

Heritage Ireland

Issue 1 SPRING 2015

Kilkenny Castle

The Long Gallery located in the
East Wing of 12th century
Kilkenny Castle

contents

in this issue...

20



11



7

4



4 News / What's Happening

Kilmainham Gaol new developments;
Irish Sign Language interpreted tours;
National Gallery 'Masterpieces' App;
Structures at Risk Fund 2015;
Yeats 2015.

7 Keeper of the Kings

Rock of Cashel

9 Damer House Gallery

a new artist-led centre for contemporary
art located in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

11 Greening Photos

St. Patrick's Day Festival -
The "Greening" of Heritage Sites

12 RMS Lusitania

As the Centenary of its sinking
rapidly approaches

15 Charles Fort

how it's inextricably linked with some of
the most momentous events in Irish and
British military history.

18 War Memorial Gardens

dedicated to the memory of the 49,400
Irish soldiers who died between
1914-1918 in the First World War.

20 Rathfarnham Castle

Exciting new discoveries

23 St. Mel's Cathedral

Restoration works at St. Mel's
Cathedral, Longford

25 Events Guide

West Waterford Festival of Food;
Art Exhibitions at Brú na Bóinne
Visitor Centre;
Kilkenny Castle Events.
World War I Exhibitions

► Sun coming up
the passage
at the Winter
Solstice,
Newgrange
Passage Tomb.

welcome

Welcome to Heritage Ireland's first e-zine, a collaboration between the Office of Public Works and the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, bringing you news and features on Ireland's wonderful heritage sites and cultural institutions.

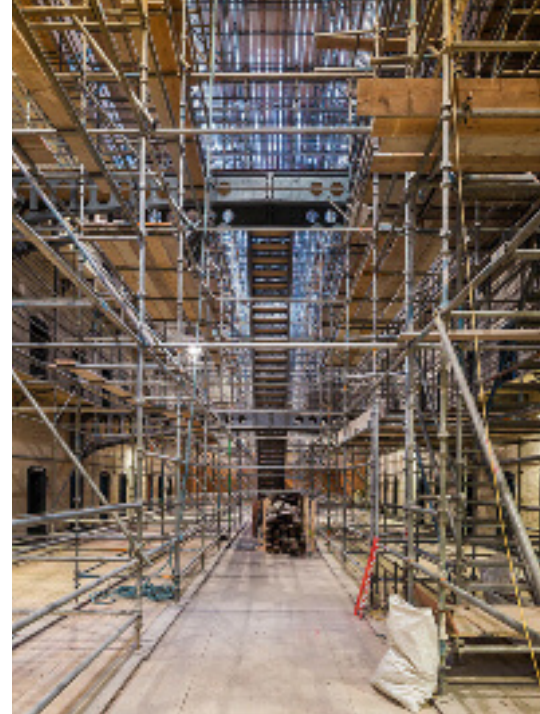
We'll share short articles by some of the people who care for these sites; the Guides who help visitors enjoy what they have to offer, Archaeologists who have studied their mysteries for years and Architects who work on their conservation. We'll hope to excite your interest about some of these places, tell you a little bit about their history and help you to plan a visit with your family and friends.

One of the themes running through this issue is Ireland during World War I, such as the story of the Irish National War Memorial Gardens dedicated to the memory of those Irish soldiers who died between 1914 -1918, as well as the story of the 'Lusitania' on the eve of its sinking 100 years ago. We also bring you news of exhibitions recently opened at the National Museum of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland in Dublin, as well as at Charles Fort overlooking Kinsale, that explore the Irish WWI experience.

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.

Exhilarating times at Kilmainham Gaol!

Opened in 1796 as the County Gaol for Dublin, Kilmainham Gaol has, at crucial moments, held within its walls most of the key personalities involved in the struggle for Irish independence.



▶ Above and left: Exterior and interior of Kilmainham Gaol and Courthouse. Images © PM Photography.

Works continue at the former Kilmainham Sessions house (Courthouse) which occupies a site immediately adjacent to the Gaol to the East and presents a unique opportunity to create additional capacity to improve visitor experience and provide ancillary curatorial, exhibition, research and visitor facilities.

The Gaol is one of the State's premier heritage visitor sites, attracting approximately 328,000 visitors annually and the addition of the Courthouse building will enhance and expand that visitor experience.

The second major element of the works at Kilmainham is the refurbishment and adaptation of the existing Museum within the Gaol. This was constructed in the mid 1990s and is the location for all the interpretation and artefact displays at Kilmainham. The exhibition is being redone, the building itself upgraded

and a new entrance provided so that it can meet the visitor traffic flow from the new Courthouse facility to the east. Work is also being done to the roof of the East Wing, which is a key part of the structure. This work involves re-roofing the Wing externally and replacing the existing glass skylight.

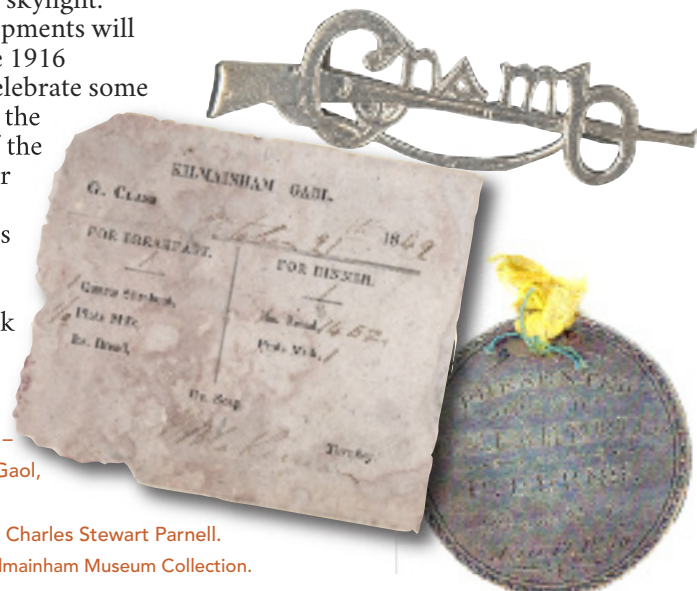
All these exciting developments will be complete in time for the 1916 Centenary when we will celebrate some of the seminal moments in the history of the formation of the State, recalling in particular the 1916 executions. The OPW National Monuments Service also plans to mark the Centenary with participation in both a book publication and a website project, more details soon!

Pictured right: Museum artefacts –

- ▶ Meal docket from Kilmainham Gaol, 21st October 1849.
- ▶ 1798 Liberty Coin presented to Charles Stewart Parnell.
- ▶ Cumann na mBan badge. © Kilmainham Museum Collection.



▶ William Smith O'Brien and Thomas Francis Meagher in Kilmainham Gaol, 1848. © Kilmainham Museum.





© Kilkenny Castle, OPW, 28-Feb-15

Above:
ISL Tour Kilkenny
Castle, 28th Feb. 2015.

Below left:
At the end of the Tour
at Farmleigh House

Below right:
At the start of the
Sign Language Tour
in Dublin Castle.

IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETED TOURS

January saw the OPW, in partnership with the Centre for Deaf Studies in TCD, launch a programme of Irish Sign Language interpreted tours at a number of heritage sites, starting with Dublin Castle, followed by Farmleigh House and Kilkenny Castle.

These tours were a huge success, enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the staff and student interpreters of the Centre for Deaf Studies and to the members of the Deaf community whose participation made these events so vibrant and worthwhile. There is a final Irish Sign Language interpreted tour in this series planned for Clonmacnoise in mid-April. Bookings can be made by emailing info@heritageireland.ie



YEATS 2015



YEATS 2015 is a yearlong national and international celebration of the life and works of Nobel Prize winning Poet William Butler Yeats. It marks 150 years since his birth on June 13th 1865. The celebrations will be rooted in Sligo – Yeats' 'spiritual home' – and connect throughout Ireland. The celebrations are intended to draw people to Ireland to begin to understand what inspired him and to share that experience. It is intended that institutions and organisations from around Ireland and the world will partner with Yeats 2015 and offer a diverse and rewarding series of events to acknowledge and celebrate the range and depth of his work and that of his family.

'MASTERPIECES' APP

The National Gallery's new 'Masterpieces' app, which provides content on 80 of the Gallery's top paintings and sculpture featuring Caravaggio, Canova, Rembrandt, Orpen, Yeats and le Brocq, is now available to download.

Using VSTORY image recognition technology, the app will enable visitors to interact directly with objects and images from the collection to activate a wide range of commentaries across the collection.

The 'Masterpieces' app is developed for the National Gallery of Ireland by Acoustiguide.

It is available in several languages (English, Irish, Italian, Spanish, German, French and Polish) and can be downloaded free to all iOS devices and most Android devices at:–
http://www.nationalgallery.ie/Home/aboutus/ThisWeek/Masterpieces_App.aspx



The vision for the project is *"Yeats 2015 will celebrate and commemorate the life, work, influence and achievements of W.B. Yeats. Through an engaging, celebratory and cultural programme, it will showcase Ireland as a dynamic, inspiring and creative place."*

The Government, through the Dept. Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has earmarked €500,000 towards the programme of events to be scheduled during *Yeats 2015*. While the final programme of events is still being finalised there has been an invite to artistic groups to submit events to be included in the national programme. In addition, National Cultural Institutions will support the project by hosting Yeats themed exhibitions/events throughout the year.

