

1

**Newport Town** was founded in the early years of the 18th century by Captain Pratt who leased the land from the Medicott family. Despite the existence of an older settlement at Burrishoole Abbey dating back before the 15th Century, Captain Pratt chose this new site because of its 'green field' nature and its potential for shipping. He introduced a Quaker community to Newport hopeful that they would develop the linen industry. This was not to be realised and by the 1730's they had departed. Some of the first houses built in the town still remain on Medicott Street. By the mid 18th century, the land agent, James Moore, controlled the town and it's hinterland. He was a successful businessman who encouraged building and trade. Travel writer, Dr. Pococke, said in 1752 *"The market of Newport consists of frieze, yarn and different sorts of corn, beef a penny, a goose for 6 pence and they have a merchant who imports very good French wine at £16 a hogs head."*

2

**Railway Viaduct.** This cut-stone, seven arch bridge, which spans the Black Oak River, was one of the last stone bridges built by the Railway Company in 1894. It was part of the Westport to Achill line and was in service until 1937. A prophecy of Brian Rua O' Cearbhain a 17th century visionary had foretold that 'carriages on iron wheels' would carry coffins on their first and last journeys. Sadly this prophecy came true.

3

**Newport House.** In the late 18th century the O'Donel family acquired the Medicott estate and built Newport House overlooking the harbour. This historic country house is currently a hotel.



Carrickahowley



Mulranny



Clew Bay



Viaduct

4

**St. Patrick's Church.** This Catholic Church was completed in 1918 on the site of an earlier church (St. Josephs 1803). Built of local red sandstone, it is a fine example of a style known as Celtic Romanesque. There are panoramic views of the Nephin Mountains to the north, while inside, it houses one of Ireland's greatest stain glass treasures, "The Last Judgment" by Harry Clarke.

5

**Newport Harbour** leading out to Clew Bay was described by the novelist Thackeray in 1843 as "A Miracle of Beauty". Some years before this, the building of a secure stone quay was a priority for the 18th century land agent James Moore. Ships from England, Spain, and France all docked here bringing cargoes of wine, tobacco, and general cargo. Timber, hides and wool were among the exports.

6

**DeBille House.** In 1782, following a storm, the Danish Naval Frigate 'Bornholm' limped into Newport Bay for repairs. Many of its crew were dead and dying from an unknown disease. Captain De Bille and his crew were cared for by the townspeople of Newport. In gratitude to the people of Newport, the Danish royal family financed the building of De Bille house on Market Street, now known as Main Street.

7

**Placenames.** Many of the placenames to the north of the town of Newport have a "Derry" prefix. This reflects the fact that at one time there were extensive oak woods in the area. They were cut down from the 16th century onward to be used in barrel and stave making, and also perhaps used to make charcoal for the furnace whose name is given to the lake to the west. Much of this area is now blanket bog.



St. Patrick's Church



Burrishoole Abbey



Newport House

### NEWPORT TOURIST OFFICE

Newport, Co. Mayo Tel : 098 41895  
Office open 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

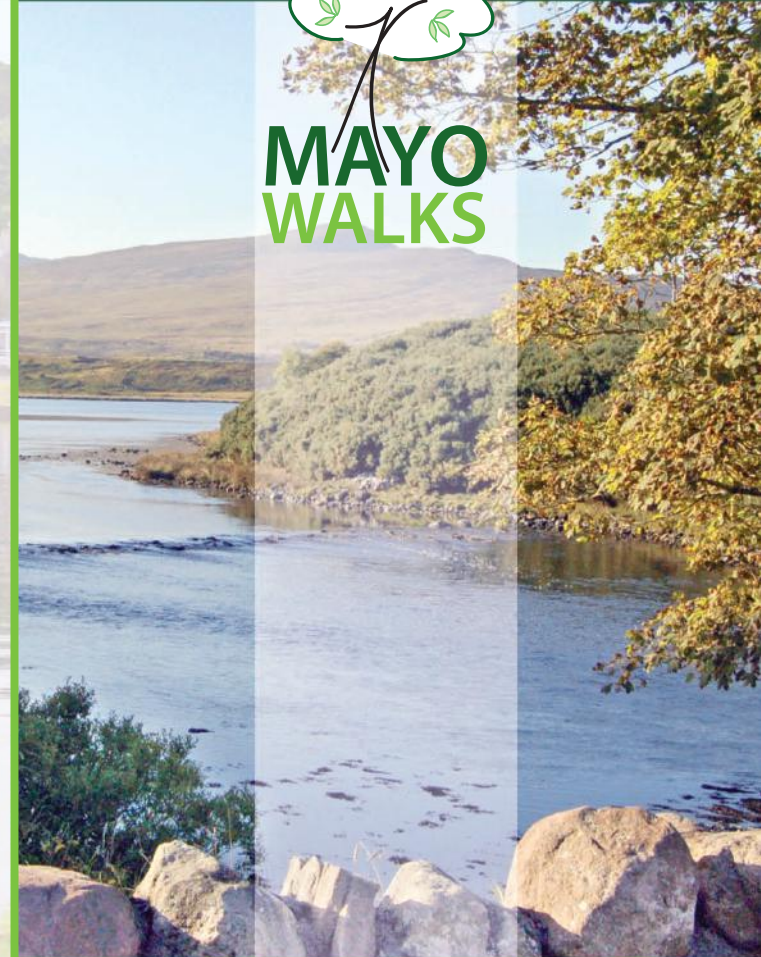
These walks have been made possible through the support of the communities of Newport, Derradda, Tiernaur & Mulranny and has been supported by South West Mayo Development Company Under the National Rural Development Programme Part Financed by the European Union.



# 01 BURRISHOOLE LOOP WALKS



## MAYO WALKS



NEWPORT



## MAYO WALKS

# 01 NEWPORT

## BURRISHOOLE LOOP WALKS

## NEWPORT

3 Km 

Newport Town

6 Km 





Derryloughan

9 Km 

Derryhillagh

13 Km 

Doogary

-  **Purple Loop**  
Town Loop
-  **Green Loop**  
shortest / easiest
-  **Blue Loop**  
middle distance / moderate
-  **Red Loop**  
longest / most challenging

