

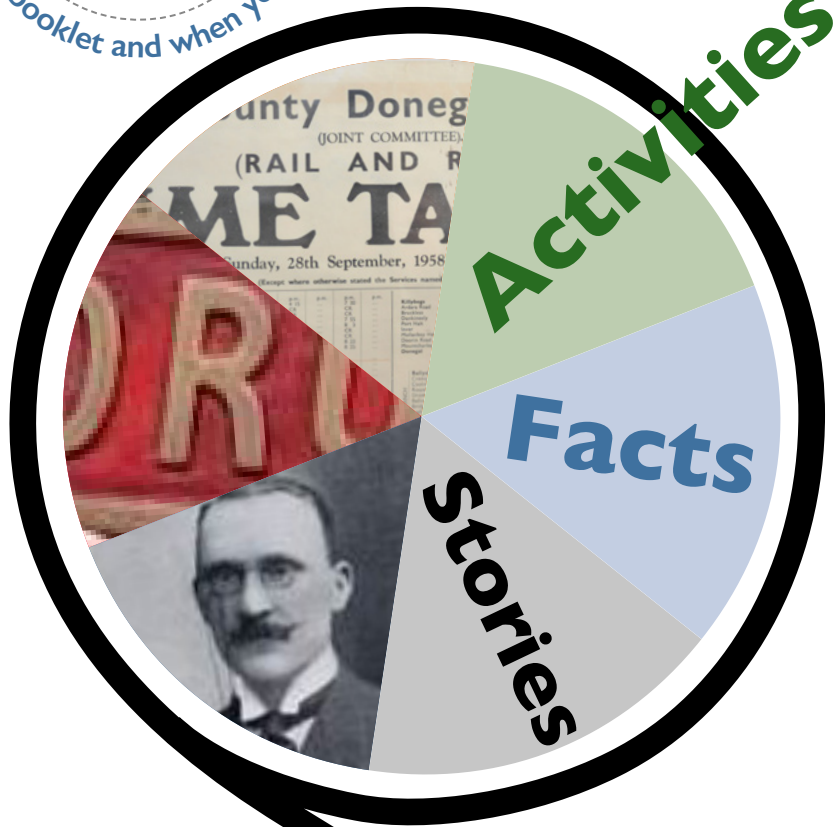


Donegal Railway Museum Explorers



FIND ME
...in this booklet and when you visit the museum

Museum Hunt



Faster than fairies, faster than witches, Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches; And ever again, in the wink of an eye, Painted stations whistle by...

BARNESMORE GAP

A few lines from the poem 'From a Railway Carriage' by Robert Louis Stevenson

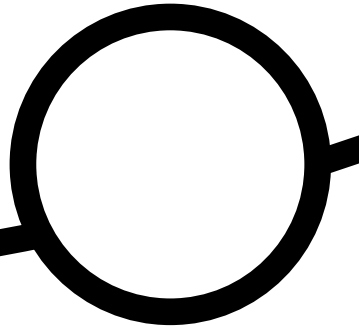
This railway booklet belongs to

.....

I live in

.....

I was born in the year



5



Discover the timeline

to be solved

The Railways of Donegal

The railways across County Donegal operated from 1847 to 1959. The trains transported goods, including fish from Killybegs, tweed from Donegal Town, turf from the bogs, and livestock from the farms, as well as bringing “mobility” to the population.

With the railways, travel was much easier and quicker across the county and further afield, for work and leisure. The railways were the last port of call for emigrants who left these distant shores, for school children heading to school, and for visitors both local and non-local to explore this beautiful county. The three Donegal Railway Companies employed several hundred personnel at their peak and brought much needed investment into the County. New hotels and other services assisted the increased movement of people and brought much needed money into the County.

