home village, Loughgall. When he arrived home to the Creamery House, he set about making some bedroom furniture as a wedding gift for the happy couple. Proud of his handy work, he showed the completed furniture to a buyer in Lennox's department store in Armagh who promptly ordered a supply of bedside tables. Alfred never returned

2013 by Alfred's son Wilson.

When the new church hall was built during the 1960s 'Alfie' donated a distinct blue kitchen which was not replaced until 2010. Alwood celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2013.

13. Isaac Walker Memorial Hall - Fourth Police Station

Behind the walls of what is now the Isaac Walker Memorial Hall is the shell of what was previously the fourth and last police station in Loughgall. It closed in 2009.

A new sub-station was built on this site in 1958 on land acquired from the Department of Agriculture when the two village constables and their



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to Burnley, but established a furniture workshop here near his home. By 1944, the business had expanded to such an extent that a move was made to Lurgan, closer to the railway station and with better access to customers. So began the Briggs family firm, humble beginnings for a business which was to develop into a group of companies, the best known of which is Alwood Kitchens all managed in



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families moved from their old quarters in the centre of the village. During the troubles the station experienced some very turbulent times with major structural repairs being carried out in 1987, and again in 1990, following Irish Republican Army (IRA) attacks. The 1987 incident resulted in the



deaths of eight IRA men and one civilian.

Constable Hanson, his wife and family including three girls, Betty, Olive and Dorothy, lived in Loughgall station during the 1960s adjacent to Constable Keys, his wife and daughter Myrtle. Dorothy recalls: 'Loughgall Police Station was noted as being the best kept station and featured in the local press - a true reflection of Mum's love for gardening and the many unusual shaped flowerbeds in the front garden. At Hallowe'en we went up to our neighbour's house at the top of the hill where Mr and Mrs Adams lived with their daughters Sandra



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The Hanson girls and Marleen Adams

and Marleen. We would sing around a bonfire while Mr Adams accompanied us on his guitar and, after a delicious feast, we were thrilled with a short fireworks display'.

14. UDR Base

The haulage yard on the left was once the Ulster Defence Regiment base for C Company of 2 UDR. When the base moved to Armagh in 1980, the buildings were refurbished as a clubhouse for Loughgall Football Club. Following bomb damage in 1987, the site was cleared and the new clubhouse was built across the road at Lakeview Park.

15. Loughgall Golf Course

Over the wall on the right hand side is the third tee of this beautiful picturesque golf course. It opened in 2000 as part of Phase 2 of the Loughgall Country Park development. The 18 hole golf course measures 6281 yards from the white markers. The front nine at 3547 yards presents a challenge to all levels, while the back nine allows the opportunity to pick up a few shots.

The course provides an interesting but fair test with water hazards,



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bunkers and sloping lies. Greens are constructed to USGA specifications and remain playable throughout the year. The course is very popular both with Club members and with the general public who can access the facilities on an ad hoc basis.

The Club motto 'CIVES OMNES COLLUDIMUS' means 'All citizens play together'.

www.loughgallcountrypark.co.uk

16. Leveleglish School (No 1)

Loughgall's first school building, founded by Erasmus Smith, a philanthropist in the field of education, on two acres of land owned by Robert Campden Cope, dates back to the year 1811, when it was built at a cost of £400. The rent for the land is described on the original lease as 'pepper corn rent'. At that time it was known as Leveleglish School. It is thought by locals that the top centre window was originally blocked off because of a Government Window Tax that existed until 1851.

The first available record of the school dates back to 1824, when Charles and Phoebe McClelland were listed as being Master and Mistress with 128 pupils on roll, 66 of whom were boys and 62 girls.

In 1859 a touching story appeared in the press. A woman and her five year old daughter were found outside the school house, careworn, bleeding

and exhausted for want of food and shelter. Apparently they had travelled from Dublin on foot and were making their way to Belfast to see the woman's husband, a soldier, who was lying in the hospital. She had carried her daughter most of the way and had



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sold clothing to support them both, but was now lost in the countryside. A local gentleman, Mr William Hardy, and his family gave her shelter and food, Rev. Mr White and his lady gave them clothes and many other comforts, and a collection was made for them in the village by Mr George Wilkinson to 'send them on their journey rejoicing' Typical Loughgall hospitality!

The school eventually moved down to the centre of the village in 1870, when the new Loughgall No 2 National School was built, later renamed The Cope School.

The building then became the residence of the school principal and was known as 'The Elms' The names of some of the occupants over the



years include Mills, Riddel, Hollywood, Dougherty, Troughton, Gallagher, Callaghan and Adams.

17. The Cope Primary School (No 3)

This is the third school building since the beginning of the 19th century. It opened in 1972, and since then has taken in pupils whose schools closed in the outlying areas of Ternagreevagh



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(1972), Salters Grange (1989) and Kinnego (1995). Since 1811 several husband and wife teams have educated local children, most recently Mr Ronnie and Mrs Pat Reilly, and Mr Ian and Mrs Jennifer Bartholomew.

18. St Luke's Church & Gates

It has been suggested that the famous architect, Francis Johnston, who was responsible for some of Armagh's beautiful Georgian buildings such as the Observatory, also designed St Luke's Church. The church was built on land granted by Arthur Cope of Drumilly and the cost was met chiefly from levies placed on each family in

the parish.

Work began on it in 1795, and in 1822 the present gallery, with its pair of cast-iron columns, was inserted. Between 1863 and 1866 it was enlarged from a simple hall-type to a T shape by the addition of two transepts. The architect involved was William Joseph Barre and the work was carried out at a cost of £1400 by Richard Cherry, a highly respected contractor who lived in the centre of the village. On 26th October 1866, Archbishop Marcus Gervais Beresford consecrated the church and dedicated it to St Luke. He also confirmed 46 boys and 63 girls in the same ceremony.

Painting by Mary Mulholland - Parish Art Class



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Signs of the generosity of the Cope



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family towards the church were the stained-glass window donated by Mrs Anna Cope of Drumilly and the original organ supplied by Mrs Cecilia Cope of the Manor House.

The church and gates are registered as listed. The listed building database for Northern Ireland describes the entrance to the church as 'A pair of original wrought and cast iron gates with scrolling finials, set between square piers of ashlar limestone with shallow pyramidal limestone caps. Right-hand gate inscribed 'Armagh Foundry 1851'. Connecting the piers is an arched wrought iron overthrow with scrolling finials'

In the early years of the 20th century, an organist and choirmaster, Mr Wainwright, was appointed at a salary not exceeding £16 per annum, and 8 ladies from the parish were appointed to collect funds to pay him. Mrs Orr who had hitherto supplied the church music was given a sewing machine and a clock in recognition of her services. During WWII the church bell was rung each evening at 9.00pm for 99 peals. Mrs Veida Grafton who rung the bell on occasion remembers that it took 4 minutes. This curfew bell ensured that everyone within ear shot knew to get off the roads and householders observed the blackout rules. Veida remembers on one occasion getting in big trouble when she rang the bell one hour too early.

St Luke's celebrated its bi-centenary in 1995.

19. Church Hall

The three acre site to build a church hall was purchased from the Ministry of Agriculture in 1947 at a cost of £55 per acre. It was agreed, at first, that until the church was in a financial position to build a hall, the Ministry would continue to cultivate the land.



Cutting of the first sod.

Eventually, members of the vestry formed a farming committee, and through good husbandry of the field, were able to present a profit for church accounts. Children of the village were involved in the harvesting of the crops. One of these little helpers confessed that, having spent hours picking broad beans, she was put off them for life! Following a prolonged funding drive, the new hall was opened in 1966. The new facilities allowed for a badminton club and an indoor bowling club to be formed, as well as facilitating the existing organisations within the



church.

During the mid 1960s, a section at the back of the three acre site was sold to the Department of Education at a cost of £675 for the building of a new school which was to open in 1972.

20. Glebe House/Old Rectory

The current rectory was erected in the 1930s on part of the garden of the previous rectory, which was by all accounts a much grander building but unfortunately no pictorial evidence of it remains. There was a Culdee parsonage on this site as far back as 1622. It would appear that the Rev. Barclay Cope improved on this to build a grand glebe house in 1740, with further improvements in 1781/1782 costing £1200. It was obviously a very impressive building at that time.

The Rev. Francis Meredith Moeran who was rector from 1897-1906 describes the house in a book of his memoirs as 'a beautiful home overlooking the lake but far too large for any ordinary parson as it consisted of no less than six sitting rooms, seven bedrooms and nine rooms in the kitchen premises, but there was no bathroom so water had to be carried up three stories to the bedrooms'. The 1901 census records show that the house had 12 windows in the front, and the family occupied 32 rooms. However by 1911 only 16 rooms were occupied, possibly because of the condition of

the building. A local lady who was born in 1920 remembers visiting the rectory with her father as a small child. She recalls that it was a very large stone house painted pink with large entrance steps to the left leading into a long hall with green tiles. This 1908 OS map shows an entrance up steps on the left.



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This artist's impression of the old rectory has been created using the above information along with the



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length, breadth and height dimensions as set out in the 1837/38 Townland Valuations.

