



MALLOW owes its origins to an important fording point across the River Blackwater and is known as the crossroads of Munster. Its strategic importance was realised by the Normans who built a castle here in 1185. They also established a settlement that by the late 13th century was a manor in the possession of the Fitzgeralds, Earls of Desmond who also built a castle here.

In 1579, the Earl of Desmond led a rebellion against the Crown which ended with the Earl's defeat and death in 1583. Thus the manor of Mallow became part of the Munster Plantation and by the late 1580s was in the possession of Sir Thomas Norreys. By 1600 Norreys had built a manor house [1] on the site of the Desmond castle. The town became one of the successes of the Plantation with 80 English households in place by 1620, increasing to nearly 200 by 1640. However, the town and the manor house suffered considerable damage following the 1641 rebellion and again during the Williamite Wars at the end of the century.

In the 18th century Mallow recovered and developed as a successful market town serving the rich agricultural hinterland. In 1724, curative springs were discovered making it a popular spa resort from 1730 to 1810. The season usually ran from May to October and attracted large numbers of visitors. Many elegant Georgian terraces and boarding houses were built especially along the West End. The town fashioned itself after Bath, with a bath house, promenades, a bowling green, and assembly rooms with much socialising during the season.

The town continued to develop in the 19th century and expanded to the west and across the river to Ballydaheen. While the main street was lined with fine townhouses and prosperous businesses the side streets had smaller more humble houses. The railway opened in 1849, encouraging development to the west of the historical centre. The provision of education was improved with the arrival of the Mercy Sisters and the Patrician Brothers. Regular markets and fairs were held at which cattle and sheep and other agricultural produce were bought and sold. Industries in the town included limestone quarrying, lime and salt works, tanning, brewing, milling and milk processing. Today Mallow continues to be an important food-manufacturing town.

Sites to see (Please refer to map overleaf for locations. Sites marked with an asterisk are outside the area covered by the map)

- MALLOW CASTLE:** The lofty ruins of this fortified manor house stand on the main avenue up to Mallow Castle House and on the site of an earlier castle. It was built around 1600 by the English planter Sir Thomas Norreys. Mallow Manor was a possession of the Earl of Desmond and when his rebellion failed his lands were confiscated by the Crown and granted to English settlers like Norreys. The "castle" Norrey built combines English architectural styles with defensive features, notably numerous gun loops. It was damaged by attacks in the 1640s and 1680s and abandoned as a residence when the family, now the Jephson-Norreys through marriage, moved into adjacent outbuildings which in turn became Mallow Castle House [2]. The castle is now in the care of the State.
- MALLOW CASTLE HOUSE:** In the late 17th century the Jephson-Norreys converted the outbuildings associated with Mallow Castle into their residence. It was greatly remodelled and extended in the 18th and 19th centuries and its unusual gable-fronted elevation reflects the Tudor style of the old castle [1]. It is surrounded by its demesne landscape which was reserved for the family's personal use. The remains of the demesne contains open parkland, a Ha-Ha, fine walks, a lime kiln, woodlands and is the home to a unique herd of white deer said to descend from a pair of deer given as a gift to the family by Queen Elizabeth I. The Jephson family continued to live here until the 1960's. Cork County Council purchased Mallow Castle House and demesne in 2010 as an amenity for the both local and visitors alike.

