



The Finglas Heritage Trail was developed over a number of years, with the enthusiasm and support of local community groups and Dublin City Council. In 2013, information panels and plaques were installed on the Trail, covering the history and development of Finglas since early Christian times. The trail, shown on the map opposite, takes between 1 and 2 hours to complete.

Finglas, (from the Irish Fionn Ghlas - Clear Stream) was the site of one of the most important early Christian monasteries in Ireland, founded around 560 A.D. by St. Canice, who is remembered to this day in many of the local place names.

Since earliest times, the elevated location of Finglas was of strategic importance, looking southward over the city of Dublin and straddling the main trading route from the northwest. Viking influence is still recalled in the Norse black raven crest which symbolises the area. In 1171, the army of the Norman King, Henry II arrived in Finglas and according to legend, horrified locals by cutting down a grove of sacred trees, said to have been planted by St. Canice in the grounds of the old monastery.

During the 13th and 14th centuries, the area of Finglas was favoured by Archbishops of Dublin, and their residence, known as "The Court" survived as a large and prosperous mansion for many years. By the 16th century



Finglas was being described as 'a fine town' and had become a popular sporting resort for wealthy Dubliners who often hunted and kept residences in the area.

During the rebellion of 1641, it took an army of 1,000 men and a troop of horses to defeat rebels who had occupied the house of a Colonel Arthur Hill in Finglas. Following their victory at the battle of the Boyne in 1690, the soldiers of King William of Orange made camp at Finglas for a number of days before entering Dublin. A local landmark, popularly known as King William's Ramparts recalls the event, although it is likely that they date from an earlier period. Over time the village community developed and a number of large houses were built in the

surrounding area, the most notable of which was Farnham House, home of John Maxwell, the first Lord Farnham of Cavan. In the early part of the 19th century many of these houses, including Farnham, were converted into sanatoria and asylums serving the needs of the nearby city.

Throughout the 19th century, Finglas retained its isolated village character, centred on its green, its churches and local school and was described at the turn of the century as 'chiefly consisting of small irregular built houses'. It was not until the 1950's that today's suburb emerged, when Dublin Corporation began the development of both Finglas East and West, providing much needed modern housing for the



growing population of Dublin. On the site of the famous Maypole, one of the best known in Dublin and previously occupied by the village stocks, there now stands a monument to the republican hero, Commandant Dick McKee. St. Patrick's Well, for centuries reputed to have curative properties and still maintained locally, was once the subject of an attempt to create a fashionable spa resort by a spurious Turk, glorying in the name Achmet Borumborad (he was in reality an Irishman, Patrick Joyce).

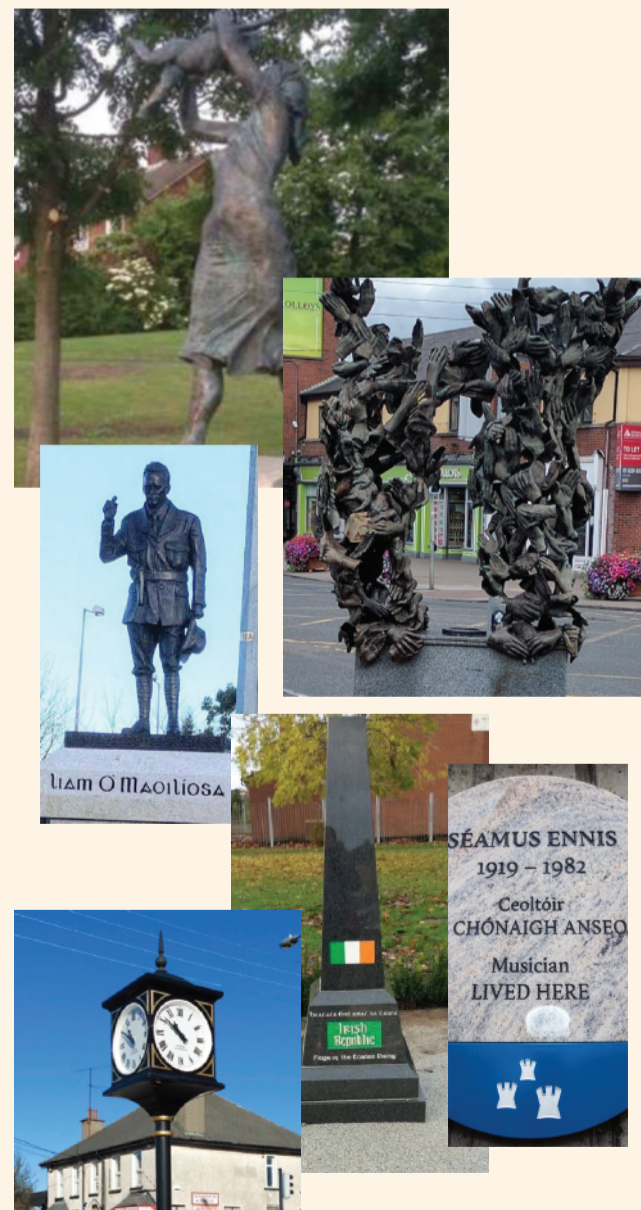
The ancient Nethercross, restored and re-erected in a place of honour in St. Canice's graveyard during the 1800's, is a tangible link with the distant past.

