



# The FAN Trail, Birr, Co Offaly.

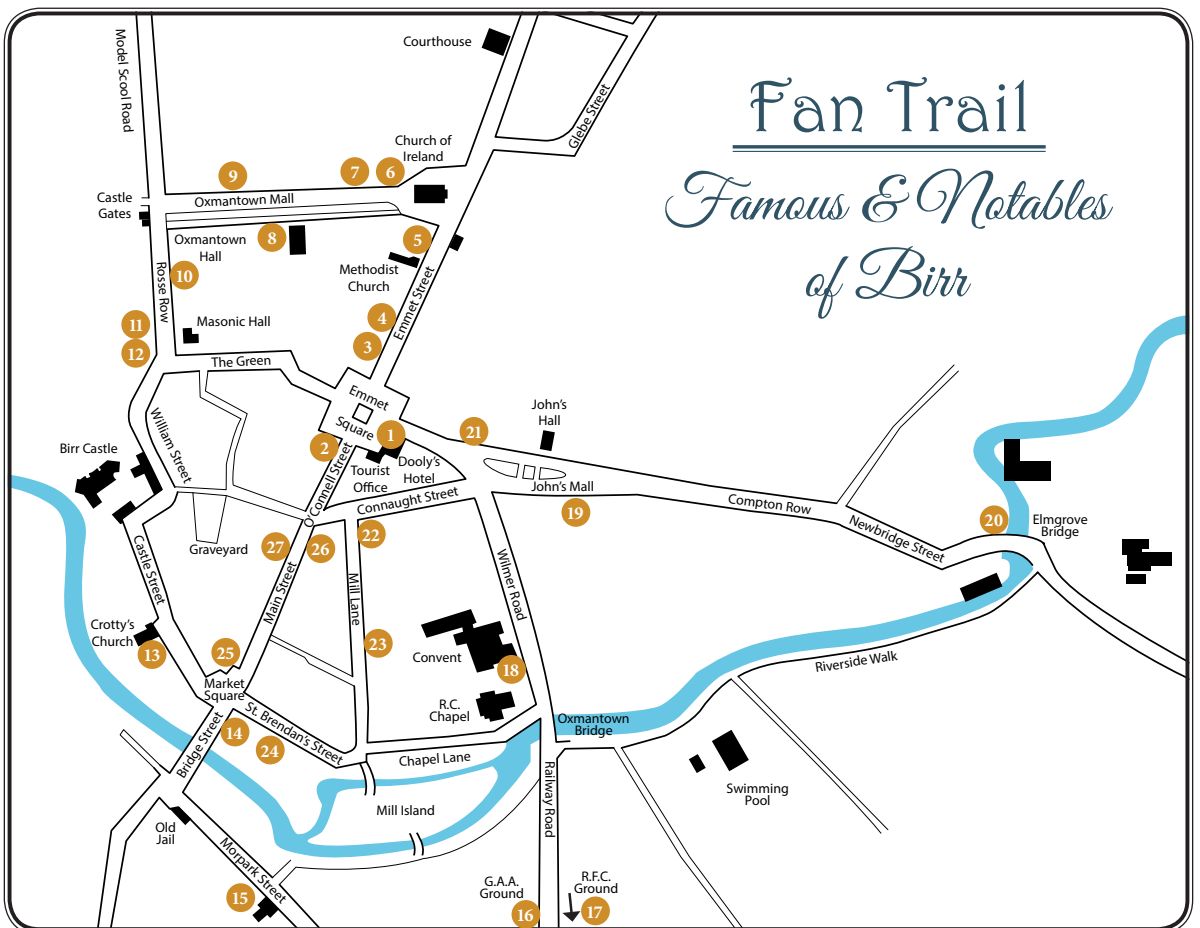
The Famous & Notables of Birr – the FAN Trail – commemorates 27 remarkable people and places from this heritage town’s fascinating history; all famous (or infamous) in their day but many forgotten in this era.

The trail begins in the main square, and takes an easy route, mostly within the heart of town. On foot, it takes approximately an hour and a half to two hours.

## The FAN Trail includes :

A Hollywood icon; a world famous photographer, a Gaeilge-speaking Argentinian champion hurler; a romantic GP; a history-loving lawyer; a successful businesswoman and TD who harboured a German spy; a poetic cabinet-maker; a ‘Little Theatre’ that made a big impact as well as a jazzy newspaper editor and a geologist who has a peak in Canada named after him.

