

Heritage Ireland

Issue 6 SUMMER 2017



ORMOND CASTLE

also this issue...

A ROYAL VISIT | CORMAC'S CHAPEL | SKELLIG MICHAEL



Contents

in this issue...



6



20

Ormond Castle re-opens



42

National Heritage Week Events 2017

NEWS

- 3 **Welcome**
- 4 **Contributors**
- 4 **Royal Visit to Farmleigh Gallery**
- 6 **Royal Visit to Kilkenny Castle**
- 8 **Royal Visit to Áras an Uachtaráin**
- 10 **Royal Visit to the National Botanic Gardens**
- 11 **Launch of the OPW 185 Exhibition**
Portumna Castle
- 13 **Oidhreacht**
An exhibition of work by OPW apprentices
- 16 **Dublin Castle goes online!**
- 17 **Skellig Michael**
opens on schedule despite significant rock fall

FEATURES

- 20 **Ormond Castle**
re-opens to the public following extensive works
- 24 **Cormac's Chapel, Rock of Cashel**
Conservation Works

- 28 **Pearse Museum – 2016 and beyond**
- 32 **Knowth**
- 25 **Timahoe Round Tower**
- 38 **The Williamite War**
connecting Irish Heritage Sites
- 42 **National Heritage Week**
19-27 August

EVENTS' GUIDE

- 44 **Irish Sign Language Interpreted Tours**
- 45 **Ormond Castle Open to the Public**
- 46 **National Botanic Gardens**
Exhibitions & Events July - August 2017
- 49 **Kilmacurragh Events**
- 50 **OPW185 Exhibition May 26th - Oct. 31st**
- 52 **Twenty Free Things To Do This Summer**
Free entry to selected OPW heritage sites



Welcome

Welcome to the sixth issue of Heritage Ireland, bringing you news and features on Ireland's wonderful heritage sites and cultural institutions.

Summer has finally arrived and so begins a busy season for our heritage sites and cultural institutions. At the end of August, we are expecting over 450,000 people to participate in over 2,000 heritage events being organised as part of National Heritage Week. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get involved, or to plan a visit to a variety of heritage sites around the country that have opened their doors over the summer months. To help you to decide where to go, we have features on a selection of heritage sites across the country, including Knowth, Co Meath, the Pearse Museum in Dublin, Timahoe Round Tower in Co. Laois and the sites associated with the Williamite War - Casino Marino, Rathfarnham Castle, Castletown House and, of course, the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre.

We are also very excited about the re-opening of Ormond Castle, Co. Tipperary, which is looking stunning after an extensive programme of works. Cormac's Chapel at the Rock of Cashel is also looking its best following the completion of works to protect its rare wall paintings.

We hope you enjoy learning about our past through the wonderful historic sites and events all over the country. Please visit our websites at www.heritageireland.ie and www.ahg.gov.ie for more information about our heritage sites and cultural institutions.

► *Main image:* The temple and Italian Garden and pond (designed by Howard Peto), from the Casita (teahouse) at Ilincullin Garden, Garinish Island, Co. Cork. The Island also boasts a Martello tower on its southern shore.
© Tourism Ireland.
Photo George Munday

► *Cover image:* Ormond Castle, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, one of Ireland's finest Elizabethan Manor Houses. After an extensive programme of conservation and refurbishment works by the OPW, Ormond Castle re-opened to the public on Thursday 29th June, 2017.

Heritage Ireland Ezine Contributors



NIAMH DONNELLAN is National Heritage Week Project Manager for the Heritage Council. With a BA in Ancient History and Archaeology from Trinity College Dublin and a background in cultural event marketing, she's in her element promoting Ireland's built, natural and cultural heritage. She has previously worked with some of Ireland's largest cultural celebrations including St. Patrick's Festival and Kilkenny Arts Festival.



SHANE LENEHAN is an information officer at The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre. He has studied at Maynooth University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Double Honours in History and Nua-Ghaeilge. He had an interest in Modern Irish History and the Gaelic Revival.



BRIAN CROWLEY is the curator of the Pearse Museum and has worked on a number of exhibitions for the OPW. He is also the current chairman of the Irish Museums Association. He has contributed essays to 'The Life and After- Life of P.H. Pearse' and 'Making 1916' and is the author of 'Patrick Pearse, A Life in Pictures'.



SHARON DOWNEY works at the World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne in Co. Meath. The archaeological landscape within Brú na Bóinne is dominated by the three well-known large passage tombs, Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth, built some 5,000 years ago in the Neolithic or Late Stone Age. Sharon has been Head Guide at Knowth for over 20 years.



JACKIE MCHALE is based in Claremorris, Co. Mayo. She has been with the Office of Public Works since 2007 and works in the National Monuments Section of the Heritage Service which is responsible for the preservation and management of all National Monuments in State care.



ROGHAN HEADEN is involved with Timahoe Heritage Centre in Co. Laois. Roghan's aim is to showcase the wonderful monastic heritage of Timahoe village including its famous Round Tower. He is passionate about preserving and promoting the Centre and the adjoining 11th century Round Tower with its Hiberno Romanesque style carved doorway.



BRIAN FLANAGAN is an information officer at The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre. He has studied at Dundalk Institute of Technology and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Resource.

NEWS

ROYAL VISIT TO *Farmleigh Gallery*

During his recent visit to Ireland HRH Prince Charles visited the 'Parks, Our Shared Heritage: The Phoenix Park, Dublin and The Royal Parks, London' exhibition at Farmleigh Gallery.

This exhibition is a unique collaboration between the Office of Public Works, The Royal Parks and the Hearsam Collection that chronicles, for the first time ever, the rich history of these breath-taking parks, spanning over three centuries. The international exhibition showcases artefacts, images, maps and paintings detailing the fascinating shared history between The Royal Parks and The Phoenix Park from their creation up to the present day.

The exhibition focuses on the following Park themes: - early years and formation, celebration and commemoration, people at play, military and the war years and park management. All of London's Royal Parks, St. James's Park, Richmond Park, Bushy Park, Greenwich Park, Green Park, Hyde Park, Regent's Park and Kensington Gardens are showcased alongside the Phoenix Park. The exhibition will transfer to the Mall Galleries in London in July 2017.



Please visit our Heritage
Ireland website at
www.heritageireland.ie

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Michael Loughran,
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Noreen Finnegan.

Layout & Design:
Sinéad Mallee





◀ *Left:* HRH Prince Charles presents Margaret Gormley, Chief Park Superintendent with a silver pen in recognition of the work she undertook on behalf of the OPW, project managing the Parks exhibition. The pen is engraved with the words 'Presented by HRH Prince Charles to M Gormley Farmleigh 11/5/17.'

▼ *Below:* L-R Margaret Gormley, Chief Park Superintendent, OPW, Daniel Hearsam, Hearsam Collection, HRH Prince Charles, Maurice Buckley, Chairman OPW, Lord Mayor of Dublin Brendan Carr and Dr. John McCullen.

Images © Maxwell Photography



Farmleigh House
Photo: © www.dublinimagelibrary.com





ROYAL VISIT TO *Kilkenny Castle*

HRH Prince Charles and his wife Camilla Duchess of Cornwall visited Kilkenny Castle in May 2017.

They were treated to a hurling demonstration by children from the local Gaelscoil and former Kilkenny Hurler Henry Shefflin and Kilkenny senior team manager Brian Cody. They were then greeted by a civic reception in Kilkenny Castle where they were welcomed by Minister for Foreign Affairs Charlie Flanagan and Minister of State at the OPW Sean Canney.







ROYAL VISIT TO *Áras an Uachtaráin*

During his recent visit to Ireland, Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, were greeted by President Michael D Higgins and his wife, Sabina, at Áras an Uachtaráin.

After signing the visitors' book in the Áras, followed by a meeting between the President and Prince Charles, the President and Sabina then accompanied their guests to the Peace Bell in the grounds of Áras an Uachtaráin, before going on to meet a small group of young people who have excelled in the fields of sport, art, music, science, agriculture and advocacy.





NEWS



HRH Prince Charles stopped off at the National Botanic Gardens during his four-day visit to Ireland in May.



Royal Visit to the National Botanic Gardens



Launch of the OPW 185 Exhibition at Portumna Castle

The OPW185 exhibition marking 185 years since an Act of Parliament in Westminster established the Office of Public Works [OPW], was welcomed to Portumna Castle by Minister Sean Canney on 26th May 2017.

The exhibition attempts to demonstrate the breadth of public works and services carried out by generations of OPW staff over the 185 years. The range and breadth of this work includes the design, construction, maintenance and management of piers, harbours, roads, coast guard stations, schools, barracks, garda stations, housing, asylums, office accommodation, bridges, canals, courthouses, mines, quarries, prisons, railways, drainage, sewerage and water works, and post offices. The work of the organisation also includes the provision of furniture and artworks,

conserving and interpreting heritage sites, maintaining war graves, providing flood risk management and provision of visitor facilities.

A Timeline has been designed that is 18.5 metres long, which illustrates the Government Acts that have directed the work of the OPW; the main events in each decade; significant projects; the Chairmen of the Office Public Works and world events impacting on Ireland. The exhibition will remain on display in Portumna Castle until the end of October 2017.

Dates & times:

27 May to 18 October 2017, daily: 09.30 – 18.00

Additional Dates:

October 21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th, 30th & 31st
09.30 – 17.00

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www.heritageireland.ie/en/west/portumnacastleandgardens



Above: Portumna Castle

© Government of Ireland National Monuments Service Photographic Unit

Right: Sean Canney, Minister of State for OPW and Flood Relief with portrait of his father, Christy Canney, who worked for the OPW Photograph by David Ruffles

