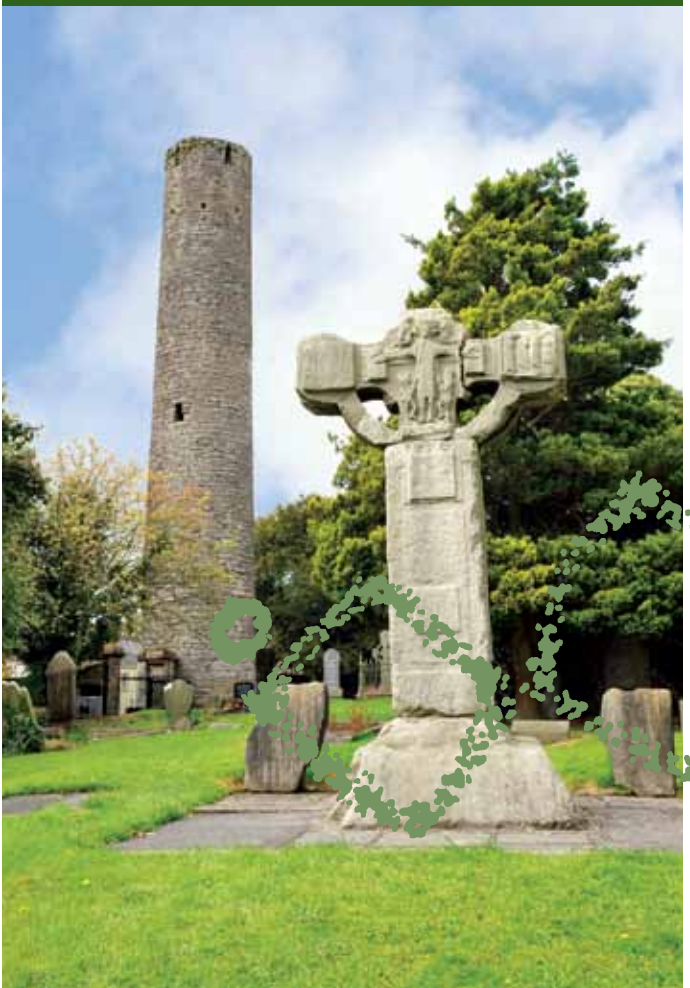


Meath

# Kells & District

Original home of the Book of Kells  
and Monastic Treasures



# Ceanannas Mór

## Welcome to Kells

Welcome to the Heritage Town of Kells, centre of an area in the Boyne Valley rich in archaeological, monastic and natural heritage.

Kells is where St. Columcille built his monastery circa 554 A.D. and where later the Book of Kells was completed in the 9th century.

The most enjoyable way to experience Kells' monastic past is by following the Kells Heritage Trail and retracing the path of the monks on their way to the former monastery's physical and spiritual focal point.

Here you can also find Tailteann (Teltown), where for thousands of years games were held by the High Kings of Tara, which many believe formed the template of the ancient Olympic Games.

There are also many other activities for all the family to enjoy – golf, fishing, horse riding, adventure parks, gardens, walks, award winning restaurants and evening entertainment.

We recommend you take a few days to enjoy the warm céad míle fáilte welcome and the rich history and archaeology of this unique area.

### **KELLS TOURIST OFFICE**

Kells Tourist Office offers you a warm welcome! See a copy of the Book of Kells and an audio/visual DVD on Monastic Kells.

T +353 (0) 46 924 8856

E [kellstouristoffice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:kellstouristoffice@meathcoco.ie)

### **TOUR GUIDES**

Lucy O'Reilly

T +353 (0) 85 163 6453

Oliver Usher

T + 353 (0) 86 170 6767

Shane Monaghan

T +353 (0) 86 819 9726

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T +353 (0) 87 262 1006

Text supplied by Lucy O'Reilly and Aidan Wall

Photo credits: B. Hand, D. Kennedy, R. McGrane, L. O'Reilly, J. Doyle

Brochure produced by the Kells and District Tourism Forum  
[www.kellstourismforum.com](http://www.kellstourismforum.com)

# The Book of Kells



Acknowledgement to: The Board of Trinity College Dublin

## Kells' Greatest Treasure

The Book of Kells is the crowning glory of the Celtic illuminated manuscript art form, and one of the most important early mediaeval treasures of Western Europe.

- It is an illuminated gospel book in the elaborately ornate Hiberno-Saxon style
- It contains the full text of the 4 gospels of the Christian Bible in Latin.
- Vellum, or treated calf skin, was used to create the Book of Kells
- Where Created: The Book of Kells may have been composed entirely in Kells or begun at Iona, Scotland, and then completed in Kells.
- Colours: Many rare and expensive dyes were used, some imported from the Mediterranean area.
- How it got to Trinity College: The book of Kells was sent to Dublin for safe keeping by Charles Lambert in 1653. It was donated to Trinity College by Henry Jones in 1661.
- Where to see a copy in Kells – You can view a facsimile copy in the Tourist Office, the Church of St. Columba on the Monastic Site the Church of St. Columcille in Headfort Place, or in the Headfort Arms Hotel.

You can also purchase The Book of Kells CD ROM online – [www.thebookofkells.com](http://www.thebookofkells.com).

## DID YOU KNOW?

The book of Kells was originally written on about 185 calf skins. The monks kept a herd of as many as 1,200 cattle which provided food and milk for the monastery.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1007 the Book of Kells was stolen and found some months later "under a sod" without its jewel encrusted cover and with some of its pages missing.

## Attractions | Things To See



Temptation of Christ

### DID YOU KNOW?

Interestingly, in the Book of Kells (Temptation of Christ) there appears a picture of a building very similar to St. Columcille's House.



Round Tower

### DID YOU KNOW?

Columcille and Columba are the same person.



High Cross



St. Columcille's House

## Kells Monastic Past

Kells GPS: 53° 43' 36.48" N -6° 52' 24.98" W

Diarmuid Mac Caroll, High King of Tara is said to have granted the "dun of Ceanannus" to St. Columcille in the 6th Century to establish a monastery. In 804 the Columban community on the island of Iona moved back to Kells to escape the Norse raiding parties.

The present Church was built in 1778 and renovated in 1965 and the interior re-decorated. Visitors are always welcome to attend any Services in the Church and Christians of all denominations are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

### Round Tower

Built in the 10th century, this cloignteach (bell tower), was used as a lookout tower and place of refuge during attacks.

