



Luimneach Limerick

D **POINTE SPÉISE**
DISCOVERY POINT

STÁISIÚN MHAINISTIR NA FÉILE

ABBEYFEALE STATION



CREDIT: John Hunt

STÁISIÚN MHAINISTIR NA FÉILE

Chuir an sineadh ar larnód Ó Luimneach go Clarraí, a chríochoadh in 1880, i gcrioíl gheilleagair láidir an cheantair é Mainistir na Féile.

Ina shuí ar an teorainn idir an dá chontae, ba stop beomhar é Mainistir na Féile ar an mbealach ar feadh deich bliana, don thionscá déoiríochta fadna rith borradh go háirithe.

Cé gur dónach an stáisiún in 1975 nuair a tháinig caranna agus trucaill in áit na díreanach, leanann ar Mhainistir na Féile mar ceann de na bailte margaidh is tábhachtaí i Luimneach.

Bhí roinnt foirnímh ar nós teach na n-eairrál éachtach timpeall ar teach an stáisiúin, áit faoi línireacth phríobháideach anois.

AN LATHAIR Ó CHATHASAIGH AGUS NA TIARNAÍ TALÚN

Bhí teach na traenach claochaltitheach do Mhainistir na Féile, ach d'fhág teach an Athar Ó Chathasaigh maire i bhfad níos grinne ar an mbaile.

Tháinig An Lathair Ó Chathasaigh, a rugadh i gCoill Bheithne; go Mainistir na Féile mar shagart cunta in 1873, agus bhí sé ina shagart don pharóiste ó 1883 go dtí is a bháis in 1907.

Cosúil le cuid mháil sagairt ag an amuonach sé cruaitheán na bhfeirmeoirí tionsánta, a d'obrígh an talamh leis na glúnta ach a bhí faoi toil a dtiarnaí talún neamhchónaitheacha.

Mar duine de lucht leantúna Míchéil Dálbheid, ba phearsa thábhachtach é sa Chonradh na Talún, ag troid ar son chearta na dtiarnaí dá dtalamh féin.

Ba chosaiteoir chultúr na hÉireann é freisin agus bhunaigh sé club LCG áitiúil, ar a bhfuil an t-ainm Ó Chathasaigh fós innis, chomh maith leis an halla paróiste áitiúil, agus an banna práis sa bhail.

Dearadh dealbh cré-umha den Athair Ó Chathasaigh ag Edmund Sharp civeadh suas é in 1910, ag seasamh go bródúil i gcearnóg an bhaile.

SLIABH LUACHRA

Chiallaigh na tírdheacha garbha a bhí timpeall ar theorann Luimnigh, Corcaigh agus Clarraí nach raibh an ceantar coilínithe ag na hAngla-Normannaigh ná ag na lonnaitheoirí Sasanacha níos déanaí ach oireadh.

Tháinig an cultúr gaelach seanda de cheantar Sliabh Luachra mar a thugtar air, an Ghaeilge ar 'Mountain of the Rushes', slán don chuid is mó, atá le Feiceáil sa tóir, a bhfuil ar cheoll agus damhsa traidisiúnta agus ar an mbeáidheas.

Tá a stíl ceoil traidisiúnta uathúil féin ag an ceantar, le Mainistir na Féile mar crollár. Is iad Pádraig Ó Caoimh, Johnny Ó Laoighaire, Paddy Ó Crónán, Julia Clifford, Jackie Ní Dhálaigh agus Bryna Ó Laoighaire cuid de na mháistir na stíl Sliabh Luachra.

Bionn damhsaí céili agus seisiún oíche á n-éistáil i Mainistir na Féile go minic, le cuid de na ceoltóirí is fear in Éirinn i lathair. Bionn an fhéile cheoil bhilantúil Fleadh on the Feale ar síol gach deireadh seachtaine saoire baice na Bealtaine freisin.

ABBEYFEALE STATION

The extension of the railway from Limerick to Kerry, completed in 1880, put Abbeyfeale right at the heart of the region's booming economy.

Sitting on the border between the two counties, Abbeyfeale was a busy stop on the route for decades, especially for the thriving dairy industry in the region. Though the station closed in 1975 as trains were superseded by cars and trucks, Abbeyfeale remains one of Limerick's key market towns.

The station house which is now in private ownership was surrounded by a number of other work buildings including an impressive goods shed.

FR CASEY AND THE LANDLORDS

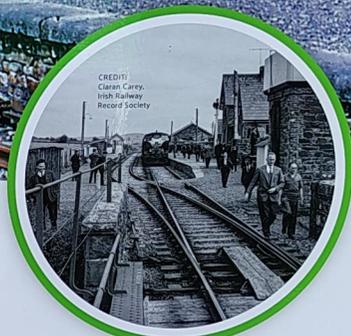
The arrival of the train was transformative for Abbeyfeale, but the arrival of Fr William Casey around the same time left as much of a mark on the town. Born in Killebenny, Fr Casey first came to Abbeyfeale as a curate in 1871, and served as parish priest from 1883 until his death in 1907.

Like many priests of the era, he bore witness to the suffering of tenant farmers, who tolled the land for generations but lived at the whims of their absentee landlords.

As a follower of Michael Davitt, he became an important figure in the Land League, campaigning for the rights of tenants to own their land.

He was also a champion of Irish culture and established the local GAA club, which goes by the name Fr Casey's to this day, as well as the local parish hall, and the town's brass and reed band.

A bronze statue of Fr Casey, designed by Edmund Sharp and erected in 1910, stands proudly in the town square.



CREDIT: Claret Curry, Irish Railway Record Society



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