Locals tell us that when a new rector arrived in 1920 he was reluctant to



move into the building as the two previous rectors had died of tuberculosis, a very contagious disease of that era. The church vestry considered the house too large and costly for a rectory anyway so it was decided to rent it out. Mrs Cecilia Cope expressed an interest in it, but decided against it when she found out that part of the garden was to be kept for a proposed new rectory. It was eventually rented out to Major Briscoe, a retired army officer. Unfortunately, just a few years later the house was totally destroyed by fire. It was decided that loose mortar lying around the damaged building should be used in gravel walks in the churchyard. The stones from the ruin ended up in Canada after the purchaser asked for two years in which to remove it and ship it across the Atlantic. The purchase price was £15. The coach house and barns belonging to, and at the rear of, the Old Rectory escaped the fire, and were sold in 1976 for private residences. They are now two separate impressive family homes. It is interesting to note that, when the Gordon family were renovating the old coach house in the 1970s, they found a Sunday School register from around 1920. It showed that the enrolments in a particular class had dropped by nearly 50% in one year, thought to be a result of the global Spanish flu epidemic at that time.

21. War Memorial



This picture was taken at the dedication of the War Memorial and memorial plaque on 24th June 1999. Ex-serviceman Thomas Walker, who was the driving force behind the memorial scheme, was Chairman of the Memorial Committee at the time. Over 100 men from the Loughgall district died during WWI in battles like the Somme and Messines and many more fell in WWII. The memorial plaque displays the names of 13 members of the security forces who lost their lives in the 'Troubles' of the late 20th century. They can now be remembered, on Remembrance Sunday, each year in a wreath laying ceremony in their own village.

22. Rectory Close

In 1975 The Housing Executive negotiated with the Church bodies for a site for twelve new houses to be erected on Glebe land. The price



agreed for the land was £9,500. This development was aptly named Rectory Close, following a naming competition won by a Miss Catherine Vallely, who lived nearby in Glebe Lane.

23. 160 years of Change

The site on which this modern bungalow is built was a completely different scene in the mid 1800s and early 1900s when there were at least three separate dwellings here, all thatched.



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This photograph shows Mrs Evans outside one of them, her husband's boot and shoemaker store, with Eddie McVey, a neighbour, around 1915.

The Post Office Guide by J W Lettis in 1851 lists a post office in Loughgall and, as is shown on this map dated ca1850, it was located at this corner. A Postmaster's salary in 1841 was recorded as £18 9s 4d.

Other records show that the first Post Office in the village was established

in 1811, and that William Addy was postmaster in 1841. Letters would arrive from Armagh every morning at 7.00am and would be dispatched at 5.15pm. In the 1837/38 Town



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Valuations, William Addy is recorded at a property further down the village beside the forge so it may be assumed that he moved here in the intervening period.



23

This beautiful mini needlepoint of the bungalow was done by the current owner's sister. Both ladies, born around 1920, were daughters of George Marshall, the local estate carpenter (see 30) and were born and brought up in Loughgall.



Tales & Trails... a walking tour of Loughgall

24. Loughgall Country Park

Loughgall Country Park is set in a magnificent 188 hectare estate of open farmland, orchards and the 37 acre lough. Phase one was completed during 1996, and included a football pitch/grass arena, changing pavilion and children's play area. Phase two was completed in 2000, and included an 18 hole golf course, 37 acre coarse fishery, bridle path, way-marked walks, locker/changing facility and a reception/tea area.

Loughgall Country Park is a rural haven of relaxation and recreation. The emphasis is very much on family pursuits. Walking, cycling, a children's play area, golf (See 15), fishing, an adventure trail, trim trail, eco trail, football pitch and tennis courts are just some of the amenities on offer.

The extensive facilities offer



considerable scope for pursuing a healthy lifestyle while at the same time providing an invaluable recreational outlet for children, even those of a

very young age. There's something for everyone, from the zealous sports lover to the casual visitor who relishes



24

the outdoor life. Picnicking, jogging, exercising and just lazing are the optional extras and these are free of charge!

As you follow walking trails in the park, watch out for kestrels hovering over grassland, buzzards hunting for food and a variety of songbirds. Irish hares, foxes and badgers live within the park, but red squirrels were displaced by their grey cousins in the 1970s and 1980s. The lime-rich soils and ground water give the park a very rich flora of woodland and lake-shore plants.

www.loughgallcountrypark.co.uk

25. Old Summer House

This curved stone portion of the wall was once the back of a lovely Georgian summer house which had overlooked the lake. Early maps of the 1830s indicate that it had been built before





25

the abutting estate walls in what was once the garden of Hardy's adjoining Georgian residence. It had an unusual castilian top, most of which is still intact, a window facing west (now closed up) and glass doors at the front looking down toward the lake (now closed in). Until fairly recently there had been a bracket on the wall which had been used to hang a lantern. It is now used for storage.

26. Nos 12-16 Main Street

This little row of tastefully renovated terraced cottages appears on a map of around 1830, so they are some of the oldest houses in the village. The occupations of the people who lived in them in the early 1900s include postman, gardener, agricultural labourer, army pensioner and domestic servant. As with all the other tenanted houses in Loughgall they kept changing hands on a regular basis. However they are now private family homes.

Mrs Daisy Henderson, who lived here with her large extended family until she passed away in 2003 at the age of 82, always had one up on her husband as she could boast about cycling across the frozen lake in her youth while he had only ever been able to swim across it. Neither is to be recommended today however!

27. Loughgall House

Painting by Rene Aiken - Parish Art Class



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Loughgall House is a late Georgian Grade II listed building and was built, or redeveloped by John Hardy around 1820, possibly on the site of the previous family dwelling referred to in a lease between the Copes and Andrew Hardy dated 1753. The Northern Ireland listed building database description includes the 'fine columned doorcase and unusual window detail'.

John Hardy was the land agent for the Manor House Estate and a local Justice of the Peace (JP), as was



Tales & Trails... a walking tour of Loughgall

his father before him. He was also a local magistrate who dealt with many of the petty cases heard in the local Courthouse. In 1834 he was suspended from his position, being accused of supporting loyalists in a local skirmish, but was reinstated later that year following representation from influential public figures. His son, William, sold the house back to the Cope family in 1878, who continued to use it for their Land Stewards, the last being Mr John Moore, who had come from Co. Clare with his wife and five of his seven daughters in 1904. The snowdrops that Mrs Moore brought from Co. Clare still come up every year under the large beech tree at the bottom of the garden. A very welcome sight!

In 1945 the Ministry of Agriculture purchased the Manor House Estate (including this house and many others in the village) for the princely sum of £47,000. The house became offices for the estate managers with the upstairs being rented out for living accommodation. Managers over the years included Martin Milligan, John Wilkinson and Milby Gregg.

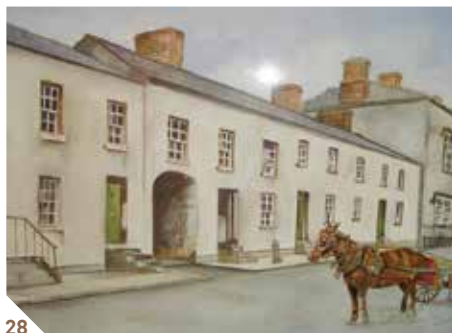
Another one of these managers, William Rossbotham, was to bring great excitement and celebration to the village in 1954 when he brought home a Gold Medal in the Lawn Bowls Pairs competition from the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver,

Canada. Some villagers still recall how a plan to ring the old farmyard bell on his arrival back to the village almost ended in tragedy when the bell escaped its housing and fell to the ground, narrowly missing the bellringer.

The house and adjacent orchard (where the bungalow is now built) were sold to a local family by the Dept of Agriculture in 1975. The current owners have lived here since 2001.

28. Sherwood's Row

Painting by Greta Winter - Parish Art Class



John Hardy was also responsible for building the original five terraced houses adjacent to his home. These houses were built for workers on the Manor House Estate and their families. Locals, during and after WWII referred to them as 'Sherwood's Row' after a man called Sherwood who came to Loughgall with the army and married a local girl.



The houses were rebuilt in 1970s by the Housing Executive as their condition by then was recorded as 'fair to poor'. The first plans put forward for their replacement gave rise to local protests as they were thought to be ugly and out of character. They are now privately owned.

29. Beechville

Beechville House is a beautiful Georgian listed home and was built by the Cope family obviously before 1834 as it appears on an old map of that date. It can be noted that the chimney formation has been repositioned at some time.

The first known tenant in 1837/38 was Rev. Edward Leet who, as curate at Loughgall, earned around £75 per year. In 1839 he became the first

two curates, a Methodist minister, a linen merchant's widow, a retired bank manager, an egg and butter merchant and a school master. Since 1965, occupants have included a bank manager, an insurance broker, a solicitor and now a wine merchant.

During the First World War, Beechville was registered as a War Hospital Supply Depot by a Miss Bates, who was entitled to wear this little pin. This medical supply organisation provided the war effort with vital hospital equipment including splints, crutches and surgical supplies.



29

Rector of the Church of Ireland parish of Dalkey in Dublin.

Other tenants who occupied the house before it was purchased from Sir Gerald Templer in 1965, included

30. Estate Carpenter's House

Painting by Cathleen Gordon - Parish Art Class



30

Although this house was restored as a beautiful single family home around 1999, it was once two separate houses the larger one to the right.



Tales & Trails... a walking tour of Loughgall

These houses may not have been the original ones, as an 1834 map shows



an L shaped building on this site. The tenants over the years have included a spirit grocer, a shopkeeper, a district nurse, a policeman, a postman and the Manor Estate carpenter, George Marshall.

It is interesting to note that in the Belfast Morning News dated October 1881, an application for renewal of a liquor licence by the then tenant Wm Thompson was withdrawn, no doubt due to the efforts of Mrs Cope to buy up all the liquor licences in the village at that time (See No 39).