The tower is 90 feet high from the original street level. Access to the upper floors was by way of ladders. Each floor has one window.

The round tower has 5 top windows instead of the usual 4. These overlook the five ancient roads leading into Kells and correspond to the five medieval town gates.

### High Crosses

The collection of high crosses in Kells is the most important in Ireland. There are 3 High Crosses and a cross base on the Monastic Site. The biblical scenes depicted on the crosses were used for religious instruction and may have been painted.

### St. Columcille's House

Dating from the 10th century, this stone oratory may have been built to house the relics of St. Columcille. The roof is barrel vaulted with 3 small chambers in the roof space.

The existence of an underground passage from St. Columcille's House to St. Columba's church is mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters and in the 17th century Down Survey. Local tradition supports the existence of such a passage.

# Kells Historic Trail

## 1. The Old Courthouse

The courthouse, built in 1801, was designed by the prominent Irish architect Francis Johnston who also designed the General Post Office and Nelson's Pillar in Dublin, Townley Hall, County Louth and the front entrance to Slane Castle.



Old Courthouse

## 2. Market Cross

The famous 9th century Market Cross, the "Cross of the Gate" was originally located at the Eastern Gate of the monastery. It signified that a fugitive could claim sanctuary once inside the boundary of the monastic area. It currently stands outside the old Courthouse. Damage to the cross is attributed to the 17th century army of Oliver Cromwell. Local belief has it that the cross was also used for hanging Croppies after the 1798 rebellion. (The Irish rebels of 1798 were referred to as Croppies, or Croppie Boys, because of their agrarian roots, or for their fashion of cutting or cropping their hair short in the then new revolutionary French fashion).



Market Cross

## 3. St. John's Cemetery

Here you will find the ruins of the Kells priory of the Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem (founded in Italy in 1113 to protect pilgrims on the way to Jerusalem). The priory was founded by Walter De Lacy, son of Hugh De Lacy (first Norman lord of Meath) in 1199. Of interest in the graveyard is a medieval grave slab depicting a lady wearing a linen wimple and carrying a "tau" stick in her right hand, known locally as "the Abbess".



The Abbess at St. John's Cemetery

## 4. Kells Town Hall

Kells Town Hall was originally designed as a bank in 1853 by William Caldebeck and became a town hall in 1974.

Currently here you can view a facsimile copy of both the Book of Kells and the Kells' Crosier (c. 9th-11th century).



Kells Town Hall



Headfort House



Bective Square

### 5. Parnell Garden

The sculpture “Angel of the Past” is by a local artist – from a sycamore tree which stood here when Charles Stewart Parnell addressed the people of Kells about land rights for Irish tenants.

### 6. Oliver Usher’s Auction Rooms

A converted brewery where Ireland’s first lager, Regal, (“Lager” backwards) was brewed in the 1930s, now rebranded as Harp.

### 7. Monastic Site

Kells contains a round tower and high crosses which all form part of its monastic past.



Presbyterian Church

### 8. St. Columille’s House

This is a stone oratory dating from the 10th century located in the centre of Kells.

### 9. Churchyard Wall

This wall marks the boundary of the original monastery and was rebuilt in 1714.

### 10. Bective Square

Here stands a Bronze Sculpture by a local artist of an oak tree depicting St. Columille’s love of the oak tree.



Ogham Stone

### 11. Presbyterian Church

One of the two Presbyterian churches in Meath, this was built in 1871 on lands donated by Lord Headfort. Most members then were Scottish families working on the Headfort Estate. Sunday worship now takes place at 10:00 – and everyone is welcome.

## 5-Minute Drive From Kells

### 12. St. Columcille's Well

A patron day is held annually on the eve of St. Columcille's Feast Day, June 9th. Why not sit and enjoy a quiet moment. Throw a coin in the well and make a wish.

### 13. Spire of Lloyd

This inland lighthouse was designed by Henry Aaron Baker (designer of the King's Inn, Dublin) for the First Earl of Bective in memory of his father Sir Thomas Taylor in 1791.

At 30m high, one can see magnificent views of the surrounding countryside as far as the Mourne Mountains in County Down, Northern Ireland on a clear day. The Spire was used to view horse racing and the hunt in the 19th century.

The spire stands on the site of an iron age ring fort. The community park (The People's Park) includes the "Paupers Graveyard", in which many, many victims of the mid-19th century famine lie buried.

### 14. Kells Victorian Era Water works

Kells Victorian era waterworks (1897), supplied water to the town and was recently restored by local volunteers and re-opened in 2009, winning many awards since then. It is the only hydro-powered pumping station in Meath.

T +353 (0) 46 924 1284

### 15. Headfort House & Bridge (5 minutes drive)

Thomas Taylor, a surveyor from Sussex, came to Ireland as an assistant to Sir William Petty to draw up the Down Survey. He purchased extensive lands around Kells. In the 1760s his successors commissioned the design of Headfort House by the architect George Semple. Headfort House contains the only intact Robert Adams interiors in Ireland, which are currently being restored under the aegis of the World Monuments Fund. Groups can be shown around by prior arrangement.

T +353 (0) 46 924 0065



Spire of Lloyd



Waterworks



Maudlin Bridge

## Local Walks | Things To Do



Blackwater River

### Ringfort and Blackwater River Looped Walk

1 mile (1.5 kilometres) / 40 Minutes / Easy Terrain  
GPS: 53° 43' 56.9922" -6° 54' 22.2834"

Start at the N.W. corner of the Peoples Park at Lloyd, through the swing gate and walk west towards Clavens Bridge, where you cross the main Cavan road. Walk east along the Blackwater River to the Victorian Waterworks. Following the signs, turn right here towards Lloyd, cross the Main road again to the Bus Stop sign, and head uphill to the Spire of Lloyd.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Moynalty (Maigh nEalta) means "The plain of the birds".



Fairyfort

### Threshing Field Walk & Museum-Moynalty

0.7 miles / 30 mins / Easy Terrain  
GPS: 53° 47' 17.0772" -6° 53' 23.0568"

Ireland's Best Kept Town of 2011, Moynalty has beautiful parkland, with a walkway on the periphery. The "Duck Pond" is much admired, and the Borora River meanders along part of this area.