- ST. ANNE'S CHURCH & GRAVEYARD:** The ruins of a late 17th or early 18th century parish church. There has been a church here since the 13th century but it was rebuilt after being damaged in the Cromwellian wars.
- ST. JAMES' CHURCH OF IRELAND:** A Board of First Fruits funded parish church built in 1824 adjacent to the earlier church (3). It was designed by the architects George and Richard Pain, and combines neo-Gothic and neo-Tudor styles. It features a fine interior with stained glass windows.
- THE CLOCK HOUSE:** This iconic neo-Tudor, timber-framed building with its tall clock tower was built in 1860 designed by amateur architect Charles Jephson of Mallow Castle. It acts as a striking landmark building at the end of Thomas Davis Street.
- MALLOW BRIDGE:** The present bridge incorporates two phases: the four southern segmental arches over the Blackwater river, built of ashlar limestone, was built in 1853 (after the earlier 18th century bridge was damaged in a flood). The four northern arches over the Spa river are part of the earlier bridge. A reused 17th century inscribed stone is visible in the pier on the Long Meadow Walk as it passes under the bridge into Mallow Castle demesne.
- MILITARY BARRACKS:** The enclosing wall of the 18th century British army barracks survives with an ordnance stone marking the boundary. On September 28th 1920, the IRA attacked and took control of the barracks. The following night, in reprisal, British forces set fire to the town hall, Cleeves' condensed milk factory and numerous smaller businesses in what is known as the "Sack of Mallow".
- FORMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND MANSE:** The church, now a private residence, was built about 1864 and the associated manse (minister's house) double gable fronted house was built c.1900.
- RAILWAY BRIDGES*:** Mallow station is an important junction on the Dublin - Cork line, consequently there are a number of railway bridges around the town. They are monumental pieces of architecture built of rusticated ashlar stonework so typical of railway bridges. The largest, over the River Blackwater, was known as the *Ten Arch*. It was blown up in 1922 during the Civil War and rebuilt and still is use.
- MALLOW-LOMBARDSTOWN CANAL*:** This was built in 1755 to carry coal from Dromagh coal mines to the navigable section of the Blackwater at Lismore but never extended beyond Mallow. The canal survives along the north side of Navigation Road on the N72 west of Mallow with a lock midway.
- MALLOW RAILWAY STATION*:** The rail link from Dublin to Mallow opened on March 17th, 1849, with subsequent branch lines to Kerry built in 1853 and to Fermoy in 1861. The station retains much of its original architectural character.
- ROYAL HOTEL*:** Built adjacent to the railway station in 1864, this elegant Italianate Palazzo-style building is now Cork County Council offices.
- POST BOX:** A rare surviving 19th century post box bearing Queen Victoria's "VR" monogram.
- PROTESTANT SCHOOL, TEACHER'S HOUSE AND HALL:** An attractive group of three buildings built c.1880 using unusual decorative polygonal limestone masonry.
- SHORT CASTLE (CASTLE GAR):** The site of this castle is located on Shortcastle Street. This castle was probably built in the medieval period to protect the town from attack from the west.
- BANK OF IRELAND:** Purpose-built in 1875 to a design by Dublin architect Sandham Symes. Such buildings reflect developing prosperity in the late 19th century.

