

building facades through Enniskillen Island Town. (Installation date: June 2021)

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Oscar Wilde, the playwright, poet and wit spent seven years (1864-71) in Enniskillen at Portora Royal School (now Enniskillen Royal Grammar School). His most popular short story, The Happy Prince, is directly inspired by Enniskillen's Cole's Monument that stands 'high above the town', which Wilde could see from his dormitory window at Portora.

In the story the statue of the Happy Prince pleads with the little Swallow to stay and distribute his jewels and gold leaf to the people of the town to relieve them of their misery.

"I am covered with fine gold," said the Prince, "you must take it off, leaf by leaf, and give it to my poor; the living always think that gold can make them happy."

THE HAPPY PRINCE, OSCAR WILDE



Watch the story of *The Happy Prince*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t33NWgOzjK8

Inspired by the fairy tale, ARTS OVER BORDERS has created *The Flight of the Little Golden Swallow* from Coles Monument down into the Island Town of Enniskillen. You can **Follow the Swallow** from the War Memorial in Belmore Street at the foot of Forthill Park of The Happy Prince statue all the way through the town to Enniskillen Castle Museum.

THE TEAM:

- Concept Origination & Installation: DoranBrowne (Seán Doran & Liam Browne)
- Artists: Simon Carman and Helen Sharp
- AOB Spot-Lit Project Manager: Bernie Mooney
- WildeThings Project Support: Sally Rees
- Production Support: Barry Gibson
- Producing Company: Arts Over Borders
- Funders: Northern Periphery & Arctic Europe Fund, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Enniskillen BID.

NOTES:

- **The Garden of the Selfish Giant** = Forthill Park previously called Camomile Hill
- I The Happy Prince = Cole's Monument statue of Sir. Galbreith Lowry Cole, son of the Plantation Founder and First Earl of Enniskillen.
- The Flight of the Little Golden Swallow is 150 sightings of a single swallow's flight over time materialised in gold-leaf carrying gold and jewels to the citizens and children of Enniskillen.



FOLLOW THE SWALLOW JOURNEY THROUGH WILDE ISLAND TOWN (WIT): HOME OF THE HAPPY PRINCE

(Allow 50-60 mins)

LOOK UP and **Follow The Swallow** as you stroll through the island town's main street on the jewellers, butchers, solicitors, dentists, opticians, clothes shops, shoe shop, pubs and cafes.

Why not take a selfie with your favourite Swallow and share with us #followtheswallow #WIT @ArtsOverBorders

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COLE'S MONUMENT FORTHILL PARK

First and Last little Swallows in gold and black.

The full walking tour of 'Follow the Swallow' begins at War Memorial, Belmore Street, at the bottom of Forthill Park and the Happy Prince statue. On Cole's Monument itself is the first gold-leaf Swallow arriving on the column itself. If you climb the 108 steps within the tower up to the Happy Prince you'll find the last dead swallow in bronze painted black by sculptor Alan Milligan lying at the foot of the statue as written in the story. Nearby, a tired and worn little gold-leaf Swallow is attached to the faded but beautiful Victorian bandstand in the park. Erected in 1895 it recalls Wilde's greatest theatrical triumph of his most popular play The Importance of Being Earnest and his downfall from grace the same year.

NB - A single street route leads from the west of Enniskillen Island Town across its central rib through a street chain starting with Belmore Street, East Bridge Street, Town Hall Street, High Street, Church Street and Darling Street which takes you to the east end of the island.

NB - L=Left, R=Right west to east

NB - A space in the listings means to walk to next set of buildings. No space between swallow mentions indicates adjacent buildings.