There are a few veterans of a former empire’s battles; sportspeople and diplomats; strong threads within the arts; explorers and people of the Church. Along the trail are also included, locations linked with ‘dramatic events’: a murder, a schism, an out-done Dame and a handful of revolutionaries.



# List of Plaques and Locations

Please Note: additional information on all of the following can be found on the internet and on Facebook at...

[www.facebook.com./Famous & Notables of Birr trail.](http://www.facebook.com./Famous & Notables of Birr trail) 

1. DAME NELLIE MELBA (EMMET SQUARE) - *Opera Singer*
2. ALICE DWYER JOYCE (O'CONNELL STREET) - *Novelist*
3. BIRR LITTLE THEATRE (EMMET STREET)
4. THOMAS LAWLOR COOKE (EMMET STREET) - *Solicitor & Historian*
5. EAMON BULFIN (EMMET STREET) - *Revolutionary & Diplomat*
6. AENGUS FANNING (OXMANTOWN MALL) - *Editor & Journalist*
7. THOMAS WATERS (OXMANTOWN MALL) - *Engineer & Architect*
8. JAMES FRANKLIN FULLER (OXMANTOWN MALL) - *Architect & Heraldist*
9. LORD DUGAN (OXMANTOWN MALL) - *Governor of South Australia*
10. SUSAN MITCHELL (ROSSE ROW) - *Poet & Playwright*
11. JIM CONNELL (ROSSE ROW) - *Songwriter & Author*
12. FANNY COPELAND (ROSSE ROW) - *Linguist & Botanist*
13. FR. MICHAEL CROTTY (CASTLE STREET) - *Crotty Schism*
14. KATE DUNNE (BRIDGE STREET) - *Murder Victim*
15. THOMAS HACKETT VC (MOORPARK STREET) - *Veteran of India*
16. JOSEPH KEELE (SEFFIN) - *Explorer & Geologist*
17. ALICE CASHEL (OLD RAILWAY STATION) *Writer & founding member Cork Cumann na mBan*
18. MOTHER MCAULEY (WILMER ROAD) - *Convent Founder*
19. MONSIGNOR HAMELL (JOHN'S PLACE) - *Academic & Author*
20. JOHN MURRAY (NEWBRIDGE STREET) - *Veteran of Maori Wars*
21. BERNADETTE O'FARRELL (JOHN'S PLACE) - *Stage & Hollywood Actress*
22. JOHN DE JOHN FRAZER (CONNAUGHT STREET) - *Poet & Cabinetmaker*
23. TIM FINNERTY (MILL STREET) - *POW & Author*
24. LORNA REYNOLDS (SAINT BRENDAN STREET) - *Academic & Author*
25. CAITLIN KINGSTON (MARKET SQUARE) - *TD & Businesswoman*
26. WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM'S HOTEL (MAIN STREET) - *1st All-Ireland Hurling Celebration*
27. LORD SNOWDON (BUTLERS' PHARMACY, MAIN STREET) - *Photographer*

# A new and fascinating walking trail...

This new and fascinating walking trail has been the initiative of two local artists: Jackie Lynch and Rosalind Fanning. From the beginning, their focus has been as much about the people of the town itself, as it is to bring visitors beyond the walls of the main attraction and through the heart of town. This creative partnership has resulted in the trail of elegant blue and white plaques which can be seen in Birr today and mark the places where their subjects were born, dwelt, performed, died or worked and are now honoured again. A reasonable gender balance has been sought and achieved.



## Launch

The trail was launched on 29 June 2016 at the neo-classical edifice, John's Hall, by the renowned actor Des Keogh, who himself is a one-time resident of Birr.

## Support Along The Way

Support has come from Birr Lions Club, the Birr/Midlands Chapter of the Irish Georgian Society and Birr Tidy Towns. Birr Municipal District awarded generous grants. Offaly County Council facilitated the continuance of the project via its Heritage Office.

*A special acknowledgement must also be made to the property owners on whose buildings the custom designed plaques are displayed.*

Enquiries: [info@tinjugstudio.com](mailto:info@tinjugstudio.com)

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/Famous & Notables of Birr trail](http://www.facebook.com/Famous & Notables of Birr trail)