For more information visit <http://www.yeats2015.com/>

STRUCTURES AT RISK FUND 2015

In February, Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, announced funding of €624,000 for the protection and upgrading of heritage buildings under the Structures at Risk Fund 2015.

The Fund is used to safeguard structures in civic and private ownership protected under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, and can also apply to some structures in Architectural Conservation Areas. Typical works funded under the scheme include roof repairs, structural consolidation and measures to ensure weather tightness.

Minister Humphreys said:

"This scheme encourages the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and helps to secure the preservation of protected structures which might otherwise be lost. Since 2011, over 100 structures have been safeguarded for the future as a result of the Structures at Risk Fund scheme."

"Continuing the scheme this year will allow individuals and local authorities to take positive action to protect heritage buildings and structures in their area. Our built heritage is an incredibly important asset in terms of tourism and for the pride and enjoyment of local communities."

"By continuing to support best practice in the conservation of protected structures, we can preserve our built heritage of future generations and boost our attractiveness as a tourist destination, while also contributing to local employment."

Details of the application process for the Structures at Risk Fund 2015 can be obtained by contacting your local authority.

KEEPER OF THE KINGS

Rock of Cashel

Elaine Moriarty – Supervisor Guide at the Rock of Cashel

"Mine is an unusual job. I am neither a butcher nor a baker nor a candlestick maker. You could be guessing for a year and a day and you'd never guess what I am. The word 'unique' is much abused, but my position here and now lays claim to it. I'd best start off by giving myself my correct title which is 'Official Caretaker of, and Guide to, the Rock of Cashel, Hore Abbey, St. Dominick's Abbey, in the City of Cashel, in the County of Tipperary, Ireland.' That would sound fine in the mouth of a good herald."

That is a piece from an article written by my grandfather Joe Minogue and published by The Bell in 1942. In the same article he states that in 1942 he had held the job for close to twenty years. His brother had it before that and his father had it before him again. Between the three of them they had given, at that stage, the greater part of fifty years on the Rock.

My great-grandfather John Minogue was once a clerical student in Rome with a passion for archaeology. He later became an Inspector in the R.I.C.



before taking up the position as caretaker and guide to the Rock of Cashel around 1892. After his death in 1922 his son, also named John, took up the position until 1926. My grandfather, Joe Minogue, took over the role in 1926 and held it until his death in 1957. Joe Minogue's son Billy, my uncle, took over in 1957 and retired in the 1980s. My cousin, Michael O'Dwyer, also worked as a guide on the Rock during the 1980s. I started

working on the Rock as a guide in 1992 and, apart from a short spell where I worked in England, have been here ever since. I became Supervisor in 2005. The Minogue family have been associated with the Rock of Cashel for over 120 years in total.



The family tradition of service to the Rock continued when my sister, Julieanne Slattery, started work as a guide in 2005. In 2007 she travelled to Australia but returned to the Rock in 2009. Growing up we both heard stories and sagas of historic battles between

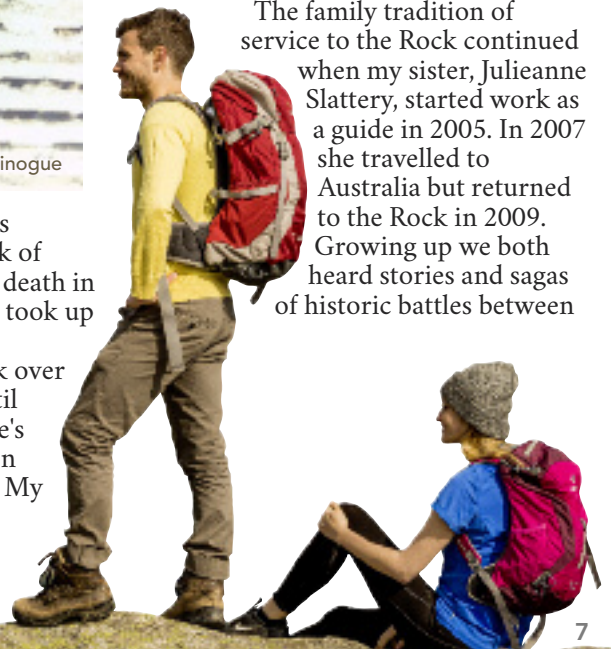




Image © Tourism Ireland

dynasties going back centuries, recounted so passionately by our Uncle Billy. One of Julieanne's earliest memories was of our Uncle Billy standing outside Cormac's Chapel conducting a guided tour. As a result Cashel's vast and fascinating history was never far from our thoughts, even when we lived overseas.

Reading through the article my grandfather wrote in 1942, he also reflects that his knowledge of the Rock did not consist of surface patter. His father saw to that. He drilled the story of Cashel into them when they were young. The very odd time my great-grandfather was ill my grandfather would be allowed to conduct visitors on a guided tour around the Rock. On his return he had to render a strict account of his doings. Had he done this? Had he done that? Had he translated the Latin inscription at the Cathedral threshold? What had he said it signified? Satisfied with my grandfather's responses, my great-grandfather would cover himself up with the bedclothes and chuckle softly to himself.

In that article, my grandfather also asks the question, "Have I ever locked a person into the Cathedral at night?" "Well no, I haven't" is his answer. When locking up for the night he would give a "hello" in through the Cathedral door just to make sure there was no one inside. His ears were so finely tuned to the gentle noises of the buildings that he would know almost instinctively whether there was someone inside or not.

For my part I believe that a good



HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, Minister Brian Hayes, HM Queen Elizabeth II, Elaine Moriarty.

© Maxwell Photography



Elaine Moriarty and Julie Slattery

tour guide is more than simply an imparter of historic information. I believe the job entails having as much enthusiasm in the delivery as it does in the acquiring of knowledge. I impress on guides that they are like actors on a stage delivering their lines in a way that makes their audience hang on every word. I tell the guides to enjoy what they're doing and to interact with the visitors as much as they can on a busy site. Often you will find it's the connection made at the end of a tour that leaves the best impression. Being at ease with people and imagining yourself a performer does indeed help as part of the job description.

Managing such a busy site can be a testing affair at times, even for the experienced, but, within the confines of the most sacred of Irish historical sites, the vast majority of working days are very pleasant ones. It's hard not to be proud of Ireland's wonderful and ancient history when you work in a place like this. Every day I have a feeling of pride. People are listening to

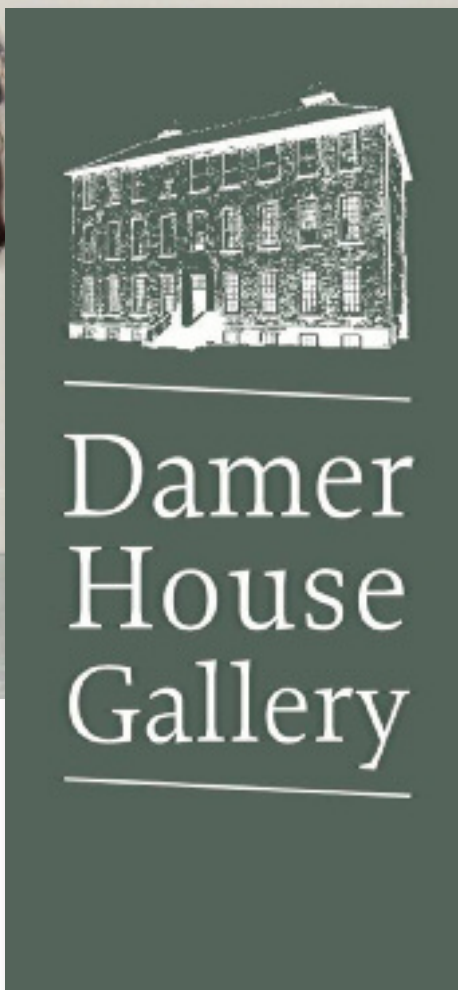
your every word and will often applaud at the end. There are few enough jobs in this world where you get that kind of response.

Both my sister Julieanne and I felt a massive sense of pride to be present during the historic visit of HM Queen Elizabeth II and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh to the Rock of Cashel in May 2011. Before their arrival that morning I paid a visit to my grandfather's grave on the Rock and pondered over what he would think of his two granddaughters welcoming the Royal couple to his beloved Rock.

I would like to conclude with a final piece from my grandfather's article and, reading it, you will understand the pride he and our family still have today working on the Rock of Cashel:

"That's my story as best I can tell it. Ah, but I almost forgot. When next you pass Cashel I shall be resplendent in a uniform with a peaked shiny cap. If you cannot come, I would have you picture me against the background of my beloved Rock and the richest land in all Ireland thrown in a great circle about my feet. The rich land runs till it meets the mountains whose names I know like a prayer – Slievenamon, the Comeraghs, the Galtees, Knockagreena, Devil's Bit. Those landmarks at the very least are unchanged and unchangeable since Oliol Olum or Aengus stood and contemplated them from Cashel before breakfast. The Kings are dead. I guard them. In truth, I am the Keeper of the Kings."

