

the stone was hand cut and had to be transported into the area for the building of the railroad in the 1870s. Look up as you pass underneath and notice the red brickwork. The road above leads to Ballykissane and beyond. Just before you come to the metal bridge, there is another stone bridge which overlooks the Nun's Road, so called because it led to the convent, now St Joseph's nursing home.

(5) Railway Bridge/Metal Bridge - the bridge stands as an amazing feat of engineering in the Killorglin landscape, testimony to the skilled workers who constructed it and a monument to the Great Southern and Western Railway. A 100 ton engine was run across the bridge to test it, shortly before its opening on 15th January 1885. Over the years the shrill whistle of the train, as it crossed the bridge, announced its imminent arrival. Passengers gathered their luggage and others hurried from the house or pub (if so installed) to meet, greet or depart.

Upriver, towards the County Bridge, there are great views of the MacGillicuddy Reeks. Carrauntuohill (1039m), Ireland's highest mountain is also the shyest from here and is hidden behind Beenkeeragh (1010m) - the highest visible point on the skyline. Looking in the other direction, you can see the Slieve Mish Mountains, (including Caherconree and Baurtregaum) on the Dingle Peninsula.

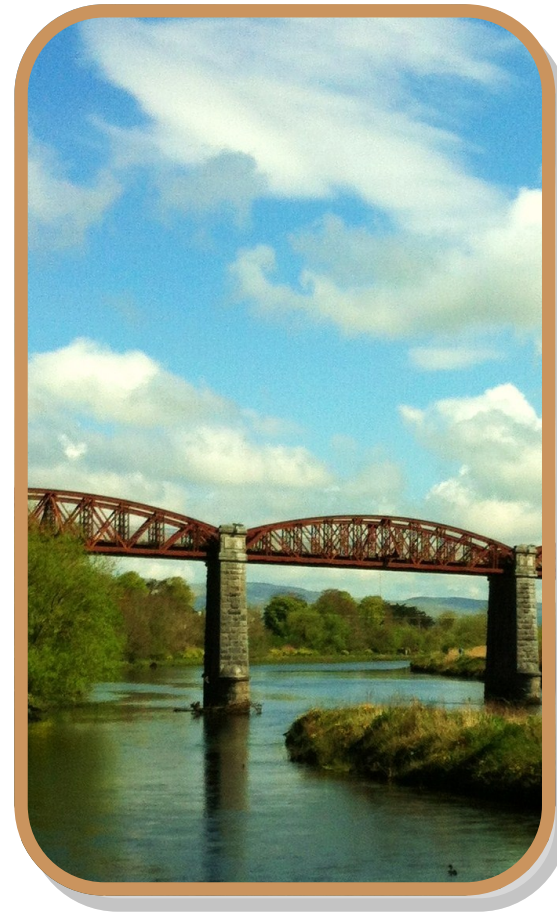
The river below is The Laune which flows from Lough Leane in Killarney. As you stand on the bridge think about whom you might have seen paddling past over the years. In 845 and 857 you would have witnessed a fleet of Viking ships full of helmeted and hungry warriors on their way to plunder the Laune Valley and Inishfallen monastery in Lough Leane. In 1652 the fearsome army of General Ludlow for the English Crown used the Laune to transport boats with guns on board to Lough Leane where they attacked Ross Castle from the lakeside, resulting in the surrender of Lord Muskerry and the castle to the Crown. Today you'll probably see the oarsmen and women of Killorglin rowing club practicing their skills – getting ready to do battle of a different kind.

From the Railway Bridge you have the choice of retracing your steps back along the railway path. Alternatively, you can drop down to the Nun's Road just beside the Information Board at the metal bridge and return to Library Place via (6) St James' Church and Mill Road.

This brochure was designed and produced by **Killorglin Tidy Towns**
www.killorglintidytowns.com

Map: William Bateman Old Photo: Killorglin Archive Society

RAILWAY BRIDGE TRAIL



A gentle walk on a good path along a disused railway line to a spectacular viewing point on the old railway bridge

(1) Library Place - this area was originally part of the lands occupied by the Faranfore-Killorglin-Valentia Harbour railway line. It is now a public space much used for fetes and festivals.

Take a moment to get your bearings. The railway lands extended to the children's playground behind the library and to Fexco and St Michael's church on the N70. They included a goods store, cattle sidings, water tower, turntable, signal cabin and the station buildings. It was all hustle and bustle with the steam trains hissing and chugging, goods being loaded and unloaded, tooting trains, station master's whistle and porters, carters and other railway worker's shouting instructions.

Part the wall of the original station building has been incorporated into the Fexco building and can be seen from Iveragh Road (N70) where there is also a memorial to the railway. Across the road from the memorial is the Manor Inn which was built as the Railway Hotel (imagine passengers rushing across the road for the train when they heard its whistle on its way into town...) and the large house, now a solicitor's office, beside the filling station was the stationmaster's house. The train line crossed the road just beyond Boyle's hardware building and if you travel the road south towards Caherciveen you can see the raised ridge of the railway line, tunnels and bridges from time to time. So although the physical line has gone, there are lots of reminders of those days.

Now feast your eyes on the resplendent Plane tree in the centre of the square. It survived the developer's chain saw when it was identified as a unique specimen during the planning process. It was surrounded by a fence during the development works and when the scaffolding came down in 2007 it emerged unscathed to form the centrepiece of the square. Perhaps its rebirth into a new world is reflected in the sculpture of the legendary Niamh of Tir na nOg by Pauline Bewick which nestles in the undergrowth beneath the tree. There she awaits the return of Oisín to carry her back to her home under the seas at Rosbeigh. The County Council building houses over 240 paintings donated by Pauline Bewick from her 'Seven Ages' collection. These paintings are on permanent display in the building and entry (weekdays only) is free.

Leave the square turning left at the tourist office corner to walk up Sunhill Road and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing opposite (2) Scoil Mhuire



1850s - courtesy KAS

Primary school.

(3) Railway Track Trail - the stone wall at the turn off belongs to the roadbridge which was there when the railway ran underneath. The row of fine stone fronted houses beyond the playground - Railway Terrace - was built for railway workers.

The railway line served as the main mode of transport in the Iveragh Peninsula for 75 years (1885-1960) transporting passengers, goods, turf and cattle. Indeed, many a sad goodbye was said at Killorglin and many other stations as local sons and daughters took their first steps away from home towards a new life across the seas. Its' closure on 31 January 1960 was for economic reasons but was greatly lamented by the people along the line.

As you make your way towards the bridge, enjoy the selection of trees planted along the path – hawthorn along the left and on the right, native Irish trees - ash, birch, alder (the only deciduous tree to bear cones), rowan, willow and oak. You will also see sycamore and beech.

(4) Road Bridge over Railway Line—this bridge is made of cut limestone. All