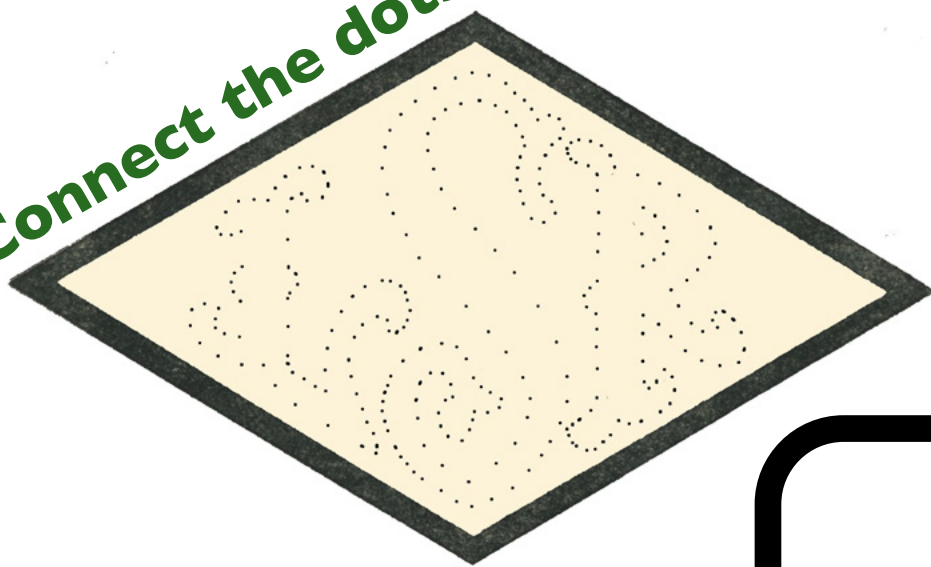
Can you find Glenties, Coolmore, Barnesmore and Foxhall on the map?

1847



The longest stretch of completely straight track in the world is in Australia and crosses the Nullarbor Desert for 478 km. It can even be seen from space.

Connect the dots



The L&LSR

The Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company operated in parts of County Derry and County Donegal from 1853, with 99 miles of railway lines.

1853

From 1863–1959 our narrow gauge railway network reached

225 miles

1863

1876

The Great Northern Railway (Ireland) was formed in 1876 by a merger of the Irish North Western Railway, Northern Railway of Ireland, and Ulster Railway.



Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch in Wales continues to be on record for having the longest railway station name in the world.



Come and see **Drumboe** at the **Donegal Railway Museum**, our big and beautiful red locomotive!

Many good people looked after this special engine over the decades. She weighs **43 tons**.

That is as much as **7 elephants** or **30 cars**.

Her top speed is up to **40 miles** or **60 kilometers per hour**.

No dog, cat or rabbit could catch up.

Spot the 5 differences

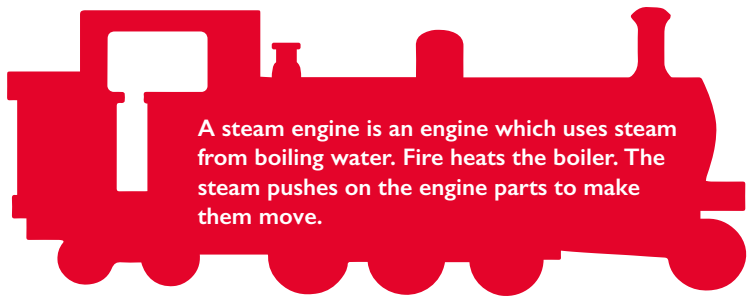


The County Donegal Railway Company (CDR) was founded

in **1892**

How many elephants weigh as much as **Drumboe?**





A steam engine is an engine which uses steam from boiling water. Fire heats the boiler. The steam pushes on the engine parts to make them move.