The Marshall family moved into the larger of the houses in 1908/10, and remained there for over 90 years during which time they incorporated the house next door. George and his wife, who lost four of their children in infancy, created a loving family home for twenty nine children over the years including their own family, evacuees

during WWII and foster children. Mrs Marshall is also fondly remembered in the village for providing warm food for a number of school children at lunchtime before school dinners were an option. There is a window in St Luke's Parish Church dedicated to them by their family aptly notated 'Suffer the Little Children' Emily, one of their daughters, became Honorary Treasurer for the Church in 1951, and continued to manage church finances for an amazing 40 years.

Mrs Una Vincent, another daughter who, in 2013, still lives in the village, can clearly recall wonderfully happy times growing up here in the 1920s and 1930s.

The current owners purchased the house in 1997.

31 Orange Hall & Caretaker's Residence

The 1837/38 Townland Valuation record a John Kimlin and a John Hepburn living in two houses on this site. John Hepburn is recorded as having a forge at that time.

Richard Cherry, who was a successful building contractor in the Armagh area during the 1860s, lived and ran his business from where the Orange Hall and adjacent house now sit. Some of his major contracts included the enlargement of Armagh Gaol (1845), Annaghmore Parish Church (1859), the



addition of transepts to form a T Plan in Loughgall Church (mid 1860s) and Drumcairn flax spinning mill on the left as you leave Armagh for Loughgall (1865). The family eventually moved to Belfast around 1890.

In the early 1900s, the Cope family donated the two former attached houses to 'the Orangemen of Loughgall' to create an Orange Hall. The house on the right was retained in its original state as a caretaker's residence while the larger one on the left was redesigned and opened as Loughgall District Orange Hall on November 5, 1907.

The only Lodges that still meet in the District Hall today are Loughgall Temperance LOL 64, one of the earliest Orange Lodges formed after the Battle of the Diamond, and Loughgall Women's LOL 135 formed on 16th March 1935. WLOL 135's first Worshipful Mistress was Mrs Ruth Dawson (née Lemon) the local GP. This photograph of WLOL No. 135 was

taken around the mid 1940s when Mrs Sowter (née Cope, centre) was Worshipful Mistress.

During the 1930s & 40s the Halligan family, including 11 children, lived in the two-bedroomed caretaker's house with some of the children using the large upstairs landing as a bedroom.

This old photograph taken in the



31

1930s shows three of the Halligan children on the left side of the street. Years later, one of the little girls, Veida, married the little boy, Bobbie Grafton, seen at the driver's side of the car across the road. The other two boys at the car are John Briggs (who, when Head Constable in Belleek, received the B.E.M for services rendered) and Dickie Grafton. All three boys lived in Sherwood's Row. Incidentally the car was a Jowett Long Four Tourer.

The former caretakers residence, cast iron railings, gates and interestingly the cast iron seat are all listed. The database describes the doorcase as 'elliptically plastered'



31



32. Manor House and Estate

Painting by Joanne McAdam - Parish Art Class



The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (Afbi), a leading provider of scientific research and services to government, non-governmental and commercial organisations, is located in the Loughgall Manor Estate. Its headquarters building is the imposing Manor House which is linked to the Main Street by an avenue of lime trees and splendidly ornate entrance gates. Afbi strive to support and develop industry through mushroom research,



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research and development, grass breeding programmes, potato breeding programmes, agroforestry, specialist horticultural production and plant protection, short rotation coppice and specialist analytical and diagnostic services.

Once the residence of the Copes, the

Manor House dates back to the mid 19th century but, of course, the family's roots in the area go back much earlier, to the 17th century. The last member of the Cope family to live at the Manor House was Helen Gertrude Sowter who took over the reins of the estate when her unmarried brother, Francis Robert, died. She and her husband, an English clergyman, Canon Francis Briggs Sowter of Salisbury Cathedral, took an active interest in the village and spent much of their retirement there. Management of the estate was in the hands of the Templer family, relations by marriage and, when Mrs Sowter died in 1941, the parents of Field Marshall Sir Gerald Templer took up residence in the Manor House for the next five years. It was sold with the estate to the Ministry of Agriculture in 1946.

Mrs Templer planned to move into Beechville, on the main street, but the existing tenant objected so she moved to Little Castledillon, just outside Armagh.

33. Manor House Entrance & Gate Lodges

This is a particularly ornate example of an early Victorian gatescreen in a neo-Jacobean style, which retains almost all its original features and combines with its associated twin gate lodges to form the entrance to what was once an important country house demesne.





33

They appear, for the first time, on the Ordnance Survey map of 1860.

Built in 1842 for Arthur Cope, the gates were manufactured by R. Marshall of Caledon. Originally there was an ornate overthrow linking the two central piers but it was accidentally toppled by a lorry in the 1960s and has not been reinstated.

In 1901 a gatekeeper and a laundress lived in the lodges. At that time,



33

laundry for the 'big house' was done behind the gatelodge on the right. Locals still remember the laundry hanging out to dry.

One village resident, who is almost

90, recalls how his father signed an elderly lady out of the workhouse in the 1920s. He had secured one of the gate lodges from Mrs Cope for her to live in. His memory of her is that she always looked 'black as soot'.

The gates and lodges were bought along with the rest of the Manor House estate in 1947 by the Ministry of Agriculture.

34. Tennis / Cricket / Athletic/Cycling Clubs

The Cope family actively supported other sporting activities in the village as well as football (See 4).

Records show that Loughgall had a Cricket Club around 1870. Lennon & Wylie in 1901 report that at Loughgall 'An Athletic and Cycling Club has been formed and a very safe grass track has been laid out in the Demense grounds'. Newspaper articles of the time include reports on cycling competitions held in Loughgall, with entrants coming from as far away as Belfast.

In 1926 ground just inside the main gates was donated to the villagers by Canon Sowter and his wife, the former Miss Helen Cope, so that a tennis club might be formed. There was one hard court made of cement, one grass court and a small pavilion. Strict protocol was observed when new members presented themselves. Voting and vetting had to take place



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and one black bean in five excluded all undesirables.

Among the many incidents of note over the years, was the case of August Saturday. A play of that name, set in a rural tennis club, had been written by the author William Trevor. Around 1989, Mr Kim Kincade, a solicitor, resident of Beechville (See 29) and a member of Loughgall Tennis Club persuaded the BBC that Loughgall was the perfect setting for the play. His idea was taken up and the play was produced and filmed with a well-known cast. Some of the local children from the Cope School played minor parts. The play ended with a beautiful scenic shot as the cast walked off at sunset towards the Manor House. Canon and Mrs Sowter would have greatly enjoyed it had they lived to see it.

The tennis courts have recently been refurbished and now form a popular part of Loughgall Country Park.

those who felt it was inappropriate to display a weapon of war that had been responsible for the deaths of so many allied soldiers. Consequently many were happy for the gun to be taken away for the war effort around



35

1942.

In this rare photograph, taken around 1931, the little girl sitting precariously on the old canon was Veida Halligan who, in 2013, still lives in the village.

35. Gun Stand

Unfortunately the cannon is no longer on this gun stand but the current owner of the site, who lives next door, replaces it with a magnificent award winning show of bloom each summer. The cannon had been captured from the enemies during the First World War and had been placed there as a trophy in 1919/20. Understandably there was some opposition from

36. Sexton's Cottage

This little cottage appears on a map dated 1834, so was most likely built in the late 18th, or early 19th century in the Georgian period. Its position beside the old church and graveyard made it an ideal home for the sexton and his family. The various sextons over the years up to the mid 1900s include James Orr (34 years), Samuel Orr (31 years), Christopher Halligan (30 years) Ernest Halligan (25 years) and Tom Marshall (approx 10 yrs).



Painting by Josie Duggan - Parish Art Class



36

The sexton's cottage was purchased outright by the Church from General Templer in 1947 for £200. It was agreed to put a sexton's house sign on the gate. However by 1954, as it was no longer required for a sexton, the Church was prepared to sell it as a site for the new proposed police station. This plan fell through, but the Church was successful in selling it in 1956 to a Mr Cooke for £300, with part of the garden being retained by the parish. James Rolston, who originally came from Loughgall but was now running a business in Belfast, bought the property in 1957 and used it as a holiday home for many years before retiring here. The thatch was removed in the 1970s and replaced with tiles. This is a photograph of James Rolston's wedding to Lucy Johnston, which took place in Cloveneden Presbyterian Church in 1919. It was an impressive double wedding as James' sister was also married that day. Apparently



36

the mother of one of the brides was a fantastic dressmaker – did she make all the dresses? We may never know. The next and current owner bought the property around 1990.

37. Old Church Ruins and Graveyards

Also see Graveyard Tour Booklet available from Loughgall and District Improvement Association

This church, it is claimed, was built on the site of a 13th century church, and in 1622, the regal visitation recorded



37

that 'the rector was then resident, one Rev. John Richardson, and that the church was well repaired'. According to numerous depositions by survivors



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of the terrible 1641 rebellion, led by Sir Phelim O'Neill against General Monroe (a Scot), Loughgall and district suffered much bloodshed. Jonathan Bardon, in his book 'Plantation of Ulster' published in 2012, quotes from a deposition made by a William Clark regarding Manus Roe O'Cahan as follows 'drove...three score persons which belonged to the Parish of Loughgall and put them all in the Church there...imprisoned for the space of nine days with at least 100 men, women and children... tortured... after which.. were driven ... about six miles to Porte of Doune to a river called the Band... thrust them headlong into the river... perished... shot at'.

An archeological survey in 1987 states that the inner face of the gable shows signs of fire damage, the date of which is not known.

After the burning, the church was not rebuilt until 1740, from which time it was in constant use until 1795 and beyond. During 1786, church records show that the condition of the church was giving cause for concern and the erection of a new church was considered. Although the building of a new church at the top of the hill may have begun in 1795, as the tablet above the door informs, it was not occupied until a later date.

