

Hollywood Town Walk and Cultural Trail



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North Down**
Borough Council



The first recorded reference to Hollywood was made in the AD634 by the Venerable Bede in the Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation with the establishment of a monastic settlement on the site of the Old Priory Church. In the mid 1865, when the railway was extended along the North coastline, Hollywood became the residence of choice for Belfast's industrial elite who built mansions in the hills behind the town.

Today the town is well known for its speciality shopping and fine cuisine. Look out for the ten green plaques, which help identify part of Hollywood as a conservation area. See also the street trees sponsored by the community.

Begin your walk at Hollywood's most well known landmark, the Maypole, at the crossroads of High Street and Church Road.

1 Maypole

Hollywood's Maypole is the only one surviving in Ireland today and early maps show a Maypole has stood on the site since the 1620's. Today it is still the focus of the town's annual May Day Celebrations and fair, when local school children dance around the Maypole alongside market stalls and family attractions.



With the sea on your left walk ahead approximately 100m from the Maypole and on your right hand side you will find the statue of Johnny The Jig sitting proudly outside the children's playground.

2 Johnny the Jig

The statue is the work of local sculptress Sophia Rosamond Praeger. Her delightful bronze statue of a youngster playing the accordion was cast as a gift to the town and erected in 1953. The original sculpture in the North Down Museum in Bangor was created to



commemorate a local Boy Scout named Fergus Morton who was killed in a road accident while doing 'Bob a Job' in 1952. Beside the statue is a blue plaque to commemorate the birthplace of Robert Sullivan, one of Ireland's outstanding educationalists.

Continue ahead and round the corner from Johnny the Jig you will see Holywood Priory, easily identified by its clock tower, situated on the junction of Priory Park and High Street.

Holywood Priory

3



The town's rich ecclesiastical heritage is represented today by its most distinctive building, the Old Priory. The site was formally a monastery founded by St Laiseran in the early 7th century. The ruins you see today are that of the 12th century Anglo-Norman Augustinian Abbey. Henry VIII dissolved the Priory in 1541 with its lands passing into the hands of the O'Neill family and then to Sir James Hamilton, First Viscount Clandeboye. Hamilton laid out the town, with a Maypole at the crossroads and most of the early buildings are clustered round the Priory. The tower, however, dates from 1809 [the date marked on the original clock now in the current Parish Church] when this was the site of the town's Parish Church. The graveyard has some interesting "residents", including members of the Praeger

family, the Dunvilles (of whiskey fame) and Sir Joseph Larmor the world famous mathematician.

When facing the Priory, across the road on your right, you will see First Hollywood Presbyterian Church (1842).

On exiting the Priory graveyard cross to Victoria Road on your left and head up the hill, approximately 200m, until you arrive at Brook Street on your right. Walk down the street for approximately 20m and you will find the entry to Hollywood Motte on the right through a set of large gates.

4 Hollywood Motte

When the Normans invaded Ulster in the 12th century fortifications such as Hollywood Motte were widely seen across the land. King John passed through Hollywood in 1210 on his journey from Carrickfergus to Dublin. He is said to have "spent the night" of Thursday July 29 in the Government Bailey situated on the Motte before heading on to Dundonald by way of Victoria Road and Croft Road (formally King John's Highway) to stay at Dundonald Motte (where he lost 2 pence playing cards!).



On exiting the Motte turn right and head to Church Road where you will see the sea on your right. Take a left up the hill and walk for approximately 100m. On your left is number 92 the Old Parish School and opposite on the right is the Parish Church.

Parish Church of St Philip & St James

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Designed by leading architect Charles Lanyon, the building was completed in 1844 as the successor of the Old Priory Church and later enlarged in 1869. The stained glass within is particularly worth inspection.



The listed Old School Building (1845) has just been restored thanks to Heritage Lottery funding and the support of the local community. It is said that the wonderful roof timbers were taken from the then redundant Old Priory, which you have already visited. It is now a resource for all and is used for meetings, concerts, the scouts, family parties and much more.

As you retrace your steps towards the Maypole you will pass the Methodist Church (1871) on your left on the corner of Church View.