At the Agricultural Museum see a vast array of traditional farming implements and household items, giving an insight into life on the farm and rural homestead in days of yore. Visit Museum by appointment.

Follow the Moynalty Heritage Trail and experience first-hand what makes this village so special.

T +353 (0) 46 924 4390 / +353 (0) 87 235 4763  
+353 (0) 87 794 0372 / +353 (0) 87 163 5426

W [www.moynaltysteamthreshing.ie](http://www.moynaltysteamthreshing.ie)



### Tailteann (Teltown) Blackwater River Drive & Walk

2.5 miles ( 4 kilometres) / 1.5 hours / Easy Terrain

GPS: 53° 40' 57.91" -6° 56' 46.77"

Drive to Donaghpatrick Church, Gibbstown where according to tradition, St. Patrick performed his first formal baptism after lighting the Pascal fire in Slane.

Across the road is Rath Airthir (Eastern Fort) an impressive trivallate ring fort incorporating a mound, possibly a Norman Motte.

Drive to Tailteann House (Teltown House) and start your walk at the "Mollies" on your right up the drive – an ancient cobbled path that leads up to the old graveyard where you will find rock art dating from about 2000BC, as well as the base of a cross and ruins of an old monastery.

Then walk along the banks of the Blackwater River round to the back of Martry Mill, still a functioning flour mill.

### Girley Bog Eco Looped Walk

3.5 miles (6 kilometres) / 1½ – 2 hours / Easy Terrain

GPS: 53° 40' 57.918" -6° 56' 46.470"

This walk covers a variety of forest and bogland where there is a wonderful variety of birdlife, plants and animals. Directions to Trailhead: Starting from the centre of Kells Town, take the N52 following the signs for Mullingar. Follow the N52 for approximately 7km. Turn left onto a forestry roadway and follow for approximately 100m to reach the trailhead.

**Note:** The trailhead is signposted from Kells.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Aonach Tailteann ancient games that predate the Olympics were held for thousands of years in Ireland. Legend has it that they were first initiated as funereal games by Lugh of the Longarm on the death of his foster mother Taitiu.

The games stopped with the last High King of Ireland, Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair, with the coming of the Normans to Meath in the late 1100s.



Bogland



## Gardens, Play Areas & Activities | Things To Do

For what's on and up-to-date go to [www.kellsonline.ie](http://www.kellsonline.ie)



### Best O' Matz Play Centre

Kells Business Park, Cavan Road

Bright, clean and friendly environment for children's fun.

T +353 (0) 46 929 3432

W [www.bestomatz.ie](http://www.bestomatz.ie)

### Causey Farm | Girley, Fordstown

Family run, fun based venue for a variety of entertainment. Learn about Irish culture – dance a jig, play the bodhráin, cut turf in a bog, bake brown soda bread, see a sheepdog at work and more!

T +353 (0) 46 943 4135

W [www.causey.ie](http://www.causey.ie)

### Drewstown Adventure Centre

Fordstown

Drewstown Adventure and team building programs include climbing wall, high ropes course, zip-line, kayaks/ canoes, archery, etc.

T +353 (0) 46 943 3112

E [info@drewstown.com](mailto:info@drewstown.com)

W [www.drewstown.com](http://www.drewstown.com)

### Rathe House Activity & Adventure Centre | Kilmainhamwood, Kells

Horse riding, coarse fishing, survival courses, 4 X 4 off road driving, boot camp, Mountaineering, Canoeing, Nature Walks, First Aid training, Indoor and outdoor Archery and clay pigeon shooting. Accommodation and full catering facilities.

T 046 905 2376

W [www.rathehouse.ie](http://www.rathehouse.ie)

### Fairgreen Play Area | Kells

The Fairgreen children's play area is situated opposite the Supervalu shopping centre on the Cavan Road.



### Grangeclare Paddocks

Bog Road, Oristown, Kells, Co. Meath

Group & event venue featuring an equine centre, a petting zoo ideal for school trips. Buck Mooney's Wild West Adventure is ideal for hen / stag parties, get kidnapped by the Indians and rescued in a Wild West Spectacular! Weekend bookings include bunk house accommodation, stables, evening meal and breakfast.

T +353 (0)87 120 2777

W [www.grangeclarepaddocks.com](http://www.grangeclarepaddocks.com)

### Grove Gardens | Girley, Kells

Informal gardens with exotic animals and fowl, walks, roses and clematis. Suitable for the entire family with a fairy ring, a magic tree, all manner of feathered and furry creatures. Celebrate Easter, Halloween and Christmas events.

T 046 943 4276

W [www.grovegardensandfarm.com](http://www.grovegardensandfarm.com)

### Kells Swimming Pool

Navan Road, Kells, Co. Meath

Owned and operated by Meath County Council. 25 metre pool and a Small pool suitable for toddlers. Open daily to public. Classes available: Adults and children – beginners, improvers, Advanced / coaching. Aquafit. Intensive courses. Lifesaving. Available for hire to school groups, Summer schools / camps, Community Groups.

T +353 (0) 46 924 0551

E [kellspool@meathcoco.ie](mailto:kellspool@meathcoco.ie)

### **Loughcrew Gardens & Adventure Centre** (20 minutes drive)

Ancient gardens and landscape fantasy. See St. Oliver Plunkett's family church and Tower House. Adventure centre includes a Zip Wire and Climbing Wall, Bushcraft, Raft Building, Obstacle Course, Archery etc. Qualified instructors.

T +353 (0)49 854 1356

W [www.loughcrew.com](http://www.loughcrew.com)



### **The People's Park** (3 minutes drive)

Children's Play Area

GPS: 53° 93' 56.99 -6° 54' 22.28"

Take the Oldcastle Road (R163) out of Kells signposted on the right and you will see the inland lighthouse.

### **Royal Breffni Tours** (30 minutes drive)

The Crystal Maze,  
Kilmainhamwood, Kells

Fully supervised, day and night activity tours at the Crystal Maze. The Crystal Maze is a series of over 100 physical, mental and skill challenges around Ireland's biggest hedge maze. Also mountain biking, orienteering, water sports, horse riding, barbeques, etc.