Today, the ruined bell-tower at the top of the west gable is a landmark in the centre of the village. It bears the date

1734 which refers to the beginning of the renovations following the rebellion.

The first recorded rector, in 1456, was a Richard Noter. There is a great gap before the next entry, in 1613, that of John Lyford who, following a scandal in Loughgall, went to America. There he became a controversial figure during the early years of the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. He was eventually banished from the Colony.



37

The Cope families have continuously played a very active role in the church since the early 1600s. Entries concerning them are a very regular occurrence in early church records, be it baptisms (frequent) or burials (impressive). One such entry for 20th Feb 1724 reads

'Walter Cope of Drumilly, Esqr. Was interred in his own pew next to ye Communion Table in ye Parish Church



39. The Rock Tavern

Although the main house is considered to have been built in the late Georgian period the extension to the right was not built until the early 1900s. This

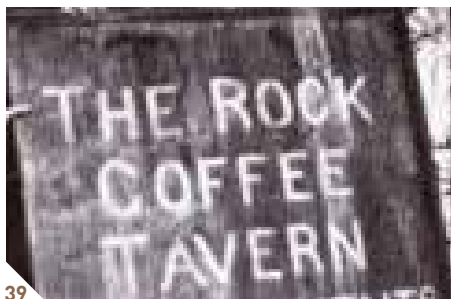


39

later extension appears to have been to accommodate a billiards room as part of the Rock Tavern.

The house originally operated as a spirit grocery and hotel run by John Hyde Cardwell. The cost of a liquor licence in 1844 was almost £10. An 1836 gunpowder return shows that John Hyde sold 19lb 8oz of gunpowder to customers for shooting purposes in a two week period. The Cardwells left Loughgall possibly as a result of their liquor licence being bought up by Mrs Cope.

There are no pubs in the village now thanks to Mrs Cecilia Cope who, like many ladies in Victorian times, was a fervent advocate of temperance. She bought up the licences of the publicans in the village and instead offered an alternative, the Rock Coffee Tavern, which opened in July 1879. A



39

report of the opening appeared in the Belfast News Letter dated July 1879. It described the facility as 'a most comfortable and suitable building. ... There is a good reading room which is amply supplied with daily, weekly, and temperance newspapers, periodicals, etc. The coffee room is large and airy and fitted with marble tables and comfortably seated stalls. A commodious kitchen, with glass doors, opens into the coffee room... refreshments all of which are sold at prices scarcely sufficient to cover their cost. ... Admission to the reading room is free'

An advert for a manager in the same publication in 1892 is of interest as it reflects the recruitment policy of the time. 'Man and wife wanted to manage a Coffee Tavern in a village (without children preferred) total abstainers and Protestants'

Another sign of the times was that the users of the tavern were predominantly male. The woman's place was in the home!!





39

A few of the tokens, inscribed 'GOOD FOR ONE PENNYWORTH OF REFRESHMENTS' at 'LOUGHGALL COFFEE TAVERN' are still in existence today. These would have been given to workers on the estate, in lieu of part of their wages, to encourage them away from the nearest pub which was approximately one mile outside the village.

Mrs Cope also started a branch of the 'Band of Hope' in the parish where young people were warned of the evils of intoxicating drink. The membership of this was in the hundreds.

During both World Wars some soldiers

This is a copy of a greeting card drawn, in 1941, by a soldier from the Fifth Reconnaissance Corps. The original hung in the hall until the early 2000s.

Around the mid 1950s the Huey family, purchased the house. Mr Huey was the principal of Hardy Memorial Primary School, Richhill. His wife opened an antique business at the rear of the house which was extremely popular during the 70s and 80s, one of several in the village at that time. When Mrs Huey retired, her son continued the business here until 2010 when it was downsized and relocated to the Markethouse.

40. Gabled Houses

These premises seem to have been part of the original hotel and spirit grocers in the 1860s which occupied a large site of over two acres. The listed building database states that they were possibly built between 1820 and 1839. This is verified by the gunpowder records mentioned at number 39. They are now separate private homes.

41. Whiskey Distillery

A written account made by an 88-year-old man in 1923 talks about a man called Spencer having a whiskey distillery in the 18th century, the stand of which was 'just over a river from the lake on left hand side going down the village behind the bank and between



39

were billeted in the Tavern and others frequented it for entertainment.



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Mr Jackson's shop and the graveyard – a square of half a rood or better'. He records 'the high walls were some years ago bare and unroofed'. 'They stept their grain in a drain flagged with stones in the bottom of a field in Eagrallougher, it is now levelled in but the flag stones are in it yet. I saw it myself before it was stopped in'. His uncle could 'get a quart for a shilling and their saying how mild and easy taken, it made them jolly and not drunk or sick'

In 1822 it was reported that there were only 22 legal whiskey distilleries in Ireland. Do you think this was one of them??

It should be noted that the Miss Spencers are recorded in the Townland Valuations of 1837/38 as living in the house to the right so what more do we need to substantiate this story.



42

Kincaid is recorded as having a grocery business here. George Jackson, who already had businesses further up the village, opened his grocer's shop here in 1877 and for nearly 100 years at least four generations of the family worked in the business. Jackson's shop, and later a Post Office, was a prominent meeting place for villagers and parishioners over the years. Bassett in 1888 mentions that groceries, hardware, seeds, boots, delf, etc. were merchandise supplied by George Jackson. Jim Jackson, the last Jackson proprietor, born in 1923, and still living in the area, recalls his father purchasing four huts for storage (seen in this photograph) from Ballykinler Army base in the early 1920s for £19 each. These had been used to house allied soldiers during WW1 and internees following the 1921 uprising. The invoice shown here gives some

42. No 50 Main Street - Jackson's Shop

This row of terraced houses is listed, and it is thought that they were built in the early 1800s. In the 1837/38 Townland Valuations, No 50 was occupied by the Misses Spencer whose father had left a substantial estate of both houses and land to his family in 1806.

No 50 was once one of at least four shops at this end of the village. If you look carefully, you can see where the original shop opening had been. In Griffith 1860s valuation a John





42

idea of the cost of groceries in 1913. In 1918 Lennon & Wylie record George Jackson as a 'grocer, post master, and agent for Belfast News Letter and Belfast Weekly News' In the 1927 Phone Book the telephone number for J.A. Jackson (known locally as Bertie), was Loughgall 1. The shop was purchased by the Reid family in 1969. When they transferred their business, in 1989, to where the village shop is now, they converted the existing shop and living quarters into a large family home. It was sold to the current owners in 2008.

43. No 52 Main Street

Townland Valuations of 1837/38 list a Joseph Sheppard living here. It is thought that Joseph was a carpenter. John McKitterick, a baker, is recorded



43

by Griffith as living here from 1864 to 1909. A lady called Jane Halligan lived here for a short time, following which it was occupied by married policemen stationed in the village. The names of some of those who passed through were Campbell, Bogue and Taylor.

It is interesting to note that Isaac Walker, after whom the Community Hall in the former RUC station on the outskirts of the village is named, lived here until the late 1990s.

The current owners, relatives of Isaac's, carried out a meticulous restoration of the building in 2002, including reinstatement of a picket fence.

44. No 54 Main Street – Second Police Station

No 54, including the archway and above, are recorded in Griffith Valuation in 1859 as a police barracks, offices, yard and small back garden. This was probably the second police barracks in Loughgall (see 50). Because it was a barracks, William H. Walker, the lease-holder, had only to



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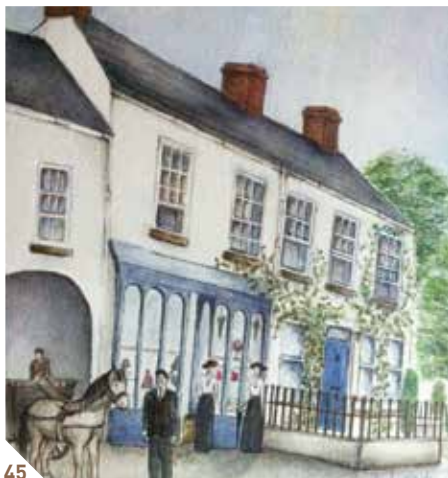
44
pay half the rental. Abraham Walker, probably William's father and a merchant, is recorded as occupying this and all the adjacent properties and yard to the right in the 1837/38 Townland Valuation.

When the police barracks moved across the road in 1871, the tenants over the years included a minister's widow and two young children, a scripture reader and some labourers. When Jack Bell, Harry Bell's son, retired from his hardware business next door he moved into this house. The shop has changed hands many times, but the Bell family still occupy the house.

45. Village Shop

The first known record of the occupier of this shop and adjacent dwellings can be found in the 1837/38 Townland Valuations. He was a merchant called Abraham Walker who died in 1841. The next records are of a Joseph Orr and a Joseph Killings who are recorded in the 1859 Griffith Valuations as being tenants

Painting by Wendy White - Parish Art Class



45
of the spirit/grocers shop, adjacent house and houses/offices down the side. As Joseph Orr was also involved in fruit export, he may have also run this business from here. The tenancy, like for the majority of houses in the village, changed hands many times. Families who have operated a grocery store from here over the years include Fox, Livingstone, Halligan, Bell, Jameson, Reid, Whittle, Lucas, Hall and now, in 2013, Gilpin.

Although the arch to the left is now closed in, local residents believe that coach/mail horses during the late 1800s and early 1900s were stabled, changed and refreshed in the yard beyond the arch.

This old photograph, taken around 1913, clearly shows that the premises





45 included a Posting Establishment at that time.

