Mizen Guide

**MIZEN CAFÉ**

**AC1** Photograph Original Bridge *Brian O’Connell*

**AC2 Photograph ILV Granuaile passing Bere Island. She is the Irish Lights Vessel that goes round the coast servicing the Lightbuoys and Weather Buoys. John Eagle**

**AC3 illuminated display of the Commissioners of Irish Lights Lighthouses and Navigational AIDS round the coast of Ireland. The postcard collection was created by John Eagle. The photographs were taken, usually during a ride cadged from the helicopter hired by the Irish Lights to service inaccessible lighthouses, over a period of 20 years. This meant that conditions for taking the photos were within the limits needed to fly a helicopter. The collection is historic because between 2015- 2019 the Irish Lights have modified the lighthouses to utilise LED Lights with solar, wind and wave energy. The original Fresnel lights have been discontinued. More details at** [**www.irishlights.ie**](http://www.irishlights.ie) **In later years John acquired several drones and enjoyed taking more adventurous photos in wild weather until his untimely death in 2018.**

**AC4 Fresnel Lens. There is one at either end of the room over the doors.**

**A Fresnel lens is a type of composite compact lens originally developed by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel for lighthouses. It has been called "the invention that saved a million ships."**

**The design allows the construction of lenses of large aperture and short focal length without the mass and volume of material that would be required by a lens of conventional design. A Fresnel lens can be made much thinner than a comparable conventional lens, in some cases taking the form of a flat sheet. A Fresnel lens can capture more oblique light from a light source, thus allowing the light from a lighthouse equipped with one to be visible over greater distances.**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresnel\_lens#**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresnel_lens)

**Most Irish lighthouses had Fresnel Lens which gave their lights a much brighter light over a longer distance than the LED lights.**

**AC5 Film of Mizen Head Signal Station and some men who worked here. This film was made by Tish Barry and Ted Dolan RTÉ in 2000.**

**AC6 The Fastnet Rock Lighthouse John Eagle**

**AC7 Calf Rock**

**AC8 Map showing the Lighthouses and navigational marks round Ireland**

**A. Lighthouses**

**B. Life Floats**

**C. Fog Signals**

**D. All sea marks**

**AC9. Photographs of the Lighthouses of SW Ireland John Eagle The characteristics of each lighthouse are now superseded by the LED Lights.**

**ILV Granuaile https://www.irishlights.ie/safety-navigation/ilv-granuaile.aspx**

**AC9a Old Head of Kinsale Lighthouse**

**AC9b Galley Head Lighthouse**

**AC9c The Beacon Baltimore**

**AC9d The Fastnet Rock Lighthouse**

**Ac9e Rock Island Lighthouse, Crookhaven**

**AC9f Mizen Head Fog Signal Station**

**AC9g Sheep’s Head Lighthouse**

**AC9h Roancarrigmore Lighthouse**

**AC9i Ardnakinna Point Lighthouse, Bere Island**

**AC9j Calf Rock**

**AC9k Bull Rock**

**AC9l Skellig Michael Lighthouse**

**AC9m Inishtearaght Lighthouse**

**AC9n Cromwell Point**

**AC10a Flora, Fauna and Ancient Sites Photographs Richard Mills**

**AC10b Bird Life at the Mizen on Land and at Sea Photographs Richard Mills**

**AC11 Table Tops. Admiralty Charts**

**AC11a 1840: Bantry Bay Black Ball Head to Shot Head**

**AC11b 2552: Dunmanus Bay**

**AC11c 2129 Long Island Bay to Castlehaven**

**AC11d 2184: Mizen Head to Gascanane Sound**

**AC11e 1838: Bantry to Shot Head inclusive of Bantry Bay Oil Terminal**

**AC11f 2092: Toe Head to Old Head of Kinsale**

**Models of Boats**

**Photograph Waves crashing over. Row head Richard Mills**

**ENTRANCE HALL**

**Art installations by Sheena Woods The Ewe Experience, Glengarriff, Co Cork**

**AE1 Time on Your Hands Lighthouse Keeper‘S Hobbies. Fishing, Baking, Painting, Making Ships in Bottles**

**AE2 Sky to Seabed Mural. Every tile was made by Sheena using local materials from mussel shells to Sand and ground rock.**

**AE3 Waves over the rocks. Water installation. Mosaics made from splinter tiles.**

**Washrooms**

**AW1 Display of Brochures of local activities and accommodation**

**FASTNET HALL**

**AF1 Mizen Gift Shop**

**AF2 Night Sky at Mizen Head Mural Jules Thomas**

**AF3 Ticket Desk**

**Local interest**

**AF4 Display of tools used by James Kavanagh, Foreman for the building of the Fastnet Rock Lighthouse 1896-1903**

**AF5 Celebration of the Life of Tom Barry. Tom was born on a farm over the mountain next to the Mizen in the town land of Caher in . He worked at the Mizen and lived to the great age of 107. He was born in**