– Elaine Moriarty



▲ Community Project Photo Exhibition

Mission Statement

Damer House Gallery is home to a collaborative artistic research project, opening a new critical space within which to create a platform for public awareness for art and criticism, through the presentation of contemporary art practice/dialogue, public discussions and publications with unorthodox interventions. The project aims to explore what a vital critical art forum could be for art and for the public in the Midlands.

Damer House Gallery is a new Artist-led Centre for Contemporary Art located in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

Project

Damer House Gallery is a new artist-led centre for contemporary art located in Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. The project is housed in the 18th century Damer House, an example of pre-Palladian architecture in the Queen Anne Style. The house is part of a 13th century Castle Complex, managed by the Office of Public Works. The Complex also includes a stone castle with gate tower, curtain walls and two corner towers,

and a restored mill displaying the original St. Cronan's high cross and pillar stone. It has been open to the public as a heritage centre since 1992.

Patricia Hurl and Therry Rudin are two artists behind this project. Since moving to the area in 2007 we have engaged with the local art context, making work at our studios in Ballybritt and Roscrea and presenting it in Birr Theatre and Arts Centre and Tullamore Arts Centre. Sometimes working independently, sometimes in collaboration, we have developed multi-layered practices over the years, making, curating and developing socially engaged projects that respond to their own lived experiences and local contexts. We began to reflect on the awareness of contemporary art in Roscrea in the last couple of years and came to the conclusion that there was room to develop a contemporary art initiative there - something that would create a platform to bring together artists and the public.

The Office of Public Works, to its credit, saw how much this venture would add to the experience of visitors to the centre and to the cultural life of the town. We were a little taken aback to find ourselves responsible for the



Itsa-Artist Collective, Galway

space so much sooner than expected, particularly as it was in need of some attention. However, we decided to grasp the opportunity and the Damer House project was born in the summer of 2013.

Damer House Gallery Programme

The Gallery reopens on 2nd April 2015, with an artist in residence program. We close for the winter at the end of September. Opening times are Wednesday to Sunday from 11am to 6pm.

CURATED EXHIBITION:

(10th April - 10th May 2015) This exhibition shows the work of Midland artists. It is curated by Muireann Ní Chonaill, Laois County Arts Officer and Director of Arts House

TIPPERARY BEALTAINÉ FESTIVAL:

Celebrating creativity as we age, for the month of May with Damer House Gallery

'HOMELANDS' VIDEO LOOP:

International and National moving images in art **(23rd May – 6th June**

2015) With National and International artists in collaboration with 'Loop Festival Barcelona 2015'. This year we will exchange two Irish artists / curators / administrators for two peers from Barcelona for a Seminar / Workshop weekend.

EXHIBITION ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM 2015:

(13th June – 5th July 2015) Exhibition showing the work of last year's artists in residence Whitty/ Gordon project. Film works with research work film forum evenings.

SELECTED GRADUATE EXHIBITION:

(18th July – 15th August 2015) The artists are graduates of Fine Art from The Centre for Creative Arts Galway (GMIT), Limerick School of Art (LIT) and Crawford College of Art and Design (CIT).

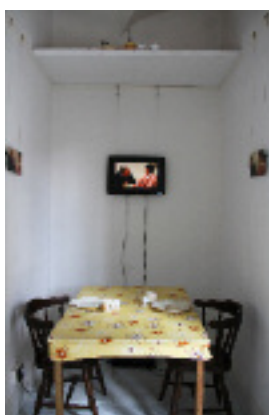
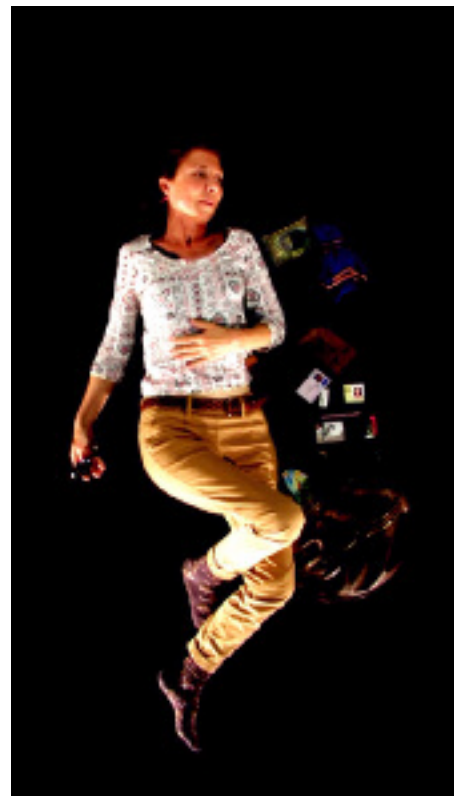
THE RAVEN AND THE WRITING DESK:

(22nd August to 20th September) A curated exhibition showing specially created new work by the well known artists Ciarnad Ryan, Catherina Maquire and Jerry Cahill, all of whom have connections to County Tipperary. The exhibition is entitled "Mad Hatter: "Why is a raven like a writing-desk?" Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME:

To celebrate Damer House Gallery's first anniversary, we will be advertising the residence programme in conjunction with VAI and the County Council Arts Officer.

www.facebook.com/DamerHouseGallery



Images, top right: Loop artists video show with Irish and Barcelona artist Crisis de Estado.

Centre left to right: Photographic Workshop with Roscrea Community. Whitty: Gordon Project Londoner based artists in Residence Damer House.

Bottom left to right: Ciarnad Ryan Artist in Residence Workshop. Graduate Show Installation Robert Monaghan Annex.

Dublin Castle



Trim Castle

Wolfe Tone Monument



**St. Patrick's Day Festival
The "Greening" of Heritage Sites**

OPW's tradition of "going green" for the St Patrick's Day Festival was another huge success with many sites illuminating our national colour across their facade. Sites such as the Rock of Cashel, Dublin Castle, Casino Marino and Ross Castle joined the numerous iconic sites both at home and abroad that proudly displayed the colour green.

Rock of Cashel





RMS LUSITANIA

AS THE CENTENARY OF ITS SINKING RAPIDLY APPROACHES...

TEXT: FIONNBARR MOORE

The wreck of the Cunard ocean liner RMS *Lusitania* lies at a depth of over 93 metres, 11 nautical miles off the south coast of Ireland at a location that is within sight of the old head of Kinsale.

On the 7th of May 1915 the ship had almost completed a transatlantic voyage en route from New York to Liverpool when it was spotted by German submarine U-20 under the command of Kapitanleutnant Walther Schwieger. One torpedo was fired, hitting the ship just under or just aft of the bridge on the starboard side. The torpedo strike may have triggered a secondary explosion, something which many survivors claimed to have heard, and this may have accelerated the ship's sinking given that it only took some 18 minutes for it to fully sink beneath the waves. Out of 1,962 people on board 1,198 lives were lost. While 764 people were rescued 128 American citizens died, causing outrage in the United States which in turn had a significant influence on their decision to enter the war on the side of the allies in 1917.

Apart from being an important archaeological and historical site, the wreck is the last resting place of over 900 people many of whose remains may still be entombed within it. It therefore deserves due respect as the grave site of those unfortunate passengers and crew. Only 289 bodies were ever recovered and most of these were interred in the Old Church Cemetery in Cobh.

The ship was built in Glasgow, completed in 1906 and her maiden voyage to New York took place in September 1907. On arrival in New York she was greeted as a marvel of the age and hundreds of thousands turned out to welcome her. Along with her sister ship the *Mauritania*, the *Lusitania* was the pride of the Cunard line. She was the biggest and fastest ship in the world when built, capable of travelling up to 25 knots and on occasion faster. It went on to hold the Blue Riband for transatlantic crossings on many

► **Top image: Arrival in New York 1907**

The *Lusitania* arriving in the Hudson River, New York, where she was greeted by hundreds of thousands of people and great fanfare after completing her maiden voyage from Liverpool in September 1907. The Statue of Liberty is visible in the background. (Courtesy of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich).

occasions. The ship was fitted out to the highest specifications with first class accommodation in the neo classical style of the 18th century. The second and third class accommodation was also of a relatively high standard reflecting the commercial value of the large number of third-class passengers making the emigrant journey to America. Provision was also made for twelve revolving wheels or gun rings for 6in. guns, should they be needed in time of war.

Much controversy has raged over the years in relation to the ship's cargo and whether it was carrying explosive materials that could pose a danger for passenger safety. The ship's manifest clearly shows that it was carrying millions of rounds of .303 bullets, over 1000 cases of unfilled shrapnel shells and aluminium powder, but these were not considered to be a threat to passenger safety and thereby permitted for trading by a neutral power. Question marks remain over what else it might have been carrying that could have contributed to the secondary explosion at the time of the torpedo impact.

Over the years the wreck has been subjected to a number of salvage attempts and was depth charged in the late 1940s in training exercises by the Royal Navy. In 1982 Oceaneering International recovered three of the ship's bronze propellers, two of the ship's anchors, a ship's whistle, china, brass fuses for 6in.shells and some personal possessions of passengers. One of the propellers was melted down to be converted into golf clubs while another is on display on Liverpool docks.