When Harry Bell owned a grocery/hardware business here in the 1940s, he also owned the complete premises to the right plus the yard. You could have bought anything in his shop, from a nail to an anchor. He also had a timber yard to the rear with a saw mill going continuously. The original barn was probably used as a timber shed. This is the only shop left in the village, and its continued existence depends very much on support from local residents and visitors.

46. No 56 - 60 Main Street

This beautiful attached house, to the right of the shop, originally had been the residence of families who operated their business in this complex of several houses, offices and a yard.

The complex is now privately owned and occupied on a rental basis. Take note of the beautiful barn conversion to the right which was carried out in the 1980s.

One local resident recalls how, as a young boy, going to school during WWII, he watched the soldiers who were encamped in the Manor House Estate marching down from the big house, through the bottom entrance gate and into this yard to the cookhouse for their meals. Unlike Drumilly Camp, they did not have a cookhouse on site.

47. Masonic Hall

The Ensor Masonic Lodge, Loughgall, came into existence in 1888. It was named after Captain Charles Ensor of Adress House and for 14 years it held its meetings in an upper room over a shop across the street belonging to one of its founder members, George Jackson. The annual cost of the room was £1. This room was also used for local Orange Lodge meetings.



In 1902, a new Masonic Hall, built to Mrs Cope's specifications, was officially opened on a plot donated by the Copes. The foundation stone was laid with a silver trowel, now on



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display in the hall, courtesy of the Deane family. The final cost of the build was £350.

To mark the Centenary in 1988 the lodge issued a jewel in the shape of a bramley apple suspended on a Masonic blue ribbon.

The lodge continues to meet here today. It is one of the few remaining lodges whose meetings are governed by the phases of the moon. They are held on the Wednesday on or before the Full Moon.

It may be of interest to know that a Masonic Lodge operated in Loughgall between 1768 and 1801, location unknown.



48

remaining heir to this Spencer family property died around 1860. It appears that a Sinclair Orr, a linen merchant with an office in Armagh and recorded in Griffith Valuation in 1864, took over the lease. The listed building database dates the building as mid 19th century so it may have been altered over the years. Sinclair may have gone to Canada around 1870, at which time the police barracks moved from across the road. Obviously this was a more generous site. The 1901 and 1911 census shows that there was a sergeant and three constables stationed in Loughgall at that time. It remained as a barracks until the new station was built in 1958, at which time the complement of officers had been reduced to two constables. The current owners purchased the property at that time.

48. Third Police Station

Painting by Wendy White - Parish Art Class



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The 1837/38 Townland Valuations record a George Spencer living on this site. The Spencer family were substantial land owners who owned and/or leased houses and land in the townland of Causnagh. The last

49. Old Cope Primary School (No 2) and 'School House'

The building of a new brick house mentioned in Ordnance Survey



Memoirs in 1830s most likely refers to this one in front of the school. In the 1837/38 Townland Valuation the occupier is listed as Robert Addy, and Griffith records show that occupiers from 1864 included James Long, Beatty, Brennan, Quigley, Mary Price a teacher, George Marshall, the estate carpenter (see 30) in 1907

Painting by Wendy White - Parish Art Class



and Ellen Corker, a teacher in 1919. The Dictionary of Irish Architects shows that the original school in the background, now forming part of a substantial family home, was designed by William Joseph Barre and opened in May 1862. Griffith's map around that time refers to it as a 'Female School'. However it obviously eventually catered for both boys and girls as, by 1870 the original school at the top of the village had become the residence of the headmaster.

In recognition for the ongoing support given by the Cope family and to differentiate between it and Loughgall National School in Eagrallougher the

school became known as The Cope School around 1900. Mr. Robert Callaghan was the headmaster at that time.

Mr Callaghan was a teacher of great repute, who more than once had won the coveted Carlisle and Blake award for excellence. Many of his pupils, including his own son, went to the Royal School and subsequently had



careers in the army. A lady who used to live in the village recalls hearing that when her aunt aspired to be a teacher, Mr Callaghan not only encouraged her in school but gave her additional lessons in his own home. She went on to excel at the Teacher Training College in Dublin.

Further principals of the school at this site were Mr. W.S. Keegan (1932-1939), Mr. W.E. Mills (1939-1959) and Mr R. Reilly, who oversaw the move to the new building in 1972 (see 17).



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In the mid 1970s the premises were purchased by John Taylor, a local politician who, in 2001 was created a life peer as Baron Kilclooney of Armagh in the County of Armagh. A very successful restaurant was established but unfortunately closed when the premises were sold in the late 1990s.

50. No. 65 Main Street – Police Station No 1

This house and No 67 next door appear on a map dated 1834. However the listed building database states that



'the rusticated Gibbsian doorcases on them indicate early to mid 18th century' which would tie in to the date the Courthouse was built i.e. 1746. It is thought that No 65 could have been the original constabulary barracks as it is listed as a barracks in the 1837/38 Townland Valuation and its location was convenient to the Courthouse. The first attempts to introduce professional policing in Ireland

began in the early 19th century with the formation of the Constabulary of Ireland in 1836 under the central control of the government at Dublin Castle. Policemen were prohibited from voting and serving in their native areas, as indicated in the 1911 census when their places of birth were recorded as Donegal, Fermanagh, Mayo and Louth. In 1867 the constabulary was given a royal title and became the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), a name which it retained until 1922 when, after partition, it became the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). This title was replaced by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in 2001.

Griffith's records show that Robert Templer, brother-in-law of Cecilia Cope and agent to the Manor House estate, lived here from 1870 to 1885 followed, from 1885 to around 1930, by W. Ewing and then his son, Richard, who had succeeded him as Clerk of Loughgall Petty Sessions (see 54).

The property is now privately owned and is occupied on a rental basis.



51. No. 63 Main Street

The 1837/38 Townland Valuation lists a Thomas Sinclair as resident here. His sister had married John Hyde Cardwell (see 39) and it is believed he eventually went to Manchester as a missionary.

John Hardy, the local magistrate, died in 1852 and it is confirmed in a Portadown Business directory for 1852 that William Moore Miller, a magistrate who still lived here around 1860, had taken over his position. The local Presbyterian minister Rev. W. Smith lived here for a short time around 1880 followed by Thomas Lonsdale, Arthur Brooke, a land agent and then in 1919 Isaac Allen, a retired land agent. When Rev. W. B. Stack took up position as local rector in 1920, he had reservations about living in the rectory (see 20) so was offered this house.



In December 1952, it was reported as far away as Australia, in the Adelaide

Advertiser, that Loughgall was farming silkworms to produce silk for the royal velvet in the Queen's Coronation Robe. This was all brought about by a doctor's widow, Mrs Nina Patrick, while living here. The worms, which were farmed in the cellars of the house, fed on mulberry bushes. Joe Smyth, a local postman, played his part by tending her mulberry bushes and looking after the lamps in the cellar as well as looking out for more bushes on his rounds.



Other residents, since the early 1960s, include a retired army colonel who had been imprisoned by the Japanese during the war, a business man, a retired headmaster from Belfast who had also been imprisoned by the Japanese and had written a book on his experiences, a police inspector, a wine merchant and now a doctor and her family.

The yew hedge surrounding the house is over 100 years old, not surprising in that a yew can live for 4000 years. Amazing!



Tales & Trails... a walking tour of Loughgall

52. Babington Row

Hume Babington was an architect and engineer from Derry. He also advertised himself as a surveyor and house agent, and it was in this capacity that he worked for the Cope



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family after the death of Robert B. Templer in 1886. This row of terraced houses built before 1830, at one time called Babington's Row, may have been improved by him during the time he acted as agent in Loughgall. He inherited a country estate, Creevagh House, Co. Derry, and was a JP for Counties Armagh and Derry. He died on 6 June 1925.

53. Rose Cottage

Rose Cottage is tucked back almost out of sight on the height to the right of the Courthouse. According to Griffith records it was occupied by a family called Hayes in 1864, followed by Boulding or Boland who was a coachman/butler for the Manor House, and then the Calvin family who moved there in 1929. Mr Calvin was a

stonemason and his wife a postwoman. Their grandchildren, many of whom still live in the village, recall many happy times spent up here. The family lived here until 1970s, after which the cottage remained unoccupied for a considerable time.

Precise dating of the building is not recorded, but a building is shown in this position on the OS map of 1860. A building is also shown in approximately this position on the OS map of 1834, but it is smaller. The porch does not appear until the OS map of 1908. It may be taken to be a re-building of an early 19th century cottage, possibly as late as the late 19th century or early 20th century.

The current owners, direct descendants of the Calvin family, who purchased the property from the Ministry of Agriculture in 1989, have restored and sensitively extended it to retain its character, charm and historic interest whilst retaining some of its original features and displaying some traditional detailing.

There is a large roost of jackdaws and rooks in the trees on the hill behind the cottage.

54. The Courthouse / Market House

The Courthouse and Market House, which was described as having a roughcast and whitewashed finish in the 1830s, dates back to 1746 when it had a dual purpose. Downstairs was



what was described as a 'large and handsome Market House and above was the Court House'. Up until the beginning of the 1800s, a market was held every Friday, and fairs were held four times a year. By 1835 these had all been discontinued and the market house was unused by 1846.

From 1827 the monthly manorial courts, which dealt with local disputes and nuisances (wandering cattle, broken fences, blocked ditches, etc), were replaced by more formal monthly petty sessions where the magistrate and his trained clerk handled the less

be used for breaking and entering, robbery, etc. This mysterious power was communicated by a dead man's finger which he valued dearly. Don't ask where he got it!

The wife became very concerned about the finger, so she buried it in a neighbour's field and forgot where she buried it. When the husband demanded it and she couldn't find it, he got so enraged that he gave her a terrible beating. The man was reprimanded for misconduct and gross superstition and ordered to find bail and keep the peace for 12 months.