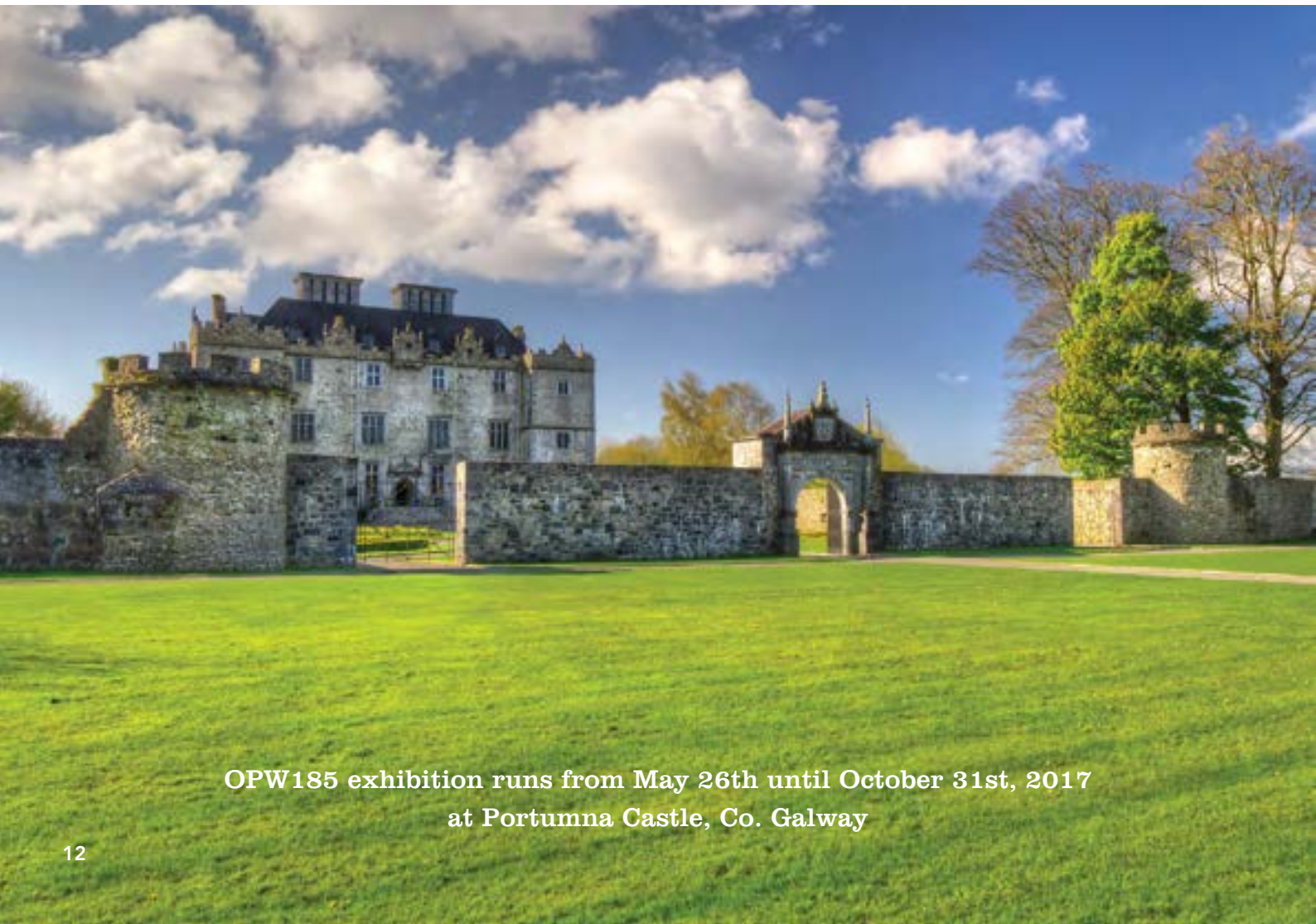




► Above: Maurice Buckley (Chairman OPW), Councillor Ivan Canning, Anne Rabbitte TD, Councillor Jimmy McCarron, Frank Shalvey, (OPW) Commissioner John McMahon (OPW), Sean Canney, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief and Geraldine Canney at the OPW185 Exhibition at Portumna Castle and Gardens, Co Galway. Photograph by David Ruffles.

► Above right: Minister Canney with Portumna Castle staff. Lynn Lascar-O'Keeffe, Marie Gibbs, Tony Hogan, Minister Canney, Heike Gorman and Brigid Lehní.

► Right: Grounds of Portumna Castle as viewed from the Castle steps.



OPW185 exhibition runs from May 26th until October 31st, 2017
at Portumna Castle, Co. Galway



Oidhreacht

An exhibition of work by OPW apprentices, went on display in OPW HQ, Trim, Co. Meath in May 2017 and, following a brief spell at Bloom, returned to Trim on display until the end June. The exhibition is on view at Ferns Castle Visitor Centre every day until late September.



TEXT BY JACKIE MCHALE

The mission of the OPW Heritage Service is to conserve and protect the built Heritage in the care of the State and to manage the natural and man-made collections, buildings, landscapes and artefacts entrusted to our care. Through interpretation, education and engagement with visitors and the wider public, we aim to inspire a strong ethos of respect for our heritage and a desire for its protection.

The bulk of the conservation and restoration work undertaken at National Monuments in State care is carried out by the OPW's direct labour force, operating from six regional depots at Athenry, Dromahair, Killarney, Kilkenny, Mallow and Trim. The Works Manager in each of these locations is in charge of a skilled team of craft, trade and general operatives. While always open to new techniques, best conservation practice dictates that, for authenticity, the skills used to preserve a structure should reflect those used at the

particular period in history when the structure was first erected. You will never see a nail where there was not a nail previously...

The Office of Public Works recognises the importance of handing on traditional skills and experience and our Apprenticeship Scheme for stonemasons, stonecutters and carpenters offers the

- ▲ Top of page:
At the opening of the Oidhreact Exhibition in OPW HQ, Trim
- ▲ Above:
OPW Logo - Robbie Donnelly - Kilkenny National Monuments District
- ▼ Below:
Getting ready to bloom at Bloom. The team responsible for moving and setting up the exhibition.



NEWS

opportunity to develop a unique set of skills to ensure that the expertise necessary to maintain our National Monuments into the future is retained and developed.

The National Monuments Apprenticeship Programme has been developed by SOLAS, the further Education and Training Authority in Ireland who has statutory responsibility for its management. The programme follows a modular pattern, taking four years to complete. It is divided into two elements, on-the-job training where the Apprentices get an opportunity to work on-site perfecting their skills while off-the-job training, delivered by Institutes of Technology and Education and Training Boards Ireland, concentrates more on theory.

Apprentices are being trained in a wide range of work activities. Our stonemasons and stonecutters are being trained in such areas as the finishing, engraving and restoration of stone. Carpenters receive similar training in the setting out, production and assembly of joinery and receive specific training on the traditional aspects of conservation carpentry.

The National Monuments Apprentices learn the basics of their craft in a college-based environment which they then bring with them to their on-the-job training.

Because of the nature of work in our National Monument Districts, there may not be the opportunity to develop some of the skills needed – such as inscription skills that are commonly used in monumental works.

To facilitate the training need, Craft Apprentices can select from a set-list of pieces that form part of the syllabus and work from a set of drawings or they can choose, in agreement with their mentor, to create individual pieces that will help them to perfect their individual skills.



- ▲ Above:
Oidhreacht Exhibit 'The Human Condition' by Seamus J May
- Right:
Alan Claffey, Dromahair Depot with Maurice Buckley, Chairman OPW
- 2nd from bottom:
Declan Fuery; Maurice Buckley, Chairman OPW
- ▼ Bottom right:
Bryan O'Mahony, Mallow Depot; Maurice Buckley, Chairman OPW
- ▼ Below: John Duffy, Trim Depot





Left:
Lorcan Dunne,
Athenry Depot;
Maurice Buckley,
Chairman OPW

Photos of the apprentices with their pieces and the
OPW Chairman Maurice Buckley
at the
Oidhreacht Exhibition in Trim.



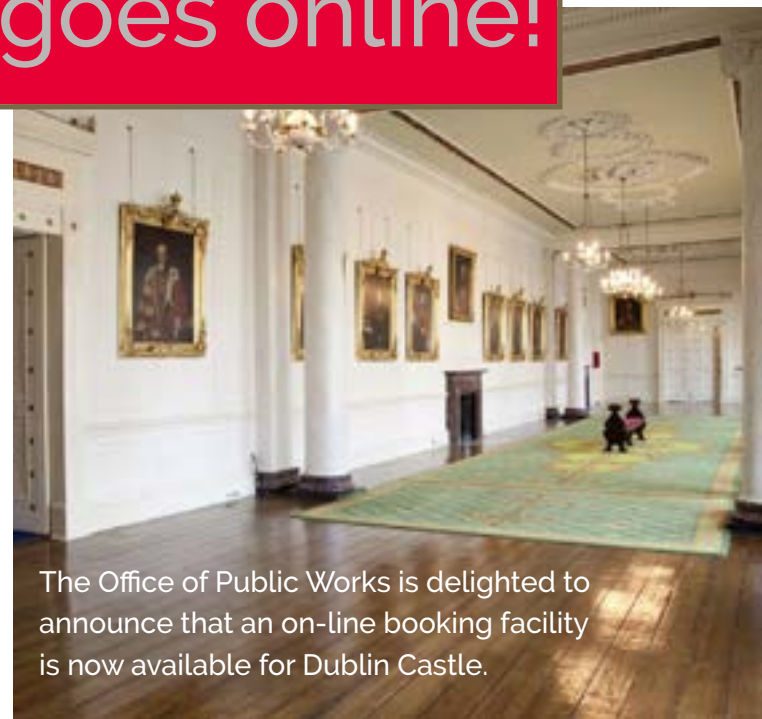
Centre, from L-R (all with Maurice Buckley):
Darragh O'Brien, Killarney Depot;
Patrick O'Rourke, Athenry Depot;
Thomas Donnelly, Trim Depot.
Above, from L-R:
Fred Browne, Killarney Depot;
Seamus May, Dromahair Depot;
Niall Byrne, Kilkenny Depot.
Left, from L-R:
Gerard Brennan, Trim Depot;
Wayne McDonnell, Mallow Depot.



Dublin Castle goes online!

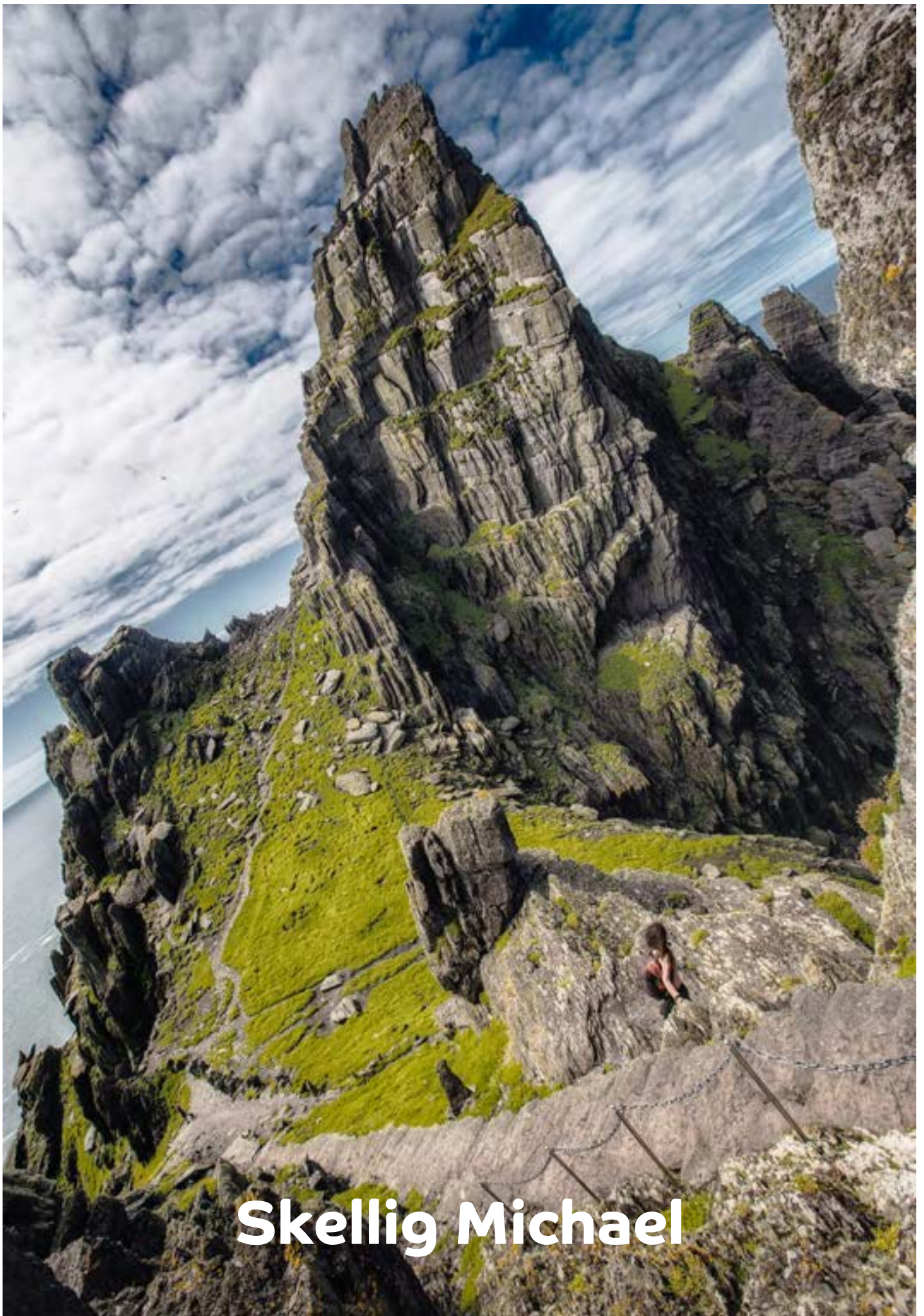


Tickets can be purchased in advance of your visit at www.dublincastle.ie



The Office of Public Works is delighted to announce that an on-line booking facility is now available for Dublin Castle.