Today the wreck lies in deep water on its starboard side and measures 241 metres in length by 46 metres in width standing on average 9.9metres off the seabed. Although slowly collapsing, with a large debris field along the starboard side, the bow still stands proud of the seabed with many structural elements clearly discernible.

In 1995 the wreck was protected by Underwater Heritage Order (UHO) under a provision of the National Monuments Act which allows for the

► Right: **Recruitment Poster** designed to promote recruitment to the British armed forces in Ireland and Britain and as propaganda to turn American opinion in favour of supporting the war effort against Germany. (Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland)



protection of wrecks that are less than one hundred years old on account of their 'historical, archaeological or artistic importance'. All wrecks over 100 years old are automatically protected under the National Monuments Act. The UHO was placed on the wreck by then Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht (now President) Michael D Higgins, and as a result anyone wishing to undertake diving or other investigations aimed at the exploration of the wreck site must apply to the minister (through the licensing section of the National Monuments Service) for a licence to do so.

The wreck is significant for a number of reasons; its technical sophistication, its role in influencing American public and political opinion and her eventual entry into WWI; the unanswered questions surrounding its cargo, whether or not it was carrying explosives likely to endanger the lives of innocent passengers. The wreck and the artefacts contained within and around it can tell the story of the ship and its untimely demise graphically by their simple presence on the seabed. With regard to the context of the ship itself, It is only one of over 1000 vessels that were sunk in Irish waters during WWI and over the next few years all of these wrecks will fall under the provision of the National Monuments Act protecting wrecks over 100 years old. The precedents set



Top image: **Mass Grave in Cobh**

The sinking of the *Lusitania* by U-20, with the loss of 1,198 lives, was one of the worst maritime tragedies of WWI. For days afterwards bodies washed ashore along the Cork coastline or were recovered by local fishing boats. The bodies were buried in mass graves in Old Church cemetery, Cobh. (Courtesy of Ian Lawler).

in relation to the regulation of activities on the wreck of the RMS *Lusitania* will have implications for how the National Monuments Service deals with this added responsibility in the years ahead. Many of these wrecks, like the *Lusitania*, are also the last resting place of passengers or crew.

In 2013 a memorandum of understanding was agreed between the National Monuments Service and the owner of the wreck, Mr F.Gregg Bemis, in regard to present and future research projects on the wreck and Mr

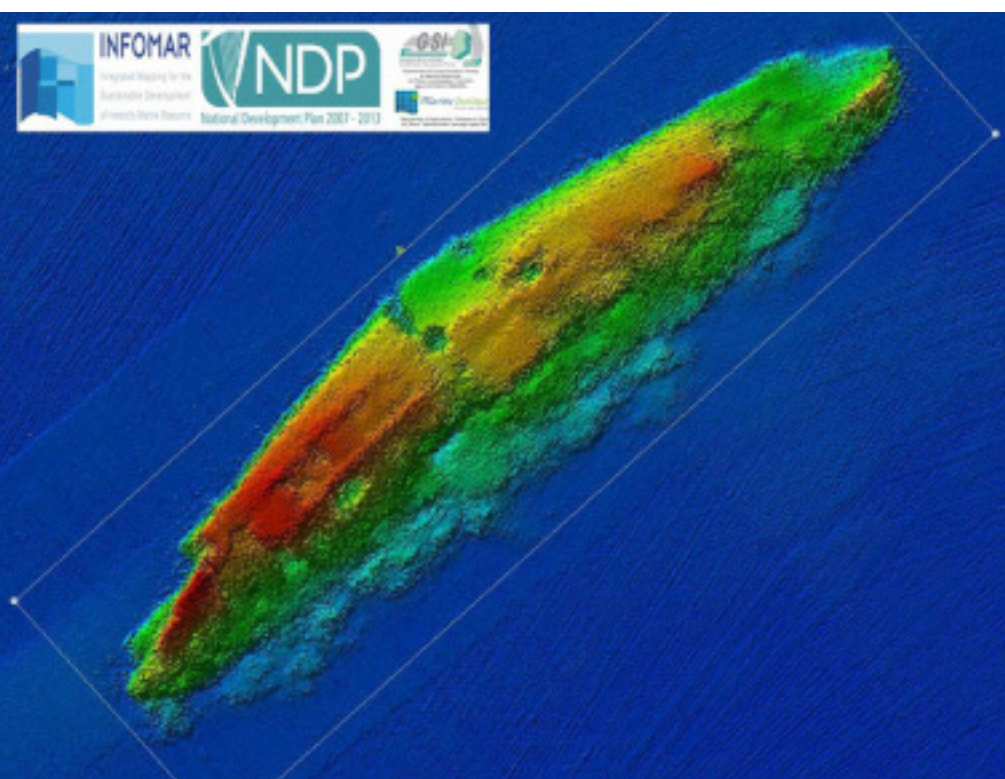
Bemis has also been granted a three year licence with a view to seeking funding for a research project aimed at further investigations into the cause of the second explosion.

Commemorations are planned for the May 7th centenary in Courtmacsherry, Cobh and Kinsale, the three places most closely associated with the aftermath of the sinking. Looking to the future there is a need for on-going monitoring of the wreck and for scientific assessments of its structural integrity so that informed decisions can be made in relation to striking a balance between preservation in situ, which is the ideal, and the need to rescue artefacts and key components of the wreck that could be lost forever as it slowly collapses in on itself.

In commemorating the sinking of the *Lusitania* what must remain to the forefront of our thoughts is the fact that the wreck as it lies on the seabed today is a monument to all who died on it and especially to those whose remains may still be entombed within it. It is also a reminder to all of the suffering and devastation that can be unleashed at the flick of a switch in time of war.

Thanks to Karl Brady, Connie Kelleher and Ian Lawlor for help with images and information.

Left: **Multibeam Image of the wreck**
Recent multibeam image of the liner lying on its starboard side, slowly collapsing in on itself. (Courtesy of the Geological Survey of Ireland).



Charles Fort, Kinsale

and World War I



Aerial Photo of Charles Fort

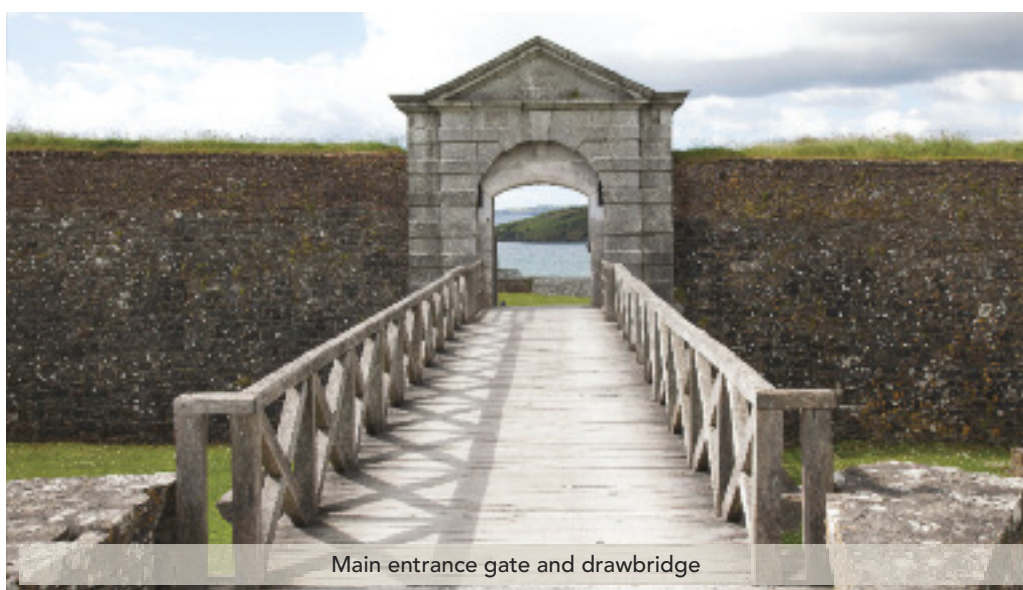
Amongst Ireland's most historic National Monuments are Charles Fort, Desmond Castle and James Fort, located in the medieval town of Kinsale, Co. Cork, which is famed for its gourmet cuisine, winding streets, architectural splendour and old world charm. Kinsale and its National Monuments are inextricably linked with some of the most momentous events in Irish and British military history.

Intimidating Coastal Fort

Constructed in 1682 and garrisoned by the British Army until 1922, Charles Fort overlooks the Old Head of Kinsale and the mouth of the Bandon River. Today, this formidable structure provides a platform to enjoy the breathtaking views of Kinsale town and harbour. Almost 70,000 visitors a year enter via the drawbridge and step back in time to explore this 'terror from the sea'.

Commanding the seaward approach into Kinsale, Charles Fort is a five-bastioned star-shaped fort. This remarkable piece of military engineering was completed during the reign of King Charles II. Manual labourers were paid 6 pence for a 12-hour day on its construction.

The earth-filled stone walls reach



Main entrance gate and drawbridge

up to 45 feet high and upwards of 150 cannon platforms are testament to the scale and size of this magnificent fortress. Good walking shoes are

recommended as visitors will want to explore all 10 hectares of one of the finest 17th-century forts within Britain and Ireland.