A number of organised heritage walks take place each year, please contact Dublin City Council on Ph: 01 222 5400 / E-mail: northwestarea@dublincity.ie / www.dublincity.ie for information.



## PLACES OF INTEREST:

- **Mother and Child statue**  
Elizabeth McLaughlin created this bronze sculpture that is titled "Let the Life Flow Through". The sculpture is of a mother lifting her baby in the air. The bronze shawl located on the plinth was designed by local children. The statue is located at the intersection of Finglas Place and Finglas Road.
- **Finglas Village Clock:**  
A new decorative clock and civic space at the junction of Jamestown Road & Seamus Ennis Road was officially unveiled in 2018 by then Ardmhéara, Mícheál Mac Donncha. This Clock and Civic Space is dedicated to Finglas Village Tidy Towns group.
- **Liam Mellows Statue:**  
Liam Mellows 1892-1922 was an Irish republican and Sinn Féin politician. Elected as a TD to the First Dáil, he rejected the Anglo-Irish Treaty and was captured by pro-Treaty forces during the Irish Civil War. Liam Mellows was executed by Free State forces in 1922. In December 2019, a memorial statue was unveiled on Casement Road, Finglas.



- **The "Spirit of Finglas" sculpture:**  
"The Spirit of Finglas" is a sculpture that was created by Leo Higgins in 1991. The sculpture is on Séamus Ennis Road. The sculpture is made from the casts of local people's hands formed into the shape of a raven.
- **Séamus Ennis blue plaque:**  
In 2019, an official Dublin City Council commemorative blue plaque unveiling took place at the site of Séamus Ennis's boyhood home in Finglas, which was demolished during the 1960's. The unveiling coincided with the centenary of the birth of this renowned musician, singer, folklore collector and broadcaster. The plaque was unveiled outside Burgess Galvin & Co. Ltd. on the Jamestown Road by Councillor Paul McAuliffe, representing the Lord Mayor of Dublin.
- **1916 Memorial Obelisk:**  
In 2016, a memorial was erected in Finglas Village to commemorate those who participated in support of Irish freedom. The memorial on Séamus Ennis Road is an Obelisk with the four flags of the Rising prominently etched into the sea grey polished marble. This fitting tribute is the work of the volunteers of the Finglas Village Renewal Partnership with the support of Dublin City Council, local businesses & community groups. The memorial is surrounded by seven trees to represent the seven signatures to The Proclamation on that solemn day in our history in the spring of 1916.

## Finglas Historical Society

Meet last Tuesday of every month

**New Members welcome**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
thefinglashistoricalsociety@gmail.com  
PH: (01) 2225400



