

POINTS OF INTEREST

St John the Baptist Church & Calvary

Located in the centre of the village. Built in 1875. The foundation was laid by Rev Fr. O Malley



St John the Baptist Church & Calvary

Fr. John O'Malley P.P. Millenium Park

It is known as the Fr O'Malley Fairgreen in honour of John O'Malley for not only his role in the success of the land league movement but also for his tremendous support of his parishioners during the dark days of near famine and crop failure during the 1870's and 80's. He laid the foundations the old Neale school in 1883 and the existing church in 1875. This monument was erected from the stone from the old school and church.



Pyramid

Pyramid

This peculiar structure is a step pyramid approximately 9 metres (30 ft) high and 12 metres (40 ft) wide which was built about 1760. According to the Browne family, it was built by John Browne, the 1st Baron of Kilmaine, in memory of his brother, Sir George Browne. One of the more plausible stories, according to locals, explaining the reason for its building is that lord Kilmaine in his efforts to alleviate the extreme poverty of his tenants employed them to pick up the stones around his estate and had them built into a pyramid.



Temple

Temple

The second of those two unusual stone structures is a Doric-like temple. It was built by John Browne, Baron of Kilmaine, in honour of his first title of Lord Mount Temple. It was made of carved stone, but never quite finished. The base was built sometime before 1865 when the Doric columns were added to give the structure elevation. It was used by the ladies of the Big House for family meetings and relaxing. It was during the 18th century that the great houses and estates of the landlords were built and enclosed by high stone walls. It was during this time also that the Irish people were subjected to deprivation and suffering with the introduction and enforcement of the Penal Laws. The Neale estate of Lord Kilmaine was about 400 acres, but in Co. Mayo alone he owned 114,000 acres by 1710.



Temple

CONTACT DETAILS

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

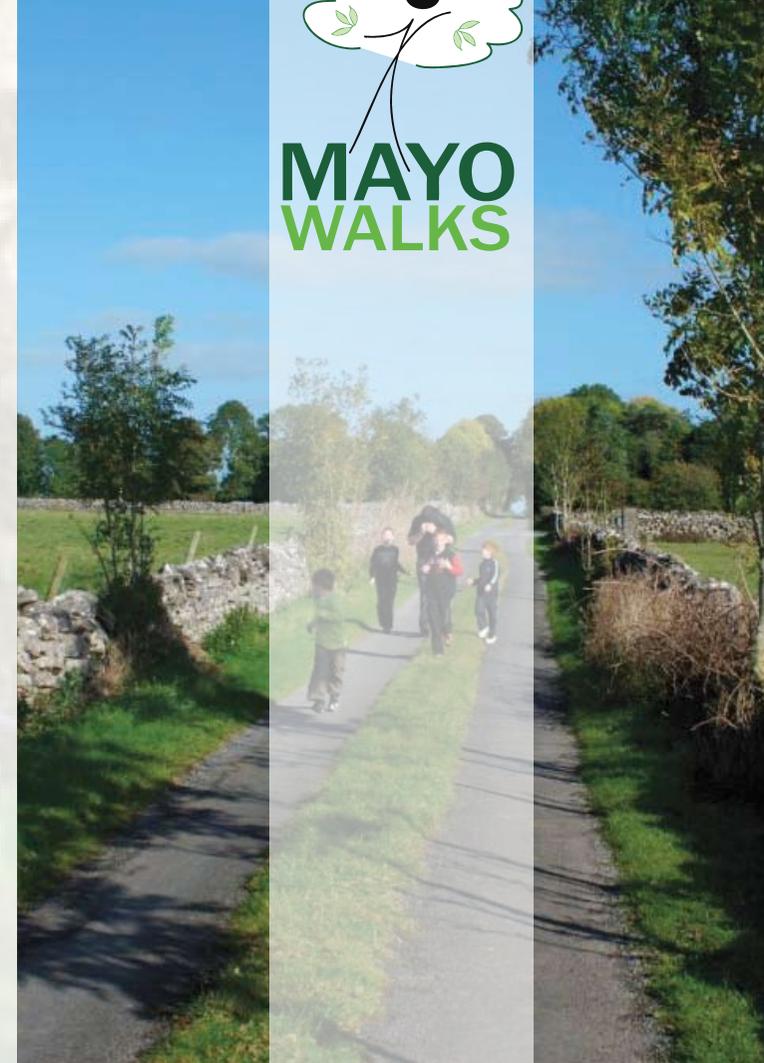
This walk was developed in partnership with the Neale Heritage Committee, Mayo County Council and Mr. Ronan Casey

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THE NEALE

Heritage Walk

MAYO WALKS



Mayo Walks

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The Neale Heritage Walk Overview

The Neale, situated between Cong, Cross & Ballinrobe in South Mayo, is a beautiful picturesque village with abundance of heritage. Located between two of Ireland's largest lakes, Lough Corrib and Lough Mask and on terrain predominately limestone there is much to do and see.