Winding streets and colourful houses in Kinsale

Kinsale: A Heritage Town

As Ireland's most southerly port, its defence by the Crown was central to the security of Britain and its colonial empire. East and West India bound fleets enjoyed safe anchorage in its sheltered harbour. Ireland's first Royal naval dockyard was established here in the early 17th century.

Today Kinsale is a thriving tourist destination renowned for its picturesque setting, activities and hospitality. It is an ideal base for touring West Cork and the 'Wild Atlantic Way'.



The International Museum of Wine

Desmond Castle and the International Museum of Wine

This fine urban tower house occupies an imposing position at the top of Chairman's Lane, close to Kinsale Regional Museum and St. Multose Church, all located within a short stroll of the town centre. The tour guides will take you through the history of the town and the importance of the wine trade to Kinsale. You will also hear of the great Irish wine families of Bordeaux

and beyond. Children will be amazed to hear about the harsh conditions that French, Spanish and American prisoners-of-war experienced when confined in the Castle in the 17th and 18th centuries.



Desmond Castle

James Fort

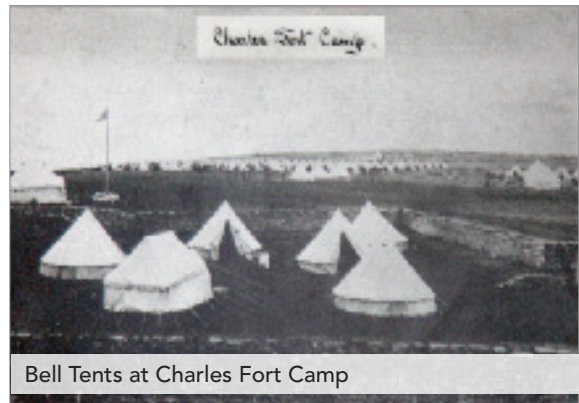
Guarding the western side of Kinsale harbour, this earthen fort was constructed following the successful capture of Kinsale town by Spanish forces in 1601. Commissioned by King James I and designed by Paul Ive, James Fort was one of the earliest star-shaped fortifications protecting the south coast of Ireland. Besieged and taken twice throughout its history, the fort suffered from neglect in times of peace.

Today, James Fort sits on high ground with spectacular views of the town and harbour. Good walking shoes are again recommended to visitors who would like to explore the conserved ruins of the fort. The quaint Dock Beach and the military Block House are within a few minutes stroll from the fort and are worth a visit. Parking is available in the village at the bottom of the hill.

Charles Fort: Siege to Restoration

Charles Fort is open to visitors year round. It hosts two exhibition centres and offers guided tours. To bring the fort and the experiences of the past to life, tours are a must. Hear the story of the siege of Charles Fort in October 1690, how John Churchill, Earl of Marlborough, in his campaign against James II, successfully captured the fort after a thirteen day siege.

From the mid 1700's, Charles Fort was adapted and developed as an infantry barracks, providing accommodation for 450 soldiers. For the lucky few, married quarters could be an option. Visitors will experience the conditions endured by the thousands of English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish enlisted men who slept, ate, drilled and fought within the fort's great curtain walls.



Bell Tents at Charles Fort Camp



Aerial view of James Fort

Following its destruction in 1922 Charles Fort was abandoned. The last residents within the walls were the hippies, who, ironically, believed in peace, not war. In 1973 the National Monuments Service commenced the restoration of Charles Fort.

World War I: The War to End All Wars



Illustration of the Uniform of the 3rd (Militia) Battalion – Royal Munster Fusiliers, 1903.

Military activity heightened in Charles Fort during the Great War. Kinsale, with an urban population of 4,020 in 1911, contributed greatly to the call for volunteers.

95 Kinsale-born men, attached to various British Infantry Regiments, never returned home. It is estimated that 200,000 Irishmen fought for Britain in WWI. Historically, Irish service in the British Army was a well-established tradition. The 4th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers (Extra Reserve) had a long standing association with Charles Fort and Kinsale. Recruitment to this regiment was popular with local men. They rushed to enlist so as to fight in the 'war to end all wars'. In doing so, sons followed fathers and friends followed each other.

Avenge the *Lusitania*

Given Kinsale's maritime history many chose to enlist in the Royal Navy, Navy Reserve and Merchant Marine. The death toll was high. Fifty-two Kinsale men lost their lives in dangerous waters. The torpedoing of the *Lusitania*, off the Old Head of Kinsale in May 1915 with the loss of 1,198 lives, escalated the conflict. The Government recruiting poster, as shown, sought to encourage more men to enlist.



Connaught Rangers – 'The Devil's Own'

1914-1917 witnessed the expansion of barrack accommodation in Charles Fort, in order to house and train the huge numbers of enlisted men of the 3rd Reserve Battalion, Connaught Rangers. Practice raids on trench warfare, parade ground drilling, rifle and bayonet practice and route marches filled the enlisted man's day. Soldiers and officers of the 3rd Battalion were drafted to battle fronts such as the Dardanelles, Mesopotamia, the Western Front and Palestine. By 1915, Charles Fort was billeting in excess of 1,500 soldiers as witnessed by the St. Patrick's Day church parade on 17th March 1915.

Good behaviour and discipline were expected of the men. Private T. Higgins was admonished on 5th January 1915 as 'he was found in bed at 1.30 pm.' Two weeks later he was found 'fit for active service' and posted out to the 1st Battalion in Mesopotamia, where he died of wounds received on 22nd March 1916. The Connaught Rangers remained at Charles Fort in a training capacity until 5th November 1917. Departing Kinsale via train to Dublin, they received a big send off from the local towns people.



Above:
Cap badge of the
Connaught Rangers.

Left:
Injured soldiers from
the Western Front
recuperating in
Charles Fort c.1915.

© Photographs of Kinsale
and the Fort entrance by
Nellius Buckley, Kinsale.
All other photography
© Government of Ireland
National Monuments Service
Photographic Unit.

A new exhibition on the role of Charles Fort and the military barracks in Kinsale during the First World War will open this year in Charles Fort. Newly revealed material including photographs, maps and information on some of the individuals connected with the site will offer an enhanced perspective on the life of the men who were stationed in Kinsale between 1914 and 1917.

Whether you have an interest in military engineering, military or social history or just prefer to sit in the Tearooms and soak up the spectacular views of Kinsale town and harbour, Charles Fort is well worth a visit. Open year round, with exhibition centres and guided tours available, a warm welcome will be extended to all visitors to Charles Fort.

For more information please contact Charles Fort at telephone number **+353 (0)21 4772263**, email **charlesfort@opw.ie** or visit our website **www.heritageireland.ie**. For further information on the many delights Kinsale has to offer visit the Kinsale Chamber of Tourism website **www.kinsale.ie**
Text by Karen Healy, Head Guide, Charles Fort National Monument.



Irish National War Memorial Gardens

The Irish National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge are dedicated to the memory of the 49,400 Irish soldiers who died between 1914-1918 in the First World War.

The Gardens were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, the distinguished British architect and landscape designer, and occupy an area of about eight hectares on the southern banks of the River Liffey about three kilometres from the centre of Dublin. These gardens are one of the most famous memorial gardens in Europe. A formal visit to the Memorial Gardens on 18 May 2011 was one of the historic highlights of Queen Elizabeth II's visit to the Republic of Ireland. The Queen and President Mary McAleese laid wreaths of poppy and laurel respectively to honour the dead. An annual ceremony of remembrance and wreath-laying for the Irish dead of the First World War is held each July.

Following a meeting held in Dublin in 1919 it was agreed that there should be a permanent Memorial to commemorate all those Irish men and women killed in the First World War and a Memorial Committee was appointed to raise funds to further this aim. It was eventually agreed that a Memorial Park be laid out on a site known as Longmeadows on the banks of the Liffey. The scheme embodied the idea of a public park, to be laid out at Government expense, which would include a Garden of Remembrance and War Memorial to be paid for from the funds of the Memorial Committee. Construction of the linear parkway, about 60 hectares in extent stretching from Islandbridge to Chapelizod, began in 1931 and took about two years to complete. The Memorial Gardens were laid out between 1933 and 1939. The





workforce for the project was formed of fifty percent of ex-British Army servicemen and fifty percent of ex-servicemen from the Irish National Army.

The gardens as a whole are a lesson in classical symmetry and formality and it is generally acknowledged that Lutyens' concept for the Islandbridge site is outstanding among the many war memorials he created throughout the world. His love of local material and the contrasting moods of the various 'compartments' of the gardens, all testify to his artistic genius.

The central 'compartment' consists of a lawn enclosed by a high dry limestone wall with granite piers. In the centre is the 'War Stone' of Irish granite, symbolising an altar, which weighs seven and a half tons. The dimensions of this are identical to War Stones in First World War memorials found throughout the world. The War Stone is flanked on either side by broad fountain basins, with obelisks or 'needles' in their centres symbolising candles. On rising ground south of the War Stone, at the head of a semi-circular flight of granite steps, stands the Great Cross with its truncated arms. This is aligned with the War Stone and central avenue. On the cope of the wall at the cross is inscribed the words :

"TO THE MEMORY OF THE
49,400 IRISHMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-18".