1907

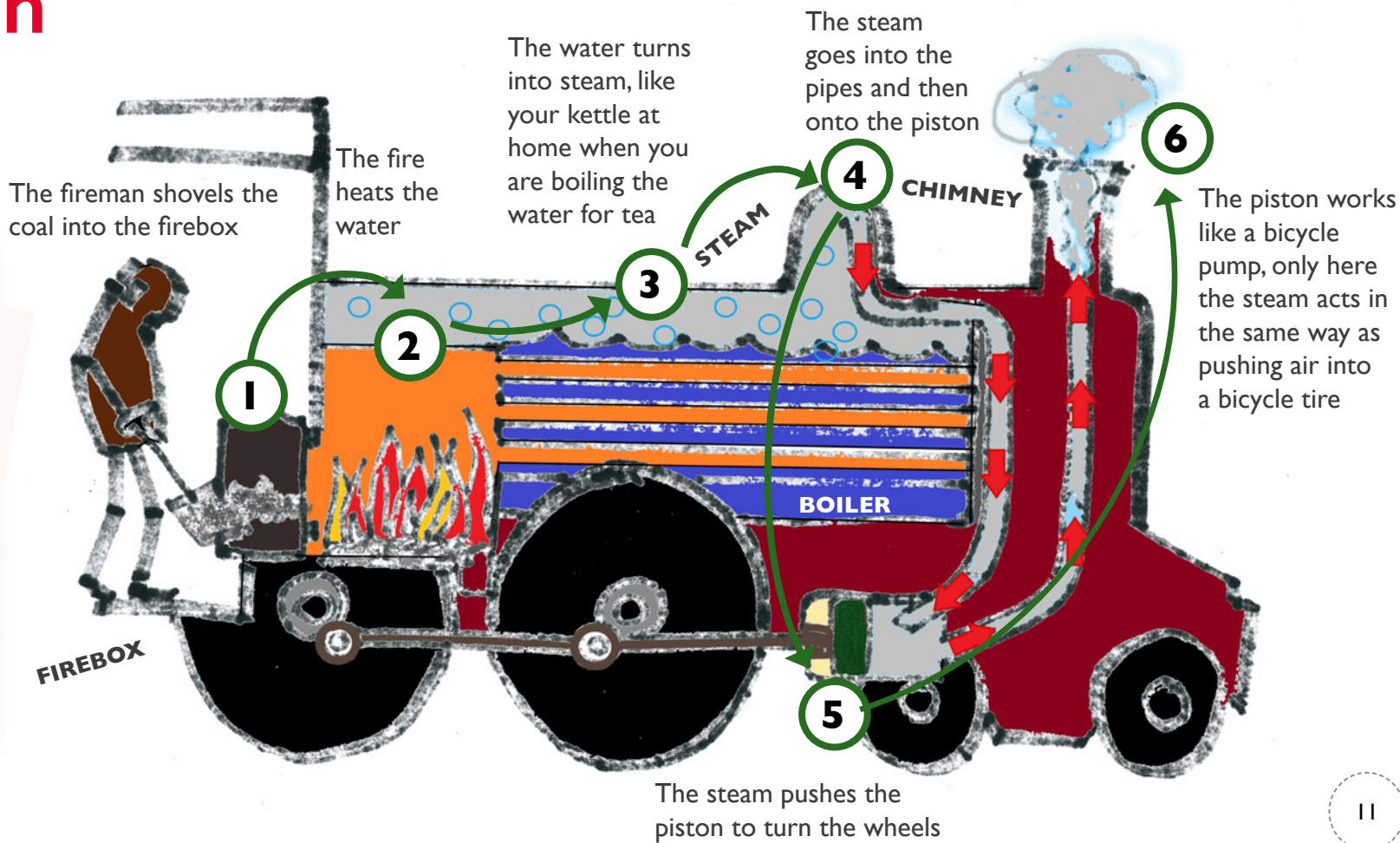
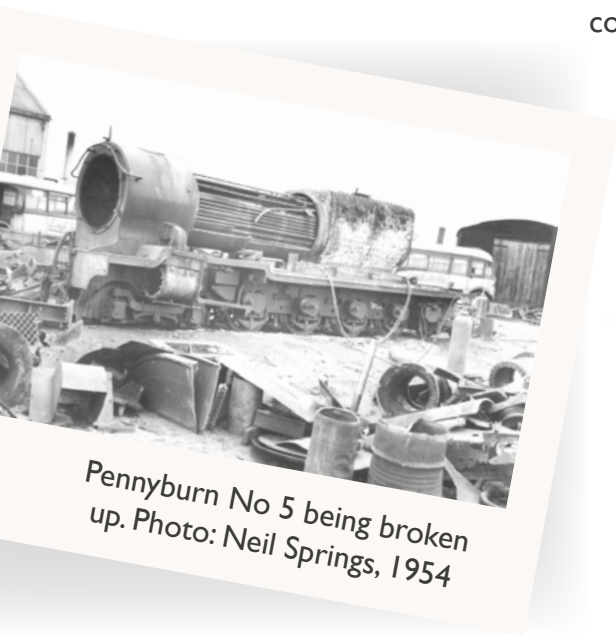
Of course Drumboe needs a lot of steam to be fast, so she has a **huge boiler**.

In these tanks are 1000 imperial gallons of water.

You could fill your bath **28 times** full to the rim – and then you have 1000 gallons (4550 litres)

She is very strong. She could pull **7 school buses** full of children and still whistle happily!