A local man, who was a young boy in the 1920s, remembers James Patterson Best, a solicitor from Armagh, holding court in Loughgall.

The Petty Sessions were abolished in 1938 when the townlands involved were transferred to Armagh, Moy or Portadown.

Of course there were some petty criminals who escaped the net. Rev. Francis M. Moeran, rector from 1886 – 1906, recalls a little wiry man, locally known as 'Black Jack', innocently telling him how he and some other men were making counterfeit pennies by first making a mould with soap. They apparently put more copper in the pennies than the real ones, thereby giving people better value. He writes 'They really enjoyed their game hugely, first because they were able to outwit the police, secondly,



serious local crimes.

In 1862 the Petty Sessions were held on the third Wednesday in the month, and the Clerk of Sessions was Jacob Orr Jnr.

One amusing case reported in the press in 1863 concerned the loss of what we would call a 'lucky charm'. A wife summoned her husband for gross ill treatment. He had a talisman which he thought made him invisible at certain times and places and could



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they made a little money and thirdly, because they felt there was nothing wrong with it'. Of course the Reverend advised him 'it must come to an end'. Do you think it did? These pennies were locally referred to as Derrycrew pennies.

Older residents recall being taught in the courthouse when the school was being renovated and attending functions there. They all remember the judge's bench which remained there for some time after the court ceased. In 1992 the building was renovated by conservationist architects for commercial use including a hairdressers, a tea shop and a kitchen company. The premises currently house Robyn James' hairdressers and Huey's antique shop, with the courtroom upstairs being used as auction rooms on an occasional basis.

circled on this map). Records show the Fanning family living here from as far back as the 1860s when John Fanning was recorded as a cooper. A cooper is what we would refer to today as a barrel maker. During the 1920s two Fanning sisters, Rose and Maggie, were seamstresses for the big house. A local man recalls that when he was a young boy in the 1920s he tore his new trousers on barbed wire and was afraid to go home. One of the Miss Fannings came to his rescue and, after asking him to bend over her knee (she would never have dared suggest he take his trousers off), stitched him up and told him that his mother would never notice it. He says that his mother never mentioned it but suspects that 'a wee bird' told her his secret.

The house was used at some time as a makeshift youth hall and was demolished when the courthouse was restored.

55. The Fanning Family

Before the restoration of the courthouse, there used to be a small house just to the right of it (no 46



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56. Women's Institute Hall

The first Women's Institute was formed in Northern Ireland in 1932 to help rural women of the Province for whom, at that time, there was very little in the way of fellowship or training. The membership fee in 1942 was sixpence.

Loughgall WI was formed in 1946 after a formation meeting was held in the Cope School. The group met on the first Wednesday of the month



in the Cadets' Hall on this same site. Community activities undertaken by the women in the early years after the war included trying to get an extra water pump into the village for the convenience of the residents, and arranging with the bus service to have a bus go via Loughgall to Armagh at 2.30pm twice a week to enable the ladies of the village to shop.

When the cadets vacated the hall in the 1950s, the WI members purchased the hall outright at a cost of just £80.



Painting by Mrs. Maisie Prescott

- Faithful W.I. member and Past President

The original wooden structure was replaced during the renovation of the courthouse in 1992. An extensive refurbishment was undertaken in 2005. Loughgall is one of the largest Women's Institutes in the area with over 40 members in 2013.

Loughgall and District Improvement Association, in which every resident of the district is a member, has bi-

monthly meetings in this hall. It was formed in the 1997 with the following objectives.

'Promoting to the benefit of the inhabitants of the Loughgall area general community projects of an environmental and conservation nature with the object of improving the quality of life for the said inhabitants without distinction of sex or of political or religious opinions'.

It has been through the hard work and determination of this Association, with a lot of support from the local Council, that Loughgall has been consistent award winners since 1995 in the following competitions - Best Kept Village, N.I. Tidy Village, All Ireland Tidy Village, Ulster in Bloom, Britain in Bloom and overall winner of All Ireland Tidy Towns.

57. No. 62 - 66 Main Street

This row of little houses appears on an 1830s map and in the 1864 Griffith Valuation were valued around two pounds each. The tenants up until 1926 included labourers, a tailor, a stable groom, and a gardener with surnames of Cooke, Long, Morrow, Mitchell, Callaghan, Halligan and King. The King family, who lived in No. 62, had very strong military connections as Johnny (seen overleaf), with his medals, had served in both the Boer War and the Great War, while his son Constable Alfred 'Alfie' King (later Sergeant) was awarded the British





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Johnny King wearing his medals

Empire Medal in 1941 for services rendered, and another son Jack (W.J.), a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF, was awarded an M.B.E.

Joe Smyth, who lived in No 64, was the postman who helped Mrs Patrick with the silkworms (see 51). His son Albert became a chauffeur for the Governor at Hillsborough and once had the pleasure of conveying His Royal Highness Prince Philip.

Mrs Calvin had a little 'house shop' in No 66 in the mid 1900s. She mainly dealt in wool but sweets and general groceries were also available. She was open on a Sunday, a rarity at that time! A local lady remembers as a child going into her shop and marvelling at all the wool set out behind the counter.

58. The Blacksmith's Forge and Emily's Cottage

One of the focal points of village life in the 18th and 19th centuries was the blacksmith's forge. The forge was at the back of this little cottage and was where the smith or farrier used his tools of the trade, including his fire, anvil, hammer, fuller and nails.

It is assumed that this beautifully restored little cottage was built before 1834 because a building is shown on this site on a map of that date.

Around 1864 a Thomas Wright is recorded as the blacksmith, and three brothers, most likely his sons, William, Thomas and George, appear as blacksmiths on the 1901 census. Wrights continued to operate the forge until Albert Moore took it over in 1928. When the family moved out of the cottage to the country in the 1930s, the cottage was rented out. However Albert continued with the business at the rear of the premises until the early 1960s, by which time



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there was little or no demand for a farrier. Albert's daughter, Mrs Pat Reilly, who was born here, still lives locally and is the author of several informative local history publications including 'Loughgall – A Plantation Parish' 1995.

The name 'Emily's Cottage' refers to a local art teacher, Emily McAllister, who was a tenant in the 1900s.

This photograph was taken around the mid 1970s at which time the cottage was in need of some repair.

In the 1970s or 1980s, the premises were renovated with a tea room and craft shop at the rear. The cottage is now a private home.

It is thought that the original design of the cottage was a twin of the original 'Rose Cottage' behind the Courthouse (see 53).

An amusing incident in the village in 1900, involving the blacksmith, is documented in Rev. F.M Moeran's book 'Memoirs of a Militant Parson' 1952. Rev. Moeran, who was rector in the parish from 1896 to 1906, was approached by parishioners as to how the village might celebrate the Relief of Mafeking in South Africa, following seven months of siege of British forces by the Boers. He suggested a parade with all the local bands. Candles would be put in every window and Chinese lanterns hung across the street. The organisers asked the parson for an old top hat and a tail coat but would

not disclose the reason. However, later that evening all was revealed. In the midst of the celebrations, outside the blacksmiths, appeared an effigy of Kruger, President of the South African Republic, clad in the tail coat and hat, and seated on a donkey with his face to its tail. By some ingenious arrangement of strings Kruger waved



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to passersby. Kruger was then taken down from the donkey and propped up against the wall for his execution. Out from the blacksmiths came four or five men with an improvised cannon, constructed by the smith out of a steel pipe. There was a terrific bang, and 'Kruger' flew into the air, having had a pound of gunpowder placed in his chest. Fragments of the rector's coat and hat flew into the air to a great cheer. Loughgall people like a good party!

Following his defeat the real Kruger went into exile where he died in 1904, after which he was repatriated back to his homeland. The Kruger National Park in Pretoria is named after him, as is the Krugerrand coin, which features his face on the obverse.



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59. Orange Museum – Sloan's House and adjoining houses

Painting by Wendy White - Parish Art Class



The house in the centre of this small terrace was once the inn of James Sloan, one of the founder members of the Orange Order. It was at Dan Winter's homestead, yards from the Diamond crossroads and just outside Loughgall village, that the Orange institution came into being after the Battle of the Diamond in September 1795. However, it was at Sloan's Inn that its organisation began with James Sloan, an educated man and a former school teacher, as its first secretary. It was here that the first Orange warrants were signed.

The 1837/38 Townland Valuation records a Sally Sloan living here, obviously a relative of James Sloan. There was also a William Farley mentioned at this address.

Families called Bryan and Jackson lived on either side. John Jackson, on the left, had a spirit grocers. An old sign that was attached to the front

of his 'pub' in those days, showing King William on his white horse, was reclaimed and restored. It now hangs over the fireplace, in Loughgall District Orange Hall. By the early 1880s George Jackson, John's grandson and Joseph's son, had taken over the whole row. George's two daughters, May and Georgina, were running a drapery business in the house to the right in the 1920s. At some time before or during the second world war the shops were converted into private dwellings. In the early 1960s a Mr and Mrs Isaac Walker, at that time in their 80s, moved into one of these houses with their daughter Mrs Vallely. It was most appropriate that they should live in the row commemorating the



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forming of the Orange Order, for Mr Walker had been a loyal member of it for over 70 years and his wife had been a founding member of Loughgall's Women L.O.L. No 135 in 1935.

The Orange Order, who purchased Sloan's old home in 1959 and subsequently the other two houses, have been given a grant of almost £4 million from the European Union's PEACE III Programme to develop two interpretative centres, one of which is Sloan's House. The refurbishment of the existing small museum and two adjacent dwellings will include an extension to cater for an additional museum exhibition area. It is planned to have it operational by the summer of 2014 when the original contents of the museum including interesting items of Orange memorabilia will be displayed.