At either end of the lawn are two pairs of Bookrooms in granite, representing the four provinces of Ireland. These contain the Books of Remembrance in which are inscribed the names of the 49,400 Irish soldiers, who died in the First World War. One of the bookrooms now houses the Ginchy Cross, a wooden cross of celtic design, some 13ft (4m) high which was erected in 1917 as a memorial to the 4,354 men of the 16th Irish Division who died in the two engagements at Guillemont and Ginchy during the 1916 Battle of the Somme. Later replaced by a stone cross, the original cross was brought back to Ireland in 1926.

The planting schemes were, in Lutyens' view, of vital importance to the success of the overall design. His proposals were implemented by a committee composed of eminent horticulturists, including Sir Frederick Moore, the former keeper of the National Botanic Gardens. The assistant superintendent of the Phoenix Park, Mr A. F. Pearson, was also on the committee and he supervised the planting of trees and shrubs by the Phoenix Park Forestry Unit as well as selecting the four thousand roses for the sunken rose gardens.

A combination of pests, diseases, weather and natural decay, coupled with the lack of staff in the late 1960s, all conspired to reduce the Memorial Gardens to dilapidation. Restoration work undertaken by the Office of Public Works commenced in the mid-1980's and is now completed. This was jointly funded by the government and the National War Memorial Committee, which is representative of Ireland, both north and south. On 10 September 1988, fifty years after they were initially laid out, the Gardens were formally dedicated by representatives of the four main Churches in Ireland and opened to the public. The Irish National War Memorial Gardens are now managed by the Office of Public Works in conjunction with the National War Memorial Committee.

The Gardens are open year round.

For more details and opening times go to

www.heritageireland.ie/en/Dublin/WarMemorialGardens/



Exciting Discoveries at RATHFARNHAM CASTLE

While many visitors to Rathfarnham Castle are aware of its fine 18th century interiors built to the designs of Sir William Chambers and James 'Athenian' Stuart, the Castle has a history dating back to the 1580's when it was built as an imposing, fortified house for Archbishop Adam Loftus, Lord Chancellor of Ireland and first Provost of Trinity College. The Castle was battlemented and studded with gun loops and must have dominated what was then open countryside.



The Castle remained in the Loftus family until the 1720's when it was sold to defray enormous debts incurred by the profligate Duke of Wharton, but came back into the family in the 1760's, and it was at this time that it was transformed into an elegant country home. The Loftus family sold the Castle to Lord Chancellor Blackburne in the early 19th century and the Blackburne family remained in residence for three generations. The final residents of Rathfarnham Castle were the Society of Jesus who sold the Castle in the mid-1980's. It was purchased for the Nation and declared a National Monument in 1987.

Since then the Office of Public Works has been undertaking a programme of restoration and conservation and most recently work began to improve access to the building with the installation of a lift and ramps. As part of the works Archaeologist Antoine Giacometti was contracted to document any findings, but little did we suspect just how much would be discovered! These discoveries have shed new light on the earlier phases of the Castle and its occupants. Additional gunloops as old as the Castle itself were discovered, a 16th century fire surround, fireplaces and the locations of original doors and windows. And this was just the start of what was to be a very exciting excavation!

The structural finds were very interesting indeed, but the most exciting discovery relates to the finding of a treasure trove of 17th century artefacts – all high status



Photographs: 'Rathfarnham Castle at Night' © Government of Ireland National Monuments Service Photographic Unit. © Fáilte Ireland.
17th century artefacts discovered at Rathfarnham Castle.
The remains of a blocked-up 16th century door beside its 18th century replacement.

item indicating a leisured and comfortable life including lead-crystal drinking glasses, glass figurines, monogrammed wine bottles, coins, porcelain from China, cutlery, seeds and pips from exotic fruits, fish and bird bones, items of costume, bobbins for lace-making, jars which may contain cosmetics and even a folding toothbrush! Why were those items stashed away in a corner of one of the towers? That we don't know, but it's very likely that the items relate to a specific household, that of Lord Adam Loftus, Viscount Lisburne, a descendant of the original Adam Loftus and a favourite of both Charles II and William of Orange at various times. He also had a reputation as a duellist, adventurer and as a bit of a rake! Adam Loftus, Viscount Lisburne died at the Siege of Limerick in 1691, and should you wish to see the cannonball which decapitated him, pay a visit to St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin where you'll see the cannonball hanging over the family tomb.

All these wonderful finds have now been removed from the Castle and are being cleaned and analysed and Antoine Giacometti and Finds Supervisor Alva McGowan are working with the National Museum to conserve these remarkable artefacts.

Meanwhile preparations are under way for the re-opening of the Castle in summer 2015. We're very much looking forward to welcoming our visitors and sharing our new-found knowledge of the early design of the Castle, not to mention our new expertise on the life and lifestyle of a 17th century follower of high fashion, bon vivant, soldier and rake!

Check www.heritageireland.ie for updates on our opening arrangements or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/rathfarnhamcastle and plan your visit!



(Above) Archaeologist Alva Mac Gowan, Minister of State Simon Harris, Minister Heather Humphreys, Clare McGrath Chairman OPW and Ragnhalla Ó Floinn Director of the National Museum of Ireland.

(Below) This blue and white plate is Chinese, Qim Xi dynasty.




Visit Ireland's Heritage Sites for Free!

The Office of Public Works is pleased to announce that on **the first Wednesday of every month**, all OPW managed Heritage Sites will offer **FREE ADMISSION** to the public for the duration of their opening season.

A list of sites, and full details, can be found on: www.heritageireland.ie

E V E N T S



Print Gallery, 2014. Admission Free

National Gallery of Ireland

This is your last chance to catch the exhibition entitled *From the Archives: The Story of the National Gallery of Ireland*, on display at the Print Gallery. This exhibition celebrates the development of the

Gallery from 1864 to the present day and focuses on the important contribution of patrons and benefactors to the development of a national collection. It includes over 100 items from the NGI Archives, Library and Print Room collections, featuring historical records, registers, publications, photographs, correspondence and architectural plans that are an integral part of the history of this national cultural institution. The exhibition closes on 12th April, 2015.

Admission is free

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday: 9.30am to 5.30pm. Thursday: 9.30am to 8.30pm. Sunday: 11.00am to 5.30pm.

EMO COURT

Emo Court, located near the village of Emo in Co Laois is a large neo-classical mansion. It was designed by the architect James Gandon in 1790.

Access to House by Guided Tour only: 2nd April to 23rd September: Daily 10am to 6pm.

Gardens open all year every day during daylight hours.

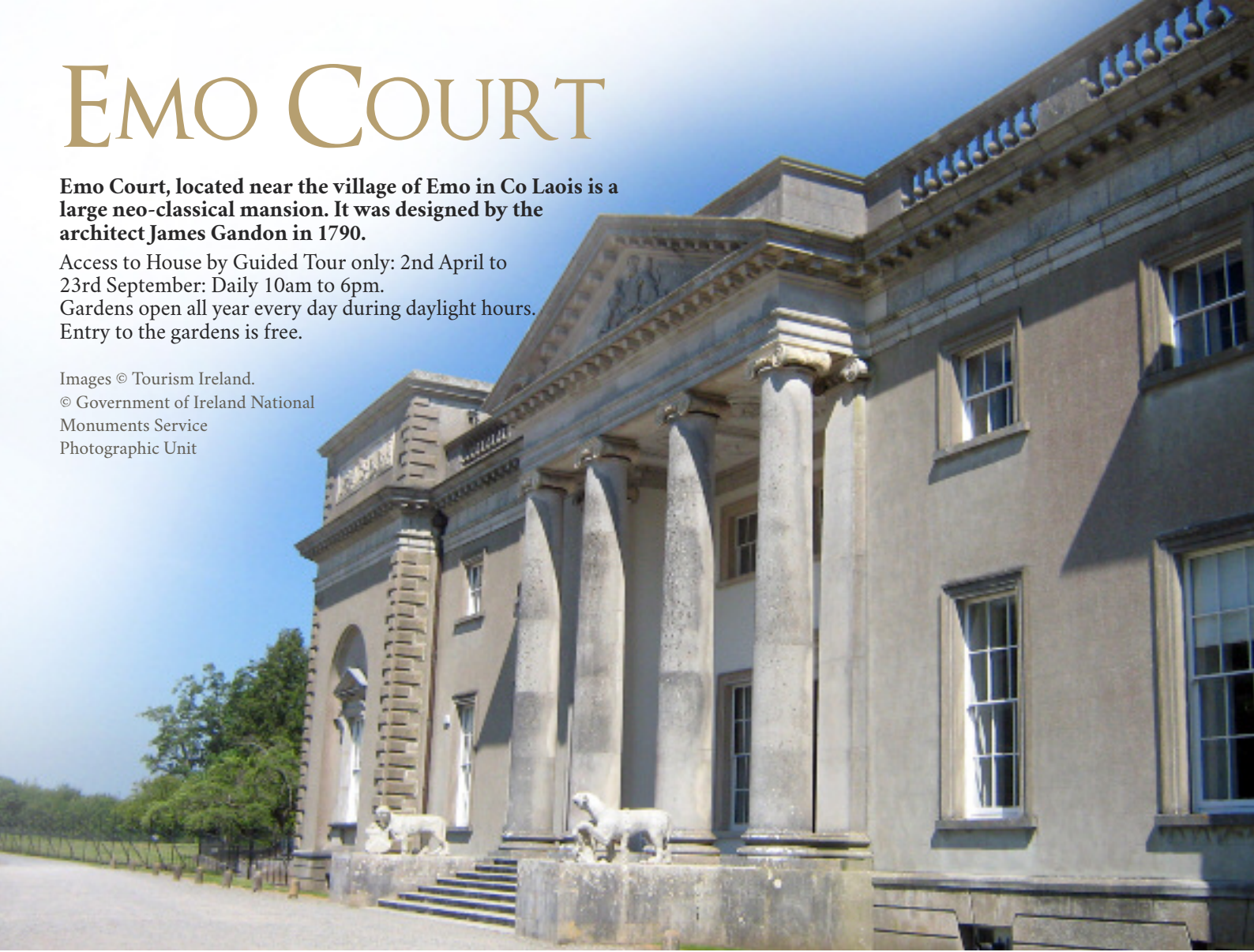
Entry to the gardens is free.