Skellig Michael

Skellig Michael

opens on schedule
despite significant rock fall

Pre-season preparations discovered a significant rock fall at the famous Skellig Michael UNESCO World Heritage Site in Co. Kerry, with a large amount of material being deposited from upper slopes onto the roadway in an area vital to the OPW operation on the Island.

The rock fall was discovered in early April when staff of the OPW arrived at the Island to carry out the normal pre-season maintenance works and safety checks before the scheduled opening to visitors in mid-May. The OPW workers had been delayed somewhat by bad weather as is often the case when trying to get out to Skellig Michael in springtime.

Following the discovery the OPW mobilised immediately to visit the site with the specialist safety contractor to begin a detailed examination of the slopes concerned to try and assess if there was any further imminent danger of landslides or rock falls which threaten the safety of those either visiting or working there.

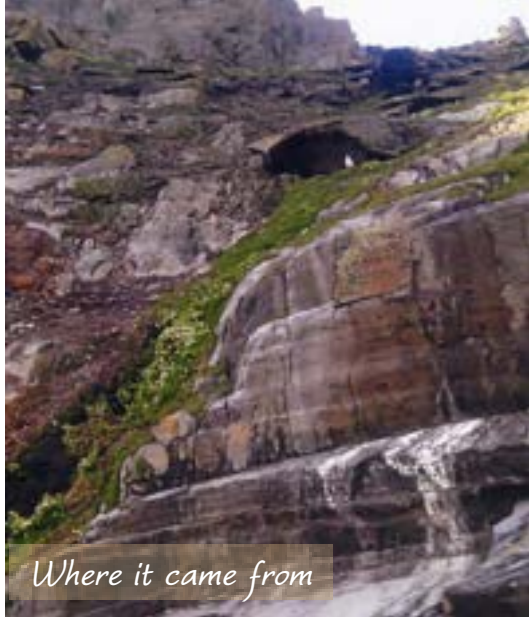
OPW staff usually spend up to three weeks making the Skellig site ready for visitors each year in advance of the mid May opening, addressing issues such as loosened steps, issues created by burrowing birds and winter storm damage. The level of rock fall this year was highly exceptional.

OPW staff and their safety contractor worked tirelessly to resolve these issues and following a final inspection by the OPW's structural engineer on the 10th May the go-ahead was given to allow Skellig Michael to open on schedule.





2nd rock fall



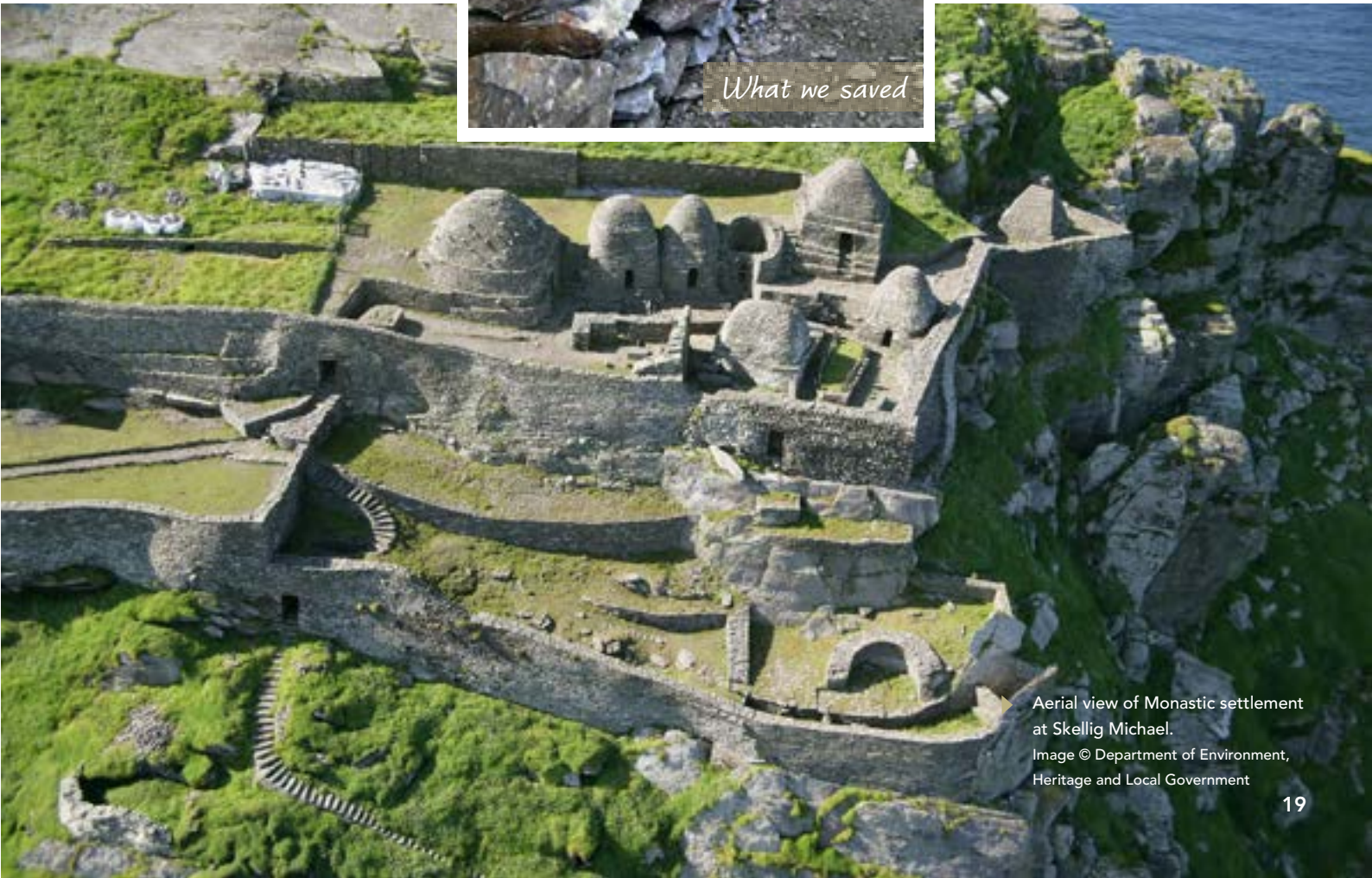
Where it came from



All cleaned up



What we saved



Aerial view of Monastic settlement at Skellig Michael.
Image © Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

Ormond Castle

Carrick on Suir



FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE WORKS
ORMOND CASTLE RE-OPENS
TO THE PUBLIC.

Ormond Castle, Carrick-on-Suir, situated at a strategic position on the River Suir, commands access to the town of Clonmel to the north and the busy port of Waterford to the south. The Castle we see today was mainly built between the 14th and mid-16th centuries. The site also encompasses the best example of an Elizabethan manor house in Ireland which was built by Thomas, the 10th Earl of Ormond in the 1560s. Closely integrated into the manor house are two 15th century towers. It is the country's only major unfortified dwelling from that turbulent period.





TEXT BY FLORA O'MAHONY
PHOTOS © OPW



- **Top:**
The overmantle of the fireplace in the Long Gallery, prior to restoration.
- **Left:**
Overmantle of fireplace after restoration, partial inscription reads: 'Thomas Butler' Earl of Ormond 1565'
- **Below centre:**
Wood panelled Earl's Chamber at Ormond Castle



Ormond Castle has the finest early examples of historically important, decorative plasterwork in Ireland. The interior of the manor contains some very fine examples, dating from between 1565 and 1575, a unique survival in Ireland.

Its decline appears to have started towards the end of the seventeenth century, when the Butlers left the house and moved north to Kilkenny. Since the Castle came into State care, various phases of work have staved off the worst potential damage to its structure. But, in recent times, problems with dampness due to water ingress have become greater and in 2014, were found to have significantly degraded the mechanical and electrical installations in the Castle, as well as compromising the remaining historic decorative plasterwork.

It is for this reason, that in 2014, the Office of Public Works made the decision to carry out major works on the structure. These works included the complete up-grade of the mechanical and electrical installations. Other works carried out include: the complete upgrade of fire and security systems, the installation of underfloor heating, the consolidation and conservation of historic internal plasterwork, scaffold and minor roof repairs, lightning



Above: One of the State Rooms at Ormond Castle

Below and Inset pic: Frieze of Queen Elizabeth I in the Long Gallery (photo from 1950s)



protection, the upgrading of existing storm water services and sewerage system, and the refurbishment of visitor and guide facilities.

One of the more ambitious aspects of the works was the decision to restore the

historic appearance of the castle by rendering the exterior of the building using a traditional lime render, accurately matching the castle's original exterior render. This facilitates the breathability and flexibility required for

such a structure while at the same time affording protection against the weather. All modern internal plaster and pointing both externally and internally that contained cement was removed and replaced with traditional lime-based materials.

In the past most of our much-loved stone buildings, including Ormond Castle, were rendered. We know this because the stones used to build the walls of Ormond are of poor quality and were not intended to be seen, or expected to be the final protection against the weather. This is further supported by the presence of "dressed" stone elements – especially around windows and other architectural features, that are of a quality and finish intended to be shown. Surviving plaster can be seen today on the earlier towers as well as on the Manor House. Samples of this plaster were taken, tested and replicated and the current project was carried out using a render mix not unlike the mix which was used originally.

In tandem with the building project, the OPW Heritage Service hope, with the support of Fáilte Ireland, to commission a new interpretative exhibition for the site, to tell its story to visitors over the years in a new and exciting way. This will position Ormond Castle as a key offering within Ireland's Ancient East and will open the way for new developments at the site. The hope of Fáilte Ireland and the OPW Heritage Service is that the newly presented and restored Castle will prove an irresistible draw to visitors to the South East and will ensure that many more tourists come to the area and stay longer, enjoying its many attractions.

Ormond Castle is open to the public from 29th June 2017 until 31st October 2017, 10am - 6pm daily.

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Email: ormondcastle@opw.ie

Website: www.heritageireland.ie



FLORA O'MAHONY is the architect responsible for the works at Ormond Castle. She is an RIAI registered architect, specialised in conservation.

Following completion of a BArch degree in 1996, at the School of Architecture, University College Dublin, Flora obtained a Masters in the Conservation of Historic Towns & Buildings at the prestigious R. Lemaire International Centre for Conservation at the K.U.Leuven, Belgium.

After working with the Council of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, Flora worked with Dublin based conservation architect, Paul Arnold. Flora then joined the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage ("NIAH") and advised Local Authorities in relation to the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures.

Since 2006, Flora has been working as a Conservation Architect with the National Monuments Service, Office of Public Works and is responsible for the management, maintenance and conservation of 123 National Monuments in the southeast of the Ireland, including such sites as Jerpoint Abbey, Nenagh Castle, Tintern Abbey and Ormond Castle.

