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# *Chilldamhnait*

*A place of heritage and natural beauty*

*Come and relax in Achill*



*"A Place Where Time Is Meaningless"*

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## **Background to the area**

Chilldamnait or Kildownet is situated in the southern part of the island. It runs along the scenic route of the Atlantic drive. The area comprises of the villages of Ashleam, Dooega, Meelaun, Derreens, Bleanaskill and Cloughmore. The name of Chilldamnait itself means "The Church of Dymphna". Dymphna came from the ancient kingdom of Oriel (Louth). Her father reigned there as King. He wanted her to reign as queen and so she fled to Achill. She founded the church in the 7th century. It was at this church she helped the sick. St. Dymphna died in Geel in Belgium. The church was remodelled in the 17th century to what it is today.

## **Grace O' Malley's Castle**

*The castle which is located next to the church and graveyard is said to have been built by the ancestors of Grace O' Malley. This castle was used as a look out tower. This meant that Clew Bay was secure from intruders. Grace O' Malley lived on Clare Island and was married to Iron Dick. Teige Roe was one of her seven sons. He was a rebel and was imprisoned in the tower of London. Grace O' Malley went to see Elizabeth the First, in order that her son could be released. It is not known when Grace O' Malley was born but it is thought in and around 1530. Her father was dubhdair. Dubhdair married into the O' Malley chlann on Clare Island. Margaret Ní Mháile was her mother, who was the daughter of a chieftain. Grace O' Malley secured much land around the coast through her marriages. She married Dónal Cogaidh ó Flatherty with whom she had two sons, Eoghain and Tibbert Na Long. The word "na long" is the Irish word for ship. Tibbert was born at sea. The Pirate Queen spent her final days in a convent on Clare Island. It is not known where she is buried.*

*A friendly welcome awaits you*

## **The lost village of Ailse**

Nearing the graveyard located on the right hand side of the road is what is now referred to as the quarry. It was there that the village of Ailse once stood. It was once boasted that Ailse was one of the biggest villages in Achill at one time. In the year 1854, the village was burnt to the ground. The story is told of how the local landlord was riding in the vicinity with friends. The dogs of the village came down and started barking, the landlord was not impressed. Christmas Eve in 1854 while people were celebrating with their families, the village caught fire. Many of these families scattered to all the corners of the island.

## **Funeral Paths**

Funerals were taken across the mountains and in Chilledamhnait it was no different. The graveyard and church were one of two on the island. The other was located in Dookinella. People would travel the long route across the mountains from Dooga. They rested the coffins on stones called leactai. Clay Pipes were buried with the dead. People believed that the longest journey to the graveyard was the shortest journey home.

### *Choláiste Samhradh - Irish Summer School*

Tá an choláiste seo suite i Gceartlár an T-sraidbhaile Dú Eige. Tagann alán Scolairi chuig an gach samhradh chun gaeilge a labhairt. Coláiste Acla is an activity based Irish Adventure Centre. The Coláiste provides a wide range of adventure sport, and the Irish language. This Irish college is situated in the heart of Dooga village. A lot of students come every summer to practice their Irish language. This is an environment where learning takes place in a relaxed, interesting and interactive way. The students stay locally with people in the district.

You can contact the Coláiste at  
(01) 2834366 / (086) 2310377 Callsave: **1850 200483**

**Bank Times:** Ulster Bank Friday 11.00 - 11.25 am Ashleam  
(Corrigan's Shop)

**Mass Services:** Tuesday Dooga 7.00 pm Sunday Derreens 12 Noon



### **Public Houses**

*Patten's Lounge Bar Derreens - Tel: (098) 45172*  
*Lavelle's Seaside House Dooega - Tel: (098) 45116*

### **Accommodation**

*Hillview House B&B Ashleam - Tel: (098) 45417*

<http://achill.mayo-ireland.ie/Finncorry.htm>

### **Bus Times**

Monday - Wednesday Dooagh - Westport 8.25 am  
Thursday - Friday Dooagh - Westport - Castlebar 10.00 am  
Friday Dooagh - Westport - Castlebar 6.45 pm

*Brochure put together by Chairde Chillardamnait Group*  
*Tel: (098) 45726*