Images © Tourism Ireland.

© Government of Ireland National

Monuments Service

Photographic Unit



Restoration of St. Mel's Cathedral Longford

In the early hours of Christmas morning 2009, St Mel's Cathedral was severely damaged by a catastrophic fire.

The blaze caused the roof to collapse, and temperatures of 1000° resulted in extensive damage to the internal plaster work and the internal columns. Today, following a number of years of painstaking restoration, the doors of the cathedral are once again open to its congregation.

Saint Mel's Cathedral in Longford town is considered one of the finest Italianate ecclesiastical buildings in Ireland. The construction of the cathedral, which was commissioned by Reverend William O'Higgins (d. 1853), Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, commenced in 1840. Work was suspended in 1846 at the outbreak of the Great Famine and did not recommence until 1853. Constructed in three phases, the cathedral is the work of three eminent nineteenth-century Irish architects: John B. Keane (d. 1859) who devised the original plans; John Burke (d. 1871) who completed the cathedral and designed its eye-catching campanile; and George Coppinger Ashlin (1837-1921) who designed the portico. Internally the nave of the cathedral is dominated by an arcade of twenty-eight limestone



columns capped by Ionic capitals and connected by arches. Two stained glass windows grace the transepts and were supplied in 1932 by the Harry Clarke Stained Glass Studios.

Following the fire of 2009 several options for the future of Saint Mel's were explored, including the possibility of building an entirely new cathedral. Given the importance of the building to Longford and its inhabitants, however, it was agreed that the cathedral be restored to its former glory using a mixture of new and traditional skills

and techniques. The reconstruction of the roof, the internal stone work and the decorative plasterwork comprised the largest elements of the restoration of Saint Mel's Cathedral. Their replacement was achieved using traditional materials and techniques and implementing a policy of 'like for like' where possible. The stained glass windows, which had survived the fire, were restored by Abbey Stained Glass Studios and have been reinstated. Similarly, four altars either side of the sanctuary were cleaned and repaired.

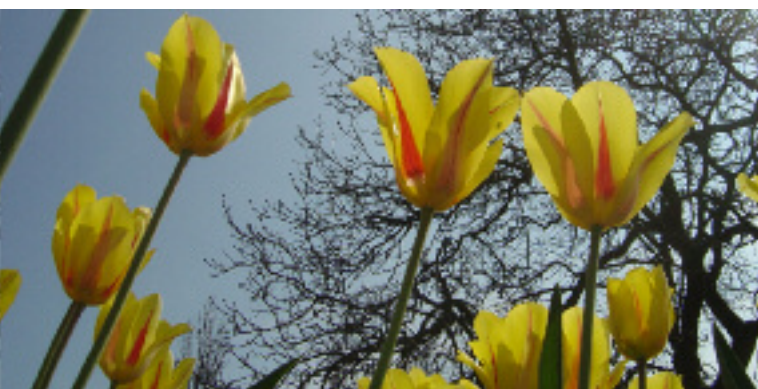
On Christmas Eve last year the people of Longford held midnight mass at St Mel's Cathedral for the first time since 2009.



For more information on St Mel's Cathedral and other buildings of historic interest you can visit <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/Surveys/Buildings/BuildingoftheMonth/> which is compiled by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The National Botanic Gardens

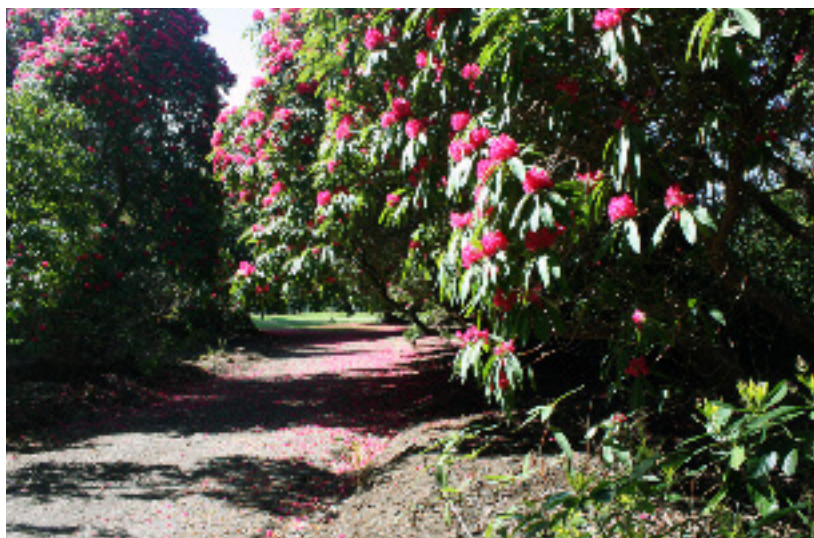
The National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin is a green oasis, close to the centre of Dublin city.



The mission of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland is to ensure that plant diversity is cherished and nurtured both here in Ireland and throughout the world. Almost fifty acres in size, it is Victorian in design, with world famous glasshouses dating back from the 17th century. Both the wonderfully restored Curvilinear Range of glasshouses designed by the famous Dubliner Richard Turner and the great Dublin landmark, The Palm House won Europa nostra awards for excellence in conservation architecture under the supervision of the OPW architects for the restoration projects.

This wonderfully historic garden is home to over 17,000 plant species from a variety of habitats from all over the world from deserts to wetlands to snowy mountaintops, indeed it boasts Ireland's only 'tropical rainforest' which can be found in the great Palm House. Throughout the gardens there are many different places to explore including the organic vegetable garden, the rockery, the woodland garden, arboretum and rose garden. Make a visit this spring and discover the many varieties of spring bulbs bursting into bloom. There is a special exhibition with over 150 different Bonsai on display until 23rd of April while the weekend of April 25th and 26th we have the annual Orchid show which will have displays, workshops and a tour of orchid house.

www.botanicgardens.ie



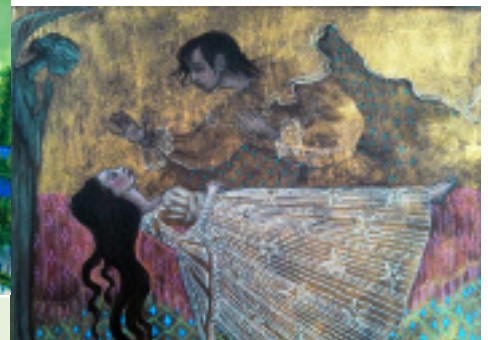
Festival of Food

at Dungarvan Castle

The West Waterford Festival of Food Event is scheduled for April 11th & 12th.



Meath Arts Group



Ann McKenna

Art Exhibitions

at Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre

Exhibition of Art from Meath Arts Group

March 31st to April 14th inclusive
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Meath-Arts-Group/184228014952263>

Art Exhibition by Ann McKenna

April 15th to May 10th inclusive
<http://www.annmckenna.ie/>

Exhibition of Art by Noel McKenna on the Táin

May 11th until May 31st inclusive
www.facebook.com/pages/Art-of-Noel-Kelly/345066518974261

Exhibition of Art by Greg Flanagan

June 1st until June 21st inclusive
<https://www.facebook.com/cartownartworks/photos>



Noel McKenna



Greg Flanagan

Kilkenny Castle

Wednesday 8 April: Kilkenny Archaeological Society's Annual Spring Debate at The Parade Tower - 'History has not been kind to John Redmond' TCD v UCD to be chaired by Dr Maurice Manning.

Sunday 26 April:

- Loreto Secondary School - 5k at Kilkenny Castle Park - All Welcome.
- Kilkenny Motor Club Classic Cars Display and Welsh Guests at Kilkenny Castle Park - FREE.

Sunday 14 June: Kilkenny Motor Club Classic Cars Display at Kilkenny Castle Park - FREE.

Sunday 21 June: Kids Mini Marathon at Kilkenny Castle Park.

