

Getting to The Celtic Bards School

The Thatch, Carrowcroy, Ballinafad, Co. Sligo

Google Map link : <http://bit.ly/tocarrowcroy>

Coming from Limerick, Shannon

estimated time, 3 to 4 hours

follow N18 and eventual N17 Sligo signs to meet the N17 at Claregalway, then follow "Coming From Galway" instructions

Coming from Galway

estimated time, 2 to 3 hours

follow N17 Sligo signs to junction with N5 on Charlestown by-pass, about 2 km before reaching Charlestown, turn right at second roundabout signed N5 Dublin and then follow "Coming from Westport, Castlebar, Swinford" instructions

Coming from Westport, Castlebar, Swinford

estimated time, 2 hours Westport, 1.5 hours Castlebar, 1 hour Swinford

take N5, signposted Dublin, past Charlestown on Charlestown by-pass, through Ballaghaderreen and onto the village of Frenchpark. Slow through Frenchpark to find crossroads of R293 signposted to Boyle on left, take that road. It will meet the N61 just outside Boyle. Travel through the one way system of Boyle until you come to t-junction with mini roundabout and sign N4 Sligo, take the left, drive past ruins of Boyle Abbey on right and follow "Coming from Boyle" instruction below.

Coming from Boyle

estimated time 15 to 20 minutes

follow signs to N4 Sligo taking you north out of town to meet the N4

Coming from Dublin, Mullingar, Longford, Carrick On Shannon,

estimated time, 3 hours Dublin, 2 hours Mullingar, 1 hour Longford

follow N4/M4 Sligo road which splits off as M3 to Galway at Kinnegad, but keep going along N4 and past Carrick On Shannon. North of Carrick On Shannon and you are about 20 minutes away. Eventually you will pass two turn-offs for Boyle, then follow these instructions, next page



Drive past this left turn for Boyle,
still about 8km to go before Ballinafad turn off

follow this route once on the N4 north of Boyle

N4 towards Sligo as far as Ballinafad, which is past both of the Lough Key and Lough Arrow viewing points signposted to the right.



Past the Horse Sculpture on right, after hill climb still about 7km to go before Ballinafad turn off



Past this Lough Key Viewing Bay sign on right, but well worth taking a look if you have time, still about 6km to go before Ballinafad turn off



Past this Welcome To County Sligo sign which is past seeing Lough Key and its islands on the right. Past this sign you will see Lough Arrow and its islands, plus some of Ballinafad's houses. Note you are coming into view of Bricklieve Mountains ahead. About 4 km to go before Ballinafad turn off



Look for Lough Arrow Viewing Bay sign on right You do NOT take this right to Ballinafad. Keep driving along N4 About 3 km to go before correct Ballinafad turn off



Look for this Ballinafad sign,
as this is where you turn right.

Approaching this, the road goes downhill
into a valley
and you should see the remains of



Ballinafad Castle to the right
Look for these ruins of Ballinafad Castle
on the right as you come down into the
Ballinafad valley



and this Bus Eirean bus stop will be on the left.
Follow the road marking just before this bus stop
to turn right down the ramp off of the N4

After you turn right towards Ballinafad,
follow the "Coming from Ballinafad" instructions below

Coming from Belfast, Northern Ireland, except Derry area, Enniskillen
estimated time 3.5 hours from Belfast

get to the M1/A4 and follow west to Sligo, which becomes N16 Sligo when you cross
the border into the Republic. When you reach Sligo follow "Coming From Sligo"
instructions

Coming from Derry, Strabane, Letterkenny, Donegal
estimated time 3 hours from Derry & Letterkenny, 2 hours from Donegal

Derry and Strabane people take A5 to meet N15 Sligo road
Letterkenny people take the N13 to meet N15 Sligo road which passes Donegal.
When you reach Sligo follow "Coming From Sligo" instructions

Coming from Sligo

estimated time, 30 minutes

Get onto the Sligo by-pass N4 Dublin road and head south.
You'll pass Collooney and later pass Drumfin and Castlebaldwin.

From Castlebaldwin you are about 5 minutes away from the Ballinafad turn off.

Look out for this sign on the left, there's a Church Of Ireland church on right too.



Lough Arrow Scenic Drive sign
You are now about 2 km from
the correct Ballinafad turn off



Look for this sign, 300 m before turning left.
Get into hard shoulder and slow down
as this turning is quite hidden



At this Srugal River sign slow down, indicate left
Note the left turn is hidden snug after the bridge.
There are Bus Eireann bus stops each side of the
road, If you pass them you have gone too far,
missed the turn.



and this is right up on the turning left, with the
Ballinafad sign and ruins of Ballinafad castle.

Turn left here and then follow the "Coming from Ballinafad" instructions

Coming from Ballinafad

estimated time, 7 minutes

Most people will be coming from the N4 ramp
so I will start the instructions from there.



approaching t-junction from ramp from N4



At this sign turn right in the Ballymote direction.
This is a country road that you will travel on
for about 5km

For people heading from Ballinafad village,
possibly including some people who got lost,
take the country road west from beside the church.

Folks from the village,
and folks who turned right from the N4 ramp should see this scene



You will drive under this bridge under the N4
heading west for about 5km.
The road becomes a narrow-ish country road
once you are under the bridge

These are landmark scenes along the country road west



about 4.5 km to go
an uphill winding part
sometimes a white goat grazing around here



about 4 km to go
Historical Trail, brown signs, joins the road here.
Sometime a cement truck is parked behind
where the wheelie bin is on this photo.



About 3.5 km to go
Historical Trail leaves the road,
white sign with red letters on left.
Road starts to straighten
once you drive under the tree arch ahead



About 3 km to go
Road straightens out for awhile.
Main feature here is ruined 2 storey
farmhouse on left before trees



About 2.5 km to go
now entering Keash Parish
Keash Community Alart sign on left



About 0.5 km to go
approaching the Boyle to Ballymote main road
t-junction



About 0.3 km to go
look to the left
and see our cottage, beside trees
and large farmhouse to the right



At the t-junction of the R295
Boyle to Ballymote road.
You turn LEFT here, towards Boyle
Before you do, read the signs, amusing :-)

Go slow as you will be turning right
within 100 m



after turning left towards Boyle,
about 50m later, after starting to go
around the bend you'll see this farmhouse
on the right



Then you'll see our thatched cottage
also on the right, which soon disappears
behind trees



You'll then see these buildings and a country road turning to the right. The country road turning is actually quite hidden.

You turn right up this country road!



Head on up this country road for about 50 m



Head up the driveway towards our cottage



You have arrived!
Keep going up the drive,
there are two car parks.

Coming from Ballymote

estimated time, 15 minutes

Head for crossroads south of the town,
near Roger's Builders Supplies.

The right is sign posted for Gurteen
and left is for Boyle, with a little sign pointing to Kesh (a mis-spelling)

Take the road to Kesh and Boyle, R 295

After about 7 km you will drive through Keash village
where the main landmarks are Wards Shop on the left
and Fox's Den pub on the right.

Another 2 km later you will pass the Traveller's Rest pub on the right.

Another 1 km after Traveller's Rest you will see the Ballinafad road
on the left, but this is no longer signposted.

Then refer to the photos above from
"At the t-junction of the R295 ..."
to get you to our cottage and theatre.