

## The Sculpture park is just the beginning of Kiltimagh's sculpture trail!

There are many interesting pieces hidden throughout the town. Mentioned here are just a few!

### ETERNAL SPRING Location: Market Square

In granite by Benedict Byrne, devised during a period of rising unemployment this piece depicts a father and child by the fountain. The man is symbolic of the new aspect of the father's role in caring for the children, influencing the early intellectual and imaginative life. The child in his hands symbolises the future. The fountain with father and child epitomises the eternal hopes and dreams for a more humane and sensitive society.

### "I'LL SEND YOU THE FARE" Location: Main Street, Kiltimagh

This life-size sculpture, in bronze, is a gift to the town of Kiltimagh by Bill Durkin, 2006 Mayo Person of the Year. I.R.D. Kiltimagh Ltd. has sponsored the design. Artist, Sally McKenna's work depicts a young man carrying a suitcase and going to the Train Station to emigrate in the 1950's. The sculpture is dedicated to everyone who had to leave Kiltimagh and the surrounding towns to find work abroad. The title is "I'll Send You The Fare". The words of the title were often a parting promise and farewell to those who were left behind.

### "WESTERN DAY" SCULPTURE Location: Main Street

"Living in a small rural community can mean many things to many people. In the ordinary act of reading the newspaper the day-to-day events that make up daily life are remembered. In County Mayo, the Western newspaper provides a focus for people by recording the issues, events and concerns of the week. The sculpture of a man from the 1960's reading the newspaper is an important part of the commemoration of Western Day.

### AN CHEAD CHEIM Location: Tír na nÓg Funpark

The First Step is a sculpture in Elm by Jackie McKenna. It reflects the numerous efforts of the local community to mould the economic revival of Kiltimagh and its hinterland at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, following the ravages of unemployment and emigration. This sculpture depicts a mother helping her child to take its first step in life.

### FAMINE Location: Town Hall Theatre, Kilkelly Road

This carved sleeper depicts the horror and death of the Great Famine of 1845-1847 which had a huge impact on the town of Kiltimagh as well the whole country.

### GUARDIANS OF THE FORT

Location: Mooney's Fort, behind Enterprise House

These two carved heads perched on sleepers represent the fairies who according to legend lived in and guarded forts throughout the land. Many believed it dangerous to walk into a fairy fort, others believed you would bring bad luck on yourself if you cut down trees in the fort. In this way, many forts of historical interest were preserved over hundreds of years.

### OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

ARTISTS RETREAT

This recently restored 19<sup>th</sup> century school operates as an artists retreat and is available at a small charge to artists who wish to explore their creative side whilst staying in Kiltimagh. Further information from 094 93 81494

## During the Summer of 1993 a Sculpture Symposium was held in Kiltimagh, whereby sculptors of national renown, assisted by local students, created the unique pieces of Sculpture on display in this Park at the old Railway Station.

### 1. THE JOURNEY/TWO FIGURES AND A DOG

Created by the students from St Louis Community School, this sculpture of two men and a dog relaxing by the roadside recalls the charms of the leisurely lifestyle of bygone days in Kiltimagh.

### 2. LOVERS

In wood, made by local students, this piece, perhaps self-explanatory, also reflects on the notion of romantic Ireland.

### 3. ECHO

In stone and wood by Martha Quinn, this piece is about time, change and development. Connotations of sun dials can be drawn with the ever changing shadows cast by the sleepers, signalling the seasons. The position of the sleepers in an arc is a suggestion of a chrysalis and the stone crescent in the centre echoes the skeletal structure of the insect.

### 4. TAKING FLIGHT

In wood/bronze by Jackie McKenna. The presence of the bird and snake Goddess was felt not only in Ireland, but all over Europe. She was mistress of the Skies, Earth and Water. As "Corra" the bird, she is said to have lived on Croagh Patrick where she kept a watchful eye on the earth below.

### 5. SHIBUMI

In limestone by Eileen McDonagh, Shibumi is Japanese and is taken to mean understanding rather than knowledge. It's a statement so correct that it does not have to be told, so poignant it does not have to be pretty, so true it does not have to be real.

### 6. INION MATHU

In limestone by Fred Conlon, Inion Mathu (Mathu's daughter) dates back to pre-history when the Milesians landed in Ireland and drove the Tuatha de Dannann underground. The Milesians inhabited the upperworld, while the Tuath de Dannann became the Spirit people. They became the guardians of the fairy forts. Fred's work shows the Magh's daughter slowly commencing her descent into the underworld.

### 7. RECLINING FIGURE

This is a baillstone sculpture by Seamus Dunbar. The delicate beauty of this neo-classical figure carved in this soft and unusual stone speaks for itself.

### 8. RAFTERY

In granite by Benedict Byrne, this is an image of the blind bard Raftery leaving Kiltimagh, heading westward, "Ag dul síar ar maistear le solas mo chroí" directed by inspiration, his staff symbolizing the ancient Bardic tradition.

### 9. THE STATION MASTER

In Bronze by Vincent Brown, this imposing character breathes life into the station platform area. Vincent's work complements the restoration work carried out on the old railway station and helps the imagination to recapture the scene of a busy day at the station. The attention to detail on the Station Master is well worth a look.



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