Swallow names by Seán Doran and Sally Rees



WAR MEMORIAL BELMORE STREET (off Wilde Island Town)

A circle of 12 little swallows

Viewing Walk Duration – Allow 8 minutes

This area is the main town location from which to access the walled Forthill Park ('The Selfish Giant Garden') via 39 steps between Ferguson's Solicitors and Belmore Dentistry. The area is dominated by faded magnolia backgrounds which recalls Wilde's famous dying phrase: 'Either this yellow wallpaper will have to go, or I will have to go'. Oscar Wilde

The War Memorial commemorates The Great War (WWI) in which Wilde's eldest son Cyril also fought and died at the young age of 30. The Memorial now too commemorates the 12 local citizens who lost their lives in the 1987 Remembrance Day bombing by the IRA.

The Flight of the single little Golden Swallow trail from the Happy Prince statue begins by its entering the town at the bottom of the 39 steps with 4 little golden swallows flying off to the left and right:

L - Two little Swallows on magnolia background @ Ferguson's Solicitors.







- L A *Laid Back* little Swallow on black background @ *Thai Massage*. Rare horizontal position!
- I R Golden Eye little Swallow on bare stone background @ Belmore Dental – forget the teeth and be the eye for the beholder says this little swallow
- R Legal Eye little Swallow @ Quinn's solicitors

Moving anti-clockwise around the War Memorial to swallow **6**:

R - With Purpose little Swallow on faded magnolia background @ The Clinton Centre

This little swallow draws attention to a small window inset that embodies a message of heart-warming message of optimism and hope out of the loss of 12 innocent local lives in the 1987 IRA Remembrance Day Bombing. It reads: "This is our purpose here: To remember our past and those we knew and loved; solemnly and with fondness to look to the future with hope; and bring us together to learn the ways of life; teaching war no more. This is a place for sorrow tears and a place for the laughter of children".

Moving diagonally across the War Memorial to swallows **7-10**:

- L *Smell The Bacon* little Swallow on faded magnolia background @ O'Doherty's Meats.
- L War and Peace little Swallows: War Queen Ceithleann's little Swallow dives to Ceithleann Island (O'Doherty Meats gable wall) & Peace Princess Diana's little Swallow as a secret under the bridge @ Ceithleann Island. In The Happy Prince story of the little Swallow spends much of his time by the water because he is in love with a reed and specifically mentions the swallow flying under the bridge:

Ceithleann was heroine of the pre-Celtic people, warrior wife of Balor (Balor of the evil eye who lived on Tory island, Ireland's northernmost off shire island). Ceithleann sought refuge on this island after the mythical Battle of Moytura where Balor defeated the Fomorians (Ireland's mythic foundational race). Balor reputedly buried Ceithleann on this island, hence its name Inish Ceithlean, the island of Ceithleann, Ennis-killen. The English Princess Diana of recent years came to Enniskillen in 1993, four years before her death, to lay the final stone on a Peace Cairn 20 yards from the secretive little Peace Swallow.



Two little Swallows **11 & 12** at the War Memorial setting are returning to the Happy Prince:

- A Soaring High little Swallow at the top corner at the rear of The Clinton Centre on rich blue background is the highest flying of all the 150, it is high with buoyancy after its first trip to deliver the ruby jewel to the mother of the sick child at South West Acute Hosptial Children's Ward (where the little ruby Swallow now resides)
- In contrast, an **Out of Breath** little Swallow on Ferguson Solicitors' gable wall climbs courageously but breathless from its heavy work in town back to the Happy Prince statue. This is the little swallow's last journey into town exhausted from carrying all the gold and jewels back and forth to the town citizens.







13 little Swallows

Viewing Walk Duration to Old Gaol and back to town – allow 10 mins







A diversion from the main east-west swallow flight route into the Enniskillen Island Town. Leading east from the War Memorial on BELMORE STREET (off island) ending at traffic junction (Belfast M1 direction).

- L A *Sporty* little Swallow on magnolia background @ *The Fermanagh Herald* its primary purpose to carry its gold-leaf to the sporting citizens of the town!
- R Opposite is **Arty** little Swallow on turquoise background @ Jim's Paper & Paint on the opposite side to the sport little swallow!
- R *Bloodletting* little Swallow on black @ *Crew* 88 red and white barbers cylindrical sign was from a time when



barbers carried out bloodletting as a cure for illness.