► *Top right and centre: Long Gallery at Ormond Castle*

► *Bottom right: 19th century watercolour of Ormond Castle from the East, artist George Du Noyer (1817-1869) inscribed 'Thomas Butler Earl of Ormond's Castles of Carrick on Suir, erected a.d. 1565'.*

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National Monuments Service Photographic Unit

FEATURE ORMOND CASTLE



Cormac's Chapel

Conservation Works at Cormac's Chapel, Rock of Cashel, Co. Tipperary

TEXT BY MICHÈLE O'DEA, SENIOR ARCHITECT, HERITAGE SERVICES, OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS



Cormac's Chapel is the finest, most complete and probably one of the earliest Romanesque churches in Ireland. Cormac Mac Cárthaigh, King of Desmond (South Munster) began the building in 1127 and the completed structure was consecrated in 1134. It was built in the Romanesque style which arrived in Ireland in the early 12th century and Cormac's Chapel, one of the very earliest in this new style, is one of the most ornate.

Royal Paintings

The wall paintings in the chancel of Cormac's Chapel form the earliest known decoration of its kind in Ireland and date from the mid-12th century. The Paintings record scenes from the early Life of Christ.

Although much has been lost, the fragmentary wall paintings are the remains of one of the most important and sophisticated schemes of mural painting in the country. Painted in expensive and sophisticated pigments, employing techniques found throughout royal courts and high status churches and cathedrals in early medieval Europe, the paintings are one of a rare and dwindling number of examples which give an insight into the rich and colourful world of royal art in 12th century Ireland.



FEATURE CORMAC'S CHAPEL

paintings) is exposed and with which it will interact. The most significant parameters in the case of Cormac's Chapel are heat, moisture and light.

On the exterior, rainfall (liquid water) strikes the surface of the building. Some will run off to the ground and some will penetrate the walls where it dissolves the salts and other materials with which the building is contaminated. When the wind strikes the exterior and the rain dries on the surface, the salts will crystallise causing the surface of the stone to crumble. Where the water penetrates to the inside, it will allow algae and other micro-organisms to grow. These are not only visually intrusive but the physical structures by which they attached themselves to the stone and plaster dig into the surface causing deterioration. Furthermore, many of the micro-organisms give off corrosive materials, such as oxalic acid, as part of their lifecycle, which causes the material to which they are attached, particularly the chemically sensitive material such as paint layers, to deteriorate.

Evaporation of the water from the internal surfaces increases the humidity within the building which encourages microbiological attack to wider areas and also causes condensation on cold surfaces. The unstable moisture conditions then cause salt crystallisation and dissolution, as seen on the outside, causing damage to internal stonework and painting. Damage of this type is slow, chronic and irreversible.

Control and Conservation

The only way to control environmental deterioration of this kind is to ensure that the building is successful in removing rainwater from the structure and that the microclimate within the building can be effectively controlled.

In 2002, a programme of research was initiated to establish the areas in which the building structure was failing and to characterise the internal microclimate sufficiently accurately in order to allow it to be controlled. This involved a careful study of the building and the wall paintings themselves, including analysis of the plaster and painting materials and a detailed study

The conservation work on these paintings was begun by the Perry Lithgow Partnershipⁱ in 1986, and completed in 1997, and consisted of the painstaking removal with scalpels of the numerous layers of extremely hard-covering limewash which had calcified on to the surface. Loose plaster was reattached and extensive replastering using similar lime plaster was carried out.

However, following conservation, the sophisticated and complex original materials and techniques continued to be particularly vulnerable to the harsh environment in the exposed chapel, sitting high on the limestone bedrock outcrop at Cashel. In fact, the environmental conditions which posed a risk to the paintings continued to be a risk for the more durable stonework as they were slowly but irrevocably eroding surfaces and removing the rich and ornate detail.

Over the long term, environmental factors are just as likely to cause painting and sculpture to deteriorate with vital details fading or crumbling until they are entirely lost. Painted

surfaces are particularly vulnerable, not only because of the delicate materials in which they are painted but also because the visible surface is so thin. For example, if 1mm of the surface is lost from an area of carving, there might be a mild change in appearance. If 1mm erodes from the surface of a wall painting, that painting will be entirely lost.



The paintings are also more vulnerable than many other elements of the building as they are a laminate structure formed of a number of layers of differing materials, all of which can powder and flake in response to different environmental factors.

Environment deterioration refers to the collection of conditions in the air and ground to which the physical structure of the building (including the

◀ *Facing page:*
Chancel of Cormac's Chapel
and closeup of two of the
carved heads in the ceiling

▲ *Top of page:*
Wall paintings in the chancel
which date from the mid-12th
century, recording scenes
from the early Life of Christ

► *Centre:*
Cormac's Chapel interior,
prior to conservation

FEATURE CORMAC'S CHAPEL

of the environmental conditions using long-term environmental monitoring.

Tobit Curteis Associatesⁱⁱ commenced a project to monitor and gather data on humidity and temperature throughout the day and night in order to understand the effect of water penetration variations in temperature and air exchange between the internal and external spaces.

A roofed and enclosing scaffold was completed in 2010. Crucially, this allowed the building structure to begin to dry out as well as providing an access scaffold for repair work. This was a highly complex operation not only for structural reasons but also because of the very large volumes of rainwater that needed to be removed from the over-sailing roof of the scaffold. The scaffolding also provided a secure and safe working platform for the OPW workforce carrying out conservation and repairs to the masonry fabric under the direction of Foreman Liam Mulhall.

The results of this work formed the basis of the design for the repairs to the masonry structure and the installation of rainwater goods to ensure that the building envelope functions correctly. The resulting reduction in the volume of water within the structure lowered the level of internal evaporation and began to bring the conditions within the building under control. However, this alone was insufficient to improve the conditions to the required level and a system was designed to sample internal and external air and, when the external conditions were positive, to allow fans to operate thereby ventilating the internal space with drier air from the outside.



Alongside the environmental controls, a programme of treatment of the biodeterioration was carried out using ultraviolet radiation of the type employed in water purification in order to reduce the level of microbiological growth on the internal architectural surfaces, including carvings and paintings. Conservation treatment of the paintings has also taken place throughout this period, with the condition of the paintings having been carefully evaluated at regular intervals.

In combination with the repairs to the masonry structure, the active environmental control has been successful in reducing and stabilising moisture levels, thereby reducing the level of damage and salt activity. The



treatment of the microbiological growth has also been effective and the control of the environmental conditions has limited the extent to which it can easily re-establish itself causing further damage.

Conservation of this type is not a one-off operation and physical and environmental conditions will continue to be monitored in order to ensure that the architectural surfaces and paintings remain in good condition. However, the work that has been undertaken over the last fifteen years has ensured that these unique and important paintings are now in better condition and are better protected than has been the case throughout their recent history. Employing both traditional and innovative methods as part of the conservation of the building and wall paintings, the project at Cormac's Chapel can be considered to be one of the most advanced of its kind.





Left:
Cormac's Chapel before
and after conservation
works

Centre:
2. Cormac's Chapel nave
before and after
conservation



MICHÈLE O'DEA is a Senior Conservation Architect with the Office of Public Works. Michèle has worked in the Heritage Services, National Monuments division since 2000. She is currently responsible for the care and presentation of National Monuments in the West and North-West of Ireland.

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National Monuments Service
Photographic Unit

ⁱ Established in 1983 the Perry Lithgow Partnership operates throughout the UK and Ireland specialising in wall paintings, panel paintings and paintings on canvas and stone. The Partnership acts as Wall Painting Conservation Advisers to the National Trust.

ⁱⁱ Tobit Curteis Associates is a practice specialising in the investigation, monitoring and control of environmental deterioration in historic buildings and collections and the conservation of wall paintings and polychrome surfaces.

◀ *Facing page:*
Aerial view of Rock of
Cashel, Co. Tipperary

▼ *Below:*
Cormac's Chapel exterior
following conservation
works



MÚSAEM NA bPIARSACH PEARSE MUSEUM

2016 and beyond...



TEXT BY BRIAN CROWLEY

It will come as no surprise that the Pearse Museum and St. Enda's Park played a central role in the 2016 centenary commemorations. The Museum occupies the former home and school of Patrick Pearse, the leader of the 1916 Rising, and there was huge interest from the public in the Museum and its story. Throughout the course of the year, the Museum hosted nearly one hundred different events including temporary exhibitions, lectures, seminars, Irish language events, sporting displays and community days.





► **Left:**
Some of the exhibits
at the Pearse
Museum

► **Below:**
President Michael D.
Higgins and his wife,
Sabina, viewing one
of the exhibits at the
Museum's 'An Teanga
Bheo' event to
celebrate the role
and importance of
the Irish language
and to reflect on the
life of Patrick Pearse
and his contribution
to Irish arts and
culture.
©Fennell Photography



On 7 July 2016, the Museum was visited by President Michael D. Higgins and his wife, Sabina, for one of the official state ceremonial events to mark Pearse's contribution to the Irish language. The President also made particular mention of Pearse's visionary ideas about education and recalled *'the achievements of Patrick Pearse as an educational theorist, a teacher, and the founder of what was one of Ireland's most innovative schools in the early 20th century'*.

The President and Mrs. Higgins visited the Museum's new permanent exhibition on the life of Pearse and viewed a new, specially commissioned sculptural piece by Stephen Burke. Located in the Walled Garden, it consists of 21 slabs of Donegal quartzite on which the words of one of Pearse's last poems, *The Wayfarer*, have been carved. The presidential visit concluded with the performance of an extract from *Aeridheacht – Taking the Air*, a theatrical piece devised by Tallaght Community Arts which was



inspired by the open-air-pageants Pearse once ran in the grounds of the park.

Other highlights of the Museum's celebrations included a performance of Odhrán Ó'Casaide's musical piece *Requiem 1916 Marbhna*, which marked the centenary of Pearse's execution on May 3rd. Pearse's play, *The King*, which was first performed in Pearse's school in 1912, also had a modern revival by Balally Players, a local theatrical group.

As mentioned, one of the key projects for the Museum in 2016 was the creation of a new, dynamic exhibition on the life of Patrick Pearse. It is a permanent exhibition so its legacy will last far beyond the centenary commemorations. Located in the basement area of the Museum, it has as its theme the question 'Who is Pearse?' Through a series of interconnecting rooms it explores the key stages of Pearse's life, beginning with his childhood spent in the midst of his father's stone-carving business. Much of this section is based on the memories recorded in his unfinished autobiography, the manuscript of which is also on display.

From here, visitors pass into an area which looks at Pearse's relationship with the Irish language

and the movement to revive it. Pearse was a leading member of the Gaelic League and editor of its newspaper, *An Claidheamh Soluis*, as well as being an important writer of fiction and poetry as Gaeilge. Pearse's love of the Irish language and culture was nurtured by his frequent visits to the Irish-speaking community of Rosmuc in Connemara where he built a small thatched cottage. This area inspired much of his fictional writing, in particular his short story collection *Íosagán agus Scealta Éile*.

It was his involvement in the Irish language movement which led Pearse to found his bi-lingual school, Scoil Éanna. Established in 1908, he moved the school to Rathfarnham in 1910, where the Pearse Museum is now located. Although his interest in running a school was sparked by his involvement in reviving the Irish language, he developed a passionate belief in the importance of education. Pearse believed that '*the main objective in education is to help the child to be his own true and best self*'.

In addition to making Irish the everyday language of the school, he wanted to set up a school which was uniquely Irish in its character. This was reflected in nearly every aspect

of the life of Scoil Éanna, but was perhaps most evident in the many pageants and plays performed by the boys which were often inspired by ancient Irish myths and stories.

The exhibition contains tickets, programmes and posters related to these productions as well as some distinctively Irish school books and teaching aides. The boys also dressed in an overtly 'Irish' manner and one of the displays contains an example of the optional school uniform which included a distinctive kilt and *brat*, a kind of cloak worn over the shoulder. Pearse was anxious to document the educational adventure he had embarked upon in Scoil Éanna, and the exhibition shows numerous images of the pupils in PE class, working in the school garden, or posing in elaborate costumes for the school's theatrical productions.