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- 19TH CENTURY TOWN HOUSES:** These houses are typical of a number of elegant late-18th/early 19th century terraced town houses that can be seen in Mallow. Their height, symmetrical façades, fan-light doorways, wrought-iron balconies and diminishing sash windows give an air of prosperity and elegance to the streetscape.
- ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL:** Site of a late 18th century chapel located typically on a side street known as Chapel Lane.
- PATRICIAN ACADEMY:** The Patrician Brothers came to Mallow in 1879. They originally ran a national school but later opened this secondary school housed in an imposing Gothic-revival building.
- CONVENT OF MERCY*:** Built for the Mercy Order between 1850 and 1879 to a design by Richard Rolt Brash. The Gothic revival style is typical of ecclesiastical architecture of the time and the use of sandstone and limestone creates an interesting two-tone effect.
- STANDING STONE:** Located near St. Mary's Secondary School, stands 2.3m high provides evidences of prehistoric settlement in the area.
- ALLIED IRISH BANK:** A mid-19th century town house (c.1840) that was converted to the Provincial Bank of Ireland in the later 19th century. It was enhanced by the addition of window architraves and a fine limestone façade to the ground floor.
- ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** By the beginning of the 19th century the Penal Laws were relaxed and Catholics could worship more openly. Thus a new church was built in a prominent location on the main street in 1818. In 1900 a striking Romanesque façade and bell tower was added to the front with contrasting red sandstone and white limestone to a design by G.C. Ashlin.
- ZION CHAPEL:** The pointed west widow is the only hint of the original function of this chapel, now hidden behind buildings on Fair Street. It was built in 1821 by the Congregational Church, which was associated with the Puritans. In later years it became a popular cinema.
- MONUMENT TO J.J. FITZGERALD:** Erected in 1907 in memory of a local nationalist politician. Born in Shortcastle Street in 1872, Fitzgerald was instrumental in the creation of Mallow Urban District Council in the early 1900s and was an elected member of Cork County Council.
- MALLOW COURTHOUSE:** Built in the 1829 to replace an older Sessions House which stood on Gallows Hill Lane. Designed by George and Richard Pain, its size, classically-inspired façade and stone construction lend it an air of austerity typical of courthouses of the time. To the rear was a holding cell or bridewell.
- MARKET PLACE and FAIR FIELD:** The elegant limestone facade on the top of O'Brien Street is the surviving remains of an enclosed market built in 1823 by Charles Jephson. Meat, pigs, sheep, potatoes, and general provisions were sold here. Adjacent to the market was a fair field where five annual fairs were held for the sale of livestock and produce. It was the venue for one of Daniel O'Connell's monster meetings in 1843. Mallow Mart operated out of here until recently when the site was redeveloped.
- 106 THOMAS DAVIS STREET:** Possibly the oldest building still in use in Mallow, this two-storey shop with its steep roof and oriel window probably dates to the late 17th/early 18th century.
- MARKET HOUSE:** The ground floor features four typical tall arches (now masked by modern shopfronts) which allowed access to an open trading area. The first floor generally functioned as an assembly room.



Mallow Castle House [2]

- THE "DOGS' HEADS":** This unique public fountain was constructed by Sir Denham Jephson in 1857 as part of the spa and public water supply. Accessed by stone steps, the cast iron water spouts are in fact lion heads but are known locally as the *Dogs' Heads*.
- LIME KILNS / SALTWORKS:** concealed behind a modern building on Muddy Hill is a pair of limekilns. Lime and salt were important commodities in the 18th and 19th centuries - the former as an ingredient in mortar and lime wash and as a soil improver, and the latter as a food additive and preservative. The production of salt used the heat from lime kilns to evaporate brine (water mixed with imported rock salt) to produce salt crystals.
- SPA HOUSE:** Built in 1828 to a design by George Pain, this neo-Tudor building is a reminder of Mallow's heyday as a popular spa town in the 18th and early 19th centuries. It was built over a warm spring which was considered to have curative properties, and originally housed a pump-room, a doctor's consulting room, a reading room and baths. The spring, known as St. Patricks Well, is a cut stone carved basin accessed by steps and still contains bubbly spring water. The Spa house is now the Tourist Office run by Cork County Council.
- LADY'S WELL:** This warm spring forming a circular pond a short distance to the north of Spa House [32] was originally venerated as an ancient holy well. Now known as the Spa Well, it was much remodelled in recent times.
- RINGFORT*:** Located within a private housing development ("The Deer Park") this circular earthen enclosure was a fortified farmstead dating to the Early Medieval period (500-1000 AD).
- TIP O'NEILL PARK:** In the 18th and early 19th century this area featured a tree-lined promenade along a canal that led from the Clock House to the Spa House. It was much admired by visitors to Mallow, then a well-known Spa resort. The 1840 Ordnance Survey map shows a building here named the "Old Court House"; it was replaced in 1824 by the current courthouse.

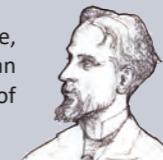
Famous Faces



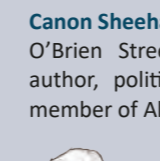
Thomas Davis *(1814-1845) Irish nationalist, born on the Main St. (now 72 Davis Street). His father was a surgeon from Wales. A prolific writer and promoter of Irish nationalism, language and culture. Chief organizer of the Young Ireland Movement and co-founder of The Nation. His statue stands on the town's plaza at Davis St.

