

County Wicklow Delgany Heritage Trail

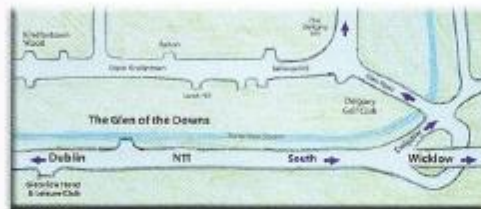
You start your walk in the heart of the Village at the information unit opposite The Wicklow Arms. With The Wicklow Arms behind you make your way towards Christ Church.

Christ Church Church of Ireland Parish Church, built by Peter La Touche at a cost of £5,000. Designed by Whitmore Davis, it was completed in 1789. A light Gothic building with a steeple rising 30m. over the Western entrance, containing a clock and bell. A stone tablet bearing the La Touche family arms is inserted beneath the dial plate of the clock. The Church interior is of a very pleasing design and contains a splendid monument to the memory of David La Touche, Peter's father. Fashioned in white marble, it was executed by the famous Irish sculptor, John Hickey.



How to get to Delgany Village:
Traveling from Dublin -
• Head south towards Wicklow on the R11.
• Take exit marked **R262 Delgany**.
• After exit slip road, turn left at T-junction.
• Follow the road for approximately 1km, past Delgany Golf Club and The Delgany Inn. You will see The Wicklow Arms on your left.
• Parking is available at the rear of The Wicklow Arms and The Horse and Hound.

For parking facilities see main map, inside this brochure.



For further information: e-mail: DelganyCommunityCouncil@gmail.com



Beyond Christ Church, on the other side of the road look out for a gap between a shed and cottage and make your way down Jacob's Ladder towards Three Trout Stream.

Three Trout Stream is possibly a corruption of "tri draich", Three Bridges. Thousands of years ago ice spread from North of the Firth of Clyde over the country, east of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains, forming large lakes. Some of the melted water flowed down the valley from the Glen of the Downs to Delgany. A small lake was formed which later became a stream - Three Trout Stream. It flows along the glen, under Barry's Bridge and meanders onwards under 3 bridges, through Charlestown to the sea.

At Priory Road turn left and after Strawn Hill turn right into the narrow lane that will take you to Blackberry Lane. Take the next right back towards the Village. Turn left at the top of the hill and Style Bawn House is on your left.

Style Bawn House originally two thatched houses; they were built in the early 16th century and joined in 1773, on 12 1/2 acres of land. It was once known as 'The Delgany Inn' and later 'Glenowen'. The roof was changed to slate early in the 1900's. The house faces north, all principal rooms to the rear enjoying south and east facing views over the sloping gardens. Sir Walter Raleigh, the man who brought the potato to Ireland, stayed in the house. The most recent occupants, the Gaistford St Lawrence family, maintained a magical garden of 2 acres plunging downhill to Three Trout Stream. They opened their garden to the public.

Now cross the road and look out for the gate into the Old Burial Ground. The narrow gate on the left is always unlocked, worth a visit.

Old Burial Ground an early Christian settlement dating from the 7th century. Delgany's Medieval Relic, a High Cross stood here. The head is missing, but the standing granite shaft with inscription of a prayer survives. The ruins of the 13th century Church, which was used until 1786 and the Baptismal Font can still be seen. St. Mocharag, a contemporary of St. Augustine, is reputed to have had a religious cell here in the 6th century. It is recorded that he attended St. Kevin on his death bed in Glendalough in 618. The earliest tombstone found, so far is dated 1712. The tombstones are in limestone and Wicklow granite and all tombstones face east and are easy to read at 12 noon.

After leaving the Old Burial Ground turn right, past The Delgany Inn and make your way up Bellevue Hill. Look for an old gate on your left hand side with a seat beside it. This gate was one of five entrances into Bellevue Demesne, now a Golf Club.

Bellevue House: The estate of Ballydonagh comprised of 300 acres was purchased by David La Touche, David the Second, in 1753. The house was built between 1754-56 at an estimated cost of £30,000. It was called 'Bellevue' and was David's favourite country retreat. Exquisite gardens were laid out with winding paths and "extras" built by David and his son, Peter. Famous among these was the Octagon, built in 1766, with a panther on springs which could be made to jump out at unwary visitors. On the death of David, in 1785, Peter inherited



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INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS FOR DELGANY HERITAGE TRAIL

For more information on Delgany go to the village website at www.delgany.ie

Bellevue. Peter's wife, Rebecca Vicars, died in 1786. Peter moved to Bellevue and two years later married Rebecca's cousin, Elizabeth Vicars. There were no children of either marriage. Elizabeth was famous for her charitable works. She opened an orphanage and school for female children in the grounds of Bellevue and supported the children until they were old enough to fend for themselves. Peter, equally well known for his generosity, built Christ Church at Delgany in 1789. He died in 1828 aged 95. Bellevue remained in the Le Touche family until it fell on hard times. The family took in paying guests. Bellevue fell into decay and was pulled down in the 1950s.

Continue up this road and take the 3rd right (2nd right after Larch Hill) you are now on Kindlostown Hill, go to the end of this estate. Keep straight and you will see a small hedged path between two houses (the house on your right is called Sardhana). This lane will bring you across a little stream and to Droimont Estate. Turn right and you will see Kindlostown Castle.

Kindlostown Castle is a medieval castle possibly dating back to the 9th century although no datable finds have been made to confirm this. The castle appears to have been occupied into the 18th century. Excavation also established that the south and west walls represented a replacement wall built in the 19th century. Kindlostown had connections back to 1020 with Uigair, son of Douling, King of Leinster and Cric, Norse King of Dublin. In September 1649, Cromwell arrived. His soldiers stayed in Kindlostown Castle. The local stole Cromwell's favourite horse which enraged him. He stormed off to Kindlostown Castle and ransacked it.

Make your way to the main road and turn right. This road will lead you back towards Delgany. As you enter the Village, on the right you will see the large gates of The Carmelite Monastery.

Carmelite Monastery was founded in 1844. Due to historical circumstances, the nuns ran a National School from 1846 until 1896. Although the nuns were involved in the school, they maintained their cloistered life, dedicated to prayer and witnessing to the primacy of God. The life of the nuns here in Delgany, retains the same values today that were central in St. Teresa's time, i.e. a commitment to the hermit spirit and a sisterly life, lived in community. The building of the Monastery Church was delayed by the famine, with the foundation stone laid in 1851 and the first Mass celebrated in 1853. It has been described as a gem of Gothic architecture. The church is currently open daily from 8.30 a.m. until 5.15 p.m. All are welcome to visit and pray. The new monastery was built, adjoining the existing Church, and was blessed in 2005.



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