**AF6 Model of the Mizen donated by Goleen ICA**

**AF7 Georgian Treatise on Lighthouses donated in memory of Jim Kenny TD, Mayor of Limerick**

**AF8 The Shamrock, a West Cork Traditional Boat**

**AF 9 Fastnet Centenary Board**

**AF10 1/10th scale cutaway model of the Fastnet Lighthouse**

**AF11 The Mizen Peninsula coast seen from the Fastnet Mural Jules Thomas**

**AF12 Old Lobster Pot, Old lifejacket, Laundry Basket, Wishing Well**

**AF13 Fastnet Lighthouse photographs**

**AF14 Fastnet Safety At Sea board**

**HALLWAY**

**AF15 Photographs**

**MIZEN HALL**

**AM1 Display of Recovery of the SS Irada Propellor**

**AM2 Ships passing Mizen Head and the Fastnet**

**AM3 Whales and Dolphins Photos**

**AM4 Scale Architectural Model of the Mizen Head Site**

**AM5 Emergency at sea Rescue Mission Working Clock**

**AM6 Tide ebbing and flowing in Goleen Harbour video**

**AM7 Tidal pools with tide clock Mural Jules Thomas**

**AM7a Tidal Pools Legend**

**AM8 History of Mizen Peninsula**

**AM9 Weather**

**AM10 Mizen Geological Sequence Dioramas**

**AM10a Box 1 Environmental Model of Southwest Munster at the beginning of the Carboniferous Period (about : 355 MX)**

**AM10b Sketch Model of the bedrock of Southwest Ireland during the Permian Period (about 290MA)**

**AM10c Model of Southwest Ireland during the Jurassic Period showing cross section of the subsurface (about 208-144MA)**

**AM10d Model depicting the type of conditions existing in the Mizen region during the last Ice Age (although the Mizen was not covered in ice, it came as close as Bantry)**

**AM10e Model depicting the Topography of Mizen Head area as we see it today**

**AM11 Geology Map of Ireland**

**AM12 Photos of the development of Mizen Head Experience from 1991-2007**

**AM13 Dr. Daphne Pochin Mould An appreciation**

**SIMULATOR HALL**

**AS1 Navigational AIDS Simulator**

**AS2 Radio Ship’s Telegraph**

**AS3 Maritime Signals International Codes**

**AS3 Hands Lighthouse Keepers’ Hobbies David Shaw Smith RTE**

**AS5 1931 Radio Beacon Plans**

**AS6 Competition Plans for the original Bridge**

**AS7 Mizen Head and Fastnet Shipwrecks Display**

**AS8 Fastnet Centenary Photographic Exhibition The building of the Fastnet Lighthouse by C W Scott 1899-1905 Commissioners of Irish Lights**

**AS9 Fastnet Rock Installation Sheena Jolley**

**AS10 Inshore Fishing Boat Variable Pitch Propellor Donated by Timmy Griffin, Goleen**

**THE LOOKOUT**

**(Upstairs)**

**AL1 Mizen Bridge Demolition and Reconstruction**

**AL1a Construction of the new Bridge video**

**AL1b Drawings and Plans of the demolition and reconstruction of the Bridge**

**AL2 Framed Jigsaws of Lighthouses round the World and Sailing Ships & Seafaring**

**AL3 Irish Lights Official Flag**

**AL6 Bird Recognition AV**

**AL7 Wildlife and Birdlife around the Mizen Peninsula Offshore & Cliffs, Seashore, Wetland & Freshwater, Inland & Mountain, Hedgerow. Murals Jules Thomas**

**AL8 Little Egret, Chough, Kittiwake, Fulmar, Gannet Photographs Mike Brown**

**AL9 Navigational Marks round Ireland Map**

**AL10 The Keeper’s Bedroom (reconstruction)**

**AL11 The Keeper’s Kitchen (reconstruction)**

**AL12 Lighthouse Keeper’s Daily Routine Board**

**AL13 Whales and Dolphins Maritime Poster**

**AL 14 Whales, Dolphins and Sealife Underwater Model**

**Stairs from THE LOOKOUT**

**AL15 2184 Mizen Head to Gascanane Sound Map**

**AL16 Photographs**

**ON THE WAY**

**The path from the car park to the point**

**W1 MAST – Pulse 8 – The very high mast belongs to Racal-Decca. It was originally erected as part OF the DeccaLink navigation system which was subsequently upgraded to the Global Positioning System (GPS).**

**W2 RADIO BEACON MASTS. The radio beacon is controlled by computer now, but these masts were used for the operation of the radio beacon in conjunction with the grey control cabinet in the keeper’s kitchen.**