T +353 (0)42 966 7276

W [www.royalbreffnitours.com](http://www.royalbreffnitours.com)

## **Equestrian**

Rafeehan Stud | Kells, County Meath  
(5 minutes drive)

Luxury equestrian holidays tailored to suit individual requirements. Holidays include showjumping, cross country, race rides, golf and tennis and trips to the national stud, race meetings, shows and heritage centres. Where the famous Boomerang is buried.

T 046 924 0246

E [steviemacken@hotmail.com](mailto:steviemacken@hotmail.com)

### **Kells Equestrian Centre** (10 minutes drive)

Carlanstown, Kells

Kells Equestrian Centre accommodates competitive and pleasure riding with indoor and outdoor facilities. There are hacks along quiet country roads; qualified instructors, livery. Special needs catered for.

T +353 (0)46 924 6998

W [www.kellsequestrian.com](http://www.kellsequestrian.com)

## **Golf**

### **Headfort Golf Club**

Navan Road, Kells

One of the finest parkland complexes in the Country with both an old course and a new course set on what were originally the private lands of the Marquis of Headfort on the banks of the Blackwater River.

36 hole layout with beautiful trees (many rare species), water and natural features which enhance this picturesque setting. Bar and restaurant on site.

Home club of Damien Mc Grane, European Tour and China Open Winner.

T +353 (0)46 924 0146

W [www.headfortgolfclub.ie](http://www.headfortgolfclub.ie)



## Fishing | Things To Do



### INFORMATION

**Guide, Instructor  
Service, Equipment  
Hire, Permits**

T Patrick Mc Loughlin  
+353 46 9241807

M +353 86 101 7415

E pat@  
fishinginireland.net

W www.kells  
-anglers.com

**Trout/Salmon Season  
1st March –  
30th September.**

**Coarse and Pike open  
all year round.**

**Kells Anglers  
Association Water  
Bailiffs Contact  
Numbers**

Daniel Conaty  
+353 85 153 5320

Noel McLoughlin  
+353 87 217 9460

Liam McLoughlin  
+353 87 761 3742

Thomas Smith  
+353 85 1524101

Morgan Brennan  
+353 86 080 6377

Ciaran O'Kelly  
+353 86 3752050

Patrick McLoughlin  
+353 86 101 7415

**Kells Anglers  
Association support  
Catch and Release.  
Please respect land  
owners property –  
bring your Litter home.**

The Kells Anglers Association was established in 1893 and own the fishing rights of circa 14 miles of the Blackwater River from its source at Lough Ramor to Kells. A medium size river it has some of the premier Wild Brown Trout fishing in Ireland. It has a wonderful stock of trout from ½lb to 1½lb, with trout caught each year between 2–5lb. In 2004 a record trout of 10lb was caught on dryfly.

From 1st March to 30th September trout can be caught on Wetfly, Dryfly, Nymph and Streamer. Each year, the Association hold a number of Junior competitions and fly fishing lessons. Parents are welcome to help with the barbecue while the children are supervised catching a number of fish species, including, Trout, Perch, Roach and Bream.

The river has a good run of Atlantic Salmon. The association has developed a number of spawning streams for both trout and salmon, which has dramatically increased the number of rod caught salmon. The Borora, a tributary of the Blackwater, holds a huge stock of small and medium size trout. It has an abundance of fly life associated with limestone rivers.

We are also blessed with more than 100 lakes within 1 hour from Kells. All hold excellent stocks of coarse fish, including Perch, Roach, Rudd, Tench, Bream and Pike to 20 and 30lb+. Some lakes are trout fisheries and are controlled by angling clubs and hold trout from 1lb to 5lb with some reaching double figures.

All in all, the Kells Blackwater and the surrounding area is a true mecca for fishing, from the complete beginner to the expert angler.





*Image by John Doyle*



## Festivals & Events

- **Clan Mc Cabe Rally** | *Open to all Mc Cabes and those with an interest in the name. Details: Brian McCabe  
T: +353 (0)45 894 412 E: brianfrancis.mccabe@gmail.com*
- **Kells Food & Crafts Market** | *Every Saturday  
10am – 2pm in Doyle's Yard, Farrell Street, Kells  
www.kellsmarket.com*
- **Navan Racecourse** | *Racing all year round  
www.navanracecourse.ie*
- **Spring and Autumn Equinox, Loughcrew Cairns**
- **Usher's Auction Rooms** | *John Street, Kells  
One of Meath's longest established auction houses  
selling antique and high class furniture on either  
the second or third Tuesday of each month  
www.usherauctions.com*
- **St. Patrick's Day (with Kells Silver Band est. 1848)**  
*Every St. Patrick's Day 17th March  
www.kellsfestivals.com*
- **Grand National at Fairyhouse** | *Every Easter Monday  
www.fairyhouse.ie*
- **Dunderry Fair** | *Every May – www.dunderryfair.ie*
- **Navan Choral Festival** | *Every May  
046 924 0345 / 087 244 3739*
- **Nobber Fair Day** | *Every May*
- **Jim Connell Memorial Festival** | *Every May  
www.jimconnellfestival.com Facebook  
Jim Connell Festival*
- **Blue Jean Festival, Athboy** | *June Bank Holiday Weekend*
- **Adelaide International Kells Motorcycle Road Races**  
*Every July. www.kellsroadraces.com*
- **"Dancing at the Crossroads" Céilí (Ughtyneill)**  
*www.ceilidancing.com 1st Wednesday of July  
each year (9pm free)*
- **Kells Heritage Festival & Fair Day** | *July  
www.kellsfestivals.com*
- **Girley Harvest Festival** | *Every August  
www.girleyharvestfestival.com*
- **Moynalty Steam Threshing Festival** | *Every August  
www.moynaltysteamthreshing.ie*
- **National Heritage Week** | *Nationwide, Every August*
- **O'Carolan Harp Festival** | *End of September  
www.carolanfestival.com*
- **Pink Ribbon Walk** | *Every September  
www.pinkribbonwalk.ie*
- **Spirits of Meath Halloween** | *October*
- **Meath Hunt** | *Annual St. Stephen's Day  
Meet at the Headfort Arms Hotel – Facebook Meath Hunt*



Leprechaun Chéilí  
at St. Patrick's Day



Meath Hunt



Dancing at the  
Crossroads



Kells Market Day

## Short Trips From Kells

**Note:** All times listed are driving times from the centre of Kells. Please double check your directions before leaving Kells.