Adjacent to The Neale Village is the remains of the home of the first English man to settle in the county-Sheriff and map maker John Browne. The Neale also hosted the great uncrowned Kings of Ireland, Charles Steward Parnell and Michael Davitt during the Land League era. The system of ostracisation of overbearing landlords and agents – later termed boycotting by Fr O Malley (Parish Priest of The Neale) was first put into operation at Lough Mask House where Captain Boycott attempted to raise rents. Journalists from all over Europe and the world converged on our tiny village to witness the non violent resistance which in later years was the hallmark of Gandhi & Martin Luther King.

Cong is located 3 miles south of The Neale. Cong of course is famous as The Quiet Man Movie was set there. The lakes are famous worldwide for fishing and for water sports. Castlebar, Westport and Galway are within a 45 minute drive from The Neale.

AT A GLANCE

Loop: The Neale Loop Walk
Start / Trailhead: St John the Baptist Church & Calvary
Distance / Difficulty: 3 km / Easy
Terrain: Village footpath and Country Lanes
Minimum Gear: Walking Shoes, Raingear
Map Reference: Os Discovery Series Sheet 38

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1. Start, St John the Baptist Church & Calvary
2. Fr. O Malley Millennium Park
3. Gods of The Neale
4. Temple
5. The Neale Well
6. Pyramid
7. Finish

WAYMARKERS

The walks are waymarked using black posts, about 1 metre high, with a direction of travel arrow (green).



LOOP DESCRIPTION

The Neale Heritage Walk is 3 km in length and covers a large catchment area including The Village, Fr. O Malley Millennium Park, Gods of The Neale, Temple, Pyramid and The Well. Starting from St. Johns Church and Calvary.

Continue north along the Ballinrobe road until you get to Fr. O Malley Millennium Park, turn right here and continue along this road, passing the Gods of The Neale on your left, and The Neale primary school on your right. 70m after the school turn left.

Continue along this road passing 1st km mark, The Temple on your right and the Well on your left. About 70m past the Well, turn left and continue uphill for about 300m. At this section you have a view of the Pyramid on your right and The Neale wildlife preserve on your left.

Turn Left when you reach the main road. You will pass the 2nd km mark and again pass Fr. John O'Malley P.P Millennium Park, this time on your left. Continue up village until you reach the church on your left.

LEAVE NO TRACE (Principles of Outdoor Ethics)

Please adhere to this code on any trips to the outdoors.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare: Be sure you are able for the level of walk you propose to take and that you have the correct equipment for the terrain. Follow all safety instructions that may be posted along the route. Check the weather forecast and always be prepared for changing weather conditions. Leave details of your plans with somebody and don't forget to contact that person later to say that you have returned safely.



2. Dispose of Waste Properly: 'Pack It In, Pack It Out'. Bring home all litter and leftover food including biodegradable waste.

3. Leave What You Find: Respect property. For example, farming or forestry machinery, fences, stone walls etc. Leave gates as you find them (open or closed). Preserve the past: examine – but do not damage – archaeological structures, old walks and artefacts. Conserve the present: leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

4. Respect Wildlife and Farm Stock: Dogs should be kept under control at all times and should not be brought onto hills or farmland.

5. Be Considerate of Others: Respect the people who live and work in the countryside. Park appropriately – avoid blocking gateways, forest entrances or narrow roads. Let nature's sound prevail. Keep noise to a minimum.

6. Travel on Durable Surfaces: Durable surfaces include established trails and forest roads. Aim to leave your picnic site as you would like to find it.

7. Minimise the Effects of Fire: Fires can cause lasting impacts and are dangerous to forests especially in late spring. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, barbecues or create a mound fire. Do not burn plastics or other substances which emit toxic fumes. Dispose of ash carefully.