**W3 FORELAND BUOY. This floating buoy guarded the entrance to Belfast Lough at Foreland. It was anchored to the ground with a heavy chain and harness just like the one down outside the fence near the engine room. Each buoy has its own signal, just like a light-house. Buoy Character 0.6 x 5.4 – a 6 second flash every minute. Buoy weight: 8.5 tons with the six gas bottles, 7 tonnes without bottles. The Irish Lights vessel GRANUAILE is fitted with buoy lifting gear and moves constantly around the coast checking all the buoys.**

**W4 PROPELLER. The propeller is from the SS IRADA which went down 22.12.08. She was 8124 tons 501’ built by JH Welsford & Co 1900. Southwest gale and fog. Caught between island and mainland at north side of Mizen Head. Irish Lights workers building the fog station helped survivors. Capt. Arthur Wellesley Roberts and five crew died and were buried in Kilmoe. Cargo: 21,000 cotton bales and other goods such as copper ingots valued at £250,000. The Lloyds agent at Bere where much of the cargo washed up, contacted Capt. Hugh Williams, the owners representative and a boat, the PERSEVERANCE, was hired from Cork to carry the cargo to a larger steamer for transport to Liverpool.**

**W5 2 CIL HUTS / FENCING The CIL have two buildings – one is a mess hut and the other contains the computer equipment which monitors the functions of the signal station. The information is monitored by computer in the CIL Dun Laoghaire office. The red pipes use to form the fencing before the green safety wire was added carrying water and oil from the tanks at the top**

**CLIFF PATHS**

**W6 Path down to Point**

**W6a VIEWING PLATFORM, CAVES, NATURAL ARCH. The viewing platform down the cliffs to the south of the car park has been made at the top of the old steps leading down to a landing stage which was built to provision the Mizen Head signal station by sea. When land travel was still difficult provisioning by sea was quicker an easier. The natural arch and the caves have been formed by the sea. In one 0of the caves lie the cannons of the French Armada ship ‘L’Impatiente’ which sank with the loss of 563 men and several hundred horses in December 1796 on their way to Bantry. Only seven men were saved.**

**W6b Path overlooking Bridge and views to North**

**W6c Path to Dunlough Bay view**

**W6d Path to DERRICK PLINTH & PATH. To provision the Mizen, the bridge was completed and for building the bridge there was a derrick on the concrete plinth south of the bridge. There is a photo of this in the Visitor’s Book Room.**

**W7 FASTNET CENTENARY MEMORIAL. In 1810, there were only three lights on the southwest coast of Ireland at Loop Head (at the mouth of the River Shannon), on Clear Island and on The Old Head of Kinsale. There was also an old light at Charlesfort in Kinsale Harbour. In 1826, two lighthouses were erected on the Great Skelligs and in 1848, after a tragedy in 1847 when 100 lives were lost off Cape Clear when the US ship the Steve Whitney sank, it was decided to build a lighthouse on the Fastnet or Fastness Rock as the Clear Island lighthouse was too high and prone to fog. The original Fastnet Lighthouse was built in 1854. It was a cast iron structure which proved to be too weak to withstand the power of the sea. A lighthouse at the Calf Rock of the same design collapsed into the sea. It was decided to build a new lighthouse designed by Sir William Douglass, the Engineer for the Irish Lights Board. A new tower was built from 2074 interlocking blocks (4,300 tons) of Cornish granite between 1899-1903 at a cost of £84,000. This was a magnificent engineering feat topped by a powerful biform oil light which can be seen for 28 miles. It is in a unique position as it is the first landfall after America. For many decades it was the most important light-house in the world.**

**​The Fastnet Rock was called the Tear Drop of Ireland. It was the last land seen by emigrants. The Fog Horn sounds 4 times very 60 seconds and the light can be seen for 28 miles. (The Bull Rock fog horn sounds twice very 60 seconds and the light can be seen for 31 miles).**

**W8 99 STEPS/ WALKWAY. The steps were built when the bridge was built. As you can see in the photos in the Visitor’s Book Room.**

**W9 RADIO BEACON PLINTH. In 1931 a wireless beacon was installed. The remains of the beacon can be seen on the hillside in the concrete plinths either side of the bridge. The beacon spanned the whole chasm and the little hut on the right-hand side over the bridge was the first radio beacon transmission hut. The CIL plans of this can be seen in the Perspex frames in the Simulator Hall.**

**W10 TANKS. The large red tanks held oil and water. The oil and water were transported down to the Signal Station in red pipes..**

**W11 THE BRIDGE. On October 18th, 1907 sanction was given for the erection of a reinforced concrete bridge to be built by Messrs. Thorne & Co at a cost of £1272. As the Mizen Fog Signal Station is on Cloghane Island a suspension bridge was built form 1908 being finished in March 1910. This is very unusual as it is a very early design made of reinforced concrete which has a longer lifespan than steel in the fog and sea-spray. It is 172’ across and 150’ above sea-level. The aggregate was obtained from the hard, local rock; even the sand used was crushed from the same rock. The ‘skins’ of the four ribs were cast on the mountainside and slung into position by means of a cableway. Then the cores of the ribs, the crown of the arch and the pathway were cast in situ. See newspaper cutting. Demolition and rebuilding. The full story is in the Lookout (upstairs in the Visitor Centre)**