Tours ✓ Discuss Local History ✓ Promote Finglas ✓



**Finglas TidyTowns**  
Caring for our environment



New members welcome  
Contact: (01) 222 5400



## USEFUL INFORMATION:

Dublin City Council  
Finglas Civic Centre  
Mellowes Road  
T. 01 222 5400

Library Services  
Finglas Village  
T. 01 222 8330

Finglas Leisure Centre  
Mellowes Road  
T. 01 222 8620

Citizens Information Centre  
Finglas Village  
T. 076 107 7360

Finglas Garda Station  
Mellowes Road  
T. 01 666 7500



Bus routes can be found on  
www.dublinbus.ie



**FIONNGHLAS FINGLAS**  
Conair Oidhreachta  
Heritage Trail



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

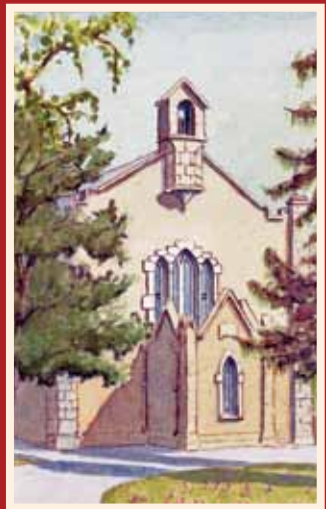


Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



#### 1. ST. PATRICK'S WELL

Named after the Patron Saint of Ireland, who according to tradition, is said to have drank from it on his visit to Finglas, the waters of the well are claimed to benefit "sore eyes and inveterate ulcers".



#### 2. ST. CANICE'S CHURCH OF IRELAND

It is likely that the Abbey was founded by St. Canice, its first Abbott and after whom two of the churches of Finglas are named.



#### 3A/B. KING WILLIAM'S RAMPARTS

One section, known locally as 'the confessional' because of the cubicle like shape of its buttresses is located at Patrick's Well Place. The other consists of a stone wall structure with a vaulted chamber at its western end, is in the garden of St. Canice's rectory.



#### 4. VIKING BURIAL SITE

Archaeological excavations undertaken in 2004 uncovered a shallow rectangular grave containing the incomplete skeleton of a female aged between 25 -35 with a collection of artefacts dating from the mid ninth century.



#### 5. ST. CANICE'S ABBEY AND GRAVEYARD

The graveyard contains the remains of many notable people associated with Finglas over the centuries. Elizabeth Wollstonecraft-Bishop, Aunt of Mary Shelley, the author of Frankenstein is buried in the cemetery, as is a distant cousin of Princess Diana.



#### 6. THE NETHERCROSS

Measuring almost 3m in height, the Nethercross is Celtic in design and bears a strong stylistic resemblance to three high crosses in Ferns Cathedral, Co. Wexford.



#### 7. FARNHAM HOUSE GATE LODGE

Built in the mid 1700s by Lord John Maxwell, first Baron Farnham, Farnham House, with its extensive grounds, was the finest of the country residences in the area.



#### 8. ROSEHILL HOUSE

Rosehill is an imposing early eighteenth century house of significant architectural and artistic merit, the design of which has been attributed to the noted architect Edward Lovett Pearce who was responsible for the Parliament buildings on College Green.



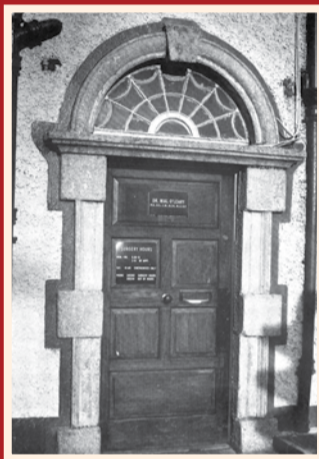
#### 9. DICK MCKEE MEMORIAL

The McKee Memorial is situated on the original Finglas village pound where miscreants were held up to public ridicule in the stocks. The area subsequently became the site of one of Dublin's two eighteenth century May Poles.



#### 10. ST. CANICE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The foundation stone for St. Canice's Roman Catholic Church was laid on Bloody Sunday November 21st 1920. This church was officially dedicated in December 1922 by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Edward Byrne.



#### 11. ASHGROVE HOUSE

First recorded on Rocque's map of 1762, Ashgrove House is one of the few structures remaining from the old village of Finglas.



#### 12. GLENHILL HOUSE

Built in the early 1900s, for the Craigie family, the founders of Merville Dairies, later to become Premier Dairies, Glenhill House became the family home until 1970.



#### 13. ST. HELENA'S HOUSE

St. Helena's House was built towards the end of the eighteenth century, probably as a Dower house for the parents of John Maxwell, the first Baron Farnham of Cavan.