How does a steam train work?



Donegal Town Station

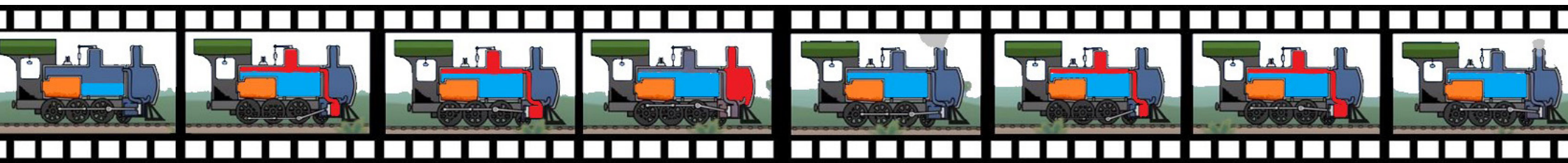
Our Model was built by George Hanan (1922–2009). It shows Donegal Town railway station with adjoining outbuildings on a scale 5mm to approximately 304mm.

George Hanan attended the National College of Art, Dublin, for a course in figure and portrait painting with oil colours. He was well known for his railway and landscape paintings. He moved to Donegal in 1984.



Can you find us in this model?

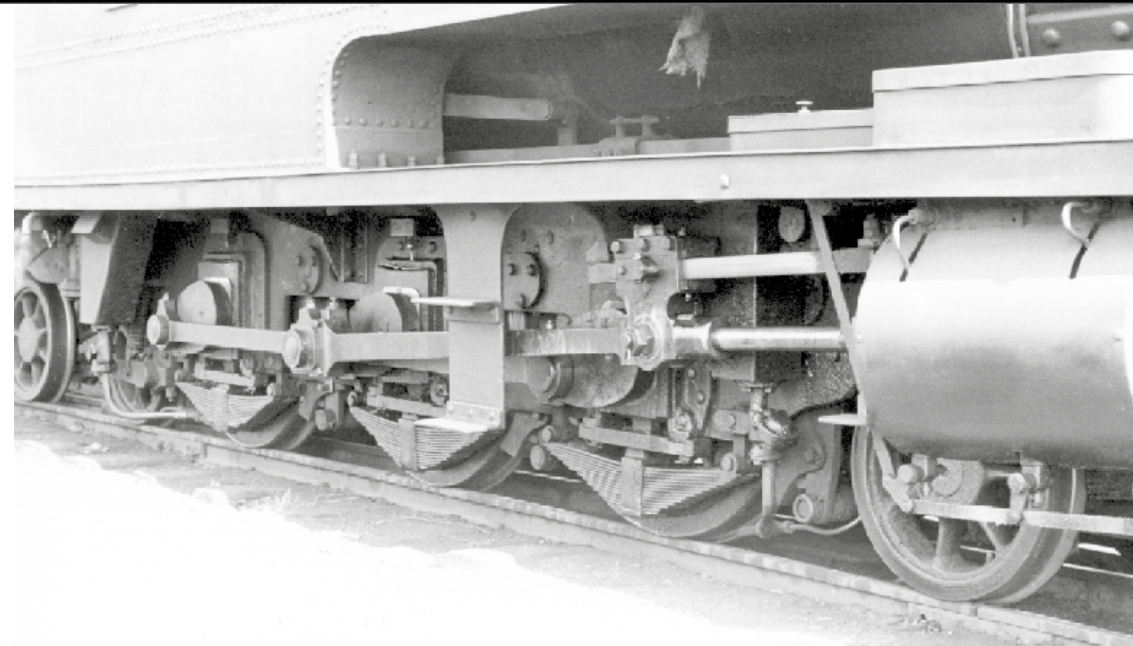




Connecting rod system

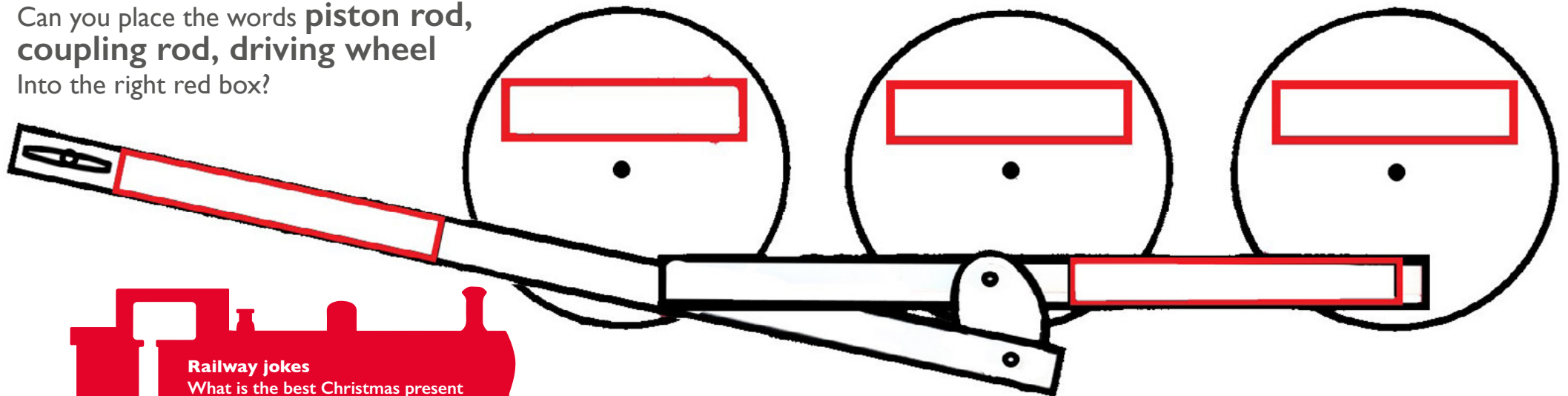
Also known as a side rod a **coupling rod** is used to connect a locomotive's driving wheels together.

Coupling rods are most commonly found on steam locomotives, where power must be transferred to multiple **drive wheels**. Steam locomotives have **two pistons**, with one on each side of the locomotive.



Find The Parts

Can you place the words **piston rod**, **coupling rod**, **driving wheel** into the right red box?



Railway jokes

What is the best Christmas present for a train? A train station

Shep's adventures

Many years ago, when the railway was still operating, there was a local character called Shep who like to travel on the train. He was black and white and very clever – a proper Donegal Sheepdog!

Every evening at the same time, he came to Donegal station and jumped onto the last train to Killybegs. All railway staff and passengers knew him.



Shep used to get off at Mountcharles. And he went off to do...what? What did he do in Mountcharles every evening? Hmmmmmm?

He always only ever stayed exactly 24 minutes and was always in time for the last train back to Donegal station. He ran along the platform with his wee ears flapping to jump onto the last wagon. A sigh of relief went through all the passengers and when the train driver asked, "Is Shep on board yet?", they all cheered and said "Yes", he was without fail."

What do you think Shep was doing every evening at Mountcharles?

Below you can see an original old timetable

Can you figure out how long the train journey would have taken from Killybegs to Mountcharles on the early morning train?