- R A *little Swallow* on pale blue background @ *Mulhern's Pub* heads off high to the citizens living on the other side of the River Erne
- R A little Swallow on ultramarine @ Dark Tanning
- L A *thirsty* little Swallow @ *Horseshoe* & *Saddlers* Pub the oenophile little swallow on beige background about to enter the Wine Bar.
- R Welcome to our Island Town little Swallows on gorgeous green background @ Montgomery Finlay & Coone flies south, one is returning to the Happy Prince 5 other little Swallows returning to the Happy Prince statue:
- L A **News Herald** little Swallow on the gable wall @ Fermanagh Herald carries the News from the town back to the Happy Prince.

"When day broke, he flew down to the river and had a bath. "What a remarkable phenomenon," said the Professor of Ornithology as he was passing over the bridge. "A swallow in winter!" And he wrote a long letter about it to the local

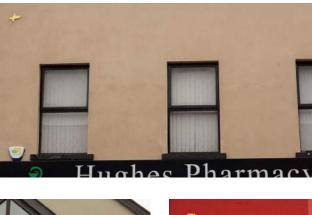


newspaper. Everyone quoted it, it was full of so many words that they could not understand." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

- L The *Remarkable Rocket* little Swallow @ Hughes Pharmacy returning to the Happy Prince. This swallow is peculiarly vertical in its ambition to fly upwards like a rocket!
- L *Apache* little Swallow on a burning red background @ *Apache*. Flying back to the Happy Prince
- L A *Guinness* little Swallow @ *Horseshoe* & *Saddlers*. Returning to the Happy Prince this little Swallow cannot but help steal a sip from the Toucan's pint of Guinness!

Across the major road junction by the side of South West College, next the old Library is the Old Gaol with **one** swallow:

C3.3 little Swallow @ old Enniskillen County Gaol. The Gaol and Reading Gaol are both of the 19th century. Wilde was incarcerated in Block C, third floor, third room.











5 little swallows

Viewing Walk Duration - Allow 4 mins





Leading west from The War Memorial into EAST BRIDGE STREET (on island)

- R Well Being little Swallow on gunmetal grey background @ Nature's Choice
- L Fall From Grace little Swallow on beautiful dark slate grey background @ Heavenly Beauty and The Court House (the hall of earthly shame). Represents the biblical fall from grace and heaven of the Archangel Gabriel and of course Oscar Wilde's fall from grace from his height of success in 1895 with his play The Importance of Being Earnest playing in the West End to his court trials and imprisonment the very same year.
- R **Psalm 46** little Swallow on the gable wall by @ Enniskillen Presbyterian Church
- R The *Soprano* little Swallow @ *Impartial Reporter* flies with outstretched arms towards the Blue Plaque citation 'Joan Trimble: composer, teacher and concert pianist. Proprietor of The Impartial Reporter 1967-2000.
- R The *Impartial* little Swallow @ *The Impartial* Reporter







TOWN HALL STREET 8 little swallows

Viewing Walk Duration – allow 4 mins







- L *Regal* little Swallow on magnolia @ *The Bees Knees* Regal Street & Town Hall Street
- L *Blooming Lovely* little Swallow on gunpowder blue-grey background @ *Blooming Lovely*. In memory of Amanda McManus 1985-2021, teacher Portora Royal School, Enniskillen Royal Grammar School
- R Corner Bar little Swallow on light blue-grey @ The Corner Bar
- R Little Swallow on peeling light blue-grey @ Nugents Entry flying to Happy Prince
- R Gourmet little Swallow @ Gourmet Bros. (NB this swallow's stomach paunch!)
- R Coffee Fix little Swallow on pale cream @ Between the Bridges
- L *Golden Gate* little Swallow @ *Castle Place* diving through golden gates to a residential paradise
- R Carefree little Swallow @ Carefree Travel lone traveller thinking of Egypt and warmer climes high on pale cream background.