"He who tramples on the past does not create for the future" Thomas Davis

William O'Brien *(1852-1928) Born in 130 Bank Place, he was a leading nationalist, journalist, and agrarian agitator. He was an MP (1883-1918) and founder of the All-For-Ireland League.



Joan Denise Moriarty (1912-1979) Dancer, choreographer and dance director. Her family came from Mallow, she became a leading figure in developing both amateur and professional ballet in Ireland.



Canon Sheehan* (1852 -1913) Born in 29 William O'Brien Street. Parish priest for Doneraile, famous author, political activist, mediator and a prominent member of All-For-Ireland League.



Tip O'Neill Jr. (1912-1994) American democrat whose paternal grandparents came from Mallow. The only speaker of the House of Representative to serve five consecutive terms. Tip O' Neill Park was named in his honour.

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A Room with a view!

Mallow boast of an interesting collection of windows. These date from the rebuilding of the town in the 18th and 19th centuries. The windows are a variety of sliding sash as seen below. The earlier windows have small panes of blown glass held in place by thin wooden glazing bars. In the late 19th century these were replaced by large sheets of plate glass. One of the striking feature of Mallow is the occurrence of projecting first-floor windows (*oriel*) that date back to the period of Mallow as a spa town. According to tradition these were used by residents to keep an eye on the busy streets below during The Season.



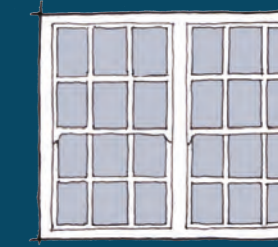
A. Early 18th C. oriel window, 106 Thomas Davis Street [28]



B. Early 19th C. oriel window, Shortcastle Street



C. Late 18th C. Venetian window, Shortcastle Street



D. Early 19th C. double sash, Main Street

Mallow Historic Town Map



19th Century Townhouses, Main Street [17]

Produced by

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MALLOW

Historic Town



1 Mallow Castle (reconstruction)



3. St. Anne's Church & Graveyard

*"Living short but merry lives,
Going where the devil drives,
Having sweethearts,
but no wives,
Live the rakes of Mallow"*

An extract from "The Rakes of Mallow",
a well-known traditional song
describing the wild behaviour
of certain unruly visitors to
the spa town in the 18th century.



4. St. James' Church of Ireland



6. Mallow Bridge/River Blackwater



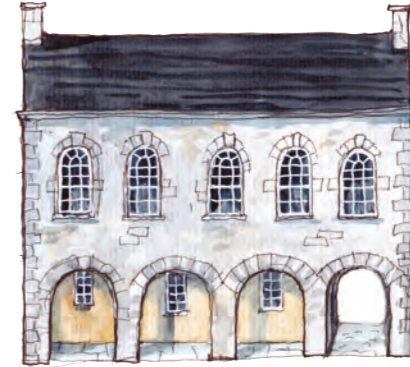
5. The Clock House



7. Ordnance stone, Mallow Barracks



28. 106 Thomas Davis Street



29. Market House



31. Dogs' Head Fountain



32. Spa House



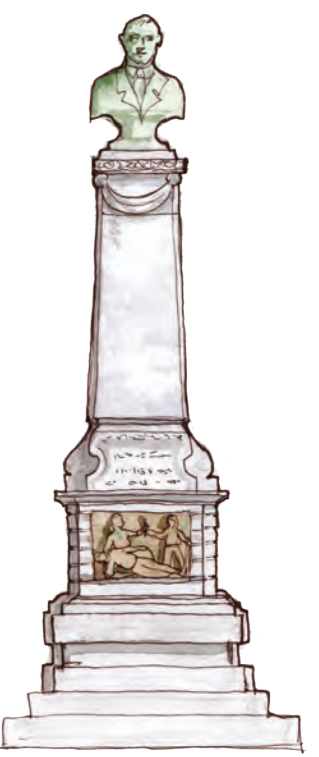
27. Market Place



26. Mallow Courthouse



23. St. Mary's RC Church



25. Fitzgerald Monument



13. Victorian Post Box



14. Parish Hall



19. Patrician Academy