The number of new churches in the Victorian era testify to the rise in the population of the area after the introduction of the railway in August 1848.

At the Maypole turn left along High Street passing the fine building of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church on your right. The building from 1849, also by Charles Lanyon, with its fine Doric columns is built in the style of Andrea Palladio (Palladianism) who

was arguably the most influential architect of the Italian Renaissance. Almost directly opposite is High Street Presbyterian Church (1858). Approximately 50m past the Presbyterian Church is Hollywood Library.

6 Hollywood Library

Hollywood Library, a listed building, was founded as primary and secondary schools in the 1860's. Formerly known as the Sullivan Schools, it was where the renowned 20th century naturalist and historian Robert Lloyd Praeger and his sister Sophia Rosamond Praeger began their education.



Outside the library you can see three sculptures entitled the "Pillars of Hollywood" by Tim Shutter, who has worked with Anthony Gormley on a commission for the British Library. The sculptures, which were commissioned by Hollywood Arts Trust and received funding through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Lottery through the Public Art Programme, depict the legacy of the town's 1,400-year history from the 7th century church, to the invasion of

the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century and the domicile of the wealthy Belfast industrialists of the 19th century.

Continue on High Street for a few minutes and round a slight bend on your left you will find St Colmcille's Church.

St Colmcille's Church

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The church dates back to 1872 when the congregation moved from St Patrick's. It had to be re-built following a fire in the 1990's. The original tower of 1874 survived the inferno and still forms part of the church campus.



At this point cross the road and head back towards the town centre.

On the left, after a few metres, you can see St. Helen's (1876), a classical-style mansion built by Dr. Dunlop, a leading doctor and Town Commissioner.

Continue down the left side of High Street until you reach Sullivan Place opposite the library. Turn left and head towards the sea.

Queen's Hall/Leisure Complex & Railway



Just beyond the Fire Station are Queen's Hall & Queen's Leisure Complex. The hall, built in 1953 and leisure centre opened in 2000 are Hollywood's main civic buildings. A tourist information point is located at the leisure complex.

Looking ahead across the main road you can see the railway station. The coming of the trains in 1848 meant easy access to the town from Belfast but in later years, when the railway line was extended to Bangor in 1865, the large railway embankment cut the town off from the sea!

With Queen's Leisure Centre on your left, cross the road to Redburn Square, on your right.

Redburn Square/War Memorial

Originally the square was a pleasant garden and open area for gentlemen's carriages waiting at the railway station. The square is now the location for the town's War Memorial dating to 1921, which was designed by L S Merrifield. It takes its name from Redburn House, home of Lt John Spencer Dunville of the Royal Dragoons - Hollywood's only recipient of the Victoria Cross.

At this point take the pedestrian subway from Redburn Square to the seaside.

A short walk through the arch takes you to the sea front. In the early 1800's this was the resort area with warm saltwater baths and clean beaches. If you happen to be visiting at low tide you may be able to see the remains of Hollywood's pier, which stood from 1869 until 1883, a quarter of a mile into Belfast Lough, and served the Belfast/Bangor steamer.