Armagh Ordnance Survey Memoirs of 1835-38 state: 'The dispensary, situated at the north end of the town of Loughgall, is a plain stone dwelling house, not built for the purpose of a dispensary. It is rented for its present purpose at 12 pounds per annum'. On the basis of its stylistic appearance the present building appears to date from the mid-19th century. Notice the unusual octagonal stone posts in front of the house.

Painting by Wendy White - Parish Art Class



60. Dispensary House

The precise date of this building is not recorded. A building is shown on the site on the OS map of 1834, but the present building appears to be a later refacing or remodelling, or almost complete rebuilding. It is marked on the OS map of 1908 as a 'Dispensary', although that function appears to have been attached to the site from at least the early 19th century. Records show that Isaac Wilson was practising as Apothecary in Loughgall in 1816 with only one year's training. The County

A dispensary during the early 1800s was intended to supply medical attention and medicines to the sick poor of the district. In Loughgall quarterly meetings of subscribers were held with regularity. The subscribers in 1845 included Sir George Molyneux, Robert W.C.Cope, Henry Cobb, Rev. J. Jones, Joseph Nicholson, Esq., Rev. F. Clements, J.Hardy, Esq., Rev. F. Lloyd, Mr John Cardwell and Rev. J. Disney. During 1828, Loughgall Dispensary District was the most active in County Armagh having dealt with almost 3000



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patients. In 1835 it is recorded that, at Loughgall, the medical officer, in addition to his salary of £50 per year,



was provided with a house and garden rent free and received 2s 6d when he visited a patient who lived over two miles away. At that time, the average cost of medicines per person was 7½d per year. The majority of poor people had access to the benefits of what was called 'dispensary relief' provided they had a ticket signed by a subscriber. In 1851, when the Medical Charities Act was passed, the dispensaries, with the workhouses, were to form part of a new structure of health care which was to last well into the 20th century.

The doctors who have served in Loughgall District since the early 1800s include Isaac Wilson (ca1818), Surgeon Joseph Hemphill Scott (ca1824), Dr Shegog (ca1835), Dr William W. Leeper (d1894), Dr Charles Chatterton Deane (d1926) and Dr Ruth Lemon, who died in 1964. Dr

Deane's son Hector, born in Loughgall, became surgeon in charge of Armagh City Hospital in 1925, and McGready's Royal Nurseries named one of their roses 'Hector Deane' in his honour.

When there was not a sufficient demand for a doctor's surgery in Loughgall the front room of the premises were opened as an antique shop and art gallery. When the current owners purchased the premises in 2004 they lovingly restored the old dispensary quarters which now form part of the 'The Dispensary House Gallery'



61. 'The Peeling Sheds'

These sheds may look dilapidated now, but they were a hive of activity in the mid 1900s when Harry Curry employed 3 or 4 villagers to hand peel apples to send to the local cannery. He also ran a cycle sale and repair business from here and, during WWII, sold many bicycles to the soldiers camped in the Manor and Drumilly estates.

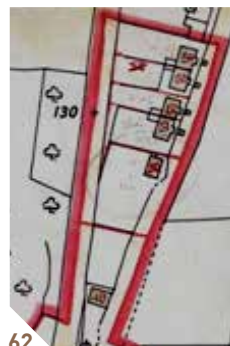
62. Old Road & Cottages

The Old Road was the main route from Loughgall to Portadown until 1845, when the new road was constructed so that horse-drawn traffic did not have



to negotiate the steep hills involved. However, the Old Road remains very much part of village life.

Records show that this row of cottages was built by the Copes around 1904 for workers on the estate. In the 1911 census they were described as 2nd class with 3 rooms, 2 windows at the front, and



1 outhouse. Residents around that time included labourers, a gardener, a postman, a domestic servant and a retired temperance hotel keeper. Although the cottages have been modernised and extended over the last 100 years, they still reflect their original design.

The Prescott family have been associated with this area of the Old Road since the 1920s, the most recent

members being brothers, Billy, Sammy and Bobby, all living within yards of each other. Billy, who celebrated his 87th birthday in 2013, is seen here in 1995, on the extreme right, with members of Loughgall Village Association. In 2002 he was awarded a well deserved MBE for his magnificent contribution to the community, especially his dedicated role as secretary of the Association for many years.

63. Orchard Park & Orchard Drive

Although the postal addresses in this development are Orchard Drive or Orchard Park, this area was originally referred to as Peels' Hill. The Peels were a Quaker farming family who were associated with the Quakers of Ballyhegan, some of whom emigrated to America in the 1800s.

During the 1950s Armagh Council was responsible for introducing council cottages. Now renamed Orchard Park, the row of bungalows at the back were originally referred to as 'Taylor Cottages' after George Taylor, a civil engineer from Armagh. These semi-detached cottages were built all across County Armagh with a living room, kitchen, bathroom (added at a later date) and two bedrooms, one with a fireplace. Lord Kilclooney, who as John Taylor Esq. M.P. was member for Strangford, is George Taylor's son. Interestingly John Taylor's children went for some time to The Cope



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Primary School.

The rows of houses to the front were built by the Housing Executive in the 1960s. It would appear that all these dwellings are built on land formerly owned by the Copes which was purchased with a 999 year lease.

64. Loughgall and the Bramley Apple

Loughgall is the heart of a long-established apple-growing tradition. Whereas wild crab apples are native to Ireland and pre-date humans, cultivated sweet apples are derived from a species that grows in the forests of the mountains of Central Asia. One possibility is that seeds (pips) of sweet apples were brought to Ireland during the migration of the Celts from Europe. A large apple believed to date from about 1000BC has been found in excavations at Navan Fort near Armagh. The story is that St Patrick himself planted an apple tree at an ancient settlement outside Armagh City.

At the time of the Plantation, in the 1600s, tenants, including those in Loughgall, were actively encouraged to plant orchards including apple, plum, cherry and pear trees, 'with an enclosed ditch and white thorn hedge'.

According to Prof J.G.D. Lamb's book 'The Apple in Ireland; Its History and Varieties' 1951, the penalty for cutting

down apple trees was 'a fine of five cows, with lesser fines for cutting down the limbs or branches'.

The Bramley Apple, for which Loughgall is famous, did not arrive in the area until 1884 when Mr Nicholson of Cranagill, a short distance from the village, bought sixty Bramley seedlings from Henry Merryweather, the Nottingham nurseryman who spotted the Bramley's potential in the early 1860s. The original seedlings



had been germinated in 1806 and grown in a garden in the village of Southwell. They then passed to a Matthew Bramley who gave them his name. Bramley's Seedlings – to give this superlative cooking apple its formal name – has been the mainstay of the commercial apple industry around Loughgall for most of the last century.

The climate is not good enough to



grow dessert apples reliably, though today there is a trend to plant apple varieties suitable for pressing to produce apple juice and cider.

Painting by Joanne McAdam - Parish Art Class



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In 2012 the European Commission confirmed that Armagh Bramley apples had been awarded protected geographical indication status which promotes and protects names of high quality food and drinks. The Armagh Bramley now joins Comber potatoes and Lough Neagh eels which already have this coveted status.

The arrival of the Bramley and its magnificent success has played a part in the decline of many older varieties. To preserve these for future research and breeding purposes, the Armagh Orchard Trust has planted up a heritage orchard of old Irish varieties, some of which originated in Co. Armagh, in a walled garden within the

Country Park. Many of the 100 or so varieties have evocative names such as Bloody Butcher, Vicar of Brighton, Milltown Cooker and Keegan's Crab. The wrought iron gate of the walled garden is decorated with the shape of an apple.

At the bottom of the next hill and up to the right you will see 'Drumherriff House'. Jonathan McAlister was a farmer who purchased this property, reputedly an old coaching inn, and its orchards in the early 1900s. The McAlister family still live there today, well over a century later, and Noel McAlister, Jonathan's grandnephew, still runs a very successful apple growing business where fresh Bramley apples are available all year round.

65. 'Hard Work and Black Bush'

William McCrea lived half way down the hill and in to the right on a small farm-holding of around 3 acres. He died in 1928 at the amazing age of 109, and had lived there all his life. Newspapers in 1926 reported that,



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although he was blind, he had a wonderful retentive memory and still enjoyed a glass of good whiskey and a pipe. He could recall the 'Night of the Big Wind' in January 1839 which blew the roof off his house and caused great damage throughout the country. When interviewed by another newspaper he attributed his long life to hard work and Black Bush. This resulted in the Bushmills company sending him two bottles of whiskey. This picture of William was taken outside Valley's pub at Adress.

66. Panoramic View

On a clear day, five of the six counties can be seen from this point, Armagh, Tyrone, Londonderry, Antrim and Down. The Sperrin Mountains with Slieve Gallion, are to the left and the Antrim Hills round to the right. If you look carefully you can also see Craigavon Hospital.



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The Cope Paintings

Painting of the Manor House by Diana Cowdy (née Cope) Drumilly - Courtesy of Mr. John Faulkner



This painting was started ca1943 for Mrs Templer, but put away when she died. Eventually, Diana 'dusted it down' and finished it in 1991, reproducing as best she could the scene as it would have looked some 50 years earlier. Diana was a celebrated artist who specialised in painting horses. She was always very generous in that she donated quite a few pieces of her artwork to local fairs which many locals now have displayed in their homes



*Painting of Drumilly House by Miss Sybil Cope
ca 1950 - Courtesy of Mrs Joy Valley*



Local Residents' Memories of Loughgall

As a project entitled "Loughgall Changed for the Better" the P7 pupils of The Cope Primary School interviewed three local residents in October 2013. Both parties thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Here are some of the children's recollections.