One of the more challenging aspects of presenting the life of a complex figure like Pearse in a museum exhibition is conveying his rich, and sometimes complicated, inner life. While his public orations and speeches were full of certainty and idealism, some of his other writings reveal deep insecurities about himself and a sense of isolation from others. A room within the exhibition space has been devoted to exploring this aspect of Pearse, with a specially commissioned film in which Pearse's words are narrated over images of the landscapes of Rosmuc and St. Enda's Park.

The section of the exhibition which traces Pearse's political radicalisation centres around one of the great treasures of the Museum, a manuscript written in Pearse's own hand of the famous oration he delivered at the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa on 1 August, 1915. This was a public indication of the revolution to come the following year, and identified Pearse as the public face of the emerging movement.

It was his role as leader of the 1916 Rising which would lead Pearse to his execution in Kilmainham Gaol. A separate space within the exhibition has been dedicated to contemplating Pearse's death. While Pearse's execution was a national event and the focus of huge public interest at the time, this room is dominated by two ordinary cups and saucers, believed to be those used by the Pearse brothers at their last family meal in the house before leaving to join the Rising. They act as a poignant reminder that, while the 1916 Rising is one of the most significant events in Irish history, it was also a very personal tragedy for the Pearse family.

The final area of the exhibition considers how Pearse has been remembered since his death. For many he became a saint-like figure and images of his face taken in side

profile assumed iconic status in the early years of the Irish state. However there were also those who were highly critical of Pearse and, in particular, his idealisation of sacrifice and armed insurrection. The debates between these two ideologically opposed groups were often bitter and divisive. In the exhibition, visitors are encouraged to look at Pearse anew and consider the different aspects of his short but eventful life. At the very end of the exhibition, a comment board provides the opportunity to not only see how other visitors view Pearse, but also the chance to add their own response to the question, 'Who is Pearse?'

The President's speech on the day is available on www.president.ie

► Top right: Pearse in his headmaster's robes
All images © Copyright Pearse Museum/OPW



► Above: On 7 July 2016, Pearse Museum was visited by President Michael D. Higgins and his wife, Sabina, for one of the official state ceremonial events to mark Pearse's contribution to the Irish language.

► Left: These ordinary, chipped cups and saucers were used by the Pearse brothers at their last family meal in Scoil Éanna.





KNOWTH

5,000 year old megalithic passage-tomb

While Newgrange is by far the most famous of the three Brú na Bóinne passage-tombs, Knowth is impressive in terms of megalithic art, scale and layered history.

TEXT BY SHARON DOWNEY

Knowth is one of three great mounds in the prehistoric cemetery located within a bend in the river Boyne: the other two are Newgrange and Dowth. The site has been subject to detailed archaeological excavation and research under the direction of Professor George Eogan, UCD, over the course of the last fifty years, which has uncovered at least twelve different phases of activity. As each season of excavations got under way, new and exciting discoveries came to light. It soon became clear that the site was very complex with features spread over a large area

and representing diverse cultural phases. The activity ranged from houses and settlement of the fourth millennium BC to simple houses of the nineteenth century AD. Even in the archaeologists' wildest dreams they had not expected such intense activity and wealth of finds.

The passage tombs were built in the Neolithic or New Stone Age c3000BC. The large mound covers approx.75 hectare (1.5acres) and is 9.9metres in height. It contains two tombs. They are placed back to back along an east/west line. The western entrance and passage was discovered in 1967 and is just over 34 metres in length and the eastern was

discovered the following year in 1968. The passage and chamber of the Eastern tomb when combined is just over 40 metres making it the longest passage tomb in western Europe. The structures were used for communal burial of cremated remains which were accompanied by personal items such as beads and pendants made of bone, antler pins and very occasionally pottery. It would appear that these sites were also used as focal points, places of worship, ritual and a meeting point for ceremonies and celebration.

One of the most remarkable features of the Knowth site is the megalithic art. The site has the largest concentration of such art found in any place or

country: nearly 400 decorated stones in total. The megalithic art provides an insight into the world of the passage tomb builders. It was part of an artistic, cultural and intellectual boom that took place in a small area in County Meath 5000 years ago. The Boyne Valley was a breeding ground for the emergence of creative artists who applied meaningful motifs to the surface of the structural stones of the tombs.

In the early Bronze Age habitation by Beaker People occurred around the site. Knowth however was abandoned for the remainder of the Bronze Age but began to be used again towards the end of the Iron Age. This is shown by a series of inhumation burials which were accompanied by grave goods such as necklaces of glass beads and bronze rings. However, later in about the eighth century major changes took place.

Around 800AD Knowth became the royal residence of the kings of Northern Brega. For the next three hundred years or so, the ruling Uí Neill



family dominated politics in eastern Ireland and the Knowth settlement grew to a small village. During the eighth century, a large double ditch was dug into the main mound creating a circular enclosure. The ditches were subsequently filled in and an open enclosed settlement of fifteen houses and nine souterrains developed during the tenth and eleventh centuries. Knowth has one of the largest concentrations of souterrains found anywhere in Ireland.

During the tenth century the Knowth settlement reached its pinnacle. Its King, Congalach Mac Mael Mithig, also known as Congalach Cnogba, became High King of Ireland and ruled for over a decade. Five metal working areas from this period provide



► Above: Stone Basin, Eastern Tomb

evidence of iron-smelting, gold and bronze working and enamelling. This testifies to Knowth as being a major centre of art, industry and wealth. Both the eastern and western tomb contain a remarkable series of graffiti dating from the early Christian period. There are twenty names carved into the stones making it the largest hoard of historical graffiti in Ireland.



► Facing page: Knowth © Fáilte Ireland

► Above Left: Knowth Mace Head – flint mace head in the stylised form of a human head
Photo © Government of Ireland National Monuments Service Photographic Unit

► Above: Knowth West



The Cistercian Abbey at Old Mellifont was established in 1142 and Knowth was granted to the abbey in 1157. Might the presence of the North Brega royal residence at Knowth have influenced the selection of Mellifont as the location for the first Cistercian monastery in Ireland? An entry in the annals indicates that the Normans used Knowth as a motte in 1175 during their conquest of Meath. An enclosed settlement was constructed on top of the mound and the poorly preserved structural remains comprise of two houses that were enclosed by a substantial stone wall. As well as pottery, more than one hundred objects of iron, copper, lead and stone were recovered. Due to social, religious and land ownership changes associated with the reformation this phase of occupation came to an end sometime in the sixteenth century and from then on the site remained a green grassy mound in the Meath countryside.

The Knowth complex was one of the great glories of the ancient world and is of immense significance not only for Meath and Ireland but also for much further afield. It is something we feel very proud of and want to ensure its care and protection so that future generations will continue to see and appreciate these great and marvellous Stone Age treasures.

► *Top:* Tourist at Knowth © Fáilte Ireland

► *Right:* Passage Tombs at Knowth
Photo © Government of Ireland National
Monuments Service Photographic Unit

► *Below:* Aerial view of Knowth
© Fáilte Ireland



A photograph of the Timahoe Round Tower, a tall, cylindrical stone structure with a conical roof and a small arched window near the top. To the right, a portion of a stone church with a gabled roof and a small bell tower is visible. The background features lush green trees and a clear blue sky.

Timahoe ROUND TOWER

***T**imahoe round tower is one of the finest examples of a round tower in the country and is the only remaining feature of an early ecclesiastical foundation.*

St. Mochua founded a monastery here in the 7th century which was plundered and burnt to the ground in 919 and 1142. In 1019 a priest is said to have been murdered in the doorway of the church. St. Mochua emerges as an interesting figure in early Irish Christian folklore. However, there are 58 Irish saints called St. Mochua so it is always possible that there is confusion over which tale belongs to which one. The son of Lonan, Mochua was originally from Achonry in Connaught and was a successful soldier before becoming a monk. According to folklore, Mochua lived at Timahoe as a hermit with only a rooster, a mouse and a fly. The rooster would ensure that Mochua never missed matins (morning prayers).

TEXT BY ROGHAN
HEADEN



The mouse would nibble his ear if he fell asleep to ensure he didn't miss prayers during the day and night and the fly would walk along Mochua's texts to make sure he never lost his spot. There is a modern piece of sculpture at the site called St. Mochua's Desk which commemorates this tale. Miracles associated with Mochua include the healing of two fellow abbots, St Coleman of Elo and St. Fintan Munnu of memory loss and leprosy respectively.

In 880AD, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, Focarta, son of Dubhdacheall, was Abbot of Teach Mochua (Timahoe). The round tower itself dates to the 12th century (a rather late round tower) although the base

could be earlier in date, suggesting that it was possibly built in two phases. This is suggested by the difference in building material used in the tower. The base is made of sandstone to a height of around three meters while the rest of the tower is made of limestone. In the later medieval period the O'Mores refounded the monastery but in 1609 it was granted to Richard Cosby. It was at this time that the medieval church was converted into a tower house.

The round tower stands six storeys high to a height of just below 30m and has a conical cap from the 1880s. The doorway, partway up the tower, is decorated in Hiberno-Irish Romanesque style with four orders



with human heads with intertwining hair. The window at second floor level is decorated in a similar fashion, although this is a little more difficult to see from ground level. Internally there are no remaining floors. The similarities between the styles found at Timahoe and the nearby Killeshin church, suggest the same sculptor which would place the construction of the tower we see today at c1150AD.

The church/tower house structure is somewhat unusual because of its conversion. You can still see a large arch belonging to the medieval church with a fine decorated capital still visible. Only the East wall of the tower house survives to full height with small portions of the North and South wall



still visible. A sheela-na-gig is reported to have been located on the East wall of the castle, but this is now missing. It is possible that the figure is still located at the site under debris. Carved into the third order of stone on the Romanesque doorway of the round tower is what was believed to be a "seán-na-gig". All agree that it is not a sheela, as the carving is of a male rather than a female figure, but instead is a very interesting example of a Romanesque male exhibitionist figure typically found on Romanesque churches throughout Europe. The male exhibitionist figure at Timahoe round tower appears to be that of a male bearded figure in a squat position with his two hands either pulling down on his beard or grabbing his buttocks

and pulling his cheeks apart. Similar male exhibitionist figures can be seen on Romanesque churches in England and France.

The classic sheela-na-gigs of late medieval date are typically female figures carved onto churches and castles dating from the 15th/16th century and look very different from the Romanesque exhibitionist figures. They are related to these earlier figures but are quite different stylistically from the Romanesque figures.

It is possible that the sheela-na-gig described as located on the doorway of Timahoe Castle and now lost was a figure dating from the late medieval period while the male figure is an example of a 12th century exhibitionist figure carved originally for the doorway of Timahoe round tower. This would make it a very interesting, rare and early example of a European motif found in an Irish context on a Romanesque building.

The local community have, in conjunction with Laois County Council and the OPW, opened a wonderful heritage centre on the site to welcome visitors. The centre is a part of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative and includes an audio-visual presentation on the wonderful, undiscovered monastic heritage of Co Laois. Timahoe is a beautiful, unspoilt Irish country village with the Round tower dominating the landscape. Visitors are welcome to the village where there is a wonderful playground beside the heritage centre which includes toilets and Wi-Fi.

► *Images: All images courtesy of AbartaHeritage.ie*

Abarta Heritage's core services and products are digital audio guides and heritage interpretation that makes the story of heritage sites, towns and places informative, accessible and fun.