..... minutes

TIME TABLES												
	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	
Killybegs ... dep.	7 15	8 0	...	...	...	...	3 50	...	...
Arara Road ... "	CR	CR	...	CR	...	CR	...	...	...
Bruckless ... "	CR	CR	...	CR	...	CR	...	...	...
Dunkineely ... "	7 45	8 24	...	1 30	...	4 13	...	...	...
Port Halt ... "	CR	CR	...	CR	...	CR	...	...	...
Inver ... "	8 0	8 40	...	1 45	...	4 28	...	...	...
Mullanboy Halt ... "	CR	CR	...	CR	...	CR	...	...	...
Doorin Road ... "	CR	CR	...	CR	...	CR	...	...	...
Mountcharles ... "	8 15	8 53	...	2 0	...	4 40	...	...	...
Donegal ... arr.	8 30	9 8	...	2 15	...	4 55	...	...	...
											C	B
Ballyshannon ... dep.	7 35	...	...	12 0	...	4 0	7 15	7 0	7 0	
Creevy Halt ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	CR	CR	CR	CR	
Coolmore Halt ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	CR	CR	CR	CR	
Rosnowlough ... "	7 56	...	...	12 21	...	4 21	7 35	7 21	7 21	
Dromore Halt ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	CR	...	CR	CR	
Ballintra ... "	8 9	...	...	12 34	...	4 34	...	7 34	7 34	
Bridgetown ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	CR	...	CR	CR	
Laghey ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	CR	...	CR	CR	
Drumbar Halt ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	CR	...	CR	CR	
Donegal ... arr.	8 33	...	...	1 0	...	5 0	...	8 0	8 0	
Donegal ... dep.	8 35	...	...	2 18	...	...	...	...	...
Clar Bridge Halt ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	...	...	...	...
Lough Eske ... "	8 49	...	...	2 30	...	...	...	...	...
Barnesmore Halt ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	...	...	...	...
Derg Bridge Halt ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	...	...	...	...
Meenglass ... "	CR	...	...	CR	...	...	...	...	...
Stranorlar ... arr.	9 32	...	...	3 18	...	...	...	...	...
Stranorlar ... dep.	6 35	8 35	9 33	...	12 50	3 20	...	6 5	...	...	...
Cavan Halt ... "	CR	CR	CR	...	CR	CR	...	6 5	...	...	...
Killygordon ... "	6 45	8 45	9 44	...	1 0	3 32	...	6 18	...	...	...
Lisooly ... "	CR	CR	CR	...	CR	CR	...	...	...	...	...
Castledillon ... "	6 57	8 57	10 0	...	1 13	3 52	...	...	...	...	...