To get a job back then
you would need to be good
at Maths, Writing
and Mental Maths
Alice

They put a special powder in the
inkwell and it would bubble up
and make a mess.
Molly

The games they played were
tig catty and run away knock.
It sounds like great fun.
Sam

A resident told us that they
were a rascal and played truant
from school but the only downside
to it was that you couldn't go home
until school was over.
Emily P

There were only two shops in
the village but they sold everything
from gob stoppers to tobacco.
Hollie

If they did something wrong in
school they would get caned.
I feel this is extremely wrong
and am glad this doesn't
happen today Leo

When they were playing truant from
school they went from Mrs Huey's
residence under the road and out
at Mr Jackson's residence.
Fin

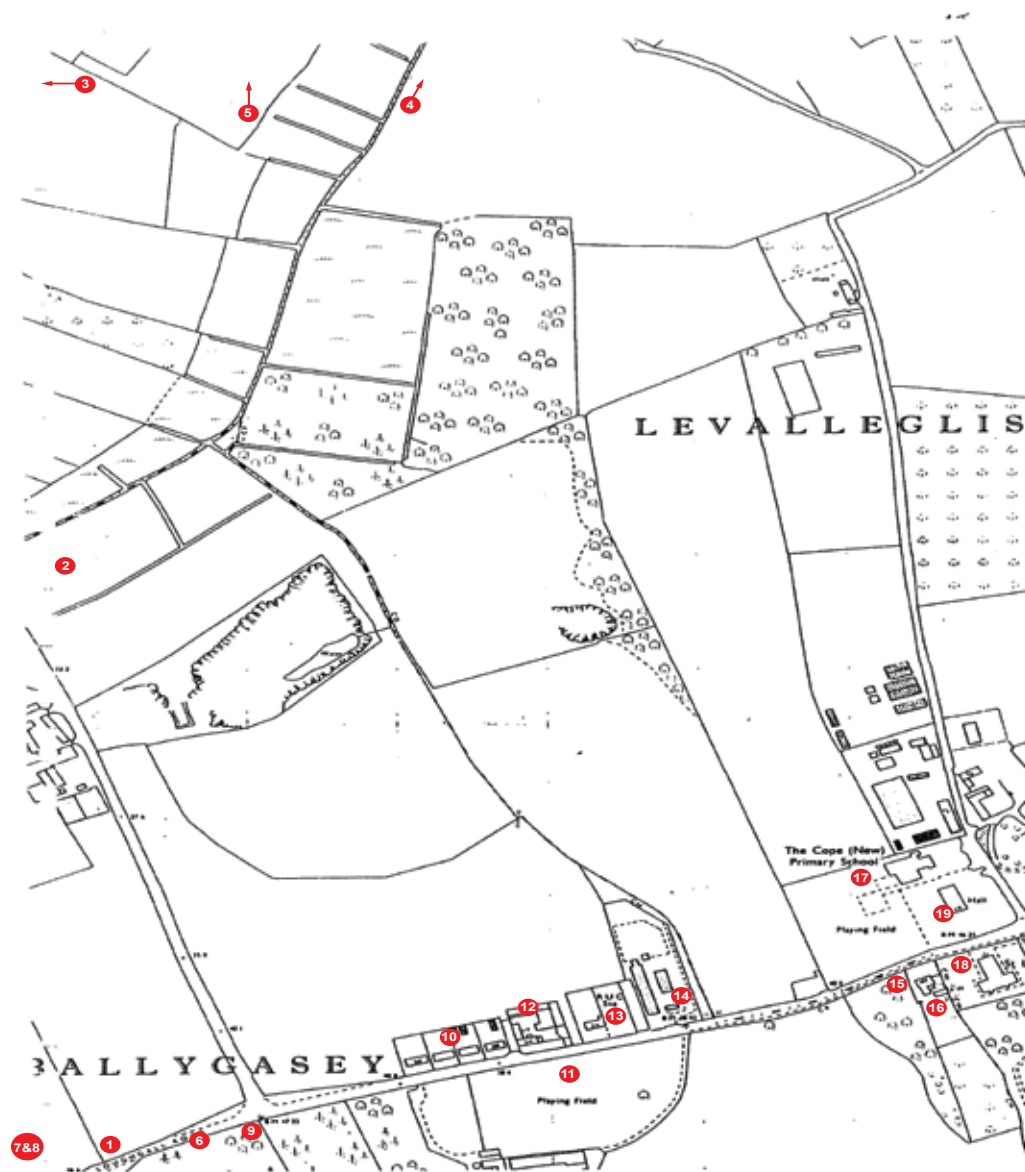
Some of the residents said that for chores
they would have to mop the floor.
Another resident said that they
would have to do 100 strokes of the water
pump before they went to school and, if there
wasn't enough water, they would
have to do another 100 strokes.
Rebeckah

When one of the residents was in
school they tried to keep a donkey
in the playground and when the
principal heard this they
all got caned on both hands
Joe

When they all got caned they all
looked at each other's cane marks
then thought it was like getting
a badge of bravery.
Molly

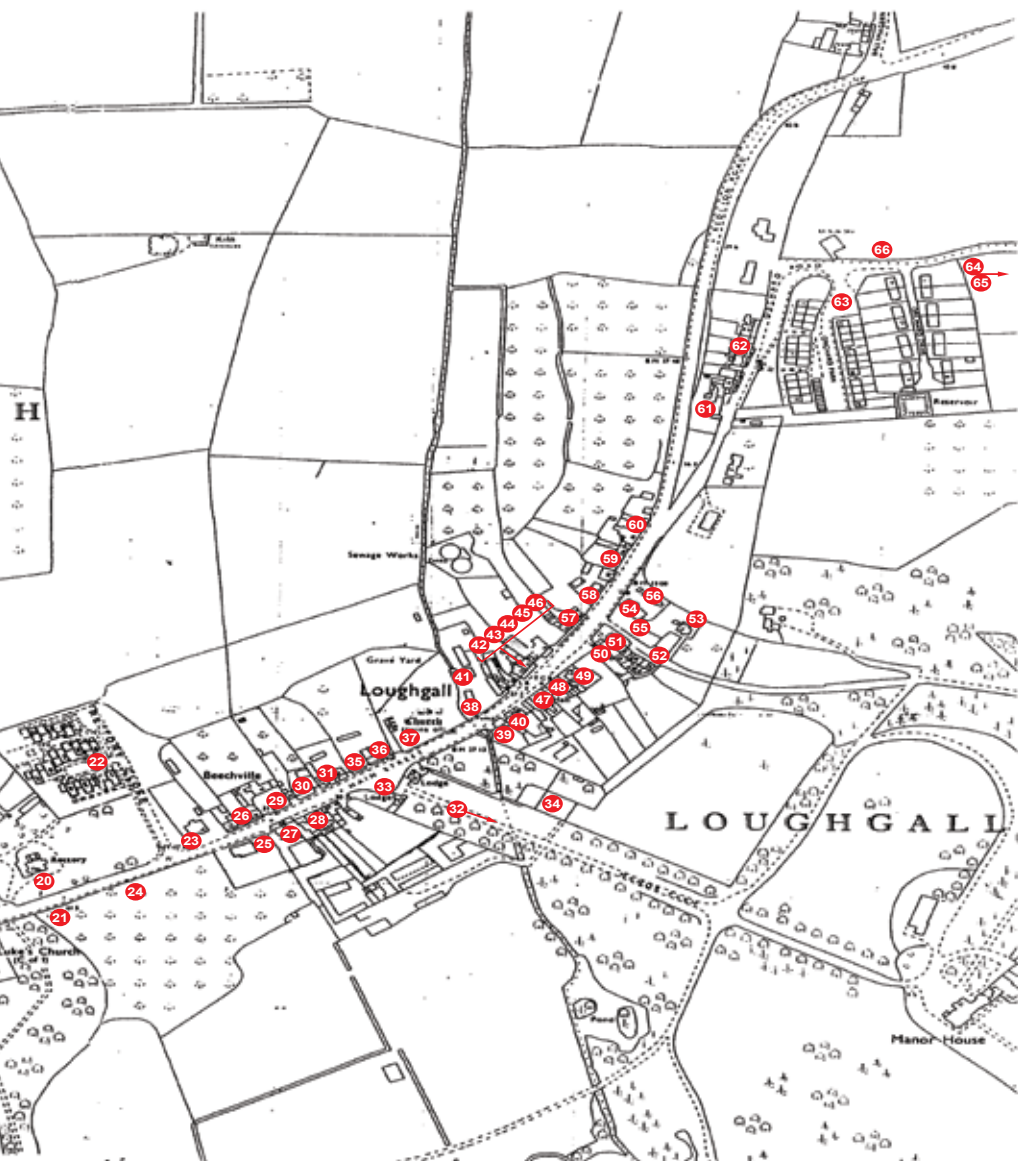
As an integral part of the overall Heritage Tales & Trails project, each child in P7 produced a ceramic tile depicting the heritage of the village. These are now on display at the school.

Tales & Trails... a walking tour of Loughgall



Loughgall Tales & Trails guide map.

Tales & Trails... a walking tour of Loughgall





Acknowledgements

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This booklet has been compiled, and is published in 2013, by Loughgall and District Improvement Association. All residents in the Loughgall area are members of the Association. Many of these residents, young and not-so-young, have helped to put together this booklet and the accompanying Loughgall Old Graveyard Tour booklet, along with the underlying archives.

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Although every effort has been made by Loughgall and District Improvement Association to ensure the accuracy of the information, material and data in this publication, absolute accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

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