

Scariff Harbour Festival August 3rd – August 5th

Scariff, Co. Clare

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An open-air street based, three day event, with dual aims of highlighting the attractions and amenities of Lough Derg, the inland waterways, Scariff Harbour, Scariff Town, and the East Clare countryside and of promoting local, community based arts, crafts, and music ranging from traditional to jazz and cross border cultural exchanges with Northern Ireland. This festival is family friendly, with lots of interesting things to keep children happy too.

Scariff

From Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scariff>)

Scariff (or Scariff, Irish: An Scairbh) is a town in east County Clare, Republic of Ireland, situated in the midwest of Ireland. The town is on the West end of Lough Derg and is best known for its harbour.

History

Little is known of the Scariff area in pre-Christian times. However, the presence of the remains of a wedge tomb at Cappabane tells us that the area has been inhabited for at least 4000 years.

The name Scariff is derived from the Gaelic "Scairbh" which means a rocky ford or crossing place. Long before the present town came into being the area was of great strategic importance to those who held the territory about and to those who sought to hold it - the presence of the great river Shannon on the one hand and the mountainous terrain on the other rendered this Scairbh a most important crossing point on a journey north or south.

The name Scariff is first mentioned in 1315 in connection with a battle fought there during the civil wars of the period. The chipboard factory now occupies the site of the conflict. By the end of the fourteenth century, the Scariff area was under the control of the O'Grady clan. To maintain their dominance three castles or fortified houses were built, one at Tuamgraney (which still stands), one near the bridge at the Scairbh which no longer exists and a third, smaller building, at Moynoe. The earliest account of Scariff castle is from 1564.

Scariff as a town developed around the castle and its growth was helped by the presence of a smelting furnace which operated there. It is shown on a map of the Down survey in 1655. The town grew gradually in the following centuries, its fortunes generally in line with those of the country as a whole. In penal times Mass was celebrated at the Mass Rock at Cappabane. Scariff suffered greatly during the Famine in the nineteenth century - a workhouse was built in 1841 at Drewsboro to provide some relief for the poor.

The last century however saw the town begin to prosper. New roads were built. It had a bank, a Police station, flour mills and a Market House reflecting its growing importance as a market town. As well as improved road connections, the Dock provided vital trade links and Scariff enjoyed its position as the business centre of north-east Clare. Two of the more prominent buildings - the workhouse and the Police station - were destroyed in the War of Independence. A large chipboard factory can now be found in Scarriff, but the town no longer has a bakery and the dock no longer operates as in former times. It's role now as a stopping point for pleasure crafts is perhaps indicative of the possibilities which exist for Scariff as a tourist centre.

Festivals

There are a number of festivals and shows in Scarriff every year, including the Scariff Show and the Scariff Harbour Festival.

Official Scariff Website

<http://www.scariff.com/>

Scariff Parish Website

<http://www.scariffparish.com/>