Which ticket would Shep have to buy?



Famous People

From 1910 – 1943 Henry Forbes was the Manager of the CDR (County Donegal Railway). He was not only a great manager but a very brave man with true grit. Have a look at his adventure in the comic on the following pages and draw out this unique story about him.



PISTOL PACKING ESCAPADES

On Wednesday, 8 September, 1920...

Henry Forbes, was travelling in a passenger coach on the 5 o'clock train from Ballyshannon to Donegal Town

He realised that the normal wait at Drumbar Halt was taking longer than usual

Looking out of the window, Henry saw men holding up the crew with guns!

Forbes decided to act!!!

Clambering down onto the stones that held the railway tracks in position he managed to work his way along the blind side of the train.

He then suddenly appeared in the cab of the engine

Brandishing his cocked revolver he demanded that the gunman leave his driver and fireman alone

And that's where it got interesting! After shouting "Hands Up", Forbes opened fire

1920

He exchanged shots with the raiders and chased them across a field beside the railway

One of the bandits tripped over a fence

...and was grabbed by Forbes

With the revolver in one of his hands, he bundled him back over the fence and on to the train

Then he ordered the traumatized crew to make speed for Donegal Town.

Once there, Forbes could not find a policeman.

Escorting the prisoner with his gun, he took him on the train to Stranorlar for arrest.

Forbes later revealed, that he had no bullets left!

Henry Forbes was clever in that he planned for the future. In 1930, he developed a diesel railcar (like a bus on railway tracks), one of the first non-steam engines on tracks anywhere in the world!

Railcar 7, Model, build 1930, first diesel RC in the British Isles, 1 to 66, GN&O'Doherty Strabane



The railcar had **32 seats**

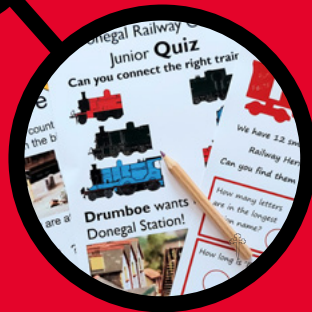
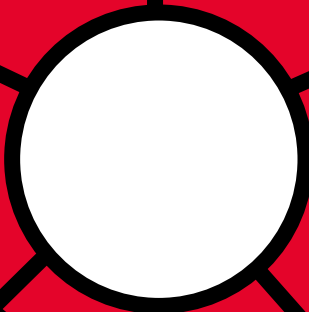
1930

Where are we? Can you find Ireland on the map?



The longest train journey takes you via Paris – Moscow – Beijing through 13 different countries. Experts estimate that the 18,755km trip lasts 21 days.

We invite you to visit the Donegal Railway Museum*, and learn more about our unique railways. Bring this booklet, get this page stamped, and you can visit our museum for Free!



© Donegal Railway Museum
The Old Station House, Tyrconnell Street, Donegal Town, F94 EE00

Text & original design: Heike Thiele
Design and print: Browne Printers, Letterkenny

*Limited to one child and one visit



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

Supported by Donegal County
Council Development Fund Initiative