"All the next day he sat on the Prince's shoulder and told him stories of what he had seen in strange lands. He told him of the red ibises, who stand in long rows on the banks of the Nile, and catch gold-fish in their beaks; of the Sphinx, who is as old as the world itself, and lives in the desert, and knows everything; of the merchants, who walk slowly by the side of their camels, and carry amber beads in their hands; of the King of the Mountains of the Moon, who is as black as ebony, and worships a large crystal; of the great green snake that sleeps in a palm-tree, and has twenty priests to feed it with honey-cakes; and of the pygmies who sail over a big lake on large flat leaves, and are always at war with the butterflies." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde





Viewing Walk duration - allow 4 mins

Follow in a clockwise direction:

- L *Bridie's Birdie* little Swallow high on white background far corner @ *Pat's Bar*, High street facing on entering the Diamond from the east
- L **Number 1** little Swallows @ Pat's Bar No 1 Diamond and One Destination Niteclub
- L *Match Girl* little Swallow with sapphire on a beautiful blue-grey background above gold lettering @ *Lydia's* The Diamond + a second little Swallow on bluegrey background. Lydia the shopkeeper as a younger girl once sold her wares with a stall on the Diamond.

"He swooped past the match-girl, and slipped the jewel into the palm of her hand. "What a lovely bit of glass," cried the little girl; and she ran home, laughing." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

- L Lorena's little Swallow @ Lorena's Nail Parlour The Diamond
- R Catch me if you can three little Swallows at play on white background @ Houston's

On the side wall of Houston's opposite Town Hall is a mural in the style of a children's book cover of *The Happy Prince* commissioned by Enniskillen BID in response to Arts Over Borders' *Flight of the Little Golden Swallow*. Designed and painted by Ace Spray Works.

R - Big Ears little Swallow @ The Town Hall – eavesdropping on the councillors in the Council Chamber

He (the Happy Prince) was very much admired indeed. "He is as beautiful as a weathercock," remarked one of the Town Councillors who wished to gain a reputation for having artistic tastes; "only not quite so useful," he added, fearing lest people should think him unpractical, which he really was not." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

- R Free Kick little Swallow @ The Town Hall well, you'll have to visit the Town Hall soldier high on his perch to understand the naming of this little swallow.
- R *Rebirth* little Swallow @ *The Town Hall* Foundation Stone of Town Hall 1900, the year Oscar Wilde died in Paris at the age of 46.

NBI











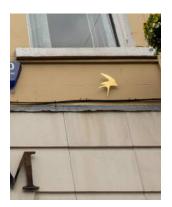


- R **Two little Swallows** on creamy white background @ Houston's
- R Two Most Precious Things little Swallows on grey @ Mercer's Jewellers
- R Crafty Swallow @The Works
- L *Distinguished Stranger* little Swallow on red brick @ Armstrong & Kingston

"Wherever he went the Sparrows chirruped, and said to each other, "What a distinguished stranger!" so he enjoyed himself very much." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

- L Two Lookout little Swallows @ The Crowe's Nest
- L *Nosey* little Swallow @ *Grahams* spying through the window from window ledge top
- R A Well Heeled Pair of little Swallows on cobalt blue @ John J Sloans Footwear
- R Visionary little Swallow @McGoverns Opticians

"Then the Swallow came back to the Prince. "You are blind now," he said, "so I will stay with you always." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde









BUTTERMARKET CRAFT CENTRE AREA 5 little swallows

Viewing Walk Duration - 5 mins

- I Turn R down Water Street to see the **Artisan** little Swallow on the blue entrance arch @ The Buttermarket Craft Centre, a little piazza of decorative arts shops & studios.
- L Hannas Swallow 1 little Swallow @Hanna's Electrical
- L The *Charitable* little Swallow @ Fermanagh Stroke Charity Shop

Then the Swallow flew back to the Happy Prince, and told him what he had done. "It is curious," he remarked, "but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold."