The following link is to the Laois Monastic Trail audio guide that includes Timahoe. It was produced by Abarta Heritage in conjunction with Laois County Council and it is free of charge for users. It is designed to lead you around the beautiful landscape of County Laois to discover the remains of ancient churches and monasteries and to hear stories of saints and sinners at the dawn of Christianity in Ireland. On the tour you will discover wonderful historical sites like Aghaboe Abbey, Clonenagh, Coolbanagher, Timahoe with its famous round tower and Killeslin one of the most beautiful Romanesque sites in Ireland.

<http://www.abartaheritage.ie/product/laois-monastic-trail-audio-guide/>

This is one of a number of audio guides that produced by Abarta Heritage for County Laois, including the Rock of Dunamase, Laois Heritage Trail, Abbeyleix Heritage Town, Portlaoise Historical Trail and the Story of Portlaoise. All available for free from their website www.abartaheritage.ie (where there are more than 25 free audio guides for Ireland's historical sites).



The Williamite War connecting Irish Heritage Sites

TEXT BY BRIAN FLANAGAN & SHANE LENEHAN

Amongst the many historic properties owned and managed by the Office of Public Works across Ireland, you will find some with links to the Williamite Wars and the pivotal events of the years 1689 – 1691.

The relative calm political situation and economic stability that followed the wars allowed for the creation of Anglo Irish country estates. These estates formed a symbolic image of a land dominated by the Anglo Irish political class.

Oldbridge House - Meath

Oldbridge House sits on the battle site of the Battle of the Boyne on the banks of the river Boyne. John Coddington purchased four hundred acres of land at Oldbridge from Henry Moore, 4th Earl of Drogheda for £4,000 in 1724. The family had connections to the site and to the Battle of the Boyne through John's father Dixie and his uncle William, who had fought at the battle as Williamite officers.

Oldbridge House was built in the 1740's by either John Coddington or his nephew Dixie. The house is believed to have been designed by George Darley, a local architect. The Battle of the Boyne visitor centre can be found at Oldbridge House.

The Visitor Centre is opened all year round, tours must be pre booked.

9am-5pm May - September

9am-4pm October - April

www.battleoftheboyne.ie

www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/battleoftheboyne/

Casino Marino - Dublin

The Casino at Marino was designed by the Scottish architect William Chambers for James Caulfeild the 1st Earl of Charlemont. Building started in the late 1750s and finished in approximately 1775. The Casino is regarded as one of the most important neoclassical buildings in Ireland. From the outside, the building has the appearance of a single room structure. However this is only an illusion as the building actually consists of sixteen rooms on three floors.

William Chambers also designed another property for James Caulfeild which is situated on Dublin's Parnell Square, Charlemont House. The design for Charlemont House was unique in that it provided a majestic centrepiece for the street scape that was unrivalled in Irish Georgian squares. Charlemont House is limestone-clad and set back from the street, framed by curved walls





Casino Marino

with rustic details. The house and its interior are designed on strict classical lines. Charlemont House was bought by the state in 1870 and since 1933 the Hugh Lane Dublin City Gallery has been located in it.

The Caulfeild family can be linked to the Williamite Wars through William Caulfeild, the 2nd Viscount Charlemont. William Caulfeild was an avid supporter of William of Orange and due to his support Caulfeild was attained by James II in his first parliament in 1689. Following the Battle of the Boyne, William of Orange rewarded Caulfeild for his loyalty and he was put in charge of a regiment of infantry.

The Caulfeild family in Ireland can be linked back to Toby Caulfeild who was an English Army officer in Ireland during the 16th Century. In consideration of his service to the crown he was granted the title Baron Charlemont by King James I.

The Casino at Marino is open from 16th March to 31st October
10am-5pm March- May/October
10am-6pm June-September
www.casinomarino.ie
www.heritageireland.ie/en/dublin/casinomarino/

Castletown House - Celbridge, Co. Kildare

Castletown House was built between 1722 and 1729 for William Conolly, speaker of the Irish House of Commons. The house was Ireland's first and largest paladin style house. Castletown was designed to serve as a venue for political entertaining on a large scale as well as to highlight the political and social influence that Conolly had established. Unfortunately the identity of the architect of Castletown is unknown however the façade built of Ardraccan limestone

was designed by the Italian architect Alessandro Galilei whom Conolly was acquainted with. The execution of the interior wings and colonnades fell to the young Irish architect Edward Lovett Pearce. The Castletown estate is currently owned by the OPW and the Castletown Foundation.

Castletown can be linked to the Battle of the Boyne from the Dongan Family that owned the lands at Castletown Kildrought at the time of the battle. The Dongan family were an old Gaelic and Anglo-Irish family who were supporters of the Stuarts. Sir William Dongan held the title the Earl of Limerick as well as the title Viscount Dungan of Clane. William was a son of Sir John Dongan 2nd Baronet and Mary Talbot sister of Richard Talbot the 1st Earl of Tyrconnel. At the Battle of the Boyne the Dongan Dragoons, a premier military regiment, fought for King James II. William's son Sir Walter Dongan fell to a cannon shot at the battle. With his death the title the Earl of Limerick passed on to Thomas Dongan brother of William.

Thomas Dongan served as a Colonel of an Irish Regiment of the French army during the Cromwellian period. With the restoration of the monarchy, he joined Charles II army and was appointed as an officer where he served under James Duke of York. In 1683 Thomas was appointed the Governor of the province of New York. He was granted an estate on Staten Island which became the town of Castleton, another section of the island was named Dongan Hills in his honour. Dongan was responsible for the issuing of the 'Dongan Charter' which is regarded as the basis and foundation of municipal law in New York.

After the Battle of the Boyne the lands of Castletown were given to Godert de Ginkel Earl of Athlone. However this was later revoked and parts of the estate were returned to Thomas Dongan who sold the 2,300 acres of land to William Conolly in 1709.

William Conolly was born in Ballyshannon Co. Donegal in 1662. He trained as an attorney in Dublin and qualified as an attorney in 1685 at the age of twenty-three. He was attained by King James II first parliament along with his brother Patrick.

After the Williamite war in Ireland and William III was assured victory, Conolly began to make his fortune from land transfers following the confiscation by the crown of lands that had belonged to supporters of James II.



Castletown House

Of the 600,000 acres that were confiscated Conolly was the largest individual buyer. By 1703 Conolly had spent £10,000 acquiring over 15,000 acres spread across seven counties.

He married Katherine Conyngham the daughter of Sir Albert Conyngham in 1694. As Conolly was increasing his wealth he started to emerge as an important political figure. He was elected to the Irish parliament in 1692 and remained in the Irish House of Commons up until 1729. After the accession of King George I, he was appointed as speaker of the House. By the time of his death Conolly was one of the wealthiest and most powerful politicians in Ireland.

Castletown is opened from the 12th March to 31st October from 10am-6pm

www.castletown.ie

www.heritageireland.ie/en/midlands-eastcoast/castletownhouseandparklands/

Rathfarnham Castle Dublin

Rathfarnham Castle dates from the 1580s. The lands in the area had been confiscated from the Viscount Baltinglass due to his participation in The Second Desmond Rebellion.

The fee farms (lands granted by the crown in perpetuity subject to an annual rent) in the area were awarded to Adam Loftus in 1583 and within two years he built the current castle.

Loftus was originally from Yorkshire and had arrived in Ireland in 1560 as Chaplain to The Lord Deputy – Thomas Radclyffe. Sir Adam Loftus, descendant of Rev Adam Loftus, had inherited the castle in the 1680s. On January 29th 1686 James II created Loftus, Baron Rathfarham and Viscount Lisburne. Although he was Catholic, Loftus sided with The Whigs during The Glorious Revolution. The Whigs emerged as a political faction in the 1670s in opposition to the inclusion of James II

in the line of succession due to his preference for an absolute monarchy.

In 1689 he commanded the 39th Dorsetshire Regiment of Foot. The regiment of 680 men fought at The Battle of The Boyne as part of the Williamite army.

The regiment was involved in the siege of Limerick where Viscount Lisburne was killed by a cannonball on 15th September 1691.

Viscount Lisburne had only one daughter and on his death the title became extinct.

Rathfarnham Castle was inherited by his daughter Lucy who married Thomas Wharton, 1st Marquess of Wharton. Their son Philip was created Duke of Wharton in 1718 by George I.

In 1723 the Duke sold Rathfarnham Castle to William Conolly of Castletown for £62,000 in order to clear gambling debts. Conolly rented the house to a few tenants who made



Rathfarnham Castle is opened:

Winter

Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays

10.30am- 5.00pm October-April

Summer

9.30am- 5.30pm May-September inclusive

www.rathfarnhamcastle.ie

www.heritageireland.ie/en/dublin/rathfarnhamcastle/

The Williamite War had a massive impact on Ireland both politically and socially.

William Conolly was able to use the war to his advantage as he grew his own wealth. This meant that there was an opportunity for new political figures to establish themselves by buying the confiscated lands. This eliminated a large majority of Catholic votes as they no longer held land to be entitled to a vote. The Protestant Ascendancy now had an opportunity to stamp their authority on the land as a metaphor for their political and economic control of the country.

With new-found wealth many family estates were built and in many cases they introduced a new style of building. The buildings that remain from this era have an important part in Ireland's history and heritage. This can be seen at the Casino and at Castletown where new styled houses were built. In many cases these houses were the first of their kind to be built in Ireland.

Among the sites connected to the Williamite War that are managed and open to the public by the OPW are Charles Fort, Kinsale, Co. Cork, Kilkenny Castle in Kilkenny City and Old Melifont Abbey in Co. Louth.

various alterations.

In 1767 Nicholas Hume-Loftus, 2nd Earl Ely bought Rathfarnham Castle. He died in 1769 and the castle and grounds were inherited by his uncle, Henry Loftus.

Henry died in 1783 and the property passed to his nephew Charles Tottenham.

Tottenham soon lost interest in Rathfarnham. The collections were moved to Loftus Hall in Wexford and Ely Lodge in Fermanagh.

In 1913 Rathfarnham was bought by the Jesuits to be used as a seminary and in the 1980s they decided to sell Rathfarnham Castle as it no longer fulfilled their needs. Rathfarnham Castle was declared a National Monument in 1986. The following year the Castle was purchased by the OPW and the grounds were acquired by Dublin City Council.

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Rathfarnham Castle, retrieved 27/05/15 <http://rathfarnhamcastle.ie/the-castle/>

With thanks to Aisling Heffernan, The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, Pauline Kennedy, Castletown House and the Casino at Marino and Catherine O'Connor, Rathfarnham Castle for the photographs.



Rathfarnham Castle

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK



National Heritage Week is Ireland's annual celebration of our natural, built and cultural heritage and takes place from 19 to 27 August 2017. This year National Heritage Week is focusing on Ireland's natural heritage. From archaeology to architecture, folklore to placenames, Irish culture is deeply rooted in nature.

Coordinated by the Heritage Council, National Heritage Week is Ireland's most popular cultural event and this year over 450,000 people are expected to participate in nearly 2,000 heritage events. National Heritage Week is part of European Heritage Days and every year millions of Europeans visit historical monuments and sites to learn more about Europe's common cultural heritage.

National Heritage Week will shine a spotlight on the challenges to our natural environment but also highlight the small changes that we can all make towards conserving it. Learn how we can protect our endangered species and habitats and see how the work and commitment of local communities is conserving nature, for us and for future generations.

Two very special days take place during National Heritage Week 2017. Wednesday 23 August is Wild Child Day and is dedicated to wild children everywhere with lots of great events planned. Sunday 27 August will celebrate our most precious natural resource, water with events based around (and on!) rivers, lakes and seas.