St. Ciaran's Holy Well

### 1. St. Ciaran's Holy Well

High Cross, Ogham Stone, Castlekeeran, Kells, Co. Meath (15 mins. towards Oldcastle (R163);

8.37 km; allow 1 hr for the visit)

GPS: 53° 99' 5.47" -6° 58' 15.63"

Patron day 1st Sunday in August. Legend tells us that the wells were formed at St. Ciaran's command and have healing powers. This was probably a place of worship in pagan times. Three cooked fish are said to appear in the well at midnight on the first Saturday of August.



### 2. Loughcrew Passage Grave Cemetery

(and its collection of Standing Stones, Cashel, Motte, and Cooking Pits (fulacht fia)), Oldcastle, Co. Meath

(36 mins towards Oldcastle (R163); 20.92 km; allow 2 hours for the visit) GPS +53 °44'38.40"

N-7 °7'7.32"W

One of Ireland's largest Neolithic Cemeteries, with over 30 Passage Graves dating from 3,000 BC. Current access is to "Cairn T" on Carbane East.

The key is available from the Loughcrew Coffee Shop, along with books and leaflets on the sites. The Gardens of Loughcrew House are also worth a visit, and there you can see Oliver Plunkett's family church; as well as an adventure course.

T +353 (0)49 854 1356

W [www.loughcrew.com](http://www.loughcrew.com)



Passage Grave, Loughcrew



### 3. St. Killian's Heritage Centre

Mullagh, Co. Cavan (20 mins via Moynalty on the R164; 13.2 km; allow 1hr 15 mins for the visit )

GPS: 53° 50' 0.92" N 7° 4' 33.96" W

**Open:** Easter to Oct Tues to Fri 10am – 6pm  
& Sat, Sun and Bank Holidays 2pm – 6pm

**Adm:** Adults €3 Students, OAP's & Groups €2.50

Patron Day July 8. Originally from Mullagh, St. Killian became a missionary to Wurzburg, Germany where he was martyred in 689 A.D. Watch a 15 minute audio-visual presentation about him. The exhibition also traces the development of Gaelic script from the Ogham writing of the 4th century BCE up to the illuminated script of the Book of Kells.

T (Coffee Shop) +353 (0)46 924 2433

W [stkiliancentre@eircom.net](mailto:stkiliancentre@eircom.net)



St. Killian's  
Heritage Centre

### 4. The Seven Wonders of Fore

Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath

(57 mins via Loughcrew on the Oldcastle Rd (R163), turn left past the coffee shop at Loughcrew and follow the signs for Fore; 31 km ; 30 mins; allow 2.5 hours for visit) GPS: 53° 38' 50" N 7° 12' 30" W

Fore has been a Christian settlement for 1,400 years. St. Féichín founded a church 630–640 AD and a monastery that numbered around 300 monks by the time of his death.

Féichín is renowned for the "Seven Wonders of Fore," including the water that never boils and the stream that flows uphill etc. The now abandoned Benedictine monastery was founded here during the thirteenth century.



Fore Abbey

### 5. Battle of the Boyne Centre

Oldbridge, Drogheda, Co. Meath

(38 mins, follow the M3 then take the N51 for Drogheda; 42 km; allow 1 hour for visit)

GPS: 53 °42'24.50"N 6"25' 20.33"W

The Battle of the Boyne between King William III and his father-in-law, King James II, was fought on 1 July 1690 (11 July according to our modern calendar). The largest number of troops ever deployed on an Irish battlefield, and at stake were the British throne, French dominance in Europe and religious power in Ireland.

T +353 (0) 41 980 9950

W [www.battleoftheboyne.ie](http://www.battleoftheboyne.ie)



Hill of Tara

## 6. Hill of Tara | Dunsany, Co. Meath

(24 mins; take the M3 towards Dublin and exit at Jct 7, follow R147 signposted Dunshauglin then Tara; allow 1 hour for visit)

GPS: 53 ° 34' 52.68"N -6 ° 36' 32.04" W

Best known as the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, the Hill of Tara has been an important site since the late Stone Age when a passage-tomb was constructed there.

Attractions include an audio-visual show and guided tours of the site. Self guided audio tour available from [www.ingeniousireland.ie](http://www.ingeniousireland.ie).

T +353 (0) 46 902 5903

+353 41 988 0300

W [www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/HillofTara/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/HillofTara/)



Trim Castle

## 7. Trim Castle | Trim, Co. Meath

(37 mins; Leave the M3 at junction 9, then at roundabout take the 3rd exit, then at roundabout take the 1st exit onto the N51 signposted Delvin, follow signs for Trim; 26 km)

GPS: 53 033'7.92"N -60 47' 25.08"W

The largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland was constructed over a thirty-year period by Hugh de Lacy and his son Walter. Hugh was granted the Liberty of Meath by King Henry II in 1172 in an attempt to curb the expansionist policies of Richard de Clare, (Strongbow). Construction was begun c. 1176 on the site of an earlier wooden fortress.

T +353 (0) 46 943 8619

+353 (0) 46 943 8964

W [www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/TrimCastle/](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/TrimCastle/)



Newgrange

## 8. Newgrange (Brú na Bóinne) Visitor Centre

Donore, Co. Meath

(43 minutes; Head for Slane and follow signs for Newgrange; 39 km; allow 1 hour for visit)

GPS: 53 041' 40.20"N 60 26' 46.68"W

Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre interprets the Neolithic monuments of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. Includes a full scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange as well as a full model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth.

All admission to Newgrange and Knowth is through the Visitor Centre, there is no direct access to these monuments. Visitors are brought from the Visitor Centre to the monuments by shuttle bus.