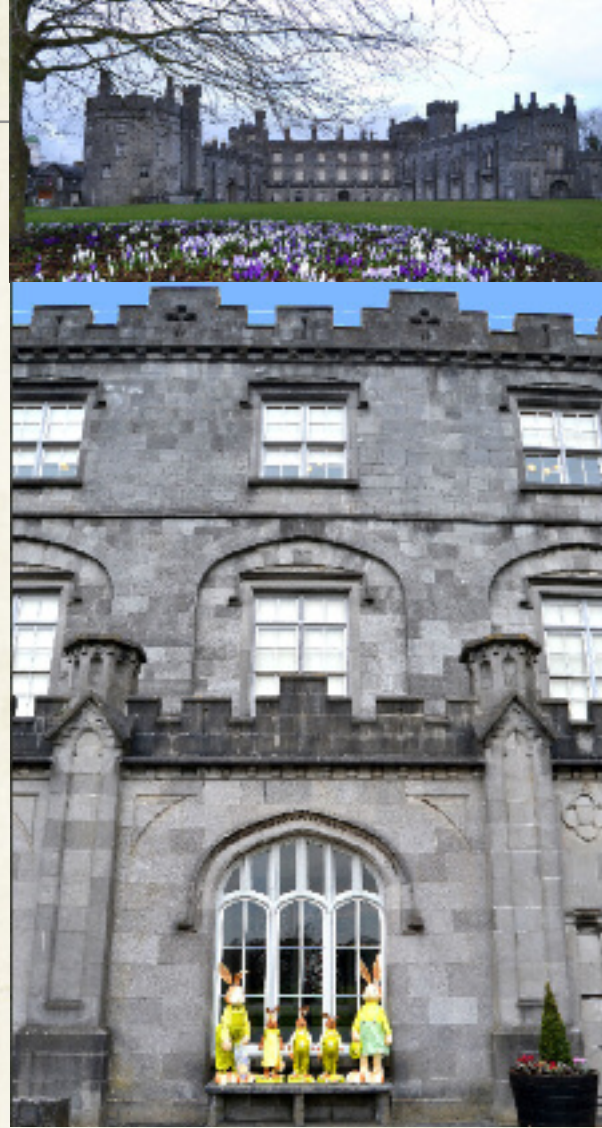
FREE GARDEN TALKS AT THE PARADE TOWER OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS, KILKENNY CASTLE

Spring Programme 2015 – Doors open from 7pm /
Talks begin at 8pm - FREE

Tuesday 7 April: Paddy Tobin – 'Mount Congreve – A Great Irish Garden'

Tuesday 14 April: June Blake – 'Changing Your Garden'

Tuesday 21 April: Paul Cutler – OPW's Altamont Gardens'



Easter Bunnies at Kilkenny Castle. © OPW, March 2015.

Kilkenny Castle Medieval Week 2015

17th - 26th April 2015

1 Heraldry : Coats of Arms Uncovered

For the duration of Medieval Week, Kilkenny Castle will be hosting a travelling exhibition from the National Library of Ireland. This exhibition illustrates the origins of heraldry and introduces the culture of knighthood as well as the concept of chivalry.

Date : From Saturday 18th of April to Sunday 26th of April 2015. **Time :** From 9.30a.m. to 5.00p.m.

Price : Free Event

No booking required

Organiser : Kilkenny Castle, OPW. **Location :** Muniments Room, Kilkenny Castle

Contact : kilkennyguides@opw.ie or 056 770 4105

2 Medieval Food Workshops for Primary Schools

During Medieval Week, Kilkenny Castle is inviting primary schools to take part in workshops during which they will explore the food people enjoyed during medieval times.

Date : From Monday 20th April to Friday 24th April 2015. **Time :** From 11.00a.m. to 12p.m.

Price : Free Event

Booking is essential

Organiser : Kilkenny Castle, OPW. **Location :** Kilkenny Castle

Contact : kilkennyguides@opw.ie or 056 770 4105

3 The Early Theobalds

Peter Kenny, Guide/Information Office with the Office of Public Works, will talk about the origin of the Butler Family and present the lives and legacies of the early Theobalds.

Date : Saturday 25th of April 2015. **Time :** At 3.30p.m.

Price : Free Event

Booking is essential as numbers are limited

Organiser : Kilkenny Castle, OPW. **Location :** Kilkenny Castle

Contact : kilkennyguides@opw.ie or 056 770 4105

4 StoryLab Viking Skald

Kilkenny Castle presents Púca Puppets and Mary Mary, a Viking character that will delight children with her storytelling. Suitable for children aged 6-10 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Maximum of 1 adult per child.

Date : Saturday 25th April 2015. **Time :** At 12.00p.m. and 2.30p.m.

Price : Free Event

No booking required. Limited number of seats. Places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis

Organiser : Kilkenny Castle, OPW. **Location :** Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle

Contact : kilkennyguides@opw.ie or 0567704105

5 Harp Recital

Kilkenny Castle presents internationally acclaimed performer Siobhan Armstrong. During this recital of early Irish harp music, she will be playing this ancient instrument as depicted in Ireland's national emblem.

Date : Sunday 26th April 2015. **Time :** At 2p.m.

Price : Free Event

No booking required. Seats will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis

Organiser : Kilkenny Castle, OPW. **Location :** Picture Gallery, Kilkenny Castle

Contact : kilkennyguides@opw.ie or 056 770 4105

6 The Medieval Harp

An illustrated talk on the history of Ireland's illustrious medieval instrument, Siobhan Armstrong from the Historical Harp Society of Ireland will present the 1000-year history of the Irish harp with live music examples.

Date : Sunday 26th of April 2015. **Time :** At 1p.m.

Price : Free Event

No booking required. Seats will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis

Organiser : Kilkenny Castle, OPW. **Location :** Picture Gallery, Kilkenny Castle

Contact : kilkennyguides@opw.ie or 056 770 4105

7 A Brief History of Heraldry

Kilkenny Castle welcomes Micheál Ó Comáin, Herald of Arms, who will present a short history of Heraldry, its origin, its introduction to Ireland and the function of the Office of the Chief Herald.

Date : Sunday 19th April 2015. **Time :** At 2.30p.m.

Price : Free Event

No booking required. Seats will be allocated on first-come first-served basis

Organiser : Kilkenny Castle, OPW. **Location :** Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle

Contact : kilkennyguides@opw.ie or 056 770 4105

'Recovered Voices' at the National Museum of Ireland

A new exhibition entitled *Recovered Voices; the Stories of the Irish at War, 1914-15* has opened at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks in Dublin. About 21,000 Irishmen were already serving in the British Army when war broke out in 1914. This new exhibition 'Recovered Voices' explores what happened to them, and the other 47,000 who joined in the first few years of the war.



From the lush green fields of France in the summer of 1914, through that first Christmas in the trenches, to the sun dried beaches of Turkey in 1915, this exciting new exhibition unveils the complexity of Ireland's part in World War One. Detailing the stories of 21 Irishmen and women, the exhibition uses original objects and interactive material to illustrate the human impact of the war on their lives.

Admission is free.

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday,
10am to 5pm
Sunday: 2pm to 5pm
Closed Mondays.



'Pals – the Irish at Gallipoli'

In conjunction with the *Recovered Voices* exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland, award-winning Anu Productions presents *Pals – the Irish at Gallipoli*. In 1915, amidst the heat and smell of the trenches of Gallipoli, the men of the newly formed 7th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers stand shoulder to shoulder. These are a team of rugby legends built from the strongest and bravest athletes in Ireland. And they are about to play a deadly end-game. Inspired by the previously untold stories of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers who swapped the rugby field for the battlefield – *PALS* will give audiences a vivid glimpse into the life and death of a brotherhood of players who were wiped out in the devastating trenches and the reality of those left behind.

"Historical insight; exciting artistry; and an intimate theatrical encounter with something previously hidden"

– Colin Murphy, *Irish Independent* (on *PALS*).

Presented by ANU Productions, the National Museum of Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, in association with the National Archives of Ireland and ICTU.

Performances and Tickets

Performances: 2 February – 30 April / Wednesday – Sunday
Times: Wednesday – Saturday: 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm / Sunday: 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Cost: €5
Location: National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7.

For bookings visit: <http://www.pals-theirishatgallipoli.com/>

World War Ireland exhibition at the National Library of Ireland

A new exhibition has recently opened in the National Library of Ireland entitled *WWI Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience*. The exhibition focuses on the unique aspects of the Irish WWI experience. Running from November 2014 through to 2018, the exhibition draws on the NLI's collections of letters, diaries, recruiting posters, newspaper reports, cartoons, handbills and leaflets dating from 1914-1918.

With original artefacts, first hand personal accounts and eyewitness testimony, *World War Ireland* brings visitors dramatically inside the lives of those who experienced WWI.

Admission is free.

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday: 9.30am to 4.45pm.
Sunday: 1.00pm to 4.45pm



EXPLORE IRELAND'S HERITAGE BUY A HERITAGE CARD



Main pic: Swiss Cottage.

L-R: Aughnacross Castle, Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, Glendalough Visitor Centre, Kilkenny Castle.

€25.00

Adult

€20.00

Senior

€10.00

Child/Student

€60.00

Family

Enjoy unlimited access for up to one year,
to more than 40 of Ireland's finest heritage sites.

For further information:

Tel: 01 6476592

Lo Call: 1850 600 601

Email: heritagecard@opw.ie



www.heritageireland.ie

Visit and explore Ireland's wonderful Heritage Sites



Trim Castle on the banks of the river Boyne, Co. Meath.

© Tourism Ireland