

# WONDER WANDER FOYNES



NATIONAL INVENTORY of ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Luimnigh Limerick City & County Council

## INSTRUCTIONS

### TAKE A 'WONDER WANDER' THROUGH FOYNES:

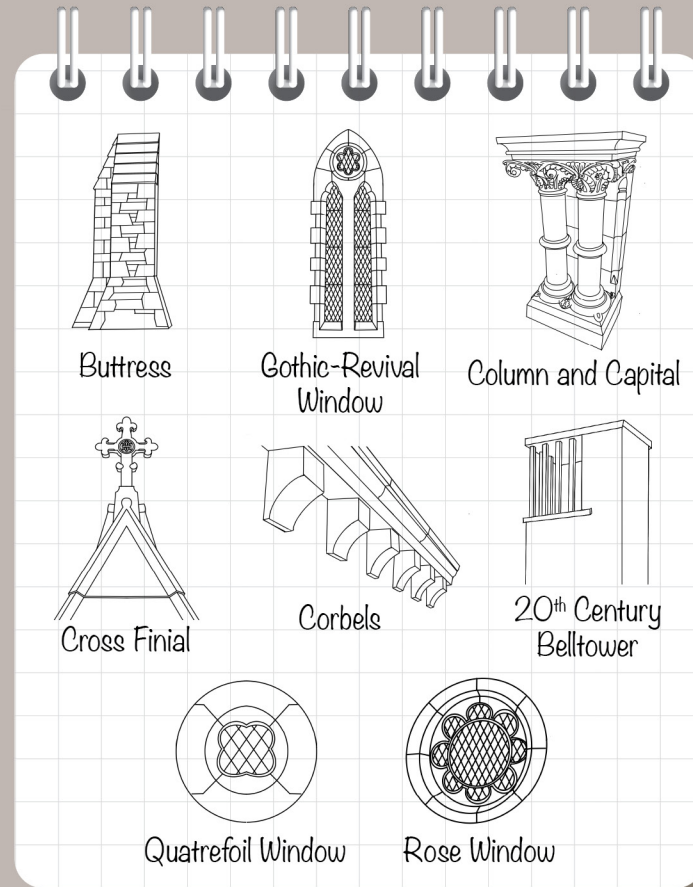
- Wander through our streets, find the picture clues and delve into the stories that our village tells through its rich architectural heritage.
- Take ten minutes to spot the features on our architectural scavenger hunt, or simply relax and enjoy our carefully curated self-guided tour of Foynes.
- Always remember to glance up, peer down, and never cease to WONDER!



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## SCAVENGER HUNT

HOW MANY OF THESE FEATURES CAN YOU SPOT IN THE CHURCH GROUNDS?



## THE STORY OF FOYNES

The area was first mentioned when Turlogh O'Connor, High King of Connaught, plundered Foynes Island in 1124. Proposals to fortify the island during the 16th century indicate that, at that time, it remained a site of strategic importance. In 1612 King James I granted Frances Trenchard some 14,000 acres, including the lands of the present village.

By 1778 the Trenchard estate had passed to the Rice family. As an MP for Limerick, Thomas Spring Rice, 1st Baron Monteagle of Brandon, was instrumental in developing local infrastructure. Churches, schools, roads and the pier in Foynes were constructed under his tenure.

In 1836 Foynes harbour served as a packet station for

transatlantic voyages. By 1858, the Great Southern & Western Railway had arrived, bringing further trade and commerce.

The advent of aviation marked a significant era for Foynes as the village served as the European terminal for transatlantic flights. The Foynes Flying Boat Museum, opened by Maureen O'Hara and featuring a full-size replica of a Boeing 314 Flying Boat, commemorates the village's rich aviation heritage.

Want to learn more about Foynes Architectural Conservation Area and other Architectural Conservation Areas in the city and county? Contact Limerick City and County Council's Architectural Conservation Officer.



### TICK THE BOX AS YOU WONDER

#### 1. THE RAILWAY

Foynes Railway Station was built during the 1850s by the Great Southern & Western Railway, as the terminus of the Foynes branch of the North Kerry line. The line was developed to serve the new pier which had been built in 1847.



A cast-iron water tower erected in the 1890s stands to the east of the station building. Large quantities of water were needed to generate steam to power the locomotives. This tank was made in Waterford and bears the foundry name of 'B. Graham'.

Look out for the red brick signal box which was used to control points and signals on the tracks. The lever room was located on the upper floor, with large windows on three sides, to afford good visibility to signalmen.

Smith, an accomplished Limerick based architect, is a fine example of the Arts and Craft style, with projecting bays, rusticated limestone masonry and deep overhanging eaves.

Pockmarks seen in the render on the front of the post office building are said by locals to have been caused by gunfire during Ireland's revolutionary period.

#### 3. O'CONNOR'S

Take a closer look at the shop display window. Its glazing arrangement, with three large panes set below a fixed pane of smaller lights, is typical of the Arts and Crafts style. Large display windows such as this one reflect the rise in consumerism during the early 1900s.

#### 4. JOYCE'S

Historic sash windows like the ones in this building can still be found in many parts of the ACA. The sash window appeared in Ireland in the late 1600s and remained popular right up until the mid-20th century. Opening at both top and bottom, the sashes allow for optimum ventilation.



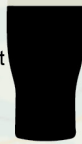
#### 5. M.A NOLAN'S

This shopfront dating to the 1930s features the letters MPSI, an abbreviation of 'Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland' under the neatly rendered cornice. The role of the pharmacist as a source of medical advice, in addition to the dispensing of medication, meant professionals like M.A Nolan were valued members of the community.