T +353 41 988 0300

E [brunaboinne@opw.ie](mailto:brunaboinne@opw.ie)

W [www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/BattleoftheBoyne//](http://www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlandseastcoast/BattleoftheBoyne//)

# Business Listings

Full details on [www.visitingkells.ie](http://www.visitingkells.ie)

## Bed & Breakfast

**Avalon B&B**, 5 Headfort Park, Kells, Co. Meath.

Family run B&B in a 5 bedroomed luxury town house, in a quiet cul-de-sac in the centre of Kells. **T** + 353 (0) 46 924 1536  
**M** +353 (0)87 216 0556 **E** [info@avalonkells.ie](mailto:info@avalonkells.ie) **W** [www.avalonkells.ie](http://www.avalonkells.ie)

**Birchwood B&B**, Balrath, Kells, Co. Meath.

This B&B offers a homely, friendly and relaxed atmosphere.  
**T** +353 (0)46 924 0688 **E** [clarket@iol.ie](mailto:clarket@iol.ie) **W** [www.balrath.net](http://www.balrath.net)

**Teach Cuailgne B&B**, Carlanstown, Kells, Co. Meath.

(3\* Fáilte Ireland Approved) Comfortable Golf & Angling Specialist bed and breakfast.  
**T** +353 (0) 46 924 6621 **M** +353 (0)87 648 1080  
**E** [info@teachcuailgne.com](mailto:info@teachcuailgne.com) **W** [www.teachcuailgne.com](http://www.teachcuailgne.com)

**Teltown House, Teach Tailteann** Teltown, Navan, Co. Meath.

A beautiful Country House situated on the site of the Tailteann Games – games that were the template for the ancient Greek Olympics.  
**T** +353 (0) 46 902 3239 **M** +353 (0) 87 665 9022  
**E** [info@teltownhouse.com](mailto:info@teltownhouse.com) **W** [www.teltownhouse.com](http://www.teltownhouse.com)

**Woodview**, Spacious town house in walking distance of all amenities.

**T** +353 (0) 46 024 0200 **E** [rosemurray@eircom.net](mailto:rosemurray@eircom.net)

## Hotels

**Headfort Arms Hotel**, Headfort Place, Kells, Co. Meath.

GPS: N +53° 43' 37.20" W -6° 52'29.33"  
Family run hotel – winner of the best 3 Star Hotel in Ireland 2010.  
**T** +353 (0) 818 222 800 **E** [info@headfortarms.ie](mailto:info@headfortarms.ie) **W** [www.headfortarms.ie](http://www.headfortarms.ie)

## Hostels

**Crystal Maze Hostel**, Kilmainhamwood, Kells.

Sleeps 35 – 40. All facilities available.  
**T** +353 (0) 42 966 7276 **W** [www.royalbreffnitours.com](http://www.royalbreffnitours.com)

**Grangeclare Paddocks**, Oristown, Kells, Co. Meath.

Farmhouse Accommodation. All facilities available.  
**T** +353 (0) 87 120 2777 **W** [www.grangeclarepaddocks.com](http://www.grangeclarepaddocks.com)

## Self Catering

**Clonleason Gate Lodge**, Fordstown, Kells, Co. Meath.

Award winning lodge which offers a very high degree of charm and comfort.  
**T** + 353 (0) 46 943 4111 **E** [info@clonleason.com](mailto:info@clonleason.com) **W** [www.clonleason.com](http://www.clonleason.com)

**The Old Hollow**, Carnaross, Kells, Co. Meath.

This spacious cottage has been tastefully restored and decorated.  
**T** +353 46 924 3614 / +353 46 924 3614 **E** [info@briodydrilling.ie](mailto:info@briodydrilling.ie)

## Wedding Venues

**Clonabreany House**, Clonabreany, Crossakiel, Kells, Co. Meath.

This historic property is ideal for weddings, private parties, a family 'get togethers' or short-breaks. **T** +353 (0) 46 924 3814  
**E** [info@clonabreanyhouse.ie](mailto:info@clonabreanyhouse.ie) **W** [www.clonabreanyhouse.ie/](http://www.clonabreanyhouse.ie/)

## Newsagents

**A&M Newsagents**, Kells Shopping Centre, Kells.

**Hethertons Garage**, Bective Square, Kells.

**Murphy's Stores**, Headfort Place, Kells. **T** + 353 (0) 46 924 9985

**The Village Stores**, Moynalty, Kells. **T** + 353 (0) 924 4311

## Restaurants

**Cross Street Bistro**, Cross Street, Kells, Co. Meath.

Home baked bread and sound and thoughtful cooking.  
**T** +353 (0) 46 924 1702 **E** [crossbistro@eircom.net](mailto:crossbistro@eircom.net)

**The Forge**, Pottlereagh, Carnaross, Kells, Co. Meath.

'Best Restaurant in County Meath 2010' in the Irish Restaurant Awards.  
**T** +353 (0) 46 924 5003 **E** [theforgerest@eircom.net](mailto:theforgerest@eircom.net)

**The Round Tower Restaurant**, Farrell Street, Kells, Co. Meath.  
Good bar menu. T +353 (0) 46 924 0144

**Vanilla Pod Restaurant**, Headfort Arms Hotel, Headfort Place, Kells, Co. Meath.  
One of the Top 100 Places to Dine in Ireland, the Vanilla Pod offers contemporary atmosphere with a wonderful choice of seasonal international cuisine.  
T + 353 (0) 46 92 40084

**Wau Asian Cuisine**, Market Street, Kells, Co. Meath.  
Comfortable Chinese restaurant. T +353 (0) 46 925 2993

## Coffee Shops

**Corn Dolly**, Supervalu Shopping Centre, Kells, Co. Meath.

**Margaret's Place**, Kenlis Place, Kells, Co. Meath.

**Mothernature**, Newmarket Street, Kells, Co. Meath. T + 353 (0) 46 929 3434

**Pebbles Restaurant**, Newmarket Street, Kells, Co. Meath. T +353 (0)46 924 9229

**The Coffee Shop**, Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath. T +353 (0) 46 924 4114

**The Courtyard**, Cookstown House, Kells, Co. Meath.  
T +353 (0) 46 924 0346 W [www.thecourtyardkells.com](http://www.thecourtyardkells.com)