**W12 SEALS. These are grey or Atlantic seals which are fish eating animals. The male or Bull has a longer nose and his coat is black with white spots whereas the cow is white with black spots. They are mature at 5-6 years and the pups are born between September and early November. The pup is born with white fur for the first 3-4 weeks and is suckled on land by the mother. Sand eels, squid, herring and cod form a large part of their diet as well as angler, salmon and more commercial fish. They are opportunistic and take whatever is easiest to conserve energy. They can spend as long as 15 minutes under water, so they accumulate masses of toxic respiratory wastes in their bodies, so they spend quite a lot of time hauled out recovering. There are large colonies or rookeries of seals living on islands in Dunmanus Bay. They breed in June and July when the cows haul themselves ashore to give birth to the pups. They feed the pups on their rich milk for several weeks living on fat reserves before mating and returning to the sea.**

**W13 EXPLOSIVES HUT. The explosives for the fog signal was stored in this concrete hut with a steel lined door. The fog signal started 3rd May 1909. On May 21st, 1920, Mizen Head was raided by armed men and practically all the explosives were removed. As no protection was offered to the station by the Government, the Board stated that all Explosive Fog Signal Stations around the coast would be closed down. The fog signal was re-established on February 29th, 1924. The Fog Signal was an explosive charge of aluminium tonite which was attached to a harness outside the Fog Signal House which was the house at the very end of the Mizen and detonated two explosions in quick succession at 7 ½ minute intervals throughout fog. The explosive fog signal was withdrawn finally in 1969 with the troubles in the North and more importantly the rise of satellite and racon navigation.**

**W15 DERRICK PLINTH & PATH. To provision the Mizen, the bridge was completed and for building the bridge there was a derrick on the concrete plinth south of the bridge. There is a photo of this in the Visitor’s Book Room.**

**W16 Clapper Buoy, Buoy Chains.**

**W17 Sundial**

**W18 Irish Lights Emergency Lights**

**W19 Rocks**

**MIZEN HEAD SIGNAL STATION**

**The Original Visitor Centre - Mizen Vision! 1994-2001**

**ENGINE ROOM**

**BE1 Engine Room**

**BE2 Audio usually The Land is the Danger Norris Davidson RTE**

**BE3 Generator**

**BE4 Signalling flags**

**BE5 Small Room**

**BM1 Marconi Room**

**BM2 Radio**

**BM3 Cupboard of Memorabilia and Equipment**

**BM4 Whisper in the Air Video Tom Perlmutter**

**KEEPERS’ QUARTERS**

**BK1 Keepers’ Quarters**

**BK2W1 Whale Room**

**BKW2 Weather Station**

**KITCHEN**

**BKK1 Kitchen**

**BKK2 Stove, Pots and Pans**

**BKK3 Radio**

**BKK4 Keeper having breakfast**

**BEDROOM**

**BKB1 Bedroom**

**BKB2 Keeper in Bed**

**BKB3 Cupboards with memorabilia**

**FASTNET ROOM**

**BKF1 Fastnet Room**

**BKF2 Building of the Fastnet Lighthouse Cartoon by Emmet O’Neill**

**BKF3 Fresnel Lens**

**BKF4 Cutaway Model of a room at the Fastnet**

**UNDERWATER ROOM**

**BKU 1 Underwater Room**

**BKU2 Fish**

**BKU3 Wreck**

**BKU4 Wreck**

**BKU5 Wreck**

**BKU6 Wreck**

**BKU7 Underwater at the Mizen Video**

**FASTNET AT NIGHT**

**BKS1 Storm at the Fastnet**

**CORRIDOR**

**BKC1 Murals**

**WORKMEN’S QUARTERS**

**BW1 Workmen’s Quarters**

**BW2 Birds of the Mizen Peninsula Mural Jules Thomas**

**BW3 Flora of the Mizen Peninsula Mural Jules Thomas**

**BW4 Butterflies of the Mizen Peninsula Mural Jules Thomas**

**BW5 Moths of the Mizen Peninsula Mural Jules Thomas**

**BW6 Flowers of Mizen Head Bennett**

**MAP COLLECTION**

**BWM1 Map Collection**

**DIVE ROOM**

**BWD1 Dive Room**

**Timeline**

**TL1**

**Mizen Information and e-Centre**

**MEC1**

**Miscellaneous**

**MISC1. Pic Mizen**

**MISC2 Pic Bridge**

**MISC3 Pic Fastnet West**