Across the country, OPW sites will be taking part in National Heritage Week with an amazing variety of events. On Monday 21 August why not bring the family to the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin to build your own bug hotel. The gardens are filled with beneficial insects which help protect and pollinate our flowers. This children's drop-by workshop makes use





FEATURE HERITAGE WEEK

The Brendan Way between Fenit and Lerrig. On Sunday 27 August you can also enjoy free guided tours of the cathedral and learn about the development of the church complex from its foundation by St. Brendan to more recent times. Or visit the nearby Ardfert Friary, for a free guided tour exploring its architectural features and the Fitzmaurice connection.

Also in Kerry, Derrynane House has free admission and guided tours on Sunday 27 August. Learn about the family background and legacy of Daniel O'Connell while the gardens and park are free to explore.

This year during National Heritage Week why not take the opportunity not only learn more about our extraordinary natural heritage but actually get involved with it on an on-going basis. It's your chance to look around and make small changes to ensure the protection and conservation of our precious natural heritage.

TEXT BY NIAMH DONNELLAN



of natural materials to create homes for creepy crawling guests!

On Wednesday 23 August enjoy a guided tour of Fota Gardens in Cork where the Head Gardener will introduce visitors to the historic development of this estate, the people who owned and worked it and the unique plant collection amassed and nurtured within its high walls.

On Sunday 20 and Sunday 27 August visit Ardfert Cathedral in Kerry for 'Through the Lens' - a photographic exhibition exploring the landscape of



Left: Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre
Inset pic: Ladybird at National Botanic Garden.
Above: Insect and flower studies.
Above right: Peacock butterfly at The National Biodiversity Data Centre
Right: National Heritage Week event at Emo Court

National Heritage Week:
19-27 August 2017.

For more information and event listings visit www.heritageweek.ie



Irish Sign Language Interpreted Tours

The very successful series of Irish Sign Language interpreted tours at OPW Heritage Sites continues. Places are still available for the tours of St. Audoen's Church on 12th August, 2017 at 12 noon and Kilmainham Gaol on 9th September at 3pm.

Entrance and tour is free of charge but places are limited so please book soon by emailing info@heritageireland.ie



HERITAGE IRELAND
Irish Sign Language Interpreted Tours Series

ISL
Irish Sign Language

ISL Tours:

- **Pearse Museum**, 30th April at 12 noon
- **Rathfarnham Castle**, 13th May at 11.30am
- **Áras an Uachtaráin**, 20th May at 2.30pm
- **The Casino at Marino**, 3rd June at 11am
- **Dublin Castle**, 9th July at 4pm
- **St. Audoen's Church**, 12th August at 12 noon
- **Kilmainham Gaol**, 9th September at 3pm

Tours run from April to September

Entrance & Tour is free of charge
but places are limited so please book
soon by emailing info@heritageireland.ie

OPW
Office of Public Works
The Office of Public Works

IRELAND'S
FINEST
Elizabethan
MANOR HOUSE

After an extensive programme of conservation and refurbishment works by the OPW, Ormond Castle re-opened to the public on Thursday 29th June, 2017.



Ormond Castle

CARRICK ON SUIR



OPEN DAILY:

29th JUNE – 31st OCTOBER 2017

10.00 – 18.00 (last admission 17.15)

Access to the site is by Guided Tour only



Castle Park,
Carrick-on-Suir,
Co. Tipperary, E32 CX59
T: 051 640787
E: ormondcastle@opw.ie



www.heritageireland.ie

EVENTS GUIDE

What's on



national botanic gardens of Ireland

exhibitions & events

July – August 2017

National Botanic Gardens Guided Tours

Sundays at 12.00pm &
2.30pm all year round.
Admission free.

Monday – Saturday
11.30am & 3.00pm.
€5 per person.

Pre-booked groups by
arrangement.
€5 per person.

Opening hours

Summer (March – October)

Monday – Friday
9.00–5.00pm
Saturday/Sunday
10.00–6.00pm

Winter (October – March)

Monday – Friday
9.00–4.30pm
Saturday/Sunday
10.00–4.30pm

Telephone:
01 857 0909 / 01 804 0319

Website:
www.botanicgardens.ie

Email:
botanicgardens@opw.ie

Follow us on Facebook.
National Botanic Gardens
of Ireland

To receive email updates
please contact:
botanicgardens@opw.ie



OPW
Oifig na nOibreacha Poblai
The Office of Public Works

Botanic Gardens EVENTS GUIDE

July

Daily Guided Walks: Bloomin' Summer

Walking through the Gardens in summertime when the flowers are in full bloom is a magnificent experience. Join our special guided tour and hear all about the plants, design and history of the stunning Herbaceous Border, Annual and Bedding Displays, the Rose Garden and much more.
Times: Monday – Saturday 11.30am and 3.00pm, €5 per person
Sundays 12.00pm and 2.30pm, free of charge.

Saturdays 1st, 8th, 15th, and 29th July **Themed Guided Walk: Brewing Botanicals**

Since ancient times people have been brewing, distilling and fermenting a dizzying array of herbs, flowers, trees, fruits and even fungi. Hear the fascinating tales behind many of the concoctions that have been created, each one a unique contribution to the traditions and culture of peoples across the world.
Time: 2.30pm. Meet in the Education and Visitor Centre
€5 per person

Wednesday 12th July

Children's Workshop: Budding Botanist -
Collecting and Pressing Flowers
See Children's Events section

Monday 17th – Friday 21st July

Children's Art Camps
Join our creative art workshops for five wonderful days! Suitable for a variety of ages. For further information, see the Children's Events section.

Sunday 30th April

Family Event: Garden Bird Safari
Join Botanic Gardens head guide and author Glynn Anderson for a guided bird walk, uncovering the rich bird life of the Gardens.

If you have them, be sure to bring your binoculars for a closer look!

Time: 10.00am. Admission Free, Advance Booking Essential
Call (01) 804 0319/ 857 0909 or email botanicgardens@opw.ie

FESTIVAL OF CURIOSITY

Thursday 20th - Sunday 23rd July
Celebrating The Festival of Curiosity, we are hosting some fascinating events:

Saturday 22nd July

Adults' Guided Walk: Biomimicry

Did you know that the idea for Velcro was sparked by a seed head? Can you guess which plants were responsible for the creation of waterproof paint? Join us on this fascinating tour and find out how scientists are inspired by nature to create ingenious new inventions.
Time: 2.30pm Meet at the Education and Visitor Centre.
€5 per person.

Saturday 22nd July

Children's Event: Pond Dipping

Explore the weird and wonderful diversity of insects and minibeasts living in and around the Pond at the National Botanic Gardens. Perfect your technique with guidance from the experts and learn how to identify the amazing creatures you have captured. Once you have discovered the hidden life of ponds you will never look at them the same way again!
Time: 11.00am. Admission Free. Booking Essential.
Meet at the Education and Visitor Centre.
Organised with the Irish Wildlife Trust.

Sunday 23rd July

Family Workshop: Delve Deeper

A fun drop-by event for the whole family. Experiment with our special hand held



digital microscopes. See what leaves, seeds and even tiny bugs look like up close!
2.30pm. Education and Visitor Centre

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd July

Sweet Pea Show

The Gardens are delighted to host the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland's annual Sweet Pea Show. This is your opportunity to see a display of sweet pea grown on 'cordons' by the leading growers in the country. On Saturday morning over a dozen growers will arrive in the Teak House to transform it into a sweet pea wonderland before the plants are judged. From midday on Saturday all are welcome to view the prizewinning sweet peas.
Times: Saturday 12.30pm – 5.30pm
Sunday: 10.00am – 5.00pm
Organised with the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland

August

Daily Guided Walks: Bloomin' Summer

Walking through the Gardens in summertime when many flowers are in full bloom is a magnificent experience. Join our special guided tour and hear all about the plants, design and history of the stunning Herbaceous Border, Annual and Bedding Displays, the Rose Garden and much more.
Times: Monday – Saturday 11.30am and 3.00pm, €5 per person
Sundays 12.00pm and 2.30pm, free of charge

Guided Walk: Edible Trees

Join us to find out how trees provide many of our commonly eaten fruits: apples and pears from temperate climates and exotic delights like avocados and bananas from the tropics. As well as fruit, trees provide us with edible nuts, seeds, leaves, shoots, buds,



Image © Tourism Ireland

EVENTS GUIDE *Botanic Gardens*

bark, roots, pith and sap. Learn a little about these aspects and listen to some fascinating stories about our edible trees and the impact they have on our lives.

Time: 2.30pm. Meet at the Education & Visitor Centre. €5 per person

Wednesday 9th August

Children's Workshop: Budding Botanist - Collecting and Pressing Flowers
Please see Children's Events section

Monday 14th – Friday 18th August

Children's Art Camps

Join our creative art workshops for five wonderful days! Suitable for a variety of ages. For further information, see the Children's Events section of this brochure.

Thursday 17th August

Gastronomy Tour - A Taste of the Gardens

The National Botanic Gardens contains an abundance of plants from around the world. On a conventional tour, we savour the sights, sounds and scents of the Gardens. For this exceptional evening event we present the tastes of the Gardens. The taste tour will encompass plants from across the globe. Featuring Viking-inspired draughts, strange fruits and enticing fusion cuisine, both exotic and native species will be represented. As you savour the carefully curated recipes, we will describe the cultural uses and fascinating properties of the plants you are tasting. Please note that most of our tasting stops will be al fresco, so dress appropriately for the weather. Over 18s only as we will be serving small amounts of alcohol.

Time: 7.00pm. €25 Booking is essential.

Limited availability

Organised with The Market Kitchen

HERITAGE WEEK

Saturday 19th – Sunday 27th August.

The theme of National Heritage Week 2017 is 'Get in touch with Ireland's Nature'.

Further information on our events at the National Botanic Gardens is available at www.heritageweek.ie

Saturday 19th – Sunday 27th August

Busy Bee Trail

We're on a National Heritage Week buzz here at the Gardens! Try our brand new Pollinator Trail and get in touch with nature.

Monday 21st August

Children's Workshop: Build your own mini bug hotel

Our gardens are filled with many beneficial insects like ladybirds, lacewings and beetles which help protect and pollinate our flowers. This creative drop-by workshop for

kids will make use of natural materials to create cosy homes for these creepy crawling guests!

Time: 2.30pm. Free event but booking essential.



Tuesday 22nd August

Lecture: Plant Hunters in Petticoats – a history of Irish women in botany

As part of National Heritage Week, guide Charlotte Salter-Townshend will highlight the accomplishments of women who, despite the odds, blazed a trail in botany. In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, it was deemed fitting for ladies to collect and depict natural objects. This allowed women to make significant contributions to natural science, despite general disadvantages in education, promotion and attire. Featured are Ellen Hutchins, Ireland's first female botanist, Matilda Knowles, the first female curator of the National Herbarium and Lady Charlotte Wheeler-Cuffe, who collected plants in Burma. The talk will be illustrated with photographs, artwork and displays by the women discussed.

Time: 3.00pm, Education and Visitor Centre

Wednesday 23rd August

Children's Event: Pond Dipping

Explore the weird and wonderful diversity of insects and minibeasts living in and around the pond at the National Botanic Gardens. Perfect your technique with guidance from the experts and learn how to identify the amazing creatures you have captured. Once you have discovered the hidden life of ponds you will never look at them the same way again!

Time: 11.00am. Admission Free. Booking Essential. Meet at the Education and Visitor Centre.

Organised with the Irish Wildlife Trust.