## Takeaways

**Ezio's**, Carrick Street, Kells, Co. Meath. T +353 (0) 46 924 7899

**Jade Garden Chinese Takeaway**, Castle Street, Kells, Co. Meath.  
T +353 (0) 46 924 0249

**Kells Kebab & Pizza**, John Street, Kells, Co. Meath. T +353 (0) 46 929 3577

**Rose Garden**, Chinese Takeaway, Farrell Street, Kells, Co. Meath.  
T +353 (0) 46 924 1232

**San Reno**, Carlanstown, Kells, Co. Meath. T +353 (0) 46 924 6856

**Tower Grill**, Farrell Street, Kells, Co. Meath. T +353 (0) 46 924 0314

**Wong Palace Chinese Restaurant**, Carrick Street, Kells, Co. Meath.  
T +353 (0)46 929 3991

## Sample A Night Out in Kells (full details on [www.visitingkells.ie](http://www.visitingkells.ie))

**The Arches Bar**, Farrell Street. T + 353 (0) 46 924 0536

**Abbey House**, Climber Hall, Kells. T + 353 (0) 46 929 3866

**Carnaross Inn**, Carnaross, Kells. T + 353 (0) 46 924 5906

**Danny Muldoons**, Newmarket St., Kells.

**Halfway House**, Ballinlough. T +353 (0) 46 924 3627

**Jack's Railway Bar**, Irish Music Every Thursday night. T + 353 (0) 46 924 0215

**Keltic Bar**, John St., Kells, Live music and pub grub. T + 353 (0) 818 222 800

**Kiernan's Bar**, Carlanstown, Kells, Old world pub. T + 353 (0) 46 924 6887

**McGee's**, Farrell St, Live Music. T + 353 (0) 46 924 0867

**Moran's**, Carlanstown, Kells, weekend music & takeaway food.

**Round Tower**, Farrell St., Kells, Live Music & Food. T +353 (0) 46 924 0144

**Silver Tankard**, N3, Kells. T + 353 (0) 46 902 1994

**Smiths Pub**, Live music every weekend. T + 353 (0) 46 929 3779

**The Blackwater Inn**, Farrell Street, Live music. T + 353 (0) 924 0386

**The Bridge Bar**, Moynalty. T +353 (0) 46 924 4307

**The Vibe**, fun disco. T + 353 (0) 46 924 0063

**Westway**, Farrell St., Kells – Live music. T + 353 (0) 46 924 0433

## Gaelic Games (Football, Handball and Hurling)

**Handball Alley**, Church Lane, Kells.

E [kellshandball@gmail.com](mailto:kellshandball@gmail.com) W [kells.handball.gaa.ie](http://kells.handball.gaa.ie)

**Gaelic Football Games**, Come down and watch a game!

**Kilmainham**, Training Nights every Tuesday –  
contact Declan Black T +353 (0)87 678 9496

**Gaeil Columcille**, For training nights contact Gary Arkins  
T + 353 (0) 87 615 8946 W [secretary.gaeilcolumcille.meath@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.gaeilcolumcille.meath@gaa.ie)

**Supermarkets** (full details on [www.visitingkells.ie](http://www.visitingkells.ie))

**Carroll's**, Newmarket Street, Kells. T + 353 (0) 46 924 0015

**Centra**, Bective Square, Kells. T (0) 46 924 1445

**Supervalu**, Cavan Road, Kells. T +353 (0) 46 9240983

### Florists

**Flower Innovations**, Farrell Street, Kells. T +353 (0)46 924 9411

**The Flower Shop**, Market Street, Kells. T +353 (0) 46 924 1455  
after hours. T +353 (0)49 854 1206

### Gift Shops

**The Round Tower Gift Shop**, Canon Street, Kells. T +353 (0) 46 924 1104

**Castle Street Elegance**, Castle Street, Kells. T +046 924 7957 / 086 814 7957

**The Courtyard**, Cookstown House, Kells. T +353 (0)46 924 0346

**John Doyle's**, Cross Street, Kells. T +353 (0) 46 924 0264

**Hair & Beauty** (full details on [www.visitingkells.ie](http://www.visitingkells.ie))

**Emer's Elegance**, New Market Street, Kells.

Waxing, tinting, spray tans, make up, manicures, pedicures, facials,  
massage and body treatments. T + 353 (0) 46 924 1155

W [www.facebook.com/emerselegance](http://www.facebook.com/emerselegance)

**Headfort Arms Spa**, Headfort Place, Kells. An intimate Spa that provides a  
haven of calm and tranquillity. T +353 (0) 46 924 8323

**The White Orchid**, Canon Street, Kells. A state of the art Beauty Spa and  
Hair design salon with over 20 years experience. T + 353 (0) 46 924 0922

### Health Shops

**Mother Nature**, Newmarket Street, Kells. T + 353 (0) 46 929 3434

### Laundries & Drycleaners

**Jimmy's Drycleaners**, Trebor House, Church Street, Kells.

**Kells Alterations & Laundry Services**, Newmarket St. Kells.  
T + 353 (0) 87 957 6918

### Off Licences

**McEntees Off Licence**, Newmarket Street, Kells. T +353 (0) 46 924 0116

### Post Offices

**Bective Square**, Kells. T + 353 (0) 46 924

**Moynalty**, Kells. T +353 (0) 46 924 4626

### Pharmacies

**Kenlis Pharmacy**, Canon Street, Kells. T +353 (0) 46 924 7944

**Lynch's Pharmacy**, Farrell St, Kells. T + 353 (0) 46 924 0515

**Gormley's Pharmacy**, Kells Shopping Centre, Kells. T +353 (0) 46 924 0950

### Theatre Companies

**Kells Musical & Dramatic Society**, Kenlis Place, Kells.

This very vibrant and active society are now in their 36th season –  
for a list of what's on contact John Grant on

