

## Stop 6

### *Mary Dooley's Eating House*

*Outside Credit Union Building, O'Neill St*

On Fair Day the country folk had their favourite eating house where they gathered for a meal. Walking towards Main St on your left is "The Shambles" where butchering was and still is carried on.

## Stop 7

### *The Hiring Fair*

*Corner of O'Neill St & Main St at AIB Bank*

Young men and women hired themselves out as farm labourers and servants. The men stood at this corner and the women stood outside the Bank. Boys and girls as young as ten or twelve partook in the Hiring Fairs.

## Stop 8

### *The Pork Market*

*Outside Wells & O'Carroll Office, Main St*

The Pork market was located here and Carrick was famous for its Pork. The pigs were fed on the spent barley and wash from the local distillery and it was claimed that this gave an added flavour and tenderness to the pork and bacon. Patrick tells of a stroke he pulled on the dealers.

## Stop 9

### *Life and Death*

*Outside Markey's Pub, Main St*

Walking towards the Church of Ireland you pass the entrance to O'Duffy Car Park, the site of the former Viscount Weymouth Grammar School (1711 to 1955.) Its past pupils contain many notable names. The students used to hurl stones from the school quad over the roof of Markeys in an attempt to hit the dial of the church clock. Continue down the Church Hill past the Convent of St. Louis. This is the site of the castle erected in the 1620's by the Earl of Essex.

## Stop 10

### *Shadows of Trench*

*On the Wall beside Convent Avenue Gate, Church Hill*

William S. Trench was a Land-agent on the local estates before and after the famine. He promoted assisted emigration and carried out numerous evictions and as a result he was not well liked by the tenants. He wrote "Realities of Irish Life" to justify his actions. This poem is from Kavanagh's early works. Note: Just beyond the gate a local eccentric carved snippets of history on the stone wall. These have been over painted in black and white to highlight them. Return along Main St. to make your way to the next stop.

## Stop 11

### *In Memory of my Mother*

*Outside and inside Shevlin's Bar, Main St*

When in Carrick Patrick frequented Shevlin's while awaiting the bus to Inniskeen.

## Stop 12

### *Marrying Men*

*Outside and inside McNally's Pub*

Some men's idea of romance consisted of stopping a girl in the street and asking her in for a treat. This refers to a conversation overheard in a snug between a farmer and a girl.

## Stop 13

### *The Bridewell - The Fowl Market*

*Opposite O'Rourke's Coal Merchants*

Here the ducks, geese, hens and turkeys were sold. This wide side street is in front of the old Bridewell and served as a parade ground for the military that were stationed in Carrick in days of yore.

## Stop 14

### *The Fever Hospital*

*Shercock Road*

Patrick was once a patient here but today it is the H.Q. of the Town Council. On the road opposite, is the Workhouse which housed the destitute and poor during and after the Famine. It has been tastefully restored.

## Stop 15

### *Whites Yard*

*Plaque on the gable end of The Shirley Arms Hotel*

In the yard to the rear of the hotel men would gather to indulge in the illegal but popular gambling pastime of "Pitch and Toss".... betting on the fall of coins.

## Stop 16

### *Market Square*

*Adjacent to the Library*

Opposite the hotel is the Market House Square with stone cut buildings and the Bath crest. The small stone building in front of the new shopping Centre is the old Toll House where the market tolls and levies were collected. The coat of arms on this building is that of the Shirley Family - landlords for the western half of the town. Next to the library is the plaque unveiled by Miss World, Rosanna Davison when she officially opened the Literary Trail on the 24th May 2004.

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# Carrickmacross TOWN TRAIL

## *The Kavanagh Trail*

Patrick Kavanagh was born in the townland of Mucker near Inniskeen in 1904 and he visited Carrickmacross regularly throughout his youth. His legacy of elegant poetry and prose, mostly about the ordinary things in life, will ensure that he remains a hugely popular icon of the Irish literary scene over the generations to come. The Kavanagh Trail is based on incidents and stories related in his autobiographical novel 'The Green Fool' which is an unsentimental and evocative account of his Irish rural upbringing.