Thursday 24th August

Children's Workshop: Origami

Please see the Children's Event section



WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Children's Garden Trails

The wonderful plants on display in the Gardens and glasshouses. Trails available include: 'Plant Partners' - Discover the amazing interactions between plants and animals. 'The Food Trail' - Find common and curious foods from around the world 'The Bark Trail' - Observe and touch the many textured trees of the Gardens 'The Native Trail' - Explore our native plant collections (also available as Gaeilge).

Mon 17th - Fri 21st July & Mon 14th - Fri 18th August

Children's Art Camp

Join artist Niamh Synnott for Children's Art Week! Children will be encouraged through fun art activities to observe, engage in and be inspired by their surroundings. Kids can try their hand using a variety of mediums and materials such as mono and block prints, batik, plein-air painting and construction using art straws.

Ages 4-7 years: 11.00am - 12.30pm

Ages 8-12 years: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Cost: €60. Booking essential

Children's Event: Pond Dipping

Explore the weird and wonderful diversity of insects and minibeasts living in and around the pond at the National Botanic Gardens. Perfect your technique with guidance from the experts and learn how to identify the amazing creatures you have captured. Once you have discovered the hidden pond life you will never look at ponds the same way again! This workshop is suitable for children age 8 and upwards.

Time: 11.00am. Admission Free. Booking Essential. Meet at the Education and Visitor Centre. Organised with the Irish Wildlife Trust.

Wednesdays 12th July and 9th August

Children's Workshop: Budding Botanist - Collecting and Pressing Flowers

Ever wanted to start your very own dried plant collection? Get great tips and discover how you can become a plant collector! Join our guides on an expedition through the Botanic Gardens, identifying and collecting suitable plants for pressing before constructing your very own flower press. If you like, you can also create some beautiful botanical designs with our pre-dried plants.
Time: 11.00am. Advance Booking Essential. Admission Free

Sunday 23rd July

Family Workshop: Delve Deeper

A fun drop-by event for the whole family. Experiment with our special hand held digital microscopes. See what leaves, seeds and even tiny bugs look like up close!
2.30pm. Education and Visitor Centre



kilmacurragh

EVENTS GUIDE

Welcome to our events section for the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh. Located in Kilbride, east Co. Wicklow (Junction 18 on the N11), it is the centrepiece of an eighteenth-century estate and is famous for its conifers, rhododendrons, meadows, and double-borders.

Free, guided tours are held twice daily from Thursday 16th of March until the middle of October at 12.00pm and 3.00pm. Please check the website or locally for seasonally themed guided tours and trails. Don't miss the fabulous Rhododendron Walks Saturdays and Sundays from 25th March to 30th April.

The Acton Tea rooms are open all year round. Picnics are permitted at the designated picnic tables. Group tours should be pre-booked. Meet at the car park entrance to the Gardens for all events.

Further information: Mid-March – Mid-October: 0404 48844

At other times of the year call the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin at 01 8570909.

Sundays July 8th and 22nd

Guided Walk : What's in a Name?

Join Kilmacurragh guide Claire Mullarney and get to know how some plants earned their names and why plants are still known by their Latin names.

Time: 2.30pm Meet at the Car Park

Saturdays in June, July and August

Guided Walk: The Meadows and Me

Join our expert guides on a stroll through the summer meadows. From wild Irish orchids to yellow rattle, discover the many wonderful plants that are growing in our regenerated meadows.

Time: 2.30pm. Meet at the Car Park



Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th August

Guided Walk: Where do Flowers come from – Habitats of the world.

Join our expert guides on a stroll through the summer meadows. From wild Irish orchids to yellow rattle, discover the many wonderful plants that are growing in our regenerated meadows.

Time: 2.30pm. Meet at the Car Park

For information on other events for **Heritage Week** check website www.heritageweek.ie

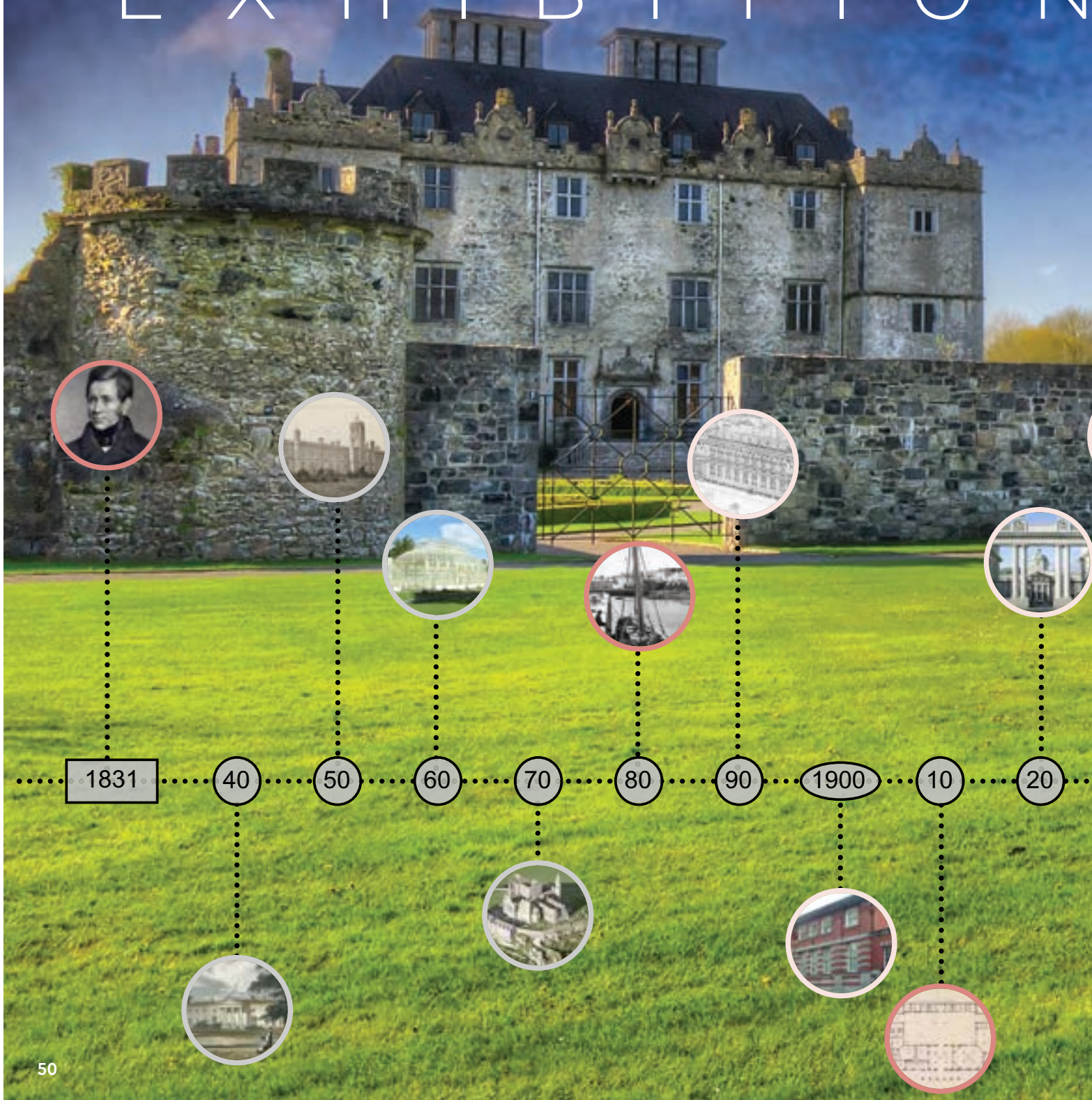
For information on an exciting line up of events for **National Heritage Week at Kilmacurragh** please visit www.heritage-week.ie or check our website www.botanicgardens.ie



OPW 185

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí / The Office of Public Works

EXHIBITION



185 years of the OPW

May 26, 2017 / October 31, 2017

PORTUMNA CASTLE

To mark the 185th anniversary of the establishment of the Office of Public Works. This exhibition illustrates the diversity of projects carried out by the OPW over 185 years.



TWENTY FREE THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER!

Would you like to see an Iron Age road, marvel at the largest waterwheel in Ireland in action, or wonder at the grave slabs of Templar Knights? All for free!

You might know that the OPW gives free entry to under 12's at all of its fee-paying sites but did you know that the OPW operates a guide service at a number of sites where there's free entry for all?

So why not come see the fine circular chapel at Fern's Castle and the Knight's Templar grave slabs at St. Mary's Church in Gowran? Enjoy the beauty of the tranquil riverside walk from Mullin's Mill to Kell's Priory, the stunning remains of an Augustinian priory in as picturesque a setting as you are likely to find. See an Iron Age bog road, built in 148BC, one of the largest of its kind to have been excavated in Europe, at the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre.

At the top of County Meath's highest hills are some of the country's oldest monuments. The Loughcrew cairns are a complex of 5,000 year old passage tombs. There are about 30 tombs at Loughcrew, sited on four different hills shown on maps as Sliabh na Caillí, or The Hills of the Witch. Legend has it that the Hag or Witch formed the cairns when she jumped from one hill to the next dropping stones from her apron. After

she had jumped onto three hills, she still had to get to the fourth and final hill in order to attain great power. In the attempt to get to the last hill, she fell and died. The story says that she is buried where she fell, on the slopes of Patrickstown Hill.

Hearing the history of St. Audeon's Church, the only remaining medieval parish church in Dublin, is hearing Dublin's story. Other free visits in Dublin include Farmleigh House, Pearse Museum, the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre, the People's Flower Garden in Phoenix Park and the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin.

After visiting the gardens in Glasnevin why not visit its sister site, Kilmacurragh Arboretum, in Wicklow? The different soil and climatic conditions at Kilmacurragh result in many specimens succeeding there while struggling or failing at Glasnevin. Kilmacurragh is particularly famous for its conifers and rhododendron collections.

You'll also find castles aplenty on this list - come visit and let our guides bring them to life for you.

Contact details and opening times for all of these sites can be found on our website at: www.heritageireland.ie



Entry to all of the following sites is FREE:



**Corlea Trackway
Visitor Centre,**
Kenagh, Co. Longford



**Kilmacurragh
Arboretum,**
Kilbride, Co. Wicklow



Loughcrew,
Corstown, Oldcastle,
Co. Meath



Maynooth Castle,
Maynooth,
Co. Kildare



**Newmills Corn
and Flaxmills,**
Churchill Road,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal



Desmond Hall,
The Square,
Newcastle West,
Co. Limerick



Listowel Castle,
The Square, Listowel,
Co. Kerry



Ballyhack Castle,
Ballyhack, Co. Wexford



Dungarvan Castle,
Castle Street, Dungarvan,
Co. Waterford



Ferns Castle,
Ferns,
Co. Wexford



Kells Priory,
Kells,
Co. Kilkenny



St. Mary's Church,
Gowran,
Co. Kilkenny



The Main Guard,
Sarsfield Street, Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary



Áras an Uachtaráin,
Phoenix Park, Dublin 8
(Saturdays only)



**Farmleigh House
and Estate,**
Phoenix Park, Dublin 15



**Phoenix Park - Peoples
Flower Gardens,**
Phoenix Park, Dublin 8



**Phoenix Park Visitor
Centre
- Ashtown Castle,**
Phoenix Park, Dublin 8



**National Botanic
Gardens,**
Glasnevin, Dublin 9



Pearse Museum,
St. Enda's Park,
Grange Road,
Rathfarnham, Dublin 16



St Audoen's Church,
Cornmarket
(near High St.), Dublin 8

Explore Ireland's Heritage

KIDS GO FREE*



Newgrange



Rock of Cashel



Castletown House



Charles Fort




Swiss Cottage



Garinish Island

* From July 1st kids under 12 go free in all OPW managed Heritage Sites

For more information see:
www.opw.ie

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