#### 6. M. FITZGERALD'S

This former public house was established in the 1890s by Moss Fitzgerald, who was the general foreman for Lord Monteagle. The simple shopfront is enlivened with two carved lion heads and is an excellent example of the quality of design and craftsmanship at the time.



#### 7. FORMER BARRACKS

The Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) was once based in this house. The Tudor Revival style building was constructed of local limestone, a material which was used to picturesque effect throughout the village. The projecting hood mouldings seen



over the windows were designed to throw rainwater away from the openings while also providing decorative embellishment.

Like many small towns across Ireland, Foynes also once had its own courthouse, located just across the road, where the parish centre now stands.

#### 8. CREEVEEN COTTAGES

Do the arched entrances, overhanging eaves, and rusticated limestone masonry, seen here, remind you of another building in Foynes? Built around 1910, this short terrace of houses was designed by the architect William Clifford Smith, who also designed the village's Arts and Crafts post office and bank (see stop 2). The houses were built for the middle-class professionals who had come to Foynes because of the burgeoning industry and commerce. Past residents included the manager of the British Petroleum (BP) Works, which was located to the east of the village.

#### 9. SANCTA MARIA

Built in the 1940s, this house has an unusual pebbledash. A type of finish that was popular during the 20th century, pebbledash involves applying render to a wall and then throwing pebbles on to that render while it is still wet. Typically,



variety and interest is provided by including pebbles of different colours, broken shells or even pottery. Here, small fragments of coloured glass have been cast into the finish to dazzling effect!

Sancta Maria was once occupied by Joe Sheridan, a chef, who is said to have invented the iconic Irish coffee in 1943 at the Foynes Airport terminal building. Sheridan created this blend of whiskey, coffee and cream to comfort passengers whose flight had turned back due to adverse weather.



#### 10. WOODVIEW COTTAGES

Woodview Cottages form part of three terraces of workers housing built during the 19th century. Census records from the early 1900s show that they were home to fishermen and labourers, as well as employees from the nearby sawmill and petroleum works.

The end pair of houses are distinguished by the diagonally-placed central chimneystack which serve corner fireplaces in the main rooms.



#### 11. COTTAGES ON MAIN STREET

One of a group of three 19th century cottages, the historic timber bargeboards which frame the dormer window of this house are shaped like the teeth of a saw.

Owing to the importance of Foynes as a strategic aviation hub during World War II, many buildings in the village provided accommodation for both personnel and passengers associated with the transatlantic flights. Many refugees escaping war on the continent passed through Foynes on flights from neutral Portugal, before continuing onward to the United States of America.



#### 12. E. O'CONNOR'S

This early twentieth century building, of combined commercial and residential use, showcases elegant design. The traditional shopfront, with raised timber lettering under a dentilated cornice, includes carved display windows featuring geometric motifs. The exposed brickwork, now painted, added a colourful contrast to the limestone detailing more typically used elsewhere in the village.



#### 13. ST. SENAN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Senan's was built in the Gothic Revival style to designs by J.J. McCarthy, one of Ireland's leading 19th century church architects. Although work on St. Senan's commenced in 1868, it was 1932 before it was completed to simplified designs under his successor, Ralph Henry Byrne. The grandeur of McCarthy's original vision can be seen in a sketch drawing inside the church. The nave features a steeply pitched roof with a band of fish scale slates that complements its maritime location.

Renovated and enlarged in 1975 by Sheahan Architects, the church now includes vibrant, abstract stained glass that contrasts with the earlier Gothic Revival windows.

Pause here to identify some of the features in our Scavenger Hunt.

Sir Stephen Edward De Vere is buried in the church grounds. An advocate for public welfare, De Vere gained notoriety in 1847 when he travelled on one of the period's infamous famine ships. De Vere's account of the horrendous conditions endured by those on board led to significant improvements on emigrant ships. A memorial fountain in the form of a Celtic Revival cross was erected in his honour further along Main Street.



#### 14. STONE WALLS

These low stone walls are constructed from local limestone, a material which is characteristic of the ACA. A commercial quarry was established outside the village in the 19th century and provided the good quality building stone seen throughout Foynes.

Can you spot the monument on top of the hill which overlooks the village? This Celtic Revival cross, erected around 1900, commemorates Stephen Edmond Spring Rice, the eldest son of Lord Monteagle, who died at sea on the 9th May 1865. Tenants of the Monteagle estates raised this cross in his memory. It later served as a landmark for flying boat pilots.



Before leaving the village why not explore the former terminal building of Foynes Airport. The terminal building was originally built as the Mounteagle Arms Hotel in the 1860s. It is now home to the Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum. This museum offers a glimpse into the area's fascinating past.



# FOYNES

## ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION AREA

# WALKING TRAIL

FAING

WANDER THE ROUTE USING THE PICTURE CLUES OR BREAK IT UP AND WONDER...



### BRANDON COTTAGES

Where do streets get their names?

Brandon Cottages, was named for Lord Monteagle of Brandon. Thomas Spring Rice of the Trenchard Estate was created the first Baron Monteagle of Brandon in 1839.

#### MAP LEGEND

- Architectural Conservation Area
- Walking Route, 1.3km
- 1 Trail number
- 1 Picture Clue Number
- P Parking
- Library
- Picnic area
- Scenic View