"That is because you have done a good action," said the Prince. And the little Swallow began to think, and then he fell asleep. The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

Charlies Angels little Swallows on terracotta red wall @ Charlie's Bar rear to see two of the most resplendent little swallows flying up as angels to St. Macartin's Cathedral (the third little angel Swallow is on the front façade of Charlie's Bar on Church St.)











Viewing Walk Duration - 8 mins







A crescendo of little swallows heading to St. Michael's Church and St. Macartin's Cathedral.

- R Thrifty little Swallow one little swallow @ Savers
- R *Tre Stagione* three little Swallows on green and pale cream @ *Little Wing Pizzeria*
- R *In Vogue* Swallow 1 little Swallow @Vogue Fashion store
- R Charlie's Angel third little Swallow @Charlie's Bar Opened in 1944, by Charlie, this family run pub enters its 3rd generation
- L *Two little Swallows* on a rich blue background @ Osborne & Co
- L *Get down and dirty* little Swallow on smudged white background @*Outdoor Active*
- L The *William Blake* little Swallow @ *William Blakes* the artist swallow that flies against the tide of all others in a different direction
- L Greengrocer's Pair of little Swallows on matt terracotta @ John Gillen & Son
- L Cuppa Tea little Swallow on linen white background @ Leslie's Tea Rooms

- L The **Apothecary** little Swallow on magnolia @ Erne Pharmacy
- L Charmed little Swallow on light pale blue @ Karisma
- L Little Swallow on light cream @ Dogstar
- L **Go Hunting** little Swallows on bare stone background @ Home Field & Stream
- L Holy Trinity little Swallows on gorgeous greenturquoise background @ Stewarts Butchers – rising up to St. Michael's Church
- R&L *God's Angels* little Swallows @ *St. Macartin's Cathedral* dove like swallows on the 17th century original stone church tower of St. Macartin's Church of Ireland and @ *St. Michael's Parish Church*.

"Bring me the two most precious things in the city," said God to one of His Angels; and the Angel brought Him the leaden heart and the dead bird.

"You have rightly chosen," said God, "for in my garden of Paradise this little bird shall sing for evermore, and in my city of gold the Happy Prince shall praise me." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde.



Viewing Walk Duration – 10 mins (walk finishing at Enniskillen Castle)

Where is the little Darling Street Swallow going? Follow the Swallow all the way towards Portora Hill

- R "Hello Darling!" little Swallow @ Darling Street look at Darling St sign
- R *Jolly* little Swallow on pea green background @ *The Jolly Sandwich*
- R Choo-Choo little Swallow @ Headhunters Railway Museum & Barbers
- R Safe Hands little Swallow on bare wall background @ Woman's Aid Centre
- R *Bean counter* little Swallow on bare wall/green window jambs @ *Crudden Dolan*.
- R Community little Swallow on pea green background @ Enniskillen Credit Union
- L Two **Swirling Devenishes** little Swallows on greyblack background @ Devenish Bar
- L & R Thank you for visiting our Island Town four little Swallows on bare wall exiting the island town flying south and north @ Darling St & Castle St + Queen St East Town Entrance







+ 2 little Swallows

The 'Follow the Swallow' island walk finishes with two swallows at the Enniskillen Castle Museum.

 L - Sacrifice and Pledge little swallows @ Enniskillen Castle

+ 2 little Swallows

From Darling Street the little Swallow flight continues off the island to Portora:

- Little Swallow @ The Lough Inn off island at end of the bridge
- the *Dramatist* little Swallow with sapphire
 Enniskillen Royal Grammar (Portora Royal School, private grounds)

Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow," said the Prince, "far away across the city I see a young man in a garret. ... He is trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theatre, but he is too cold to write any more. My eyes are all that I have left. They are made of rare sapphires, which were brought out of India a thousand years ago. Pluck out one of them and take it to him. He will sell it to the jeweller, and buy food and firewood, and finish his play." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde



11 other homeward bound little Swallows

The little swallow's flight back to the Happy Prince after bringing the gold and jewels to the town:







Island North via Queen Elizabeth road:

- Gaeilgeoir little Swallow @ Enniskillen Library the little swallow flies over the word library making a fada (a gaelic inflection) above the 'a'. Back of library by carpark.
- I The *Tale Telling* two little Swallows @ *Enniskillen Library* above the sign flying back to the Happy Prince.