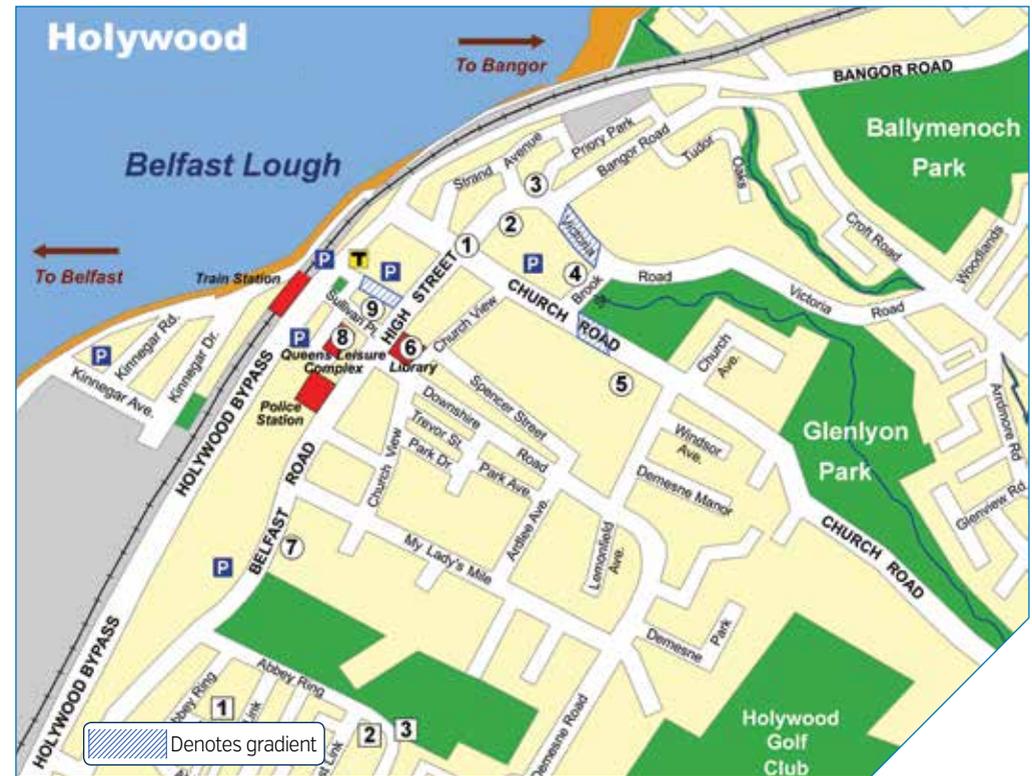
Back through the pedestrian subway and on exiting take a left and head up Hibernia Street towards the town centre.

At the bottom of Hibernia Street on the left you can see the blue plaque to Rosamond Praeger (the sculptress of Johnny the Jig 1867-1954) marking her studio location.

Now your walk is complete why not treat yourself with a bite to eat or a drink in one of Hollywood's many cafes, bistros and restaurants or spend some time perusing the profusion of specialist shops. If you have enjoyed this walk why not try one of the other walks and trails in the Borough, which include the Bangor Cultural Trail, North Down Christian Heritage Trail and North Down Coastal Path walk.

Reading List:

A History of Hollywood - Thomas T Kelly
 The History of Hollywood - P MacNamee
 Buildings of Hollywood - Tony Merrick
 Diocese of Down and Connor - Rev J O'Laverty
 Hollywood Memories - Henry Ballagh
 Hollywood Then and Now - Con Auld
 Buildings of North County Down - C E B Brett
 Forgotten Houses of Hollywood - Con Auld
 Rosamond Praeger - Con Auld
 Photographs of Old Hollywood - D Gould
 Parish of St Colmcille - John Stewart
 B.C.D. Railway Guide - R L Praegar
 Old Fashioned Verses - F R Praegar
 The Praegar Trail - Con Auld



Hollywood Art of Regeneration Project

Why not also take this opportunity to visit three works of art in the Loughview/Redburn area.

The project aims to encourage community pride, build community skills, identify and record shared histories, as well as encourage intergenerational participation in the creation of public art.

The three unique pieces, created by residents along with artists Ursula Burke, Patricia Lavery and Joanne Smith have become local landmarks.

1 The Loughview Wallpaper, situated on an electrical sub station, consists of printed aluminium sheets featuring children from the estate in a repetitive pattern to create the effect of wallpaper.

2 The Glass Stone was created with an environmental theme in mind. Two Armagh pink marble pillars encase a reinforced glass panel designed by local children. The sculpture is inscribed, 'Community strength and vision towards our future.'

3 The West Link Trees are approximately 5 minutes walk from the other works and consist of a series of laser cut steel trees depicting positive words chosen by the community.

Refer to map for locations and note if on foot the walk involves a gradient.



For further information on
Holywood contact:

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We have three **Apps** available to
download FREE from your preferred store:
Bangor Christian Heritage
Discover Ards and North Down
Greyabbey Village Heritage Trail