T +353 (0) 46 924 1316 / +353 (0) 87 207 9557

or Brian O'Neill T +353 (0) 46 924 0906 / +353 (0)86 384 1766

### Taxi

**Niall McGee**, 087 967 4334

**David O' Reilly**, 086 351 1716

**Tommy Cussen** (Jiffy Cabs), 086 121 9308

**George & Mary Lynch**, 087 747 8826 /  
086 068 4440

**Harritte Brady**, 086 811 4747

**Frankie Lynch**, 086 314 5520

**Sam Black**, 087 924 0837

**David Connors**, 087 763 8801


**Benny Murphy**, 087 150 5505

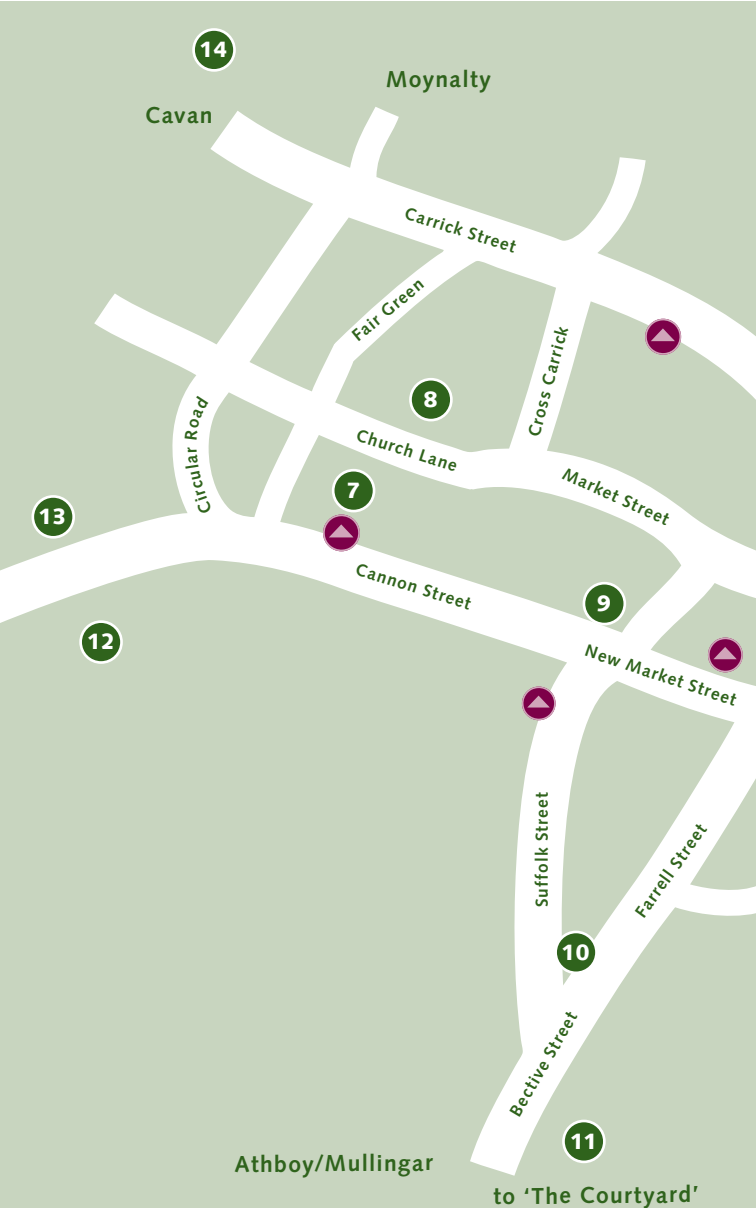
**Martin Cummiskey**, 087 258 0404

**Ron Lawlor**, 087 297 6251

# Kells

1. Old Courthouse
2. Market Cross
3. St John's Cemetery
4. Town Hall
5. Parnell Gardens
6. Oliver Usher's Auction Rooms

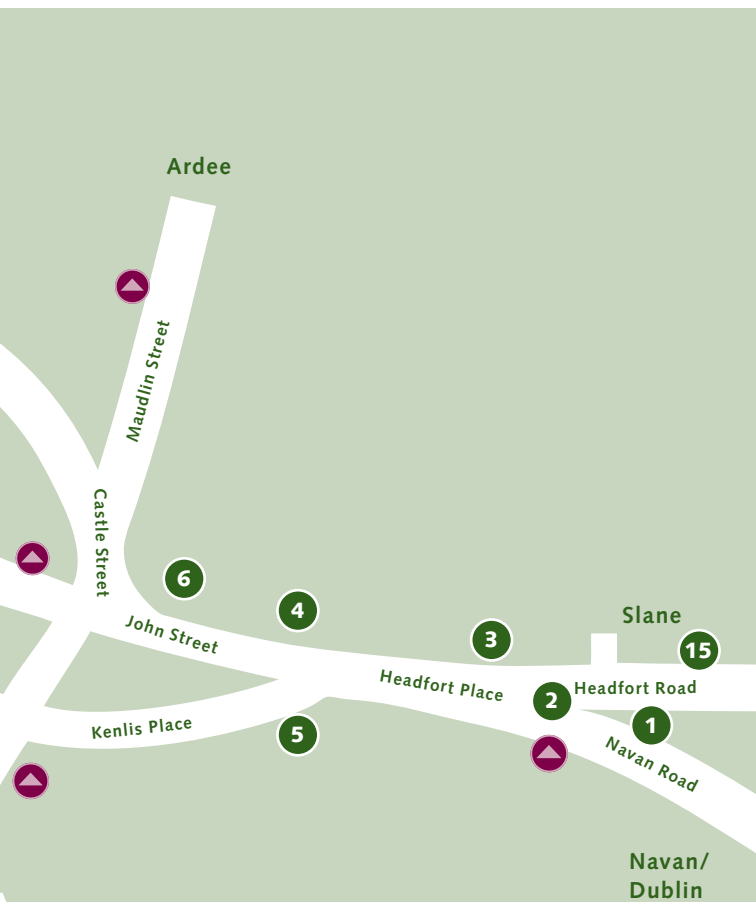
 Street Information Signs



7. Monastic Site
8. St Columcille's House
9. Churchyard Wall
10. Bective Square
11. Presbyterian Church

**3 minute drive from Kells**

12. Columcille's Well
13. Spire of Lloyd
14. Waterworks
15. Headfort House





KELLS GPS: 53° 43' 36.48" N -6° 52' 24.98" W

Kells, County Meath, is 40 minutes' (30 miles) drive from Dublin airport. This designated heritage town offers the visitor a range of activities and attractions and makes an ideal start or finish to a longer stay in Ireland.

From angling, golf and walking to an ancient monastery, Celtic Crosses and award winning accommodation and dining, Kells is an ideal destination for every member of the family.

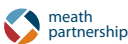
For more information on our town visit [www.visitingkells.ie](http://www.visitingkells.ie)



Meath

This project has been co-financed by Meath Partnership through the Irish Department of Environment, Community and Local Government 'Rural Development Programme Ireland 2007-2013' and through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.

B'iad Comhairteoireacht na Mí, an 'Chlár Tuathforbairt na hÉireann, 2007-2013', leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil, agus an Chiste Talmhaíochta na hEorpa le haghaidh an Tuathforbairt: Eorpach ag infheistiú sna cheantair tuaithe, a comh-mhaoiniú an tionscadal seo.



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