"Dear little Swallow," said the Prince, "you tell me of marvellous things, but more marvellous than anything is the suffering of men and of women. There is no Mystery so great as Misery. Fly over my city, little Swallow, and tell me what you see there." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

- Jimmy's little Swallow on cream background @ Modern Tyres. Family run business started by Jimmy Byrne in 1965.
- Frank's hungry little river Swallow on red background @ Franco's. A little swallow overlooking the river returning to the Happy Prince statue)
- Soaring Stars two little Swallows on cream

background @ Presbyterian Church Hall – high up pointing to the Happy Prince statue

"All night long he watches the stars, and when the morning star shines, he utters one cry of joy, and then he is silent." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

A Flying High little Swallow on blue background @ Clinton Centre – the highest of the 150 swallows

Island south returning home via Wellington St:

- Paradise little Swallow @ Eden
- The **Enterprising** Swallow @Fermanagh House
- Gelate little Swallow @ Mauds ice cream parlour opposite Erneside Shopping Centre

NB other homeward bound little swallows are on Belmore St (Hamilton Finlay, Horseshow & Saddlers, Fermanagh Herald and Ferguson's Solicitors) and to the east (Westville Hotel and Belmore Court Hotel).

NB 20 Homeward Bound Swallows in total.



24 outlier little Swallows - off the island







The Dreaming Swallows @ 12 schools

"He looks just like an angel," said the Charity Children as they came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks and their clean white pinafores.

"How do you know?" said the Mathematical Master, "you have never seen one."

"Ah! but we have, in our dreams," answered the children; and the Mathematical Master frowned and looked very severe, for he did not approve of children dreaming." The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

- @ Model Primary School
- @ Erne Integrated PS
- Ø Jones Memorial
- Moly Trinity
- @ St. Joseph's School
- @ St. Michael's School
- @ Mt. Lourdes School
- @ Enniskillen Royal Grammar School
- @ WillowBridge
- @ Devenish College
- @ St Fancheas College
- @ Erne Integrated Collegee

The Hospitable little Swallows @ 5 Hotels

"I will put up there," he cried; "it is a fine position, with plenty of fresh air." So he alighted just between the feet of the Happy Prince.

"I have a golden bedroom," he said softly to himself as he looked round, and he prepared to go to sleep;" The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

- @ Westville Hotel east 500 yards from Enniskillen Island Town
- @ Belmore Court Hotel east 500 yards from Enniskillen Island Town
- @ Killyhevlin Hotel east half mile form Enniskillen Island Town
- @ Lough Erne Hotel west 3 miles from Enniskillen Island Town
- @ Enniskillen Hotel beside Forthill Park

The Flirting little Swallows with the reeds on Lough Erne

- @ Devenish Island north
- @Waterways Ireland south
- @ Ardhowen Theatre east





3 little Swallows, two with rubies

"Far away," continued the statue in a low musical voice, "far away in a little street there is a poor house. One of the windows is open, and through it I can see a woman seated at a table. Her face is thin and worn, and she has coarse, red hands, all pricked by the needle, for she is a seamstress...In a bed in the corner of the room her little boy is lying ill. He has a fever, and is asking for oranges. His mother has nothing to give him but river water, so he is crying. Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword-hilt?" The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

- @ The Work House represents the 19th century poor house In The Happy Prince story
- @ The Ambulance Service little Swallow
- @ South West Acute Hospital, the children's ward a contemporary acknowledgement of illness and cure.











Concept Origination:



Artists: Simon Carman and Helen Sharp









